



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

September 2020

### Changing with the Times at Canadian Martyrs Parish

As Canadian Martyrs Church closed to the public in March, we sought new ways to stay connected with our parishioners. The Bulletin has become our primary source of communication and has been adapted to our new

circumstances. A page is dedicated to the Sunday Mass and includes an excerpt from a homily by Fr. Carl Kelly, OMI. Fr. Carl kept all his

homilies in binders which have made their way from the Springhurst Residence to the parish library. I hope that Fr. Carl would be happy that his words are once again being heard. The Bulletin also includes fun features, such as "Where is it?" which asks parishioners to guess what part of the church a photo was taken in. Heather, our office administrator, not only had to figure out new content for our Bulletin, but also had to learn how to use Mailchimp, an email marketing service, to send the Bulletin to 250+ parishioners via email. We also share information from our church and the Archdiocese on our Facebook page, *Canadian Martyrs Parish, Ottawa*, and through our website, [www.canadianmartyrs.org](http://www.canadianmartyrs.org). In fact, our bulletin can also be found on our website, <http://canadianmartyrs.org/bulletins/>.



Our Pastoral Care team, with the help of our parish youth, have been keeping in touch with our seniors through a telephone tree. Our seniors have appreciated their cheerful voices and news from the parish.

During the Easter season, we started Children's Liturgy of the Word through the Zoom platform to connect with our parish families. Heather and Maureen, our parish life coordinator, along with our Children's Liturgy Team, put together a slide show each week to help tell the story of the Sunday readings. Children's Liturgy of the Word via Zoom was very successful and much enjoyed by all who participated. As summer started, Children's Liturgy of the Word morphed into Liturgy of the Word for all parishioners. The readings and prayer of the faithful are read by parishioners, Fr. Tim proclaims the Gospel, and all participants share reflections on the readings. This

initiative has proven popular with those parishioners who do not feel comfortable returning to the physical church. In the fall, we plan on reintroducing Children's Liturgy of the Word on one Sunday each month.

Canadian Martyrs Parish reopened to the public on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> with Masses on Wednesdays and Sundays. We prepared the church as recommended in the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall's Return to Church – Worshipsafe Guidelines. Many pews were closed to adhere to physical distancing guidelines, green tape appeared on the floors and pews to guide people safely, and many volunteers help make things run smoothly. This has now become more routine and we are quite good at making our seating chart for each weekend Mass so that we know that everyone with a ticket has a seat. Our balcony has even been called into service! As of September 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have our 5:00 pm Saturday Mass, as well.

Sunday Mass has a different feel with no procession, no singing (our musicians still provide us with music during communion and while we enter and exit the church), one lector, no paper bulletin to read during the Homily, and ushers directing the communion lines. Although there is no "Coffee and Conversation" after Sunday Mass, Fr. Tim does join parishioners outside after Mass in the parking lot to catch up on the latest news. The Pastoral Team appreciates all the help we receive from the many volunteers who act as ushers, greeters and cleaners!

Attendance at Sunday Mass is down as we can only seat 50 and many are not comfortable returning to the church yet, but our Wednesday Mass has become more popular, especially with those who do not like wearing a mask for more than a half hour! We also continue to have at least 20 households participating in our Zoom Liturgy of the Word on any given Sunday.

The Pastoral Team continues to adapt to our new normal and things are getting to be more routine for the Masses themselves. We pray that we don't have to wait too long before we can have a full church and community gatherings in our parish centre once again.

*Written by Heather Duggan and Maureen Cerroni*

## From St. Eugene de Mazenod

**Co-Workers with the Saviour** *What more sublime purpose than that of their Institute? Their founder is Jesus Christ, the very Son of God; their first fathers are the Apostles. They are called to be the Saviour's co-workers, the co-redeemers of mankind; and even though, because of their present small number and the more urgent needs of the people around them, they have to limit the scope of their zeal, for the time being,, to the poor of our countryside and others, their ambition should, in its holy aspirations, embrace the vast expanse of the whole earth. -1818-*



On September 4, 1818 Eugene arrived at his family home at St-Laurent. He wrote in his dairy: “We must not neglect our two items of business with M. G[ui]gou]. It is essential that the ordonnance mention the approval given to our Statutes and regulations.”<sup>1</sup>

Today we find the above quote written alongside of the first Constitution found in our Rule of Life.

## Who am I and why am I here?

“He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” Matthew 16:15-16



When Oblates gather, there is one thing that we are certainly good at: Telling the stories! Interestingly, retold stories always become more colorful, intriguing with many life lessons learnt from them. Once one of our Oblate Bishops, shared the story from confirmation that he presided at years ago. There was a big number of confirmadi that day. Considering that they are usually “shy” speaking to the Bishop, the parish leaders came up with the idea to put a name tags on their confirmation gowns, helping the Bishop the “see” their names rather than try to hear shy whispers of the candidates. It worked very well... until one of the girls came up to the Bishop without a name tag. Well, that’s not a big problem! The Bishop just leaned over and quietly asked the girl, “What’s your name?” With tears in her eyes she answered, “I lost it...”

Don’t we all feel at times like we lost who we are and what we are about?

When Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” he didn’t ask for affirmation of his identity or confirmation of his mission. He knew exactly who he was and what his purpose of life was. He simply asked his disciples to recognize who they are in relation to him. This is the only way to discern our identity and vocation!

