



Saskatchewan District Community
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Sights and Sounds

March 31, 2020

For the Month of March



Birthdays

March 23 Fr. Ken Forster

March 29 Fr. Eugene Warnke



Perpetual Vows

March 19 Br. Walter DeMong (57)

Dear Brother Oblates and Associates,

As I am here at St. Philip's with Fr. Mike Dechant and we are under lockdown, I am often wondering how you all are doing?

My prayer is that God will keep you all safe and free from any sickness. Let us together pray each day that this virus will soon leave us and give us the life that we need to live. God help us to learn what this pandemic is to teach us. May we reach out to people who are alone.

God Bless You All!
Fr. Bill Stang, OMI



Trinity Manor under Quarantine:

Since St. Patrick's Day (March 17th, 2020), life at Trinity Manor has changed dramatically. For example, no visitors are allowed inside. All deliveries must be left in the vestibule outside the main entrance doors. Whenever residents go out – even briefly – upon return, they must sanitize their hands, even if they were wearing gloves outside. Throughout the building, residents are strongly encouraged to observe 'social distancing' in the corridors, in the elevators and in the stairwells.



Before entering the Dining Room and Bistro on the main floor, everyone must sanitize the hands – again, even if they have just entered the building from the outside. There is no more Buffet. All food and drink is handled only/mainly by the serving staff. At table, each one's cutlery is wrapped in the serviette used for that meal. After the meal, everything is removed for washing or disposal. There are no more salt and pepper shakers on the tables. All condiments are in packages consequently, the serving staff has a lot more work wrapping the cutlery, replenishing all the packaged condiments before the next meal, plus disinfecting all the chairs and re-filling the sanitizing fluid in the dispensers at the Dining Room entrance.

In the Bistro attached to the Dining room, we residents are allowed to serve our own coffee and hot water. We are also allowed, even encouraged to play games (cards, jigsaw puzzles, tile rummy, dominoes) and even the shuffle board is being used again after standing dormant for over 5 years!! The only directive we've been given is that, upon leaving the Bistro, we sanitize our hands.

On the 2nd Floor, in the Chapel and Multi-purpose room; there are no more gatherings for Eucharist or Penitential Services, communal prayer (unless social-distancing is observed), movies or documentaries or any other presentation, or entertainment or talks. Hence, depending on your mood, very serene (or 'eerie') silence reigns throughout.

Personally, before all this happened, I had plenty to do. Simply preparing and giving homilies on average at 3 masses per week. Now I have tonnes of free time to: read, exercise, go outside for walks, watch movies on Channel 35 (old classics), visit (while observing social-distancing, of course) or simply 'vegging'. Hence, to be honest, this feels more like being on an imposed vacation or extended retreat and I'm rather enjoying it most of the time.

But, all this could change in a heartbeat. If the virus gets in the Resident population, then a 'lock-down' mode would be imposed on all the residents, and we would be confined to our own individual suites and our meals would have to be brought to us separately.

That would certainly be a lot more work for the support staff, and very tough on most of us residents experiencing full isolation. Let us therefore pray hard that that will not happen.

*Submitted by Fr. Paul Fachet,
March 29th, 2020*

P.S. March 30, 2020

Because someone 'blew the whistle' on local TV on the fact that we were breaking the 'distancing' code in the dining room, as of this morning all our meals are being brought to our individual suites. All our other activities beyond the dining room continue as before.

PF

Saskatchewan District Office:

Hi Everyone!

We are hoping our Oblate family continues to stay safe and practising safe social distancing. ☺

Rita and I remain busy in the office and I am grateful to be able to finish up the 2019 year-end. Fr. Bill was happy to complete the 2019 GST Report this week and I happily sent the completed report in.

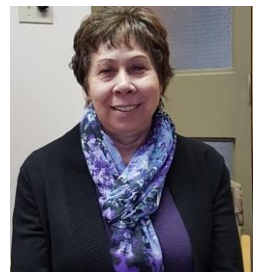
Once our computer's get updated from Windows 7 to Windows 10, Rita will begin working on the 2019 Income Tax Returns. Please continue to send in your 2020 GST Receipt and your March, 2020 Bank Statements when you receive them.

Rita recently spoke with Jadwiga and Jean; both are doing well. They are thinking of our Oblates and send their love and prayers.

