

“reconciliation.” Today, we speak a lot about reconciliation. We see that as a good sign, even though, at times, political jargon itself uses this concept. So that we do not focus on the superficial meaning of words, we, as followers of Christ, must always go to that treasure which is the Word of God. Let us meditate upon it, even in the midst of dramatic conflicts; we can rest assured that therein can be found the remedy for even the worst of violent situations.

For example, let us read what Saint Paul says to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 5:17-21). The text states that “whoever is in Christ is a new creation.” He says that “all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ.” Further on, he affirms that God has “entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.” And finally, Paul challenges us: “So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

It seems to me that Christians, and among them, we Oblates, must once again recognize the central place of reconciliation in our faith: there

are conflicts; people sin and commit crimes; but in the midst of all these things, at times very bloody, there is an opening to the path of saving reconciliation. Reconciliation will, in the end, conquer the spirit of violence because the blood of Christ “speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.” (Heb. 12:24)

Through this belief and through the sacrament of reconciliation, we can experience the compassionate and redeeming Christ. This is the route Saint Eugene took in order to be a missionary. His fundamental experience was that of being a sinner pardoned by Christ the Savior. From that point on, the ministry of reconciliation has been central to the missionary work of the Oblates, for example in parish missions.

The events of the last few weeks tell us that after our own conversion and reconciliation—the theme of the next General Chapter—there must follow our passionate commitment to the reconciliation of those who find themselves in the midst of every kind of conflict. Is this not what the world has the right to expect from the Oblates?

General Administration

PRECAPITULAR COMMISSION Animation for the Chapter

The Precapitular Commission for the 35th General Chapter has sent to Provincials and to the Superiors of Delegations and Missions an instrument to be used by individual Oblates, communities and Unit assemblies during the *Year of the Chapter*, September 8, 2009 until September 8, 2010.

The documents will also be made available to our Lay Associates through the members of the Oblate and Lay Associates Commission which will be meeting in Rome in October, 2009.

The material sent by e-mail to the superiors has five parts:

- An introductory letter from the Commission, addressed to all Oblates.
- Three animation guides related to the theme

of the Chapter:

- Personal Conversion
- Community Conversion
- Conversion of our Mission in the world
- Guidelines to be followed in making proposals for the Chapter to consider

The Commission is asking that proposals be sent to the Unit superiors who will forward them to the Chapter Commission. However, individual Oblates or groups of Oblates are also free to send proposals directly to the Commission. All proposals should follow the guidelines in the above-mentioned document. The preferred manner of receiving proposals is by e-mail: chapter35@omigen.org. The Commission needs to receive them no later than February 17, 2010.

As Father General stated in his letter of convocation of the Chapter: “Constitution 125 says that the purpose of the General Chapter is

to ‘strengthen the bonds of unity and to express the members’ participation in the life and mission of the Congregation.’ It therefore concerns all Oblates: old or young, in first formation, in full ministry or retired, Brothers and priests. All should have a chance to express their particular participation in our life and our mission. Having the members of our lay associations participate will further enrich the preparation.”

GENERAL HOUSE

Spring and summer farewells

Arrivederci Padre Ivo!

When the voices of children are heard playing in the garden in front of the General House, one usually assumes that it is some of “Padre Ivo’s” Scouts! Generations of youth have been guided by Fr. Yvon BEAUDOIN’S gentle effort to show them Christ’s love through the various activities of scouting. But in some cases today, they are the grandchildren of some of his Scouts of the past who carry on the tradition.

In August 2009, the 83 year-old Oblate will return to his native Canada which he left as a young scholastic in 1947. Rome and the General House have been his home ever since.

While the Scouts will miss his energetic leadership, even more so will the entire Oblate Congregation miss his daily, relentless efforts to bring together the history of our family, especially as it relates to the Founder and the contemporaries of Saint Eugene de Mazenod. John’s Gospel concludes with these words about Jesus: “*There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.*” (John 21:25) It would not be a stretch of the imagination to say something similar about Yvon Beaudoin when it comes to the many publications that are either authored, edited or compiled by him. There is probably no Oblate library in the world that does not contain some publication for which he was primarily responsible.

While still a scholastic at the International

Scholasticate in Rome, in 1953, he was asked by the Superior General, Fr. Léo DESCHÂTELETS, to interrupt his final studies in order to help put some order into the writings of the Founder in preparation for a relaunching of the cause for canonization.

