

HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

OMI Lacombe Canada



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MAY 2019

2019 DATES TO REMEMBER:

MAY 13-16, Community Days, Galilee

July 5, Day of Retreat, Galilee

August 18-23, Annual Retreat, Galilee

SOME WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE JOY OF EASTER

Let's say "Alleluia" after we pray

Alleluia, which means 'God Be Praised', is the great Easter proclamation, reminding us to give God praise and thanks for His presence and love for us.

Let's remember to be merciful

We have so much to be grateful for, so let's demonstrate our gratitude by being merciful to others. Making that little bit of effort to extend mercy to one another brings peace and, inevitably, joy.

Let's write down three things we're grateful for every day

In the spirit of gratitude, let's note the things we're grateful for in a personal journal. Next Easter we could look at this year's entries and see how our gratitude may have evolved, or even stayed the same.

Let's keep fresh flowers in our room

A seasonal bouquet, or a few wild flowers, bring a festive quality to any room and lifts the spirits of anyone who sees them.

Let's spend more time outside

It's finally springtime, and there's a lot to marvel at in the great outdoors. Let's breathe some fresh air and take time to really see God's creation at work: tulip bulbs sprouting, birds singing, insects and animals going about their lives and, yes, flooding rivers all around us. Why not take a few photos and share them with others. Normand could show us how best to do this!

Let's read something uplifting

It's a good season to read something that lifts our heart and brings us life. Two easy to read books that are doing this for me are: *I Mind the Time* by Evelyn Adam and *The Breath of the Soul* by Joan Chittister.

Let's affirm one another

Why not make a special visit to a brother Oblate, especially our sick, and bring a wee gift? It's not only a neighbourly thing to do, but it spreads Easter Joy around, creating a joyful community spirit.

J. Roy Boucher, OMI



Photo taken by Edith Boucher, thank you!

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“LET’S TALK”

The On-Going Formation Committee has been tasked to foster community by hosting frequent opportunities for Oblates and Associates to come together and discuss various timely and relevant topics.

Our second session was held on March 21st at Springhurst. A group of 12-13 Oblates, Associates and guests came together to use Sr. Mary Pat Garvin’s article, “Graced Companionship: A Metaphor for Religious Leadership Today”. We examined our responses to the article and how it may guide us in future leadership discussions. Many of the group felt it was a very good article which empowered and gave support to them. Many also felt that leadership is about relationship building (and by extension then community building). How is the leader pulling out the best in each person? How can we interact with the leaders in our lives (thinking along the model of Jesus and the disciples relationship)? There was some very beautiful sharing regarding challenges with reading the article, personal struggle with relationship and leadership, and affirming community.

This was a great examination of our role in family, friends, work, and community. How can we become better leaders, even when we are not in a role of authority (or what if we are)? How can we be more like Jesus in our relationships?

The April “Let’s Talk” session was on suffering. A collection of writings from Ron Rohlheiser and a chapter of Eckhart Tolle’s book *The Power of Now*, were used as resources. We had 15 Oblates, Associates and guests come out to the Springhurst Lounge to discuss and share their thoughts on suffering. The

On-Going Formation Committee felt that suffering would be an appropriate theme as we journey through Lent and prepare for Easter.

The main topic discussed was acknowledging our past (history), and then learning to let go of it, to live in the now, to respond to the now. To end our suffering would be to let go of control. One could consider it an act of being passive rather than active in our every day encounters and being okay with those decisions. In times of suffering, we need to find the grace, the blessings, acknowledge the "curses" and do the best we can. Many of the group shared personal stories of suffering and how they may have been able to overcome it.

I am very grateful for the sharing and the building of community we are doing when we come together during these sessions. Thank you to all who participated.

Pamela Dixon, Oblate Associate



UPCOMING AT GALILEE CENTRE FOR THIS SPRING

Gracenote Vespers

Thursday, May 9, 2019; 7:30 pm

Join us for evening prayers of Thanksgiving & Praise led by the uniquely talented GRACENOTE. This compassionate & talented group of artists bring a vibrant, joyful, & soulful approach to this ancient Christian prayer.

Cost: Goodwill Donation

Unending Pull of Love May 10-12, 2019

This retreat invites you to draw aside and through story, contemplative practice, literature, music and nature, to encounter the promise of more life, new freedom and deeper love. We will listen so we may become the wise folks we are summoned to be today.

Maureen McDonnell will be facilitating this program.

Cost: Single \$210, Double \$180, Commuter \$150
CDN – \$100 deposit required with registration.



Icon Workshop (Therese of Lisieux) June 2-7, 2019

Space in this workshop is limited to 10 participants. Deadline to register is May 19, 2019.

This is a spiritual retreat focused on St. Therese of Lisieux and the gift she is to our spiritual growth. Participants will engage in the Christian sacred art form of iconography. It is a workshop suitable for all levels of painting experience from none to professional. All materials and tools, including gessoed boards, paints and brushes, gold leaf, photos and line drawings, etc., are supplied.

Suzanne Massie & Michelle Reis-Amores will be facilitating this program.

Cost: Single \$740 (includes lodging, meals & materials); Commuter \$500 (includes meals & materials) CDN – \$250 deposit required with registration.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Normand Bonneau, OMI, diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome last November, is back at work in his office at Saint Paul's and living at Springhurst Residence. His progress is astounding and his spirits are better! Please keep him in your prayers.

Ron Kedrosky is pleased to be doing better. He thanks everyone for their prayers and hopes to see the Community at an upcoming gathering.

Mike McCarthy, OMI, has moved back home and is very happy to be home again. Please keep Fr. Mike and his family in your prayers as he regains his health and strength.

Fr. Christie Joachim Pillai, is living at Providence House in Toronto. He is well looked after by loving and compassionate staff there. Please keep his sister, Grace, and his community in your prayers.

Please send any suggestions for prayers to McE Galbreath at ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca.

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM ST. EUGENE

“The cross of Jesus Christ is central to our mission. Like the apostle Paul, we “preach Christ and him crucified” (1cor 2:2). If we bear in our body the death of Jesus, it is with the hope that the life of Jesus, too, may be seen in our body (cf. 2 Cor 4:10). Through the eyes of our crucified Saviour we

see the world which he redeemed with his blood, desiring that those in whom he continues to suffer will know also the power of his resurrection (cf. Phil 3:10).”

CC&RR, Constitution 4



CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST VOWS

Bro. Leonardo Rego, May 12 (46 years)

ANNIVERSARY OF FINAL VOWS

Fr. Richard Beaudette, May 3 (37 years)

Bro. Leonardo Rego, May 12 (40 years)

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Fr. Richard Beaudette, May 6 (37 years)

Fr. Michael McCarthy, May 8 (48 years)

Fr. John Malazdrewich, May 18 (28 years)

Fr. Hanh Van Tran, May 20 (14 years)

Fr. André Boyer, May 24 (45 years)

Fr. Normand Bonneau, May 29 (43 years)

Fr. Joseph Hattie, May 29 (55 years)

BIRTHDAYS

Bro. Dan Dionne May 4

Fr. Bill Thompson May 19

Colleen Kerr May 29

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