

OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Provincial Administration Sekimachi,6-chome, Nerima-ku,Tokyo Vice Province- Japan Tel, 996-8265 Cable OBLATE

LJC ET MI

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1968

OBLATES OF THE VICE PROVINCE OF JAPAN EXTEND TO ALL OBLATES GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR. THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE MISSION IN JAPAN HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1967 - A Summary

DELEGATION OF JAPAN RAISED TO STATUS OF A VICE PROVINCE



on August 4th, 1967. Since the Mission began in 1948, it had been a Delegation under the administration of Our Lady of Hope Province (Eastern U.S.A.) The new Vice Province, from it's beginning has received from the home Province the bulk of its personnel and finances and for this constant generous aid will always be grateful. The home Province will continue to assist the new Vice Province in personnel and finances.

VICE PROVINCE ADMINISTRATION

Provincial: Very Rev. Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I.

Council: Very Rev. Joseph Hofmans, O.M.I., Superior, Tokyo Seminary
Rev. Edward Lowney, O.M.I.
Rev. Xavier Delporte, O.M.I.
Rev. Leonard Inui, O.M.I.

Provincial Bursar: Rev. Leonard F. Robitaille, O.M.I.

PROVINCIAL VISITATION

was held in March 1967 by the Very Rev. William Ryan, O.M.I. Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Hope to which Japan was then attached as a Delegation. Fr. Ryan visited all the missions between March 21st and April 6th.

ORDINATIONS

Priesthood: Fr. Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I. was ordained March 27, 1967 at the Oblate Seminary Natick, Mass. by Bishop Francis Tanaka of the Diocese of Takamatsu, Japan. Both Kochi and Tokushima Prefectures, entrusted to the Oblates are in Bishop Tanaka's diocese. Fr. LaFramboise is from St. John's Province, Lowell, Mass. He came to the Mission after Perpetual Vows, took the two year language course in Tokyo and his three year theology course at the Jesuit Theologate in Tokyo. He is presently finishing his last year and will be assigned to the mission field this summer.

Fr. Daniel Duffy, O.M.I. was ordained April 1, 1967 at

Troy, New York by Bishop Maginn of the Diocese of Albany. Fr. Duffy is from the Eastern American Province. He came to the Mission after Perpetual Vows and followed the same course as Fr. LaFramboise. He will receive his first assignment this summer.

Subdiaconate-Diaconate: Brother Jerome Novotny, O.M.I. from the Central US Province, now studying in Tokyo received the Subdiaconate and Diaconate in December. Brother will be returning to the States for ordination to the priesthood this Spring.

Minor Orders: were received in December by Bro. John Deely, O.M.I. in Tokyo. Bro Deely is from the Eastern American Province.

ANNUAL RETREAT 1967

was conducted by Fr. Robrecht Boudens, O.M.I. from Belgium. The first group of retreatants met at the OMI Tokyo Seminary. The second and third groups had their retreats at the Aki Mission. All three retreats were held in July.

ASIAN OMI SUPERIORS' CONFERENCE - TOKYO

The newly-established Vice Province was host for the five nation meeting September 18 to 21st at the Oblate Seminary in Tokyo. Representing Father General was Fr. Godfrey Kuckartz, O.M.I.. Attending were the Provincials from Australia, Ceylon, Philippines, Laos and Japan. The decisions of the meeting were published in the OMI Information Service (Rome).

OBLATES ATTEND -

Better World Movement

At Sacred Heart Univ., Tokyo -Fr. Joseph Hofmans, OMI
At Notre Dame Univ., Okayama -Fr. Edward Williams, OMI

Cursillo

Fr. Richard Harr, OMI	Fr. Edward Williams, OMI
Fr. David Barton, OMI	Fr. Henry Mattimore, OMI
Fr. Thomas Maher, OMI	Fr. Raymond Bourgoin, OMI

Pastoral Institute - Manila

Fr. Henry Mattimore, OMI Completed the course in April '67.
Fr. Edward Williams, OMI Began the course in Sept. '67
Fr. Thomas Maher, OMI Will take the course from Sept. '68

NEW PERSONNEL - Sept. 1967

Fr. Wilfried Derudder, OMI, ordained June 30 in Belgium
Brother Francis Hahn, OMI from Eastern American Prov.
Brother Dave Ullrich, OMI from the Texas Province.
All are presently studying Japanese at Waseda University in Tokyo.

SCHOLASTICS' APOSTOLIC ACTIVITIES

March 1967:

- Bro. Jerome Novotny, O.M.I. assigned to the Akaoka Mission to study the various methods of teaching the Faith in the Kochi area. Report made to the Seminary Community together with an evaluation of the experience gained.
- Bro. John Quinn, OMI assigned to Tokushima to study the Legion of Mary and its operation in the Tokushima area. Report and evaluation made to the Seminary Community.
- Bro. John Deely, OMI assisted for a full month at the Leprosarium in Gotemba. Report and evaluation made.

July-August 1967:

- Bro. Novotny worked in Sapporo at the Yuki-jirushi Farms to study first-hand the social conditions of the working classes in cooperation with the Protestant Center.
- Bro. Quinn took a special course in Japanese at the Naganuma Language Institute.
- Bro. Deely took further studies in Japanese.

MISSION SEMINAR

was held in September in Tokushima under the guidance of Fr. Henry Mattimore, OMI and Fr. George Hirschbeck, M.M. both of whom had recently completed the course of studies at the Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila. The three-day seminar dealt with the latest trends in scriptural and theological thought. It was well-attended by a large number of Oblates, Burgos Frs. (Spain), Dominican Frs. and the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier who work with us in Shikoku. Bishop Tanaka attended as did representatives of the Protestant Community in the Tokushima area.

NEW MISSION OPENED

in Anan City in the south eastern part of Tokushima Prefecture in July. Besides the priest's residence there is a kindergarten school. Fr. John K. Mahoney, OMI is the first Director.

TSUDA ART EXHIBIT

was feted by the artist community of Fukuoka and Naruto in November at the foremost art gallery in Fukuoka City. The exhibit featured the works of Brother Joseph Tsuda, OMI our first Japanese Oblate. One of the principal patrons of the exhibit was the wife of the President of Kyushu University. a number of the pieces were sold at high prices-a tribute to Brother Tsuda's great talent.

PEACE GARDEN DEDICATED AT KOGA MISSION

A Japanese-style garden dedicated to peace was solemnly blessed by Bishop Dominic Fukahori of Fukuoka on Sept. 17, 1967 in the presence of a State Senator, the Mayor, twelve members of the City Council and several hundred guests. After the ceremonies at the Lourdes Grotto, the Mayor lit the eternal flame before a huge stone on which was carved in gold the prayer for peace.

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L.J.C. et M.I.

Jan. 19, 1968

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

In the name of Father General I want to thank you for your cards and letters that you sent him. I received a letter from him recently in which he writes: "...may I ask you to distribute some thank you messages for some of them. I cannot at present write a long letter to everyone but this will assure them that they are remembered and that I appreciate their good wishes." In the same letter Father General writes: "On December 8th, we were all united to you as we concelebrated for the first Mass in the new Roman Scholasticate Chapel with 53 concelebrants from the five continents. Asia was represented by Fr. Vihn, Vietnamese, then on Retreat here at the De Mazenod Exercises and Fr. Zago former missionary in Laos, now here on the Scholasticate Staff. It was easy to remind ourselves of all our dear missionaries scattered all over the world and of course Japan was on the list." Let us here in Japan continue to keep the intentions of Father General in our Masses and sacrifices during this year of 1968.

I also received a letter from Father Reddy, O.M.I. and he mentioned the good news that Japan is on the list for Visitation in 1968. We hope that Father will be able to spend a good deal of time with us on the mission. In this way he will be able to help us in strengthening the Oblate Mission and Father will be able to come to a greater knowledge of the Church of Japan.

In this letter I would like to bring you up-to-date on the recent developments in the Vice Province.

Ordinations: On Dec. 20, 1967 Brother Deely, O.M.I. received Minor Orders. Also on Dec. 20, 21 Brother Novotny, O.M.I. received Subdeaconate and Diaconate. At present Brother Novotny is making preparations for his ordination to the Priesthood.

Installation: Father Ed Williams, O.M.I. was installed as Director and Pastor of Nakamimachoo, Kochi, on Dec. 27, 1967.

Departure: Father Dan Ward, O.M.I. left Kochi City on the 28, Dec. and the following day left Tokyo for the United States for further studies at Georgetown University.

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-2-

Cursillo: Father Barton and Mattimore were able to attend the Cursillo that was sponsored by the Diocese of Fukuoka. This brings the number of our Fathers who have made this type of Catholic Action Meeting. All of these Fathers have spoken most highly of its effectiveness for the Apostolate in Japan.

Council Meeting: On Jan. 12 we had our Vice Province Council Meeting in Tokyo. Some of the highlights are:

Finances: Father Robitaille, O.M.I., Provincial Bursar, gave the financial report of the mission. Within a short time a financial report will be prepared and sent to each house. As was recommended in other visitations we all should be working to help in the support of each of our missions. If there are some missions that can make re-payment for the initial investment made by the Oblates then this should be given serious consideration.

Apostolic Assignments: The Spring Vacation is coming up for the Scholastic Fathers and Brothers. After the many months of concentrated study they deserve what few days they have for rest and for recuperation. Fathers Duffy and LaFramboise will remain in Tokyo for preparation for their final exams. Brothers Quinn and Deely will take advantage of this time for reviewing their Japanese. As for the new men on the mission: Father Derudder and Brothers Hann and Ullrich will be coming to the missions for their first visit.

District Superiors and Council Members: I want to thank the Fathers of the Itami and Kochi Districts for the answers they sent in on suggestions for the Superiors of these Districts. After consultation at the Meeting the following list was decided on:

Kochi District:

District Superior: Father John Barrett, O.M.I.
Council: Father Xavier Delporte, O.M.I.
Father Raymond BBourgoin, O.M.I.

Tokushima District:

District Superior: Father John Mahoney, O.M.I.
Council: Father Edward Lowney, O.M.I.
Father Angelo Siani, O.M.I.

Fukuoka District:

District Superior: Father Richard Harr, O.M.I.
Council Father Leonard Inui, O.M.I.
Father William Maher, O.M.I.

