

# 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.

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

Jan-April 1970

OFFICIAL:

Appointments:



Fr. John W. Barrett, OMI has been appointed to full time work as Director of Social Communications for the Vice Province. The Office of the Director is at the Oblate Apostolic Center in Tokyo.

Fr. William Maher, OMI has been appointed first Director of our new mission in Nakamura (Kochi) effective April 1.

## ORDINATION

of Scholastic Brother John Deely, OMI took place at St. Charles Church, Arlington, Virginia on April 11, 1970. The ordaining prelate was the Most Rev. Francis McSorley, OMI. Fr. Daniel Ward, OMI of the Japan Mission, now completing his doctorate studies in Washington, preached the homily at the Ordination Mass.

## ASIAN CONFERENCE OF OBLATE PROVINCIALS

scheduled to open in Itami in March has been postponed until June. This meeting will finalize the reports and recommendations to be made to the Extraordinary General Council in Rome this Fall.

## MISSION-PASTORAL GENERAL MEETING IN ROME

will be attended by Fr. John K. Mahoney, OMI of this Mission who will be representing the Asian Conference. En route, Fr. Mahoney visited the Philippine missions and attended a coordinating session with the Provincial of Ceylon, Fr. Lucian Schmitt, OMI.

## THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS

held their Third International Communications Congress in Tokyo from April 13 through the 18th. Fr. John W. Barrett, OMI attended the Congress as the representative of the Tosei News. World wide leaders in the field of communications addressed the Delegates at the Japanese government's Convention Center in Tokyo.

## OBLATE PROBE OF KOREA

was undertaken by the Philippine and Japanese Provinces between February 4th and 16th, 1970. Fr. Richard Harr, OMI of this Mission accompanied Frs. Prospero Gacis, OMI and Natalio Tabata, OMI from the Philippines. The information gathered will be referred to the Philippine Province for their report and recommendations to the General Administration. In the conclusion of his report, Fr.

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Harr noted, "South Korea would be an excellent mission with all the variety of opportunities for the Oblates.... and everyone I was able to talk with expressed a need for the Oblates on this mission." Stephen Cardinal Kim, Archbishop of Seoul has urged the Oblates to consider work among the thousands of students attending high schools and universities in Seoul. An eight page report of Fr. Harr's probe has just been released in this Vice Province.

#### OBLATES IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD

who have recently received promotions to new posts are

Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI of our Itami Mission who has been appointed to the status of full Professor at Eiichi Daigaku the Catholic University for the diocese of Osaka; and

Fr. Michael Yamasaki, OMI of our Nakamachi (Fukuoka) Mission who recently was commissioned by the Bishop of Fukuoka to a full teaching position on the staff of Taisei Central Catholic High School for boys.

#### THE POSTER APOSTOLATE

of our Tokushima Oblates has received national acclaim and from April will be distributed on a national basis through the Oriens Institute for Religious Research in Tokyo.

#### ON THE LOCAL SCENE

-we announce the construction of a permanent chapel for the Christians of the Naruto Mission. Up until the present the mission school building has been used as a temporary chapel on Sundays.

-we announce the opening of a new mission in the Nakamura area. This large district will include the entire western part of Kochi Prefecture. Until the present it has been cared for on a once-a-month visit as part of the mission of Nakajima-cho in Kochi City. Nakamura City itself has a population of forty thousand but Christians in the area number only 21.

#### VISITORS

Fr. Anthony Hall, OMI recently visited us en route to Ceylon.

Fr. Joseph Milford, O.M.I. of the Philippine Mission visited us en route to the states.



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Provincial Newsletter:

Feb. 1970



ORDINATION: Scholastic Brother John Deely, OMI, will be leaving shortly for the United States. He will be ordained by Bishop McSorley, OMI, at St. Charles in Arlington, Virginia on April 11. Jack has asked Fr. Dan Ward, OMI, to give the homily at the Ordination Mass.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND PR(SOCIAL COMMUNICATION): From the 1st of April Fr. John Barrett, OMI, will be in the Apostolic Center in Tokyo to set up his Office there. Father will be working in cooperation with others in this field for the betterment of the apostolate of Mass Communication in Japan. Bishop Tanaka was very pleased with the choice of Jack and promises his cooperation on the Bishops' Commission for Mass Communication. It is a very important aspect of Propaganda and Development.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF APOSTOLIC CENTER: (in view of the possibility of seminarians coming from abroad). At the recent Provincial Council Meeting, after considering the positive and negative aspects of seminarians coming from abroad at this time, it was agreed upon to put off accepting seminarians from abroad temporarily. The information on this is to be sent out to all of the missions by Father Hofmans for a further consideration of this most important matter.

