



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

March  
2021

### Back Home with us at Springhurst

We are very happy to say that Br. Wayne Jarvo is back at Springhurst after an absence of a few years.

Wayne moved into a health care facility after having a stroke a few years back. He spent time doing rehabilitation and memory work. The past year, he had thoughts that he wanted to return to Springhurst to live in community with his brothers. With Covid-19 on the rampage, we could not bring Wayne out of the health care residence for a while. Finally, after Wayne could have a Covid-19 test, we were able to move him home.



Wayne is settling into his old room quite well and feels comfortable in familiar surroundings and routines. On the milder days he has taken advantage of being able to go out on the patio and enjoy being out of doors...something he was not able to do in the last year at the care home due to lock down restrictions there.

I spoke with Wayne about how he felt, returning to Springhurst and he said that he was happy to be back in the Community and that everyone was helping him settle in. He smiled when he mentioned having the freedom to go outside when he chooses and being able to walk inside the house when the weather does not cooperate. He also enjoys going to mass with his brothers.

Having Wayne back home is good for both Wayne and the Community.

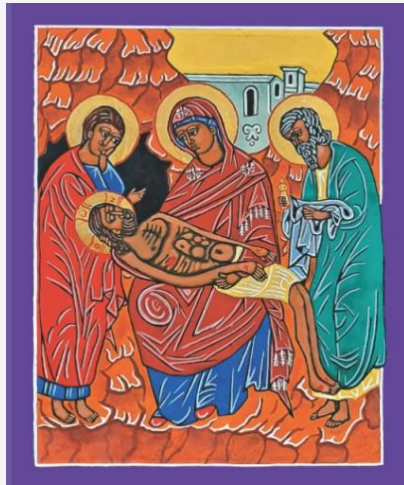
By: Jane Brennan



*By: Francis de Sales*

Purging the soul is a lifetime effort. There is no reason to be upset by our imperfections, for perfection is nothing more than fighting against them. How can we resist them unless we see them? How can we overcome them unless we face them?

## A Path Through Love: An Ignation Holy Week Retreat



Icon by Fr. Clyde Rausch, OMI 2021

Are you looking for a special way to pray and participate in the Passion of Jesus during Holy Week? Maybe you want a retreat that you can make alone, with your family, or church group online?

Join us on A Path Through Love, a free, ten-day Holy Week retreat. You will pray with a biblical passage from Palm Sunday to Easter Tuesday. Each day you will receive a prayer format that will contain a scripture reading and reflection, as well as a piece of art, a poem or music to help you bring your prayer to a close.

To sign up for the retreat visit: <https://ost.edu/holyweek2021/>

### Masses for MAMI: The General

Administration has assigned the 2021 calendar of Masses celebrated by Oblates for the intention of the MAMI members and Oblate supporters around the world. The dates assigned to OMI Lacombe Canada Province are April 16-25, 2021. The Ontario District is asked to celebrate Masses for MAMI on April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

At our Ontario District Council Meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, I asked the Springhurst Residence to celebrate their community Mass on April 24<sup>th</sup>



and St. Joseph's Parish on April 25<sup>th</sup> for this intention. Also, I invite all the Oblates and Associates in the Ontario District to pray for the MAMI members and Oblate supporters around the world on these days, giving thanks for all those who support our ministries with their prayers and financial assistance. May God bless their generous service and may their witness to the Oblate charism inspire us.

#### DAY SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM

Many children go to school hungry because their parents are not able to provide food. MAMI provides funds for food in Irinda Parish, Langata Women's Prison and Kisaju Parish to encourage these children to remain in school.

Kenyan school children



Fr. Jim Bleackley, OMI

## A Great Retreat With the Little Things of Every Day

There is no need to do extraordinary things to do a "retreat". It is enough to do the usual things, while being attentive, moment by moment, to the will of God, so as to flavor every action with the salt of love.

Retreat is therefore lived in the present, doing what you always do. However, it is necessary to be attentive, moment by moment, to what the Spirit suggests, who always remembers the words of Jesus. This is how we can rediscover the simplicity of daily evangelical living.

The *here* and *now* are the sacrament of the love of God that reaches me and penetrates me, they are the place and the time of my response of love and of my adherence to God. "You know it, my God - Teresa of the Child Jesus repeated -, that to love you on earth I have only today"; «That we only look after the moment that passes. A moment is a treasure ... ».

John XXIII regulated his life - and for this reason it was simple and fascinating - on a present made up of usual gestures but performed with solemnity and entirety: "I must do each thing, recite each prayer, follow that rule, as if I did not other things to do, as if the Lord had brought me into the world just to do that action».

Eating and sleeping, repetitive and monotonous work, sport, study, free time, friendly conversation, illness ... everything can become raw material with which to forge the new man in the image of Christ. On one condition: that everything is done in love ...

Life is simplified because it is all focused-on love in the present moment. And if I'm wrong, every day I can start over and start over: I can always start over.

It is with this conviction that we began our exercise week today. We are more than 150 people, some, a few, who gather in the church of the Oblates in Cosenza, others via zoom. Thus, we can walk together on our path towards Easter.

