



Jubilee celebrations begin

The first of the three province jubilee observances of ordinations and first vows anniversaries began on April 5, at a Mass in the Immaculate Conception Memorial Chapel in San Antonio, TX, with **Fr. Charles Banks, OMI** as main celebrant and homilist.

Following the celebratory Mass,

a warm reception was held at the Whitley Theological Center.

Present at the event celebrating first vows were: **Frs. Francis Montalbano, William Davis, José Gago, Valmond LeClerc, Mike Levy, James Miller, Galeb Mokarzel, John Castro, Ruben Elizondo, Tony Rigoli, Ron**

Above, l-r: **Frs. Bill Davis, Ed Hauf, John Castro, Charles Banks, Tony Rigoli, José Gago, James Miller, Frank Santucci and Raul Salas**

Rolheiser, Richard Sudlik and Raul Salas.

Frs Francis Santucci, Charles Banks, Edward Hauf and José Gago were marking their ordination anniversaries. *See p. 11 for determination of years.*



The Regional Oblate Conference of Canada-United States (CROCUS), along with General Councilor **Fr. Warren Brown**, held its bi-annual meeting March 7-13 in Baja California. Canon lawyer **Fr. Frank Morrisey, OMI**, presented on District communities and the role of superiors, and **Fr. Antonio Ponce** reported on the JPIC ministry in the Region. The last two days of the meeting were spent in San Diego with treasurers of the Region and the General Treasurer.

Photo, left: In the course of their deliberations they took one day to travel to La Morita in Tijuana, Mexico, to meet with prenovices and local Oblate Affiliates.

“Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful.” (Lk. 6, 36)

During this season of Spring and in the midst of the Jubilee of Mercy, I hope that each of us has been able to enjoy a gentle rainfall or two followed by the warm rays of the sun. These are blessings from above.

I grew up in a rainy part of the country, and when the sun shines through it is glorious. When I was a 20-year-old novice, my novice director, Fr. Tom Hayes, reminded me during a celebration of the sacrament of confession that God’s mercy was like the falling rain. That simple image has remained with me.

I suppose the sun’s rays breaking through the moisture-laden clouds only confirm the truth of God’s mercy, which, we are reminded by Pope Francis, is “excessive.” *If we do not believe this, we may need to begin by asking for the grace to be able to forgive ourselves.* The gift of receiving God’s mercy will soften our own hearts, especially when we judge and size up of others.



The Way of the Cross service at El Barril

Even so, for those of us who profess and teach the Gospel, there is a surprising, contradictory and very disappointing tendency to fall into hard-hearted and judgmental thinking.

Now after three years of preaching a consistent message rooted in the Gospel (which, please note, cannot exclude Jesus’ hard words directed to the scribes and Pharisees), a comment I hear is that Pope Francis is being “too soft, too merciful” and thus is inviting trouble.

I found it interesting to read a few words from Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna, Austria. *“The callousness of the disciples with Jesus is probably the most terrible suffering for Jesus, not the hardening of the hearts of enemies, but the hardening of the hearts of the disciples.”*

Perhaps we have become hardened by the way the world distributes “mercy.” Perhaps we have not stood in the grace that rains down on us. Usually the greatest

mercy the world can ever provide is the fair and lenient application of just laws. We are blessed by the rule of law, and we thank God for God’s law as we have received it. But the law does not stop us from extending a hand or opening our heart to one an-



other with mercy, clemency, healing, forgiveness and understanding.

Recently an Oblate canon lawyer, Fr. Frank Morrissey, spent some time with us at our latest CROCUS meeting. He has spent his Oblate life as a canon lawyer, and *he makes Church law a lamp for the path and an uplifting pastoral word for the followers of Jesus.*

This pastoral application of law makes me think of a recent experience during Holy Week.

A young man interested in becoming an Oblate (Derrick Huestis) and I served during Holy Week in a little village in Baja California. The village of “El Barril” has a population of around 100, and the vast majority of the men are *pescadores*, that is, fishermen.