Guidelines for District Superiors: During the month of February I will meet with the District Superiors in Itami and at this time we will formulate some guidelines for the Vice Province with regard the District Superiors and their council.

Committees for the Vice Province: As a result of the suggestions that were sent in and with the approval of the Council a list of Committees and nomination of members of these committees was approved. This list accompanies this letter. The Secretaries of the Committees govern the meetings and their works, the Council Members are on the Committees to insure information and to provide help from the Vice Province. The Secretaries when needed will call upon the help of the Fathers of the Vice Province - we know that you will continue to show your cooperation in the future as you have in the past.

Departures: Father Mattimore will be leaving for the States the first week in February and Father Delporte will be leaving for Europe around the first week of March. Our best wishes go with them to their families and friends and to the Oblates they will meet on their trips. We hope that their experiences during their time away from the Mission will be beneficial for the Vice Province in the future.

Scripture Workshop: I would like to call your attention to two Scripture Workshops. One in Fukuoka and the Men's Retreat House of the Passionist Fathers from Jan. 29-Feb. 2nd, and in Osaka a Retreat for Brothers and Priests from Jan. 21-27th at the Mefu Retreat House and Scripture Lectures on Jan 28th at the Sacred Heart Convent-Obayashi. These are all under the direction of Father Jerome Crowe a prominent Scripture scholar from Australia (Passionist). These are in English. There is also another program of two weeks on the Old and New Testament sponsored by the Lutheran Church at Hakone. The two weeks excluding travel would cost around \$120. This includes room and board. Father Bonang recommends it very much for teaching the Bible to our catechumens. (If you are unable to attend maybe you can consider sending your catechist.)

Sincerely yours in Christ, and M.I.
Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I., Provincial

O RELATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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COMMITTEES OF THE VICE PROVINCE OF JAPAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SAME:

A. Formation:

1. Studies:
 - a. Oblate Fathers
 - b. Scholastics
 - c. Junior Seminarists
 - d. Brothers
2. Vocations
3. Rules

Members:

Fathers B. Silver, OMI, Chairman
J. Hofmans, OMI, Secretary
R. Harr, OMI
R. LaFramboise, OMI
L. Inui, OMI
A. Siani, OMI

B. Missionary Apostolate:

1. Pre-Christian Community
 - a. Pre-catechetical
 - b. Kindergarten Apost.
 - c. English Teaching Apost.
 - d. Institution-Social Apost.
2. Christian Community
3. Catechists
 - a. Committed (Salaried)
 - b. Non-committed (non-salaried)

Members:

Fathers E. Lowney, OMI, Chairman
J. Mahoney, OMI, Secretary
E. Williams, OMI
H. Mattimore, OMI
R. Bourgois, OMI

C. Communications:

1. Mass Media
2. Public Relations
3. Communications
 - a. Within Mission
 - b. Outside Mission

Members:

Father X. Delporte, OMI, Chairman
J. Barrett, OMI, Secretary
D. Bonang, OMI

D. Development and Finances:

1. Building projects
2. Finances
3. M.A.M.I. (Fr. Brady, OMI)

Members:

Fathers L. Inui, OMI, Chairman
L. Robitaille, OMI, Secretary
R. Gill, OMI
P. Brady, OMI

L.J.C. et M.I.

Feb. 22, 1968



Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Nakamura: On the 25th of January I went with Father Reilly, O.M.I. to Nakamura City to look into the possibility of purchasing some land in this City for a future mission. With Father I met with the Mayor and the Prefecture Officials. The proposed land sight is in front of the local Grammar School. There is a little over five hundred tsubo. At present it is used for a Kunrensho for the Prefecture. They (the Prefecture authorities) would like to sell this land at a price that would enable them to cover their expenses for some four thousand tsubo outside the City. There are not enough Kindergartens in the City - however, there are many Hoikusho. The Mayor was favorable to a new Kindergarten - or to a Tanki-dai. I explained to them that we had many other commitments at the present time but if they would consider selling the proposed land at a reasonable figure then we might consider doing something there in the future. The people at the Kunrensho have turned their project over to the Prefecture Offices and it is up to them and the City as to what price the land will ultimately go for. It doesn't look like they would, at this time, consider letting the land go at a loss to themselves. The Fathers are still looking for other land-sites.

Kochi: At the time of my visit the Fathers at Nakajimacho were working on their plans for a "Night School" for adults. They hope to start, this first semester, on a limited scale and with permission they will be able to issue certificates from there with the Prefecture seal of approval - stating they have finished courses at our school. The project is a good step in the right direction - experimenting with what can be done for an indirect apostolate with adults in other fields than just English. The Fathers in the District are cooperating in the project.

Kyushu: Shortly after my visit to Kochi I went to Kyushu to take part in the Scripture Seminar that was given by Father Jerome Crowe, CSP. It lasted a week. The matter was most interesting and Father's grasp of his subject was inspiring. Father Mahoney made the same seminar in the Kyushu area and in the Kobe area Fathers Bonang and Siani were able to attend. I hope there will be many more such seminars and that more on the mission will be able to participate.

Hikarigaoka: At the time of my stay in Fukuoka I spent some time at Father Harr's. The frame of the new Church is completed and they were putting up the steel beams for the roof. The construction is a little slowed down due to the weather. According to Father Harr the Church should be completed some time around the end of May.

Province of Koga: Administration: Recently I heard from Father Simons that Father Inui was appointed as Oblate the Vice President of the Kindergarten Association of the Diocese. Congratulations - and I know that what experience he will get from this work will be of benefit to all of our missions. Father Simons also reported that the enrollment for the school there is well over the two hundred mark. They have a right to be proud of all the work that has gone into the school from the beginning to give it its present reputation. At present Gagami san (who was with the Oblates as a Junior Seminarian - until recently) is now working at Koga.

Itami: The District Superiors and the Superior of the House of Tokyo met with me at Itami to discuss proposals for Guidelines that would be presented to the coming Council Meeting for approval and/or correction. A very good exchange of ideas took place. After the Council Meeting you will be notified of the Directives for the District Superiors. Father Barrett, O.M.I., was installed as District Superior of the Kochi District on Feb. 19th and Father Mahoney, O.M.I. was installed as District Superior of the Tokushima District on the 21st of February. Congratulations to them and I am confident that with the three District Superiors, the Superior of the House of Tokyo and their respective Councils working as a "team" we will see a strengthening of efforts in our religious and apostolic lives.

Guide for Renewal: By this time each of you has your copy of the Guide for Revision. You also have my recent letter concerning the use of this in our Vice Province. Let this be a challenge to our religious apostolic life as Missionaries in Japan. Its study and application will make all of us better servants of the Church in Japan.

Newsletter: With the cooperation of the Communications Committee the first newsletter of the year has been prepared and sent to our various Provinces of origin. It is my hope that this will do much to inform them of our efforts in the apostolate in Japan. It is going out at a financial sacrifice to the our Vice Province but I feel that this is the least that we can do to inform our Brother Oblates of what our works and desires are in Japan.

Father Delporte, O.M.I. - leaves for Belgium on the 3rd of March via India where he will visit with his brother who is a Jesuit Father. Our best regards go to his family and to the Brothers and Fathers in Belgium. Father Thomas Maher, O.M.I. will be Acting Pastor in Father's absence.

Brazil Vice Province: Word has been received from Rome of the appointment of the following Fathers to the Administration: Father James Sullivan, O.M.I., Provincial; Fathers Joseph Hogan, O.M.I., Thomas Brown, O.M.I., James McCarthy, O.M.I., and David O'Brien, O.M.I. to the Vice Province Council; and Father Owen Hope, O.M.I. - Bursar. Best wishes to all from the Vice Province of Japan.

Vice Province Council Meeting: On Friday the 1st of March there will be a Council Meeting in Tokyo.

Sincerely yours in Christ and Mary Immaculate,
Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I., Provincial

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L.J.C. et M.I.



DISTRICT SUPERIORS _ RIGHTS AND DUTIES

(Approved by the Provincial and Council at the Vice Province Council Meeting held in Tokyo on March 3, 1968)

In accordance with the Constitutions and Rules of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, taking into consideration the circumstances of the Vice Province of Japan, and the present work of the apostolate, the Provincial with the consent of his Council, defines the rights and duties of the District Superior by the following DIRECTIVES.

The District Superior will be named by the Provincial with the consent of his Council.

Duties: His first duty is to promote authentic fraternal charity within the community. This is the main legacy of the Founder to his Oblate communities. It is also the main point made by Vatican Council II in speaking of community life. Secondly, the superior is to organize and direct the apostolate of the community. Thirdly, in the authentic spirit of the Institute he will provide for the necessary community meetings for business matters, the apostolate, pastoral updating and the spiritual vitality of the community. The Superior will also meet the members individually and assist them with their personal problems as occasion may demand, without however trespassing on the personal liberty of members in matters pertaining to the internal forum. He will not insist on manifestation of conscience to himself, but will promote a spirit of trust and confidence so that others may freely speak to him of their more serious spiritual problems (the Congregation Renewed: Part Four Government - Sec. E).

The District Superiors are not local superiors (in the canonical sense of the term.).

The Provincial with the consent of his Council will name two Assistants, who form the Ordinary Council of a District. In the absence of the District Superior the 1st Assistant will take his place; if the 1st Assistant is unable to take his place the 2nd Assistant will. In a case where the 2nd Assistant cannot replace the District Superior the Provincial should be notified and he will make a temporary appointment to replace the District Superior.

DISTRICT SUPERIORS:

A. Religious:

1. As the Religious Superior of all the Oblates in his District the primary role of the District Superior is to inspire and direct the Fathers and Brothers of his religious district. In directing the members he will maintain a spirit of collaboration with all, as is mentioned in Const. #200. (Const. #200. The role of the Superior is to inspire and direct the community, in order to further the best interests of the apostolate and of the members who are entrusted to his care. For this reason he receives authority over his community. He will always exercise his power in accordance

with the Constitutions and Rules and in a spirit of collaboration with all)

2. Monthly Retreat: The District Superior with his council will make every effort to reunite regularly the members of the District so as to enable them to find renewed strength in a community life shared with their brothers. He will see that Const. #57 "To renew and deepen his faith and to grow in the spirit of his vocation he will set apart a period each month and every year to be devoted more intensely to personal prayer, reflection and community life." is fulfilled in his District to the best of his ability. Exceptions to the "day of renewal" will be decided by the District Superior and his council.
3. Program of life and of common prayer: Periodically the District Superior will discuss with the Oblates of the local communities the program of life and common prayer with the purpose of renewing them constantly in the religious community spirit.

