



# BONDINGS

THE QUARTERLY OBLATE MAGAZINE

[V+] | OBLATES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES | TOLEDO-DETROIT PROVINCE

Summer 2013



❖ *Convocation '13: Oblate Ordination* ❖



## HISTORIC MEETING

A joint meeting of the two North American Oblate provinces occurred in late June at De Sales University. Our lead article covers this exciting and important event.

Four young Oblates were ordained priests during the joint meeting. That joyful happening is covered in a separate article.

This issue also contains the obituaries of two revered Oblates who died in June, Fathers Mike Moore and Tom Moore. They shared the same last name, though they were not related by blood. They both came from Niagara Falls, N.Y., and both became missionaries. Both struggled in their final days with cancer. They gave us valuable lessons in living well through their dedicated lives and lessons this past year in dying well.

A year ago, Mike Moore addressed the province at our annual meeting in Detroit. He spoke about an old woman he visited before leaving Brazil. She was on her deathbed. As he left, she raised her hands simply and said, "Here I am – in the hands of God!" And so are we all. Fathers Tom and Mike taught us that by their faith-filled journeys to God.

- Editorial Staff



### On the cover:

St. Thomas More Church, Allentown, Pa. All of the priests gather in the sanctuary following the Laying on of Hands rite of the ordination ceremony on June 27, 2013.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales of the Toledo-Detroit Province is to "Live Jesus" according to Salesian spirituality in our personal and communal lives, and to share this spirituality with the People of God.

### BONDINGS

*Bondings* is published regularly for the members and friends of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Toledo-Detroit Province. Its purpose is to enhance and develop the bond we have through our common faith in Jesus Christ and Salesian spirituality. *Bondings* is free of charge to anyone on request. Send your name and address (or that of a friend) to the Provincial Office or call 419.724.9851.

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*Father Ken McKenna, Provincial of the Toledo/Detroit Province, blessing the jubilarians with Father Jim Greenfield (left), Provincial of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province.*

## 2013 ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN OBLATE PROVINCES

*by Father Roland Calvert, OSFS*

**M**ore than 200 North American Oblates gathered in “Convocation ’13” at De Sales University in Center Valley, Pa., from June 24-28. It was the first gathering of both provinces since they were separated in 1966. It proved to be a happy reunion of old friends, as well as a symposium on Vatican II (celebrating its 50th anniversary) and a time of prayer and worship.

Father Jim Greenfield, Provincial of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province, described the event as “a Pentecost moment.” Certainly the energy of the gathering suggested the Spirit’s pres-

ence. More than one participant expressed the sentiment that a joint meeting was long overdue.

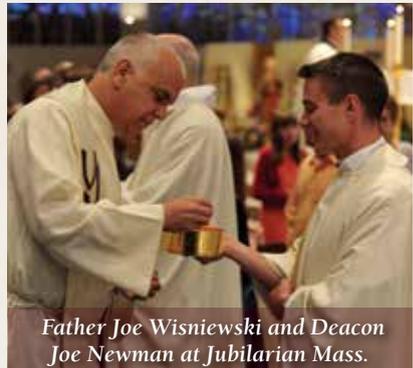
Three speakers on Vatican II were featured. Father John O’Malley, SJ focused on the



*Jubilarian Mass with Father John O'Neill, celebrant (center), and the Brothers Newman: Joe (left), deacon for the Mass and Mike (right), homilist.*



*Father Tom Helfrich*



*Father Joe Wisniewski and Deacon Joe Newman at Jubilarian Mass.*

historical aspects of the council. Msgr. Kevin Irwin and Norbertine Father Andrew Ciferni spoke of the liturgical reforms, both what has been accomplished and what remains to be done.

