



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

NEWSLETTER



オブレート会
高知市本町 5-6-26
TEL 0888-72-3658

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1978

NEW ASSIGNMENTS:

- Fr. M.S. Yamasaki from Acting Pastor Koga
to Pastor Koga
effective February 17.
- Fr. J. DeFruyt from Acting Pastor Tokushima
to Tokushima Pastor and Director (1st term)
effective February 17.
- Fr. F. Hahn from Pastor Aki-Akaoka and Director Aki
to Tokushima Assistant and Comunidad work.
effective April 1.
- Fr. J.T. Iwo from Pastor-Director Kochi Nakajima-cho
to Aki Pastor and Director (1st term)
effective April 1.
- Fr. A. Siani from Assistant Naruto
to Kochi Nakajima-cho Pastor-Director (1st term)
effective April 1.

CONGRESS COMMITTEE:

The following men have been asked to serve as a committee to prepare the coming Provincial Congress: J. DeFruyt (Chairman), A. Siani, M. Yamasaki, R. Bourgoïn. You will be hearing from them shortly.

REVISION OF CONSTITUTIONS AND RULES.

A copy of the proposed Revised Text (Parts I and II) from the Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions has been sent to everyone. Personal or group answers should be sent to Fr. Sion (Rome) by end of May 1978. The participation of all the members of the Congregation in the process of revision is of the utmost importance, so that the revised text will reflect the living spirit of the Congregation today. The following men are asked to organize at least one group meeting in their district to discuss the proposed text: Tokyo-R. Bonang. Tokushima-B. Silver. Kochi-T. Maher. Fukuoka-R. Harr.

ANNUAL RETREAT:

The annual retreat will be held from Aug. 20 (PM) to Aug. 26 (AM). Fr. Valerien Gaudet, OMI from Canada will be in Japan giving retreats during the summer. He has accepted to direct ours too. The place is not yet set. Please adjust your summer schedules so that you can attend.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Dr. Kanki, Bro. S. Tsuda's brother who died in Tokyo in January.

OF OLD AND TATTERED SCRAPS OF PAPER

Those old tattered scraps of yellow paper with undecipherable handwritten chinese characters all over them are most likely deeds to land and buildings of your church or school. Don't throw them away. Please check your files today and send all such papers referring to registration of lands and buildings to the Provincial Office. They will be zeroxed and placed into a safety deposit box. We also need them to complete many blanks in our financial and corporation records.

FINANCIAL COMPETENCIES

Effective January 1st 1978 the financial competencies for the Provincial, Superiors and Directors of houses has been revised by the General Administration. A copy with the detailed explanation will be sent to each of you. According to these new regulations the Provincial Council set the maximum amount of money a director of a house can spend 240,000yen. Recourse to the Provincial is needed for expenses above that amount.

Fr. PAT HEALY, OMI IN JAPAN.

The last issue of the Newsletter failed to report that Fr. Pat Healy, formerly of this Province is back in Japan. He was assigned to Camp Zama as army chaplain for the U.S. Forces there during the summer. You may contact him by calling the base operator Tel. 0462-51-1520 and asking for 233-5247 for Pat's quarters or 233-3955 for the Chaplain's Office. Sorry I do not have the mailing address.

FROM OUR READERS:

Fr. A. Baillargeon (Benny) Director of Information OMI Rome writes: "Just read through your newsy newsletter. Congratulate Bill for me - and may he keep it up. Reminds me of Australia's COSMIC and St. Paul's (Vancouver) OMI COMM - same light tone, personal, informative. One problem for me is having to refer to personnel list of Japan to learn who is who....I am sure the "fukyoo" work in the Church is not what I think it is, but I wonder if a "sesshin" is a session?"

GREETINGS FROM DAVE ULLRICH

Dave sends his best wishes to "all the guys" in a long letter dated Jan. 22. He is at St. Mary's Church 707 Jefferson St. Oakland, Calif. 94607. He says, "The three priests here are supposed to be a pastoral-formation-vocation team....We don't have a pastor except on paper. The experiment is working plausibly well except that the parish gets the lion's share of our time....Most of our direction has been to act like a community (whatever that means, but I know it means something....and one thing for sure it means is praying and listening.)

about them. We had a great Christmas Party with 30 kids but they didn't come back for Sunday School.

I find cassette tapes very useful for keeping me informed on various subjects and I really get a kick out of listening to them especially while I'm eating or working in the kitchen. I have a fairly good set on Christology, by Ken Osborn. He gave the talks at the Renewal Workshop in Lafayette Calif. last year. Angelo attended. If anyone is interested I'll send them to you.

Lastly, If anyone has any type of printing machines that they are not using anymore but are still usable would you please contact Nakamura. Our dream is a "rintenki". We have a second hand one being offered to us for 80000. It's a Danish make called Rex.

Fran Hahn reports: "I have received permission to go to Tokyo for two months from Jan. 21 - March 15th or so to help give another series of talks with the "kodotai" and we'll be working at Meguro Church and most probably Toyota. We've (I and the two other catachists) received permission to stay at Hoya, but have to work out the details with the men there. I'll be back in Aki in time for Passion Sunday and Holy Week here, and then its probably off to the States for vacation, but that isn't final.

My going to Tokyo is to help insure that this 'movement' is able to come to the Kochi area this year, plans are now that they will come and do some initial work in Aug. of this year. If things are right we'd probably like to work in the Nakamura area too if the pastor agrees!? P. S. I gained 6 kilo which I hope to lose in Tokyo!! "

Ed Williams wrote: "Printing up a Baptism-Confirmation "Shosho" to be given at Baptism. High grade suitable for framing. Ready for printing by 1st week of Feb.. If interested call Itami by Feb. 5th.

Bible going well. Four classes per week, 38 members. Myself, Kanzaki Sensei, and Nishikawa Sensei are teaching one group from all over the Diocese. Mostly Women but 10 men. When the longest groups end in May, we'll start two more groups. "

Gerry Stevens and the Battle of Ikeda! "The snow has melted now. Tuesday we had a fierce snow battle between 1 "gaijin" (me) and 9 Japanese "Shogakusei" mostly girls. We all survived. The kids withdrew when it was time for their favorite T.V. show.

Last November the Provincial counsel and the 2 men of Tokushima came here for a 3 day-prayer session. When they had left I found 6 beer bottles (empty) and a few cigarette packages (also empty) and some other meeting souvenirs (all empty). Today the provincial counsel is meeting here again + Ray + Bert. I'm not involved in those meetings except afterwards. I hope the counsel makes some news, as I have none."

Address change;

Catholic Mission
Shinmachi-Naka
Ikeda-Chō
Tokushima, 778 Japan

Nestor Jao "Jack who had to leave for the States last month due to his Dad's serious illness is expected back in Tokyo by Jan. 18. News received from him - His Dad is "on a pacemaker" and is doing well.

The Tokyo Oblates will have their monthly get-together on Jan. 25 in Kamakura."

Bert Silver has a good thing going here. "During Advent each Wednesday evening from eight to eight-thirty in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed we had Scripture meditations on the Infancy Narratives. We exposed the Blessed Sacrament - then had the readings from the Old and New Testaments - no commentary - several minutes of meditation - then closed with the Blessing. The average attendance was about twenty to twenty-five. The overall impression was quite favorable and we intend to do the same during Lent. Reference material was - Scripture for Meditation printed by Alba House, New York (about ten pocket-book-size pamphlets available on various themes.)"

Thanks from Dick Harr. "It's not too late to say thanks to all those good guys who helped out here at Hikarigaoka over the past year during my absence. Extra special thanks go to Mike and Wency. Jack Deely lent a helping hand too. It was wonderful to get back and on the job. Christmas was all prepared for and it was a grand celebration. The same with New Years, which was well attended. For this brand New Year, what we're pushing is a recreation type of program to draw in all those "outsiders" to the main body of active parishioners. On the 22nd of January, there's to be a "Shoogi-kai" and for the next few months we have other events lined up. We hope to make better use of the parish structures to deepen the Faith education of the people. Upon recent count, our numbers here at Hikarigaoka are now 615. We're growing little by little. Now, if only we can grow in Faith, Hope and Love, it will be just great."

Xave Delporte is back, "from the Rep. of South Africa. My sister is doing fine. She starts working this month. However she can't be cured, because she can't take the medicine to get the puss out of her lungs. I also had the opportunity to meet the OMIs working there - and a little taste of the "problems" in all (white, yellow, black) communities in S.A.."

Ed Quicho had a busy Tuesday Jan. 10th. "Just received your card. Congrats for the fine Newsletter reporting. I got a good feel of what is going on and how our brother Oblates are.

Here is just what transpired today: I was up at 8:00 - t'was quite late. Did a little za-zen and mor. prayer at our newly furnished little chapel. By the way, last Dec. 10th I was with 15 other za-zen fans making the Roohatsu from 7:00pm to 6:00 am (Dec. 11) at the Kanchoin with Nishimura Oshoosan and his monk son. It was the highlight of the za-zen kai sessions which I attend quite regularly. On the 31st, I went to do my last sitting of the year. I was surprised to hear how the monk praised the movie "Brother Sun and Sister Moon" admitting even at one

point that he is a Franciscan at heart. At 9:00 I was at the Music Room under the new "Kotatsu" with a (charming) young baptised housewife doing our weekly Bible reading (Eng.) session. At 10:00 I concelebrated Mass with Jose and 2 laymen attending. At 11:00 I was out for a home visit. At 1:00 back to the office doing some reading, looking at New Year & Xmas cards & answering phones. At 3:00, out again for a home visit. At 4:00 I had two visitors, seinen members who have not shown up for some time. At 6:00, Adult English class started. At 8:30 Jose and myself visited the Shinto -kai Kaicho. The day ended with a nice hot ofuro and a last glimpse of the Sumo digest on T. V. "

Wency Lacuideo is homesick after a visit to Hikarigaoka. "I had a wonderful Christmas with oniichans Dick, Mike and Lennie in Hikarigaoka and Koga. The parishioners were happy to see Dick back after six months of absence. I was glad to see once again also the people with whom I worked last summer. Enjoyed Mike's stories about his recent trip to the Philippines. He couldn't believe some of the things he saw: Japanese made motorcycles with sidecars attached to them for carrying passengers (product of Filipino Ingenuity, we call tricycles), badly beaten buses still plying country roads and worst, soldiers all over which make a very frightening sight! Anyway, Mike's stories made me feel very homesick.

Might go around Shikoku with a Filipino Oblate brother studying in Tokyo come Spring. His name is Bro. Bruno Torres, OMI. He will be here until March this year. Hope to see you then."

Dick Bonang had a wonderful New Years vacation. He wrote: "During the winter school holiday I travelled to Tokushima. I spent the early morning hours of Dec. 26th sleeping in a bus under Nagoya Station. Due to snow at Maebara the bus was unable to pass over the mountains. After a late breakfast with Ed Williams, I moved on to Okayama and Seishen Dai. Then until Jan. 11th I enjoyed the hospitality of Jose, Eddie, John, and Bert. By the way, Bill Maher kept me up until 1:00 am one night. (The editor withholds any comment other than, "It was enjoyable but I wasn't doing all the talking.")

Now it is back to school. Yotsuya campus is in the midst of final examinations, while the International College is starting a new term."

Jan Van Hovdenck has "been looking desperately for the copy of "Life after Life", that he lent to someone on passage in Nagato last May or June. Jan himself borrowed the book from one of his parishioners who is anxious to get it back. Can the person who borrowed it from him send it to him posthaste, please."

John Mahoney reports: "The day your card came I had been for a cycling trip to Tatsue-shi. Incidentally spent New Years Eve at the local temple, joined the gathered "Faithful" in ringing the temple bell 108 times. Also learned that Buddhists eat and drink more than Catholics.

Started instructing Mrs. Ito who has been coming to Mass on Sunday and pays "Ijihi". Also started new adult English class this week. A good crowd starting but time and "busyness" will

take its toll.

I have been wondering about the situation of the seminary residence and seminarians in Tokyo. Is this the forum for bringing up such thoughts? problems? worries!etc?

Also will the Newsletter be sent to other provinces and/or to Rome?

One more question, will our cards be quoted or printed as sent or will they be edited?

Bro. Tsuda is in Osaka for New Year Exhibition." (Editor - Just as I commented on Rays8 question. Let's make it a forum for anything the writers and readers want and see where it leads us. As for editing, this issue was long and I've quoted most of the people as I received the cards. In some cases there should have been some editing to make the rag more readable perhaps but quite frankly if I take the time to do it the News will become History. So I'm just as soon not edit too much. Also if longer papers are sent in it sure would help me out if the fellow sending it would type it up and Ron can just copy it as it is.

I'm not sure who it's sent to I'll ask Ron to answer that question.

I didn't get these two cards in time for last month's issue and I almost forgot them but I'll include them here.)

Angelo Siani is the vice-president of the Ecumenical Board in Tokushima. It's a two year term. He's "served" one year and he has one to go. (Editor - I saw the printed program for the "Shimin Xmas" in Tokushima and it was High----- Class---. If you were involved in that you really had a winner there.)

John wrote that the Christians at Annan decided on a mid-night Mass.

So that's it for this month. Watch your mail boxes for the next postcard.

Advice received from Rome:

When in charge: Ponder
When in trouble : Delegate
When in doubt: Mumble

P.S. In answer to your questions Ron says, "The Newsletter is sent to all the members of the Province, to Fr. Jette, Fr. Forbes and the Director of Information, Fr. Benny Baillargeon. Dave Ullrich has also asked for a copy."

After reading the five pages of "The News" Ron adds, "Great, very interesting. I even had a few laughs. Support Ray and Bill in their suggestion for making "The News" a forum for exchange of ideas. -- Maybe someone in Tokyo would like to answer John Mahoney's question. -- I have been running from one end of the country to the other for the past six weeks. Three trips to Koga for the "gakkoo hoojin" business, a couple to Naruto and Tokushima, one to Takamatsu and one to Tokyo, then another to Matsuyama and Niihama. Have been picking up a variety of opinions and feelings about the Congress -- also picked up a cold -- some enthusiastic, some less about the Congress. Some people say 'what if it results in polarization'. I say, 'does it have to?' Others say, 'why don't we organize informal get togethers for exchange of ideas first?' I say, 'Bravo, why don't you?' Communication is the name of the game, and communication is a word very closely related to community.... -- The minutes are ticking off and the days are getting fewer before the departure of the "great pilgrimage" more aptly called the "great adventure". There are 39 people signed up for the Easter trip to Rome. I am already having nightmares about losing people and losing baggage. Hope I don't get lost....

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

- Xave Delporte 25th Anniversary of Ordination February 22.
- Ed Williams, birthday, January 2.
- Ray Bourgoïn, birthday, January 22.
- Mick Harr, birthday, January 29.
- Jose Defruyt, birthday, February 4.
- Mochan Inui, birthday, February 15.

Everyone getting a bit older, and wiser? But the youngest, Jose, struck down with a bad case of sciatica. O-daiji ni ne!

PERSONNEL LIST -- "in the making"

Sorry the long promised personnel list of the Province won't be ready until the next issue. Gomen ne. "With no words of excuse, begging your most honorable pardon."



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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1978

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

- Len Robitaille celebrates 68 years on March 10th.
- Bill Maher celebrates 40 years on March 3rd.
- Jerry Novotny celebrates 38 years on March 1st.
- Ron LaFramboise, 11 years of priesthood on March 27.
- Wency Laguidao, 2 years of priesthood on March 27.

COMING MEETINGS:

-Provincial Council will meet on February 28 and March 13. These will be the last meetings before Ron leaves for the Provincials' Meeting Rome on March 20th. Please submit any important matters you want considered at these meetings.

-Congress Committee will meet in Kochi Feb. 28th to draw up detailed plans for the preparation of our Provincial Congress.

-Kindergarten Directors will meet in Naruto March 13th to study the new working rules (shuugyoo kisoku) and the legal procedures for registering them.

THANKS:

-To Fr. Pat Healy, OMI for the nice dinner and evening at his quarters at Camp Zama on Feb. 15th. The four men of the Tokyo area and Ron joined Pat to celebrate Founder's Day. Go-chisoo-sama!

-To Fr. Paul Duffy, OMI for his generous check to the Province. This was made possible through the generosity of friends of the Oblate missions in Texas.



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"The News"

Thankyou for the replies again. Sorry, to our overseas readers for certain double meaning words! This issue starts out like a Chicago paper with a report from that sensationalist in Sanbonmatsu. I never thought I'd be using four letter words and reporting robberies in this letter.

Len Robitaille: Toward the end of January a thief made his way into the convent of the Dominican Sisters here at Sanbonmatsu, during the early morning Mass, and absconded with a considerable amount of cash(exact amount unknown). (Ed. Police are looking for a person with Belgian cooky crumbs on his hands.)

Tom Maher announces the opening of a 17 week pre-catechetical course starting on Feb. 26th. The title alone is enough to want to make you go, "Invitation to Adventure" (Dai Bookene no Shootai). This is Tom's first try at using the new course developed by the Columban Fathers. Is anyone else using this by the way?

Eduardo Quiocho: Happy Oblate Day to one and all of my brother Oblates. Indeed despite the geographical and cultural distance between us, we are united in the same spirit that fired our Founder's heart to reach the hearts of the most abandoned.

It is almost Spring! With it comes the wish of non-christian couples to be married in Church. I married ~~one~~ last Feb. 5th and have five more weddings on the waiting list. Asked why they come to Church? Been to Church when small kids, moved by the words spoken and the rituals performed at friend's wedding, wish to exchange vows in God's presence, can invite relatives and friends and the Catholic Church is the biggest and the cheapest!

In the three meetings I had before their weddings, I felt their thirst for community, for lasting love and the sacred.

Gerry Stevens: Thanks for the Newsletter. Late news is still better than no news at all.

The news here: Ed Louney had asked me for temporary help in Kamojima for a couple of months (which lasted 8 years). The men in Tokushima planned a more intensive pastoral and fukyoo effort for the area, with a rented place etc. But until that goes into effect, I was asked to carry on "temporarily" and because our former house-church is being torn down and rebuilt, we will have Mass in a pachinko parlor from next week on. If anyone has any experience with pachinko parlor-Masses, let me know. For confessions we will have to use one of those pinball slots, I guess. The pachinko parlor is out of use now (fukeiki?) but a doctor rents it for his clinic, and he loans us part of

it for church, thanks to the recommendation of Jose De Fruyt.
Happy Feastday Feb. 17. In unione precum.