In 1966, he began to work as an archivist in what is now the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican. With the 1983 reorganization of that Dicastery, he was appointed *Relator* (Reporter), charged particularly with causes presented in the French language. Until his retirement in 1996, he was entrusted with 130 causes, many of which have concluded with beatifications and canonizations (e.g. Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Blessed Charles de Foucauld). While not directly involved in promoting their causes, he was still working at the Sacred Congregation at the time of the canonization of St. Eugene and the beatification of Blessed Joseph Gérard.

At the same time, he continued to work at making better known our Oblate heroes, our origins and our history. He has produced the collection *Oblate Writings* (22 volumes). He also collaborated with Cardinal Roger Etchegaray in the publication of a life of the Founder at the time of the canonization. Since his retirement from the Vatican Dicastery, he has returned there each year to teach classes at the studium for new postulants of saints’ causes.

His most recent works include two volumes of the *Historical Dictionary of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate*. The first volume has been published in French and English. The second volume has just been published in French.

A large gathering of former Scouts will celebrate his farewell party during a picnic at the General House in June. While “Padre Ivo” will be sorely missed by those who knew him in Rome, he will not abandon his love of Oblate history: he will work with the Oblate archivist at St. Paul University in Ottawa.

Back to England! Fr. Frank Bullivant, OMI

In mid-April, Fr. Frank BULLIVANT moved back to his native England after a sojourn of

some 33 years at the General House in Rome. He resides at the Montana Residential Home in Bury St. Edmund's, Suffolk, a home for the elderly run by the Grace and Compassion Benedictine Sisters

Before joining the Oblates, Fr. Frank was a professor at Cambridge University, specializing in early Icelandic language and literature. While still a diocesan seminarian (incardinated into the Diocese of Stockholm, Sweden, by Bishop John TAYLOR, OMI), Frank moved into the International Scholasticate.

Ordained a priest in 1967, he made his final profession as an Oblate in 1976. He served for a time in the Oblate delegation of Scandinavia, but for most of his religious life, he was at the General House where he was, for a time, an assistant in the Oblate Archives and helped establish the Oblate Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office. He was also very active for many years in Amnesty International.

A man with many jobs: Brother Jacob Wagner, OMI

When Brother Jacob WAGNER first came to Rome from Germany as a young man in 1961, he was assigned to the staff of the International Scholasticate to work with other German brothers in the kitchen. In that capacity, he worked at the General House and then at the newly built scholasticate in 1966.

When the new scholasticate was sold in 1972 and the formation program moved back to the General House, there were Canadian Holy Family Sisters in charge of the kitchen. Therefore, teamed with the late Brother Heinz KRANZ, Jacob took over many duties related to porter's office.

Later, he became the Assistant Bursar of the General House. His many jobs have put him into contact in one way or another with countless Oblates from around the world. He has picked them up at the airport; he has opened the doors for them when they arrived and given them keys; he has been on hospitality teams for General Chapters; he has sent to Oblates everywhere statues of the Founder and the Oblate Madonna;

he has ordered "Papal Blessings." Within the community, among other things, he took care of the automobiles and made frequent trips to the Vatican pharmacy and the Italian Post Office. It is only after he is gone that people will begin to notice the many things he quietly did for the community in the background.

On the Feast of Pentecost, May 31, Brother Jacob celebrated with the community and some of his family members his Golden Jubilee of religious profession. In early June, he returned to his homeland where he will undoubtedly not remain idle since he is still a man with much energy.

Working at a distance: Fr. James Allen, OMI

After four years of service as Assistant Director of Oblate Communications Service and editor of our Oblate bulletins, Fr. James ALLEN has returned to the United States Province where he will be on the staff of the scholasticate in San Antonio, Texas.

However, even though he will no longer be an official resident at Via Aurelia 290, he will continue to carry out many of the tasks he did from his second floor office there. Since over 90% of his work is facilitated by the use of a computer and the internet, he will continue to be editor of *OMI Information, Documentation, and Communiqué*, at least until a permanent replacement can be found and trained some time in 2010. A part of the editorial and translation work will be done in Rome by Father Richard WOLAK (OMI Lacombe) who has taken on a number of jobs at the General House in recent months. Father Nino BUCCA continues in Rome as the Director of Oblate Communications Service and webmaster for www.omiworld.org.

Fr. Allen's work as secretary to the Precapitular Commission and to the Government Committee will also continue. Oblates with items of interest for our publications should continue to send them to either allen@omigen.org or to information@omigen.org.

Students going home!

Several of the student priests residing at the

General House have finished their studies and are heading back to their provinces or delegations: Vincent SILUVAI ADIMAI (India); Bharath VILLAVARAYEN (Colombo); and Tomas VYHNALEK (Central European Province).