B. Religious Apostolic:

1. The District Superior will so direct the efforts of the Oblates in the District that there will be a collective and responsible cooperation with regard the ministry, the religious apostolic life and temporal affairs of the District. (Application of Const. #210). "The participation of the entire community in the discussion of its principle problems is to be encouraged in so far as possible, so that, grouped around the Superior as a kind of Extraordinary Council, they may contribute their collective and responsible cooperation with respect to the community ministry, the religious apostolic life and even its temporal affairs."
2. The District Superior will see to it that there are regular meetings held on a District level.
 - a. Ordinary Council Meeting: The District Superior will convoke a meeting with his Council every quarter to discuss the ministry, the religious apostolic life and temporal affairs of the District, keeping in mind the needs and desires of all the members. (Application of Const.#208). A written report will be sent to the Provincial.
 - b. General District Meetings: To promote a broader exchange of ideas and develop a deeper community living in each district, a general district meeting may be convened by the District Superior and his council, when they think it is necessary. In as much as possible a day will be chosen when all the members of the District will be able to be present.

- c. Special Meetings: To prepare for the Provincial and General Visitations, the Extraordinary Provincial Councils and the General Chapter, the District Superior and his Council will seriously prepare for such by the cooperation of the members of the District.
- d. In cases of serious or unusual decisions brought up at the above-mentioned meetings, the matter will be referred to the Provincial by the District Superior.

C. APPLICATIONS:

- 1. It is recommended that for permission that requires the Provincial's approval according to the Constitutions and Rules and other Directives, previous consultation be had with the District Superior.
- 2. The District Superior is authorized to permit local Directors in his District to spend the following sums when the sums are available. If such funds are not available the District Superior will send a notification of his and his Council's approval for permission from the Provincial alone, or with his Council. District Superior with his Council may authorize \$1,000. Over \$1,000. the District Superior will send his approval and that of his council for the permission from the Provincial (and his Council). The parochial funds are not subject to the competence of the District Superior and council. R.#27 - In the discharge of his pastoral functions, an Oblate pastor is wholly subject to the direct jurisdiction of the local ordinary, saving however the right of the local and provincial superiors to exercise vigilance.
- 3. There is the possibility that some apostolate(s) presently done on a strictly parochial basis may take on a wider scope and come under the direct jurisdiction of the District Superior.

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L.J.C. et M.I.

2-68

March-April

OFFICIAL

APPOINTMENTS



1. District Superiors and their Councils:

Kochi District: Superior - Fr. John W. Barrett, O.M.I.
Council - Fr. Xavier Delporte, O.M.I.
- Fr. Raymond Bourgoïn, O.M.I.

Tokushima District

Superior - Fr. John K. Mahoney, O.M.I.
Council - Fr. Edward Lowney, O.M.I.
- Fr. Angelo Siani, O.M.I.

Fukuoka District:

Superior - Fr. Richard Harr, O.M.I.
Council - Fr. Leonard Inui, O.M.I.
Fr. William Maher, O.M.I.

2. Provincial Committees:

A. Formation

1) Studies

a. Oblate Fathers

b. Scholastics

c. Junior Seminarists

d. Brothers

Fr. B. Silver, OMI, Chairman

Fr. J. Hofmans, OMI, Secretary

Fr. R. Harr, OMI

Fr. R. Laframboise, OMI

Fr. L. Inui, OMI

Fr. A. Siani, OMI

2) Vocations

3) Rules

B. Missionary Apostolate:

1) Pre-Christian Community

a. Pre-catechetical

b. Kindergarten Apostolate

c. English Teaching "

d. Institution-Social "

Fr. E. Lowney, OMI, Chairman

Fr. J. Mahoney, OMI, Secretary

Fr. E. Williams, OMI

Fr. H. Mattimore, OMI

Fr. R. Bonang, OMI

2) Christian Community

3) Catechists

a. Salaried

b. Non-salaried

C. Communications:

1) Mass Media

2) Public Relations

3) Communications-Information

a. Within the Mission

b. Outside the Mission

Fr. X. Delporte, OMI, Chairman

Fr. J. Barrett, OMI, Secretary

Fr. R. Bourgoïn, OMI

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L.J.C. et M.I.

2-68

March-April 2/

D. Development and Finances:

- 1) Building Projects
- 2) Finances
- 3) M.A.M.I. (Fr. Brady, OMI)

Fr. L. Inui, OMI, Chairman
Fr. L. Robitaille, OMI, Secretary
Fr. R. Gill, OMI
Fr. P. Brady, OMI

The Secretaries of the Committees govern the meetings and works of the respective Committees. The Members of the Provincial Council are designated as Chairmen to insure the flow of information to the Council and to provide assistance from the Vice Province to the Committees.

3. Fr. Edward Williams, O.M.I. was installed as Director and Pastor of Nakajima-cho Mission in Kochi on December 27th.

Fr. Daniel Ward, O.M.I., former Director at Nakajima-cho is now on leave at the Oblate College in Washington to pursue higher studies at Georgetown University leading to a Doctorate in Japanese Language and Linguistics. Fr. Ward now holds a degree from Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan.

ASIAN OBLATE PROVINCES' VOCATION DIRECTORS

held their 1st General Meeting from Nov. 30 to Dec. 1, 1967 at Our Lady of the Assumption Scholasticate, Quezon City, Philippines. The meeting dealt with problems connected with recruiting in Asian areas. Attending were Fr. Manuel Punzal, OMI (Philippines), Fr. Bernard Quintus, OMI (Ceylon), Fr. Harold Mithen, OMI (Australia), and from Japan, Fr. E. Williams.

ASIAN OBLATE PROVINCES' FORMATION COMMITTEE

met at Notre Dame College in Cotabato from February 5th to 7th to discuss methods of updating the novitiate. Attending were Fr. John O'Reagan, OMI (Australia), Fr. Bernard Quintus, OMI (Ceylon), Fr. John Murphy, OMI (Philippines), and Fr. Joseph Hofmans, OMI (Japan).

SCRIPTURE WORKSHOP

under the direction of Australian Scripture scholar Fr. Jerome Crowe, CP was held at the Passionist Retreat House in Fukuoka from January 29th for one week. The course was attended by Very Rev. Fr. Provincial, Fr. Richard Harr, OMI, Fr. John Mahoney, OMI and Fr. Leo Simons, OMI. Frs. Richard Bonang, OMI and Angelo Siani, OMI attended Fr. Crowe's lectures in the Kobe area.

MEETING FOR DISTRICT SUPERIORS

of the Kochi, Tokushima and Fukuoka Districts together with the Superior of our Tokyo Seminary was held with the Provincial at Itami on Tuesday,

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L.J.C. et M.I.

2-68

March-April

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February 13, 1968. Fr. Robert J. Gill, OMI was host to the meeting which was called to formulate guidelines for the District Superiors and their Councils.

ON LEAVE

are Fr. Henry Mattimore, OMI whose home is in Buffalo, New York, and also Fr. Xavier Delporte, OMI from Rollegemstraat, Kortrijk, Belgium.

NEW HOSTEL FOR GIRLS

built by the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier (from Fraser, Michigan) adjoining Tokushima University was dedicated by Bishop Francis Tanaka of Takamatsu (all Shikoku) Diocese on January 15, 1968. The Sisters of St. Francis Xavier work closely with the Oblates in Japan. The new hostel for students is in answer to a need expressed by the Tokushima Prefectural Authorities. The Sisters' first hostel adjoins the Oblate Mission at Nakajima-cho in Kochi City.

ASIAN OBLATE PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS' MEETING

will be held in Ceylon in April as a preparation for the Extraordinary General Chapter in Rome in October. The Asian Oblate Conference is composed of the Provinces of Australia, Ceylon, Laos, Philippines and Japan.

KINDERGARTEN DIRECTORS AND TEACHERS MEETING

of all our teachers from all our Kindergarten Schools in Japan will be held during the Spring school recess, March 25-26th at Tokushima. The main subject for discussion is the moral training of the children, the systems, means employed, etc. Fr. Joseph Hofmans OMI Superior of our Tokyo Seminary has pioneered in this field and will give the principle address. The Oblates now in charge of Kindergarten schools adjoining our missions will meet to discuss problems of administration, finance, contracts, etc.

VISITORS

to the Vice Province during the past several months included:

Very Rev. Godfrey Kuckartz, O.M.I. Assistant General

Very Rev. Provincials from Australia, Ceylon, Laos and the Philippines (after their meeting in Tokyo),

Fr. Frank McHugh, OMI of the Western (USA) Province,

Fr. Don Aloysius, OMI from Ceylon,

Fr. Michael Clark, OMI from the Philippines.

Missionary

OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Provincial Administration Sekimachi, 6-chome, Nerima-ku, Tokyo Vice Province-Japan Tel, 03-920-8265 Cable OBLA

L.J.C. et M.I.



APR 1, 1968

VICE PROVINCE NEWS:

- Father General's Visit to Vice Province: Father General leaves Rome on March 28. After visiting Bangkok, Manila and Hong Kong he will be arriving with Father O'Reilly, O.M.I. at Haneda on April the 12th at 19:05.
- Father General's schedule in Japan:
- April 12: arrive Haneda - stay overnight at Oblate Seminary, Tokyo.
- April 13: In the morning he will visit with the Internuncio and Cardinal Doi. That same afternoon there will be a visit with the community at the Oblate Seminary at 4:00. In the evening he will accompany the community in the participation of the Easter Vigil Ceremonies at the Jesuit Seminary.
- April 14: Father General will be the main celebrant at the concelebrated Mass at our Seminary at 11:00. After this there will be a dinner with the community. That same afternoon we will leave for Itami by the Super Express. Arriving at Shin-Osaka at 7:10 in the evening we will be met by Father Gill who will bring us to Itami.
- April 15: There will be a gathering of all the Oblates of the southern Missions at Itami. Concelebration will be at 11:30 - followed by an informal meeting with Father General before dinner. After dinner there will be a talk by Father General. We plan on leaving Shin-Osaka station at 5:00 for Tokyo by the Express. (Those attending the gathering in Itami are asked to please bring an alb and cincture for the concelebration.)
- April 16: Father General leaves Japan with Father O'Reilly, O.M.I. on a 13:45 flight to Vientiane.
- (I know that all of the Vice Province are looking forward to this visit of Father General very much and hope that all will have some time with him during his stay here in Japan.)

