



HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

June 2020

Conversation from Rome

On Sunday morning, May 24th, 2020 people from all around the world launched Facebook on their computers in order to listen to an interview, “A Conversation with Fr. Louis Lougen OMI, Superior General”. Joining Fr. Lougen were three of his council members: Fr. Guillaume Muthunda Hengelela OMI, General Councillor for Africa-Madagascar Region, Fr. Peter Stoll – General Councillor for Asia-Oceania Region and Fr. Luis Alberto Huaman Camayo OMI – General Councillor for Latin America Region.



During the week prior to the event people were asked to send their questions into Fr. Superior General via Messenger, WhatsApp and Viber.

Fr. Louis shared two of his favorite quotes/sayings from St. Eugene; the first being what Eugene said to the poor of Aix in 1807/1808 in his Lenten Homily in the Church of the Madeleine. “We all know of that beautiful homily so I will repeat only a few of St. Eugene’s words that proclaimed dignity of the poor of Aix: ‘...in the eyes of faith you are sons and daughters of God; you are precious in God’s sight, you are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ; you are venerable, you are respected, you are loved by God’.”

Fr. Lougen also shared his “bicycle story”: the two wheels. The first wheel is “our experience of God, our passion for Christ... to be a man of prayer, and to have a spiritual director and to take very seriously your friendship with God; the second wheel is our humanity – know yourself, who you are, be honest with yourself, be transparent and within the formation process be open with your formator, with your brothers. So, grow in love with God and as a human man; honesty, responsibility, loyalty, all those good qualities that you bring from your family – develop those and deepen those...” The wheels that carry us through our lives and that we can all share in.

Thank you, Fr. Louis, and all who worked to make this event a success and a joy. To listen to the broadcast in its entirety here is the link: [Conversation with the Superior General](#) which starts at the 1 minute mark.

By: Eleanor Rabnett

Passing of Fr. Frank Morrisey



It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Fr. Frank Morrisey, OMI. Fr. Frank is remembered and missed by his fellow residents in Springhurst Residence. A quiet and smiling man, Fr. Frank's presence was one of calm reassurance. He passed away on May 23, at the age of 84.

Fr. Frank Morrisey, OMI, served as Saint Paul University's Dean of Canon Law from 1972 to 1981. Fr. Frank was an expert in canon law and helped to draft the text of the 1983 Code of Canon Law. He always reminded persons of the purpose of law and those who knew him would attest to his frequent statement: "The law is made for the people, not the people for the law."

In addition to his academic work, Fr. Frank offered canonical consultations throughout the world to General Superiors and Dioceses. He was a recipient of the Eugène de Mazenod Medal on May 6th, 2020. This medal, from Saint Paul University, honours individuals who have made significant contributions to make their community, their environment and society as a whole more just and humane.

Rev. Warren A. Brown, General Councillor, Canada-US said this of Fr. Frank, "I was blessed to share in some of that life when I was a student at Saint Paul University. He was such a kind and welcoming presence to so many people who for me embodied our Oblate ideals of oblation and has always sparked my Oblate ministry, especially in the area of canon law."

"The Church has been enriched by Frank's selfless outpouring and, through the Church, cultures and societies throughout the world have also been enriched," shared Monsignor John Renken, Dean of Canon Law, Saint Paul University. "He is esteemed and admired by a plethora of social innovators, church leaders, and professional colleagues. He has shown himself to be a faithful son of Saint Eugene de Mazenod who envisioned bringing healing and hope to the peripheries of Eugene's day. Frank has done the same in today's world."

You can hear what Fr. Frank had to say here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxcvqquuvk4>

From St. Eugene de Mazenod

What need has one of tongues of fire to see, in some way, the presence of the Holy Spirit? On these occasions, his presence for me is palpable and I am so imbued with the Spirit that I cannot hide my emotion. I have to do violence to myself not to shed tears of joy, and, in spite of my efforts, often tears I cannot withhold betray the sentiment which animates me and fills me to overflowing in the full sense of the word!

