



Saskatchewan District Community

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Sights and Sounds

March 5, 2024

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 20	Bernard Normand
March 29	Fr Eugene Warnke
April 27	Corrine Pambrun & Blain Young
May 16	Fr Paul Facht
May 26	Fr George Gruber
June 25	Bishop Gerry Weisner
June 28	Fr Doug Jeffrey

Announcements

Coffee Time at Trinity Manor

March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20

2:45pm -3:45pm

Community Days at Queen's House

June 13-14, 2024

Celebrations Proper to the OMI

March 19	St Joseph, patron of Brothers
May 21	St Eugene de Mazenod
May 22-29	Time of prayer and animation for Oblate Vocations
June 7	In 1873, the Congregation was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Today, as I write this, we are snowbound. In Saskatoon we had significant snow and wind these last few days and the parish parking lot has a snow accumulation of about 20 inches. In places the wind has whipped the snow into drifts that are even deeper.

I read with interest today's reading from the Book of Daniel. Azariah is trapped in the fire and believing that death is soon to follow, he speaks to God. He asks God not to give up on them, he asks God to remember the Covenant, to remain merciful to the people of Abraham, Isaac and Israel whom he has promised to bless with numerous descendants. Azariah acknowledges that the people have been diminished and scattered, they are now less than the other nations because of their sinfulness. They lack good leaders who will guide them and intercede for them. He reminds God that they desire to be accepted by him because of their contrite heart and humbled spirit. Perhaps these postures will take the place of physical sacrifices, bringing healing and mercy and enabling the people to follow God unreservedly. Azariah knows that God will not shame those who give themselves over to him. Azariah then asks God to deal with them with patience and abundant mercy. He asks that God deliver them according to the marvellous works he has done and so bring even greater glory to God's name.

As we experience in our District Community and in our personal health the fires of life, perhaps this prayer is a prayer we could pray. As Oblates we have sinned, we are now diminishing, we lack leadership, and our amazing works are now mostly a part of history. As Lent continues perhaps we could come before God with contrite hearts and humbled spirits. Like Azariah we know that God will not shame us for we too are in need of God's patience and mercy. This Lent let us join our Oblate sisters and brothers and approach our God with contrite and humbled hearts seeking the deliverance of our God and perhaps the people will once again see the glory of our God.

What would it look like if this Lenten Season we, as members of the Saskatchewan Oblate District, made an effort to admit our sinfulness and with contrite hearts and humbled spirits, sought together the God of mercy?

Blessings to all as we prepare for the great Paschal Feast!

Fr Doug Jeffrey, OMI

Local Announcement:

A friend of the Oblates, Fr Bernard de Margerie, passed away at St. Ann's Senior's Residence on March 3, 2024. The funeral is the morning of March 18th at Holy Spirit Parish.



Good Times at Coffee Time in February



Fr. Paul Facht, Fr Joe Jacek, Gerry Weinkauf, Corrine Pambrun, Fr Richard Doll



Fr. Bill Stang, Fr Eugene Warnke, Jean Cochrane, Jadwiga Cwik



Martha Fergusson, Fr Albert Ulrich, Gerry Weinkauf



Brian Zimmer, Bishop Gerry Weisner, JoAnne Chrones



Community Days were a time of Celebration! February 15-16



Queen's House chef Aldwin and his wife Katrina bring their new baby Athena. Diane Lepage and Twyla beam with joy.



Fr Albert Ulrich blesses baby Athena.



Corrine demonstrates the art of Cribbage!



Associates Brad & Christine Taylor and Bernard & Sandy Normand enjoy supper with Rita Gillies and Katarina Nechvatal, who are interested in Association.

Associates of SDC renew their commitment



After a morning retreat marked by prayer, discernment reflections, sharing and discussion of the call to formation, 12

Oblate Associates renewed their commitment for three years... 3 for the first time, 1 for the second time, and 8 for the third time.



Pictured: Paula Fournier, Bernard & Sandy Normand, Gerry Weinkauff, JoAnne Chrones, Darcie & Mark Lich, Jim & Adele Longstaff, Corrine Pambrun, Christine & Brad Taylor



Congratulations everyone!





On behalf of the SDC District Treasurer's office I would like to welcome Fr Joe Jacek as the new SDC District Treasurer. I look forward to working with you Fr Joe.

Fr William Stang, I want to thank you so much for all your hard work and support during your time as the SDC District Treasurer. I will miss you.

The 2023-year end audit is fast approaching. The two auditor's, Jasmine and Philip from Marcil Lavalee will be with us for the on-site portion: March 11-15, 2024. It will be a very busy week. I will be in the office but will be between offices often. Please leave a message and I will return your calls as soon as I am able. If it is an emergency, please call Fr Doug Jeffrey or Fr Joe Jacek.

Please remember to send in all your receipts for the GST credit.

Please remember to send in your visa receipts that are to be attached to your visa statements if our SDC office is paying your visa statement on your behalf.

Thank you from the Treasurer's Office of Corrine Pambrun and Fr Joe Jacek

On Saturday, February 24, 11 enthusiastic Oblates and associates went to Queen's House for a clean-up. The last bedroom in the west wing, over the past few years, had become a resting place for a lot of "stuff" of deceased Oblates, and those who were downsizing. There were so many boxes that the room couldn't contain them

anymore, and it was spilling into the hallway. Considering the upcoming transition or closure of Queen's House, we knew we had to do something with all this stuff.

Brendan Bitz reserved Conference Room C for us, and there were tables set up. We transferred all the boxes there, and quickly developed a process. We sorted the items into a few categories:



- Books: Brendan said that Sr. Teresita Kambeitz had been bringing her books to QH and they were offering them to teachers on retreat/programs, with great success. He took most of the books, which will be offered to teachers.
- Varia: there were lots of things “up for grabs” – lots of treasures which some people went home with. Tools, clothing, holy pictures, odds and ends.
- Liturgical items: there were a couple of Mass kits which we will take to the chancery to be offered to the new priests coming to the diocese.
- Items recycled: mostly paper, clothing.
- Liturgical items: mostly out of date rituals, prayer books and some Mass linens. Brendan will reverentially dispose of them.

We expected we would have to go to the dump at the end of the day, but there wasn't anything more than a big trash can that we filled.

Thanks to everyone who helped. Thanks especially to Matt Sherry and Brian Zimmer for providing treats. We had fun and it took less than two hours.

Next task: the garage at Mazenod. Yikes!

Just a heads up!

OMI Lacombe Canada Convocation

Our Provincial Convocation will take place from May 13-May 17, 2024 in St. Albert, Alberta. Following the Convocation, Fr. General will come to visit us in the Saskatchewan District. The visit will be short and the details of his visit have not been confirmed. In other words, we are not sure of the time frame and where he will go and what he will do. Information will be forthcoming as we receive it.

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

OMI Lacombe Canada Website: www.omilacombe.ca

Queen's House Website at: www.queenshouse.org

St. Philip Neri Parish at: www.stphilipneriparish.ca