Dear Brother Oblates,

As the 200th anniversary of our congregation is quickly approaching and our Provincial Congress will take place from January 18th to 22nd, 2016 we are invited once again to look more closely at our Oblate life, mission and ministry. The proposed topic for our congress, *The Emerging Future of Oblate Life and Mission: Responding to the Signs of the Times in a Transformative Way*, helps us to discern what the Holy Spirit is telling us at this point of our history.

Our journey to the Congress has many phases (Annual Retreat, Study Days, Triennium Program, etc.) but the next couple of months, which lead us directly to this event, will have a powerful impact if we take advantage of this preparatory time. During this period, as we will meet in local communities or designated groupings, we are invited to pray, dialogue, and dream together about our future. In this process we have to be conscious of the invitation to “read the signs of the times” and respond in a transformative way through our Oblate life, mission, and some concrete gestures of our conversion.

I would like to invite each one of us to pray for this event that we come to this gathering with open minds and zealous hearts. I am certain that our Congress, which coincides with the bicentennial jubilee of our congregation, will become a time of joyful celebration of our past and present history but also will help us to embrace the future that is inspired by the Holy Spirit and the charism of our founder.

"Your destiny is to be apostles, and so tend within your hearts the sacred fire that the Holy Spirit lights there..."  
- St. Eugene de Mazenod -
Congress Prayer

Holy Spirit of God, may your presence inspire within us missionary passion to grow under your grace as our Founder Saint Eugene de Mazenod, developed and changed throughout his life.

Help us be a people of discernment, seeking your will with free hearts in and through apostolic community.

Make us discontent with stagnation and help us expel the spirit of inertia from our lives and from our mission.

Keep us alive to read the ‘signs of the times’ and to respond with courage, creativity and audacity to the missionary appeals we see and hear today.

Help our hearts grow to be more generous, more available, and more mindful of one another in community.

Inspire us with Mazenodian creativity and wonder as we seek to leave nothing undared in the mission.

We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Fr. Jaroslaw Rozanski OMI in Canada

From June 13th to 25th, Fr. Jaroslaw Rozanski OMI, professor from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski Catholic University in Warsaw, stayed at the Provincial House and worked in our archives preparing two publications on the life and ministry of Polish Oblates in Canada.

The first book will have the format of an almanac where one will be able to find information on Oblates, events, or ministries associated with Polish Oblates in Canada by looking up specific names and topics. In the future it may also serve as an Oblate “Wikipedia” where we can add information which – prior to being posted on the website – will be screened by our staff. The second book will have a more popular format and is intended to reach a wider audience. It will be based on the history of the Assumption Province and will present certain events and individuals in order to preserve the memories of those Fathers who had an enormous contribution to our province.

Fr. Jaroslaw Rozanski OMI will also prepare a paper based on his findings entitled, “What is emerging from the history of Assumption Province” while he is reviewing the last 60 years of our province. This text will help us to have a more in-depth discussion during our congress when we look not only at our past but also into the future. We trust that both publications will be ready in time for the 200th anniversary of our congregation and will be published in .pdf format.
Oblate Charism in Context Congress

The Oblate Charism in Context Congress took place June 30 - July 3, 2015. It was truly an international experience, being broadcast live three hours a day in eight different locations throughout the world: San Antonio (USA), Mexico City (Mexico), Rome (Italy), Obra (Poland), Kinshasa (D.R. Congo), Johannesburg (South Africa), Colombo (Sri Lanka), and Manila (Philippines).

On behalf of Assumption Province, Fr. John Malazdrewich OMI attended the Congress in San Antonio, and Fr. Pawel Ratajczak OMI attended in Rome. Fr. Pawel also presented a paper during the international part of the Congress. His paper was titled: “As I See the Future of the Congregation”.

The Congress had as its primary objective to listen to the opportunities and the challenges to the Oblate charism from its being lived in different contexts, with a view to developing strategies for a new impetus for the entire Congregation, 200 years after its birth. A second objective was to become more aware of the richness of Oblate life today, and to increase the awareness and sense of belonging to one apostolic body. A third objective was to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the OMI Foundation.

