

January 1966



THE YEAR OF THE HORSE:--

Years in Japan are designated by the Oriental zodiac and this is the 7th year or the year of the horse. There is a Japanese proverb "praying to the ear of a horse" that has a meaning similar to our "preaching to deaf ears". The missionary in Japan may sometimes be tempted to apply this proverb to his efforts, yet the converts, though small in number, continue to come into the Church and the steady spread of Christian influence in this pagan society gives rise to great hope for the future. The humblest prayers are heard. Perhaps a greater volume in this year of the horse will open the ears of some of the deaf ones.

CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE:--

The First Quarterly Catechetical Conference under the chairmanship of Fr. Joseph Hofmans, O.M.I., was held at Ikeda on January 4th and included all the fathers of the Kochi and Tokushima districts. Sincere thanks to Fr. Stevens, the host, for taking such good care of the nineteen fathers in his small quarters.

At the conference and the regular meeting that followed on January 5th, final plans for the publication of the catechetical course for kindergartens was decided. It is hoped the handbook for teachers will be ready for use with the start of the new term this year. This handbook is a translation of the excellent Belgian work that many of the fathers are familiar with already.

A plan for monthly inserts for newspapers was also adopted and we hope to reach thousands in all the cities where Oblates are working. An insert with a Christian theme will be prepared for insertion in your local newspaper at the beginning of each month for the next six months. Inserts will be printed in one place and sent to the various houses.

ANNUAL RETREATS:--

The annual retreats this year will be held in Kiryu under the direction of Fr. James Cleary, O.M.I., whom Father Provincial has kindly allowed to come to Japan. First conferences at 3 p.m. on the 11th and 18th of April. Father Cleary will also be preaching retreats for the Columbian and Maryknoll Fathers.

APRIL 11th to 17th

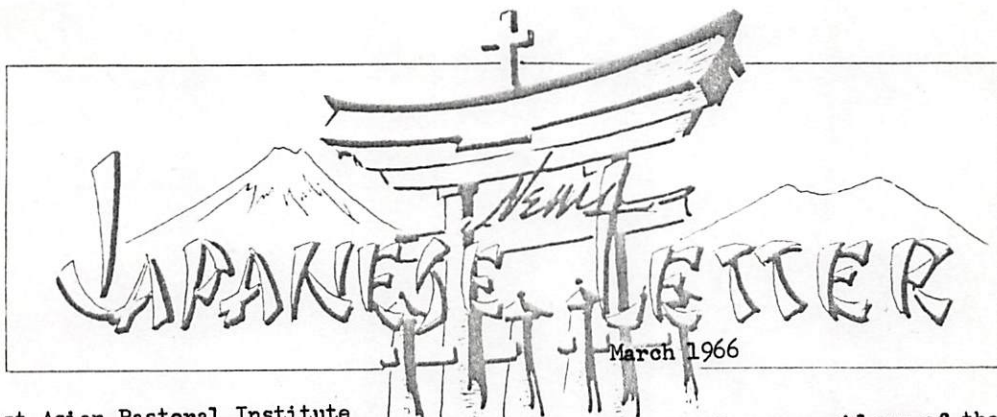
R.F. Gill
R.F. Barrett
R.F. Harr
R.F. Moyer
R.F. Silver
R.F. Delporte
R.F. Hofmans
R.F. Barton
R.F. Kellen
R.F. Mattimore
R.F. Siani

APRIL 18th to 24th:--

R.F. Brady
R.F. Robitaille
R.F. Simons
R.F. Mahoney
R.F. Lowmy
R.F. Stevens
R.F. Mahor
R.F. Williams
R.F. Yamazaki
R.F. Inue
R.F. O'Brien

AVE ET VALE!

Greetings to Fr. Richard Harr who returned to Japan from his leave on January 19th. And 'bon voyage' to Fathers Rielly and Van Hoydenck who will be leaving early in February.



