

VICE PROVINCE NEWS BULLETIN

RETREATS:--

The main retreat for the first group of Fathers will take place this year at Mefu, Hygo Ken, and it will be under the supervision of the Passionist Fathers. We had hoped to get a date during Lent, but the house at Mefu was booked up during that time. Therefore, the retreat will begin on Easter Monday, April 15th, and it will run until the following Monday morning, April 22nd. The weather should be about right at this time of the year and with the Holy Week rush over it ought to be a time of comparative calm in most parishes.

However, I know that for all this will be *aru teido* made an interruption in their programs. But I ask all who are assigned to make this first retreat to put aside ~~their~~ schedules for one week and make the retreat with the group assigned. The yearly retreat is the most important week in the priest's year. All activities should be subserviant to this week and the rest to the schedule should be made to jibe with this week and not vice versa.

This should also hold true for the monthly retreat. When a day in the month is decided upon for retreat, it should be adhered to religiously. Here again the schedule should be made to fit the retreat day and not vice versa. Arbitrary shifting of the retreat day will cause confusion and end in a lessening of the importance of the day.

The second group of fathers will make their retreat in the fall.

FIRST GROUP:--R.F. Robitaille	Harr	Ward
	Healy	Simons
At Mefu	Neville	Mahoney
	Barrett	VanHoydonck
		Yamazaki

At Kiryu (March 24 to 30th--Rev. Frs. Brady & Meyer)

At Roviano (April 1st to July 31st)--Rev. Frs. Stevens & Hofmans.

SISTER'S HOSTEL:-- The Sisters of St. Francis Xavier will hold open house at their new Kochi hostel on March 3rd. I know all the Fathers in the area will attend this affair and encourage the sisters on the start of their important work. We should be on the lookout for girl from the towns in which we have missions or mission stations as possible residents at this hostel.

Mother Miriam, Superior General, also wrote that she hopes to send three additional sisters from the States this fall.

MISSION AND RETREAT ASSIGNMENTS:--

R.F. Gill	Scholastics Retreat	March 28-April 4.
R.F. Brady	Maryknoll Retreats	April, May, June
R.F. Meyer	Maryknoll Retreats	May
R.F. Healy	Yokusuka Mission	
R.F. Gill	Columbian Retreats (Korea)	May
R.F. Healy	Johnson Air Base (Day of Recollection)	
R.F. Ward	St. Joseph Sisters (Sonada)	August

February 1963



Dear Fathers and Brothers:

The Visitation of the Vice Province begins in Tokyo on February 11th. It will continue there until the following week. The visitation of the houses in Itami, Tokushima and Kochi will begin during the last week in February and continue until the beginning of March. The visitation of our houses in Fukuoka will begin around the middle of March. Each community will be notified in advance of the exact date of the visitation of their house.

As you know, the Visitation required under Rule 537 has for its purpose the maintaining of a strong Oblate, religious spirit in our houses. To maintain this spirit in a parish rectory presents problems that are not found in our houses of formation or mission houses at home. It requires a more continued effort in the rectories and often a sacrifice of activities that we may regard as important to our parish ministry. But I assure you, the spiritual life of the parish will never be bettered at the sacrifice of the spiritual requirements of our rule.

The Visitation is a cooperative effort. Its success will depend on the cooperation of all the members of the Vice Province. With the close of the Visitation in each house, the Vice Provincial will record in the Book of Visitation his recommendations.

PRIEST-CATECHIST QUESTIONNAIRE

My sincere thanks to the pastors for your generous cooperation in answering the questionnaire on the problems of the priest as catechist. Answers were received from all but one parish. The answers revealed a deep concern with this problem on the part of all and an earnest desire to improve the efforts of the priest in his catechetical efforts. After further study and discussion of the replies received, I will send out a list of recommendations so that we can, as far as possible, coordinate the efforts of all our parishes in this field.

FR. MAHONEY RETURNS

I just received word from Rome that Fr. J. Kenny Mahoney will be back in Japan on or around the 16th of this month. Welcome back, Father John!

