



# *The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

PROVINCIAL OFFICE  
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI  
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  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
TEL 0888-72-3658

11 January 1984



Dear Fellow Oblates,

On January 4, the Provincial Council held its first meeting for the year '84. The meeting was opened with a prayer to the Holy Spirit. The provincial then turned the meeting over to the Bursar for his explanation of the overall finances of the Vice Province.

The bursar presented the finances for 1983 - the first semester and the second semester. The official financial statement for the second semester was not available at this time, so the bursar made a rough estimate of the expenses and income for the second semester - subject to correction when his assistant Mr. Kondo sends his compilation. Based on this information, a tentative budget was presented for 1984. This was approved by the council. The adjustment will be made at the next meeting to be held in Kochi the weekend of the 20th.

## Permission for homeleave and study

Gerard Stevens	homeleave
Raymond Bourgoin	homeleave
Richard Harr	homeleave
Bertram Silver	homeleave
John Iwo	Visit former mission field in Brazil
Edward Williams	Catholic Theological Union- Isreal Study Program
John K. Mahoney	EAPI Summer course- Manila
Richard Harr	EAPI Summer course- Manila

John Deely

Permission to teach and study at  
Gallaudet College in D.C. (Summer)

Angelo Siani

Intercapital Meeting (Rome) April  
29- May 18.

Formators Meeting (Rome) June

Printing of Japanese translation of Consitutions and Rules

50 copies of the Rule will soon be printed. One copy  
will be sent to each Oblate house. Those of you who wish to  
have ~~his~~<sup>YOUR</sup> own personal copy please inform the provincial.

March Congress 27-29 -Kochi

Fr. Christopher O'Leary, O.M.I, the Provincial of the  
Philippines has agreed to be moderator for the meeting. Des  
will also attend our meeting.

Permanent Visa

Dick Bonang has recently received a permanent visa.  
Congratulation Dick.

Hospitalized

Mr. Nishikawa, the catechist in Tokushima has been  
operated on for hemmeroids. He is expected to be in the  
hospital for one month. Keep him in your prayers.

Ron La Framboise is home from the hospital, where he spent his  
New Year holidays.

Jose DeFruyt returned Jan 10.

Tom Maher is expected back by the middle of the month.

Gakkoo-hoojin

As of December 22, Naruto and Anan kindergartens were  
approved and inserted into "Aki no Hoshi" school corporation.

Aki no Hoshi Yoochien

According to Len and Ron the new building is coming along  
fine. It is expected to be completed by the end of February.

Novitiate

As you know, Mr. Hayashi will begin his novitiate this  
fall. My hope is to have him make our retreat and then start  
the novitiate on September 8. If you know of , or have contact  
with other candidates, please let me know, so we can make the  
necessary plans.

The Council will be meeting in Kochi the weekend of the 20. At that meeting we will work on the criteria sent in by the Districts. If possible we will finish the work on the Budget and the bursar will send his report to you.

A Rēmindē

Be sure to get your contributions for the Newsletter to Wency before the 20th of the month.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

*Ang. San.*





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26 January 1984



Dear Fellow Oblates,

The Council met in Kochi, January 20 & 21, to work on the suggested lists of criteria which were the fruit of the work done in the Districts. Before tackling the task of combining and wording, we listened to a tape of a talk on Criteria given by Jim Sullivan at our October meeting '83. I am including most of it here since the talk had a great influence on our working procedure.

## Criteria by Jim Sullivan

We are in an ongoing project of clarifying our works. We are supposed to always evaluate our works... bring them up to date ...evaluate the way we do our work ... and there should be no fear about this, if we want to proclaim the Kingdom. So there should be no fear... we should want to study this... even the guy himself... the only fear would be that, "I'm afraid I'm not doing something for the Kingdom." I just like what I'm doing and I'll do it my way. I don't want anyone evaluating my work according to any kind of criteria. Well... OK but that's not mission, not mission in a community. So instead of judging something off handed by likes or dislikes, there should be certain criteria for evaluation. You can't really set up priorities of work - and that is another thing the General Administration has been asking for for a number of years now - to establish priorities, because of the number of men and places - where you had 50 men, now there may be only 20. You just can't do the same amount of work - so something has to go. So you have to have criteria to be able to do a particular work.