Dick Harr: With Lent starting, we're having a 4-day retreat here at Hikarigaoka starting on the 16th. Fr. Mike Suzuki, C.P. is signed up for this. He'll not only give the talks but also conduct discussion of the matter as we go along. This type of retreat, we have found, meets our needs better than the traditional kind. On the 19th, we Kyushu Oblates (all 3 of us) will gather here for the celebration of Founder's Day. Also, Mike's appointment to Koga as its pastor deserves some honoring.

On the 11th, I returned from Tokyo where I conducted a 3-day Lenten Mission for Pat Healy. He made it so easy ~~that~~ it wasn't any chore at all. I thoroughly enjoyed the time there. Pat is doing a herculean job there- so highly respected. Of course, he drives himself pretty hard, and the spiritual benefits there are evident. He's a grand host. If anyone cares to visit up there, He's more than happy to accomodate.

(Editor: Pats' address is:)

Fr. P. Healy OMI
Camp Zama
U.S.A. Garrison
Honshu- Japan
APO 96343

Xave Delporte: The preparation for naturalization includes many certificates and other paper work. Mr Kondo from Aki is helping me in that difficult work. On Feb. 13th, we finished the last papers.... and on my way home from Aki, the police in Akaoka stopped me for over speeding!!!

Fran Hahn: I'm here in Hoya getting ready for the 7th talk in the series of 15. It's entitled "Kerygma Part I and I have to give it. I was just fantastic last Wednesday, I gave the same talk in Meguro.

It seems the Tokyo men plus Ron are going out to Zama to spend a "pre-Founders Day" with Pat Healey. I'm invited but that's the night of a talk and I can't go. Great seeing Jack Deely (usually around 2AM, on his way "In" or "Out" I can't figure) and Nes (on a rare occasion when he leaves his books to come down for a cup of coffee) Boy have scholastics changed since my day! Fr. Oblank S.J. says "Hi" to all former students of Canon Law.

Jack Deely: Many thanks for your prayers and concern for my Dad. He's doing fine, thank God.

... recently had my book introduced to the teachers and employees at the Jesuit school for autistic and handicapped children in Adachi-ku.

... my article was published while I was away. It was also edited. Many of the legitimate complaints of my handic. friends re social injustices against handic. by gov. and big business were deleted. Will try to have it published unedited in the near future with the help of some friends.

Angelo Siani: phoned and said he had the last two postcards sitting before him on his desk and he would'nt be able to make the deadline. But he'd like to thank the men in Tokushima for all the kindness and support he's received while he's been at Naruto. They were eleven of the best years of his life. Also "yoroshiku" to the men in Kochi for the next eleven!

Since he's coming to Kochi he's resigned his position as vice-president of the Ecumenical Board of Tokushima and Jose De Fruyt is the new vice-president.

Raphael says: Behold the turtle who never makes any progress till he sticks his neck out!

Jose De Fruyt: Toku Feb. 12th. The shinto-kaicho (Inagaki San) read our Bishop's first Lent-letter this morning after the gospel. To start implementing it, we advertised 5 prayerbooks and sold 51 copies immediately after Mass. (12 christians ordered a copy of the short breviary)

Gerard blessed the grounds for Dr. Tamura's new clinic in Kamojima yesterday. Read Mt. 8, 14-17. Evil spirits, devils and demons were driven off the property with a bucket of holy water, 1/2 a kg. of salt and as much Latin as I hadn't stomached for 10 years. 'tWas a bad day for Beelzebub and his legions. They left with the rats and took for the neighborhood! (We will

Our new yakuinkai has 17 members, 9 of whom represent 5 parish districts. Focus will be on in-dept training for mission-al lay-responsibility. We will study e.g. "Evangelii nuntiandi". Four Liturgical teams based on 4 parish districts will be the main structure for ongoing training of parishioners. Special ministry for Kamojima is still under study.

Our 3 baptism candidates for Easter are Ed's first harvest from his creative youth apostolate. Harbingers of a new spring in Tokushima? The Lord be blessed for his love is with us out end!

Ecum. board brings "The Hiding Place" (Kakurega) to town. March 4th, afternoon and evening show. On the 13th of June a joint 'Seikatai' performance will be held at the Kyoodoobuka Kaikan. This will be participating in the radio rally of the "Yo no Hikari" program.

On Founders Day Angelo, Bert, Eddie and myself celebrated with 2 sisters and four shuinjya or members of the extended Oblate Family. At the Mass Angelo as the delegate of the Provincial read the promulgation of my official appointment to Tokushima as Pastor.

Re: "The News"; Great job, Bill! Enjoy being quoted. Photocopying would allow for cartoons, Japanese contributions, unreadable handwriting.... Opt for "local and colorful". Extra page with footnotes and transl. of 4-letter words and such for overseas subscribers.

John Mahoney: Last night Jose and Eduardo joined Bro. and I for supper. After supper an interesting and at times fervent (heated?) discussion on sermons and finances. The two men left at 9:00 to catch the train home.

Tonight the English teachers from "Kosen" (Anan Technical College, for Benny's information) are coming for the first meeting of the

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ing of the DESS -that is the drinking, eating and speaking society.

Would this be the proper forum to ask why the financial reports of "men living alone outside of Oblate Houses" are not listed in semi annual report of July-Dec. 1978. I wonder as they are treated as Oblate Houses and can spend the same amount - according to Provincial Letter of Feb. 6, 1973.

Dick Bonang: Today I finished correcting and recording marks for my students on the Yotsuya Campus. Ichigaya Campus (International College) has no spring vacation, Unfortunately! With the little extra free time, I plan to spend more time teaching and talking with the Vietnamese who are living in Kamakura. I started this project about six weeks ago.

It's impossible to give an accurate number of how many people from Vietnam are living here. They all live in two big houses but they move out as soon as they receive a visa from the U.S.A., Canada, England or any country that will take them. Everytime you read or hear of Vietnamese refugees picked up at sea... these are the people who eventually come up near Tokyo and WAIT AND WAIT.

Ed Williams: Not much this month. 7 adults for Easter Baptism 4 men and 3 women.

Baptismal certificate printing now. Should be ready soon.

Working on some new Bible teaching aids. A long job but due to go to the printers this week.

Does anyone have any of Yamashitas' soap they'd like to part with?

Bill Maher: I'd like a copy of your article Jack and if you don't mind I'll see if they'd put it in the Kochi magazine for handicapped people.

Had one fatality in the Bethel Bible course and started a new class in the same month. The new class is a Korean Dentist and his wife and daughter. I hope it works. I'm using an English text the Doctor is using the Japanese text and his wife and daughter use the Korean text. Wow! What a mess!

I'm sick of this typing so I'm going fishing. I haven't caught a decent fish all year.

Boo-Boos on a Church Bulletin:

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Tuesday at 7 P.M., there will be an ice-cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early .

Wednesday, the Ladies Literary Society will meet and Mrs. Johnson will sing "Put Me in My Little Bed", Accompanied by the Reverend.

Jan Van Hoydonck reports,

At Bill's suggestion I will tell in short how I came to be interested in Chiropractic. -- For several years I have been a friend of Dr. William Bray, a Methodist missionary, professor of New Testament languages at the Kwansai Gakuin University. Every Tuesday evening this Dr. (in Divinity) Bray led a meeting of prayer for healing at Kobe Union Church, at which I was often present. There it was that I had heard that Dr. Bray treated many persons who had pain in their backs. Then, one day in the Fall of 1975 I was asked to accompany such a person to Dr. Bray, and I observed him making the adjustments of the spine. Shortly afterwards I asked him, a little hesitantly, whether he would teach me the chiropractic technique. To my surprise he gave me an enthusiastic "yes" as his reply. He gave as reason for his enthusiasm that he had seen all the handiwork I had done at Kobe Union Church where since August 1974, when my close friend Arthur Gamblin, the pastor, moved in there, I had done all kinds of jobs: electrical re-wiring, pipe organ repairs, installation of handrails in the stairwell, putting up shelves in closets, and scores more. This, together with the fact that for a long time already Dr. Bray had tried, with little success so far, to train a successor, who could take over for him when he retires and returns to the U.S.A., prompted his quick response.

The training started mid-January 1976. I was to go to Dr. Bray's home a couple of afternoons in the week (our homes were less than five miles apart). I would observe what he was doing to his patients, while he explained his every action. In the meantime I had to study the books and material he indicated. These were books on anatomy (which I had studied many years earlier at Teachers College, but needed a thorough brush up) and the different chiropractic techniques.

After a couple of weeks Dr. Bray made me treat some of his patients, while he watched, directed and corrected. I got high marks from him, and was quite often embarrassed when he started boasting of my dexterity whenever we were together and met one of his many acquaintances. Towards the end of March, right after another of these praising encounters, I asked him: "I am afraid it sounds awfully brazen, but since you always tell everyone how good I am and quick to learn, when do you think I should try myself to accept people for treatment? Several persons have already asked when I will start." He looked at me and said: "Finally! I thought you were never going to ask that question."

I have been waiting for it! The only way to get experience is by doing; so, go ahead, and keep coming to me for further instructions."

Since then, beginning of April 1976, I have had a steady stream of persons of all age come to get relief from pain, not only in their back, or neck, or shoulders, but also for ailments that are less obviously connected with the spinal column. The chiropractic principle is, indeed, based on the knowledge that all limbs and organs have nerves that unite in the spinal column through which they run up to the brain. Those nerves enter into the spine through windows (foramina) formed by \pm half circular notches in the sides of the vertebrae. If through a small displacement (subluxation) of the vertebra this window changes its shape one or more nerves of the bundle passing through it become pinched, causing a reaction that results in a sensation of pain (and other averse results). The cure consists in resetting those subluxated vertebrae (and in extension also the bones of the pelvis) into their natural correlation. This may in some cases be possible in one treatment, but may in other cases require a shorter or longer series of resettings, especially after a prolonged period of subluxation during which the muscles have more or less become accustomed to the abnormal position.

I still go to Dr. Bray's every week to exchange experiences and discuss new ways, or difficult cases, and hardly a day goes by without one or more, sometimes up to seven patients, here at home or in monasteries or even convents.

Although maybe a little unusual I regard what I am doing in this field as eminently related with my missionary work. After all, half the Gospels are reports of healing. And I consider myself only as an instrument of the Lord's healing power that He lets flow into His children through my fingers. The only reward I expect for it is the happiness radiating from the eyes after the pain is gone.

Jan Jan Heydon
Bui

Ray Bourgeois:

When your card came I was engaged in looking at papers of past meetings we've held in order to sort out ideas for our coming Congress. If you remember, for one meeting we had been asked to write "a Pastoral /Vision". Among these I came across was the one Fran wrote up at that time, which I think reflects a way of thinking which should be constantly in our minds. I haven't asked Fran if he still thinks that way --- that's not necessary --- what he says there is TRUTH which always remains. In preparation for the Congress, wouldn't it be good to ponder these lines once more? That's why I take long excerpts from it and quote it here. Maybe it can instigate thinking!

"I feel that I, as a foreign missionary-priest, am primarily called to be a "cooperator" in and for the building up of the local christian communities here in Japan. I feel that it is my place in all cases and instances to encourage the Japanese people to "take the LEAD" themselves and to "RUN" their own parishes. I should be there, present, to encourage them and to serve them in anyway they may need or want. But in as much as possible I do not want to be the "head" of any Japanese christian body, at least one of any size. ... Wherever there is a layman of deep faith and good sense I would like to see him or them (sic) take the lead and I would be there to serve ... when necessary. My main concern would be to go out and proclaim the gospel as a missionary...using whatever means are available.

It is for this very reason that I want to work with a Japanese priest, to live with him (singular) and to encourage THEM to stop living in "two's" and "three's". To encourage them to "break-up" and take charge of the larger christian communities in the diocese. ... By my presence I would try and call them to always look beyond their small immediate group to the larger body of the church and society as a whole both in Japan and throughout the world. ... I would like to see them leave their small island parished and village schools to take the lead in the biggest and best establishments we have here in Shikoku. Then I would like to see the religious break out of their small "religious enclaves" and to "cross enemy lines" and cooperate with each other as we are most capable, as each person or group has a talent to contribute, let it be used for the good of the most, and the greatest number. ... Let it be our place to support the people by our presence and activity, but let that presence and activity remain in the background wherever possible.

I am not saying here that in every case a Japanese priest would do a better job than a foreigner, or that the people at first would want such a change, but what I am saying is its time to let the Japanese people carry the "ball" themselves! In other words I want to see the gospel "implanted", the "Word made Flesh" here in Japan in a very real and concrete way. It must stop being so in a "vicarious manner" through foreign substitutes, as it has often been, who perpetuate the status quo of the church as a foreign import. We must be ready to let the Japanese, encourage the Japanese, and when necessary to force them to carry the "ball" (the gospel) themselves! We must be willing to let them fall with it, drop it, fumble it, as we in the West have done for many years. Sure so and so might be a 'better pastor' than his Japanese counterpart but that's not the issue. We must have the courage, and more so the FAITH to allow the Holy Spirit the freedom to build up the kingdom here in Japan as He wills. We must cease standing in the background ... ready to jump and catch the baby should he seem as if he will fall. ... No matter how much we tell ourselves "they, or he (aren't/isn't) ready yet!" or that "They don't really understand the gospel yet!" the fact is we just don't want to let go of the child. ... We have to become like Christ

who allowed Peter the right to "fall" and to "deny" Him three times before His Resurrection Spirit took hold of him, and made that "weak, ignorant fisherman" an instrument for the salvation of many. ...

If the present structures are not providing for this missionary activity then we have to force a change in the structure! If there are not men present to run the big parishes then we have to show that there ARE. Let's stop thinking that we have to hang on our present parishes till these "replacements" are found. ... Let's realize that there are really those who will and can take our place, and let's realize that it's really the other way around -- it's not their taking "our place", but it is "we" who are stopping them from TAKING "their" place. This is what I mean by "handing" the ball to them. Let's stop thinking that it's our job to do "pre-evangelisation" here and now, and that we must wait for 50 or 100 years before "our efforts" bear fruit, as if the Holy Spirit cannot raise "Seeds" up from the very rocks of our gardens! His Spirit CAN and WILL bring forth leaders from His Body and these men will be the real "Word Incarnate" in Japan. Only they can take the gospel and live it as "Japanese" with all the full implications that reality has to offer. Only they can bring out the Christ incarnate in this society from the beginning, and only they will then be able to turn and share this, till now, "lost treasure" with the whole Body which they are an Incarnate part. If we foster this kind of reality then and only then will we be able to get on with the "business" which is ours. ...

I can't help wondering if we're facing the real issue... "how do we get the Japanese people to start building up their own Body?" For me this is the only "paternal question" a missionary can properly face."

(None of the above remarks are meant to be judgmental of anyone's work or good will. They are stated only to spark dialogue carried in LOVE and the SPIRIT, in order to foster true understanding.)

Well, Bill, that's what I am doing at this time. I typed it to make it easier for you. I think there is a Spirit in this paper which we must constantly bring to the fore, if we aren't to lose sight of our role in Japan.

Ray



78/49

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
TEL 0888-72-3658

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

March 8, 1978



Dear fellow Oblates,

The committee for the preparation of the Provincial Congress met in Kochi Feb. 28 and decided on the following.

Place: Kochi - Hamayu Kaikan (Shinhonmachi)

Dates: July 16-19 July 16 Sun. PM Arrival
 July 17 Mon. Meeting
 July 18 Tues. Meeting
 July 19 Wed. AM Closure

Preparation: Monthly district meetings on the following themes.

April: "Christ the source of our Oblate life."
May: "Evangelization as the aim of the Congregation."
June: "The poor are being evangelized."
 "The community as a milieu of apostolate and sanctification."

Pertinent material for study, prayer and exchange will be sent to you monthly. The program of preparation envisioned is personal study and prayer over this material followed by a monthly meeting of two or three hours to share the fruits of that effort. The results of each district meeting will then be communicated to all the other districts. This phase is probably more vital than the two short days we will spend together in July.

The purpose of these steps is to listen to the Spirit who speaks to us thru the Gospel, the Church, De Mazenod and our missionary colleagues. The Committee will evaluate the work as it evolves and draw up the plans for a meaningful general session in July.

The success of this work depends on our openness to the Spirit who speaks and guides. I urge you to pray daily for the outpouring of the Spirit upon our missionary community at this important moment in its growth.

Fraternally in Christ,

Ron

Ron LaFramboise, O.M.I.
Provincial



The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
5-6-26 HONMACHI
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高知市本町 5-6-26
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NEWSLETTER

April 1978

CHRIST HAS DIED, CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!
ALLELUIA! HAPPY EASTER ALLELUIA!

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Fr. Eduardo Quiocho to Assistant Tokushima effective March 2.
- Fr. William Maher to Pastor Nakamura effective March 1.
- Fr. Leonard Simons from Kindergarten Director Koga to Pastor Akaoka effective April 1.
- Fr. L. Morio Inui from Hikarigaoka residence to Koga residence (Pre-school education) effective April 1.

NAKAMURA STATION BECOMES PARISH:

Bishop Fukahori raised the mission station of Nakamura to the status of parish on March 1. The name of the new parish is "Christ the Saviour" (Sukuninushi naru Kirisuto). The territory includes all of the former "annexed territories of Kochi-Nakajima-cho parish (Hata-gun, Nakamura City, Sukumo City, Tosa-Shimizu City). Fr. Bill Maher who has worked hard to unite the little flock of 45 spread throughout the vast area has been appointed as the first pastor. Congratulations Bill.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

- Ray Bourgoin, 12 years of priesthood on March 19.
(Sorry to have missed that one last month, Ray)
- Gerry Stevens celebrates 48 years on April 17.
- Jack Deely celebrates 37 years also on April 17.
- Bill Maher, 12 years of priesthood April 26.
- Fran Hahn, 6 years of priesthood also on April 26.

ACTING PROVINCIAL:

Angelo Siani will be acting provincial during Ron's absence for the Provincials' meetings in Rome (April-May). (Asian Provincials' Meeting March 29 to April 1st and the 'All' Provincials' Meeting from April 3 to April 21st). Ron is attaching the agenda to this newsletter "so you won't think we are going to spend every day sunning ourselves on the sandy beaches of the Mediterranean, though that does not sound like a bad idea...."

