



**Joint Statement of Commitment
of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
(OMI Lacombe Canada and Notre-Dame-du-Cap)
on Documentation Transparency Regarding Residential Schools
June 24, 2021**

We are two Catholic religious communities of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (commonly known as the Oblates) and were involved in operating many of the residential schools throughout Canada. The Oblates operated 48 schools, including the Marieval Indian Residential School and the Kamloops Indian Residential School. We remain deeply sorry for our involvement in residential schools and the harms they brought to Indigenous peoples and communities.

We want to reiterate our commitment and intent to disclose all historical documents maintained by us and in our possession, in accordance with all legislation, about our involvement.

With today's disclosure of the 751 unmarked graves at the former Marieval Indian Residential School on the lands of the Cowessess First Nation, and the recent disclosure of the remains of 215 children at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School on the lands of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, we offer this formal commitment statement.

Consistent with the Oblate Apology, given in 1991, our two Oblate religious communities (OMI Lacombe Canada and Notre-Dame-du-Cap) have worked to make our historical documents available through partnerships with universities, archives and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. While some progress has been made, this disclosure is not complete, and has been complicated by issues of provincial and national privacy laws.

We are not experts in the management and analysis of these historical documents or the complex privacy laws which apply. However, we must address these issues, as without a full review of the existing historical documentation from our order's involvement, the truth of residential schools will not be fully known. Recognising that we are not the appropriate organisations to determine which documents can be released within the law, we are seeking guidance and instruction from expert organisations. And we further acknowledge that delays can cause ongoing distrust, distress, and trauma to Indigenous peoples across British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and the rest of the country.

For this reason, we declare that our commitment to transparency involves the following:

- We will disclose and not block access to the historical documents maintained by us and in our possession, as is possible within the law, to establish the truth of what happened in residential schools;
- We will seek guidance from and work with First Nations and federal and provincial governments on these matters;
- We will work with bishops and other leaders in the Catholic church to support full truth in these matters.

*P. Ken Thorson, OMI
(Provincial - OMI Lacombe Canada)
P. Luc Tardif, OMI
(Provincial - Notre-Dame-du-Cap)*

GENERAL ADMISNITRATION

**Homily delivered by the Superior General Fr. Louis Lougen, OMI
during the Closing Eucharistic Celebration
of the Formation Workshop for OMI Post-novitiate formators
July 30, 2021**

"And how should men who want to follow in the footsteps of their divine Master Jesus Christ conduct themselves if they, in their turn, are to win back the many souls who have thrown off his yoke? They must strive to be saints. They must walk courageously along the same paths trodden by so many before them: apostolic labourers for the Gospel..." (Preface of Saint Eugene).

St. Eugene founded his missionary community for two finalities: to evangelize the poor, the most abandoned and to grow in holiness so that they would become saints. As formators, you have the mission to help our young men grow in zeal and holiness. In this way, you share in this special responsibility of the Superior General which is vital to the life and mission of the Congregation (C # 49).

"The task is overwhelming" was expressed by some of you. Realizing that formation is overwhelming and somewhat beyond us is a very good place to be. It makes us humble. It calls us to prepare well, to make formation our priority in time and energy and to continually seek to prepare ourselves more fully in the art of accompaniment. The Holy Spirit is the formator par excellence and we are humble instruments of the Spirit. With the awareness that we are dealing with the sacred journeys, we approach our younger brothers with great respect for what God is doing in their lives.

I have also heard you say many times that the ministry of formation is about the growth of the formators as well as the growth of the young men. You have said that we learn from the men in formation; they teach us; they call us to grow. As formators we don't simply work to form or to minister to the young men, but there is a mutual interaction and we discover that we are shaped

by those we accompany. There is humility and life in such an attitude. I encourage you to treasure this missionary dynamic and let it become a source of life for you.

Imagine how the apostles felt with the Resurrected Lord coming through the doors and upbraiding them, and then sending them out to proclaim the Good News to the entire world! That too was an overwhelming task. Like the Apostles, Jesus assures us that He is with us, working through us and confirming our mission by the signs that accompany the ministry of formation. You have shared many good signs during these days. Thank you for witnessing to the grace of the formation process!

In this Eucharist, in the spirit of C. # 49, the members of the General Council and I wish to bless you, confirm you in your ministry and send you anew to your mission as formators. I cite the words of Paul to Timothy: "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching" (2 Tim. 4:1).

You are missionary formators whose feet bring the joy and peace of the Gospel to those you accompany. We bless your feet that accompany our post-novices over the mountains, in the ups and downs of their vocational journey. May you help them discover the joy of salvation, the gift of inner healing and Gospel freedom for the mission to bring the Good News to the poor and to become saints in this missionary Congregation! God bless you!

