

Three profess first vows

In the presence of many area Oblates and friends in the area, Brothers Paul Bwalya Kunda, Nchimunya Haakakata and James Fernandes Raja made their first vows on Aug. 1, anniversary of St. Eugene de Mazenod's birth (1782).

Born in Melur-Madurai, Tamilnadu, India, **Bro. Raja**, who joined the Oblates in 2008, was drawn to the congregation by the simplicity of life they manifested in India. He received a BA in English from Annamalai University and his philosophy diploma from the DeMazenod Institute in



Perambakkam. During his regency he managed a boys' hostel with 64 rooms and was overseer of construction for the Oblate Animation Hall in Bangalore. He will pursue theology in India.

Bro. Haakakata was born in Kabwe, Zambia. He entered the Oblate pre-novitiate program in Lusaka, Zambia. There, he received a BA in philosophy and religious studies from the Franciscan St Bonaventure College. He also did ministry at the Missionaries of Charity's Mother Teresa Hospice and did CPE training at the

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Above: Bros. Raja, Haakakata, Kunda Left: back, l-r: Novitiate Formation Team: Frs. Rudy Nowakoski, Tom Horan, Jack Lau; front, l-r: Bros. Raja, Haakakata, Fr. Bill Antone, Bro. Kunda.

Flood victims receive aid

by Fr. Jim Fee, OMI

Besides the plight of the persons crossing the border here in south Texas, there is the recent story of the floods which inundated properties and belongings at one of our parish's missions, Our Lady of Guadalupe, located 20 miles from Eagle Pass in a small town called Quemado, TX. There last month the canal overflowed its path and greatly damaged many of the homes, and of course the furniture and things inside.

Our parishioners participated with the local Baptist church to supply food, water and some sheet rock for repairs. The Lord supplied his grace to mend challenged spirits.



Oblate Frs. Pauldass Selvaraj, Jim Fee and Schol. Bro. Sergio Gonzalez bring supplies to a family in their flood-damaged home.

Change is part

and parcel of life. “Managing change” is now considered a necessary skill for any one of us who wishes to live happily.

Abraham knew that well. God called him forth into an unknown future, and he chose to “manage” the great changes which God’s call entailed. He did not hold back or dig in his heels or even postpone the inevitable. He went.

“Now the Lord said to Abram: ‘Go forth from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.....’” (Genesis 12, 1-4)

What an adventure for Abraham to walk into the future! For all the changes that subsequently took place in his life and in the life of his family and clan, what remained the same? How did Abraham “manage” the changes in his life? How do we manage the many changes that have taken place and are taking place in our lives?

I suppose we “manage” the changes in any number of ways. There is usually some amount of pain involved in our on-going experiences of change. But is there hope? Is there enthusiasm and excitement? Is there some Abrahamic trust?

“Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become the ‘father of many nations’...he did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body,



Frs. Roger Couture, Ray Marquis, John Henault , Roger Hallée, Bernard Pinet, Maxime Eugene at the closing of the shrine in Colebrook, NH.

which was already good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness’.” (Romans 4, 18-22)

Speaking of being one hundred years old, we celebrated this summer on June 30, the 100th birthday of Fr. Boniface Wittenbrink, OMI. Boniface could easily be a figure of Abraham for us as he himself forged ahead in his life and as an Oblate missionary, often into the unknown, before any of us in the US province were born, including our nonagenarians to whom Fr. Boni rightfully could say, “you’re just kids”. Among his accomplishments, Fr. Boni was the first president of what is today the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM). May his wisdom and that of all our elder Oblates continue to inspire and enlighten us as we “manage the changes” that are coming at us.

Painfully we let go of four signifi-

cant ministries during the months of June and July. After 91 years, we let go of our Native American and parish ministries in Sisseton and Rosholt, SD and surrounding communities. We also relinquished our responsibility of St. John the Baptist parish in Alvin, TX. We bade farewell to the great parish community of Mary Immaculate in Pacoima, CA, a parish founded by the Oblates 60 years ago. Finally, after 92 years we brought to a close the Oblate ministry of Our Lady of Grace Shrine, in Colebrook, NH.

