



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Life – A Life of Service

# Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie

## Spiritual Director

Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie is currently a Chaplain, Spiritual Director, and Presenter for the Star.

He is a missionary Oblate who has spent over 30 years ministering among the aboriginal peoples of north and central Saskatchewan, including three years as director of a team that offered sessions on faith renewal, leadership and community development.



He was part of a First Nations ministry team and a member of an Oblate Cree language learning community. He is author of *Drumming From Within*, a book of stories in the Canadian North on faith and hope, as well, *Together We Heal*, a re-edited edition of a 12 Step approach to the healing of sexual abuse. His other books are *Walk a New Path*, *Still Green* and *Growing*, *Claiming God's Love* and he is presently working on a new book soon to be published.

Archbishop Sylvain has been journeying with people on their spiritual path for over 40 years. During that journey he has gained a lot of wisdom. His method of spiritual accompaniment is to listen to the story, affirm the person, prayerfully discern the movement of the Spirit in the person's life, connect faith and scripture with life, and provide gentle direction for moving forward towards healing and greater wholeness.

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## History

Sylvain Lavoie was born on April 22, 1947 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. He entered the novitiate and pronounced his First Vows on Sept. 8, 1970 in Arnprior, Ontario and his Perpetual Vows on Feb. 17, 1974 in Edmonton, Alberta. Sylvain was ordained a priest on Oct. 19, 1974 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan and his Episcopal Ordination was on August 29, 2005 at The Pas, Manitoba.

He is now Archbishop Emeritus of Keewatin-Le Pas Archdiocese and is currently serving as chaplain and spiritual director at the Star of the North Retreat House in St. Albert, AB.

## OBEDIENCES

## Lavoie, Sylvain (Archbishop Emeritus)

Date	Location	Assignments
1975	Keewatin Province	Pastor of Beauval
1981	Beauval and Isle à la Crosse, SK	Parish Ministry - shared
1981	Beauval and Isle à la Crosse, SK	Manitoba Council
1983	Beauval, Canoe Lake, Jans Bay, Cole Bay, SK	Parish Ministry
1984	St. Mary's Province (1984-1990)	Provincial Council
1985	Beauval, Isle à la Crosse, SK	Inter-parish Ministry
1986	Car Accident and Recovery	East of Elk Point
1987	Keewatin Renewal Team	Director
1990	St. Mary's Province	Provincial – short term
1992	Battlefords, SK	Member of RC First Nations Circle Team
1998	Aix-en-Provence, France	Sabbatical
1999	Saddle Lake, AB	Plains Cree Oblate Community
2000	Makwa, SK	First Nations Ministry
2000	Makwa, SK	St. Mary's Provincial Council
2013	Star of the North Retreat Centre, St. Albert, AB	Chaplain and Retreat Ministry

## November Anniversaries



### November Birthday's

Fr. Gordon Cook – November 27, 1943

Fr. Cook's moved to Foyer Lacombe from British Columbia in the summer of 2022. For a 'retiree' you will find him quite active as he completely enjoys the steady pace of his ministry.

He regularly assists within the Parishes and is a member of the Brother Anthony District Council.

We are blessed to have him in the house and St. Albert Parish is blessed with his support for funerals, many other services and parish events.

## Life with Oblates at Foyer Lacombe by Fr. Alfred Groleau

We were a baker's dozen until Father Mike Dechant left us a few months ago for Ottawa. We lost two Oblates with the deaths of Brother Jerome Blackburn in January and Father Gilles Gauthier in May.

Brother Edouard Prince went back to NWT during the summer season to pick up tools that he has gathered during his twenty years living at Lutsel K'e, north of Yellowknife. Last winter he was able to successfully follow treatments for an immanent cancer. He probably will go back again to NWT to complete his pickup.

Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie marked his golden jubilee of ordination in October with celebrations both in St. Albert and in Saskatchewan (North Battleford area). He continues to be very active at the Star of the North and he also responds to demands even outside the country.

Father Maurice Joly is our elder and in August his family gathered at Foyer Lacombe to celebrate his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. He limits his public appearances because of his hearing impediment but he is in good health. Father Ed Kosa continues a busy chaplaincy at Youville Home, though he must monitor some health issues.