TOKUSHIMA LAND SOLD TO NOTRE DAME SISTERS:

Our small lot of 150 tsubo (497 sq. meters) at Minami-sho Machi in Tokushima adjoining the Notre Dame Sisters hostel, was sold to the Sisters in March for 24 million yen. They plan to use it to expand their present hostel facilities.

NEW DIRECTOR AT KOCHI KINDERGARTEN:

Mr. Fumio Abe presently director at our kindergarten in Kochi is leaving our employ this spring to return to his home town in Tokushima. Sister Fukahori of the Notre Dame de Namur Sisters will be taking over the post of Director from April 1st. We are most grateful to the Notre Dame Sisters for releasing a Sister to help us in our work.

"The News"

We'll start this time with two cards that did not make the last issue and perhaps finish with Ray's material on how to become a good superior. This being the Easter issue I want to use this little item:

Boo-Boos on a Church Bulletin:

This being Easter Sunday, we are asking Mrs. Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

After reading that again I think the editor laid an egg! But anyway getting more serious, we want to wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Easter. And hope that everyone experiences in a new way our Lord's Resurrection and advances the process of our own resurrection.

Wency Laquidao & Pat Healy played host to our monthly gathering. We had it in Camp Zama with a sumptuous dinner as the main event. Burp! Aside from beating the deadline, I have two other things coming up today. Two Vietnamese girls come for English lessons once a week. They are waiting for their visa to go to the United States to work and start a new life. Life has been very tragic for both of them but though completely displaced by the change of political regime in their country, they have high hopes in being able to start anew. Today also, we are expecting the Franciscan Language students-Roppongi to come for our monthly meeting. The new missionaries have agreed to meet once a month to share experiences, problems and expectations as regards missionary work in Japan. It is very interesting to note that I am the only Asian in the group. We don't have big plans but we hope to get some things going between the two language schools, something beyond the nihongo* wa-muzukashi-desu-ne syndrome which every foreigner has to go through anyway.

Nestor Jao : The Oblates here in Tokyo plus Ron had the monthly get-together at Camp Zama thanks to Fr. Pat Healy OMI, the camp's Catholic Chaplain. One addition to the group was an American Columban priest, Fr. Healy's friend.

Thanks to John Mahoney for his kind concern expressed in the last Newsletter. Would appreciate very much if you could come and visit us in Tokyo and talk with us about any of your ideas on the Tokyo house.

Bill Maher : This will be the first time we've had all the Holy Week services here at Nakamura so I'm in the midst of preparing for them. I hope we can have a meaningful Liturgy that brings something to our community. Sometimes thoughts of futility say no, but we decided to try it this year and see what happens.

One baby has been presented for Baptism but I'm not sure yet if she can make it on Holy Sat. night or not.

The Bishop has promised to come in Oct. for a retreat which everyone is looking forward to and I have to look up explanations on the 'Pharisees' and 'ghosts' for today's Bible class. Seen any ghosts lately?! It seems as though there are a lot of them in this area.

Oh! my birthday is the 23rd of March and not the 3rd as was stated in the last 'Newsletter'. I don't want to rush things at this age. But then again the way Raphael talks Middle Age doesn't sound that bad.

Raphael: Welcome to the middle years - the adult generation, the productive decades, the time of promise and fulfillment, trials and triumphs. The middle years - the summer of life; it's the time when our youthful sins beget remorse and good deeds from the past pay dividends. For better or worse, the middle years are when you get what you've earned. How about the quality of life in the middle years? There's only one answer* it's terrific. Sure, there are trials, and obstacles, and challenges of all sorts, but they add gusto to living and somehow the middle-ager muddles through. And once the challenges have been met, the rewards are more than worth the effort. Youngsters and oldsters, shed no tears for the middle years. The quality of life here is the best ever.

Dear Bill:

Your postcard came in yesterday as a reminder to write again. I would like to start with John's question about individuals who live alone reporting or not reporting on the back of our six months' report.

Let me start off by expressing my experience. A number of years ago I went to live in an apartment closer to my work at Shirayuri University. From the very beginning, as one way, (there were others) of expressing that I was still a member of the Tokyo Community, I would always submit my report to the Tokyo Community Bursar who would integrate it within the Tokyo report.

After coming to Kochi, at the back of the report under the Title of Kochi #2 or Kochi-Shinhenmachi, I would integrate my report with Jose's and Xave's. After Jose left Kochi, the Kochi-Shinhenmachi report you find is the total of my report and Xave's. (All other money transactions at Shinhenmachi are Parish transactions.)

Wency's financial transactions are integrated into the Provincial account as a whole, rather than separately, as are Ren's.

As for other individuals, I take it for granted, as I do for Fro Tsuda, that their financial transactions are recorded with the bursar of their closest community and therefore do appear on our six months' report.

I used this forum to answer, since it was in this forum that the question was asked.

The following item was found at the back of notes for retreats that Father Nemes, a Jesuit, gave to Religious Superiors. Though the retreat was directed to Women Religious, I'm sure we can make the proper adjustments, be they on the Religious community level, the Parish level, interpersonal relationships, relations with society etc. I give them for your perusal. I've had them for the last 4-5 years and I've tried to use them as the basis for my relationships.

I see where we've gotten international coverage. Though most of the things coming out are for local consumption, let's hope the wider readership also gets some benefits...even if only belly-laugh!

Ray Bourgoon.

Useful tips for any kind of LEADER:

絶えず成長していくよい長上の姿

To be a good superior means to keep on maturing

FROM→TO

1. 教師→探求者、ゼミナールの教授のような
teacher→seeker, like a professor of a seminar
2. 制御する者→案内者
a controller→a guide
3. 統治者(権力をふるう者)→奉仕者
ruler→server
4. 管理者→養成者
administrator→"formator"
5. 執行者→弁別する者
executor→discerner
6. 監督者→助け手
supervisor→helper
7. 立法者→愛の人
legislator→lover
8. 維持者→促進者
conserver→developer
9. 能率を目ざし、法を重視する態度→より豊かな愛のために目標を目ざす態度
law-centered for efficiency→goal-centered for greater love
10. 裁決者→決定の過程を促進し完成する者
decision-maker→promoter and completer of decision-making process
11. 権力を独占する者→力を分散する人
possessor of power→distributor of power
12. 母→助産婦
mother→midwife
13. 子どものおもり役→成長を助ける者
guardian of children→promoter of maturing
14. 神について語る→神と語る
talks about God→talks with God
15. キリストにとついだ者→キリストとキリストの共同体にとついだ者
married to Christ→married to Christ and also to His community
16. 説教する人→模範で引っぱって行く人
preacher and moralizer→inspirator by example
17. 両性の生活を押しつけるため真理と秩序を実行させる。→共同体づくりのため愛のうちに真理を感じとらせる。
enforces truth and order to impose common life→radiates truth in love to form community
18. 説明してやる人→話相手となる人
explainer→dialoguer
19. 修道女に話す人→自分の姉妹と話す
talks to sisters→talks with her sister
20. 会員のことを話す→自分の姉妹を愛する
talks about sisters→loves her sisters
21. 人の弱点について話す→弱点を本人と話しあう
talks about the limitations of another→talks over the limitations with the person herself
22. 過失をとがめる→過失に目をとめる
condemns faults→observes faults
23. 同じ意見の人でないと受け入れられない→意見の違う人でも受け入れられる
cannot accept a person unless their } { is able to accept a person though their
views agree } { views differ

24. 疑ってかかり、ひとりひとりが自分のよさと、
たよりのあることを証明するまで信じない } → { ひとりひとりの姉妹の価値と責任感があるもの
 } → { と思ってかかる
she begins by doubting her subjects and expects } → { she presupposes the value and
each one to prove her worth and reliability } → { responsibility of each of her sisters
25. 画一性、また規律と習慣の遵守から } → { 互いの理解と共通の価値をわかちあって生きることが
一致が生まれると思こんでいる } → { 一致への道だと心から信じている
takes for granted that unity comes } → { sincerely feels that the way to unity leads
from uniformity and observance of } → { through mutual understanding and lived
regulations and customs } → { sharing of values
26. ひと目ひと言で判断してしまう → 最初は判断を保留し、時間をかけて判断に達する
she makes her judgement at first } → { at first she suspends her judgement and only
sight or hearing } → { forms it later
27. 服従を要求する → 力強いリーダーシップのもとに、はっきりした目標に向かう共同体にはいるよう呼
びかける
demands submission → invites one to enter into a community which works for definite
goals under effective leadership
28. 多様性に反し画一性を固守する → 多様性のうちに一致を促進する
upholds uniformity in opposition to diversity → promotes unity in plurality
29. 命令を下し服従を期待する → 愛と自由を与え共同体的責任感を呼び起こす
gives orders and expects submission → gives love and freedom and inspires community
centered responsibility
30. 目下の者に関して、なんでも答えられる人 → ある問題については解決を持っているが、他の点では共
に解決を捜し求める
has all the answers for her subjects → has some of the answers and looks for the others
together with her sisters
31. 目下についてなんでも知っていると思っている → 姉妹とより深い知り合いになろうと絶えず努力する
knows all about her subjects → tries to deepen her knowledge of her sisters
32. 目下の者の上にすわる → 共同体の中で姉妹と共に生きる
she is over and above her subjects → she lives in and with her community
33. 自分は成熟し、経験も豊かで特権 → 共同体のメンバーとして共に成長するの必要を感じている
を持っていると思こんでいる
considers herself mature, experienced } → { feels the need of maturing as a member of
and in a privileged position } → { her community
34. 目下の成し遂げる仕事でその人を評価する → 何ができないにかかわらず、それ以前に無条件で
本人を重んじる
judges the value of a subject by } → { she has an antecedent and unconditional esteem
the works she does } → { for the value of each person regardless of her
work

Dick Harr : We are aimed in the direction of Easter along with everyone else. And it looks like another great overflowing crowd at Mass to honor the Resurrection. I just hope we have enough folding chairs this time. Differing from other years, this time we plan a Newcomers' party following the 9:30 A.M. Mass. With good weather we'll have this outside on the garden. The Cherry blossoms should be in full bloom, and this will add some sake drinking and singing. Recently the Church has been repainted a beige and it looks magnificent. We should have 2 new statues gracing the wall behind the altar by celebrating time. A Mother and her 2 little daughters will receive Baptism on Holy Saturday. It should be a great Easter.

John Mahoney : Just read thru the Material for the Congress from the Committee. As I read in my mind this thought kept reoccurring. "This is very nice spiritual reading, great preparation for a retreat but is this going to lead to a Congress that will give us concrete practical assessments of our present concrete situation and concrete plans for the next 10 years? I realize that we did not send many suggestions to the Committee for the agenda. Would this be the proper forum to suggest that we do so by sending suggestions to the "Newsletter" where all can see them. Mine are:

Are we going to recruit new men to come with us? Should we bring seminarians to Japan or only ordained? What kind of facilities should we have for training these men? Where and what should be our new works and involvement, or are we going to be content with holding the line until we slowly fade away?

"The Proper Forum"--

An old proverb says that 'Provincials always have the last word'. I don't really believe that, but there are certain advantages to being the last one to see the manuscript before putting it on the printing machine. So I will profit by this chance to add a few words on John Mahoney's contribution.

I have every hope that serious and prayerful reflection on the material for the Congress will provide us with a basis, an outlook, a "tenbo" from which to view and to properly assess our concrete situation. I am happy that you value the material as good spiritual reading, and as a good preparation for a retreat, because I see the congress as more than a "business" meeting like any company or business corporation would hold. If we must call it business, it is a special business that demands a special preparation. The questions John poses are very a propos. They are among the many questions that we as a community of missionaries must not fear to face and to answer.

I believe we must together set the right perspective in which to see these questions. Only then will we find the real answers "in spirit and in truth".

Yes, John, I think this is the "proper forum" for your statement and your questions. Keep them coming.

Ron.

Eduardo Quirocho: "H~~e~~ sent me to preach the Good News to the poor." Tashika ni soo desu ne! Here is a sampling of people who show up at the Music Room. On a Monday: a high school girl comes and shares her feelings and reflections on what she has gone through so far (she missed her chance to get to her choice University.) On a Tuesday, an unemployed fresh graduate from Seishin University (Princess Micho's U.) comes after her cooking lessons for a cup of self-service coffee at the best "Kissaten" in town. She is now on her 37th attempt to get a husband though omi-ai but no luck yet. On a Wednesday, a young office girl stays after the English class just for a leisurely chat with the 'sensei' while listening to soul music and sipping a cup of coffee (again!) Thursday: a Catholic dentist, after our weekly za-zen session at the chapel(!), takes the lead at our "zatsudan-kai". Looking for a way of Japanizing the Liturgy? On a Friday: a 20 year old Catholic boy joins the "Seinen-kai" very regularly. He is slowly getting to know what Christ stands for. On a Saturday a 7 year old boy drops in after the Sat. English program, reading through all the "Mangas" from Scriptures. On an unexpected day, you are face to face with a repentant gangster who trusts nobody but the priest. It has been my pleasure to share the saving word and example of the Lord to these people. Happy Easter to One and All.

Gerry Stevens : This morning (Sunday, nobody came to Mass, most probably because of the snowstorm, though it didn't last more than 2 hours, As Easter is nearing fast, I am finishing

off the Christmas undoo which usually lasts from November till March, with Advent and the X'mas season as the peak time. After Easter we have the regular fukyoo trin "per annum", with different leaflets, etc. Happy Easter.

Tokushima March 14th. - Sunday March 5th marked the birth of a "de Mazenod-kai" here, for shinja's of the middle age bracket, men and women. The need for this special ministry had been smouldering quite some time. After groping for several months with their raison-d'être as a group, Hayashi-san and other ex-members of a seinen-kai in the early sixties responded enthusiastically to the O.M.I.-motto: "Evangelizare pauperibus misit nos." Please, accompany us with your prayers.

Our Saturday school children received their 35th lesson for the year 1977-78. 91 children were enrolled, 59 of whom attended from 30 to 35 times. It amounts to 2,499 attendances or 124,950 minutes of learning. We keep searching and praying over ways to give these little ones not only a pass-port to many foreign lands, but also an awareness that the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs too.

Analyzing Evangelii Nuntiandi for study in our yakuinkai I begin to wonder if this papal exhortation was not prepared by an oblate! Our motto pops up in chapter 6, as it naturally stands out in Lc. 4,18. The whole document clearly evolves from the 4 elements of this prophetic self-proclamation of the Lord. The 5th part shines like the sun over our eternal question: "Who are the poor?"

Other news bits: The Shikoku-chiku-chootoo-taikai will take place in Tokushima, on March 21st. -- Judging by the formal outfit Ron and Ster Fukahori were wearing this morning it would seem that the Tokushima land transaction is coming close to a deal. -- Ed Williams brought us a glorious Easter Candle from the Carmelite sisters yesterday. Also met John Iwo and Lei Simons in Naruto and participated in the afternoon part of the yochien-encho meeting there. Saw Lei off for the night train to Koga after a light repast (in the Benedictine fashion) in an icecream parlor. Dieu est bon pour ses prêtres! José.

MEMO

To : the Provincials

Re : preparation for the Provincials' meeting, April, 1978

I - The Meeting

Time -- April 3 - 21, 1978

Place -- Rome; Rosminian Sisters, Via Aurelia, 773

Calendar and agenda

April 3-4 : Introductory sessions

April 5-8 : Reports from each region, presenting --

- a) the most pressing concerns felt by the Provincials;
- b) the major tendencies, trends and developments in each region;
- c) the Provincials' evaluation of Oblate life and mission in their region: what is vital and what is destructive among the developments mentioned; what is the outlook for the future?

April 10-12: Evaluation of Governmental Processes --

- a) report on the General Government;
- b) reports on experiments in Provincial Governments;
- c) communication between the two levels of government.

April 13-14: the Revision of the Constitutions --

- a) review of the work of the Commission;
- b) the participation of the entire Congregation in the work of the revision.

April 17-19: Formation and Renewal --

- a) policies and experiments in first formation;
- b) ongoing formation projects and spiritual and communitarian renewal;
- c) the Roman International Scholasticate.

April 20-21: Chapters --

- a) review of the directives of the last Chapter and their implementation;
- b) suggestions for the agenda of the next Chapter;
- c) recommendations to the General Team: 1978-1980.

The above items have been placed on the agenda after discussion by the General Council (cf. Administrative Structures, # 25, a & b). The calendar is provisional and will be adapted during the course of the meeting by the team of facilitators who will be responsible for the dynamics of the meeting.



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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
TEL 0888-72-3658



NEWSLETTER

May 1978

Fr. L. Morio Inui

Principal of the Koga Kindergarden.

Mr. Fujiwara who was to be the Principal of the new "Gakkoo hoojin" is unable to accept this position due to the fact that he is already employed by the Ministry of Education in another capacity.

Sister Izumi

Kochi gets another Sister for the Hostel.

Fr. Ogata

The Bishop of Osaka has asked Ed Williams to employ Fr. Ogata in Itami on a temporary basis.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday:

- Fr. Bob Gill celebrates ⁷¹~~24~~ years on May 5.
- Fr. Tom Maher celebrates 47 years on May 29.
- Fr. Ed Quiocho celebrates 33 years on May 28.

Happy anniversary:

- Fr. John K. Mahoney 24 years on May 30.
- Fr. Tom Maher 21 years on May 30.
- Fr. Bert Silver 24 years on May 31.
- Fr. Ange Siani 13 years on May 31.
- Fr. Dick Bonang 12 years on May 31.

"The News"

Till the 17th of April it looked like this would be an easy issue to type up because of lack of responses but on the 17th, eight cards came in as well as a few pages from Jerry Novotny on the university correspondence programs that are available. A few of our men are taking college courses by mail and mabe some others would be interested so we'll include these pages as an appendix. Ray Bourgoin has also prepared the personnel list in Japanese and that will be included. (Please add this to Dick Bonang's address on the Romaji address page you received last month, "Hase, 4 chome 7-16.) A short report of the first preparation meeting for the Provincial Congress of the Kochi District is also included in the appendix.

One question which you might answer on next months' postcard. Are you in favor of a postcard report, "once a month" or would, "once every two months" be better?

