

December 11, 2020

Volume 13, Number 4

Approved Driver Policy

We have sent out the Approved Driver policy for Oblate vehicles and the Volunteer Agreement Form by email to all Oblates members of Taché District. Here are some answers that can help clarify the situation. These comments come from Br. Harley Mapes, OMI. Provincial Treasurer, on December 5th, 2020.

1. Oblate Associates are not members and are, therefore, not covered by our insurance company. To be considered a volunteer, he/she must have regular tasks he/she is doing for the Oblate community – not the parish. Only Oblates, employees and registered volunteers are covered by our insurance policy.
2. Even if you are in the vehicle, if a friend, parish worker, relative etc has an accident while driving an Oblate vehicle, we are not covered. The friend driving your car may be the best driver in the world, but that doesn't help if someone else goes through a red light and hits the Oblate vehicle.
3. Using an Oblate vehicle for others to practice their driving is prohibited by our insurance coverage.

These regulations may appear draconian and a sudden change of course; however, they seem to have been in place for some time ... it's just that no one ever asked. However, before telling an Oblate he could have friends from outside Canada drive an Oblate vehicle to the United States, fortunately, (or unfortunately!)

I checked with CRSIRP. They checked with the insurance company and got back to me to say it was not allowed. CRSIRP (the Catholic religious self-insurance group) doesn't actually provide the insurance; their role is to represent a whole collection of religious congregations, thereby getting a volume deal for everyone. What this means is the actual insurance company CRSIRP who works on our behalf, would not be forgiving. We mess with the rules and they may well deny us payment.

Note: Eligible volunteers must sign the Volunteer Agreement and send it to the District office, along with a copy of their driver's licence.

Reminder

Fr. François Paradis, OMI, Treasurer of Taché District, requests that any contribution from your surplus account be made, if it is at all possible, to the District community account before the end of the year. Many thanks!

A message from Fr. Armand Le Gal

Dear Fellow Oblates and Associates,

It has been about 9 months now that Covid-19 has invaded us. I was reading that this pandemic experience is similar to the desert experience that the Israelites spent in the desert. They wanted to get out of it as soon as possible. All of us are waiting to get out of the Covid experience (Slavery in Egypt or lockdown) and enter the land of freedom. How long oh Lord? Come and rescue your people! This Coronavirus has invaded and taken over our lives, our space, our ?????

Like the Jewish people at the time of Jesus wanted to be free from the Romans who had invaded them, so too do we wait to be liberated from our invader, Covid-19.

As we wait for this liberation, we still want or need to continue to live in relationship with our Community, families, and friends, etc. Thank you for staying safe and sacrificing for your health's sake and the health sake of others. As Mary and Joseph had to flee to another country to protect Jesus, we too have to protect ourselves and others, so as to be able to one day gather again as Community, with family and friends, etc.

Lately, I received a Christmas card with the design of a simple Nativity scene that had this inscription: "The first Christmas was pretty simple. It's OK if yours is too".

As the Taché District Team of Robert, Vijay, Gerry, François, Binetou and myself, we pray/ask/wish that your Christmas be blessed in unexpected ways as you celebrate it in a different way this year. May you recognize and appreciate the blessings and gifts that come your way during the Christmas season and the New Year. In the same way that Jesus came to reveal the Father's love, may you be a reflection of God's love to those you encounter.

Sincerely,

Armand Le Gal, OMI

Christmas 2020

Anniversaries

Birthdays

December 07: Fr. Jean-Paul Isabelle (88 years)

December 15: Fr. Albert Bouffard (84 years)

December 22: Arend Berendse, Honorary

December 25: Fr. Noel Boulanger (79 years)

December 29: Fr. Armand Le Gal (75 years)



Ordinations

December 18: Fr. Denis Bourbonnais (55 years)

December 19: Fr. Edmond Paradis (56 years)

December 21: Fr. Albert Bouffard (57 years)

December 21: Fr. Camille Piché (57 years)

December 22: Fr. Isaïe Blanchette (57 years)

December 27: Fr. Noël Boulanger (51 years)