During the morning sessions of the Congress, major papers were presented and broadcast live, internationally; there were sixteen of these. During the afternoon sessions, at each site, local participants presented papers on a variety of topics related to Oblate life. Reactions, insights and concerns were shared. Mindful of Pope Francis’ injunction to religious congregations to, ‘remember the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and embrace the future with hope,’ Congress participants reflected on the charism with an eye to the Spirit’s invitations for the future. Over the course of the next few years, the papers will be published in “Oblatio” (Review of Oblate Life).

This Congress was unprecedented as, through the gift of technology, a truly international assembly was able to participate in a lively, inspiring and challenging conversation about the Oblate charism in today’s context. All talks can be found at this link: http://www.omiworld.org/en/content/news/3263/a-successful-cyber-congress/
Birthday Celebrations and Farewell for Fr. Stan Bijak OMI and Bro. Grzegorz Loska OMI

On July 28th we celebrated the birthdays of Fr. Stan Bijak OMI and Bro. Grzegorz Loska OMI, as well as their farewells. Fr. Stan received a new obedience to Vancouver, B.C. while Bro. Grzegorz is going for his English studies in Prince George, B.C. Oblates from the Toronto district took part in this event to thank Fr. Stan for his presence at the Provincial House community in the last year and Bro. Grzegorz who has been at the Provincial House for the last 9 years. We wish them an abundance of God’s graces in their new posts.
Walking Pilgrimage

On Monday, August 3, the 33rd annual walking pilgrimage departed from St. Patrick’s church in Brampton with the goal of arriving at Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland six days later. Pilgrims walked the 155 km mostly through farm lands and forests, occasionally passing a small village. Very few complained about the weather as the sky was mostly overcast and the days were windy. The occasional rain lasted less than an hour and refreshed the summer air.

Each day began with Holy Eucharist and was filled with morning prayer (Godzinki), conferences, the rosary, and lots of singing. The three groups – known by their colours: red, green, and glue – were led by Fr. Marcin Rosinski OMI, Fr. Wojciech Stangel OMI, Fr. Paul Patrick OMI, Fr. Pawel Ratajczak OMI, Fr. Slawomir Szwagrzyk, and Fr. Mariusz Misiorowski, a missionary visiting from Cameroon. It was uplifting and inspiring to see the Oblates walk the way in their white missionary cassocks.

In the evening of each day pilgrims were treated to a hot meal prepared and sponsored by Polonia North, St. Maximilian Kolbe parish in Mississauga, Holy Spirit parish in Barrie, St. Eugene de Mazenod parish in Brampton, Credit Union, and pilgrims from Windsor and residents of Midland. It is such a comfort to know that a delicious meal awaits us at the end of each long day.

Evening prayer concluded each day, followed by a short presentation by the pilgrimage kids who participated in their own special formation program throughout the week. All in all, on Saturday afternoon we arrived safely at Martyrs’ Shrine and gave thanks for a safe pilgrimage by taking part in a thanksgiving Mass.

The following day, all pilgrims took part in a Eucharistic celebration on the occasion of the Assumption of Mary. The celebrant and homilist was Archbishop Wojciech Polak, Primate of Poland.
Assumption of the Blessed Mother: Feast in Midland

On Sunday, August 9th, 2015 over 10,000 faithful took part in an annual event at the Canadian Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland to celebrate the Assumption of Mary. This year’s celebrant was Archbishop Wojciech Polak, Primate of Poland. This annual pilgrimage of Poles in Ontario was being organized by the Conference of Polish Priests for Eastern Canada with Fr. Janusz Blazejak OMI as its director.

Some 1000 of those who gathered at the Shrine were walking pilgrims, who walked over 155 km to Midland bringing their petitions to God through the Blessed Mother.

In his homily, Abp. Wojciech Polak stressed the significant role of Mary in the history of our salvation and above all in the history of the Polish nation.

Another celebration in Midland was the 70th anniversary of the founding of St. Stanislaus – St. Casimir’s Polish Parishes Credit Union. Among those present were the Chief Executive Officer and members of the Board of Directors. The Chair expressed very beautiful and warm words of gratitude to Missionary Oblates for establishing the Credit Union and for their vision of helping new immigrants.

