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Caritas Award Dinner: André Blondeau honoured

André Blondeau, Honorary Oblate, was honoured by the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba at the annual Caritas Award Dinner held on April 19, 2018 at the RBC Convention Centre, Winnipeg. The Catholic Foundation of Manitoba Service Award was given to André Blondeau, long-time Board Member and Treasurer of the foundation. The Taché District sponsored a table for 10. The following Oblates attended the event: Noël Boulanger, Jim Fiori, Jean-Paul Isabelle, Dominique Kerbrat, Robert Laroche, Armand Le Gal, Louis Legaré, Edmond Paradis, François Paradis and Sr. Édith Grenier, SNJM.



Acceptance speech by André Blondeau

Good evening everyone.

As you know, the "Service Award" is a new award for The Catholic Foundation of Manitoba. When I was first approached with the idea of becoming the first recipient of the award, I hesitated briefly; then I accepted, but I felt compelled to look further into this "NEW" award, to "scratch the surface", to discover what might be lying under the simple name of "SERVICE".

What do we mean when we use the word "service"? For example, if I drive my car towards the closed door of my garage, I press the "open" button on my remote, and the door opens. The fact that the door opened at that precise moment, I might think to myself: This is a fantastic

"Service". Yes it is! But there is something lacking in that "service". In my view, the

"Service Award" of the Foundation is meant to recognize and promote "services" that originate from a deep personal love of a human being for other human beings, much like the service that Jesus provided when he washed the feet of his disciples before his passion. In my view, with this deeper understanding of the word "Service", this award is meant to recognize and promote the generous giving of one's services (time and talents), for the benefit of others. I believe it is a recognition of the work performed by all volunteers. I like to believe that through this award, all volunteers are recognized and, in some way, rewarded.

I must admit that I thoroughly enjoyed the work I did as treasurer of the Foundation for the last 21 years.

Thank you for your kindness, thank you for being here this evening, and thank you for your continued support of the Foundation.

Reminder: 100th Anniversary of Collège Mathieu

Fr. Armand Le Gal has received a letter from Collège Mathieu in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, inviting all the Oblates to the celebration of its 100th anniversary. The College still remembers the great contribution of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The Oblates are invited to concelebrate at a Mass of Thanksgiving which will be held on Sunday, October 7th at 10 a.m. at Gravelbourg Cathedral. Oblates who wish to participate at the celebration are asked to contact Fr. Armand Le Gal.

Priests' Annual Retreat

Fathers Isaïe Blanchette, Noël Boulanger and Armand Le Gal participated in the Annual Retreat of the priests of Saint-Boniface Archdiocese from April 30 to May 4 at Wilderness Edge Centre, in Pinawa, Manitoba. The retreat was animated by Fr. Thomas Rosica, a priest of the Congregation of St. Basil (Basilian Fathers) from Toronto and Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Television.

Retreat at Despins Residence

The Oblates at Despins Residence participate in the Retreat at Despins Residence from May 6 to 10, 2018. The animator of the Retreat is Father Thomas Rosica, CSB.

Suggestions for donations

Every year, the amount of \$3,000 is allotted to each district of OMI Lacombe Canada for charity donations. We are inviting all Oblates and Associates to offer their suggestions for various charities that would benefit from Taché's donation. Please send your suggestions to the district office either by mail, e-mail or fax.

Convocation 2018

The following Oblates, members of Taché District, attended the 2018 Convocation: Noël Boulanger, Vijay Deivanayagam, Rusty Gardiner, Jim Fiori, Robert Laroche, Armand Le Gal, Louis Legaré, Thomas Novak, Bogdan Osiecki, Greg Oszust, Edmond Paradis, François Paradis, Bernard Pinet, Reynald Rouleau and Lukasz Zajac.

May Anniversaries

Birthdays

May 11: Fr. Norbert Dufault (94 years)
May 16: Fr. Vijay Deivanayagam (39 years)
May 29: Fr. Robert Laroche (66 years)
May 29: Br. Rusty Gardiner (58 years)
May 31: Br. Thomas Novak (62 years)



Ordination

May 29: Fr. Lukasz Zajac (8 years)

First Vows

May 21: Fr. Vijay Deivanayagam (15 years)

May 21: Anniversary of the death of St. Eugene de Mazenod (157 years)

May 29: Feast of the Blessed of Joseph Gérard.