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

GHANA**Pioneer members of the Oblate Mission of Ghana named**

The first Oblates who will form the apostolic community in the Mission of Ghana have been called to obedience by Father General. This follows the formal establishment by decree of the Mission of Ghana and the approval of its Statutes on May 13, 2021, at the Plenary Session of the Superior General and Council.

According to its Statutes, the Mission of Ghana is placed under the direct authority of the Superior General, with the General Councilor for Africa-Madagascar as the designated link between the Mission and the Central Government. Also being finalized is the contract between the Oblates and the Diocese of Ho.

Fr. Hyacinth NWANERI of Nigeria, of the Oblate Province of Cameroon, will be the Mission's first Superior. He is 55 years old, 28 years in religious vows, and 20 years ordained priest. He had previously served as Superior

of the Mission of Nigeria and Vicar Provincial of the Province of Cameroon. Presently, he is pastor at St. Pierre, Garoua, Cameroon.

The second member of the community is Bro. Rafal DABKOWSKI of Province of Poland. He is 41 years old, 18 years in religious vows, and 13 years in perpetual profession as a Brother. He has had previous experiences in shrines in Poland and also as community treasurer.

Fr. Daniel ALIOU MANÉ of the Delegation of Senegal, Mediterranean Province, completes the Oblate community in Ghana. Daniel is 40 years old, 15 years in religious vows, and 10 years ordained priest. He is presently on mission in Guinea-Bissau.

The Central Government is currently putting together a program of preparation for this new Oblate community, with the hope of physically starting the mission at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Agbenoxoe, Kpando, in the Diocese of Ho, in time for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11, 2022.

KENYA**“I allowed myself to be evangelized by the poor”**

It was not so long ago that Fr. Jean Pierre Faye, OMI (from Senegal) joined the OMI mission in Kenya. He recently had his first experience with the Masai people in our Kisaju Parish (Kajiado County, Kenya).

The first Sunday after Pentecost, the Most Holy Trinity, I had an opportunity to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in Masai land. After the first Mass of the day in Kisaju Parish, presided by Fr Gideon Mberia, OMI (Parish Priest), we went to a traditional Masai community. The place is a bit far from the Parish centre and we drove for many miles. I was excited by the scenery and various wild animals such as zebra and ostrich, which I'd never seen with my own eyes before that day.

Fr Gideon dropped me at a small community (about fifteen members), dressed in their traditional clothes. Being my first time to meet the Masai face-to-face, I was very impressed! I really admired and felt uplifted by their active and energetic participation during the liturgy. Their offertories were mostly fresh milk. I thought to myself that it would have been the shepherd's gift to infant Jesus in Bethlehem.

I had only known these people through West African TV documentaries. But there are similar ethnic people in my country called the Alupar and, in Central Africa, a nomadic people (Mbororo) especially in the north of Cameroon. I never thought I would be in their midst one day and offer the Eucharist. Being in their midst was like what the former Senegalese president (Leopold Sedar Senghor) calls in his literature « Le rendez vous du donner et de recevoir » (“the appointed moment of giving and receiving”).

Even as I offered them the Holy Mass, I learned from them humility and the sense of welcoming... Their faces were shining in joy; it was as if to express the mystery of the Holy Trinity; One God in three persons which we celebrated that day. Their joy challenged me a lot. It was an unforgettable experience for me.

When I reflected further on my experience, I remembered the following texts found on our Constitutions and Rules””

“We will let 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. We must always be sensitive to the mentality of the people, drawing on the riches of their culture and religious traditions”. (R8a, OMI CCRR)

“...we can learn from the poor, especially making our own their patience, hope and solidarity. (C20, OMI CCRR)

ZIMBABWE

A new mission for the Oblates

The OMISA Provincial, Fr Neil FRANK, and the Provincial Treasurer, Fr Charles RENSBURG made the first trip to Zimbabwe since February 2020. The Covid pandemic had prevented travelling since then. There were many highlights during the 10-day trip. The Provincial had a meeting with the Archbishop of Bulawayo and signed the updated contract. A meeting was also held with the twelve members of the Mission, consisting of 8 Zimbabweans, an Australian, a Czech, an Indian and a Paraguayan.

The most significant impression is the dedication of the Oblates and the quality of missionary work amidst the socio-economic deterioration of the country worsened by the pandemic lockdown. We heard of and witnessed the innovation and creativity the Oblates had exercised. Fr Phumulani MLILO had a grotto and exterior Stations of the Cross built at the Divine Mercy parish in Mahatshula. Fr Aurelio AYALA had an eye-catching mural painted in the sanctuary at Body and Blood of Christ parish in Kenilworth, and was promoting the local artists, with many pieces of religious wooden carvings on display, including one of St Eugene.