East Asian Pastoral Institute

A course of pastoral studies geared to the missionary problems of the Far East is to be offered at the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila. The institute is now under the direction of Father Nebreda, S.J., formerly of Japan. The course will require seven months to complete and leads to an Institute diploma. This in turn serves as an introduction to a one year course leading to a degree in Religious Education.

Requirements are a college degree, if possible, and experience in pastoral and catechetical work. We hope to be able to send a priest to take this course. Those interested should write to Tokyo as soon as possible. At present I have no details about the date of the course's opening session. I presume this will be in the fall.

Catechetical Committee

The next Catechetical Committee meeting will be held on the morning of April 18th in Tokyo. This will allow time for those beginning retreat on that day to get the afternoon train for Kiryu. Both retreat groups are expected for supper the evening retreat begins.

For the September meeting Fr. Hofmans has engaged Rev. Marcel VanCaster, S.J., of Lumen Vitae, Brussels, to give a series of four lectures over a two day period. The lectures will be held in Naruto and all are invited.

The first series of three inserts for newspapers has been sent to the various parishes and Fathers Ward and Mattimore are to be congratulated on a job well done. All comments on the inserts will be appreciated.

Congratulations:-

To Brothers Bourgoin, Bonang and Maher on their coming ordinations. For those who wish to write their addresses are: Bro. Raymund Bourgoin, 2 Central Ave., Waterville, Maine; Bro. William Maher, 7710 Paxton Ave., Chicago, Ill. and Bro. Richard Bonang, 30 Tuttle St., Dorchester, Mass. Dates of the ordinations are: Bro. Bourgoin-March 19th, Bro. Maher-April 26th and Bro. Bonang, May 31.

New Assignments

Rev. Leonard Robitaille, O.M.I., to Tokyo--effective March 21st.
Rev. Leonard Inui, O.M.I., to Koga--effective April 26th.

Bon Voyage!

To Father John Meyer who leaves late this month for his vacation. A note from Fr. Reilly tells of arriving at a snowed-out airport in Philadelphia where a large gathering of relatives and friends were waiting and being diverted to another airport with no reception. Kowaisoo desu ne.

Theological Seminar

In place of the usual examinations for the young fathers a two day theological seminar will be held in Tokyo this summer. We hope to have Father Clarkson, S.J., or Fr. Nameshegyi conduct the seminar.

Tokushima Hall

Work on a parish hall for St. Paul Miki parish, Tokushima, is due to begin in a few weeks. Work on the Itami church is progressing well and the construction should be finished well ahead of kendooshiki day: June 5th.

May 1966

Bishop's and Superior's Conference:- The annual meeting of the Bishops and Superiors takes place this month in Tokyo on the 11th, 12th and 13th. Some of the problems faced by the Conferences this year deal with the liturgy the religious survey, the decree on Mission Activity and the building of a center for Advanced Studies in the apostolate in Japan. The next newsletter will give a summary of these discussions.

Catechetical Committee:- The Catechetical Committee met in Tokyo on April 18th under the chairmanship of Fr. Hofmans who gave a very interesting paper on modern catechetical methods. Various projects now under development were discussed including the slide series, movies, the yochien course and the prison apostolate.

Due to shifts in personnell a few changes in the committee are announced. The committee members are: Fr. Hofman, chairman, Fr. Downey Fr. VanHoydonck, Fr. Ward, Fr. Barton, Fr. Williams and Fr. Yamazaki.

New Assignments:- Pastoral Institute, Manila:--Fr. Mattimore
Association of M.I.:-- Fr. Williams
Vocation Director:-- Fr. Inue



Public Relations:- A new office of public relations has been established with Fr. John Barrett, O.M.I., as the first chairman. Father Barrett will coordinate Oblate and Church activities with the local and, when possible, foreign news media. All ideas and news-worthy items should be sent to Fr. Barrett. News items for our Roman Publication will be handled by Fr. O'Brien.