El Barril lies on the eastern side of the Baja peninsula, on the shores of the Sea of Cortez. It takes two days from San Diego/Tijuana to get there by vehicle, the last 5 hours on an isolated dirt road which winds through “forests” of many varieties of

From the Provincial

Continued from page 1

desert plants and cactus, including the giant *saguaro* and the graceful *cirio*. There are no stores or gas stations in El Barril and basic services of electricity, running water and sanitation in each home are not reliable, if they even exist. The families are all quite poor.

Two couples in the *El Barril* would like to have their marriages “blessed.” Both are married by civil law and have children. They are excited about living more fully their lives as



El Barril's Altar of Reposition

couples and as parents and are open to and hungry for “instructions” and catechesis.

Naturally there are some official documents that need to be gathered as they prepare for the sacrament and there is an expected fee for the parish, which, given the poverty, is quite high.

Unfortunately, the paper work and fees required by the local parish to which the village belongs have become an obstacle for their moving forward. I believe they will eventually succeed in getting married in the Church.

Without downplaying the importance of such paperwork and sti-



Fr. Antone and Derrick (*kneeling*) after services at El Barril

pend, I feel God’s mercy could easily rain down upon these people a little more freely and that a pastoral accompaniment could take place in which the Church’s ministers would join in the journey down the dusty road with these *pescadores* and their wives and children.

I am confident these couples would join in the spiritual and sacramental journey and keep up with their guides....perhaps even teach their guides something of the Gospel. **The poor evangelize us.**

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Is. 55, 10-13)



The cover story for the Spring issue of *La Fe*, the magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Laredo (TX), featured profiles of some of the Religious serving the diocese.

Oblate Frs. Jim Fee, Lawrence Mariasosai, and Richard Kulwiec are pictured on the cover itself. Full page profiles of them, along with Fr. Paul Dass Selvarai, OMI, in English and Spanish

are found on pp.10-13.

Also, the Spring issue of the *Extension Magazine* featured on pp.22-25 a story on Fr. Bill Davis, OMI and a group of *Samaritans* he formed in Laredo to assist the sick, elderly and infirm. *Photos used with permission.*



Many attend *Year of Mercy* mission

Fr. Antonio Ponce, OMI, led a Lenten Mission event from March 13-19 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Brownsville, TX, of which **Fr. Michael Amesse, OMI**, is rector.

The days of reflection centered on the theme, *Lent, An Opportunity to Learn, Reflect and Live the Year of Mercy*.

A highlight of the week was a concluding procession led by Bishop **Daniel Flores** through the Brownsville streets, carrying a statue of St. Joseph the Worker.

The event is part of an ongoing JPIC initiative to conduct outreach and animation of Oblate parishes.



Bishop Flores (middle) and Fr. Ponce (far left) in procession down Brownsville's main street. Below, left: Fr. Amesse; right: preparing for procession.



On March 2, Fr. Bill Antone, OMI, with the Province Administration employees and 391 Oblates joined the JPIC staff for a farewell party to celebrate the retirement, stewardship and commitment of **Mrs. Mary O'Herron** to the Missionary Oblates' JPIC office.

Mary's work and contributions to the Oblates will always be valued and remembered.

An appreciation booklet with personal messages from current and former colleagues was prepared and presented to Mary by **Sr. Ann Diehl, CSJ**, for her 33 years of faithful service.



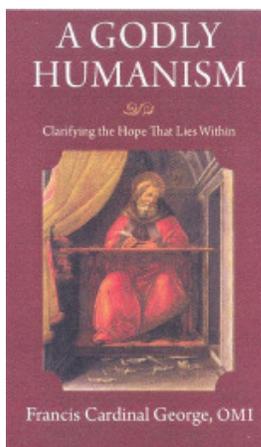
Among those attending Mary's farewell were, l-r: Sr. Ann Diehl, Janice Cook, George Ngolwe, Eva Marie McCrae, Meghan Gieske Garcia, Mary O'Herron, Fr. Ponce, Rowena Gono.

