

IMPORTANT EVENTS & DATES

(If you can't make these events, please pray about them.)

Jun 26-28 Vocations Weekend
 Jul 3-5 Tea Tree Gully Antioch Weekend
 2010:
 Jan 10-14 National Oblate Youth Encounter 2010, South Australia

Spot the difference

There are six to find



Fr Christian Fini and Damien Coyle

Fr Christian Fini: Fr Christian Fini has been a part of Oblate Youth Australia since its inception and has always been part of a group of committed youth who seek to encourage other youth in their faith. His nomination to life membership was received by the National Coordination Team in Adelaide during their meeting. He has always been a part of the community and, regardless of his future as determined by the Oblates, will continue to be a member of the community.

Damien Coyle: Saxophonist extraordinaire, IT guru (slash workhorse) and all around good guy. Damien got involved in Oblate Youth Australia early on and was one of three South Australians who came to Encounter 2002 in Gerroa. Since then the excitement and influence they exhibited in South Australia has led to the National Oblate Youth Encounter 2010 being held in Adelaide. Damien has always worked hard in everything he does and always does it with a smile. He continues to support OYA and lives the charism of St Eugene de Mazenod

envision

OBLATE YOUTH AUSTRALIA UPDATE

Greetings Oblate Youth Australia!

On Saturday 30th May, Oblate Youth Australia held its annual Pentecost celebration. However, 2009 held a special significance than in previous years. The year of 2009 was to witness members from Oblate Youth Australia gather in Melbourne from all over this vast country to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this Oblate youth outreach.

In all 140 participants, original members from the first youth group at St. John Vianney's, Mulgrave, Melbourne in 2000, original members from the first combined January encounter in 2007 and our young people who joined Oblate Youth Australia to help organize and participate in the International Youth Encounter held as part of World Youth Day at Mazenod College in 2008 reunited.

The celebrations commenced with a concelebrated Pentecost Mass at St. John Vianney's, Mulgrave where it all began. I was privileged to be the main celebrant for this occasion and Fr Christian Fini OMI was the homilist. Our young people once again used their talents to sing, play instruments, read and organize all aspects of the liturgy. A feature of the closing part of the liturgy was a power point presentation of the history and events of Oblate Youth Australia over the 10 years. This journey through time brought back many happy members for the youth and Oblates alike.

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate are very proud of the youth who are involved in active ways in many of our ministries. The members of Oblate Youth Australia extend their talents to the formation of young people through youth groups in our Oblate parish communities. We have others who belong to the Rosies Youth Mission which extends the hand of friendship and hope to the marginalized of our society through a street outreach in Victoria and Queensland. The Oblates enable young men to find their potential and their faith by educating them through our College communities.

I am sure you will find more details and pictures of the celebrations and our various youth ministries through the various links in the web page. I encourage you to go there and you will be inspired by our young people who not only have faith, but they are willing to make it a lived reality for themselves and by this inspire other young people who come into their communities to embrace the spirit that guides all of us.

This youth ministry continues the charism of our founder St. Eugene de Mazenod who had a deep love for youth and those who were marginalized in society. This is real mark of a saint in our Church when his charism is still inspiring and being lived by people today. The more we encourage our youth and each other to care for one another and to reach out to for those abandoned by society the greater chance we have of creating a more caring society and in turn building the Kingdom of God.

After 10 years of serving OYA Fr Christian Fini offered his resignation, a sign of freedom to move on and allow others to take his place. The provincial council did not accept his offer and you are stuck with him for a little while longer

Once again congratulations to Oblate Youth Australia on your 10th anniversary. I thank you for energizing me with your vision and enthusiasm.

God Bless

Fr Harry Dyer OMI

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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"Through the eyes of Christ... we see the world."
 "Through the eyes of Christ... we see the world."

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1. Bernard's tie 2. Patrice's necklace 3. Fini's cross 4. Damien is shorter 5. Balloon strings missing 6. Marc's hand





It's hard to believe it has been 10 years since our humble beginning. There have been many highlights, and much to be proud of. It all started with a small youth group at St John Vianney's parish and a summer camp. From this, the National Oblate Youth Encounters has grown to a truly national event with well over 100 young people, with representatives from five states of Australia, most parishes and each of our schools attending. Oblate Youth Australia grew rapidly from this small group to become a national youth movement with local groups present in five states of Australia. Our creative use of the World Wide Web has helped us to face the challenges of distance in our country.

World Youth Day (WYD) also had a powerful effect on OYA with our first pilgrimage to the Oblate gathering in Hünfeld and WYD Cologne 2005, little did we know that WYD 08 would be in Australia. Preparations for the International Oblate Youth Encounter, Victoria, and WYD, Sydney, certainly dominated the life of OYA from 2006-2008. Then after three years of planning, from July 9-12 2008, 800 pilgrims from Australia and over 30 other countries descended on Mazenod College, Victoria for this pre-WYD event. The young people and the Oblates of the Australia certainly showed the world what we are capable of.