Diary, 18 February 1844, EO XXI



Fellowship and Serving During Covid-19 Isolation

It is so important to find ways to help each other cope with the isolation resulting from this pandemic. Here we are in the third month of self-isolation, physical distancing and worries for those in long term care homes across the country. Fortunately, Springhurst remains free of the virus that plagues the world currently. In addition, the long-awaited arrival of spring has finally bloomed.

Fr. Tim Coonen and Fr. John Renken took Fr. Jan Rademaker out to do one of his favourite things...go for a drive. After being cooped up indoors for the long winter, he was happy to leave the house for a physical distanced outing. They stopped to see the beautiful tulip beds that Ottawa has for its annual Tulip Festival. Due to Covid-19, all festival events have been cancelled, but the tulips are still there! When asked what he liked best about the outing, Fr. Jan responded, "It was fun to watch the children sitting in the flower beds while their parents took pictures of them with the beautiful tulips."



Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jan Rademaker	June 2	Erin Ryan	June 16
Richard Kelly	June 8	Yvon Ouellet	June 27
Douglas Crosby	June 28		
Tony O'Dell	June 30		

Mass Through the Camera Lenses

By Jarek Pachocki OMI

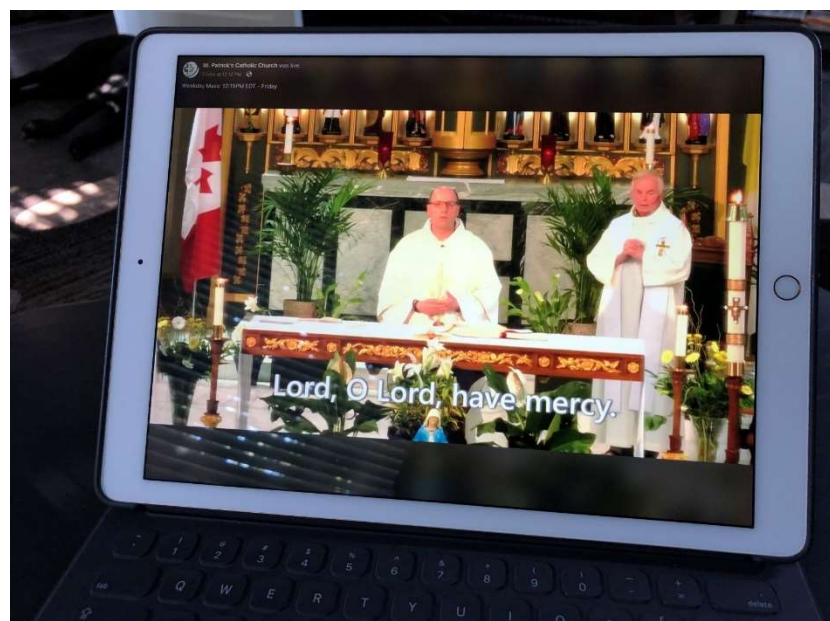
We had been thinking about livestreaming the Masses for quite a while, but nobody expected that we will introduce it the way it actually happened. The announcement about closing the church due to Covid19 pandemic came just a day before the feast day of the patron of our parish, St. Patrick. So, on March 17, 2020 we went LIVE for the very first time. As it was time of trial and error, we didn't turn off the filters on iPhone streaming software. So, I began the Mass with googly eyes the first couple of minutes until we figured out what was happening...

Over time, thanks to talented and dedicated IT team, we improved our broadcast drastically. We've got the necessary equipment, installed the lighting and set up "control room" for every service being streamed LIVE. The décor of the church has changed and the interactions with the people became virtual. We welcome all to our Digital Church! This might be our new normal for quite some time, we are continually trying to find ways of how we can be present for the people.

For me as a priest and missionary, it certainly changed the way of celebrating Mass and "encountering" people. I thrive on "crowded" gatherings, school Masses with hundreds of students, religious conferences, when I can look in the people's eyes when I speak or got a smile at the humor I just shared. Interactions were more real than through the digital means, when I speak to the camera... In an Oblate spirit, I don't see this as an obstacle, but rather as an opportunity. Leave nothing undared, once again takes on new meaning!

