

# Oblate Spirit

AMMI *Lacombe* Canada MAMI



*Christmas 2018*



*Christmas  
Wishes*

# Why?



Why do we choose to support the Oblates and their missions in Canada and abroad? There are many answers to that question, but sometimes that question is answered in unexpected ways. That was the case recently when a letter was received from a young man in Kenya that touched our hearts. (See Page 4)

This young person struggled, but found hope and support from the Oblates. He has graduated high school and is now attending university. The letter was his thanks, a heart-felt approval he was unable to express in any other way. And he promised to pay it forward, to help others during his journey. Could we ask for anything more?

He is but one example of the many poor people, those on the fringes of society, to which the Oblates provide emotional, spiritual and financial support.

So once again we are reaching out this Christmas, asking our Oblate community to support some of the Oblate missions, whether in Canada, Kenya or Peru, to help feed the hungry, to help clothe the poor, to help educate those who can't afford education.

Christmas is a special time of year, and we all celebrate in different ways. We are fortunate to have three Canadian Oblates who shared their childhood Christmas experience in Poland, Kenya and Canada in this issue.

Christmas traditions create a lifetime of memories. With our help, we can make Christmas special for those less fortunate, we can provide gifts of health and education. We can provide hope.

Why? Because we care.

*John and Emily Cherneski*  
*Communications Coordinators*

Front cover picture: Fr. Bright Makunka ministers to the elderly in Kenya



# Christmas Wish List

*'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'* (Matthew 25:35-40)

## **CANADA** – Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples

Food hampers	\$20
Children's Christmas party	\$20
Christmas turkey dinner	\$20

## **KENYA**

Women's prison supplies	\$50
Educational needs	\$50
Parish needs	\$50
Water tanks	\$75
Elder care	\$50

## **PERU**

Chairs for retreat centre	\$30
Santa Clotilde Hospital	\$50
Beds, blankets, mattresses	\$50



# A letter of appreciation

To the Oblates in Kenya:

I'm writing this to acknowledge your presence in our country. For many years, since I attended pre-primary school in 2005, I never had access to many things that were crucial for my upbringing. However, I never worried because I had a feeling that one day things would get better.

My biological father, who was a drunkard, was hard on us. He would not provide anything. Therefore, I grew up looking up to no one for anything apart from my mother until I completed form four studies. Then the Oblates helped me get whatever I thought I needed by helping me find employment.

When I was at work I would remember your help and thank you for saving me from imminent danger, but I never was confident enough to tell you face to face. Now, whenever I see you, my hope of helping my family and village increases immensely.

There were times when I felt that I failed you, and times when I was very stubborn while asking for help. If you ever felt offended, please forgive me. I believe that your aim was to show me the way, but not to carry me there.

For now I have no other way to show gratitude than by putting it in writing. I hope things will get better tomorrow, and if so I will present tangible objects, according to African culture, to show gratitude.

God willing, you have lit a spark in me that will never die. Many thanks for everything you have done for me.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew (from Kionyo Parish)

(Editor: Andrew just entered university, having achieved an A- secondary leaving exam = the top 2% of 2017 students)

# *Sacred Heart Christmas needs*

**BY SUSAI JESUS, OMI**

EDMONTON – Each year Sacred Heart Church in Edmonton organizes two large Christmas events, a children's Christmas party and food hamper distribution. For those living at or below the poverty line, each month is a struggle to provide for their families. Our ministry in the inner city is year-round, but assistance is most urgently needed at Christmas. Through the continued generosity of organizations, businesses, corporations, individuals, schools and parishes, we are able to provide Christmas gifts for children and hampers for families.

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY \$20**

The annual children's Christmas party includes lunch, face painting, balloon-making during a visit by the Shriner clowns, singing Christmas carols, and a visit by Santa and his elves who present a gift to each child. The party concludes with a full turkey dinner. Last year 550 gifts were provided to the children at the party.

Face painting at last year's  
Christmas party





Food collected for Christmas hampers

## FOOD HAMPERS \$20

The church also provides Christmas hampers to families in need to ensure that on Christmas morning they can wake up to a nutritious breakfast and enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner, something many of us take for granted. More than 430 Christmas hampers were provided/delivered to those in need last Christmas. Another 520 gifts for children were included in the hampers.