Having spent nine years in Pacoima, I was personally affected by this change. I was not able to be present at the farewell in Alvin, TX, but I heard that it was filled with gratitude for the Oblates. I was touched especially by the outpouring of affection for the Oblates in Sisseton, and I keenly sensed the spiritual importance of the Shrine for the people in and around Colebrook. Unfortunately, the actual number of pilgrims who frequent the Shrine are fewer and fewer. The farewell in Colebrook was at best bit-

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tersweet, if not disconcerting. And yet we are grateful to God and to all for the years of ministry in all of these places. As Fr. Bob Levesque said in his homily in Colebrook, the seeds of God's Word have been sown over the years. St. Paul gives us good perspective when he writes to the community in Corinth: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (1 Cor. 3, 6)

Thank you to my Oblate brothers who served in these places: *Frs. Charlie Borski and Jack Franko in Alvin; Bro. Lucio Cruz and Frs. Victor Santoyo, John Curran and Carlos Alarcón in Pacoima; Frs. Joe Hitpas and Tony Dummer in Sisseton; and Frs. Bob Levesque and Henri Delisle in Colebrook* Thanks also to *Bro. Richard Côté and Fr. Norm Volk* who prepared excellent historical booklets for *Colebrook and Sisseton* respectively.

And so, back to Abraham: *we look to the future and walk into it with faith and hope.*

I enjoyed recently a five day seminar at the Maryknoll Institute in Ossining, NY. The seminar was ap-



Frs. Walter Butor, Tony Dummer, Bishop Paul Swain, Frs. Joe Hitpas and Norman Volk at the service closing the Oblate ministry in Sisseton, SD. (See p.5)

propriately entitled: "Resting on the Future: The Search for God in an Unfinished Universe". The course was given by John Haught, a retired professor from Georgetown University, who has authored numerous books and articles on the dialogue between science and faith. He gave us four lectures a day and entertained many questions. There were about 50 of us who participated, men and women, some clergy, religious and laity.

There is no doubt that the sciences over the last centuries have turned upside down the ordered universe of our thinking. Science, in the form of scientific naturalism, has become a religion to itself and some of the "new atheists" (e.g. Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, etc.) scoff at and mock religion as being not only superstitious but also the source of violence in the world. Some of the most renowned scientists, like Charles Darwin, have shaken up our thinking in a way that we might be tempted to exclude God from the picture of an evolving universe. We have been immersed in these challenging changes for a long time: John Donne, in the wake of Galileo's assertion that the sun is the center of the solar system, wrote in 1612:

And new Philosophy calls all in doubt,

The Element of fire is quite put out;

The Sun is lost, and th'earth,
and no man's wit

Can well direct him where to looke for it!

'Tis all in peeces, all coherence gone . . .



Fr. Charles Borski, OMI with some of the parishioners at the ceremony marking the end of the Oblate ministry at St. John the Baptist parish in Alvin, TX, which began in 1920 with the arrival of Fr. Isidore Tresh, OMI.

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Oblate Woods surveyed

by Sr. Maxine Pohlman, SSND

On July 15, 2000 the Great Rivers Land Trust honored the Oblates for their preservation of Oblate Woods, at the novitiate in Godfrey, IL (*OMIUSA*, Sept 2000, p.14). The Oblates were the first Catholic religious order in Illinois to give a conservation easement on their property. It was also the first time that the Federal Forest Legacy Program was used in Illinois.

In May of this year, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission hired Hudson and Associates, an Alton, IL survey company, to survey the tract. The \$4000 funds came from a tax on real estate in Illinois established to offset development of land throughout the state.

