

Colebrook shrine to close

A ministry which the Oblates began 66 years ago has come to an end, as they leave the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace in Colebrook, NH.

Reflecting on the beginning of that ministry, **Bro. Richard P. Coté, OMI**, recently wrote: “In the Fall of 1948, I arrived at the novitiate in Colebrook to begin my studies and training as an Oblate Brother.

“At that time the novices were building an outdoor shrine to our Blessed Mother as a thank you for the countless blessings she had bestowed on our congregation.

“The new shrine was soon dedicated to Our Lady of Grace at an outdoor service presided over by the bishop of Manchester, NH. The music was created and



Main feature of the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace.

delivered by the Van Trapp family singers, who came as a personal favor to **Fr. Alphonse Breault, OMI**, who was assigned there at the time.”

Fr. Adhemar Deveau, OMI, then the Shrine director, wrote in 1999, “Pilgrims are mostly seniors, Haitian communities and other communities of foreigners still fairly strong in their faith. ...Our service is towards poor communities.”

In 1976, bikers started coming to the Shrine for an annual blessing. They began donating time, energy and finances towards further development of the Shrine, donating in 1986 a statue entitled *Motorcyclists in Prayer*. In 1991, they unveiled a Memorial of Military Personnel from the U.S. who served in

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Fr. Bob Levesque at motorcycle blessing.

Discernment for province leadership underway

The first round of discerning and strawballoting for leadership of the province came to an end on March 28.

The first area meeting of five was held in King’s House, Buffalo, MN. Other areas meetings were held in Tewksbury, MA, San Antonio, TX, Belleville, IL, and Encino, CA. General Councillor

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Right, l-r: Frs. Cornelius Scanlan, Richard Hall, Dan Dionne (LaCombe province) and Ramiro Cortez at the Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio, Feb. 17.



Recently I spent

four days getting to know some of the people who live on the “West Side” of Buffalo, NY, and who are members of one of the three parish communities that we serve: Our Lady of Hope, Holy Cross and Holy Angels.

About 200 parishioners were in attendance at the tri-parish Lenten mission, which consisted each evening in a delicious soup and salad followed by an hour-long talk. The general theme was “*We are Called to be the Family of the Church*”. And what a wonderful family we are! I asked the people attending where they were born. While taking note of those of us born in the United States (with our own diverse roots) the **majority** of people attending the retreat were born **outside** the U.S. They were born in *Burundi, Rwanda, Nigeria, Tanzania, Cameroun, Myanmar (Burma), India, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Ecuador,*

Perú, Colombia, Argentina and Paraguay. I was told that parishioners from *Sudan, Mexico, Vietnam, and Eritrea* were missing that evening, among others.

The West Side of Buffalo is among the most diverse neighborhoods in this our nation of immigrants and refugees. A stroll through the colorful neighborhood reveals a significant Muslim population, as well as people, I can assume, of other beliefs and persuasions. I saw many infants, children, youth and elderly.

To hold up these differences is a sign of reverence and respect. Just as we who are creatures revere with a healthy fear our creator God as totally “*Other,*” we also revere with a sense of cautious respect and wonder “*others*” with distinctive ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. I firmly believe that it is Jesus Christ, the face of God, whom we see in the faces of these sisters and brothers in Buffalo.

At the same time, while respectfully noting the distinctions and differences among us, we know that

we are called to be one humanity, one Church. In fact we are one.

A recent event took place which invites us to build on what unites us. Only a few months after his election, Pope Francis announced the canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II and that has since taken place on April 27, 2014. What unites the two Popes as extraordinary human beings and followers of Christ in the Church is overwhelmingly *greater* than any differences between them.

The same can be said for Oblates. Although we may not always sense it, we are more united in the essentials than divided by our own diversity. I cannot speak for other Oblate units, but I believe that a clearer expressed unity among us as a U.S. province as regards “*who we are*” will only strengthen us. It is a question of our *identity* as Oblates and it involves our future as well. The question is: *Who are we as Oblates and who are we inviting to be Oblates with us?*

It has been pointed out to me by our vocation directors that what attracts many young adults today to religious life are clear and uniform external signs of identity as well as the use of some traditional devotions, and so on. Such a motivation is understandable, but for a future Oblate it can only be the beginning of a life-long vocation. Where growth needs to be seen is in the ability and openness to assume a deeper identity as an Oblate. If such growth doesn’t appear in first formation, that is a sign that a serious re-evaluation of one’s future as an Oblate needs to take place.

The theme of “Oblate identity” is vast and certainly much has been



The People of Burma Choir at Holy Cross parish in Buffalo, NY.

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From the Provincial

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written on the subject. I think it will be more and more crucial for us to be able to describe more readily *who we are*, especially to young men who are interested in joining us.

In speaking with a younger person recently, I was told that he considered himself a “conservative and traditional Catholic”. I said that’s wonderful but I said to him that Oblates are not “conservative and traditional,” nor are we “liberal and progressive”. Instead, we are Oblates.

