



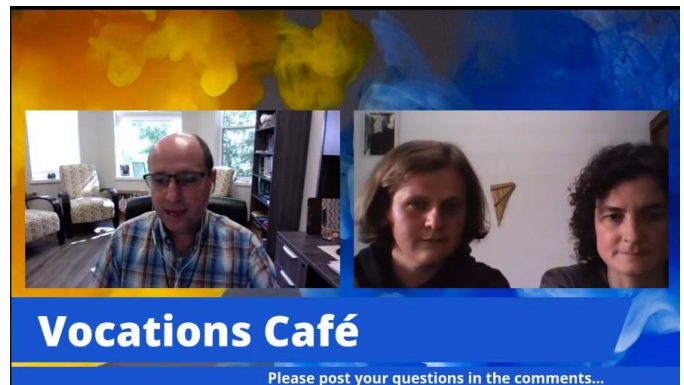
HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

October 2020

Vocations Café with the Oblate Sisters

This past Saturday we were invited to spend 40 minutes online, taking part in the Vocations Café which was hosted by Jarek Pachocki, OMI in a live Facebook event. This past Saturday's conversation was with two of the Oblatas from Madrid Spain. Sisters. Katharina and Inma shared the story of the beginnings of their institute 22 years ago and how they live as consecrated, religious members of the Mazenodian Family. We heard their personal stories of how they felt called by God and how they live out their vocation. Katharina has been with the congregation for 15 years, practices medicine and lives in community with the novices, while Inma has been a part of the founding community of the Oblatas and currently lives with the postulants and works for the diocese. Like many others around the world their lives are full and rich even in these times of the COVID-19 pandemic.



They introduced us to the rhythm of their days which begin with Morning Prayer – Lauds, followed by their community prayers, and how they then give witness to God's love throughout the day.

The joy of living as they have been called was evident in both their voices and their laughter, their smiles and the willingness to share a little of their lives with all of us.

When Jarek asked them about their challenges of living and being as they do Inma shared that one of her greatest challenges has been her experience of how so many people in Spain do not believe in God which she likened to the people of France in Eugene's time; while Katharina shared the challenge in being close to the people but not like the people, that is to walk not in the rhythm of the world, but rather to give witness of hope and show other options (ways of being).

It was an honour and a joy to meet you Katharina and Inma and to learn a little about your specific way of living as called by God to live a consecrated life, as members of our shared Mazenodian Family.

Here's the link to the full video chat of Vocation's Café with the Oblatas. [Vocations Cafe](#)

By Eleanor Rabnett, OMI Lacombe Oblate Associate

I never got to meet Yvon Beaudoin OMI personally, but I have come to know and love him through his many writings about our Founder. His many books in the Blessed Eugene de Mazenod and then St. Eugene de Mazenod series have become a part of my life; in particular the Introduction that he wrote in many of the books which painted a picture of St. Eugene, but also of his own heart, of his love of Eugene and how his work in editing the writings of Eugene de Mazenod was a sharing of his soul, his heart and his being an Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

I share this In Memoriam written by Fabio Ciardi OMI which was published in the 2nd edition of Oblatio 2020: for the many who have not had the opportunity to listen to it I share it now... (Eleanor Rabnett, Oblate Associate)

Fr. Yvon Beaudoin, OMI- In Memoriam

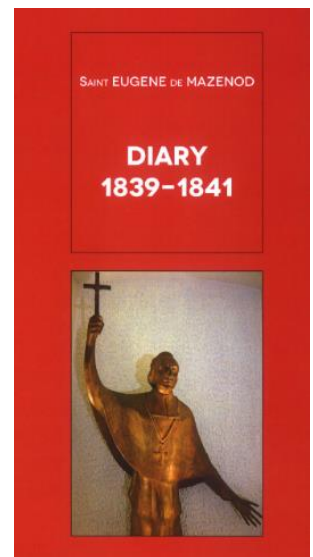
“Now, Lord, let your servant go in peace.” This is the farewell of the elderly Simeon which we read in the Gospel for the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, celebrated on the 2nd of February. This year, 2020, on the eve of the Feast, Fr. Yvon Beaudoin, left us. The previous week, before falling into a coma, his last words were: “I am ready”, like the elder Simeon, who pronounced his “Nunc dimittis”.

