



# 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堂教会

オブレート会  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
TEL 0888-72-3658

6 February 1985



Dear Fellow Oblates,

The Provincial Council met on January 27 and 28. At that meeting the Budget for 1985 was finalized.

Some other matters of importance were discussed and I wish to share them with you.

The first concerns our seminarians. We are blessed with three young men who wish to join our group. Everything possible is being done for their spiritual formation. God willing, they will persevere and next year they will begin their Philosophical and Theological Studies. At present, we are planning to have them attend the Nanzan Seminary Formation Program.

The Bursar, prior to our meeting, gathered information on the cost of room, board and education for Seminarians. He consulted the Jesuits, Redemptorists, Franciscans and the S.V.D. We foresee that the minimal cost per annum for three seminarians will be somewhere in the area of \$20,000. This sum is over our estimated income for 1986. Therefore, I am making an application to the Oblate Sharing Fund for half of this sum. Where will we get the other half? I have hopes that our parishes and funds from abroad will be able to come up with the needed expenses. Please keep this in mind when you are making your parish budget for next year. I'm sure that our parishoners will be more than willing to help support their future Oblates, not only with financial aid but also with their prayers.

In connection with this, as you know Bert was invited by the Eastern American Province to be the guest of honor at the Fifth Annual Mission Reception held in Lowell last year. His talk about our work in Japan was quite well received. From the funds raised at this affair our Japanese Mission received a great share. We received \$10,000. I thanked Fr. Fran Hasset, O.M.I. for his generosity in the name of the Province. This money has been set aside for the support of our seminarians this year.

At the meeting Bert indicated that during the past year

8,000000 yen was returned to the Province as surplus.  
I can't thank you enough for your sacrifices and encourage you to continue this form of sharing.

I'd like to remind you of the dates of our spring meeting. The meeting will be held from the morning of March 25 to the evening of March 28. It would be good if you could get here the night before the meeting, ie on Sunday evening March 24. At the meeting Fr. Thomas Green, S.J. will be our facilitator for a Discernment on the most abandoned for us here in Japan. The immediate preparation for the meeting is to read his book, "Weeds Among the Wheat."

Enclosed is an attendance postcard for the meeting. Please fill it in and return it to me by February 28.

Ray has typed up most of the information on Elements and Criteria that he has received. There are still a few that have not been completed. Would those people responsible please forward their work to Ray, as soon as possible?

A further clarification Re. the study of Japanese Society which is being done in the Districts: This program was suggested as a follow-up of the March '84 Congress. You will find it under (B) in your list of suggestions and reads, "That we launch a program of on-going formation which would include our spiritual and intellectual renewal, with emphasis on the study of Japanese Society". This study, although it might be helpful, is not the preparation for the March Meeting 1985.

The study of Japanese Society was suggested by the F-T Committee because this program received the greatest number of points. It also suggested that we begin with the question of the family. In other words, it is a separate program from the Discernment Meeting.

The next Council Meeting will be held in Kochi on February 28. We also hope to have a Council meeting after the Discernment Meeting on March 29. If you have any business you want considered by the Council please contact either me, John or Jack.

February 17, is the 159 anniversary of the approbation of the Congregation. Congratulations to you all.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

*Angelo Siani*

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.  
Provincial



# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

Oblate Fathers  
1-1-15 Hikarigaoka-machi  
Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-shi 816

May 1985



### FROM THE FOLLOW-THROUGH COMMITTEE: A Friendly Reminder

As per letter from the Provincial dated April 19, we are now in the process of evaluation of our present commitments as an on-going step towards setting up priorities for the Vice Province. This process of evaluation is being done in the light of our previous congresses 1983 (with Fr. Jim SULLIVAN), 1984 (Fr. Chris O'LEARY), and 1985 (Fr. Tom GREEN, S.J.).

"It seemed to us that a fair consensus emerged on the last morning of the March '85 Meeting in regards to taking up the question of a re-evaluation of our present works in a spirit of renewal. This evaluation in discernment, of course, would have to be based on knowledge, a knowledge based on our experience." Letter from Provincial, April 19.

The evaluation process is to be done in three steps:

1. Personal discernment of present work in the light of Criteria 2, 4, and 6. (Questionnaire has been sent)
2. Discernment of each Oblate's work by a team consisting of:
  1. The Provincial
  2. A man of your choice
  3. A man chosen from another District by the Prov'l.
3. Communal discernment using data gathered in steps 1 and 2.

The Timetable: (Deadline)

1. For step One: May 31
2. For step Two: December 31
3. Third step should be completed during the March 1986 Congress.

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### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Annula Retreat: August 26-30 Place: Kochi  
Retreat Master: Fr. Charles WOLF, S.J. Loyola House of Studies  
Manila.

OBLATE VOCATION WORKSHOP

An Oblate Vocation Workshop is being planned for young men interested in knowing something about Oblate life. "We hope to give them some experience of religious community life and also to motivate them to think about offering themselves for a life of service to the poor in the Oblates of Mary Immaculate," says John K. MAHONEY in charge of the vocation workshop.

This gathering is not an Altar Boys Camp like we used to have in the pasts. It is for those young men in your parish or apostolate (Altar Boys or otherwise) who have shown some interest in the Oblates, the priesthood or brotherhood.

