



HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

February 2020



Introducing Jane Brennan

I sat down recently to talk with Jane Brennan, our new Ontario District Administrator and Administrator of Springhurst Residence. I began with three questions that I hoped would tell us a little bit more of who Jane is.

How would you describe yourself as a person? “I am a spiritual person” she said, “open to other peoples, other life styles and other religions”. She continued: “I am physically active and ‘self-care’ is very important to me.” And perhaps it is from that way of being that she also described herself as a bit of ‘mother hen’ to various people she has met and worked with over the course of her life; serving and working for all of them, and enjoying the time she spends chatting with them. She spoke of herself as a retired Military Veteran, sharing that her experience in the military allowed her see a lot of the world, even if it was not all good. “It molded me” she shared and although she does not miss the ‘military life’ she does miss the people. Jane believes that a sense of humour is important to have in life; describing her sense of humour as ‘dry’ which she said is not always understood. She has learned, she said, to laugh at herself which she believes is important for personal well-being and growth. And while she is very forgiving of others she continues to find that she must work on forgiving herself which is a lot harder to do. And last but not least, she’s been told she is the “World’s Best Grandmother” by her six grandchildren who call her “Nana”. She loves that title.

What are you most grateful for in your life? Again, Jane’s response was immediate: “My children” she said, “are the centre of my universe. They ground me, influence me and love me”. “They are the greatest things in my life and this continues on in my grandchildren.” Two daughters and one son who have given her six grandchildren that are between the ages of 4 and 19 years old.

Jane is a very family centered person and as we talked I noticed that she opens herself to include others into her heart's family. During her time as working as the local Director of the Children's Wish Foundation, taught her how she worked things with and in her heart rather than just her head. This interview was not about the list of jobs she has done but rather who she is as a person.

As I left Jane to return home to write this brief introduction about her I was reminded of St. Eugene's words about leading us to be human, then Christian and finally helping each other to become saints. She will find her niche in the Mazenodian Family just as others before her found theirs. Welcome to the family Jane – we are happy you are joining us in this journey of life.

Mark Your Calendars

February 16 – Oraison: Praying with the Mazenodian Family a reminder of the upcoming monthly Mazenodian Family Oraison. *"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 CC&RR, C33).

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 4:00 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 April 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 the 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.

From St. Eugene de Mazenod

My dear brothers, on February 17, 1826, yesterday evening, the Sovereign Pontiff Leo XII confirmed... and specifically approved the Institute, the Rules and Constitutions of the Missionary Oblates of the Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary...

...The conclusion to be drawn from this... is: we must work, with renewed ardour and still more total devotedness, to bring to God all the glory that stems from our efforts and, to the needy souls of our neighbours, salvation in all possible ways; we must attach ourselves heart and



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... In the name of God, let us be saints. (Letter to the Oblates, 18 February 1826, EO VII, n. 226)

We are reminded of the words our Superior General, Father Louis Lougen OMI, wrote to us in his letter celebrating February 17, last year. "It seemed to me that what I saw, what I could put my finger on, was that within her lies hidden the germ of very great virtues, and that she can achieve infinite good; I found her worthy, everything pleased me about her, I cherished her rules, her statutes; her ministry seemed sublime to me, as it is indeed. I found in her bosom sure means of salvation, even infallible, such is how they looked to me" (Selected Texts p. 119).

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Frank Kavanagh February 4

Wayne Jarvo February 5

Karen Ann McKinna February 9

In love and prayers...

Update on Tim Coonen. Fr. Tim's open heart surgery on January 14th went very well. However, he is now nursing a new set of veins and a broken sternum!

He asked me to let you know that by the end of this past week, he felt less like he had been hit by a truck and more like maybe it was just a bike! He continues to be surprised and appalled by how quickly he gets tired: his routine is to walk for 15 minutes a day, and then he needs to sit down for a while; having a shower sends him right to his Lazyboy chair, after, for a nap! The grace he says though is that he is feeling much better every day, even while realizing that he has a way to go!

Fr. Tim so appreciates your prayers and your cards. He is also grateful for this time that we have all given him for healing. He sends us all his love and affection during this time of his absence.

From McE Galbreath

We continue to keep **Ron Kedrosky, Maureen Pinsonneault HOMI, Jane McDonald,** and all who are sick in our ongoing thoughts and prayers.