Annual Retreats: The annual retreats for 1968 will be held in the Fall. A notice of this will reach you in early summer.

Visitation of the Mission: In a recent communique from Rome mention was made of the Visitation of Japan by Father King, O.M.I. - to be held during the second semester - possibly July. When this is confirmed I will send you a detailed schedule of the visitation plans. In preparation for this I ask that you discuss this at your District Meetings.

Vice Province News: April 1, 1968

Asian Conference: I will be leaving for the Asian Conference with Father Brady on Thursday April the 18th from Tokyo, via Hong Kong and Singapore. The meeting is in Kandy (Ceylon) from the 22nd of April to the 24th. Those of you who have not sent in your suggestions for this meeting are still welcome to do so. I plan on being back in Japan sometime the end of the month or the first of next month. In my absence Father Hofmans, O.M.I., will be taking my place.

Major Superiors' Meeting: Recently I sent out to each of you an inquiry on prayer and apostolic life of the missionary. This is at the request of the Executive Board. This is one of the topics that is to be discussed at the meeting to be held in Tokyo from the 15 - 18 of May. The sooner that you fill this in and send it to me the easier it will be for me to compile the information for this committee report.

Takamatsu Diocesan Shintokai: Congratulations to the Fathers of the Kochi District for all the work that they did to make the recent Catholics' Meet such a success for the Diocese. All of the members of the Vice Province can be justly proud of the way in which all the details were handled. I heard nothing but praise for our Fathers and their parishoners. Pictures and articles will be sent out by the PR Office.

Formation Meeting: Within a short time you will be receiving the report of the Formation Meeting that was held in Naruto on the 27th of March. There was a good exchange of opinions, ideas, and suggestions in regard the agenda that was sent out to all of the Vice Province.

Missionary Apostolate Committee Meeting - Kindergarten Teachers Gathering - Father's in this same field of the apostolate: The Meeting of this committee dealing with the religious program of our schools was well received by our teachers. Father Hofman's talk was most informative and instructive. Mrs. Sakaba's discussion in the afternoon provoked much interest in what can be done in the field of pre-school education in religion. Mr. Ikeda of the Private School Department gave a very lucid explanation of the School Registration as compared to the Religious Registration of our schools. Our thanks to Father Mahoney and his committee, the Fathers of Tokushima and the Xavier Mission Sisters who cooperated to make the meeting such a success.

Nakajinacho "Night School": As the OMI Information Service writes in late copy - Stop Press - permission was given from the Prefectural Authority in Kochi for the Night School. Our congratulations and prayers go to the Fathers who will be cooperating with Father Reilly, O.M.I., to be of service in the Kochi Area.

May the Risen Christ fill us with renewed faith, zeal and charity for a fuller development of each one of us on this Vice Province.

Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I.,
Provincial

No: INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES:

A. Purpose and Recommendations:

1. To cultivate close relations with the Provincials of nearby Provinces,
2. To promote, between Provinces, Vice Provinces and Delegations of a given area, close collaboration for the common consideration and settlement of problems of mutual concern; the Conferences thus supplying an organism whereby the Provincials can consider and solve problems of mutual interest, coordinate the missionary apostolate and the religious apostolic life of the communities, as well as the formation of the members of the institute.
3. To permit within these regions the adoption of common policies; to offer possibilities of agreement on an orientation of value for each of the Provinces, Vice Provinces and Delegations, without however any undue pressure from the majority to impose its views on those who might not favor such a policy, as in this their power differs sharply from that of a General Chapter. This calls for mutual comprehension and consideration of the differences from Province to Province; any attempt from one group to dominate the Conference would spell doom for its work since it would curtail collaboration and fraternal understanding.

B. Recommendations:

1. To promote pastoral coordination, including if opportune, the creation of sub-regions with a pastoral coordinator, elected by the group itself.
2. To promote greater mutual assistance between various sectors, even through written agreements;
3. To study the possibility of a certain rotation of personnel between Provinces and Vice Provinces, more particularly missions closely linked with those Provinces, without prejudice however of a profound apostolic commitment.

Competence:

1. Election of Delegates to the Extraordinary General Council.
2. Establishment, wherever possible, of Regional Conferences of Specialists.
3. Nomination of members for the General Conferences of Specialists from among the most competent persons in the area. This done by collegial action, at least in this sense that the Inter Provincial Conference or its majority accepts the persons proposed by the Provincial Commissions of Specialists or if these do not exist by the individual Provincials.
4. They may present to the Superior General their point of view concerning matters which fall within his personal competence, and even propose possible solutions which may prove useful in his administration.
5. If is asked of them to give their viewpoint on major problems of the Congregation, when the Extraordinary General Council convenes, the latter giving due weight to such communications,

Inter Provincial Conferences and Delegates to the Extraordinary Gen. Council:

1. The choice of delegates to the Extraordinary General Council will seek to provide representation for the various elements found in the region.
2. Likewise, in order that all persons and works be represented better, the delegates will be chosen, as far as possible, by rotation.
3. The delegates should have an extensive knowledge of the problems of the region which they represent, v.g. by a study of the reports of the Extraordinary Provincial Councils and Provincial Committees. They will strive at representing faithfully the views of the Provinces which have delegated them and will report to each of them on the discussions which have taken place.

Following a suggestion from the Extraordinary General Council, the Ordinary General Council has decided to grant permission to the Conferences of Asia, Africa and South America to send two delegates to the Extraordinary General Council.

The following are some of the proposed suggestions for the Agenda for the Inter Provincial Conference to be held in Ceylon in April of this year -1968:

1. Appraisal of the "Guide for Revision". The ways and means being used by Member Provinces.
2. Reports on Studies to be in Rome by Aug. 21, 1968. What data available?
3. Missions General Conference - set for Sept. 1969.
Themes for this -
 - a. Incarnation of the Missionary and of the Church.
 - b. Awakening - Formation - Responsibilities of the Laity.Comments on the above themes
4. Permanent Secretariate for the Missions in report of Jan 1968 mentioned the preoccupations of the Provincials:
 - a. Finances
 - b. Role of the Provincial.Discussion of the above.
5. General Conference for Information:
Designation of the members who will attend. Meeting: Sept. 23, 1968 in Rome.
2 representatives from the Conference.
 - a. Suggestions for the Gen. Conf. for Information.
 - b. Analysis of outline agenda for this meeting for the delegates.
6. Review of Asian Oblate Vocation Director's Meeting -
Election of rep. for the Extraordinary Council in Oct. Rome.
7. Review of Hong Kong Meeting.
8. Other suggestions and opinions:

Notes taken from a Report sent from Father Haramburu, O.M.I, Secretary for Missions - specifically regarding

1. a better understanding of the present situation in regard to our ministries and our works;
2. the preparation of a dossier with discussion points in view of a thorough review of the missionary objectives of the Congregation.

The Spirit of the Congregation:

The Oblates "devote themselves principally to the preaching of the Gospel to the poor"(Const. art. 1). The "principal aim (of the Congregation) is to help those souls who are most in need"(art.3). They will "cherish with a special affection those who are poor, those who are harassed by hunger or by the fear of insecurity"(art. 4).

Sectors of Oblate Work:

Article 3 of the Constitutions clearly determines these sectors, and relates this choice of fields to the spirit which should inspire all Oblates: "That is why the Congregation brings the message of the gospel to those who have not yet received it: and where the Church is already established, to those regions and groups farther removed from its influence" art. 3. There is then, no room for doubt. The Oblates belong in both of those main sectors into which the Church is divided: Christian countries and mission countries. Must we search further still? Is it possible for the Congregation, which declares that it "is prepared...to respond to all the needs of the world and of the Church to give a more precise orientation to its missionary efforts, and to insist that A PRIORITY must be established between these two sectors? The last sessions of the General Council esteemed that it would be most useful to institute some soul-searching in this direction, with a view to elaborating a missionary "policy".

Within the framework of such a general policy, which the "revision" now in progress throughout the Congregation should help to define, it remains and will always remain the prerogative of the Provincials to determine, within their respective Provinces, the specific enterprises which can best incarnate the Oblate spirit described in articles 1, 3 and 4 of the Constitutions.

Help of the Missions Secretariat:

(Father Haramburu goes on to try to establish which territories of the Congregation should be considered missionary - he quotes from the Decree of Vatican II on the Missions (Ad Gentes).)

"Missions" is the term usually given to those particular undertakings by which the heralds of the gospel are sent out by the Church and go forth into the whole world to carry out the task of preaching the gospel and planting the Church among peoples or groups who do not yet believe in Christ. These undertakings are brought to completion by missionary activity and are commonly

exercised in certain territories recognized by the Holy See (no.6). These (young) Churches...are generally suffering from a very serious lack of priests and of material support...This mission action should furnish help also to those Churches, founded long since, which are in a certain state of regression or weakness (no.19). Basing myself on these texts, and giving them a fairly broad interpretation, I feel that the following territories should be considered to be missionary: Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Indians and Eskimos in Canada, as well as Australia and Scandinavia.

Some considerations:

We would simply like to recall that;

1. "Of its nature the Church...is missionary"(Ad Gentes 2). "The obligation of spreading the faith is imposed on every disciple of Christ according to his ability" (Lumen Gentium 17).
2. "The entire Congregation is missionary" (Const. 3). By his oblation, every Oblate commits himself to a missionary orientation which is more specific than that of the simple christian - an orientation which is that of the Congregation itself.
3. On the personal, interior level, every Oblate is missionary to the extent that he ratifies by his life and at every moment of his life, this insertion in a missionary Church and in a missionary Congregation; to the extent that he "strives with all his might to proclaim the gospel to all men"(Ad Gentes 1). Here we are in the mysterious domain of conscience; let Saint Therese of the Child Jesus be our inspiration.

