



The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

CATHOLIC MISSION
5-6-26 HONMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL 0888-72-3658 NEWSLETTER



オブレート会
高知市本町 5-6-26
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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1975

Dear fellow Oblates,

A belated Happy New Year to everyone and a happy feastday on February 17. The passing of the old year and the beginning of the new seem to have gotten lost in the flurry of activity of the holidays and the two T.A. Process Seminars with Julien Mercure.

The experience of the T.A. seminar was one worth living. It was for me the beginning of a greater self-awareness and of deeper and more meaningful relationships with people.

It was both a shock and an enlightenment to realize that I lived for so long, seemingly so near, yet really very far from my colleagues. How little I knew the very people I live and work with. I hope and pray the bonds of real love, understanding and mutual support cultivated during that experience will be strengthened and that we will all grow in freedom - that freedom which St. Paul calls the "freedom of the sons of God."

1975 will be a special year. It is the Holy Year. It is also the year that will see the beatification of Charles De Mazenod, and will conclude with the 150th anniversary of the approval of our Constitutions. I believe these three events will have meaning for us only in so far as we give them meaning.

As Fr. Jette suggests in his recent letter (OMI Information, Feb. 1, 1975), let this be a year of self-evangelization, of re-evangelization, a year to discover anew that Jesus Christ is at the heart of our lives and that a deep commitment goes far beyond structures.

Ron

-THANK YOU, JULIEN!

Thanks, Julien, for spending your winter holiday with us, and for sharing your very self with us in a simple and beautiful way. All the participants were happy with the experience, though it was hard work. As one man said, "At times it was purgatory, and a little bit of hell, too!" -- For those who want more, turn to the next page!

-HOW ABOUT SOME MORE???

If you are interested in a follow-up of the T.A. Process Seminar please contact Ron by the end of the month.

Mr. John McNeel a member of the T.A. center in California will be in Japan in late August. He has time and is willing to work with us. He ran the marathon session last summer that was attended by five Oblates making the Continued Education seminar in Oakland. He also has an annual clergy week with clergy of the San Francisco area. Julien recommends him highly.

-AROUND THE PROVINCE:

*Tokushima:

- Eddie Lowney has just been elected vice-president of the Ecumenical Council of the greater Tokushima area. Congratulations, Eddie!
- The Tokushima Lay Apostolate Conference (Shinto shitoshoku kyoogi-kai) is sponsoring a series of lectures from February to April on Scripture and various aspects of christian living as part of their program for the Holy Year. Guest speakers will be Fr. Yelle, S.S., Fr. Kunit, C.P., Sister Kageyama and Dr. Egusa. The series will close with an area wide Lay Apostolate Convention in June.
- The Oblates in the Tokushima district plan to meet monthly to study and discuss "Born to Win" chapter by chapter.

*Kochi:

- The men in the Kochi district plan to meet monthly for prayer and sharing using the "New Testament way to Community". This is a series of guidelines for community dialogue prepared by the Oblates in Australia.
- Dan Ward is working on a japanese translation of that same series. It can be used with any group of people wanting to experience and share the Word of God and their own christian life.
- A "Better World" weekend is in the planning for the Kochi area by the local Lay Apostolate Conference.
- Xave Delporte has found a small house in Iriake-cho (Kochi City). The address is not yet available. He will be moving in this week. Good luck Xave in this new missionary presence.

*Itami:

-Plans for a center in the Tsukaguchi area of the Itami parish are well underway. The proposed apartment opposite the railway station is not available but the search for a suitable place continues. Mr. Nishikawa who will be in charge of the center is quite enthusiastic and preparing himself by attendance at the 10 day Bethel Bible seminar and the follow-up seminar on Marriage and the Commandments sponsored by the same association. The first celebration of the Eucharist in the area is scheduled for April 6th.

-PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING:

The provincial team will meet in Tokyo February 15. The main purpose of this meeting is to make plans for the team's work this year. The following agenda is submitted for your suggestions and opinions.

1-Planning for the year:

- Visit of Fr. Zago in August -An annual retreat?
- Province wide meeting in December?
- Beatification of the Founder.
- Follow-up of the T.A. seminar in August ?