Sunday 7 March 2021

Fabio Ciardi

[Fabio Ciardi - a great retreat...](#)

## From St. Eugene de Mazenod

*We are all members of one body, let each strive by every means and by making sacrifices, if he must, for the well-being of this body and the growth of all its potential.*

*I do not know why I remind you of these things. I am quite aware of the fine spirit which animates you. It is just that I enjoy conversing with you about what we hold in common.*



*Letter to the first Oblates leaving for Canada, 9 October 1841, EO I n 9*

# Invitation



## Forward Together: Listening for the Spirit - Third Small Group Sessions

"Dear Oblates and Oblate Associates,

Thank you for your generous participation in our Province-wide small group Zoom gatherings over the last few months, and welcome to the latest step in our synodal process!

In this step we are asking you to reflect on the Council's proposal, 'Future Orientations / Concrete Action Plan.' This draft plan will be sent to you a few days prior to the small group meetings.

The meetings are scheduled at various times during the day, March 16-24, 2021. At these meetings you will be asked, once again, to share your responses to the draft strategy in small groups. In true synodal fashion, we will listen deeply to one another, with open minds, hearts and wills, to discern together where the Spirit is leading us.

A final draft of the Future Directions/Orientations and Concrete Action Plan will be based on these responses.

### Small-Group Meetings (5 different options):

Between March 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, we will hold five small-group Zoom gatherings. We invite all Oblates and Associates, whether you have participated in the previous sessions or not, to register for **one** of the five different small-group gatherings options. We will accept up to 30 people per session. At the meeting, the group of 30 will be divided into a smaller group of 5 or 6 people. A Provincial Council member will be present in each smaller group to facilitate and take notes. **EACH MEMBER CAN ONLY REGISTER FOR ONE SESSION.**

Option #1 – Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm (ET) – [OPTION #1 – REGISTER HERE](#)

Option #2 – Thursday, March 18, 2021 – 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm (ET) - [OPTION #2 – REGISTER HERE](#)

Option #3 – Saturday, March 20, 2021 – 12 pm – 2 pm (ET) - [OPTION #3 – REGISTER HERE](#)

Option #4 – Tuesday, March 23, 2021 – 12 pm – 2 pm (ET) – [OPTION #4 - REGISTER HERE](#)

Option #5 – Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm (ET) - [OPTION #5 – REGISTER HERE](#)

After you register, you will receive a Zoom email with a link to attend the chosen session. Please make sure to check your junk email folder if you don't find it.

Your participation is vitally important! What we share and hear at these meetings will help shape our ongoing discernment. Council members will be listening to your questions/comments about the draft Strategic Plan. Add your voice to our conversation!

If you wish to participate in one of these sessions and have difficulties using Zoom, please do not hesitate to contact your District office, and they will put you in contact with technical support.

### **In our love and prayers...**

We continue to pray for the families of Yvon Oullet and Ron Kedrosky; both Ron and Yvon passed away in last month and we hold them in our thoughts and hearts.

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

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

Richard Wolak has returned from Toronto to Springhurst. Glad you are back Richard. Vaughan Quinn has returned to Springhurst and so has begun a process of further healing. Still, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Let us also pray for Fr. Louis Lougen as he prepares for his surgery. He will be meeting with his surgeons on March 17<sup>th</sup> in preparation for his surgery which will take place on March 30, Tuesday of Holy Week.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**March 21 – Monthly Oraison** Our Monthly Oraison for the Mazenodian Family which will take place in preparation for the date of our Founding. All are welcome.

### **Birthday Celebrations**



Eleanor Rabnett – March 3

Leonard Rego – March 15

Richard Wolak – April 3

Ken Mansfield – April 13

Jane McDonald – April 29

Sheila Nolan – March 7

Roy Boucher – March 28

Jarek Pachocki – April 12

David Morgan – April 23



## Mazenodian Family Monthly Oraison - March 21, 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:** March 19<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, protector of the Congregation. Pope Francis dedicated this year to St. Joseph giving us an opportunity to reflect deeper on the mystery of his vocation as father and husband.

**Word of God:** The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." [...] When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. (Matthew 1:20-21, 24)

**Oblate Text:** St. Eugene wrote to his father in June 1814 about his recovery, which he attributed to St. Joseph, after being severely ill with Typhus and on his death bed. *"On the morning of St. Joseph's feast day I was close to the end; and as if my holy patron had wished to show me the effect of the powerful protection that was being invoked for me on all sides, that very evening I took a turn for the better with astonishing rapidity. The next day or the day after that there was no longer any danger.*

**From Pope Francis:** From the Motu Proprio *Patris Corde*: *Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand, our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow. The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. We can almost hear an echo of the impassioned reply of Job to his wife, who had urged him to rebel against the evil he endured: "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" (Job 2:10).*

### Invitation to Pray

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

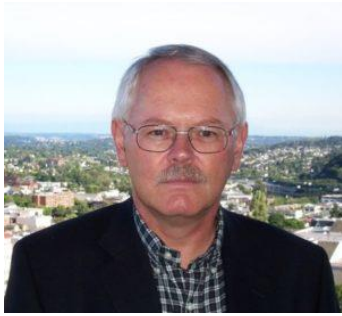
**Contemplatio (reflect):** What does the Lord inspire in my mind, heart and life? Sit silently with this question for a few minutes.

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

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

## 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:

**From Yesterday to Tomorrow in a Time of Pandemic**

**A LENT/HOLY WEEK RETREAT ON ZOOM**

Saturday March 27 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

with Julien Fradette and Nancy Phillips

**Registration deadline: March 25**

Retreat Brochure: [Click Here](#)

Retreat Summary: [Click Here](#)

Register for retreat: [Click Here](#)

### From Star of the North:

#### Encounter St. Kateri Tekakwitha

April 16 – 18 2021

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](#)