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Sights and Sounds

May 7, 2019

For the Month of May



<u><i>Birthdays</i></u>		<u><i>First Vows</i></u>	
<i>May 16</i>	<i>Fr. Paul Facht</i>	<i>May 21</i>	<i>Fr. Nestor Silva (43)</i>
<i>May 19</i>	<i>Br. Walter DeMong</i>	<i>May 31</i>	<i>Br. Don Claerhout (54)</i>
<i>May 26</i>	<i>George Gruher</i>	<i>May 21 - St. Eugene De Mazenod Feast Day</i>	



May – Celebrating Mother Mary

The month of May is a special time to pay homage to our Blessed Mother Mary.

Let us also celebrate our Mothers; those who are still with us and those who have left us to be with God.

Celebrating a Life

Sister Margaret Dick, SNJM – June 6, 1937 – April 24, 2019



On Tuesday, April 30 a group from Saskatoon of approximately 27 travelled to Ft. Qu'Appelle to attend the Mass of the Resurrection for Sr. Margaret. The group included Oblates, Oblate Associates, staff and friends of Sr. Margaret. Fr. Glenn Zimmer presided with Fr. Bill Stang, Bishop Gerry Wiesner and Fr. Susai Jesu concelebrating. Sr. Lorraine and Sr. Alice of the Leadership of Sr. Margaret's community participated in the celebration as well.

Fr. Glenn shared stories about Sr. Margaret that included her early life, as well as her many years at Queen's House and her time at Qu'Appelle House of Prayer.

Following the wonderful celebration of the Eucharist, a delicious lunch was served during which time the numerous guests shared with each other their stories of Sr. Margaret.

Amidst the sadness, we find joy and comfort within our Oblate Family



Some Post-Script Notes - Glenn M. Zimmer, OMI

Margaret Dick, SNJM (June 6, 1937 - April 24, 2019)

After Margaret's death during the night of April 23 and 24, there followed more than a week of real life gatherings and life-giving celebrations, which though seemingly different, were closely related. These took place April 27 to May 4. Each and every moment profoundly conveyed a providential God of intense unconditional love, a God who was a guest among us during those days in such a graced way. And since.

After the completion of the immediate arrangements for Margaret's final farewell, attention was turned to a marriage that took place in the house of prayer chapel on the Saturday morning after her death. I had known Kelsey and Jeff from my earliest days in Fort Qu'Appelle when they were each 7 years old. One week later on May 4, at the very same time now in Provost, Alberta, I joined my family to lead together with their parents the baptisms of three great-nieces and one great-nephew. During the days between these two Saturdays, there were many tender personal encounters, times of prayer and liturgy: a Eucharist of Thanksgiving on Monday morning and Vigil of Prayer that evening at the house of prayer, the Liturgy of the Resurrection on Tuesday in Fort Qu'Appelle and two days later, at Despins Residence chapel in Winnipeg. Only then did we leave Margaret her in the sacred ground of St Boniface Cemetery among her Sisters, and close to her parents and maternal grandparents who are very nearby.

The common thread of this beautiful tapestry woven during these seven days, especially highlighted by the children at their baptisms: "These are my beloved in whom I am well pleased." God in the Incarnation, as a guest of humanity, steadfastly reassured us that the message both at the beginning and at the end of our lives here on earth is the same: "You are my Son ... you are my Daughter, the beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1: 11).

In the days after I first found her body on her bed, days dedicated to Margaret and God's life-long work within and through her, people gathered from near and far. More than 500 people participated in the four main services both locally and in Winnipeg, coming from New York City to Bowen Island, BC, across all the provinces from Quebec to British Columbia. There were numerous people from

several denominations, including some 10 – 15 non-RC clergy in Fort Qu'Appelle, along with several Oblates in both places.

Hundreds of tributes continue to arrive. The most common sentiment expressed is the appreciation for Margaret's gentle spirit within a strong soul. Gentleness marked her sudden death, the time between turning out a light and falling back onto her bed into eternal life. She had long practiced her death through meditation and prayer, so very evident to us during her last months as she prepared to die both in the way and where she wanted.

Special thanks to the 21 who came by bus from Saskatoon from the Saskatchewan Oblate Community along with several from Queen's House and other long-time friends, as well as the several who came by car. My warm-hearted thanks to all my seven siblings, spouses and 5 (great) nieces and nephews. Marley, not quite 11, traveled from near Edmonton with her grandparents because "Margaret always talked to me."

In 1955 Margaret took the train to Montreal to begin life as a religious sister on July 23. Two years later she returned west, serving in several assignments in various schools and parishes (including the Oblate parish in Kenora, Ontario). Then she went further west, first to Queen's House in 1987, and in 1995, to Qu'Appelle House of Prayer as co-founder and co-director until her death. It was a soul-stirring moment when I returned her body to Winnipeg last Wednesday, slowly passing the train station on Main and Broadway from where she first began her adult journey, now completing the circle of her life on earth.

During the past few days, I have been asked many times: "What is the plan now for QHP?" Providentially and through the creative, insightful help of several, especially during the past year, much preparation was unknowingly being done for this day. In-depth discernment had begun more than a year ago involving those committed to and knowledgeable of this unique ministry and way of life; this included the leadership and membership (vowed and Associate) of OMI Lacombe Canada, the Sisters of Presentation, the Archdiocese of Regina and several others.