All Oblates are being asked to cooperate in encouraging young men whom you may know to attend this workshop. A letter will be sent out in early June with the program, expenses and application forms.

HOMELEAVE... MEETING... Coming and Going

Bert SILVER is on his way to Rome to attend the General Finance Meeting, May 13-25. Bert who is President of the Naruto Lions Club will guide 13 Lions from Naruto to Vancouver where they will establish Brother Clubs relationship. The Naruto Lions under Bert has gathered financial contributions for Bangladesh last year and has solicited more contributions this year for the refugee camps in Ethiopia. Bert on his way back to Japan will spend a few weeks with his mother who will be celebrating her 88th birthday.

Jan VAN HOYDONCK is also homeward bound. He will be away for a few months.

Fran HAHN, too, will be home on vacation. Fran was able to get a Jesuit from Tokyo to fill in for him in July. Fran is happy that the young Vietnamese refugee who was living with him will be taking classes in Nagoya.

Xave TOSA is back from Belgium. He was away for a month.

MONTESSORI SEMINAR

The Spring holidays were no relaxing time for our kindergarten principals. Immediately after our Congress in March they were headed again to another Montessori seminar held in Naruto, April 1-3. The seminar was directed by our Montessori mainstay Len INUI. The Director of the Board of Ake No Hoshi Gakuen Ron LAFRAMBOISE gave the opening address. Twenty six teachers from the different kindergartens using the Montessori method attended the three-day seminar.

THE NOVICES

Many of us were impressed by the spirit of brotherhood and dedication of our three novices, Hiroshi HAYASHI, Satoshi KAWAGUCHI, and Hiroshi Kumashiro during the last congress. It was the first time for some of us to see them together as novices in their Oblate cassocks and it was also their first time to meet the whole Province in a congress.

During the congress many of us were surprised to be greeted by the novices with "Good morning father, how are you today?" Then seated next to them at the breakfast table some of us were wondering why the three of them were insisting on conversing in English. It was only later that we learned that at the novitiate when the novices greet you in English, you can be sure it is Thursday, the "Speak English" day.

The novitiate year will end in September and from then on, the three will prepare for entrance into the theology faculty of Nanzan University in Nagoya. The Sacred Heart Fathers of Nagoya has offered their small house for the use of the scholastics next year. Ron LAFRAMBOISE will be the rector of the scholasticate.

The Provincial would like to thank the parishes of Itami, Tokushima, Ikeda and Hikarigaoka for contributions to help support the novices.

PRAYERS ... are requested for Ron LAFRAMBOISE'S Dad who died April 20. Also for Mr. Nishikawa's (Tokushima catechist) mother who is very ill with cancer.

KOGA HAS NEW PARISH BUILDING

Koga parish is building a new 2 storey parish hall where the old "dream house" used to stand. The first floor will be used for parish meetings and the second floor has four tatami rooms which can be used for overnight lodging. Mike YAMAZAKI hopes that the building will be completed by the middle of this month.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Early this year we heard about the celebrated case involving Archbishop Denis HURLEY, OMI who was accused of "defaming" the Koevoet, the South African counter-insurgency unit.

As president of the South African Catholic Bishop's Conference, Hurley held a news conference two years ago to release a report on atrocities by Koevoet, specifically describing incidents which took place in Namibia. Koevoet has drawn frequent criticism from church leaders for incidents of frequent torture, rape and murder of innocent civilians. The police unit is one of the more visible embodiments of the apartheid (pronounced a-part'hate) system, which institutionalizes racism in the South African Constitution, and hence throughout the society.....

On February 18th, Archbishop Hurley wa acquitted of charges that he violated South African law when he disclosed police atrocities in February 1983. The state prosecutor announced at the opening of the trial that the government had no evidence to back the charges, which could have led to a sentence of 5 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for Hurley. (From Justice and Peace Supplement sent by Fr. Paul GAUDET, OMI)

Letters of support to Bishop Hurley are most welcome:

Archbishop Denis Hurley, OMI - President  
Southern African Catholic Bishop's Conference  
P.O. Box 941  
Pretoria 0001  
SOUTH AFRICA

Another persecuted Church is the Kidapawan Diocese in Cotabato, Philippines under Bishop Orlando QUEVEDO, OMI. The diocese has a long history of atrocities perpetrated by the military and paramilitary units who are armed with guns. Church leaders, catechists and lowly farmers in the area have been massacred without their killers being brought to justice.

The most recent victim was a P.I.M.E. priest working in one of the parishes of the diocese, Fr. Tullio Favali. He was brutally murdered by a paramilitary.

Incidentally, the Koga parish continues to send its monthly financial support to the Kidapawan diocese. Hikarigaoka parish also sends a portion of its proceeds from the annual bazaar to this beleaguered diocese.

Letters of support to Bishop Quevedo are also most welcome:

Bishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI  
Bishop's Residence  
Kidapawan, North Cotbato  
Philippines

#### BIRTHDAYS

May 29 Tom MAHER

#### ORDINATIONS

May 30 John MAHONEY

Tom MAHER

Bert SILVER

31 Ange SIANI

June 2 Dick HARR

7 Ed WILLIAMS

14 John IWO

14 Len INUI

24 Mike YAMAZAKI



# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

1-1-15 Hikarigabka-machi  
Hakata-ku, Fukuoka 816

June, 1985

From the Follow-through Committee:



Dear Fellow Oblates,

On June 10, the F-T Committee met in Itami. In attendance were Ange, John Mahoney, Ray, Ron, Mike and Wency.