2-Representative of the Province at the beatification of the Founder. Yes or No? If yes, who?

3-Overflow number of applicants for Anan and Kochi kindergartens and the need for remodeling and expanding to accomodate at least some of them.

4-Waterproofing and repairs at Itami Church. The building program having been put off the repairs and waterproofing still remain.

-APOSTOLIC OBJECTIVES FOR PARISHES; A NATIONAL PLAN

As an Appendix to this Newsletter you have the working paper on "Apostolic Objectives for Parishes". It is the first fruit of an ad hoc committee of the National Religious Superiors' Conference to develop a national plan as regards the pastoral, social and educational involvement of the Church in Japan. The paper is far from perfect and will develop into something better through your suggestions.

The Regional Superiors of the Kinki, Chugoku and Shikoku areas will meet in Mefu Feb. 14 with Bishops Furuya and Yasuda of the Episcopal Commission for Missionary and Pastoral planning to discuss this paper. This will be followed by a meeting of the committee in Shizuoka March 4-6 and hopefully the final draft will be ready for the annual meeting of the Religious Superiors' Conference in April. Any and all comments welcome!



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March 4, 1975

Dear fellow Oblates,

I am sending you a letter from Jerry Novotny. In it he asks the community to accept him simply as a teacher. He voluntarily gives up the use of the powers of Holy Orders because he no longer wants to function as a priest either now or in the future. Nor does he want to be considered as a priest.

I have discussed this letter with Dave and John. We respect Jerry's decision and we agree not to assign him any priestly duties, thereby treating him as a non-clerical member of the Province.

Laicization might seem to be the normal procedure in such a case. However, laicization under the present norms includes departure from the Congregation. Jerry wants to remain in the Congregation at this time because he feels his work is in keeping with the Missionary Outlook of the Congregation.

In talking this over with Dave and John there was some discussion as to whether or not we had the right to create or approve of new forms of belonging to the Congregation without recourse to the General Administration. We feel this is technically not a new form of belonging as such, because Jerry is already a member of the Congregation. We do have non-clerical members in the Congregation. It is also within the power of the Provincial Council not to assign him any priestly duties. Furthermore, it is not only within the power, but it is also the duty of the Council to encourage a work which is very much in keeping with the Missionary Outlook of the Congregation and which has had the approval of the Provincial Administration for the past five years.

Understanding of his position by the members of the community will make his work at the university easier. It will also make it easier for him to assist at the liturgy in the local parishes and to feel more at ease with the Oblates.

I feel this letter clarifies his situation very well and I send it to you hopeful of your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I.
Provincial

私は宣教師の意向をりて

日本にまゝりした。神学校を終えて後

叙階の秘跡をうけし。これは當時の天不

レト会に於いて宣教師に於るために通帯

のこととした。

司祭として数年を経験し、その後、~~私は~~高

知人學で五年間教鞭をとるうちに

師」として、よりよく現代社会において力

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た。私は叙階の目的を「教師の職責」を通し

て追求することと決心致し、また、そので略

さんとも私を「神父」としてではなく「教師」

として認めて頂きたいと心をこめていす。

教令該的は論争に立ち入りず、私は叙階の

秘跡により、預けられた秘限を返還致しす。

今後もよろしく。

丁、ノホトニ

KOCHI UNIVERSITY

Bunri Gakubu, 1000 Asakura, Kochi City, Japan.

高知大学文理学部 高知県高知市朝倉1000 〒780 TEL(44)0111

January 30, 1975

Gentlemen:

As a student of Theology, I came to Japan with the intention of doing missionary activity. After finishing theology, I received the Sacrament of Holy Orders which seemed the normal way of proceeding at that time in the Oblate Congregation.

After a few years of "Priest-Oblate" experience, and more so, after five years of teaching experience at Kochi University, I am convinced that in the present society I can incorporate the Gospel Values much better by being a "Teacher-Oblate".

Without going into canonical argumentations, I have decided to pursue my initial intention in the role of "Teacher-Oblate" and I ask the other Oblates and Christians to recognize me in this capacity. In order to facilitate matters, I have voluntarily given up the powers which were entrusted to me by the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Requesting your support and understanding

Jerome Northing



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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1975

ALLELUIA ! HE IS RISEN AND HE COMES ! ALLELUIA !!

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. This is the good news. This is the gospel. Let us shout it from the roof tops. Let us proclaim this great news to the nations. This is the word we must preach, in season and out of season. Woe to us if we do not !

These thoughts from the Scriptures are uppermost in my mind this Easter. I believe they say a lot about the task of a missionary. Aware that the Spirit is already at work in the hearts of men, I still hear Him saying to His missionaries:

"If you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God; and with His mouth he tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation. For the Scriptures tell us that no one who believes in Christ will ever be disappointed....Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. But how shall they ask Him to save them unless they believe Him. And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?" Romans 10:9-14.

Grace and Peace in Him who is!

Ron

FROM OUR MAN IN ROME:

Dalston Forbes in a recent News Letter to the Provincials in Asia describes the policy orientations of the recent plenary session of the General Team.

"We began with an attempt to work out policy directions for Missionary orientation, Spiritual animation and Formation. In the end these discussions fused into one and we focused our attention on the identity of the religious missionary Oblate.

"Our motto 'evangelizare pauperibus' became the key thought around which to organize reflection. What struck me is that as Oblates we have to be constantly aware of our bearing towards the poor - poor understood theologically and sociologically; those who are in grave, urgent need of help, material or spiritual. To these we must bring Christ - we must announce Christ - 'docere homines quis sit Christus', in one way or another.

"In other words, we must have a constant reference to faith in Jesus as Saviour and Son of God; this may be explicit or implicit, but it must be there.

"A missionary service of faith means that we ourselves live as men consecrated and dedicated by the vowed life, in the fellowship of community.

"Our task as a Congregation does not exhaust the whole mission of the Church or its total missionary task. But we are specifically evangelisers: that's our own formal standpoint."

SUMMER T.A. SESSION:

Mr. John McNeel of the Western Institute for Group and Family Therapy has accepted to come for a follow-up workshop in mid-August (August 18-27). The exact dates and details about the place are yet indefinite. There are eight definite "yes" replies in. If you have not sent in your card about attending this seminar please do so today!

FR. ZAGO:

Contrary to earlier expectations, Fr. Zago will not be able to visit Japan this year. We can look forward to seeing him in the summer of 1976. Too bad!

'NEW TESTAMENT WAY TO COMMUNITY'

Copies of this series of guidelines for community prayer, sharing and dialogue are being sent to each district. Hope you will find them a useful instrument in building community both within and without.



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NEWSLETTER

April-July 1975

FOUNDER'S BEATIFICATION:

By now you have read Fr. Jette's letter of June 6 "On the Occasion of Bishop de Mazenod's Beatification". Two statements in that letter particularly struck me and I wish to share them with you.

"For us the Beatification is both a grace and a challenge....A Challenge which weighs our fidelity: fidelity to the mission among the poor; FIDELITY TO THE QUALITY OF BEING which the Founder wanted for his Oblates....Do we still have the same deep attachment to Jesus Christ, the same concern for self-denial, the same inner thirst for holiness, the same CONVICTION that the QUALITY OF OUR BEING IS AS IMPORTANT for the WELFARE OF PEOPLES AS IS THE INTENSITY OF OUR ACTIVITY...?"

For myself, I find it hard to give an unqualified "yes" to these questions. The beatification ceremony of course will add nothing to the happiness of Eugene de Mazenod, but it can add something to the luster of the group of missionaries he formed. It can be an occasion for Oblates to reflect upon the man whom the Church will officially recognize as blessed, as a holy man.

In order to help us prepare for a meaningful celebration of the beatification, I have asked Bert Silver, Eddie Lowney and Ange Siani to act as a beatification committee. They will contact you soon with suggestions for celebrating this event in Japan. In the meantime a new and "brief" life of Bishop de Mazenod is being sent to each house with the hope that it will help us in our reflection on the charism of the first Oblate.

"NEW TESTAMENT WAY TO COMMUNITY" IN JAPANESE:

This series of guidelines for group prayer, reflection and sharing on community was originally prepared by the Oblates in Australia under the direction of Desmond O'Donnell, OMI. It has been translated into Japanese by Dan Ward and is available from Ron in Kochi for 500 yen per copy. This is for printing charges. As many copies as you want will be sent postage FREE. Any group of Christians interested in strengthening the bonds of charity and brotherhood will find this material priceless.

BRO. TSUDA'S ART EXHIBITION:

Bro. Tsuda, OMI displayed fifty-eight pieces of his art work at the Takamiya Gallery in Osaka from June 16-28. The theme for this exhibition was "The Coming of the Dawn". His patron and longtime admirer Mr. Takahashi writes in the program for this exhibition: "Sunsets and sunrises have long been a theme in Brother Tsuda's paintings. The sunsets often seem to me like sunrises, and the sunrises sometimes seem like sunsets. Recently sunrises with a feeling of sunset have become predominant in his work. The real spiritual beauty emanating from the setting sun is the longing for the sunrise which it reflects. I mean being able to see the dawn in the dusk....Bro. Tsuda is now seventy-five years old. To say that this graying religious man is approaching the great dusk of life is not at all improper. Yet Bro. Tsuda sees the dawn that lies beyond that night. That dawn is without a doubt the dawn of resurrection. Bro. Tsuda is simply telling us that the dusk is but the forerunner of the dawn."

KVB:

Those are not the initials for some secret spy organization like the CIA or the KGB. The letters mean the Kochi Volunteer Bureau and its news bulletin, the KVB. Through the cooperation of people interested in making the world a better and brighter place for all men to live in, and under the direction of Leo Simons and Fumio Abe (Akaoka), the Kochi Volunteer Association closed its second seminar for training volunteer social workers in Kochi on June 14th presenting certificates to more than forty people.

The purpose of this seminar is to awaken in the "man on the street" an awareness of the needs of society, of the needs of his own neighborhood, and to show what we "little people" can do without much special technical training or any government red tape. For example, anyone can do some shopping for some elderly person in the neighborhood who cannot get around too well. Or you might learn braille and translate a few books or magazine articles for the blind in your spare time at home. If you don't feel up to that you might make a tape recording of the same, or just sit down for an hour or so and read to a blind person. The list goes on and on.

The Kochi Volunteer Association recently opened the Kochi Volunteer Bureau for the purpose of better promoting this type of spontaneous volunteer social work. The Bureau keeps a record of "volunteers", what they can do, when, and informs them of where their services can be used. Sr. Yakushi (Xaverian's-Kochi) has volunteered to take charge of the Bureau. To get to the Bureau just go up the north fire escape of Seibo kindergarten. It is the first small room on the right. Ron LaFramboise has made the room available for the use of the Bureau until a better location can be found.

The KVB News tells you what is going on at the Bureau and what people are doing for people in Kochi, as well as the people that need other people. The first edition of the KVB News appeared July 7th under the skillfull pen of Bro. Miyamoto, OMI. Chuck full of information and easy reading. We are looking forward to the next number.

MEN ON THE MOVE:

Leo SIMONS returned to Japan after what was supposed to have been two months of home leave. Actually he led fifteen people from all over Japan in a tour of Montessori facilities in eight European countries. Never a dull moment!

John MAHONEY and Ed WILLIAMS should be returning to Japan soon from what I believe was a less hectic schedule than Leo's.

Len "Mochan" INUI missed Leo's Montessori tour but set out on his own in late June. A recent letter from London indicates he is learning to live on as few "pences" a day as possible. Len will be going on to Washington, then on to Lafayette, California for two weeks of T.A. with our dear friend Julien MERCURE and then four weeks of theology and Scripture. After that, back to Europe to continue the Montessori research and hopefully we will see his smiling face in late October.

Jerry NOVOTNY is going State-side in mid-July for about a month at the expense of the Ministry of Education. It will mean only a short home stay and some "research on Arizona Indians"?!

Fran HAHN, Dave ULLRICH and Dick BONANG left for home leave in early July. Dick until the end of August, Fran until the end of September and Dave for a bit longer.

Dan WARD is now in Lafayette, California for the two weeks follow-up of last year's Continuing Education Program. After that he will go east to Boston for a good physical check-up at the V.A. Hospital in Roxbury with surgery possibly in the offing. "O-Daiji ni ne!!"

