

How did the Oblates of Mary Immaculate influenced our lives

Submitted by Christine Paidel

I would like to express my thanks to all men who gave up everything and became Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

I was born and raised in Killaly, SK in St. Elisabeth parish that always had Oblates there. Bill and I were married by an Oblate priest, our four children were all baptized by the Oblate and we were involved in the parish life.

I accepted to be the sacristan and did this for 16 years in Killaly.

In the late 1980's due to a shortage of Oblates, they moved away and a diocesan priest came. Soon after Bill and I moved to Melville and we belonged to the St. Henry's Parish where again the Oblates serve.

Bill got involved at the parish and I joined the Rosary Sodality, St. Peter's Hospital Auxiliary and volunteered to transport residents from St. Paul's Home to the chapel for Mass.

Isabelle Holitski originally from Kilally had moved to Melville a few years before and was the pastoral assistant at St. Henry's. It was her and the Oblate priest who after the sacristan resigned, asked me to take on this responsibility.

It was a large parish of about 600 families at that time, while Oblates did excellent work in leading us to God. Also we had an Oblate student come to learn English.

All of the Oblates were very kind and always willing to help.

I learned a lot from the Oblates and still do to this day.

It is 15 years that I'm a sacristan in Melville, and I love doing it.

When Bill got sick with cancer, an Oblate priest was there to visit him, and when he died, the Oblate priest was with us too.

I was very fortunate to have an Oblate priest to help me through, bringing consolation

There will always be a special place in my heart with prayers for an Oblate Priest and parish.

I know that times are changing but I hope that during the 200th Anniversary Celebrations in 2016 we will all know the value of what Oblates have done for us.