The celebrations were attended by many Oblate priests, including Father Provincial Marian Gil and three of the four Fathers who walked with the pilgrimage: Frs. Marcin Rosinski, Wojciech Stangel, and Pawel Ratajczak.
Three Historical Events Marked at Rama Pilgrimage

August 14 – Vigil of the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Many pilgrims gathered in the evening of August 14 at The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Rama. Priests were available for hearing confessions, The Yorkton Filipino Choir sang hymns of Praise to Mary before the Mass, and Burns-Hanley of Regina were on site for those who wished to purchase any religious articles that would be blessed the following day.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist began with nine priests and Bishop Bryan Bayda who came in procession from the church to the grotto. St. Anthony's Choir, altar servers, the Knights of Columbus, and the banner carriers also joined in the procession. Fr. Marcin Mironiuk OMI, parish priest, welcomed everyone and introduced all the concelebrants who came from many areas, even as far as Brooklyn, New York and Madagascar. Bishop Bryan Bayda presented the homily while Fr. Mitch Burdzy OMI presided. Following the Mass, the rosary was prayed in various languages and then the candle light procession took place going up the hill while stopping at three different locations. The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament took place in the church with Adoration until 11:00 pm.
August 15 – Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The morning of August 15th began with "Godzinki", Polish morning devotional prayers to Mary, followed by Mass in Polish. The main celebrant was Fr. Pawel Petelski OMI from Madagascar, while concelebrants were: Fr. Marcin Mironiuk OMI (Sturgis/Rama), Fr. Stanislaus Poszwa (Regina), and Fr. Mitch Burdzy OMI (Melville).

Then the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite took place in the grotto with Bishop Bryan Bayda of Saskatoon being the main celebrant and Fr. Joakim Rac and Fr. Methodius Kushko concelebrating with him.

"I come here to pray" were the words spoken by Bishop Bryan Bayda of Saskatoon who was among the many pilgrims attending the 74th Annual Pilgrimage at The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Rama, SK on August 14th and 15th. He not only presided at the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite on August 15th, but was also the main homilist on August 14, the Vigil of the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary. He took part in every aspect of the pilgrimage including the Stations of the Cross and Anointing of the Sick and Aged.

In his homily, he spoke of how this is heaven on earth and how we should be doing everything for the Will of God. He referred to Mother Teresa and how she dedicated every letter in her name to God. Then he emphasized how every moment of your life is transformable, giving any situation to the Mother of God and She will transform it to God. Jesus prayed for each one of us choosing the most horrifying way by dying on the cross and transformed it into our salvation.

Stations of the Cross and anointing of the Sick and Aged followed. Fr. Mitch Burdzy OMI explained how the pilgrims this year could earn a plenary indulgence. This marked history for Rama as it was the first time that this could happen as permission must be received from the Vatican in Rome.
Main presider for both days was the Yorkton-Melville Dean, Fr. Mitch Burdzy of St. Henry's Parish in Melville. In his homily, he began by stating, "Today, here in Rama we offer thanks to God and our physical and spiritual offering to God for Mary who was and is the Ark of Jesus." He stated how God willed that the Blessed Virgin Mary be exempted from original sin. "She, by an entirely unique privilege, completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body." He also stated how Mary is leaving an impression in so many millions of people throughout the world. "Finally it is our hope that belief in Mary's bodily assumption into heaven will make our belief in our own resurrection stronger and render it more effective."

Another historical moment took place when the final images were blessed on the Parish Hall. The images were of "The Burning Bush", "The Parting of the Red Sea" and "Moses" and "The Ten Commandments." It was through the generosity of Cas and Marie Broda who put forth the idea that because the grotto is a Marian Shrine that the life of Mary should be depicted through images on the wall of the Parish Hall and that the Ten Commandments are the way to follow Mary into heaven whose feast we celebrate every August 14 and 15 on Her Glorious Assumption into Heaven.
August 16 – Mass for the Unborn

The "Third Annual Mass for the Unborn" took place following Rama's Annual Pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes on Sunday, August 16th. The rosary was led by the Knights of Columbus prior to the celebration of the Holy Mass. Fr. Marcin Mironiuk began his homily by stating that his friend, Fr. Pawel from Madagascar (who concelebrated this Mass with him) said that abortion clinics are also available in Africa. "Imagine, here is a country that cannot provide fresh water, people have so little, yet they can provide abortion rather than a better life!" He emphasized that "as Christians, we are people of life and we value the gift of life!" He also described how the new ultrasound program increases the number of babies saved each year. He concluded by saying: "We must do what we can, do our best to save each life. We value life and we must fight for it and let us never stop doing it!"