Dick Bonang; (we have two cards this time one from last month.) Just found your postcard under a pile of papers. I guess I'll have to clean my room once a month just to make sure I've sent you a note.

This afternoon I took my bike to the beach. Leaving Kamakura heading in the direction of Enoshima there is a small town Shichirigahama. During the Taisho era - 68yrs. ago to be exact, a boat carrying shogakusei sank. Everyone was killed. Recently a book has been written about the accident. I know the author, so I went to see the area that he wrote about.

(card no. 2) Spring has come to Kamakura. The long awaited cherry blossoms are out and holding their own against the rain and wind. During this week all the temples and shrines in Kamakura are displaying their treasures/ This is done only once a year, probably in conjunction with spring cleaning. I hope to see some of the Treasures in the next few days.

My Vietnamese students are leaving for the U.S.A. During the month of April they will leave Japan family by family. Until the next group of refugees arrives in Japan I probably will have no classes, unless they relocate those already in the country.

Nestor Jao; Belated Happy Easted to all! During the Holy week liturgy, I found myself seated side by side with my Jesuit professors and classmates at Sekimachi Church here in Tokyo. Attended the Mass for the late Fr. Morell of the Jesuit Theologate who died suddenly during the Holy Week. The Mass was held last March 27th at St. Ignatius Church in Yotsuya attended by Jesuits, other religious his students and friends and lay people. After the mass, I had the chance to meet and talk with two Jesuits who were with me in the language school and are doing

work now at Jochi. Jochi Theologate opens the new school year last April 10 with a Mass attended by professors and students. The main celebrant was New Dean Yamamoto who succeeded Fr. Nemeshigy as the gakubucho. Fr. Yamamoto gave an inspiring homily on the Spirit's presence and role in the Church. Canon lawyer Oblak sends his belated Eastergreetings to all his former Oblate students.

Ray Bourgoi; In the past I've been long winded so I'll be brief this time. However in the newsletter, which Ron asked me to take care of printing and mailing, I'll include the Personnel of the province with the addresses in Japanese for those who so desire. I just finished getting it ready yesterday.

So far I'm enjoying Tom's workshop, but after spending all morning with Mass and the High Schoolers at Shinhonmachi I'm quite tired by the time I get half way thru.

After my last check*up the main thing I must watch for is no overwork and get plenty of sleep. So I'm trying to arrange my schedule to "nonbiri" as the doctor said. I ask the patience of the members if I'm not as quick to reply to their financial demands "Nonbiri's" the word!

John Mahoney; Bro. Tsuda is in Israel, should be home in a week or ten days. The Parish has been decimated, with the departure of the Yamashita family to the Akaoka Parish. 10% of the parishoners were gone. Take good care of them Lei.

The Saturday School started Saturday with 110 Primary school children. This year once again Sr. Kawamura will take care of the Dootoku.

Dick Harr; I certainly agree with John Mahoney in that, since we are going to have a Congress, it be geared towards the concrete. One very vital aspect is our community as we find it in Japan. Is our living toether in community still vital to the task we have here? Thinking on the community level, are we still for parish work and/or special apostolates as we have gained experience so far? What constitutes a special apostolate for us now? With mutual trust, respect and reliance, I hope we can face these and any other such issues. How about a community resolution (and a strong one) to put everything aside when it comes to a community gathering, be it a seminar, retreat or the like?

Some of the gang may be interested in a recent purchase of ours. We now have 2 statues- wood carved, 1 meter in height made in Korea. I think they're both very well done. And the price runs \$200 apiece, and roughly \$48 to \$50 for packing, freight, etc... One statue is the Risen Christ which is now appended to the wall cross and the other is Our Mother of Grace.

Gerry Stevens; Sorry to be late with the reply, but I am just back from a 2 day Fukyoo trip in the mountains.

The other day, I went to visit a shinja I hadn't seen for some time. She showed genuine surprise that I was still around, I asked her why, and she answered she had heard from a reliable source, that I had been changed from Ikeda and moreover that Ikeda was now reduced to a junkaikyookai, and that's why she hadn't been to church at Easter. She didn't tell me, and I forgot to ask at that moment, where I had been changed to. I told her I hadn't gotten a new assignment yet at that time, and therefore I would be around for a few more weeks, if not longer. Her surprise changed into disappointment.

Ed Quijcho; Jose and myself and the people who joined the Easter celebration had a pleasant Easter! Twenty "seinen" had their "tetsuya" on Good Saturday. When the bell rang at midnight everybody paused for a minute and then came the Happy Easter greetings and Happy Birthday song for the March born kids and also for the newly baptised Christians. 130 heads showed up for the Easter Mass. Fairly good, eh! We had our fill at the buffet "agape" party that followed and fine entertainment of the special performance of the E.S.Q. Disco Band.

10th of April: Bert, John K., Len R., Jose, Gerry, Fran, and Ed Q., found themselves together on their District recollection (or get-together or mini-congress!) Limelights: chats over a cup of coffee and in the evening a happy hour, morning and evening prayers, Mass, reflections on the 66 OMI Rules, thoughts on the coming Congress and of course the "gochisoos". I share the concerns and anxieties on the absence of vocations, the need for better communication and hopes for a fruitful Congress.

Fran Hahn;

Sorry to have missed the last newsletter, but the deadline was just the time we were preparing our last seminar in Tokyo, a full weekend, and I didn't want to write in haste as I did the previous card so I let it go by.

By the grace of God two small 'kyoHotai' groups were born in the two churches of Tokyo, Meguro and Toyota. I leave tomorrow for Osaka-fu to start a new series that will bring me into early June. When I finish these talks I'll be heading home for two months vacation.

I left Aki after a full and pleasant Easter Week, my third and last in the Aki-Akaoka area. I left with many regrets, but it was a beautiful two years and I'm grateful to God for them. I'm well entrenched in Tokushima, in Dickie "B's" old room, and have already thrilled the parishoners with one of my sermons, run a kateishu-kai in "absentia" of the pastor, helped fill the wine bottles with "new Wine" (old bottles) and marveled sufficiently over Ed's music room and Jose's organizational powers. Great to be here! ☺

Jose DeFruyt; A new brother has joined our community here. Fran has been two weeks with us now. From his performance in the pulpit last Sunday it is undoubtedly clear that he is

indeed 'alive and kicking'. Today he embarks for another apostolic voyage in charge of the comunidade. For the rest of the year he will be reminding us of our being a church on the go. Join us in prayer for his mission. Ed and myself gave 3 English courses for adults (April '77-March '78). 82 students showed up (51 newcomers). 17 attended more than half of 44 classes (90 min. periods) 1164 classes were paid for, but only 878 attended. Income received: 839,500 Yen or 6,558 Yen per period (4,372 Yen per hour). Income from shoogakusei and chuugakusei totaled 1,010,000 (roughly 5 to 6,000 Yen per hour). On March 31st I went with John and Bert to the opening ceremony of a new hoiku-en in the facilities of Tokushima Christian Center. Back home I got a telephone call with a request to inform John that he had mistakingly offered his congratulations with an empty envelope. Which keeps me wondering if that was the first time it happened or the first time he got caught! ? !
Salva reverentia!

Wency Laguidao; After some months of deliberation, the Jesuits have come up with the decision to close down the language school by next year. The school has been originally intended for their scholastics coming to Japan. The drop in number saw them accepting men from other groups and later lay people also. On the financial side, the school has always been on the red since then. About 42 students are needed so the school won't operate at a loss. The number was difficult to maintain. Recently, questionnaires were sent to different religious groups inquiring about how many people do they expect to come to Japan in the next couple of years. The number was not very encouraging. Besides, the Jesuits are convinced that they are just duplicating a work that is now being done by countless language schools in Tokyo, perhaps even more efficiently. Starting last month, cost of room and board was raised by 30%, further discouraging people from coming. (Can you guess how much I am paying here every month? (It's a scandal to the poor Church!) Well, this is my story for this issue which can be titled... Death of a Language School!

Bill Maher; Well Holy Week was a "first try flop"! Holy Thur. 8 people, 4 Catholics including myself and one baby, Good Fri. 4 people 3 Catholics including myself and one baby, so we just read the Passion together. Holy Saturday called off because of lack of readers. Thank God for Easter Sunday. About 30 came and we had a very nice Easter celebration together, followed by a lunch.

The English bosshu was very successful we'll be starting with 42 students. But at the same time our Nichiyoo Gakkoo push which I mentioned sometime ago has petered out and we'll probably discontinue it for a variety of reasons.

We've had some great meetings in Kochi lately,,celebrating the various changes of personnel. And one on the 17th preparing for the Provincial Congress. Jerry Stevens came for two days and helped me compose a Latin letter to John Burke a Columban who was staying with a Catholic here in Nakamura. Thanks to John we heard Humpty Dumpty in Latin. It's fantastic!

Report of Kochi Provincial Congress preparation meeting Apr. 17

-All the members of Kochi except Ron (whose in Rome) were present.

Ray opened the meeting in Kochi with a statement of the needs of the Province that Ron read at the end of the May 1974 meeting. They are as follows:

Need for a critical reevaluation of our works in the light of the charter documents.

A cleared mission policy and vision. How are we to work today for the future?

Difficulty in communication on all levels.

Lack of teamwork, i.e. group planning and corporate action.

Need for more intensive continuing education through seminars, study groups and private study.

Better and more effective use of our manpower.

More cooperation with Japanese and other foreign missionary groups in other locales according to the needs.

Greater incorporation of laymen into our work and our community.

Greater effort on work with and for the poor.

This was just a starter to get ideas from people for a possible agenda. We started slowly with various ideas popping out without any line being developed. Yochiens, schoolwork, does anybody want to change their works, parishes.

In regards to the Yochien work (if it's a topic on the agenda) it would be good if those involved and interested in this type of apostolate would prepare a paper on this before going to the meeting and give it at the meeting.

It was suggested that one of the stipulations for the entire meeting should be that no one will be immediately affected by the decisions that are made at the meeting unless the person himself wants to change. This is an attempt to allay any fear of freely looking for a vision for the future because, "if I say this I'll have to change my work".

More than the words themselves it's how are we doing the works, how do we improve what we have. Continuing education for the improving of the work we are doing.

It's not really a question of our works being or not being Oblate works it's more of a question of how are we doing what we're doing.

Many were in favor of emphasising the need for further education. And that this be clearly stated as Province policy. An expose on the possibilities of the education available

A suggestion was made to use the progress that was made at the Mefu meeting as a theme for the meeting this time.

A suggestion of having the Congress after the Retreat was made as a preparation for discerning what the Spirit wants of us.

Perhaps the most unanimity was attained for the opinion that could be stated like this: How can we make our works that we're in now better. Rather than trying to define what kind of work we will take on as Oblate work let's talk about how can we improve the quality of the words we are doing.



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5-6-26 HONMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL 0888-72-3638

宗教法人:カトリック聖母献身宣教師会

オブレート会
高知市本町 5-6-26
TEL 0888-72-3638



June 1978

Fr. Dalston Forbes, O.M.I. Due to poor health, Fr Forbes recently resigned from his post as General Councillor for Asia. We wish to thank him for his many years of service in coordinating the affairs of the Asian Provinces but most of all for his friendship and brotherly concern.

Fr. Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I. Ron writes, "My best regards to all the brethren there. Happy and grace-filled Pentecost. My Thoughts and prayers are with you every day."

Happy Anniversary:

Fr. Dick Harr 26 years on June 2.

Fr. Ed Williams 21 years on June 7.

Fr. John Iwo 14 years on June 14.

Fr. Len Morio Inui 14 years on June 14.

Fr. Len Robitaille 42 years on June 24.

Fr. Soichiro Yamasaki 16 years on June 24.

Fr. Jose DeFruyt 11 years on June 28.

R.I.P.

Your prayers are asked for Fr. Antonio Garcia, O.P. who died in Matsuyama on April 29. He was 76 years old.

"The News"

Yesterday we finally saw the Sun again and it was really a beautiful day. I thought we were going to have to abandon ship here for a while. As one of my English students said the drain in the sky must have broken. I hope all are safe and sound.

This issue we are happy to have a report from Bro. Tsuda. We'll print it as we received it in Japanese.

There was no real indication in the requested opinion poll one way or the other so we'll continue till July with "once a month" frequency.

Dick Harr: Fr. Al Svobodny OMI, Mission Procurator for the Central U.S. Province, wrote lately asking about the possibility of any of us returning for leave this year, and having time to help with an overload of Mission Co-op talks around the Midwest. Last year, I did some considerable work for him, and found it remunerative and rewarding in many different ways. I pass this on to each.

You've hit onto a very good thing, Bill, with this Newsletter. I know it takes a lot of your time, but do so want you to persevere in this.

Dick Bonang: As I mentioned before, if I can find your postcard, I'll send it to you whenever it comes** every month, every two months of whatever. The work of putting the newsletter or should I call it -news postcards together is on you. If you are able to continue doing us all this service, I would like the cards every month.

Concerning the correspondence courses. I signed up last year for a course in American Folklore. I have really enjoyed the readings and overall approach to the course. However, the homework is something else. My course may be the exception but most of my assignments call for "asking the man on the street for certain items of American Folklore". But my teacher says the informant must be American to get "real American folklore". My point is -- some courses may be interesting but difficult to complete. Select carefully. Regards to Raphael.

Ed Quiokocho: Yes, the Golden Week was a tough one but also a grand week. To illustrate, at 6:00 AM on Constitution Day, I was on the wheel with Sr. Ito NDN, her mother and sister heading toward Moroto Cape bound for Ashizuri Cape through Katsurahama and the Sky Lines along the coasts. The scenery was just gorgeous all the way, topped by the setting sun in Ashizuri. We retraced our steps to Nakamura Church where Bill welcomed us with open arms. Thanks Bill for the good rest we had after driving though.

450Kms. and 14 hours of traveling.

Sign of a deepening of fellowship with the Zen Buddhists? A Mainichi newspaper man went for an assignment to Kanchoin Temple. Talking with the monk, he got a word that a sister sits at his za-zen-do. The reporter called on the convent for an interview with Sr. Kawamura. She broke the news that a priest leads a za-zen club at the Church. That is how we got a fairly good coverage in the Newspaper that was a delight at the Church as well as at the Temple.

Nestor Jao: Happy Pentecost to each and all!

Today is a busy day for the different groups in the Sekimachi Parish Church. They are having their big meetings. The different groups are the parish council, the Saturday and Sunday childrens' school leaders, the housewives' group, the young peoples' group, etc. The Spirit is indeed descending!

Last month, Jose DeFruyt visited Tokyo and had an informal meeting with us, Wency, Jack, and myself, about the planned Congress here in Hoya. (once every two months)

Fran Hahn: I hope this makes the deadline. I'm in the Osaka area working in two parishes, Izumi-sanno, and Kaizuka, staffed by the Xaverian Fathers of Italy; In the first parish the priest who is the pastor is quite an artist, something similar to Bro. Tsuda, but Bro. is much better I think, only this priest also makes statues and is an accomplished cook. The fare here is Italian and they even make their own egg noodles (delicious) and grow their own chickens and rabbits (I've eaten rabbit three times so far and its great,

In the other parish there is a Chinese priest who joined their order before he was forced to flee and has been in Japan ever since, he doesn't eat meat or fish and the food is rather chinese in style so I'm on a varied diet and gaining. Both parishes have an overwhelming presence of people up from Nagasaki, and they don't feel any need to deepen or improve their faith, so attendance is low, another factor could be the quality of the speakers, but I don't like to think about that part.

I leave for Buffalo June 5th, our last talk is on the 4th. I'll be in the States through Sept. 10th, and then its back to Tokushima I think (if there aren't any talks!) Peace to all, have a grand congress. (once a month)

Gerry Stevens: It's a bit "giri-giri" to meet the deadline especially with all the other jobs waiting to be done not to mention the laundry, cleaning, shopping, and what not.

I favor the suggestion of "once every 2 months", because there isn't much news here around, and I don't have the kind of imagination that can "spot the news even before it happens." It's hard enough to keep up with the news that does happen. I like Raphael's words of wisdom of this month, and I am going to do a little less whistle-blowing and a little more working, all the more so now that the wheel is getting old and does a lot of shrieking while turning. Happy Founder's feastday May 21.

Xave Delporte: All the official papers and certificates for the naturalization are sent to Tokyo. That means that the

local investigation is finished. Now waiting for news from Tokyo. Mabe they (need) want still more papers!..?

Dick Harr: (the entry for this month) It seems that once every 2 months would be fine for the Newsletter. Once a month also is fine as long as the news holds out-right?

This past month we were able to add two new activities to the parish program. For the Utai group we have 7 people signed up. They'll get underway in a serious fashion in June. Also, we have started a Shoogi group. Being a very competitive outfit here, they've already started their lessons. - It's also worthy of note that Hikarigaoka is now the 2nd largest parish in this city of over one million. We have 650 parishioners, and only Daimyoomachi with a 1000 betters us. There is almost a continual flow of newcomers too. We may have to add another Mass one of these days soon. -- On the 21st, we are holding a bazaar here. The Church fund needs some shoring up after painting the exterior earlier.

Bill Maher: We had a fairly good meeting on the rule and I sent my suggestions to Rome. Next week we have another meeting on the Provincial Congress. This month of May is sure loaded with feastdays but attendance is not too good. I wish we could sing better it would help our liturgies.

Raphael is madly in love with the bitch down the street and howls at all hours of the day and night. He's even sticking his nose up at bones imported from Kochi!

Bro. Tsuda:

管正長 フランボア神父様と共に 四国の皆さんと 三月二十日に羽田を出発して、ヨーロッパ、パリ、ルルド、ローマ等に行き、復活祭をローマでお祝いし、三月二十九日に皆さんとお別れして、単独、テルアビブから、イスラエルに行き、イエス様の歩かれた道を辿ってきました。エサイの聖カタリナ修道院もエリコも見ました。エルサレム、カリレア湖畔強んとイスラエル全土を歩いて来ました。四月十六日にハイマから船でアテネに二日の旅を楽しみ、アテネから南廻りで東京に四月二十七日に帰着しました。イスラエルでは、ヘブライス大学の学生が四人かわりはんこで、くわしい案内をしてくれて、大へん有益でした。アテネでも大使館の人や友人などが車で案内して呉れて大いに得るところがあり、今回は本当によい旅だったとうれしく思っています。

~~Just read~~

Jose De Fruyt -

Just read Father General's April 6th talk at the Provincials' Meeting in Rome. I am impressed with approach as well as with content. This Spirit filled document gives me the feeling that the Congregation is pulling itself together again and preparing for a new leap forward, at least at government level. Sure, I was a little surprised with the wording "renouncement of women", but trying to be preoccupied more with substance than with form I feel I understand what that is about. Evangelii Nuntiandi may have passed a better redaction, it also has a wider scope. To me it sums up an era of Church growth and lightens a beacon for decades to come. Both these documents, coming from the center of Congregation and Church fill me with hope and expectation. Something I needed. For my heart has been cracking a bit from pain with what I have seen and felt in the last decade.

