



BC District

Phone: 604-736-9363

Fax: 604-736-9961

Email: secretary@omibc.com

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BC News



Christmas Wishes

Dear brothers and sisters:

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone! (Is 9:1) This excerpt from the book of the prophet Isaiah found in the first reading of the Christmas Mass is a proclamation of hope and joy to a world beleaguered by war, hatred, destruction and death. Although we may not be "at war" as such, we know that life is difficult. We struggle with tough issues, and for some of us things can seem to be overwhelming at times. Even the demands placed on us by the "merchandizing" of Christmas can add to the stress and the strain, the pain and the sorrow, we experience.

But our faith proclaims that Jesus Christ is our Light! This season has everything to do with Light in the midst of darkness. We need this Light more than ever. In the letter to the Ephesians, we read that *"anything exposed by the light will be illuminated, and anything illuminated turns into light!"* (Eph 5:14) No matter what darkness we experience, we believe that the light of Christ will prevail.

I am grateful for our Oblate Community here in BC and their continued support to living the vision of our founder St Eugene: *"He has sent me to bring good news to the poor."* With the help of our dedicated Associates and support staff in our various places of work, we continue to carry out St. Eugene's mission.

This Christmas, may you experience the peace that comes from the assurance of faith in Christ - *Light of light, in the midst of deep darkness*. And may you know God's rich blessings in the coming year, as we move "Forward in Faith."
Merry Christmas to all.

Gilbert J. Bertrand O.M.I.

BC District Superior



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have seen a great light.

Isaiah (9:1)

Let us be light to one another and to a world with many troubles. Our hope is in Christ. Many blessings to all this Christmas as we welcome Jesus anew into our world as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

B.C. District Animator, Fr. Ken Forster, OMI
and David & Karen Sax, Oblate Associates

Celebrating our Feast Day

Following our gathering with the Provincial Team on Dec. 6 & 7, the members of the district were joined by parishioners, children from St. Augustine's School and the public for morning Mass at St. Augustine's Parish in Vancouver. Together as Oblate priests, brothers, Associates and friends, we celebrated our patroness, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. The con-celebrated mass was led by our Provincial Superior, Fr. Ken Thorson, Fr. Ignacy Warias, Pastor of St. Augustine's and Fr. Tomasz Krzesik, Pastor of St. Casimir's. Fr. Ken acknowledged the presence of both Frs. Chris Pulchny and Tom Krzesik, both members of the Assumption Province residing in Vancouver.

A lovely sit-down luncheon was prepared by Bosco Lee, parishioner & member of the Knights of Columbus. Both Oblates, Ken Thorson and Gilbert Bertrand, BC district superior, thanked the staff and everyone involved in the three-day gathering.