Our Constitutions and Rules point us toward the answer to the question “who are we?”:

- we are committed to the evangelization of the poor, with their many faces;
- we are priests and Brothers set apart for the Gospel;
- we are religious whose personal oblation and vows sustain our passion for the mission;
- the cross of Jesus Christ is central to our mission;
- the community of the apostles is the model of our life;
- we work in union with the pastors of the Church and we will always be close to the people with whom we work;
- we are missionaries who give a prominent place to youth in our ministry;
- we are committed to work for justice, peace and the integrity



Passing through Washington, DC on his way from Haiti, Fr. Miguel Fritz, OMI dropped in at the Provincial House, April 8-10. Born in Hanover, Germany, much of his ministry was to the indigenous people of the Chaco region in Paraguay. Before becoming General Councilor for Latin America, he served as provincial of Paraguay. *Above, chatting with George Ngolwe and Fr. Antonio Ponce, OMI in the JPIC offices.*

of creation which is an integral part of evangelization;

- we pray, read, study and discuss among ourselves, always able and willing to listen to one another, to learn and to grow in an integrated way in our own persons and humanity.

In identifying ourselves as Oblates, we need to be able to point to our *personal and community prayer life, our fraternal charity and hospitality in apostolic community, our zealous and creative missionary outreach and our love for and closeness to God’s people.*

We can be thankful that some of the young men in first formation are examples of piety, fervor and prayerfulness, and we can learn from their example. For all of us, piety, fervor and

prayer need to grow into a *humaneness, warmth and mellowness.* Pope Francis has been clear on the importance of being a more compassionate, pastoral, less clerical and bureaucratic Church.

Here are two questions that come to my mind that may be helpful for us as a province.

◆ *How can we as a province be more profoundly united in our Oblate identity, even when we sense the diversity and differences among us?*

◆ *How can we communicate more clearly from the very beginning in first formation and vocation ministry this Oblate identity to our candidates in order to get beyond superficial labels and polarization?*

May the “bridge building” among diverse ethnic groups in Buffalo be an incentive to build bridges among ourselves. —Fr. Bill Antone, OMI

Between 600-700 people attended the Mass of Christian Burial for **Fr. Jim Erving, OMI, 43.**

The long-time funeral director for the Oblates remarked it was the biggest funeral for an Oblate he had seen. People came in large numbers from Roma, Eagle Pass and Port Isabel where Jim had served. Close to 50 Oblates concelebrated the Mass.

A great promoter of the Knights of Columbus, Jim's support was acknowledged by nearly 40 Fourth Degree Knights who formed an honor guard as his casket was carried to the nearby Oblate Cemetery following the Mass in Immaculate Conception Chapel, San Antonio, TX.

Jim also was a great promoter of vocations. I hope his prayers will move young men from his former parishes to respond to an Oblate vocation.
-Fr. Charles Banks, OMI



After the Mass of Christian Burial, the provincial Fr. Bill Antone, OMI, presented Fr. Ervin's Oblate cross to Fr. Raul Salas, OMI. Newly perpetually professed Oblates often receive the cross of a deceased Oblate, to carry on his missionary ministry.



This summer the The Lourdes Grotto/ Tepeyac Shrine of San Antonio is planning another Musical Camp for teens from June 15 to 21, 2014.

Under the direction of **Fr. Leo Perez, OMI**, the production this year will be Meredith Willson's "The Music Man," to be presented at the Grotto at 8:15p.m. on Saturday June 21st.

Last year, having it's largest number of attendees to date, the 25 energetic and talented teenagers rehearsed and prayed for a week, culminating in a public presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!"

Music and Drama High School teachers from the city led the acting and song rehearsals. A staff of Youth Counselors, made up of young Oblate seminarians, integrated spiritual sessions into the daily schedule.

For a brochure or more information on participation, contact lperez@ost.edu.

Colebrook shrine

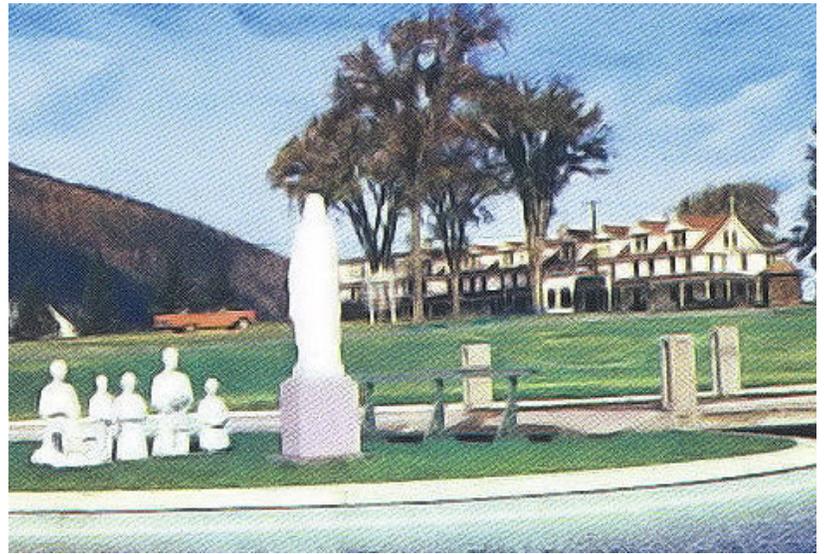
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Operation Desert Storm. Then in the Fall of 1991 they built a 20 foot campanile, surmounted by a large cross.

