

Foyer Lacombe House

Merry Christmas from All of Us!

As we celebrate the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may your heart be filled with His love and joy. This holy season is a beautiful reminder of God's immense love for us and the hope that comes with His coming.

Let us gather in gratitude, reflecting on the blessings in our lives and sharing that love with others. May the peace of Christ be with you and your parishioners now and throughout the coming year.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas filled with faith, hope, and joy!



In the Spirit of Eugene – Foyer Lacombe

Every Friday, we come together as a community to read, meditate, and share insights on our Constitution and Rules, as we prepare to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the approval by the Church. May the Spirit of Eugene help us to deepen our understanding and commitment to our mission and oblate charism. These gatherings provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our history, celebrate our values, and strengthen our bonds as a community.

Monday Community Time at Foyer Lacombe

Every Monday evening, after supper, our Foyer Lacombe community comes together for "happy hour" - a cherished time to connect and spend time together. It's a wonderful opportunity to share our stories, express our concerns, and enjoy some laughter with one another.

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These gatherings strengthen our bonds and remind us of the joy and support we find in each other.

Thankful for Our Foyer Community



We thank God for the many blessings in our Foyer Lacombe community! It's truly wonderful to see our members doing well, thriving in spirit, and maintaining good health. Many are still actively involved in ministry in various places, sharing their light and love with others.

Welcome to Fr. Joe Jacek OMI!

We're excited to announce that a new member has joined us in November from Saskatoon – Fr. Joe Jacek OMI! The whole community is enjoying his presence, and it's clear that Fr. Joe has already settled in beautifully. So, Joe – we extend a heartfelt welcome to you! We look forward to sharing many wonderful moments together in our community. Welcome aboard!

Happy Birthday, Fr. Gordon Cook!

On November 27, we celebrated the birthday of Fr. Gordon Cook! Happy birthday, Gordon! We are incredibly grateful for everything you do as our community treasurer and house counselor. Your dedication and support mean a lot to all of us.

A Big Thank You to Bro. Edouard!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Br. Edouard for putting up the beautiful Christmas lights and the lovely Christmas crib at Foyer. Thank you!

Christmas Community Dinner Announcement!

We're excited to share that our Christmas community dinner will be held on **Sunday, December 28 at 5 pm** followed by a joyful happy hour at Foyer Lacombe!

A special thank you to Lucie and Serena, who have graciously accepted the invitation to prepare our Christmas meal. Fr. Les will also help! We look forward to celebrating together and enjoying a wonderful evening filled with good food and great company.



His Grace Archbishop Susai Jesu, OMI

2 Corinthians 12:9 -

But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

[A Message from Archbishop-Elect Rev. Susai Jesu, O.M.I. to Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas](#)

[He escaped a watery grave, and now Susai Jesu is a new archbishop | Edmonton Journal](#)

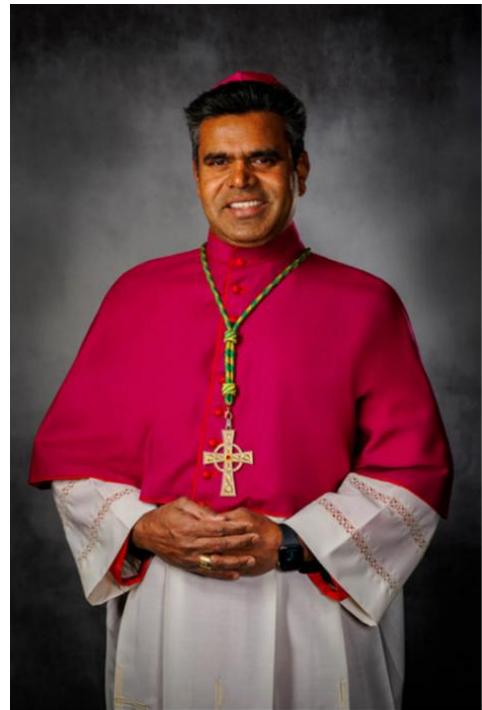
Most of us spend our lives trying to hide our weaknesses. We avoid talking about our insecurities, cover up our struggles, and pretend we've got everything under control. But God sees things differently. He does not wait for you to become strong before He uses you. In fact, He wants to use you because of your weakness, not in spite of it.

