

To whom it may concern:

You will have to forgive me for not remembering how long or short I can make this message, so please do edit it however you need to. I won't be offended, if in fact you will find it interesting enough to include it in your book.

Our Pastor, the Very Reverend Mieczyslaw Burdzy V.F. had a blurb in the church bulletin inviting us to write an article letting you know how the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate influenced my life or had an influence on my life. This article is for the Occasion of the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the foundation of Your Congregation.

Presently, I live in Melville, Saskatchewan where Fr. Mieczyslaw, (Fr. Mitch) is Pastor of St. Henry's Parish. I believe that we are very blessed and privileged to have him as our Pastor. He is very gifted and industrious and puts his talents and gifts to work. If one asks the youth to describe him, they will simply reply, "awesome!"

That's a lovely reputation to have. The year and a half that he has been here, I reckon that he has done enough work for ten years already! God bless him and us!

However, my life has been touched by the Oblates when I was one week old, when my Dad, my brother, Jack, My Godfather and Godmother took me to Grayson, Saskatchewan to St. Mary's R. C. Church to have me baptized. Our Parish in Grayson was then under the Leadership of the Oblates. I received my first Communion at Grayson in July of 1943 and in July of 1945, I was confirmed, also at Grayson.

It was there that I asked for my Baptismal Certificate when I left Grayson to join the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in Regina, Saskatchewan. At that time I had lost contact with the Oblates until I came to Melville in June of 2005. I then met Fr. Wendelin Rolheiser, the Pastor of St. Henry's. In August of 2006 our Fr. Slavek (Slawomir Oblak), breezed in like a breath of fresh air, only to leave as fast as he came after two short years! He did say, however, that Melville made him a Pastor and a good one at that. He taught me to laugh again, since I had come to Melville like a fish out of water! No Job! I was "retired and tired, too!" My brother, younger than I had just died at the end of June! Of course, we did not stay without a Pastor, Fr. Antoni Degutis from Sturgis graciously accepted to come to Melville for six years and couldn't leave us except for the fact that he had to make room for our present Pastor, Fr. Mitch. Welcome Fr. Mitch! Please stay for a while!

So you see, I had contact and service from our beloved Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate since almost the first day I was born! How could I do without them. They gave me a good start to my life! Praise God!

Actually, we who come from the Grayson/Killaly district brag a bit about Archbishop, Adam Exner, Emeritus! Can anything good come from Grayson? Why Yes! Both the Archbishop and myself. In

fact, the Archbishop attended the same school I did!

So in conclusion, I wish to congratulate the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate for their fine ministry throughout God's wide world especially as you celebrate your 200th year of your foundation! You can be proud of your members who have served so well, not only in the Grayson/Killaly/Melville district, but also those who are still ministering here and throughout the world! May the Lord who called you into His Service grace you all with good courage, health and joy as you continue to influence all you meet for their good and for yours. May Mother Mary accompany you along your way to do good to and for others-as your brothers have done for my family and me!

Yours in Jesus and Mary, Sister Teresa Kreiser, rndm