Special event marks anniversary of Cardinal George's death

A reception and conversation to celebrate the recently released book *A Godly Humanism: Clarifying the Hope that Lies Within* by the late **Francis Cardinal George, OMI**, was held on the one-year anniversary of his death at the University Club of Chicago on April 19.

The event was sponsored by the Lumen Christi Institute for Catholic Thought, the Archdiocese of Chicago, Mundelein Seminary, the Catholic Theological Union, and Relevant Radio.

Cardinal George was the founding Episcopal Moderator for the Lumen Christi Institute. He was integrally involved in the life of the Institute, as a speaker, mentor, and supporter of its



mission to present Catholic thought within the academic culture of the University of Chicago. In turn, the Institute assisted him in special projects, including his participation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of D-Day, hosting conferences of economists and bishops to discuss Catholic Social Thought, and even organizing the publication of his books.

Remarks were presented by Gary A. Anderson (Notre Dame), Jean-Luc Marion (University of Chicago), & Moderator Anna Bonta Moreland (Villanova University).

Finished by Cardinal George nine days before his death, *A Godly Humanism* offers an account of the Catholic intellectual life by one of the most gifted thinkers to serve as



Francis Cardinal George, OMI

bishop in the American Church. It draws on figures such as St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI to express a vision of the Church as a communion built around the relationship of God to human beings and of human beings to one another.

The book provides a starting point for the interpretation of “Pope Francis’s Magisterium [as] evidence of another horizon having been opened more clearly for believers.”

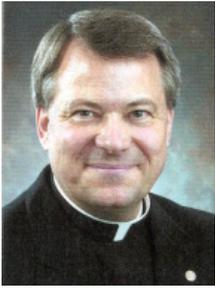
The Seattle-area Partners met for their fourth annual meeting on April 2 at the home of Jeff and Sue Adams in Snohomish, WA.

Missionary Oblate Partnership president Artie Pingolt, **Frs. Jesse Esqueda** and **Bill Antone** presented a report on the activities of the Partnership and in particular the work of the Oblates in San Eugenio parish in La Morita, Tijuana, Baja California. The Seattle Partners have been especially supportive of the Oblate efforts in Tijuana.

(See p.9 for announcement of Partnership-sponsored visit to La Morita)

Right: After the meeting Artie Pingolt took a photo of the Seattle Oblate Partners with Frs. Antone and Esqueda (kneeling, front).





The Provincial Council met

at Holy Name Retreat Center in Houston, Friday –Sunday, January 29-31, to vision and plan for the future of the province’s ministries. Jim Fee and Fernando Velazquez led us in our deliberations.

We recognized that first and foremost we are missionaries: men who are sent; we don’t remain in comfortable dwellings as Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

We also affirmed that where we should minister is secondary to the issue of how we should minister.

Basic to the issue of how we should minister is whether we wait for people to come to us, to our parishes, our retreat centers, our shrines or whether we are willing to go out to where they are, where they live and work and play.

We then looked at the values which should form the basis of how we live in community with each other and how we minister. After this, we attempted to prioritize the ministries of the province, which hopefully would give concrete expression to those values. We will hear more about that at a later time.

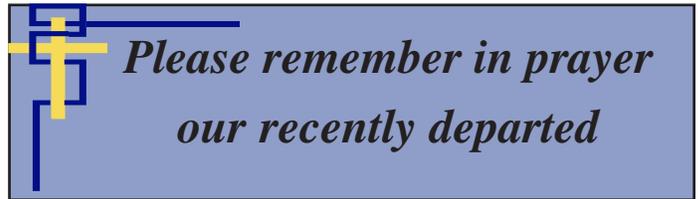
The first value we mentioned was the importance of enhancing the quality of our life together in community. Many people to whom we minister value very much our vocation as religious; they respect our generosity in accepting our vocation from God; they ask us to pray for their needs. We asked if we as Oblates value our own calling enough, whether we respect sufficiently that calling and even whether we are often grateful to God for this calling.