ROVIANO RETREATANTS

Fathers Stevens and Hoimans will be leaving Japan to begin their DeMazenod Retreat at Roviano on or about the 17th of March. "Bon Voyage" to these two fathers and I know the thousands of souls in Itano Gun and Miyoshi Gun will benefit from the spiritual blessings they will receive during their four months of retreat.

Yours in J.C. and M.I.,

Patrick Brady, O.M.I.
V. Prov.

March 1963



MONTHLY RETREATS

I recently received a communication from Father Provincial regarding the monthly theological discussions. From now on cases for solution will be sent from Jamaicaway for the monthly discussions on retreat days. One copy of the solutions will be sent to Jamaicaway and another copy here. Father Robitaille will have the casus moralis for April during the retreat at Mefu. Discussion leaders for MAY retreat are: Frs. Silver, Mahoney and Neville; those for JUNE retreat are: Frs. Harr, Barrett and Kellen. Cases for May and June are already in the mail.

THE VISITATION

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the fathers and brothers, particularly the pastors, for their cooperation during the course of the visitation. There was evidence everywhere of an honest effort to make the visitation productive of good results. This is an indication of a desire for renewal so clearly emphasized by the council that will soon be in its second session. A letter from Father General sent to all Provincials and Vice Provincials on this very point recently is so important that I will quote it at length.

"The Church wishes to show herself exteriorly as she is interiorly youthful, vigorous, energetic, freed from the trappings of the past which might present her as belonging to former ages, and sometimes impede her progress. All this will be accomplished by considering the mystery of the Church as divinely revealed and proposed by the most authentic tradition.

"To bring about this task, the Council is certainly guided by the Holy Spirit in as much as it receives the impetus of Pope John, as you know, ever since the Council was promulgated. The Council has given ear to the voice of the world, and by the world, I mean not only the Catholic world--which has spoken with unprecedented candour--but also the rest of the Christian world which does not recognize the Catholic Church as the one true Church, and the mass of those to whom Christ is unknown or who oppose Him and the Church He founded for their salvation.

"Everything that was written and forwarded to the Conciliary Commissions became the object of careful and impartial scrutiny, even if its contents were hurtful to our Catholic self-love. The Council accepted every suggestion and recommendation, even the most harsh judgments. It studied with evangelical humility the history and conduct of the Church down through the ages, accepting all reproaches, sometimes veiled, sometimes direct, in a spirit of renewal, renovation and adaptation.

"I asked myself--I still ask myself--if there is not a similar work of renewal to accomplish amongst us with the same charity, humility, frankness, openness of heart and of mind? Yes, the Congregation is still young: she has the guarantees, the assurances, as it were, of the "canonization" of the Church whose daughter she is. But she, too, lives in the world. The wrinkles which perhaps are seen on the face of the Church are they also reflected on the face of the beloved Congregation? Or is she still as young and as fresh as on the day of her baptism? Has she remained absolutely faithful to the wishes of her Founder, to her mission, to her religious, priestly and missionary ideal? Will she march ahead free and unimpeded? Has she still the suppleness, that ease of movement, that apostolic vigour which ought to characterize her?

"The Church wishes to draw down on herself a new breath of Pentecost, on everything she does, on everything she touches. Could we not take this opportunity of accomplishing the same for the Congregation, drawing on the riches of this ecclesial grace? To fail to renew oneself is a sign of decay and death; it is the law of life. The Church feels the need of a renewal, can we profess to be free from this necessity? Are we all awake to the problem? Dare we hesitate to appraise our resources of life and strength--as the Council is doing for the Church--fearing to confront the weakness which prevents the Congregation perhaps from being and from appearing ever youthful and active?

"There is still time to remedy any evil if it exists. Have we the honesty and the humility of the Council? It is the admittance of guilt which hurts, because perhaps it involves recognizing our failings. Once, however, they are admitted we can set about applying the remedy. The Council provided us with a shock. It condemns everything that savors of stagnation, of letting things be, of historical or spiritual decrepitude, of mediocrity, of worldiness contrary to the spirit of the Gospel. It denounces anything masquerading as charity, as real humility, as the true spirit of poverty taught by Sacred Scripture. It attacks sufficiency, the preservation of forms, attitudes and behaviour which have long outlived their usefulness and which injure the Church's mission to the world. It wages war on all purely human means that are not apostolic, inspired by a sincere faith and drawing their strength from the power of God alone.

