



# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONTARIO DISTRICT NEWS

February 2023



### *February 17, 1826 - Papal Approval of Our Congregation & Rule of Life*

### *Happy Feast Day to All of You*

*On this day we joyfully give thanks for the Church's approval of our Constitutions and Rules as the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.*

*In their October 14, 2022, Message of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter the Capitulars of the Chapter wrote: "Pilgrims of Hope in Communion was indeed the theme of our General Chapter. The Oblates feel challenged by many of the cries that resound in our world, the voices of the poor and the abandoned reach out to God who is looking at us and calling us to a response. The Church asks us to leave our comfort zones and go to the peripheries. The contribution of our lay associates helped us to see that we are not alone in our missionary field and in living the charism. We are on the way together."*

*Today the charism of Saint Eugene de Mazenod continues to be a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church, radiating throughout the world. It is as 'pilgrims of hope in communion' that we continue to share in the 'charism according to our states of life, milieu and cultures. It is as Oblates and Lay Oblate Associates that we journey together, in reciprocity with each other. (Ref. R37a and Article 48 of the Acts of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter)*

Cont'd...

Ottawa Area – there will be a special **Oblate Family Celebration** on Friday, **February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, at **7PM** at **Canadian Martyrs**. Fr. Robert Laroche, Ontario District Superior, will preside over the mass at 7pm, during which the Oblates will renew their vows and the Oblate Associates their commitments. Please note that **Arnie Francis** will be renewing his commitment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time and **Sheila Nolan** will be renewing her 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-Year Commitment. This will be followed by a reception in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

## FROM ST. EUGENE DE MAZENOD

*“This spirit of being wholly devoted to the glory of god, the service of the Church and the salvation of souls, is the spirit that is proper to our Congregation, a small one, to be sure, but which will always be powerful as long as she is holy.”*

(Letter to Father Tempier, August 22, 1817, Selected Texts p. 30)



## A TEST OF FAITH – Thomas Merton

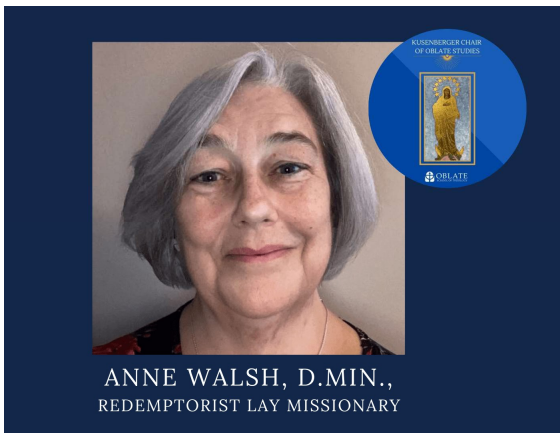
The ultimate thing is that we build community not on our love but on God's love, because we do not really have that much love ourselves, and that is the real challenge of the religious life. It puts us in a position where sometimes natural community is very difficult. People are sent here and there, and often very incompatible people are thrown together. ...It isn't just a question of whether you are building community with people that you naturally like, it is also a question of building community with people that God has brought together. (*Plough Daily Dig February 4, 2023*)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### February 15th, 2023 @ 8PM ET – 9:30PM ET –Enlarging the Tent: An Invitation to Growth for our Charism Families

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.

Through bringing together stories and theology, the participants in this session will explore the dream and the vision of what it means to be and to live *as* and *in* charismatic families. We will explore the possibilities that open to all if we have the courage and fidelity to walk this road, enlarging the tent through embracing this unfolding reality. We will delve into the theology and ecclesiology underlying this movement in the Church and, using examples drawn from various charismatic families around the world, expand our awareness of the great potential of this movement for mission.



**Presenter: Anne Walsh, D.Min and Redemptorist Lay Missionary.** Dr. Walsh has presented workshops, courses, and retreats all over the world. She is the principal writer for “On Good Soil: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization and Catechesis with Adults.” Dr. Walsh is also known for her “Catholic Women in Leadership” series on Catholic television. She currently serves as the Coordinator of Partnership in Mission for the Redemptorist Family in North America, and as Chair of the Redemptorist General Commission for Partnership in Mission.

**To Participate Online: FREE** [REGISTER HERE](#)

*This event will be recorded and will be available for viewing afterward on the Oblate School of Theology YouTube Channel. Online participants will receive an automated email 24 hours after the conclusion of the lecture with instructions on how to re-watch.*

## NEW ADDRESS:

Fr. Roy has moved into a new home in Arnprior, close to Galilee Centre and here is his new address:

Fr. J Roy Boucher OMI  
Room 262 – Pine Section  
The Grove Nursing Home - Assisted Living  
274 Ida Street North  
Arnprior, ON K7S 0J4

TEL: 613-626-1640 (direct line)

## IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS...

All the members of our communities and families who are struggling with health concerns – both physical and emotional. 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](mailto:PRAYERS@OMILACOMBE.CA)

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

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Karen Ann McKinna – February 9

Irene Reid – March 4

Leonard Rego – March 15

Eleanor Rabnett – March 3

Sheila Nolan – March 7

Roy Boucher – March 28