



Lac Ste Anne Pilgrimage Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7

Keeping Pilgrims Informed

SUMMER 2007

“Gathered in unity, we the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrims, continue to celebrate this event which is a gift of God’s blessing, deeply rooted in Catholic Native Tradition.”

Contact Information

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Pilgrimage Staff:

Marlene Morin
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Marion Stone-House
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Myrnie House
Building Maintenance
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Tom Daniels
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Coordinator

LSA Pilgrimage

The Lac Ste Anne Pilgrimage is online. It contains a history of the pilgrimage, photos, newsletters, volunteer info and application form, testimonies of healing and much more.

A downloadable schedule of this year’s pilgrimage and poster are also available.

Be sure to send us your email address to subscribe. Contributions of stories, testimonies etc will be appreciated. Visit us at:

www.lsap.ca

Pilgrimage Dates for 2007

Pilgrimage begins this year on Saturday July 21st and concludes with morning Mass on Thursday the 26th.

Camping area will be closed for set-up and maintenance July 14 -18th and open for camping Wed., July 18th. Campground gates are closed 11 pm - 6 am nightly and a quiet time is in effect.

On Sunday, July 22, after the morning Mass, the Historic Sties Plaque will be unveiled.

Confirmation

The theme of this year’s Pilgrimage is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Interview with Isidore Charlo

In 1960, I was in Edmonton at the Charles Camsell Hospital; I met some Aboriginal people from Cold Lake, AB. They talked about Lac Ste Anne Pilgrimage.

The following year in 1961, I bought a car and drove to Lac Ste Anne. With me there was my wife Mary Rose, and my sons Leon and Michael, my brother and sister in-law Louise and Therese Rabesca.

We were the first people from the Tlicho Nation to go and pray at Lac Ste Anne. There wasn’t that many people then, still we were happy to pray with them, to listen to their stories and to go to the lake.

In 1964, I took 4 elders with me, Alex Charlo, Jimmy Drybones, Harry Kodzin and Philip Huskey.

Since then I have been going to Lac Ste Anne every summer. More and more people join us from Behchoko (Fort Rae), Wha Ti, Gameti, Wekweti, Fort Providence and even Deline.

Now the place is full of tents, motor homes, buses, cars and pickups.

Every summer we go and find our friends we haven’t seen for one year.

It is good to pray together and because we are so many praying together, our prayer is strong. I can see in the future that the pilgrimage will grow bigger and more and more people will join us.

All year long, we look forward to our pilgrimage to Lac Ste Anne.

Isidore Charlo
Behchoko, NT
May 30, 2007

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A Message from the Board Chair

by Murleen Crossen

Greetings fellow Pilgrims; Happy Spring everyone!!! Finally! Spring is upon us and with the coming of Summer I am looking forward to renewal at Pilgrimage this year. I have so much to tell you. The Board has been working very hard this winter and I hope you will be happy with many of the changes we have planned this year.

The first and the biggest change is our staff. I want to officially say WELCOME to our 4 key staff. Marlene Morin—Administrator, Marion Stone-House—Volunteer Coordinator, Myrnie House—Building Maintenance Coordinator, and Tom Daniels—Site Maintenance Coordinator. All their hearts are with the Pilgrimage, their views are new and exciting and they have energy!

We have moved our office. We have renovated the house on site and it is now officially our office. The telephone number is the same (780) 924-3231 and mailing address the same but we no longer use the Missionary Oblate office (Meadowview) as our base. We are using the site office and Marlene has a St. Albert office

daily. Please come in and check it out.

We hope to meet many of you there and plan to have one Board member or Trustee available on site during the Pilgrimage to answer any of your questions and hopefully get your feedback. We are trying some new fund raisers this year. Please read the “commonly asked questions” section herein to find out more about ways to donate. The biggest change that will be noticed immediately is one that has been suggested by you, the Pilgrims, for quite some time. In an effort to recover some of the expenses we are instituting a **vehicle fee**. This means that ANY vehicle wishing to drive into the camping area will be asked to pay \$20.00. You will receive a sticker with the year and the license plate number on it. FOR THIS YEAR ONLY this fee is voluntary, vehicles without stickers will be stopped at the gate and asked to purchase a sticker each time they try to enter. Next year it will be mandatory—no vehicles without stickers will be permitted on the site.

