



## BC District

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## BC News

2018-006

### *Birthday Greetings*

Andrew Stendzina OMI	November 10
Gordon Cook OMI	November 27
John Greene, OMI	October 2
Jerry Prazma, OMI	October 2
Garry LaBoucance, OMI	October 9
Dennis Alexander, OMI	October 13
Phil Smith, OMI	October 31
Eugene Whyte, OMI	September 15



### *Anniversaries*

Andy Takach, OMI	60	Perpetual Vows	November 4
George LaGrange, OMI	50	Ordination	October 19
Tap Kurudeepan, OMI	40	Ordination	October 13
Eugene Whyte, OMI	30	Ordination	October 30
Ron Dechant, OMI	60	First Vows	September 8
Garry LaBoucance, OMI	50	First Vows	September 8
Ron Rissling, OMI	50	First Vows	September 8
Frank Salmon, OMI	50	First Vows	September 8
Terry Conway, OMI	50	Ordination	September 14
Tap Kurudeepan, OMI	45	First Vows	September 8
Dennis Alexander, OMI	40	Ordination	September 13

### **Visit of Father Warren Brown, OMI**

Fr. Warren Brown, General Councillor for Canada-US, will be visiting the BC District for a consultation period during the discernment process of the new Provincial Leadership. He will be in Vancouver From December 4 -7, 2018. Pandosy Place community will host a supper with Fr. Brown on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and a district gathering is planned on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at Oblate House for Oblates & Associates. More details will be sent out once finalized.

### **Greetings to all the Saints!** (from Fr. Garry LaBoucane, OMI)

Wow, so much has happened since the summer. And, momentous events continue to occur! Father Vince James has moved temporarily to St. Peter's in New West. He awaits the call to surgery in Prince George, but in the meantime he is not able to move around as much as he would like so he decided to sit patiently on the mountaintop with a great view of

the Fraser River. Welcome, Father Vincent! He has decided to lose a few pounds in preparation for the surgery. Guess where his room is in the rectory? Right next to the kitchen!

My summer began with the Rose Prince Pilgrimage, which was superb as usual. There are so many blessings during that time. Very refreshing!

I did not go to the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage this summer. Just too tired of travelling. That is the first time that I missed in many years. And, of all years not to go, people came looking for me. They never go except that time! Oh well, c'est la vie!

I did make it to the Mass at Sacred Heart Parish of the First Peoples in Edmonton for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination for Father Joachim Singarajah. That was glorious. People came from all over the world for the occasion and celebrated with music, dance, and song from Sri Lanka both during the Mass and afterwards. I was the pastor at Sacred Heart when Joachim came to share ministry with me in his early years in Alberta. Lots of stories to be told about that.





For those who were able to attend the meeting with Fathers Ken Forster, Ken Thorson and Jim Bleackley, we had an excellent gathering at the Crescent. Elizabeth might be able to include a picture of that. There was very good discussion and camaraderie.



I am able to include a picture of the Oblates on retreat- for the first time at the Carmelite Monastery. Our Director was Father Peter Doherty, OMI. Everyone was very pleased with the material he presented and the facility. I managed to climb the hill for the Stations of the Cross three days in a row. Couldn't believe I did that. And, we made it on a beautiful afternoon to the Oblate Cemetery in Mission. The whole time together was a blessing. We intend to return there next year. I am ordering more of Peter's book on forgiveness. If you would like a FREE copy, just let me know.



I was not able to attend the retreat at the same monastery with the Associates and Father Jim Dukowski, but I heard that it was excellent, according to Deacon Rennie Nahanee.

My next trip was to Salmon Arm to help celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination of Father George LaGrange. That was also excellent! It was a delight to meet his family. One of his nephews comes to Mass here at Sacred Heart every Sunday. I have known Father George since I joined the Oblates of the Alberta Saskatchewan Province. He was actually ordained the same year that I made my first profession. Little did we know that we would end up celebrating the Eucharist together for his 50<sup>th</sup>. Continue to live long and prosper, Father. You are an amazing priest!



Gerald Francis Guillet, OMI  
1937-2018

It's interesting how our lives are intertwined. I never would have really come to know Father Gerry Guillet, unless I moved to Vancouver. I only knew him in his later years, but I sure learned so much more about him at his wake and funeral from his friends and family. So many Indigenous People stood up to speak so elegantly of their friend at his wake. And, then to hear from his family as well. He is deeply loved and appreciated. I am very grateful to Father Joachim Singarajah and Father Gordon Cook who made it a point to visit him regularly. Ecce quam bonum.

I look forward now to our gatherings this fall. We all can stand in Thanksgiving for all that was, that is, and that will be, AND for the Saints in our lives. Amen.