Working from the survey maps, Debbie Newman and Eric Wright from the Preserves Commission worked with Sr. Maxine Pohlman, SSND, Director of La Vista Ecological Learning Center, Fr. Jack Lau, OMI along with novices James Fernandes, Paul



Above: Paul Kunda, Nchimunya Haakakata, Fr. Jack Lau, **Center l:** Along the Mississippi bluff; **Center r:** Debbie Newman, James Raja and Eric Wright; **Bottom:** Driving in the survey sign stakes.



Bwayla Kunda and **Nchimunya** to set boundary posts marking the 16 acre Oblate Woods.

As they worked, Ms. Newman pointed out that Japanese honeysuckle was crowding out many native species and that the towering sugar maples were doing the same with the oaks and hickories.

In one part of the preserve, located near an abandoned homestead, they found a lot of trash, glass, tractor parts etc. Sr. Pohlman hopes to organize a group to volunteer in removing some of the lighter debris.

Fr. Séamus Finn, OMI reflected that “the commitment made some 15 years ago by the former CUSP leadership, continues to be a model for the kinds of imaginative policies and work that we need to be identifying as we demonstrate the priority of the integrity of creation.



Proclamation by the Mayor

WHEREAS, since 1923 the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate have made it their mission to faithfully serve the people of northeastern South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the Oblates have led the Catholic communities of St. Peter's and St. Catherine's in Sisseton, St. John's in Rosholt, St. John's and St. Matthew's in Veblen, Sacred Heart in New Effington and other small Catholic mission churches in this area over the past nine decades; and

WHEREAS, the Oblates have reached out to Native Americans in our area to nurture their faith, celebrate their culture and build bridges of understanding between all cultures represented in our region; and

WHEREAS, the Oblates ministered to the needs of the sick and the elderly in our community through the operation of the Tekakwitha Nursing Home beginning in 1959 until it was sold 36 years later to the Benedictine Health Care System in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Oblates have worked diligently to feed the hungry and clothe the poor in our community through their generous support of the Sisseton Food Pantry, the War Cloud Drop-In Center and the Kateri Thrift Store; and

WHEREAS, after 91 years of service by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Northeastern South Dakota, the order of priests will end their presence here at the end of June, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2014, a Farewell Celebration will recognize and honor the faithful support of our community, and our area, by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry Jaspers, Mayor of the City of Sisseton, South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 22, 2014, as

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Day

In the City of Sisseton, SD.



Above, l: Bishop Paul Swain and Fr Joe Hitpas at the closing ceremonies marking the end of the Oblate presence in the Sisseton SD area. **Right:** Frs. Tony Dummer and Hitpas, last Oblates to serve in Sisseton, wear the Indian star quilts, gifts for their service. **For information on the Lakota star quilts, cut & paste:** http://www.webpanda.com/There/UOT_Starquilt.htm



The quest for some spiritual reading this summer led me to Richard Rohr's book, Immortal Diamond. (Jossey-Bass, Publishers, c. 2013)

Though I highly recommend the entire book, one passage I have spent some time reflecting on is this:

"The Risen Christ is the standing icon . . . of humanity in its final and full destiny. He is the pledge and guarantee of what God will do with all of our crucifixions. At last, we can meaningfully live with hope. It is no longer an absurd or tragic universe. *Our hurts now become the home for our greatest hopes*. Without such implanted hope, it is very hard not to be cynical, bitter, and tired by the second half of our lives.

"It is no accident that Luke's Resurrection account in the Gospel has Jesus saying, "I am not a ghost! I have flesh and bones, as you can see" (24:39-41). To Thomas he says, "Put your finger in the wounds (John 20:27). In other words, "I am human!" – which means to be wounded and resurrected at the same time. He returns to his physical body, and yet he is now unlimited by space or time and is without any regret or recrimination – while still, ironically, carrying his wounds. (That they do not disappear is telling)" . . . "Our wounds are our glory," as Lady Julian of Norwich puts it; it is the utterly counterintuitive message of the risen Jesus".

