



BC District

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Nov. 19, 2020

BC News

The Birthday Book- November/December

Andrew Stendzina, OMI	Nov. 10
Gordon Cook, OMI	Nov. 27

Ron Rissling, OMI	Dec. 1
Tom Cavanaugh, OMI	Dec. 7
Joachim Singarajah, OMI	Dec. 19
BP. Adam Exner, OMI	Dec. 24



Congratulations! Anniversaries

Andy Takach, OMI	65	First Vows	Nov. 4, 1955
Bill MacDonald, OMI	55	Ordination	Dec. 18, 1965
Peter Altamirano, OMI	15	Perpetual Vows	Dec. 8, 2005

Message from BC District Councilor, Garry LaBoucane, OMI

Hola a todos, and a belated Happy Saints Day!

We are having magnificent fall weather here on the west coast! (Remember, this is an Alberta boy speaking. One who prefers dense fog, drizzling/pouring rain, and dark clouds to freezing blizzards and snow covered roads!)

As to other matters, kindly remember the Holy and Reverend Fathers: Vince James, Joachim Singarajah, Bob Haggarty, and Mike Creedon in your prayers for their good health.

Perhaps you already know that Father Gordon Cook is a superb photographer. Every day, he emails an inspiring prayer with a beautiful picture. You might contact him if you are interested. It's a great way to begin the day, even without the coffee!

Father Al Luken and I had a most enjoyable visit with Father TAP Kurudeepan at our place. He had never been in the rectory at Sacred Heart before that time. And, I learned about some very exciting things that he's doing at St. Paul's on the Squamish Nation. I've asked him to write something about one of those events.

Because of his creative ideas, I am thinking about possibilities on this side of the water.

In another respect, Father Ken Forster will be delighted to hear that something else wonderful is emerging here at Sacred Heart. A long awaited dream is finally coming to fruition. That's the cliff hanger for the next newsletter!

For all that was, that is, and that will be-
Gratias sean dadas a Dios.

Until the next missive.

Fr. Garry

A recent reflection from our Oblate brother, Father TAP Kurudeepan, OMI :

I have already lived in North Vancouver, BC for more than a thousand days of my life. I find that more than giving a lot in ministry, my thousand days of a new learning experience has been more prominent. This Mission parish of St. Paul's Squamish Nation Church, of Eslahan North Vancouver, BC, was established by the Oblates in 1883, even though the Oblates initiated visiting and working with the people before that year.

Devotions to Our Blessed Mother have been here for a very long time now, as early as from 1774, and Our Lady of Guadalupe devotions have been among the people for some time as well. St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Canadian Indigenous Saint, is also loved by the people.

Wendy Charbonneau, a very faith-filled parishioner, who is well known for her ardent piety as a practicing Catholic, was interested in promoting devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and to St. Kateri in her parish community of Eslahan. Therefore, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, we started a devotion to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and every first Saturday 7 pm, to Our Lady of Guadalupe. We include Indigenous songs, prayers, and drumming in our worship.

Covid 19 and the Year 2020, which we'll never forget, gave us an enthusiasm and an opportunity to initiate the Rosary, the Mass, and the devotions through online streaming. We have been using Facebook and Messenger, where people join very spontaneously, and request for prayers for their loved ones.

As Oblates, we are missioned to minister to the most abandoned and the voiceless. This Covid 19 gave us an experience reaching out to all of our brothers and sisters from the Mission in Eslahan. As Pierre Babi, OMI in Lyons, France once said, "We can now serve the needy, the voiceless, and the most abandoned and forgotten online. Internet communication is the new meeting place."

With gratitude for our Oblate Family and the Eslahan People, I remain fraternally yours,

Father TAP



Associate News

On September 29 the Oblate Associates from Nanaimo and Salt Spring Island joined together in a joyful and subdued celebration of the Eucharist as a memorial Mass for the repose of the soul of Ruth Liston, a longtime member of the Associates of Salt Spring Island. Karen and David Sax as District coordinators made arrangements with the Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Chemainus Vancouver Island (part of All Saints Parish) where the celebration was held. We were most grateful to Fr. Mel for his openness and hospitality. Unfortunately, we missed meeting with him as he had a Mass at his other church and because of Covid-19 restrictions not permitting a reception on church property.

Please join us in prayer for Mike Creedon's speedy recovery. We received the sobering news a few weeks ago that he was operated on for bi-pass surgery. It'll surely be an adjustment for both Mike and Jo as they deal with his on-going medical issues.

Fr. Jim Dukowski, omi