



Saskatchewan District Community

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Sights and Sounds

June 3, 2024

Birthdays

May 16	Fr Paul Facht
May 26	Fr George Gruber
June 25	Bishop Gerry Weisner
June 28	Fr Doug Jeffrey
July 7	Darcie Lich
July 20	Fr Richard Doll
July 24	Fr Bill Stang

Announcements

Coffee Time at Trinity Manor

June 20

2:45pm -3:45pm

Community Days at Queen's House

June 13-14, 2024

Anniversaries

June 3	Fr. Doug Jeffrey OMI - Ordination (41 yrs)
June 16	Fr. Moe Schroeder OMI Ordination (62 yrs)
June 29	Brad Taylor- Diaconate (9 yrs)

July 24	Gerry & Lori Weinkauf- Marriage (53 yrs)
July 25	Darcie & Mark Lich- Marriage (26 yrs)

Celebrations Proper to the OMI

May 21	St Eugene de Mazenod
May 22-29	Time of prayer and anima- tion for Oblate Vocations
June 7	In 1873, the Congregation was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Convocation 2024



The Convocation held from May 14th to 16th in St. Albert, AB was a rich and full event as Oblates and Associates from BC to Ontario gathered as a charismatic family, rejoicing in old relationships and creating new ones. Throughout our time together, we were guided through a series of thought-provoking presentations and insightful discussions by Fr. Salvador (Chava) Gonzalez OMI, Director of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL, who opened Convocation with a tone-setting presentation on Monday evening.

On Tuesday, presentations by Provincial Superior Fr. Ken Thorson and Superior General Fr. Chicho Rois (virtually) focused on shared responsibilities and hope, while the afternoon sessions with Lisa Raven and Joe Gunn delved into Truth and Reconciliation and ecological justice. Wednesday's agenda included a vital review of current realities related to personnel, resources, and ministry, along with an in-depth look at Indigenous ministries and elder care. Thursday began with Fr. Ron Rolheiser exploring "Hope in the Paschal Mystery," which emphasized embracing change and renewal. The day also featured members of the delegation from Kenya who detailed the work of OMI Lacombe in the Kenya Mission, emphasizing joy, sustainability, and growth. John Renken and Harley Mapes presented updates on the Provincial safeguarding policy, focusing on safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults, and the week's presentations concluded with a panel discussion that included the Core Team as well as Vicar General Fr. Antoni Bochm and General Councillor for Canada-US Fr. Jim Brobst addressing questions on restructuring, collaboration, and future initiatives.

Each day ended with a celebration of the Eucharist and supper, followed by Oblate hospitality at its finest, complete with a room full of snacks, socializing, songs, laughter, and even playoff hockey on the television. What a gift to be together in community! Thanksgiving prayers abound as we reflect on our time with one another, and everyone who was present looks forward to bringing the spirit back to our home communities!

Submitted by Darcie Lich



Vicar General Visit May 20-22, 2024

We were blessed with a visit from Fr. Antoni Bochm, OMI, Vicar General of the Oblates last week (May 20/21). He was joined by Fr. Ken Thorson, OMI, Provincial Superior of OMI Lacombe Canada and two missionary priests from Kenya, Fr. Phelix Jolya, OMI and Fr. Joseph Kyuli, OMI.

Their time here began with a visit to Trinity Manor on Monday where Fr. Antoni and Fr. Ken spent time with each of the Oblates at Trinity Manor and Samaritan Place.



Fr. Ken and Fr. Antoni pray with the Oblates at Trinity Manor

They then joined the resident Oblates, Oblate priests from the District and Fr. Phelix and Fr. Joseph in prayer and a meal. Later that evening they visited Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser, OMI who was in St. Paul's Hospital.

On Tuesday, the group gathered at Queen's House and joined Oblates and Oblate Associates for a day of sharing. Fr. Doug provided Fr. Antoni with a 'snapshot' of the Saskatchewan District. Following this, members expressed themselves on the charism of St. Eugene and how it attracted them, what they are doing now and what their dreams for the future are.

It was a very holy time as people shared deeply from their experiences of living as Oblates or Associates. Several themes arose from the day.