If you need us, we are just a phone call away and always ready for a chat!

Love and prayers,

Corrine & Rita



Central Haven & Samaritan Place:

Our most recent update regarding our Oblates in nursing care remains positive and hope-filled. Fr. Ron Zimmer, Fr. Syl Lewans and Fr. Kedl remain safe in nursing care and there is no COVID-19 present in either place.

Please continue to remember these Oblates in your daily prayers as well as the amazing staff of Central Haven and Samaritan Place.

*Blessings to all,
Corrine*

News from Fr. Doug Jeffrey – March 27, 2020:

I have just completed the preparation and presentation of two new initiatives for the Meadow Lake Cluster here in Northern Saskatchewan. We have developed a website: <https://www.meadowlakecatholicchurch.com> and we have developed a Facebook page: *Catholic Church Meadow Lake*. They are still being shaped – people are making suggestions and giving ideas and information for us to include.

As to life here, we will be closing the Parish Church tomorrow until further notice. We will do the same for the other Churches. Our Office is still open from 10:00am - 1:00pm Monday through Friday until further notice. I am available by phone or in person (social distancing in place) should folks need me. The hardest thing is funerals; it looks like I will have one in the next few days.

We have a phone tree in place and that worked well to let folks know what was happening when we had to cancel the public liturgies. I am trying to phone 10 people on the parish list every day - just to connect and to encourage, we shall see how that goes. An unexpected but welcome benefit from this crisis time is an opportunity to pray a little more.

Fr. Doug Jeffrey, OMI



Mark your calendar:

The dates for our next Community days are tentatively for Thursday, June 11 & Friday June 12, 2020.



Farewell to St. Mary's Oblate Residence – April 17, 2020

Due to COVID-19, the Celebration of Farewell to St. Mary's Oblate Residence is postponed until further notice.

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## **Queen's House News March 31, 2020 – Brendan Bitz, Director**

These are interesting times everywhere we look. And yet we are graced enough to find courage and commitment all around us – in our health care community, in our families, in each other. For our Queen's House community, we are seeking the best ways forward as we work with our health, civic and faith leadership to do our best and to be our best. Queen's House has been closed since March 20 and all programming and booking events have been postponed until things settle out. We are currently connecting via skype, zoom and phone with our extended community as we determine how we can help others in this time of great need.

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI recently shared this personal reflection:

*It is not often the whole world feels this vulnerable, that we lose the illusion that we are in control. It is a sobering time, a reflective time, and time to recognize we aren't in control, and time to count our blessing!*

### **Spring Fling Raffle**

For now, some aspects of our ministry are best to continue on. During this awkward time in our global community, we find ourselves knee deep in our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Lottery. After sober reflection, we have decided to continue to receive raffle orders as they come to Queen's House. It is odd to move forward with a light hearted raffle in a time of uncertainty. However, it would be a difficult task, with limited staff to unravel the orders that have been received and processed. We also realize we still do need this stream of revenue to support this ministry and our facility to whatever our future holds. We understand not everyone can participate during dire times. We hope by leaving this door open, we can offer an opportunity for those that can show support. We are both hopeful and determined to be present to the needs our community, as we no doubt enter a new normal.



The Queen's House Spring Fling Lottery Raffle 2020 schedule remains as follows:  
Lottery Sales continue to be received by phone or mail.

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| April 30, 2020 | Ticket Sales end at midnight |
| May 1, 2020    | Daily draws begin            |
| May 31, 2020   | Contest concludes            |

Find the Spring Fling order form on our website: [www.queenshouse.org](http://www.queenshouse.org)  
Order by phone at 306.242.1916 (leave a message and we will return your call)  
Order by email at [receptionist@queenshouse.org](mailto:receptionist@queenshouse.org)

**From all of us at Queen's House, thank-you and God Bless!**



*OMI Lacombe Canada Website: [www.omilacombe.ca](http://www.omilacombe.ca)*  
*Qu'Appelle House of Prayer Website: [www.qhpstillness.ca](http://www.qhpstillness.ca)*  
*Qu'Appelle House of Prayer blog: <https://qhpconnection.blogspot.com/>*  
*Queen's House Website at: [www.queenshouse.org](http://www.queenshouse.org)*