Ministry to youth was seen as a priority. Encouraging young men to join our ranks is important but also we faced the realization that many of our youth are living, it seems, without meaning in their lives nor are they expressing openly any faith. In terms of giving meaning or focus to their lives, they could be described as “lost”.

An Oblate who would devote much of his time to youth ministry in each of our mission centers would be a worthwhile first step toward concretely addressing this value.

Bringing the gospel to the unchurched was recognized as an important value as well. Most Oblates have unchurched in their own families. Many of our parishioners, retreatants, employees have family members, friends, neighbors who are unchurched.

We underlined the value of inviting our church attendees to encourage those whom they know who are not practicing the faith to “come home” to the faith.



Eileen Erving, 73, mother of the late Fr. Jim Erving, OMI, died on Feb. 17 in Timonium, MD.

Fr. Augustin Petru, OMI, 87, died on Feb. 21 in Mexico City, Mexico.

Doris Poisson, HOMI, 94, died on Feb. 28 in Lowell, MA.

Frank Carolan, 85, brother-in-law of Fr. George McLean, OMI, died on March 8 in Lowell, MA.

Mary Pfeifer Pawlik, 87, sister of the late Fr. James Pfeifer, OMI; first cousin of Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI and Fr. Ted Pfeifer, OMI, died March 11 in McAllen, TX.

Fr. Lucien Sawyer, OMI, 91, died on March 18 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Residence, Tewksbury, MA.

Carlos Garcia, 90, brother of the late Fr. Pablo Garcia, OMI, died on March 18 in Brownsville, TX.

Josephine Urban, 87, sister of the late Fr. John Maronic, OMI, died on April 2 in Duluth, MN.

An essential component of the gospel message is for us as religious to invite “the churched” to continue the ministry of Jesus in the world. We Oblates cannot do this ourselves; we must invite our leaders in our ministry sites to help us in our ministry as missionaries of Jesus Christ. With fewer vocations to religious life, this becomes more important. But not simply because of fewer vocations to religious life. This is the vocation of our leaders and we can help them embrace their calling as lay leaders.

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation ministry in the province is presently engaging Oblates in their local ministries in regard to issues of poverty, ecology, immigration, as well as macro JPIC concerns of world finance, mining, ethical investing, ecumenism, among others.

Collaboration of the province with other agencies who also work in these areas helps ensure that progress will continue to be made in these vital areas.

Finally, the importance of making ourselves available as missionaries was seen as a key value in defining

Polish Oblate Comments on Cuban Declaration Of Pope and Patriarch

by Fr. Harry Winter, OMI

Fr. Waclaw Hryniewicz, OMI, has stated that the Joint Declaration of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill, issued at their meeting in Cuba, Feb. 11, 2016, “is an historical declaration, long and detailed.”

Fr. Hryniewicz, who served for many years (1980-2005) on the International Roman Catholic-Orthodox Commission for the Theological Dialogue, also helped us understand the startling significance of the Polish-Russian Reconciliation Statement of Aug. 17, 2012, which Kirill also signed (www.omiusa.org, Sept. 19, 2012; www.harrywinter.org, Eastern Christianity page for photos).

Fr. Hryniewicz observed that the Declaration “emphasizes three times the Tradition and the shared heritage of the Church of the first millennium (#’s 4,7, 24). This is an important reminder for the official theological dialogue. Ref-

erence to the Trinity as the model for the life of the Church is quite traditional, especially for the Orthodox side. But it should not lead to an anachronistic understanding of the historical development of such church doctrines as for example primacy and synodality.”

He then was both positive and cautious: “The encounter on Cuba is indeed a sign of hope (#’s 6, 25, 27, 30). I very much appreciate the fact of recovering ‘a particular sense of urgency’ (#3). Now everything depends on the implementation of the declaration. Let it not remain only in the sphere of promising words.”