You should have some concepts of what is an area of concern of the Vice province, ie of a plan, a work or an area of study that is an area for serious consideration by the group. In other words, we should be thinking about this - it's something that should cause a marked interest in the group.

## Criteria for evaluating works

We should ask ourselves, "why should we be in a particular work and what I am doing for the Kingdom. We set up priorities of work because of the number of men and places.

What is an area of concern? What is an objective? An objective is an end or goal of an action, a hoped for or desired outcome. A criteria is a norm on which a judgement or decision can be based - it's a measuring stick - a proof of quality. It's a means to determine what something should be.

The various types of criteria:

1. non-negotiable - These type are exclusive. If you have two or three of these and one of them is missing, you just don't take that work.

This type is easy to make for a group where everyone is in the same atmosphere, they are all working toward the same end, for example, South America - a non-negotiable criteria for them is - there works must be with the materially poor. Personally, I don't think you should ever make non-negotiable criteria here in Japan... it would be too difficult to make such criteria, that if a certain element were not there you would not take the work.

2. desirable - These type are not essential but things you would like to have present. These are not equal in value.

3. Guiding criteria - These are norms to help establish priorities. They are not necessarily exclusive. They can accumulate, that is one or other can be absent and still the situation could be accepted. They are things you would want present to enable to judge whether this is missionary work for Japan or not.

Now I could see one or more criteria that would cover all works in Japan, eg. "our objective is to proclaim Jesus Christ by word and action", However, I'm not saying that should be one.. You could have criteria say for "work with Christian Community"; "work with non-Christian community; and criteria for Oblate community"...

After listening to Jim's talk twice, we got down to work. we kept to Guiding Criteria as Jim seemed to suggest.

We reviewed all of the suggested criteria presented by the districts. There were twenty in number plus the original suggested twelve. We looked for common areas of concern. We came up with seven. The arranging them in Criteria for;

- 1 Guiding criteria for Oblate Apostolate
- 2 Guiding Criteria for Christian Community
3. Guiding Criteria for Oblate Community

... we drew up the list which follows on a separate sheet, endeavoring to keep as much of the original wording as possible.

That brings us to our last step in the preparation for the Congress ie. a working paper. This last step consists in giving some backing to the 7 proposed criteria, ie documentation, Scripture quotes, Church documents, Constitutions and Rules, the sense of the criteria and a bibliography. The work is divided in the districts. We ask that your work be returned to the Council by March 12, so we will be able to have it ready for you at the congress. The resulting working paper will be the starting point for the Meeting March 27-29.

The division of work:

Kochi district	Nos.	1 and	2
Tokyo "	"	3 and	4
Tokushima "	"	4 and	5
Fukuoka "	"	7	

I have recently contacted Jim Sullivan. He sends his best. He says that he is a little homesick for Japan. He assures us that our work is proceeding well and that he will be praying for us during our meeting.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.  
John K. Mahoney, O.M.I.  
John Deely, O.M.I.

## Guiding Criteria Japan

### Guiding Criteria for Oblate Apostolate

1. In order to better determine what the Spirit is calling us to here and now, we will submit our works to prayerful discernment on the local, district or provincial level.
2. We will seek out and gear our works to the most abandoned.
3. In our work, we will always cultivate an open and respectful attitude toward the Japanese and their culture.
4. We will stand up against injustice and will work to foster Kingdom values in order to transform society.

### Guiding Criteria for Christian Community

5. We will bring lay people to a sense of mission by helping them to appreciate their roles as coworkers with Christ in His Ministry of Service.

### Guiding Criteria for Oblate Community

6. We will maintain a life style that reflects a spirit of simplicity, challenging the false absolutes of money, power, and exploitation.
7. We will strive to form communities that are purposeful, ie characterized by communal prayer, a sincere & mutual concern, and of unity of purpose, and not merely supportive and task orientated communities.





