



Comme je le mentionnais au début de ce mot de remerciement, mon 50^e anniversaire de vie religieuse est loin d'avoir l'importance du 150^e anniversaire du décès de notre Père Fondateur que toute la Congrégation célébrera cette année. C'est pourquoi je veux profiter de cette occasion qui nous rassemble aujourd'hui pour raffermir mon intention de mettre en pratique le mot d'ordre de ce 150^e anniversaire, qui est : « Semons, et semons en abondance! » selon l'esprit de notre Fondateur. F. Thomas Tremblay



ADDRESS

TO THE DIAMOND JUBILARIAN

By Br. Jean-Pierre Houle

Honorable Dignitaries, Guests, Confreres, Priest, Kocho, Teachers... and Ladies and gentlemen...

Good afternoon! Konnichi wa!

Dear Brother Lawrence, Omedeto Gosaimasu! Congratulations for your 60 years at the service of God, the Church, the Institute, and the youth as Religious Brother in the FIC Congregation!

Frère Guy, au nom de ta Communauté de Tôkyô, accepte toutes nos Félicitations pour ton premier et magnifique Jubilé de Diamant!

With your 60 years of Religious Life, you can now be considered as one of the great, great Brothers who have reached this extraordinary milestone in our Institute. You can sing now with Mary your Magnificat to God, the God of your youth who called you to follow Him 60 years ago! Welcome this year of grace to give thanks to God and to his Mother for all the blessings they have overflowed over you during 60 years!

With this Diamond Jubilee in hand, you have all the reasons to celebrate and rejoice in God. The diamond, this symbolic stone of durability and perseverance expresses well your perennial bond with the Eternal. Looking at all those years behind you now, you tell us your toughness in religious life. You are like a mountain climber who has reached up the summit of Mount Fuji and savors the horizon infinitely. Your endurance in the Lord and in your apostolate, despite the many hardships, brings you, soul and heart, near God. Thank Him for the wonderful gifts of life and light He granted to you in your long voyage. Like Mother Mary, exalt in the Lord who has always been there with you!



Today, accept our homage and congratulations to have been you, too a part of Father de La Mennais' legacy while, on this same year, we celebrate his 150th death anniversary. Today, and for this entire year, we owe you our full gratitude for all the good you did in God's name, in the Church's name, and in the Congregation's name. Thank you for all the people you helped in the various schools where you have been sent! We will never say enough to you these two words, "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU AGAIN!"

And now, knowing that our few words cannot give you justice for all what you did for others in your span of life, accept to listen to some mementoes that shaped your grand life...



Remembering the early stage of your life, it is good to render homage to your parents who gave you life and love. They gave you one of the most precious gifts on earth: the seed of your baptism. With it, they passed on to you a faith that became the basis of your entire religious life. Because of your father, Mr. Hector Lambert, you became a strong man like him. He was a courageous and valiant man willing to bring up a great family with 12 superb children. Paralleling, you yourself, has been a religious Brother who spent his life educating numerous children belonging to others. As we say, "Such father, such son!" May your father be remembered and proclaimed blessed in Heaven forever for his beautiful family!

Same can be done with your mother, Mme Mariange Desjarlais. We pay homage to her, a holy and strong mother who brought up also 12 magnificent children into a life of happiness, especially when it was not easy at all to face the years of the Great Depression! Alas! Your maman passed away in 1937, three years after your birth. It has been too early for you to know her that much. But God, providentially, surrounded you with the love of all your siblings. Through them, your mother's seed of love came up to you. From your brothers and sisters you learned the necessary bonds of unity and what is total self-giving to others. From hard life in your childhood you learned the endurance needed for your vocation. So, because of your memorable mother who gave you life and love, may she be too proclaimed blessed in Heaven forever!



Later your father remarried and a new motherly figure appeared in your house. Your step-mother, also called 'belle-maman' or, 'mother general', did her best to continue your education. Let us praise her too, for she was the one who reminded you the rules and the appropriate behaviors, the good principles, in and out of the house. May God bless la 'mère générale' and bring her also into Heaven!

