



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

June 2021

### Goodbyes and New Beginnings

As of the end of this month Jim Bleackley will no longer be Superior of Ontario District, however he will remain as Pastor to St. Joe's Parish until the end of his term in 2022. We thank Jim for all that he has done for us, especially in this time of great upheaval and ongoing challenges due in most part to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jim, we offer our love, gratitude and prayers. Jim and Norm Bonneau will be moving from Stewart Street to join the Springhurst community.

And let us also keep our Provincial Team in our thoughts and prayers as they discern and seek out a new Superior for Ontario District.

### From Fabio Ciardi:

Monday 7 June 2021

#### Studying to live



Study, why? To live!

I am rereading for the umpteenth time the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, *Gaudete et exultate*, and I always find something inspiring, like today:

"Christianity is made above all to be practiced, and if it is also an object of reflection, this has value only when it helps us to live the Gospel in daily life".

## Growing Hope at Galilee

Galilee is expanding its community gardens. With the help of a grant from Renfrew County Community Services, six new plots are being added this year for the use of marginalized individuals and families referred by caring community members or sponsors. The initiative by Galilee's Board of Directors was communicated to the Greater Arnprior Council on Poverty and Homelessness. Invitations to the Arnprior Food Bank and L'Arche communities will follow. The goal is to promote physical exercise, wellbeing, food security and community engagement. Participants will be guided by experienced volunteer gardeners in the growing of their own produce and flowers.

The existing gardens at Galilee are full and there is often a waiting list. These new plots include raised beds constructed by the Arnprior Men's Shed as well as ground level ones. This initiative, brought forward by Karen Ann McKinna, Oblate Associate was given flesh by Richard Kelly, OMI nourished by Gerry Kelly and executed with the help of others by Alan Budarick and David Morgan, Oblate Associate.

Just as we gathered to celebrate the ground breaking, rain poured down as though it were a baptism by aspersion (sprinkling), [wrote Metroland reporter Derek Dunn](#). It is expected that the Galilee OMI Hope Garden will be available in June with an official opening ceremony to follow. All supplies, seeds, plants and tools will be provided by Galilee. In the spirit of St. Eugene, we seek to grow hope for the marginalized at Galilee.



We share with you this prayer written by Darcie Lich, an Oblate Associate.

Creator God of love and justice, comforter of those who mourn, we turn to you acknowledging the actions of our Church and our nation. We have asked forgiveness and committed to work for healing and reconciliation. But we are painfully aware that for some, that change came too late.

We offer you our sorrow for the wrongs committed against the people of this land, our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

We offer you our contrition for what was allowed to happen, and for what will never be.

We offer you our repentance for the injustices borne of arrogance and the harm done through indifference.

We pray for comfort for the families and communities whose children, siblings, family, and friends were taken from home but did not return.

We pray for consolation of hearts wounded through separation and trauma.

We pray for healing of bodies, minds, and spirits wounded through abuse and oppression.

We ask for clear eyes, that we may face the story of our nation and our Church with honesty.

We ask for open hearts, that we may hear the stories of Indigenous Peoples with humility.

We ask for courage, that we may once again ask our brothers and sisters for forgiveness.

We declare our desire to be a people who pursue peace.

We declare our resolve to be a people who remember.

We declare our commitment to be a people of truth and reconciliation.

Holy One, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen, of story and of song, of heartbeat and of tears, of bodies, souls, voices and all relations: you are the God of all truth and the way of all reconciliation. Come upon us, O Divine Healer, and open our eyes to the injustices brought against the Indigenous peoples of this land, their languages and cultures. May you be known for healing and wholeness, rather than being blamed for abuses that were brought about by human weakness and hostility. Make us people of integrity and bearers of hope, that we may commit to restoring relationships and to journeying together, as Non-Indigenous and Indigenous brothers and sisters, to a place of peace in you, where every tear will be wiped away, and every sorrow turned to joy. Give us one heart and one mind to walk together in the love and strength of your Spirit, in truth, reconciliation, and peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our brother, our Lord, and our hope.