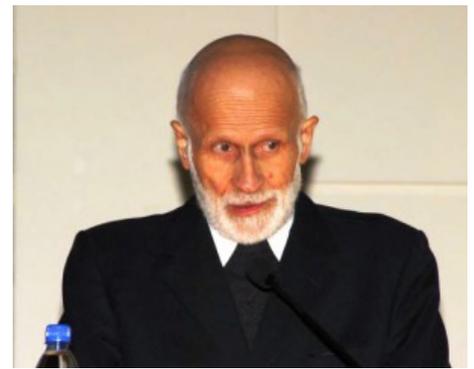
My gratitude to Fr. Hryniewicz for these insights. I conclude with three observations:

First, the startling emphasis on the New World (#’s 2,3).

Second, the way this short declaration includes Evangelization, Justice/Peace/

value to give a vital future to our province.

Rather than merely disengaging from many of our ministries because of diminishing personnel, we again underlined the importance of considering how we minister. We asked ourselves whether we are open to learn new skills,



Integrity of Creation, Ecumenism, Dialogue and Spirituality.

Third, the litmus test for its implementation will be the readiness of Orthodox clergy especially in Russia and Greece to admit Latin rite Catholics or Easterners in Communion with Rome, to receive Communion at their Divine Liturgy.

We might ask ourselves: do our parishioners know that we are encouraged to welcome Orthodox who cannot find a parish of their own when they are traveling, to receive Communion at our Mass? (see www.harrywinter.org, Eucharistic Hospitality page)

Ministry Values

Continued from page 6

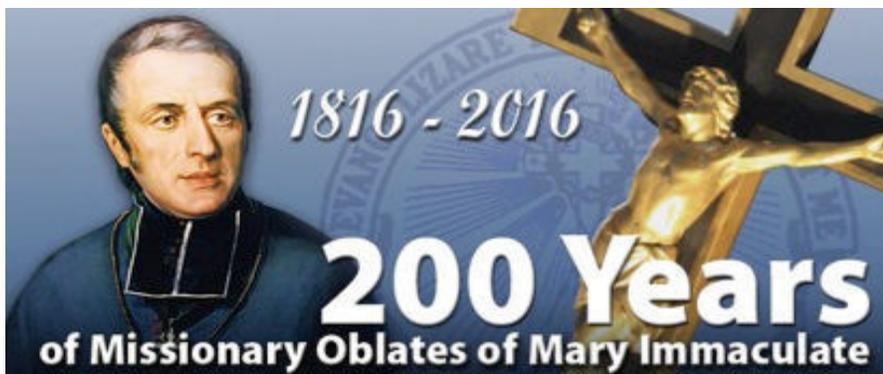
who we are as Oblates. Availability to learn a new skill, engage in a new ministry, offer a new response, risk a new venture, on both the individual and communal level was seen as a significant

prayerfully consider new possibilities, engage in our present ministries with a new creative spirit, and further, are we willing to challenge our colleagues to do the same? This is a vital responsibility in our role as leaders. That is what our calling as Oblate missionaries is all about!

Oblates minister with the poor as advocates to change systems which cause poverty, as preachers to sensitize the wealthier to their responsibility to help the poor, as ministers working with the poor. This is the ministry in our province in many of the places where we currently serve. It is the call of Jesus Christ to us Oblates of Mary Immaculate in today’s world!

-Fr. Lou Studer, OMI

MAY-2016-7



King's House reaches out to local Community

King's House of Retreats, Belleville, IL participated in the *Empty Bowl Soup Luncheon* sponsored by St. Augustine Parish in Belleville on March 24, held to benefit their parish food pantry. Also among the ten contributors were the The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows and Minds Eye.

The retreat house staff's contribution was Chef Chris Schumacher's *Chicken White Chili*.



