



# The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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会



オブレート会  
高知市本町 5-6-26  
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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1977

Dear Fellow Oblates,

February 17th has always been a special day for me. As a high school student in the juniorate I experienced it as a real family celebration. It was of course a school holiday. That was already enough to thrill a boy of 15. But the real highlight of the day was the community Mass attended by the entire student body and the Oblate faculty. New juniors were given their crosses while emotion packed hymns proclaiming high ideals rang through the chapel from the chorus of 200 male voices. Then all the Oblates knelt around the altar with lighted candle in hand to renew their vows, closing the ceremony with a thunderous Te Deum and Magnificat. Outside the chapel handshakes and accolades were the order of the day. Then a fine dinner and games where faculty and students mingled in a warm way that was somehow different from the ordinary days. It was a day when you could practically feel what the psalmist meant when he said:

"Behold how good it is, and how pleasant,  
where brethren dwell at one." (Ps. 132)

More than twenty years have passed since then. Customs and traditions have gone. Even the buildings have been sold or abandoned. The young idealistic men with bigger crosses now, have gone out to the many corners of the earth. Some live alone because their mission demands it. Others choose to do so freely to carry out a work more to their own liking. They feel 'community' is with the people they serve and not the missionary community from which they came. One man asks, 'How do you build community?' He feels he would like to move nearer to people with whom he has experienced a feeling of community. Another asks for stronger spiritual leadership.

Some find social relationships easy, and they make it a point to gather regularly for a pleasant meal. Others yearn for a deeper sharing that goes beyond mere sociability but find it difficult and awkward. Some find it meaningful to pray Lauds and sit in meditation together, realizing this is only a partial answer to their deep yearning. Others still feel the effects of polarizations that began some years ago. They find even social fraternization strained and tense. Yet everywhere there is an unspoken yearning for something more, something hard to say in words. It may be what the psalmist cries out:

"O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines, my soul thirsts, like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water." (Ps. 63)

I still feel confident that the 'core of the Good News which Jesus announced is that community is necessary and possible among men....Christ wants us to manifest, by living together in spite of the difficulties involved, that his love and his Spirit are stronger than all the forces of disruption. He wants us to manifest through our lives that the liberation of man is already begun....For us community can be more than a mere clerical club...more than a boarding house or a mailing address. It can be a live communion of persons, an atmosphere for personal growth and self-realization....We must first of all preserve a positive attitude and refuse to lapse into senseless complaining....Mission and Community: that is our vocation at a time when the pursuit of neither the one nor the other is easy.' ('Community', Nos. 6-22 passim)

These are the thoughts uppermost in my mind this February 17th. I share them with you simply and honestly. The 1972 letter on "Community" I still find fascinating and refreshing to read and pray over.

In closing I wish each and everyone a happy anniversary. I also pray that we may grow more and more interdependent in our life and in our missionary activity, which has brought us together. (Art. 42) May we bear witness before men that Christ lives in our midst and unites us intimately, in order to send us forth to proclaim the Kingdom. (Art. 45)

Fraternally in Christ,



Ron LaFramboise, O.M.I.

P.S. February 1st I was nominated for a second term as provincial. I beg your prayers and look forward to your continued cooperation. Instructions will be coming for the consultation for appointment of the council. The consultors will be appointed at the next Plenary Session of the General Council in May. It is at that time the new administration will be installed. (Cf. Communiqué, No. 15, Nov. 1, 1976)





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MARCH-APRIL 1977

ALLELUIA! HE LIVES AND HE COMES! ALLELUIA!



"He came once for all, at the end of time, to put away the power of sin forever by dying for us.... Christ died only once as an offering for the sins of many people. He will come again bringing salvation to all those who are eagerly and patiently waiting for Him." (Hebrews 9:26-28)

What powerful words! They tell of the wonderful reality and mystery that surrounds us. - He lives and He comes! - That's all there is. Yesterday, today, tomorrow. Every moment is overshadowed by that mind shattering, unbelievable, simple truth. - He lives and He comes!

Do I really believe it? With my mind, yes. My feelings, my attitude, my words, my actions often tell a different story though. Do I wait eagerly and patiently for Him? Another difficult question to answer yes to.

The new paschal candle standing tall and solemn, its flame glowing bright, reaching for the ceiling says as it flickers:

"I live! I come! I am the Light! You too are the light! Let your light shine before all men until I come again!

A strong desire wells up in me this Easter to read and pray over the wonderful works of God revealed in the Scriptures and to share in praise and thanks with my fellow missionaries. I would especially like to go through the 'New Testament Way to Community' with some one or two. How about you?

