



Saskatchewan District Community
601 Taylor Street W, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0C9
Phone: (306) 653-6454 Fax: (306) 652-1133
E-mail: slcsec@sasktel.net

Sights and Sounds

May 27, 2020

For the Month of May



Birthdays

May 16 Fr. Paul Fachet
May 19 Br. Walter DeMong
May 26 Fr. George Gruber



First Vows

May 21 Fr. Nestor Silva (44)



May, the Month of Mary

*Mary, my dearest Mother, give me your
Heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate,
Your heart so full of love and humility, that I
May be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of
Life, love Him as you loved Him and serve
Him in the distressing disguise of the
Poorest of poor.*

~Mother Teresa~

Ou'Appelle House of Prayer – Life Goes On

Life indeed does go on, and very differently. As I send this report, it is Day 48 for us since we have been closed. Although just occasionally someone comes into the yard, and even more rarely, asks to join us at Eucharist, we remain closed. Sr. Chantelle, PM and I are the only two here. We continue to meet each weekday for 10:00 mass, and 5:00 on Saturdays. We are very aware of others who are praying during those same times from their homes. There is a strong sense of oneness. We are receiving a very few inquiries from people who want to come and stay, self-isolating while here.



And of course, the work doesn't stop, even without guests. Lots of yard cleaning, window washing, garden preparation, transplanting flowers into pots and boxes fills every day, especially for Chantelle. The drastic change in way of life here leaves me much more free not to show up at my desk until after mass – no screens until then. Most time is spent responding to emails, following the many forwards which we all receive, and phone calls – far more distancing connections than ever in our history. And there is an increasing number of Zoom meetings – with the Ottawa team, MAMI, and the LAURC committee on which I serve for the diocese (Lutheran Anglican Ukrainian Roman Catholic). A primary way of connecting with many others is through our Blog. Each day there are quite a few views, including those besides ourselves who post messages.

Our main associate volunteers, Kathy and Tim, Susan and Boyd are on hold about coming here. That may change next week when a new well is drilled here; Tim wants to be here for that, especially to help with the plumbing that will be done. The six of us meet once a week for an hour or so on Zoom.

Plans for a 25th anniversary celebration are all on hold.

Never before have I, nor Chantelle, appreciated so much the space in which we live. With the slowness of spring, the very gradual greening of the Valley, the abundance of wildlife, the walks in nearby pastures and along the lake – all so part of the space in which we live and perhaps see as never before.

Submitted by Glenn Zimmer, OMI
May 8, 2020

A Brief Message – Fr. Nestor Gregoire

The social isolation and the shut down of parish life has been very long. We are so looking forward to starting up parish life once again. We have very good cooperation in this area with physical isolation. Hopefully, we will be able to start up with weekday masses in our small parishes. We will know more by the weekend.

Life has been extremely quiet. I try to structure my time studying, reading and doing some writing. Everyday there is a good walk along the highway to the south (very little traffic). I am finding the time a little long. It is time to get back into gear. You really appreciate human contact during this physical isolation.

One of the gifts of this isolation was the effort I have made to call someone whom I know well but have not been in contact with for some time. They are very appreciative to be remembered. The sad note is to hear that some of these people have serious health struggles. Reflecting back, I should have been doing this years ago. It is so easy to lose contact.

Saskatchewan District Office:



Hello Everyone!

The Month of May is almost at an end and as we continue to follow the protocol regarding Covid-19, our office remains busy with everyday business and we are grateful that our Oblate family remains healthy.

We ask our Oblates to please continue to send in your 2020 GST receipts to the SDC Office. If you have any questions or just want to chat, please give us a call!

*Love and prayers,
Corrine & Rita*



FAREWELL TO FR. RICHARD WOLAK - MAY 21, 2020

With love in our hearts, a Covid-19 safe small group travelled to Battleford to enjoy a final mass with Fr. Richard before he sets out for Ottawa. The Farewell began with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Richard in the Chapel at St. Mary's Residence



*(Left to right):
Fr. Ken Forster, Fr. Moe Schroeder,
Fr. Mike Dechant, Fr. Richard Wolak,
Fr. Bill Stang, Fr. Nestor Silva,
Fr. Joe Jacek*





*(Back row):
Fr. Ken Forster, Fr. Moe Schroeder.
Fr. Mike Dechant, Fr. Bill Stang,
Fr. Nestor Silva, Fr. Joe Jacek,
Gil Bellevance (Oblate Associate)
(Front row):
Corrine Pambrun (Oblate Associate),
Fr. Richard Wolak*

Fr. Mike Dechant



Corrine Pambrun, Fr. Richard Wolak



Mass was followed by a delicious meal of turkey and all the trimmings. The meal was prepared by Fr. Moe and his nephew, James Couture.



