



DeSalesWorld

Pillars of Gentle Strength



Oblates and Our Ministries in the News

- ▶ **...Fr. Joe Campellone** was honored with the Distinguished Leader Award by the Greater Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce at its 89th Annual Accolades Award Dinner for his commitment to educational leadership to Father Judge High School and the larger community in his ministry as the school's president.
- ▶ **...Fr. Paul Colloton** delivered the keynote address to more than 3,100 Catholic pastoral musicians from around the United States, Canada, and Mexico as they gathered in Kentucky to prepare for the implementation of the new English translation of the *Roman Missal*. In his ministry as director of continuing education for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Fr. Paul has traveled the country presenting to (arch)dioceses and local parishes on how to integrate the changes of the new missal into the experience of local worshipping communities.
- ▶ **...Fr. Jim Greenfield** presented to a national gathering at the Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC, for the *Faith in Action: Exploring the New Evangelization* Conference, where he discussed "Vitality in Parish Community Life."
- ▶ **...Bro. Michael Rosenello** was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Honor at Delaware's Columbus Day Memorial Breakfast for his service to Padua Academy and St. Anthony of Padua Parish Church in Wilmington. The state's full congressional representation, Senators Thomas Carper and Chris Coons and Representative John Carney, were present to celebrate Bro. Mike's contributions to the local community.
- ▶ **...Rev. Michael Vannicola** was bestowed with a Knighthood in the Papal Order of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, an organization committed to keeping safe and dignified the places where Jesus lived, ministered, suffered, died, and was buried.

Oblate Priest Leads New Parish for Immigrants in Florida

By Peter McCarthy

In the 19th century, Mark Twain wrote poetically about the Mississippi River, rolling its mile-wide tide through the heartland of the United States. On its water rode the necessities, along with the hope, of our country.

Today, with a great deal less poetry and beauty, the interstate highway system carries the products and people of this vast nation from border to border.

One of the multi-lane concrete and asphalt rivers is Interstate 75. Beginning on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, hard against the Canadian border, I-75 travels through the heartland and along the west coast of Florida until it reaches Marco Island; there it turns east, and under the all too accurate nickname "Alligator Alley," makes its way over to the Fort Lauderdale area.

During its passage through the Fort Myers area of Southwest Florida, I-75 is more than a highway. It is a great divide. To the west, on the "Gulfside," as the locals refer to it, are country clubs, magnificent resorts, and homes occupied by retired executives from the North who spend the winter months on the magnificent Gulf beaches or enjoying a round of golf on some of the most beautiful, well-maintained courses in the world.

In this Gulf paradise, upscale restaurants and fine shops compete for the attention and patronage of those people living or vacationing in this tropical setting.

In many areas just north of Fort Myers, or east of I-75, however, the story is quite different. There are very few million dollar homes or fine restaurants here. It is a hardscrabble life.

Living east of I-75, in towns like Tice, there are people who awaken while it is still dark and ride the early bus. They are the invisible people who will manicure the pristine golf courses and wash the dishes in the elegant restaurants. They will clean the houses and do the laundry for those who vacation in this Gulf-coast paradise. And, they work hard to work honestly and with dignity.

When storms or normal wear require that the tile roofs be replaced, it is the people of Tice and towns like it, who will climb onto the roofs under the blistering Florida sun and repair these Mediterranean-style villas.

Still, for the residents of Tice, while life is hard, it is not without joy. For many, the church is the center of their lives.

And, to these church- and family-loving Tice residents, Jesus the Worker (Jesús Obrero) Parish with its newly built church, is a source of great pride and the heart of this Latino community. The church, which was dedicated on January 22, 2011, dominates the neighborhood with its brilliant white façade and functioning bell tower.

The congregation is 40 percent Guatemalan, 40 percent Mexican, and 20 percent mix of other Latino nationalities.

The pastor of the congregation is Father Patrick O'Connor, an Oblate of Saint Francis de Sales.

"This church was designed to make our Latino brothers and sisters feel welcome and at home. The Guatemalan people are part of the Mayan



Fr. Patrick O'Connor stands with members of the youth group outside their Jesus the Worker Church.

culture," Father Patrick explains, "and with that in mind we used the 'Mayan cross' as an art element throughout the Church." Father Patrick also pointed out the small shelves along the walls and on the pillars of the Church. "Mexicans like to adorn the Church with fresh flowers, so the shelves and

nooks allow them to do that." (See photo inset.)

The pride of the congregation is immediately evident. One member of the Church, Susana Miranda Esquivel, asked "Have you ever seen such a beautiful Church? We are so proud to bring our family here. It is our Church."

Jesus the Worker is a very busy Church with a vibrant congregation. Asked for numbers, Father Patrick explains "on a weekend, about 3,000 come to Mass. And that does not include baptisms, weddings, or funerals. We minister to a community of about 10,000 or 12,000 Spanish-speaking Catholics in the area. We average about 35 baptisms a month, and on April 1, for instance, I performed 44 baptisms on that day alone."

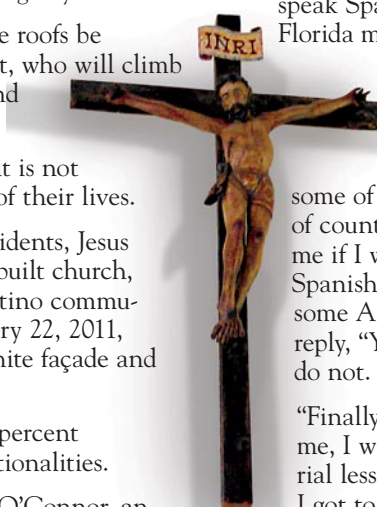
As an example of the sensitivity that Father Patrick O'Connor and his associate, Father James Gonzales, a priest on loan from Chile, have for the work schedule of these people, daily Mass is often celebrated in the evening rather than in the morning, so that the workers can attend.