When you feel like you do not have what it takes, you are in the perfect position for God to show that He does. Your limitations are not a liability in His hands. They are the exact space where His power shows up the clearest. That is where your story stops being about your ability and starts becoming about His glory.

God is not looking for perfection; He is looking for surrender. When you give Him your weakness, your fear, your struggle, and your questions, He meets you with grace and strength you did not even know you needed. He fills in every gap. He lifts what you cannot carry. He sustains you through what you never thought you could walk through.

This does not mean you won't feel the weight of life. It means the weight will not crush you, because God's power will carry you through it. It means you can move forward even with a limp, because the power of God is not reserved for the polished and strong. It is made visible in the raw places of your life.

You do not have to wait until you feel strong to be used by God. You do not have to pretend to have it all together to be a vessel of His power. Your weakness is the open door for His strength to step in and do what only He can do. Let that be your confidence. Let that be your hope. He is strong where you are weak, and He is not done with you yet.



Father Susai Jesu, O.M.I., is currently the pastor of Lac Ste. Anne parish. Previously, he was the pastor of Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples in Edmonton and has now been appointed Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He released the news on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, in Edmonton.

OBEDIENCES – Fr. Susai Jesu

Date	Location	Assignments
2000	Balaghad, MP, North India	Assistant Parish Priest
2003	Surala Kappa, North India	Parish Priest
2005	Kombadimadurai, TN, South India	Assistant Parish Priest
2007	OMI Lacombe (course, orientation, enculturation)	First Nations Ministry
2008	Pelican Narrows, SK	Learn Cree Language
2009	St. Gertrude Church, Pelican Narrows & Our Lady of 7 Sorrows, Sandy Bay	Pastor
2016	Ottawa, ON	Studies
2016	Became Canadian Citizen	
2017	Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, Edmonton, AB	Pastor
2019	OMI Lacombe Canada Provincial Council (6 yrs)	Council Member
2025	Br. Anthony District/Lac Ste. Anne, Enoch, Alexander, Alexis, Paul Band	Superior/Pastor
2026	Ordination January 26, 2026	Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas

Sacred Heart Church

Photos below of Fr. Susai's Farewell Mass
Courtesy of J. Friedt



Upcoming Monthly Anniversaries

4th Quarter – October, November and December 2025

OCTOBER

08-Oct-47	Birthday	LaBoucane, Garry	Brother Anthony District
10-Oct-85	Ordination	Peter Doherty	Brother Anthony District
19-Oct-74	Ordination	Sylvain Lavoie	Resident Foyer Lacombe
19-Oct-51	Birthday	Jack Herklotz	Brother Anthony District
23-Oct-67	Birthday	Heinner Paucar	Brother Anthony District
23-Oct-32	Birthday	Denis Croteau	Resident NWT
27-Oct-50	Birthday	Wladek Karciarz	Foyer Lacombe House

NOVEMBER

27-Nov-43	Birthday	Gordon Cook	Foyer Lacombe House
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DECEMBER

08-Dec-67	First Vows	Edouard Prince	Foyer Lacombe House
20-Dec-64	Ordination	Alfred Groleau	Foyer Lacombe House



Photo by Fr. Gordon Cook

This November 1, the Catholic world will celebrate a historic moment: Pope Leo XIV will declare St. John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church. A man of intellect and faith, Newman's life was a journey in pursuit of truth. From the classrooms of Oxford to the heart of Catholicism, his story shows how courage, prayer, and a love for God can transform lives and inspire generations.

The Blessing of Days in Canmore

A Journal Entry from Bro. Rusty Gardiner

These past several days in Canmore have been a quiet and profound blessing. Free from schedules and obligations, each day unfolded according to its own rhythm - a rhythm shaped by the mountains, the rivers, and the soft breath of the wind.

