

Missionary

OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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

L.J.C. ET M.I.

NARUTO:

APRIL 1, 1969



Dear Fathers and Brothers;

Enclosed please find:

1. Rescript No. 401/62/5, concerning addition regarding Home Leave for Missionaries for the Vice Province of Japan,
2. Letter to Provincial, re: Membership of the General Conference for Formation,
3. Material re: Consultation regarding ADAPTATION IN NOVITIATE AND TEMPORARY COMMITMENT.
4. Notes on the Instruction of the S.C. Religious, "Renovationis causam" of 6th January 1969, concerning adaptation of programme of formation for the Religious Life.

With regard #1: This recent Rescript gives us a choice of either five years five months leave or ~~three years~~ three months leave. As you can realize it would be impossible for all on the mission to leave at once; so, would you please write me your preference concerning the above permission. From the forms you were asked to send in concerning Home Leave the Fathers due for home leave are: Frs. Lowney, Stevens, Barrett, Williams, Siani, Bonang, W. Maher, T. Maher, Van Hoydonck, Bourgois.

Concerning #2: I have been asked to send to Rome by the 21st of April the names of three who will represent our Vice Province. Within the near future the Formation Committed members will meet to elect two who will serve with Father Hofmans as our representatives on the Conference.

Concerning #3: The last two pages of the material concerning Adaptation in Novitiate and Temporary Commitment will be sent to Rome. At the end of each question there is written: - Results of Consultation of Perpetually Professed, if held: I offer to each perpetually professed of the Vice Province the opportunity to answer the questions on these pages and send the results to me by April 27th

Concerning #4: The information compiled should be informative enough so that you will be able to answer the above questions for consultation.

Severence Pay Plan: On Monday the 31st of March the Plan was signed in Itami. Father Robitaille and I went over the plan as drawn up in the contract and the details of it with the representatives of the Daiwa Bank. The payment that will be made from this month from each house, the return of the monies in each house for retirement, and the policy concerning this will be written up separately and sent to each house. I would like to thank Father Williams for the time that he has contributed so willingly in cooperation with seeing this come to final realization.

Reports from our Oblates in the States:

Brother Jack Quinn is doing well at the House of Studies in Cambridge. Brother Fran Hahn sends his thanks to all on the mission for our prayers for his Grandmother.

Father Gill writes from California that his trip was a long one - sometimes tedious - but interesting...at least a lot of people know we are in business.

Father Harr's operation was this past week and we are waiting news on the outcome.

Father Ward...is sending on some CCD material for us.

Father Hofmas - getting lonesome for Japan. Studies are almost finished. Then a few months later and he will be back on the mission.

Father Barton left Kochi on the 16th of March and we should be hearing from him soon.

May the Risen Christ continue to give us the courage to be "witness" to Him in our apostolic religious lives here in Japan. With the blessings of Christ at this season of Easter,

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

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L.J.C. et M.I.

Naruto:

May 17, 1969



Dear Fathers and Brothers;

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EGC: With this letter each one on the Vice Province receives a copy of the recommendations of the recent Extraordinary General Council (Feb. 3-19, 1969). One copy of the Council report arrived - the other missions will receive their copies at a later date. In the meantime - you will have this for your personal reference - your study - and the ability to make comment on them in your community gatherings.

MISSIONARY APOSTOLIC COMMITTEE: In order to facilitate gathering of the necessary information for this committee's work - preparing for the Regional and General Meetings - the Fathers will be attending meetings in the various Districts and at the Apostolic Centre of Tokyo. You have all received the communique from Father Haramburu, O.M.I. on the convocation of the General Assembly of the Missions and Pastoral Conferences. The presumption is that you have read this - that you are familiarizing yourself with the topic chosen for the Agenda - namely; The Laity. Recently, at Itami, our Committee had a meeting at which they discussed the preliminaries of the Asian Inter Provinces' Regional Meeting. The topic chosen is an excellent one - one in which we are all very much interested and involved. Your cooperation is asked: - for gathering information - ideas - and suggestions for all of us on the Vice Province.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR SCHOOLS: At Itami these Fathers had their first meeting. The report will be sent to all of the missions soon. Our thanks go to each one of the Fathers for the time and effort they are giving to this work. The information

gathered from these discussions will enable us to attempt unifying our desires concerning - contact with the parents of the schools - the religious ethical education of students and parents - the financial aspects of the schools.

