



Saskatchewan District Community
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Sights and Sounds

February 24, 2022

For the Month of February



Birthdays

February 1 Brad Taylor
February 23 Fr. Albert Ulrich

First Vows

February 8 Fr. Heinner Paucar (27)

Wedding Anniversary

February 12 Brad & Christine Taylor (28)

Ordination

February 8 Fr. Richard Doll (58)
February 12 Fr. Heinner Paucar (22)
February 23 +B. Gerry Wiesner (59)

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**FR. SYLVESTER LEWANS, OMI**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1933 – JANUARY 26, 2022**

The death of Fr. Sylvester Lewans occurred peacefully on January 26, 2022. Fr. Syl was born on December 31, 1933, in Shaunavon, SK, to Mary (Sand) and Peter Lewans, one of twelve children. A good education was something valued in the Lewans family, and because there were no opportunities for education past Grade 10 in his area, Fr. Syl attended Campion and St. Thomas Colleges for his upper high school years. Fr. Syl entered the novitiate of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, professing his First Vows in October 1953. He furthered his studies and formation at St. Charles Scholasticate in Battleford, SK. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 29, 1958. Over the course of his academic studies, Fr. Syl earned a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Master of Arts (History of Religions) and Master of Arts (Counselling and Guidance).

Fr. Syl began his ministry as a teacher at St. Thomas College in North Battleford, SK. After he completed his degree in counselling, he became the guidance counsellor at the school as well. Fr. Syl is remembered as a dynamic individual, developing a work education program for students. He was also a driving force behind the sports programs at the College, particularly the successful Imperials hockey team. Fr. Syl continued to play hockey himself well on in his life. Fr. Syl demanded the best from himself and his students. He was firm and fair, and could sense when a student needed a break, or a little bit of extra encouragement.

In 1978, Fr. Syl was appointed Provincial Superior of St. Mary's Province in Saskatchewan for a six-year term. Following his service to his community, he went on sabbatical to train as a Spiritual Director. In 1985, Fr. Syl returned to Saskatchewan, and served as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Regina, and St. Patrick's Parish, Saskatoon. After his assignment at St. Patrick's Parish, Fr. Syl willingly and enthusiastically served his religious community, and the church community, in various capacities, including formation and vocation ministries. In 2005, he was assigned to the Oblate Novitiate in Godfrey, IL, as team member leading young men as they explored their vocations. Fr. Syl also provided leadership in the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate, as sacramental minister at Guadalupe House, and finally, as Director of Mazenod Residence in Saskatoon. Fr. Syl was committed to community and believed that his life was best lived in relationship. He modelled this in service and ministry within the Oblate congregation and the Church.

When Mazenod Residence closed in 2014, Fr. Syl and his brother Oblates moved into Trinity Manor. He then moved to Central Haven Care home, and in 2018, moved to Samaritan Place. During his time at Samaritan Place, Fr. Syl experienced the great devotion and love of his sister, Sr. Anne Lewans, OSU, fellow Oblate, Br. Walter De Mong and his dear friend, Bonnie Roberts. The Oblate community and Lewans family are grateful for their care and attention to Fr. Syl.

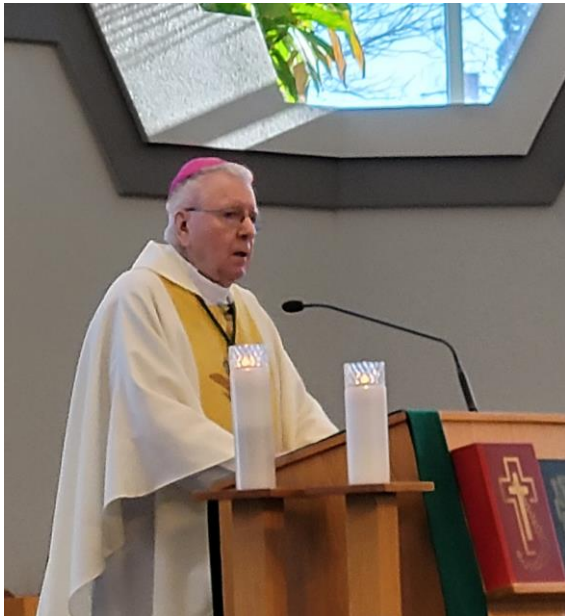
In his family, Fr. Syl had what is described as a “gathering charism”. He was the first to remind family when it was time for a reunion. His nurturing presence as an ordained priest was very special in his family. At their gatherings, the celebration of the Eucharist was a high point, with his homilies being particularly down to earth and inspiring to all. He presided at most of the weddings among his 43 nieces and nephews.