First on our work list was to finalize the documentation on the elements of our Vision-Mission Statement. That project has been completed and Mike is looking into printing and binding of the text. We hope to make copies available for everyone as soon as they are ready.

Next, we will begin Step No. 2 in our discernment of our present works in the light of Criteria No. 2, 4, and 6, ie, "a discernment of each Oblate's works by a team consisting of the Provincial and two other Oblates," one of whom will be a man of your choice. (cf Provincial Letter, April 19, 1985 and Newsletter, May 1985 for process and timetable) Will you let the Provincial know the man of your choice if you have not yet done so in order that a concrete schedule can be drawn up?

So as not to conflict with the Holy Week schedule, the Spring meeting will be held from April 1-3 of 1986. Please make note of this in your calendar.

Thank you.

The F-T Committee  
Ange, John Mahoney, John Deely,  
Ray, Ron, Mike and Wency.

### ASIA OCENIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 1986 conference of the Asia-Oceania Region will be held in Kochi from September 9 to 14. Fr. Des O'DONNELL who is the Councillor of the region will be the facilitator. Expected to attend the conference are Provincials, Superiors of missions and delegations from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Jaffna, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sintang, Samarinda,

Tahiti, Malaysia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Bangladesh.

Among the many topics to be taken up are Progress Report on Mission in the Region and Preparation for the General Chapter of the congregation to be held in September, 1986.

#### OBLATE INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Detailed planning for the OMI International Pilgrimage to Lourdes was completed in mid-February.... Pilgrimage groups will surely be present from all Oblate Regions... Australia and Japan, South Africa and Lesotho, Eastern and Western Canada, the U.S. and Europe, (OMI Information Rome, June 1985).

Mike YAMAZAKI is still trying to organize a group from Japan. Please continue to encourage parishioners to join this pilgrimage.

#### OBLATE VOCATION WORKSHOP

The program for the Oblate Vocation Workshop to be held in Kochi, August 6 to 9 has been finalized according to J.K. MAHONEY. "The age group that we primarily hope for would be young men who could enter the Novitiate this year or next year. However, any young man who feels he has a vocation and who you feel will be a good Oblate priest or brother in the future will be most welcome. Please send their name and age by July 15," says John.

The three novices will give a talk about their vocation and Ed WILLIAMS, Mike YAMAZAKI and John IWO will introduce the Oblates to the young participants.

#### BISHOP DOMINIC FUKAHORI OF FUKUOKA PASSES AWAY

The former Bishop of Fukuoka Diocese, Dominic Fukahori died last June 21 after a long bout of illness. He was last confined at the Franciscan Hospital in Nagasaki.

It will be recalled that Bishop Fukahori was the one who invited the Oblates to work in Fukuoka area. Codex Historicus of Hikarigaoka has this entry on September, 1952: "Fr. Neil ENRIGHT, OMI, the Catholic chaplain of Itazuke Air Base was approached by his Excellency Bishop Dominic Fukahori of Fukuoka diocese about the Oblate Fathers undertaking parish work in his diocese. Fr. Enright consulted with his superiors and soon permission was granted to accept a new parish in the Nakamachi (present Hikarigaoka) area."

#### NEWSBRIEFS.... NEWSBRIEFS.....

There will be a Provincial Council Meeting in Tokyo on July 1st... Jack DEELY has been invited to teach Sign-Language at the Gaudet College in Washington, DC. Hoping to hear from you when you get back, Jack..... Ron LAFRAMBOISE and Bill MAHER are due for homeleave in July. Have a nice trip!

ORDINATION Anniversary: July 1st: Jan VAN HOYDONCK  
5 Leo SIMONS

BIRTHDAY: July 31 LEO SIMONS DEATH ANNIV. July 23: BRO. TSUDA



O. M. I.

- SRI LANKA
- PHILIPPINES
- AUSTRALIA
- JAPAN

- THAILAND
- JAFFNA
- INDIA
- PAKISTAN

- INDONESIA
- SINTANG
- SAMARINDA
- TAHITI

- MALAYSIA
- HONG KONG
- NEW ZEALAND
- BANGLADESH

Desmond O'Donnell, O.M.I.  
General Councillor

OBLATI DI MARIA, C.P. 9061, 00100 ROMA-AURELIA, ITALY



ASIA - OCEANIA NEWSLETTER

Nº 7.

Rome, June 1985.

The disastrous floods during May have put Bangladesh back into the news. Typhoons and floods and tidal waves are annual events in this small (just twice the size of Sri Lanka) overpopulated - 95 million - country. Because 47% of its people are under 16, it is expected to double its population by the year 2000, despite its low life expectancy of 46. A large family is a life-insurance as well as an expression of faith for this largely (86.6%) Muslim country.