We were astonished at the work accomplished at St John, Maraire in the Diocese of Masvingo. This is a new foundation for the Oblates in Zimbabwe and our first outside of the Archdiocese of Bulawayo since the start of the Mission in 1983. We had taken charge of the parish in Maraire in January 2020, but because

of Covid the two Oblates appointed, Fr Charles NABWENJE and Fr Karel MEC could only take up residence in August 2020. We were welcomed by some members of the PPC Executive who gave glowing reports of the hard work of the two Oblates. There was much appreciation for having the two Oblates live close by, be available and give new hope to the mission.

We are grateful to Bishop Bhasera for completing the buildings as he had promised and for fencing the area. The Provincial Treasurer had raised funds from Oblate donors for a bore hole, for solar power and for a 60-tree orange orchard. We were amazed at how much had been achieved in the few months since the Oblates moved in. Many plants adorn the mission grounds; a vegetable garden is already producing veggies for the table; pawpaw trees, water melon vines and many other fruit trees are thriving. While Fr Karel is still mastering the Shona language we can see that the two Oblates work well together and are evangelising the people in the spirit of St Eugene.

The highlight of the visit to the Mission was attending Fr Edward CHIUTANYI's ordination. The travelling and experience, which occupied four days, was in itself a beautiful adventure. Fr Edward was ordained in his home parish, St Theresa of Avila Mission in Katerere, 113 km from the town of Nyanga. We had travelled from Masvingo on Friday, 28 May after fetching Fr Charles NABWENJE from Maraire, through Chivu and Marimbinda, where we discovered the Canaan restaurant that served a delightful piece of fried chicken and chips for \$2. It was 5-hour journey to the Udu

Camp in Nyanga National Park where we were to spend two nights. Fr Luck MANDAVA, the treasurer of the Zimbabwe OMI Mission had made the arrangements for 15 of us, including the pre-novices. He hired a cook to prepare our meals. The Nyanga National Park in the eastern highlands is one of the most beautiful places in Zimbabwe with breath-taking scenes of hills and dams. There was fresh evidence of waterbuck around our lodge but we did not see the animals, except for the rabbits.

On Saturday, 29 May – the feast of Bl Joseph Gerard – we left to Katerere for the ordination. It was a most spectacular two-hour drive into the valley, with the last 13km through a bumpy, twisting dirt road. The ordination was beautifully prepared. Young girls, dressed in white and blue danced for all the processions and acclamations. The choir kept the beat powerfully through the 4-hour long liturgy. There was much joy expressed by the people! It was the first ordination to be held at St Theresa of Avila Mission, but it was not the first for the parish. They have had several vocations of priests and sisters over

the years, and they have experience of the richness of consecrated life: the mission was started by the Carmelites, then served by the Franciscans and the present parish priest is a Spiritan. Now, thanks to our brother Edward, they have been introduced to the Oblates.

Fr Lucky MANDAVA preached the homily which captivated the people's attention. He emphasised Fr Edward's long journey in formation - 19 years. He came to the Oblates after beginning with the Capuchins; and he studied in Kenya and in Cameroun. We were very grateful to Bishop Paul Horan O'Carroll for a wonderful and meaningful celebration.

We returned to Bulawayo on Sunday evening, 30 May, with one thing on our minds – 'passing' our Covid tests for the flight back to South Africa. We had observed all protocols during the trip and used Ivermectin to counteract any Covid virus we might have contracted. Many thanks to Fr Sholto DOUGLAS, the Mission Superior, for organizing the programme for our visit and ensuring we kept to the schedule.

ASIA-OCEANIA

PHILIPPINES

Fr. "Jun" Mercado, OMI passed away

Fr. Eliseo "Jun" Mercado, Jr. OMI, the first Director of the General Service of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation based in Rome, Italy, from 2003-2007, passed away on May 23, 2021 in Cotabato City, Philippines. He was 6 days short of his 73rd birthday. He had been an Oblate religious for 54 years, and a priest for 47 years.

Jun was formed as an Oblate both in Manila and in Rome, and acquired post-graduate degrees in Missiology and Islamic Studies.

Jun served in various Oblate ministries in the Philippines—in the parish, in schools,

in mass media, in peace advocacy, in inter-religious dialogue, and in spiritual direction of seminarians.

In his early years as an Oblate, Jun was active in opposing the dictatorship of President Ferdinand Marcos. He was most well-known and recognized, however, for a life lived in solidarity with Muslims in southern Philippines, and for espousing their right to self-determination.

At the time of his death, Jun was the Philippine Province's Archivist, residing at the Oblate Novitiate in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao. He also continued in his advocacy work as Senior Policy Adviser of the non-government Institute for Autonomy & Governance.

INDONESIA**“Dreaming Together”: Reflection on climbing Mount Sindoro**

By Fr. Henrikus Prasajo, OMI

With a dream, people are motivated to make it happen. Dreams don't belong only to children. Even when they are adults, people dream of wanting to have a house, owning a private vehicle, having a certain life partner... Dreams make someone's life more beautiful because there are goals to be achieved.