Nine scholastics will be leaving the International Roman Scholasticate: Peter RAJAN (India); Albert DAMIAO (Philippines); David MUÑOZ (United States); Pius POHDUENG (Bangladesh); Elisé RAHARINIRINA (Madagascar); Jean Rossina RAKOTOMALALA (Madagascar); Lewis SAUTI (Zambia); Franky VALÈRE (Haiti); and Emmanuel YOUNGTEN (Cameroun).

ASSOCIATION FOR OBLATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH Historical Dictionary Volume 2 in French

The second volume of *Dictionnaire historique des Missionnaires Oblats de Marie Immaculée* has just been printed. It's a volume of 642 pages with 384 titled articles: 108 about houses and various other things; 245 about Oblates; and 31 about non-Oblates, especially bishops with whom the Founder and the Oblates had

a connection. More than half of these Oblates (151) worked in Canada and the United States; 34 in Sri Lanka; 14 in South Africa; and about 50 in England and Ireland where many priests and Brothers stayed before being sent to other Oblate mission countries, all in British colonies.

Thirty authors, especially Oblates, contributed toward the publication of the volume in which there are many photographs, geographical maps and, at the end of the volume, an index of articles in volumes I and II.

These two volumes and the collection *Écrits oblats* (30 volumes) form an impressive body which permits Oblates of today and of the future to have a deeper knowledge of the life of the Founder and the history of the Congregation over its first fifty years of existence.

To place an order:
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NATAL

Denis Hurley Centre Launched

The parish centre at Durban's Emmanuel Cathedral will be completely renovated over the next three years and named in honour of Archbishop Denis HURLEY. The Cathedral was completed in 1904 together with this building, which was the parish school until the 1950's when it became a parish centre. Since that time it has been used for religious education classes, meetings of various groups and offices.

The building has become increasingly dilapidated and on 15 February 2009, Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, OFM, launched a major fundraising drive to completely refurbish the building.

When completed, The Denis Hurley Centre will provide a number of facilities which will respond

to the needs of the poor in the area. There will be a 24/7 outreach to refugees, street people, people living with HIV/AIDS and others in distress.

There will also be a coffee shop and catering facilities, both for feeding the poor and for meetings and events. The centre will also provide education and skills training for people of all ages, as well as venues for meetings, workshops and conferences. It will also offer facilities for community-building events. In addition it will provide a resource centre including a library, bookshop, museum, and exhibition space housing collections associated with the life and work of Archbishop Hurley.

Leaders of other churches and faiths have expressed their support for the project. Recently representatives from three Muslim organisations presented a cheque to Cardinal Napier for

R50000. Paying tribute to Archbishop Hurley, Noor Mohammed, a representative of the Juma Musjid trust from the nearby Mosque, said he was “a nurturing and caring man”. The chairman of the Iqraa trust, Mohammed Baker said: “One of my dreams has always been to initiate a venture between different faiths”. A representative from the Albaraka Bank described the new centre as “an

innovative outreach programme with which the bank was happy to be associated” A bronze, life-size statue of the archbishop will be erected outside the centre, looking out over the recently re-named Denis Hurley Street (formerly Queen Street), and facing the freeway, where it will greet thousands of people as they enter Durban by taxi, bus or train. (*OMI Natal Update*, January – April 2009)

Asia-Oceania

SRI LANKA

Praying for Oblates in dangerous places

Since independent journalists, diplomats and most aid agencies are barred from going anywhere near the current battle zone in Sri Lanka, the reports coming from the strangely named “No-Fire Zone” are difficult to interpret. Reports from the war zone say that Sri Lanka’s military has been conducting an almost incessant campaign, including heavy and indiscriminate bombardment (which has been denied by the military spokesman), to completely subdue the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who find themselves surrounded in about four square kilometers of coastal jungle. The LTTE, on the other hand, is accused of using civilians as human shields and shooting those who try to go over to the other side.

Added to the raw military facts is the reality of anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 civilians who are trapped with scarce food, water and medical facilities. Hundreds and possibly even thousands of innocent victims have died. Those who have survived thus far are living in constant terror of being mowed down by one side or the other.

Two Oblates of Mary Immaculate from the Jaffna Province have chosen, along with other religious, to stay in this dangerous zone to do what they can to protect the people and help them in any way possible. They have appealed to the Congregation for prayers and for any other help that can be given by way of pressuring the adversaries to stop the killing and to bring peace to this “Venerable Island” that has already lost 80,000 of its citizens in a war that has lasted since 1983.

PAKISTAN

Father Günther Ecklbauer writes

Recent events have barely touched us here. It was only last week as I went to Multan that had to stop for a moment because they had blocked the highway into the city in order to prevent the passage of the “long march” of lawyers and of the Muslim League. But with our 4x4, we got to town on country roads and through villages.