Following the Mass, all went in procession to the statue of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, the pro-life saint at which time Fr. Marcin said a prayer for all mothers and blessed the relic of St. Gianna that was presented to St. Anthony's Parish on May 10th in Winnipeg by Dr. Gianna Emanuela who is the baby that St. Gianna Beretta Molla sacrificed her life for. It was a very great moment as St. Anthony's marked history once more. It was in 2012 when the statue of St. Gianna Beretta Molla was placed in the churchyard of St. Anthony's. It was the first statue of this kind made in Italy, the homeland of St. Gianna, and now in 2015 a relic of hers was presented to St. Anthony's Parish. Indeed a historical moment many will never forget!

All were then invited to the parish hall for a luncheon and fellowship. Guest speaker, Colette Stang, president of Saskatchewan Pro-life spoke insisting, "Your prayers are so needed in a world that does not always respect motherhood and the gift of life." She gave many examples of the groups helping women, men, and young girls, such as: Rachel's Vineyard, The Silent No More Campaign, Shock the Waves of Abortion Campaign, and the Sask Pro-Life Convention. She described the impact the Youth Trip for the March for Life to Ottawa had on the youth that had attended. She quoted, "The SPLA has three arms: prayer, political action, and education." She presented a lot of information on her mission of the three arms previously mentioned and expanded on how she would like the support of everyone to encourage the youth of this province to become pro-life activists. She concluded: "Pro-life is very serious; literally a matter of life and death. But I just want to remind you that life is such a blessing that we must still take time to enjoy our families, our friends, our communities. Be joyful people of God, keep smiling, and love LIFE!"

Lorne Sliva, one of the organizers of the event concluded by thanking Colette and asking everyone to join in a prayer.
An Unusual Jubilee

by Wojciech Porowski

A priest complained to Mother Teresa that because of the amount of work he has, he has absolutely no time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In her reply, she stated that the best medicine for that is to double the amount of time spent before the Blessed Sacrament.

There is a certain logic to this seemingly absurd advice. For the time spent on adoration is not just a time given to God, but it is also a time we give to ourselves. The quiet contemplation is not only conducive to prayer, but also helps us organize the countless day-to-day affairs we must deal with. The experience of God gradually dies with us when we do not have time for prayer, for adoration. The lack of adoration, the lack of prayer make us waste a lot of time and energy on alleviating our anxieties and fears. Time devoted to adoration will make our lives — including our emotional, professional, family, and community life — more orderly.

Without a doubt, our immigrant life is not without stress. For many, the cure is to entrust them in prayer to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Residents of Mississauga and the surrounding area are fortunate in that for the past 20 years they have been able to pray at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Maximilian Kolbe church in Mississauga.

The very idea of creating such a chapel was born in 1995, and a great advocate of this project was pastor Fr. Tadeusz Nowak OMI. For the past 20 years, Barbara and Andrzej Chmura have been dutifully looking after scheduling regular attendants. But the chapel serves not just those who regularly come here to pray; it is visited by hundreds of passerbys who entrust their daily affairs to Divine Mercy. In 2012, a statue of the Merciful Jesus was placed at the entrance of the Divine Mercy Chapel. It was donated by a parishioner, Mr. Tadeusz Dobosz, and blessed by Bishop Antoni Dlugosz from Czestochowa.

