



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
高知市箕原町2-1-33
TEL 0888-72-3658



25 Janaury 1986

Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Election of Delegate to the
XXXIst. General Chapter

First of all, I wish to congratulate Fr. John Mahoney, OMI, our designated next Provincial. I also wish to assure him of our prayers as he prepares for this new Ministry.

You will find enclosed with this letter your ballot for the election of the delegate of the Vice-Province of Japan to the XXXIst. General Chapter which will open September 1, 1986, as well as a list of the voters and those eligible for the election as delegate.

1. The election of the delegate (and Alternate) will be carried out in accordance with the norms set down in the Superior General's Letter of June 29, 1985.
2. The balloting will be BY MAIL.
3. The balloting of the alternate will be held at a later date after the election of the delegate is completed.
4. Ballots should reach me in HIKARIGAOKA by February 10, 1986. The ballots will be opened and counted February 10 at 6:00 P.M.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.
Provincial



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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

光丘カトリック教会

〒816
福岡市博多区光丘町1-1-15
電話 (092) 581-0570 番

3 February 1986



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Straw Vote for Provincial
Consultors.

Father John MAHONEY having been appointed Provincial of our Vice-Province for a first term, by the Superior General in Council, on January 16, 1986, we may now proceed with the straw vote for Provincial Consultors.

1. The straw vote will be by mail.
2. Send your suggestion to the Provincial Office in Kochi by February 24.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Arge. Siani.
Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial



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LIST OF VOTERS AND THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ELECTION AS DELEGATE

John Deely, OMI
Raymond Bourgoin, OMI
Richard Harr, OMI
Jose De Fruyt, OMI
Ronald La Framboise, OMI
Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI
Wency Laguidao, OMI
Michael Yamazaki, OMI
Leonard Inui, OMI
Bertram N. Silver, OMI
Edward Williams, OMI
Francis Hahn, OMI
Gerard Stevens, OMI
John Iwo, OMI
Leonard Simons, OMI
Angelo Siani, OMI
John K. Mahoney, OMI
Thomas Maher, OMI
Tosa Yoshikazu, OMI
Jerome Novotny, OMI
William Maher, OMI

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6 February 1986



Dear Fellow Oblates,

1. Bro. Kumashiro, OMI - First Vows

Bro. Hiroshi Kumashiro, OMI made his first Oblation on January 26. Bishop Fukahori was the main celebrant along with eleven concelebrants at the Vow Mass.

In attendance were Mr. & Mrs. Kumashiro (Brother's elder brother and sister-in-law) and parishoners from Nakajimacho, Enoguchi and Akaoka. It was also nice to have the Scholastics, Bro. Hayashi and Bro. Kawaguchi present at the ceremony.

Bro. Kumashiro, after a short vacation with his family, will be stationed in Itami until classes begin at the Catechetical School in Nagoya this coming March.

2. Scholastics Residence in Nagoya

In early March, the Brothers and Fr. La Framboise will take up residence at the house we have rented from the Sacred Heart Fathers in Nagoya.

Address:

(462)名古屋市北区金城1丁目1-57

3. Spring Oblate Meeting

This spring we were to have an evaluation and discernment of our works in view of Criteria #2, #4, and #6. However, due to the fact that the "team interviews" were not done, The chairman consulted the Follow Through Committee to determine our next step. In the little time left before the spring meeting, we felt that we could not adequately prepare the meeting and therefore, it would be better to

postpone the meeting for another time. We will not have the meeting on the evaluation of works this year.

However, in keeping with our policy of having two gatherings a year, I have asked Bishop Sooma of Nagoya to give us some talks on the question of Justice and Peace. The Bishop is able to come for only two days, April 1 & 2.

Therefore the spring meeting on Justice and Peace will begin on the morning of April 1 and end in the afternoon of April 2.

In the evening of April 2, we will have a short review of the process we are in, ie. the process started by Fr. Jim Sullivan, in 1983.

SPRING MEETING ON JUSTICE AND PEACE

Place: Kochi, Takajoo-machi

Time: April 1 and 2. 1986

4. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Fr. John K. Mahoney, OMI on his appointment as Provincial of our Vice-Province.
5. Forum JPD (Forum of Orders of Religious for Understanding their Mission in Justice, Peace and Development)
As was mentioned in the Report of the Asia-Oceania REgional Conference (Newsletter, 1985 September), the Oblates were asked to join this organization. During the Asian-Oceania REgional Meeting, the Council (Japan) decided to join. At the Provincial Council Meeting in December '85, Ange and Bert were appointed to be coordinators for our Province.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Ange. O.M.I.

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.

Provincial



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電話 (092) 581-0570 番

11 February 1986



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Results of the First Ballot for
the Election of Delegate to the
General Chapter, 1986.

On 11 February 1986, under the Chairmanship of Fr. Angelo Siani of the Provincial assisted by Fr. Michael Yamazaki and Fr. Len Inui as Tellers, the votes of the first ballot cast by the Electors of the Vice-Province were examined and counted.

17 ballots were cast of which 17 were valid. The votes cast were apportioned as follows:

J.K Mahoney	6
A. Siani	4
Ron La Framboise	3
John Deely	1
Mike Yamazaki	1
Bill Maher	1
Len Inui	1

Given at Our Lady of Peace, Koga, this 11th. day of February, 1986.

Signed: Chairman: *Angelo Siani*
Angelo Siani, OMI

Teller:
Michael Yamazaki, OMI

Teller: *Leonard Inui*
Leonard Inui, OMI
L. M. Inui, OMI



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12 February 1986

Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Election for Delegate to Chapter.

As indicated in my letter of 11 February 1986, the ballots for the election of the delegate to the General Chapter were counted in Koga.

In as much as the necessary majority for the election of the Delegate was not reached a second balloting will be held. Please return your ballot to the Provincial's office in Kochi by February 23, 1986. The ballots will be counted on Feb. 24.

It should be noted that in the second ballot, a relative majority is sufficient. Therefore whoever obtains the greatest number of valid votes, even if not an absolute majority, shall be recognized as the Delegate to the XXXIst. General Chapter. The election procedure for the Alternate will take place after that.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani
Angelo Siani, OMI

Provincial

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オブレート会
高知市電町2-1-33
TEL 0888-72-3658

24 February 1986



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Results of Second Ballot for Election
of Delegate to the General Chapter.

On 24 February 1986 under the Chairmanship of the Provincial assisted by Fr. Thomas Maher and Fr. John K. Mahoney as Tellers, the votes of the second ballot cast by the Electors of the Vice-Province were examined and counted.

In the second ballot 15 votes were cast of which 15 were valid. The votes cast were apportioned as follows:

J.K. Mahoney	11
A. Siani	2
B. Maher	1
R. La Framboise	1

Fr. John K. Mahoney having received the necessary majority of valid votes cast in the second ballot was recognized as duly elected as Delegate to the General Chapter.

The election being completed, all the voting ballots were destroyed. Then the certificate of the election of the Delegate was drawn up and signed by the Chairman and the Tellers, and given to the Delegate.

The Official Record of the Election was inserted in the Book for the Minutes of the Provincial Council, and an authentic copy sent to the General Administration.

Thank you.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.
Provincial



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24 February 1986

Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Election of the Alternate to the
General Chapter.

