

December 18, 2025

Oblates and Oblate Associates of OMI Lacombe Canada,

Re: Emerging Directions for New Ministries – Provincial Council Summary (December 2025)

Dear Oblates and Oblate Associates,

As Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, we are called to read the signs of the times and to respond together to the needs of the Church and the world. Guided by our Constitutions and Rules, and attentive to what we are hearing through recent Chapters and consultations, the Provincial Council continues to reflect on how we are to live our mission today and, in the years, ahead.

At its December 2025 meeting, the Provincial Council continued its discernment on future ministries in OMI Lacombe Canada. This work builds on earlier consultations and follows the guidance of the General Administration. One guiding principle shapes this work: **community and mission belong together, and ministry is provincial rather than individual.**

What follows is a summary of the main directions that emerged. This is **not a final plan**, but a way of sharing where the conversation is heading and of inviting further reflection and dialogue among Oblates and Oblate Associates. The Council also wants to be clear that **we intend to continue most, if not all, of our current ministries**, while looking for better focus and long-term sustainability.

1. Regional Overview

Western Region (Alberta & BC)

The Council looked at ways to strengthen existing communities by bringing ministries together and clarifying mission priorities. Areas named for particular attention include:

- Indigenous ministry and reconciliation
- Ministry with migrants and newcomers
- Street ministry and accompaniment of the poor
- Youth and young adult ministry
- Vocations promotion

There is also interest in expanding retreat and renewal ministries at Star of the North, where partnerships and funding make this possible, and in responding to emerging needs such as space for gatherings, young adult activities, and Indigenous initiatives.

Central Region (Saskatchewan & Manitoba)

No new ministries are being proposed at this time. Current ministries remain valued and supported. At the same time, the Council recognizes that distance, aging communities, and long-term sustainability may require continued reflection and future adjustments, in dialogue with the General Administration.

Eastern Region (Ontario)

Several urban settings were identified as possible centres for mission, with attention to:

- Young adults and vocations
- Street ministry and homelessness
- Migrants and refugees
- Collaboration with parishes, dioceses, religious communities, and social agencies

University settings and partnerships were noted as offering good opportunities to strengthen Oblate presence and identity.

2. Key Ministry Priorities Across the Province

Across OMI Lacombe Canada, the Council identified several priorities for further development:

- **Street Ministry / Homelessness**
This ministry needs to be rooted in respect for human dignity and carried out in cooperation with existing diocesan and community services. Presence and relationships matter.
- **Young Adult Ministry (18+)**
This is a clear provincial priority. It calls for continuity, trained ministers, and follow-up beyond single events. Learning from other Oblate provinces with large geographic areas will be important.
- **Migrant Ministry**
Good work is already being done. Further reflection is needed to understand where migrants and refugees are settling and how best to work with diocesan programs and other congregations.
- **Vocations Ministry**
There is strong agreement that vocations need renewed and intentional attention. This includes a team approach across regions, clear communication, and visible communities where healthy Oblate life can be experienced.

3. Way Forward: Continuing the Conversation

The Provincial Council is offering direction rather than a detailed plan at this stage. Existing ministries continue to be supported and valued. At the same time, there is a desire to focus more intentionally on street ministry, young adult ministry, vocations, and the ongoing discernment of migrant ministry.

This process will continue **until early spring**. In the coming months, conversations will take place with **Oblates and Oblate Associates**, and **dialogue with bishops will begin sooner rather than later**. Where helpful, guidance and support from the General Administration will also be sought.

Given current realities, the Council also recognizes the **challenge of limited personnel**. For this reason, we will be **asking the General Administration for support** in relation to personnel, as we continue this discernment.

Invitation

We share this summary in order to:

- Keep you informed
- Invite your reflection and response
- Encourage honest conversation about our mission today

Your experience, questions, and hopes matter. Further communication and opportunities for dialogue will follow.

With gratitude for your commitment and partnership in mission,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Andrzej Stendzina" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. Andrzej Stendzina, OMI
Provincial
OMI Lacombe Canada