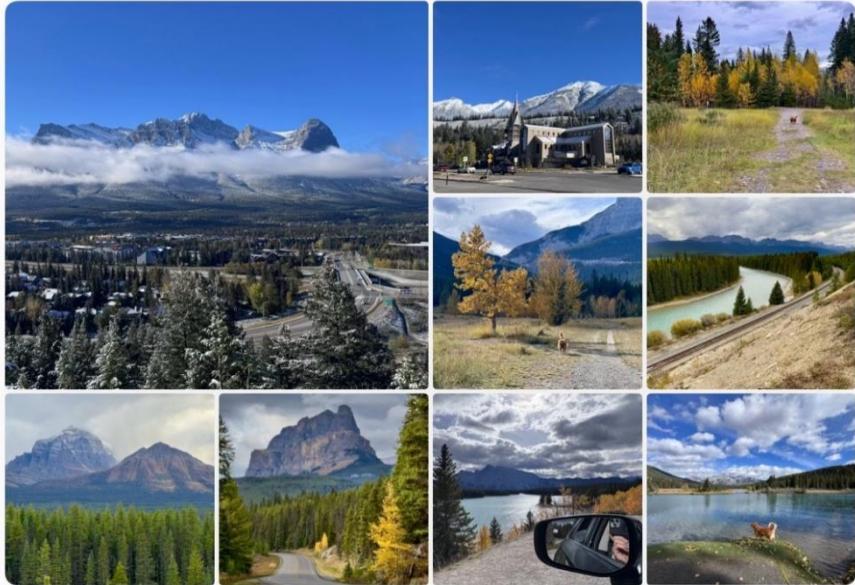
Accompanied by Mia, who swam joyfully in the cold rivers and clear mountain streams, chasing her tennis ball through the current, I felt the presence of life in its purest form - unhurried, grounded, and free. Together we walked the winding trails, surrounded by a creation that seemed to breathe with peace.

In the stillness of morning and the hush of evening, the land seemed to speak in its silence. The wind carried with it an ancient voice - a whisper older than time itself - as though the ancestors were near, watching, guiding, and blessing the moment. In the outline of the mountains, I could see faint silhouettes that seemed to form the faces of those who came before. It was as if their spirit remained etched into the stone, a living reminder that I walk upon sacred ground, and that I do not journey alone.

The mountains stood like silent prayers rising toward the sky, and the rivers sang softly of renewal and return. Even the snow that fell on the final morning seemed a gentle benediction - a blessing from both Creation and Creator alike. These moments held a spiritual weight that words can scarcely convey.

These few days became more than rest; they were a pilgrimage of the heart. They reminded me that when I slow my pace and open my senses, Creation speaks - and within its voice, the ancestors speak too. Their presence, carried in the wind and reflected in the mountains, affirms that I am held not only by the Creator's world, but also by the enduring strength of those who walked before me. In that embrace of land, spirit, and memory, I found renewal - and the quiet certainty that the sacred is never far.

The never-ending embrace of Creation.