Dreams are also not always personal. There are also dreams that belong together. Some boys in the OMI Juniorate, (Mario, Fibo, Hergi, Gerald, Edo, Fero, Aven), Bro. Thio MSC and I dreamed of going on a mountain climbing trip together. Climbing a mountain, what's so special? The inspiration to go up the mountain came from Fiersa Besari, who often uploads his personal blog content on the top of the mountain. Seeing how beautiful the scenery that Fiersa Besari shows in his blog, encouraged the group to experience for themselves the beauty of nature on the top of the mountain. After completing their School Exams, they had the opportunity to make that dream a reality.

Dreams do not just come without efforts to achieve them. One must have proper physical preparation as well as adequate mental preparation. What is beautiful about a preparation is the passion that burns as if the day of departure is in sight. Moreover, if the dream is a collective one, something to be achieved together as a group, it can unite hearts and strengthen their enthusiasm and determination.

On Divine Mercy Sunday at 11.00 pm our group arrived at Post-3 of the Mount Sindoro climbing route at an altitude of 2370m. The trip for approximately 5 hours from basecamp requires us to rest our bodies temporarily. Thanks to the guides, our group was able to arrive at Post-3 safely.

At 04.00 am we started our journey again to the peak of Mt. Sindoro at an altitude of 3153m.

The climb on a steep and rocky road made us forget the coldness that enveloped our bodies. All were still excited about enjoying the natural beauty on top of Mount Sindoro.

I can't deny the tough journey from Post-3 to the top. In the midst of a quite tough journey, I told my junior friends who were still very excited, “If you guys want to go up, just go up first, I'll catch up later, I'm already tired. I might slow down your journey.” I gave up my dream of being able to get to the top soon, and said to myself that even if I don't reach the top it's okay. I said to myself, that just to be able to take them to Mt. Sindoro and let them see the beautiful scenery there I am already happy. And I'm ready when they say, "Okay, we go ahead, we want to get to the top." However, there was something different about this group. They surprised me. “We departed together and are going up together, and so, even going to the top, we will do it together." Two short but very touching sentences suddenly lifted my spirits. I was sure that they had put aside their personal dreams to be able to realize the common dream of "climbing to the peak of Sindoro together". Finally, our group arrived at the peak of Mount Sindoro 3153m together at 08.30 am.

Getting to the peak often tempts people to be ambitious and passionate but forget about being with other people. The peak of success is so tempting to be achieved personally so as to encourage individualism and egoism. From this journey I learned that there is something more valuable than just reaching the peak of personal success, namely, "Getting to the Peak together" or achieving a “shared dream.” “No one ever feels left out.” I pondered Jesus' prayer, “Father, I want them to be with Me, wherever I am.” (John 17, 24) a prayer specifically offered by the Lord Jesus for His disciples. The pastoral example who wants to make all His disciples feel the “Glory of God” made me believe that this is what I am called to do.

The experience with my Junior friends reminds me of the love of God who always greets and gives encouragement and faithfully awaits the arrival of His beloved sons. Jesus never left His

disciples, even when His disciples left Jesus on His Way of the Cross. He continued to seek and greet His disciples after the resurrection.

The experience of “Reaching the summit together” confirmed my calling as an Oblate missionary to be able to reach to everyone who needs salvation. This experience also reminded me of the writing of St. Eugenius

de Mazenod in his 1818 draft constitution which reads, “We support each other with great tenderness and patience, and compete in doing good and in practicing joyful love. Each member will avoid everything that could offend his brothers, and willingly yield to the will of the other, so that the peace of God and the love of Christ may dwell among us.” (St. Eugene de Mazenod, 1818).

EUROPE

FRANCE

The Joy of Living in an International Community

A special message from the Oblate Community at Lourdes to novices and scholastics

Lourdes, May 29, 2021.

Dear novices and scholastics,

Allow us to begin this letter by recounting the last moments in the life of Saint Eugene de Mazenod. On Tuesday in the octave of Pentecost, May 21, 1861, at 9:30 p.m., a day ends. It only remains to recite the compline, the last prayer before rest. And it is exactly this prayer that was missing for a man’s earthly life to end.

One of those who watched over Bishop Eugene, noticed that the time to recite compline has arrived. The dying bishop gives his permission ...

The antiphon *Salve Regina* is recited: When it was time to say : « ...and after this our exile, show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus », Bishop Eugene opens his eyes for the last time, as if he wanted Mary to take him by the hand and lead him to Jesus.

At the last words of this prayer: « o clement, o loving, o sweet Virgin Mary! » And with these words ... the last breath ... came the well-deserved rest.

None of the Oblates knew yet what Eugene had written in his will. However, Mary already

knew and rejoiced: I supplicate through the intercession of the Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, desire to remind her in all humility, with compassion, with filial dedication of my whole life and with the desire that he has always had to make her known and loved and to propagate her worship in all places through the ministry of those whom the Church has given me as children ... (Testament, 08/01/1854).