Staff members gathered behind some of their offerings at the Luncheon, left to right: Richard Dahm (Business Manager), Tammy Schoenbach (Housekeeping), Tina Turner (Housekeeping), Kelly Smith (Kitchen), Sarah Biermann (Hospitality & Communications Coordinator), Carolyn Hofstetter (Housekeeping Supervisor), Justin Shellenberg (Maintenance/Grounds Keeper)



On another note altogether, each year, King's House is happy to have the opportunity of welcoming more than 100 people for a Mardi Gras celebration.

Those invited are from our many partnered groups, such as MAMI, the Shrine, Oblate Associates, OMSI, The Apartment Community, St. Henry's, etc. The atmosphere is certainly something to be experienced!

Clockwise: Bro. Bill Lundberg, OMI, (center); Bro. Pat McGee, OMI, and Fr. Jim Allen, OMI; King of the Mardi Gras, Richard Dahm; and obviously the Mardi Gras prince, Madison



Area counselor visits Oblates in Alaska

by Fr. Jim Brobst, OMI

I had the opportunity to accept a three-week ministerial coverage in Alaska, serving in places I have helped at off and on over the past 12 years.

The weather was unseasonably warm, limiting customary outdoor adventures such as cross-country skiing or snow shoeing. A very icy time with daily melts and nightly freezes, I found my feet up in the air and my head on a parking lot on my first Sunday there, resulting in a concussion which had me laying even lower than usual during my time there.

Still, it was a good opportunity to do some specifically pastoral ministry with known people and families, as



Alaskan priests convocation: (I'm going to let you find the Oblates [including himself] mentioned in Fr. Brobst's last paragraph.- ed.)

well as to meet with most of the Alaskan Oblates, who send their greetings.

Coincidentally, all the bishops and most of the clergy gathered nearby in Anchorage for an annual convoca-

tion while I was there, and I enjoyed visiting Frs. Tom Killeen, Pat Casey, Andy Sensenig, Tom Rush, Jim Loiacono and Archbishop Roger Schwietz.



Partner & Child/Grandchild Fieldtrip: San Eugenio Mision-Tijuana, Mexico June 24-25

Our Goal :To provide a personal, informative and fun experience of an Oblate mission in a very poor country - 5 Oblates serving 300,000 men, women and children- wow! Participants will not just see the good being done, they will be a part of it!

Friday Night, June 24

Our group meets at the San Diego hotel where we stay. We have dinner with Fr. Jesse Esqueda, OMI and talk about what to expect at San Eugenio, the Oblate mission "over the border" in Tijuana.

Saturday, June 25

Our group leaves around 8AM for a 1 hour drive over the border to San Eugenio. Highlights of the day will include:

- *Welcome and Orientation with the Oblates of San Eugenio
- *Tour of clinics, literacy project and special needs children
- *Traveling to "out-station" chapels of the mission
- *Distributing food and clothing to needy families
- *Mass at San Eugenio HIV center
- *Traditional dancing and homemade tamales
- *Driving tour explaining "systemic" nature of poverty

Cost: \$100/per person. Contact apingoli@oblatepartnership.org

3 TX parishes march to defend human life



Left-r: Roberto Castro, P Jaime Fee, OMI, Jose Pena, Jose Rangel, Fr. Paul Dass Selvaraj, OMI, Sylvia Rojas, Ruben Rodriguez, Anita Rodriguez.

Like other pro-life advocates around the country, January 22nd is an important date for Dr. Carlos Hernandez, MD. This date marks the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling 43 years ago that legalizes abortion for any reason throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

For the last 20 years parishioners from three Oblate-led parishes within the Diocese of Laredo, TX – Our Lady of Refuge, Sacred Heart and Saint Joseph’s — have actively participated in a local *Walk For Life* event to coincide with events around the country.

Dr. Hernandez has been the event’s organizer for the last six years, working with leadership councils from the three parishes and the local Knights of Columbus.

About 200 people of all ages participated in this year’s Walk. They first gathered on Main Street in Eagle Pass, then proceeded to walk a mile and a half, praying the rosary along the way to their final destination at City Hall.