CAMP SIGHT FOR USE OF MISSIONS: For several months Fathers Silver and Mahoney have been looking at land sights in the Tokushima Prefecture area for a camp sight for the use of the missions. The areas of Anan and Naruto Park are under consideration. Before any decision is made on this Father Mahoney has been asked to send out the vital information available and the present reasons for considering this project. When you receive the information and have given the matter some thought send in your suggestions and opinions to the Provincial or to Father Mahoney.

POSTER APOSTOLATE: By this time you have received the information on the amalgamation of the efforts of Fr. Spae, CICM and Father Bonang, OMI to better the Pastor Apostolate for Japan. This news came officially through Tosei and the Missionary Apostolate. From April 1 of this year the Oblate Photo Poster and the Art Poster of the Missionary Bulletin will be sent from the Missionary Bulletin Office in Tokyo. There is still much work to be done by Father Bonang and his cooperators. Any suggestions that you may have on this will be greatly appreciated by Dick.

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MISSION-PASTORAL GENERAL MEETING: ROME. Father John Mahoney, OMI, will be leaving the end of March for this Meeting. On his way to the Meeting he will visit the missions of the Philippines and there will be a coordinating session in Ceylon under the direction of the Provincial of Ceylon, Father Lucian Schmitt, OMI. We have great hopes that the material that will be received in Rome from our representatives of the Congregation will be of great benefit in the direction of our missions and of the works of the Church in the Pastoral field.

KOREA - PROBE: Father Harr, OMI, left for Korea the first week of February to join the Philippine Province in their "probe" of Korea. He is with two of our Philippine Fathers for two weeks. The information gathered there will be referred to the Philippine Province for their report and recommendations to the General Administration. These Fathers are due back in Japan about the 16th of the month. Fathers Tabada and Gacia, OMI will be with us for about two weeks. During this time they will be able to visit our missions. While they are with you you will have a chance to hear their opinions on the Korean Mission and of their own work in the Philippines.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDE FOR REVISION #2: Each mission has the new copy of the new Guide. Father Hofmans has sent out information on the use of this from the Formation Committee. In as much as some of the material covered in the Guide will be brought up at the coming Extraordinary General Chapter in Rome this Fall it would be good if you alone or in group discussions study the last section of the Guide first - this pertains to the Government of the Congregation. Individual and group opinions can be sent to the Provincial - this in order to facilitate a more concret report on the Guide for Revision and on the section of the Government of the Congregation asked for by Rome.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT SUPERIORS: In view of the above mentioned Implementation - review the following matter and send in your opinions on them to the Provincial:

**District Superiors:**

- a. Congregation Renewed: Part Four, Government.
- b. District Superiors: Provincial Circular, March 3, 1968.
- c. Narute General Meeting: (pg.13).
- d. District Superiors as discussed in the Mandatum - referring to Ecclesiastical Superiors - and their relation to Oblate District Superiors.

**Provincial Committees:**

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**Provincial Committees:**

- a. Present Committees.
- b. Roles of present committees.
- c. Representation on these committees.
- d. The present committees and their relation to the Inter Provincial Meetings, General Meetings, Diocesan Meetings.

**ANNUAL RETREATS:** Father Provincial will check on Retreat Directors of other Congregations for this year in Tokyo this month. If there are any Fathers or Brothers who plan on making the Better World Retreats scheduled for the Spring please notify the Provincial.

**MISSION-CHURCH, NARUTO:** Permission was received for utilizing some of the present school building in Naruto for a permanent Chapel for the Christians of this area. A loan of three thousand dollars was given and a donation of three thousand for this purpose. The remainder of the finances are from the people of Naruto.

**FINANCIAL STATUS OF VICE PROVINCE:** Fr. Robitaille, OMI, sent to each house the financial report of the last six months of 1969. The Budget for 1970 has been submitted to the Eastern American Province. This year there is a definite possibility of not receiving the allotment from the Propagation of Faith, Rome. Annually this came to approximately \$10,000. This loss will have to be made up some other way. At the recent Provincial Council Meeting it was decided to set the surplus from the missions. Each House and mission will be allowed to keep on hand one hundred percent of what is needed for current expenses. The amount over and above this will be considered surplus and will be sent monthly to the Provincial Bursar. This means; that if it costs you five hundred dollars to run your mission for a month - you will be permitted to keep on hand five hundred dollars - any funds over this amount will be considered surplus. If you have any questions on this please refer them to Father Robitaille.

**FEBRUARY 17th:** After visiting the Apostolic Center and the Missions since December, it is most apparent that we have not been as conscious as we were in the past for the need of the Monthly Day of Renewal. Therefore, from the desires of the Fathers and Brothers it is evident that we should be making every effort to renew this need in our communities. As we approach the feast day of our Congregation it is a most opportune occasion to re-institute this day of spiritual renewal, of community, of exchange of our efforts in the apostolate - centering our gathering around the celebration of the Eucharist. Let us in the spirit of the Founder, under the direction of the Holy Spirit renew ourselves on the section of "Life in Apostolic Community" so we will be the religious missionaries that Christ expects us to be.