Nevertheless, what is happening affects the whole country. As in every crisis, a change in the majority can have some good effects. The threat of the extremists could, in the long-run, bring the Muslims to consider the Taliban in a different light and no longer see in them the representatives of authentic Islam, thus discovering anew the Sufi Tradition, so deeply embedded in Pakistan. Guns alone will not be the solution to the problem.

In the struggle among the parties, they have arrived at a compromise and we hope that it will last for a long time. Democracy needs a good apprenticeship in the whole of society. The Europe of the first half of the 20th century reminds us that it is only through some bitter experiences that we have learned the lesson.

For us at Derekabad, the return of the Province’s government, chased out a few weeks ago, is rather good news. On January 4 of this year, the Provincial Minister for minorities and human rights visited our parish. He is a Christian and wants to help our people get title to properties they have been farming for 35 years. Father Mani, President of the National Commission for

Justice and Peace of the Bishops' Conference, brought him here.

Next week in all the villages, we will have gatherings to inform and motivate the people so that each family make a contribution of 200€ after harvesting their grain. The harvest begins in one or two weeks and it's only at that time that the people have enough money for major expenses. The money needs to be there to pay for the first piece of property upon the arrival of orders from the Chief of the regional government; it is to be hoped that the people will be able to buy land from the State at a better price. And there are other expenses besides that.

This whole business is obviously one big headache for us. On the one hand, it is risky and we can only hope that all will go well. On the other hand, it is a huge responsibility to manage so much money: the money of the poor!

Today, I am writing to you about "temporal affairs" in which there is also a spiritual dimension. What we are doing is both an act of courage and an act of faith, because God has put us precisely in this place and in this time and we want to fulfill our mission here, with trust in God who is faithful and who gives the grace and help

needed to do one's job.

There would be a lot more to tell you about: the threats of the "land mafia"; the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent in the various villages; the occasional struggles among our Christians; our Oblate community which has been greatly enriched by the arrival of Brother Akmal PATRAS, our theology student; the priestly ordination of four young Pakistani Oblates and their first Masses; the hard work of my curate, Fr. Mukhtar ALAM, in the schools, for example, at St. Mary's school which now has 8 grades. Because of the distance (7 km on foot in the blistering heat), many students stopped coming to school after the fifth grade.

The work of our student, Brother Akmal, who is doing a six-month pastoral regency, is not only helpful for our ministry and our schools (he is teaching at St. Mary's), but he has been a personal breath of fresh air for me. Together, we read the Rules of our Congregation and we take time to meditate them; we also go together to visit the families, something I had neglected in the past year. This return to our spiritual sources as well as the personal contact with all these people who have been entrusted to us without distinction, provide us with motivation and a sense of reality. (Marianisches Missionswerk, April 2009)

Latin America

GUATEMALA

Peace-loving Oblate killed by robbers

For most of his life as an Oblate priest, Father Lorenzo ROSEBAUGH was a living and radical witness to non-violence and concern for the poor. On May 18, 2009, he was shot and killed by two men attempting to steal the van in which he and 4 other Oblates were traveling. The bullets that killed Lorenzo passed through his body and wounded another Oblate in the van, Father Jean Claude NGOMA NDEWES (originally from Congo) who was hospitalized but not in a life-threatening condition. The would-be robbers escaped without taking the vehicle.

Lorenzo's funeral Mass was in Guatemala City

on May 20. He was originally from the former Central Province in the United States and had recently received an obedience to return to the U.S. Province in June. He had received permission to live in a Catholic Worker House in St. Louis, Missouri.

According to Fr. Vicente LOUWAGIE, provincial of Mexico, the Oblates were on their way to a meeting of the Guatemala delegation. In the words of the provincial, "It's a cruel irony that Lorenzo, who always went by bicycle or on foot to be with the street children or victims of HIV, should die while driving a car."

Indeed, there are few who have lived the commitment to the poor as deeply and openly as Lorenzo. As a

young priest in the late 1960's, he began to publicly resist the United States' presence in Vietnam. His resistance to war, to the nuclear arms race, and to the School of the Americas where Latin American soldiers were being trained to fight their own people brought Lorenzo before judges several times and into prison.

With his shaggy hair and beard and simple clothing, he identified with the street people, not only in the United States but also in Brazil. He sometimes slept with them under bridges. While working in Recife, Brazil, in the late 1970's, he accompanied street people looking for cast-off vegetables in order to make a meal for the homeless. He was arrested and falsely accused of stealing the cart used to gather the food. Thrown into a miserable jail, he was beaten and brutalized by other inmates. When the Oblates finally found him, the Archbishop of Recife, Dom Helder Camara interceded for his release. Mrs. Rosalyn Carter, the wife of President Jimmy Carter, was visiting Brazil at the time and she personally interviewed Lorenzo.