The elderly or those unable to walk the full distance waited at City Hall. When the walk concluded, a short program was held and attended by the Vicar of the Diocese, the mayor and other city officials.

Nine days before the *Walk for Life* event members from all three par-

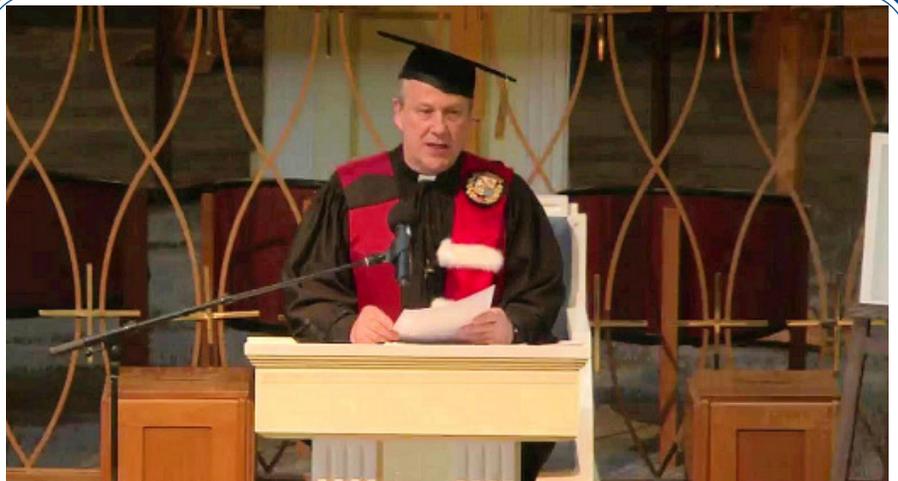
ishes joined in solidarity with other Catholics around the country in a prayer campaign organized by the U.S. Bishops. The *9 Days for Life* campaign called for Catholics to pray for victims of abortion, violence and those suffering from addiction in the nine days leading up to January 22nd.

As Dr. Hernandez personally reflected on the sanctity of life, he shared with JPIC staff a few local stories and his perspective on the issue from the standpoint of a physician specializing in obstetrics/gynecology. He commended local families who under very difficult circumstances, commit to caring for severely disabled children.

Dr. Hernandez remarked that for him, this exemplifies the core of pro-life philosophy that ‘every life is worth living.’

Born in Colombia, South America, Dr. Carlos Hernandez, MD studied in Baltimore, MD. He has directed a women’s clinic in Eagle Pass, TX for the last 18 years. He is also a parishioner and serves on the leadership council at the Sacred Heart Parish.

-This article is excerpted from an interview by the US Oblate JPIC



On March 15, 2016, Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada, bestowed an the *Doctorate Honoris Causa* on the Oblate Superior General, Fr. Louis Lougen (above), in the university’s DeMazenod Chapel.

Oblates celebrate ordination, profession jubilees



The 2015 jubilee anniversaries of 41 Oblates noting first profession and of 32 observing ordination to the priesthood have been scheduled in three locations: at the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX, on April 5; Immaculate Heart of Mary Residence, Tewksbury, MA, on June 13; and Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, IL, on Sept. 12.

Besides the U.S. Areas, jubilarians minister in seven mission fields: Haiti, Ireland, Japan, Philippines, Mexico, Canada, Scandinavia.