Coming back to you, Brother Lawrence, we know that you were born on December 21 in 1933 and that you were the 12th child out of 12 children; the last child, but not the least. It is said that he learned the deep value of love and work at home, "sur la ferme". His life was not only about to be wheedled; it was rather a time to discover valiance and effort every day "que le bon Dieu amène." In time of domestic chores, it was "laborare" first and "amare" second! Mutual service in the family became top priority and will turn out as another great value for his future vocation. Like the fishermen with Jesus who learned from their boat, Br. Lawrence learned from life on his farm. At 4:30 in the morning he had to fetch and call, feed and milk the cows, rain or shine. And nowadays, with another parallel, we notice that at St. Mary's, Br. Lambert still gets up at 4:30 am to work at his school office. A day begins at 4:30 for him. His wakeup call is still embedded in his subconscious. Even on Saturdays, at 4:30 am, nice smells come from the kitchen: bacon and eggs, potatoes and beans, like on the farm in the oldies...

In the times of his primary school, Br. Lawrence joyfully attended the school Numéro 2 du Rang Beauséjour at Louiseville, Canada. In his school, he was promoted every year without any problem... In grade 7, he went for six months to the Brothers' boarding school in Louiseville downtown. There he heard his first call for Religious Life, thanks to Br. David Sauvageau, who dared to ask him "the" question: "Do you want to be a Brother?" And Br. Lawrence's response became quickly affirmative after he got his father's consent that came under only one condition, "You can be a priest," he said; "you can try religious life if you want, but never become a lawyer." And Br. Lawrence obeyed religiously! The rest is history!



Then, in 1948, Brother Lawrence joined the FIC Brothers in Pointe-du-Lac to complete his pre-formation years. Therefore, it is his entrance to the Novitiate on August 15, 1950, under Brother Théoctène Moisan's pious and soft rule that historically we celebrate our jubilarian today!

In his early twenties, Br. Lawrence began to teach in the District of St. Francis Xavier: one year at St. Marc of Shawinigan, two at Laflèche de Grand-Mère, two at St. Yves de Pointe-du-Lac, and one memorable at St. Charles de Mandeville, with his best director, Br. David Sauvageau, the one who asked him the great question.

In 1959, he embarked on the transatlantic ship Alitalia, a bit smaller than the Titanic, but safer! He reached Southampton in U.K., went more

precisely to Pell Wall Hall School, in Market Drayton, Shropshire. His stay there had two reasons: to improve his English with the Queen... and to help our British Brothers educating their young boarding students.



In 1961, our Queen's printer, (Br. Lawrence likes to call himself that way), left U.K. and landed by plane in Haneda, Tokyo, Japan. His new home and school was at St. Mary's near Sengakuji Station. He taught two years to third Graders, two years to fifth Graders, and one year to sixth Graders.

In 1966, after five years of work in Japan, he was allowed to visit his family in Canada. He had not attended his father Hector's funeral. Mr. Lambert had passed away in 1963, three years earlier. However, with God's grace, Br. Lawrence overcame his cross religiously, without complains. He went on in his life and met with all the other members of his family who had increased during his absence. He received a hero's welcome right on the tarmac at the Montreal airport. His 'mother general' having detected him first, used the same corridor usually reserved to the Prime Ministers of Canada (Leaster B. Pearson used it at that time). Nobody arrested her and she rushed towards Lawrence. The civil authorities let her pass to meet her Prime Minister Lawrence with his gracious Japanese bows and in his brand new suit. After a

good laugh, the whole family gathered around him and they all went to Rang Beauséjour where the parties lasted the whole summer. The good steaks and wines were not missing au Parc des Érables and at Maurice's house, the word celebration was the key word!

At the end of his first holiday in summer 1966, Br. Lawrence was sent to Washington DC in order to study theology. He lodged at the Capuchins' Residence while digging in the books of the great theologian Teillard de Chardin. There, he became familiar with: 'Mass on the World,' 'The Divine Milieu,' and 'The Human Phenomenon.' He gained an optimistic faith in God and life. Why? Because of Teillard whose theology relies on an earth and a world called to end into the Alpha and Omega or the Risen Christ! Unfortunately, he did not have enough time to study the Sinanthropus, or the Peking Man. Anthropology was not Lawrence's forte.

However, he came back to Japan in September 1968 to study Japanese at Tokyo Nihongo Center for two years. In January 1971 he was sent to Seiko Gakuin, in Shizuoka, to teach catechism and English. In no time he set up a modern English laboratory that was fully equipped by the famous National Company; it was the best lab of the entire Prefecture of Shizuoka! Many teachers "did pilgrim" to Seiko to see 'the' lab...



From the years 1975 to 1979, he was the local Superior of his Shizuoka Community. He was proud to have brought some new ideas for the newly built house. It was not anybody who could give advice to the Kocho Br. Pierre Robert, but

Br. Lawrence did it nicely to obtain the actual cozy dining and living rooms...