During the weekend of 29-30th April we hosted more than 40 Sunday school teachers from all over Shikoku. It was a great event. Sister Fujita gave a model bible class to the children with the parents attending. During mass on Sunday she had the children sit in the choir and made them write on cards how the Word of God had addressed them in their little hearts. Mass was creatively presided by Shigeo Tanaka. He offered one huge breadloaf and the children danced the Our Father in the midst of the assembly. It was an unforgettable scene.

I went to Tokyo and crossed the island twice for Kochi during the last month. Still looking forward to a visit with the folks in Kyushuu. The going to the Congress feels like an untrodden path. I'm also being re-assured, though, that we can make it and that the Spirit has sown enough to reap a harvest. I wish I'd be good enough to convince everyone of that.

On May 3rd I attended the shinto taikai in Takamatsu. 75 attended, mostly laymen from almost every parish. The bishop gave a good talk. He asked everybody to reflect on what he is receiving from and giving to the Church. Also that next year's 75th anniversary be prepared in the districts, an activity to replace this year's shinto taikai. A third recommended task is the study of Evangelii Nuntiandi on the local level. A fourth concern: the problem of vocations.

Fran is going on furlough in the beginning of June. He'll be back in September. Ed leaves today for the marriage feast of his sister. Today I felt that the love of the parishioners will accompany them on their travels. We all take lots of blessings from their zeal.

HAPPY PENTECOST. My love to all who have a birthday or an anniversary this month.

Files



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
TEL 0888-72-3658

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

NEWSLETTER

August-September 1978

VOCATION DIRECTOR APPOINTED:

Mike Yamasaki has accepted to be our new vocation director. He will work out a plan for recruiting and basic guidelines for a formation program. There are at present three young high school students who have expressed a desire to join us.

MEETING OF LAY COOPERATORS:

As recommended by the Provincial Congress a meeting of all our lay cooperators to discuss fuller integration of laymen in the apostolate is being planned. Bert Silver and Ed Williams have been asked to organize this meeting. They will meet October 8th in Nagato with Mr. Nishikawa (Itami) and Mr. Kido (Kochi) to make the first plans for this meeting, which will hopefully be held early in the new year.

MINUTES OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

The minutes of the Congress were finally sent out this week. Sorry to be late. It is quite a bundle, but the secretaries and printers would be more than grateful if you would plough through it. The Provincial Council met once to discuss implementation of the recommendations, resulting in the appointments mentioned above. More action when Lee Simons returns next week.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- John Iwo, 48th birthday on September 6th.
- John Mahoney, 53rd birthday on September 20th.
- Fran Hahn, 35th birthday on September 22nd.
- Jan Van Heydonck, 55th birthday on October 10th.
- Xave Belperte, 51st birthday on October 27th.
- Ange Siani, 42nd birthday was on August 23rd.
- Bert Silver, 50th birthday was on August 31st.
- Gerry Steven, celebrates 23 years of priesthood on October 28th.

O-NEGAI:

Please try to get your severance pay premiums in by the 20th of each month. It makes accounting a bit simpler. Thank you.

The News

I think everyone had an eventful July and Aug. with the Provincial Congress, the Retreat, various vacations and other activities. With this our September issue, The News would like to try and up-date everyone on what's been happening and start once again our monthly reporting.

As was mentioned at the Provincial Congress we'll try a system of regional reporting and see what happens. Nestor Jao will do the reporting for the Tokyo area, Dick Harr for the Fukuoka area, Bert Silver for Tokushima, Sanbonmatsu, Itami and Kobe area (Wow!), and Bill Maher for Kochi. All of this superb material will be sent to Ron LaFramboise by the 20th of each month and he will run it off and send it out to us (Gambate Ron!).

Japan Province Record!

Jerry Novotny has caught a 51 cm. "Chinu", and as far as I can figure out this is definitely a record for the Province as well as most of my fisherman friends here in Nakamura.

Jerry is back at Kochi University teaching a full load of classes after spending some time in the States with his folks, compliments of the Mombushoo. He was surprised at the uselessness of the American dollar and the time it takes to get from the new Narita Airport to the local flights at Haneda. It took him 5 or 6hrs.

John Iwo

John just got back from a pilgrimage to Tsuwano in Yamaguchi Prefecture. He went with 4 Catholics from Aki. This is the site of some of the Christian persecutions. I'm (the editor) not sure if these were Christians brought from Nagasaki or converts of the area by St. Francis Xavier when he worked in the Yamaguchi area.

Ray Bourgoin

It's pretty hard to find something earth shaking to write about: Hospital life doesn't have too much change in schedule from day to day.

I have had plenty of rest which is part of the cause of my gaining 7 kilo in weight while here.

I have been going for 2-3 hour walks almost every day so I'm getting used to the outside somewhat. These hills in Kobe are just what the doctor ordered to help slim me down. Should see the brothers some time in September.

Bill Maher

I had a wonderful Aug. starting with the retreat and then the short priests study day. I stayed in Sakaide on the night of Aug. 26th so I was able to visit Fr. Modesto before he died. Unfortunately he wasn't able to talk but I hope he understood me. He helped me a lot when he was in Uwajima and I had just come to Nakamura. He was 88 this year and still going strong at 80 when I first came to this area. I also spent two great days with Dick Harr in Fukuoka. We even went golfing once for 800yen green fees. I won't mention the score so you know it wasn't very good for me!

I wasn't successful with my "large sizes shopping" in Fukuoka but after a visit with Ray and a good night at Itami with Ed and five others who had gathered there I found a pair of pants and shoes that fit me at the Hankyu Dept. Store. The shoes only cost 2500 yen at a special sale. At that price you couldn't afford not to buy them. Even if you have to shrink your feet!

I had one more day of vacation in Tokushima before Dick went back to Tokyo and then back to the grind at Nakamura. Three of the officers of the Kochi Ken Shinto-kai came here the day I got back for a Kochi Ken Shinto-kai Ido Yakuin-kai. That's a big word for a nice talk, which we had on Sat. night for about three hours on Pope Pauls' Encyclical on Evangelization. They also talked to the people who came for Sun. Mass.

Now the big thing is a Retreat on Oct. 1st, by Bishop Fuku-hori. I hope we have a good turnout for that I'm really pushing it.

Jose Be Fruyt

Jose writes from Belgium, "Attended a missiological seminar (140 participants) and the O.M.I. retreat (33 participants). Together with the O.M.I. Congress in Japan I compare these experiences with the common factor of a 'good atmosphere' of quiet hope and courageous expectations. Time of polarization is finished....General longing for spirituality, renewal in Christ and the gospel. Apostolic concern to integrate the layman, to go to the poorest and to live mission from the base of a christlike community." "Greetings to all, I will be back in Tokushima September 27th.

SORRY TO REPORT THAT OUR REPORTERS IN TOKYO, FUKUOKA, AND TOKUSHIMA HAVE NOTHING TO REPORT. REMEMBER THE CLOSING DATE IS THE 20th OF EACH MONTH.



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
TEL 0888-72-3658

NEWSLETTER

JULY 1978

FR. ZAGO'S VISIT:

Father Marcello Zago, OMI, Assistant General will be arriving in Japan June 28 to spend some time visiting us before taking part in our Provincial Congress. The tentative schedule of his visit is as follows.

June 28	to	July 2	Itami
July 2	to	July 5	Fukuoka area
July 5	to	July 11	Tokushima area
July 11	to	July 16	Kochi area
July 16	to	July 19	Provincial Congress in Kochi

Fathers Silver and Harr are asked to arrange the details of his stay in their respective areas. This is an informal visit during which time he hopes to meet as many as possible and see the apostolates we are involved in.

RAY BOURGOIN "DOING BETTER":

Ray has been hospitalized at Kaisei Hospital in Kobe since the first of June. Brain scan and other tests show no major problems, for which Ray is relieved. He is getting some much needed rest and looking and feeling better than he did three weeks ago. O-daiji ni, Ray.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck, 27 years of ordination July 1st.

Fr. Leo Simons, 25 years of ordination July 5th and 53rd birthday on July 31st.

BROTHER TSUDA'S SUMMER EXHIBIT:

Brother will have an exhibition of his recent paintings at Takamiya Gallery in Osaka from July 10 to July 22. The gallery is closed on Sunday.

REMINDER:

Provincial Congress - Kochi - July 16 PM to July 19 noon.
Annual Retreat - Osaka (?) - August 20 PM to August 26 AM.

Please return the enclosed postcard indicating attendance today. Thanks.

The News

Sorry we're late with this issue but I won't have it into Ron till about the 23rd of June. There are a lot of interesting items this month especially Jose's dream in Ikeda and John Iwo's gift to Aki City. Of course I'm sure you'll find the other things good also because, after all, this is who we are and what we're doing in the here and now and that's a great subject. And what even excites me more is, there's even more than this to who we are and what we're doing and a lot of people want to share it. Read on! Read on!

Since we are having the Congress in July there will be no post card sent in July we'll be able to talk to each other directly when we meet.

John Mahoney: Last month we had our annual Better World Parish Retreat. The average attendance was 16 adults. On the closing day Pentecost Mrs. Ito was Baptized and Confirmed. In the afternoon Mr. Nokokura who had not been able to attend Church, (and for whom Jerry Stevens had said a Requiem Mass) returned (resurrected?) He now lives in Mugi and plans to attend Mass at Anan twice a month.

John Iwo: This June 14th is the 14th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. On Thursday I will give a present to Mrs. Sono Ayako, a famous writer and to the people of Aki and Kochi. She will arrive in the Kochi air-port at 10:30AM on June 14th and I will pick her up at the air-port. Then I will prepare lunch for her and she will give a lecture to 400 people (we expect) in Aki. It will be held at the Shimin-kaikan at 1:30 PM. Then I will bring her to Kochi and again she will give a lecture to 600 people (I imagine) in the Kochi Kenmin Hall. At the beginning of both lectures, I am supposed to introduce her to the people. This is my present to them on my ordination day. (At Aki an overwhelming 700 people came. It was a great success. Congratulations John. Editor)

Wency Laguidao : Sorry, I missed that issue last month. As regards your question, once a month is ok with me while leaving it free to the guys to send in contributions at intervals they find most convenient. This wouldn't affect your load of work but really Bill, you are doing a splendid service, I think. I moved into our Tokyo house at the start of this month. Still commute to Kamakura 2-3 times a week for classes but on the most part I am doing the review by myself. I'm enjoying the change of atmosphere - more variety, it seems. So this is life after almost two years of studying Japanese. Reminds me of that theological cliché 'already and not yet' which seems to fit perfectly

to my case. I don't want to sound apocalyptic nor eschatological (some more cliché) but I guess you know how it feels at the end of ones Nihongo gakkoo jidai. Ron, welcome home. Did you get a good tan at the Mediterranean? Ray, get well soon please.

Dick Harr; Yes, we have no water. So, if you're planning a trip to Kyushu, and in particular, Fukuoka, bring your own water! The city now has water flowing only 5 hours a day, and there are some areas where the weak pressure doesn't make it available. Here at Hikarigaoka, we're O.K.. We just opened up an old well which fortunately had an abundance of the stuff.

Pretty soon, the Sanctuary here will be graced with a rather large frame in which the parishioners here will enclose certain choice scriptural passages in calligraphy. It should be very nice. This is a gift to the parish from a couple just married.

Eduardo Quiroga : I'm just back from a hectic two-week trip to my 'kokyo', Leban. I met all the Oblates in the Manila area at their regional house. They were having their monthly recollection then. When I got to Cotabato City, I was on time to witness to acceptance to the Novitiate of nine Juniors and the first profession of six novices. I met almost all the Oblates in the area who drop in the Provincial House where I stayed. Borrowing one of the cars at the NUU faculty house, I was able to go around some parishes on the way to the Kidapawan Diocese. Great to see the men at work.

In Leban of course I had the best chance to be with my parents, relatives and friends. It was the Feast Day of the Queenship of Mary. It was the Parish and town 'Matsuri'. Imagine thousands of people coming to church! They joined me too in celebrating my 33rd birthday. Honto ni yokatta.

Nestor Joe : Talking about undookai, Sekinachi Church had it scheduled last June 4th, after the Sunday morning Mass. I prepared myself to participate in some games like 'tsunaniki'. Everything was prepared for that day and then rain fell on that day. The thing is postponed. But I hope that it will be held sometime because it is a great event for everyone especially for the children and the young people of the Parish.

Dick Bonamy; When I arrived home on Monday evening train card was in my mail box. I had promised myself always to return it immediately. However Monday was the day of the earthquake and all trains were temporarily stopped, then began moving at a slow pace. It took me 2hr. 30 min. to travel from Tokyo St. to Kana-kura, a distance which usually takes 1 hr. That meant I didn't get home until 10:30PM. Just enough time for an on-furo and sleep.

At present I am in the midst of listening to a series of 4 tapes by Richard Woods O.P. on the Quest for Psychic Power. He seems to be a teacher of para-psychology in Calif. From this point of view he examines some new as well as old religious cults/sects, Christ and Scripture.

Bill Maher: It's 11:00 PM, I want to get this in the morning mail and I have a Softball game at 6:00AM tomorrow. So I'll just ask you to pray for the success of a Bingo party for the Eng. students. And I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in July.

Angelo Siani:

Well, I've been here in Kochi for 3 months now. I'm getting more and more settled in every day. Here is a rundown on a few areas I've been involved in. A great deal of my time is spent visiting the sick and elderly. We have about 15 house calls. I try to visit each one twice a month. The katei shuukai meet once a month in each district. A few hours a week are spent over in Seibo Gakuen teaching English, and over and above that we have quite a few weddings which call for two talks plus one practice session. Also have two young girls coming for religious instruction. Even was over to Shinhonmachi church to preach one Sunday. One of our parishoners died this week. Takeuchi-san who is a friend of John Iwo passed away suddenly. Yesterday, John and I took the two hour trip to Kaminokae for the funeral. Since we had a funeral service here at the church the day before and I had given the sermon, John was nice enough to preach in Kaminokae. Thanks John.

Ron LaFramboise:

I returned tanned and rested after an eventful Easter pilgrimage, the Provincials' meeting in Rome and a stay at home. It rained most of the time I was in Rome, so the tan must be from the beautiful New England sun, or was it the few days in Aloha land?

The Provincials' meeting was a wonderful experience that is hard to put into words. The Communique and OMI Information describe it much better than I can, so I will not attempt to. One could feel the heartbeat of the Congregation, as it were, strong and full of life, evaluating every aspect of General and Regional administration, questioning, challenging, dreaming, planning for the future, searching for new ways to meet the challenge of an old but always new call to "Preach the Gospel to the poor".

I was also privileged to attend the Provincial Congress of the Eastern American Province with 120 brother Oblates from the East. Here I again experienced the same life beat in a Province working very hard to shape and mold itself to meet the needs of the mission today. The theme "free to hope", was no mere cliché. I experienced a group of missionaries full of life and great hope in an ever more beautiful future.

After those two fascinating experiences I returned to Japan in early June, looking forward to our own Congress in July. A speedy tour of the Province shows some anxiety and fear, some doubts that we are sufficiently prepared for a Congress, yet still a great willingness and openness to gather together to pray and listen to what the Spirit of Jesus has to say to us today. Though we may not feel ready as we had hoped to be, I have no doubts that the Lord is always ready to speak to a listening ear. "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." (Samuel (I) 3:10). The details of the agenda and time and place of the Congress will be in the mail this week. I look forward to seeing you all there for this important missionary gathering.

Bert Silver:

Bert sends you two interesting articles on mission that he clipped from "America" and "Missiology" magazines. More ammunition for the congress. Thank you very much Bert.

JOSE DE BRUYT

The report on the "dreams" O.M.I. Provincials had in Rome (O.M.I. Inf. June 1) was still airborne when I had a dream myself about our future provincial (house).

AWA-IKEDA, May 30th. - This place would be the ideal Provincial House! Situated between our two mission districts, it can easily be reached by a great number of our men who might want to come relax privately with father provincial. One could also have a prayerful weekend here, while being replaced by the provincial who could then use this opportunity to stay in close contact with all our parishes and mission centers.

When alone on his mountain, our provincial would really have some time to occupy himself with the preparation of a canonical visit. He could also be the host at regular gatherings of the Shikoku community. His bishop would also be very close. As occasional host of diocesan and Burgos priests he could really work out something to foster communication with that part of the diocese.

When frustrated, it's only 10 minutes walking to the dam and the revolving restaurant at Ueno Rest House. One really does recuperate from a jumbo steak! After such "recollectio corporis", the temple on the mountainslope in the back of the house is always inviting the residents in the valley as a most chosen place for a good "recollectio animi" or the counting of one's 108 sins. The tombs on the mountain slope, the physical beauty of the temple, the newly designed Zen garden, and in spring a feast of cherry blossoms and the birds in the trees all year round... everything on that mountain draws the mind to dwell on heavenly things and the vision of eternity.

If the provincial would also be in charge of novices, he could teach them to cut some little fresh red radishes into the salad. While Gerard is in Zentsuuj, he could use his telephone to operate an "all-Shikoku-inochi-no-denwa line (that would cut a bit into those surplusses!) The garage could serve to store Kokoro no Tomoshibi's and other mass-media materials. In this branch the provincial could also employ retired fathers and pensioned lay-people. And serving such a variety of centralised good works, the house could also afford some equipment (like a xerox machine) and subscriptions to a variety of good magazines. The bus on the playground would make ideal lodgings for possible vocations who want to try the oblates for "our real poverty". Especially those candidates who read Taize-Brother Roger Schutz's latest plan for (Honkong style) living in barracks would be attracted. They'd love a Pendoroza like that!