## Mazenodian Family ORAISON - June 20, 2021

*In prolonged silent prayer [...], we let ourselves be modeled 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 entered into communion with the members of his missionary family. In this spirit let us become aware that we are praying in communion with the love of Christ the Saviour.*

**FOCUS:** The month of June traditionally celebrates the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Eugene de Mazenod had a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart and encourage his missionary family to spread this devotion which reveals the love of Christ the Saviour.

**WORD OF GOD:** Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give your rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light. (Matthew 11;28-30)

**OBLATE TEXT:** Eugene wrote to his mother; “To give honor to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is to drink in the love of God at its very fountainhead”. In the seminary, he expressed it as “the feast of Jesus Christ’s love for man”. As a result, he wishes to love others with the intensity of the love of Christ. As for himself, he wants “to be a priest according to his Heart, for everything is contained in that one word”. As he states in his diary, the Heart of Jesus is “the prototype for our hearts”. We should deepen our understanding of everything that flows from the loving heart of Jesus Christ, not only for all people, but in particular for his apostles and disciples”. (Rene Motte, DOV, Sacred Heart).

**PRAYER:** O God, what will You do to conquer the fearful hardness of our hearts? Lord, You must give us new hearts, tender hearts, sensitive hearts, to replace hearts that are made of marble and of bronze. You must give us Your own Heart, Jesus. Come, lovable Heart of Jesus. Place Your Heart deep in the centre of our hearts and enkindle in each heart a flame of love as strong, as great, as the sum of all the reasons that I have for love You, my God. O holy Heart of Jesus, dwell hidden in my heart, so that I may live only in You and only for You, so that, in the end, I may live with You eternally in heaven, Amen (St. Claude de la Colombiere)

To access this page online click on this link: [Mazenodian Family Monthly Oraison - June 20, 2021](#)



**Are you able to identify the names of any of these fine-looking young men in the photo?** Please, send us your thoughts and we will publish the names (of those we are able to identify). Memory grows dim after all this time, so we are counting on you to help us identify this group of young men.

*(Here is a hint: Think back to Holy Rosary Scholasticate)*

### **From St. Eugene de Mazenod...**

Whatever the demands of our ministry, one of the more intense moments in the life of an apostolic community is the time spend praying together. One in spirit with those who are absent, we turn to the Lord to praise him, seek his will, beg forgiveness and ask for the strength to serve him better.



*OMI Constitutions and Rules: C40 – Together in prayer*

Something to tickle your toes....

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So, he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So, he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So, he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, **"Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"**

This time, a little voice came out of the box: **"I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"**

And on a more serious note...

 **Plough True Humility** *by François Fénelon*

It is false to believe ourselves unworthy of God's goodness and to not dare to look at him with trust. True humility lies in seeing our own unworthiness and giving ourselves up to God, never doubting that he can work out the greatest results for and in us. If God's success depends on find in our foundations already laid, we might well fear that our sins had destroyed our chances. But God needs nothing that is in us. He can never find anything there except what he himself has given us. (Source: The Complete Fénelon)

## **In Our Love and Prayers...**

We continue to pray for all whose lives have been touched by COVID19, especially those in the more densely populated and poorest countries in the world.

We continue to pray for Malcolm Mansfield, brother of Ken Mansfield, who is now home from the hospital and continues the healing process.

We continue to hold Vaughan Quinn in our thoughts and prayers as he continues to slowly improve.

Let us also not forget Oliver Rich who has not been able to join the Springhurst Community recently due to the COVID restrictions. We also remember Frank Kavanagh who has become much beloved by all on his floor at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre.

And we will not forget Brian Kerr who is not well, as well as Colleen who cares so lovingly for him.

And we pray also for Jane McDonald, Oblate Associate who will be having heart surgery on June 16, 2021.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**June 20th – Monthly Oraison** Our Monthly Oraison for the Mazenodian Family will take place in in reflection and prayer for Mary Immaculate – Mother of our Mazenodian Family. All are welcome.