Miguel Angel Ponce, a young boy of about twelve, spoke happily of his upcoming baptism. "Miguel is like most Guatemalan children," Father Patrick commented. "He is smart, cheerful, and deeply religious. He has a great joy in living. For Miguel and the children like him, education is the key to a better life. And education is a challenge because parents, particularly mothers, cannot help with homework because frequently they cannot read English themselves."

The story of Oblate priest Patrick O'Connor, a man who did not speak Spanish until he was in his 30s and his journey to the Florida mission is as inspirational as it is interesting.

"I never really began studying Spanish in earnest until I was a priest, in my mid-30's. I was working at a parish, St. John Neumann in Reston, Virginia. There, I had many friends among the parishioners – some of whom were bilingual Spanish speakers from a variety of countries. After a time, some of these friends began asking me if I would try to learn Spanish so that we could have a Spanish Mass at the Church. My responses were the same as some Americans: "You speak English." To which they would reply, "Yes, but there are many immigrants in the area who do not.

"Finally, I told my friends that if they were willing to teach me, I was willing to learn, and I began receiving Spanish tutorial lessons in various houses of the parishioners. Eventually, I got to the point where I began a bilingual Mass at the Church. I decided to ask my provincial for permission to go and study Spanish for a summer at a language immersion school. He and the bishop approved this request – and in



This cross, which Fr. Patrick brought from Mexico, details the elements of the crucified Christ that are revered by the Mayan community who worships at the North Fort Myers church.

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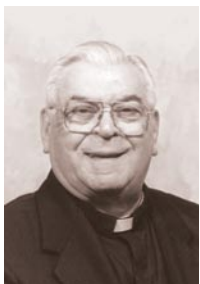
Praesidium Accreditation publicly demonstrates that the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales has achieved the highest industry standards in abuse prevention and response.

Any allegation of abuse by an Oblate is reported to the appropriate civil authorities, as required by law. Efforts to engage in confidentiality agreements with anyone reporting abuse or a survivor are not, and have never been, the practice of the Oblates.

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Our passion. Your protection.



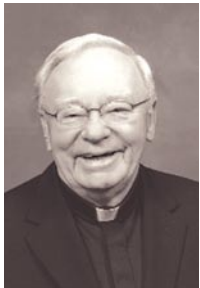
In Memoriam



Rev. John H. DiFilippo, OSFS
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Born: July 23, 1915
First Profession: September 8, 1937
Perpetual Profession: September 8, 1940
Ordination: October 10, 1945
Died: March 28, 2011

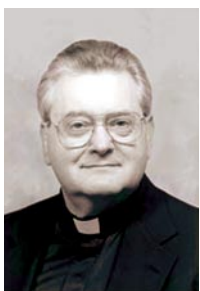
Rest in Peace



Rev. William J. Dougherty, OSFS
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Born: September 28, 1930
First Profession: September 12, 1950
Perpetual Profession: September 12, 1953
Ordination: June 4, 1959
Died: February 27, 2011

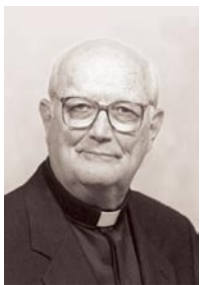
Rest in Peace



Rev. Stanley R. Drupieski, OSFS
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Born: November 21, 1935
First Profession: September 8, 1954
Perpetual Profession: August 10, 1957
Ordination: April 11, 1964
Died: September 25, 2011

Rest in Peace



Rev. Edmund J. O'Rourke, OSFS
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Born: July 22, 1923
First Profession: September 13, 1951
Perpetual Profession: September 14, 1954
Ordination: June 9, 1956
Died: April 18, 2011

Rest in Peace

Please join in the Oblate prayer ministry.

Every Monday, Fr. Jim Greenfield, provincial, sends to all of the Oblates the prayer requests we receive from our web page. You are welcome to benefit from the prayers of the Oblates through this ministry found on our home page, www.oblates.org.

Vision Statement

The members of the Wilmington/Philadelphia Province are a group of priests, brothers, and seminarians who live in community, gather once a year as a whole to pray, study, and learn; embrace Salesian spirituality as our mission; serve as representatives of the Catholic Church who preach and teach well; welcome at least two postulants a year; and deliberately commit ourselves to Catholic social teaching.

DeSales World

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DeSales World is published by the Office of Communications of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales to share with our friends the news, events, and spirit of our Wilmington-Philadelphia Province. It is distributed by the Office of Development. Please submit questions or comments about its content to Fr. Kevin Nadolski, OSFS, at knadolski@oblates.org; questions or concerns about mailing or distribution to Ian Kelley at ikelley@oblates.org.

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

As we transition into the chill of the fall—appropriate for this Summer/Fall issue of the *DeSales World*, I am struck by how quickly time passes. I think this is an experience that we all have, at least at one point in our lives. In this edition of our newsletter, a few stories or pictures capture this for us. From the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Ordination of Fr. Roberto Balducelli to the 80th birthday of Fr. Bill Hultberg, which grew to be somewhat of a national celebration, I suspect that these men would echo the sentiment that the years have seemed to evaporate for them.

Presiding at the Mass of First Profession in August for our two newest Oblates, Ryan Cronshaw and Bob Killion, I was impressed with their excitement during the celebration where they received our profession cross and officially joined our religious community. While you will read Bob's reflection on his hopes for his religious vocation, I wonder if he, like Fr. Roberto and Fr. Bill—and so many of us, will look back to such a great summer day in 2011 and wonder, with delight, about how wonderfully his ministry and life as an Oblate has been. It is in this light that we present, alongside Bob's insights, the reflections of Fr. Neil Kilty a long-time Oblate educator. I hope you enjoy this Flashback/Fast Forward feature as a sample of the fine days of the past and the bright years of our future.

