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Sights and Sounds

June 29, 2022

For the Month of June



Birthdays

June 10 Fr. Mike Dechant
June 25 B. Gerry Wiesner
June 28 Fr. Doug Jeffrey



Ordination

June 3 Fr. Doug Jeffrey (39 yrs.)
June 16 Fr. Moe Schroeder (60 yrs.)

*Congratulations Deacon Brad Taylor
7th Anniversary of Ordination as Deacon on June 29th.*



CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENYAN MISSION- MAY 2022

Fr. Ken and I made a trip to Kenya to our Oblate Mission. It was long flight over to Kenya with a few delays. When we got there it was like we were in Paradise with all the greenery and flowers. We stayed with the Oblates in Nairobi the first night. Next day we were taken to our mission in Kisaju where we met all the Oblates there. I was so glad to meet Brother Joseph and Fr. Gideon. They were my novices when I lived in Kenya. We were taken to see all the Prayer Houses that they serve. I was touched by all the people that they serve there.



After Kisaju we were taken to Nakuru where another group of Oblates minister. Here we met Fr. Faustin , Fr. Dionisius, Bro. Zachery, Fr. Joseph and a few more whose names I cannot remember. Again, we were taken to visit all the eight Prayer Houses. We met many of the people who come to Mass there. Some stories we heard were good. They tell us that the Oblates are doing great work with them. And we also heard that after the election there was so much violence that many of their parishioners did not return. I found that they had to go a long distance between Prayer Houses. The roads were not particularly good.

From Nakuru we now went to Kionyo the place where our mission began. It was so good to meet so many that I had worked with. Many people spent days getting ready for the 25th Anniversary of the Mission. On Sunday we did celebrate the 25th Anniversary. Bishop Salasio was there to bless the new church and to bless the altar, etc. There were close to 2000 people who came to celebrate this Anniversary.

In all, I was just so much touched by the way the Mission has grown and also the number of young Oblates who are in the mission. We came back to Canada somewhat over tired but filled with Gods blessings for the mission in Kenya.

Submitted by Fr. Bill Stang



Fr. Bill Stang, Deacon Phelix Johya

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## Reflections on Convocation 2022

### Communion-Participation-Mission

On May 30th, the Oblates of OMI Lacombe Canada gathered in St. Albert to begin their 2022 Convocation. The gathering of approximately eighty people was made up of vowed Oblates, Associates and invited guests.

We have attended three convocations over our term as Associate Advisors on SDC and would like to share some of what we perceive to be the high lights of this gathering.

Firstly, was the joy, excitement and gratitude of being able to have this gathering in person. Meeting old friends and making new ones was a real highlight. With so many of our gatherings being virtual due to COVID it was such a blessing to be together in person, something that we took for granted and didn't recognize as precious until it was gone.

The planning and the preparation of the delegates helped make this convocation unique. The group facilitators were well prepared and knew their duties and responsibilities. The group process for sharing and reporting was clearly defined and provided consistency to both the sharing and reporting in the groups. From our experience there seemed to be an atmosphere of cooperation and engagement among the group.

The fact that there were no keynote speakers made this convocation unique. All of the input came from the participants. The schedule allowed ample time for breaks and time for prayer and individual discernment.

The sharing questions began with looking at what we desired from this Convocation, significant moments in our OMI Lacombe journey, and the graced history of the Oblates in Canada. Then we went on to looking at the sinful patterns or ruts that prevent us from being faithful to our Oblate identity and concluded with what we as a Province are being called to in this time and place and concrete actions to accomplish this.

Throughout the group reports, the key undercurrent was the need to walk together on a journey of healing with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. This message came through loud and clear and seemed to be setting a direction OMI Lacombe Province.

Finally, one of the invaluable gifts of the Convocation was the presence of invited guests Harry and Germaine Lafond from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Harry responded to the group reports and in so doing talked about how to build bridges of healing between our two cultures. Harry shared his story of growing up and how he re-immersed himself in the Cree language and culture. He also shared how the Oblates of OMI Lacombe Canada and the Indigenous people of Muskeg Lake had many similar dreams and hopes and how they could use these as stepping stones toward healing. His message was positive and uplifting. His message centered not on trying to build on failure, but to look for your gift, build on the positive things and the importance of finding your spirit.

Unfortunately, the presence of COVID 19 made itself known on the last day of the Convocation. It meant that we, Adele and Jim, missed the last day as we were sequestered in our room. Subsequently several attendees tested positive for the virus.

Fortunately, we have not heard of anyone getting severely ill.

Consequently, we felt like we were left hanging. Like we were in the middle of a good movie and the power went off just before the end. However, the value of what we did experience left a positive impression and we are eagerly awaiting the final report from the administration and the directions for moving forward as a Province.

*Submitted by Adele (and Jim) Longstaff*



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COMMUNITY DAYS – June 16 & 17, 2022

The SDC Community Days began with a lunch on Thursday, June 16th. There were approximately 25 Oblate and Oblate Associates in attendance. The last time we gathered as a group for Community Days was in October of 2021. It was great seeing all those smiling faces in person.

The afternoon started with a sharing of what has been happening in everyone's life. This was followed by a brief sharing of those who attended Convocation 2022 in St. Albert, Alberta. Following this video was a short Prayer Service led by Darcie and Mark Lich. The afternoon concluded with a Memoriam Video that was also shown at Convocation. This video recognized all those Oblates and Oblate Associates who had passed away since Convocation 2018.