People were surprised to meet Father Gerry LeStrat as he traveled across the country a few months ago. Though he suffers from continuous pain in his feet he stopped to nourish many friendships along the way. Fathers Ed McSheffrey and Gordon Cook fill in ministry at St. Albert Parish as well as Holy Family Parish in St. Albert.

Brother Don Claerhout is regular as a clock in his shop. Samples of his productivity are the cremation boxes that he has available.

We are blessed with excellent cuisine since we hired Elizabeth. Those who have joined us for a meal on festive occasions never regret it.

We are grateful for the regular visits of our administration and we look forward to meet Father Brobst this month, the member of North America on Oblate General Council.



**Upcoming Feast Day - The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**  
On Dec. 8, we honor Mary, our Mother. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a feast celebrating Mary's conception without sin.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Star of the North**

Mass at 4 pm with a social to follow.

All are invited to come celebrate with us!



## Volunteer Appreciation – Thank you, Thank you!

There is rarely a week when our faithful Oblates and Associates are without work! Our properties at Jackfish Lake and Canmore are functioning well due to recent work that has been completed. A special thank you goes out to all of you who worked, not only on these projects, but had the foresight to meet, budget and organize a plan of action prior to execution. We have offset some major expenses by having such capable individuals perform these tasks.



**Canmore Cottage** is currently receiving a 'fall spruce up' prior to the onset of winter. We scheduled a full week of maintenance and clean up with a team of volunteer Oblates and Associates during the last week of October.

What is not pictured here is the lengthy list of repairs that were completed and documented by Associates Bernie Hryciw and Leo Beaudry. Thank you, gentlemen. And yes, it is snowing in the mountains at the end of October!

**Jackfish Lake's** had insurance repairs completed on July 8<sup>th</sup> by 360 Remediation Ltd. Since then, volunteers along with Archbishop Sylvan have been cleaning up around the beach and the property since the repairs.



The Roof of the Boathouse at Jackfish Lake. Voila - it is finished, thanks largely to Richard Neufeld. Many thanks to all our volunteers that diligently worked on the maintenance and clean up at this site.

Please note that all bookings for Jackfish Lake and Canmore Cottage are scheduled by the District Office so that Oblates and Associates have opportunity to enjoy the serene property without interruption.

**Foyer Lacombe** completed its annual regular clean up which included carpet cleaning in the high traffic areas and the washing of the exterior windows. We had a smoky summer in Alberta. As we move into winter, on the hill, we are reviewing our sewer system for improvement options. Bro. Edouard, and Bro. Don are instrumental in making sure our systems are monitored and up to par. This includes plumbing, electrical and even gardening! Also, this year we took down the invasive weeds on top of the hill to slow the spread. We retained our landscaping and snow contract with the same contractor as last year. Daily activity prevails at the Foyer. Pictured to the right is a photo of the ongoing ministry between Bro. Don and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.



## Oblate General Councillor, Fr. Jim Brobst

Oblate General Councillor, Fr. Jim Brobst (Canada-US) will be visiting Brother Anthony District from November 6 to November 11, 2024. He will meet with the community in person to prepare for the appointment of the next Provincial and Council for OMI Lacombe Canada Province. The individual Consultation meetings have been scheduled for Fr. Jim. If you have any changes to your set appointments, please contact the District Office as soon as possible.



## Preparing for Jesus Christ in the Advent Season



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (meaning, "ad-venio in Latin or "to come to") is the season leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. Advent devotions remind us of the meaning of the season. Special Advent devotions include the lighting of the Advent wreath; the Advent calendar which helps remind us of the season with daily thoughts and activities; and Advent prayers that prepare us spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Domestic Monastery: God is More Domestic than Monastic



God is more domestic than monastic and is found more in your home than in your church. The domestic can also be the "monastic". Your marriage, your family, and your work can be your own monastery. The alarm clock that wakes you in the morning is your monastic bell and your work and duties each day are your monastic rhythm. Monks have secrets worth knowing. These presentations will draw wisdom from the monastic tradition to shed light on our own human and spiritual journey.

**Presented by Ron Rolheiser, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at the Star of the North.**

Registration details at [www.starofthenorth.ca](http://www.starofthenorth.ca)

### BOC Gatherings

Star BOC and Gareth BOC's, which are now combined, meet the first Wednesday of each month. We meet at the Star of the North. Please contact Dan or Joanne Friedt for more details. **All are welcome.**