Happy Easter Season to each and every one. He lives and He comes! Alleluia!

Ron

### WELCOME BACK TO OUR NEW PRIEST

A hearty welcome to Fr. Eduardo Quiocho. He returned to Japan at the end of February after a spectacular outdoor ordination ceremony in his native Salaman, Lebak (Philippines). Bishop 'Tony' Nepomuceno, OMI presided on the 8th of December. Despite a cloudburst in the middle of the homily, the crowd of about 1000 did not budge and Bishop 'Tony' continued on with his fiery homily in Tagalog. The sun came out from behind the rain cloud and dried everyone off. Thanks for the tropical sun! Eddie is presently assigned to the Tokushima mission.

### OMI VICAR GENERAL TO VISIT JAPAN

Fr. Francis George, OMI will visit Japan this summer from August 26 to September 1st. It is just a short stay in his informal asian visit. But he hopes to renew old acquaintances, get a sense of the Japanese context, and the Oblate involvement. We look forward to his visit.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SILVER JUBILARIAN

Best wishes and congratulations to Dick Harr on the occasion of his twenty fifth anniversary of ordination (June 2). Dick will be taking home leave at the end of May. He will join his class mates for a grand celebration in Washington and then 'big doings' in McCook, Nebraska. Ad Multos Annos.

### FR. BROUART FOR ANNUAL RETREAT

This is "Asia Year" for Father Brouart. He has accepted to direct the annual retreats for all the asian Provinces this year. The annual retreat in Japan will be held from July 31st (Sunday evening) to August 7th (Monday evening). It will not be possible to retrun to the parishes for the Sunday Mass like last year, so please make early arrangements for replacements with the diocesan or religious clergy. I quote here Fr. Brouart's feelings on the length of the retreat.

"Frankly I do not see the possibility of a real serious retreat in less than six full days. I had to face the same problem (five day retreats) in many of our canadian provinces because of the 'obligation' of Sunday masses. The result is that the Fathers arrive tired from the trip and in spite of their good will are not really in the mood of starting a retreat and when they are really starting, it is time to rush back to their parishes. If a retreat consists simply in listening a few talks, more or less interesting, then there is no problem. I can give talks for three or four days - but the more I go, the more I realize that what our Oblates (starting with me!) need and are looking for, more or less consciously, are not just ideas but PRAYER. The essential for me, in a retreat, are not the talks but the opportunity of listening to the Lord in faith; my role is not to give ideas to reflect upon, but just to help my confreres to pray, i.e. to listen to the mysterious WORD of the Lord and to be open to the action of His SPIRIT, and this requires TIME and silence. ...I do not want to minimize the value of the Sunday Mass. But I know that more and more, here in Canada like in France, with the diminishing number of priests, we will be less and less able to assure Sunday masses everywhere (in Africa and South America they are ahead of us in that regard), and we see the necessity of forming people so that, even in the absence of the priest, they

may observe the day of the Lord and have at least a liturgy of the Word with a paraliturgy of the Eucharist and the possibility of communion."

Given the importance of the annual retreat both for our personal lives and consequently for the apostolate of the community, I look forward to an even better attendance than last year. - The place of the retreat is not decided yet. I will let you know as soon as possible.

#### NEW MISSION CENTER IN NAKAMURA

March 6th Bill Maher blessed the land for the new mission center. Work on the foundations is advancing and construction should be finished by the end of July. Many thanks to the diocese of Takamatsu, to the missionary groups and parishes and to many individuals for their excellent cooperation in the fund raising campaign. This was the first time a diocesan wide appeal was made for building a new mission center. It is a fine testimony to what the local Church can do! Despite the small numbers of Christians in the diocese almost 2 million yen was raised on the diocesan level. There are still a few yen missing to round out the 15 million budget for construction and furnishings. Non-Shikoku OMI parishes wishing to cooperate in the project may do so directly to Bill or through the Bursar's office.

#### SEMINAR ON HEALING MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

Dick Harr, Jan Van Hoydonck and Angelo Siani attended an unusual seminar on the healing ministry in the Church. It was held in Mefu Feb. 16-18 at the Passionist retreat house. Fr. Francis MacGuff, O.P. led the team of three priests who directed the seminar. There were lectures, hours of prayer and there were healings too. The team stressed Christ's will in the gospels and His healing powers at work all over the world today. They impressed all with the healing powers of the priest through the grace of holy orders, the vast field of evil where Christ's hand of healing is so eager to touch. Some of the 200 people attending were blessed with physical healings and most of the participants sought and received inner healing. Dick, Jan and Ange acclaim it as a "great and extraordinary occasion of grace." They are eager to share their experience with all.