On Wednesday, we celebrated the jubilarians in our midst with a special Mass, at which Father Dave Whalen presided with Father Frank Danella preaching. Thirty-four Oblate confreres cele-

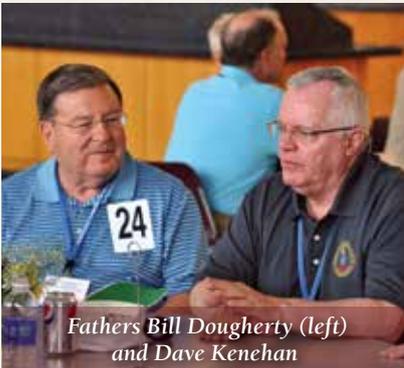
brated significant anniversaries of profession or ordination. It was noted that their lives added up, amazingly, to 1,385 years of vowed life and 290 years of priestly service and Oblate ministry.

On Thursday, the highlight was the ordination of four young Oblates (see article pages 6-8).

There were many additional happenings, including a delightful performance of "Oklahoma!" by



*Fathers Joe Jocco, Dave Whalen (center) and John Fisher.*



*Fathers Bill Dougherty (left) and Dave Kenehan*



*The Oblate Schola that assisted musically during the liturgies.*

the university Theater Department. Games of Jeopardy and bingo were held in the evening with the questions focused on Oblate history. Photographers Matt Churetta and Father Michael Murray were kept busy covering all the events!

A special word of praise should go to those who organized the convocation. It was a complex event, with spiritual, educational and social aspects that all received their

due. The five days were filled with rich benefits for the participants.

On the final day, the Oblates were sent back to their communities and ministries with a prayer service. The Oblate Superior General, Aldino Kiesel, addressed the gathering and commented on how large it was and how well the week went. He expressed gratitude to all who made the event flow so smoothly.



*Bishop John Barres says the prayer following the Laying on of Hands rite.*

## FOUR OBLATES ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

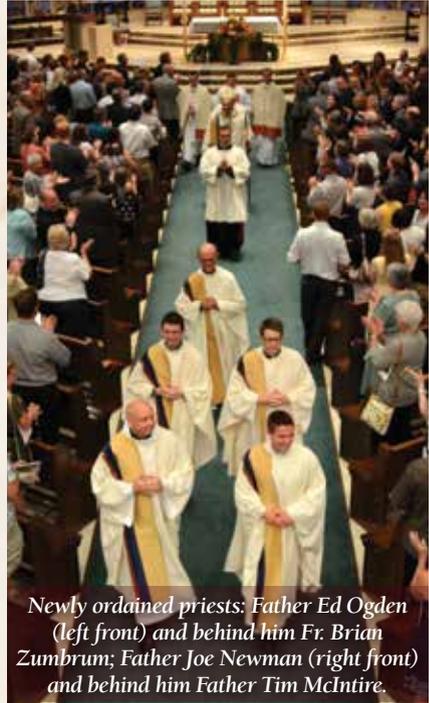
*by Father Tom Helfrich, OSFS*

**T**here was a steady flow of golf carts moving Oblates from their campus sleeping quarters to the sites of meetings, meals and prayers during Convocation '13 at De Sales University. But Thursday afternoon, three majestic tour buses replaced the little carts to move us from the university to St. Thomas More Church in Allentown, where Bishop John Barres of the Diocese of Allentown, Pa., ordained four of our members to the priesthood. Perhaps the most visually captivating moment of an ordination ceremony is the imposition of hands, first by the bishop, then by all the priests gathered.

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It was far more than a moment at this ceremony, as some 200 Oblate priests, along with diocesan priests from Allentown and elsewhere, slowly moved from their pews to bless the newly

ordained with that simple gesture and then assemble in the sanctuary. Never in our history have so many Oblates gathered for an ordination, nor has the Church of St. Thomas More ever hosted



*Newly ordained priests: Father Ed Ogden (left front) and behind him Fr. Brian Zumbur; Father Joe Newman (right front) and behind him Father Tim McIntire.*

so many priests.

Congratulations to our newest Oblate priests: Tim McIntire of Levittown, Pa.; Joe Newman of Toledo, Ohio; Ed Ogden of Philadelphia, Pa., and Brian Zumbur of Harrisburg, Pa. Congratulations, in advance, to Rudi Schwarzkopf of Toledo, who ministered as deacon for the liturgy and will be ordained in his hometown Aug. 10. Not every Oblate is called to priesthood and the many U. S. Oblate brothers and those in various stages of formation and inquiry joined the vast assembly of family members and friends to fill the

huge church.