The Blessing of Days in Canmore

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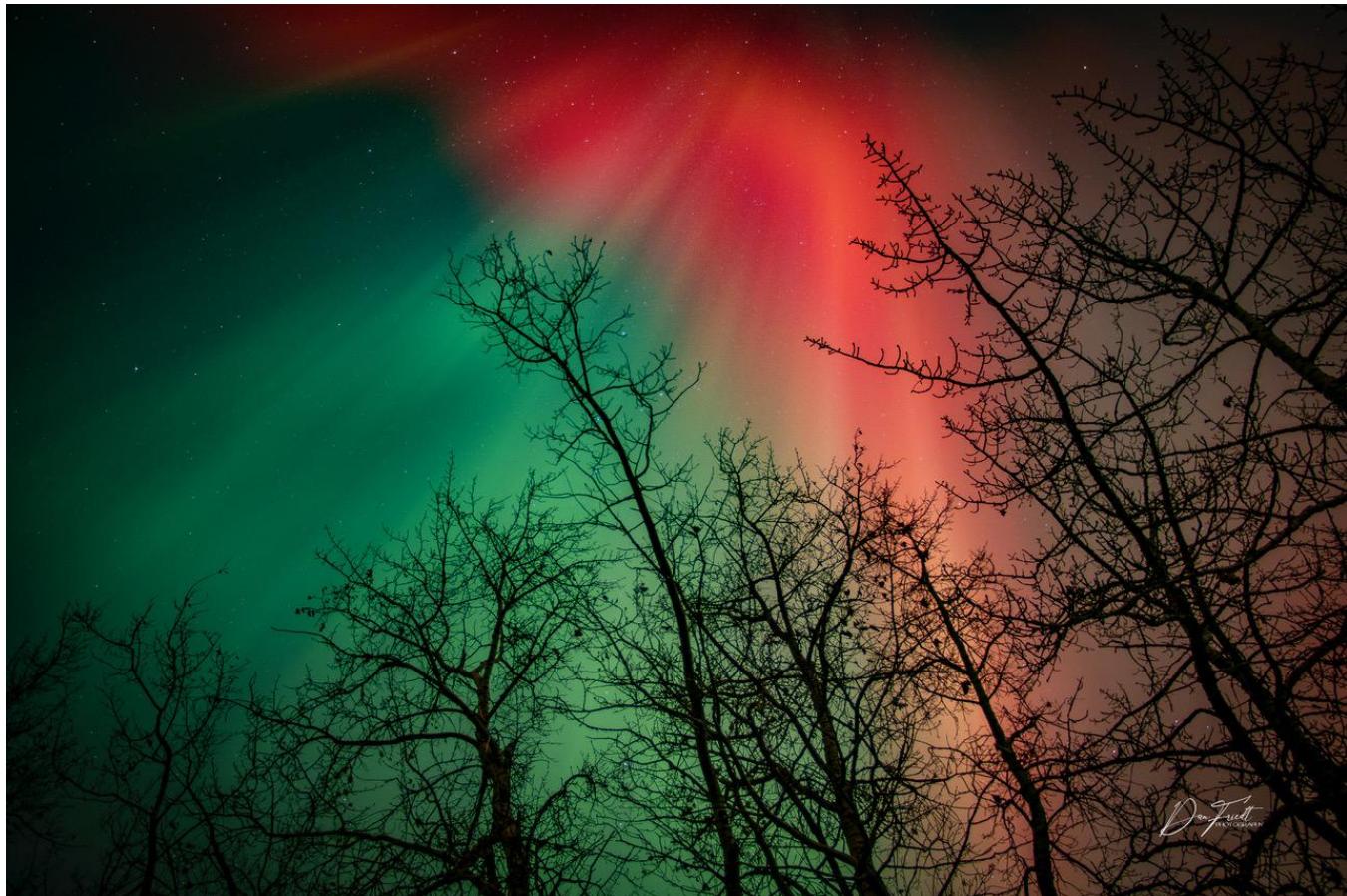


Photo by Dan Friedt

Closing Prayer

*Creator, Grandfather of all,
we thank You for the mountains that rise before us,
for the faces in the rocks that remind us of those who walked this land before us.*

*We remember the ancestors - their prayers, their songs, their courage -
and we ask that their wisdom guide our steps today.*

*May the mountains teach us strength,
may the rivers teach us humility,
may the earth beneath our feet remind us
that we are never alone.*

*For in creation, You have placed reminders everywhere -
that we belong to one another, and to You.*

Beneath the Winter Light

Reflection - An Advent Journey in Moccasins

Isaiah 9:2

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined."

As the first signs of winter arrive, I find myself thinking about Solomon Ratt's book, *The Way I Remember*. In it, he recalls the daily rhythm of his youth - hauling water from the lake, chiseling holes through the ice, and tending to the quiet work that shaped life in the North.

Reading his words stirs my own memories. I remember hauling water with my Nordic snowmobile, dragging a sled with a barrel tied down, then carrying the water into the house by pail. Other than a few water bugs swimming around - which I strained out - the water was clear, cold, and pure, drawn straight from the lake. We heated the house with an oil stove, and our main cookstove was a white-enameled cast-iron beauty, complete with a water tank and oven. In the summer, we switched to a propane stove. Winter meant chopping wood, keeping the fire going, and making sure the snowmobile would run for the weekend's chores and small adventures.

