



HIGHLIGHTS

ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

March-April 2023

OBLATE ASSOCIATES COMING TOGETHER AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN COMMUNION

On Saturday, March 11, 2023 Sacre Coeur Parish in Ottawa hosted a gathering initiated by the members of CROCUS with Oblate Associates from Notre Dame du Cap Province and OMI Lacombe Province.



Singing Salve Regina before moving to another room to have lunch together. See a 1 minute video at <https://www.facebook.com/100000435980171/videos/6069143106499219>

Gathering we all had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and share our various experiences the same mission of "...being sent to evangelize the poor: the poor are evangelized".

The 'getting to know you' portion ended with us singing Salve Regina and then moving to another room where we were treated to a pizza and pasta lunch, complete with desert, coffee, and tea.

Our hope is that this is just the first of many such steps on our pilgrimage together.

FROM ST. EUGENE DE MAZENOD

“... the moment when the eyes of the Savior met the eyes of Eugene. (Frank Santucci: Eugene de Mazenod speaks to us – March 29, 2018)

I looked for happiness outside of God and for too long with resulting unhappiness.

Can I forget the bitter tears that the sight of the cross brought streaming from my eyes one Good Friday...

...Never was my soul more satisfied, never did it feel such happiness; for in the midst of this flood of tears, despite my grief, or rather through my grief, my soul took wings for its last end, towards God its only good whose loss it felt so keenly.

Why say more? Could I ever express what I experienced then?

Blessed, a thousand times blessed, that he, this good Father, notwithstanding my unworthiness, lavished on me all the richness of his mercy.

What more glorious occupation than to act in everything and for everything only for God, to love him above all else, to love him all the more as one who has loved him too late...

Retreat Journal, December 1814, O.W. XV n.130



THE VIEW FROM SPRINGHURST

With the continuing presence of COVID and vulnerable residents keeping everyone vigilant with any visitors we will try to make this an ongoing piece.

Leonard Rego celebrates his 80th Birthday on March 15th and in May he will celebrate 50 Years of Oblate life. **CONGRATULATIONS** Leonard.

Tim and John keep 2 bird feeders well supplied and this is a special delight for many in the house. Claude in particular continues to enjoy his afternoon refreshments in the lounge, taking delight in the squirrels and birds that visit the patio. And Vaughan had his hearing aids serviced making it easier for him to hear those around him.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

REFLECTIONS ON THE CONTINENTAL STAGE OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

continues on **March 21, 2023** with an online webinar from Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert, Alberta. In this presentation Fr. John A Renken from the Faculty of Canon Law at St. Paul University, along with Sr. Susan Scot from Stony Plain Alberta, and Most Reverend Archbishop of Winnipeg will provide us with an opportunity to learn more about the synodal process going forward and to explore ways to stay informed and engaged throughout. For more information or to register please use this link: <https://www.starofthenorth.ca/register/event-calendar/?id=700>

March 19 – Mazenodian Family Oraison

Join us in this focus on our monthly Mazenodian Family Oraison with a short reflection from Zuzana Laskova, an Oblate Associate in the Czech Republic posted on Evangelium live - Sunday March 19's Gospel of John 9:1-41

"He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see."

I always used to wish, when something was bothering me a lot, Jesus would come to set me free with a great glory, a miracle or some heroic gesture. I expected it from Him because He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. But I never did... Jesus, who "healed many people of sicknesses and diseases and of evil spirits" (Luke 7:21), completely ignored me. That's what I thought for a while.

I have been doing a spiritual journal for quite a while now. There are things in it that I have brought to God or that He has brought to me. When I picked it up after a long time and had some time to read it back, I found that incredible miracles had happened in my life that I had not even noticed. I read through notes that no longer concerned me at all, problems I no longer dealt with, pains that no longer bothered me. They were healed, I just did not notice... It was done unobtrusively, without much hype and Jesus' bow waiting for applause. Rather, it was a process that didn't lack mud, dirt, tears, uncertainty, inconvenience, or a good expenditure of energy and a chunk of my effort and will that Jesus invited me to do, just as

he invited the blind man to go to Siloam to wash. He doesn't want us to be passive bystanders, but to be full partners in all he does.

That's Jesus' style of healing... personally, together, intimately, uniquely, permanently. I try to think of this gospel now every time I am hurting about something, and I remind myself that it is in my moments of most intense pain that Jesus is perhaps closest to me, touching me, anointing me with healing balm, and doing everything He can to save me.

The charism embodied and expressed by a founder or founding community has often “spun out” and seeds have been planted for the foundation of not just one, but often many, religious communities. In addition, these communities have welcomed lay missionaries, associates, co-workers and other lay partners who share the spirit, the spirituality, the outlook and the mission of the founder and those who have followed in their footsteps.

IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS...

All the members of our communities and families who are struggling with health concerns. We pray with gratitude for all that we have been given, even as we ask the Beloved to accompany us in new ways of walking. St. Eugene shed your light on every member of your family.

Let us not forget about all who are listed in our **‘At the foot of the Cross:’ Saint Eugene’s Prayer Group** which is announced and can be found in the Member’s section of OMI Lacombe website. You can email your prayer requests to: PRAYERS@OMILACOMBE.CA

If you are interested in joining the St. Eugene’s Prayer Group, please contact JoAnne Chrones at prayers@omilacombe.ca or 306-222-2819 (phone or text). Prayers can be for general or specific intentions.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Eleanor Rabnett – March 3

Sheila Nolan – March 7

Roy Boucher – March 28

Jarek Pachocki – April 12

Irene Reid – March 4

Leonard Rego – March 15

Richard Wolak – April 3

David Morgan – April 23