"It castigates the spirit of domination and the desire for possession in all its guises. The Council is the triumphant reaffirmation of the Gospel taught by Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with the whole force, truth, wisdom and goodness of Him who proclaimed it. With a clarity comparable to that of the Apostolic times the Council proclaims the unique riches of poverty. Her mission is to the poor. The Pope fondly speaks of the "Church of the Poor". Here is something that we can grasp and make our own since we are missionaries to the poor. The Church embraces poverty because she was founded for the poor, because her Founder, Jesus Christ, chose poverty, not only spiritual poverty, but real material poverty, too, in proclaiming His Gospel. The Church recalls that her greatest age, her most effective reforms, her greatest missionary apostolate was accomplished when she was fired by the love of poverty to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles."

The above words of our Father General have particular significance for the Oblates in Japan. We live in a land where people are obsessed by material matters. Many seem drunk with the desire for what is new, for what is the symbol of status. Stereo, TV, recorders, refrigerators, skis, cars, cameras and a host of other material have become not mere means to a better life, but the end of a strictly materialistic oriented existence. Can we honestly say that we have not been infected with this opiate? These material improvements, good in themselves for many reasons, can blind us and sap our zeal if we allow them to do so. Their importance can loom larger and larger until they are loved in themselves and not for the healthful recreation or convenience they can bring.

In the quiet of your meditations ask yourself this question frequently: Where are my best hours spent? If they are spent in the service of Christ, in the search for souls or the direction of them, in attending the sick and helping the poor, then the gadgets will hold no danger for you. But if you have to admit that your most important hours are spent in recreation, in the pre prandium and post prandium, in the contemplation of a good roast instead of a good sermon, then there is danger. There is danger of growing heavy, fat and sluggish in the performance of spiritual duties. Routine will slip into meditations, into sick calls, into sermons. Not the routine of a vigorous energetic soul fired with zeal, but the dull, plodding routine of the time server.

Making the rounds of the parishes during the past Visitation was inspiring. I was deeply interested in the plans for reaching more souls that seems to be the moving force in the Vice Province as a whole. Pray to God and the Blessed Mother that this zealous spirit will continue; and pray to St. Joseph, our financial advisor, to give us the where-with-all to carry out the plans we have in the material field. And pray from a heart uncluttered with self love, love of creatures and self seeking.

SUPERIOR'S MEETING

There will be a meeting of all superiors at Christ the King parish, Itami, on the morning of April 22nd at about 10:30 a.m. All should be able to get from Mefu by that time.

VACATIONS

After discussion with other members of the council, it has been decided to allow the superiors or directors to determine the time for vacations this year. Two weeks will still be the time allotted and I think \$50. sufficient for this purpose, the \$50. includes travel money. I suggest superiors and directors start budgeting each month for vacations as they do for the bonus problem. Vacations can be spent at Oblate houses or other religious houses or rectories, but I suggest prudence be the watchword in the latter case. E.G. don't wear out your welcome.

VOCATIONS

Your prayers and efforts are again asked for vocations. If you know of any parishes where our vocation pamphlet might find its way into the hands of prospective candidates, please make an effort to get the pamphlet into that rectory.

May 1963



VISITORS

We were honored on April 29th with a visit from Very Rev. Joseph Fitzgerald, O.M.I., Asst. General. Fr. Fitzgerald, on his way from a visitation in Australia, was with us for a week and was able to visit all the missions on Shikoku besides the seminary and Itami parish.

Rev. Cuthbert Billman, O.M.I., of the Philippines, payed us an extended visit on the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination. We are very sorry that the weather man was not a little kinder during these two weeks. Fr. Billman was also able to visit the missions on Shikoku.

Rev. Michel Dupuich, O.M.I., Bursar General, will be in Japan for a two day visit beginning on the 9th of May. Fr. Dupuich comes as guest of Air India. We would like to thank Fr. Dupuich publicly at this time for all his assistance in getting our plane tickets.

