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Sights and Sounds

December 9, 2020

For the Month of December



Birthdays

December 2 Diane Lepage
December 24 Gil Belevance
December 24 Corrine Pambrun
December 24 Pauline Henry
December 31 Fr. Syl Lewans

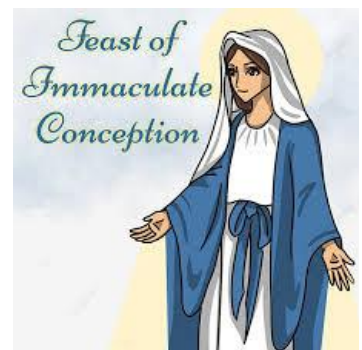


Ordination

December 14 Fr. Nestor Silva (39)
December 21 Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser (59)
December 22 Fr. Paul Fachet (54)
December 23 Fr. Albert Lalonde (56)

December 8, 2020

**Happy Feast Day to all Oblate and Oblate
Associates of OMI Lacombe Canada.
May this Feast Day bring you peace,
comfort and joy.**



FR. ALOYSIUS KEDL, OMI
June 26, 1929 – December 1, 2020



Fr. Aloysius Kedl was born on June 26, 1929 in Urbersdorf, Burgenland, Austria. He left for Canada with his Mother, Christina Kedl, in 1932 to join his father in St. Walburg, Saskatchewan who had been in Canada since 1929. Fr. Kedl attended Primary School from 1936 – 1942 at Perch Lake School, a country school near Paradise Hill, Saskatchewan and completed his studies at St. Thomas College in North Battleford, Saskatchewan in 1947.

On September 7, 1947, Fr. Louis entered the Novitiate of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in St Laurent, Manitoba. He made his first vows on September 8, 1948 in St. Laurent, Manitoba. In October of 1948, Fr. Louis moved to Rome, Italy where he attended the Gregorian University and received degrees in Philosophy and Theology. He was ordained in Rome on October 31, 1954.

Fr. Louis served on the staff of St. Charles Scholasticate in Battleford, Saskatchewan from 1954 to 1972, teaching mainly Church history, Sacred Scripture and Latin.

He was well known throughout the Oblate congregation having served as General Archivist in Rome from 1993 – 2003 as well as his many contributions to the congregation both in Canada and in Rome during his 72 years of vowed life and 66 years of priesthood. He left many lasting impressions on the many people he encountered: his love of books from which he could easily quote, his love of ice cream (hard, not soft), his impressive memory and his deep commitment to Mary just to name a few.

Father Louis shared his knowledge of the Catholic faith with many, he emphasized the importance of living it daily. He spoke 7 different languages which was very helpful in his ministry living at the Oblate General House in Rome and also in the translation of Eugene de Mazenod from French to English.

Mary Comeault, sister of Fr. Louis, spoke of his love for music, reading and playing chess. Mary added that he was their only biological brother, and many memories were made with his sisters, Mary, Rita and Rose.

On behalf of the Oblates and Fr. Louis' family, we would like to say a special thank you to the Staff of Central Haven Special Care Home for their love and amazing care they gave to Fr. Louis over the years.

Predeceased by: his parents Alois and Christina Kedl, sisters: Rose Koob and Rita Kedl and infant brother John.

Survived by: his many Oblate Brothers from around the globe, his sister Mary (Bill) Comeault and brother -in- law, Frank Koob. He is also survived by nieces: Christina (Kevin) Zarycki, Michelle (Todd) Gaucher, and Cecile (Justin) Klein and nephews: John (Jennevieve) Koob, Mark (Tanya) Koob.

Due to COVID-19, a celebration of Fr. Louis' life will take place at a later date.

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### ***Remembering Fr. Kedl.....***

Louis Kedl is one of several Oblates leaving a lasting impression on my life. We lived together in Battleford at the farm during my Novitiate 1974-75. I will never forget his love of ice cream (hard, not soft) and love of books. I remember visiting his 'book room' or study on several occasions. He read and knew every single one of those books, was able to quote from them, and would share them if he saw a need. I was most impressed with his memory. He could talk intelligently about things for hours. At the same time, he would not hesitate to say he 'couldn't talk intelligently for 5 minutes about that' if he didn't know. He held a deep commitment to Mary, learning and honestly.

My fondest memory was in 1994 when Joanne and I took a group of 36 students (some parents) and Mike Dechant, OMI to Rome. Louis showed us the General House in all its glory along with much history and information beyond our questions. He also set up the invitation allowing all of us to meet John Paul II in the Pope Paul Audience Hall. We actually shook hands with the Pope. It was a most memorable time thanks to Louis Kedl.

