



HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

June 2020

96th Birthday Celebrations at Springhurst



On June 2, Fr. Jan Rademaker celebrated his 95th Birthday. A celebration was held in-house in the Springhurst tradition. Jan's day was full of phone calls and cards from across the country and around the world, with friends reaching out to wish him all the best and many more to come!

2020 Summer Stillness Retreat – Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Public Lecture Portion: Monday Evening, July 6 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm Only

“Faith, Doubt & Darkness: Understanding the dynamics of belief and doubt beyond the fervor of youth”.

Register and Pay for Monday Evening Only ==> Monday Evening Only

“We live with a deep secret that sometimes we know, and then not!” Faith has this curious quality. Some days we can walk on water and other days we feel like atheists. This lecture will explore the deep inner dynamics of faith. What is real faith? What is genuine doubt? What are the dark nights of the soul that can assail us? How do we work at sustaining a genuine faith?

This presentation is offered as a stand-alone option for all participants unable to attend Father Ron's full retreat. It is included for participants registered for the full retreat.

Full Retreat Presentation: The full retreat includes Fr. Ron's Monday evening presentation and continues on Tuesday, July 7 from 9:15 am until Thursday July 9 at 11:30 am: **“Naming the Present Moment of our Faith: Searching for nurturing metaphors in a time of receding transcendence”**

Register and Pay for the Full Retreat ==> **Full Retreat Presentation**

How do we move from being good to being great? How do we break the long-standing patterns and habits of mediocrity in our lives? How do we move beyond the last and deepest sadness of our lives? During this period of Summer Stillness we will attempt to take a deeper look at the invitations that Jesus has given us to grow. The great mystics have always stated that when we reach the highest level of human maturity, we will have only one question left: How can I be more helpful? How can we be more mature, more helpful, and more generative?

For more information please click on the link to the Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre where you will also find a brochure for the retreat itself.

[Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre](#)

An Interview with Fr. Joe Hattie

Last week I had a telephone interview with Fr. Joe Hattie. He had completed his quarantine after having moved from Barry's Bay to Springhurst Residence and although he is not a stranger to any of us I was interested in learning more about who he is as a man, as an Oblate priest. Here are Fr. Joe's responses to my questions.



- How did you come to be an Oblate? What attracted you to the Oblates?

"To go back to the beginning – the day I was baptized my parents took me to "Our Lady's Statue and dedicated me to her. Later in life when living in Digby Nova Scotia (Mission Territory), the Archbishop of Halifax asked the Oblates to come and look after that part of Nova Scotia. When they began there was one Mass on Sundays and the church was about 1/3 full; 8 years later when the Oblates left there were two Masses every Sunday which were around 2/3 full. The main emphasis of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was their willingness to meet the people where they are; going to their homes and encouraging everyone, working on projects for both the church and the community."

- What ministries have you taken part in as an Oblate priest and have there been different focuses over those years?

There is a custom with the Oblates that before being ordained and taking Final Vows they write to the Superior General to indicate what they might be able to do. in terms of the different Oblate works in the desired location. Since they were developing a mission in Peru as well as working in Lesotho, South Africa put down Peru and South Africa and the third one, and if necessary, to teach at St. Pat's High School and College. I received my first obedience - to teach at St. Pat's High school and I enjoyed it.

- Did you spend most of your adult life there as a teacher?

I was ordained in 1964 and was involved in teaching the “Working with Youth and with Marriage Preparation at the college at the time. In 1974 I received an obedience to work in Halifax as a Chaplain for Dalhousie University for the next 10 years; chaplaincy involved bringing people into the Church and preparing them for marriage. In 1984 I went to Rome to get a PHD in the Theology of Marriage and Family; from Rome I was sent to Vancouver to develop a diocesan office of Marriage and Family Formation and continued working there October 1999. I spent 5 months at the Lourdes Shrine working with the Oblate team and in 2000 I was sent to Halifax to develop the office of Marriage and Family formation. In 2011 I was given an obedience to Our Lady Seat of Wisdom (in Barry’s Bay); it was a spiritual connection in preparing people for marriage and family. While there I stayed at the local parish in Barry’s Bay, helping out as I could.

- Which ministry has given you the most joy?

Certainly Marriage and Family were where my heart was and is to a great extent and also working with young people in the high school and working with them in terms of evangelizing. When I was at St. Pat’s High School what was known as the Challenge Movement for young people which continues today. That started 50 years ago. Working very closely with the young people at the university and helping to form them – was very close in my heart as well.

- What advice would you give to young people starting out in the world today if they asked “I am looking at university and discovering where that will go, but what kind of advice can you give me for life?”

Well, there’s a basic law of life that for every privilege there’s a balance - a corresponding responsibility. If you recognize the privileges that come with a particular job or way of life you must also recognize the particular responsibility that goes with it to help others. You need to take the responsibility to have balance in your life. If you only take the privilege you can get selfish and lose your ability to help others. So - reflect and pray on that and see how Christ carried out his privileges and responsibilities and especially towards the Blessed Mother and try to integrate that into your life. Each new experience develops and for those who are starting out in vocation of marriage and family learn that to really help your children grow is to help them recognize the privilege they have – being a part of your relationship with your spouse and part of the family and then they’ll be more open to want to take the responsibility that corresponds the balance that. Too often parents hand on the responsibilities without helping them to. And of course in terms of our faith and referring to Christ and relating to the Church then we can look and say well what’s my responsibility for this privileged relationship and how do I bear witness to him.