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





# The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER:

May 18, 1970

Recommendations of Provincial and Council regarding: Present Scholastics and the completion of their theology and review of policy for accepting scholastics for the Mission.

At the recent Council Meeting we discussed the opinions of the present scholastics, the recommendations of the Formation Committee, those of the men of the mission. The decision that we arrived at was the same as that of the Formation Committee, namely:

1. That the present Scholastics be permitted to finish their studies in Japan.
2. That the above mentioned purpose of their being in Japan - namely, study - be made clear and serve as a guideline in programming activities.
3. That there be definite and clear guidance on the community and personal level so that this purpose can be carried out.
4. That a year of theological studies in their home countries be permitted in certain cases where this is sought and deemed advisable.

Other recommendations and suggestions sent in by the Formation Committee were reviewed and/or corrected. This material will be sent out shortly by the Formation Committee. I appreciate the interest that all have shown in this important question. It is our hope that the question having been reviewed will be directional in a positive way for welcoming scholastics desirous of coming to the mission of Japan. As Father General wrote recently: "The whole team must feel responsible for that serious problem of formation".

Tokyo: Superior-Formator: Application has been made to Father General for the approval of Father Ray Bourgoin, O.M.I. as the Superior, Formator of the Tokyo House. We feel that if there is continued cooperation of the members of the Tokyo House and of all on the mission we can hope for continued progress in preparing our men for the mission of the Church in Japan.

Financial, Development Committee: Recommendations. The suggestions and recommendations of the committee were reviewed. The corrections and recommendations of the Provincial Council have been sent to Father Robitaille, O.M.I. He will send out the report to you shortly. Again, our thanks for some very concrete suggestions for the mission.

Further Study: Father Benang, O.M.I. has been given permission to study Cultural Anthropology for a year. Even though we are short of personnel we feel that Dick will be able to share with us the beneficial aspects of this most important field for a more deeper understanding of the Japanese and Japan.

Secail Communications: Tokyo. Our thanks to Jack for the material that he has sent to all of the missions on some of his recent work in the field of PR and Social Communications work. The recent material gives us some idea of the work that is being done - and can be done. Any cooperation that you can give him will be of help for the Church in Japan.

Provincials of Asia meet in Itami - June 2: We ask for your prayers for a beneficial meeting and exchange of plans and ideas for the Church in Asia. After the meeting is over I hope that Father Euckartz and the other Provincials will be able to visit most of the missions before returning to their respective works.

Father Barton: The latest word from Dave is that his replacement will be coming in June. His return might be slightly delayed due to the need of helping with Missions Appeals for Bishop Tanaka.

Father Ward: At this writing I have no further news on Dan - other than he is still in the hospital undergoing tests to see if there is a need for heart surgery.

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COOPERATION - CONCERN: Over the past few months I have been receiving many suggestions and recommendations on many aspects of our work on the Vice Province - you have been discussing among yourselves some of the vital aspects of our missionary work - this exchange of ideas and plans is most important for furthering the work we are in Japan for. Make your ideas known.

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



NEWSLETTER:

NARUTO

July 11, 1970.



Kochi Apostolate: At the recent Council Meeting held on the 7th of July, the following was agreed upon for the City of Kochi. For a period of two years an attempt will be made to amalgamate the apostolic efforts of the Fathers and Christians in the City. Father Dolperto has been asked to be the Director. The present two physical plants will be maintained. A serious effort will be made to coordinate the Societies of the parishes - directing them to unity. The plans will be decided by the Fathers of the area. This same plan has been proposed to the Bishop and the announcement of its particulars will be made by Bishop Tanaka sometime this month.

Father Barton: Dave will be returning to Japan about the first week of August. Upon his return he will take up a new assignment in the Tokushima City Apostolate.

Father Ward: In a recent letter from Dan he mentioned that he was back in Veteran's Hospital in Washington, D.C. The report of the Doctor was not too good. Dan wrote that it was valve trouble and might require surgery. I know that you will continue to keep him in your prayers.

Father Lowney: During my recent visits to the mission I mentioned that I planned on taking my vacation before the EGC in Rome in the Fall. In my absence Father Lowney will be Acting Provincial. If all goes well I should be returning to Japan about the first week of November.

Father Gill: Toward the end of the month of August you will have Father Gill with you on the mission for several weeks. Bob has been looking forward to this trip back to Japan since he accepted the Procurator's work two years ago.

Father Sackett: During August Father Fred Sackett of the Formation Secretariate, Rome, will be in Japan for about a week. He will meet with the Fathers on the Formation Committee concerning the coming meeting in Rome. Time permitting he will try to see some of the mission.

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