***Dan and Joanne Friedt, Oblate Associates,  
Edmonton Alberta***

## **Words in remembrance of Fr. Aloysius Kedl – Reb Materi**

A man deeply tenacious in his loyalty and fidelity to God has been called home.

It is with sadness, but also with joy and celebration that we now bid *Adieu* to you, Fr. Louis – *Nous te confions a Dieu! We entrust you to God!* We believe that God has welcomed you into his heavenly home where “eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor our hearts conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2: 9)

I had the fascinating and captivating experience of knowing Fr. Aloysius Kedl since 1961, when as an Oblate seminarian I joined the Oblate community at St. Charles Scholasticate in Battleford, living alongside him for 7 years thereafter. Subsequently, from 1972 to 1979, when he was director of Raema Communications and I was editing *Our Family*, I resided in the same Oblate house at Battleford. And during 1986, when I was assigned to the Oblate General House in Rome, I lived alongside him for a year as he carried out his ministry there as Administrative assistant. During these times together, I came to know him quite well – a man who, though somewhat flawed, was God’s notable gift to us.

As we remember and honor him, Louis would not want the focus to be on him. He would not want us to nostalgically return to past glories. Rather he would want us to focus on the risen Christ now active among us and “whose power at work in us is able to accomplish far more than we ask and far more that we can imagine.” What we pray for now – and what we believe is happening in God’s own time – is that God is bringing our brother Louis to “comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that he may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3: 18-20).

Louis is a person who would underline words of Saint Oscar Romero spoken in his last homily: “Blessed is that moment when we understand that we are no more than an instrument of God. We live only as long as God wants us to live; we can do only as much as God makes us able to do; we are only as intelligent as God would have us be.” Truly, Louis came to understand that he was but an *instrument of God*. This understanding led him to recognize that he needed to be *poor in spirit* as proclaimed by our Lord in the first of the beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount – someone who recognized his poverty and consequently relied on God’s “power made perfect in weakness.” This he expressed so well in the octet of one of his many sonnets, *Mane nobiscum, Domine [Stay with us,*

Lord], based on Luke 24: 29.

O stay with us, dear Lord, for it is night,  
when darkness veils all things, shuts out the light!  
Do stay with us, O Lord! Your presence bright  
can banish blackest gloom of fear and fright.  
Please stay with us! Without you, we are lost  
and flounder midst dark, deadly waves hard toss'd!  
Your mercy's might we cannot ever exhaust.  
We need Your Spirit sent on Pentecost!

Louis was gifted with a brilliant intellect, wealth of knowledge and a prodigious memory which he used in a highly-effective manner in discussion of all types of issues. My perspective on some issues did not always agree with his. I humbly admit that, given his intellectual gifts, he could *wrestle me to the ground* in most any debate / informal discussion we had. I jokingly and somewhat tauntingly once presented it to him this way: "Whenever we debate an issue, at the end you look at me inquisitively as if to say, 'I'm right, aren't I?' And I respond inside myself, 'You're wrong! But I don't know where!'"

He never sought, however, to "out-debate" someone for the sake of winning the debate/discussion nor for the simple need to be right. His goal was to seek and find the truth.

Some among us will recall Louis as a person who was able to disquiet us with his particular perspective on Church-related issues, especially so when they were contrary to our own particular perspective. Indeed, he was a straight-shooter, a person who did not pull punches; he was a person who did not hesitate to provide incisive comments and penetrative observations about any such issues. In this regard, he wanted not conservative Catholicism nor liberal Catholicism. He certainly would not want to be categorized as a conservative battling against liberalism – that's far too simplistic. Ultimately, he was a seeker of the truth, on whichever side of the conservative-liberal divide the truth fell. In the end, he simply desired that the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth would be proclaimed most effectively.

There is much we can learn from Louis.

- ◆ He was persevering, steadfast in his commitment to God. He never gave up.
- ◆ He trusted in God's mercy, recognizing his own need for God's mercy in the face of his own human frailty and particular sinfulness.

◆He recognized that the Good News proclaimed by Jesus of Nazareth was not a compendium of doctrines, but rather a relationship with the Son of God who took on human flesh. The Good News for him was that he was called to be a follower and a brother of our Redeemer.

◆He was able to delight in and truly enjoy God's gifts to us. He enjoyed nature, particularly his visits to the Rocky Mountains which provided him, in his words, "unexpected moments of mysticism." He enjoyed good meals with good wine in the company of Oblate confreres and other good friends – whether this was at dining establishments with reasonable prices or in the homes of friends. While serving at the Oblate General House in Rome, he in particular enjoyed an after-dinner cordial of Sambuca. It is through him, while I was in Rome, that I was introduced to Sambuca – and I can not now drink this cordial without thinking of him.