## CHRISTMAS TURKEY DINNER \$20

For the first time last year, Sacred Heart Church organized and provided a Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Dec. 25 to more than 700 people of the inner city and our community. More than 50 volunteers made this wonderful event possible.

Preparation and organization of these events begins in late September. We rely on financial donations from corporations, unions, businesses, schools, parishes and individuals to offset the costs of purchasing gifts for the children, food for the hampers, the children's Christmas party and Christmas day meals.

Registration for the Children's party and food hampers begins in November with three volunteers handling thousands of calls coming into the office on three phone lines. We collaborate with the Christmas Bureau and the Edmonton Food Bank to avoid duplication. We also set a deadline to the day of distribution to ensure those in need are reached and to include last-minute requests.

With all these ministries and activities taking place throughout the year, we are at times the busiest parish in the city, as well as the poorest. Sacred Heart Church is not self-sufficient, although that is our eventual goal. We are grateful that the Archdiocese of Edmonton generously supports our ministry. We are constantly in need of financial assistance to continue this much-needed ministry in the inner city. We graciously invite and encourage donations so that we can make a difference in the lives of the homeless, marginalized and the poor.

Christmas turkey dinner





# Kenya

## **WOMEN'S PRISON SUPPLIES \$50**

The Oblates in Kenya minister to the prisoners' spiritual needs, pastoral needs and social welfare. Many women are convicted because of crimes (minor or major) committed on the basis of poverty and joblessness in their lives. Desperation leads them to do anything they can to survive. Many are single mothers, and many are there because of poor legal representation due to poverty.

When they leave after serving their sentence, often after many years, they receive no help from the government or society and are often rejected by their own families.

Your gift will assist them with their basic needs including soap, toiletries, rubber shoes and medicines, as well as small amounts of money when they leave so they can start a small, simple business to survive.

## **EDUCATIONAL NEEDS \$50**

In Kenya, the government schools have a local church appointed as sponsor to help maintain integrity on the board, morality in the school, and assist in the provision of material needs. Many of the people cannot afford schools fees, supplies or uniforms. Some primary schools have no proper floor on which the children can sit, nor do they have chairs or benches.

The Oblates in Kenya minister to children in the parishes, prisons and schools. The government provides food at some of the schools but parents cannot afford the fees to send their children to school.

In the Maasai area, where Kisaju Parish is located, the expenses of education are one of the main problems faced by the families. The area is very dry with rare rainfalls. Throughout the year there are droughts and people lose their animals, which are their main source of income.





Eighty per cent of the children in Méru live in slums without shoes or proper clothing. Children go to school with torn clothes even on cold mornings.

Your gift will provide school bags, exercise books, pens, shoes, uniforms, warm clothes, chairs, benches, food, and sanitary packs for female high school students.

### **PARISH NEEDS \$50**

In Kisaju Parish, in the Maasai area, parishioners have built a temporary church but most of the parishioners and children have to stand to participate in Eucharistic celebrations.

Your gift will provide plastic chairs (\$10/chair) or pews (\$100/pew) for the church.



Fr. Bright Makunka, OMI, reaching out to the elders

## **WATER TANKS \$75**

Water is a necessity of life. Your gift will contribute to the construction of water towers for schools and churches, as well as water tanks to collect rain water.

## **ELDER CARE \$50**

Kenya has not yet developed care facilities and systems for aged people. However, it is painful to see in Kionyo Parish that some of the elderly are living alone in poverty, illness, isolation and far from their children. We have begun a ministry for aged people and it is challenging. We try to visit about 40 people every month for counselling, prayers, and Holy Communion.

Your gift would provide for food, clothes and medicine for the neglected elderly.

# *Peru*

## **CHAIRS FOR RETREAT CENTRE \$30**

The retreat area is being well used and soon will have 434 teenagers confirmed. Many groups come to this area for spiritual instruction. When we have people meeting in the retreat centre we need to haul chairs by truck from another hall and then have to return them when we are done. We could use at least 800 chairs. They cost \$10 per chair.

We also have some doctors who are interested in setting up a small clinic on the grounds as we are surrounded by very poor people. The school we have on the same grounds is for children from poor families.

Your gift will minimize hauling chairs, save time and provide for a more relaxed and attentive audience during spiritual instruction and confirmation. Imagine, 434 teenagers are to be confirmed and most of the people in attendance having to stand!



## SANTA CLOTILDE HOSPITAL \$50

Santa Clotilde Hospital serves the poor in Peru and is located along the Napo River in the jungles of the Peruvian Amazon.