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE(PR): Recently Father Barrett mentioned that this Committee will have its Asia Inter Province Regional Meeting in the Fall. The date and agenda will be made known to you later. We are only too glad to have the Fathers from our other Provinces come to Japan to discuss another important work of the Oblates for the Church in the missions in which we are working. Joining Father Barrett on this committee are Fathers T. Maher and M. Yamazaki.

GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR FORMATION: Father Hofmans, Bourgoin and LaFramboise have been appointed as members of this Conference. The role of these Fathers is: a) to alert our sector to questions concerning formation, b) to maintain liaison with the Permanent Secretariat and c) to take part in the consultation of the naming of a Secretary, an Executive committee and delegates to general meetings of the Conference.

OBEDIENCE OF FATHER IWO, O.M.I. - As a result of communications with Father King, O.M.I., Assistant General, Father Sullivan, O.M.I. (Provincial of Vice Province of Brazil), and Father Iwo, - in order to permit Father Iwo to continue the work he has been doing up to now among the Japanese in Brazil and to facilitate this work - Father has been given his obedience to the Vice Province of Brazil. Father Iwo will be returning to Japan some time in June for a few months leave. In the Fall he will return to Brazil to enter into the work with the Japanese in various centers in Sao Paulo. Our congratulations to Father for this appointment - may he continue to be happy with this very difficult work in Brazil. During the time that Father is home it would be beneficial for the mission if he could give some talks to our Lay Groups concerning his work for the Church in South America.

NEW MISSIONARY FOR JAPAN: You will be pleased to know that Scholastic Brother Jose DeFruyt, O.M.I. has been given permission to join the Vice Province of Japan.

Our thanks go to Father Wilfried Rossel, O.M.I., Provincial of the Northern Belgium Province for his generosity to the mission of Japan and to Father General for his approval. Brother DeFruyt will join the mission a few months after his ordination.

HOME LEAVE: Within the next few months Fathers Lowney, Hoydonck and Barrett will be leaving for their home leaves. Our best wishes go with them for a well earned few months with their parents and friends.

FATHER HARR: In a recent letter Father mentioned that the cast on the foot was taken off but that he is still on one crutch. From what the Doctor told him it should be as good as new.

ANNUAL RETREAT: Father baillargeon, O.M.I. of St. John's Province will be giving the retreats for the Provinces of Australia, the Philippines and the Vice Province of Japan. The dates for our retreat are September 16th to the 20th at the Passionist Fathers' Retreat House, Mefu.

FINANCIAL HELP: Over and above the difficult work that all are involved with it is most encouraging to see all on the Mission doing their best to help with the finances. Over the past few months the missions have turned over to the Provincial Bursar the monies set aside for the retirement - and this was done at a sacrifice for many years. This beside the different sources of financial help you have been soliciting for the support of the missions indicates your concern.

--- Let us all be concerned - concerned about each other - about the works that all of us are involved with - shown concern for the spiritual progress of the Vice Province - encourage concern in your community - in the Vice Province - in the Asian Provinces - let us all be concerned for the Congregation and those of us who make up the Oblates.

Yours in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER:



AUG. 1, 1969

BRAZILIAN MISSIONARY RETURNS FOR VISIT TO JAPAN: Father John Iwo, O.M.I. arrived back in Japan the first week in July after visiting the United States. John will be with us for a few months and will be returning to his new mission in Sao Paulo in October. While his is in Japan he hopes to be able to visit all of our missions and talk with our Christians about the work of the Oblates in Brazil.

OUR MAN TO CEYLON: Father Dick Bonang, O.M.I. will be representing the Vice Province of Japan at the Inter Provincial Meeting of the Missions and Pastoral Committee. The meeting is to take place in Columbo the 13th and 14th of August. We hope that the meeting will be beneficial for our future work on the Vice Province.

IKEDA - HOME FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING PARENTS: The officials of Ikeda came to Father Stevens with the proposal of renting some of the Church property for the purpose of building a baby home. Father Provincial, Father Stevens and the Officials of Ikeda met and discussed their desires. The budget of the Ikeda area allocated the funds for the building and they would like to rent about half of the Church property for this purpose. Father Provincial presented the material to Bishop Tanaka for his decision. The Bishop was quite pleased with the idea and we should be knowing definitely what will be developing from this within a short time.

SHINNONMACHI CHURCH CENTER - NEARS COMPLETION: Before the end of the month the two storey - five classroom - building should be completed. This will provide the facilities that have been asked for over the years - it should provide ample space for parish and other functions for the coming years in the Kochi District.