Scholastic, Yvon Beaudoin, arrived in Rome in 1947 and in 2009 he left Rome for Canada, after 62 years of work at the General House, in the Archives, at the Postulation, at the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and with the Scouts... a life of impeccable regularity. He always liked to work alone, inside four walls, reading old documents and writing several hundred books and articles, preparing some reports for others, keeping himself withdrawn, with great discretion and great humility.

Our Congregation will always be grateful for the immense work accomplished at the Postulation and the General Archives. After the time when he was a scholastic, he began to catalogue the writings of St. Eugene, who he learned to know and love as a person, leaving us thousands of files. His work as General Archivist from 1983 to 1993 has left a profound mark. He then devoted himself to the “Oblate Library” where he gathered the writings by Oblates and about the Oblates; he considered this as his most beautiful jewel, of which he was particularly proud.

Besides the innumerable studies on the Founder and the Oblate history, we will remember him for the 22 volumes of the writings of Eugene de Mazenod which he treated with great care and intelligence; for the eight volumes of the second series of “Oblate writings” (Tempier, Gerard, Casimir Aubert, Albin, Honorat); and for the first volume of the “Dictionary of Oblate History”. He has been defined as: “a living library, the guardian and conservator of the heritage of the Founder and, at the same time, watchman and promoter of his charism. All his life he has been a lighthouse, illuminating the Oblate patrimony and a lever propelling even to further heights the flame of our charism.” (A. Nsolo)

His work at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints is less known. His body of work has been silent and hidden, as it was at the Archives, where he continued to work even after his retirement, in the historical study of the Venerable, some Servants of God and some Blessed, in the compilation and publication of numerous “Positio” and other documents, many of which do not even bear his



name: about 120 large volumes from 1983 to 2002. Between the Oblate Archives and those of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints there is a sort of osmosis: Fr. Beaudoin has shared his competencies from one domain to the other and continued to cultivate his love for the saints: Oblate as well as non-Oblate ones.

Once he returned to Canada, in 2009, he continued, for 10 years, his competent work at the Deschâtelets Archives, first in Ottawa and then in Richelieu.

Another field of activity for Fr. Beaudoin was the youth, with whom he worked without interruption since 1964, in particular with the Scouts: "I have loved this apostolate very much and I was understood and valued by the youth." Many of them, today renowned professionals, remember him with great affection.

Before leaving Rome, he wrote about himself: "By nature, I have a gentle and pleasant temperament, but my relationships are always limited to the essential. My days are always filled from 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., without stopping for breakfast, without watching television, only three or four times in the week to watch the news in the evening, often without eating, because I returned with the Scouts too late. I have the same rhythm of life year to year. The passing years I have become more patient and reflective, and I remain calm and serene. My spirituality is that of a daily duty, well done, on time. I love to laugh when I am with others and this makes me an agreeable companion."

In an interview, still before his definitive return to Canada, he suggested: "To the Oblates, I would not say so much to « evangelize » and to be « full of zeal », they have always been; I would rather like to tell them what St. Eugene said: « Be religious », « Be regular » and « Work to become saints. » This insistence of the Founder on the life of prayer, on fraternal charity and on the perseverance in seeking holiness, I have underlined it in all the introductions I have written for the various volumes of his writings. The role of the formators is to ensure that the Oblate charism and traditions of the Congregation are passed on to the new generations of Oblates of Mary Immaculate." ...May his memory always remain alive among us!

Fabio Ciardi, omi

From St. Eugene de Mazenod

I have always viewed the episcopate with a different eye to most; and, now that I am elected and am so close to being invested with the plenitude of the priesthood of Jesus Christ, this profound feeling of veneration, this lofty idea that faith has established in my soul for this great dignity, would crush me and deprive me of all courage, all strength to carry on, if the Lord did not fill me with the sweetest hope and bring me to envisage this new coming of the Holy Spirit in myself as a time of renewal and mercy. It seems to me that this divine Spirit whom I have so grieved since it was communicated to me by the imposition of hands, at the time of my priesthood, is going to put everything right in my soul, establish his dwelling with such power that it will be impossible henceforth to escape from his inspirations... (October 4, 1837)



From Star of the North Retreat Centre – St. Albert AB

Slow Down Days: Lexicon of Faith

The words we use have power. They carry multiple meanings, subtleties of thought and layers of emotion beyond what a simple utterance conveys. Often, only when we dive into them do we uncover the richness of their meaning.