Your gift will provide supplements like powdered milk for malnourished newborns, medicine, and contribute to hospital equipment and patient care.

## BEDS, BLANKETS, MATTRESSES \$50

Blaise MacQuarrie, OMI, epitomizes the call in James 2:14-18: *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

Blaise continues to pour body, heart, spirit and soul into clothing and sheltering the poor and homeless in Peru slums, villages, schools, and prisons.

Your gift will encourage him and make many lives more comfortable.





# Christmas in Poland

BY FRANK KUCZERA, OMI

GODFREY, Ill. – When I grew up in Poland, Christmas was always a special time of the year, a time filled with anticipation and awe.

Our celebration of Christmas began on Christmas Eve day. During the day, my brother, sister and I helped our parents and grandparents to prepare the house for the dinner celebration. Around six o'clock, after the house was cleaned, food prepared, and the dinner table set, we were dressed in the best clothes we had.

Everything on the table and around the table was filled with symbolism. Most of the dishes served are cooked specifically on this special day ... and only once a year.

Christmas Eve dinner started when the first star appeared in the sky. Nothing was allowed to be eaten until all of us had broken the Christmas wafers ("opłatek") together, asking for forgiveness from one another and exchanging wishes. It was always a beautiful moment when we shared hugs, smiles and tears.

My father was the one who began the dinner with a prayer, which was longer than our typical prayer before a meal. After the prayer we sang a few Christmas carols. During the meal, we were encouraged to taste a bit of everything.

We always had bits of hay spread beneath the tablecloth as a reminder that Christ was born in a



Frank Kuczera, OMI, as a young man with his family in Poland



manger. We always had an empty plate set on the table as a reminder to share with anyone who may come by and may be hungry.

There were typically 12 dishes prepared for dinner, as a symbol of 12 disciples and 12 months of the year. The dinner was meatless, with hemp soup (made especially for this time of the year and only in our region), potatoes, fish (usually carp), vegetables, mushrooms, dumplings, and sauerkraut.

The dinner typically lasted a few hours. We always waited for everyone to finish before exchanging simple gifts. After cleaning the table and washing dishes, we stayed up drinking tea, coffee or dried fruit compote and enjoying poppy-seed cake (makowiec), Christmas dessert soup (moczka) and gingerbread cookies.

We stayed up together until it was time to go to mass at midnight to celebrate *The Word made flesh*, our flesh. Have a blessed Christmas.

*(Fr. Kuczera, OMI, came from Poland in 1995 and was ordained in 2001. He is a member of OMI Lacombe Canada working in formation at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Novitiate in Godfrey, Ill.)*



## Gift Payment Option



We have the ability to accept donations by way of credit card! Please complete the gift form enclosed, visit our website at [www.omilacombe.ca/mami/donations/](http://www.omilacombe.ca/mami/donations/) to give on-line, or call our office toll free: 1-866-432-6264 and we will be pleased to assist you in facilitating your donation to the Oblate missions.

# Christmas in Kenya

BY COSMAS KITHINJI, OMI

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – During my childhood in rural Méru, Kenya, Christmas included a new set of clothes, festive eating, playing, praying and family time.

Every child looked forward to having a new set of clothes, their Sunday best, at Christmas. People in the clothing industry knew how to tap into this business opportunity because every year they had a trending fashion for children. Woe to the parents who were not able to buy new clothes for their children. They had to deal with long faces and tears!

Food was also important. The cooking had to be festive. This meant having dishes that were uncommon in ordinary time: rice, *chapatti* (unleavened flat bread), beef/goat/mutton, *andazi* (fried bread similar to doughnut) and drinks like juices, sodas and *ucuru bwa Gukia* (traditional home-ground fermented porridge).

Christmas also meant having a wider variety of food options to choose from. The ordinary food would have been; *kienyeji* (mashed potatoes mixed with beans/vegetables/peas), *Githeri* (beans mixed with dry corn), *Muthikore* (dry maize without husks mixed with beans/peas/cowpeas) or *ugali* (a paste of corn flour mixed in hot boiling water) served with *Sukuma wiki* (kale, cabbages or meat).