Parking in lots across the road



Murleen Crossen is Chairperson of the LSA Pilgrimage Board

is still free; you may park at your own risk. You will find a change in two other areas—toilets and security. Many washrooms will be closed this year. In their place we have added an extra 50 handicaps. As you know, location is everything, so let us know if this works and be patient with us. The other is “spot checks” to incoming vehicles for alcohol will be done this year with the help of the RCMP. As this is privately owned property, we are within our rights to check for alcohol and refuse entry to anyone. We understand some people will not appreciate these changes and others will be on board, either way we welcome you and look forward to your arrival. May the spirit of St. Anne guide you to our shore. Travel safe, Peace be with you.

Pilgrimage Trustees

- Most Rev. Richard Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
- Charles Wood
Chair
Saddle Lake, AB
- Bernadette Fox
Cardston, AB
- Harry Lafond
Muskeg Lake, SK
- Edna Woodward (nee Powder)
Fort Smith NT
- John B. Zoe
Rae-Edzo, NT
- Victor Letendre
Edmonton, AB
- Father John Malazdrewich,
OMI
Edmonton, AB

Board Members

- Murleen Crossen
Chair
Lac Ste Anne Settlement
- Fr. Garry LaBoucane, omi
Spiritual Director
Slave Lake, AB
- Robert Beaulieu
Yellowknife, NT
- Mervin Kootenay
Alexis, AB

Volunteer Work Areas and Related Duties

Security Volunteers - work in collaboration with the RCMP to ensure safety and security of pilgrims. Experience in security work an asset.

Parking Attendants - oversee vehicle parking and campground registration

Seniors Transportation - drivers to operate seniors and handicapped shuttle. Helpers to ride along and assist passengers.

Garbage Collection - help with garbage or litter collection.

Youth Ministry - those with experience working with teens and young adults

Children's Ministry - persons with experience teaching Catechism to children.

Shrine Care - ushers and helpers to help care for the Shrine.

Gift Shop - help with pricing, stocking shelves and sale of items. mature individuals with retail experience given preference.

Snack Shops - helpers prepare simple food items, serve customers, cleanup. Food concession experience an asset.

Grocery Store - require cashiers, helpers to stock shelves.

Shower Attendants - make change, keep shower building clean

Donation & Info Booth - receive donations and provide information. Must work well with the public.

Cook's Helpers - help prepare volunteer meals and cleanup.

Maintenance Helpers - help keep water, electrical, septic systems operational

Nurses - assist in First Aid Station

To volunteer, please contact Marion Stone-House at (780) 924-3231

Commonly Asked Questions

Lac. Ste. Anne Pilgrimage vs Lac Ste. Anne Parish?

TWO SEPARATE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. There is some confusion as to the separateness of these two, and it is totally understandable. Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage may not have survived if the Lac Ste. Anne Parish had not continued as a Mission of the Archdiocese of Edmonton. The Lac Ste. Anne Parish is still a Mission and we, of the Pilgrimage Trust and Board, recognize and support the continuation of the Parish on the site. Unfortunately, it becomes confusing during Pilgrimage. Some donations collected during past Pilgrimages were cheques made out (by choice or by mistake) to the Lac Ste. Anne Parish, and subsequently, deposited into the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage account. Therefore it has been decided that Donations to the Lac Ste. Anne Parish WILL NOT be accepted by our Office.

DONATIONS:

