



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

February 2021

### Vocation Café — with Jarek Pachocki

Yesterday was February's first Vocation Café hosted by Father Jarek Pachocki and joined by Dominik Zwierzychowski who lives in Ireland and is part of the Anglo-Irish Province.

Dominik was his usual enthusiastic and engaging self as he shared how he came to be an Oblate. There was in all of this an inherent invitation to look at where I

belong as an Oblate Associate and member of the Mazenodian Family. As I listened to him I could not help but look at where I am and where I belong. Thank you both Jarek and Dominik.



**VOCATIONS CAFE - OMI Lacombe Canada**

 **Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – 2:00pm Eastern Time**   
Conversation with Fr. Dominik Zwierzychowski, OMI from Anglo-Irish Province who is a member of the Vocation Animation Team. He will be connecting from Dublin, Ireland.

 **Monday, February 15, 2021 - 5:00pm Eastern Time**   
Conversation with Br. Joshua Nash, OMI from Australian Province. He is a scholastic in St Mary's Seminary, Camberwell.

 **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - 7:00pm Eastern Time**   
Conversation with Fr. Denz Evardone Basada, OMI and Fr. Rockmore Saniel, OMI, vocation directors for Philippines Province. They will be connecting from Manila, Philippines.

**Streamed LIVE: [fb.me/missionaryoblates](https://fb.me/missionaryoblates)**

For those of you who might be interested there will be two more cafés this month; one on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5PM Eastern Time with Br. Joshua Nash from the Australian Province, who is a scholastic at St. Mary's Seminary. Then on Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7PM Eastern time with Fathers Denz Evardone Basada and Rockmore Saniel

from Manila and who are Vocation Directors for the Philippines Province.

This year **February 17<sup>th</sup>** falls on Ash Wednesday and we usually renew our vows and commitments on February 17<sup>th</sup> when we gather as community to celebrate the Approbation of the OMI Constitutions and Rules in 1826. Because of the ongoing pandemic and the measures that we must take to protect ourselves and all those we love we will not be able to gather in the traditional way. So the Provincial Team has invited us to join together using ZOOM.

# Invitation



## Feast Day Liturgy

### Approbation of the Congregation

You are cordially invited to attend a Liturgy of Celebration, honouring the February 17 Feast Day, the Approbation of the Congregation. Since this Feast Day falls on Ash Wednesday this year, we will celebrate the Feast Day on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As Oblates and Associates, we will gather as a community to pray in gratitude for the gift of our Oblate commitment. Vowed Oblates will have the opportunity to renew their vows, Associates their commitments.

We hope you can join us for this unique opportunity to celebrate together.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021

**TIME:** Ontario Eastern 7:30 pm

Manitoba Central 6:30 pm

Saskatchewan and Alberta Mountain 5:30 pm

British Columbia Pacific 4:30 pm

**ZOOM link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87300637359>

*"As missionaries in this time and place and as daring members of the prophetic Church, we stand with the voiceless, hearing and making heard their cry, which is a cry to God who brings down the powerful and lifts up the lowly..."*

OMI Lacombe Mission Statement.



# Mazenodian Family Monthly Oraison

February 14, 2021

*"In prolonged silent prayer [...], we let ourselves be molded by the Lord, and find in him the inspiration of our conduct" (OMI Rule of Life, 33). The practice of Oraison was an important part of St. Eugene's daily prayer during which he entered into communion with the members of his missionary family. In this spirit let us become aware that we are praying in communion with members of the Mazenodian Family throughout the world.*

## Our Focus This Month

On February 17, 1826, Pope Leo XII approved the Oblate Rule of Life. With the Church's approval, St. Eugene de Mazenod recognized the hand of God in the life and spirit of his missionary family. Today the Mazenodian Family continues to recognize God's hand in how we live the charism and in the mission entrusted to us, which is expressed in the Rule approved by the Pope.

## Word of God

In Deuteronomy 30:19, God's life was manifested in the Law: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him. The Rule is our way of living the Gospel. We can, therefore, echo the words of Peter in John 6:68: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.")

## Oblate Text

*"Let us therefore, value these Rules as precious, let us ever keep them before our eyes, still more in our hearts: let us nourish our souls regularly with the principles contained in them, let us act., speak and think only in conformity with their spirit. It is only in this way that we can become what God expects of us and can become worthy of our sublime vocation... Hence what matters is that we be imbued with the spirit of our Rules and, to arrive at this, we must make them the topic of our regular meditations." (St. Eugene, retreat notes 1831)*

## Invitation to Pray

**Meditatio (study):** What does the text say to me, today, and to my life?

**Contemplatio (reflect):** What does the Lord inspire in my mind, heart and life? *Sit silently with this question for a few minutes.*

**Oratio (state):** What can I say to the Lord in response to this text?

**Actio (act):** How do I put this into action?

Link to US Province Mazenodian Family site: [Monthly Mazenodian Family Oraison – Feb. 14, 2021](#)

## RETREATS:

From Galilee Centre:



Father Ron Rolheiser, invites you to a lecture and an online retreat.