"The major point is that Jesus has not left the human sphere; he is revealing the goal, the fullness, and the purpose of humanity itself, which is "that we are able to share in the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4), even in this wounded and wounding world. Yes, resurrection is saying something about Jesus, but it is also saying a lot about us, which is even harder to believe. It is saying that we also are larger than life, Being Itself, and therefore made for something good, united, and beautiful."

The fulfillment of the mission of Jesus is not the Resurrection, nor the Ascension nor even Pentecost. The Spirit is given to us by Jesus so that we can help fulfill the mission of Jesus by preaching the good news down through the ages until the end of time.

The fulfillment will come at the end of time when all creation is united with Jesus in heaven, in the kingdom for all eternity.

In the meantime, it is our privilege to be chosen by the Spirit to proclaim that good news and help in bringing to fulfillment Jesus' mission. That is the call of each one of us, as Oblates of Mary Immaculate, as people who share in the charism of St. Eugene, as Oblate Associates, as Honorary Oblates, as co-workers with the Oblates, as sons and daughters

*Please remember in prayer
our recently departed*

Fr. David Power, OMI, 81, died on June 19 in Washington, DC.

Robert Kirtz, 78, brother of Fr. Raymond Kirtz, OMI, died on June 27 in St. Paul, MN.

Bern Will Brown, 94, former Oblate, brother of Fr. Thomas Brown, OMI (Brazil) died on July 5 in Colville Lake, NWT.

Mary H. Stevens, 82, sister of the late Fr. Robert Moosbrugger, OMI, died on July 8.

Mathinda Ngosa, mother of Schol. Bro. Elvis Mwamba Ngosa, OMI, died on July 12 in Zambia.

John Frigon, 87, former Oblate, died on July 10 in Largo, FL.

Paul McCartin, 89, former Oblate and brother of deceased Frs. Francis and Joseph McCartin, OMI died on May 3 in Asheville, NC.

Fr. Real Bourque, OMI, 86, died on July 22 in Belleville, IL.

Arthur L. Eno, Jr., HOMI, 90, died on Aug. 6 in Lowell, MA.

of the Holy Spirit. We are co-creators of a better, a more just and peaceful world precisely through our preaching – by word and deed. of a better, a more just and peaceful world precisely through our preaching – by word and deed. **-Fr. Lou Studer, OMI**



Fr. Antone captured on film (well, in pixels) a visit of Fr. James Datko, OMI (center) to Holy Family parish in Duluth, MN, where Fr. Terry Figel, OMI (standing) is pastor.

Oblates leave Pacoima; parish celebrates 60th

Mary Immaculate parish in Pacoima, CA founded by the Oblates 60 years ago celebrated both its anniversary and the departure of the Oblates with a week-long series of Masses, beginning on June 23.

Each day, an Oblate who had served at the parish celebrated the Mass, which was followed by light refreshment and a get-together with the Oblates.

The week concluded with a special ceremony at the evening Mass on June 28, followed by a special celebration was held in the parish hall.



Parishioners processed into the church carrying banners and pictures of former Oblate pastors, Frs. Leo Leblanc and Luciano Antón.

The Oblates also relinquished responsibility for St. John the Baptist parish in Alvin, TX, where they have served since 1920. The permanent deacons at the parish conducted a time of prayer and sharing of memories, along with expressions of gratitude from different groups in the parish on June 22.

Fr. Ray John Marek, OMI, representing the provincial, thanked the parishioners on behalf of the province for their support of the Oblates over the years, to which **Fr. Charles Borski, OMI**, present pastor, offered his words of thanks. **Frs. Jack Franko, OMI** and **Henry Walker, OMI** were in attendance.

About 400 to 500 people attended the following banquet, feasting on fajitas, rice, and beans prepared by various groups in the parish.