In his early twenties, young Eugene de Mazenod experienced significant internal crisis. We could say he “hit the wall”. It seems like everything that he intended to do in order to bring

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<sup>1</sup> On November 13, 1818, M. Guigou signed an ordonnance by which he definitively approved the Missionaries of Provence. The other matter concerned Fortuné to whom M. Guigou granted a pension of 1200 francs per year. cf. Fortune to the President, September 3, 1818.

some peace and stability into his life, was falling apart. He deeply missed his father and uncles, who remained on exile in Palermo, while he returned to Aix-en-Provence. At the same time the atmosphere within his mother's (Joannise) family "suffocated" him. After failing in a couple of opportunities for marriage, he had no other prospects at hand. The unsuccessful trip to Paris, where he hoped to obtain a passport, crushed all his dreams about a military career and splendid noble life in Sicily. During this time of crisis, disappointment and lack of direction was an opening moment for the grace of God to fulfil the emptiness of Eugene's life.

Everything changed on one Good Friday... Often, we refer to this experience as a moment of his conversion. However, this cannot be seen as an isolated event, but rather as a part, a phase of his journey of conversion. Nevertheless, it was an experience that influenced the rest of his life, a moment of a conscious turning from being self-focused to God-focused. This was the moment when young Eugene became an adult, with a clear sense of purpose and direction in life. This was the moment when Eugene recognized who he was in relation to redeeming love of God.

When Jesus asks us this weekend, "Who do you say that I am?" let's have the courage to seek our identity in relation to Him and our answer to God's calling.

By Jarek Pachocki, OMI  
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Also of interest is an interview that Jarek had with Fr. Ali Nnaemeka OMI, who is currently working in Northern Quebec and who is a member of Notre Dame du Cap Province. Two Oblates who inspire me to go deeper and share my experience of God as an Oblate Associate and member of our Mazenodian Family. [Jarek Pachoki OMI with Ali Nnaemeka OM on Vocations Cafe](#)



## Talking With... Fr. Vaughan Quinn



Fr. Vaughan returned home to Springhurst after 2 days in hospital for hip surgery. He is now walking without the aid of the walker that was his constant companion for some time. Although not quite ready to jump into the goals again, Vaughan says he is feeling great!



### **A Sacred Journey**

THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN DAILY LIFE -  
IGNATIAN 19TH ANNOTATION

*A unique spiritual journey offered on Zoom*

Sunday evenings  
September 2020 - May 2021

with Dianne Mantyka  
and additional Spiritual Directors

**Application deadline: Monday August 31**

*For additional information please control-click on the buttons below...*

**"A Sacred Journey" Information**

**"A Sacred Journey" Brochure**

## **Star of the North presents Ron Rolheiser Retreat 2020: Spiritual Wisdom from the Deep Wells of Christian Mysticism**

*From Star of the North Retreat Centre*

Retreat Weekend with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

### **Spiritual Wisdom from the Deep Wells of Christian Mysticism: Principles for Living a Mystically Driven Life**

Friday, December 4, 7 pm to Sunday, December 6, 2020, 1 pm

(Begins with public lecture) Cost: Live-in: \$250 Online: \$90

Facilitator: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Mysticism is the best kept secret within our spiritual and ecclesial circles. But, alongside Scripture, it is a very rich source of insight and revelation from which to draw guidance for our journey. This retreat will draw on the lives and insights of a number of classical and contemporary mystics, Therese of Lisieux, Julian of Norwich, John of the Cross, Ruth Burrows, and Henri Nouwen, to see what these men and women, famous for touching the souls of so many people, have to offer us. How might we live a mystically driven life?

**Ron Rolheiser, OMI**, is an internationally known writer, retreat leader and spiritual theologian. Born in Macklin, Sask., he is the author of numerous books, including *Sacred Fire: A Vision for Deeper Human and Christian Maturity*. *Sacred Fire* was the winner of the 2015 Catholic Book Awards in the categories of Book of the Year and Best Book in Spirituality. He is a former professor at Newman Theological College in Edmonton and past president of the Oblate School of Spirituality in San Antonio, Texas.

Public Lecture:

### **Our Real Obstacle to Holiness: Our Pathologically Complex Make-up**

Friday, December 4, 2020, 7 pm Location: Online only Cost: \$25 (Free for those attending the weekend retreat)

Spirituality tends to blame our struggles for holiness on original sin, on concupiscence, and then blame Adam and Eve. A closer examination, however, of both Scripture and Christian tradition places the roots of our struggles not in what's wrong with us, but in what's right with us. We are born with divine fire inside our souls and that fire does not find easy peace in this world. Our own over-charged nature is the real reason why we struggle "to will the one thing."

## Upcoming Birthdays

Joseph Hattie September 6

Eugene Whyte September 15

John Malazdrewich September 9

Vaughan Quinn September 28

Suzanne Massie Manchevsky September 23

Paul Howard September 2

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**September 20 – Mazenodian Family Monthly Oraison** Our Monthly Oraison for the Mazenodian Family takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Vaughan Quinn is recovering well from his Hip Replacement surgery. He has been seen walking in the neighbourhood. Glad to hear you are doing well Vaughan.

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