There are also a number of notices here that cause us deep joy and pride. The gathering of more than 140 Oblates this summer for Convocation '11 at DeSales University was a week of study, reflection, prayer, and fellowship that deepened our commitment to our mission of service and spirit of fraternity. Highlighting that week was the Mass of Perpetual Profession of Mike Vogt, who has ministered as an Oblate as a teacher, campus minister, and drug and alcohol counselor. Presently, he is working at Salesianum School in the campus ministry office where he and Fr. Patrick Kifolo have developed such a successful retreat program that the students are calling for more retreats! We look forward with delight at his upcoming ordination.

As we are proud of all of our brothers who minister in parishes, we invite you here to take a closer look at one of our Oblates who works among a community of poor immigrants in Southwest Florida. Fr. Patrick O'Connor serves the people of Jesus the Worker Parish with the spirit that has made many Oblates effective ministers in parishes throughout the country. With the assistance of the Diocese of Venice, he was able to supervise the building of a new church for the people, one in which they gather with tremendous energy, devotion, and gratitude to the God who gives all of us life. His ministry, like that of so many Oblates, comes with hardships, especially as he witnesses many healthy, hard-working, Catholic families broken by a deportation system that our nation's bishops continues to call for reform. His pastoral presence serves to console families as they lose their members, and young children born in this country are left to the care of others as their parents are sent away. Fr. Patrick's ministry reminds us vividly of the very human side of immigration, grounded in Gospel service, that is sometimes neglected in polarized political stories in the media.

This summer has also been one that challenged us Oblates of St. Francis de Sales as we brought to a close the legal difficulties that we had been dealing with in Delaware with the settlement of a number of lawsuits that had been filed against us. Thankfully, our insurance carriers were able to cover substantial portions of both the settlement and the legal costs. As we reported to you in previous issues of the *DeSales World*, our efforts to address clergy sexual abuse have been prompt, efficient, and guided by the Gospel call to heal, reconcile, and respect the dignity of all people. We have put in place a comprehensive program of abuse prevention, for which we have earned the accreditation of Praesidium, an independent agency in Arlington, Texas, that also works with schools, recreation centers, etc. This certification affirms our compliance with 25 industry standards from screening new members to recognizing and reporting abuse. If you would like to view my video statement on this settlement, please visit our web site: www.oblates.org.

Again, our efforts to heal and reconcile emerge directly from the Gospel which has impelled Oblates in ministry for well over 125 years. This is the vocation to which long-standing members like Fr. Roberto and Fr. Bill have been tirelessly committed. It is this same vocation, uniquely lived several generations later, that our newest members, Mike, Bob, and Ryan, will endeavor to bring to a church and world thirsty for the gentle and humble face of a Jesus who comforts, consoles, welcomes, and brings true peace.

Thank you for your ongoing friendship and support in allowing us to serve you—and so many others—as ministers of Jesus in the example of the gentleman saint, Francis de Sales.

Sincerely,

James J. Greenfield, OSFS
Very Reverend James J. Greenfield, OSFS

Provincial

Flashback: An Oblate Life of 50 Years

By Neil Kilty, OSFS

In 1956, I was a scrawny, little sophomore from the Annex when I arrived at the “Big House,” the affectionate name given to the main building of North Catholic by thousands of students. That was my first real contact with the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales as a group – 60 of them at that time! For the next three years, with the exception of two English classes and a history class, I would be mentored, monitored, and coached by these unique religious men.

As early as I could remember, I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to help others learn and share with them the values and knowledge I had learned. Also, at times in grade school, I thought about the vocation of the priesthood. Well, high school sort of muted that idea. I loved life at North, and I got very involved in activities and sports: track, the shows, the school newspaper, and I had a rather busy social life.

My sophomore religion teacher was Father Herman Buckley, a big man who had no problem whatsoever teaching a class of 55 of us. He was also the chaplain of the Sacred Heart Free Home, a residence for people with incurable cancer. One day he asked for volunteers to help serve Mass at the Home, and for some odd reason, I volunteered. Well, that extended to a weekly commitment for three years. It had perks, too.

Fr. Buckley would take four or five of us on trips – day or week. I actually saw the “Oblate World” from Washington to Lockport, New York to Toledo and Camp de Sales in Brooklyn, Michigan. I started to realize how clever a vocation-getter he really was.

In my senior year, I was selected for the unique group called “the Guards.” You wore an arm band, controlled traffic in the corridors and were Father Thomas “Knobby” Walsh’s volunteer team. I found him to be a rather wise man, much more bark than bite and genuinely concerned for the students, especially the “wayward” ones. He used to come to our house for dinner since he had become a friend of my Uncle Joe. I always hoped the North guys on my street wouldn’t see him entering or leaving our house! There was a group of five of us whom he would take out for dinner occasionally or sometimes we went to a basketball game. It’s strange how we all landed up at the Oblate Novitiate at Childs after graduation – another very clever vocation-getter.