BEARD GOES - FATHER BOURGOIN BACK AT THE HOUSE IN TOKYO: Word has it that the operation on Ray's face - removing the beard he grew over the several weeks he was in the hospital - was more painful than the headaches he was having in the hospital. Good to hear that he is home and hope that there will be good reports on progress from here on in.

BETTER WORLD RETREATANTS: Fathers Siani and W. Maher will be making this retreat in Tokyo from the 18th of the month.

MISSIONARY PROJECT - KOCHI: Over and above the work that Father Jerry Novotny is involved in in the parish of Shinhonmachi with the Christians - the English Societies of the Parish - his cooperation with the Night School at Nakajimacho - he is trying to become more involved with the working people of two segments of the Kochi population. Up to now Jerry has been working Thursdays and Fridays in the morning at the Dai Kuma Suisan - the largest fishing industry on the Island of Shikoku. Through his "part time work" he is able to make contact with the fishermen, the buyers and the middle men. The other area he is experimenting with is the ship building industry. Twice a week he is working for the Imai Zoosen and Kochi Zoosen. In order to follow up contacts made at these two companies he has permission to rent a small apartment in the City of Kochi - he lives there with one of the catechists of the Shinhonmachi parish. From these experiments he will be able to give us some information on the results of this attempt to be of help to these people entrusted to the Oblates in the Kochi District. As Jerry says, "This is just my small contribution towards all the work that has been done in the past and towards the work being done at the present - not just here in Kochi but throughout the country. Maybe some day through our united effort this picture or sign will become a visible sign".

HEALTH OF MISSIONARIES: (Some notes taken from a pre-study prepared by Miss Joan Overboss, Director of the SEDOS Secretariate, Rome.) In this report health is taken as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well being" including a "sense of reserve power", the means to ensure such health according to the definition are:

- normal functioning of the physical system, or well being in each and every part of the body.

- a practical understanding of the principles of healthy living.

- a harmonious adjustment to the physical and psychological environment,

CONDITIONS FOR ENSURING SUCH MEANS WOULD BE:

- adequate adaptation of the physical system to the local situation, with a realization that the metabolism and heartbeat of the native people differ from that of the foreigners.

- a general knowledge of the principles of healthy living and, in particular of their practical application in the mission field.

- knowledge of the mission environment and a sound evaluation of the missionaries' own "home" environment.

CHALLENGE TO THE MISSIONARIES' HEALTH would, therefore, emerge from the following:

- improper diet, poor cooking, lack of hygiene, poor living conditions, overfatigue.

- excessive mental strain through insufficient knowledge of our opportunity for relieving the stress of daily life and of the dynamic evolution of the mission areas.

- insufficient knowledge of the language(s), customs and ways of thinking of the local people; strain due to lack of cooperation.

FACTORS WORKING AGAINST PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF MISSIONARIES:

- missionaries do not have sufficient knowledge of good cooking methods and, hence, are unable to instruct the native cooks...irregular eating habits, particularly when travelling or living alone, worsen the situation.

- missionaries are often careless as regards preventing infection from contaminated water, milk, meat, vegetables; poor housekeeping, lack of cleanliness, and in general, unhygienic living conditions bring on sickness.

in many cases missionaries are little interested in sleeping conditions necessary to restore energy. ...they are inclined to excessive travel and are careless as regards rest periods; holidays often have to be postponed because no replacement is available.

- they often drive carelessly; frequently their cars are in poor conditions; they become involved in road accidents which sometimes end fatally or leave damaging effects on their health.

- not unusual that they postpone treatment when feeling ill. ...dental treatment is put off easily.

- in an attempt to forget the problems that they are facing missionaries often succumb to the temptation of overwork or seek compensation for their troubles in other forms of harmful escape.

- under normal circumstances, missionaries as they grow older should be able to slow down the pace of their activities.

- missionaries often struggle with a sense of frustration caused by loneliness; they feel abandoned in their work and without support for the problems they must solve.

- not unfrequently they suffer strain and anxiety because of the lack of clarity about missionary life and action; they sense the lack of effective guidance from the Church authorities and are perplexed about new, poorly explained stances of the Church; as a result, their motivating power, an important element for good health is weakened; thus they tend to become restless or to spend their energy in accidental activities;

- missionaries, and in particular, the younger ones, often suffer from overfatigue because they lack the know-how of adapting themselves to the country's rhythm of life.

- missionaries, even the younger ones, are often disheartened about the type of life which awaits them when they are aged and return to their home lands.