Fr. Syl was generous with hospitality in his religious community as well. Along with his confrere, Br. Walter De Mong, they hosted many summer gatherings for community members and guests at the Oblate property at Lac des Iles. It was an on-going summer ministry of hospitality for them, and the Sunday liturgies are remembered as overflowing with guests, some arriving in boats for the celebrations.

Fr. Syl is survived by members of his religious community, The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, OMI Lacombe Province and his siblings Paul (Angele), Sr. Anne, Lucille (Gordon – deceased) Rezac, Ben (Karen), Philip (Linda), Raymond, and Daniel (Pauline), 43 nieces and nephews, and their children. He was predeceased by his parents, Mary and Peter, and his siblings Dolores (Joe) Ruschkowski, George, Theresa (Lloyd) Drake, and Lillian (Grant) Moreton.

The funeral for Fr. Syl will be held on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00 am at St. Philip Neri Parish, 1902 Munroe Avenue South, Saskatoon, SK. Due to COVID, the interment will take place at the Oblate Cemetery in Battleford SK when it is safe to do so. Arrangements are entrusted to Saskatoon Funeral Home.

# Celebration of *Life*



***Fr. Syl's Celebration of Life was presided by  
Bishop Gerry Wiesner, OMI***

***The First Reading was done by Oblate  
Associate, Gerry Weinkauff.***





***Fr. Bill Stang sang Psalm 25  
and the Alleluia.***

***Sr. Cindy Lewans doing  
the Prayers of the  
Faithful.***



***John Ruschkowski, nephew  
of Fr. Syl, joined Sr. Cindy  
in the Prayers of the Faithful.***







***Bishop Mark Hagemoen from the Saskatoon Catholic Diocese was there to bring support on behalf of the Diocese.***

***Fr. Mike Dechant welcomed everyone and performed the final Commendation for Fr. Syl.***





***Sr. Anne Lewans,  
Sister of Fr. Syl.***

***Fr. Syl lived a great life and was well-loved by many as evidenced by the number of people who attended his Celebration of Life in-person (over 115) and the number of people who joined in the live-streaming (over 265).***

***May Fr. Syl continue to rest peacefully in Gods loving arms.***



## Family Day



***Corrine & Blain enjoyed a visit with Fr. Ron Zimmer on Family Day, 2022.***



***Fr. Ron's Picture Wall of family, friends and Oblate family.***

***Fr. Ron says he is feeling well and loves that people are able to visit again!***





### **Treasurer's Office:**

- *Please complete your 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter reports as soon as you are able and please remember to get your 2021 GST receipts in to the SDC office as well.*
- *Audit 2021 for the Saskatchewan District begins Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and the onsite portion will conclude Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*
- *Please continue to send in all documents pertaining to income tax to Rita Muckalt at the SDC Office.*

*Thank you,  
Corrine Pambrun and Fr. Paul Fachel*

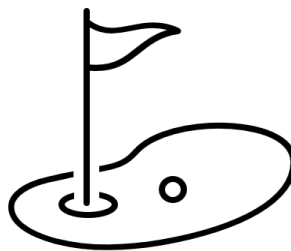
### **Queen's House News – Brendan Bitz, Director**



#### ***Oblate Golf Scramble***

Early Sunday morning June 26 2022, we are hosting our Oblate Golf Scramble at Moon Lake Golf & Country Club.

Details are coming soon. But call NOW if you or your company wishes to sponsor a hole or the BBQ. Contact Martha Fergusson 306. 270. 2378.





***Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Lottery 2022 – coming early March watch the website..***

***New for 2022, you can purchase your tickets directly online, through our website. Simply click the “buy raffle tickets” button and follow the prompts. Not ready for online...***

***No worries you may also download a form [www.queenshouse.org](http://www.queenshouse.org) with payment and mail to:***

**Queen’s House Spring Fling  
601 Taylor Street West  
Saskatoon, Sk. S7M 0C9**

**For information about Events or Donations contact us at Queen’s House:**

**Email: [development@queenshouse.org](mailto:development@queenshouse.org)**

**Web: [www.queenshouse.org](http://www.queenshouse.org)**

**Call: Our Events & Engagement  
Coordinator, Martha Fergusson  
[306-270-2378](tel:306-270-2378).**

***May God bless us and keep us safe,  
From all of us here at Queen’s House***

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

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

***OMI Lacombe Canada Website: [www.omilacombe.ca](http://www.omilacombe.ca)***

***Qu’Appelle House of Prayer Website: [www.qhpstillness.ca](http://www.qhpstillness.ca)***

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

***Queen’s House Website at: [www.queenshouse.org](http://www.queenshouse.org)***

***St. Philip Neri Parish at: [www.stphilipneriparish.ca](http://www.stphilipneriparish.ca)***