#### LANDMARK DISAPPEARS

The church tower at Koga long time a landmark among the peaceful pine groves along the sea coast is being dismantled. It lost the battle against rain, wind and termites. Estimated cost of the project is 2.5 million yen. Sentimentalists and historians have photographed it so we will have "before and after" pictures. There is no telling to what extent it is deteriorated. Fujiki Komatsu is in charge of work.

#### WANTED:

Two or three people interested in meeting regularly for shared prayer and reflection using the 'New Testament Way to Community'. Call or write Ron in Kochi.





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NEWSLETTER

MAY-JUNE 1977

## NEW PROVINCIAL COUNCIL APPOINTED:

A telegram of June 10th announced the appointment of Leo Simons and Angelo Siani as the new members of the Council. The new administration will be installed when the necessary documents arrive from Rome. Many thanks to John Mahoney for his three years of service. For Leo it is the second time around. Thanks Leo for the first year and a half and 'yoroshiku' for the next three years. Welcome aboard to Angelo.

## DICK HARR-SILVER JUBILEE

Dick Harr celebrates 25 years of priesthood this month. He left in mid-May to join his classmates for the celebration at 391 Michigan Ave. in Washington, D.C. He will also be taking home leave at this time. There will be big doings in McCook! Congratulations, Dick.

## OTHER PEOPLE HERE AND ABROAD:

-Dick Bonang can be found in zen meditation at Shibato-so, Hase 4-6-16, Kamakura-shi, where he has taken up residence since last month. It is very near the Daibutsu statue. Don't mix them up! - Bert Silver is leaving for home leave July 1st. - Tom Maher will be attending the Columban Pastoral Committee Catechetical Course for Adults in Tokyo later this month. From there he will go on to the USA to take part in an AA congress and a visit with his parents who have moved from the 'big city' (Chicago) to North Carolina. - Jerry Novotny will also be winging across the Pacific in August to attend a TA seminar at the TA center in Oakland, California, compliments of the Ministry of Education. - Angelo Siani will be joining Jose DeFruyt and Eddie Quiocho in Tokushima in September to give community life and team approach to the ministry a try. - Mike Yamasaki is commuting between Koga and Hikarigaoka during Dick Harr's absence. Scarboro Willy Schultz is also giving a hand and Wency Laguidao has volunteered his services to help Mike in July and August. - Len Inui has got himself an ulcer. Nothing too serious that a little rest won't cure!!

## NAKAMURA DEDICATION SCHEDULED:

The building in Nakamura is progressing well. The roof is up, windows in and the walls are almost finished. The dedication is scheduled for Sunday August 21st. Hope many of you can make it, even though it is on a Sunday.

#### PEACE IN KOGA:

May 30th. Feast of Mary Queen of Peace, patron of Koga parish, an agreement was reached in the Fukuoka Labor Relations Board putting an end to the two and a half year labor problems at the Koga kindergarten. The official agreement was signed on June 14th. -- Many thanks to Lei Simons, Len Inui, Mike Yamasaki and Mr. Hara for their cooperation during some sometimes difficult moments. A word of thanks and appreciation, too, to all of you for your prayers, patience and understanding. The final words of advice of Mr. Miura (lawyer) and Mr. Iwasaki (Labor Board): "Be careful now to keep the peace!"

#### REMINDER ABOUT THE RETREAT:

The annual retreat starts Sunday evening July 31st at the Carmelite retreat house in UJI. It closes Monday PM, August 8th. It has been brought to my attention that the last Newsletter read "Aug. 7th Monday". Sorry about that.

An application form and instructions on how to get there are being sent to you. Please send in your application by July 1st. Fr. Drouart asks that we bring our bibles and a copy of the OMI Constitutions and Rules.

#### VISITORS:

Fr. Jose Ante, OMI, Provincial of the Philippine Province is expected to visit Japan around the end of June on his return from Formation meeting in Rome. -- Vicar General, Fr. Francis George, OMI is scheduled to arrive in Japan August 26th for a week.

#### OF COMPUTERS AND KINDERGARTENS:

A contract has been made with the School Accounting Center in Osaka to handle our kindergarten accounting with the help of their computer. Each kindergarten sends the usual single entry reports to the center each month and the computer changes it all to double entry reports in keeping with the Ministry of Education's school accounting standards. The computer also does the computations for depreciation of buildings and other fixed assets. All for 10,000yen per month. This will bring uniformity to our school accounting and also give us the reports that are gradually becoming mandatory.





## REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE VICE-PROVINCE OF JAPAN

DEC 8, 1977

## I-PERSONNEL:

Since people are our most valuable assets, let's start there. A quick review of our personnel situation for the past four years shows that in 1974 there were 31 Oblates attached to our Vice-Province. Since then one has died (Dan Ward), two have returned to the United States (Dave Ullrich and Ed Lowney), one scholastic has left (M. Miyamoto), and one has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the General Administration (W. Derudder). We received one new man into the Province from the Philippines in 1976 (Wency Laguidao). So we lost five and gained one bringing our present number to 27 Oblates. A detailed analysis of personnel can be found on the page of statistics at the end of this report.

In general, we are healthy, though the medical bills this year show that we are beginning to show a bit of wear and tear. Visits to the doctor for the little aches and pains of the 40's and 50's are on the increase.

Of the 25 priests attached to the Province, Wency Laguidao is in the Jesuit language school in Kamakura until July 1978. Our mission procurator, Fr. Gill, works in the United States. Brother Tsuda, 78 years old, is still very active in the ministry.

Our numbers decrease faster than they increase. Our average age is now 45. It will be 55 ten years from now with 17 men either 50 or older. God willing, all 27 of us will be active in His ministry ten years from now. It is questionable whether we will be able to meet our present commitments ten years from now unless there is an increase in personnel or a gradual reorganization of our works.

QUESTIONS: What can we do in the face of this personnel reality? How can we foster native vocations? Are we as a community ready to recognize and receive vocations today? Do we have an adequate formation plan?

## II-COMMITMENTS:

Let us look now at the various works the Province and its men are involved in. We will divide this section into two parts: (1) works the Province as such is specifically responsible for, (2) other personal commitments our men have.

## 1- PROVINCE COMMITMENTS:

By Province commitments we mean those works for which the Province as such is specifically responsible. Our men are involved in a variety of other services and ministries that we will touch on briefly in the second part of this section.

- (Summary)
- 2 Mission Districts (Kochi-ken and Tokushima-ken)
  - 11 Parishes
  - 1 Station
  - 6 kindergartens
  - 1 Night School
  - 2 Priests on Loan (Sanbonmatsu and Kobe)



-Mission Districts:

The Congregation has a contract with the diocese of Takamatsu whereby it assumes the responsibility for the missionary and pastoral work in the two civil prefectures of Kochi and Tokushima. This is geographically half of the diocese. In these two districts we now have 8 parishes 1 station with a resident priest, four kindergartens, and one night school. Two of these parishes are confided to us "in perpetuum" (Aki and Naruto). Fourteen Oblates are involved in these works. That is half of our personnel resources. We came to Japan especially for Shikoku as early documentation and Visitation reports show. This commitment, it should be noted, is not only for the pastoral care of existing parishes, but also for the evangelization of the entire area.

QUESTIONS: Is there a realistic awareness of our community commitment to these districts as a whole, or do we tend to think more in terms of "my place", "my work"? Are we fulfilling our responsibility as a missionary community to this area? Is there sufficient community approach to the evangelization of the area? Is this commitment an obstacle to our missionary mobility, i.e. to our freedom to commit ourselves to the service of the Church and the poor according to the demands of our missionary charism? Do we want to continue this kind of commitment? Will we be able to do so personnel wise ten years from now, even five years from now?

-Parishes:

We are presently responsible for 11 parishes in Japan. Eight of these are in the two mission districts just mentioned. We also have one parish "in perpetuum" in the diocese of Osaka (Itami), and two in the diocese of Fukuoka, (one "in perpetuum", Koga). These parishes range from 14 parishioners in the smallest to 900 in the largest.

The pastor of Shinhonmachi-Kochi is a diocesan priest since 1972. He is assisted by two Oblates who live in apartments nearby. The two parishes of Akaoka and Aki are entrusted to one man. Among those men involved in pastoral work, there seems to be a tendency to shy away from the responsibility as "pastor" in favor of a freer involvement in pastoral work.

QUESTIONS: Are there some parishes sufficiently developed that we could and/or should turn them over to the diocesan clergy? Is there a need to clarify the status of the Shinhonmachi parish and its relation to our mission district contract? Are our parishes becoming dynamic communities - leaven - with lay leaders who can assume their right place in the Church?