MASS WINE

By this time you will have received your barrel of Mass wine. This Spanish wine should be far more palatable than the local product you have been using and is also less expensive. The cost of the wine per barrel is 20,000 yen. This includes shipping costs. Please send this payment to Tokyo at your convenience. You can use the Marui credit system if you wish.

AKI REPAIRS

Okasan has begun work on the repair of the damaged rectory in Aki. He hopes to have most of the work completed by the end of May. We will do the inside painting ourselves. We hope you will be able to lend some financial assistance to these repairs through the form letters that were sent out last week.

FATHER REDDY'S TOUR

The tour sponsored by the Oblate World is due to arrive in Japan on the evening of the 7th of May. According to the schedule received recently, the only Oblate houses the tour will be able to visit are the seminary and the parish in Itami. We hope that during the stay in Osaka some of the members of the tour will be able to visit our houses in Naruto and Tokushima.

QUESTIONNAIRE CONCLUSIONS

All the questionnaires on the work of the young priest as a catechist have been received. I wish to thank all the pastors once again for their cooperation in this effort. From the results of the questionnaire the following recommendations are made:

1. Remote preparation for catechetical work should be initiated in the language school with a study of the catechism and the vocabulary necessary for teaching religious topics.
2. During the priest's first year in parish work, he should work closely with the catechist if one is available, and attend the classes of the catechist or the older priest catechist frequently. He can even take an active part in the classes giving fervorinos at times.
3. The young priests's catechetical work should be regarded as one of the most important duties in the parish.
4. A priest should not be expected to take over a class of catechumens until at least a year after his assignment, however, he should become acquainted with the catechumens and show an interest in their progress.
5. During the first year of parish work, it is recommended that the young priest instruct individuals and small groups in hospitals.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Very Rev. John Walsh, O.M.I. who is home in the U.S. resting after an illness and Fr. Prendiville's mother who suffered a heart attack.

July 63

VICE PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS



ORDINATION:--

Brother Michael Yamazaki's ordination to the Priesthood will take place on June 24th at 11 a.m. in Kochi, Nakajimacho. His Excellency, Bishop Paul Y. Taguchi, will officiate. Scrutinators: Frs. Gill and Silver, Master of Ceremonies providing the Bishop is not accompanied by one: Fr. Barrett, Music: Fr. Van Hoydenck. All pastors are invited to attend the ordination if they can do so conveniently. We would like to have all the fathers present for this important event in the history of the Oblates in Japan, but as you know that would be impossible. Reception and lunch following the ceremony in the school hall, dinner in the evening for the fathers. Sermon: Fr. Ward.

APOSTOLIC DELEGATE VISITS KOCHI:--

I received the following telegram from His Excellency, Archbishop Enrichi: "EXPRESSING PLEASURE FOR MY SHIKOKU VISIT. RENEW SINCERE THANKS, WARM CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES." The fathers and the members of their parishes in Kochi and Aki indeed deserve the thanks of the whole Vice Province for their excellent preparations. Our gyoetsu senmonka, Fr. Barrett, was at his best undaunted by rain and sokkagakkari. Miss Yamamoto, Fr. Mahoney's maid, deserves special commendation, too, she worked so hard she collapsed at the end.

POST CARD FROM FR. RYAN:--

"Greetings from Rome en route to the States from Brazil. I want to visit you as soon as possible. What is a good month?...I have read Fr. Walsh's Visitation and it is an excellent report in every way. Congratulations to one and all. Keep smiling. As even in M.I." Ed. Suggested October for a visit. Latest note from Jamaicaway, Fr. Ryan will be in Rome until May 10th.

AKAOKA RECTORY:--

There will be considerable delay in getting the new rectory in shape. Okasan wanted to start work on our place, but it would have meant considerable delay to the Xaverian Sisters building program and they want to be open for next year's new term.

IKEDA:--

Fr. Robitaille reports the occupants of the house there will be out by the middle of May. Hope to have a few pioneer in there soon. Down Gerry!