In mid-August Ed QUIOCHO and Nestor JAO will attend the International Training Institute at Cheju Island in South Korea. This is a three week intensive program in parish leadership sponsored by the Ecumenical Institute. At the same time Nestor will try to get his visa papers in order.

To all the traveling OMIs, Bon Voyage and safe return!



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July 10, 1975

Dear Fellow Oblates,

No sooner had I posted my letter of July 9th about Dave's resignation than the mailman arrived with a letter from the General Administration with the instructions for the consultation for a new Provincial Consultor to replace Dave.

Since the consultation process will take some time, Father General has appointed Fr. Bert SILVER as Provincial Consultor "pro tempore" so that the Provincial Council can continue to function effectively. Yoroshiku na!

Before the formal consultation, Father General has asked that I consult you first on whether you wish to retain the present system of TWO Consultors, or extend the Council to THREE or FOUR members. A straw vote for possible candidates will be carried out after this preliminary step and then finally the formal consultation.

It may seem too soon to evaluate the two man system, but I ask you to look back over the past year and a half and after discussing with the men in your area to make known to me your preference on the enclosed form.

Please return the enclosed form to Kochi in the self-addressed stamped envelope by JULY 26. That is the closing date for the preliminary consultation on the number of consultors.

Fraternally in Christ,

Ron LaFramboise, O.M.I.

Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I.
Provincial



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August-September 1976

NEWSLETTER.

- BEATIFICATION OF THE FOUNDER: October 19. Frs. Robert Gill and Len Inui will represent the O.M.I. Vice-Province of Japan in Rome

on the occasion of our Founder's Beatification. As the Beatification Day is nearing, I would like to recall to mind a request Father General made in his letter of June 6, 1975. In a universal context of reconciliation and sharing, Father General asked of the Congregation that Friday, October 17th -- or another day if the 17th is not suitable -- be for all Oblates a day of prayer, fasting and penance. "The Lord invites us to such a practice in the Gospel, and the Church exhorts us to do so during the Holy Year. It would, moreover, be a gesture of solidarity with the world's poor and hungry peoples."

Materials to be circulated by the specially appointed committee will arrive soon. I suggest that every district organize its own celebration of the Founder's Beatification locally, as seen appropriate. Next year on February 17th, I hope we can have a meaningful province wide celebration of this event on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Congregation.

- NEW PROVINCIAL CONSULTOR: Congratulations to our new man on the Provincial Council, Lei Simons. And many thanks to Bert Silver for filling in in that capacity for three months.

- AKAOKA NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSING: In keeping with the decision of the men in the Kochi district to cooperate with the town in its plans of integration of the two socially separated groups there, it has been decided to close our nursery school in Akaoka in March of 1976. The town plans to build a mammoth nursery big enough for all the children in the town. Plans are already on the drawing boards and the national government has granted a subsidy to cover 90% of the cost. The completion of the building is scheduled for the summer of 1976. Talks are underway with the town officials to let them use our facilities until their new building is ready. Our school has served the town for forty years, and it is not easy to see it close. However, we hope this decision will help create greater unity in the town.

- The Christians of Hata-gun with their missionary Bill Maher made a formal application to Bishop Tanaka and myself for Hata-gun Development and Building in Nakamura. Herewith I submit this project to the community. Before making a decision in this matter, I would like to get advice from every district by the beginning of November.

- A follow-up of the T.A. Process Seminar guided by Mr. John McNeel will not be held in the near future since there was only one application for it.

- Tom Maher was given a CITATION by the Superintendent of Prisons for the Shikoku District for outstanding service as "extra-ordinary visitor" to the Kochi prison. Besides teaching English to the prisoners, Tom is also twice a week at the prison for private interviews in his function of Prison Chaplain. As some of Tom's prison parishioners are so-called "professionals", his ministry there certainly qualifies for the Pope Pius XI Oblate Decoration for "specialists of the most difficult missions." Keep the good work going, Tom!

