

# Happenings



## Dear Oblate Family!

Easter is one of the most significant celebrations of the year for Christians as we commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This year will be very different again from anything that we have experienced in the past because of COVID-19. We will not be able to gather in our churches as numerous as we would like to celebrate as a worshipping community. The same we can say about our traditional gatherings with oblate communities, family and friends. We are happy that at least here in our District this year, unlike last, we can gather in churches within the limits. This is extremely unfortunate; however, the sacrifices we make today will benefit many people tomorrow and for weeks and months to come. We will help to limit the spread of the coronavirus. But also, we have to believe that God can bring good out of our sacrifices.

Christians know that Jesus not only died, but he also rose from the dead. This fact gives us hope because we see how God was able to bring about good from the bad. We have seen this in so many ways and times in our life. In the Gospel of St. Mark, we find the account of Jesus calming the storm. The apostles are in a boat during a great windstorm, and they are terrified. Jesus was asleep in the stern and they cried out to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus wakes up, rebukes the wind, and then rebukes the apostles.

He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (Mark 4:35-41)

The words of Jesus are significant as we face the current storm that is affecting the world and each one of us. The coronavirus pandemic is causing fear and anxiety in the hearts of a great number of people including those we serve and those we meet and know. Some may even think God does not care that so many are perishing. Jesus would say the same thing and encourages us to not be afraid and to have faith.



Despite the storm, we still see many examples of goodness and light that have a calming effect.

People find they have more time to think, to reflect and to walk outside contemplating the beauty of nature. Many people have commented that when passing someone on the street (practising physical distancing) there is a smile, kindness and greeting that has not always happened in the past.

One of the most profound examples of seeing the goodness of God can be found in the countless individuals who are continuing of making personal sacrifices by serving our community, especially the sick in our hospitals and long-term care facilities, but also helping in many other ways to those who are need.

In the midst of suffering and death, there is life and goodness.

Wishing all members of our Oblate Family Happy Easter.

May you all know that we are not alone.

We have each other and above all, we have loving God, who cares for us!

Jesus has risen, Alleluia!

**Fr. Ignacy Warias omi**

**Superior of Brother Anthony District**

## April Anniversaries



### **Birthday:**

April 22 – Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie

### **First Vows:**

April 18 – Fr. Susai Jesu (**25 years!!**)

### **Ordination:**

April 22 – Fr. Mark Blom (19 years)

## **Fr. Susai Jesu, OMI - Celebrating 25 years of Religious Life**

Susai Jesu was born on May 17, 1971 at Pushpavanam, Tamilnadu, India. He entered the novitiate and pronounced his First Vows on April 18, 1996 and his Perpetual Vows on January 7, 2000 at Chennai, India. Susai was ordained a priest on July 27, 2000 at Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, India by Auxiliary Bishop of Madras-Mylapore, Laurence Puis, D.



### **FR. SUSAI'S ASSIGNMENTS**

2000 - Assistant Parish Priest; Balaghad, MP; North India

Parish Priest in Surala Kappa, North India

2005 - Assistant Parish Priest; Kombadimadurai, TN, South India

2007 - OMI Lacombe - First Nations Ministry (course, orientation, enculturation)

2008 - Study Cree Language, Pelican Narrows, SK

2009 - Pastor; St. Gertrude Church, Pelican Narrows, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Sandy, Bay, SK

2016 - Studies - Ottawa, ON

2017- Pastor; Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, Edmonton, AB

## **BOC Gatherings**

Star BOC and Gareth BOC members will gather to continue the pre-chapter reflection question on Thursday, April 22 at 7 pm. The Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting date. ***All are welcome.***

## **Life with the Oblates at Foyer Lacombe (by Fr. Alfred Groleau, OMI)**

As Easter approaches, we are joyful, eight of us trying to ground our hope in patience and prayer. We have gained security against covid with our first vaccine this month and we await our second in April. Each one contributes in his own way to the little shores required of us since we no longer have our meals in Covenant Care cafeteria, but our meals are brought to us. The monotony of a cafeteria diet has been alleviated since generous Oblate Associates have brought us a meal each week – thanks especially to Joanne & Dan Friedt, and to Doug & Faith Paul. Gerry LeStrat is our newest member and he also has displayed his culinary skills. Health wise, our men are OK. Alfred Hubenig maintains a constant flow of communication by telephone and wireless connections even as he is approaching 90.

We also have three men living in long term care homes. Louis-Philippe Roy, at Youville Home near to us on Mission Hill since June 2020, is enjoying good health and an active social life. Jerome Blackburn has lived at St. Albert Seniors' Home in north St. Albert since about five years; he has overcome the covid while the home had an outbreak of over 50 cases with some deaths, and his dementia impairs his communication. Gilles Gauthier has lived now a full year in Villeneuve, ten kilometers west of St. Albert, at West Country Hearth; he is in good shape physically, but also demented and living in his own present, probably brought on by his injury when he was in Bangladesh.

We are still an active and alert community though seven of us have entered into the 80's bracket and Maurice Joly will soon be 92. Some of us remain active physically: Wladek Karciarz continually prompting us into skiing expeditions, and with Don Claerhout & Ed McSheffrey seeking daily maintenance tasks. We remain very conscious of our link with brother oblates and with the Church through our prayer. We are also very committed to the synodal process launched by our Provincial Administration.

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**Brother Anthony Oblate District, 3 St. Vital Ave, St. Albert, AB T8N 1K1**

Tel. 780-459-4253 / Fax 780-851-3642 / [mcloutier@omilacombe.ca](mailto:mcloutier@omilacombe.ca)