PARISH STATISTIC'S REPORT WADA DESU KA? DOOZO.

"EVERY ENCOUNTER WITH A CHRISTIAN IS IN SOME WAY AN ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST." Fr. Gleason, S.J. Let us apply that to our pagans, too.

I would like to see all the parishes on the Bishop's Relief Food Distribution Program. The Vice Province will pay half your freight bill.

Father General says the Prayer for Priests in the manual each morning. We should all join him.



JAPAN VICE PROVINCE NEWS LETTER

Sept. 1963

NEW ARRIVAL - LATE DEPARTURE

Brother Ronald LaFramboise of St. John the Baptist Province arrived on September 16th to begin his Japanese studies. Welcome to Brother La Framboise and our sincere thanks to Father Pellitier, his provincial, for sending us this missionary in spite of all the needs in his home province.

Brother Patrick Yamashita finally left on September 18th to begin his novitiate in Tewksbury after waiting over two months for clearance by the embassy here in Tokyo.

POPE JOHN XXIII POSTSCRIPT

Much has been written and will be written on the tremendous impact the late Holy Father, John XXIII, had upon the whole world during his short pontificate. What was it in this man that caused the whole Christian world and much of the pagan world to mourn his death so deeply? The editors of "Christ To The World" (Vol. VIII No.4) have given us a precise answer that can serve as a meditation for all of us.

"Like Christ, the Pope was primarily a pastor, the pastor of those who belong to the Church and of those who are still outside. (They quote one of his homilies.) 'But even more important than the action itself is the spirit in which it is done. The Popes must reflect the face of Christ, of the Divine Master, who travelled over the roads of the world to spread the good doctrine and the light of his marvellous example...The great teaching of Christ is summed up in His words: "Learn of me that I am meek and humble of heart." that is, in meekness and humility.

"The love he bore men, all men, for all were entrusted to him, led him to devote all his strength, his sufferings, his life itself, to them. It was this love that inspired everything he did, everything he taught, everything he said.

"His love was manifested in that great kindness which struck everyone who saw him; the kindness to which the simple people waiting anxiously in St. Peter's Square with their eyes fixed on the Pope's windows for news of his condition while sick, paid homage when questioned. An Italian T.V. reporter asked them why they were so much interested in the Holy Father's health. "Because he's so kind," they answered. This kindness radiated from the whole of his person and won everyone's heart.

"The importance he attached to kindness to win souls for Christ is seen clearly in the following passage from his testament:

"Now is the time to say farewell, or rather goodbye for the present. We remind everyone once more of what is worth most in life: Jesus, the blessed Christ, the Holy Church and His Gospel, and in the Gospel the "Pater Noster" above all, is the heart and spirit of Christ and the Gospel; truth and goodness, sweet and kindly, active and patient, convinced and victorious."

RECRUITING AND VOCATIONS

I think the following words of Father General on this subject can bear repeating at this time:

"My dear Father Provincial, I am appealing to you to keep this problem of recruiting always in mind. If you are meeting with difficulties, do not admit defeat. Look for better means to improve your recruiting. Do not think for a moment that there is nothing that can be done. Do not say that we must wait for better circumstances, etc. There is always something that can be done. There is always some new or better means that may be used. We must find them. If anything, let us have the humility to realize that there is something wrong in our approach to the problem and that we must begin anew."

The vocation session in Kochi this summer was certainly a big step in the right direction and the pastors who cooperated so generously in this endeavor are to be congratulated. The Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, too, are deserving of our thanks for allowing us to use their beautiful hostel to house the altar boys. We must continue this effort.

However, I think we need more literature on this subject for the non-Ob'te parishes of Japan. We need something a little less expensive than our last pamphlet to distribute to a greater number of pastors.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

There has been such a variety of requests about the number and type of Christmas cards in the past that it has been decided to allow the individual houses to purchase their own cards this year.

WASURE MONO NAI YO NI..

How about Alien Registration, driver's license & passport?

BOOK PROGRESS

Fr. VanHoydonck is still fighting a courageous battle with the proof readers who are working on his translation of the History of the Church in Japan. Fr. Barton's book on English should be ready for the press soon.