Bangladesh starts behind scratch in other ways too. 91% of its people live in 68,000 villages and they have only one doctor for each 8,780 and only one nurse for each 56,880 persons. 140 babies die very early in life, out of each 1,000 born. But surviving those first few years is only the beginning of a long struggle in a country where 75% are illiterate, where 1% could be described as rich, 15% middle class and 85% poor. 10% own 51% of the land. Yes, this is a country of poor people by any standard and an Oblate mission by any measure. Religiously, Christians are 0.3% of its population.

Two Bengali, one Belgian, one French, one Tamil, one Singhalese and one Indian Oblate - witnessing to our international character - work in Bangladesh in four Missions. One of these is the scholasticate which has three scholastics, with one novice and 5 pre-novices on the way.

Our direct mission is mainly with two tribal peoples in the north, who like most tribals in Asia eke out an existence along borders and suffer a significant degree of marginalization in nearly every way. At MUGAIPUR for instance where our first Bengali Oblate, Father Monohor works with the Garo tribes, there are no roads, no electricity, no telephones, no newspapers. There, travel is by bicycle in dry weather and by boat in the wet and of course fooword is always called for. Crossing a stream walking on a coconut trunk, holding the bamboo railing in one hand and your bicycle in the other is one of his missionary thrills. When I read OMI Constitution 5 "... We preach the Gospel among people who have not yet received it... Where the Church is already established, our commitment is to those groups it touches least..." I think of men like Monohor and his missionary companions in Bangladesh.

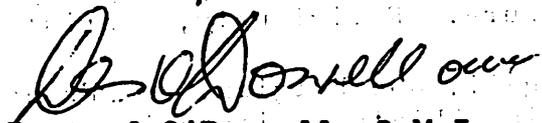
LOKHIPUR is lockier and serves the Kashi tribes mostly but also ministers to the very poor Hindus and Muslims. There Emile Moraes - already having served in and being expelled from Malaysia - together

with Bengali Henry Robeiro have built a new church and priest's house. From here they have established small cooperatives for rickshaw pullers, fish-ferming and ginger cultivation. With the dedicated Missionaries of Charity, they offer the great key to growth - literacy - to boys who spend most of their time just cow-watching, and they provide sewing classes for girls. Medical aid is also provided in the battle against malnutrition and lack of hygiene. The Christian community grows constantly in knowledge, faith and love of one another, through the ministry of these two zealous men.

At SYBHET, our first Oblate missionary from India, Father Gerard makes an apostolic team with the founder of the Bangladesh mission - Father Van Hoof, from Belgium. Their nearer contact with 'civilization' is obvious by the presence of a reasonably well-supplied reading room open to the youth of the area. From Sylhet, they go out to various small stations, often armed with the luxury of a small projector in their efforts to evangelize their flock.

Father André Charvet from France and Angelo Martyn from Sri Lanka are our formation men at the scholasticate and Angelo teaches at the national Seminary where our scholastics study.

When you pray for our Bangladesh Oblates on the 10th of each month, you are praying for men who without any ambiguity or emerging identity crisis "proclaim Christ and his Kingdom to the most abandoned" (C. 5).

  
Desmond O'Donnell, O.M.I.  
Regional Councillor



# 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宜教会

オブレート会  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
TEL 0888-72-3658

6 August 1985



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: STRAW VOTE FOR PROVINCIAL

For your information:

1. Recently Fr. Desmond O'Donnell, OMI, wrote to me that my second term as provincial will terminate 5/25/'86.
2. The new provincial will be appointed during the January (6-24) session of the General Council held in 1986.
3. The official launching of the consultation for the new provincial will take place on Oct. 15, '85.

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The first phase of the consultation will be a straw vote, as is our custom. The balloting will be by mail. You are asked to write the name of the man you want as provincial on the enclosed ballot.

Ballots should reach the Provincial's Office, Kochi, by August 24, 1985. The ballots will be opened and counted there August 24 at 1:00 P.M. The results will then be sent to you.

Thank you and may the Holy Spirit guide us in this whole procedure.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

*Angelo Siani, OMI*

Angelo Siani, OMI  
Provincial



PROVINCIAL OFFICE  
2155 TAKA JOURNAL  
ROOM 100 JAPAN  
TEL 0985 13-985

PROVINCIAL OFFICE

TEL 0985 13-985



0 August 1985

Dear Fellow Officers,

Re: STRAW VOTE FOR PROVINCIAL

For your information:

1. I recently received a letter from OMI, which states that my second term as provincial will terminate 2/28/86.
2. The new provincial will be appointed during the January (6-24) session of the General Council held in 1986.
3. The official launching of the consultation for the new provincial will take place on Oct. 15, '85.

The first phase of the consultation will be a straw vote, as is our custom. The balloting will be by mail. You are asked to write the name of the man you want as provincial on the enclosed ballot.

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Fraternally in Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

*Angelo Stani, OMI*

Angelo Stani, OMI  
Provincial



# The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

CATHOLIC MISSION  
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  
高知市電所町2-1-33  
TEL0888-72-3658

## OBLATE VOCATION WORKSHOP

From Aug. 6 5P.M. to Aug. 9 9A.M.



We are planning a vocation workshop for young men interested in knowing something about Oblate life. We hope to give them some experience of religious community life and also to motivate them to think about offering themselves for a life of service to the poor in the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

If you have any young men in your parish who would be helped by the workshop experience would you kindly tell them about our plans for August.