Missionary Dimensions of the Congregation:

We would like to know:

1. How the Congregation as such is missionary
To what extent the Congregation is missionary.

This is a problem which concerns all of us, not individually, as individual Oblates, but collectively, at the level of the corporate body composed of all of us together. Since the Congregation calls itself "missionary", how is it to justify the use of this appellation? In its application, the Mission of the Congregation will not have the same extent as the Mission of the Church. "In the service of the Church" (Const.art. 2), the Congregation seeks to help it to realize its missionary vocation in certain sectors. What are those sectors which the Institute seeks to cover, what are the missionary objectives of the Congregation, which the Spirit of God, who breathed life into it at its inception, now inspires it to decide upon for itself in the years to come. The conclusions reached by the policy sessions of the General Administration in December give us three points of reference: the Oblate charism, the criteria furnished by the Constitutions, and the demands which the Church makes on it today.

The Demands of the Church Today:

Demands of the Church Today:

The missionary aspect of the Church is certainly one which was most stressed by the Council, and the missionary activity of the Church was the object of a special decree. The vocation of our Congregation is precisely in the line of this kind of missionary activity. Unfortunately, as was indicated at the beginning, theologians are not in agreement when it comes to defining in a practical way the field of this missionary activity of the Church. The spread of opinions is very broad; but one might group them, nevertheless, in three tendencies:

1. Those who insist that this missionary activity also comprises in Christian lands, those groups who are "far from the Church" (P. Henry, Msgr Riobe)
2. those at the other extreme who would restrict missionary activity to the people who are far from the Church (P. Doumaes)
3. Those who hold a middle position, such as I have adopted for my statistics, and is found in the descriptive definition proposed by Fr. Rahner: the mission is the "foundation and the development of a Church, until it reaches a state of autonomy, in a people which has never been seriously affected by Christianity either in the past or at the present time" (Spiritus 30, p.25)

The Criteria furnished by the Constitutions:

For the point under consideration, there are only two criteria to be kept in mind; and these two criteria mutually complete each other: "missionaries of the poor" (Const. art. 1, 3, 4). I would even go so far as to say that they include each other, since the regions which are recognized as missionary territories are in almost every case regions which are "on the road to development". In short, these areas are beset by poverty in its twofold aspect: Material poverty: Such regions represent 85% of the world's population, and yet they possess only 15% of the world's wealth...considered in terms of consumer products and productive resources. The situation is hardly improving with the passage of time. On the one hand, the financial aid given to poor countries has decreased from 0.82% of the gross national income of the donor countries in 1961, to 0.161% in 1966. On the other hand, commercial relations with these countries are always arranged to the benefit of the richer nations. As a result the gap between the rich countries and the poor countries is growing wider and wider.

Spiritual poverty: These same countries are also the worst off as regards priestly service. If we take the average number of Catholics per priest as a norm we have the following figures:

		Catholic per priest		
Europe	896	"	"	"
Africa	1,698	"	"	"
Asia	1,724	"	"	"
So. America	12,980	"	"	"

If we consider the total number of inhabitants, there is one priest for 18,867 in Africa; and one priest for 78,000 in Asia.

These figures speak for themselves; they do not require comment. In the light of such statistics, the affirmation of Fr. Rahner stands as a strong condemnation: "If one insists on identifying (the missionary activity of the Church) purely and simply with this 'mission in a generalized sense' which the Church must ceaselessly begin over and over again everywhere, in the midst of all peoples and in every generation, then one runs the risk of thinking that the 'mission' in behalf of a Christian people, or one once Christian, suffices to fulfil the missionary obligation in the strict sense of the word, and one feels dispensed from it in consequence" (Spiritus 30, p.27);

The Oblate Charism:

The Congregation is concerned about 'its charism', which happily has been no hindrance to work, and to work in the right direction, and which still now is no hindrance to work.

And illuminating example in this question of charism is that of the Founder, who did not pose any questions for himself on this. In 1841, when the Founder was pressed to send men to the missions in Canada, he did not hesitate to send four priests and two Brothers, in spite of the fact that the personnel was very limited, and he had to maintain eight houses in France. With the enthusiastic approval of all his Oblates, he was happy to realize at length his first dream: the foreign missions. It is interesting to note that after the acceptance of the missions, the Congregation, which until then had not enjoyed remarkable development, suddenly began to grow at a rate which has not been equalled since. In seven years, from 1843 to 1850, the personnel more than tripled, going from 68 to 223. - This initial elan of the Congregation developed irresistibly in the time of the Founder, since at the time of his death on May 21, 1861, of the 268 priests in the Congregation, at least 140, some 52% were working in regions which could be considered as missionary, in accordance with the criteria accepted above for the statistics.

Conclusion: All of these considerations should help us to see the problem more clearly and in consequence to answer the fundamental question which sums up the entire aggiornamento of the Congregation as such: If the Founder were filled with the Spirit which inspired him were to return to our midst WHICH MISSIONARY OBJECTIVES WOULD HE GIVE PRIORITY? Foreign missions? Parochial missions? Parishes? Closed retreats? Youth work? Chaplaincies?... It is not a question of words, not even of ideas, but of decisions to be taken, of assuring certain priorities, of actions to be realized, of a policy to be followed in realization of all its consequences. This policy involves especially the Oblate's image, the vocation which we can present to those who wish to join our ranks. Only those in authority can take this decision. Fr. Haramburu, OMI, Sec. for Missions.

Statistics: (Fathers and Brothers)

In Prov.	In Missions	Gen. Adm.	Total	% on Missions
4,370	1,781		6,673	29%

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L.J.C. ET M.I.

3-68

May-June 1968



FATHER GENERAL

visited Japan with Fr. Michael O'Reilly, O.M.I. from April 12 through the 16th. Father General spent Easter at the Oblate Seminary in Tokyo. On Easter Monday, accompanied by Very Rev. Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I. provincial and Very Rev. Josef Hofmans, O.M.I. Superior of the Tokyo Seminary, Fr. General entrained for Itami where all the Oblates of Southern and western Japan gathered to welcome him and join in concelebration. In his talk to the Fathers, Father General spoke movingly of the great new developments and changes taking place throughout the Church. The following morning he left Tokyo by plane for Vientiane. We were all pleased to have even this short visit with him and we were honored that he was able to include Japan in his tight schedule.

CANONICAL VISITATION

by the Very Rev. John king, O.M.I., newly appointed Assistant General will be made during the month of July. A General Meeting of all the Missionaries together with Fr. king is planned at the close of the Visitation.

ASSISTANT GENERAL

Very Rev. Stanislas LaRochelle, O.M.I. visited our Mission in March. Fr. LaRochelle's schedule permitted him to see even the remote missions.

ASIAN OBLATE PROVINCIALS' MEETING

was held at Kandy (Ceylon) from April 22nd to the 24th. Attending from Japan were Very Rev. Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I., Provincial and Rev. Patrick T. Brady, O.M.I. former Vicar Provincial and now Secretary for the Conference.

Appointments of this meeting:

1. Rev. John O'Reagan, O.M.I. of the Australian Province was appointed Formation Chairman for three years;
2. Delegates to the Formation Conference in Rome in May were the Revs. Nicholapillai Arulnesan, O.M.I. from Ceylon and John O'Reagan, O.M.I. from Australia.
3. Rev. Ben Carreon, O.M.I. of the Philippine province was designated to attend the meeting of Information experts in Rome in mid-Sept.

PROVINCIAL MEETS WITH MAJOR SUPERIORS

of all the male religious institutes in Japan at Tokyo, May 15th to 18th. The final day of the meeting was held together with the Japanese Hierarchy gathered in Tokyo for their annual meeting.

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L.J.C. ET M.I.

3-68

May-June 1968 Pg.2

ORDINATION

to the priesthood of the Rev. Jerome Novotny, O.M.I. took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 4, 1968. Fr. Novotny completed his theological training at the Oblate Seminary in Tokyo. He is expected to return to Japan in the Fall.

ASSIGNMENT

of the Rev. Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I. to the Mission at Anan in Tokushima prefecture has been annouced by Fr. provincial. Fr. LaFramboise, OMI has just completed his pastoral year in Tokyo. His first assignment is to our newest Mission at Anan where Fr. John K. Mahoney, O.M.I. is the Director.

KOCHI OBLATES OPEN NIGHT SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

at Nakajima-cho Mission. Fr. Edward Williams, O.M.I. Director of the Mission is the principal. The school is under the Direction of Rev. Thomas Reilly, O.M.I. Classes are held every evening, Monday through Friday from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Courses are available in English, French, Spanish, Philosophy, Business, English Typing, Music, Cooking, etc. Oblate Fathers, Sisters of St. Francis Xavier and qualified lay teachers staff the new school which has been approved by the Kochi Prefectural Board of Education. The number of applicants has greatly surpassed initial expectations.

KOCHI WELFARE DEPT.

sponsored a study tour abroad for two Japanese welfare workers. Fr. Leo Simons, O.M.I., now on leave from our Koga Mission accompanied and interpreted for these Social Workers in the United States and in Europe.

VOCATION MEETING

sponsored by the Diocese of Takamatsu (all Shikoku) will be held in Kagawa prefecture on Sunday, June 30. Fr. Raymond Bourgoine, O.M.I. will speak to the young men about the Oblate Religious Life. Fr. Bourgoine, O.M.I. is part of a three man team representing the Diocese, the Dominican Fathers and the Oblates.

NEWLY PUBLISHED

Japanese Sunday School texts by Rev. Thomas Reilly, O.M.I. fill a real need for Sunday Schools throughout Japan. Two volumes of a planned six are now on sale. The series will cover grammar school level, grades 1-6.

BISHOP OF SHIKOKU

Most Rev. Fraucis Tanaka, will attend the International Eucharistic Congress in Bogota as a delegate of the Japanese Hierarchy.

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L.J.C. ET M.I.

3-68

May-June 1968 Pg. 3

The Oblates in Kochi and Tokushima Prefectures are in care of more than half of the land area of the Diocese of Takamatsu (all Shikoku).

KOCHI OBLATES HOST

the Diocesan-wide Lay Congress, held March 28th and 29th at Nakajima-cho Mission in Kochi City. Christians from all over Shikoku arrived by bus, train and car to attend the two day Congress. It closed with 28 priests joining in concelebration with Bishop Francis Tanaka.

THE DEMAZENOD RETREAT

for the Oblate Asian Conference will be held in Manila in August. Attending from Japan will be: Rev. Richard Harr, O.M.I., Rev. Thomas Maher, O.M.I. and Rev. Angelo Siani, O.M.I.

