

HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

OMI Lacombe Canada



January 2020

Christmas in Ottawa

Christmas Day found the Oblates at Springhurst residence gathering in the lounge for drinks and sharing. Grace was said together before they moved into the dining room for Turkey Dinner which Joe Lasowski omi had laid out before them (everyone knows that Joe is a master



when it comes to carving the turkey). It was between the main course and desert that Santa's helper's presence became known. Eugene Whyte omi rushed to welcome the new visitor.

With a few 'Ho, ho, ho's that sounded suspiciously female, Santa's helper then distributed small surprises which had arrived a couple of days earlier from the North Pole. Santa's helper found that the gifts did not have

any name tags and there was lots of laughter when Santa's helper seemed to get things a little mixed up and gave a gift that was so very obviously meant for another.



There were a few hushed whispers that Santa's helper was really an Associate in disguise – but that just added to the merriment.



District Announcements from Jim Bleackley

For those who were not able to join our District December 8th Celebration we repeat Fr. Ken Thorson's announcement that Eugene Whyte will now be Director of Springhurst Residence and he will be assisted by Ed MacNeil.

I, along with the other members of the Ontario District, are happy to announce that Eleanor Rabnett has agreed to serve as Lay Advisor on the District Council for the current term.

The council also nominated and appointed Eugene Whyte and Eleanor Rabnett as Ontario District Associate Co-animators.

Our joy and gratitude to both Eugene and Eleanor's acceptance in serving all of us who are a part of Ontario District.

With prayers and wishes as we move into this New Year of 2020

Ontario District Council

Jim Bleackley

Hahn Van Tran

Tim Coonen

Eugene Whyte

Eleanor Rabnett

Mark Your Calendars

January 19 – Oraison: Praying with the Mazenodian Family this will be the fourth monthly Oraison, with members of the Mazenodian Family. If you did not receive the email with notes offering possible thoughts and reflections focussing on *"In the prolonged silent prayer we make each day, we let ourselves be molded by the Lord, and find in him the inspiration of our conduct."* OMI Rule of Life, 33) please contact Eleanor Rabnett.

February 17th Anniversary of the 1826 Approval of the Constitutions & Rules and the naming of the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Springhurst Residence invites all members of the Mazenodian Family to join them at 4:30 pm in the chapel for a prayer service, followed by social and dinner.

April 27th to the 30th – Ontario District Community Days beginning with dinner on the 27th and ending lunch on the 30th, which will be held at Galilee Centre. Look for more information and registration in the next couple of months.

July 3rd for our annual **District (Oblates and Associates) Retreat Day** which will be held at Galilee Centre – with prayer and reflection followed by Mass at 4PM and then BBQ dinner. Stay tuned for future information and registration.

August 16-21 are the days set aside for our **yearly Oblate Retreat**. This year **Fr. Seamus Finn OMI** from the US Province will join and lead us on the topic of **Laudato Si**. More information to follow in the coming months.

*Want to remind all of us of other common dates – just send us an email and we'll include what we can.
Thanks.*

In love and prayers...

Frank Kavanagh has joined us in the Springhurst Community. This is a joy and blessing for all of us. Welcome Frank!

Eugene Whyte who is now the Director of Springhurst Residence. He will be supported by Ed MacNeil.

Tim Coonen who will be in the hospital for heart surgery on January 14th. He will not be able to have visitors immediately so please check with Jim Bleackley before trying to visit him in the Heart Institute. Tim we will be holding you in our hearts and prayers through the surgery and your healing journey.

Roy Boucher continues to recuperate from his early October heart attack – his heart is

enjoying the stents. Let's keep Roy in our ongoing thoughts and prayers.

Joe Hattie, who received a pace-maker for his heart late this fall, and who returned to the Heart Institute so that it could be 'fine-tuned' is back in the "Bay" and doing well. In his words I... received a pacemaker, which will help me, to keep pace with praying for you all in the New Year." Thanks Joe – we will all pray with and for you.

Let's continue to keep **Ron Kedrosky, Maureen Pinsonneault HOMI and Jane McDonald** in our ongoing thoughts and prayers.

We continue to keep all members of our Mazenodian Family both across the Province and throughout the world in our ongoing prayers and thoughts. We meet them in prayer through our Oraison and also the ongoing Monthly Mazenodian Family Oraison.

From St. Eugene de Mazenod

Writing in his diary from Saint Sulpice in January 1812 Eugene wants to ensure that his "deeds will speak more loudly than my words".

"...I will submit to what seems to be the design of Providence in my regard; and in order not to render unfruitful the ministry for which it destines me, I will strive to live in such a way that my deeds will speak more loudly than my words and suggestions.

"With that in view, I will try with God's help to renew myself in the spirit of the priesthood, and my first step will be to impress upon myself that the priesthood is a state of perfection, which demands of those who have the happiness to be invested with it a scrupulous fidelity to the least movements of the Holy Spirit [...] in everything



seeking God alone, his glory, the salvation of souls and our progress in the ways of perfection.” (103:XV in Oblate Writings)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Gilbert Mason	Jan 3
Christie Joachimpillai	Jan 6
Maureen Pinsonneault HOMI	Jan 6
Fr. John Renken	Jan 18
Joe Lasowski	Jan 20
Henry Arruda	Jan 29
Marie Morgan	Jan 28
Frank Kavanagh	Feb 4
Wayne Jarvo	Feb 5
Karen Ann McKinna	Feb 9

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Notes from the New Year's Day – the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Homily of Pope Francis

“...we begin the year by celebrating Our Lady, the woman who wove the humanity of God.

“...In drawing close to Mary, the Church discovers herself, she finds her centre and her unity. The enemy of our human nature, the devil, seeks instead to divide, to highlight differences, ideologies, partisan thinking and parties. But we do not understand the Church if we regard her by starting with structures, programmes and trends, ideologies and functions. We may grasp something, but not the heart of the Church. Because the Church has a mother's heart. And we, as her sons and daughters, invoke today the Mother of God, who gathers us together as people of believers. O Mother, give birth to hope within us and bring us unity. Woman of Salvation, to you we entrust this year. Keep it in your heart. We acclaim you, the Holy Mother of God.”