Since the election of the Delegate to the General Chapter was completed today, we will proceed to the election of the Alternate. The following are the procedures for this election.

1. The election of the Alternate will be carried out in accordance with the general norms set down in the Superior's Circular Letter of June 29, 1985.
2. The balloting will be by MAIL.
3. Your ballot should reach the Provincial's Office in Kochi by March 12, 1986. The ballots will be opened and counted there on March 13.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.
Provincial

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24 February 1986

Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Results of the straw vote for Provincial
Consultors.

The votes of the straw ballot for Provincial Consultors were counted today in Kochi by Ange, JK Mahoney and Tom Maher. Fifteen ballots were cast with two names on each ballot. The results are presented here as follows: a listing of the number of votes received by each man as first choice and as second choice with the total number of votes received in either position.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>1st. Choice</u>	<u>2nd. Choice ,</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>
R. La Framboise	5	1	6
A. Siani	3		3
Y. Tosa	2	1	3
J. Iwo	2	2	4
L. Simons	1		1
B. Silver	1		1
R. Bourgoin	1		1
J. Deely		1	1
W. Laguidao		2	2
L. Inui		1	1
B. Maher		3	3
E. Williams		1	1
M. Yamazaki		3	3

Your consultation form must reach Rome by APRIL 10, 1986.

For your information

<u>Votes by combination</u>		<u>No. of Votes</u>
1st. choice	2nd. choice	
Ron La Framboise	Mike Yamazaki	2
Ron La Framboise	J. Iwo	2
J. Iwo	R. La Framboise	1
R. La Framboise	W. Maher	1
A. Siani	W. Maher	2
A. Siani	M Yamazaki	1
Y. Tosa	J. Deely	1
B. Silver	W. Laguidao	1
R. Bourgoin	W. Laguidao	1
L. Simons	Y Tosa	1
J. Iwo	L. Inui	1
Y Tosa	E. Williams	1



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13 March 1986



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re.: Results of the first ballot for the election of the Alternate Delegate to the General Chapter.

On 13 March 1986 under the chairmanship of the Provincial assisted by Fr. John K. Mahoney and Fr. Thomas Maher as Tellers, the votes of the first ballot cast by the Electors of the Vice-Province were examined and counted.

In the first ballot 16 votes were cast of which 16 were valid. The votes cast were apportioned as follows:

A. Siani	10
R. La Framboise	3
L. Inui	1
J. Deely	1
B. Maher	1

On the first ballot an absolute majority is needed. In this case 9 votes. A. Siani having obtained 10 votes was recognized and proclaimed Alternate to the General Chapter.

The election being completed, all the voting ballots were destroyed. Then the certificate of election of the Alternate was drawn up and signed by the chairman and Tellers, and given to the Alternate.

The Official Record of the Election was inserted in the Book for the Minutes of the Provincial Council, and an authentic copy was sent to the General Administration.

Thank you.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial



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30 April 1986



Newsletter

New Provincial Council Appointed

Congratulations to Mike Yamazaki and Wency Laguidao who were appointed to the Provincial Council during the meeting of the General Administration April 1986. The date for the installation of John and his council has not been set yet pending the arrival of the necessary documents.

Offer from Sophia University Full-time professor for Fr. John Deely

An offer was made to John Deely to be a full-time professor at the Jesuit University, Sophia, in Tokyo. It would require being on campus four days a week and teaching ten hours. He would be a member of the Foreign Language division. The advantages would be in the possibility of developing a Deaf Information Center. An accredited course in this field is being considered by the University. Congratulations Jack.

Tsukuba University: University for the Deaf

John Deely has not only been asked to be a professor of the Tsukuba University for the Deaf but also to help in its foundation! John will be investigating ten American Federally Funded Universities which offer courses for the deaf. This fact finding tour will take place during the months of July and August.

First Asian Pacific Conference on Deafness

John Deely has been invited to attend the First Asian Pacific Conference on Deafness, by Tsukuba University. The Conference will be held in Hong Kong in December from the 8th. to the 12th.

Homeleave

Those going on homeleave this year: Raymond Bourgoïn
John K. Mahoney + *Chapter*
Angelo Siani
Leonard Simons

Study

Wency Laguidao, EAPI Summer Course June 2-July 4 "The Laity"
Ange Siani, Jerusalem Studies with St. John's University, Sept.
- Dec.

Formation Meeting, India

A meeting of formators of the Asia-Oceania Region will be held in India in July of this year. Fr. Ronald La Framboise has been asked to attend this meeting.

Oblate Bursar Meeting Rome

Fr. Bertram Silver will be attending the Oblate Financial Meeting in Rome. The meeting will be held in May. Bert will take the opportunity to also visit his family.

Financial Computor Service

As of the first of this year, the finances of the province have been put on the computor service in Osaka. The use of this service has lightened the burden of the bursar.

Kondo Sensei has worked with the busar for many years and his work has been extremely valuable. At some date in the future the Provincial Administration would like to give public recognition to him.

Scholasticate telephone, Nagoya

The new telephone number of the Schoasticate is 052-914-6201.

Port-Chaplain

As of April 17, Jan has taken up residence at his new assignment in Kobe. Here are his address and telephone number.



Father Jan Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.

PORT-CHAPLAIN

TEL. (078) 331-1090

STELLA MARIS
FLYING-ANGEL

KOBE MARINERS' CENTRE
PORT P. O. BOX 709
111/112 ITOMACHI,
CHUO-KU, 651-01 KOBE

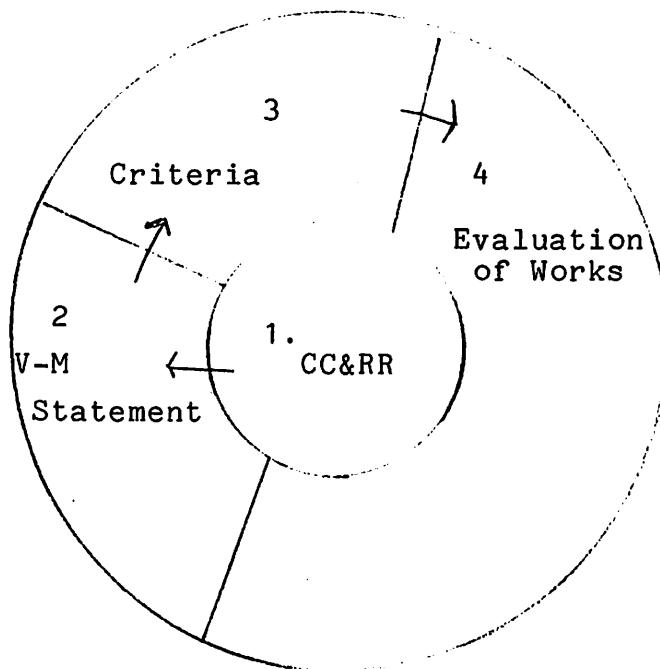
T651-01

神戸市中央区南一丁目二
番地 郵便局 七〇九
電話 神戸(五) 三三二一六九六番

コーベ マリナーズ センター
ヤン・ヴァン・ホイドンク神父

Follow-Through Committee

On the evening of April 1, we held a meeting to discuss the process we began with the help of Fr. Sullivan. A short introduction was presented by the chairman of the F-T Committee.