- Jack Deely travelled with 16 kids from Nihon Charity Plate to the U.S. in April (Sorry for not reporting earlier on this event!) This goodwill tour was sponsored by the Easter Seal Association for the Handicapped, a sister organization of Nihon Charity Plate. Purpose of the trip was to contact the handicapped in the States and study computer and key punch (keyboard machine used to punch holes in cards or tapes for data-processing systems.) The tour hit New-York, New Jersey, Washington, Ohio and California.

Up-to-date news is the publication of "SHOOGAIJI NO TAME NO MONTESSORI KYOOIKU" (Nihon Kagaku Publishing Company). Jack played a key-role in this translation of "Montessori and the Special Child." This publication is a first step in making the Montessori Method also available for some of the poorest Japanese children: the physically handicapped. The fixed price of the Japanese edition is 1800 Yen. Jack will bring 20 copies to Kochi on October 10th. Further orders made through him will be delivered with 20% discount. Great Jack!

- MASS CARDS: English Mass cards (Dan Ward's design) have been reprinted through the kindness of Mrs. Nathan Silver, 781 Andover St., Lowell, Mass. Friends and relatives desiring cards may obtain them directly from Mrs. Silver. Tell them not to forget to send money for postage.

Closed on October 4th, 1975.



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宗教法人:カトリック聖母献身宣教会

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NEWSLETTER

November-December 1975

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE:

- Dick Bonang has been appointed Director of the Tokyo community.
- Mike Yamasaki has been appointed Director and Acting Pastor in Koga.
- Ray Bourgoin will be returning to the Kochi district in the spring as missionary "at large". His place of residence is temporarily fixed at Shinhonmachi.
- Nestor Jao has just returned from "exile" - or was it vacation? - in Korea after four months waiting for a reentry visa. Welcome back! He is assigned to Tokushima until his theological studies begin in the spring.
- Wilfried Derudder is expected to leave shortly for Rome and home leave in Belgium.
- Len Inui returned to Japan November 1st after four months of research on Montessori education in Europe and the U.S.A. Len also attended the Oblate Continuing Education program in Lafayette, California.
- John Mahoney is in Manila replacing the Provincial at the Asian Provincials' Conference. (Dec. 1-10).
- Lei Simons while retaining his post in Akaoka has been appointed Director of the Koga Kindergarten.

HOME LEAVE:

Will all those planning to take home leave in 1976 please notify me of the approximate dates of departure and return as well as the proposed arrangements for replacement during their absence. A short note by mid-January would be highly appreciated.

ANNUAL RETREAT 1976:

Father Desmond O'Donnell of the Australian Province has accepted to lead a retreat for us in early September of 1976. Father Des has been a prominent figure in the De Mazenod Retreats in the Philippines and in Sri Lanka, as well as the originator of the series "New Testament Way to Community." More details on this later.

BETHEL BIBLE COURSE:

Funds are available from the Oblate Sharing Fund to subsidize the first five men wanting to attend one of the Bethel Bible Courses in Hakone in January. Those wanting to avail themselves of the subsidy should drop a note to me as soon as possible. "The early bird gets the worm!"

ON KOGA:

I know you have been wondering what is going on in Koga. Lei Simons, Mike Yamasaki and myself have been there since July trying to find a way out of the present difficulties. It is a complicated and delicate situation. I will write to you about it soon under separate cover. In the meantime I beg all of you most urgently to pray that the Holy Spirit guide us in this situation. I also encourage you to take the initiatives demanded by brotherly love and concern.

DISTRICT COORDINATORS:

The one year term of "district coordinators" expired in November. I ask you to reassess this role of service in the light of those sections of our Constitutions and Rules referring to District Superiors. Your comments plus the name of one man you would suggest for this role in your district should be in by Christmas. I suggest the districts be considered as follows: (1) Tokushima-Itami, (2) Kochi, (3) Fukuoka. The Tokyo house because of its geographical separation might be considered a separate entity represented by the Director of the house.

JACK DEELY'S BOOK:

There are still some free copies of Jack Deely's translation of "Montessori and the Special Child. This is a Japanese translation that Jack worked on with Mr. Ida, and Mr. Harada. You can buy it from Nihon Bunka Kagaku-sha for 1,800 yen or get a free copy by sending a postcard to me in Kochi.

Happy Bonen-kai season!

Ron LaFramboise, O.M.I.