First Oblate bishop named in Brazil

On July 23, 2014, Pope Francis appointed **Fr. Jan Kot, OMI**, until now the pastor of the



Sagrado Coração de Maria Parish in Campo Alegre do Fidalgo, in the Diocese of São Raimundo Nonato, as Bishop of the Diocese of Zé Doca in Northeastern Brazil in the State of Maranhão

Father Kot was born on May 10, 1962, in the city of Makon, Poland. He made his religious vows as an Oblate on Sept. 8, 1986, and was ordained a priest on June 20, 1992.

In 1994, he was assigned to the missions in Brazil (at that time, to the Recife Delegation attached to the former Central Province of the United States). Since 2005 he has been pastor at Coração de Maria in Campo Alegre do Fidalgo, Diocese of São Raimundo Nonato.

Among those on hand to celebrate with **Fr. David Kalert, OMI** as he observed the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on July 28 were alumni, including some of his students, from his alma mater, St. Henry's Seminary in Belleville, IL.

Left to right: Paul 'Murph' Gollieher '48, Fr. Donald 'Doc' Blaes '48, Fr. James Allen, OMI, Deacon Richard Bagby '67, Robert Seiffert '68, Fr. David Kalert, OMI '56, Patrick Kuhl '69, Steve McPeak (coach at SH), Fr. Robert Flannery (diocesan vocation director), and Daniel Franklin



Cotabato Archbishop **Orlando Cardinal Quevedo, OMI** made a surprise visit to 391 on his way to Cotabato's "sister diocese," Anchorage, AK.

The cardinal had made his novitiate in St. Peter's Novitiate in Mission, TX, and in 1964 received his S.T.B. and MA in Religious Education from Oblate College (Catholic University of America) in Washington, D.C.

Left, l-r: Christina Herman, Sr. Ann Diehl, CSJ, Fr. George Kirwin, OMI, Cardinal Quevedo, Schol. Bro. Michael Tembo, OMI

The *Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital* of Belleville, IL received funding from the 2013 Oblate Sharing Fund. The grant was requested by St. Elizabeth's board member Jack Weck, for the purpose of supporting the hospital's monthly interactive and educational program, and to provide lunch for at-risk members of the community.

Right: Fr. Elmar Mauer, OMI, chaplain at St. Elizabeth's, with Jack Weck displaying the certificate of gratitude from the Friends.



Just when we thought there was no follow-up to the Rolheiser weekend, we found the perfect encore in his famous countryman, **Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB!**

Fr. Rosica was, for most of us, the televised face of the Vatican during the Papal Conclave that gave us Francis. He is also the founder of Salt & Light Catholic Television of Canada.

This is a rare opportunity to

MISSIONARY OBLATE PARTNERSHIP

Arthur A. Pingolt, Jr.
President

spend a small-group weekend with him and his award winning producer Sebastian Gomes. If you want to understand Pope

Francis better and appreciate the depth of his message to the Church, this is your weekend.

*Friday evening, January 30 –
Sunday morning, February 1,*

*2015 Oblate Renewal Center,
San Antonio*

The Oblate Partnership held its July 16-17 meeting at the provincial headquarters in Washington, DC.

Jacques Delli Paoli, Developing world-Business Advisor and **Neil King**, Global Economics Editor, Wall Street Journal addressed the participants, developing the theme: *Doing Good and Doing Well: A Creative Tension.*



Eagle Pass Oblates assist migrants

by *Fr. Antonio Ponce, OMI*

Collecting donations for newly arrived migrants was a time to connect with a visit with my fellow Oblates in Eagle Pass, TX, about 120 miles from Laredo.

Three Oblates, **Frs. Jim Fee, Paul Dass** and **Schol. Bro. Sergio Gonzalez** serve the people of Our Lady of Refuge and its two chapels.

Because of the proximity to the border with Mexico, the Oblates are constantly responding to challenges of newly arrived migrants, coming to the parish looking for help.

With the parishioners, they

provide spiritual support, food and shelter as well as referring migrants to where they can obtain legal assistance.