He also worked among Salvadoran campesinos who had been terrorized by the civil war in El Salvador in the 1980's. From there, he went to work with the poor in Guatemala, a ministry he interrupted in order to return to the United States to be with his mother in her last days. After her death, he spent a couple of years living at the Oblate Novitiate in the U.S. Province while he wrote his autobiography, *To Wisdom Through Failure: A journey of Compassion, Resistance and Hope*. In it, he wrote: "After being back in the United States over two years, I feel sort of like a fish out of water, having been exposed to the poor and their living conditions. I anxiously await the day I can return to Guatemala." He did return, only to die there while serving the people he loved.

INTERPROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICA

Meeting of parish pastors

During a meeting of Oblate pastors of Latin America, held in Lima on April 20-25, 2009, the Oblates published the following declaration: **Protecting and Respecting the Amazon, we protect the indigenous.** The declaration was signed by 41 Oblates and 2 diocesan priests.

1. We recognize that the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon make up one of the most forgotten, marginalized, exploited and excluded groups of humans in our society where their rights are overlooked and wounded by neglect, by disinterest and by the application of public policies on the part of some governments that favor economic models incompatible with the care of creation, concretely, the Amazon and the peoples who live there.

2. In Latin America, they are trying to entrench an "evil economic system" (Document of Aparecida 385), characterized by the pursuit of wealth and the deepening of a worldwide economic-financial crisis that worsens the poverty and the inequality of our peoples; the devaluation of the human person; the increase of social injustice and ecological destruction which threatens the very existence of indigenous and peasant communities that are being despoiled of their lands; institutionalized violence; corruption; the mistreatment of people; the criminalization of protests; impunity; drugs and drug traffic; urban poverty; migrants; the water crisis; the alliance of the communications media with the powerful; consumerism and false advertising...

3. We join ourselves to the call of civil society and of the churches that are working with the indigenous peoples, especially the call for total respect of Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in independent countries, from the International Labor Organization, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. In these, respect for the life and lands as ancestral property of these peoples is clear.

4. In the context of the First Latin American meeting of Oblate Pastors, we reaffirm our missionary and prophetic presence in these various communities – the indigenous, the farm workers, those of African origin, and the impoverished in urban centers, letting "our lives be enriched by the poor and the marginalized as we work with them, for they can make us hear in new ways the Gospel we proclaim. (Rule 8a)

In this task, we will carefully listen to their deep values, their wisdom and their cultural traditions.

We raise the call of a greater solidarity with the struggles of the indigenous peoples to defend their water, their land and their right to exist and enjoy a dignified life. As Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate who work in these lands, we join them in all of their demonstrations and just claims that flow from the hearts of our peoples.

BOLIVIA

Radio Pio XII: 50 years of service

Father Roberto DURETTE recently wrote this letter to Father General:

In a few days, on May 1, Radio Pio XII will celebrate 50 years as a communications medium at the service of a marginalized people, the indigenous miners of Potosí and Oruro. I do not want this event to pass by without a word of thanks to the Oblates who made possible this communications link so greatly treasured by the poor of Bolivia. Evidently, it was not always easy to develop this communications medium within a confrontational setting. But endurance based on the liberating message of Jesus pushed us to move forward, in spite of the obstacles and, many times, the risks. Today, Bolivia is experiencing a time of much needed changes. The indigenous are beginning to participate in the political process of the country, with all its ups and downs. It is a difficult process but it has to be done. Radio Pio XII had its role to play in making this transition possible.

As part of our anniversary celebration, we are completing at this time, in the town of Llallagua and with the support of ERBOL (Educación Radiofónica de Bolivia), a seminar on a theme that is very current, interculturality. According to the new constitution approved recently, Bolivia is a multicultural and multiethnic country. There are more than 130 radio stations in all the departments of Bolivia, representing almost all of the cultures: quechua, aymara, guaraní, etc. We are asking ourselves what our role should be in this new context. I don't think there could have been a better way to celebrate our anniversary.

I know it is not possible for you to be here for our

celebrations. But I want to say that our thoughts are with you in Rome, in gratitude to the Congregation for making possible our commitment to the poor through this means of communication.

COLOMBIA

The challenge of a real mission

A prenovice in Colombia writes about his missionary experience during Holy Week.