First Profession:

80th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Boniface Wittenbrink

75th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Patrick Healy
Rev. Francis Montalbano

70th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Andre Houle
Rev. William McSweeney
Rev. John Morin

65th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Gerald Brunet
Rev. Andrew Chalkey
Rev. William Davis
Bro. Valmond Leclerc
Rev. Michael Levy

Rev. James Miller
Rev. Kevin O'Connor (*Ireland*)
Rev. James Taylor

60th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. John Castro
Rev. Real Corriveau (*Haiti*)
Rev. Ruben Elizondo (*Mexico*)
Rev. James Flavin
Rev. Wilfred Harvey
Rev. Carroll Parker
(*Scandinavia*)
Rev. John St. Cyr

50th ANNIVERSARY:

Bro. Olof Åsblom (*Scandinavia*)
Bro. Charles Gilbert

Rev. William Mason
Rev. Ronald Meyer
Rev. William O'Donnell
Rev. Anthony Rigoli
Rev. Ronald Rolheiser (*Lacombe*)
Rev. Richard Sudlik

40th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Mark Dean
Rev. Raul Salas

25th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Piotr Dudek (*Lacombe*)
Rev. Dwight Hoeberechts
Rev. Andrew Small



ORDINATION:

75th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Boniface Wittenbrink

65th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. John Morin

60th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Charles Beausoleil
Rev. Andrew Chalkey
Rev. James Taylor
Rev. William Woestman

50th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Charles Banks
Rev. Raymond Bourgoin
(*Japan*)

Rev. Michael Bradley
(*Scandinavia*)
Rev. Edward Hauf
Rev. William Maher (*Japan*)
Rev. Jerry Orsino
Rev. Richard Pommier
(*Philippines*)



40th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. Normand Bonneau
(*Lacombe*)
Rev. Gregory Cholewa
Rev. Allen Courteau
(*Scandinavia*)

Rev. Séamus Finn
Rev. Michael O'Hara
Rev. Francis Santucci
Rev. Louis Studer
Rev. Rufus Whitley

25th ANNIVERSARY:

Rev. John-Raymond Lau

End

✓ **Fr. Lawrence Mariasoosai, OMI** and **Fr. Peter Antonisamy, OMI**, have been given an obedience to the United States Province. Up until now, they have been on loan from the Indian Province, and they both requested this change of assignment. Fr. Lawrence is pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Eagle Pass, TX, and Fr. Peter is parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville, TX



✓ Laredo, TX has banned the use of plastic bags, after a nearly decade-long campaign by community based environmental groups. **Fr. Bill Davis, OMI**, joined in a PSA video to alert people to the ban, which began on April 30th. Bishop James Tamayo has nominated Fr. Bill Davis of San Francisco Javier Church in Laredo, for the 2016 Catholic Extension Society's Lumen Christi Award.

✓ **From: Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI:** On this special Oblate day I have been in Juarez Mexico with Pope Francis. I prayed for you and all of our brother Oblates during the papal mass. I had a visit with Pope Francis, reminding him that I was a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate and that I had served in Mexico. His face lit up and he said the Oblates are marvelous missionaries. Then I reminded him that during our visit in Rome he had asked about my horse and I told him that the horse is doing well. He seemed to remember, and broke out in a big laugh.

A little history about this. When I was in Rome for the canonization of two Popes, after Mass, I... had a delightful visit with Pope Francis. Speaking to him in Spanish, I told him I was a bishop from Texas, and he began to laugh and asked me –where is your horse? I replied, Holy Farther he is outside. He laughed again; then we had a delightful visit.



✓ *St. Henry's Alumni Association* will be holding 2 events this Fall: **On Sept. 9 in Belleville, IL:** Tours of the campus in early afternoon. Later, at the Shrine: Social hours, Mass, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, banquet, and party, plus memorabilia tables and continuous video presentations **Saturday, Sept. 10 in Caseyville, IL:** Picnic in the Park, hosted by the Class of '60; a potluck gathering *en plein air*.

✓ Director **Bro. Tom Ruhmann, OMI**, has announced that the Victorious Missionaries National Conference, celebrating its 52nd Founding Anniversary, will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL, from May 13-15. Pastor Bob Molsberry from Belleville's Peace United Church of Christ has been invited to present the main address based on the theme: *Forgiveness: A Challenging Path to Wholeness*.



**BLESSED ARE YOU
AMONG WOMEN,
AND BLESSED IS
THE FRUIT OF
YOUR WOMB**

OMI - USA

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