



# Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate United States Province

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## For Immediate Release

From: Very Rev. Louis Studer, OMI, Provincial: United States Province  
Rev. Salvador Gonzalez, OMI, King's House Director

Contact: Fr. Salvador Gonzalez, O.M.I.  
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RE: Closing of King's House Retreat and Renewal Center

Date: June 1, 2022

The U.S. Province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate is announcing the closing of King's House Retreat and Renewal Center in Belleville, IL. The Oblates have operated the retreat center at its present location on 66<sup>th</sup> Street since July of 1951; the closing will become effective in the spring of 2023.

The current director of King's House, Fr. Salvador Gonzalez, OMI, said the reasons for closing the facility include: *"The seventy-year-old buildings need extensive repairs along with updates to the guest rooms in order to meet the comfort and convenience expectations of today's retreatants. Our financial situation simply does not allow us to invest the huge sums of money required to make the repairs and renovations necessary to keep the facility open, and the shortage of Oblate personnel make it almost impossible to continue at the present location.*

*We plan to move our resources, Oblates, and employees to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows where we will continue our ministry of retreats. We will do everything possible to keep our employees or find them suitable employment at one of our other Belleville locations.*

*We are tremendously grateful to all our retreatants for their unconditional support. Thank you to our religious and lay collaborators in mission who minister side by side with us. A special thank you to our heroic staff who faithfully serve our retreatants."*

The Missionary Oblates have been ministering in the Belleville area since 1917. The Oblates are an international congregation of religious priests and brothers founded in France in 1816 by St. Eugene de Mazenod. Oblates currently serve in nearly 70 countries. Locally, the Oblates operate the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate USA in Belleville, St. Henry's Oblate Residence in Belleville, Most Holy Rosary Parish in Fairmont City, St. Stephen's Parish in Caseyville, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Novitiate outside Godfrey, IL, with the Oblate Ecological Center at the same site.

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### Province Support Offices

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