1. The process began with a reflection on the first part of our Constitutions and Rules. Our objective was to express in a Vision-Mission Statement how we saw ourselves in this mission of Japan as Oblates. (2)

Next, we drew up criteria(3), after a reflection on our Vision-Mission Statement.

The next step was to have been an evaluation of our works in the light of our criteria. (4).

The chairman then pointed out that the process was designed to involve all of the members of the province in policy making at its deepest level. He also pointed out that the evaluation of works was meant to find trends among the group and not to close works or evaluate persons.

The floor was then opened for discussion. Some felt that we were not ready for an evaluation of works and that we needed more input such as the input we received from Bishop Soma. It was suggested that Bishop Soma be invited for our next meeting.

Others expressed their desire to continue with the evaluation. However no firm decision was made by the group.

The meeting ended with the suggestion that the new provincial consider the opinions expressed at this meeting when deciding on our meeting to be held next spring.

Temporary assignments

Ange will be covering for Bert from May 6 - June 24.
And for Wency from June 25- July 6.

During Bert's absence, I will be handling the checking account. Those of you who will need checks please contact me in Naruto.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary,

Angelo Siani
Angelo Siani, O.M.I.
Provincial



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Newsletter

May 1, 1986



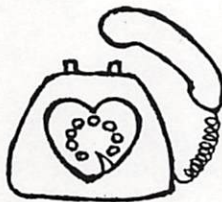
Kokoro no Daiyaru

Congratulations to Leo and the Volunteer Bureau. On May 5 they will begin "Kokoro no Daiyaru" as a service to the community here in Kochi.

悩んでいる人、生きがいを失くした人、自分のことを話したい人に電話を通しての相談機関が一九五三年十一月二日ロンドンで、チャド・バラード氏によって始まりました。日本では、一九七一年、東京で初めていのちの電話が開設され、現在は、全国で二十四ヶ所にものぼっています。

自分の悩み事を一緒に考えてくれる人がほしい方、困っていることを誰にも話せないでいる子供たちに応えるために、高知でもこころのダイヤルを、五月五日に開設する予定です。

こころのダイヤル
5月5日 開設



(0888)

24-6300

Ange. end

10 May 1986

Naruto



Dear Fellow Oblates,

Re: Annual Retreat

The annual retreat is scheduled for the last week in August. August 24-29. It will be conducted by Fr. John Savage, OMI, former Director of Scholastics in Washington, DC and member of the Team for Renewal.

As you know John K Mahoney will be attending the General Chapter and since he will not be present for the retreat, he would like to make all the necessary arrangements before he leaves. Therefore please send the enclosed postcard to him in Kochi as soon as possible or at the latest by August 1.

The Brothers will also have their retreat during the same week in Kochi. It will be conducted by Fr. Seto, SJ. Fr. Seto is presently stationed at the Jesuit Novitiate in Hiroshima.

Although the conferences will be held separately, the Liturgy will be in common.

Annual Retreat

Fathers: Time: August 24-29, 1986
 Place: Kochi, Takajoo-machi
Retreat Master: Fr. John Savage, OMI

Brothers:

 Time: August 24-29, 1986
 Place: Kochi, Takajoo-machi
Retreat Master: Fr. Katsusuke Seto,
 S. J.

Yours in Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

Ange. Siani

Angelo Siani, OMI



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

May 20, 1986



The following Homily was given by Fr. John K. MAHONEY, OMI the newly elected Provincial of the Vice Province of Japan during a simple installation rite held in Nakajimachoo, Kochi last May 19.

Out-going Provincial, Fr. Angelo SIANI read the decree from the Superior General installing Fr. Mahoney as the new Provincial of the Vice Province. On the same rite, the two new members of the Provincial Council were also installed. They are: Fr. Mike YAMAZAKI (1st Councillor) and Fr. Wency LAGUIDAO (2nd Councillor).

My Dear Brothers,

On January 28 I received the call from Fr. Des O'Donnell informing me of my selection as Provincial. He asked me whether I would accept the appointment. I answered I have hoped it would not be me but that I would accept.

I must admit there were times in previous Provincial elections when I had hoped I would be chosen. But age and the experience earned from nine years as a Provincial Councillor made me realize that being Provincial is not an enviable position.

As I have grown older and I hope more mature I have realized that I am at my happiest when I am doing what I am doing now, that is, being a pastor of a missionary parish. I also realize that being a pastor is something I do well because of the peculiar gifts and talents the Lord has given me.

When I analyzed the role of pastor and that of Provincial I began to think that the gifts and talents the Lord gave to be a pastor might also be the tools I need to be Provincial.

The parish is a christian community. It is the role of the pastor to animate the community to grow in love and unity. We Oblates are a christian (religious) community. It is the work of the Provincial to animate the community so that we may grow in love and unity.

It is also the role of a pastor in a missionary parish to cooperate with and help the parish community in its work for the growth of the Kingdom of God. Similarly, I think it is the role of the Provincial to cooperate with and help the community to work zealously to attain the purposes of the Oblates community in Japan.

It is the role of the pastor above all to serve, to serve God and the entire parish community as it strives to reach its goals. And also to serve each parishioner in those times when that service is needed.

In like manner, it is the role of the Provincial to serve the entire community so that it may achieve its goals as set forth in the Mission/Vision Statement for Japan and also to serve each of his brothers whenever that service is needed.

To animate, cooperate and serve. Perhaps animation and cooperation are two of the many facets of the word serve when it is considered in the context of community. The idea of service seems to come out very strongly in our Rules. The following is taken from the writing of our Founder and is on Page 104 of our Constitution and Rules (English text):

*The Provincials ought always to bear in mind
the importance of the charge
entrusted to them...*

THE
PROVINCIAL *Let them watch over faithfulness to the Rule.
As models to all their subordinates,
especially in obedience and charity,
let them support the superiors with kindness,
come to the aid of their subjects with goodness,
and love all with sincere affection,
so that, in the field entrusted to their care,
the kingdom of Christ
may make more rapid progress.*

- 1853 -

Constitution 73 also expresses this theme of service:

73. Jesus is the source and model of authority in the Church. Just as he washed his disciples' feet, so too those in charge among us are called to serve and not to be served. Their service coordinates and leads our efforts to evangelize the poor. Among us they foster a way of life based on faith and on a deeply shared love of Christ.

Authority
as service

Fr. Des O'DONNELL in his letter also expressed this same idea when he said that the true meaning of Leadership is Service. In that same letter, Des also said that the needs of the Vice Province as indicated by the men are unity around mission, building up of the district communities, continued spiritual renewal along the CC and RR and of course vocations.

It is now the work of the Councillors, Mike and Wency and myself to see how these needs can be put into action. Tomorrow we plan to have our first Council Meeting and these needs will of course be on the agenda. I would like to thank both Mike and Wency for agreeing to be members of the Council.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Ange for his six years of service to the Japanese Province. It is, thanks to his leadership, that we now have our Mission/Vision Statement with the Elements and Criteria. These are a fine foundation for the unity and community that we are searching for. I think it is also due to your Service and Love of the Oblate community that we now have two men preparing for the Priesthood, one for Brotherhood as well as one young man in the pre-Novitiate.