To think that God has a mission prepared for us for each day of our life and to think that we can accept it with great joy! I began this missionary experience of Holy Week with great love, joy and a keen sense of responsibility. I was aware of the responsibility I was undertaking in going as a prenovice to the town of Castilla la Nueva. We began to live our experience with the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Upon arriving at the town, the parish priest assigned me to the Turuy subdivision as the site of my mission. There, I began to live the real Oblate charism which is sharing, living with and evangelizing the poor.

When you arrive in these subdivisions, you might believe that all the inhabitants are well-off and very rich, but once inside, you see that it is not so: there is much poverty, not only economic, but also related to God.

It is in that context that I realize why God called me to become a religious, allowing me to confront situations like these and to personally experience the difficult situations many of our brethren experience.

When I arrived at the subdivision, I realized that the people were not expecting me and that there was no family ready to offer me lodging, but when I had almost begun to panic, there appeared a poor woman who told me: "My son, you can stay in the school where I live, but there are no conveniences there and we eat only once a day." I agreed and went with her. There, I put my suitcase in a corner of the tiny room that served as kitchen, bedroom and dining room. Then I set about visiting one family after another, to tell them about my plans for Holy Week.

The next day, I began to work with the children, with the idea that they would tell their parents what we were doing and everyone would be curious to assist at our gatherings. The principal days of Holy Week came and people began to arrive at the celebrations we had prepared: the Last Supper and the washing of feet, the Way of the Cross and the Vigil of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After all that, I continue to thank God for giving me the opportunity to live the best experience of my short life as a missionary Oblate. Because of this mission, I find myself more committed, more filled with love, and more eager to follow this way of life to which God has called me. (By *José David Vergara, Prenovice*)

Canada-United States

NOTRE-DAME-DU-CAP

Father Louis-Marie Parent, OMI: 1910-2009

Father Louis-Marie PARENT died at Richelieu on May 17, 2009; he had been retired there since 2005. He was 98 years and 10 months old.

Born at Saint-Camille-de-Bellechasse, QC, on July 12, 1910, Louis-Marie joined the Oblates with his entry into the novitiate at Ville LaSalle in 1931. He made his first vows on July 21, 1931 and was ordained a priest on May 23, 1937 at Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, by Bishop Joseph-Eugène Limoges, Bishop of Mont Laurier. "I owe my vocation to the Lord," he said, "but Fr. Victor LELIÈVRE was his instrument."

In Alberta, from 1938 until 1953, he was at first the secretary to the bishop, then parochial vicar caring for the missions, parish pastor, and missionary pioneer. In 1943, he became the cofounder of the **Missionary Recluses**. Then he founded two secular institutes: the **Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate** in 1952, and for men, **Voluntas Dei** in 1958.

From 1952 until his death, his mission was dedicated to the animation of these two groups, preaching retreats, the publication of books and articles, and taking part in pilgrimages as spiritual guide. He also encouraged and supported some new communities and prayer centers. The range of his ministry was extended to four continents where he traveled many times.

Father Parent, a man of bold and inspiring faith, knew how to share it and sow it in the hearts of many.

Thanks to him, many found themselves daring to become involved in amazing projects, the courage to believe in themselves, and thus develop talents they did not even know they possessed.

We remember as well his simple way to reaching out to everyone, of engaging in easy conversation with all types of people, calling each one by name, encouraging, challenging the most hesitant to get moving. For him, with the confidence and the recognition which he gave to those with whom he was speaking, no one was so cautious that he could not start doing good, with the assurance that God loves him.

God's love for Louis-Marie manifested itself in the gift of his family which instilled him with an exemplary courage, an uncommon strength of character and an energy which could withstand the most negative critiques, even at a very early age.

He shared his abounding enthusiasm, his ability, right to the very end, to communicate in an imaginative way, and often with humor, the word of God, again and again renewed and adapted to the present day.

The Virgin Mary was his model, his guide, his helper. And it was after her example that he accepted the Will of God, the inspiration of his many activities.

In the *Collection Volontaires de Dieu (God's Volunteers)*, Father Parent published two volumes with the same title: *En route vers Quelqu'un, « Essai biographique » 1910-1938*, 200 pp., and covering the years, 1938-1957, a second volume of 464 pp. (tr.

In route toward Someone, "A biographical essay"
(Jean-Yves POULIN)

UNITED STATES

Fr. Andrew Small given new post by U.S. Bishops' Conference

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has named Oblate Father Andrew SMALL as the associate director of their Office of National Collections and director of the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Since 2004, the Liverpool, England, native has worked for the USCCB as a policy advisor for Latin America. In that capacity, he has represented the U.S. bishops in making lawmakers in Washington aware of the Catholic Church's concerns about laws that would affect persons in Latin America.