◆He was an Oblate through and through, with an absolute dedication to God's mission as envisioned by St. Eugene de Mazenod – a man who had a great love for the Oblate congregation. He had a missionary heart in carrying out whatever ministry he was asked to do by his Oblate superiors. He had an abiding devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary. In fact, it was his practice to pray 15 decades of the rosary on a daily basis, asking for her intercession for many others as well as for himself.

He valued sharing the individual histories of Oblates both alive and dead so as to be inspired by the virtues and values they lived.

◆He accepted the last years of his life – a time during which he experienced significant physical and intellectual diminishment – as a period in his life that was "like a prolonged stay in eternity's waiting room." He regarded this as a time when God was putting the finishing touches to a lifetime committed to God's service.

The location of the final resting place of his mortal remains, the Oblate cemetery at Battleford, speaks of the infinite and the eternal, of resurrection, of victory over death.

He was a person who during his life deeply believed in the *communion of saints*. With utmost confidence he accepted that "we walk in the presence of so many persons whom the Lord has called to himself" – and he did not hesitate to pray to these saints for their intercession before God, saints who trod the earth much before him and saints who walked beside him during his own journey on earth.

We now walk in his company in a whole new way. We now are able to seek his intercession as a member of the *communion of saints* who have been welcomed home by

God. Remember us, Louis, in your place beside God.

We say, *Deo gratias!* for the life of Aloysius Kedl and for the virtues and values he strove to live. We say *Deo gratias!* for the blessings the Oblate congregation and other people have received through his devoted ministry. And we who lived and ministered beside him will hopefully ask God and him for forgiveness for the hurts we may have caused in his life.

I think he would readily quote Aaron McGruder, who wrote *Boondocks*, a Universal Press Syndicate comic strip. The quote is from the 2004 July 04 strip.

“When I pass, speak freely of my shortcomings and my flaws. Learn from them, for I'll have no ego to injure.”

Of course, any such speaking of shortcomings and flaws needs to be done with the same measure of compassion that our Lord has for him. And it needs to be combined with a speaking of his strengths, of the gifts given to him by God.

END



## *“In the Name of God, Let Us Be Saints”*

Eugene de Mazenod, OMI, February 18, 1826

On this, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eugene de Mazenod’s canonization, a simple celebration of grateful memory took place at Qu’Appelle House of Prayer during the daily 10:00 Eucharist. Along with Sister Chantelle and Father Glenn, and two guests presently at the house, a few people (respecting COVID) from the local parish participated.

It was an occasion for selecting highlights from this remarkable man’s life, passion, commitment and vision. As Glenn said, “I might be going a little long, but we get to do this only once every 25 years!” Some added to the sharing with appreciative comments about the service of the Oblate house of prayer. Perhaps it is both providence and coincidence that the house of prayer began exactly 3 months to the day before the canonization of the Founder.

Surrounded by Advent décor, and the sun-filled beauty of the Valley hills, it was a time for tender awareness and deepened gratitude, a moment of a sustained and shared stance of child-like wakefulness to the divinity of just what is, a long loving look at Saint Eugene to whom for the moment, and with each other, we were united by love.

The reflective time of sharing was concluded with a statement of Archbishop Bernard Panafieu, much-later successor to Eugene as Archbishop of Marseilles. As written in Canonization Chronicle # 11 (OMI Information), February 1996, quoting *L’Osservatore Romano*:

“Eugene de Mazenod is not a stained-glass window saint of starchy bearing and angelic looks. He is made of clay and full of our own contradictions. Highly sensitive. A tendency to be authoritarian. He is no man of half measures and compromise. John Paul II will not present him as a model but as *a sign of what the grace of God can do in a man’s heart.*”

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Glenn M. Zimmer, OMI
December 3, 2020

Please Note: QHP’s blog <https://qhpconnection.blogspot.com/> is being updated to include some Advent photos and reflections.

Christmas Message

Dear Oblates and Oblate Associates,

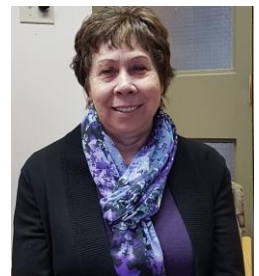
I hope and pray that you are all in good health and having a peaceful life. With this Corona virus we are having a new life experience of being alone. It is my wish for you all that this Christmas will be a new experience for you in how to celebrate with much love and joy even in these closed off days. My prayer for all of you is to reach out in whatever way to be there for others especially those who let you know of their loneliness. May you have a very Blessed and joy filled Christmas and may the New Year bring us much hope.