There is always a special moment for me during the online Mass. When we come to the Communion, we invite and pray with our "viewers" to receive the Eucharist in spiritual communion. I hold them all dearly in my heart, when I sacramentally receive the Body and Blood of Christ, and they can unite Spiritually.

There is no way we are going back to normal. The only way is to move forward to new normal. We believe the Digital Church will remain a significant part of our mission and ministry going forward. Recently I've read a reflection by Carey Nieuwhof, "As tempting as it will be to reopen the doors and believe everyone is coming back to church, the data shows that's probably not the case." The mission of the Church takes on a new reality of going beyond the walls and encountering people where they are, in the basic church, in people's homes and amongst their families. We walk this journey of faith together!



Eugene 101 Course

“COME AND I WILL SHOW YOU WHO YOU ARE IN THE EYES OF GOD”

These words come from the first recorded sermon of Eugene de Mazenod as a young priest as he began his ministry to the most abandoned in Aix en Provence. They sum up his whole life as Founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Bishop of Marseilles, and his continuing ministry to us today in the communion of saints.

You can accept his invitation as you learn about him in this online course: “Eugene de Mazenod 101” or “Eugenio de Mazenod 101” presented by the Kusenberger Chair of Oblate Studies at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. Your guides are Frank Santucci OMI and David Muñoz Lopez OMI.

The aim of this course is:



- 1/ To help you to gain a deeper knowledge of the life of St. Eugene de Mazenod.**
- 2/ To assist you to understand the charism, mission, and spirituality of St. Eugene de Mazenod.**
- 3/ To see in him and his Mazenodian spirituality a model of holiness that can enrich your life**
- 4/ For members of the Mazenodian Family to be inspired to discover their individual vocation within their specific branch of the Mazenodian Family**

The course is divided into 20 sessions, beginning on March 1. Each session will include a video lecture of around 20 minutes, available to students every 15 days. Supplementary material for each lecture will be available if you want to learn more and go deeper.

Reflection material is provided and there is an open forum for students to ask questions, share their thoughts and reflections if they wish. Some students are getting together using ZOOM and other apps to share and discuss their reflections.

For further details go to <https://moodle.ost.edu/course/index.php?categoryid=28> (Please note that this link opens a page which may have the Spanish text first – keep scrolling down and you will come to the English)

The course itself costs \$20 USD however any Oblate Associates should feel free to contact Eleanor Rabnett rabnete@gmail.com if help is needed with the costs.

You can sign up for this course at any time. You have until the end of 2020 to complete it. If you have any questions, contact Eleanor Rabnett rabnete@gmail.com

“Come and I will show you who you are in the eyes of God” I could not resist such an invitation. It has turned out to be so much more than just another history lesson especially in the coming together with another or others following each class.” Eleanor Rabnett

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 21, 2020 – Mazenodian Family Monthly Oraison This takes place every month on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Focus materials will be sent out by email as soon as they are shared by the originating committee in the US (usually in the first week of the month).

Given our current situation with Covid19, and the regulations surrounding physical distancing, **all** events have been cancelled.

We look forward to brighter days when we can all gather together again.

Want to remind all of us of other common dates? Send us an email and we'll include what we can.

Lend Me Your Ears

The isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, can be difficult for even the hardest amongst us. Those that live alone are especially susceptible to the loneliness and lack of human contact. The Province has put together the Covid-19 Response Working Group. This team consists of Fr. Richard Beaudette Isabelle Gigault, Joe Gunn, Lucie Leduc and Sandra Prather. Their aim is to be there for those that need someone to speak with, someone to, lend an ear. There are individuals in each province that have offered to make themselves available to talk. This is not counselling, just a friendly ear on the other end of the phone line.

An email sent out by Isabell Gigault on the 19 of May, contains the details of this initiative and the contact numbers. If you missed this email, please email ontariodistrict@omilacombe.ca and a copy will be sent to you.

In Love and Prayers

We continue to keep **Ron Kedrosky, Maureen Pinsonneault HOMI, Jane McDonald, Yvon Oullet** in our ongoing thoughts and prayers.