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30 March 1984



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Greetings and thanks to your hard work and deep sharing, I feel we had a very good meeting in Kochi during these past few days. For me, getting together with all of you was in itself a rewarding experience.

Within a few weeks I hope to produce a description of what took place at our meeting, but we felt that we should send to you the results of our voting on suggested steps for the follow up of the March '84 Congress in advance. The results are printed on a separate page.

In addition the council and I would like to set up a committee for the follow up of the Congress. This committee would consist of seven members, the council plus four other members.

The purpose of the committee would be to coordinate activities to concretize priorities expressed in the Congress. This work would be done not only by the members of the committee but it would call upon others so as to get the broadest representation from the whole group.

Our aim: To select four men for the committee, as soon as possible.

First proposed meeting of committee, April 15.

What we're asking from you;

Send to me the four men you would like to have on the committee, as soon as possible. This step was to be done at the Congress but for lack of time, it was not done.

Thank you and God bless.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Ange Siani  
John K Mahoney  
John Deely





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7 April 1984



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Please find enclosed in this letter:

1. The evaluation of the March '84 Congress.
2. A Description of Provincial Congress '84.

This description has been sent to you for your information and for your records. Since we had no secretary at the Congress and therefore no official record, we thought we should at least write up a description of our proceedings. You may be able to supplement this description with your own notes.

## ACTING PROVINCIAL

While I am attending the Inter Capitular Meeting to be held in Rome, John K. MAHONEY will be the acting provincial. For any business with the provincial office, please contact John Mahoney.

and

Since J.K. Mahoney will be in the Philippines from May 20-June 30, attending the EAPI, John DEELY will be acting provincial during that period. Therefore, from May 20 - June 30, if you have any business with the provincial office, please contact John DEELY.

## Inter Capitular Meeting

I will be leaving for Rome on April 20. I intend to visit the Oblates in Hong Kong and spend one night there. Then I will visit Fr. Jerry Orsino in Bangkok and then leave for a four day visit of the Oblates in Pakistan. I will arrive in Rome hopefully on April 27.

Will keep you in my prayers. Take care and God bless.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.





Dear Fellow Oblates.

It is with great joy that I extend to you all my warmest wishes for an abundance of Christmas Blessings.

Provincial Council Meeting - Kochi - December 7, 1984.

Purpose: To prepare 1985 Budget of the Vice-Province.

In attendance: Angelo Siani, John K. Mahoney, John Deely  
and the Provincial Bursar, Bertram Silver.

The Meeting held December 7, the Eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a special day for all of us, was opened with a Marian Celebration. We began with a reflection on Constitutions 10, 13, and 36. The Bible readings were taken from Acts 1, 12-14 and Luke 1, 26-38.

The completion of the proposed budget for '85 was followed by:

1. The financial competency of the Superiors of houses. Due to inflationary costs in Japan, it was decided by the Council to raise this competency to the sum of 320,000 yen.
2. Homeleave: To date those going on homeleave have been given \$500.00 to cover personal expenses while on vacation. However, if anyone feels that this amount is not sufficient, he may request an increase from the Provincial.
3. The Lord has blessed us with two novices this year. In 1986 they will begin their scholasticate. The finances will be considerable. We feel that some parishes will be able to help with this financial burden. Perhaps this is a good opportunity to revive the M.A.M.I. in your parishes.
4. The Council was in agreement that each Oblate Community may donate 2% of its income each year to any charitable work .
5. So as to provide us with a clear picture of the financial situation of the Churches in the care of the Oblates, the Council requests that a copy of the financial statement of the parish which is sent to the Chancery each year, be also sent to the Provincial Council. This request is voluntary.
6. Loans: Itami requested a loan of 8.000,000 yen for repairs to be made on the Church. The Council granted a loan of 4.000,000 yen at 3% interest.  
Koga requested a loan of 10.000,000 yen to build a Meeting House (40 Tsubo). The Council granted a loan for 5.000,000 yen at 3% interest.

Due to the above mentioned loans and the loan granted to the Enoguchi parish, our finances will not permit any further loans for 1985.

