

# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

OMI Lacombe Canada



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

NEW DATE: ANNUAL RETREAT, AUGUST 12-17, GALILEE

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## COMMUNITY RETREATS AT GALILEE CENTRE

### RETREAT ON JUNE 29 AT GALILEE

For the past number of years Oblates and Associates of the Ottawa area have gathered at Galilee in June for a day of retreat. The day is from 10am to 7pm and has always included ample opportunity for prayer, including Eucharist, periods of silence, personal & group reflection, lunch in silence and a celebratory dinner at 5:30pm.

This year's pre-summer **Retreat Day** will be on **June 29<sup>th</sup>** and will have "Community" as its theme. It will be led by Pamela Dixon and Richard Beaudette, OMI. During Mass, we anticipate that two Affiliates will make their First Commitment as Associates and a number of other Associates will be renewing their commitments. The day will begin with the burial of Charles Donovan, OMI's ashes and prayer at his grave site.

### OUR ANNUAL RETREAT

And now for some information on our District Community Annual Retreat. We were unable to secure a retreat director for the dates originally chosen. As announced in March, the new and official dates for our **2018 Annual Retreat** are now set for **August 12 to 17**, beginning with Sunday evening dinner and ending with Friday lunch.

This retreat will be a **Guided Contemplative Retreat** and will be animated by Monica Hartnett, SSJ (London, UK), on the right and Rosemary O'Toole, CSJ (Ottawa, Canada) on the left in the picture.



This silent retreat will offer an extended period of time to reflect on and deepen our relationship with God, ourselves and on all creation. It'll provide an opportunity to be still, to be listening and loving. Each morning we will gather for communal contemplative prayer followed by a 15 minute spiritual conference. Daily spiritual accompaniment will be available for those who wish. Eucharist will be at 4:00 p.m. Oraison, before the Blessed Sacrament, will be in the evenings.

All Oblates and Associates are invited to these two events. McE will be overseeing registrations. Please confirm your intention to participate with her.

*J. Roy Boucher, OMI*



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## CONVOCATION 2018

We are back now from Convocation 2018 and it was a great gathering. Over 100 Oblates and Oblate Associates came together in Cornwall for a week of sharing, discerning and learning new approaches to ongoing difficult challenges.

Fr. Ken Forster, Provincial, opened Convocation with a warm welcome to men and women from across the country, including Fr. Louis Lougen, Superior General and Fr. Warren Brown, Counsellor for North America.

Day 1 was dedicated to the concept of interculturality and we were guided through an exploration of this concept by Fr. Roger Schroeder, SVD. He challenged our thinking of “the other” and helped us discover new ways of welcoming and living with men and women of different cultures.

On the second day of Convocation, several ministries shared their experiences and reported on their initiatives, including: JPIC, Kenya, MAMI, youth, prison, Oblate Associates, vocations, and the missions in the North. In addition, the leadership team for OMI Lacombe presented their lamentations, celebrations and priorities for the balance of their mandate. Great feedback and discussions were conducted at the tables and reported to the gathering at large.

The third day of Convocation started with a smudging ceremony, led by Tom Deerhouse. The presentation by Jennifer Henry of Kairos that followed focussed on how best to journey with the indigenous peoples in this time following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She provided models for walking with—not leading—and supporting—not speaking for—the indigenous peoples of Canada, strategies that enabled many to see a way of “breaking new ground together”.

As the Convocation came to a formal close on Thursday afternoon, Fr. Louis Lougen, Fr. Warren Brown and the Provincial leadership team were asked to provide final comments on the feedback received from the gathering.

After words of support and admiration, Fr. Louis put it so simply: as Blessed Oscar Romero once said, “We are the workers, not master builders.” Fr. Louis reminded us that the “mission” for the Oblates is not ours ... it is God’s!

*McE Galbreath*





## FR. CHARLIE DONOVAN

### JULY 9, 1940 – APRIL 2, 2018

Fr. Charles Joseph Donovan, OMI, died on Monday, April 2, 2018 at the Ottawa General Hospital, Ottawa, after failing to respond to a prolonged treatment in ICU. He was 77. He is survived by members of his religious community, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and his sister, Mary Catherine (George), his brother, Donald (Carrie), several nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews.