At the end of the novena of prayer for Oblate vocations, we, the Oblates of the international community at the service of the Sanctuary of Lourdes, address this letter to those who discern their vocation to religious life in our Congregation as part of their first formation.

We would like to share our joy of living in an international community and of fulfilling the desire of our Founder who always wanted to make the Blessed Virgin Mary known and loved and to propagate her worship in all places through our ministry.

We are proud to live according to the testament of our Founder and to serve in a place so famous as the Sanctuary of Lourdes.

Fr. Nicola Ventriglia – Italy

Fr. Linus Soysa - Sri-Lanka

Fr. Krzysztof Zielenda – Poland

Fr. Josephe Nguyen – Vietnam

Fr. Martin Obikara - Nigeria

MEDITERRANEAN PROVINCE**The Rosary Prayer Chain for Oblate vocations**

Pablo Reinedo and Fr. Carmine Marrone, OMI
The Rosary Prayer Chain for Oblate Vocations
is in its eleventh year and growing!

It was in the year 2008 when Fr. Ismael Garcia Moreno OMI, in Spain, launched this initiative of continuous prayer of the rosary. He was inspired by the experience of a group of young people that he followed in Monzòn, in the north of Spain. Every year they organized a prayer chain of 24 consecutive hours on the occasion of the Confirmation day of the young people in the group. "Why not do the same for Oblate vocations?", was the question that was ringing in his mind. So, Fr. Ismael launched the 24-hour continuous prayer initiative for this intention.

In 2009 and 2010, the prayer shifts were extended to 36 hours, beginning on 20 May at 12 noon. Ismael took up the idea again, involving a group of lay people who were put in charge of the "Rosary Prayer Chain" initiative. Pablo Reinedo, a layman, took on the coordination. In 2014, an invitation was launched to pray the rosary every day of the novena for Oblate vocations. Oblates and lay people from the entire Mediterranean Province, and also from other parts of the world, were involved with a lot of enthusiasm. To our great surprise and joy, all available prayer shifts were completed in the week of 21-29 May.

FRANCE**News from Aix-en-Provence**

Greetings from the Aix-en-Provence Foundation House community! We would like to share with you some news from us. March 18, 2020 was the date set by the French government to confine the country because of the "small but mighty" virus called Covid-19.

The lockdown forced us to cancel all the sessions planned for 2020: the De Mazenod Experience in French and English, the formation of post-novitiate superiors, the summer session for

Since then, the Rosary Prayer Chain has retained its current format of 9 days. Thanks to the Facebook profile and the progress made with the translations to facilitate booking, the initiative has spread all over the world and many people are now involved. The aim, of course, is not so much to complete the list of shifts, but to promote prayer and a vocational culture. In last year's edition, 424 shifts were covered by people scattered throughout the Oblate world in 20 countries. Today, the Rosary Prayer Chain is a heritage of the entire Congregation.

For this reason, from this year on, the continuous rosary becomes an initiative officially promoted by the General Administration for the entire Oblate family of the world.

It will be very easy to book: everyone can become an animator of the initiative.

Let us make the vocational culture and prayer for Oblate vocations grow in the world! The world, as Pope Francis reminded us, counts on Oblate Missionaries.

And the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate need the prayers of all of us. Let us move forward together! We were born for times like this!

From May 21 to 29, may we all experience a fruitful novena for Oblate vocations!

scholastics, the youth meetings, and the Oblate Brothers' meeting. All were cancelled!

Since then the house is 'empty' but the community has continued to live! This allowed us to strengthen the bonds among ourselves, to get to know each other better, to live the words of the Founder: "charity, charity, charity", without forgetting the following: "outside, zeal for the salvation of men".

During this time, we took initiatives to help the faithful of the Mission Church. We kept the church open every day with the Blessed

Sacrament exposed for a time of recollection and peace before the Lord for those in distress, in difficult and upsetting situations. We were one of the few churches in the city open all day. We also made ourselves available for listening and for the sacrament of reconciliation, by appointment, and we set up a blog to keep the links with the Mazenodian Family, without forgetting all the accompaniment of the students of the Frat-Mazenodienne who live the university year with us.

On the administrative level, the association International Eugene de Mazenod Center (CIEM) which had been created in 2011 has been dissolved and it is the Endowment Fund of the Foundation House of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate which has taken over.

As we entered the year 2021, we thought that the situation would improve! But it did not. We had to cancel all the programs again or postpone the one from the previous year, or even booked long ago for this year.

We cancelled the French "De Mazenod Experience" in the spring and even the English one in the fall. The session for Post-Novitiate Superiors scheduled for July is being held in Rome, directly by the General Administration.

We are holding only one session for the month of August, the one for scholastics coming from the European scholasticates (International Scholasticate of Rome, Vermicino in Italy and Obra in Poland).