7. Insurance on cars: The insurance will be increased from 5 sen man to ichi oku man per vehicle. The increase in the premium for 1985 will be paid by the province.

8. As of January 1, 1985 the rate of exchange for dollar checks will be 240yen to the dollar.

9. Mr. Kumashiro Hiroshi, presently living in the Koga Community, will begin his novitiate after the New Year holidays 1985.

We thank you and your parishes for their prayers and sacrifices for vocations. The Lord has been very good to us. Here in the Novitiate Community we pray for each of you every day and we hope this year will be one filled with graces for you, your parishoners and your works. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Jesus and Mary,

*Ange. Snd.*





# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

Provincial Newsletter of the OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE  
Vice Province of Japan

P.O. Box 14  
Hakata-minami, Fukuoka-shi 816

December, 1984

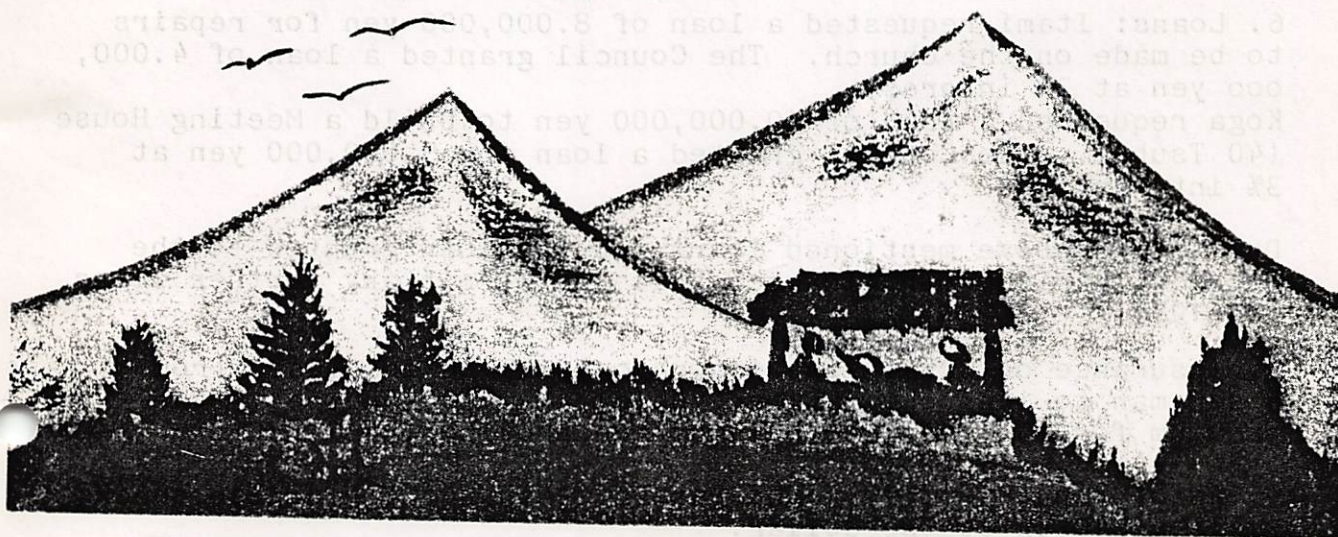
いと高き天においては神に栄光  
地においてはみ心になう人々に平安

"Glory to God in the highest  
heaven, and peace to men who  
enjoy his favour."

MERRY CHRISTMAS - Nativity  
scene in charcoal paint by  
JK MAHONEY

クリスマス

おめでとう



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In Jesus and Mary,

Ange. *And.*

FROM OUR NOVICES:

Our two novices in Kochi, Bro. HAYASHI and KAWAGUCHI are sending their Christmas and New Year greetings to all the fathers. We would like to take this opportunity of introducing them to you.

BRO. HAYASHI HIROSHI, N.O.M.I. 林 広

Bro. Hayashi is well known to all of us since he spent a year of postulancy before starting Novitiate. Bro. Hayashi is from Tokushima City. He and his elder brother are the only christians in the family. He was born on June 2, 1953 (Showa 28). He used to be a faithful disciple of the late Bro. Tsuda. Bro. Tsuda's influence encouraged him to follow his footsteps by joining the Oblates.

