



Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate United States Province

391 Michigan Avenue NE • Washington, DC 20017-1516
Tel: (202) 529-4505 • Fax: (202) 529-4572

January 27, 2022

Dear Oblates and all who share in the Charism,

I wish you a blessed New Year and good health!

Recently, another variant of COVID 19 has been discovered and will likely soon be found in the U.S., similar to the omicron variant discovered in South Africa a few months ago. As the media tells us, “there are many more letters in the Greek alphabet!”

With the recommendation of the key planners of the Convocation and the Provincial Council, I am canceling the in-person Oblate Convocation scheduled April 18-22, 2022.

Several conferences related to our theme of “Renewing Ourselves in the Spirit of our Vocation,” including a conference from Fr. General, were already scheduled and we will do our best to bring those conferences to you virtually the week of April 18-22, more specifically on Monday evening, April 18, and Tuesday and Wednesday, April 19 and 20.

Given our median age, as well as the hesitancy of many Oblates to travel at this time, and the need to make a final decision about the Convocation well in advance due to practicalities of housing, food, transportation, I thought it best to make this decision now. Some of you had already asked me about ordering plane tickets.

I am asking the Convocation Planning Committee to organize the conferences already scheduled to be held virtually, three days of Monday evening, April 18 and Tuesday, April 19 and Wednesday, April 20. I am also asking Superiors to organize prayer opportunities, social gatherings, meals together, to keep these two days centered around the Convocation theme.

There will also be participation from some members of the Mazenodian Family.

Superiors will be provided more details and information about this later, as well as the timing of the Convocation activities. Most likely, we will live stream the conferences in four major locations: IHM, Tewksbury; Whitley Center, San Antonio; King’s House, Belleville; and a conference center in San Diego. You need not travel to these locations to listen to and participate in the Convocation. However, these four centers will be places where local Oblates may gather, in a larger community, if they wish.

Province Support Offices

Lowell USP Support Office
60 Wyman Street
Lowell MA 01852-2841
Tel: (978) 458-9912
Fax: (978) 458-7274

Belleville USP Support Office
9480 N. De Mazenod Drive
Belleville, IL 62223-1160
Tel: (618) 688-7735
Fax: (618) 398-8788

San Antonio USP Support Office
327 Oblate Drive
San Antonio, TX 78216-6602
Tel: (210) 349-1475
Fax: (210) 349-7411

While an in-person gathering would be more desirable, I fully agree with the recommendation that the in-person Convocation be cancelled. With updated technology and a change in our planning, these days can be a good time and a welcome opportunity for us to “see” one another, pray together, learn more about each other’s ministries, and encourage one another in our call from Jesus Christ as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate!

Please reserve the dates of Monday evening, April 18, and Tuesday and Wednesday, April 19 and 20 for our virtual Convocation 2022. Monday and Thursday will be travel days for those who wish to travel.

Further details about the virtual Convocation will follow in the coming months.

In Christ and Mary Immaculate,



**Fr. Louis Studer, O.M.I.
Provincial**

P.S. The Members of the Committee to plan the Convocation are:

**Fr. Antonio Ponce, O.M.I., Chair
Fr. Frank Santucci, O.M.I., Associate Chair
Fr. Chava Gonzalez, O.M.I., Liturgy/Music Co-ordinator
Fr. Emmanuel Mulenga, O.M.I.
Fr. David Muñoz, O.M.I.
Fr. Ray Cook, O.M.I.
Fr. Jim Chambers, O.M.I.
Fr. Jim Brobst, O.M.I.
Fr. David Uribe, O.M.I.**