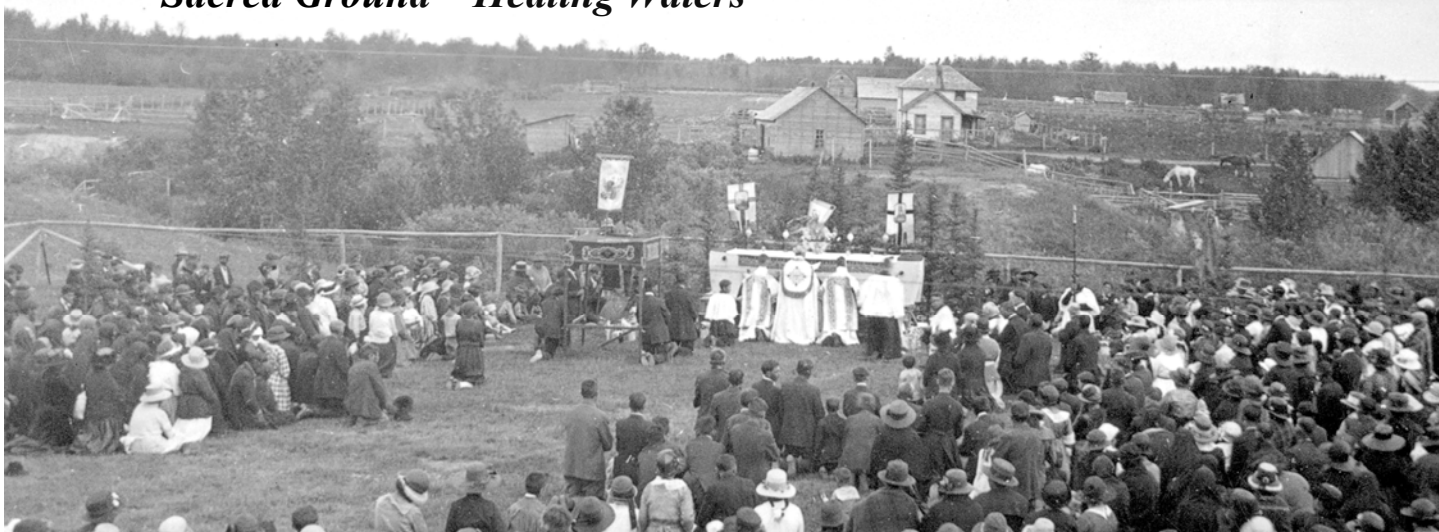
- **DONATIONS TO THE PILGRIMAGE** **At Office**
\$10.00 or more—Tax receipt mailed

As with any Charitable Organization, any donation is greatly appreciated. In the past, some people have mistakenly thought “Prayer Requests” were a donation. They are two very different things as explained below. We have also had requests for tax receipts. In the past, this was very hard to accomplish. We hope to have this solved by arranging for a volunteer to be in the office. There, we can be sure the proper information is collected for tax receipts to be issued at a later date. Donations may also be mailed to our office at any time and we hope to have the web site updated to accept your donation in that way.

- **MEMORY BOARD** **At Office and Pre-sale**
\$100.00
IS a donation—Tax receipt will be mailed

This is new. If the response is good, we will continue it. 100 squares/plaques will be sold each year at a cost of \$100.00 per square. If the response is overwhelming, another board will be considered. There will be room for 1 name (max. 30 characters) with a date (birth/death—smaller font) underneath. The plaques are white plastic with engraving showing in black. These will be set in a frame with the year above. It will be blessed at a mass, then mounted on the wall of the Shrine above the candles area. When all are sold, it will be mounted immediately. We have enough room for 2 boards, so the 3rd year, the first ones will be moved up the wall. These are being pre-sold. If not sold out at the beginning of the Pilgrimage, the remainder will be sold on site. If you are interested in purchasing a square/plaque, please call our office (780) 924-3231—a spot can be held for 1 week to await the arrival of your payment.

LSA Booklet of Historic Pictures *Sacred Ground – Healing Waters*



As part of the Alberta Centennial a project was undertaken with funding assistance from the Alberta Government to assemble a series of historical photographs of the site. Most of these were obtained from the Oblate archives. A booklet has been produced using 34 photographs selected from this collection. These depict scenes of the Pilgrimage from the 1920's to the early 1960's. They also include photographs of key Oblates who served the mission and pilgrimage during that time. The books will be available from the LSA Pilgrimage Company this summer.

A Message from our Spiritual Director



Fr. Garry LaBoucane, OMI

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First of all, I want to thank all of you who made the effort to be here at Lac Ste-Anne and to pray with so many people from a great variety of communities. I also want to express my gratitude to all those who helped to make the pilgrimage happen: those who did the planning, those who prepared the site, those who generously volunteered their time in any way, and those who are making sure that everything is ready as we gather to pray in the shrine at Mass, or in the lake, or on the grounds.

Each year for the last three years, one of the Sacraments has been emphasized. So far, we have focused on Baptism, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), and Reconciliation (Confession). This year, we are remembering the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate and live out our Confirmation. One who lives out her Confirmation is Sister Eva Solomon. She is originally from Ontario and has devoted her life to God and the Church. She is very interested in what Our Lady of Guadeloupe said to St. Juan Diego, and she is offering to share her mission and ideas with us during the pilgrimage. I am sure that you will enjoy meeting her during her presentations or at any time during the pilgrimage.

As you may already know, the Lac Ste-Anne Pilgrimage site has been declared a historic site by the Federal Government of Canada. This year, after the Sunday morning Mass, there will be a short ceremony when the plaque designating this as a historic site is unveiled. After the ceremony, everyone is welcome to join the dignitaries for tea and bannock. Hopefully, everyone will bring lots of bannock to share with everyone else (like those such as me who do not know how to make it).