BRO. KAWAGUCHI SATOSHI, N.O.M.I. 川 口 敏

Bro. Kawaguchi is from Amakusa in Kumamoto Prefecture. Amakusa was a sanctuary of the hidden christians during the period of the religious persecution. Hence even up to now there is a large concentration of old christians. The place is also famous for its yearly christian festivals.

Bro. Kawaguchi's family is one of the old christians of the town. He is the 6th in the family of 8 children. He used to work as a medical technologist in a hospital in Koga before he joined the Oblates. He was born on April 1, 1960 (Showa 35).

BRO. KUMASHIRO HIROSHI, N.O.M.I. 熊 城 博

Bro. Kumashiro is the eldest of the three, born on August 27, 1949. He is from Itami. He is the youngest in the family of 6 children. His father, elder brother and himself are the only christians in the family.

Bro. Kumashiro used to work as "tencho" (head storekeeper) of one branch of a supermarket chain in the Kansai area.

LETTER FROM THE HOLY LAND by Ed WILLIAMS (continued)

Finished a wonderful but difficult trip to Egypt the other day. We spent 8 days on that tour. Went by bus from here to Cairo, approximately 10 hours. Crossed the border at a place called Rafah in the Gaza Strip. The border point has been modernized so it only took 2 hours. Crossed the Suez Canal and then drove about 4½ hours southwest to Cairo. (Suez Canal is about 2½ hours from the Israeli border). After the desert the Nile Delta area was flourishing and green. Egypt seems never to have recovered from the Plague of Flies in Moses Day.

Our hotel in Cairo was awful- bugs, dirt, the constant hand waiting for "boksheesh" (tips). But Cairo itself is great 15 million population by day 7 to 8 million by night. Many poor



even living in the City of the Dead, a huge area  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles square. Here people build houses (big or small) over the graves of their dead so it is an actual city. Because of the Aswan Dam the water level below the city has risen to about 6 feet below ground. Many of the ancient churches and synagogues have their subterranean parts flooded all the time. This made it difficult to visit the Grotto where the Holy Family is said to have lived while in Egypt. It is below ground and below water. But we did look in with a flashlight.

The Catholic Church in Egypt is severely restricted. The only apostolate allowed is for Sudanese Catholic students studying in the city.

The water is undrinkable and no uncooked food may be eaten.

Luxor, Karnak, el Giza etc. were as splendid as they have been for some 5000 years.

Tomorrow morning I leave for America and on Dec. 20th I'll be home in Tokushima, God willing. Today as I make my farewell visits to Bethlehem, the Holy Sepulcher and the Western Wall, all of you there in Japan will have a very special remembrance.

(In Jerusalem at Bethany, Nov. 13)

A LETTER FROM ANTWERP (This letter is from Jose DE FRUYT which is dated December 1st)

Just finished with the morning mass of the 1st Sunday of Advent in the parish church next to our community here in Antwerp. It takes a little adjustment. I was asked to sing the whole canon to the tune of the "Rorate Caeli." I am attached to this parish for Sunday Service since November 1st. My fulltime job is in the mission pastorate of the diocese of Antwerp. Our community here has 8 members among whom are 3 brothers, one of the brothers is the local superior. There is also one candidate living with us.

The last few years the home church has taken another clear step in its relation to the missions: i.e. learning from the Young Churches. Many here don't feel well with the restoration period in the Church and in international politics. In many quarters opposition is being organized to the visit of Pope John-Paul II to the Benelux countries in May 1985. I think, however, that the Pope will be received well in Belgium. Walter Buhlmann, OFM author of "Appearance of a Third Church" foretells that the ice will melt in the year 2001! By then the Synod of Bishops should be more powerful than the Curia. Major contributions from the Third Church, he says, will be in the areas of the mystery of liberation (Latin America), incarnation (Africa), and revelation (Asia). The major challenge for the first church in the near future, he says, will be: putting God back into a secularized society.

