

JAPAN VICE PROVINCE

MINI CONGRESS

REVIEW OF TWO MAN COUNCIL SYSTEM

Moderator

Ronald LaFramboise, OMI



Kochi

April 2-3, 1979

Minutes of the Oblate Mini-Congress
Vice- Province of Japan
April 2 -3, 1979
Kochi City



OBLATE MINI-CONGRESS
Nakajimacho, Kochi City
April 2-3, 1979

The participants in two groups (for group discussion)

Group 1: Mahoney, Williams, Bonang, Bourgoin,
Quiocho, Siani, Tosa, LaFramboise,
Laguidao, W. Maher.

Group 2: Silver, Stevens, Jao, Deely, Harr, Simons,
Iwo, Novotny, T. Maher.

The agenda for the meeting:

1. Review the councillor system.
2. 1978 Congress proposals
3. Other: New apostolate in Kita-Kyushu.

April 2. Morning session.

Ron LaFramboise welcomed each and all of the participants to the Mini-congress and briefly explained the purpose and agenda of the meeting.

This was followed by the District coordinators' reports on the comments and opinions of each district on the present 2 man-councillor system.

Dick Harr (Fukuoka district) reported that the present system is fine and to have more than two is "overloading".

Bert Silver (Tokushima district) told the group that in his district 4 Oblates are for the 4 man-council system and the other 3 are for the present system.

Ange Siani (Kochi district) pointed out that the men in his district do not consider the number of councillors important but have questions on the role of councillors, delegation of power and communication between council and members. He added that the present system is okay for the ordinary running of the province but inadequate for the extraordinary running of the province.

Dick Bonang (Tokyo district) reported that the Tokyo Oblates think the present system has been working out well though some studies should be done to find out better ways.

After the district coordinators' reports, Ron LaFramboise asked each participant to give

his personal comments on the present councillor system.

The majority of those present(15 Oblates) voted in favor of the present system though some raise questions on some problems: better communication between council and members, delegation of power, grass root-participation, role of councillors, etc.

A short coffee break followed. After that, the participants were divided into two groups for group discussion on the present councillor system. Then, the group discussion of the two groups was reported to the whole group. Gerry Stevens, reporting for Group 2, told all the participants that the members of Group 2 would like to see the sharing, communicating and animating between council and members emphasized. Group 1 was reported by Ed Quicho who stated that the majority in his group are satisfied with the present system though a few are not satisfied with it.

The morning session ended at around 11:30 AM and a concelebrated mass followed at Nakajima church at 12:00 noon.

April 2, Afternoon session.

Ron LaFramboise asked for a show of hands of those in favor and not in favor of the present councillor system.

The results of the voting are the following:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Those in favor----- | 15 |
| Not in favor----- | 3 |
| Abstention----- | 1 |

The voting was followed by small group discussions(two groups) to discuss the deficiencies of the present system and to suggest ways to better the present system.

Group 1 and Group 2 were reported by Ed Quicho and Gerry Stevens respectively and the main topics of the group discussions were written on the blackboard. The main topics of concern and emphasis are the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Group 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. animation 2. collegiality | <p>Group 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. grassroot-participation 2. delegation of authority |
|--|---|

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 3. delegation | 3. ongoing formation |
| 4. invitation (e.g. timetable of meeting, reports, etc.) | = flow of info |
| 5. administration -active and foreseeing | |

Then, the meeting continued to discuss the next matter for discussion- the 1978 Congress proposals.

1. On vocations. Bert Silver reported on one possible aspirant in Naruto.
 - Dick Harr told the group of Mike Yamasaki's plan to give vocation talks in the different parishes of Fukuoka.
 - Ron LaFramboise mentioned to all Yamasaki's plan to put out vocation pamphlets and to hold vocation workshops.
2. On ongoing formation. Some Oblates attended seminars (theological, scripture, etc.) in the past years and others are making use of correspondence courses.
3. on charism and community. Making use of individual talent for the whole community will be the "guideline policy for the future".
 - Len Inui went to Naruto to see the yochien blueprints and suggested the widening of rooms.
4. on lay and Christian community.
 - ongoing religious formation in kindergartens. J. Mahoney gave his teachers copies of the newly printed ecumenical translation of the N.T. Two of Bert Silver's teachers went to Takamatsu to attend a Montessori seminar. J. Iwo reported that he gave instructions on Christina doctrine to some teachers and members of P.T.A.
 - search for greater participation of Christian teachers in kindergartens. Ron mentioned that one of his two new teachers is a Christian. Ed Williams suggested that if it is possible, hire only Catholic teachers for our kindergartens.
5. on lay cooperators. Bert Silver gave a short explanation on Oblates and our lay cooperators (catechists). J. Iwo read the minutes of catechists' meeting in Naruto to the group in Japanese. Then, both Bert Silver and Ed Williams explained to the group the catechists' work,

role, salary and position in the Christian community.

At present, there are five catechists working with us.

5. on Oblate community.

-on each district's rythm and form of community life.

Ange Siani of Kochi reported of once a month meeting in Kochi for prayer and recreation.

Bert Silver of Tokushima said that there is a regular meeting for prayer and recreation in his district once a month.

Dick Harr of Fukuoka reported that the Oblates in Fukuoka usually meet every Sunday afternoon for talk and supper together.

Dick Bonang of Tokyo told the group that the Tokyo district hasn't come up yet with its rythm and form of community life.

-on monthly Oblate newsletter. Bill Maher again emphasized the importance of the newsletter for sharing and communication and urged all to contribute to it.

On the third agenda- New apostolate in Kita-Kyushu.

A sisters' group in Kurosaki, Kita-Kyushu wants to sell their religious house and kindergarten. The sisters mentioned it to Ron. One possibility for it is for a retreat house. Should the Oblates go into this new apostolate?

The April 2 afternoon session ended at around 5:50 PM and all went to have dinner at Amigo's restaurant in downtown Kochi at 7:00PM.

April 3 Morning session (last session). The two topics for discussion were:

1. Kurosaki, Kita-kyushu proposal
2. catechists' report.

Ron LaFramboise asked each participant for comments on the Kurosaki proposal. Each participant gave his comment and some stated that they are in favor of Oblates going into retreat work. However others strongly suggested that if we run a retreat house, it should be in Shikoku since there is a need of it in Shikoku. And others suggested that a careful study should be done before going into it.

After that, Ron asked for a show of hands on

having a survey and careful study on the Kurosaki proposal made. 12 out of 17 Oblates present raised their hands endorsing the investigation of the proposal.

Then, the group took up the catechists' report of Naruto meeting for discussion. Each of the participants expressed his remarks and views on the catechist's role, work, education, and salary. There has been improvements in the past years in catechist's position and salary in the Christian community although some aspects still remained to be improved- priest's and catechist's relation, education, work and working hours, role, etc. There was a suggestion to work into the possibility of having them ordained as deacons to serve better in the ^{local} church.

At 11:30, Ron LaFramboise closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to the mini-congress. A concelebrated mass at 12 noon in Nakajima church followed. END.

Prepared for the group by Nes Jao.