The Far East Asian Pastoral Institute

in Manila will begin a new eight months course in September. Fr. Thomas Maher, O.M.I. will attend from Japan. Both Fr. Henry Mattimore, O.M.I. and Fr. Edward Williams, O.M.I. who have attended the course have praised it highly.

NEW CHURCH

at the Oblate Mission of Hikarigaoka (formerly Nakamachi) in Fukuoka City will be dedicated and blessed by Bishop Dominic Fukahori on Sunday the 23rd of June. The Hikarigaoka Mission was established in 1953. The new church, sorely needed to provide for an expanding parish, will incorporate all the latest rubrical recommendations of Vatican II. Fr. Richard Harr, O.M.I. is Director at Hikarigaoka, assisted by Fr. William Maher, O.M.I.

ON LEAVE

Fr. Leo Simons, O.M.I., whose home is in Belgium; and
Fr. John K. Mahoney, O.M.I. from Brooklyn, New York

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

from Fraser, Michigan, who work closely with our Oblates in Kochi and Tokushima prefectures, will hold their first General Chapter in Tokushima in late July. Mother General, Sister Mary Paul, a veteran of the Japanese Missions will bring the community from Fraser by plane for the Chapter.

VISITORS

Most. Rev. Father General

Very Rev. Stanislas LaRochelle, O.M.I., Assistant General

Very Rev Michael O'Reilly, O.M.I. Procurator General

Rev. Emile Laquerre, O.M.I., Philippine province

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Maher, Chicago, Ill. parents of Fr. Thomas & William Maher.

● *Missionary* ●

OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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L.J.C. et M.I.

Aug. 1, 1968

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Thank you very much for the spirit in which you participated in the First General Meeting of our Vice Province. Personally, I think that it was a success. The results of the meeting will not be able to be seen in reality in the immediate future. But I feel that with a continuation of the manner in which everyone conducted himself a much better apostolic-religious-Oblate-missionary spirit in all of the Districts and the "Apostolic Center" of Tokyo will be realized. The report of the meeting will be reaching you shortly. It is the "Unofficial" text of the meeting. After I meet with Father King we will go over it once more and then send out the "Official" text of the General Meeting.

Father King: Father asked me at his departure to once more extend his personal regards to all on the Vice Province. He is quite impressed with the spirit of "dedication" that is present in the Vice Province. Into this dedication he once more asks that we put the spirit of "renewal" that Father General asks into all of the phases of our apostolic-religious life. It is up to each one of us to take the words of Father King to heart and to work with zeal at this with Oblate charity. I personally would like to once more thank him for his interest in us, in our works. To my way of thinking it is not the actual visitation that is the success or that is beneficial, it is the manner that we put into practice what is recommended at the time of the visitation.

Father Druart: Each of us on the mission was blessed in having Father with us at the time of the General Meeting. It could not have worked out better had we planned it. His presence - his interest - his words of Oblate spirituality added much to the success of the Meeting. May we have the opportunity of having Father with us at some time in the not too distant future for a much longer time.

Father General: In a letter from Very Rev. Father La Rechelle, O.M.I., Vicar General we have the following good news concerning Father General: "I am pleased to report that he is doing very well and has responded promptly to treatment...he may be in a position to leave the Clinic by the end of this month." All of us join with the Congregation in praying for a quick - complete - recovery and ask Father General that he take a good rest upon leaving the Clinic.

Extraordinary General Council: Father General in a recent letter to Provincials made the following announcement: "...I wish to announce officially that the General Council has decided to postpone the holding of these meetings for some months. They will be held, therefore, at Rome, beginning on February 3,1969."

Obediences: The Provincial in consultation with the Council discussed and approved the following:

Naruto: Provincial Administration:

Father Robert Gill, O.M.I., Procurator in the United States for the
Vice Province of Japan.
(effective Aug.16,1968)

Tokyo: Father Daniel Ward, O.M.I., 1st Asst. (effective as of 1 Aug. 1968)
Father Raymond Bourgoin, O.M.I., 2nd Asst. Bursar (effective 16, Aug. 1968)

Itami: Father Edward Williams, O.M.I., Pastor, Dir. (effective Aug.16,1968)

Tokushima: Father Leonard Robitaille, O.M.I., Provincial Bursar
(effective after six months at Anan as Pastor pro temp.)

Ikeda: Father William Maher, O.M.I., Associate Pastor (effective after
return of Fr. Harr in September)

Shinhonmachi: Father Thomas Reilly, O.M.I., Pastor, Dir. (effective Aug.4,1968)
Father David Barton, O.M.I., Director of Youth, Kochi District,
Kochi City, Associate Pastor. (effective Aug.4,1968)

Nakajimache: Father John Barrett, O.M.I., Pastor, Dir. (Dist. Sup. Vicar Ferane)
(effective Aug.3,1968)

Aki: Father Thomas Maher, O.M.I., Pastor, Dir. (effective on return from
Philippines.)

Mission Procurator: At the Meeting in Naruto we made the announcement of the appointment of Father Gill, O.M.I. as the Procurator for the Vice Province of Japan. It is our hope that we will be able to present our proposition to the American Provincials at their Meeting in September. We ask your prayers for this intention. In the meantime if you have any names - sources of contacts - that you feel Father could follow for the benefit of the Vice Province and not interfere with your particular mission I ask you to please make a note of them and send them to Father Gill as soon as possible. This is as you will realize a very important decision on our part for the future of the mission. It is our hope that the Procurator will be of tremendous benefit to all of the Provinces - not only financially - but in the field of vocation and the image of the Oblates as Missionary - our sincerest congratulations to Father Gill - who is still a member of this Vice Province.

Father Brady, O.M.I.: I am sure kthat you are all sorry to hear that Father Brady is returning to the States, for reasons of health. We hope that he will be able to recover quickly - with the possibility of returning at some time in the future. In behalf of the Vice Province that he has helped come to maturity our sincerest thanks for his many kindnesses and the spirit of encouragement all of us received from him for so many years.

Vocation Directors: Continuing the policy of many years on the mission we appoint the following Fathers as contact men for vocations under the Vice Province Vocational Director: Fr. La Framboise, O.M.I.
Tokyo Archdiocese: Fr. Bourgois, O.M.I.
Osaka Diocese: Fr. Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.
Fukuoka Diocese: Fr. Inui, O.M.I.
Takamatsu Diocese, Tokushima: Fr. Bonang, O.M.I.
" " Kochi: Fr. La Framboise, O.M.I.

I ask that all on the Mission be conscious of the great need for vocations to the Priesthood. Our prayers, sacrifices should be directed toward this end...for an excellent native clergy.

Committees: By the time of the next Vice Province Council Meeting in November the Committees will have some "homework" to do and reports to be sent in to the Provincial and the Council.

Formation:

Recommendations to be made to District Superiors for continuation of the Guide for Revision.
Recommendations to Provincial and Council for the Novitiate year for our Japanese seminarians.
Study to begin on Formation of Lay Apostles.
Recommendations to be made to Provincial and Council regarding Apostolic training program for Spring of 1969 for Scholastics.
Recommendations to Districts regarding District Meeting studies.

Missionary Apostolic Committee:

Recommendations to Districts on suggestions on re-studying our present apostolic ministries.
Recommendations to Districts on Institutions: twofold: one; present institutions in existence - what is being done to serve them, etc. : two; future institutions - what are needed, etc.
Study of proposed agenda for Meeting on Mission Pastoral in Rome, 1969.
Themes: Incarnation and Role of Laity.

PR:

When articles are asked to be written by the PR Director I ask you to take this as my personal request. The presumption is that you are capable and qualified when asked...we need these articles not only for the Vice Province - but for the Church Missionary.
Mission Historian(s): I ask Father Van Hoydonck and Father Siani to work on this under the PR Office. We need to start NOW. Everything and anything is important. I'm sure that some of the stories I have heard over the years from you all would make interesting reading - anytime.
Preparation for visit of Nuncio in the Fall.

PR: (cont.)

Preparation for Printing Day Gathering in Tokushima for Bro. Tsuda's Book of Art Collections.

Development and Finances:

Suggestions to Provincial and Council for uniform financial policy for Vice Province.

Study of question of possibility of surplus at some future date.

Future financial needs, repairs, etc.

Question of centralization of funds.

Finances:

Father Robitaille will send you a general statement of the finances of the mission. As you will be able to see - we are not too financially sound.

Next Council Meeting: November, 1968

Meeting of Directors: November. An agenda will be sent out to you on this at a later date.

Annual Retreats: The schedule for the annual retreats will be sent out by Father Lowmy within a few weeks.

Pastoral Course: This Course will be held in Tokyo at the Jesuit's Retreat House. Dates: from November the 4th until November the 22nd. As this Course is open to any Japanese Diocesan and religious priest... all the Fathers on the Mission from one year ordained to five inclusive will make plans to attend this course and make a report on it directly to the Provincial. It will not replace the annual retreat.

APOSTOLIC CENTER: Is what we will refer to Tokyo from now on....and it is just this. At present, after consulting with Father Hofmans, he is busy making preparations to put into effect the Kochi Night School in the "Apostolic Center". It is our hope - that working as an apostolic team - the Fathers in Tokyo with the Scholastics will be able to so develop this that it will be - according to the time available - an opportunity to serve and learn about Japan and the Japanese. The possibilities are unlimited. We wish you God's blessing.

Acting Provincial: During the next few months - during my absence from the mission - Father Edward Lewney, O.M.I. will be the Acting Provincial. I ask for the prayers of the Vice Province for a beneficial trip to the United States and Europe. Thank you - one and all - for making my first year an interesting - challenging - and happy one...as your Provincial. Asking your continued cooperation,

Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I., Provincial
Vice Province, Japan.

OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Provincial Administration Sekimachi, 6-chome, Nerima-ku, Tokyo Vice Province- Japan Tel, 996-8265 Cable OBLATE

L. J. C. et M. I.

4-68

Sept.-Oct. 1968

OFFICIAL



APPOINTMENTS:

Tokyo: Fr. Daniel Ward, O. M. I., 1st Assistant

Fr. Raymond Bourgoin, O. M. I., 2nd Assistant and Bursar

Ikeda: Fr. William Maher, O. M. I.

Itami: Fr. Edward Williams, O. M. I., Director and Pastor

Nakajima-cho, Kochi: Fr. John W. Barrett, O. M. I., Director, Pastor, District Superior and Vicar Forane.

Fr. Ronald LaFramboise, O. M. I.

