

*“O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
Oh Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.”*



Prayer is our very human way of being in conversation with God, and especially by being in touch with our innermost feelings; we are also present to the Creator within each of us. Like Mary, sister of Martha, who sat at the feet of Jesus, through prayer that leads to service, we also take on the posture of a disciple of Jesus. We surrender ourselves to God – and in doing so, we surrender ourselves to one another.

In this spirit we invite you to be an active participant in our annual *Novena of Prayer* which begins on May 13 and concludes on May 21, the feast day of *St. Eugene de Mazenod*, founder of the Oblates, who died on this day in 1861. During this occasion, hundreds of people, both mission associates and Oblates, are praying together as one family. Each day a special Mass is offered by our missionaries for you and your loved ones. We encourage you to send your personal intentions on the enclosed gift form and ask you to also pray for the women and men engaged in carrying out the works of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate around the world.



2007 Report of Donations and Disbursements

We are grateful to you for your ongoing prayers and financial support. You, the family and friends of the Oblates, have raised over **\$ 1.27 Million dollars** for Oblate Canadian and foreign missions and ministry works in 2007.

Well over 2,700 mission associates generously responded to others through active prayers and financial giving. It is our hope that this number will increase throughout the coming year.

In 2007, your donations funded 64 projects totalling over \$ 970,000! In Canada you enabled the *Youth Ministry* and *Parish Mission teams* to share the love of God by transforming hearts and souls of our young people and reaffirming parish community life. Teams of Oblates and laity ministering in the *North* and in our *Retreat and Prayer Houses* offer hope, solidarity, spiritual growth and healing.

In *Bolivia*, Cristina Rodriguez and Louis and Armelle Molin are once again able to carry out charity works for the poor, for children in day care centres and on the streets by providing basic food, education and medical attention.



In *Guatemala*, Oblates Gerry Le Strat and Jacques Johnson respond to the needs of people in many ways through the Faith in Action project gathering people in prayer and community building, educating of the indigenous and guiding young men in vocation discernment.

Your gifts are vital for formation expenses in *Canada, Guatemala, Kenya, Pakistan and Peru*.

Your generosity facilitates many projects in *Peru* through the Oblates. With the devastating earthquake in August of 2007, your donations enable Oblates Blaise Mac Quarrie and Joe De-

vin to respond to the needs of those most affected. Brother Blaise and his gravel pit crew amaze us with their unending efforts to build adobe homes. Father Joe continues in social assistance and repairing chapels that were damaged during the quake. Father Maurice Schroeder continues his ministry work as a medical doctor at the Centro de Salud in Santa Clotilde ~ reparations, a 20 bed hospital addition, growth of the Napo River Health Network and milk for malnourished babies are some of his project involvements. Monies continue to be sent to Peru in support of sponsoring the education of young children, catechetical programs and providing social assistance to those most in need.



Office expenses for 2007 were \$ 310,000. The majority of costs pertain to salaries, communication and printed materials, postage, rent and office supplies.



The Oblate Mission in *Kenya* received over \$ 450,000 in 2007 for costs associated with: formation of young men desiring to be Missionary Oblates, the East Mount Kenya Water Project, St. Eugene Secondary School Library, vehicle purchase and repairs, novitiate and pre-novitiate necessities and general mission team needs of the Oblates ministering in Kenya. Already in 2008, an additional \$ 140,000 has been sent to Kenya for formation and carrying out the works of the Oblates.

Out of the \$ 1.27 Million dollars raised in 2007, we especially recognize four members who graciously named *AMMI Lacombe Canada MAMI* in their Last Will and Testament. Their generosity provided the Oblates with over \$ 129,000 to care for our sisters and brothers around the world. Their love and sacrifice for Oblate ministries will be remembered for many years to come by the ongoing monetary support for missionary projects.

It is our hope that during 2008, we will be able to raise \$ 1,145,000. Your partnership is key to answering the ongoing needs and projects of the Oblate missions. We need your generosity. Together, by enhancing the lives of others physically, emotionally and spiritually, we are truly making a difference!

Diane E. Lepage

Diane Lepage



Glenn M. Zimmer, OMI

Glenn Zimmer, OMI

Vaughan Quinn, OMI

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Oblate Mission Associates Coordination Team