The Eugene House (formerly the Theresia Kan) has room for twenty three so we will have to limit the number of applicants.

This gathering is not an Altar Boy Camp like we used to have in past years. It is for those young men in your parish (Altar Boys or otherwise) who have shown some interest in the Oblates, the priesthood, or the brotherhood.

This letter is to inform you of this planned workshop and to ask your cooperation in encouraging young men in in your parish to attend this workshop. A letter will be sent in early June with the program, expenses, and application forms.

Finally we ask your prayers for the success of the OBLATE VOCATION WORKSHOP. Thank you.

Fraternally yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate

August 1985

Sent by Fr. Wolf, S.J.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RETREAT



1. Make a schedule: 4 or 5 periods of prayer each day of about an hour each - if you can manage that much. Don't do more formal prayer than that. If you can't go for an hour, try 1/2 hour. Don't force, or fight or tire yourself.
2. If you are tired - SLEEP - especially during the first couple of days of retreat. If you can sleep many hours, that is a gift of the Lord - thank Him for it.
3. Limit your reading to Scripture passages that are in harmony with the theme. It is presupposed that you are keeping SILENCE; i.e. not conversing with anyone. Silence helps you to be in SOLITUDE, i.e. alone with the Lord.
4. You are making a good retreat as long as you are engaged in one of these three things: PRAYING - SCRIPTURE READING - RESTING (sleeping).
5. Between periods of prayer stay in harmony with the day's theme - if you can do so without strain. The time between periods of prayer is an important part of the retreat.
6. For a few minutes after each period of prayer you might find it helpful to evaluate your prayer: GOOD? NOT SO GOOD? WHY? What were your feelings during your prayer?
7. No need to change the theme each day; nor the texts during the day. The longer you can stay with one theme or one text or just one word, the better. Take your time, no hurry. The themes and texts are not an "assignment" - just suggestions.
8. If there are no words or thoughts, fine - just BE in HIS healing presence. You do not have to think of the theme - let HIM be the theme to you in your woundedness.

During this retreat:

It is better to rest than to read.

It is better to sleep than to talk.

It is better - during an actual prayer period - to remain quietly in one place than to walk around.



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

2-1-33 Takajō-machi  
Kochi-shi  
780 JAPAN



オブレート会

〒780  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
電話(0888)72-3658番

August 25, 1985

Dear Fellow Oblates,

Enclosed you will find the results of the straw vote for provincial.

In order to better determine the feeling of the province, we are asking for a second straw vote.

Please have your ballot in by September 21, 1985.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani, OMI

*Angelo Siani*

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MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

2-1-33 Takajō-machi  
Kochi-shi  
780 JAPAN

オブレート会

〒780  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
電話(0888)72-3658番

25 August 1985



RESULTS OF STRAW VOTE FOR PROVINCIAL

OFFICIAL COUNT AUGUST 24, 1985, 1:00 P.M.

Votes counted by Angelo Siani, OMI, John Mahoney, OMI  
and Charles Wolf, S.J.

We received fifteen ballots:

Results:

	John Mahoney	4
	Bert Silver	4
	Mike Yamazaki	2
	John Iwo	1
	Tom Maher	1
	Bill Maher	1
	John Deely	1
	Jerry Novotny	1
Total		15

For your information two more ballots were delivered shortly after the official count. They were for:

	Ronald La Framboise	1
	Angelo Siani	1

Angelo Siani, OMI

Charles F. Wolf, S.J.

John Mahoney, OMI



# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

1-1-15 Hikarigaoka-machi  
Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-shi 816

September, 1985



### TWO NOVICES TAKE TEMPORARY VOWS

When was the last time we had a Vow Day? Perhaps nobody will remember. But last September 8 was a break in that long spell when our two novices who are now temporarily professed members of the Vice Province made their temporary vows. Bros. Hiroshi HAYASHI, OMI and Satoshi KAWAGUCHI, OMI had their Vow Day well-timed and it was well attended, too. The vow ceremony was held in Kochi last September 8 which was the 2000th birthday of the Blessed Mother and was attended by, among others, the Provincials, Superiors and participants of the Asia-Oceania Regional Conference. Other well wishers included the families of the two vowers, parishioners of Nakajimacho and Oblates in Japan. The Vow Ceremony was incorporated in the celebration of the Eucharist which was presided by Fr. Angelo SIANI, Provincial. Twenty priests concelebrated in the Eucharist.

Fr. SIANI who was the novice master of the two vowers gave the following exhortation in his homily: (N.B. This is a rough translation of Ange's sermon which he gave in Japanese)

.....I have three things to say to the two Brothers who have chosen religious life for their vocation and have answered "YES" to God's call.

First, God took the initiative to call you. This is best expressed in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I have called you by your name, you are mine" (Is. 43:1). Then He continues to guide you in your vocation through different events in your life, your family, friends and confreres in the religious family you have joined.

Second, Since you have chosen religious life, let Mary be your guiding example. Mary made an unconditional "Yes" as her response to the call of God though she did not know entirely what demands the God would make on her. As you profess to lead the life of poverty, chastity and obedience, make it in the spirit of trust that Mary had when she said "Yes" to God's call.