They also reached out to help poor families affected by recent floods. (see p. 1).



Fr. Ponce (standing, right) visiting Laredo Humanitarian Team shelter collecting donations for migrant children and families.

Bishop thanks Oblates for 30 years in Zambia diocese

by Bishop Evans Chinyama Chinyemba, OMI

Mongu Diocese was created on 14th June, 1997 and Fr. Paul Francis Duffy, OMI was named the first Bishop of the new Diocese. Bishop Duffy, OMI was among the first four Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate who came to Zambia and settled in Lukulu and Lusaka. Later the team extended their missionary presence to Kalabo and Limulunga and eventually Mongu town. Three of these first Oblate Missionaries, Bro. John Keplinger, OMI, Fr. Jack Joyce, OMI and Bishop Paul Duffy, OMI, have passed on and continue interceding for the mission they started.

With these few words may I thank the Missionary Oblates for their numerous contributions towards the life of the Diocese through the missions they run. Your support is seen through the missions you manage and your added efforts in participating in evangelization



The first Oblates to sink roots in Zambia 30 years ago: Frs. Pat Gitzen, Paul Duffy, Jack Joyce, and Bro. John Keplinger

through the media. The 30 years celebration in June in Lukulu was a moment of reflection on where the urgent needs of our people are. To this may you always continue responding.



On June 22, the Ecological Learning Center at the novitiate in Godfrey, IL, celebrated the 2014 Summer Solstice. Center Director, **Sr. Maxine Pohlman, SSND**, planned the evening around a documentary on the life of folk-singer Pete Seeger followed by a pot-luck supper and sing along, featuring some of Seeger's famous songs. "On this longest day of the year," Sr. Maxine said, "it is fitting that we take time to honor this man of integrity as we promote the integrity of creation."

Michael Levine, Charlie Nesmith and Jerry Maloney provided the music, joined occasionally by **Frs. Tom Horan and Rudy Nowakowski**

First Vows professed

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University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka. His theology course will be at the Scholasticate in Cedara, RSA.

Bro. Kunda comes from Samfya, Luapula Province, Zambia. He was in a high school seminary in Zambia when he attended an Oblate "Come and See" program. In 2010 he entered the pre-novitiate program in Lusaka, where he also attended St. Bonaventure College (BA in philosophy and religious studies) and did CPE training at the Lusaka University Teaching Hospital. He will continue studies in Cedara.



AK teens engage in mission trip

By Eli Woodvine



On July 13, 2014, 14 teens and 7 chaperones from Oblate parishes, Our Lady of the Angels in Kenai and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Soldotna, joined those from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Anchorage and boarded the M/V Kennicott Ferry on route to Kodiak, AK.

In Kodiak, they joined forces with 14 teens and **Fr. Frank Reitter** from St. Mary's Church.

Bro. Victor Manuel Patricio-Silva, OMI who had just arrived in

Alaska for a month, participated in the week long mission trip. He was a great asset and role model for our teens. The Mission Trip consisted of Leadership Workshops in the morning and Service Projects in the afternoon, and evening Mass to wrap up the day.

During the workshops the youth participated in team activities that required leadership and team work. We learned about the Myers-Briggs personality test and how to work with people of different personalities. We had guest speakers from the Rotary



Bro. Victor at Mission Beach.

Club and the US Navy SEALs. During Mass, the youth served as Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and musicians!

In the afternoon, Fr. Frank Reitter kept us busy with projects around St. Mary's School and Church. The youth designed and painted a mural on a "Fry Shack", designed and built a Rosary Walk, painted official lines on the basketball court, four square and hop scotch. We stained the front and back decks of the school. We power washed and painted several buildings.

After a week of hard work, on July 18 the 14 teens and 7 chaperones boarded the M/V Tustamena Ferry on route to the Kenai Peninsula to make a difference at home!

