

More on Fr. Gallagher, New Executive Director, and Old, of USCMA (news release from USCMA, Nov. 13, 2015).

The Board of Directors of the United States Catholic Mission Association is pleased to announce the selection of Donald L. McCrabb, D.Min, as the new Executive Director for the USCMA, effective Dec. 7, 2015.

McCrabb is a pastoral theologian who taught for the Catholic Leadership Institute, the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception (Dominican House of Studies), and the Catholic University of America. He served in senior leadership positions for the Catholic Youth Foundation and the Catholic Campus Ministry Association. McCrabb has extensive experience with Catholic organizations,.. and is a published author.... He and his wife Barbara have three sons and three grandchildren.

McCrabb succeeds Rev. John R. Nuelle, MS, who has served the USCMA as Executive Director since 2011. Rev. Gregory Gallagher, OMI, President of USCMA, thanked Father Nuelle for his great work as USCMA's Executive Director, "As we bid farewell to Fr. Jack, we thank him for his wise leadership of USCMA."

Please note that Dr. McCrabb is the first married person to serve as Executive Director of the USCMA, underlining the switch from clergy and vowed religious as leaders in Mission in the Catholic Church.



(L to R:) Jennifer Pingolt, unnamed sister from the Congo, Fr. Billy Morell, OMI, unnamed sister from the Congo, and unnamed sister from Uganda.

Many thanks to all the Oblates, and our friends, who prayed for the success of the 2015 Mission Congress, held in Houston, TX, from Oct. 1-4. The Congress was sponsored by the Catholic Mission Forum, a group of ten different mission-minded organizations. As President of the US Catholic Mission Association, one of the ten sponsors, Father Greg Gallagher, OMI, had an important role in the preparation and conduct of the Congress. The Mission Congress, held every five years, brought together priests, nuns, brothers and lay people who promote the evangelization of our world. See photo.

Our Oblate Partnership, led by Artie Pingolt, had its first booth at the Congress. In 2015, the Partnership acquired Mission Project Service, an organization started by Maryknoll in 1974, and operated by the Brothers of Christian Instruction from 2005 (see the story in OMI/USA, Nov. 2015, p. 8). In every mission country, it takes financial resources to train seminarians, nuns and catechists, and start or strengthen diocesan structures. The Partnership is uniquely qualified to train for Mission, to apply for grants, make investments, and manage resources. Project Mission is primarily a resource for grants for Catholic entities outside the USA. They also offer programming geared toward sustainability.

The Congress also gave the growing number of laity involved in short term mission a chance to meet the pioneers who devoted their lives to mission (see attached article from America, Sept. 28, 2015, p. 7: "A Deeper Mission: Making short-term service more effective," by Michael Semmelink).

Father Gallagher noted that attendance was good. He also pointed out that the Catholic Volunteer Network, one of the ten sponsors, had a significant number of attendees at the Congress. Founded in 1963, this group works with both volunteers and short-term missionaries (www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org).

US Catholic Mission Association: From President Greg Gallagher, OMI (2013--) to Executive Research Assistant Anatole (Benny) Baillargeon, OMI (1970-73).

Oblate participation in the US Catholic Mission Association (USCMA) has been crucial over the years. It is also mostly unknown, both to Oblates and the US Catholic Church.

Currently the USCMA is preparing for a Mission Congress. These are held every five years, and, like the annual conference, rotate from city to city. "Witnessing Mission: Called to be Missionary Disciples," the Mission Congress 2015 will be held in Houston, TX, from Oct. 1-4. Besides USCMA, 9 other Catholic organizations are sponsors.

The work of president Greg Gallagher, OMI, and executive research assistant Anatole (Benny) Baillargeon was publicized on the Oblate national website on Aug. 12, 2015: [click here](#). Now we present especially the work of the Oblate Center for Mission Studies, which worked closely with

USCMA from 1994-98, and then that of our vicars for Mission, Dave Ullrich, OMI and Billy Morell, OMI.

Hank Lemoncelli, Jim Sullivan and myself all were in close contact with the USCMA during the existence of the Oblate Center for Mission Studies, at Oblate College in Washington, DC. Our work was greatly helped by the fact that the assistant director of USCMA, Gene Pocernich, a priest from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI, lived with us at Oblate College during much of this time.

Visiting Oblate missiologists Jose Ante, OMI and Ron Young, OMI, also attended USCMA events. One monthly event, Pizza and Mission, featured our Congolese Oblate Gode Iwele, OMI, addressing "How Africa Is Re-inventing Christianity: experiences and challenges from Zaire" (6th in the series, March 6, 1996).

But the most important event was the planning for a meeting bringing together Catholics from USCMA, mainline Protestants and Eastern Orthodox from the National Council of Churches, and evangelical Protestants. This event, organized by members from the three groups, "The Continuing Committee for Common Witness," was held at the Bishop Cousins Center, Milwaukee, WI, from May 14-17, 1998. It was publicized as the "Third Ecumenical Conference on 'Mission in a New Millennium'."

Since the Oblate Center for Mission Studies had been disbanded in early 1998, as the five provinces of Oblates in the USA began to merge into one national province, the member of the new administration who would eventually have the portfolio for Mission, attended the event. Dave Ullrich, OMI, also served on the Board of Directors of the USCMA. When his term ended, his successor, Billy Morell, OMI, served on the board, from 2006-11.

Ron Rolheiser, OMI, has called the Oblates "the best kept secret in the missionary world." Our participation in the USCMA has enabled us to receive much from other missionaries (who are increasingly lay people) and to give our experience to them.

Prayers are especially welcome for the Oct. 1-4 Houston, TX, Mission Congress