Fr. Charlie was born in Glace Bay, NS on July 9, 1940, the son of Charles and Gertrude (Gillis). He professed his first vows on August 15, 1960 and his final vows on September 8, 1963 as a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 17, 1966.

Fr. Charlie loved his work in the parishes and joyfully served many in over 50 years of priesthood. He began his pastoral work in Ottawa at St. Joseph's Parish and during the first 25 years or so he was posted to St. Ann's (Flin Flon) and St. Lawrence (Thompson) in northern Manitoba. He returned to Ontario, but stayed north as he worked at St. Agnes (Thunder Bay) and Sacred Heart (Sioux Lookout). And then it was east to Queen of Peace (Happy Valley/Goose Bay) and Our Lady of Labrador (West Ste. Modeste). Fr. Charlie spent a year sharing his gifts in ministry as Provincial Director of Formation at the Galilee Novitiate from 1987-88. The second half of his career took him back to Nova Scotia and his roots as he served at St. Peter's (Ingonish), St. Michael's

(Baddeck), St. Peter's (Larry's River), St. Andrew's (Boisdale), St. Barra (Christmas Island) and St. Columba (Iona). In 2015, Fr. Charlie was sent to the west coast and after a short time in Prince George, BC at St. Mary's, he was asked to come back to Ottawa to minister to the senior Oblates as Director of Springhurst Residence, a position he held for the past two years. He also offered his gifts to several parishes in Ottawa, including Madonna Della Risurrezione and St. Patrick's Home.

We will miss Fr. Charlie and the joy he spread, as he spread the Good News. That smile and warm heart have certainly warmed up a day or two in my life.

*McE Galbreath*

## PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

**Ron Kedrosky**, is planning his spring fishing trip this year, around the chemo treatments. His cancer is aggressive and not letting up. Please keep Ron and his family in your prayers as they continue to relish the time that they have.

**Jack McCann, OMI**, continues to connect with friends from across the country. His sense of humour and creativity are very hard to repress in spite of the fatigue.

**Chris Rushton, OMI**, resides at Emmanuel House Palliative Care Centre in Hamilton. He continues his

ministry to those at Emmanuel House, residents and staff alike.

**Fr. Christie Joachim Pillai, OMI**, now lives at Providence Homes in Scarborough and is settling in well.

**Maureen Pinsonneault, HOMI**, fell and is in assisted care as she recuperates. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

*Please send any suggestions for prayers to McE Galbreath at [ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca](mailto:ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca).*



## HIGHLIGHTS

### FROM ST. EUGENE

*"... this expansive love which is my own gift and which pours itself out on each one of them [sons] without taking anything from the others, just like, I make bold to say, God's love for men... I am saying that it is this sentiment, which I know comes from Him who is the source of all charity, which has evoked in the*

*hearts of my children this reciprocity of love that forms the distinctive character of our beloved family."*

St. Eugene saw himself as a reflection of God's love. This text was taken from a letter to Fr. Mauchette at Montolivet, December 2, 1854



## CELEBRATIONS

### **ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST VOWS**

Bro. Leonardo Rego, May 12 (45 years)

### **ANNIVERSARY OF FINAL VOWS**

Fr. Richard Beaudette, May 3 (36 years)

Bro. Leonardo Rego, May 12 (39 years)

### **ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION**

Fr. Richard Beaudette, May 6 (36 years)

Fr. Normand Bonneau, May 29 (42 years)

Fr. Andy Boyer, May 24 (44 years)

Fr. Joseph Hattie, May 29 (54 years)

Fr. John Malazdrewich, May 18 (27 years)

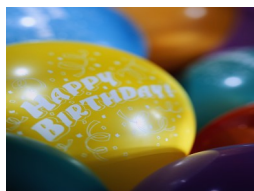
Fr. Mike McCarthy, May 8 (47 years)

Fr. Hanh Van Tran, May 20 (13 years)

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### **BIRTHDAYS**

David Morgan April 23

Jane McDonald April 29

Bro. Dan Dionne May 4

Fr. Bill Thompson May 19

Colleen Kerr May 29