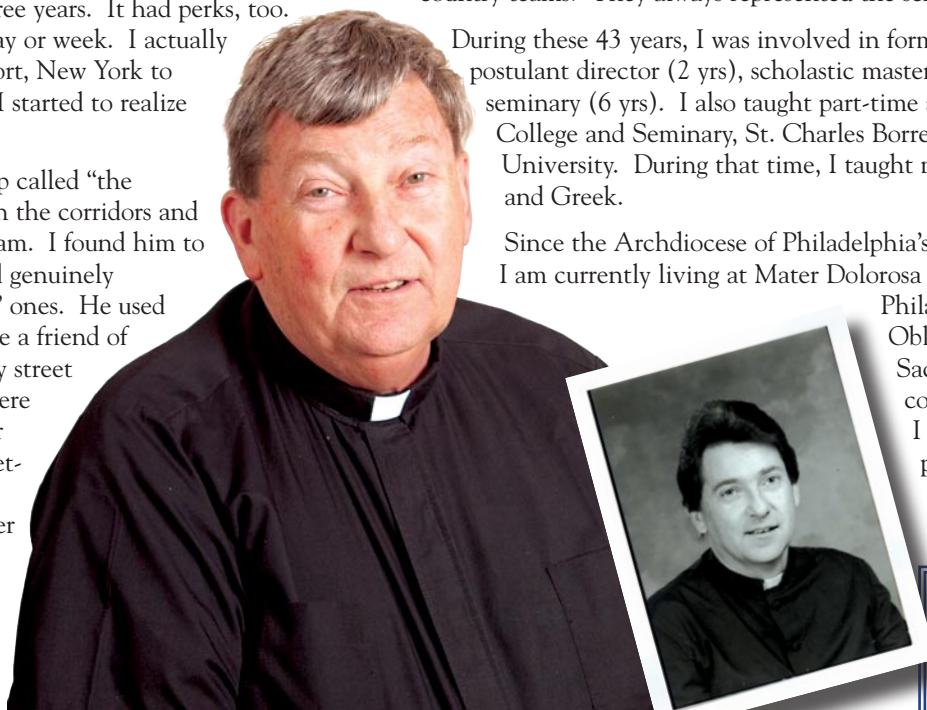
As a senior, I also met “the” master teacher, Father John Dennis. English came alive. In fact, the whole class came alive when Fr. Dennis began class with: “The word for the day is....” Literature, gram-

mar, and vocabulary were never dull, never boring. After his class, you wanted to run out and sign up to be a teacher. Yet, there was also his rigorous and demanding side. I worked on the school newspaper and survived. He would demand rewrites, new headlines, more colorful language! Later, I worked with him as my principal at Father Judge; rigorous, he was demanding but good! Well, anyway, after three years of Oblate mentoring, monitoring, and coaching, it finally clicked: I could be a teacher and a religious priest.

This year, I am celebrating my Golden Jubilee of religious profession. Forty-three years of it has centered around the ministry of education: high school, college, graduate school. After two trips to DeSales University for a total of eight years, I also spent four years at Father Judge and a year at Bishop Ireton in Virginia. North Catholic, though, had been my home for 30 years. Older Oblates used to say that there was something unique about a North Catholic boy – something you didn’t find elsewhere. Well, I now know exactly what they meant. During this time at North, I taught Latin, French, Spanish, English, and Greek. For 20 years, I coached North Catholic’s Track and Cross-country teams. They always represented the school well, on and off the track.

During these 43 years, I was involved in formation work for 12 years as assistant postulant director (2 yrs), scholastic master (4 yrs), and superior of the college seminary (6 yrs). I also taught part-time at Immaculata University, Moravian College and Seminary, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Holy Family, and LaSalle University. During that time, I taught mostly Scripture courses or Latin and Greek.

Since the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s closure of North Catholic in 2010, I am currently living at Mater Dolorosa Parish in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, a parish once staffed by the Oblates. I am also the chaplain of the Sacred Heart Free Home. I guess you could say I am taking Fr. Buckley’s place. I am also teaching theology and Latin part-time at St. John Neumann-St. Maria Goretti High School in South Philadelphia.



Fr. Neil Kilty, OSFS
Born: May 27, 1941
First Profession: August 22, 1961
Perpetual Profession: January 31, 1965
Ordination: September 6, 1969

Bob Killion, OSFS
Born: October 12, 1987
First Profession: August 13, 2011

Fast Forward: My Oblate Future

By Robert F. Killion, OSFS

I’ve found something priceless in the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. I have been asked many times about what I would like to do with my life as an Oblate, and I am always unsure of how to answer, because truthfully, I have no plan. Everyday, my life is electrified with new possibilities, but it is difficult to translate that into a projection of my future life. If my life were a painting, I might say that I am less concerned about what’s painted as who’s painting it. I’m not quite sure how to explain the way in which I view my future, but I will attempt to do so by giving you two reasons why I like being an Oblate:

Reason #1: I am a terrible swimmer.

When my Novice classmates and I first settled into the Novitiate at Camp DeSales on Lake Vineyard in Brooklyn, Michigan, we were asked by Bro. Ed Ogden OSFS, our formation director, and Fr. Ken McKenna OSFS, our novice director, to create a list of goals for ourselves for the year. My list of goals (as my brother novices could tell you) was extensive and quixotic, including things like when to go to sleep and get up; how many hours a week I needed to spend reading, exercising, and writing; what to do to learn three new languages; and numerous other goals of the like. If my Novitiate had been a swim across Lake Vineyard, you might say that making these goals was like putting on a collection of over-sized floatation devices to the point at which I could barely move. Not trusting my ability to “swim” through the Novitiate, I felt certain that impressive qualities like a regimented bedtime and the ability to speak new languages would certainly keep me afloat.

Well, it was learning how to get across that “Novitiate lake” which helped me discover something beautiful about my Oblate vocation: In order to swim, I had to learn to let go of all those things which I thought would be important to my life. Truly, I could never have learned how to “swim” in this Novitiate if I had not jumped in the water and learned to let go of all the things that I did not need. I do not need to learn three languages or practice the harmonica for four hours a week to be a good Oblate; I need only to be myself in order to swim freely. By setting aside these goals, these ridiculous floatation devices, I am just beginning to learn the joys of swimming by faith, without fearing the waters, however deep. If I could learn this in just one year, how much more will I learn as I swim into the open waters of my Oblate life?