Shinhonmachi, Kochi: Fr. Thomas Reilly, O. M. I., Director, and Pastor

Fr. David Barton, O. M. I., Director of Youth Apostolate in Kochi District

Tokushima: Fr. Leonard F. Robitaille, O. M. I., Provincial Bursar

Aki: Fr. Thomas Maher, O. M. I., Director and Pastor

Anan: Brother Joseph Tsuda, O. M. I.

Vocation Directors:

Vice Province Vocational Director: Fr. Ronald LaFramboise, OMI.

Tokyo Archdiocese: Fr. Raymond Bourgoin, OMI

Osaka Diocese: Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI

Fukuoka Diocese: Fr. Leonard Inui, OMI

Tokushima District: Fr. Richard Bonang, OMI

Kochi District: Fr. Ronald LaFramboise, OMI

CANONICAL VISITATION

of the Vice Province of Japan was made by the Very Rev. John King, OMI, Assistant General, during the month of July. Fr. King presided at the District Meetings held in preparation for the General Meeting which marked the close of the visitation.

GENERAL MEETING

of all the members of the Vice Province was held at the Otani Hotel in Naruto from the morning of July 23rd to the evening of the 24th. This meeting was devoted to an analysis of the various apostolic works undertaken by the Oblates in Japan from the beginning and a formulation

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L. J. C. et M. I.

4-68

Sept.-Oct. 1968 Pg.2.

of policy guidelines for future missionary activity. One of the notable shifts in emphasis was toward a greater response to the works of the "city apostolate" in those large urban areas entrusted to us.

APOSTOLIC INTER-NUNCIO

to Japan, the Most Rev. Archbishop Bruno wurstenburg, Will pay a State Visit to Kochi in early October. His Excellency is scheduled to bless the newly-completed orphanage-baby home complex of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart adjoining our Shinhonmachi Mission. The State Visit will be highlighted by a public reception attended by Governor Mizobuchi and the Mayor of Kochi City. Bishop Francis Tanaka will accompany the Inter-Nuncio on his visit to Kochi.

FATHER PROVINCIAL

Very Rev. Bertram N. Silver, O. M. I. will represent the Vice Province at the Centennial Celebrations of the Oblates in Lowell, Massachusetts. The commemorative rites will be observed in September. During Fr. Provincial's absence, Fr. Edward Lowney, OMI is the Acting Provincial.

ANNUAL RETREATS

will be held for Group I at the Passionist Retreat House in Fukuoka from Sept. 25th to Oct. 1st; and for Group II at the Franciscan Frs. Retreat House in Kiryu (north of Tokyo) from Oct. 24th to 30th. Fr. Robert Frawley, O. F. M. will preach both retreats.

BETTER WORLD MOVEMENT RETREAT

in Tokyo, August 16th to 23rd was attended by Fr. Raymond Bourgoin, OMI.

FR. JAMES MACGEE, O. M. I.

and thirty-five other educators on Fulbright (and other) scholarships began a course of studies in Japanese Culture and History on July 12th at the Jesuit Sophia University in Tokyo. Fr. MacGee was able to visit most of the Oblate missions in Japan.

OBLATE SEMINAR

in Cotobato, Philippines, during the month of August was attended by Japanese Oblates Fr. Richard Harr, O. M. I., Fr. Thomas Maher, O. M. I. and Fr. Angelo Siani, O. M. I.

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L. J. C. et M. I.

4-68

Sept.-Oct. 1968 Pg. 3.

SCHOLASTICS' SUMMER APOSTOLIC ACTIVITIES

took various forms.

Fr. Wilfred Derudder, O. M. I. took courses in Japanese Culture at Sophia University in Tokyo.

Bro. John Quinn, O. M. I. assisted Fr. Gereon Goldmann, O. F. M. at Karuizawa (resort area north of Tokyo).

Fr. Goldmann has a program of religious instruction bringing a new group from his Tokyo parish every two weeks.

Bro. John Deely, O. M. I. assisted at the Kawasaki Social Center in Tokyo for two weeks. Then down in Kochi, he worked at a paper mill for two weeks for language study. In mid-August he assisted the staff at Hakuaiei Orphanage near Kochi.

Bro. Francis Hahn, OMI and Bro. Dave Ullrich, O. M. I. assisted in youth camps in both Kochi and Tokushima Districts.

PASTORAL COURSE IN TOKYO

at the Jesuit Retreat House, Nov. 4th to 22nd, will be attended by all Fathers on the Mission ordained from one year to five inclusive.

GENERAL CHAPTER

of the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier (Motherhouse: Fraser, Michigan) was held at the Sisters' Hostel for Girls in Kochi from mid-July to mid-August. Sr. Mary Paul, Superior of the Congregation and Foundress of the Japan Mission, brought the state-side community by plane from the USA. The Sisters work closely with the Oblates in Kochi and Tokushima.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CONGRESS

for all Shikoku was held at the Kochi Prefectural Youth Center on Aug. 25th under the Direction of Fr. David Barton, O. M. I. Delegates from all four prefectures attended in large numbers for the meet.

DIOCESAN CONGRESS FOR SISTERS

was also held on August 25th at Nakajima-cho Mission in Kochi. Seventy sisters from all parts of Shikoku heard Fr. John W. Barrett, O. M. I. give the principal address.

ON LEAVE

are Fr. Leo Simons, O. M. I. (of Koga Mission) in Belgium.

Fr. John K. Mahoney, O. M. I. (of Anan Mission) in the U. S. A.

Fr. Patrick Brady, O. M. I. (Tokyo) on sick leave to the U. S. A.

VISITOR - Rev. Jean Drouart, O. M. I. from Rome

VICE PROVINCE OF JAPAN-ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL-SEPT. 1968

TOKYO: Oblate Seminary, 287 6-Chome, Seki-machi, Nerima-ku, Tokyo

Very Rev. Joseph Hofmans, O.M.I., Superior
Rev. Daniel Ward, O.M.I. (on study leave to Washington, D.C.)
Rev. Raymond Bourgoïn, O.M.I.
Rev. Wilfried Derudder, O.M.I.
Rev. Michael Yamasaki, O.M.I.
Rev. Jerome Novotny, O.M.I.
Bro. John Quinn, O.M.I.
Bro. John Deely, O.M.I.
Bro. Francis Hahn, O.M.I.
Bro. David Ullrich, O.M.I.



AKAOKA: Catholic Mission, Honcho, Akaoka-machi, Kami-gun, Kochi, Japan.
Rev. Xavier Delporte, O.M.I.

AKI: Catholic Mission, 4-30 4-chome, Honmachi, Aki-shi, Kochi, Japan
Rev. Thomas Maher, O.M.I.

ANAN: Catholic Mission, Yasuishi, Tomioka-cho, Anau-shi, Tokushima, Japan
Rev. John K. Mahoney, O.M.I.
Bro. Joseph Tsuda, O.M.I.

FUKUOKA: Catholic Mission, 30 1-chome, Hikarigaoka-machi, Fukuoka, Japan
Rev. Richard R. Harr, O.M.I.

IKEDA: Catholic Mission, Minami-shinmachi, Ikeda-machi, Miyoshi Gun,
Tokushma, Japan
Rev. Gerard Stevens, O.M.I.
Rev. William Maher, O.M.I.

ITAMI: Catholic Mission, 326-25 Umenoki-cho, Itami-shi Hyogo Ken, Japan
Rev. Edward Williams, O.M.I.
Rev. Jan Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.

KOCHI-NAKAJIMA-CHO: Catholic Mission, 14 Nakajima-cho, Kochi, Japan
Rev. John W. Barrett, O.M.I.
Rev. Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I.

KOCHI-SHINHONMACHI: Catholic Mission, 7-31 1-Chome, Shinhonmachi, Kochi
Rev. Thomas Reilly, O.M.I.
Rev. David Barton, O.M.I.

VICE PROVINCE OF JAPAN-ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL-SEPT. 1968 Pg. 2.

KOGA: Catholic Mission, 1920-4, Hanami, Koga-machi, Kasuya-gun, Fukuoka, Japan

Rev. Leo Simons, O.M.I.

Rev. Leonard Inui, O.M.I.

NARUTO: Catholic Mission, Minami-hama, Muya-machi, Naruto, Japan

Very Rev. Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I., PROVINCIAL

Rev. Joseph Smith, O.M.I.

TOKUSHIMA: Catholic Mission, 1-2 Chome, Tokushima, Honcho, Tokushima, Japan

Rev. Edward Lowney, O.M.I.

Rev. Richard Bonang, O.M.I.

Rev. Leonard Robitaille, O.M.I. Provincial Bursar

ON LEAVE:

Rev. Robert J. Gill, O.M.I. c/o 350 Jamaica Way, Boston, Mass. USA.

Rev. Henry Mattimore, O.M.I. c/o 350 Jamaica Way, Boston, Mass. USA.

Rev. Patrick Healy, O.M.I., Cath. Chaplain, Fort Dix, N.J., USA

Rev. John Iwo, O.M.I., Suzano, Sao Paulo, C.P. 150, Brazil

Missionary

OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Provincial Administration Sekimachi, 6-chome, Nerima-ku, Tokyo Vice Province-Japan Tel, 03-920-8265 Cable OBLATE



PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER:

Nov. 20, 1968

After my short absence from the mission it is nice to be back in Japan. The trip to the United States was most refreshing. While back there I had the opportunity of meeting with the Provincials of the Provinces of the United States. This meeting was most beneficial. With me at that meeting was Father Gill, O.M.I. Together we explained our reasons for the Procurator for the Vice Province of Japan and the areas in which we desired to cooperate for the financial support of our works in Japan. With the cooperation of Fathers King and Reddy we were able to secure a working basis for the coming two years. The other Provincials were most cooperative and we hope that it will be of mutual benefit for our Provinces.

The Centenary Celebration of the Oblate Fathers in the New England area was very nicely done. Cardinal Cushing was most generous in the praise of the Fathers of the Provinces who gave so much of themselves in developing the faith of the Catholics in that area. That same evening Cardinal Cooray gave an excellent talk on the spirit of the Founder and of the Oblates.

During the months of September and October I was able to visit many of the Oblate houses in the New England area. There was also a very interesting seminar held in Washington, sponsored by the Mission Secretariate, that I attended with Father Mahoney. At this time we saw Father Ward who is busy with his studies at Georgetown.