On March 24, 2014, **Frs. William Antone** and **James Taggart** sent almost 1,000 letters to various places in the U.S. and Canada, explaining what is transpiring and expressing appreciation to those who have supported and visited the shrine through the years.

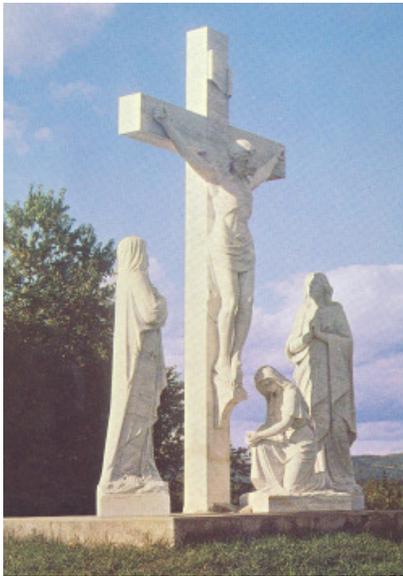
The Shrine will have an abbreviated 2014 Season beginning on Mother's Day, May 11, and closing on July 1. **Fr. Henri Delisle, OMI**, the remaining Oblate in residence will offer daily Mass while he is there.

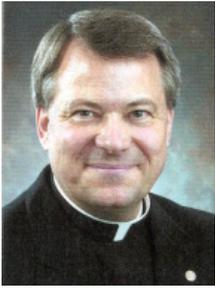
The Blessing of Bikes will take place Sunday, June 29. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Shrine on Sunday, July 13



at noon, followed by a reception.

Bro. Coté and Fr. Taggart are assisting Fr. Delisle in the transition process. A Shrine memory book entitled: *“The Lady who GRACED New Hampshire’s Great North Woods”* is going to the printer and will be available at the closing Mass.





At the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Robert Schreiter, CPPS, Professor of Missiology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago addressed us religious men on the topic of globalization and its effect on the new evangelization.

Particularly, he spoke about how religious life can significantly contribute to help bring about the new evangelization in the midst of ever increasing globalization.

Schreiter defined globalization as “compression of time and space.” Instantaneous communication, greater ease of travel, increasing interdependence of global economies, to name just a few, have made our planet much smaller.

Schreiter named five particular ways religious life can positively help bring about the new evangelization in the midst of rapidly increasing globalization:

- 1) Our charism – the special, particular, gifts the Spirit gave to our Founders/Foundresses at specific moments in history to renew/re-evangelize the society/the culture/the church;
- 2) Our international character – many of our congregations are international in character so we easily go beyond national boundaries in our approach, our way of conducting business;
- 3) Our networking and co-operation – we have a rich history of collaboration with organizations/societal structures/governments for greater apostolic effectiveness;
- 4) Our apostolates – we have often been on the “cutting edge” in addressing the needs and concerns of people all over the world, especially focusing on the “cry of the poor;”
- 5) Our style and proclamation – our way of living out our life of commitment and witness. “The world pays more attention to witnesses than to teachers,” Schreiter reminded us. “Proclamation,” Pope Francis says, “begins with listening.” The most common word our new Pope employs in his talks is “joy” and the second most common is “mercy”. Schreiter defined “mercy” as “living out the unbounded love of God for the world.” The themes of “joy” and “mercy” are found in our way of life, our Constitutions and Rules. These themes, and other gospel themes of “compassion,” “peace,” “justice,” define who we are as religious.

As religious, we readily applaud Pope Francis. As religious, we are challenged to ask whether we will be able to follow this Pope with the joy and mercy he offers the world.

These gospel themes can be tremendous gifts we religious continue to give to the world as the “compression of time and space” continues at an ever rapid pace. We religious will likely be called upon more and more by the wider

*Please remember in prayer
our recently departed*

Mary Frances Brown, 86, mother of Fr. Warren Brown, OMI, died on Feb. 15 in Midland, TX.

Claire Lussier, 86, sister of Fr. Lucien Sawyer, OMI, died on Feb. 17 in Merrimack, NH.

Maria de la Luz Cadena Gutierrez, 99, grandmother of Fr. Tony Ortiz, died Feb. 27 in Mexico..

Lena Loiacano, 95, mother of Fr. Jim Loiacono, OMI, died on March 1 in CA.

Doris Daigle, 84, sister-in-law of the late Bro. Donat Daigle, OMI, died on Feb. 26 in Lowell, MA.

Fr. Francois Dyjak, OMI, formerly of the Central US Province, died on March 3 in Vancouver, Canada.

Sr. Therese Deveau, SMSM, 88, sister of Fr. Adhemar Deveau, OMI, died on March 9 in Waltham, MA.

Maria del Carmen Gonzalez, mother of Fr. Salvador Gonzalez, OMI, died on March 10 in Modesto, CA.

Rinda Sue Parker, 63, sister-in-law of Fr. Carroll Parker, OMI, died on March 2 in Chetopa, KS.