As an Oblate, I am beginning to lose these worldly ideas of what it means to be a successful person. Still wary of the deep waters, I am learning to swim without these old safeguards, and it is somewhat frightening, but exhilarating, liberating, and new at the same time. The Oblate apostolates which appeal to me are those that will foster this new understanding of what’s important in my life as well as provide versatile ministry, places like Cristo Rey,

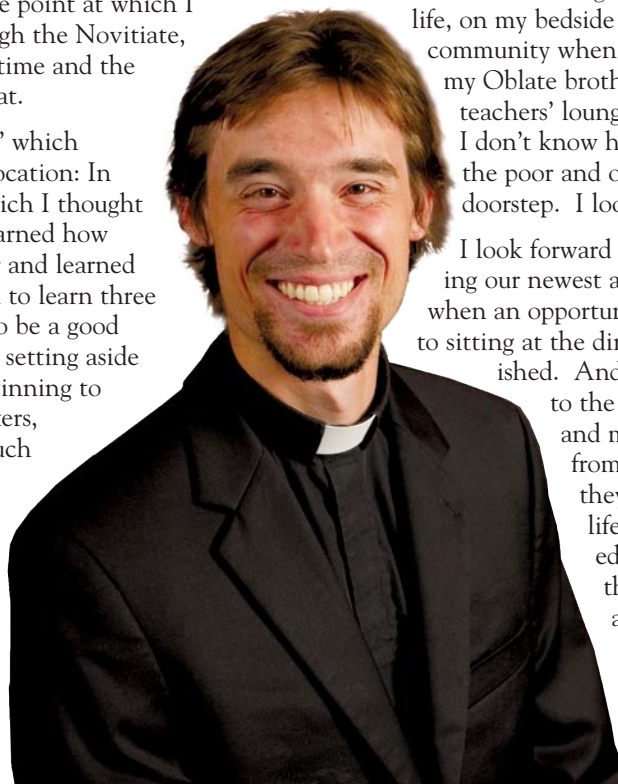
a new high school in Philadelphia that the Oblates have helped begin; DeSales Service Works, a project to help the poor and marginalized in Camden; and Nativity Prep, a tuition-free, private middle school in Wilmington, Delaware. If my experience with the Oblates so far is any indication of what my life will be like, these new places will surely bring me closer to a life where my only goal will be to live that life well.

Reason #2: There is no reason #2.

Goals and reasons, courses and directions, ideas and theories... these are things of the mind that, while important, do not represent the whole of the discerning process. In fact, they represent very little when one considers the wonderfully dynamic ways of the heart. The mind may charter the course, but it is the heart that accepts the journey. If, as I say, I am to swim independent of my own constraints and devices, I must learn to speak through my heart with the simplest and truest of all languages: the language of love. So, putting aside the language of goals and ambitions, I will tell you what excites my heart as I have professed my vows with the Oblates.

I look forward to waking up in the morning with my Oblate *Directory*, our rule of life, on my bedside table. I look forward to Saturday morning Mass with the community when I’m still wearing my slippers. I look forward to embracing my Oblate brothers at the sign of peace. I look forward to break rooms and teachers’ lounges. I look forward to that student who asks the question I don’t know how to answer. I look forward to the hour when justice for the poor and oppressed is not some distant pursuit, but a reality on my doorstep. I look forward to the hour when I, myself, am on that doorstep.

I look forward to meetings over coffee with my brother Oblates, discussing our newest apostolic endeavors. I look forward to breaking my schedule when an opportunity to minister to someone in need arises. I look forward to sitting at the dinner table with my housemates long after the food is finished. And, when I go to sleep at the end of the day, I look forward to the endless possibilities of the days to come. For these hopes, and many more like them, I have little explanation. They come from my experience with the Oblates thus far and with time, they will grow and change, as will I. But whether my Oblate life meets my expectations or brings challenges I never expected, my heart will learn to let go and prepare a new space for that life. It is a new heart that my Oblate life will give me, and I would not trade that for anything in the world.



the following months and years, I began studying Spanish in earnest and immersing myself more deeply in the Latino culture. I began to feel a deep spiritual call to work with the very poor.

“About that time, I received a phone call from a new bishop, Bishop Frank J. Dewane, in the Venice Diocese in South west Florida, where a number of Oblates minister and live, inviting me to come and learn about the Spanish-speaking migrant workers and immigrants in his diocese. With the permission of my provincial, I flew down to Ft. Myers, Florida, and met with the bishop, who took me to the interior of the state, to a town called Immokalee to see a church there (Our Lady of Guadalupe) in need of a priest. There, I saw many thousands of incredibly poor Spanish-speaking and Creole migrant workers, living in broken-down trailers and shacks on dirty lots – men, women, and children – with little to eat, wearing torn and broken shoes and old hand-me-down clothes, walking everywhere because they did not own cars, or even bicycles. I had never imagined that in our country people lived in such extreme poverty. Yes, the people were poor, and yes, they were very kind, humble, and thoughtful. And, it was apparent from the beginning that most were



The newly dedicated Jesus the Worker Church highlights features of the Mayan, Guatemalan, and other Latino cultures.

deeply religious and devoted Catholics. Something about that dramatic experience felt right, like a long-awaited answer to the questions I had about the direction in which God was inviting me to move.

“Every day in Immokalee, and now where I work with the immigrant population on the outskirts of Ft. Myers, at Jesus Obrero Catholic Church in the community of Tice, and also Mission San Jose in Harlem Heights, has been exciting, but also a great challenge.

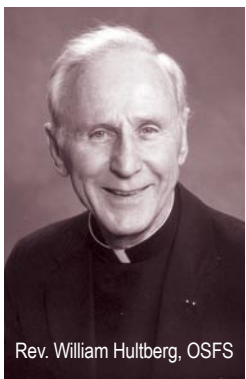
“But, in the end I am here working as a priest among the immigrants for selfish reasons; because here, even in the challenges of this ministry, there is love in abundance, an experience of Christ’s love. Here, there is an abundance of human life all around – families, young married couples, and a plethora of young children running everywhere. There is a community with a tremendous work ethic, strong family values, and great faith.