In 1980-81, he is found in Rome for his spiritual renewal year. He resided with the Capuccini Fathers in San Lorenzo di Brindisi, 10 km behind St. Peter's Basilica. Rare buses to go to the Vatican, coldness and fasting were not part of his best memories. He remembered better London, Paris, St. Malo, Lourdes and Israel. But at the closing of his spirituality session, he rushed back to Japan because Pope Jean-Paul II was waiting for him... The Pope did not miss such an appointment with Br. Lawrence, says the story... and, for the skeptical, you are invited to look at Br. Lawrence's photo kept in his school office. It is the Pope who is shaking hands to him..!

In September 1982 he was named Vice-Provincial of our mission in Japan and named also Principal at the ES of St. Mary's in Tokyo, to replace Br. Ovide Fortier. He established his quarters in Tokyo, ready for two important missions. As Vice-Provincial, he did fine and he is quite proud to say that he is the one who opened the mission in the Philippines. It was a tough decision to take. We must congratulate him for the wisdom of his choice because, up to now, a fantastic apostolic work is done every day by our Brothers in San Jose, Iloilo and Pandan in the Philippines. The Mennaisian seed and spirit, that is to announce Jesus Christ to the youth of middle class, is day after day inserted in a good soil. As for the full growth of this seed, God will provide. Let us have faith!

In his work at St. Mary's as ES Principal, we could mention lots of achievements but time does not allow us to do so. Let us sum it up that way: one full day of work just follows another similar one, and this has never stopped for the last 28 years! His perseverance in his apostolate relies on his motto: "I have this school at heart!" Every day Brother Lawrence pours out his heart for the best education possible given to 500 children!



In 2010, Br. Lawrence has finally reached his Diamond Jubilee Year. It is not a miracle as such, but certainly a wonderful journey faithfully accomplished and lived with the grace of God. Since the first morning of his first consecration to God in 1950, he always tried to be God's best servant, be it at mass, at school, or behind the cauldrons in the kitchen! Br. Lawrence deserved our outmost respect for he is a Brother of Christ and a Brother to everyone. He always helps his community, serves the parishioners who attend our Sunday liturgies, he is always backing his words with charitable deeds, always socializing with everybody: Nuncios, priests, sisters, teachers, visitors, or friends, especially if there is a fresh Amarone not too far away... But above all, Brother Lawrence is comparable to an icon of tenderness for all. With him we become better in charity and service.

To conclude, we hope that your Diamond Jubilee bring you closer to God. We ask God to lavish you with renewed and intimate love. We pray that God enable you to savor more and more his friendship, his joy and consolations. We pray that Jesus and Mary help you overcome your moments of difficulty and give you the courage to face the challenges of our time.



Brother, continue sowing abundantly and generously for your students, their parents and teachers, from 4:30 am to 4:30 pm and even beyond that time. More people need you as you need them to grow. Keep on being a dispenser of love and compassion and a herald of peace and gentleness for the little ones of St. Mary's. Keep on being a living witness of Father de la Mennais' legacy in the mission of Japan.



Omedeto Gosaimasu again! Let us stand up and applaud a Brother with 60 years of Religious Life in the FIC Congregation! God bless you for your next 60 years!

Ad multos annos!

Br. Jean-Pierre Houle, FIC

MERCI

Par F. Lawrence Guy Lambert

De grands mercis tout d'abord au Seigneur qui m'a appelé et reçu dans la vie religieuse en 1950. Merci encore au Seigneur qui m'a incliné vers la vie missionnaire et m'a soutenu pendant toutes ces années en Angleterre, à Tokyo, à Washington D. C., à Shizuoka et de nouveau à Tokyo. Je le remercie en particulier de m'avoir conservé en bonne santé, ce qui me permet de le servir encore comme Principal de l'élémentaire à 76 ans.

Grand merci encore à F. Jean-Pierre qui a consacré de nombreuses heures à figurer son adresse à mon égard et les belles diapositives que l'on a vu à l'intention des deux jubilaires.

Grand merci encore à F. Marcel Villemure, supérieur de Yokohama, pour la belle cérémonie et l'excellent souper préparé en équipe sous la direction de Mme Tochigi que voici :



Enfin merci à vous tous qui êtes venus célébrer avec nous.

F. Lawrence Guy Lambert, f. i. c.