Arthur Villarreal, 86, brother of Fr. Louis J. Villarreal, OMI, died on March 9 in Turnersville, NJ.

Alfred Delisle, 84, brother of Fr. Henri Delisle, OMI, died on March 13 in Manchester, NH.

Bro. Paul Ricard, 69, died on March 15 in Tewksbury, MA.

Fr. Jim C. Erving, OMI, 43, died on March 18 in San Antonio, TX.

Rae Wynne, 80, sister-in-law of Fr. Jim Wynne, OMI, died on March 24 in Pawtucket, RI.

Fr. Arthur King, OMI, 81, died on March 24 in Lowell, MA.

Sukirtham Singararar, sister-in-law of Fr. Philip Singarayar, OMI, died March 30 in Sydney, Australia.

Finn Lynge, 80, former Oblate, died on April 4 in Qaqortoq, Greenland.

Debbie Sanduskey, 50, sister of Fr. Gari Ruthenberg, OMI, died on April 5 in Germany.

Lou De George, sister-in-law of Fr. Sal De George, OMI, died on April 7 in Houston, TX.

Neal Gallagher, 90, father of Fr. Greg Gallagher, OMI, died on April 11 in St. Paul, MN.

Church as the Church continues to seek new ways to evangelize and give credible witness to these values.

-Fr. Lou Studer, OMI

P *Prayer-Our Deepest Longing* was the theme of this year's De Mazenod Conference, held at the Oblate Renewal Center, on the campus of Oblate School of Theology (OST) in San Antonio, Feb. 28-March 2.

MISSIONARY OBLATE PARTNERSHIP

Arthur A. Pingolt, Jr.
President

eral other states in the US and one participant, a missionary from Zambia, had just recently arrived back in

Artie Pingolt and Partner **Len Busch** welcomed Conference speaker, author and OST President, **Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI** with a welcome and prayer shawl from India. Pingolt indicated that on a recent trip to Chennai, INDIA, he and Busch heard from religious in India about the appeal of Rolheiser's books on spirituality.

Over the three days, Fr. Rolheiser gave four separate talks based on the new book, *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing*, he had published in 2013, and conducting a two hour question/answer/reflection session on the final day.

Forty Oblate Partners, friends and Oblates came from Texas and sev-

the States.

Fr. Rolheiser's session topics included private contemplation and meditation; liturgical prayer; and an understanding of how present-day culture can both positively and negatively impact our faith and prayer lives. He drew from numerous personal experiences and a wide variety of spiritual authors and theologians.

In addition to the four lecture sessions, the weekend included small and large group discussions, morning prayer and liturgy.

Fr. Tom Singer, OMI and Partner Alicia von Stamwitz served as facilitators for the weekend. Conference Sponsors were **Bonnie & Frank Gittinger, Gee Gee & John**



Len Busch presents a shawl received from the Oblate community in Chennai, India to Fr. Rolheiser.

Whitehurst, and the Liturgical Press.

US Oblates present for all or part of the weekend included **Frs. John Collet, David Kalert, Bill Morell, John Staak, Nino Lajo, Leo Perez, and Lou Studer.**

The topic for the 2015 De Mazenod Conference, most likely in San Antonio again, has not been determined.



The retreatants gathered for a group photo before the impressive bas relief of the Oblate Cavalry of Christ.

St Casimir's event recalls past customs

For many years, St. Casimir's, a Polka Mass has led off the annual parish festival. This March 4, for the third time, Nathan's Old Time Band did the honors. **Fr. Greg Cholewa, OMI**, pastor, was celebrant.

In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis commented on the positive and negative aspects of popular religiosity. (#'s 68-69, 115). Oblates are accustomed to a Jazz Mass at the Shrine of St. Jude in New Orleans, LA; Hispanics in Texas participate in Mariachi and Flamenco Masses.

A photo of a First Mass party on the steps of St. Casimir's, discovered among the effects of Harriet Maslowski exemplifies a popular religious custom that used to occur at the first Masses of priests from the parish.

Harriet had been a bridesmaid at the June 11, 1939 First Mass of her brother, **Fr. John Maslowski, OMI**,

the first American born pastor of St. Casimir's, and the first native son to become an Oblate. In the accompanying photo, the *bride* is Harriet's sister Agnes (now a Felician sister in Chicago, IL). Harriet is to Agnes' right; her twin sister Irene, (now living in Florida), is to the left. The page boys (wearing wigs and scowls) carry the wheat and the grapes. Fr. John is in the middle of the first row of priests. The archpriest, (a role that disappeared after Vatican II) to the left, is unidentified.

In the back row, middle, is the legendary first Oblate pastor of St. Casimir's, **Fr. Andrew Stojar**. **Fr. Valentine Goetz, OMI** is at the far right. In the first row, far left is **Fr. Stan Sergot, OMI**.

The bride holds a hand embroidered pillow with a wreath, presumably presented to the newly ordained priest. Kept in a case in Harriet's room until she died, the item was re-



cently presented by the family to St. Casimir's.