Those were simple days - steady, quiet, and full of purpose. Covering the hole on the lake with plywood to keep it from freezing over or listening to the hum of the snowmobile at dusk - as a youth these weren't just chores, they were lessons in responsibility and patience. They shaped a life that was grounded and healthy, teaching values that today can feel rare in our youth.

Those memories - his and mine - remind me of what it means to belong to a place and to a people. The work, the seasons, and the small acts of care that kept our homes warm and our spirits steady were lessons in resilience long before I had words for them. In those days, we didn't talk about culture or tradition; we simply lived them.

And somewhere within those winter days long ago were moccasins. For as long as I can remember, I have worn them - made by hand from home-tanned moose hide, beaded and sewn with skill passed down through generations. Each pair feels like a gift - from the land, the animal, the maker, and the Creator who made it all possible. I remember my mother spending countless hours softening hides, beading patterns, and shaping them to fit perfectly. Every stitch was a quiet prayer - of love, resilience, and connection to those who came before and those yet to come.



Beneath the Winter Light

Reflection - An Advent Journey in Moccasins

Now, as I receive another pair of moose hide moccasins, and as the rich aroma of woodsmoke used to cure the hide fills the air - and once again, I feel grounded, connected to memory, to home, and to those who walked this path before me. They carry the same rhythm as those winter days of my youth - steady, patient, and filled with quiet adventure.

As Advent begins - a season of waiting and walking toward new light (with new moccasins) - I reflect on what it means to walk with intention. Advent invites stillness, gratitude, and trust in the path ahead. Each soft step in my moccasins reminds me of where I come from, and of the Creator who continues to guide each season of life.

May this winter remind us that even in stillness, we are on a sacred journey - one that began long ago beside frozen lakes, warm fires, and moccasins stitched with love.

Closing Prayer

Creator, Nôhtâwînân as winter settles over the land, help us walk gently in Your light.

May the memories of our youth warm our hearts,

and the moccasins of our spirit carry us with gratitude and hope.

Guide our steps through the stillness of this season,

that we may walk toward Your light - with peace, with purpose, and with love.

~ Bro. Rusty Gardiner, OMI

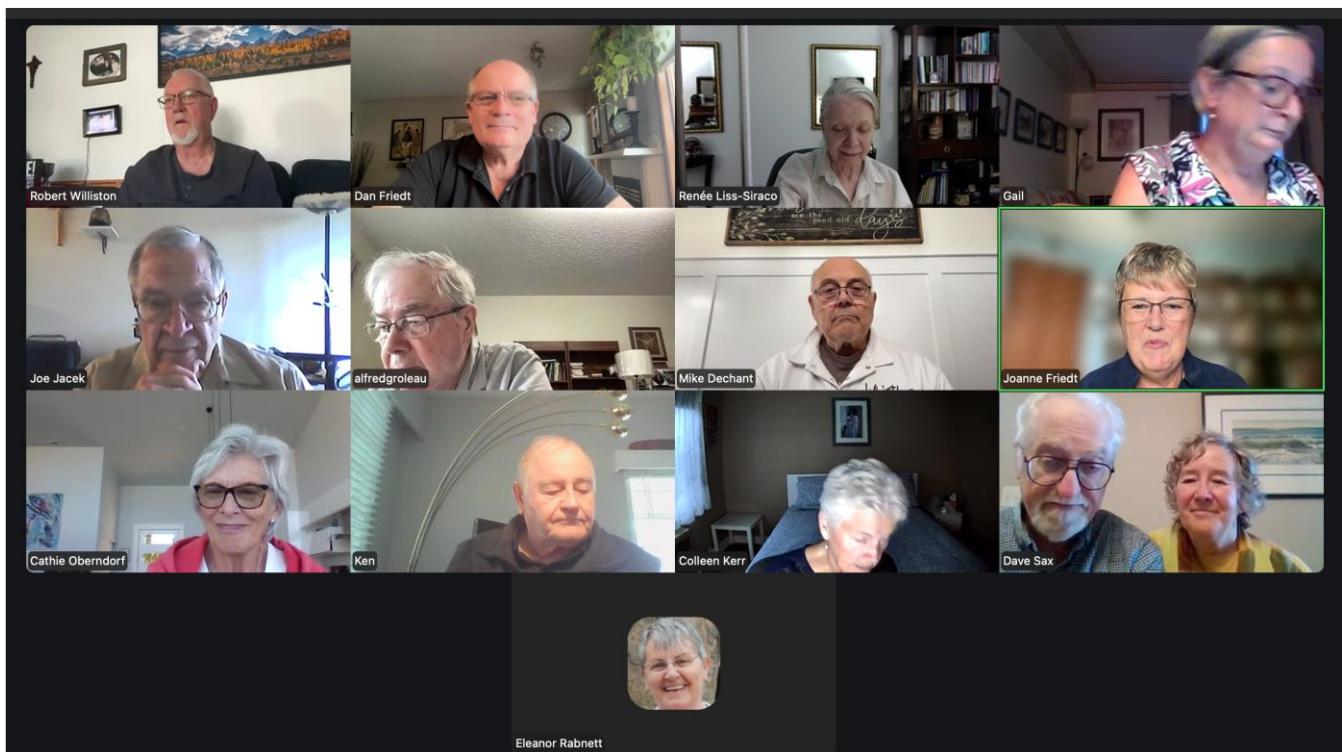


BOC Associates

Oblate Associate Report

O-BOC Gathering: An Opportunity for Connecting and Sharing

The Online Basic Oblate Community (O-BOC) continues to be well attended by Oblates and Associates from across the country. Our focus is the Animation Material for the Constitution and Rules of the Congregation. Ranging from 15 to 25 attendees, the opportunity for sharing, prayer and spiritual support blesses those who jump online. It is especially appreciated by those who are living in areas where the Oblate presence is diminishing or non-existent.



A recent development is providing a Discernment Retreat in January 2026 online for Associates (and Oblates if they wish) as we reflect on our commitment to Association and renewal of our commitments on the Feast Day, February 17, 2026. The 3 hour Zoom retreat includes prayer, brief presentations and quiet reflection time as we ponder our commitment to being Associates with the Congregation of Oblates of Mary Immaculate worldwide. Three short reflections will be provided by Andrzej Stendzina OMI, Frank Santucci, OMI and Lucie Leduc, Oblate Associate with quiet 'retreat' time between each presentation. The date is January 14, 2026. Information has already been sent out via the Ottawa office. Thank you Isabelle. We will also include this event worldwide, offering it to any English speaking associates through the congregation. As well, we are offering the same retreat, January 10, 2026 IN PERSON at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, starting at 1:00 pm. Any Associates wanting to enjoy an in-person retreat are welcome to attend.

BOC Associates

Oblate Associate Report

O-BOC Gathering: An Opportunity for Connecting and Sharing

Our monthly BOCs at the STAR and Sacred Heart continue to gather the Associates and vowed Oblates together for fellowship and ongoing formation. Using the Animation Materials and the 10 Constitution and Rules, much healthy personal reflection is shared.

Community Days in October were also well attended by Oblates and Associates, as we welcomed our new Provincial Council. To date, we have two people in formation with another person starting formation in the new year.

We celebrated December 8th Feast day with a Mass at St. Albert Parish followed by wine and cheese and fellowship hosted at the STAR of the NORTH. Time together is always treasured as we pray and feast as a Mazenodian community.



Dan and Joanne Friedt

Provincial Oblate Associate Animators
OMI Lacombe Canada

We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith; the warmth of
Christmas, which is purity; the
righteousness of Christmas, which
is justice; the belief in Christmas,
which is truth; the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.



Star of the North

Star of the North Website, press Ctrl + Click to open

[Home | Star of the North Retreat Centre](#)

All are welcome to subscribe for the Star Gazer Newsletter!

Christmas District Office Closure

Please note that the local District Office will be closed from Tuesday, Dec. 23rd to Jan. 5th. Fr. Gordon Cook will be Acting Superior during this time and maybe contacted at 778-928-1641 or by email at gacook96@gmail.com