We are grateful for the support of our parishes and St. Mary's hospitality; appreciate all the dinners from St. Mary's and the work that Fr Reitter did to help us to make this mission a success!



Left: pouring the Rosary Walk

✓ **Pope Francis** met with participants of a Vatican-sponsored conference on impact investing – investments designed to serve the common good. The Pontifical Council on Justice and Peace organized a two-day sharing of strategies around impact investing – what is it, how it can help the poor and how to develop it further. **Fr. Séamus Finn, OMI** spoke at the conference on Tuesday.

The Pope said: “It is increasingly intolerable that financial markets are shaping the destiny of peoples rather than serving their needs, or that the few derive immense wealth from financial speculation while the many are deeply burdened by the consequences.”

✓ An article by **Fr. Harry Winter, OMI**, *Vatican II Continues: The Miracle of Pope and Patriarch*, was put on the internet by Tom

Ryan CSP in the Summer issue of *Koinonia*. To read, cut and paste the following: <http://www.paulist.org/ecumenism/vatican-ii-continues-miracle-may-25-pope-and-patriarch-visit>

✓ **Fr. Frank Wagner, OMI** is involved in the working of The Association of U. S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP) by serving on the membership committee as well as the committee promoting the restoration of women deacons in the Catholic



Church. He believes that Oblates should be in the AUSCP because the Founder held that we should affirm and support our brother Priests among the Diocesan Clergy. At the June 23-26 St. Louis assembly, Fr. Frank made a proposal for the ordination of married men to the ministerial Priesthood. The theme of the assembly in St. Louis was “Revelation in our Lives and Time,” drawn from the Vatican Council II document *Dei Verbum*, the primary document on Scripture. Fr. Donald Senior, C.P., Sr. Dianne Bergant, C.S.A., Fr. Michael Crosby, O.F.M. Cap, and Fr. James Bacik spoke to the 230 priest participants.

✓ A group of 305 persons made their consecration to Jesus through Mary according to the method of St. Louis de Montford at St. Patrick’s in Houston, TX. on Dec. 18. The solemn consecration was made at a Mass concelebrated by **Fr. Mario Beccar, EP** and the pastor, **Fr. Salvatore DeGeorge, OMI**.

✓ *The San Antonio Express* carried a full-page feature article on the Oblate Chefs and Community Garden on the grounds of the Oblate Retreat Center in its June 15, 2014 issue. **Sr. Linda Gibler**, associate academic dean at the Oblate School of Theology and **Jenny Mattingly**, food service overseer at OST, direct other school and retreat center staff in the gardening.

✓ Unable to attend the 71st Annual Healing and Hope Novena at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL? All nine video homilies by **Fr. William Hitpas**, Oblate **Frs. Tom Singer, Chava Gonzalez, Jim Allen, Mark Dean, Tom Ovalle**, and Mr. **Javier Orozco** can be viewed on our website: www.omiusa.org.



From the Provincial

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John Donne’s sentiments may be the same as ours: all coherence is gone. Professor Haught proposes, not unlike Pope John Paul II, an openness to all that legitimate science presents while maintaining “layered explanations” of all that is (Bernard Lonergan), such that evolution and the discovery of an “unfinished universe” only enhances our wonder and ultimate faith in God.

To make the story of a rather heady five-day seminar short, we may do well *to embrace the future*—and all its inevitable and unpredictable changes—with *the hope and faith of Abraham as something even more real and purposeful* than our constant analysis of the past (which has value) or our determination to somehow forever “freeze the frame” of the dramatic unfolding of our lives in an immense and mysterious universe. “*So Abram went, as the Lord told him...*”

Fr. William Antone, OMI

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President and Publisher: Very Rev. Bill Antone, OMI

Editor: Fr. Charles Hurkes, OMI

Direct all submissions, inquiries and comments to Charles Hurkes, OMI at the above address or Fax (202) 529-4572; Tel: (202) 529-4505 e-mail:

chasomi@omiusa.org

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