- What advice would you give to the Oblate Associates to help us live our lives?

I would come back to the similar principal: help those who become associates to

grow in their appreciation of the privilege of having a special relationship with Mary Immaculate and then to look at what are some of the responsibilities that house that privilege. Develop that relationship not only with the Blessed Mother but also with the Oblates that you are interacting with.

- What is the scripture verse that is close to your heart?

“I have come so that you may have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10)

It touches me in the sense that Christ has come to give us life, to redeem us from the culture of death and to give us new life and to give the fullness of it... Each time I reflect on that quote it helps to deepen my appreciation of life for each one of us – so that we can have life more abundantly – it’s part of my understanding of love that – to love is to do the good that needs to be done so further good can be accomplished. So in His redeeming us he did the good that needed to be done so that we could do the further good of having the fullness of life in heaven.

Thank you Joe for sharing yourself so eloquently and so lovingly with all of us. It was a joy simply to sit and listen to you speak.

Eleanor Rabnett

From St. Eugene de Mazenod

They will have no other distinguishing mark except that which is proper to their ministry, namely the image of the Crucified Christ.

...It will be a perpetual reminder to the missionaries themselves of the humility, patience, charity, modesty and all the other virtues with which they are to carry out their most holy and sublime ministry.

1818 Rule of Life



Fellowship and Serving During Covid-19 Isolation

This month we asked how the ministry at St. Joseph's Parish is being handled, given the closing of churches up until recently. The response from Chris Adam, Executive Director was "The pandemic has required us to think outside the box, to be creative in our outreach and has compelled us to find new ways to be pastoral in how we live and work."

As well as being concerned with the day to day of liturgy and pastoral care, St. Joe's runs many outreach programs. Below is a list of the staff there that dedicate themselves to making it all work, even in these times where individual safety is a very real, daily concern. Let's keep each of them in our prayers as they do their part to make it all work for the parishioners and clients that they attend to each day.

Fr. Jim Bleackley OMI, Pastor

Christopher Adam, Executive Director

Jamie Loback, Music and Liturgy Director;

Andrew Pump, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Young Adult Ministry;

Georgeta Mutu, Bookkeeper;

Ryan Mitchell, St. Joe's Supper Table Manager;

Nick Cacciato, Maintenance Manager;

Aaron Fell, Safety Coordinator;

Kathleen Strader, Front Office Manager;

David Trepanier, Front Office Manager;

Dan Handfield, Carpenter;

Normand Emond, Caretaker;

Marsha Wilson, Women's Centre Director;

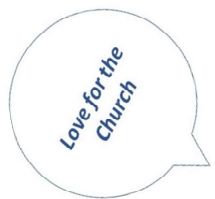
Jennifer Clark, Women's Centre Executive Assistant;

Stephanie Reynolds, Women's Centre Front Line Staff;

Angella Luwukya, Women's Centre Front Line Staff

Ottawa Associates – On-Line Discussion Group Gatherings

The evening of June 2nd a group of the Ottawa /area Associates came together; since the stay at home directive issued in mid-March –has meant that the cancellation of many regularly scheduled meetings, community days and retreats. This has challenged the Associates and Oblates as we are a community and like to interact with each other in various ways. However, this new time allows us to be creative in how we meet and support each other. Thus we begin an era of on-line meetings and connections.



This on-line session offered a wonderful opportunity for Associates to get together and see each other. The second rationale in gathering on-line was to discuss the US Oblate Youth's YouTube video "Message of Hope from Our Oblate Youth". This YouTube video highlighted five of the Oblate Values and included: Christ as the centre of my life; Service to the Poor and the most abandoned; Community; Missions; and Love for the Church. The participating Associates were asked to think about which of the five values appealed the most to them; consider why they chose that value and how do they live that particular value?



It was a lovely discussion on what has drawn the participants to the Oblate

Charism and explored the many ways Associates and Oblates live those values in everyday life. It was hard to choose just one value to focus on! I encourage all who can, to take a look at the YouTube video: [Message of Hope from Our Oblate Youth](#)



Our discussion was led by Co-Animators Eleanor Rabnett and Eugene Whyte, and present as Associates Gail Hillier, Sheila Nolan, Erin Ryan, John Renken, Renée Liss-Siraco and Pamela Dixon. There were some technical difficulties and some people did have some trouble logging into the Google Meet session. We hope those will be resolved in time for the next discussion group.

Eugene and Eleanor will next host the Arnprior Area Associate group discussion and begin curating the next discussion topics to be held later in the months ahead. Thank you to them for initiating a wonderful, alternative way for the Ottawa Associates and Oblates to get together. It was a joyous night of sharing, love and faith.



Blessings to all.

By Pamela Dixon

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 19th – Mazenodian Family Monthly Oraison July's Monthly Oraison for the Mazenodian Family takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each month. No matter where you are in the world or the time of day you are invited to join others in coming together in the presence of the heart of Jesus for silent prayer. All are welcome.

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.

In Love and Prayers

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

Upcoming Birthdays

Hanh Van Tran July 15

Ron Kedrosky July 6

Pamela Dixon July 20

Gail Hillier July 16