How special it was to have Sisters of the Visitation, the order founded by St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal, join in the celebration, along with an impressive group of Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales, founded by Blessed Louis Brisson, our own founder, and St. Francis de Sales Aviat. Even the Mother General of the Oblate Sisters, Sister Françoise-Bernadette Beuzelin from France, and our Oblate Superior General, Father Aldino Kiesel from Rome, joined in the festal liturgy.



*Bishop Barres stands with Father Aldino Kiesel (to his right) and the four new Oblate priests.*



Ken McKenna, the Toledo-Detroit Provincial, spoke warm words of welcome at the start of the liturgy, expressing sincere appreciation to Bishop Barres for being a friend to the Oblates. Jim Greenfield, Ken's counterpart in the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province, touched us with his gracious words at the end.

What a historic highlight this was as the pinnacle of our convocation.

Thank God for those tour buses! The heavens wept in joy – and provided some thundering applause – as we exited the church to return to De Sales

University for an impressive and delightful reception and dinner.

What next, you ask? Tim McIntire will be serving as director of associates, teaming with Alan Zobler in vocation ministry. Joe Newman will be rejoining the faculty at St. Francis de Sales High School in Toledo. Ed Ogden will be continuing his ministry as Director of Formation. And Brian Zumbum will be on the faculty of Nativity Prep in Wilmington, Del. They will join all of us in various ways spreading the Gospel in the gentle and strong spirit of St. Francis de Sales.



## FATHER TOM MOORE, OSFS (1938 – 2013)

“I SCARCE CAN TAKE IT IN.”

I lived with Tom Moore for 19 years. We were in a men’s support group together for more than 20 years. We confided in one another and occasionally fought with one another, as brothers do. In the past couple of months, I was with Tom almost constantly as the battle with pancreatic cancer finally took him. For me, that time was a privilege and a gift.

Looking back on the experience I hope when my turn comes to go through life’s final episode, I will be able to complete it half as well as Tom Moore did. He and I prayed together in the evenings, after the humbling ordeal of having someone else help him undress and get ready for bed. Tom always would begin the prayer thanking God for “the gift of this cancer.”

Many had prayed that the founder of the Oblates, Louis Brisson, might obtain a miracle cure for Tom. Tom’s sister, Mary, said just a few weeks ago she thought he got his miracle. He had very little pain all through this ordeal, although pancreatic cancer is typically extremely painful.

Tom often quoted a line from the hymn “How Great Thou Art” to express his wonder at the goodness of God. It is part of the verse that goes: “And when I think of God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.” May he live forever now in the light of that wonder.”

- Father Bob Schramm, OSFS, Toledo, OH

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### EXCERPTS FROM THE FUNERAL HOMILY FOR FATHER TOM MOORE, OSFS

St. Pius X Church, Toledo OH, June 4, 2013

By Father John Mancini, OSFS

When Tom emailed the readings and songs that he had chosen for his funeral liturgy, he wrote that in the homily he wanted emphasis on three things: God’s goodness, God’s love and God’s forgiveness. That’s the Tom Moore we all know and love. He had complete and utter faith and trust in God’s goodness, love and forgiveness. That’s what he wanted others to have, also. For example, he chose the Gospel passage not so that we would think of him and his dying, but so that we would be reminded always to



be aware of Jesus' invitation to come to Him with our labors, our burdens, our weariness; that we will find rest and comfort and relief in Him, our Savior.