Merry Christmas to All!!

Fr. Bill

SDC Office:

- *Corrine is away from the office December 24th, 2020 to January 4th, 2021.*
- *Rita will be away from the office December 23rd, 2020 to January 4th, 2021.*
- *The SDC Office will be closed December 24th, 2020 to January 4th, 2021.*



On behalf of Fr. Bill, Fr. Paul, Corrine and Rita, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Queen's House News – Brendan Bitz, Director

Even as our programming portfolio wends its busy and active way into Christmas, we are grateful as well for the successful completion of two important fund-raising events. Although completely different in tone and tenor, Gala 2020 was an adventure that kept our hearts beating (sometimes in panic!!) and allows us to keep our lights on despite the many retractions and restrictions we are facing. Martha Fergusson led and directed our entire band of help in our collective efforts to be community and to come together, to be inspired and to be our best in humble service to others. Laurie and Judy looked after studio design with the help of Michel and Ray. Diane, Bev, Janet, Sr. Ludvina, Adele, Jim, Yvonne, Brian and Martha marshalled and assisted with the auction. Twyla, Grant and Aldwin used their wit and wisdom to produce a wonderful and tasty take out meal. Pauline, Elaine and Dean delivered the meals to the cars without a single misstep, and all the while Sr. Ludvina hovered over us all to make sure nothing was missed. We were serenaded by the beautiful instrumental music of the Thiessen Trio and “our” beloved Greystone Singers shared their talents and youthful sparkle and playfulness that was heartwarming. Thank you again to Ron Rolheiser and Paul Fachet for the terrific injection of Oblate wit and wisdom. Our various messages and prayers added much to the event in a way that seemed to me to foreshadow a birth in a manger – humble and deeply blessed and authentic. And behind us all, Dave and Glen were keeping the technology humming to ensure a clean and smooth presentation! And all the while, Corrine is busy keeping the books straight, the bills paid and all of us in more or less in a straight line. In addition, our Snowball Fling Raffle continues to be a delightful addition to our efforts, and with draws now underway, we hope that the good cheer that a drawn ticket brings to the winner will bless us all. We are also grateful for the warm and encouraging interactions that we have had over the last 6 weeks with ticket purchasers whenever you have connected with us to make your purchase or check a detail. Thank you all for hanging in with us!



And so, as the daylight hours continue to shorten and we fully immerse ourselves in Advent, we are reminded of the countless challenges that we have faced collectively and individually but also the many blessings that we have been given. Through this all, we have been asked to remain a symbol of hope and action for the sake of others, as best we can with what ever we have been given. And our support continues to emerge from around us. It has come in the form of staff members who step in to do what they can to assist this mission and ministry even as we have been so hampered by COVID. Support from our Board members is encouraging as their words, deeds, visits, kindness and generosity sustain us. Support from our entire community, and especially our Oblate

Leadership and our civic government has steadied us financially in the form of donations, grants and assistance. Through creative and engaged community connections, Sarah Donnelly has allowed us to adjust and maintain much of our programming ministry and indeed allows us to pivot into a responsive way of presentation through the gift and genius of technology and innovation. Continued interest from our community in the space and spirit of Queen's House and the importance of this within the fabric of lived experience encourages us to believe that there is life yet in these bones and that these hallways will echo again with the voices of many.

From all of us here at Queen's House ...

We wish you a prayerful Advent, a Joyful Christmas and all the best in 2021. God bless us one and all!



THANK YOU.....

*On behalf of the SDC Office Staff, Queens House Staff and Live - In Personnel here at Queen's House, we would like to give a **BIG SHOUT OUT** of Thanks to our fearless leaders and director, **Brendan Bitz** as well as to our onsite **Oblates, Fr. Paul and Fr. Bill** who have gone above and beyond with their support and guidance through these days of COVID. We just want to say **thank you**, Merry Christmas, and may God be with each of us as we move into a new year.*

thank you!

Fr. Nestor Gregoire's blog: <https://withmyfeetonmydesk.blogspot.com>

Meadow Lake Website: <https://www.meadowlakecatholicchurch.com>

OMI Lacombe Canada Website: www.omilacombe.ca

Qu'Appelle House of Prayer Website: www.qhpstillness.ca

Qu'Appelle House of Prayer blog: <https://qhpconnection.blogspot.com/>

Queen's House Website at: www.queenshouse.org

St. Philip Neri Parish at: www.stphilipneriparish.ca