Most especially, the most important reason I have for being here is that I feel I am doing God’s will—in uniting my life to the life of the poor, Spanish-speaking immigrant community of Ft. Myers.



An Oblate’s National Birthday Party

By Fr. Kevin Nadolski, OSFS



Rev. William Hultberg, OSFS

Most birthday parties feature a birthday, some candles, and maybe a toast. Not for Oblate Father Bill Hultberg.

Presently working as spiritual advisor at Caron Foundation’s Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, Fr. Bill, as he is known, celebrated his 80th birthday this summer, which the Center chose to place as the centerpiece of its Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion.

The fun-filled day of activities and camaraderie brought people in recovery and their families from throughout the nation to reconnect and enjoy the ongoing healing of sharing stories that have blessed them with peace and a return to lives of health.

“Caron’s Annual Alumni Homecoming Reunion was an opportunity for our friends and family to gather and celebrate recovery,” said Mike Early, executive vice president and chief clinical officer at Caron. “This year, the Reunion is extremely meaningful as we paid tribute to Fr. Bill’s 80th birthday, his tremendous leadership, and inspirational message of unconditional love and acceptance, which has aided patients and their families to recover and forgive.

“Fr. Bill’s life is a testament to the power of recovery,” said Early. “We are honored to have him as an integral member of our Caron family and thrilled our alumni and friends were able to be a part of his 80th birthday celebration.”

“I was truly surprised, honored, and humbled to be celebrated so fully at the Reunion,” Fr. Bill said. “I don’t see myself much differently than any other of my Oblate brothers.”

While Fr. Bill may not be much different from other Oblates in terms of his embrace of living the Gospel in Salesian spirit, the core of the vocation, the path of his ministry assignments has been rather unique.

During his tenure as a young priest teaching at Bishop Ireton High School, Fr. Bill’s life took an unexpected turn when he received a commission in the Navy and took his first active tour of duty in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 1968. From Cuba, he then served as a Navy Chaplain in Vietnam, ministering to soldiers in combat zones. Like many veterans, Fr. Bill struggled with alcoholism after his return from service.

He entered treatment at Caron on July 4, 1973, beginning a recovery that completely changed the course of his ministry. Fr. Bill is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Institute of Alcoholism Studies, the U.S. Army’s Academy of Health Sciences Alcohol/Drug Counseling program, and has conducted graduate work in addictive diseases at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. A recipient of numerous military honors, Fr. Bill received four Meritorious Service Medals from the U.S. Army for his work in developing and implementing drug and alcohol prevention programs.

At Caron, Fr. Bill offers spiritual and religious counseling to addicts and their families and helps patients understand the 12-step spirituality of



Fr. Bill speaks with gusto to the alumni and their families at his 80th birthday party.

recovery. Fr. Bill began his career at Caron as a counselor in 1984 and quickly was promoted to director of pastoral care and then spiritual advisor.

“The most rewarding part of my ministry is helping put families back together,” Fr. Bill says without hesitation. “Addiction rips people and families apart, and we are able to see moments when they are whole again. I see this most powerfully at the Sunday Masses, where young people [in the adolescent program] brag to their parents how they have to go to Church! It is so powerful to see families heal!”

Healing is the context from which Fr. Bill draws his strength for his ministry. “My work requires a different type of ministry. We celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, for we are praying for healing to change the behaviors related to the disease of addiction.”

At Caron, Fr. Bill has become a beacon of hope for patients and families through his Sunday morning chapel services and has elevated treatment for HIV-positive and AIDS patients through a dedicated spiritual program of support. His practice of “intensive encounter,” a technique that enables him to immediately assess a situation and offer a quick solution to a problem, has become one of his hallmarks.

In 2001, Fr. Bill was recognized as a national leader with the Ryan White Youth Service Award for his efforts in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. This December, Alvernia University in Pennsylvania will honor him with a doctorate in humane letters for his lifetime commitment to helping others heal.

Fr. Bill counts the Oblates as his inspiration for his ministry. “From my days as a student at Salesianum School in Wilmington, Delaware, in the ‘40s, the Oblates have been my heroes. The late Bro. Dick Gannon, OSFS, was an early giant in this field and helped me and so many others through the years,” he said. “I am also proud of Fr. Mark Hushen, OSFS. He succeeded another giant in this field, Fr. John Martin, when Mark became the president of Fr. Martin’s Ashley. We have a lot to be proud of.”

And, according to Fr. Bill, there is a lot of work to be done. It was clear that he will be doing this fine work for many years to come. Undoubtedly, this 80th birthday party is long time away from his retirement party.



Fr. Mark Hushen (left) and Fr. Bill Hultberg stand on the grounds of Caron Foundation.

Oblates Profess Vows



After their First Profession of Vows at Our Mother of Consolation Church in Philadelphia, newly professed Oblates Bob Killion and Ryan Cronshaw stand between Fr. Jim Greenfield, provincial of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province, Fr. Ken McKenna, their novice director and newly elected provincial of the Toledo-Detroit Province, and Bro. Ed Odgen, director of formation.



The Mass of Perpetual Profession of Vows of Mike Vogt, OSFS, occurred during the Oblates’ Annual Convocation at DeSales University in June. Here, Mike stands with Oblate Associates Chris Allen, a junior at Chestnut Hill College, and Tim Gallagher, a DeSales Service Works volunteer in Camden, New Jersey. Mike will be ordained an Oblate priest on January 27, 2012 at Salesianum School, where he teaches and works in campus ministry. Bishop W. Francis Malooly, bishop of Wilmington, will ordain Mike before the student body of nearly 1,000 high school boys. Full coverage will be available in the next issue of the *DeSales World*.



The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales are members of the National Catholic Development Conference.