Itami Dedication:- As previously announced the dedication of the Itami church will take place on June 5th. On the following day, Monday the 6th, there will be a gathering of the fathers. There will be Concelebration in the morning. Those who are able to attend one of both of these gatherings should write to Fr. Gill regarding time of arrival and length of stay.

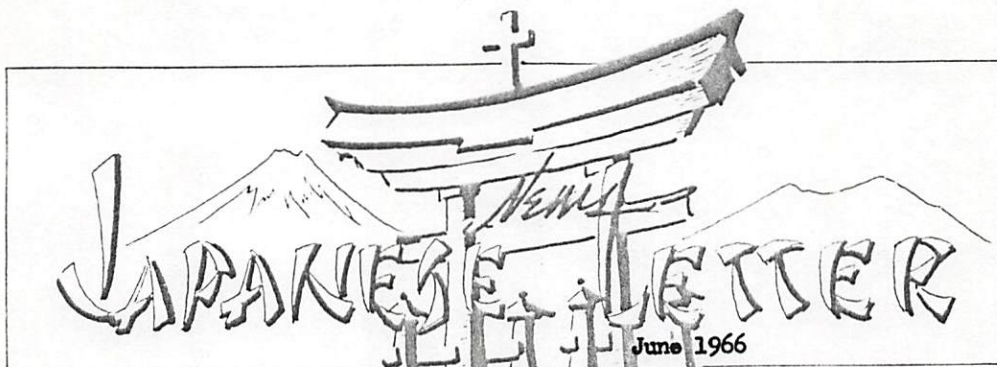
Father Cleary's Retreats:- Fr. Cleary continues his retreat program this month with the Maryknoll Fathers in Kurasaki. He will return to Tokyo the last Sunday of this month for the scholastic's retreat.

Summer Assignments:-

Fr. O'Brien.....	Naruto
Fr. Siani.....	Akaoka
Bro. Duffy.....	Shinhonmachi
Bro. Laframboise.....	Aki
Bro. Quinn.....	Ikeda
Bro. Novotny.....	Nakamachi
Bro. Barber.....	Itami
Bro. Deeley.....	Tokushima

Bon Voyage! To Mother Mary Paul of the Xavarian Sisters who will leave for the United States the end of this month. Mother Mary Paul will return in September with the Mother General of the Xavarians who will then begin a visitation of the Japanese mission. Your prayers are requested for Sister Petra, Sadahirosan of Aki, who is seriously ill in Detroit.

Taishokin:- As previously announced taishokin for all employees will now be taken care of by the individual parishes. We suggest you start a fund for this purpose if you have not already done so.



ITAMI CHURCH DEDICATED:-

The Church of Christ the King was dedicated on June 6th with His Excellency, Bishop Paul Taguchi of Osaka, officiating. Bishop Taguchi was lavish in his praise of the Oblate Fathers and in particular of Fr. Robert Gill, the pastor, for this beautiful addition to the churches of the diocese. The Bishop predicted an upsurge of the Faith in the area as a result of this visible evidence of the depth and devotion of the priests and parishoners of Itami City.

On the following day, June 7th, eighteen Oblates of Mary Immaculate concelebrated Mass around the altar of the new church and were hosted by Father Gill and Father Yamazaki in the large meeting room that is connected with the church. Sincere thanks to Frs. Gill and Yamazaki and the previous pastors and curates of Christ the King who have worked so hard to erect this church.



SEMINARY SUPERIOR RE-ASSIGNED:-

Fr. Patrick Healy, O.M.I., Superior of Our Lady of Hope Seminary, has been reassigned temporarily to the home province for a period of three years. Father Healy was involved in a serious plane crash last year and it is feared he will require continued medical attention. We will miss Father Healy very much in Japan and we hope and pray that he is able to return very soon.

TAKAMATSU ORDINATIONS:-

Oblate ordinations to the subdiaconate and minor orders will take place in Takamatsu Diocese on July 10, Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. His Excellency, Francis Tanaka, will officiate.