Why a bride and bridesmaids? It seems that the symbolism of Jesus as the groom and the Church as His bride is the basis. The priest of Jesus is married to the Church, His bride, and the Polish Americans wanted to show this at the First Mass of the priest. It may also reflect a very basic belief that the priest's family and he are as close as the bride and groom of a family. So far, we have been unable to locate any written material about this custom of a bride and bridesmaids. We welcome information about it.

Irene Maslowski was a bridesmaid of **Fr. Jim Pillar, OMI** at his first Mass at St. Casimir's in 1954. Some material from the Maslowski First Mass was used at that of **Fr. John Pilaczynski, OMI** in 1958.

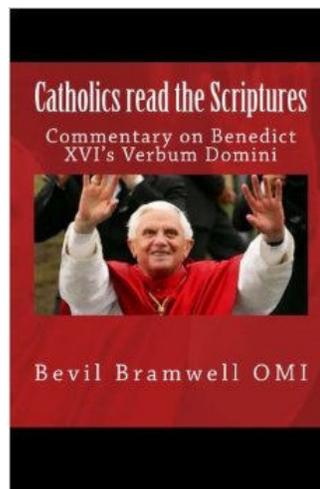
A large room in the school hall now used for banquets, was called for many years "Maslowski Hall," reflecting the importance of this family to St. Casimir's parish.

The month of March saw the publication of a new work by **Fr. Bevil Bramwell, OMI**, *Catholics read the Scriptures*.

The work is a commentary on Benedict XVI's remarkable exhortation *Verbum domini - The Word of God*. He explained: "In the word of God proclaimed and heard, and in the sacraments, Jesus says today, here and now, to each person: 'I am yours.'"

This commentary unpacks the meaning of the scriptures for the community of faith so that everyone can indeed meet the Divine Word. Benedict also shows the possible uses of the modern tools of exegesis but also their limitations when dealing with the word given by God to his Church.

"Of the commentaries on Verbum Domini (VD) found here and there, this one is a must read," wrote one reader. "Bramwell's commentary presents reliable, balanced, theologically insightful, technically pristine and especially readable guide through a very deep text."



Gardeners gather

To start the garden season on the “back 40” of the provincial property, a small gathering of folks connected to the project gathered on April 5.

Developer, sparkplug and main gardener, **Gail Taylor** introduced those attending and, after representatives of different groups introduced themselves and the work their organization was involved in, took them on a tour of the garden areas.

Fr. Séamus Finn, OMI, speaking for the Oblates who volunteered the use of the land for the garden, welcomed the group and told of how the project fits in with the mission of the province’s Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation department.

Provincial **Fr. Bill Antone** seconded Fr. Finn’s points.

Those present included some of the volunteers, three groups that work with youth, and also some of the recipients of the garden produce, such



as Damien Ministries, DC Greens, Black Belt Justice, Grand Aspirations, Green Girls Go, Dreaming Out Loud and the Green Scheme.

City councilor **David Grosso**, a friend and strong advocate for urban, neighborhood gardening in DC, dropped by to have a look and express his support for this and other efforts like it in the district.



Clockwise from above: A few of the representatives of some of the area groups involved in connecting communities to healthy food in DC; Garden-based teacher training; Farmers market incentive programs; and legal aid to those in need. -Fr. Finn; -Gail Taylor and Fr. Antonio Poncé, OMI; -David Grosso with Fr. Antone.



CROCUS meets in New Orleans

The U.S. Province hosted the Oblate leadership from the three provinces of Canada for the CROCUS meeting, March 10-15, at the Spirit Life Retreat Center in Rosaryville, Ponchatoula, LA.

The Canadian Oblates left two feet of snow and zero degrees for the balmy 70 degree temperature of New Orleans, LA. Understandably, some planned to remain a few days after the meeting ended.

Participants visited the Oblate mission center in St. Jude's Shrine and parish and the outreach to the poor of the neighborhood. The Oblates also provide spiritual assistance at a nearby retreat center.



Back, l-r: Frs. Warren Brown, Wojciech Koval (Assumption); Jacques Lalibeté (Notre-Dame-du-Cap); Lou Studer; Ken Thorson (Lacombe); CROCUS executive secretary, Danielle Brisson; Front, l-r: Frs. Ken Forster (Lacombe); Marian Gil (Assumption); Bill Antone; Luc Tardif (Notre-Dame-du-Cap).

'Under 10' to meet in Mexico City

by Fr. Jim Brobst, OMI

For some years now, the Oblates who have been out of first formation for five years or less have been gathering annually with the Province Administration Team at the invitation of the provincial in order to build relationships with each other and the administration, and to discuss matters of mutual importance.

Attendance is considered mandatory, and is neither an annual retreat nor a vacation. This invitation has been expanded to include all who have completed first formation within ten years,

but it is not mandatory for the 6-10 years crowd.

Recent studies show that the five years after first formation are the most difficult for religious and priests, and have the highest drop-out rate. These statistics are true across the U.S. for newer clergy and religious. Peer support is essential, but it is often distant and there are fewer peers at this stage than in years past.