Father Camille Fiché, OMI and Mr. Greg Bounds were two men who initiated and did most of the ground work in having our site recognized by our federal government as a significantly historical place for all Canadians. I am most grateful to both men for all the time and effort they put into this. Neither one of them wants to be singled out, but they did good work. Thank you, Father Camille and Greg!

Father Camille is in Europe at the moment. The Oblates have offered him a sabbatical in recognition for his many years of working for the Oblate community in administration. When he returns, I am sure that he will have a better idea of where next to use his Gifts of the Spirit. Because he is on sabbatical, he is no longer one of the Trustees. The local Superior of the Oblates in the Brother Anthony Community, Father John Malazdrewich, OMI, is now a Trustee. Welcome, Father John!

I would also like to welcome another new Trustee, His Grace, Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton. Our Holy Father asked Archbishop Collins, who was a Trustee, to move to Toronto and Archbishop Smith to move West. Archbishop Smith was immediately interested in being involved with Lac Ste-Anne. He is presiding at the Sunday morning Mass and is also involved in the ceremony afterwards. So, it is my pleasure to welcome you, Your Grace.

We have another new “baby” Archbishop coming to the waters of Lac Ste-Anne. His Grace, Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, will be joining us for the first time as well. He will be presiding at the 3 pm Mass on Sunday and blessing the lake afterwards. Welcome, Your Grace, all the way from the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan!

Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, OMI has now matured to the toddler stage of being an archbishop. He was our “baby” archbishop last year, following in a great man’s footsteps, Archbishop Peter Sutton, OMI, and doing a GREAT job! Welcome home, Sylvain!

May we all live out the Gifts of the Holy Spirit no matter who and where we are!

With love and gratitude,

Father Garry LaBoucane, OMI

A Volunteer Experience

I should know better by now. I always start out thinking that volunteering is about me selflessly giving my time and talent to the benefit of some needy organization that obviously can't afford to pay for workers! And yet, every time I volunteer I leave having received so much more than I've given.

It happened again last year at the Pilgrimage. My life gave me an unscheduled five hours at the Pilgrimage so I offered to help in the Prayer/Mass Intentions booth. As it turned out, it was not a gift I gave to the pilgrimage but a gift the pilgrimage gave to me.

I delighted in meeting the two little girls who traveled from Manitoba in a motorhome. The future of the pilgrimage was being created in this, their family tradition.

I heard the plea of a community to find the body of a drowned child so all could find rest.

And then there were the pilgrims who asked for healing from their illnesses, and if not healing, then at least the courage to go on.

Even now as I write and remember my time volunteering last summer, I can see the little change purses open and carefully folded five dollar bills generously offered. I accepted their financial offerings, but I was truly honoured to hear and write down their prayer and stories.

So, my five hours of 'given' time became five hours of 'gift'. I left my volunteer time inspired by the humble faithfulness of this community. Their openness, honesty and trust were not only a blessing for that day, but its memory has brought a blessing to my whole year.

If you are interested in volunteering at this year's pilgrimage, please contact: Marion Stone-House, Volunteer Coordinator at 780 924-3231.

Louise Breland

Prayer Requests

In the earlier years of the pilgrimage, people often offered money for MASS INTENTIONS. For each MASS INTENTION, a priest was asked to remember that specific request and the one who asked for it. This is still the practice in our home communities. When we had lots of priests and a much smaller number of pilgrims, this was very easy to do. Now, we have lots of pilgrims and a very few priests so times have changed. However, anyone can ask a priest to remember a specific intention at Mass and then offer him the usual stipend (the amount of money varies from place to place).

During the pilgrimage NOW, we are accepting Prayer Requests ONLY at the booth. The information regarding the request is written on a prepared sheet. These pages are then taken to the next Mass being celebrated and are brought forward with the Gifts of Bread and Wine. The Prayer Requests are placed on the altar until Mass is finished. After that, they are placed in a binder and stored in a secure place. The monies collected for the Prayer Requests are used to help pay the expenses for operating the pilgrimage.

If you would still rather have a Mass Intention, please offer your stipend to one of the priests at the pilgrimage and ask him to remember your Intention at Mass when he is able to do so.

I hope this is helpful to your understanding of the difference we are making between a Mass Stipend and a Prayer Request.

Respectfully yours in our Lord, Jesus Christ

Father Garry LaBoucane, OMI