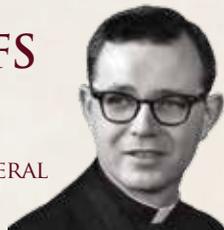
Tom obviously was a spiritual man. ... On the other hand, Tom was a fun person to be around. He loved to tell stories and jokes, usually while drinking red wine and eating pretzels or chips and salsa, or nuts, or cheese and crackers or, well – ANYTHING! He loved to eat! Tom could remember stories about people and situations and could remember and tell jokes at the drop of a hat. Just a word or a phrase would get him recalling things and off he'd go! Tom was entertaining and easy to be with. No wonder he had so many good friends like all of you here today. He was SO happy to be able to see most of his friends in the last few months – to say goodbye and to be with them one last time.”



Tom loved to say that he was a '2' on the Enneagram personality inventory, meaning that he was an other-centered person, a person who had to keep helping others no matter what they needed. As you know well, he did that. By the way, I can personally attest that it's a pretty good deal to live with such a person! Tom was a great priest. He touched many people's hearts with his pastoral concern, his preaching, his celebrating the sacraments. He was especially effective at funerals, pastoral care of the sick, and giving counsel and spiritual direction to those searching for answers and meaning in their lives. He gave hope and comfort to many people by taking the time to listen to them tell their stories, especially people who were confused, emotionally distraught or suffering from an addiction. He was a true, gentle, wise and compassionate son of St. Francis de Sales.”

## FATHER MIKE MOORE, OSFS (1941 – 2013)

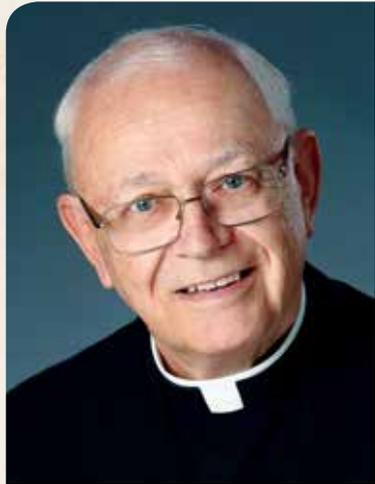
WORDS BY OBLATE FATHER BILL AUTH AT THE FUNERAL  
St. Pius X Church, Toledo, Ohio, June 22, 2013



I arrived in Florida at one of the low moments of Mike's struggle. He was in a lot of pain and wasn't sure an operation he had on his lungs would be successful or not. Thank God it was. He lived another year and a

half. At one point, Mike sat me down and said, 'Now I want to get serious. I want you to preach at my funeral.' ... He showed me the readings and I said, 'Mike, why did you choose that Gospel? It's all about Mary. What am I supposed to say?' 'Read it again,' he said. So I did, and I knew then why he had chosen it. Mary – simple, humble Mary – had said YES to God. That's the message Mike wanted us to have. That's what he had done. That's what we all need to do.

Mike said YES, I'll be a Christian. YES, I will join the Oblates. YES, I will be a priest. YES, I will go to Bishop Duffy High School. YES, I will go to Brazil and then, YES, I will go to India to help the Oblates set up a foundation there. And then YES, I will take care of my sister Mary when she came down with cancer. And then YES, back to Brazil ... And then YES, I will be provincial. And YES, I will help the province to expand and be more inclusive of its Ecuadorian and Colombian members. And then YES, we will accept the Haitians. And then YES to all that and accepting cancer. And finally, YES a few days ago to death."



*Father Bill then spoke of a ring that Mike had left him:*

Let me end by telling you about the ring. This is the ring which people all over Latin America wear when they are dedicated to the poor. Mike wore this ring for 40 years, not just signing his dedication, but as a testimony to his life. I don't know what I will do now that he has died. I will miss him incredibly. I do know that I will wear this ring and I hope I can do what he did and never, never forget the needy, wherever they might be in our world.

Our Bishop of Rome, Francisco, has reminded all of us that unless we are concerned about the poor, we are not even Christians. We gather in this liturgy because we believe Mike will continue to live. His spirit will never die, and neither will we. That is what we celebrate in the Eucharist. We thank God for Mike and for God's Spirit, which Mike made present in our world, and which, with the help of God, we will continue to make visible wherever we might be."



IV-11 OBLATES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES  
TOLEDO-DETROIT PROVINCE

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