**LECTURE: “The Real Obstacle to Holiness – Our Pathologically Complex Nature”** (Friday April 16)

**WEEKEND RETREAT: “Spiritual Wisdom from the Deep Wells of Christian Mysticism – Principles for Living a Mystically-Driven Life”** (Friday April 16 – Sunday April 18)

For further details: [Click Here](#)

Link to [Schedule](#) [Brochure](#)

**Cost:** *Friday Lecture ONLY:* \$25      *Lecture & Retreat:* \$100

**Register:** [Friday Lecture Only](#) [Lecture & Retreat](#)

## From Queens House:



### SYNOD FOR THE AMAZON: ONE YEAR LATER

**New Paths for the Church in Latin America and Canada**

*A second gathering of Canadians of faith on Zoom*

**Tuesday February 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Central Standard Time**

**\$20 – General Public**

**No fee for students and those unwaged**

**Registration deadline: February 15**

[Poster](#)

[Register – General Public](#)

[Register – Students and the unwaged](#)

## From Star of the North:

### Encounter St. Kateri Tekakwitha

This weekend retreat will focus on the relevance of St. Kateri’s spirit today, her relationship with our Creator God and the gifts of creation.

Online Retreat: \$60.00

For details or to register go to: [St. Kateri Retreat](#)



# From St. Eugene de Mazenod

*"The conclusion to be drawn from this, my dear friends and good brothers, is: we must work, with renewed ardor and still more total devotedness, to bring to God all the glory that stems from our efforts and, to the needy souls of our neighbours, salvation in all possible ways; we must attach ourselves heart and soul to our Rules and practice more exactly what they prescribe to us... In the name of God, let us be saints.*

(Letter of Eugene to all Oblates, 18 February 1826, EO VII, n. 226)



## Chuckles

Rabbi Yitzchok Epstein, a brilliant Talmudist, and his student Moshe were traveling to the village of Vilna when they had to stop for the night and pitch a tent in an empty field.

After the evening prayers, Rabbi Epstein and Moshe retire for the evening.

Some hours later, Rabbi Epstein wakes up and nudges his faithful student. "Moshe, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

"I see millions and millions of stars, Rabbi Epstein" replies Moshe.

"And what do you deduce from that?"

Moshe ponders for a minute. "Well, astronomically, it conveys the vastness of the heavens. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are a small and insignificant part of His universe. What does it tell you, Rabbi Epstein?"



Rabbi Epstein is silent for a moment. "Moshe!" he says, "someone has stolen our tent!"

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**February 14 – Monthly**

**Oraison** Our Monthly Oraison for the Mazenodian Family which will take place in preparation for the date of our Founding. All are welcome.

**February 23 – Ontario District  
Oblate Associate ZOOM Gathering  
ALL are welcome.**

See Page 2 for Invitation and link to the celebration.

## Birthday Celebrations



Wayne Jarvo – February 5

Karen Ann McKinna – February 9

Eleanor Rabnett – March 3

Sheila Nolan – March 7

Leonard Rego – March 15

Roy Boucher – March 28

## In Love and Prayers



**Frank Kavanagh enjoying birthday cupcakes to celebrate his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 4th!**

Frank has moved to the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre here in Ottawa and is now settled in his new room. He is in Ottawa 1 West, Rm 166. Phone is 613-526-7171 ext. 8055.

Yvon Oullet passed away this weekend, late Saturday evening. He leaves behind his wife, Sandy, his son Raymond, his daughter Renelle and his grandchildren. Yvon was well known throughout Arnprior for all the good he did as he helped any that needed help. Yvon we will miss you and are grateful to have been able to know you. Let's all keep Sandy and the family in our thoughts and prayers these coming days.

We pray this month for all who are suffering with COVID19, especially for Malcolm Mansfield, brother of Ken Mansfield, who remains in the hospital. We keep Malcolm,

Ken, and his family in our thoughts.

Please keep Erin Ryan whose sister died in January and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Jane McDonald's heart surgery which was to take place on February 10<sup>th</sup> has once again been postponed so let's keep Jane and Jim in our prayers.

Wayne Jarvo returns to Springhurst Residence on February 11<sup>th</sup> but will be in quarantine for 2 weeks before entering into the full rhythm of the house. Richard Wolak remains in Toronto settling his late sister's affairs. Vaughan Quinn continues his stay at the Montfort Hospital as he continues to heal. He will return to Springhurst once he is able to stand and walk on his own.

We continue to keep Ron Kedrosky and Maureen Pinsonneault HOMI in our ongoing thoughts and prayers.