All over Europe basic (charismatic) communities are the new phenomenon. Also much is happening with integrating lay people in the structures of parish pastorate, catechesis and even gov-

ernment. Although the decrease in church attendance is a reason for concern there are also signs of rejuvenation.

Last October 5th the Bishop of Antwerp presided at a sending ceremony of 14 "Witnesses of Peace" to Nicaragua. They are back now visiting government organizations and churches with their findings: a possible 3rd way for democracy and a call to the churches for the conversion to the poor. These meetings draw great crowds, a sign that the issues are alive at the base. The rest of the century may be relatively quiet, but a deep examination of hearts is going on. Europe has just discovered its 4th World within. Also the economic crisis is felt deeply and the prognosis for the future is not rosy. According to Jon Woronoff the situation in Japan is not any better (The Coming of the Economic and Social Crisis), but the people here think that all goes well in Japan.

After my arrival here in April I did some research for a dossier on Japan in a magazine on Evangelization and Development. I sent a copy of the table of contents of the resulting study to Xave and included herewith is a page on "Dehumanized and Losers in Japanese Society." This is a result of a bit of research on "Who are the poor in Japan."

Our Province here had a Congress on the theme of the 4th World in Europe and its challenges to the Oblate vocation. My own community here has monthly sessions with a guide from outside and using Des O'Donnell's Oblate Renewal Program. Trying to find yourself as a religious and apostolic community remain as great challenges. The pluralism in society has also penetrated the Church and the Congregation. We can't pull up ourselves by our own bootstraps. I feel that the hour of truth will come when the 3rd Church is fully heard in the universal church.

The first Church still thinks that it has the scientific apparatus. But the truth will have to be found anew in the universal christian experience. The Spirit is renewing the face of the earth. We prayed this morning for heaven to break open, but Isaiah forsees that justice will spring from the earth.

On All Souls Day I met Bishop Fukahori and two other Japanese priests (one of them was Fr. Kunii). They were on their way back from a meeting of liturgists in Rome, a visit in Germany and from here they left for Paris. They wanted to meet Dom Verheul, OSB so I brought them to the Abbey Mont Caesar in Louvain where Charles V once was instructed by the future Pope Adrian VI. I spoke to them about the restoration as well as what is brewing below the surface and Buhlmann's foretellings for the year 2001. The Bishop said: "I hope that by that time I will be allowed to be in heaven." But Fr. Kunii was happy to hear that the New Code is thought to be an anachronism over here. He felt that the meeting in Rome was too bureaucratic, but was full of praise for the interventions made by Archbishop Denis Hurley, OMI of Durban.

The Church is as complex as Rome itself. Many don't see the wood through trees anymore. But the Beatitudes are still heard among the platitudes. My Christmas wish to one and all is that you may be blessed by experiencing them. Glory to God on high and peace on earth to all who taste his love. Shalom!

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

The magazine "KOE" (Voice) will be doing a feature article on the Oblates in its February 1985 issue. KOE is a Catholic magazine circulated nationwide and published in the Osaka diocese.

PRAYERS are continually asked of everyone for Jack DEELY'S dad who remains in critical condition and also Bert SILVER'S brother who is sick.

SEVEN BILLION YEN is being raised in the Fukuoka Diocese to rebuild the Cathedral and to build a diocesan center. The location remains the same where the old cathedral stands in Daimyo-machi at the heart of the shopping center in Fukuoka. Three billion yen will come from the Bishop's funds and the remaining four billion will have to be raised by the whole diocese. Kindergartens, religious communities and each family in the parishes are all being asked to cooperate. Each family in the parish is asked a pledge of 20 thousand yen. The Cathedral complex is hoped to be ready by December next year.

The Koga Parish will have its 3rd CHAPEL ORGAN RECITAL on the 23rd of December. Mr. Yokoyama a parishioner of Koga will perform.

Jerry NOVOTNY has a new address. He says, "Drop by sometime."

〒780

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Birthdays:	December 24	Mike YAMAZAKI
	January 2	Ed WILLIAMS
	22	Ray BOURGOIN
	29	Dick HARR