Resulting from these many months, a new Vision Statement came to be:

*Qu'Appelle House of Prayer offers an inclusive spiritual community –
rooted in both the practice of contemplative prayer
and contemplative way of living –
through solitude, silence and simplicity and in relationship with creation –
welcoming all unconditionally.*

Presently there exists a strong presence of diverse people, including Sister Chantelle Bonk, PM (full-time), Kathy Letkemann and husband Tim Elias, Susan Butler-Jones and husband Boyd Drake, and innumerable others from nearby and beyond. A special gift was that Margaret was integral to this preparation *not only for her life after death, but also for the life of the House of Prayer after her death*. In her last months she lived and deepened the essential vision, teaching us by her presence, above all, how to better live into the core vision. In this way, in the spirit of the post-Resurrection Emmaus journey, she gave hospitality to the Risen Christ both on the road and at the breaking of bread.

Special thanks to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (Manitoba) for consistent collaboration over the years, in some sense going back to 1843 when the Holy Names were first founded with support from the Oblates newly arrived in Montreal. It was such a reassuring gift to be with Sister Lorraine St-Hilaire, Provincial, also Sister Alice Konefall, Provincial Councillor, and the many other Sisters who prepared the liturgy at Despins and so much more. Margaret's family, two sisters and two brothers, became my family even more so during these past few days.

Many years ago, Marg – long-time devotee of Leonard Cohen – told me that she wanted the song “Bird on the Wire” at her funeral and on her tombstone. Among the vast mosaic of awareness and feelings that flooded through me on April 24 at 9:00 am were the words of Leonard and Margaret, words which underscored every part of her remarkable life:

“Like a bird on the wire, I have tried in my way to be free.”

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### **Request for Prayers**

*Maurice Lalonde, brother of Fr. Albert Lalonde passed away on Saturday, April 27, 2019. The funeral was held at St. Lucy's Church in Aborfield, SK. Please keep Fr. Albert and his family in your prayers.*

### **Treasurer's Office:**

- *The Treasurer's Office is very happy to announce that Income Tax 2018 is now complete for the SDC District.*
- *Please continue to send in your GST receipts in a timely manner.*



*Thank you,  
Corrine Pambrun and Fr. Paul Facht*



### **Community Days – June 20 & June 21, 2019**

- *Please mark your calendar for our next SDC Community Days gathering on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.*
- *Registration and an Agenda will be coming out in early June*

*See you there!!*



*Please join us for our next coffee gathering at Trinity Manor on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.*

*We will be celebrating the May birthdays and it just so happens that Fr. Paul's birthday is on this coffee gathering day. As well, we will be celebrating the birthdays of Br. Walter (May 19) and Fr. George (May 25) Jadwiga is bringing the birthday cake.*



*See you there!!*

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MAMI will be hosting the 2019 Global Oblate Fundraisers meeting in Saskatoon at Queen's House this coming June including representatives from the General Administration and 7 other countries.

As part of our agenda, we have invited Joe Gunn, Director of Centre Oblat – A Voice for Justice, to give a presentation framing our many charitable efforts and its basis to justice-making internationally.

We are inviting Oblates and Associates to join us for this session with Joe on Tuesday ~ June 11 from 1:00 to 2:30 in the afternoon.

Following the session, we will be taking the group on a little outing to the Western Development Museum for a taste of Saskatchewan history. Transportation will be coordinated to the Museum and then back to Queen's House for supper, entertainment with a live band and concluding with a social.

It would mean a lot to us and to SDC/Lacombe Province if you could be with us for the entire afternoon and evening ~ offering tangible hospitality to the GOF participants and a hands-on way to better get to know each other within the Oblate World. We invite you to join us for any and all parts of the day.

Please complete the attached registration form and return to Diane Lepage prior to June 1, 2019.

E-mail: lacombemami@sasktel.net or Fax: 306-652-1133

Queen's House News – Brendan Bitz



We have completed our Spring Fling Raffle Sales and began our draws on May 1st. Fr. Maurice Fiolleau from Prince Albert was at Queen's House participating in the Diocesan Priests Retreat last week and graciously assisted us with the May 3rd draw. Our winners list will be posted beside our reception desk and on our website. We sold \$29,628 worth of Calendar Draw tickets and \$7,280 worth of 50-50 tickets which represents an increase over last year of about 7.4% increase for which we are most grateful. Fr. Maurice is being assisted by Aldwin Abigania who is a mainstay in our kitchen. Thank you both very much!

Please continue to refer to our brochures and website information regarding our program offerings presented under the banner of our commitment to offer and encourage our guests to *"Nourish Your Mind and Nurture Your Spirit"* when they visit Queen's House.

We are pleased to announce as well that Martha Fergusson has joined our Queen's House Team as our Events and Engagement Coordinator. Martha's work will focus on the many fund raising initiatives that we rely on to ensure that the retreat and renewal mission and ministry of Queen's House remains vibrant and strong. Martha has a strong background in organization, communication, church and faith activities, youth and community engagement; we are very much looking forward to our planning and work with Martha. Please stop by to say hello next time you are here. Martha has tentatively set Wednesdays and Fridays as her primary days here at Queen's House. Her email is devofficer@queenshouse.org and her office phone is 306-242-1916 (234).

Please note the following scheduled fundraising events:

- Oblate Scramble Golf Tournament: We will be registering players, teams and sponsors soon for this event scheduled for Sunday, June 23 at Moon Lake Golf & Country Club.
- Bike-A-Thon: Pledge collections will begin soon for our September 15th ride.
- Our Gala Dinner: Scheduled for the evening of Thursday, November 21st.

From all of us here at Queen's House ... God Bless Us All!

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

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