Play time meant a visit to the shopping centre with the change we had received from our parents or other adults as Christmas gifts. We would buy sweets, chewing gum, cakes and balloons. At the shops they had a kind of raffle system to determine who got what colour and size of balloon. The

Cosmas during his visit to Canada last Christmas



thrill of this selection came with much emotion depending on what one got, what the friends thought and how they reacted! After this it was back to usual child's play (soccer, hide and seek, skipping rope, etc.)

Christmas prayer began with the Christmas novena. Every evening for nine days leading to Christmas we went to church for the novena. On Christmas Eve there would be vigil services involving singing and dancing, skits and the mass.

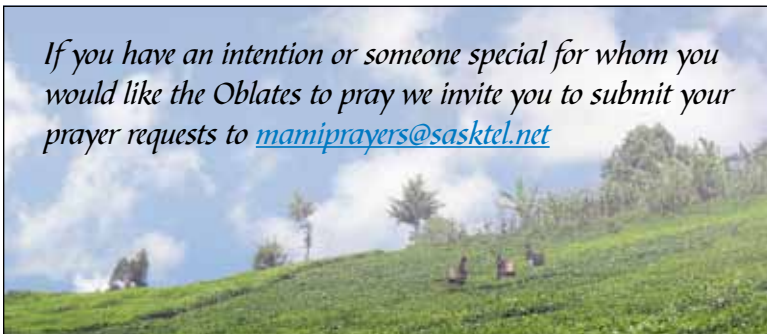
On Christmas Day we would also go to church. At these masses, the extraordinary thing would be to see people who lived in the city and had come to be with their families for Christmas.

Tied to the Christmas religious activities was the Feast of the Holy Innocents, three days after Christmas. All the children of the parish met to present bible memory verses, and Christmas-themed plays, songs and dances.

Lastly, Christmas was a family time. In my maternal family we had a custom of gathering on Christmas. My mother and her siblings and parents took turns to host the family Christmas. The women would arrive at the host family house earlier to cook, and the rest of us would gather in the afternoon. After the festive meal, the adults would have a meeting to discuss family matters and determine the next host, while the children would be out playing.

*(Cosmas is a Master of Divinity student in San Antonio, Texas.  
He made his profession of perpetual vows Sept. 1)*

*If you have an intention or someone special for whom you would like the Oblates to pray we invite you to submit your prayer requests to [mamiprayers@sasktel.net](mailto:mamiprayers@sasktel.net)*







# *Christmas in Canada*

**BY GILBERT BERTRAND, OMI**

PRINCE GEORGE, BC – We were a traditional French-Canadian family that moved to Petawawa, ON, when I was five, and my parents did their best to continue the family customs. I was the oldest of seven children.

For us, Christmas was the miracle that arrived on Christmas morning. After Christmas Eve mass, and once all of us children were nestled in our beds, our parents would put up and decorate the Christmas tree.

We had traditional foods like turkey always cooked with a large roast of pork for moisture and the dressing in the turkey was always in great demand, as was the wish bone. The dark meat was my favourite part and still is today.

Leading up to Christmas we were encouraged to make a list of three little gifts we might like to receive. Christmas morning there would be four gifts under the tree, one of which was from Santa. But we were allowed to open only three of the gifts. The fourth one had to remain under the tree until Epiphany. Then, in conjunction with the Magi presenting gifts to Jesus, we were allowed to open the fourth gift. The suspense was finally over.

New Year's Day provided another fond memory. We would go to visit our grandparents. In the French-Canadian tradition, we would individually kneel before our grandfather, who would make the sign of the cross and offer a blessing.

*(Fr. Bertrand is the parish priest at St. Mary's Parish in Prince George, BC)*



# Kenya

## N O T E B O O K

BY GERRY CONLAN, OMI

### AUG. 18

I'm sitting in the nurse's station at Nairobi Airport waiting for a nurse to give me a Yellow Fever Card. I usually have it with my passport, but separated it when I had to do my immigration checks last month. Thanks be to God they can give me a new card if I show evidence of my existing card, which I have on my laptop. I feel like an idiot, but God is good.

It was interesting to be reminded that next year will be 10 years since all my shots for Africa took place. I need to renew a few. The new vaccinations last a lifetime, so they say. Some I should have renewed in 2012 and 2013, typhoid and meningitis. Hmmm. Perhaps that's why I'm half mad.

On Sunday we had a nice mass at Nyumbani before I picked up Dad from town and took him shopping to Two Rivers Mall – a beautiful modern shopping centre. We found some suitable shoes at Bata, but friend Godfrey later said they were too cheap and must be no good! (Only US \$34). But Dad is very happy, even a week later.