Third, Today you will receive a copy of the Constitution and Rules of the congregation... "Do this and you will have life in you." The CC and RR are inspired by the spirit of our Blessed Founder, Eugene De Mazenod. This book is our guide as an apostolic community inspired by the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the Good News to the poor.

After the Vow Ceremony Fr. Des O'DONNELL, OMI Councillor for the Asia-Oceania Region congratulated the vowers in behalf of the Superior General. He expressed the joy of receiving them to the congregation and encouraged them to bring this joy not only to the people of Japan but to the entire world.

A simple reception followed the Vow Ceremony held at the Green Kaikan. The newly professed Oblates introduced their families to the guests. Bro. Hayashi's family was represented by a brother from Naruto while Bro. Kawaguchi's clan travelled from Amakusa in Kyushu. Fr. Bert SILVER emceed the program and he warmly welcomed the families of the brothers into the bigger family of the Oblates.

The guests, particularly the participants of the A-O Regional meeting enjoyed the rest of the afternoon with their first taste of raw fish, sushi and sake. "A superb invention... never thought that raw fish tastes so good" most of them agreed.

The two scholastics immediately left for a week-long vacation before they buckle down to preparation for the entrance examination of Nanzan University (SVD) in Nagoya early next year. They are now living in a house close to the church in Itami. Fr. Ron LAFRAMBOISE will be their Superior.

#### THE ASIA-OCEANIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Asia-Oceania Regional Conference (AORC) was held in Kochi last Sept. 9-12 (cf. Provincial letter, 9/23). Eleven Provincials, Superiors and participants together with Fr. Des O'DONNELL, Councillor of the region attended the conference.

A quick look at the list of the participants would tell us that with the exception of the Provincials of Sri Lanka and Australia, the rest are non-native to the place where they are working. While English is the most common language spoken, French (Thailand and Sintang, Indonesia) and Italian (Samarinda, Indonesia) speaking Oblates are also working in the region. The French and Italian Oblates are mostly former missionaries in Laos. Hence, there are three delegations in Indonesia including those from the Australian Province.

The group spent much time on the topics of On-Going Formation and First Formation. These topics have been on the agenda since the last meeting and the group felt that some concrete steps be taken to implement what have already been planned so far. First step was to select an On-Going Formation Coordinator. Fr. John O'REGAN of the Australian Province was suggested. Several problems that are foreseen and may hinder the progress of the program were mentioned. Some of them are: language- since any on-going program will most likely be in English, how do we accomodate the French and Italian speaking Oblates? Personnel- it is not easy to pull out a man from his post to go to a program. Conflicting needs- will the program suit the needs of those attending?

The importance of First Formation of Oblates in the region was also a common concern of the participants. First Formation and On-Going Formation are closely linked. We can only hope for a successful On-Going Formation if there is a solid First Formation Program that lays the foundation. Cooperation within the region in the area of First Formation is a felt need in any Province and Delegation. As an example, Philippine Province has always accepted scholastics and novices from other areas in the region.

Another topic taken up during the meeting was JPD (Justice Peace and Development). With the exception of Australia and Japan, the rest of the region belong to the Third World. "The poor with their many faces" compose the biggest majority of the population in Asia. In places where the majority of the people are poor, there is also oppression, injustices and underdevelopment. The OHD (Office of Human Development) which is an arm of the FABC (Federation of Asian Bishops Conference) has established the Forum JPD (Forum of Orders of Religious for Understanding their Mission in Justice, Peace and Development). The Forum JPD is composed of major religious orders with infrastructure for apostolate on justice, peace and development in the Asian region. The Oblates, together with the SVD and CICM are being asked to join the Forum but must comply first with the requirements, namely: appointment of a coordinator for the AO region and national coordinator in each Province/ delegation who will also serve as the link-man with the Forum.

Among the many other topics discussed was communication in the region through exchange of new letters. Some Provinces are doing very good on this (I hope we can put out something better here in Japan).

SNIPPETS.... There was time for relaxation too during the meeting. Des O'DONNELL learned the technique of how to bow to every person while jogging. For John COAKLEY, Provincial of Australian Province, the morning swim in the Kagami River was the best way to start the day. No, he didn't mind swimming there even when we warned him that all the hotels and restaurants empty their sewage into the river! We always feel embarrassed when visitors ask us about certain Japanese electrical gadget that we haven't heard yet ourselves. It was even more embarrassing when Andre HEBTING (Sintang) and Christian GILLES (thailand) asked us about a very effective Japanese leniment that is so popular even in Thailand. We had to ask the help of a nearby druggist who supplied the two participants with a big box-full of Yoko-Yoko to take home to their stations. They say that the leniment is very effective, especially for arthritis which is common in very humid environment. Joseph SAMARAKONE (India) gave us a taste of a beautiful Indian liturgy. Joseph came prepared. He had Indian vestments, texts and even lamps and vases. After the meeting, some went around the different Oblate parishes before heading for home. Others visited the Atomic Bomb Memorial in Hiroshima.

#### ANNUAL RETREAT

During the annual retreat, Fr. Charles WOLFF, SJ gave us some helpful guide on how to make a good retreat:

It is better to rest than to read.  
It is better to sleep than to talk.  
It is better- during an actual prayer period  
to remain quietly in one place than to  
walk around.