ABSENT BROTHERN

Fathers Lowney, Hofmans and Stevens have finished their retreats and are now at home. However, with lectures and other work they are keeping very busy. Father Hofman's return will be delayed because of a series of 60 talks he is giving in colleges during October and November.



JAPAN VICE PROVINCE NEWS

October 1963

COR UNUM ET ANIMA UNA

This is certainly the spirit in which each of us should face our tasks as the second session of Vatican II progresses. United in heart and mind in the work of Christianizing the little portion of Christ's vineyard allotted to our care; united with Oblates all over the world and particularly united to our Superior General.

As Oblates of Mary Immaculate is important that we always be imbued with the spirit of our Venerated Founder and this is done best by remaining closely united to our Superior General. He is our leader and his admonitions must be listened to with the same spirit of obedience that characterized the lives of the first Apostles.

We all have problems that are unique to our assignments, but all these tasks should be performed under obedience. To adopt the spirit of independence from all authority is to mitigate the work of the apostolate and face certain failure. For the work that is human, and it is human when done out of self love or by sacrificing the spirit of obedience, will not be blessed by God.

Our Superior General tells us: "...foremost in my preoccupation as regards the administration of our Congregation is the fervor and quality of our religious life. I can evidently pray with all my soul to the Divine Heart of Jesus to protect each of our Oblates, to keep each one in His divine charity. I can also, from time to time, address the Congregation in general by letter, or by circular, in order to seek to invigorate the spirit of fervour which the Founder wishes to reign in our Institute. But, alone, I can do almost nothing. In order that our holy Rules possess their entire cogency and efficacy, in order that the instructions that we give herewith may have their effect, we depend completely on you." (Provincials and Vicars)

As Vicar Provincial I can repeat this plea of our Superior General in a way to our District Superiors and Directors. We are spread all over the islands of Japan, and it must be the zeal of Superiors and Directors for adherence to the spirit of our Holy Rule that unites this Vice Province into "one heart and one mind." Our responsibility is great and an awareness of this responsibility will be reflected in our love of the Rule. Don't let that precious book gather dust. It is our guide; our way of life. The humblest prescriptions should be important. Our apostolate will bear fruit in so far as we work for souls under the guidance of our Rule.

NEW BISHOP FOR SHIKOKU

On October 20th Pope Paul VI consecrated His Excellency Francis Tanaka first Bishop of Takamatsu, which embraces the whole island of Shikoku. All Oblates in Japan rejoiced at the news this month that Shikoku had at last been raised to the status of diocese under the title, Diocese of Takamatsu. Two of the four civil prefectures of Shikoku are under the care of the Oblates, and therefore, the elevation of Father Tanaka is of great significance.

The new Bishop will be installed in Takamatsu City around the middle of December. Our Venerated Founder once designated Oblates as "Bishop's men." It is important that we keep this in mind and give our new Bishop our full cooperation.

October 1963

NEW ASSIGNMENTS

The following new assignments are announced:

R.F. Xavier Delport, O.M.I. as pastor at Akaoka,
effective Nov. 1st.

R.F. Thomas Reilly, O.M.I. to Tokyo for special course
in missiology.

A course in missiology sponsored by the Superior's Conference will begin on October 21st and run for about six months. Fr. Reilly has been selected to take this course. Priests from various congregations from all parts of Japan will be represented.

IKEDA PARISH'S THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On the Feast of Christ the King, October 27th, the Parish of Christ the King in Ikeda will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary. Bishop-elect Tanaka had intended to be present for this celebration, but he was called to Rome. There will be a High Mass at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. The choir from the church in Tokushima is coming to sing the Mass. All the parishes on Shikoku are requested to send delegations to this celebration. The pastor, Fr. Simons, requests that you let him know the number who will attend from your parish.

PROVINCIAL RESIDENCE

Until the return of Father Lowney, I will be making my residence at St. Paul Miki Parish, Tokushima.

Sincerely in Christ & M.I.,

Patrick Brady, O.M.I.
V. Prov.