A jubilee Mass commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel was celebrated by Archbishop Wojciech Polak. In his homily, the Primate of Poland stressed the importance of maintaining a close relationship with God before the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist was concelebrated by numerous Oblates and guest priest.
Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Assumption Province Feast Day

August 15th brings together Oblates in our province as well as Honorary Oblates, diocesan and religious priests, and all those who participate and support our mission to celebrate our Feast Day and the Solemnity of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. This is an opportunity to thank God for the many graces bestowed upon our province over the last 59 years and pray for those who journey with us, as well as for new vocations.

This year about 60 people participated in our celebration which took place at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga.

During the homily Fr. Marian Gil, Provincial, spoke the following words: "This Solemnity of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother is taking place when in Toronto we have all kinds of sports events: ParapanAm Games, Rogers Cup and Blue Jays who are not doing badly! I believe that we could compare our journey to heaven to a race.

Some time ago at the Seattle Olympics nine athletes, all physically or mentally challenged, were standing at the start line for the 100-meter race. The gun fired and the race began. Not everyone was running but everyone wanted to participate to win. They ran in threes, a boy tripped and fell and started crying. The other eight heard him crying. They slowed down and looked behind them. They stopped and came back. All of them. A girl with Down’s syndrome sat down next to him, hugged him and asked: “Feeling better now?” Then all nine walked shoulder to shoulder to the finish line. The whole crowd stood up and applauded. And the applause lasted a very long time. People who witnessed this, still talk about it. Because deep inside us, we all know that the most important thing in life is much more than winning for ourselves. The most important thing in this life is to help others to win. Even if that means slowing down and changing our own race. Happy Feast Day!
Abp. Wojciech Polak with Janusz Jasek and his daughter Amelia

Honorary Oblates and friends gathered for the Eucharist

Bro. Grzegorz Loska and Bro. Tadeusz Orzechowski

Enjoying delicious lunch

Abp. Wojciech Polak, Fr. Miroslaw Olszewski, and Fr. Janusz Blazejak

Best wishes to Fr. John, Fr. Marian, and Bro. Tadeusz!
A Visit from Fr. Miguel Fritz OMI

Biography

Fr. Miguel Fritz OMI was born on May 10, 1955 in Hannover, Germany. He joined the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate at the age of 19, and was ordained on May 28, 1981. He worked in Germany as a parish priest for three years, and in various ministries in Paraguay for 15 years. In 2010 Fr. Fritz was elected General Councillor for Latin America. He has published eight books and over 100 articles, primarily on ethnological themes.

In preparation for the Joint Session, which will take place from September 13th to 18th, 2015 in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, members of the General Administration have been visiting the US-Canada region. Fr. Miguel Fritz OMI, General Councillor for Latin America, has been busy visiting various ministries and Oblate communities in the Toronto District.

Visit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Holy Angels Church, Toronto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>St. Stanislaus Church, Toronto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>St. Stanislaus – St. Casimir’s Polish Parishes Credit Union, Toronto, St. Casimir Church, Toronto, Radio Ministry, Toronto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>Copernicus Lodge, Toronto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Maximillian Kolbe Church, Mississauga</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>St. Eugene De Mazenod Church, Brampton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, Mississauga</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31 – Sep. 1</td>
<td>Hamilton, Lacombe Province</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 2</td>
<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Catharines, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Welland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 3</td>
<td>Farewell BBQ at the Provincial House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Admiring the beautiful Niagara Falls

With Fr. Miroslaw Olszewski OMI

Visiting Niagara’s vineyards

Sts. Peter and Paul church; Welland, ON

Admiring the beautiful Niagara Falls
Farewell Barbecue for Fr. Miguel Fritz OMI
&
Birthday Celebration for Fr. John Malazdrewich OMI

Fr. Pulchny and Fr. Fritz

Fr. Wisniewski and Fr. Krzesik

Fr. Koscinski and Fr. Wilk

Fr. Gil and Fr. Rosinski

Fr. Stangel, Fr. Nosowicz, and Fr. Serwin

Fathers enjoying delicious lunch
Happy Birthday Father John!

Sto Lat!

Fr. Miguel Fritz with his souvenir medallion
Bro. Anthony Kowalczyk OMI – Case Update

Dear Fr. Provincial,

Below is an update on the case of Bro. Anthony Kowalczyk, Servant of God.

