

Letter sent to the Oblates of the then Saint-Jean-Baptiste

December, 1988

Dear Friends,

With pride, forty years ago, on February 17, 1948, as a High School freshman at the Oblate Seminary, Bucksport, ME, I received a small Oblate Cross -- a symbol of my desire to become eventually a member of the religious order, the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.). With pride and trepidation, thirty-one years ago, on September 7, 1957, at Sacred Heart Church, South Natick, MA, I received a larger cross: *the* Oblate Cross -- the symbol of my full membership with the O.M.I. And with trepidation mainly, twenty-nine years ago, on June 24, 1959, at St-Jean-Baptiste Church, Lowell, MA, I was ordained a priest.

During these years, as an Oblate religious and priest -- first as a missionary preacher, then as a staff-member in several Oblate Christian Centers, and finally as an educator -- I have tried the best I could to serve the people I came in contact with, my Oblate Province and the Church.

The time has now come, however, when 'being an Oblate' (both as a religious and as an ordained priest) does not define anymore who I am, although 'being an Oblate' forever remains deeply a part of me.

It is with sadness that I must now leave my Oblate Community as well as the exercise of my ordained priesthood. But it is with joy that I have reassured my fellow Oblates. They remain my friends, and more so, my brothers.

With the prayers and the understanding of my family and friends, and in the spirit of the Oblate Rules and Constitution, I continue to believe: *Nihil inausum* [Nothing must remain unrisked].

Thus, with enthusiasm, as I have done so for some sixteen years, I intend to go on teaching at Emmanuel College and, with hope, as always, I face life's adventure.

Sincerely,

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