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Sights and Sounds

July 24, 2018

For the Month of July



Birthdays

July 7	Darcie Lich
July 12	Fr. Tony Schmidt
July 20	Fr. Richard Doll
July 24	Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser
July 24	Fr. Bill Stang

Anniversary

July 25	Mark & Darcie Lich(20)
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Family and friends gathered yesterday to celebrate Fr. Bill Stang's 79th birthday. We all wished him well on this, his special day.



News from Trinity Manor:

On the afternoon of July 3rd, Brother Walter took Fr. Louis Hoffart to St. Paul's Hospital because Fr. Louis was feeling abdominal pain. The following night, the doctor who had examined Fr. Louis phoned me with the tough but realistic diagnosis that Fr. Louis' abdomen is filled with cancer and there is nothing more that can be done medically except prescribe medication to alleviate the pain. Please keep Fr. Louis in your prayers.

~~~~Submitted by Fr. Paul Fachet ~~~~

Words from Sr. Anne Lewans

*Dolores Ruschkowski (Lewans) passed away early Sunday, July 8 at the age of 88 years. Dolores was in a care facility at Eastend, SK. She is the older sister to **Fr. Syl Lewans**.*



Though Dolores was not in her home town of Shaunavon, she was quite OK with Eastend because it is a newer facility and the rooms were more spacious. In fact, she had a room large enough to accommodate some of her furniture, including a table, her sewing machine, and supplies for quilting....which she worked at right up to her death. (She made eight quilts while in long term care!)

Dolores had arthritis in various parts of her body, especially in her back. She also had been doctoring at various times for some stomach problems which were related to a hiatus hernia.

Saturday evening Dolores said she was not feeling well and the staff was able to get her stomach settled by early Sunday, but told her they would call an ambulance anyway and have her checked out in Swift Current. They went back to her room a few minutes later and she was gone. So, we don't really know the cause of death. In any case, it has been a big shock for everyone. I saw her just a couple weeks ago and she was in great spirits, able to go out to the local restaurant for lunch....and then later to the home farm for supper. Great memories to have now!

Dolores has nine children who live in various places across western Canada. It has been a challenge for them to communicate easily to discuss funeral arrangements. It is summer time and some people are holidaying.... One son was at the airport when he got the

news...he and his entire family were about to leave on a trip to Germany. (His siblings encouraged him to continue with his plans). So, we will not have a funeral now. Rather it is planned for July 30th in Shaunavon (11 am, I think).

Today I was with Fr. Syl at 10:30 a.m. to pray with him....as there was a prayer service for Dolores in Shaunavon at this time.

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**News from St. Mary's Residence, Battleford**

Last Friday, we celebrated the life of Arnold Gantefoer with prayers and Mass at Notre Dame, North Battleford. Arnold and his wife Monnie had spent countless hours at the Marian Press and the Our Family. He also spent 31 years as a Trustee on the Catholic Board of Education. The Gantefoer family and the parish appreciated the presence of Frs. Bill, Mike, and Nestor joining Richard and I for the celebration.

***On Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Dan and Janice Lamoureux asked that we change our Mass time to 10:00am so they could attend and renew their commitment as Oblate Associates.*** Later in the day Walter Kluser arrived from Switzerland to spend about three weeks with us. Walter had worked on the farm here from 1980 to 1987. Both of his daughters were born here. Cancer took his wife Sabina almost four years ago.

Sunday afternoon, we enjoyed a visit from Ron and Norma Denis whom many of you know. They joined three other guests who arrived about the same time for an afternoon of touring the cemetery, grotto, shop, greenhouse and our residence.

There was no Mass at St.Vital's on Monday, therefore twelve of the faithful joined us; among them was Deacon Kendrick. He will be ordained Priest at St. Joseph's Wednesday evening. We have offered our residence to accommodate his guests so all 14 available beds are ready.

Since we do not know many of our neighbors, we planned to host a potluck BBQ July 28<sup>th</sup>, for those living along the old number four highway. The decision was made while Fr. Ed was living here. He was great in sharing the work load. Neighbors have been offering help in preparing for the event which could include close to 50 households. Of those, I expect perhaps 20 families to come judging from the response to date and from the number that attended a similar celebration at a neighbor's two years ago. So life is good.

Fr. Moe will be returning from Peru on July 17<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to having him back with us. May you be enjoying better health, Moe, with renewed energy!

~~~~~Blessings! Br. Don Claerhout – July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 ~~~~~

Summer Notes from the Qu'Appelle Valley

The abundance of summer life is evident in so many ways throughout the Qu'Appelle Valley – and that includes the Qu'Appelle House of Prayer.



Some highlights: More than ever in nearly 23 years, volunteers come and go, some for a day, some for several weeks. Oblate Associates Karen and Dave Sax, with Karen's sister Rose, were part of community and prayer, and did so much of the work during June. Boyd from the Gatineau was here for the month of May. Kathy and Tim, who have long been coming here, now will be here two weeks in each of July, August and September, with more time to be scheduled throughout the winter. Susan and Boyd will be here October and November, Bev and Warren for a week later this month, and Jackie and Gerry for two weeks in September. These are generous people who take personal responsibility for all the facets of work, life and prayer. Others come to cut the grass, or to spend a half day in the garden, or an afternoon of tending the many indoor and outdoor plants. And many other daily jobs in our rather extensive property.

Chantelle, a Sister of the Presentation of Mary, is immersed in sabbatical time for more than three months with us. Usually there are four or five guests at any given time, always from a wide diversity of backgrounds. Sue, a very gifted artist (who volunteers here a half-day every week), led a two-day retreat last week called "Befriending Wildflowers". The participants included a mother and 11-year-old daughter; a first for us. Time was divided between very personal sharing, times of prayer in the Chapel, walking our several trails, and seeing

wildflowers close up (as much with the heart as with the eyes). The participants did water color paintings of what was seen.