Gerry Conlan, OMI

### Fence preparation



I was smiling as I was down on my knees adjusting one set of shoes and tied his laces ... a role reversal from 50 years ago. I'm learning a bit of patience!

## AUG. 25

I'm relaxing on the bus to Watamu to finalize a bit of fencing work on the property there. The seatbelt is not working properly, so I've wedged the metal buckle between and under the centre steel plates. It is working quite well. One has to adapt to survive in Kenya.

Our crankshaft in the Isuzu four-wheel-drive for Kisaju was found to have a crack, the supplier in Kenya was mistaken about availability of a second-hand part, and the cost of a new part was three times higher. Thankfully, our Mazenod Centre secretary has connections and they found a nearly new part in Johannesburg. The sad thing was, they would not allow me to carry it home, and forced me to send it by air cargo. It was a blessed moment that I'd forgotten my credit card and only had US\$195 cash on me. They wanted \$250, but accepted what I had. For a change, I was truly a poor missionary on the plane ... not even enough for coffee in the lounge, but the coffee lady took pity on me and gave me a freeby. God is kind.

## SEPT. 1

Thank God I'm back to home base. The food in Mombasa was good, but it was humid all the time. However, I did enjoy being away for a few days and enjoyed the calm serenity of the ocean early each morning.

I was happy to hear that our youth in Kisaju Parish



Crankshaft



Fr. Bright Makunka is active with youth ministry

participated in the Ngong Diocese Youth Games day. They came second in the category for “play” acting. One could say, the new parish is now on the scoreboard!

A few of our Kionyo youth and visitors from Méru and Nairobi visited a children’s home in Nkubu and cheered up

Kisaju Parish youth at Ngong Diocese Youth Games day







Karen residence basement walls

the children as well as leaving some practical assistance in the way of clothes and food. I'm inspired that they are now motivated enough to do these things on their own. Kenrod, our Nairobi chairman, is the main pusher and organizer. Let's pray he keeps it up. He has just finished his survey course in Nairobi and is looking for a job.

Last Sunday I arrived safely in Watamu, where I met Patrick, our faithful Kisaju parishioner, and we went to Jacaranda, six kilometres along the coast, to see a quarter-acre block of land we purchased in June. The tradesmen arrived and started work on the site after a suitable "deposit" was made for materials and labour.

They are making permanent wall markers for our boundary, the usual practice in this area. Our block is about 300 metres from the ocean and rises up slightly, so it will offer a nice view, and the back fence will face onto a public road for good access. It's still covered in shrubs and has a coral rock surface, meaning we can excavate our own coral stone bricks when it comes time to build something.

## SEPT. 8

While in Nairobi, I saw a street boy sleeping on the pavement at 10 a.m., with people walking around him. I couldn't walk past. I leaned over and gently shook his shoulder, but got no response, then a small movement, so another shake brought him awake.

He looked about seven or eight years old – later he told me he was 13. A gentleman had stopped and was watching me. I asked the boy if he needed something to eat and he nodded, and slowly stood up.

We walked off together and he showed me where there was a place to eat. It was a simple café under a sheet of roofing iron and no walls, near a polluted river. I asked the woman how much for food and tea. She said 50. So I gave 100 and asked her to feed the boy the next day as well.

I tried to ask the boy questions but wasn't getting much response, so I asked a youth nearby to ask for me. His mother had died and his father was violent, so he ran away from home in 2015. I asked the boy to try and go home, even though he won't.

Each time I see these boys I feel useless and know we have to start a ministry here in Nairobi. Feeling sorry for them isn't enough.

## SEPT. 15

With Fr. Fidele away this week in South Africa, it's been a busier week than usual. He represented us at the 75th anniversary of our scholasticate in South Africa. I learned the scholasticate was built because it was difficult for the students to get to Europe during World War 2.

Thursday morning I travelled to Kisaju to inspect the borehole at Olturuto and check the start of drilling another borehole on our donated property at Kisaju, where we hope to develop



Borehole drilling



Kiraitu family wedding in Karen

some kind of training or retreat centre. We are grateful to the German Oblates and people for their kind project funding for water and fencing. The Olturuto borehole was finished, but still needs a concrete slab at the top.