CONSULTATION FOR PROVINCIAL

The second term of Ange SIANI as Provincial will end on May 25 next year. Two straw voting have been done and official consultation will take place on October 15, 1985.

INTERNATIONAL OBLATE PILGRIMAGE

Mike YAMAZAKI had 13 pilgrims that went with him to Lourdes for the International Oblate Pilgrimage and on to the Holy Land and Rome. Mike said that the air controllers strike in Paris fouled up their whole schedule. They got to Paris by way of Brussels which was a round about course. Then came another misfortune of having only 13 tickets for 14 people for the train from Paris to Lourdes!

The two days in Lourdes were very relaxing. There was a big gathering of pilgrims from all over the Oblate world.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Very few of us are lucky to see our parents live to celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Ange SIANI'S family has a lot to thank God for. The parents will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary this October 5th. We join Ange and the entire Siani clan in celebrating the golden occasion and to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Siani, prayers and congratulations from everybody in the Vice Province of Japan!

BIRTHDAYS (OCTOBER)

October 7	Ron LAFRAMBOISE
10	Jan VAN HOYDONCK
27	Xave Yoshikazu TOSA

ORDINATION

28 Gerry STEVENS

ENCLOSED are portions of the report made by Fr. Des O'DONNELL on the state of the A-O Region. Fr. Des is finishing his first term as Councillor and the next Councillor will be named at the General Chapter next year.



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2-1-33 Takajō-machi  
Kochi-shi  
780 JAPAN

オブレート会

〒780  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
電話(0888)72-3658番

21 September 1985



RESULTS OF SECOND STRAW VOTE FOR PROVINCIAL

Official count Sept. 21, 1985, 6;30 P.M.

We received 16 ballots:

Results:	John K. Mahoney	6
	Bert Silver	4
	Mike Yamazaki	3
	Ange Siani	1
	John Deely	1
	Ron La Framboise	<u>1</u>
Total		16

Vote counted by Ange Siani, John K Mahoney, Joe Blatz and Tom Maher.



# 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堂教会

オブレート会  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
TEL 0888-72-3658

23 September 1985



Dear Fellow Oblates,

On October 5, my parents will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I am going home for the celebration and will be leaving for the States from Osaka on Korean Airlines on September 27. While I am home John K. Mahoney will be acting provincial. Please refer all provincial matters to him.

Enclosed are the results of the second straw vote for provincial. I believe the consultation will begin sometime in October. If so, I have asked John to send you the forms which will be sent to us from Rome.

As you know the purpose of the straw vote is to get some feeling in the Province with the hope that it can be useful to each of us as we fill in our personal consultation forms. It is in no way decisive and you are not bound to restrict yourself to the list of names of the straw vote.

From September 9-12, Japan was the host for the Asia-Oceania Regional Conference.

## Participants:

Fr. A. Silva (Sri Lanka)  
Fr. C. O'Leary (Philippines)  
Fr. J. Coakley (Australia)  
Fr. K. Casey (Java, Indonesia)  
Fr. M. Bertoli (Samarinda, Indonesia)  
Fr. A. Hebting (Sintang, Indonesia)  
Fr. V. Gnanapragasm (Pakistan)  
Fr. C. Gilles (Thailand)  
Fr. J. Samarakone (India)  
Fr. D. O'Donnell (Regional Councillor)  
Fr. A. Siani (Japan)  
(Unfortunately, Louis Ponniah -Jaffna, Sri Lanka - for travel problems, and Henry Van Hoof - Bangladesh - for health reasons were unable to attend).  
(John Mahoney, Jack Deely and Wency Laguidao were secretaries).

The meeting had three phases:

- Phase I : review of what has happened since 1982 AORC.  
 Phase II : remote preparation for the '86 General Chapter  
 Phase III : business meeting

I include here the major decisions of that meeting:

1. Re On-Going Formation

The group decided to search for a (primarily) full-time ;on-going formation co-ordinator' who would work closely with the Regional Councillor. It was suggested that the co-ordinator examine the following possibilities:

- 1) setting up on-going formation programs for the Provinces/ Vice-Provinces / Delegations / Missions
- 2) setting up a program in a centrally located area to which Oblates would be invited
- 3) setting up an Oblate renewal program that would precede or follow a non-oblate program (such as EAPI)
- 4) If a Province , etc. organizes a renewal program of its own, it could invite others from the Region.

The group also decided that the renewal programs should be centered on an Oblate spirituality in the context of the A-O Region.

2. Re First Formation

A Regional Formators\* Conference be held before the '86 General Chapter, to be held in India from July 1st to 7th, 1986.

Each province etc. would send one or two formators to the conference.

3. To seek membership in the 'Forum JPD' (Forum of Orders of Religious for Understanding their Mission in the field of Justice, Peace, and Development; hence Forum JPD)

Requirements for membership:

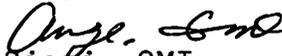
- 1) the Order of Religious must have an infrastructure for JPD, ie.
  - a. an appointed co-ordinator for the A-O Region
  - b. national co-ordinators within the countries of Asia where the Order is present
- 2) the Order must be spread in at least 3 Asia-Oceania countries.

The Philippines and Sri Lanka have infrastructures for JPD, and Japan offered to establish an infrastructure for JPD

4. The next AORC Meeting will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The following were suggested as subjects for discussion: Justice ,Peace and Development; Ministries; Laity in the life of the Church; Modernization and Secularization and Mission.