-Kindergartens:

We have 6 kindergartens. Koga will soon be turned over to a separate administrative body. Some men have repeatedly voiced their desire to be relieved of their responsibilities as directors. The director in Kochi is a layman, Mr. Abe. Our younger men are not interested in kindergarten work. Part of the reason may be an awareness of our inability to administer them as the times demand.

For the most part we have let the head teachers run our kindergartens, content to supervise the educational aspect very superficially and to dabble in administration according to our interest and our varied levels of ability. None of us were trained for this kind of work. Those who still show an interest and have dedicated themselves for many years, acquired what proficiency they have by on the spot training. The level of religious education we offer has long been a subject of debate.

QUESTIONS: The shape of pre-school education in Japan is changing. Are we sufficiently aware of this process? Is our present system of administration adequate? Personnel wise how long can we keep up our present system of administration? How can we resolve the question of competent and interested directors? Can we carry on without the help of government subsidies that are available only to "gakkoo hoojin" -school juridical persons? Should we form our own "gakkoo hoojin"? Should we join our places to a diocesan "gakkoo hoojin"? How can we deal with the problem of religious education?

-Kochi Night School!

Seibo Gakuen will be ten years old this coming March (1978). Three men are involved in this work of adult education. Of the many courses offered ten years ago (english, french, spanish, chinese, typing, art, cooking, dancing, business, psychology) only english, french and dancing have survived. The other courses were dropped as student numbers dwindled. We have gone from an average 200 annual enrollment to about 100. There are at present 70 students enrolled.

The financial deficit has been increasing over the past three years. Definitely the scene is different now than it was ten years ago. The english boom of the Olympic years is over. Three other schools have come into the city, not to mention the many transient foreigners with their little groups. The economy has been in a slump and people are saving their money. What started out as a district project involving most of the Oblates in Kochi prefecture, has become more or less the project of two or three men.

QUESTIONS: Have we fulfilled the purpose for which the school was started? What is its evangelical value? Can we solve its chronic financial problems? Two of the three men involved have been there for eight years. Is it time for new blood and new creativity?

-Priests on Loan:

We have agreed for an indefinite period of time to have Fr. Robitaille serve as pastor in Sanbonmatsu (Kagawa-ken). We are not responsible for the parish plant, its maintenance and the like. The diocese is ultimately responsible to find a replacement in the absence or inability of the present man.

We have signed a 3 year contract (1976-1979) permitting Fr. Van Hoydonck to serve the foreign community of the MEP parish in Nakayamate, Kobe.

## 2-PERSONAL COMMITMENTS:

Besides the above works, our men are involved in a variety of other service, chief of which is the teaching of languages in government schools. Ten men have private contracts with schools. One man teaches full time at Kochi University. Another is part time at Jochi University in Tokyo. Two men visit state prisons regularly. Another is involved in service for the handicapped in Tokyo. All of these men show a spirit of creativity, and their services are well appreciated. While the Province supports these men, the Province as such is not responsible for these works nor for their continuity.

## III-COMMITMENTS vs. PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

Let us turn now to the relationship between our commitments and our personnel resources. On the surface we seem able to cover our present commitments. However we are really spread very thin. There are 18 men involved in works committed to the Province, two studying, one in the U.S.A., one in administration, 5 in other works. Given our present commitments, we have little leeway to free men for new fields of apostolate, or to expand our present works.

In case of emergency or even regular home leave, it is becoming very difficult to find someone to replace. Men do not like to "fill in". Should the burden of finding replacements fall on the provincial administration or on the individual man? Many are tied down by school contracts. It is not easy for them to take a temporary assignment in another district.

At present assignments as director of a house or as pastor are for indefinite terms. In general we have had a relatively long period of stability in assignments as a look at section "B" of the statistics will show. There are definite advantages of being in one place a long time. There are also disadvantages.

There have been few important transfers of personnel in the past ten years, despite the fact that 12 men have moved in the past four years. Some of these transfers were mere rubber stamping of "faits-accomplis". Others were at the request of the men in question for a variety of reasons. It is no exaggeration to say that the provincial administration finds it difficult to make transfers of personnel according to the needs of the men themselves and the needs of our various commitments.

QUESTIONS: Are we as a missionary group as mobile as we should be? Are there new fields of apostolate we should be developing? Are there some we should be abandoning or turning over to others? What are the advantages and disadvantages of long term appointments? What are the advantages and disadvantages of assignments for fixed terms as opposed to indefinite terms?