DISTRICT SUPERIOR'S MEETING:-

A meeting of our three District Superiors, Fathers Gill, Mahoney and Hofmans with the Provincial Delegate was held in Itami on June 7th. The meeting was held with a view towards implementing and expanding the activities of the District Superiors.

From now on the District Superiors will meet at least twice during the year. Members of the various districts should feel free to go to their District Superiors with their plans and their problems. When certain permissions are sought and the Provincial Delegate cannot be contacted, the District Superior should be consulted.

The gradual increase in the personnel of the mission it is imperative that District Superiors take a greater share in the responsibilities of running the mission.

THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCES:-

The theological conferences for the young fathers will take place in Tokyo on June 27th and 28th at the Jesuit Seminary. Conferences are under the supervision of Fr. Clarkson, S.J.

Other conferences of interest: Aug. 22-26- Mefu-"History of Salvation" under Fr. Stuhlmüller.

Aug. 30 to Sept. 2nd:-Same as above. Sulpician Seminary, Kyushu.

VOCATION INQUIRIES:-

From now on please address all vocation inquiries to Rev. Leonard Inui, O.M.I., Koga Church, Fukuoka ken.

SINCERE THANKS:-

To our Liturgical Committee under Fr. Vincent and the Pastoral Book Club for their splendid services.

Yours in Christ and M.I.,

Patrick Brady, O.M.I.,
Provincial Delegate



NOVEMBER 1966



BISHOP TAGUCHI'S ANNIVERSARY:-

Congratulations to Bishop Paul Y. Taguchi of Osaka who celebrated the 25th anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of Osaka on the 23rd of November. Father VanHoydonck represented the Oblates as one of the twenty five priests who concelebrated with Bishop Taguchi in the Osaka cathedral. Bishop Taguchi gave a very stirring sermon to over a thousand priests, sisters and laymen who came to the Mass.

The Mass was followed by a luncheon for over two hundred priests of the diocese and representatives of other dioceses. In the evening there was a private dinner at the Bishop's new residence. The Oblate Vice Provincial was the only foreign priest at this gathering; certainly this is a tribute to the Oblates who have worked in Osaka diocese but especially in Itami.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:-

Minutes of the meeting on Mass Communication and Public Relations have been received and will be distributed throughout the vice province. Father Barrett, our representative at the Cotobato meeting, has no doubt given many of the fathers and brothers a summary of what occurred at the first meeting of specialists in this field. Preliminary reports from Father Barrett and Father O'Donnell, the Australian Delegate who visited Japan, indicate the meetings were very spirited and showed many areas where mutual cooperation is possible.

There will be a meeting of the Vice Province Committee on Mass Media and Public Relations in Kochi on the 6th of December.

WASHINGTON SCHOLASTICATE 50th ANNIVERSARY:-

Fr. Robert Gill of the Japan mission sends glowing reports of the celebrations this month in Washington marking the 50th anniversary of the scholasticate at 391 Michigan Ave. Since most of the Oblates in Japan matriculated at 391, this news was of particular interest. Most Rev. Father General was present for the celebrations together with six former scholasticate superiors.

DON VOYAGE:-

To Father Leonard Robitaille who will leave Japan on his sabatical on the 1st of December.

WELCOME:-

To three sisters of St. Francis Xavier Community who will arrive in Yokohama on the 5th of December. For two American sisters it will be their first visit to their new home; for Sister M. Petra of Aki, it marks her return to her native land after her postulancy and novitiate in Fraser, Michigan.

The American Sisters will take their language studies in the Oblate Language school in Tokyo.

FIRE INSPECTION FORMS:-

Some of the fire insurance inspection forms have not been returned at this date. Please send these in as soon as possible so as to avoid any difficulty in case of fire.

Yours in Christ and M.I.,

Patrick Brady, C.M.I.