These are but two of the many things accomplished during your six years. I chose to mention these in particular because I think these are two things we must continue to work with to fulfill the needs of the Japanese Province: Unity Around Mission, Strong District Communities, Spiritual Renewal and more Vocations.

Finally, I would like to ask all of you my brothers to pray for this new Administration. Not only today but often. May Mary Immaculate and Blessed Eugene De Mazenod look over and guide all of us in our works here in Japan.

May 19, 1986
Kochi

VISION/MISSION STATEMENT

Where Do We Go From Here?

The Provincial Council, during its first meeting in Kochi last May 20, has decided to call upon the Follow-through (F-T) Committee to help continue the work that have been started during the previous administration. The F-T Committee will meet in Itami on July 15. It is hoped that we will be able to continue with our original plan to evaluate and discern our present works in the light of the CC&RR and our Vision-Mission Statement. The F-T Committee will draw up a new timetable for our discernment process.

The Spring Meeting on Justice and Peace under Bishop SOMA of Nagoya was very well received and many have suggested that we get Bishop Soma again for our Spring Meeting next year. At The Provincials' Meeting in Tokyo in April, Fr. Yamada Keizo, SJ spoke on the problem of the poor in Japan and Fr. Ochi of the Kyoto Diocese spoke on the "Dowa" problem (outcasts). Both

May, 1986

were excellent and perhaps we can get one or both for our Spring Meeting next year.

Any other suggestion for a speaker would be most welcome.

SUMMER OBLATE VOCATION CAMP

The Summer Oblate Vocation Camp will be held in Koga this year from the night of August 17 to the morning of the 20th. Mike Yamazaki will be organizing the camp with the help of the scholastics. The aim of this camp is to introduce the Oblate way of life to young people (mostly college students) who may be interested in becoming an Oblate priest/brother.

If there are young men in your place who might be able to attend this camp please encourage them to come and let Mike know as to how many are coming from your place.

ENCLOSED:

Enclosed are two sets of daily prayer intentions: one for the Daily Intentions of the Vice Province (yellow) and Daily Intentions of the Asia-Oceania Region. You may insert them between the pages of your breviary. The A-O Region intentions was sent to us by Fr. Des O'DONNELL and was translated into Japanese by Ray BOURGOIN. Thanks Ray!

NEWSLETTER

The Provincial has asked Wency LAGUIDAO to continue the work as Editor of the newsletter "for the time being."



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

August, 1986



One day recently I had phone call from Fr. Otsuka of the Osaka Diocese. He said he and four other priests had stayed at Katsurahama and would like to say Mass. I assured him they were welcome. When they finished Mass I invited them to have some coffee. The five were all young men who had been ordained for only a few years..It was most enjoyable to be able to sit and talk with them. At the time I thought wouldn't it be wonderful if they were five young Oblates.

At Mass that day the gospel was from the section of Matthew's Gospel where Christ says: *the harvest is rich but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers for his harvest*. The message was more than clear. If I want five young Oblates or fifteen young Oblates It is most necessary that I do a great deal of praying.

While cleaning off the top of my desk a few days ago I found a section of what I think is part of Pope John Paul's letter for World Vocation Day. Although his letter was addressed to parish communities I think they can remind us of the need to pray for vocations for our Oblate Community.

A community without vocations is like a family without children. Then should we not questions, in such a case, our communities love for the Lord and His Church?

Be a praying community! We must convince ourselves that vocations are the inestimable gift given by God to the community which prays. The Lord Jesus set us the example when he called his Apostles and said: 'pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers for his harvest'.

For this intention we must all pray, and we must pray unceasingly, accompanying our prayers with active cooperation. May the Eucharist, the center, source, and summit of Christian life, be the vital center of the community which prays for vocations.

The sick and all those who suffer in body and spirit, may be sure that their prayers, united to the Cross of Christ, are the most powerful instrument in the vocation apostolate.

Be an inviting community! Young people in all parts of the world often questions me about vocations, the priesthood and consecrated life. This is a sign of deep interest, but it reveals at the same time a need for evangelization and specific catechesis. May our negligence never be responsible for anyone's failure to know what he needs to know in order to carry out God's plan.

This summer the Oblate Vocation Workshop will be held in Koga. Mike and the Brothers are preparing an interesting program. You will be hearing from Mike soon. The dates are from the evening of Aug. 18 till the morning of the 21st. If you have any prospects please encourage them to attend. And also pray that the Workshop will be a good source of vocations for us.

Physical Check-up: For a number of years I have been going to Kaisei Hospital each year for a Physical Examination. It has been most helpful for me in catching problems before they become too serious. I mention this because most of us are over forty. An age when more attention to health becomes not only advisable but necessary. The enclosed is a list of things that Dr. Shane recommends you ask your Doctor to

check. He says these could all be done on an out-patient basis. I asked him to send the list in both Japanese and English in case like me you are not familiar with the Japanese medical terms.

To the Chapter and Back: The Chapter will begin on Sept. 1 and will close about Oct. 4. The Provincials and Delegates from the Asia/Oceania Region will meet in Rome on Aug. 29 and 30. It was recommended at the Regional meeting held here in Sept. 1985 that those going to the Chapter try to visit a few of the Missions in the Region on the way to Rome. I plan to leave Japan on Aug. 17 and visit Bangkok, Madras, and Bangalore. After the Chapter ends I will go to the States for about four weeks.

If there are any who have to renew there Visa during the time of my absence from Japan please notify me. I will send you the necessary documents before I leave.

Fr. John K. MAHONEY, OMI
Provincial

WELCOME!! FR. JOHN SAVAGE, OMI

Fr. John SAVAGE, OMI (Eastern American Province) former Superior of the scholasticate in Washington, D.C. who will preach our retreat this year (August 24-29) will go around the different missions before the retreat starts. The following is his schedule:

Itami:	August 4 - 10
Fukuoka:	11 - 16
Tokushima:	16 -

Another visitor we had lately was Fr. Ernie SYLVESTRE, OMI (Philippine Province). He spent a few days in Itami with some members of his family. Ernie celebrated his 25th year of ordination and on his way to the U.S.

COMING & GOING

John IWO left for Australia on July 22 and will be back Aug. 7.

Leo SIMONS on homeleave from July 23 to August 23.

Clericalism is a very big block to the full participation of the laity in the Church today. Clericalism has also robbed the laity of the role that is rightfully theirs in the christian community. Clericalistic attitude nourishes an over-dependence on priests/bishops by the laity and an attitude of superiority on the part of the clerics. The formation of BCCs (or Basic Ecclesial Communities- BEC or Small Christian Communities-SCC) in the present Church is a movement to return to the original spirit of the christian community as they used to be in the Early Church and as they should be in today's Church. BCC recovers the concept of Church as People of God and puts emphasis on the common Priesthood of all believers. When one looks at the Church as first and foremost the People of God then Christian Spirituality becomes not a monopoly of the few elite in the Church (priests and religious) but God's universal call to holiness. In the context of BCC, the Family becomes the locus of Spiritual Formation since the spiritual sources are ^{not} limited to a few but available to all.