The pandemic is deeply affecting us...
The pandemic forces us to adapt...

And the pandemic directs us to two words: solidarity and sensitivity. We are called to be in solidarity with the suffering world...

And we are called to be sensitive to the situation of people today, where we find people everywhere facing difficulties and problems in health and finances, in particular.

Being aware of the world situation today, we have modified the program for the rest of the year and for next year... God willing... because we do not know what might happen in the coming months.

Therefore, instead of a "De Mazenod Experience" in September-November, we are considering a "Training for Future Aix Animators" program.

This program is especially intended for those who are called to be animators of the de Mazenod Experience in the coming years.

We are also thinking of organizing a session on interculturality in November or December. We will specify later on as we see the evolution of the pandemic after the summer.

And for the year 2022, we have changed the languages of the De Mazenod Experience (DMX):

- In the spring (April 20-June 16) there will be a DMX in **ENGLISH**
- In the fall (September 14 to November 10) a DMX in **SPANISH**

We hope to be able to realize these programs!

Thank you for your prayers for the community of Aix, which has lost several of its members.

Bonga and Jean-Marie are in Africa and Mario is in Italy for a hip operation.

Laudetur Jesus Christus et Maria Immaculata!

The community of the Foundation House in Aix en Provence

Benoit DOSQUET,

Jo BOIS,

Mario BRANDI,

Bonga MAJOLA,

Jean-Marie DIAKANOU, and

Asodo ISTOYO

LATIN AMERICA

CRUZ DEL SUR**Lanzamiento del novenario en memoria de Mons. Pedro Shaw OMI "Pa'i Puku"**

Mons. Pedro Shaw, OMI "Pa'i Puku" (Padre Largo, pues medía 1'99m), Misionero santo en el Chaco paraguayo (1925 - 1984) andaba a caballo, en cachapé y a veces a pie, por áridos desiertos y por extensos bañados, atravesando ríos y riachos, pantanos plagados de toda clase de insectos y alimañas, mosquitos, polvorines y otros, no conoce ni tiempo, ni hora, ni fronteras y tampoco límites en cuanto a y para su constitución física...

Después de la muerte de Pai Puku en 1984, la idea de iniciar el proceso oficial de su beatificación ha ido encontrando cada vez más apoyo. Desde hace algunos meses, el Vicepostulador de la causa, Dr. Michel Krischer, laico alemán experto en Pa'i Puku, está haciendo un gran trabajo para poder solicitar al obispo de la diócesis paraguaya de Benjamín Aceval, Mons. Amancio Francisco Benítez, el inicio formal de la Causa, que estaba prevista de iniciarse en 2020, pero que la pande-mia del Covid-19 ha obligado a posponer.

CRUZ DEL SUR**¡Nueva página de una futura Causa!**

*P. Diego Sáez Martín OMI
Postulador General*

Tengo la alegría de comunicar que el Dr. Michael Krischer, Vicepostulador, y su equipo ha creado una magnífica página web sobre la futura causa de Mons. Pedro Shaw OMI "Pa'i Puku", santo misionero oblatos en el Chaco paraguayo (1925 - 1984)

Andaba a caballo, en cachapé y a veces a pie, por áridos desiertos y por extensos bañados, atravesando ríos y riachos, pantanos plagados de toda clase de insectos y alimañas, mosquitos,

Este año 2021, para conmemorar el aniversario de la muerte trágica en accidente de tráfico de Pa'i Puku el 21 de junio de 1984, el Vicepostulador ha organizado un Novenario a modo de "Maratón de oración por el fin de la pandemia". La novena es para preparar las festividades del día de su accidente fatal, un día 21 de junio sobre el km 28 de la Ruta Transchaco. Allí, donde se encuentra hoy en día la Capilla del Centro Espiritual Pa'i Puku, va a celebrar el obispo de la diócesis de Benjamín Aceval, Monseñor Amancio Benítez Candia, el día lunes 21 de junio a las 9 horas una misa solemne en memoria de nuestro gran misionero del Chaco.

Para dar a conocer la decisión de la Congregación de los Misioneros Oblatos de María Inmaculada de pedir el inicio de la Causa, así como la iniciativa concreta del Novenario, el pasado 11 de junio tuvo lugar una conferencia de prensa digital organizada por el servicio de prensa de la Conferencia Episcopal Paraguaya, en la que el padre Diego Sáez Martín, OMI, Postulador General (Roma), y el Dr. Michael Krischer, Vicepostulador (Alemania), junto con otros miembros de la comisión de beatificación, explicaron las gestiones realizadas en el proceso de beatificación de Mons. Pedro Shaw.

polvorines y otros, no conoce ni tiempo, ni hora, ni fronteras y tampoco límites en cuanto a y para su constitución física...