- the energy of missionaries, and here again particularly of the younger ones, is often drained due to insufficient preparation for understanding the language, customs and ways of thinking of the local people.

- many missionaries experience a sense of futility because they find little response to their sustained efforts for cooperation, which they consider imperative for the sound development of the work.

-----THE HEALTH OF THE MISSIONARY FORCE DOES NOT SUFFER JUST BECAUSE OF POOR FOOD, EXCESSIVE MENTAL STRAIN, MALADJUSTMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR ANY OTHER SINGLE FACTOR. RATHER, IT IS THE COMBINATION OF FACTORS WHICH IMPAIRS THE FEELING WELL IN BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT AND WHICH PREVENTS THE MISSIONARIES TOTALLY OR IN PART FROM LIVING THE RICHER LIFE OF SERVICE TO WHICH THEY HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES.

(It is good that we take seriously the material offered for our missionary lives here in Japan...this, to maintain our spiritual life and dedication good physical and mental health is a must.)

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Naruto:

Oct. 22, 1969



Asia Provincials' Meeting: The Meeting this year is scheduled for the 5th to the 10th of November at Vientianne, Laos. I will be leaving this Tuesday from Itami. On my way I will be stopping in Korea with the Provincials of the Philippines and Australia. The agenda for the meeting was discussed at the recent Vice Province Council Meeting. During my absence Father Hofmans, O.M.I. will be acting Provincial.

Japan National Major Superiors' Meeting: From the 27-31 of October this meeting will be held in Tokyo. Father Hofmans will represent the Oblates.

Joint Meeting of Council and Committees: After the regular Vice Province Council Meeting at Naruto on the 6th of October there was a joint meeting with the Formation and Mission Committees. The reports of these meetings are with this letter. As always the opinions and suggestions of the Vice Province are appreciated and needed - for the success of our works - your work!

Completion of Parish Hall, Shinhonmachi: The two storey parish hall at this parish was completed and a very nice celebration was provided by the parishoners of this parish on the 28th of September.

15th Anniversary of Koga Mission: Fukuoka. On this occasion most of the Fathers who worked at this mission during these years were present for the concelebrated Mass and the gala activities provided by Fathers Inui and Derudder.

Translation of Constitutions and Rules into Japanese: Thanks to the hard work of Mike and Len the rough printing of this should be in the mail soon. Appreciate the time and the energy that both of our Japanese Fathers have given to this most needed project. Father Yamazaki hopes to continue translating Oblate information for our Novices and Brother Tsuda.

Noviciate: Recently the appointment of Father Hofmans as Assistant Novice Master arrived. We know that the novices will benefit greatly by the experience of Father Hofmans. The members of the Noviciate Team, Fathers Inui, Maher, Siani have finished their conferences to the Novices. Father Hofmans following the plans of Father Bourgoin is continuing the direction at present. It is encouraging to see the cooperation of the scholastics of the House in Tokyo shown to our Novices. Let's hope and pray that we will have many more candidates for the Priesthood join us in Tokyo.

-2-

Father Bourgoin,O.M.I.: This morning in letters from Fathers Lowney and Barreét - both reported that Ray's condition is very good. He was operated on at the New England Baptist Hospital by one of the best neuro-surgeons in the United States for a tumor. Ed mentioned that he was in intensive care but his condition was very good. Again - our thanks to Father Tom Reddy for all he had done to see that Ray is well taken care of.

Father Bill Maher,O.M.I.: This past week Tom left for the States for his vacation and while he is gone Bill will be taking care of Aki and the Mission stations of this mission. Our thanks go to Bill for all he did for Ray and the Community in Tokyo for the past several months.

Welcome home! During the past two months Joe Hofmans, Jan VanHoydonck, and Dick Harr have returned. Within a week Jack Barrett will be back in the mission.

Social Communications Meeting - Tokyo: The Asian Meeting of Social Communications will be held in Tokyo and Itami during the first week of November. It will be good to welcome Father Druart to the Mission once more. It is our hope that the meeting will be beneficial for the Church and encouraging to the members who will be with us for the week. Fathers Barrett and Yamazaki will be in charge of the program.

Father Jose Defruyt,O.M.I.: Father arrived the middle of September and at present is boarding at the Fransiscan Language School from Monday to Friday evening. This arrangement seems to be working out very well for Jose and he is already picking up a good foundation. Welcome to the Mission,Jose and the Fathers are waiting to have you at their missions during your Christmas holidays.

PROVINCIAL VISITATION: After my return from Laos I will notify the houses and missions of the dates of the visitation of the Vice Province.

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