What happens to the identity of the priest in a BCC context is another important thing to consider. Fr. Nicolas emphasized that the identity of the priest becomes relational. He no longer controls the faucet or funnel of grace nor is he the lone dispenser of God's blessings. The priest understands himself in terms of a relationship to the community in Spirit. He helps the community to BE, to BECOME and in return, he is helped by the community to BE, to Become Priest. The priest understands himself in terms of relationship to Christ as Lord, the sole Head of the community. The priest mediates since he is a sacramental being. The priest also understands himself in relation to Mission for - with Christ and the community. In its totality, the identity of the priest comes out of his service to the community.

During the course, one big question that confronted the Japanese participants was: How much of these things are really applicable to the Japanese situation? The stereotype notion that "Japan is different" was an easy excuse to reject a learning process. My personal attitude was: though it may be true that Japan's experience of the faith is so different and the consequent challenges are also different from those of the rest of the Christian world, I still can learn from what is being done in different christian communities especially in Asia. In Japan, when we talk of BCC, we don't mean christian families living in a neighborhood but they are usually scattered on a vast area nor are families always all christians but sometimes only one member of the family is baptized. Yet, the essential factors of BCC remain the same anywhere: Faith in the risen Christ, the Word of God, common priesthood of believers, etc.

One thing I wished the course could accomplish was to change the attitude of the participants but that was wishful thinking. Attitudinal change leading to a genuine conversion is first and foremost personal and usually takes a long process. There are so many things on the present Theology of the Laity that I may personally believe but am I really willing to change my clericalistic attitude to give way to a People of God concept of the Church? Isn't it that the old concept of the Laity as "cooperators in the vocation of the clergy" remains strong in my approach to work? When will the Church be truly People of God sharing in one common priesthood?

These are some of the questions that remain in my mind after the course.

Ron LAFRAMBOISE returned from a formators conference in Bangalore, India.

Jack DEELY has left for the U.S. He will be at the Gallaudet College, the school for the deaf in Washington, D.C. Jack is on a fact-finding mission in preparation for the opening of the Tsukuba University for the Deaf. He will also look into the possibility of an exchange of videotape materials for the deaf and blind between NHK TV and PBS (Public Broadcasting System) in the U.S. Jack will again be on NHK TV in September (no definite date) just watch for it.

DEATHS

Jack BARRETT'S mother died June 5. Please contact Bert for Jack's address if you want to write him.

We received the news that Fr. Willi Schultz, a Scarboro priest who worked a long time in Fukuoka died of heart attack in Peru. He was 59. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

F-T COMMITTEE

The Follow-through Committee met in Itami last July 15 (minus Ange and Jack). The Provincial will send out a letter on how we will go about the discernment process that we have planned after consultations with Fr. Jim SULLIVAN, OMI.

The Provincial and his council also met on the same day. The main topics discussed were: presentation of Financial Report by the Bursar; renewal of vows of two scholastics; and the problem of lack of space at the present scholasticate in Nagoya. Bros. Hayashi and Kawaguchi were passed for renewal of vows and Ron LAFRAMBOISE, Superior of the Scholasticate with the cooperation Bert SILVER, Bursar, will look into the possibility of a purchase of a bigger place to house the scholasticate in Nagoya.

SUMMER AT E.A.P.I. by Wency Laguidao

I had the chance to attend this year's Summer Course at the East Asian Pastoral Institute which was held from June 2 to July 4. The topic was The Laity. I was the only OMI participant among 82 others coming from 14 different countries. The Japanese group was second biggest in number next to the host country the Philippines.

The course has been put together very well thanks to the long experience of the EAPI staff in renewal courses. The first week was devoted to scriptural and dogmatic foundations of the Theology of the Laity by different theologians. Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, SJ gave us Ecclesiology with particular focus on Lay Spirituality. The 3rd week was on Formation of the Laity given by Fr. Fritz Lobinger of the Lumko Missiological Institute (South Africa) who presented actual BCC (Basic Christian Communities) materials from the Institute. The last week of the course was devoted to Pastoral Workshops.

The Philippines After the February Revolution:

So many things have been written about the revolution in February that changed the course of history in the Philippines, Now popularly called "People Power", it was a revolution so unique in the eyes of the whole world. "A revolution that was half-crazy," "Filipinos armed to the teeth with flowers and rosaries massing in front of tanks... and tanks turning away... call that a revolution?", were a few of those write-ups. "Now, who can doubt the power of prayer?" wrote Archbishop Phil SMITH, OMI.

People Power ended 14 years of dictatorship. For 14 years the whole country was left to the mercy of incompetent people whose only aim was to enrich themselves, hence, the economy is in shambles.. The government is bankrupt and the people are living in misery. Even those who are employed are living way below the poverty line, then, how about the millions of the unemployed? God is all merciful, He takes care of them. A conservative opinion says that it will take at least 10 years for the nation to recover that is if everything goes smooth from here on.

The Aquino government is trying its best to gather the pieces together while bearing the burden of a \$26 billion debt. President Aquino remains immensely popular and the symbol of moral strenght. The political arena remains very complicated since people in the government are divided on many issues. Moral regeneration is one big aim that the government wants to accomplish. The Filipino spirit was virtually dead under the dictatorial regime. There was nothing to hope for. That is why we have thousands of them here in Japan working as entertainers, thousands in Europe working as domestics, etc. and they run into all sorts of problems. We know that the work they are doing is very degrading and dehumanizing but if they can keep their families alive that way, who are we to stop them?

The Church in the Philippines took a very strong stand especially before and after the February polls condemned by the Bishops as unequalled in the fraudulence of its conduct. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Church helped in overthrowing the dictator. The Church continues to enjoy political powers now. A bishop, a priest and a sister are members of the commission formed by the President to draft a new Constitution. Several other priests and sisters are on different committees working on the reorganization of the whole government. The big question remains whether the Church should be actively involved in politics.

The Filipino Migrant Workers in Japan:

There are thousands of them! One estimate is 30,000 on entertainment business alone all over the country. Bishop Gabriel Reyes (one of the bishops in the forefront of the February Revolution) who heads the Commission on Migration and Tourism of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has asked me to be the national chaplain of the Filipino workers in Japan. (I asked him to write the Provincial)

The problem that exists is this: the Filipino migrant workers are actually under the pastoral care of the Japanese bishops since

they are here in Japan but since the case of Filipino entertainers usually involve some touchy problems in society, eg, gansters, prostitution, etc, there is much hesitancy in organizing apostolate for them though all over the country several parishes are already doing something to minister to this group of people, a recent headache to the Japanese society. The Japanese bishops have been asking the Filipino bishops to send at least a name of a Filipino priest who can be a "nominal" chaplain.

I have talked to the Provincial about this and the answer was favorable. When I see my countrymen working like slaves in foreign countries, I am reminded of the Chosen People who worked like slaves in Egypt. Like them, the Filipinos also fled their country to escape "famine", moral degradation but look, they are nothing but slaves in a foreign country! To me, they are the most abandoned within my midst.

Right now, I don't have anything concrete about an apostolate for them more than saying Mass for them in English. There is a lot of (SI) Social Investigation and ground work to be done. Considering that these people are usually on a 6 month contract everytime, a permanent program is not very feasible. I am in contact with the people in Manila (particularly the Religious of the Good Shepherd) who give them pre-departure seminars (a requirement of the government) and right now I plan on establishing a network of people in several areas who are willing to make themselves available to the Filipino migrant workers in Japan. I will tell you more about this later.