In his new role, Fr. Small will be responsible for the bishops' grant initiative for the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, including supervising the grant making process, assessing the needs of the grantees, and maintaining effective relationships with the appropriate Church leadership in those countries.

Father Small previously was with the Office of International Justice and Peace in the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. He has helped develop policy for the bishops on a range of issues including the overall U.S. trade and foreign aid policies and human rights issues, with a special emphasis on Latin America and Africa. He also met with Congress on policy positions on proposed legislation important to private and public sector interests.

Additionally, in 2005 he was appointed by the

Vatican to represent the Holy See before the World Trade Organization.

A professed Oblate since 1991, he was ordained a priest in 1999 for the Anglo-Irish Province. He later received an obedience to the United States Province.

He is currently completing his doctorate in sacred theology at The Catholic University of America. He also holds a Masters of Law degree in International Legal Studies from Georgetown University, where he is an adjunct professor of law.

UNITED STATES

Oblates for just investments

The Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility is an organization which works for justice by working to change the attitudes of the corporate world and big business. Founded in 1971, the organization gained international attention by using the combined efforts of the members to put financial pressure on South Africa to end apartheid.

In their annual report to members, the ICCR named five religious communities that have been particularly active in the past year. Among the five were the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The Oblates were active in discussions and resolutions about how corporate executives are paid, as well as, for example, human rights, health care reform, protecting the environment, and equal employment opportunities.

They focus their efforts on responsible investment of Oblate funds in order to be part of the public debate about reducing poverty, sustaining the development of poor countries and respecting human rights.

Europe

ENGLAND

Bishop Cazabon honors Cardinal Newman

Canadian Bishop Gilles CAZABON was the principal celebrant at a Mass at St Anne's,

Alcester Street, Birmingham on 22nd April, commemorating the ministry there of Cardinal John Henry Newman.

Bishop Cazabon, who has recently retired as

the Bishop of St Jerome, Quebec, where he was also President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Quebec, led clergy and people in remembering Newman's work in the Digbeth area of Birmingham, in what was a key period of Newman's life.

Newman was based in Digbeth from 1849 to 1852, when his Oratory community moved from there to nearby Edgbaston, where it still is today. Father Paul Chavasse, Provost of the Birmingham Oratory and Postulator for the Cause for Cardinal Newman's Canonisation, was preacher at the Mass.

It was during this period at Alcester Steet that Newman accepted the position of Rector of the Catholic University of Dublin, preached important sermons which continue to be published and read today, and consolidated his early Oratory community and its urban mission.

Centrally, it was the beginning of Newman's Catholic work among the poor, in what was then one of the most deprived parts of the city.

Bishop Cazabon, whose fellow Oblates of Mary Immaculate have served the parish since 1938, said: "I consider myself a friend of Newman. I have read many of his writings and used his prayers and meditations."

The Bishop, who was the Rome-based Vicar General of his Order from 1986 to 1992, went on to say: "Newman has always been a model to me of someone who searches for the truth, a faithful servant of the Church, and a thinker that is still today of great importance both for the Church and for our modern culture. I look forward to his beatification and one day also to his canonisation."

He added: "I am pleased to celebrate this Mass here in a place important both for Newman and for my own Congregation."

Father Conor MURPHY, the Parish Priest, said: "I am delighted that the Bishop is here for this important occasion, which has allowed us to fulfill our plan to celebrate a Mass for Newman's

beatification. It highlights the mission to the poor that Newman and the Oratory had in this parish." (www.newmancause.co.uk)

ROMANIA

First perpetual oblation in Romania

Scholastic Brother Damian CIMPOEȘU became the first Oblate from Romania to pronounce his perpetual vows on April 19, 2009, at the Roman-Catholic parish of St. Joseph the Worker in Train (Romania). Since Romania is a delegation of the Province of Italy, the provincial, Fr. Nicola PARETTA received Damian's vows as delegate of Father General.

Born in 1979, the seventh of eight children in his deeply Catholic family, Damian felt a call to the priesthood at a very early age. That desire diminished during his adolescent years, but as a young adult, he met Father Tonino CAMELO who had come to Romania to preach a retreat for some sisters. Damian felt a renewed desire to become a missionary; he entered Oblate formation and pronounced his first vows in 2002.

He came to the Italian province's scholasticate in Vermicino, near Rome, after the novitiate. He states: "It was not that simple, especially those first days of getting used to a foreign country in which I was not able to become deeply involved and with all my strength, especially in the apostolate."