I thank all of you for making this meeting possible and a success.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

  
 Angelo Siani, OMI  
 Provincial



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2-1-33 Takajō-machi  
Kochi-shi  
780 JAPAN

オブレート会

〒780  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
電話(0888)72-3658番

8 November 1985



Dear Fellow Oblates,

In preparation for the General Chapter of 1986, a Questionnaire has been sent to all the Provinces. Before formulating my answer, I would like all of you to have an opportunity to look this matter over and if you have any suggestions to send them to me by November 23. All answers must be in Rome by Dec. 15.

I have sent you parts two and three. I have completed the first part which deals with personnel, statistical data.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.  
Provincial

PART TWO

GENERAL CHAPTER AGENDA

PROVINCE REPORT

GENERAL CHAPTER

1986

## INTRODUCTION

After consulting the Provincials, the Superior General will propose topics for the Chapter Agenda. R.110 §2

The information gathered from this part of your PROVINCE REPORT will contribute to the development of an Agenda to be proposed to our 1986 General Chapter. We encourage you to consult in some way your Province in the reflection stage leading to the formulation of your responses.

The Precapitular Commission will prepare a DRAFT CHAPTER AGENDA DOCUMENT incorporating the suggestions received from the different Provinces. This document will be mailed to the Capitulars prior to the Chapter.

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

1- In terms of the life and mission of YOUR OWN PROVINCE, what do you see as the two (2) most urgent concerns for YOUR PROVINCE at this time in its history?

Concern One:

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

Concern Two:

Comments:

-----

2- Based on your experience of the OBLATE CONGREGATION as a whole, what do you see as the two (2) most important challenges we face as a Congregation at this time in our history?

Challenge One:

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Two:

Comments:

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3- What do you suggest as our MAJOR THEME for our 1986 General Chapter?  
Could you suggest a creative way of formulating this theme?

Theme:

Formulation:

Comments:

- 
- 4- List any specific THEMES OR DISCUSSION TOPICS you would like to bring to the attention of the 1986 General Chapter alongside the major theme. Please include a brief rationale for each.

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Use this space to continue (if necessary) to list specific themes and topics. Include any comments or suggestions you would make CONCERNING THE AGENDA for our 1986 General Chapter.

PART THREE

ELECTIONS AND LEADERSHIP

PROVINCE REPORT

GENERAL CHAPTER

1986

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCTION

The Superior General is the Congregation's living bond of Unity. The example of his life, his apostolic zeal and the affection he holds for all of us, stir the faith and charity of our communities to ever greater efforts in response to the Church's needs.

C.112

Because of the importance of the elections at the upcoming General Chapter, it seems appropriate to reflect on the question of leadership. We are therefore initiating such a reflection by consulting the Provincials and the delegate(s) to the Chapter as well as a broad representation of each Province or Delegation. We leave the specifics as to the nature of the representation to the Provincial or Delegation Superior. However, it may be useful to invite a few Oblates to participate in one or more workshops. After discussion, the members could agree on the four answers to be given to the questionnaire.

You may find it useful to review the following articles in our CC & RR:

- On the General Administration: CC.110-121; RR 123-141.
- On Superiors: CC.80-81.
- On the Spirit of Government: CC.71-74.

Reply coming from the Provincial  
Reply coming from a Delegate  
Collective reply resulting from  
an extended consultation involving  
a total of ..... Oblates-


Check (✓) the relevant line.

PART THREE

ELECTIONS AND LEADERSHIP

PROVINCE REPORT

GENERAL CHAPTER

1986

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Region: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reply coming from the Provincial  
 Reply coming from a Delegate  
 Collective reply resulting from  
 an extended consultation involving  
 a total of ..... Oblates-


Check (✓) the relevant line.

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

1- In the light of the challenges we will face as a Congregation over the next years, what type of person would you see as Superior General?

-Answer this question by identifying the two (2) characteristics you consider most important relative to the next Superior General. Place these in order of priority. In order to give greater precision to your expression, you may use French, English, German, Spanish, Italian or Polish.

1

2


Please explain:

-----  
2- In the light of the challenges we will face as a Congregation over the next years, what type of leadership would you expect from the next General Council?

-Answer this question by identifying two (2) characteristics you consider most important relative to the next General Council. Place these in order of priority. Use languages as above.

1

2


Please Explain:



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

2-1-33 Takajō-machi  
Kochi-shi  
780 JAPAN

オブレート会

〒780  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
電話(0888)72-3658番

Here are the questions for PART THREE  
ELECTIONS AND LEADERSHIP

PAGE 2

Part Three was copied by mistake on both sides of  
the sheet you received.



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

2-1-33 Takajō-machi  
Kochi-shi  
780 JAPAN

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〒780  
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33  
電話(0888)72-3658番



11 December 1985

Dear

Enclosed is your copy of the OMI supplementary Ordo for 1986.

As of December 23, 1985, I will be going to Fukuoka where I will be covering for Wency while he is on homeleave. As of that date the Novitiate will be temporarily moved to Hikarigaoka.

Wency plans on returning to Japan by Feb. 17, 1986.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani, OMI  
Provincial