On his explorations to the churches, the provincial could break the ground for the novices' temporary fieldwork. During their intervals at Awa-Ikeda the novices could be introduced into the fundamentals of O.M.I.-life, do the up-keep of the place, run mission camps, weed the garden and reap in joy what Gerard has sown in year 2. (This brings to my mind the picture of Gerard working on a seedy ~~xx~~ lettuce tree in the kitchen sink. 30 snails were removed and thrown back through the window into the garden. With his metaphysical sense of the order put forth in the Tree of Porphyry, Gerard is also ecologically speaking ages ahead of us in a revolutionary way, if you think of the chemical confusion that we modern mortals allow to take place down below our belt).

The provincial wouldn't have to hire a cock either. Alternately hosting the cocks from all the churches (they would be delighted with a holiday here!) he would enjoy the best kitchen in the province. Moreover, even Father Gill could not have dreamed of the flow of information that would emanate from these visitors, for they are usually the best sources of local news.

Another advantage of the location: not being resident at one of our major establishments would eliminate succumbing to the temptation of having confreres do major works without the title of responsibility usually thereto attached.

Attached though is also a requirement for a basic necessity: installing a hot water supply in the shower on the second floor and repairing it, so the host doesn't get the rinse of his guest on the breakfast table. If this condition cannot immediately be fulfilled, I suggest this: fold one of your bedsheets and spread it over the table. Ten minutes after the guest ~~finishes~~ is finished, you will manage to do the clean-up with one big sweep! Ad multos annos!

+ + + + +

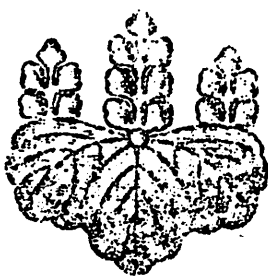
Other local news tidbits:

-- On 3-4 June we had our bishop with us here in Tokushima for the Confirmation Ceremony. He gave a preparatory talk to 7 applicants on Saturday night, presided the liturgy on Sunday morning and guided us through a day of recollection ending with benediction in the afternoon. During the afternoon sharing session he referred to a prayer-retreat in which he recently had participated and recommended very much the incorporation of the Russian Jesus Prayer in Zazen style prayer exercises.

-- On 6-7 June I attended a study meeting of the Shikoku Prison Chaplains. During the opening ceremony, Thomas Maher was rewarded with a "Testimony of Thanks" by the Correctional Superintendent of the Takamatsu District. One of the speakers at this meeting, a member of the Tokushima District Education Board, spoke about the "Image of the New Man;" He referred at length to a passage in "Fundo" by Watsuji Tetsuroo about the three types of man produced in the desert, monsoon and meadow (Europe)-climates. To underline his somewhat deterministic views on ethics, he ended his speech with a reference to a passage in Endo Shusaku's "Silence" where "Mariasama" is reported to have nodded her approval to a catholic believer stepping on the cross for humanness's sake. Would it, indeed, be more difficult for the monsoon climate man to believe that he can transcend himself through faith in the resurrection? The commemoration of our Japanese martyrs becomes then all the more relevant!

-- On 1 June Eduardo was welcomed back in the community here. He brought a pack of 'gochi-scos' and wicker-work from the Philippines with him. A bucket of mango icecream is still in Itami for re-freezing. On the way home, a substantial amount of my ice just got evaporated! Ed Williams might try it again for the congress in Kochi.

-- Today, 11 June, I gave a talk to "Soroptimist" ladies during their monthly meeting in the Sun Route hotel. Topic: "Women in the world I have seen." I covered women of three continents and paid a special tribute to my mother and the sister of my Kindergarten to whom I promised, thirty years ago, that I would become a priest. Most of my women, except the Moslem women, had made it without Women's Lib. None of the ladies seemed to feel bad about that!



感謝状
トマス・マヘル殿
あなたは多く年にわたり、
教師として、矯正施設
における、収容者の教化
に盡力され、その功績は
まことに多大であります。
よって、ここに記念品を送
り、深甚なる謝意を表
わします。
昭和五三年六月四日
高松矯正管区長
山田 岩雄



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PROVINCIAL OFFICE
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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1978

WELCOME HOME RAY:

After a four month stay at Kaisei Hospital Ray Bourgoin returned October 3rd in better health and a few kilos heavier. He will be leaving Kochi at the end of this month to take up less strenuous work in Tokyo. Many thanks, Ray, for your fine work as bursar and for your cooperation in the various apostolates in Kochi. O-daiji ni.

Ron will continue as caretaker in the bursar's office until a new appointment can be made. Any volunteers???

NEW JAPANESE CITIZEN:

Umpteen reports and nine months of waiting Xave Delporte was granted Japanese citizenship on the 17th of October. No more visits to the Immigration Office for visa for Xave -- oops, I should have said, for Tosa Yoshikazu-san. Congratulations Yotchan!

WELCOME TO MARIA AND DOMONIC SIMONS:

Lei Simons came back from his home leave Sept. 26th with his sister, Maria, and his nephew, Dominic. They had a busy month visiting Japan. Dominic left for Belgium last week to resume his military duties. Maria is staying on for another month -- to recover from last month's hectic schedule?

DATES FOR 1979 MEETINGS:

In keeping with the recommendations of the Provincial Congress the dates for province wide gatherings for 1979 have been set, so mark your calendars.

- General Meeting: March 26-27 -Review of 2-man Councillor System.
 -Last phase of Revision of Rules.
- Annual Retreat: Sept. 2-8th (Sunday PM to Saturday AM)

BIRTHDAYS:

- Dick Bonang celebrates his 42nd birthday Nov. 6th.
- Joe Tsuda celebrates his 79th birthday Nov. 23rd.

Best wishes to both of them. Would that we could all see as many birthdays as Brother Tsuda. O-genki de ne!

The News

-FROM KOCHI:

Wency Laguidao

The Kyoto diocese played host to the annual seminar sponsored by the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops' Conference. This year's theme was "The Gospel, Human Rights and Discrimination" with particular emphasis on the "Burakumin" problem. About a hundred and fifty participants composed of laymen, students, sisters and priests from all over the country attended the three day seminar. Bishop Soma of Nagoya who heads the Justice and Peace Commission was around. A young Filipino priest was also at hand to brief the group about Japanese companies moving to the Philippines.

It is a common knowledge that the subject of "buraku" is a very touchy one. That was a common feeling during the seminar. "You're not even supposed to mention that word!" was the reaction I got when I first asked about the word. I went to a bookstore in Tokyo hoping to find reading materials about this group of people whom we are not supposed to talk about. Among the countless books on almost every aspect of Japanese society that could be found is the one and perhaps the only published book, a well-researched and scholarly treatment of the topic on caste segregation and racist ideology in Japan. "Japan's Invisible Race" (de Vos and Wagatsuma) is the name of the book, indeed apropos in referring to those people who are considered not to exist or if ever they exist are anyway non-human and should not enjoy the rights of ordinary human beings. Victims of the social stratification during the Tokugawa period, they were the people whose occupations were unclassifiable and due to some superstition were considered unclean. Their race origin has been traced to Koreans, Filipinos or Hebrew but the sad thing about it is that they are in fact Japanese, and should rightfully enjoy the rights of ordinary Japanese.

The seminar has been a brave attempt to bring to the level of consciousness the fact that the buraku problem does not only belong to the feudal Japan as what many people contend. The same problem still exists today and even poses a startling contrast to the image of Japan as a modern technological country.

Documented cases of how the burakumin suffer from discrimination were presented to the group, eg. poor living condition, difficulty in securing employment because of their origin, difficulty in contracting marriage, etc. All of these are a result of the stigma that they have carried all through these years. Among the speakers was a lady coming from the buraku herself who related firsthand experiences about how it is to be a member of a burakumin. Gerry Stevens was asked by Bishop Soma to relate his experiences on working in a buraku area at Mass during the first day.

The second day was spent on more general topics as human rights, theology of liberation, concern over Japan's move to export pollution to poorer nations under the guise of development and big companies moving to countries where they can get

cheap labor also under the guise of helping those countries to develop. There were group discussions and the participants were allowed to express their reactions on the topics that had already been discussed. Most of the topics were eye-openers to many.

As I have said, the seminar was geared towards bringing to awareness certain social issues that have to be confronted by society and the Church as we ll. There were no big scale plans, "a voice crying in the wilderness" might be a way to describe the seminar.

Jerry Novotny

Jerry is getting organized for the second semester now that the exams are over. He'd like to report a change in his address due to the renaming of the sections of his neighborhood. His new address is:

Jerry Novotny
18-7 2 chome
Honmachi
Asakura, Kochi-shi 780

Bill Maher

We had a very successful Parish Retreat. About 26 adults attended. Bishop Fukahori gave three very good talks on Sun., including a very good explanation of, "yurushi no hiseki" Unfortunately I didn't tape it. He also gave a talk of the meaning of a retreat to the 9 people that came the night before.

The next thing is our Bazaar. It's usually a low key garage sale type of affair. I man the stamp booth.

Raphael would like to add:

Here are some practical applications of the Golden Rule:

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you unlock it, lock it.
4. If you break it, repair it.
5. If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
6. If you borrow it, return it.
7. If you use it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back.
10. If it belongs to somebody else and you want to use it, get permission.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
12. If it doesn't concern you, don't mess with it.

Tom Maher:

The Columbans had two seminars explaining their new catechical material last year and the year before. Father A. Griffin prepared the course and Father Rile assisted in giving the seminars. The full texts were limited to those who attended the seminar. As far as I understand they are waiting for feedback before they print again.

Having successfully finished Part 1 with a group of 23 I highly recomend it. Sorry to say I don't know when their next seminars will be held.

Title : Kirisuto kyoo Kyoori kooza

Part1 Yobi-fukuin senkyo (jibun to no deai)

Part 2 Evangelization "Fukuin senkyoo" (Kirisuto to no deai)

Part 3 Catechesis (kyoodootai to no deai)

We called Part 1 An Invitation to Great Adventure
Daiboken e no shoota'i

Part 2 "Subarashii Deai"

Part 1 17 weeks

Part 2 15 weeks

Part 3 15 weeks

Text : Only the leaders have the text. Review sheets for each lesson must be printed yourself. Posters also.

Time : Each session was two hours. About half the time is spent in group exercises.

We charged 3,500yen for adults and 2,000 yen for students. As a result we were able to buy ⁸²⁰⁰ suggested in the Bibliography, pay for the printing and the "O-yatsu" at each session.

The assistant leaders, Mrs. Kato and Mr. Takai were invaluable. Both had finished the whole Bethel series and were very reliable. A preparation meeting was held with them before each session.

Some of the remarks from those who finished Part 1.

"Watashi wa jibun ya hito ni taishite hiroi kokoro wo moteru yoo ni narimashita."

"Akaruku sunao na kimochi de, jibun wo mitsumeru koto ga dekiru yoo ni narimashita. Jibun wo semeru koto yori mo, ari no mama no jibun wo ukeire, soko kara susunde yuku koto no subarashisa wo manabu koto ga dekimashita."

"Kono yon-ka-getsu-kan no Kirisutokyoo kooza wo ukete, watashi wa dare na no ka, jibun to no fureai, hontooono jibun ni deau koto wo manabi, ima made jiko kenno datta jibun wo koteiteki ni miru yoo ni narimashita."

"Daiboken ni sanku shite, hontoo ni yoi benkyoo ni narimashita. Group no minasan ni mo taihen shitashimi wo kanjite kimashita. Taijin kankei wa watashi ni totte ichiban

nigate na no deshita ga ima made to chigatte, kimochi ga totemo raku ni narimashita."

"Daiboken e no Shootai wa, maikai tanoshiku, benkyoo sasete itadakimashita. Dai 2 bu ga hajimaru no ima kara tanoshimi ni itashite orimasu. Kami wa watashi wo mada kanzen ni tsukutte wa inai, kyoo ichijitsu, ima genzai wo ikimashoo. Kyoo wa watashi no jinsei no nokori no dai ichi nichime desu. 50wo sugita watashi no jinsei no nokori no ichijitsu ichijitsu wo taisetsu ni kokoro shite yuuigi ni sugoshitai to doryoku itashite orimasu."

"20sumei no hitotachi to issho ni unique na tanoshii kurasu de jibun no yoi ten mo warui men mo manande iru uchi ni, dandan to wakatte kita. Jibun chuushinteki datta, jibun wo kaerimi, hito wo aisuru to iu yasashii kokoro ni made jibun wo hatten shite kita."

"Konna na ni subarashiku, jibun wo bhiriai suru koto, jibun wo akaruku tsuyoku suru koto, mata munashisa, sabishisa, kokokukan wo naku suru hoo hoo wo bhiru koto ga dekite, taihen kansha shite orimasu."

(78 years old) "Wakai hito to issho ni benkyo wo sasete itadaite, gakusei jidai no yoo wakaku natta to kanjite orimasu."

"Ima made toozasarete ita kokoro ga jojo ni shizen ni hirakarete iku no wo kanjimashita. Jibun no kanjo wo taisetsu ni suru koto, tanin to no kokoro no majiwari, hontoo no ai to wa nan de aru ka wo manabi, kore kara no jinsei ni oite, subarashii mono wo manabi, kansha no kimochi de ippai desu."

Nado, nado, nado.....

Next sessios at Nakajimacho

Daiboken e no shootai Sept. 10 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Subarashii Deai Sept. 10 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Tom Maher O.M.I.

4th KOCHI VOLUNTEER SEMINAR:

Thanks to the efforts of Lei Simons and the Kochi Volunteer Bureau staff, the "4th Kochi Volunteer Seminar" started Sept. 30th with 60 people in attendance. Sessions will be held each Saturday until Nov. 18th. These seminars sim to make people aware of the needs around them and to show them what they can do as individuals on a voluntary basis without too much specialized training.

-Jottings from the Tokushima Reporter: Bert Silver, OMI

Preparatory Meeting on Lay and Christian Community:

On Saturday evening, the ninth, Ed Williams, his catechist - Nishikawa, Dick Harr's catechist - Tsunoda - and I met here in Naruto to begin discussions on some of the resolutions we agreed upon at our Kochi Meeting. Again, the following day, we informally talked about some possibilities for involving our laity with us in the community and the apostolate. That afternoon we sat down for about two more hours and what we plan to do is have another such "get-together" in Itami on January the twenty-second. At that time we hope to have all of the "employed" catechists together. There will be an opportunity for them to tell the group "where they are" as far as "up-dating", experiences, observations on the desire of the Oblate community to have them work with us more responsibly. We will share some ideas on the Chapter document on Missionary Vision (which is in Japanese). Also, at the same meeting, we will attempt to come up with more concrete suggestions of expanding the involvement of the laity. A beginning!

Naruto-Anan Seibo Kindergartens:

The teachers from both kindergartens were given a day off from "regular" school teaching to visit the Sisters of Notre Dame's Model Kindergarten in Okayama. Thanks to the kindness of Sister Sakimura, the Director, they were shown the excellent Montessori materials, their facilities and had some lively discussions with the teachers on their various programs. The opinion of the teachers from our schools is that it was a "broadening experience". During the coming school year hope to plan for other such trips for them.

Despite the 50's:

This summer was an excellent one. Had some fine sessions with the college students, the Lion's exchange students, and the trips to the beach with the parishoners. In some ways it was an uncomfortable summer - not just the heat but but teeth-wise! As a result of improper brushing had to have a "gum-job" done. The dentist at the Tokushima Dental Department did a fine cutting job. Luckily it didn't interfere with my fishing! Came close to Gerry's "biggy" - 38centchi chinu. Back to the regular program here: Classes at Tokushima U and Shikoku Girls College, program for adults at the church, and the children's classes on Saturday afternoon (have hired a helper for this and she is working out fine). The parish fall program started: First Sunday of the month is the Young People's Liturgy, their weekly scripture study (five high school boys - and one girl hope to have two of the boys consider joining the Oblates -) and weekly catechism class for the youngsters. Second Sunday is Girls Sunday (from twenty to sixty - about fourteen). After Mass they have a prayer session, and are going over the

correspondence course on scripture. They are also doing some visitations. The third Sunday is Men's Sunday. Their program is similar to the girl's. This leaves us the last Sunday of the month for the Shinto Kai. Twice a month I attend the Lion's Club meetings. These are on Wednesdays. At present we are working on establishing a "Clearing House" for exchange students. This coming Tuesday we are scheduled to meet with the Mayor of Tokushima to approve the plans for the exchange with Saginaw, Michigan (sister city of Tokushima). Next month on the third, there is a softball tournament and they have asked me to pitch. My comments for the newsletter might be from Tokushima Hospital! This month on the 25th and 26 there is a Directors' Meeting for Kindergartens in Tokyo. The agenda is geared towards labor regulations and administrative problems. Plan on taking this in.

Study-session: Jerry Stevens, OMI

At Ron's request Jerry went to Kyoto for a National study session dealing with the "Doowa kyooiku" - so he was not with us for our regular monthly gathering. He should have something for us by next month's letter.

"Pinoys and Pinays" : Ed Quiochio, OMI

It was nice to see Frannie and Jose back on time from their home leave. They look fine and great. With all the stories of festivities on the clock with their folks, relatives and friends I am surprised they only gained eight and six kilos respectively. After a few days of recovering from the homecoming exposure they are now back to work fresh and full of energy.

The September newsletter did not carry much news, eh, good! Shall we say this shows we did a lot of sharing during the fine retreat we had at Keio Plaza Takamatsu. I found we had quite a few occasions for exchange during these hours of "gochisoos" and the free evenings of talks by Dick Harr, Jack Deely, Dick Bonang and Fr. Gaudet. I would like to describe the year's Oblate retreat as a "power-full and joy-full" retreat. Gaudeto-shimpu no okagesama de to mochiron minasan no desu.

Heard of the invasion of the Japanese entertainment world by the "Pinoys and Pinays"? There are supposedly more than a thousand imported musicians from the Philippines. In Tokushima alone there are nine band members, three singing Pinays and four dancing Pinays. With a little bit of contacting and arranging you can see them packed in your churches. The girls have been quite regular in attending our newly scheduled Wednesday novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Don't be surprised to see the rest of the gang roaming around your territories! Yoroshiiku onegaishimasu.

