



Saskatchewan District Community

#210-160 Phelps Way, Saskatoon, SK S7V 0K7

Phone: (306) 653-6452

Email: finance@sdcsaskatoon.cat

Sights and Sounds

April 30th, 2026

Announcements



Coffee Time at Samaritan Place

May 21, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00

June 18, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00

July 23, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00

Anniversaries

Corrine & Blain April 27-29 yrs

Birthdays

There are no April birthdays!

April is the sweetest melody of the year,

I hope you made every day in April feel like a fresh start. I hope you inhaled the April air and exhaled the stress. April is always the perfect time to bloom and to grow into May.



A message from the SDC District Superior, Fr. Doug Jeffrey.

We have just concluded our Community Day. While we had over 15 people in attendance, some folks could not come because the Highway Hotline was still showing some highways with Travel Not Recommended warnings.

We began our day with prayer wherein we were reminded that sometimes our best prayer is not when we are saying prayers but rather when we are drawn deeply into moments of communion with others or with the natural world. We spent a significant part of the morning reflecting on our Association Document which is offering us a structure and a game plan for now and for our immediate future as we experience the diminishment of our vowed Oblates. It is our plan to meet with Fr. Andrew our Oblate Provincial at the end of May to receive his feedback on what we are proposing. If any of you readers are thinking about becoming an Associate, now is an exciting time to think about it and explore the idea.

Our membership also enjoyed a presentation given by Mark Liche of his trip to Aix with a group of Associates. His trip took place in March, and through his pictures and commentary, we were reminded of some significant moments in the life of our Oblate Community. For those who had been to Aix it was a gentle reminder of our Foundation House and its surroundings and for those who have not yet been there it was a taste of Oblate life then and now. The pictures and his insightful commentary inspired us to deepen our Knowledge of St. Eugene and the Oblate Charism.....

As a District we spent some time talking about how and when we might celebrate our 200th anniversary of the Approval of our Constitutions and Rules, our Book of Life. We do know that our celebration will take place in early July (4th, 5th or 6th) and it will include a Mass, a presentation on the Oblate charism, a time to visit with our Oblates and Associates and a formal supper.

More details will be coming.

As a result of a decision taken by the delegates of our last General Chapter, we spent time reviewing a proposal to reorganize our governance structure. While the work done was well received, we wondered about how the decisions being taken will impact the principles of subsidiarity and synodality which have been promoted and which we value. Our concerns were forwarded to the Committee in Rome working on this project.

The other items that took up our time included a conversation about a retreat for our membership, the Provincial Convocation scheduled for St Albert, September 28th -October 2nd and our meeting with the Core Team at the end of October.

Whenever we gather as a District Community, we share with each other what God is doing in our lives, the things that occupy our daily lives and the people and moments that need prayer. Once again, we were touched by how the charism of St. Eugene impacts our lives and the choices we make. I think St. Eugene would be moved by how the gospel is being proclaimed by the members of our District Community. For sure the world is a better place because of what my Oblate brothers and sisters are doing.

Our next gathering will take place on May 21 at Samaritan Place, where some of our Elders reside, when we celebrate with the Church the Feast Day of St. Euguene de Mazenod. We plan to have coffee together, a mass and a pizza supper with salads and desserts provided by the members.

We concluded our day by heading over to Wendel Clark's Restaurant for a lively supper. As we went our separate ways, we were cognizant of those who were unable to be with us, and we were grateful for a day spent in each other's presence.



SDC Community Day April 25,
2026

Mark Lich giving a wonderful talk
about his time in AIX.

Gathering together is always a
treat, and the Charism of Eugene
de Mazenod is very present.





Fr. Paul Facht was so surprised and happy to see his Brother Oblates, Fr. Joe Jacek and Fr. Mike Dechant.

There were lots of stories and jokes, but more than anything, there was true happiness.





Blain and I enjoyed a visit with Fr. Moe Schroeder in March. During our visit we found out he is quite a painter!

Below, you will see a picture that was painted by Fr. Moe Schroeder in 1956.

Fr. Moe was 19 years old!

Fr. Moe's picture was discovered in a trunk of his oldest brother, Arnie, by Marion Church in January 2026. The painting signed by Fr. Moe Schroeder was painted in 1956 while he attended the Holy Rosary Scholasticate in Ottawa. The painting is on the family farm 11 miles south of Forgan, Saskatchewan. The two horses in the picture are Arnie's horses, May the mare & Denver the colt. Thank you Fr. Moe for sharing this great story.





Fr. George Gruber is doing well and he is loving his new shoes. Fr. George was excited to go walking and show them to his older brother, Frank Gruber who is in the picture below with Fr. George.

Frank and Fr. George both reside in the Cottage Neighborhood at Samaritan Place. It is quite beautiful to see them together when they are out of their rooms and taking a walk, watching television or having a coffee at the table.



Coffee Time at Trinity Manor

April 23rd was to be our coffee gathering but, sadly we were not able to gather due to the virus closure in Park Neighborhood.

However, our Oblate residents of Samaritan Place were blessed to enjoy the wonderful music of Wes Froese this week.

The staff live streamed it for the Park Neighborhood so both Fr. Paul and Bishop Gerry could enjoy the great music !



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.



A message from the SDC Treasurer's Office

Tax season is coming to an end and I am happy to report that there is just one more left to complete for the Saskatchewan District.

Please remember: If you are planning to take an Oblate Resident out of Parkridge Centre, Samaritan Place or Trinity Manor, please remember to sign them out and then sign them back in upon your return. Thank you so much for your attention to this request.

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

OMI Lacombe Canada Website: www.omilacombe.ca

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