BIRTHDAYS:

August	23	Ange SIANI
	31	Bert SILVER
September	6	John IWO
	20	John MAHONEY
	22	Fran HAHN
October	7	Ron LAFRAMBOISE
	10	Jan VAN HOYDONCK
	27	Xave TOSA

ORDINATION:

October	28	Gerry STEVENS
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August 12, 1986

My dear fellow Oblates,

In April of 1985 you received a letter from the the Follow - Through committee outlining a three step Discernment Process which was to terminate in a Discernment of the Province at the Congress in March of 1986. For various reasons the timetable set up by the Committee was not met. As a result in 1986 we had a Congress on Justice and Peace with Bishop Sooma. During that Congress on the evening of April 1 we spent some time discussing the next step. There seemed to be two desires expressed. One that we have another input meeting and two that we continue the evaluation or discernment process.

On July 15 the F-T Committee met in Itami. At that meeting it recommended that we have another input meeting at our Congress in March of 1987. Fr. Keizo Yamada S.J. was invited to be the speaker at the Congress. He was requested to speak about the problem of the Poor in Japan. He accepted the invitation. The dates scheduled for the 1987 Congress are from March 24 to 26.

On July 8 I wrote to Jim Sullivan and sent him a copy of *Personal Discernment Regarding My Work In Relation to Criteria #2, #4 and #6*. I told him we were meeting in Itami on July 15 and asked his advise and comments. My letter reached Jim on July 15. He called and made some recommendations for improving the Personal Discernment. The F-T Committee discussed these recommendation and decided to include them in a new guideline for Personal Discernment. Jim wrote these recommendations in a letter to me and also suggested that we in include discernment on Criteria #5. He wrote that he thinks it important the the laity also be involved as Catholics in the Oblate living of Criteria #2, #4 and #6. I typed up the enclosed *Personal Discernment -- preparation for Province Discernment Congress of March 22-24 1988*. At a meeting of the Council on August 11 this new guideline for Personal Discernment was approved as well as a timetable to enable us to be ready for the 1988 Congress.

If you will look at the enclosed *Personal Discernment Preparation for the Province Discernment Congress of March 22-24 1988* you will notice that there are numbers from 1 to 5 on the left. Number 1 asks you to write a brief history. We would like to have this sent to the Provincial office by



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December 1 1986. As these histories will be compiled and sent to each one it is requested you use A4 size paper. Numbers 2-5 are the matter for your personal discernment. We would appreciate your sending this material to the Provincial Office by March 1, 1987. This material will be sent to the members of the team who will discern with you in the Team Discernment Step. The Team will consist of the Provincial, a man of your choice, and a man chosen by the Provincial. The Team Discernment Step would be done from April 1 1987 till the end of that year.

At the meeting in Itami the members of the F-T committee decided to invite Fr. Jim Sullivan to be with us at the Congress in 1988. Jim in his letter to me accepted that invitation.

I am sorry that you have had to read through this long letter but I thought it was necessary that everyone know where we are going. I feel that this Discernment -Personal, Team and Province is extremely important for each one of us and for our Oblate Mission in Japan not only for today but for the future.

A number of the men coming to the end of their second term and are due to be changed. Others have been in places for rather long periods of time would like a change. However I feel that the Discernment of our works can best be done by men who have had some years of experience in the work, parish or ministry. Therefore after consulting with the Council have decided not to make changes until after the Congress in 1988.

When you receive this letter I shall be on my way to the Chapter. I ask each of you to prayer for the success of this Chapter. Especially that we will be able to find the best man to lead the Congregation in the coming years.

Fraternally yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.
John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.
Provincial

NB: The following is another letter from J.K. Mahoney which was sent to the scholastics and he wants to share with everybody:



September 10, 1986

My dear Oblate Brothers,

I have just returned from a pilgrimage of a visit to Rome in the footsteps of Blessed Eugene De Mazenod. Today we had a meeting in the morning but a free afternoon. Tomorrow we begin the process for the election of a new Superior General. Since we will meet everyday until we have chosen the new General we have the free afternoon. We do have a meeting tonight after supper to consider a few matters concerning the election process.

Today our first stop (we had a bus) was the church of Santa Maria of Cosmedin. This church was across the street from the palace of Card. Pacca. On Feb. 15, 1826 the cardinals gathered at this house to consider the Rule. The bishop told the he would be across the street in the church and to notify him when the meeting of the cardinals was over. Cardinal Pacca forgot to notify Bishop De Mazenod. He attended 9 masses while waiting all the time praying the cardinals would recommend approval. It was while he was praying in this church that the cardinal recommended approval. (cf First Roman Journal 15 Feb 1826 and Letter to Tempier 16 Feb 1826). Today while in the church it's significance to us as Oblates was explained. One of the capitulants Bro. Craig Bonham read the Preface to the Rule. We then had time to pray and reflect in this church just as our Founder did. Before leaving we sang the Te Deum. It was with the words of this hymn that the Founder began his letter to Fr. Tempier telling him of the joyful news of approval of the rule by the Holy Father.

We then mad a brief stop at the Church of the Twelve Apostles. In his Roman Journal Blessed Eugene mentions this church to attend the last day of the novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

The next stop was the church of Sts. Vincent and Anastasius where the Founder also prayed on one of his visits to Rome.

Our final stop was at San Silvestro A Quirinale. On all his visits to Rome but one the Founder stayed at a house adjoining this church. The Founder often prayed here but it has another special meaning to us Oblates as it was in this church the Founder was ordained bishop. Here we had a concelebrated mass. We used the mass of Blessed Eugene De Mazenod. It was a great privileged joy to offer mass with the capitulants on the eve of the day we begin the process for electing our new Superior General.

At the prayer of the faithful I offered a prayer for more Oblate vocations. In the mass I remembered all the Oblates in Japan but in a special way you Brothers. May you

and all Oblates be men like our Founder Eugene De Mazenod.

I write this letter in English because in his report on the state of the congregation the General wrote the following: "A candidate who enters the Oblates does not belong to this or that house, to this or that Province, he joins the Congregation and belongs to the Congregation. He should, therefore, be gradually formed to an attitude of availability: to be disposed to go wherever the Congregation needs him most in its endeavor to evangelize the poor. Further, to be more concrete, he should make an attempt to learn at least one of the more universal foreign languages of the world. In the beginning of the Congregation, for example, the Founder insisted very much, rightly so, on the study of English.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate

(Sgd.) Fr. John K. Mahoney, OMI
Provincial

OBLATI DI MARIA IMMACOLATA
Casa Generalizia

September 18, 1986

My dear Brother Oblates,

I want to write to you so you will know the process we followed in the election of our new Superior General. When you finish reading this I am sure you will believe as I do that Fr. Zago is the man chosen by the Holy Spirit to be the General of our congregation.

On September 11 we assembled in the chapel for the Mass of the Holy Spirit. The first reading was from the Acts on the election of Matthias. The gospel reading contained the passage from Luke "I say to you ask and you shall receive... How much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

Fr. Jette in his sermon said, "We do our best to enlighten one another, in the truth as we know it, in the most absolute respect for the freedom of the other person, in complete trust in him and in his ability to make a responsible choice, and, at the same time we ask God to send us His Spirit, the Spirit of enlightenment and discernment, and when the time comes His Spirit of decision, so that we may decide on the Candidate who, before Him, we judge to be the most worthy and the most suited to undertake the office of Superior General.