This is especially true of our vocabulary of faith. Shaped by revelation, laden with tradition and elaborated over centuries, the lexicon of Christianity is broad and deep. Yet its familiarity can deaden our appreciation. Only when we dig deep do we discover the layers of meaning, complexity of ideas and range of feelings hidden therein. Such a rediscovery will open us anew to the word's life-giving power.

In this series of Slow Down Days, we will use each letter. You will be invited to create a personal lexicon of faith. Exploring the words we will venture into the lexicon of faith to explore the A, B, C's of spirit. We will look at two letters each month, focusing on one or two significant words of faith meaningful to you.

To register for this retreat with Sandy Prather HOMI scheduled to take place on October 15th please go to: [Slow Down Days: Lexicon of Faith](#)

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, along-side 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?

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)

For more information please go to: [Star of the North presents Ron Rolheiser Retreat 2020: Spiritual Wisdom from the Deep Wells of Christian Mysticism](#)

For information on other events please go to their main website at: [Star of the North](#)

From Queens House – Saskatoon, SK

Oblates and Associates Retreat

October 22-24, Queen's House, Saskatoon: facilitated by Sandra Prather, HOMI

The Saskatchewan District Council of OMI Lacombe Canada invites you to a retreat facilitated by Sandy Prather, HOMI October 22-24/2020. This retreat will be held at Queen's House of Retreat in Saskatoon for those who are able to attend. The retreat will also be available via Zoom to all Oblates and Associates across Canada unable to attend.

For more information and registration, please contact: Queen's House of Retreat, Saskatoon www.queenshouse.org or phone: 1-306-242-1916

Who is Mary Magdalene?

A three-part ZOOM gathering with Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, OSU out of Queens House which takes place Wednesday Evenings – October 7, 14 & 21st from 7pm – 9pm OR Thursday mornings – October 8, 15, & 22 from 10am – 12pm.

For more information and registration details please go to: [Who Is Mary Magdalene](#).

For information on other events please go to: [Queens House](#)

From Galilee Centre – Arnprior ON

How We Learn: Kendaasawin – October 16-18, 2020

The Kendaasawin program is a two day cross cultural experience designed to provide transformative opportunities for both Indigenous and non-indigenous learners on the path of healing, reconciliation and spiritual growth. Retreatants will participate in ceremony, teaching, & sharing circles under the guidance of the elders. Facilitated by Donna Naughton & Kateri Native Ministry.

Cost: Single \$240, Double \$195, Commuter \$135 CDN – \$100 non-refundable deposit required with single and double applications; \$50 non-refundable deposit required with commuter applications.

To view the Program Application Form go to: [Registration](#) ,

Virtual attendance is available for this event, cost: \$100/person. Technical requirements for virtual participation: computer or device with internet access, microphone and speakers or headphones with microphone; and an email address to receive invitation to the session. To purchase a ticket for Virtual Attendance please go to: [Kendaasawin - How We Learn](#)

For information on other events please go to: [Galilee Centre](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday October 14 4PM
Forward Together: Listening for the Spirit – As mentioned in Ken Thorson's invitation to all Oblates and Oblate Associates to join together in a province-wide discernment and planning process called, "Forward Together: Listening for the Spirit". Here is the link to the introduction to a process called and initiated by the Provincial Council: [Invitation to join in "Moving Forward: Listening for the Spirit"](#)

October 18 – Monthly Oraison

Our 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.

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

Joe Hattie has returned home to Springhurst but his emails illustrate his ongoing love and care of us. I am sure he is smiling as he reads this. Glad you are doing better now Joe!

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

Let us continue to hold Ken Mansfield, Oblate Associate and his family in our thoughts and prayers – with the death of his brother Wayne on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Upcoming Birthdays

Normand Bonneau – October 5

Tim Coonen – October 10

Oliver Rich – October 8

Jim Bleackley – October 15