Sunday School Children's Autumn Retreat: Itami.

Sept.16 - 4 PM till Sept.17 1:30 PM - the Autumn retreat for Sunday school children was held in Itami. 85 children - kindergarten 5 year olds to Middle school. 20 adult helpers included 105 spent Saturday night at the Church. The "stayover" is a twice a year event (Spring-Autumn). The kindergarten is used for this once the English school ends at 4:40 PM, Saturday. The schedule included four talks (2 by myself, 2 by Nishikawa sensei). A special Mass and common celebration of Penance (6:30 AM) - recreation - 3 meals including one in silence. We closed with Benediction Sunday afternoon.

It is the third year we have been doing this and each time the numbers rise a little. (Our total Sunday school population is 11 children)

The church ladies provided the meals. The sleeping blankets and Japanese bedding was borrowed from Caritas Japan (blankets from Ikeda Church). The cost is born by the church rather than directly by the children's parents, as we try to make Sunday school a church affair and not just the business of people with children that age bracket.

The children had a wonderful time. The teachers, parents, and church ladies think one stayover is worth a couple of months of Sunday morning classes.

The whole thing requires much planning, a large number of volunteer helpers, a hefty sum of money (about 500 yen per person). The first "stayover" totalled only 20 children.

(Ed Williams, OMI 9-19-78)

Fran's Travels: Tokushima.

Well, since I last wrote for this publication, there has been much water under the damn so to speak. I think it was for the June edition. Of course the big event was home leave. 3 months in Buffalo but with side trips to Michigan for a week. Cleveland for 2 days, New Orleans for 5 (2 in a car down...flew back) and an 11 day swing to Albany, Boston, E. Hartford -Conn. (Any of the young men - Americans - remember Vinnie Haiko) Maryland, near Leesburgh, Mt. Vernon, Berkley Springs - W.Va., and then home. Dad is doing grand, had a few problems when I got there, but we got him to a good specialist and he worked wonders and I'd say he's the best I've seen him in 5 or 6 years...Praise the Lord. When I got back on Sept 13 I spent a night in Itami, rushed back to Tokushima to get registered (couldn't get all the papers together in time) on the 15th I was back in Osaka for the first half of a meeting with the "kyodotai", during this half (15-21) I was sent to spend 4 days in Kagoshima to visit the Bishop and as many churches as possible, but we had a few restrictions, read Mt. 10 if you want some idea what they were. Needless to say it was an unforgettable experience. (other teams went to Sapporo, Nagoya and Nagasaki). Ron asked me to write up my experiences and share it with all, but I don't feel I can do it on paper. If anyone is interested in what happened, I'll be happy to share it with you the next time we meet. From the 21-25 we had a nation'wide gathering from the various "communities" from all over Japan, the priests and their leaders. 18 priests were there in all and 14 for the whole meeting. 125 people and we had a wonderful experience. I can share that with you too as I have some good notes on what was said and done.

Back to Tokushima to get that Japanese visa straightened out (ran out on the 29th of Sept.) on the 26th and to Kochi on the same day. Stayed in Kochi to say "hello" to my former parishoners and the Oblates till the 29th and then back to Tokushima for a real relaxed week.

From the 8th I'm off again for 12 days of travel and will be contacting a few men as I move.

Will be in the Tokyo area from the 9th - 12th, hope to see Dick in Kamakura, and the men in Hoya, but business first.

In Osaka from the 13th - 16th. Hope to stay in Itami the night of the 13th, have to pay Ed back a man I "borrowed" from him last month. I'll get back in Tokushima around the 21st. Will have to spend 10 days from Oct. 27. In Takamatsu. So it's a now you see me now you don't. I got two copies of my picture that was put in the Kochi Shinbun, taken during a survey by Nat. Railway. I made it under the title "Tama ni gaijinsan mo ori!" Which is fitting.

Last but not least I come back to you 12 kilo heavier much to my dismay. I thought no one would notice but everyone has.

(Bert was the kindest he just grinned when he saw me.) Angelo has gone from the "two of you" when refering to me, he now speaks in terms of the "Trinity".

(Peace: guess whom????)

Jose's "digest" of a 30 page report:

TADAIMA to everybody! 65 days overseas brought me to the Netherlands, England, Belgium, France and one night at the Singapore Catholic Central Bureau (C.I.C.M. Fathers who were missionaries in China before).

Immediately after arrival in Amsterdam I visited this city with my elder brother and sister who had come to see me at the airport with sister and brother-in-law. Next day we had a nice stroll in Utrecht on the way to Belgium. Later, I would return to Holland (Duiven) with oblate colleagues for the Golden Jubilee of Father Voogt (former general assistant).

Eight days in England (2,500 km.) with my younger brother and his wife (the couple who came to Japan in the summer of '76). Canterbury, Oxford, York, the Borders of Scotland, Edingburgh, The trossachs (Highlands), way south again to Lancaster, Chester and the borderland of Wales, and through London back to Dover. I wrote a 30 page report of this exciting trip for my brother's album, but that's too much for our editor. All I can say about it now is that in the coming winter I'll be reading all about the life of Mary, Queen of Scots and a bit about Sir Walter Scott whose gorgeous castle was only one of the many I visited in the Borderers.

Before visiting my family in Northern France I went with still another younger brother to Mount St. Michel off the coast of Normandy and to Lisieux. Needless to say that before leaving at Orly (my Parisien cousin brought me to the airport) I was winéd and dined with the best of French cuisine. So I was actually only 45 days in Belgium. To be short, the people were generous. In this short period I was showered with as many gifts (670000 yen) and more stipends (218,000 yen) than during 4 months, 4 years ago (although I had given 60 slideshows and done

some other church work at that time). Something has changed for the better. The superior of the Juvenate told me: "There are now many people who want to believe again!" I felt this atmosphere in many places, especially in the elder age bracket. The funeral of Paul VI as well as the election of John-Paul I were extremely well covered in all mass media. John-Paul I was very well received in Church as well as in society. Somebody told me: "We had thought that the Church had become a marginal, but the media tell us now that she is still very much in the center of society". Amazing how high expectations everybody was suddenly feeling with the sudden appearance of John-Paul I. In the previous letter I wrote already what I felt about the Oblate Retreat and a missiological seminar I attended. I confirm once more what I said there, adding that 70 missionaries from all over the world attended the latter seminar. My diocese had 19 seminarians entering and three novices joined the oblates this year. Many church people start breathing again. I found my folks in good health and promised to see them again soon. Local news: Tokushima community wants to enter a new era with Video apostolate. I invite anyone with valuable information or experience in this matter to share it directly or through this newsletter. All I have on hand for the moment is a letter of Fr. Vincent Briglio of Yamashiro Catholic Church. I feel that this is really not enough to make such great expenses. It would be great if we would be equipped by next Christmas. YBU - Kokoro no tomoshibi. The district makes its semi-annual contribution of 240,000 yen tomorrow. Any ideas on how we could cut Shikoku's 1977 deficit of 14,084,692 ye? Quousque tandem?

FROM FUKUOKA:

-Dick Harr

(This piece of news arrived too late for last month's printing.)

It seems like a long time since a Newsletter has been seen around. I thoroughly enjoyed that retreat. The graces there were many, and it was fun seeing the Oblate gang again. And those walks in Ritsurin Park in the early morning are still a delight. By the way, I have some pretty good photos of the more scenic spots therein. Here at Hikarigaoka, September is always marked well by the honoring of "Keiroo no Hi." And, we really did justice to it. On the 10th at the 9:30 Mass, 14 of the invited old people gathered down front of the altar. Following the sermon, each one received the Sacrament of the Sick. Then, following the Post-Communion prayer, two designated persons were asked to come forward to be given certificates of acknowledgement and thanks for the services they rendered this parish over the years. They were Tsunoda, Tanezoo and Oishi Isao. Were they ever overjoyed with this. Each old person was given a chain and medal, then after a special blessing, they proceeded out of the church amidst the applause of everyone. It was a memorable day for them and all of us too, I think.

The typhoon which hit us on the 15th did little damage here. That wind velocity was 48 meters per second. If it had lasted any longer, I am sure that some windows, drain pipes, and the like would have succumbed. / With what spare time I have here, I am now painting like crazy. It's such a big place, and how I know it now.

-Mike Yamasaki

The typhoon on September 15th left a lot of damage here in Koga. The stainless steel bulletin board was bent and twisted by the wind and became useless. Some plaster over the altar and over the inside entrance of the church building fell down. Eaves and tiles both on the roofs of the church and kindergarten were gone with the wind.

I think we need about a minimum of 50 man to repair the church completely. However for now we just have new tiles for the blown off ones, which cost us 20 man. Len estimates the damage at the kindergarten is about 50 man also.

(Fujiki construction gave me an estimate of 775,000yen for the repair of the roof and plaster.)

The Yochien Undokai is over despite the rain in the morning. The sun started shining around the end of the undokai.

Had one adult baptism on Oct. 1st. Will have another on the evening of November 1st. The former is a TB patient at the Higashi Hospital, and the latter is Prof. Inagaki's mother in law.

FROM TOKYO

-Nes Jao

My sincere thanks to all fellow Oblates for their hospitality during my visits to their mission places last summer. Doomo arigatoo.

I had a very enjoyable time with the Jesuits at their theologate during the last week of September. An evening Mass, tasty supper and an evening program of talks and songs with ice cream, drinks and cakes. The talks were sharing of experiences by Jesuit scholastics who went to the Philippines and Korea to spend their summer with the peoples in those countries. The group that went to the Philippines added a special flavor to the evening by singing some Filipino songs which they learned during their stay there. They asked me to join them in the singing, which I did gladly. Those who went to the Philippines brought me back a lot of stories plus some Filipino phrases and words. One Japanese scholastic told me jokingly - "In Japan, we usually teach foreigners good words first, but in the Philippines, they teach foreigners bad words first."

Recently, the Archbishop of Tokyo made some changes in his parishes by new appointments. The changes involved a good number of priests. Father Iwahashi of Sekimachi church is one of those effected. The notice of the pastor's transfer to another parish was officially printed on the church bulletin about three weeks ago. His last Mass for the people in his parish and farewell party were scheduled last Sunday (Oct. 15), but during the homily in last Sunday's Mass, Father Iwahashi announced to the people the cancellation of his departure and farewell party because the Archbishop of Tokyo had asked him for some reason to stay another month. So, parishoners, hold your tears for the nest month! Or goshimpai naku!

A REQUEST:

THOSE PLANING TO TAKE HOME LEAVE IN 1979 ARE ASKED TO SEND THE PROPOSED DATES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPLACEMENT TO RON BY THE END OF NOVEMBER. THIS INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO PREPARE THE BUDGET FOR 1979 AS WELL AS TO PLAN FOR REPLACEMENTS IF NECESSARY.

Thanks.



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
TEL 0888-72-3658

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1978

NEW DISTRICT COORDINATORS:

The results of the consultation for the appointment of new district coordinators was as follows.

	<u>First Choice</u>	<u>Second Choice</u>
Tokyo:	Richard Bonang 3 votes	Nestor Jao 1 vote John Deely 2
Tokushima:	Bertram Silver 5 John Mahoney 1 Edward Williams 1	Gerard Stevens 3 Edward Williams 3 John Mahoney 1
Kochi:	Angelo Siani 4 Xavier Delporte 2	Angelo Siani 3 Thomas Maher 1 Leonard Simons 1
Fukuoka:	Richard Harr 2 Michael Yamasaki 1	

After considering the results of the consultation, the Council in its meeting of October 31st appointed the following men as district coordinators. A meeting to describe the role will be held in the near future.

-Tokyo: R. Bonang
-Kochi: A. Siani

-Fukuoka: R. Harr
-Tokushima: B. Silver

CORRECTION:

The dates given last month for the General Meeting of the Province for 1979 (March 26-27) coincide with the annual priests' study days in the diocese of Takamatsu. So, the dates of our General Meeting have been rescheduled a week later, APRIL 2-3. Sorry for this oversight.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

- December 8, Ed Quiocho's 2nd anniversary of ordination.
- December 19, Nestor Jao's 30th birthday.
- December 24, Mike Yamasaki's 44th birthday.

AGENDA OF ASIAN PROVINCIALS' CONFERENCE MEETING:

- Asian missions: present state, future objectives.
- Planning and accountability in our Provinces.
- Study of revised texts of Constitutions (Parts III-IV)
- Study and review of Asian & International Formation Meetings.
- Planning of Regional activities for 1979 for region.

The News

A big thankyou from everybody to everybody for the last issue of the Newsletter. I think we got a lot of great sharing in it. Thinking over some of the comments I've heard in the past year, you can never tell how much something that you might think insignificant at the time, might be of some help to a brother. The Holy Spirit works in many ways.

By the way, one comment on the format of the Newsletter. To get some type of symmetry in the final printing with the least amount of work falling on one person, would you please do the following: If you contribute an article via your district reporter, (Dick Harr, Bert Silver, Nestor Jao or Bill Maher) they will type it up for you. But if you send something directly to Ron (or you want to do it for your reporter) please single space the paragraphs with 10 space margins on either side of standard typing paper. Don't indent the title of the article but double space between the title and the first paragraph, and indent the first paragraph 5 spaces. (Wow! life is sure complicated.) Oh, please use a good typewriter ribbon. Thankyou.

John Iwo*

Plans for a new kindergarten for Aki City seem to be started. Kochi-ken is the worst Ken in Japan for the percentage of City run kindergartens. They have only 20.7% of the children in them. Therefore Kochi Prefecture is planning to build kindergartens, gradually. The Mayor of Aki has been preparing since last year. In May of 1977 he asked Mr. Fujito the principal of the Middle School to study the problem. On Oct. 6th 1978 the Mayor and the head Minister of the Education Department of Aki City discussed this project in the City Council. The plan seems to be to consider this and make a buget for it by March of 1979 and build the new kindergarten by 1980, opening it in April of 1980.

Christ the Redeemer sprung from his box! Bill Maher-

We've had a large 2 meter box in the front yard for 3 months now. The contents of which was a 1 meter 70 centimeter statue of Christ the Redeemer. Due to unavoidable complications the stone for the base of the statue didn't arrive till the first week of Nov., but now the statue is standing in the yard with the blessing set for the feast of St. Francis Xavier on Dec. 3rd. Everyone is very pleased and finally we have a 'Kyookai funiki', so they say.

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner in Kochi on the 13th of Nov. with about 14 people presiding at the consumption of a 20 lb. turkey. We celebrated early so Ron could be there. Angelo got up at 5:30 to get the big bird stuffed and in the oven on time to meet the planned meal time. Thanks Ange.

In the last issue of the O.M.I. Information certain types of continuing education programs were mentioned. One thing mentioned was audio-casseyes. I was thinking there might be some good sets of tapes here in the Province that people would lend to each other if they knew others were interested. I would be willing to make a catalogue of various tapes and who has what, if you would let me know what you have. I thought it could be worked this way:

If you have a good tape or set of tapes which you don't mind lending to someone else, write me a post card and just state:

- title of the tape and speaker (explanation of the title if necessary)
- cassette or open reel and quality of the sound

I'll make up a list of what's available and what house it's at and then the person who wants it can ask the one with the tape directly. I'll try to up-date the list from time to time.

(try it maybe you'll like it!)

Ange Siani-

With the opening of Bible Week on Nov. 19., we made a daily Bible reading list for the parishoners. It consists of a list of readings for everyday from Nov. 19 to January 14. In an effort to encourage the daily reading of the Bible, I hope to put out a new list when this one ends.

No spectacular "news" to report on in the sense of exciting new developments. I have spent much of the past month here in Tokushima, with side trips to Osaka, and several three or four day intervals in Takamatsu with my "kyodotai". We are now undergoing a "scrutiny" to see how far we've progressed in the christian life over the past five years. The greatest discovery for us all is to begin to realise how little our lives are really rooted in Christ and His faith and how much of my life and heart is rooted in the things and value systems of "this world". That in itself is some progress. We are also told that "now is the time to repent and do something about it!" I ask for your prayers that I might be able to "repent".

We have a funeral here in Tokushima - it's the day after the rainy but successful bazaar and the sun is shining for the first time - Nakauchi obasan is finally free of her long suffering. The men in Tokushima met in Anan for a retreat day. Fr.E.Williams shared his experiences of teaching the bible to his people and that was an interesting experience, as many of the things he said I could relate to from my present experience. We had a "holy" hour, before the "happy" hour. It was good to see Jerry Stevens and Fr. Robitaille after many months, both looking in "grand fettle" as "old Ange" always used to say. Fran.

A Brief Reminiscence:

It was a bright, chilly day in Kobe on the 29th of November, 1948, as the 1700 ton freighter, Almeria Lykes, out of Galveston, sidled up to Pier 17 at five minutes to twelve, noon. This common-place event marked the arrival of the first Oblate Missionaries in Japan whose 30th anniversary consequently will fall on the 29th of this month.

The only reason for bringing this anniversary to the attention of our readers is to encourage some reflection, and perhaps a bit of soul-searching, with regard to our society, its accomplishments and failures over the span of thirty years. Such a self-examination on a community basis could be of considerable benefit. Leonard Robitaille, OMI

Tokyo

Ray Bourgoin

Here is a different perspective, a new dimension to our vows which I feel give us something to think and pray about. These have been expressed by a group of sisters in the States.

"Obedience is listening, not just to someone in authority, but to anyone who might tell me something I really don't want to hear. It means not only being true to the Word of God in another person but to listen to what the Spirit is saying inside you.

Celibacy means that we must be willing to be abandoned, risk being taken advantage of. I could not lead a celibate life if it were not for the total giving of myself.

Poverty means never being concerned with the quality of assets, cash, real estate. It's the right use of what we have. When you have something extra, you have that real sense of the obligation to share.

Vows are a means to an end, a means to inner freedom that allows one to grow, to respond more fully.

If we can address ourselves to the needs of the times and make ourselves visible as a real witness, I think we will be a viable community and will be answering a very big need in the Church."

Nes Jao

A big welcome to Ray who arrived here at the beginning of this month! He is at the present moment still looking for a suitable situation where he could do some priestly work.

