



# The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

NEWSLETTER

PROVINCIAL OFFICE

5-6-26 HONMACHI

KOCHI 780 JAPAN

TEL 0888-72-3658

宗教法人:カトリック聖母献身宣教師会

January-March 1976

オブレート会

高知市本町 5-6-26

TEL 0888-72-3658

## ASSIGNMENTS:

- Francis Hahn to Aki-Akaoka as pastor.
- Jose DeFruyt to Tokushima as acting pastor.
- Raymond Bourgoin to Provincial Bursar.



## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE:

Fran Hahn is visiting Aki this week to paint his room in preparation for his final move in April. Fran will be charged with the pastoral and apostolic development of the Aki-Akaoka area. With the help of Mr. Kondo and the Fathers in Kochi city he will work out an interesting and practical plan for the pastoral care of the Christians spread throughout this vast area as well as the evangelization of those who have not yet heard the Word yet.

Lei Simons remains on special assignment in Koga. His already broad forehead seems to have broadened in the past few months!

Jose DeFruyt is bearing up through all the "farewell parties" in Kochi and will be taking only part of his library up to Tokushima next month to fill in for Ed Lowney. -- Ed is much better now and sunning himself in Florida so the last word has it. Looking forward to his speedy recovery and return to Japan.

Bert Silver's mother has shown some progress and Bert is expected back any day now. Please continue to keep his mother in your prayers.

Ray Bourgoin is getting settled in Kochi. No definite address yet, but you can contact him anytime at Shinhonmachi. He is very studiously pondering the mysteries of double-entry bookkeeping to prepare to take over the "finance minister's" portfolio from Len Robitaille. (Confirmation of his appointment is still pending.) Len has been at the job for thirty years, and though he hasn't lost a single "shekel" in those many years, felt younger blood was needed for the job. Go-kuro-san Len.

Mary Jo Tierney after three and a half years work as lay missionary at Seibo Gakuen is leaving this month. She will be back-packing across India on her way to Chicago! Many thanks Jo!

## **-HATA GUN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

The Provincial Council approved in principle the Hata Gun Development Project. The proposed building project is to be carried out in close cooperation with the diocese. The Bishop has agreed to do all he can to create interest and cooperation in the diocese for the realization of this project. The size of the structure will be limited to meet the immediate needs, but so designed that it can be easily expanded in the future. This is a good time to promote interest in this sometimes forgotten corner of the diocese, as well as to awaken the consciousness that the diocese is one, and that development in one part is the concern of all. It is likewise a good time for us to reflect upon our apostolic mission in Japan, "Pauperes evangelizantur misit nos."

### **-WANTED:**

One full time replacement for Bill Maher from August to January while he is on home leave. Contact either Bill or the Provincial as soon as possible.

### **KINDERGARTENS:**

For the sake of order and uniformity in the administration of our kindergartens and to enable the Provincial Council to carry out its role as Board of Directors of the "Shukyo Hojin" (Juridical Person) the Council approved the following directives, some of which had been suggested in years past by the school committee.

- 1-The hiring and dismissal of school employees should be done in consultation with the Council, which is also the Board of Directors of the Juridical Person, since the Juridical person has to bear the legal responsibility for its employees.
- 2-Written contracts should be signed with all kindergarten employees, three copies to be made, one to the employee, one for the kindergarten files and one for the Provincial files.
- 3-Contracts are made in the name of the Juridical Person, the school director signing as delegate.
- 4-A copy of all kindergarten personnel documents should be forwarded to the Provincial office.
- 5-The working rules are to be revised and registered and distributed to all present and future kindergarten employees.
- 6-That a list of all banks, bank account names and numbers of the kindergartens and houses be kept

at the Provincial Office. (For example: Kochi Sogo Bank, No. 00186743, Seibo Yochien.)

**-ANNUAL RETREAT:**

Fr. Desmond O'Donnell, O.M.I. of the Australian Province has accepted to direct the annual retreats this year.

The scheduled dates are Sept. 19-25 (place yet to be determined) and Sept. 26-Oct. 2 at the Passionist Retreat House in Mefu. This is the first community "directed" retreat in several years. The time of the year may be a bit inconvenient for some, but with this much advance notice, I hope everyone can arrange his schedule to make it.