Another great sign of life has been the positive nurturing of vocations, with number of weddings and a few joining the Oblates to explore their call.

None of this could have been possible without the support of many Oblates and most importantly without young people taking up the challenge. I thank most sincerely the faithful members of OYA for their courage and faith, for responding to the Holy Spirit, and as true Oblates, leaving nothing undared for the Kingdom.

OYA has been successful because the Oblates have listened to young people; I encourage young people to keep challenging us.

Looking to the future, the challenge we face is creating chapter 2. The Oblates have seriously committed to developing groups for young people to be part of when it is time to move on. Mazenod groups are a new initiative being launched through the province but OYA will play a significant part in its development. May the Holy Spirit, which has guided us and enriched OYA for the last 10 years continue to do so.

Christian Fini OMI



Pentecost

The evening of the 30th of May, 2009, saw an event which excelled all others, bypassing the mediocre celebrations we often coin 'fantastic', surpassing the festivities which epitomise the somewhat overused and ordinary cliché "a night to remember". This event was none other than the much anticipated OYA 2009 Pentecost celebrations, which saw the coming together of Oblates from all over Australia in celebration of Oblate Youth Australia, since its foundation in 1999, by Father Christian Fini OMI. Ten years on, this community is still very much alive and flourishing both on a state and national level. The evening was, without a doubt, a colossal success, thanks to the efforts of the National Coordinators and Fr. Fini. It is not surprising to see why Oblate Youth Australia has been so successful over the last ten years. To attempt to explain this success would be extremely difficult and perhaps unfair, for it would indeed appear to be foolish to attempt to elucidate on all the personal, social and spiritual experiences which each member of Oblate Youth Australia has had. I can only speak from my own experience and apologise in advance for the bias which may ensue.

My own story, like many before it, begins with one particular person who has acted as a guide, a mentor and a friend. In fiction, this character would be essential to the protagonist's journey and plays an integral role in the decisions they make. They are also usually the catalyst who is involved in one particular decision which changes the life of the protagonist forever. In *Hamlet*, this character was Horatio, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Charlotte Lucas, and in the much loved Disney film, *Pinocchio*, Jiminy Cricket. For me, in relation to Oblate Youth, this character has been none other than Father Fini. I am sure that I am not the only person who has been inspired by Fini's motivation and vision. When my family first joined the Oblate parish of Mary Immaculate in Eagle vale, in Sydney, Fini invited my sister and I to join the youth group. Ashamedly, it took me three months and a fair bit of encouragement from Fini, to build up enough courage to attend a meeting. It only took one meeting for me to realise that for the past three months, I had been missing out on something truly special. The sense of care, friendliness and acceptance the members of Eagle vale youth group immediately showed me was overwhelming. In the preceding six years, I have been actively involved in many youth group events, including fundraisers, plays, liturgies and youth masses. The most important event however, which had the most impact on me, was the International Oblate Youth Encounter in 2008. It is through these events that I have had the opportunity to explore my own faith, make lasting friendships and have been spiritually astounded by the fact that I'm am not alone in my existential angst. Not only has Fini been a spiritual mentor for me, he was the first person to inspire me to be active in my faith.

This year, Pentecost brought together again the broader Oblate community; those members, who like myself, have been lucky enough to be positively enveloped in the charism that is Oblate Youth Australia. It is imperative to note the contributions made by members of this youth organisation, particularly those on the leadership team, and in so doing acknowledge those members, both new and old, who will be leaving behind a great legacy or taking up the challenge, respectively. Firstly, National Coordinators, Marc Johnson, Luke Ferguson, Helene Kelly, Kim Brady and Damien Keady; secondly, State Representatives, Alisha Johnson, Christine Freeth, Joshua Nash and Emma Rice. This team will collaboratively continue to positively develop Oblate Youth and ensure its prosperity in the coming years. Damien Coyle and Lauren Schade have also been part of this team and have sadly resigned from their positions. We thank them for their work and unceasing support.

Pentecost this year was indeed an awe-inspiring and entertaining event. The evening began with a mass at St John Vianney's and was followed by dinner and dancing at the Mulgrave Country Club. I truly enjoyed catching up with people and re-connecting with the Oblate Community. It is without doubt that the evening was a success and can be duly noted with pride in the ever growing list of Oblate Youth achievements.

It is perhaps necessary at this point to endow you with words of wisdom. I however, do not feel I have acquired the necessary qualifications to justly fulfil such an occupation. Therefore, I would like to borrow the words of another, and implore you to 'leave nothing undared', to embrace opportunity, to *carpe diem*, seize the day.

Veronica Joan Holt



"Enriched by the Spirit"
"Enriched by the Spirit"