In closing, Father General paraphrased the prayer of the apostles from Acts. He recommended we repeat it frequently during the coming days* "Lord, you know the hearts of men. Show us which one among the Oblates you have chosen to hold the office of Superior General."

After Mass, there was time for personal reflection for about 30 minutes. We then met in groups of about 10-12 to share on the two questions suggested for reflection:

1. What would you like to see as the two major thrusts in the Congregation over the next 6 to 12 years?
2. In the light of this, what 2 or 3 most important qualities of leadership would you like to see in the next Superior General?

The groups spent an hour on these questions. This was followed by a plenary session from 12:15 to 1:00 where brief reports were followed by discussion.

In the afternoon from 3:30-4:30 there was time for prayer and reflection. During this time each capitular drew up a list of about five men whom he considered as capable of assuming the role of Superior General. After a 4:30 coffee break each one was given a form with 30 minute time slots. We each filled in the time slots with names of other

capitulants. Between 5:00 PM on Thursday till 10:00 PM on Friday there were 27 time slots. In other words during that time each capitular met with 27 other capitulars for a man to man exchange. Suggested questions we:

1. Could we talk about Fr. X
2. What do you know of his experience?
3. What do you know to be some of his strenghts and limits?
4. What kind of leadership do you think he will bring to the Congregation?

Usually this "fraternal conversation" took about 20 minutes or so. There was time for prayer and reflection between meetings. Perhaps after a few such meeting and reflection a new name would surface on the list. Some who started as strong possibilities in my mind faded. Often two men would have one or two of the same names. But each encounter seemed to bring out new insights into those persons.

Each man to man exchange was just that. There was no vote seeking, no politicing. All were trying to discern the Holy Spirit speaking to him through another. We also tried to meet as much as we could with men from different countries or provinces to get as wide and as deep an insight as possible.

The conversations ended at 10:00 PM on Friday Sept. 12. We gathered in the Chapter Hall at 9:00 AM on Sept. 13. After singing the Veni Creator there was a half hour of private prayer in the Chapter room "to come to a final decision before God." I can tell you it was a time of deep prayer and soul searching, a time of letting the Spirit speak.

Then the oath was taken and the balloting began. Fr. Zago received the two thirds majority on the first ballot.

After his acceptance speech and recitation of the Creed each one went to shake his hand. He sends his best to each one in Japan and mentioned his admiration of the work that as few as 20 men are able to do.

As I said in the beginning I am convinced that Fr. Zago is the chosen one of God. That the Lord who knows the hearts of men has shown us which one among the Oblates he has chosen to hold the office of Superior General.

Fraternally Yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John K. Mahoney, OMI



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September 23, 1986

On September 13, Mike YAMAZAKI, acting Provincial received a call from John K. MAHONEY in Rome to convey to the whole Province the news about the election of FR. MARCELLO ZAGO (54) as the new Superior General of the congregation. The Province welcomes the announcement with great joy. Fr. Zago has vast experience in the field of non-christian religions and holds important post in the Vatican circle.

We are still waiting for more substantial news about the election and the chapter. In the meantime, here is a letter from J.K. Mahoney which was sent to Tom Maher dated September 8 there fore written before the new General was chosen:

We got underway on the 1st and the first two days were spent in getting a steering committee approving the Chapter Directory and other necessary preliminaries to get the Chapter going.

This was followed by a Triduum of Prayer Sharing Reflection. Each region took half a day and it was inspiring and made everyone more aware of the Universality and International Dimension of the congregation. Many gave personal testimonies of their apostolic experiences. One Oblate who is a prison chaplain in France was most inspiring.

We had the weekend free so nine of us rented two cars and went to Assisi. Three were to stay with the Sisters of the Atonement. We parked the cars while we said mass and when we returned to the cars to get our bags, the trunks were empty except for one bag! Our passports were inside the bags since those who were not staying with the sisters were supposed to stay in a hotel. They got five passports plus everything we had in our bags. One guy has \$700 worth of camera taken. They did not get cash but some were saying that the going rate for one passport is \$4000. After that experience the five of us felt so down that we headed back to Rome. We went to the American Embassy the next day and applied for new passports.

This week, the 2nd week, we started with the General Report on the Congregation. It's an interesting and challenging document. I presume it will be sent to all so I will say no more on that score now.

In the afternoon, the process of choosing a new new Superior General was presented and once accepted by the Chapter we will begin the election process on Wednesday. First, with a Mass of the Holy Spirit and to be followed by meditation on our responsibility to the congregation to choose the man we think is most worthy and most qualified then after prayer and discernment each one makes a list of 3 or 4 names. He then discusses his list on a one to one basis with a good number of other capitulars. There is ample time for prayer and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They will allow two days just for this and on Saturday morning the voting will begin and will continue until a new Superior General is chosen. (end of JKM's letter)

VARIA: Better late than never, we would like to thank and congratulate our scholastics for a job well done in conducting this years Oblate Vocation Camp held in Koga August 19-21. Bro. KUMASHIRO was the camp master and Bros. HAYASHI and KAWAGUCHI were assistants. Our postulant Mr. Hashimoto also helped out.

We had two simultaneous retreats this year. The Fathers' retreat was preached by Fr. John Savage, OMI and the retreat for the scholastics was preached by Fr. Seto, SJ.

A reminder: During the retreat we agreed to offer one mass for the parents of Ray BOURGOIN who are celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary this month.

Another reminder: *Personal Discernment Preparation for the Province Discernment Congress of March 22-24, 1988* have been sent to you. Please take note that No. 1 (History of Present Ministry) is due on December 1, 1986.

Available: *Primer Handbook: The Problems of Asian Women Workers in Japan* published by the Commission for International Cooperation of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan. This booklet serves as a guide for those who encounter problems with Asian women (mostly Filipinas) in their parishes. It gives statistics and things to do when problems arise as well as things not to do. Please contact Wency LAGUIDAO if you need a copy.



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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



A Blessed Christmas and A Prosperous New Year

While in Rome I wrote to you about some of the events of the Chapter. I am now back in Kochi and my work as your delegate to the Chapter is in a sense just beginning. These words from Fr. Zago's sermon at the Chapter's closing Mass express most clearly why I say this. *We must pass on and make known our Chapter experience to our Oblate brothers; even more, we must be the ones who carry out the Chapter's directives, we must be animators for a missionary commitment that is ever more dynamic and according to the scope of our charism.*

The Chapter was an experience that I wish that each one could have had. I am most grateful that I had the experience. I am grateful to Mike who looked after the Provincial office while I was away. I am grateful to Wency for deciphering and sending out my letters. I am extremely grateful to Tom who took care of the parish in my absence. Finally I am, of course, grateful to each one of you for your prayers for me and for the Chapter. If the Chapter was a success and if my contributions to it have any value I am sure it is because of those prayers.