## **Birthday Celebrations**



Richard Kelly – June 8

Erin Ryan – June 16

Doug Crosby – June 28

Tony O'Dell – June 30

Hanh Van Tran – July 15

Gail Hillier – July 17

Pamela Dixon – July 20

## **MOVES**

Suzanne Massie Manchevsky has moved: her new address is:  
156 Woodhurst Crescent, Stittsville, ON K2S 0T5

## THE SYNOD FOR THE AMAZON: ONE YEAR LATER

# *New Paths for the Church and Integral Ecology:*

*How will the North American Church  
respond to the Synod on the Amazon?*

In this third of a three-presentation series reviewing the Synod on the Amazon: One Year Later, we have invited to speak to us a panel that includes Randy Klassen, Heather Peters, Deacon Rennie Nahanee, Sr. Damien Marie Savino FSE, as well as Cardinal Michael Czerny (virtual presentation). These speakers will invite us to consider relationships in North America, understandings of science, creation and church, the theory and practice of local action, and the implications and challenges for all of this work.



SYNOD FOR THE  
**AMAZON**

## Tuesday, June 15

**When:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. (Sask. Time)  
(8:30 p.m. EST) as a virtual presentation on Zoom

**Zoom:** Meeting ID and Passcode will be provided  
by email following registration

**Cost:** \$20 per person.  
(*Free for students and the unwaged*)

Register at:

[bit.ly/AmazonSynod2021](https://bit.ly/AmazonSynod2021)



**Randy Klassen**

Indigenous  
Neighbours  
program  
coordinator,  
Mennonite  
Central  
Committee



**Heather Peters**

Peacebuilding  
Coordinator,  
Mennonite  
Central  
Committee



**Deacon  
Rennie  
Nahanee**

Retired First  
Nations Ministry  
Coordinator,  
Archdiocese  
of Vancouver



**Sr. Damien  
Marie  
Savino**

FSE, Ph.D.,  
Dean of Science  
& Sustainability,  
Aquinas  
College



## From Queens House & Galilee Centre:

### THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND PSALM 51: SCRIPTURE STUDY ON ZOOM – JUNE 24, 2021

**Facilitator:** Lynn Mills **Date:** Thursday June 24, 2021, **Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT (9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST/MDT)

This workshop, which will be led by Lynn Mills live on Zoom from Dublin Ireland, will take a close look at Psalm 51 (often called the psalm of psalms), identifying key elements and themes such as repentance, cleansing, and transformation before exploring how these themes are picked up and repeated in the texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Although perhaps not as entertaining as Raiders of the Lost Ark, the discovery of 2000-year-old scrolls in hidden caves in the desert of Palestine in 1947 is one of the most important archaeological finds of the last century. These manuscripts were hidden in a time of war and they were found 1900 years later in a time of war. This will be a hands-on experience -please have coloured pencils, pens or highlighters at hand (min 4-8 colours) to assist you in participating in this workshop.

**Cost:** \$40 *This retreat is sponsored by Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre, Saskatoon SK and Galilee Centre, Arnprior ON*

This offering is administered by Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre and registrations must be made by **Tuesday, June 22, midnight**. Please click the button to go to the Queen's House event page [Register](#)

Download brochure for more information: [Brochure](#)

Don't forget to also check the **Star of the North Retreat Centre** website [Star of the North](#) as well as **Galilee Centre** website [Galilee Centre](#)

## PRAYER IS TO BE SHARED

by Henri Nouwen

Much that has been said about prayer might create the false impression that prayer is a private, individualistic, and nearly secret affair, so personal and so deeply hidden in our inner life that it can hardly be talked about, even less be shared. The opposite is true. Just because prayer is so personal and arises from the center of our life, it is to be shared with others. Just because prayer is the most precious expression of being human, it needs the constant support and protection of the community to grow and flower. Just because prayer is our highest vocation, needing careful attention and faithful perseverance, we cannot allow it to be a private affair. Just because prayer asks for a patient waiting in expectation, it should never become the most individualistic expression of the most individualistic emotion, but should always remain embedded in the life of the community of which we are part.

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.” *Matthew 18:19, 20*