**-QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CONSTITUTIONS:**

The questionnaire was distributed to those who attended the 150th Anniversary celebration in Kochi. It is enclosed with this Newsletter for those who were unable to attend that gathering.

This questionnaire is sent to every Oblate in the world to foster reflection on Oblate life in the light of the 1966 Constitutions and reflection on the 1966 Constitutions in the light of present Oblate life experiences. This will be one of the sources to help the Post-Capitular Commission on the Constitutions prepare a draft text for the General Chapter of 1980.

Father General in a letter to all Provincial's about this questionnaire says: "We know that today many religious are instinctively allergic to anything called norms, rules, constitutions, or legal texts -- their desire being to live the Gospel in all its freshness and simplicity with the freedom of God's children. On the other hand, the Council is convinced, as was the founder in 1818, of the need for a rule of life to ensure the unity, cohesion, effectiveness and continuance of a religious apostolic society that wants to remain faithful to the Gospel spirit."

The work of the Commission depends on our input. So let's give it our full attention during this coming year, the 150th of our approbation. Personal answers are definitely desired, but community district discussion is also highly recommended. This is an occasion to reflect on our current Oblate life and for the community to renew itself in the spirit of Bishop de Mazenod.





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## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1976

### JUBILEES AND ANNIVERSARIES.

- Congratulations to Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck. July 1st will mark 25 years of priestly ordination for Jan. Ad Multos Annos.

Other note-worthy anniversaries are:

- Fr. Len Robitaille's 40 years of priesthood - June 24th.
- Fr. Ed Lowney's 20 years of priesthood - June 8th.
- Fr. Ray Bourgoin (March 19th), Fr. Bill Maher (April 29th), and Fr. Richard Bonang (May 31st) all celebrate their tenth anniversaries.

Congratulations and many happy returns.

### ORDINATIONS AND VOWS.

Congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Ed Quioccho who will be ordained deacon June 27th in Tokushima church by Bishop Francis Tanaka, and to Bro. Masahito Miyamoto who renewed his annual vows April 15th during the Holy Thursday liturgy in Kochi.

### DISTRICT COORDINATORS.

Taking into consideration the opinions from each district, the present district coordinators are re-appointed for another year.

Kochi	- Fr. Leonard Simons.
Tokushima	- Fr. Angelo Siani.
Fukuoka	- Fr. Richard Harr.

Since Fr. Simons and Fr. Siani will be absent for an extended period they have the help of "assistants", Fr. Bert Silver for Tokushima and Fr. Francis Hahn for Kochi district.

**ACTING PROVINCIAL.**

While the Provincial is in Rome for the congress on the Founder's charism, Fr. John Mahoney will be the acting Provincial.

**ANNUAL RETREAT.**

Fr. Desmond O'Donnell has accepted to direct the retreat this year. He suggests a ten day session with the weekend free to return home for parish ministry. It is a bit different, and some may feel long, but it will certainly be a great experience and a help in the renewal of apostolic community.

Sept. 19th - 24th & Sept. 26th - Oct. 2nd.

Mark your calendars now and give this top priority.

See you in the summer well in time to prepare for the Festa di San Awa odori.

Don LaFramboise, C.M.I.

**Change of address:**

Rev. Robert J. Gill, C.M.I.  
O.L. of Assumption Church  
2001 South Ocean Boulevard  
Pompano Beach, Florida, 33062





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## NEWSLETTER

September 1976

### 50 YEARS OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION:

Congratulations to our dean, Fr. Bob Gill on his 50th anniversary of religious profession. September 8th marks fifty years of religious life for Bob. We wish we could be together to celebrate it. Ad multos annos, Bob.

### SAYONARA TO TWO GREAT GUYS:

At their own request Ed Lowney and Dave Ullrich have been re-assigned to the U.S., Ed to the Eastern Province and Dave to the Western Province. Ed is feeling much better and is in a parish in Florida. Dave is immersed in Marriage Encounter. August found him in Mexico to brush up his Spanish so that he could be more effective in his ministry at Santa Rosa parish. There is always a room open there for east-west travelers. They both ask to be remembered to you. Many thanks to both of them for the many years they shared with us here in Japan, and many blessings for them in their ministry.