Everyone then gathered in the dining room for Preprandials and a 'Roast and Toast.' We celebrated Br. Walter turning 90, Bishop Gerry turning 85 as well as Fr. Moe's 60th Anniversary of Ordination. We also said farewell to Fr. Ken Forster who will be working on MAMI promotion with residence at Carrington House, Mission, BC and farewell to Fr. Nestor Silva who will be the Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Vancouver, BC for 3 years.



(Clockwise starting far left): Fr. Albert Ulrich, Fr. Bill Stang, Darcie Lich, Mark Lich, Bishop Gerry Wiesner, Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser, Fr. Heinner Paucar

(Clockwise, starting at top of photo): Bernard Normand, Sandy Normand, Fr. Ken Forster, Lynden Zimmer, Fr. Glenn Zimmer, Fr. Mike Dechant, Alice Zimmer, Paula Fournier, Br. Walter De Mong, Fr. Joe Jacek





Fr. Ken Forster



Fr. Nestor Silva



***Fr. Moe Schroeder celebrating 60th
Anniversary of Ordination***





Celebrating these Oblates:

***Fr. Nestor Silva (bidding farewell), Fr. Moe Schroeder (60th Anniversary of Ordination),
Br. Walter De Mong (90 yrs. young), Bishop Gerry Wiesner (85 yrs. young)
Fr. Ken Forster (bidding farewell)***



Friday morning Community Days began with a prayer led by Oblate Associates Corrine Pambrun and Pauline Henry. The group then watched a video shown at Convocation of the Oblate Associates talking about sharing Charism and what they could bring to the Oblate Community. This led into a discussion of two articles. The first article up for discussion was an article written by Erin Ryan, Oblate Associate, regarding the future of our Oblates. The second article that was discussed was written by Fr. Ron Rolheiser called "Leave Nothing Undared – Our Founder's Challenge for Today."

Following a great discussion by the group, everyone proceeded to the Chapel for Mass with Fr. Moe Schroeder as celebrant and Fr. Heinner Paucar as concelebrant.



← *Fr. Moe Schroeder and Fr. Heinner Paucar*



Sr. Teresita Kambeitz played the music for Mass.



Fr. Moe's family joined us for Mass. They are from left to right: Mary Couture (niece), Edward Couture (nephew) and his wife, Jacqueline Couture, Fr. Moe, Carmen Couture-Marcoux (niece), James Couture.

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

- *Please continue to send in your GST receipts in a timely manner. We really appreciate it.*
- *The end of June is fast approaching. Please send in your 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter reports as soon as you are able..*
- *It's vacation time! Rita and I will post our times away when our vacation time is planned.*



*Corrine Pambrun*



### June 26, 2022 Oblate Scramble Golf Tournament:

We are just finishing up details from the Golf Tournament. We were blessed with generous sponsorships for this day of Community building.



### RIDE N' WALK FOR QUEEN'S HOUSE

1. Register with Queen's House
2. Pick a walking or biking route
3. Gather sponsors
4. Bring money to Queen's house for receipts by September 30, 2022.

[www.queenhouse.org](http://www.queenhouse.org)

SEPT 2022

Info: Martha  
306 . 270. 2378



When you  
*DONATE TO*

Queen's House from June 1, 2022 to July 31, 2022  
to ANY Program, Project, or Event

**THEN your name is entered to win an Air Balloon Ride for 2**

Walk the winds with a Champagne Flight with Sundance Balloon - ride by Oct 31, 2022





*Greetings Folks:*

*On Thursday, June 23 an early morning text alerted me to the fact that our Church Building at Our Lady of the Smile, Waterhen Lake, SK was set on fire and subsequently burned to the ground. No one was physically hurt but we, all of us, are hurting in various ways. The people who have gathered in this building since 1954 and celebrated all the various faith moments of life and death are deeply touched and are grieving and giving thanks as they share memories.*

*The fire is under investigation and at this time there is no clear motivation for it. The people feel violated that this has happened in their community. They are struggling with all sorts of feelings including anger, frustration, hurt, sadness, loss, and resentment and they are praying for the person/persons who have done this. Their thought is that only someone who is really suffering could do such a terrible thing to their brothers and sisters.*

*Prior to the fire, we had planned a day of Prayer and Healing for Monday, June 27. While hosted by Our Lady of the Smile parish, Indigenous and Metis Peoples from the area were invited to come and join us. This day was a result of our listening to the community in the Synod process. It was our plan to invite Bishop Stephen Hero, Emeritus Bishop Albert Thevenot, M. Afr., and Emeritus Archbishop, Sylvain Lavoie, OMI (former pastor of Our Lady of the Smile) to join me and Fr. Kendrick Beler (Goodsoil) for a day of prayer, ritual, listening, conversations, presence and if needed and wanted, celebration of the sacraments of reconciliation and/or anointing of the sick. A number of Indigenous rituals were included in the day along with traditional Catholic rituals and prayers like the rosary and litany of the Blessed Mother, and Scripture readings. We had prepared food and music as well. This day will now be postponed until August or early September depending on when we can welcome the Bishops.*

*Last night a small group of us gathered for a meal and some conversation and to plan the coming days. Now we will do what needs to be done when such an event happens and there is much to do. On July 3, we will gather for mass and a meal and we will talk about what we need to do as a community to heal from*



*this wound. There is a deep sadness among us. This Sunday, after our liturgies I will go to the site and spend some time there in prayer. At present we are praying for one another and we are praying for the person/persons who did this. We welcome your prayers for us as we remember that God is with us always until the end of time. We are much in need of grace!*



*Thanks for your friendship and support!  
Doug Jeffrey, OMI*

**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)