#### IV- APOSTOLIC LIFE AND RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT:

-All our men are working hard in a variety of ministries. Some men are working too hard. At times it seems there is a lot of work being done for work's sake - to have something to do - and little evaluation of whether this is really the work we are called to do. To a certain extent we may have lost sight of our religious commitment to preach Christ "in season and out of season". Are we content to do what society wants us to do - what society is at ease to have us do? Or do we challenge society with a Gospel inspired life?

-Our district system has gradually broken down. The district coordinators do not have a clear role. There seems to be little concern in fact whether there is one or not. Despite the talk some years ago about "real community life being on the district level", this may be more talk than reality. (Cf. Mafu Guidelines DOC. 2) Some districts meet regularly for common prayer, study, recreation. Other districts sometimes, and other districts never.

-It is certain, however, that the turbulent waters of the post-Council period are subsiding, people are regaining their equilibrium. They are longing for, searching for deeper and more meaningful forms of prayer, of community life and apostolic works. The horizon is bright, though we need some strong wind yet to clear the clouds. Maybe since we have done away with most former structures and forms, it will be easier now to try some that seem more meaningful.

#### V-FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE PROVINCE:

We seem to be in a situation of holding the status quo rather than having a direction for the future. We talk a lot about what we should do, but we never seem to get around to doing it. There is some pessimism and fear for the future because we have few young men coming in to fill our shoes as we grow older. There is however a conscious effort to involve laymen more directly in the apostolate. There are also sincere efforts being made to renew community life.

#### VI-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVINCE'S GOVERNMENT:

Government is only as effective as people want it to be. The measure of its effectiveness depends a lot on one's image of effectiveness and of what one expects government to do.

Administration wise, paper work and the like go on rather smoothly. Yet government does not seem to have much effect on the men of the Province. On the one hand this may be a result of the feeling some have towards authority and government. On the other hand, the provincial administration was very much tied down for three years by the Koga problem, thus draining its time and energies.

CONCLUSION:

We have raised many questions in this report. Some more rhetorical than demanding an answer. Others, however, must be answered. We cannot put them off much longer.

We have given here, one brief and incomplete view of the Province. It is very much an "administrative" view. It is only one view, one facet. There are many other facets to be seen. Formulating these facets will be part of the work of the preparation committee.

Let us gather together in Congress to view all the facets, and to re-evaluate our present commitments in the light of the Gospel and of our missionary charism. Then, let us have the courage to take those concrete decisions demanded of us if we are to remain faithful to the Spirit who speaks to us through the most urgent needs of the poor.

Hopefully with the mobility proper to a group of missionaries, we will be ever more free to commit ourselves to the most urgent needs of the Church and the world. This was our original charism. It is still fundamental to our life as a missionary Congregation. It must be maintained at all costs. (Missionary Outlook, No. 17a.)

We on the provincial council feel that we are a group of dedicated missionaries. We have stuck to difficult tasks for many years. We do our best even though we sometimes get tired and discouraged. We are open to the Spirit, and we are trying to follow His call, groping our way down the wandering path that leads to the Great Coming.

Kochi, December 3th 1977  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Your brothers on the council,

Ron LaFramboise, O.M.I.  
Angelo Siani, O.M.I.  
Lei Simons, O.M.I.

# STATISTICS

DOC. 1  
page 6

## A-HOW MANY ARE WE? 27OMI B-WHERE ARE WE FROM?

-Priests	25	15 Americans	(Eastern Prov. 9 )
			(Central Prov. 3 )
			(St. John's 2 )
			(St. Peter's 1 )
		5 Belgians	(Belgique-Nord 5 )
		3 Japanese	(Japan 3 )
		2 Filipino	(Philippines 2 )
-Brother	1	1 Japanese	(Japan 1 )
-Scolastic	1	1 Filipino	(Philippines 1 )
	27 OMI	27 OMI	27 OMI

## C-WHERE ARE WE? D-HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN THERE?

2 in Hoya	18 years	1 man
1 in Kamakura-Lang.School	15 years	1 man
1 in Kamakura Apartment	12 years	1 man
1 in Itami	11 years	1 man
1 in Kobe-Nakayamate	10 years	2 men
2 in Koga	9 years	3 men
2 in Hikarigaoka	8 years	3 men
1 in Nakamura	7 years	2 men
3 in Nakajima-cho(Kochi)	6 years	1 man
3 in Apartments (Kochi)	4 years	1 man
0 in Akaoka	3 years	3 men
1 in Aki	2 years	2 men
1 in Ikeda	1 year	6 men
2 in Anan		27 OMI
2 in Tokushima		
2 in Naruto		
1 in Sanbonmatsu		
1 in the U.S.A.		