The case of our Oblate Brother - Anthony Kowalczyk - was presented to the Vatican for the cause of beatification in May of 2009. A presumed miracle was attributed to Bro. Kowalczyk. A young man born in 1978 in the USA fell sick shortly after his first child was born in 2007. He was diagnosed with very rare form of Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). In MDS, the bone marrow does not function effectively to produce one or more types of blood cells. MDS is a malignant disease. In many ways, it acts like a type of chronic leukaemia. Bone marrow transplant is the only treatment that can cure the disease.

In September 2007 an uncle of the sick man, who is an Oblate (Bro. Raymond Des Chenes) invited the entire family to pray the novena to the Servant of God, Bro. Anthony Kowalczyk, to obtain a miracle for his nephew. The whole family and friends started to pray the novena prayer daily. Family members distributed the prayer cards.

In November 2007 a donor for the hematopoietic stem cell transplant was found. Immediately before the transplant, tests were done and it was discovered that the chromosome damage to the patient’s bone marrow was repairing itself. His blood levels had improved. One of the medical doctor said: “The patient recovered on his own, without any medical interventions”.

This was the brief history of the presumed miracle attributed to Bro. Anthony Kowalczyk. Now for the present time. From my visit in Rome to the office of the General Postulator, I have learned that there are many more miraculous favours through the intercession of the Servant of God, Bro. Anthony Kowalczyk, but they are just favours. The Congregation for the cause of the Saints (Congregatio De Causis Sanctorum) needs at least one complete miracle. So here is the complicated part of this whole process. We need this one complete miracle to move the process of beatification ahead. In this case we have this one solid miracle that I have described to you. Because this must be a complete miracle we had to wait until now. Normally, the medical process will be to wait five years to make sure that the patient was healed and he or she is cancer free. The Vatican asks ten years. The waiting period is almost over so we could proceed with the case. But the questions remain: is this man and his family willing to collaborate in this long process? Is his uncle - in his old age - able to make a clear statement that all the prayers were done through the intercession of the Servant of God - Bro. Anthony? All these questions have to be answered.

Almost a month ago an official letter was sent to the man involved in the presumed miracle. Until now there was no response. No response on the side of his uncle Bro. Raymond OMI either. Just yesterday I was talking to Fr. Marian about this situation, asking for the prayers of all the Oblates in the province and all people we minister to, to help with the process and to have more miracles through the intercession of this great, humble Oblate. And then another miracle happened. After my visit to the provincial house I went to check my email and I could not believe my eyes. There was an email from the man and his wife, saying that they received the letter and they are very happy to help and collaborate. I am so excited! I think Bro. Anthony is helping us with this process. Thanks be to God.

Of course this is just the beginning of the next step in this long process. I ask you all for your prayers and I would like to encourage you to advertise Bro. Anthony in your parishes. This could be a new Saint for our times. God bless you all in your ministries,

Fr. Mariusz Wilk OMI, Vice-Postulator
Petition for the Intercession of Bro. Anthony Kowalczyk OMI

We praise you, Lord and Father, who in a wonderful way have led Brother Anthony along the path of your Holy Will.

You gave him strength to imitate Jesus Christ in carrying faithfully his many crosses and fulfilling his responsibilities.

I praise you, Lord, for his heroic faith and trust, which have opened the treasures of your goodness.

Grant me, O Lord, the grace ... which I beg through the intercession of your Servant, Anthony.

May his sanctity be confirmed and may I be ever more faithful in fulfilling your Holy Will.

Amen.

Our Father …
Hail Mary …
Glory be …

Please contact the Provincial House if you require Bro. Anthony holy cards for yourself or for your ministry.
"Don't try to push away your call. It will come stronger and stronger and sooner or later, it will get you."

These words of advice from Brother Roman Zapadka, OMI come from experience. After finishing engineering school in Poland, Zapadka felt a calling on his heart to follow Jesus. As an educated young adult, he desired to find where he could serve the Lord with his gifts.

"The call was becoming stronger and I was pushing it further away. I thought, 'that's not for me.'" Friends suggested he become a priest but it didn't seem like the right fit. Nonetheless, the call persisted. Eventually he attended a parish mission at his parish. A Franciscan talked about the importance of brothers in religious orders.