Para revitalizar la promoción de la Causa, el Vicepostulador Dr. Michael Krischer y la Comisión Pro Pa'i Puku tuvimos hace pocas semanas una Conferencia digital con el obispo competente Mons. Amancio Benítez Candia, el Postulador General P. Diego Sáez Martín OMI desde Roma y el Provincial P. Jorge Albergati OMI desde Buenos Aires el día 10 de abril 2021. Así surgió otra vez el ánimo y el entusiasmo...

¿Quieres saber más de Pa'i Puku OMI o de la Causa? ¡Visita la excelente página! - www.causapaipuku.com

LATIN AMERICA

“The feast is over, and now the house must be tidied up...”.

A retrospect on the 1st Assembly of the OMI Family of Latin America and the Caribbean

Sebastián Cortés Cruz, (LaOMI)

I still remember the year 2019, when those of us who were asked to animate the OMI Laity at the level of CIAL (Interprovincial Conference of Latin America) thought of activities such as a music festival and many other interesting things... It was a complete failure! But, that was how it all began.

Blessed be God who brings good out of evil, for it was thanks to the pandemic, that we were forced to have videoconferences, online courses, and live transmissions, in order to continue with our work and pastoral missions. Thus, we were able to meet with representatives of the various countries in this region where there are OMI missions. Ideas were put together, we began to look for formation together, we had the possibility of dreaming together according to the realities and concrete needs of each community.

It was thus that, after a long journey, the 1st ASSEMBLY OF THE OMI FAMILY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN finally took place on April 24, 2021. Its synodal character allowed it to be carried out with the contribution of all the people who belong, in one way or another, to the OMI Family of the Latin American region. Committees were formed, and they contributed their time, resources, sweat and tears to make the event possible and successful.

Each committee had a specific task: making promotional videos, composing songs and music, organizing liturgy, programming, coordinating, animating, transmitting through social networks, and managing three zoom platforms from Peru, Rome and Chile. There were also those who did presentations, those who did translations, those who took notes and systematized what each team discussed, and any questions raised. There were those who encouraged people to sign up, those who lent their internet facility or broadcast

the event in alternative ways when there were technological problems.

Blessed be God who at this time once again performed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, because the baskets were passed around and each person put in his or her own... for the feast.

But what was the purpose of having this “feast”? Was it just to get to know each other, living in different communities and countries, and nothing more? No, there was more to it. Once a feast is over, we have to put the house back in order, and collect the “leftovers”. This time we are doing it together, since the proposals, thoughts, options and objectives of each working team are being collected, in order to make them known in a final synthesis document. We hope to “walk together as an Oblate family”, because this feast was only the starting point of the SYNODAL WAY, a way that is being rediscovered in the Roman Catholic Church, so that we as Church assume the mission among all - not to “help the poor little nun or the priest” nor to allow them “to do everything in the community without letting anyone else participate”. As Pope Francis, said in his visit to Chile in 2018:

“...we do need you to challenge us; the Church needs you to throw away the old-age identity card, the spiritually grown-upness, and have the courage to tell us: “I like that; this is the way I think we need to go; this doesn’t work, this is not a bridge but a wall, and so forth”.

*Pope Francis, January 17, 2018,
(National Shrine of Maipú)*

Many challenges are coming, there are new paths to build, realities to attend to, and others to unveil. We need to face our fears and demolish our archaic practices, to allow ourselves to be shaped by the Holy Spirit. Perhaps, because this is a prophetic path, we have to tear down and build, as God pointed out to Jeremiah, not by a destructive conflict but by deconstruction, a term that is often heard nowadays and to which it is good that we pay attention as an Oblate family. We

can do so only by being “always close to the people”, or, as Brother Bishop and Argentine martyr Enrique Angelelli said: “One ear in the Gospel and the other in the People”.

A world is open to us, a blank canvas, with the colours of Latin American joys and cries. Mother Mary, pray for us, so that we shall be faithful to your Son and thus do "whatever He tells us".

ANNIVERSARIES - JULY 2021

70th Anniversaries of Vows

26/07/1951	09039	Fr. Amador de Lucas	Mediterranea
26/07/1951	09036	Fr. Fermin del Blanco	Mediterranea
26/07/1951	09034	Fr. José Gago	United States
26/07/1951	09035	Fr. Léo Laberge	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
26/07/1951	09040	Fr. Otilio Largo	Mediterranea

65th Anniversaries of Vows

25/07/1956	10110	Fr. Santiago Rebordinos	Cruz del Sur
26/07/1956	10154	Fr. Andre Dubois	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
26/07/1956	10150	Fr. Fernand Dufour	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
26/07/1956	10151	Fr. Laval Tremblay	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

65th Anniversaries of Ordinations

01/07/1956	09212	Fr. Marcel Rouyer	France
08/07/1956	08841	Fr. William Woestman	United States

60th Anniversaries of Vows

02/07/1961	11527	Fr. André Koumans	Belgique et Pays Bas
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60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