Oblates Develop New Ministry in India

By Fr. Kevin Nadolski, OSFS

The Beginnings of Great Things are Small.

This was the title of the first graduation speech of Salesianum School, a ministry of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province that was begun in 1903. A century later, to commemorate this gifted ministry to the church, Nativity Preparatory School was begun to provide tuition-free education for students from families with economic challenges. In the design of the new school's shield, this title—translated into Latin— became its motto.

Another new Oblate ministry, thousands miles away, has been born, and it needs the help of gifts—small and large—to grow into a work that can help poor children in India with a Catholic education. DeSales Academy in Bangalore, India, is a new school with just 43 kindergarten students. Yet, plans are developing to grow this project, based on the dire need of the poor people in the surrounding area of DeSales Academy.

The hope of the team of more than 70 Oblate priests and seminarians is to develop the school into a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade school, adding six grades in 2012. The building project is ambitious, but so is the need. The goal of the endeavor is to have a building that would serve up to 1,800 students to reflect the level of need in the area.

In total, the estimated costs number \$2.5 million, which reflect the depressed Indian economy for a project of such a sizeable undertaking. The Oblates are both optimistic in their hopes for this ministry and realistic in their planning for it. With a growing number of Oblates to serve, they realize that quality educators will be available to administer and teach at the school. Assessing the levels of poverty and responses of families to the kindergarten program itself and the hostel work from which it grew, they see the need as genuine.

Delegate Superior Fr. Baiju Paul, OSFS, extends his humble request to both the Oblates of United States and their friends. "I ask that you please consider helping us. Every contribution, great and small, is helpful to us," he said. "The advances and development of our village and the surrounding areas make this a prime time to establish such a school."

Fr. Baiju does ask for your help and offers a chart outlining costs for each area of construction, if you are moved to help. Below is the listing of costs for the larger items for DeSales Academy. Naming rights for gifts are available. Yet, smaller gifts are most welcome, for "the beginnings of great things are small."

Science Lab	\$ 30,000
Computer Room	\$ 30,000
Furniture for a classroom	\$ 5,000
Tuition Scholarship-- One child, one year	\$ 900



Gratitude from Haiti's Hands Together Ministry

As reported in the last issue of *DeSales World*, the Hope for Haiti Concert raised more than \$44,000 to support the efforts to aid this nation after the devastating earthquake in January 2010. Oblate Father Tom Hagan and his Hands Together ministry expressed their thanks to all who both participated in the event, as well as those who sent donations to assist with this cause—many through the *Will You Help* envelope in the *DeSales World*.

Thankfully, donations continue to come in to the development office, which we, in turn, forward to Hands Together. Doug Campbell, executive director, recently reported how the collection has been used, based on the needs of the local community and the coordinated efforts of other agencies:

\$15,000	– Books for to re-supply St. Francis de Sales High School
\$13,000	– Support for the Elderly Food Distribution
\$12,000	– Support for the Agricultural Farming Program
\$ 4,000	– Medical Outreach



Fr. Tom, Doug Campbell, and the entire Hands Together community continue to express their deep gratitude for your support. "We ask for your prayers, and we ask God to grace your lives with strength and courage. Please know that we deeply appreciate your help and that you are truly helping us do God's work," Doug Campbell said in a recent acknowledgement letter.

Oblates in New Ministries

In his ministry as provincial, Fr. Jim Greenfield, invites Oblates to serve in new and different ministries after consulting with them and those in the apostolates they will serve.

Here is a listing of recent changes in assignments.

Fr. Joseph Brennan, from pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, Wilmington, NC, to parochial vicar, St. John Neumann Church, Reston, VA

Fr. James Dalton, from president, Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE, to Principal, Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA

Fr. David Devlin, from parochial vicar, Our Mother of Consolation Church, Philadelphia, PA, to pastor, Holy Infant Church, Durham, NC

Fr. John Fisher, from faculty, Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, to faculty, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

Fr. Edward Fitzpatrick, from parochial vicar, Holy Redeemer Church, Kitty Hawk, NC, to parochial vicar, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cape May, NJ

Fr. Marc Gherardi, from faculty, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA, to parochial vicar, St. Ann Church, Naples, FL

Fr. Christopher Hudgin, from faculty, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA, to faculty, St. Francis de Sales High School, Toledo, OH

Fr. Joseph Jocco, from pastor, St. Francis de Sales Church, Robesonia, PA, to faculty, Father Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Timothy McIntire, from theology student, Washington, DC, to faculty, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

Fr. Robert Rutledge, from teaching fellowship, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, to faculty, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

Fr. Stephen Shott, from parochial vicar, St. Ann Church, Naples, FL, to parochial vicar, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna, VA

Fr. Nicholas Waseline, from sabbatical, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL, to parochial vicar (*pro tem*), Holy Redeemer Church, Kitty Hawk, NC

Fr. James Yeakel, from parochial vicar, Maternity B.V.M., Philadelphia, PA, to parochial vicar, Our Mother of Consolation Church, Philadelphia, PA

75 Years of Priesthood



Fr. Balducelli acknowledges the robust applause at the Mass where he celebrated his 75th Anniversary of Priesthood. Parishioners at St. Anthony of Padua Church, where he worked since 1946, organized a picnic celebration for him at St. Anthony in the Hills, a large family camp ground in Avondale, Pennsylvania, which he built and continues to supervise.

Photos by Antoinette Scorsone



Fr. Balducelli cuts his anniversary cake as friend and longtime parishioner, Marie Casapulla Panico, cheers him on!