(Left to right): James Couture, Gil Bellevance, Fr. Moe Schroeder



Following the tasty dinner and great conversation, the small group then went to visit the Oblate cemetery. Fr. Moe and his nephew, Jim put up new Way of the Cross stations around the outside of the gravestones. Fr. Bill blessed the Way of the Cross stations.



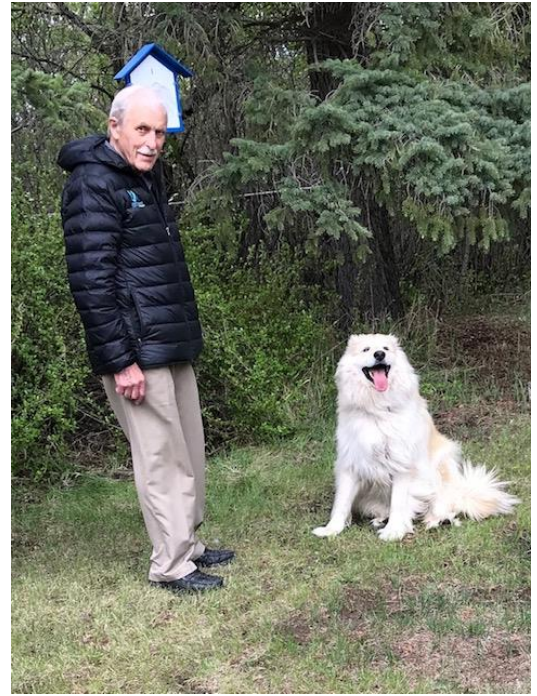
After the blessing, we visited the graves as we needed to do and then we went back to the house to say farewell before leaving for Saskatoon.



Fr. Bill Stang

James Couture





Caper continues to visit St. Mary's Residence even though his best friend, Fr. Ed MacNeil has moved away. Fr. Moe keeps Caper well supplied with treats!





A reminder still stands of the St. Charles Scholasticate – the “Home on the Hill” after it burned down in 2003.

Fr. Moe had a copy made of the original “Our Lady of the Snow” that was created by Fr. Al Hubenig, OMI



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### **Queen's House News – Brendan Bitz, Director – May 22, 2020**

Our reduced staff have been working as quickly as possible to complete all the IT upgrades that we have scheduled. All our computer stations including laptops have been completed with the necessary hardware and software requirements and these are working very well. Fiber optics has been installed and will be switched over from copper soon. We are completing the necessary arrangements for our e-commerce activity which will include on-line registration, payments and donations and expect to go live on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We have planned to hold our annual *Summer Stillness retreat with Ron Rolheiser* virtually using Zoom; this will be a new experience for all of us. We have completed the necessary applications for the government sponsored supports being provided and are relieved that this additional financial assistance will be a great help as we sort out the many implications of C-19.

One of the impacts of this rascally virus has been the cancellation of our annual Oblate Golf Scramble. In consultation with the folks at the Moon Lake Golf Course, we accept that there will be too many necessary limitations to safely host such a socially focused event. We certainly look forward to the time when we can come together again to enjoy this once again! However, this is the most responsible decision given our current circumstances. In the meantime, keep working on your short game and be ready for our return to “Golf Fun in 21”.

The Canadian Oblate Retreat Centres have been connecting virtually with our Ottawa Leadership team as we seek the best ways through and around C-19. In addition, our Advisory Board continues to provide direct support and encouragement as individuals and through our Board executive. We are all wrestling with the challenges that are before us and we are determined to consider a comment credited to Winston Churchill that goes “A crisis is a terrible thing to waste”. Quite the thought and quite the way to express it. Our Spring Fling winners are announced each day – our humble apologies to those of you that we have not yet called – but trust us, we are trying our best on your behalf!!



We continue to stay connected to our staff with a weekly newsletter of information and updates and our weekly draw for a package of tissue that we call our **Queen's House Toilet Paper Pamper!** Winners to date include Aldwin, Elaine, Nancy, Mary Ann, Angie, Fr. Paul, Illona and this week's winner, Fr. Bill. We forgot to draw last week – oops!! We anticipate that Queen's House will be guided by the directives contained in Phases 3, set for June 8<sup>th</sup> and Phase 4, pending of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. We are continually monitoring our protocols and best business practices as we move forward.

God bless us all following St Eugene's feast day on May 21. Hope and trust that this message finds you safe and well.



*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)*

*Updated May 27, 2020rm*