My visit to Europe and Belgium was very nice. With the help of Fathers Hofmans and Simons I got to visit with the families of all of the Belgium Fathers. They are all in good health and needless to say proud of their sons who are working here in Japan. My thanks to these Fathers who acted as translators for me while I was with them.

Needless to say, my visit to Rome was most beneficial. Father General is in good form - back at work - and as enthusiastic as ever. He sends his greetings and blessing to all of us on the Vice Province. The other Fathers were most cordial in extending me - in your behalf - a most genuine Oblate welcome. Each night that I was there I spent with the scholastics at the Scholasticate - and was most impressed with their excellent community spirit.

Since returning I have been met with enthusiasm by all for the future and I want to thank Father Lowney for the concern that he showed all during my absence.

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER:

Nov.20,1968

NOVITIATE: The following three recommendations of the Formation Committee were considered and approved:

1. That the Superior and formators of scholastics in Tekyo be considered as the Novitiate team.
2. That one of this team be directly in charge of the two young candidates. He would carry out his work with the help of the team and the collaboration of other competent and interested men of the Formation Committee.
3. That our two Japanese candidates be brought to the Apostolic Center in Tokyo in March, 1969 after their philosophy is finished at the Sulpician Seminary.

Re. the above:

1. The application is being made to the General Administration in Rome to secure permission for transfer of the Novitiate to Tokyo.
2. Application is being made to the General Administration for the appointment of Father Raymond Burgoin, O.M.I., as Novice Master.
3. With the approval of Rome, Fathers Hofmans and Ward will be the team that will be in charge of the candidates - cooperating with Father Novice Master for the training of the two candidates.
4. After consultation with the Provincial - other Fathers will be asked to cooperate with the team of formation in Tokyo.

KOCHI NIGHT SCHOOL:

The following recommendations were made by the District Superior of Kochi after their recent meeting:

1. That a Board of Directors for Seibo Gakuin be approved:
The following were elected by vote to serve on the Board:
Principal: Fr. Xavier Delporte, O.M.I.
1st Prefect of Studies: Fr. Thomas Reilly, O.M.I.
2nd Prefect of Studies: Fr. Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I.
Social Director: Fr. David Barton, O.M.I.
Lay Member of Board: Professor Morita.
(Approved)

N.B. This Board of Directors is a working Board and the over-all Director remains Father Reilly, O.M.I.

N.B. Before registration of the above takes place legally consultation will be had with our legal consultant Fujino-san.

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER:

Nov.20,1969

MEETING OF MISSION PASTORS, DIRECTORS:

The Meeting for Pastors and Directors has been set for near the 17th of February of 1969. The place and final agenda will be sent out at a later date. Please notify me of any suggestions you may have for the agenda by Dec.31st.

SHONHONMACHI: (Kochi)

I am sure that all of you join with me in congratulating the Fathers of the parish there for refurbishing the entrance to this Church. Much time and preparation has gone into it and am sure it is well worth all the effort. The Fathers there are getting into the final stages of their building plans for the parish hall.

PR:

The letter that has been sent out from the PR Office to the States has been well received and we should be thinking of ways to cooperate more with information of the works of the Vice Province - picture stories and informative articles are being asked of us from many.

ORDINATIONS:

Congratulations from all on the Vice Province to Brother John Quinn, O.M.I. who will receive Subdeaconate and Deaconate the 21st of December in Tokyo.

SICK:

Please remember Mr. Quinn, father of Brother Quinn, who recently underwent Major surgery.

PROCURATOR:

Father Gill was getting settled in the Oblate House in Newburgh when I last saw him in the States. He is most enthusiastic about what he can do for us here in Japan - let's continue to cooperate with him in sending him some people whom he could contact for the Mission.

@ 20 YEARS IN JAPAN:

Our congratulations and thanks go to Fathers Gill and Robitaille for their dedicated twenty years in Japan. Also our thanks go to all of the Fathers who have served here for one and twenty - may God continue to bless our efforts in the way that He sees fit - may our next 20 be even more fruitful.

Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I.
Provincial.

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L. J. C. ET M. I.

5-68



Nov.-Dec. 1968

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

from each of the Oblates in Japan to our Oblate brethren throughout the world. Although Christmas in Japan is greatly overshadowed by the traditional three day celebration of the New Year, nevertheless our thoughts at Christmas, more than at any other time of the year turn towards our Brother Oblates overseas and we want to assure you of our prayers and hope that this Christmas may truly be a joyful one for each of you.

THE APOSTOLIC PRO-NUNCIO TO JAPAN

most Rev. Archbishop Bruno Wustenberg, accompanied by the Ordinary for Shikoku, Most. Rev. Francis Tanaka visited the Kochi District of the Japanese Mission on October 3, 1968. The Pro-Nuncio blessed the newly completed Baby Home and Orphanage complex of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart. After a courtesy call on the Mayor of Kochi in the presence of press and TV, the pro-Nuncio attended a reception by the Catholics of Kochi at the OMI Nakajima-cho Mission. In the evening the official motorcade brought His Excellency to the formal Reception Banquet attended by Governor Mizobuchi and Mayor Sakamoto. The Pro-Nuncio addressed the guests in Italian and Bishop Tanaka translated his remarks into Japanese.

THE VERY REVEREND THOMAS J. REDDY, O. M. I.

provincial of the province of Our Lady of Hope (Mother province of the Japanese Mission) visited this Mission from September 22nd to October 10th. Fr. Reddy, O. M. I., a native of Boston, was received at the Kochi State House by the Governor and later, together with Fr. John W. Barrett, O. M. I. the District Superior was tendered a Luncheon by the Governor and State Officials. The District Superior for Kochi and two other Fathers, Fr. David Barton OMI and Fr. Ronald La Framboise, O. M. I. are from Massachusetts and have offered their services to aid in the establishment of a Massachusetts-Kochi Sister-State relationship earnestly sought by Kochi.

HIS EMINENCE THOMAS CARDINAL COORAY, O. M. I.

returning to Ceylon from the Oblate Centennial Celebrations in Lowell, Mass. paid a visit to Japan, arriving in Tokyo on October 12th. He was met by the Acting Provincial, Fr. Edward Lowney, O. M. I. During his visit to Tokyo His Eminence had lunch with Cardinal Doi.

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L.J.C. et M.I.

5-68

Nov.-Dec. pg 2.

His Eminence also attended a reception by the Pro-Nuncio for the Asian Catholic Doctors held at the Apostolic Nunciature on Oct. 15th.

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED PROCURATOR

for the Japanese Missions is the Rev. Robert J. Gill, O.M.I. Fr. Gill founded the Japanese Missions and served as provincial Delegate from 1948 to 1960. His long experience and knowledge of this mission from its very beginning make him eminently qualified for his new position. As procurator he will serve in the United States and may be reached at this address: Oblate Missions, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 3636, New York, New York 10017

THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

of the arrival of the first Oblates in Japan will be marked on November 29th. Twenty years ago, on the morning of November 29, 1948 the first three Oblates, Very Rev. Robert J. Gill, O.M.I., Rev. Charles McBennett, O.M.I. and Rev. Leonard F. Robitaille, O.M.I. disembarked at Kobe. The second group of pioneers arrived on Jan. 14, 1949. Celebrations on the District levels will mark the occasion.

SEIBO GAKUIN-NIGHT SCHOOL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

at Nakajima-cho Mission in Kochi has an encouraging report for the first six months of existence. Under the direction of Rev. Thomas Reilly, O.M.I. the school is recognized by the Prefectural Board of Education and is empowered to grant recognized Certificates to the students acquiring the necessary credits. The report revealed that as of October 14th the 151 adult students were carrying a total of 260 hours of classes. A Board of Directors has been recommended to the provincial. It has also been recommended that as soon as possible a completely equipped Language Laboratory be established for the School.

THE RADIO APOSTOLATE

sponsored by the Oblates in Kochi Prefecture received unanimous approval for continuation at the recent District Meeting. The daily five minute program broadcast by RKC (Radio Kochi) has an estimated audience of 800,000 people.

L. J. C. et M. I.

5-68

Nov.-Dec. pg. 3

THE BLESSING OF RE-CONSTRUCTED SHINHONMACHI MISSION

in Kochi City will be done by Bishop Francis Tanaka on Sunday the 24th of November at which time Confirmation will be held for both Missions in Kochi City. The violent earthquake of April, 1968 undermined the already-old mission church to make it unsafe. The reconstructed church combines the traditional Japanese-style interior with a simple contemporary facade. Fr. Thomas Reilly is the present pastor of the Mission. While in the Kochi area His Excellency is expected to bless the new large outdoor statue of Christ at the Kochi Catholic Cemetery.

MARKING THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF WELFARE LAW IN KOCHI

the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate were cited by the government for their contributions to the care and education of the children of Kochi Prefecture. Receiving the award on behalf of the Oblates was Fr. Xavier Delporte, O. M. I. of Akaoka Mission, who together with Fr. Thomas Maher, O. M. I. has devoted much time and effort to aiding in the education of the orphaned children of Hakuaien Orphanage and in the education and re-habilitation of the children of Kiboga-oka...a state school of correction for delinquent children.

THE PAINTINGS OF BRO. JOSEPH TSUDA, OMI,

an accomplished artist, have been compiled in a very attractive book. A reception to mark the publishing of the book will be held in Tokushima in early January.

RECENTLY RETURNED TO JAPAN

are Fr. Jerome Novotny, O. M. I. after ordination last April in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Fr. Novotny is continuing his studies in Tokyo. Also recently returned is Very Reverend Bertram Silver, O. M. I. Provincial, who represented this province at the Centennial in Lowell.

ON LEAVE

Fr. John K. Mahoney, O. M. I. of Anan Mission on leave in the U. S.

Fr. Joseph Hofmans, O. M. I. Superior of our Tokyo Seminary who is now attending the Theology Faculty in Louvain.

VISITORS TO JAPAN MISSIONS

Sept. : Fr. Bienvenido Leandicho, O. M. I. from the Philippines

Oct. : Very Rev. Thomas J. Reddy, O. M. I. Provincial-O. L. of Hope (USA)

Thomas Cardinal Cooray, O. M. I. from Ceylon

Fr. Selman Threadgill, O. M. I. from the Central Province (USA)

The Parents and Sister of Fr. Angelo Siani, O. M. I. from Buffalo