The 2014 meeting will be held at an Oblate retreat house in Tepoztlan, near Mexico City, a convenient location to active Oblate ministry sites in Mexico City. We hope to learn from them some of the dynamics of being a smaller province, and to hear about recent projects there which are increasing vocations. Some of their men have come to San Antonio for education, and

two of our current younger men have done scholastic formation in Mexico.

Reaching across borders is something we naturally value as missionaries. In this case, the "reach" strengthens ties already present and important to maintain.

One of many things we try to do these days is balance is our budget. Holding such a meeting in Mexico may cost a bit more for some on the transportation side, but is considerably cheaper for all on the room and board side. Of course, future meeting locations will include tried-and-true locations within the geography of the province.

Whether at home or abroad, there is always the gospel challenge to push ourselves beyond the comfortable and what is already well-known to us. What else should people who bear the title "missionary" do?



Global War on Christians continues in Pakistan

Agenzia Fides reports that new death sentences for blasphemy affect the Christian community in Pakistan. A Christian couple, Shafqat Emmanuel, who is disabled, and his wife, Shagufta Kausar, arrested in Gojra last July, were sentenced to die by a court in Toba Tek Singh on April 4, on charges of blasphemy: accused of sending blasphemous text messages.

Fr. Aloysius Roy, Superior of the Pakistani province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, told *Fides*: **“We are seriously concerned. Cases like these are common and cause great suffering. We continue to pray, while the issue remains unresolved.**

“We express our solidarity, but Christians keep a low profile, because life is full of difficulties and dangers, and for us the first commandment is to survive. Christians are afraid and they move with extreme caution.”

The couple have four minor children, who are now being looked after by “World Vision in Progress.” As reported to *Fides*, the evidence of the innocence of the two is very clear: the Sim card from where the messages were sent is not registered in the name of the

victims.

In addition, the two being illiterate, were not able to send any messages in English. The lawyers have appealed to the High Court.

The Oblates take care of a total of 10 parishes in four dioceses in

Pakistan, and “the challenges that they have to deal with are above all the injustices that we see every day at the expense of the Christian faithful.”

Fr. Roy said: “From the government we expect respect for the law, the rule of law and freedom of worship provided for in the Constitution.”



The photos are from Fr. Séamus Finn's file, taken in 2006 when he and Fr. Rufus Whitley were visiting the Oblate ministry sites in Pakistan. At that time Fr. Alex Joseph was superior of the delegation. They are pictured at a school run by Sisters in collaboration with the Oblates.



Drum making in White Earth, MN

On March 22, Fr. Walter Butor, OMI, Terry Kemper, a Spiritual Director on the White Earth Reservation, and eight parishioners from St. Benedict's Parish gathered together in the church hall to make tribal hand drums. We made four drums in total, and the process was somewhat time consuming.

First of all we needed to gather the materials. We purchased an elk hide for \$250 and then bought the drum hoops. Terry and I collected some cedar and pine



branches for the drumsticks. We had some shells and rocks donated to complete the center of the drums. everything we used and the entire process was very spiritual and symbolic.

We next had to soak the elk hide for a day to make it pliable. Saturday everyone gathered at the church and we began with a prayer and a pipe ceremony. Those who already had their own drums played and sang a few songs, and then we began. Each person chose their hoop, laid it on the elk hide and marked out.

We could only fit four drums from the hide. Each person then cut out their piece of hide, and with the remnants, began to cut the strands or stings that were needed to hold the drum together. It wasn't the easiest thing in the world to cut the hide, but all did well.



The toughest process was stretching the hide over the hoops and stringing the laces into the shells and rocks in the center. Some people had to restring their drums four times to get them right. Once this was done the drums were basically



finished. Then each person made their own drumstick from the cedar or pine with red yarn wrapped around the top and then covered with leather.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and took their drums home to dry for 4 days. Once dried, they will be painted and decorated to each person's taste. Following a ceremony for each drum to signify the connectedness of the male and female in each, there will be a feast to honor all their work.

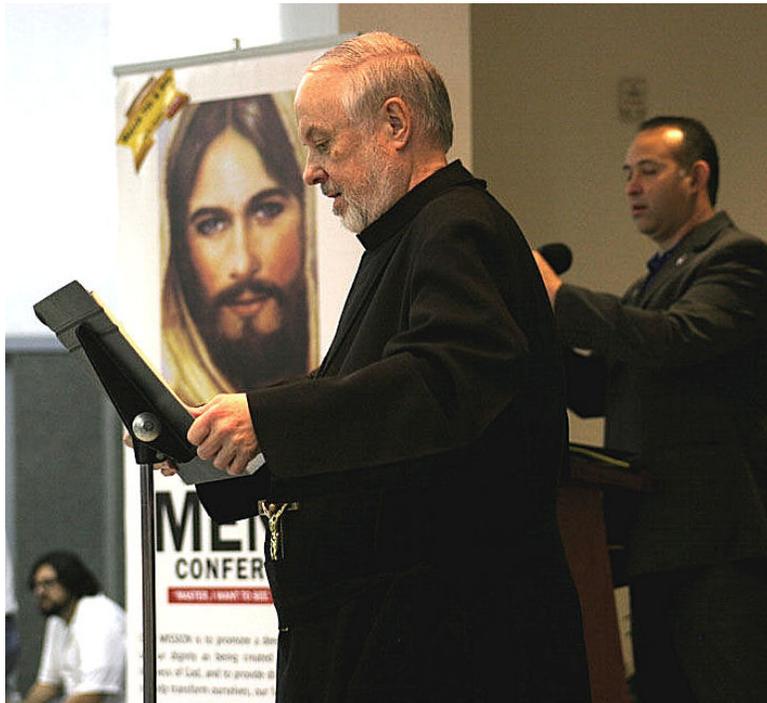
Our hope is to gather together to learn some traditional Ojibwe songs, and eventually to play as a group at Mass and other celebrations. Eventually, when we raise more money, we hope to do this again. Many people seemed to be interested, and it is especially appealing to our younger parishioners.