Relationship & Community - many people described first being attracted to the Oblate charism through direct relationships with Oblate priests that were formed either at St. Thomas College or within parishes and volunteer involvements. The word community came up again and again as people mentioned a sense of family, of belonging when being involved in the life and ministry of the Oblates.

Recognition of gifts of Oblates - others mentioned that their experience of working with Oblates developed into admiration for the way individuals empowered the laity, recognized gifts in parishioners and shared Gospel values. Many were inspired to move more deeply into service of others by the example they witnessed from the Oblates.

Dreams for the future were expressed as concern for diminishing numbers of Oblate priests and how the Associates might continue to live and celebrate the charism. There was also a desire to encourage others to become associates and deepen their appreciation of the charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod.

Later in the afternoon the community gathered to sing, give thanks, listen to the Word, and take in the words of Fr. Antoni who reflected on what he had heard. He updated the group on new missions that are being opened around the world, and he described the importance of synodality which emphasizes truly listening to one another. After a time of Oraison and an opportunity to ask Fr. Antoni some questions the group enjoyed a supper and an opportunity to celebrate Fr. Ken Thorson's 25 anniversary. The day concluded with a wonderful evening of entertainment where 'gifts' of song, poetry, jokes and stories were shared.



Frs. Nestor, Phelix, Joseph, Bill and Albert share in prayer.



Bishop Gerry and Fr. Ken join in song.



Jim Longstaff shared his MC skills (and his sense of humour) with the crowd.

The 'Zimmer Family Band'– Jonathan, Cheryl, Mel with Fr. Doug) – led a sing-along medley.





Fr. Ken Thorson's Family joined in celebrating his 25th anniversary of ordination.



Fr. Joe Jacek, Fr. Joseph Kyuli & Christine Taylor



Fr. Antoni and Fr. Doug



Shaun & Katarina Nechtaval,
Monica, Shannon, Darcie and
Mark Lich.



Fr. Paul shares a moment with
Monica Lich at the dinner...



...and at her First Com-
munion celebration in
2013!

MAMI News



Diane Lepage welcomes Fr. Phelix and Fr. Joseph



A full audience appreciated the MAMI presentation!

On Wed, May 22, we were honoured to welcome Fr. Phelix Johya and Fr. Joseph Kyuli from Kenya, who shared their mission stories with over 30 MAMI members and supporters.

They spoke about the impactful and meaningful relationship between Canada and Kenya, highlighting our collaborative efforts in education, clean water, and prison ministry.

Joseph Jacek, one of the first Kenyan missionaries, was in attendance and reminded us of the incredible progress over the past 30 years. Together, we continue to make a difference.

Join us in supporting the Kenyan Mission.

Submitted by Tanya Myrfield-Wolfe



MAMI staff: Tanya Myrfield-Wolfe (with her children, Kaila & Gabriel) and Diane Lepage

SDC News



On May 27, a celebration of life was held for Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser, who passed away on May 22. Family and friends gathered to honour Wendelin. Laughter and tears were shared as people recalled Wendelin's life and legacy.



Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, Fr. Ron Rolheiser & Fr. Doug Jeffrey celebrated the funeral liturgy.



Oblate and Diocesan priests joined in the liturgy.

Fr. Doug Jeffrey, Fr. Bill Stang, Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Br. Don Claerhout, Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, Fr. Joe Jacek and Fr. Moe Schroeder gathered at the Oblate Cemetery at Battleford as Fr. Wendelin was laid to rest.



Graveside prayers at Battleford Oblate Cemetery



Bishop Gerry and Fr. Paul

On May 16, Fr. Paul celebrated his birthday with Oblate family and friends at Trinity Manor/Samaritan Place.



Entertainment News

Fr. Paul's Performance Debut– On Thursday, June 20, 2:30pm at Samaritan Place, Fr. Paul will be sharing songs, jokes and limericks. All are welcome. Come out and enjoy the first day of summer with sunny words from Fr. Paul.

Note from the Finance Office



Hello from the Treasurer's office.

Just a reminder to send in your GST receipts to the SDC office.

We are quickly approaching the end of the 2nd quarter of 2024. Please remember to send in your quarterly reports as soon as you are able.

Corrine Pambrun and Joe Jacek

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