Having completed his studies in 2007, he spent a couple of years of ministry in Romania before his perpetual oblation. On May 9, 2009, in the General House Chapel, he received the Order of Deacon along with eight other Oblates from the International Scholasticate. (<http://www.omi.it>)



Anniversaries for July 2009

75 Years of Religious Life

1934.07.02	05818	Fr. John Lazarsky	United States
1934.07.21	05906	Fr. Jean Marsan	Lacombe

75 Years of Priesthood

1934.07.08	05027	Fr. Otto Denner	France
1934.07.15	04750	Fr. André Nottebaert	Belgium/Netherlands

70 Years of Religious Life

1939.07.25	07080	Pref Apos Acacio Valbuena	Spain
1939.07.27	07635	Bro. Léon Dumont	France

70 Years of Priesthood

1939.07.09	05560	Fr. Jacques Gervais	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1939.07.09	05971	Fr. Louis Marien	Belgium/Netherlands
1939.07.09	06006	Fr. Victor Robert	France

65 Years of Religious Life

1944.07.16	07809	Fr. René Bechet	Belgium/Netherlands
1944.07.25	07812	Fr. Fortunato Alonso	Spain
1944.07.25	07813	Fr. Gregorio Iriarte	Bolivia
1944.07.25	07811	Fr. Gregorio Ramos	Mexico

60 Years of Religious Life

1949.07.02	09441	Bro. Jacques de Laage	France
1949.07.02	09249	Bro. Hermann Elsbernd	Central European Prov.
1949.07.16	08679	Fr. Joao Bernardo Duhamel	Brazil
1949.07.18	08643	Fr. Roberto Peña	United States
1949.07.25	08647	Fr. Santiago Díez-Fontecha	Spain
1949.07.25	08646	Fr. José-Maria González	Spain
1949.07.25	08648	Fr. Camilo González	Spain
1949.07.25	08649	Fr. Luis Valbuena	United States

60 Years of Priesthood

1949.07.03	07839	Fr. Pierre Bodénès	Cameroun
1949.07.03	07642	Fr. August Bös	Central European Prov.
1949.07.03	07902	Fr. Raymond Horain	France
1949.07.03	07758	Fr. Josef Metzler	Central European Prov.
1949.07.03	07890	Fr. Georges Pizet	France
1949.07.10	07869	Fr. Joris Baers	Belgium/Netherlands
1949.07.10	07809	Fr. René Bechet	Belgium/Netherlands
1949.07.10	07644	Fr. Anton Hommer	Central European Prov.
1949.07.24	07715	Fr. Archibald Daley	Lacombe

50 Years of Religious Life

1959.07.25	10658	Fr. Alfredo Fernández	Spain
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50 Years of Priesthood

1959.07.05	09780	Fr. Jan Jansen	Belgium/Netherlands
1959.07.05	09770	Fr. Martien Vermuë	Belgium/Netherlands
1959.07.12	09554	Fr. Leo Dionne	United States
1959.07.12	09559	Fr. David O'Brien	Brazil
1959.07.12	09511	Fr. Lucien Richard	United States
1959.07.12	09452b	Fr. Werner Rörig	Central European Prov.
1959.07.26	09658	Fr. José Frisch	Paraguay
1959.07.26	09659	Msgr. Erwin Hecht	Central S. A.
1959.07.29	09629	Fr. Kevin Davine	Australia

25 Years of Priesthood

1984.07.25	12521	Fr. Garry LaBoucane	Lacombe
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Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 34-41

NAME	PROV./Del.	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. Aloise Lichtenauer	France	15/01/1916	Sélestat	15/05/2009
Fr. Louis Collin	Lacombe	23/07/1920	Edmonton	16/05/2009
Fr. Louis-Marie Parent	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	12/07/1910	Richelieu	17/05/2009
Fr. Lawrence Rosebaugh	Mexico	16/05/1935	Playa Grande	18/05/2009
Fr. John O'Brien	Northern Province of South Africa	21/12/1919	Johannesburg	19/05/2009
Bro. Alphonse Schwartz	France	09/10/1935	Strasbourg	22/05/2009
Fr. Romeo Murphy	United States	06/03/1921	Tewksbury	23/05/2009
Fr. Franz Temminghoff	Central European Province	18/01/1927	Borken	09/06/2009

“They are before God, bearing the sign, the kind of character proper to our Institute, the vows common to all its members, the firm habit of the same virtues. We are linked to them by the bonds of a special charity. They are still our brothers and we are theirs. They now live in our mother-house, our main residence. The prayers and the love they retain for us will one day draw us to them and we shall live in our place of rest together with them.” (Letter of Founder to Fr. Courtès, 22 July 1828)