Oblate featured speaker at Catholic Men's Conference

Fr. Ed Hauf, OMI, Parochial Vicar at St. Mary's Parish in San Antonio, TX was recently a featured speaker at the 10th annual Catholic Men's Conference for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

The Conference is held each year to promote a deeper understanding of the dignity of men, created in the image and likeness of God and to provide direction and resources to help men transform themselves, their families, and society by having a fuller understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church, a deeper sense of prayer and holiness, and an opportunity to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and personal healing. Over 500 men attended the event.



Fr. Ed's topic was *Men and Spiritual Warfare* in which he shared how to be successful in the never-ending battle against men, their families and society being waged by satanic forces, the media, and the current secular culture.

He is also currently hosting a live TV show on Catholic Television in San Antonio each month, and just finished a program with **Fr. Charlie Banks, OMI** on vocations.

Fr. Ed is a member of a priest's group in the Archdiocese delving more deeply into the area of Deliverance Ministry, helping to heal those caught up in demonic bondage and infestation, occult practices, and related spiritual issues.

The Oblate Missionary Partnership advisory committee held its quarterly meeting at St. Henry's residence, Belleville, IL, on March 21.

Discussion centered around fundraising, the status of projects and activities, planning future events and a review of the foundational documents of the Partnership covering mission vision statements, etc.

Around the table, from l: Artie Pingolt, Frs. Billy Morell, Ray John Marek, Tom Singer and Séamus Finn. Member Diane Conocchioli joined by phone from Washington, DC.

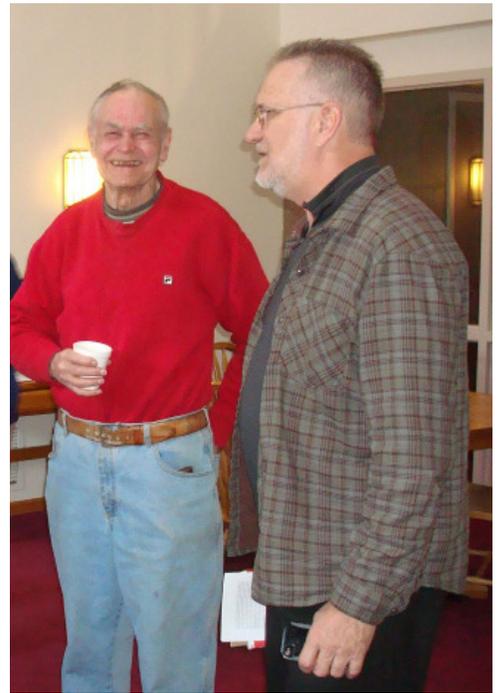


Leadership Discernment

Continued from page 1

Fr. Warren Brown, present at all meetings, stressed that the concerns of each Oblate expressed on the official ballot (sent to Rome April 6) are seriously considered by the general administration, and conveyed to the new provincial administration.

At the beginning of the April-May 2014 Plenary Session of the General Council in Rome, the Provincial and two Administrative Councillors will be named. Toward the end of that same session, the other six Councilors will be appointed.



A few photos of the meetings, mostly taken by Fr. Lou Studer, OMI.

Clockwise, from above: Frs. Al Svobody; Terry Figel & Bill Antone; Joe Pitts & Jack Lau; Tom Hayes, Elmar Mauer & Jim Wynne; Carl Kabat & Deacon Tom Frank; Frs. Jim Brobst & Lon Konold.



Oblates celebrate ordination, profession jubilees



The 2014 jubilee anniversaries of 36 Oblates noting first profession and of 38 observing ordination to the priesthood have been scheduled in three locations: at the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX, on April 29; Immaculate Heart of Mary Residence, Tewksbury, MA, on June 9; and Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, IL, on Sept. 4.

Besides the U.S. Areas, jubilarians minister in 3 mission fields: Brazil, Japan, and Bolivia.