27 OMI

## E-HOW OLD ARE WE?

Average age:	in 1977	in 1987
	45 years old	55 years old
	in their 80's	2 men
2 men	in their 70's	1 man
1 man	in his 60's	5 men
5 men	in their 50's	9 men
11 men	in their 40's	8 men
6 men	in their 30's	2 men
2 men	in their 20's	

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NEWSLETTER

JULY-DECEMBER 1977

## NEW EDITOR:

Bill Maher has accepted to be the new editor-reporter for the Newsletter. He will send out a postcard regularly asking for your news. This issue features the first fruits of that reporting effort. The response to this first appeal for news from where the news is was very enthusiastic. Hopefully the Newsletter will appear more regularly and with more content than it has in the past.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED

-For Jack Deely's father who had a serious heart attack earlier this month. Jack left for home on emergency leave last week.

-For Xave Delporte's sister. She has a rare lung disease. Xave will go to visit her in Africa during the holidays.

## "GAKKO HOJIN" FOR KOGA

Seven Oblates from all parts of the Province met with the Council in Naruto on Nov. 7th to discuss the formation of a school juridical person (Gakko Hojin) to administer our Koga kindergarten. It was decided as a result of this meeting and of the favorable response from the province-wide enquete, to go ahead with the formation of this new administrative body. It is a very positive step to involve laymen more directly in the apostolate. We can also look forward to a model Montessori school and a center for research and formation of teachers in the principles of Montessori education. Details will be published as soon as they are settled. -- Many thanks for your enthusiastic response and straightforward opinions and suggestions. Thanks too, to Bert, our host for the day.

## NARUTO LAND DEAL

Serious thought is being given about selling our present site at Naruto and moving to a new developing area of the city. There is a possibility of selling our present site for a price that would cover cost of the new land and rebuilding, and still have some change left over. We could be two steps ahead of the termites, and have facilities more adapted to our present needs, plus being in the middle of the "new Naruto", away from the busy national highway with more quiet and safety for the children.

"THE NEWS"

I really don't know how to go about editing all your cards. For this first time I'll just try to report the items I got and see how it works. Thanks for the replies and another card will be coming in the near future. Almost everyone wished everyone else the Seasons Greetings, so I'm not going to mention it in each report.

JOSE and ED had a wonderful Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrating it with a concelebration with some of the christians. Jose praised God for the brother He gave him as a co-worker and Ed prayer for the 6000 Oblates and Nakatome Sensei prayed for Ed on the first anniversary of his ordination. The evening was spent at the Park Hotel restaurant where Ed and Jose were the only guests on the whole top floor with two waiters. Bert came to wish them a Happy Feast Day and John Mahoney called.

ED QUIOCHO got his Christmas cards and the newsletter post card out while listening to music in his office. He's converted the church library into a multi-purpose room. It now serves as the library, music room, english classroom, osetsuma and his office.

On Fri. Dec. 9th Ed had Mass at the Sisters and breakfast lasted two hours because they had a very fruitful sharing of their thoughts at the moment. He had a sick call on the way home and "Seikatai" practice, an english class, and the "Seinen Kai" in the afternoon and evening. The "seinen" are using the "Seisho to Tenrei" of Sunday as a base for their sharing. The "Seikatai" is preparing for the "shimin" christmas program.

TOKUSHIMA CHURCH photocopied and prepared a 32 page special "Seisho to Tenrei" for Christmas midnight Mass. Two hundred copies only cost 16,000yen with the "kyookai gyooji" printed on the black and white cover.

LEN ROBITAILLE is preparing two catechumens for Easter baptism, emplying for the first time the New Lenten Schedule for the gradual implementation of the sacrament.

GERRY STEVENS has been asked to keep teaching for another year at the Shikoku Christian University. They have asked him to increase his teaching hours as well as add one more courses to his work load. The school wants to introduce a Latin course as a credited course in their curriculum. He feels competent in the teaching but he's trying to interpret what the Holy Spirit wants. As he says, "teaching and schools (education) always have been an important "fukyoo" work in the Church but what about the marginal people especially in the remote areas? They are not reached through "yochiens" nor universities etc."

JAN reports that his time is filled completely with all kinds of things everyday in the parish in Kobe. But nothing special right now.. He will send some news later.

