



BC News

BC District

Phone: 604-736-9363

Fax: 604-736-9961

Email: secretary@omibc.com

December 18, 2018

2018-007

Birthday Greetings

Ron Rissling, OMI	December 1
Tom Cavanaugh, OMI	December 7
Joachim Singarajah, OMI	December 19
Bp. Adam Exner, OMI	December 24

Anniversary - December 8th

Al Luken, OMI	40	First Vows
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Blessed Advent Greetings!

The Christmas cards are trickling in now. Christmas lights are adding beauty to the early darkness. Some people are so Cree-ative in all these activities! As we prepare to celebrate once again the Birth of Christ, all of us (I am sure) are thinking of the New Year and the blessings from the old year. Father TAP's 40th anniversary of ordination was well celebrated at St. Paul's on the North Shore. And, then the next day, Archbishop Miller installed him as the pastor, which led to more celebrating!

And, a grand celebration was held for Father Ron Dechant's 80th birthday. His bishop found out about it and recommended that the diocese be invited to the Mass and celebration. So, it was done, and people collected enough money so that Father could go on a pilgrimage to the Marian shrines in Europe. His smile is like a lighthouse on a mountaintop. He is having a very happy birthday.

Thanks to the hospitality of Pandosy Place, 17 Oblates and Associates gathered for adoration, evening prayer, a social, and the evening meal on November 1st. Father General asked the Congregation to do this throughout the world, alone or with others. So, it was done. Alleluia!

Then, on November 8, another 17 Oblates and Associates enjoyed the session led by Father Jim Dukowski using 15 Days of Prayer with Saint Eugene de Mazenod. We are hoping to get in a mini retreat at least once a month as a local community. So, it was hoped. So, it was done.

At our most recent gathering (this time at The Crescent on December 6th), Father Warren Brown spoke about the Congregation and the Consultation for the Province. He then presided at Mass, which ended with our consecration to our Blessed Mother and the Salve Regina. About 20 Oblates and 6 Associates came together on this day in lieu of our December 8th celebration.



The next big celebration before Christmas will be for Archbishop Adam Exner's 90th birthday on December 22nd. Happy Birthday, Your Grace!

So many blessings. The Lord is good. May each Christmas card and each light remind us of our call to be the Good News and a reflection of the Light of Christ.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Everyone!

With gratitude and prayer,
Garry LaBoucane, OMI

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any contributions you wish to have recorded in 2018, please have them in the Treasurer's Office by Thursday, December 27th. Otherwise, they will be considered 2019 contributions.

REPORTS ...A **full-year financial report** for 2018 will be expected by January 31st, 2019.

GST ...A GST Report for **July – December 2018** is also expected by January 31st, 2019. Please remember that the GST receipts need to be deposited in the Treasurer's office at 1311 The Crescent, Vancouver, BC V6H 1T7. Please do NOT send receipts that do not have any GST or credit card records.

Thank you.
Terry Conway, OMI

Associates News (by David and Karen Sax)

Merry Christmas Elizabeth and McE!!!

Karen & David Sax here, now from Vancouver Island. I just read Ontario district's December Highlights that you, Elizabeth, forwarded to all us in the BC district – thanks again! And thank you, McE, for another chockful update from "down east" (even though you're still central Canada). Thank Len Rego from us for his update on Joe Gunn (who I worked with at the Archdiocese of Regina in late 70's/early 80's); I'm glad to see the "baton being passed" so to speak, to another person in love with Jesus and his people. Fr. Heinner's greetings reach all of us across Canada, and we'll keep him and all the requests for Oblates in care in our prayers.

We have both been happily part of the "far west" of Canada since I retired from the City of Regina and joined David here in Nanaimo in April. It rains instead of snows which suits us fine, and our family and friends here have made the adjustment smooth and welcoming. Love living near our eldest Rebekah's family; we walk to their Nico's school twice a week to pick him up for afterschool care, snack, computer/cards/fun times. It's so good to know Mike & Jo Creedon (we're going to their annual Christmas open house tonight) and attend both Oblate and Associate gatherings in Vancouver (good to see Roberto Smith and Eugene Whyte more often, too!). We have been busy with music through our old parish in Ladysmith where we lived with our 4 girls from 1991-1996, and are on our last week of 4 for a parish Advent retreat we've been leading. Remember our dear Marieka, fully healed from her "halo" experience? She's thriving in Prince George on contract work (pray for permanent full-time, please), and will be spending Christmas there with sister Liz driving up from Kamloops. 3 girls in BC now and Rosanna, our 4th wants to move here with her family too. They are all our greatest blessings.

That's us in a nutshell! I was glad David met Pam Dixon in Edmonton at Star of the North with the Associates Planning this fall, and hope we continue to keep in touch; "hi" to all the Oblates and Associates in Ottawa who welcomed us to Springhurst almost 4 years ago. Have a wonderful Advent winding down/Christmas gearing up/full tilt blessed 2019.

With continued prayers of thanksgiving for all of OMI Lacombe Canada.

Honorary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, Mary Reilly

I have a new address - e mail is the same I was pondering moving, now that I am 88 and wondering how long I will drive, etc. when I realized my area of Burnaby is being "developed", including all the houses across the street are up for sale for development! I did not want to become involved in all that, so I decided to sell and go into Independent Living. I thought that might take several months, but my apartment sold the first day on the market, and I was able to get an apartment in a building where some friends live. In meant that it was all accomplished in one month! I have my own apartment, about the same size as my last one, but have lots of things included, such as cleaning, laundry and meals! I am very happy here, and still spend quite a bit of time doing what I usually do so seem to have the best of both worlds!

All the best to all at The Crescent. I do appreciate your e mails, etc.

Mary

(Please phone Elizabeth at the office if you'd like Mary's new contact information.)