02/07/1961	10375	Fr. François Cueff	France
02/07/1961	10245	Fr. Roberto de Valicourt	Brazil
08/07/1961	10206	Fr. Inno Gijsberts	Belgium & Netherlands
12/07/1961	09959	Fr. Walter Jüptner	Namibia
12/07/1961	09988	Fr. Louis Ponniah	Jaffna

50th Anniversaries of Vows

25/07/1971	12090	Fr. Jan Sadowski	Assumption
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50th Anniversaries of Ordinations

24/07/1971	11113	Fr. André Cyr	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

13/07/1996	13366	Fr. Luiz Antônio de Melo	Brazil
27/07/1996	13384	Fr. Chrishantha J. Fernando	Colombo
28/07/1996	12943	Fr. Kingoma Emmanuel Isundala	Congo
28/07/1996	13301	Fr. Nkwar Ghislain Kibete	Belgium & Netherlands
28/07/1996	13245	Fr. Kilolo Clément Mayuli	Congo
28/07/1996	13246	Fr. Kalonda Deogratias Mukomo	Congo

ANNIVERSARIES - AUGUST 2021

75th Anniversaries of Vows

02/08/1946	08177	Fr. Garcia Lussier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1946	08150	Fr. Tommaso Campagnuolo	Mediterranea
15/08/1946	08192	Fr. Anthony Schmidt	Lacombe

70th Anniversaries of Vows

15/08/1951	09284	Fr. Maurice Joly	Lacombe
15/08/1951	09096	Fr. Roland Leclaire	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1951	09091	Fr. Arthur Massé	Lacombe
15/08/1951	09391	Fr. Luigi Russo	Mediterranea
22/08/1951	09692	Bro. Valmond Leclerc	United States

65th Anniversaries of Vows

02/08/1956	10160	Fr. Wilfred Harvey	United States
15/08/1956	10122	Fr. Vincenzo Abbatinali	Mediterranea
15/08/1956	10184	Fr. Marcel Dumais	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1956	10187	Fr. Denis Paquin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1956	10190	Fr. William Thompson	Lacombe

60th Anniversaries of Vows

02/08/1961	11107	Msgr. Vincent Cadieux	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1961	11113	Fr. André Cyr	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1961	11108	Fr. Julien De Lafontaine	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1961	11079	Fr. Théodore Dumont	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1961	11530	Bro. Réjean Gadouas	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1961	11117	Fr. Jean-Claude Gilbert	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1961	11124	Fr. John Collet	United States
15/08/1961	11128	Fr. Jerome Novotny	Colombo
15/08/1961	11129	Msgr. Roger Schwietz	United States

50th Anniversaries of Vows

15/08/1971	12144	Fr. Normand Bonneau	Lacombe
15/08/1971	12321	Bro. Richard P. Coté	United States
15/08/1971	12095	Fr. Joseph Ferraioli	United States
15/08/1971	12092	Fr. Gérard Jacques	France
15/08/1971	12181	Fr. Lon Konold	United States
15/08/1971	12091	Fr. Michael Lauze	United States
15/08/1971	12179	Fr. Henry Lemoncelli	General Administration
15/08/1971	12216	Fr. Albert Littner	France
15/08/1971	12097	Fr. John Madigan	United States

50th Anniversaries of Ordinations

07/08/1971	11701	Fr. Giovanni Fustaino	Mediterranea
14/08/1971	11861	Fr. Robert Haggarty	Lacombe

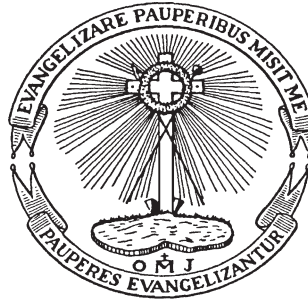
25th Anniversaries of Vows

01/08/1996	13627	Fr. Jacob Herklotz	Lacombe
10/08/1996	13654	Fr. Christian Dionne	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
10/08/1996	13751	Fr. Daniel Lucien Renaud	United States
11/08/1996	13823	Fr. Henricus Asodo	Admin. Generale
11/08/1996	13824	Fr. Antonius Widiatmoko	Indonesia
24/08/1996	13873	Bro. Benoît H. Dosquet	General Administration

Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 63 - 68

NAME	PROV/DEL	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. Raymond Crowe	United States	04/12/1925	Tewksbury	12/06/2021
Fr. Edouard Hamman Tizi	Cameroon	01/01/1956	Garoua	13/06/2021
Fr. Pieter Peeraer	Southern Africa	27/12/1964	Potchefstroom	08/07/2021
Fr. Philippe Montgrain	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	18/06/1944	Richelieu	12/07/2021
Fr. Pierre Tissot	France	18/05/1926	Lyon	21/07/2021
Fr. Joseph-Etienne Hehn	France	03/02/1920	Marseille	24/07/2021



“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)

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