In my letters from Rome I told you about the first purpose of the Chapter that is the election of the new Father General and his Council. The second half of the Chapter was devoted to the second purpose of the Chapter. The discussion and study of the theme of the Chapter. *The Oblate Mission in the World of Today.*

As a first step to addressing the issue the capitulars were broken into about ten small groups in order to surface the major challenges that we face in the world today. Of course there were many but after discussion and discernment the Capitulars in general assemble surfaced the the following six as major challenges:

- a mission to the Poor integrating Ministry of Justice;
- a mission in a world that is largely secularized;
- a mission requiring inculturation;
- a mission in collaboration with the laity;
- a mission realized within the Church;
- a mission in apostolic community.

As we realized that all these challenges would have consequences for our formation and vocation ministry we decided to make this a seventh issue.

Seven Commissions were formed to study these challenges and to discern how the Oblate missionary could best meet them today. We were able to choose the Commission that we desired to join. I chose to be on the Commission of Secularization. Each Commission produced a paper or document on its challenge. The format of these is generally in four parts. 1. Introduction of the challenge. 2. Gospel and Oblate values. 3. Stands of the General Chapter. 4. Recommendations.

Each document was discussed, prayed over and rewritten many times in the Commissions. Each document was also presented to the entire capitular body for open discussion, recommendation and amendment. On the last days the final texts were voted on by the Chapter. This final text will be edited by the editing committee and then after it is translated into French and English and printed it will be sent to us.

Perhaps you are wondering about the length of the text. As I mentioned above there are seven documents in the final draft approved by the chapter plus an introduction and conclusion. The documents vary in length from 3 to 6 typewritten A4 pages.

In the final paragraph of Father General's Homily at Chapter's closing Mass Fr. Zago sent us all a message of hope. Now let us forth! We have to take up our mission with humility and with confidence. Indeed, it is the Risen Christ who sends us out: All power is given to me...I am with you until the end of the world. Christ's presence and activity continues: he goes before us, he walks with us. We are called to be the Saviour's co-workers, the co-redeemers of the human man race (1818 Rules) just like the Apostles, like Mary and with the protection of the same.

I think it would not be a mistake to call this 31 General Chapter a Chapter of Hope. During the triduum of prayer at the beginning of the Chapter the message of hope was very strong. In the conversation at meals, and in the rec hall as well as at the meetings of the groups there was for me always a feeling of hope among the Oblates gathered in Chapter. ~~A feeling of hope that they brought with them to the Chapter from their Provinces and Missions.~~

Fr Jette in his report on the State of the Congregation said it all perfectly. We have not yet come out of the difficult era, even though the tangible signs of recovery are clearly evident. The six years that lie ahead will probably be the hardest in terms of missionary commitments. Everything indicates, however, that they will be filled with a new spirit that is more optimistic. An attitude of hope, the will to live and legitimate pride in being an Oblate have become active forces in most Provinces. This more optimistic outlook is clearly manifest in the whole collection of reports sent in by the Provinces: things are moving and something is being done, there is a new thrust in nearly every domain--in missionary commitment, community life, prayer, vocations...It is, indeed only a beginning but it does exist and bears all the beauty of hope.

Let us remember each other when we celebrate Mass on Christmas. May we share with each other the joy of God becoming man in Jesus. *A Blessed Christmas and A Prosperous 1987 to all.*

John K. Mahoney, OMI
Provincial

VARIA:

I have received a word from Rome that Jose DE FRUYT has received an obedience to the Belgium North Province. Jose received his obedience from Father General on October 10.

While I was in Rome Jose sent a letter to Fr. Vervust, the Provincial of Belgium North and myself. In the letter, he informed of us that after prayer and consultation he felt that he could best fulfill his Oblate vocation by working in Belgium. In his letter, Jose also expressed his gratitude to the Oblates in Japan and also assured me of his continued interest and prayers for the men and the mission in Japan.

I hope and pray that Jose will have a most fruitful and happy ministry in Belgium. I am sure that he will be remembered by us in our prayers. As he is still and always will be part of us I will send him our Newsletter so he can keep informed. We also look forward to hearing from him whenever he wants to share his work with us.

Congratulations! to Jack DEELY for having been elevated as Assistant Professor at Sophia University. With this promotion, Jack becomes a fulltime member of the faculty of the university. He teaches Translation and Educational Reform.

Jack is still very much involved with the ministry to the hard of hearing. He will be in Hong Kong for the *Asian-Pacific Conference on Deaf Education*, December 4-13.

The ministry with the *Japayuki-san* (mostly migrant Filipino workers in Japan) keeps Wency LAGUIDAO busy. Wency is working for the *Commission for International Cooperation* an arm of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan which handles problems related to foreigners living in Japan. He has promised to share with us in the near future his views about his new involvement. In the meantime, he has written a 5-page report on *The Problems Concerning the Filipino Migrant Workers in Japan* in connection with the recent visit of the Philippine president. You can ask him for a copy of the said report.

Our 3 seminarians will spend their Christmas at different parishes (Anan, Nakamura and Hikarigaoka). I am also happy to announce that another young man will start his postulancy in January. He is Mr. Yagi who has been working

with Lee SIMONS at the Volunteer Bureau. Hopefully, Mr. Yagi and another postulant, Mr. Hashimoto will start their novitiate year in March.

Ray BOURGOIN would like to thank the members of the Province for their prayers on the occasion of his parents Golden Wedding Anniversary. Ray says the family and friends had a meaningful celebration, with the Eucharist and buffet.

Copies of a new book *Indian Bishop of the West*, the life of Vital Justin Grandin, OMI by Frank J. Dolphin are available at the Provincial Office. If you want a copy, please let me know.

December birthday celebrant: Mike YAMAZAKI (Dec. 24th).
Happy Christmas Birthday Mike!



Cartoon through the courtesy of
Fr. Des O'Donnell, OMI



The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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December 18 1986

My dear fellow Oblates,

In my letter of August 12, 1986 I wrote to you concerning our Discernment Process. Included with the letter was a document entitled: "Personal Discernment-Preparation for Province Discernment Congress of March 22-24, 1988".

It was numbered from 1 to 5. Number one was a request that you write a brief history of your present ministry. The requested deadline for this history was December 1. A number of these histories have already been received. Thank you.

I also had calls requesting a postponment of the deadline. At the time I did not mention any new date but would now like to request that all the histories be in by January 10.

The next step (refer to Personal Discernment document) is your personal discernment based on Criteria 2-4-6-and 5. It is due in the office by March 15, 1987. I would suggest you get started on this soon as it is not something that can be done in one sitting.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I., Provincial



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WORLD CIVILIZATION

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December 18 1988

My dear fellow Catholics

In a letter of August 12, 1988 I wrote to you concerning our Disarmament Process. Included with the letter was a document entitled: "Personal Disarmament-Preparation for Province Disarmament Congress of March 22-24, 1988".

It was numbered from 1 to 5. Number one was a request that you write a brief history of your present ministry. The requested deadline for this history was December 1. A number of these histories have already been received. Thank you.

I also had calls requesting a postponement of the deadline. At the time I did not mention any new date but would now like to request that all the histories be in by January 10.

The next step I refer to Personal Disarmament document is your personal disarmament based on Criteria 2-4-B and 5-1c is due in the office by March 15, 1989. I would suggest you get started on this soon as it is not something that can be done in one sitting. Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I., Provincial

John Kenney Mahoney