First Profession:

70th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Parick Guidon
Rev. Daniel O’Leary
Rev. Aloysius Svobodny

65th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. William Clark
Rev. Raymond Crowe
Rev. Myles Cyr
Rev. Francis Demers
Rev. William DuiBuisson
Rev. James Foelker
Rev. George McLean
Rev. Roberto Peña
Rev. James Pilar
Rev. John Sokolski

Rev. Luis Valbuena

Rev. James Wynne

60th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Charles Breault
Rev. Ronald Carignan
Rev. Roger Cyr
Rev. Thomas Delaney (Brazil)
Rev. Leo Dummer
Rev. Patrick Hollywood
Rev. Carl Kabat
Rev. Robert Lacasse (Bolivia)
Rev. Roger J. Lamoureux
Rev. Joseph Pitts
Rev. Raymond Steen

Rev. Patrick Thompson

50th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Thomas Cooughlin
Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick (Brazil)
Rev. Francis Hahn (Japan)
Rev. Richard McAlear
Rev. J. William Morell
Rev. Robert Morin

40th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. James Loiacano

25th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Marcos de Lima (Recifie)
Rev. Luiz de Melo (Recifie)



ORDINATION:

70th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. George Croft

65th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Lucien Sawyer
Rev. Aloysius Svobodny

60th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Raymond Crowe
Rev. Myles Cyr
Rev. Ciaran Dillon
Rev. John King
Rev. James Pillar
Rev. Charles Sellars
Rev. Bertram Silver (Japan)
Rev. Martin Walsh

50th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Donald Arel
Rev. Gerard Barrett
Rev. Roger Berkamp

Rev. Richard Bolduc

Rev. George Brown

Rev. Eugene Cañas

Rev. Terence Figel

Rev. Isidore Garcia

Rev. Alfonso Gioppato

Rev. Thomas Hayes

Rev. Charles Héon

Rev. David Kalert

Rev. Elmar Mauer

Rev. Paul Medeiros (Brazil)

Rev. Paul Nourie

Rev. Norma Parent

Most Rev. Michael Pfeifer

Rev. Phillip Singarayay

Rev. Harry Winter

40th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Stephen Conserva

Rev. Raymond Marquis

Rev. Daniel Nassaney

Rev. José Tores

Rev. Eugne J. Tremblay\

Rev. Robert Wright

25th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. John Ettensohn

Rev. Andrew Knop

Rev. Ray John Marek



✓ **Fr. Peter Novak, OMI**, from Queen of Apostles Renewal Center (Assumption Province) in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada spent nine days at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN, in early March. Fr. Peter was able to observe the Preaching Team of Christ the King present three retreats. Fr. Peter was interested in learning more about the team approach to developing and presenting retreats and experiencing the various prayer services that have been developed by the team.

✓ **Fr. John Hanley, OMI** is being honored by Lowell Catholic High School on April 8 at the *Thirteenth Annual Bishop John R. McNamara Awards Gala* taking place at Lenzi's in Dracut, MA. There will be a reception and dinner followed by the award presentation. Bishop McNamara was an ardent supporter of catholic education and Fr. Hanley is being honored for his many years of service to Lowell Catholic High School where he served on the board for 14 years. Congratulations!



✓ It's been 50 years since **Fr. John Maronic, OMI** founded the Victim Missionaries (now re-named Victorious Missionaries). A VM 50th Founding Anniversary was celebrated May 2-4, 2014, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. **Bro. Tom Ruhmann, OMI** is presently the VM National Director.



✓ The province has accepted an offer to do campus ministry at Rice University in Houston, TX. After an interview process with the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, **Fr. Ray Cook, OMI** has been accepted as future campus minister.

✓ After 91 years of ministry in Sisseton, SD, the Oblates will leave the parish and the ministry to the Native American (Sioux) population begun there by **Frs. John Pohlen** and **Joseph Schuster**. A Mass at St. Peter's parish on June 22 will mark the transition of the ministry to the Sioux Falls diocese. **Frs. Joseph Hitpas** and **Anthony Dummer** will be the last Oblates to serve there.

✓ The province is also relinquishing Mary Immaculate Parish in Pacoima, CA to the Los Angeles Archdiocese, where **Oblate Frs. Victor Santoyo** (of the Peru province) and **John Curran** presently serve. The final Mass there will be celebrated on June 28.

✓ **Bros. David Uribe** and **Jesse Esqueda** will be ordained to the priesthood on May 16 in St. Mark the Evangelist Church, San Antonio, TX, by **Bishop Claude Champagne, OMI** of the diocese of Edmundston, Canada.

Correction to: the March 2014 issue of OMIUSA (p. 11). **Frs. Boniface Wittenbrink** (not **Peter Grams**) and **Darrell Rupiper** were the first missionaries to join **Fr. Jaime Kohmetscher** in Recife, Brazil in 1964. (*Missions OMI*, 1965, p. 221)..

In Memoriam: **Paul E. Gonzales**, April 29, 1926-Feb. 16, 2014, a 1945 graduate of St. Anthony's seminary, San Antonio, TX, *by his wife.*

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT THE PROVINCE'S WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND LINKS TO OTHER OBLATE NEWS ITEMS: WWW.OMIUSA.ORG



May 11, 2014
World Day of Prayer for
Vocations

God of joyful hope and faithful
love:

you call us to share fully in the
mission of your Son.

May we love and respect all you
have created and be disciples
of the Good News especially
among the dispossessed.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, may
others be inspired to leave nothing
undared for the Gospel by becom-
ing Oblates of Mary Immaculate.
*St Eugene de Mazenod, Pray for
us.*

OMI - USA

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