Since the introduction of the 16 per cent tax on fuel I've noticed a lot less traffic on the road, which makes my life easier.

## SEPT. 22

Many people are upset because of the new tax measures introduced this week. Many poor people are really going to suffer.

I've been trying to be kind to those walking on the road and managed to help a few this week. One young man, striding along near Karen, said he had no money for transport and he was grateful for a four-kilometre ride. Another lady was walking past our gate as I drove out. She appreciated the ride, and recalled that I had helped her previously with a heavy load.

It is no effort for me to stop, and yet it makes a great impact on the people: we chat and share names so they know the Church is doing something for them, not just asking for

Entrance to Kionyo church





Fr. Daquin and farm manager Euticus inspect the water-sharing project

money! I try to guess which part of Kenya they are from by their names and I'm starting to get decent at it. Some of the guests are amazed. They always leave with a smile.

I also received some donated books for the school in the slums at Lucky Summer from a board member at Nyumbani.

On Wednesday, I drove Fr. Daquin to Kiirua Farm to check progress. There are challenges with the water-sharing project. Some people are cheating and blocking our side of the hill, and others changed the pipe so they would have a bigger pipe. The project management committee

agree it must be changed, but never do anything about it.

When I drove into Nairobi on Thursday, I was pulled over by a policeman (the third time this week!), and he checked my licence and tried to harass me, saying the licence was defaced. Eventually, when he asked me what work I do, he let me go after hearing "Missionary."

## SEPT. 29

We were very happy to hear that the Oblate lay associates from Kionyo took time to visit our farm at Kiirua, and they came with shovels, hoes and a lot of energy to plant potatoes and beans ... a great sign of solidarity with the mission. Thank God.

There was a bit of stress helping Fr. Daquin finalize the purchase (and transfer funds to the right people), of an acre of tea land at Kionyo for the lay associates to manage on behalf





Oblate lay associates help out at the Kiirua farm

of the Oblates. This will be a focus for them to work together to support their activities of assisting the parish and the mission as lay collaborators, while being educated and moulded into the Oblate charism.

#### **OCT. 4**

Fr. Faustin conducted a special workshop at Méru and Kionyo for vocation candidates during the week, providing input and sharing more about the Oblates in Kenya and assessing the young men more carefully for selection into our 2019 postulancy program. The young men who come to the workshop are specially invited and have been visited several times during the year by Fr. Faustin or Fr. Daquin. Some have been journeying for more than a year.

On Friday, Fr. Fidele met the bishop in Méru to finalize our new parish agreement and help Fr Daquin make arrangements to import a good Toyota Rush from Japan. This will be needed by Fr. Daquin, who has been managing without a car for two months. We expect delivery to Mombasa by early November, which is important because after November this car would not be accepted because it would be older than seven years.

In Méru, Fr. Bright Makunka is busy with the care-of-the-



Fr. Bright visits the elderly

elderly ministry, which was formally introduced into the parish program. It involves regularly visits to 40 elders every week.

A little God moment occurred on Friday as I left our house. I saw a young man running to the main road, so I pulled alongside and he gratefully took a lift

towards Karen. He was quite amazed I stopped and explained he is a Catholic studying at Africa International University.

## DONATING SECURITIES

*to Oblate  
missionary  
works*



Do you have publicly traded securities that you would like to donate to the benefit of the Oblate missions? You can directly donate your publicly traded securities (shares) to **AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI** and receive an official income tax receipt while avoiding the payment of capital gains tax.

To take advantage of this tax-saving offer, please call Diane Lepage (1-866-432-6264) at our office for further information. A minimum market value of \$5,000 is suggested. We would be happy to facilitate this exchange that benefits you and the poor of the Oblate missions.



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our Facebook  
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# WANTED YOUR STORIES!

*There are many charities and good causes that solicit your support. Yet for some reason you have chosen to offer the Oblates your prayers, friendship and assistance.*

## **We are curious:**

Why did you choose us?

How did you hear about the Oblate  
missionary work?

How have the Oblates supported, inspired  
and encouraged you?

What are some of your best memories of Oblates and their  
missionary work?

**Send your stories (and photos) to: [lacombemissions@yahoo.ca](mailto:lacombemissions@yahoo.ca)**





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ministry and mission works of the  
Oblates continues in Canada and  
throughout the world. You could  
even specify an Oblate mission  
that is dear to your heart.*

*Oblate  
Spirit*

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