The other week, I attended the ceremony for ministries (acolyte and lector) at the Jesuit Theologate chapel. Father Dieters, the Jesuit Provincial, conferred the ministries to four Jesuit Scholastics. He was also the main celebrant at the Mass. During the homily, Father Dieters stressed the relationship between vocation, call of the Church and the visible community of the faith. A person called to the Church ministries is essentially called into service to the Church.

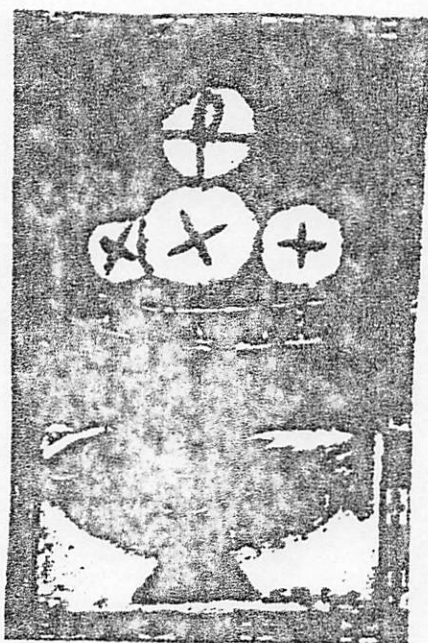
A big bazaar was held at Sekimachi Church last Sunday. After the morning Mass, the fund-raising affair started and ended at around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. A few days before the bazaar, I brought some clothes (used but still very good) to the Church as a contribution to the affair. There were all kinds of foods for sale among many other things. I had one serving of yakisoba, cooked by the Church ladies and also

tasted a piece of fruit cake, cooked by the Church young people. I played the beano game but was not lucky enough to win. Anyway, the proceeds of that bazaar will go to the support of the Tokyo Interdiocesan Seminary.

HIKARIGAOKA, FUKUOKA

ICK HARR

This past month seems to have been a very busy one, but recounting the happenings in detail, there really wasn't that much that took place. In an effort to squeeze in some events before the cold sets in, we had our parish picnic on top of a mountain down by the Izaifu shrine on the last possible day for it. It got cold here right after, i.e. the first of November. It was 2 kilos to the top of the mount, and another memorable workout, but as always these are fun. A diocesan softball tournament was held on October 29th. We were defending champions, but lost out this time to the new parish in the city, Rooji. Boy! that was a frigid day. We lost out in the finals though which still makes us a threat. Other sundry items point to the 7-5-3 Mass on the 12th of this month. Quite a few kids showed up for this. The Bishop invited all the Priests of the diocese to a night at Mt. Aso on the 6th. Thirty-five showed up for this. It was fun getting together like this and it helped to have a better understanding for each other. There's a 'new look' in Hikari-gaoka. The Sisters are building a new 2-floor Yoochien. It should be done by early spring. It's located where the convent used to stand. The convent is now on the top floor of the Nursery building.



Tosa Shimp Speaks

I was asked to write something, but there isn't much to write about naturalization, or is there?

It takes a year, if one starts counting from the first time one goes to the office of the Ministry of Justice. There, they ask you to get a few certificates, like your graduation diploma, your certificate of Belgium citizenship, and a list of your brothers etc. Then after a few months (because nowhere does anyone seem to be in a hurry to give you certificates) you go for a second time to the "hoomukyoku". This time they give you the impression that they take you seriously. They give you a printed guideline with all necessary explanations and how to fill in the official forms. It was only after the second time that I really knew what was necessary for naturalization.

The most important documents needed:

- an official application to become Japanese.
(That's not long or difficult, but you have to write it yourself).
- the motive (reason) for asking for citizenship.
(That too, you have to write yourself)
- Personal History (including all you traffic tickets.)
- Financial state: income and expenses
savings
taxes
furniture etc....

N/B For me that was rather easy. I work officially in three schools and I gave that amount as income. All schools automatically take out "shotokuzei" (quite an amount), and why I don't know but for many years I have been paying taxes to the city and the Prefecture.

For many years I haven't been sending my "left-over-money" to the province. Even with all my trips to Europe and South-Africa, there is still some in the bank...

N/B Is it necessary to have "personal" money in the bank in order to receive naturalization? No, as long as you have a way of supporting yourself. Eg. Girls from abroad get naturalization very easily for reasons of marriage....

There are many other certificates requested, like military service, certificate of birth, of saneness etc...

Meanwhile they start to investigate you from two departments, the police and someone from the Ministry of Justice. The police, before going around, asked me to go over and make acquaintances. (They were very friendly).

The result of the investigation? Well you know it.

I signed my "promise to be a good Japanese" and my official application in February 1978. In Kochi they finished all investigation and verification of documents in May. From then you just wait.....

All foreign language certificates have to be translated into Japanese. Mr. Kond from Aki helped me very efficiently.

They ask you to take a Japanese name; an ordinary name! Also an official address. I took Shinhonmachi Church (probably the first baby born there ;;;;)

They come and see where you live and they take pictures (my house is always clean ;;;;;)

On the 19th Oct. they phoned from the hoomukyoku to tell me that I had become a Japanese citizen dating from the 17th. of the month. A few days later I presented myself at the Ministry of Justice, where they read a short paper, put a big stamp on it and handed it over to me. With that paper I had to go to the City Hall to have my "koseki" made. Once you have that you can move around like a real Japanese. But at Koosen High school, my salary went down from 5600 yen an hour to 2900 yen.....

Instead of speaking about certificates maybe I should have spoken about my "dooki" (reason) for becoming Japanese..... But.....





The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

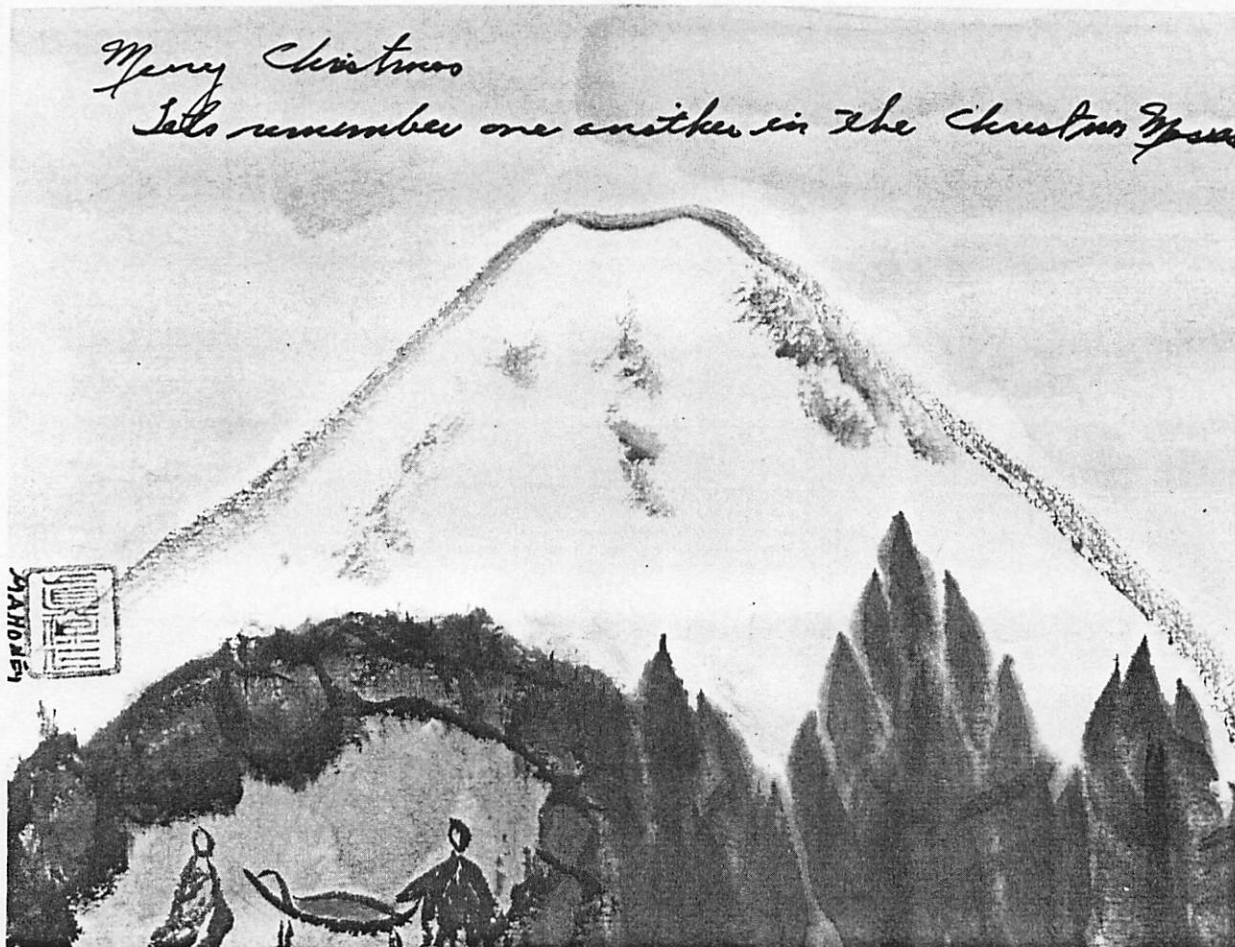
PROVINCIAL OFFICE
5-6-26 HONMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL 0888-72-3658

宗教法人:カトリック聖母獻身宣教会

オブレート会
高知市本町 5-6-26
TEL 0888-72-3658

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1978



John Mahoney sends us his Christmas greetings with the above original "sumie" painting. Thanks John. May I add my own greetings to each and everyone of you for a blessed Christmas, a peaceful holiday and a new year of joyful ministry.
(Ron)

The News

I don't know how it happens but every month we have another informative issue of the Newsletter. The November issue also turned out a lot of good items, even illustrations! Thankyou.

Here are two tape series available to anyone who wants them:

1. Consecrated Celibacy and Sexual Life, by Andre Guindon.

A series of four conferences on cassettes on the Nature and True expression of Celibacy Today.

These lectures respond to repeated requests from those who have listened to Father Guindon, sexologist and professor of Moral Theology. He considers celibacy within the context of Biblical-Thomistic theology while using the insights of contemporary psychological study of human emotions.

Cassette # 1. *The Reality of Celibacy* The traditions which have shaped our understanding of celibacy. The basic ethical questions to be raised in discussing this mystery.

Cassette # 2. *The Christian Meaning of Consecrated Celibacy* The unique teaching of the New Testament on Celibacy. Christ's celibacy. Its eschatological significance. Aloneness in the flesh.

Cassette # 3. *Sexual Life of the Celibate* The two poles of solitude and communion. The danger of illusions. The need for real friendship in the celibate's life.

Cassette # 4. *Behavioral and Growth Issues* Stages of development in the celibate. Problems of auto-sexuality, homosexuality and heterosexuality. The need for a meaningful social life.

2. Christology, by Ken Osborne

These lectures were given at the course in on going formation in Calif., that Angelo Siani attended two or three years ago. I found them very good for up*dating what I had in the seminary in Christology.

Sixteen cassette tapes, good sound. If interested contact Bill Maher.

The Newsletter again! Bill Maher.

Here it is the 19th of Dec. and I have a 'things to be done list' a mile long on my desk and they want me to write something for a Newsletter. They've got to be out of their minds!

We never get many for Mass here on Sundays but we certainly do have an International group. Last Sunday we had the Japanese of course, the Korean dentist and his family, the American priest and a New parishioner from South Africa. She's a young girl married to a Japanese in a near-by village.

This year we're going to have our Christmas, parish council meeting, the Liturgy and our party early in the evening of the 24th of Dec. so most of the people can come to Nakamura for it. I hope I get a good sermon written. We'll have three and maybe four baby baptisms on that day as well as one first Holy Comm.. I'm not going to get any Christmas Cards or 'Snengajyoo' written this year as Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone.

It's hard to believe we've been in Japan for 30 years already. Thanks for the brief reminiscence Len. I hope we can do something with your suggestion in the Nov. News. And really, I wish you'd write some more reminiscences on our History here.

BROTHER TSUDA:

Our own youthful artist, Bro. Tsuda, now only 79 years young will appear on national television, (NHK Educational Channel) on January 28th, 8:00AM to 9:00AM, with a re-broadcast at 2:00PM. NHK chose to highlight Brother's life and art on a program entitled "Hikari to E" (Light and Painting).

Brother's winter exhibit will start January 10th at the Takamiya gallery in Osaka. It should be mentioned that another of Brother's "disciples", Mr. Hayashi, will be baptized in Naruto on Christmas. How many people have come to know Christ through the world of art and Brother's direction? More than we will ever know probably!

BERT SILVER:

Bert expresses his thanks to all those who prayed for his mother. She is doing much better and should be released from the hospital for Christmas.

ED QUIOCHO:

"Maligayang pasko at mapayapang bagong taon". (Filipino yuletide greeting.

Almighty God deemed it necessary to be an infant, to be the child of Mary. By this example the Lord Himself says with authority that unless a man be borne again in the Spirit he cannot participate in the sonship of God. In like manner it would have been difficult to see how God could have participated in our humanity had there been no Christmas.

-On the feast of the Immaculate Conception Jose, Fran and myself concelebrated Mass with the Notre Dame sisters (Sr. Ito, Sr. Kawamura and Mrs. Hashimoto), Ogawa-san, Kaneyama-san and Kito-san attending. Then we had a yakimeshi lunch together. It was a nice and simple occasion to mark my second year of priesthood.

RAY BOURGOIN:

I experienced a very heart-warming occasion during the whole month of November. A Kochi girl was up in Tokyo for an eye operation (one of her many problems). I visited her regularly. Without going into details I can tell you that she was a very depressed girl.

Now just to show how we can be of help in extreme cases, I found myself encouraging this girl, trying to snap her out of her depression. Me, who am still trying to get out of my own depression which has lasted for over a year. Me, a weak person, actually becoming a source of strength for another. May the Lord be praised!

NES JAO:

My best wishes to each and all of my fellow Oblates for a blessed Christmas and a holy, happy New Year!

Last week, I attended the ordination to the diaconate of three Jesuit scholastics. Bishop Hamao, the auxiliary Bishop of Tokyo, conferred the order on the three Jesuits. That night, I shared with Bishop Hamao the privilege of being the only two non-jesuits present at the ceremony. However, many Jesuits were present for the occasion headed by their Provincial, Father Dieters.

During the evening party after dinner, Bishop Hamao went around to talk with everyone in the crowd. I had the chance to talk with him for a short while. When he learned that I am a Filipino Oblate, he told me of his wonderful meetings with Filipino bishops especially Cardinal Sin of Manila during the several Asian Bishops' Conferences that he had attended.

ANGELO SIANI:

Three years ago, I attended the Continuing Education Program offered by the Oblates in the Western U.S. Province. I found the course such a rewarding experience in so many ways. It's rather difficult to express it adequately. The program itself is run by people who are tops in their fields. I have certainly been enriched and blessed by this experience - through the increase in knowledge, spiritual and personal growth, and the strengthening of bonds between us as brother Oblates.

A similar course is offered next year (1979) and I encourage those of you who are going to the States for home leave next year to take this course. I myself plan to take the advanced course which lasts for three weeks.

Dates: July 9-24, 1979: Advanced seminar for anyone who has already attended the basic Oblate continuing education program.

July 30 to September 7, 1979: Six week basic program for men who are looking for personal renewal and theological updating.

****Editor's Note:** The number to attend this basic program is limited. If anyone wishes to attend, contact Ron today. The expenses are funded by the Province, and you may take an extra six weeks home leave to make up for the time this course will keep you away from your families.

Here in the Nakajima-cho parish we had a Bible Prayer Service each Wednesday of Advent to prepare for Christmas. Also on Dec. 17th Bro. Harada gave a Baroque organ meditation here in the church with the scriptures being read by Mr. Sakuma an N.H.K. news announcer. About 20 people attended this peaceful meditation which finished all too soon.

On Christmas eve two men will be baptized into our community, Mr. Toda and Mr. Tsunemitsu.

LEO SIMONS:

Thanks to everybody for the warm reception for my sister and nephew during their stay in Japan. They both enjoyed their visit very much. It took them a little time to get used to the national highways. No need to say how my sister felt when Gerard Stevens guided us around Ikeda and tried to climb the mountains in the little Honda, hanging with its belly to the road. My newpnew flew back to Belgium on October 20 while my sister returned the pans and kettles to me on December 8, hoping to come back to Japan some time. During her stay she had the opportunity to attend the dedication of a new parish, a marriage and a funeral.

During my stay in Belgium the parish council and the mission home-front had arranged a celebration for my 25th. There were eight priests from the parish (1,000 people) at the altar and some brothers. After the mass there was a reception at the parish hall. I was able to attend a meeting of the diocesan catechists, attended by about 300 catechists, and also a diocesan meeting of the mission home-front, attended by about 200 laypeople and missionaries. I had hoped to get better acquainted with the volunteer work in Europe but there is such a variety that it was difficult to get a clear idea. In Holland and Belgium they are trying now to get some coordination in the work by erecting a "Forum for Valuntariat".

-In Kochi the Kochi-ken Volunteer Ikuseikai had a volunteer seminar from October 7 to November 25. One group met in the morning from 9:30 until about 12:00, mostly housewives. Another group met in the afternoon from 2:00 until 4:30. This time we didn't ask any outside (kengai) speakers but asked local people involved in social work. We also made more time for input from the participants themselves, which made the sessions more lively. Thanks to the cooperation and organisation of the staff members we had a very successful seminar.

-From Tuesday evening until Wednesday noon last week I was at Mefu with Abe-san to attend a meeting of catholic people involved in volunteer work. The idea originated by Fr. Zinnecker of Caritas Osaka and Mr. Yamamoto of Ai no Jikkoo Undoo, Nagoya. Present were Caritas Tokyo, Caritas Osaka, Ai no Jikkoo Undoo and Kochi. In all about fourteen people. The meeting was informal, more intent on getting to know one another and the work everyone is doing. Some of the points that came up in the conversation: volunteer work done by the christians and as a christian; volunteer work is still considered by many to be the privilege of people with time and money; the sudden frequent use of the word, volunteer, seems to show some kind of lack in society of human relations and a longing for more human respect and human relations. There was unanimous consent to come together more, since everybody expressed the need for more communication.

MAY CHRIST BE REBORN IN US AND IN THE WORLD TODAY IS MY WISH AND PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS.