



Saskatchewan District Community
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Sights and Sounds

February 26th, 2026

Birthdays



January 14th - Jim Longstaff
February 1st - Brad Taylor
February 23rd - Fr. Albert Ulrich
March 29th - Fr. Eugene Warnke

Coffee Times at Samaritan Place

March 5th, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00
March 26th, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00
April 30th, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00
May 28th, 2026 - 2:20 to 4:00
June 25th, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00

Anniversaries of Perpetual Vows

February 8th - Fr. Richard Doll - 62 yrs
February 23rd - Bishop Gerry Wiesner - 63 yrs

Anniversaries of Marriage

February 12th - Christine & Brad Taylor - 32 yrs



After 9 weeks in the hospital, Fr. Richard Doll made the move to Parkridge Centre Care Home on December 8th, 2025.

Fr. Richard Doll is settling in well and he continues to be very popular with all the care aides who are blessed to work with him.

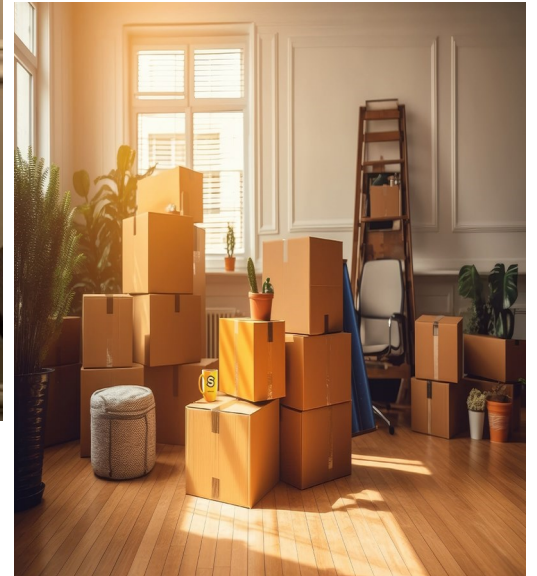
After healing from his surgery, Fr. Richard Doll is excited to get moving again and is working three times a week with Jon, a very talented physiotherapist who continues to be impressed by Fr. Richard's strength, determination and his happy positivity.

Fr. Doug and I are hoping that Fr. Richard will receive his transfer request to Samaritan Place soon. Although Fr. Richard loves the staff and the food at Parkridge Centre we know being reunited with his Oblate Brothers will be a good thing for everyone.

In the meantime, please feel free to stop in for a visit with Fr. Richard. His room number is E205.



And.....The Moves
Continue!!!!!!!!!!



Soon after Fr. Richard Doll's move, we were once again packing and moving Fr. George Gruber, who we are happy to report is happily settled in the Emma Cottage at Samaritan Place next to his brother Frank. We all agree it is a gift to see Fr. George and his brother together again.

With no breaks in between, our next two moves were Fr. Bill Stang and Fr. Eugene Warnke who moved from the main floor of Trinity to the 2nd floor where personal care is made more available for residents.

Thank you to all who helped.

We are so grateful!





February 23rd, 2026 Fr. Albert Ulrich turned another year older making 93 look pretty fabulous. Fr. Albert spent the afternoon with family where he enjoyed visiting and birthday cake. Fr. Albert arrived home in time to have Fr. Bill Stang and Corrine Pambrun sing happy birthday to him.



Community Days February 16 & 17, 2026

Here on the prairies winter storms are not unusual in February. As January ended the early days of February offered warm temperatures and the winter ice and snow began to melt and covered streets became bare. As Valentine's Day approached the weather continued with above normal temperatures. The meteorologists had bad news for us; they suggested that February 16/17/18 would see an intense low-pressure mass with lots of snow and high winds move in from Alberta and Montana. Would our Community Days still happen? We are from Saskatchewan so yes they would!

We gathered at the Travelodge on the 16th and after some words of welcome, Fr. Nestor led us in prayer. The prayer he offered focused on our Constitutions and Rules and invited us to ponder what the congregation offered us and asked of us.

Following our prayer, we were introduced to a document prepared by our Association Animation Committee. The document is an attempt to map out what we might do going forward given our diminishment as a District. At our last Convocation, Oblate leadership informed us that Oblates would no longer be allowed to retire in Saskatchewan. In addition, no Oblates would be sent to minister here. In effect, as Oblates diminished and returned to the God who fashioned them, called them and sent them, the Oblate mission here would be completed. But would the Oblate charism live on in Saskatchewan? What about the Associates who have accompanied us for the last 30 plus years? What would their future look like?

The Association Animation Committee outlined a draft structure that might offer a pathway forward for the Associates and the Province. The document discussed issues like community life, leadership, formation, meeting, gathering, praying, supporting and growing. As we worked through the document, whispers of hope entered our conversations and our excitement grew. As our time unfolded, we posed new questions and talked eagerly about a future conversation with our Provincial Association Animators and Provincial Leadership. The members engaged the conversations and the Committee was given some questions to consider, some ideas that needed to be reshaped and clarified and they were given the task of capturing the hope and enthusiasm of men and women touched by the charism of St. Eugene. While Oblates may diminish our Associates have a desire to continue to live and incarnate the charism of St. Eugene here in Saskatchewan.

The Committee will meet again and return with a revised document at our next Community Days. We established a renewed rhythm of life with BOCs, Formation Sessions, Community Days and Community Gatherings. Our Community Days will be about business; our Community Gatherings will be about prayer and celebration, and our BOCs will be the living cells which shape our daily life and ministry (individual and common) and form and inform our District Mission. Our Formation sessions will deepen our knowledge and understanding of our call and the charism of St. Eugene. As we diminish, we feel a growing sense of strength and purpose.

Following our discussions, Darcie led us in a discovery, a reflection, a deepening of our understanding of our Preface and the first ten Constitutions. In a little less than an hour we found ourselves entering into the spaciousness of our Congregation. How vast the fields that lie before us! We reflected on our Call and our Sending, our Identity and our Purpose, and the centrality of the Cross. We explored our Mission and Ministry, and we recognized in our Mother Mary our Advocate and our Intercessor.

Following our mini retreat, we gathered at Trinity Manor with our Elders, those who can no longer gather with us. In our liturgy we were reminded that God is near to us and that God continues to call us, sustain us and send us to care for each other. God not only invites us to nourish community, God encourages us to reach out to those who are most in need. Supported by good music and the presence of people of faith we celebrated our 200th anniversary with gratitude and hope.

As a part of our prayer the Oblates renewed their vows, the Associates renewed their commitments and Shaun and Katarina made their first commitment. As the bread was broken and shared, we sensed the presence of God. As the last notes of “We are Companions on the Journey” rang out and as people greeted one another, the Spirit rested upon us and blessed us preparing us for what tomorrow will bring. Meanwhile all is good, it is very good.

We gathered for a wonderful meal at Trinity Manor. Wine (compliments of Sr. Teresita and the Ursulines) was poured, food was shared and stories and laughter floated around the dining room blessing us and prompting praise and thanksgiving. Our day ended with some farewells and one last task. Undeterred by heavy snow and strong winds that tried desperately to tear hats, toques, scarves and coats loose, we crossed the parking lot to greet Fr. Paul who was unable to join us because of his health. We gathered for a moment in his room, we gave thanks for our Community Life, and we sang the Salve Regina. It was a moment of grace for all of us.

As our singing ended, we took leave of one another. From the warmth and safety of our Gathering we ventured out into the storm. With wind and snow and near zero visibility we returned to our homes. The words from the Book of Deuteronomy “This Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach... No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.” followed us, challenging us and comforting us still. As we celebrate our 200th anniversary the path ahead is unclear; nourished by our past, guided by our “Book of Life”, sustained by the Spirit and surrounded with the care of one another we are eager to create a path in the tradition of St. Eugene and his famous exhortation, “Leave nothing undared.”

**Submitted by: Fr. Doug Jeffrey, Superior of the Saskatchewan District
OMI Lacombe Canada**



Highlights captured during Community Days



Corrine Pambrun, Fr. Doug Jeffrey,
Gerry Weinkauff & Bernard Normand

Darcie Lich did a reflection on The Book
of Life - Oblate Charism.

Below: Darcie & Mark Lich



Katarina Nechvatal with daughters
Anika & Eva.





Mark Lich, Bonnie Roberts, Lance Hartmann, Ben, Shaun & Katarina Nechvatal



Fr. Doug Jeffrey presided for the SDC Feast Day Mass at Trinity Manor.

Fr. Albert Ulrich & Fr. Bill Stang were the Eucharistic Ministers for mass.

Having Fr. Ken Thorson & Bishop Gerry Wiesner a part of our feast day celebration made the day extra special.



It was a very special moment to witness Shaun & Katarina Nechvatal make their first, one year commitments, as Oblate Lay Associates for OMI Lacombe Canada.



After a beautiful Feast Day supper, the Community chose to close community days with a visit to Samaritan Place to see Fr. Paul Fachel.

Bishop Gerry, Fr. Paul Fachel, Fr. Bill Stang, Adele Longstaff, Eva Nechvatal, Fr. Doug Jeffrey, Jim Longstaff and Gerry Weinkauf were just a few of the visitors that came to bring blessings of love to our Fr. Paul Fachel.

We concluded by singing The Salve Regina.

Please remember all our elders in your prayers.



February 18, 2026

Fr. Ron Rolheiser sent a wonderful update regarding his health.



Health Update

The news is good! I had a CT Scan last week. I met with my oncologist today (before my chemotherapy session) and he shared that the chemo is working! Since I started this round of chemo in late November there has been a 50% reduction of the two problematic tumors and a drop in my blood indicators registering cancer to near zero!

The projection now is that I will have another six chemotherapy treatments, two weeks apart. This would mean that my final chemo treatment would be on May 13th. But a CT Scan then will determine if that is the last treatment. That's the hope – and that would make me “normal” again for the summer.

Thank you so much for your prayers!
Peace,
Ron



Please note that SDC Oblate coffee times will now be at Samaritan Place 2:30 to 4:00 pm.

Our next coffee time will be March 5th, 2026



If you would like to share a story with the community, please send your write up to my attention with one or two pictures, and I will make sure to include your story in the next Sights & Sounds.



News from the SDC Office

On behalf of Fr. Doug Jeffrey & Corrine please make note of the following:

If you are planning to take an Oblate resident out of Samaritan Place, Trinity Manor or Parkridge Centre, **please remember** to sign the Resident Oblates out. Upon return, please make sure to sign them back into the building. The sign in & sign out sheets will be located at the reception or nursing station desks.

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

OMI Lacombe Canada Website: www.omilacombe.ca