Each guest who comes here has a unique personal story that becomes part of time here. One such will be ordained a woman Bishop this Saturday as part of the Roman Catholic Women Priests (Canada) movement that began on the Danube River in 2002. Another is dealing with transitioning from one gender to another. And yet another is a renowned Orthodox writer, preparing here yet another major book for publishing in the coming months. A young family, two mothers and their daughter, spent time with us on their way to Indonesia. Most are people who have come here many times over the years, usually arriving somewhat changed and deepened since their last visit. These long-term relationships are particularly soulful and that is primary: relationship. In a few days, five young people, calling themselves Christian Filmmakers, doing a five-day shoot in this area on nearby First Nations' lands, will stay with us. And on it goes. In a word, our once-a-day conversational suppers are never dull!! Everyone who comes here in some way seasons who we are and our lives, the effect which lasts long after the guest has left.

Much work, reflecting and discussion continues among about 15 persons or so about the future of the House of Prayer. A very engaging and inspired Visioning Weekend took place late May. Following more work over the summer, the hope is to meet again this October or November to move forward with proposals for the House of Prayer for the next 3 – 5 years.

Pastoral involvement with local people, many of whom have adopted this ministry and ourselves, continues. During the past six days, we assisted two funerals in the historic Oblate church in Le Bret, and one graveside memorial in the 100-year-old country cemetery south of Dysart and wedding plans are well underway for two couples. A little one-year old is being baptized here next week on his birthday; his birth story is nothing short of a miracle (as every birth is some more so). At the same celebration, his eight-year-old sister will receive her first communion, having been baptized in the chapel here two years ago. Part of this afternoon was with a 102-year-old wonderful woman from the local Anglican parish; it is expected that she will die today.

The garden and raspberry patch are lush – thanks to planters Boyd, Karen, Dave and Rose, and countless hours of picking, weeding, watering and enjoying by many!

~~~~By Glenn M. Zimmer, OMI with Margaret Dick, SNJM - July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018~~~~



**Summer Stillness 2018 at  
Queen's House with Fr.  
Ron Rolheiser OMI**

For the last 30 years, Ron Rolheiser has been presenting at Queen's House as a center piece to Summer

Stillness. Of course, this year has been no exception, except to say that the community that gathers to hear Ron and to be with each other is approaching our capacity here at Queen's House. This is a wonderful challenge that we are grateful to have to face!

Ron began this event with a Public Presentation entitled **Rising Up: From Living by Goodwill and Dogged Willpower to Drawing upon the Resurrection and Grace**. We hosted 175 participants for this presentation and 145 of them joined us for supper as well. The added bonus of

this gathering is that many of our guests know each other and have become something of a community, so there is no shortage of energy and enthusiasm in this mix. During this talk, Ron led us through the insights that help us understand the challenges that we face as we live our lives in good and generative ways. Coming to understand the issues is a necessary first step as we learn that "Only God raises anything from the dead. We rise up only by grace." Next, Ron reminded us that grace can be described as "living as God's beloved"; a concept that resonated with all participants, even as we understand and accept that there is a struggle for grace that is real. Ron instructed us of this by exploring Jesus' examples through the humble plea of "Lord, teach us to pray" and the struggle for grace, the need for grace, and the source of grace in his "test" in the Garden of Gethsemane. Ron then reminded us that there is Consolation of living in Grace, that we don't have to get it "right" or attain perfection and that we can "risk the gospel", knowing that being with the "Bread of Life" we will always have enough and that we never have reason to lose hope. So We are invited to rise up to the challenge to receive grace!

Ron then continued on Tuesday morning with the presentation entitled **Insane for the Light: Spirituality for our Wisdom Years** by situating our wisdom years anthropologically and spiritually and by stressing that one size doesn't fit all as we accept Jesus' invitations in the Gospels by challenging us at different stages of our lives. We struggle; to get our lives together, to give our lives for others, and to give our deaths away. But there is more depth to be found in later generativity, the Wisdom Years - the Generativity of Mentoring and Blessing and an inchoate nagging beneath the surface that



beckons us. Ron continued the insight outlining aging as The Intent of God and Nature or Wisdom by Conscriptation.

Next, Ron shared about Moving toward Wisdom as the psychological and spiritual challenges of late generativity – processes of moving towards rather than fading away where fruitfulness replaces achievement as gratitude, forgiveness, faith, hope, childlikeness, surrender, contemplation, community, fidelity and a more-conscious sense of the “Prodigal, Loving God we live under”. Ron continued by illustrating that the ultimate task within our wisdom years is blessing others. This leads us to the invitation of giving our deaths away as our last greatest gift, a natural continuum of discipleship, and the mystery of leaving spirit behind.

Finally, Ron shared insights regarding Life

within the Communion of Saints as still connected and still giving. Ron concluded with insights and reflections regarding death; our beliefs, our understandings, reported experiences, heaven, hell and purgatory, our fears, suicide, on a happy death and other questions and insights that participants shared.

This was a remarkable couple of days that Queen’s House and our community have been graced with. Thanks Ron for giving your life away to those of us fortunate enough to have been able to attend.

~~~~Brendan Bitz – July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018~~~~



OMI Lacombe Canada Website: www.omilacombe.ca
Qu’Appelle House of Prayer Website: www.qhpstillness.ca
Queen’s House Website at: www.queenshouse.org

Updated July 24th, 2018 rm