In this vocation, Zapadka recognized a unique ability to be close to people and use his gifts in service of the Church. "My heart was shaking. I knew that's what I wanted to do: to use my skills and gifts and talents as a brother."

The young man set out on a 600 km walking pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Halfway through, he almost gave up. But a 70-year-old man, who walked with a cane, had completed the pilgrimage 30 times and inspired him to keep going. By the end of the journey and through much prayer, his call to the brotherhood was confirmed.

The desires of his heart were more completely fulfilled when he learned of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, founded by St. Eugene de Mazenod with a mission to serve "those people whose condition cries out for salvation and for the hope which only Jesus Christ can fully bring" (Const. 5). This especially includes the poor and abandoned around the world.
Zapadka had always felt drawn toward serve in Africa. When a friend who had just entered the Oblates told him of the order's missionary activity there, he knew this was the order to which he was called. He entered the Oblates in Poland in 1987 and eventually moved to Canada, where he learned English and took his final vows.

After serving in a number of the Oblate's ministries in Canada, in 2000, Zapadka's dream to use his gifts in Africa came to fruition. There was a group of Oblate priests at the order's mission in Kenya, but they needed a brother. For four years, he served in Kenya where his engineering background was put to good use in construction and engineering projects.

These days, Zapadka serves in the Archdiocese of Toronto as a hospital chaplain. He lives at St. Stanislaus Kostka, an Oblate parish in the city's Queen West neighbourhood. He regularly takes communion to those in hospital, a task which quickly became his favourite ministry. "I'm walking with Jesus because I always have communion with me when I'm working."

As he goes about his ministry, he sees the ways Jesus leads his day. Often he'll end up on the wrong floor of the hospital and encounter someone who is in need of an attentive ear or desires to receive the Eucharist.

Besides a mission to serve in the city's hospitals, the Oblates are active in many ministries in the Archdiocese of Toronto, always with the goal of serving the spiritual needs of those least touched by the Gospel and doing so in their own language. Their significant work with immigrants includes running parishes catering to the large Polish community in Mississauga. They also run Copernicus Lodge Polish retirement home in Toronto and the Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga.

Some of their more unique work includes operating a Polish credit union and the Catholic Youth Studio radio station.

During this Year of Consecrated Life, Zapadka hopes for an increase of vocations to the brotherhood in all religious congregations. "I hope that people will not be afraid to follow Jesus...to trust him completely and not to doubt or look back. Because when you trust Jesus, everything ends up on the right path."
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI)

- A Roman Catholic religious community of priests and brothers
- Founded in 1816 by St. Eugene de Mazenod
- Dedicated to spreading God’s love in the world through life in community at the service of the poor
- Motto: “He has sent me to evangelize the poor. The poor are evangelized.”

There are currently 4,440 Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (priests and brothers) working in 71 countries

“Wherever we work, our mission is especially to those people whose condition cries out for salvation and for the hope which only Jesus Christ can fully bring.”

OBLATE CONSTITUTIONS & RULES

IN CANADA

The Oblates came to Canada in 1841.
About 700 Oblates serve throughout the country today

OBLATE PARISHES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

Holy Angels
61 Auburn Rd.,
Toronto

St. Casimir’s
156 Roncesvalles Ave.,
Toronto

St. Eugene de Mazenod
1252 Steels Ave. W.,
Brampton

St. Maximilian Kolbe
4260 Cawthra Rd.,
Mississauga

St. Stanislaus
12 Denton Ave.,
Toronto

SOURCES:
www.kazimierz.org
www.omia.org
www.omiw.org

Archdiocese of Toronto
www.archtoronto.org
www.archtoronto
Renewal of Vows by Bro. Dawid Karchut OMI

On September 4th Bro. Dawid Karchut OMI and 4 other oblate scholastics renewed their temporary vows at our Oblate seminary in San Antonio, TX. We pray for Bro. Dawid as he continues his spiritual and intellectual preparation for ministry and religious life and wish him many graces in this final year of theological studies. Congratulations Dawid!