I'm just going to copy all of Dick BONANG's card for you: "I have just returned from a Zen retreat, referred to as a sesshin. This retreat was significant for two reasons: 1. It was my first sesshin with Yamada Kooun Rooshi. Formerly I had made 5 sesshin with Fr. Enomiya LaSalle in Shinmei Kutsu. 2. This was the Roohatsu sesshin lasting 7 full days. Roohatsu is

the feast of the enlightenment of Buddha. Therefore it is a special day for all Buddhists.

From the sesshin I received much. To share one point, Yamada Rooshi was in his room and available 3 times a day for interview -- very short and to the point. These interviews last from 1 min. to 10min. in length depending on the person's situation. Two other rooshi remained in the zendoo directing the sitting. The 3 have worked as a team for 8 yrs. and they know what they are doing. What impressed me most however, was their sensitivity to even the slightest "spiritual" movement, for example, position of the body, ears burning red, depth of the eyes. Once they spotted something, they worked to improve the situation for the better.

During our TA retreat we had the opportunity to observe this ourselves. It is something Real. In our own counseling and directing it is important to develop an awareness or sensitivity to the external manifestations of inner spiritual energies." (All this was written on one small postcard!!!)

NESTOR JAO says that the Oblates in the Tokyo area are going to start a monthly get-together for prayers etc. starting Dec. 14th.

A short self-introduction from WENCY LAGUIDAO: ordained March of '76; came to Japan Oct. of '76. I'm in my second year of Japanese study at the Jesuit language school here in Kamakura. I will be finishing the two year course in July this year. Life revolves around my study of the language. My studies have been both exciting and frustrating at times but in general, so far so good, I would say. This can be a meaningful start in finding out how God reveals himself to these people (the Japanese).

JACK DEELY will soon have an article published in a magazine for crippled people. And he's presently "breaking my fingers learning sign language."

TOM MAHER would like to inform us of the publication of the Winter 1977 issue of Chit-Chat. It's an up and coming English literary magazine of the Kochi area. Now on sale at 300 yen a copy.

RAY BOURGOIN is reading Hans Kung's challenging book 'On Being a Christian'. He says it is heavy reading but really worthwhile. It gives the 'core' of what it means to be a Christian and challenges one's 'poverty', since we must "be ready to divest ourselves of many layers of what we came to believe to be the message, and be ready to put on the simple cloth of Christ's or rather Jesus of Nazareth's spirit.

FRAN HAHN has just finished a series of catechetical talks in Kurashiki. It was the 2nd such series at that church and they now have a second 'kyoodootai' (community) of about 12-15 people. One great joy was that a former classmate who was ordained and since left to marry came to the talks and has decided to join that community.

- Fran also reports that at Aki two babies will be baptized this Easter, and "three parishoners are 'with child' and Aki is growing fine..." He is also helping to prepare the "Shimin Kurisunasu" with Rev. Barney in Tosayamada.



XAVE DELPORTE joyfully reports, "1977 was a great year. I finished half a century and now I have a new half century ahead." If the Japanese government will agree, Xave may become a Japanese national next year.

The ESS girls of Kochi Women's University took first place in the All Shikoku English Drama contest. Xave coached them to their victory.

JOHN TWO reports: on Dec. 7th 3 ladies made promises for the Legion of Mary and one other became a candidate at Nakajimacho in Kochi. The Legion is very active in the apostolate of the sick and John also makes 12 communion calls every month. They presently have 5 members and one candidate in the Legion now, and they will have their 1000th meeting in May 1978.

BILL is busy this week with a newsletter and the 4th Nakamura Shimin Kurisumasu. Miura Shumon will come this Sat. He's a famous catholic author. It looks like we'll sell about 600 tickets between the three churches. That's not as good as we planned. Next week will be the first Christmas in the new chapel. Ron is coming for our big celebration on Christmas morning, there will be one baby baptized and it promises to be the best Christmas yet.

JOHN MAHONEY reports that he is now down to 78kilograms. Suits and clothes don't fit anymore, but he feels great.

RON is organizing a group to go to Paris, Lourdes, Marseille and Rome for holy week and Easter. Applicants are all from our parishes. There are now 40 people interested, 18 who will definitely go, and 8 who have put their down payment "down"?. Departure March 20, return the 30th. Only 370,000yen including air fare, hotels, trains, buses and two meals a day.

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(N.B. A revised personnel list of the Province will be published in January.)

So that is the news for the year. Hang up your stocking for Santa, finish writing your new year's cards and give thanks to the Father for his many graces this year and every year.

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year.