### ANNUAL RETREAT:

Annual retreat starts Sunday Sept. 19th in the evening at the Passionist Retreat House in Mefu. Note however that the facilities will not be available until after the evening meal. At last count there were 11 yes's, 3 no's, 2 maybe's, 8 on home leave, and 3 with no answer, so there is still room for late applications. These few days together with Des O'Donnell will hopefully be another stepping stone in the renewal of community spirit and life. Let's keep the success of the retreat in our prayers.

### A NEW MINISTRY:

At the request of Cardinal Taguchi and the Paris Foreign Mission Fathers, Jan Van Hoydonck is going to assume responsibility for the pastoral care of the foreign community in Kobe at the Nakayamate church from November. One of the prerequisites was fluency in english and french. Jan can also handle German and Dutch, too, so the entire foreign community will be well served.

A MINISTRY OF HEALING:

Many people are waiting for Jan Van Hoydonck's return from his home leave. Jan has always been agile at repairing machines, but recently he has also acquired a skill for curing sore backs and stiff necks and the like. He has not hung out his chiropractor's shingle yet, but word has it there is a regular line to his door. Next time John Mahoney or Len Inui throw out their backs, they should give him a call.

WEDDING BELLS:

Bro Miyamoto will be "taking unto himself a wife" as soon as the necessary permissions are obtained. He hopes to continue his present work with orphaned and abandoned children, sharing with them the warmth and love that comes from family life. Congratulations and best wishes.

SICK BAY:

Jack Deely having suffered a knee injury in January this year, will undergo surgery during his home leave in the U.S. He expects to be back by the end of November. "O-daiji ni ne!"

"AND ALL PRESENT WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Dick Harr attended the two week charismatic retreat in Tokyo during August. It was a great experience that he will be glad to share with us in Mefu. After four weeks of retreat this year, Hikarigaoaka will definitely be radiating with light!

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CONSTITUTIONS:

Don't forget the deadline for answers to the questionnaire is December 31st. Group answers are most welcome. If you can get some feedback into the Provincial Office by mid-November that will also be appreciated, since the Asian Provincials meeting in Japan November 22-27 will make this questionnaire the core of their work. Each Oblate's voice is most important in this work....

OTHERS ON THE MOVE:

Len Robitaille will be in the U.S. in time for the World Series. Much easier than getting up in the middle of the night to listen to the shortwave! Angelo Siani returns next week from the Continuing education program in Lafayette. He will be well "processed" and much sharper so beware.... Ray Bourgoin says his mother is better now that the weather is getting cooler. Tom Maher sends best regards to all and is grateful to those who are covering his work until his return.





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## NEWSLETTER

November 1976

### WELCOME TO FATHER JETTE:

The Superior General, Father Jette, is arriving in Japan this Saturday, November 20th for the Asian Provincials' Conference annual meeting which will be held in Itami from 22-27 November. He will visit in Japan until December 6th. It is hoped he will be able to visit each district. The following is a tentative schedule.

Nov. 20-27 Itami (APC Meeting)  
Nov. 27-30 Tokushima District  
Nov. 30-Dec. 3 Kochi District  
Dec. 3 -Dec. 6 Fukuoka District

No general meeting is planned. However I hope each district can organize an informal gathering of the men in each district during the General's stay in their district. Father Forbes and some of the other Provincials attending the meeting will also be visiting for a few days.

### NEW MEMBER IN THE PROVINCE:

Fr. Wency Laguidao, OMI was finally granted a visa early this month and has arrived in Japan. After a few days visiting in Kochi and Tokushima he entered the Jesuit Language School in Kamakura. Welcome, Wency. And thanks to the Philippine Province for sending us another man.

### ED QUIOCHO TO BE ORDAINED:

Ed Quiocho, the first volunteer from the Philippine Province to Japan will be ordained to the priesthood December 8th in his home town of Lebak, near Cotabato. I hope to be able to attend, to celebrate with Ed and his family as well as to express our thanks to the Philippine Province and encourage others to join us in the future. Congratulations!

### REMINDER:

Be sure your letters about the consultation for next Provincial get to Rome by December 15th. Otherwise they will get lost in the Christmas rush and your voice will not be heard. The same goes for your answers to the Questionnaire on the Constitutions and Rules. If you have lost your questionnaire there are still a few in Kochi.