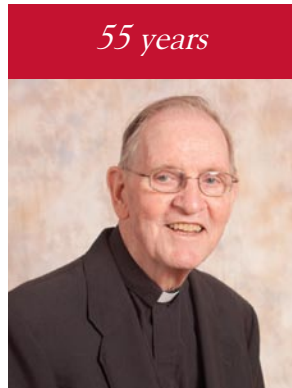
Jubilees

Pillars of Gentle Strength

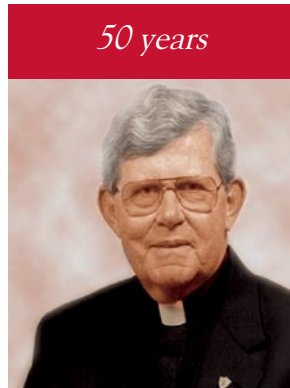


God does not measure our perfection by the many things we do for him, but how we do them.

--St. Francis de Sales



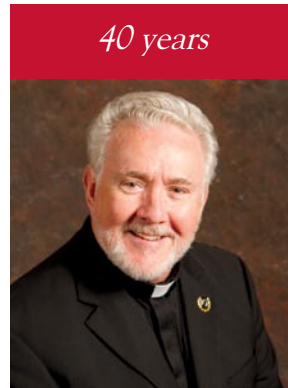
Rev. William J. Nessel, OSFS



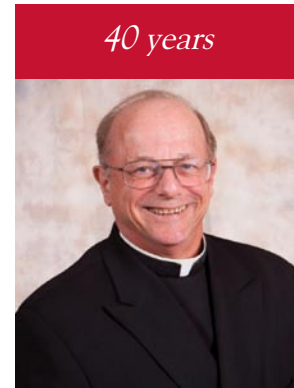
Rev. William F. Davis, OSFS



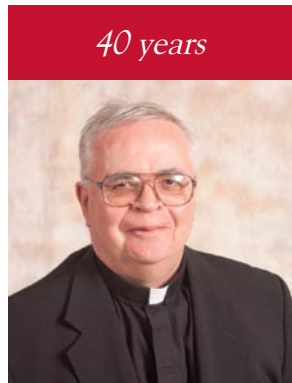
Rev. Francis J. Pileggi, OSFS



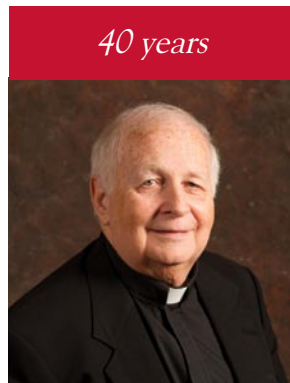
Rev. John P. Connery, OSFS



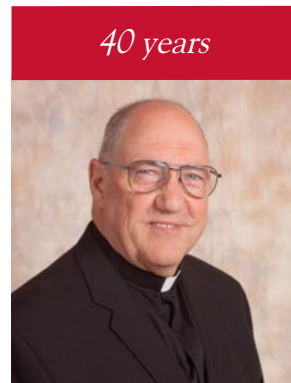
Rev. John J. Kelly, OSFS



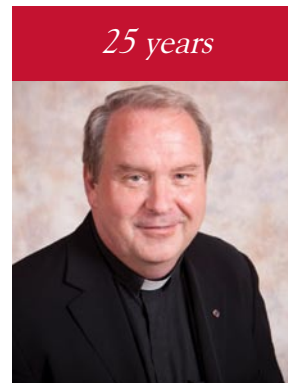
Rev. Gerard J. Mahoney, OSFS



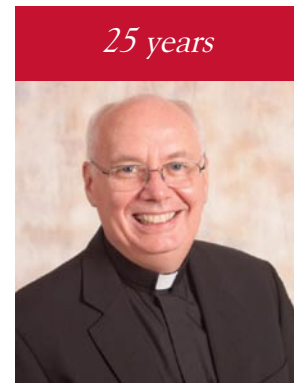
Rev. Thomas J. McGee, OSFS



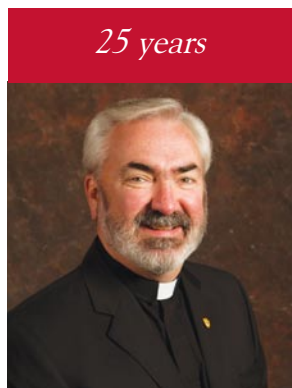
Rev. William J. Metzger, OSFS



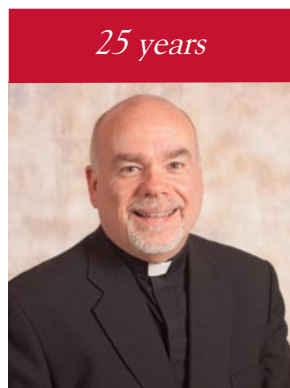
Rev. John A. Hanley, OSFS



Rev. Peter J. Leonard, OSFS



Rev. Michael S. Murray, OSFS



Rev. Mark J. Wrightson, OSFS

In this Summer/Fall 2011 Issue of the *DeSales World*, we honor those men who celebrated their jubilees throughout 2011. Please join us in wishing them well and continuing to pray for blessings upon their ministry.

Mark Your Calendar

Annual DeSales Dinner Dance

Union League of Philadelphia
Saturday, January 14, 2012
An elegant evening of dinner and dancing in support of Oblate ministries.

Ordination to the Priesthood of

Michael A. Vogt, OSFS

Salesianum School
Wilmington, Delaware
Friday, January 27, 2012

Please join us in prayer as Mike is ordained an Oblate priest.

Winter Carnival at Knowlton Mansion

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Friday, February 10, 2012
An evening of fellowship and a buffet dinner in support of Oblate ministries.

Live Jesus! 2012

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
Washington, DC
Saturday, March 17, 2012
A Lenten Morning of Reflection on Salesian Themes

Oblate Memorial Mass and Reception

Our Lady of Light Chapel
Childs, Maryland
Sunday, May 6, 2012

Contact: Sandy Clark at scark@oblates.org or (302) 656-8529 for information.

Please reference event in email subject line.

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