



# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

February, 1987

My dear fellow Oblates,



At the close of our Oblate Meeting in March of last year it was desire of those present that the meeting this year also be a meeting that would give us input on the poor in Japan. On July 15 the F-T committee met in Itami. At that meeting it was agreed that I should invite Fr. Keizo Yamada, S.J. to be the speaker at the Congress. On July 21 I called Father and asked him to speak about the problem of the Poor in Japan. He accepted the invitation.

In the middle of January I had word from Father that he would not be able to fulfill his commitment due to an unexpected meeting of the Jesuits in Japan. He did suggest some other dates but as you had been notified of the dates of the meeting in my letter of August 12, 1986 I did not think it right at this late date to ask you to change your schedules.

I consulted by phone with the members of the F-C Committee and suggested that we hold to our previous announced schedule and also recommended that we still have a meeting giving input on the Poor in Japan. As that was the desire expressed at the meeting in 1986

As you know all of us are involved in working with the poor in Japan. I thought a very interesting and meaningful meeting could be had if we asked some of our own Oblates to speak to us on their work with the poor. I am sure their experience will help all of us when faced with helping these various type of poor when they come to us.

I have asked the following to be speakers at this meeting:  
Jack Deeley on the Ministry to the Deaf and Handicapped  
Wency Laguidao on the Ministry to the Filipinos in Japan  
Jerry Novotny on the Ministry to the Unborn (Right to Life Movement)  
Ed Williams on the Ministry to the Poor in the Parish

At the meeting there will be five two hour time periods for input sessions. Four of these time periods will be taken by the four speakers mention above. As to the fifth time period: A video tape of the Chapter was made. Fr. General has sent a copy to every Province, Vice Province and Delegation. It is

his desire that all have some idea of the Chapter that produced Missionaries in Today's World

I feel that this meeting can be an experience of listening to each other and of sharing about our Oblate Mission to the Poor in Japan in Today,s World I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity for an Oblate gathering that will not only be a learning experience but more important perhaps, a time of Oblate community.

Fraternally yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

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# NEW SCHOLASTIC RESIDENCE IN NAGOYA

February 9, the Provincial completed negotiations for the purchase of land and a three story ten room house for the Scholasticate. The community moved into their new residence on February 11. Many thanks to you and the people of our parishes for the donations of furniture, dishes etc.

## NEW ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Oblate House of Studies  
Aza Kuroishi 2878-1161  
Oowaza Hirabari  
Tenpaku-cho, Tenpaku-ku  
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468 Japan

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オブレート会修学院

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熊川林  
城口

博敏広ア

## JAPANESE SCHOLASTICS TO VISIT PHILIPPINES

February 17 Brothers Hayashi and Kawaguchi will leave on Air Pakistan for the Philippines. Brother Kumashiro will leave on February 28 after attending the Graduation Ceremony at the Catechetical Institute.

The purpose of the visit is threefold:

1. to flavor the international character of the Congregation.
  2. to share the ministry of the Oblates who are working with the materially poor.
  3. to learn English in an English speaking atmosphere.
- Itte irasshai!

## F-T Committee

The F-T Committee sends a reminder that your personal discernment on Criteria #2,4,6,&5 should be completed by March 1. Please send your completed work to the Provincial by that date.

## Prayers

Tom Maher wrote recently that his father is recovering very well and has returned home from the hospital. Bill and Tom thank you for your prayers.

Narui-sensei is home after one and a half months in Kochi City Hospital. He will still need some rehabilitation for his leg but is doing very well. Thanks for your prayers.

## GENERAL FINANCIAL MEETING ROME

The General Administration has requested that Bert Silver continue as the Asian representative on the Financial Committee for one more year. Bert had been on the Asian Representative for three years. This years meeting will be held at the General House May 16-23.

## ONGOING FORMATION

EAPI's five week course will be held at the EAPI in Manila from May 4- June 5. The 1987 summer course will have as its theme THE FAMILY. If you are interested in this course please contact the Provincial.

## FIRST FORMATION

A new Formation Committee has been chosen by the Provincial Administration. The members are: The Provincial and Frs. La Framboise, Siani, Yamazaki and Inui. The Committee will meet for the first time on March 9 in Nagoya.

## JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING - ENOBUCHI

February 10, Fr. Sasaki, O.P., Mr. Doi and Mr. Kawano from Matsuyama were the guest speakers for a meeting held on issues of Justice and Peace conducted by Fr. Tosa Yoshikazu. Among the topics of discussion were the Doowachiku problem, Yasukuni Shrine and the unjust practices of large corporations.

## KOKORO NO DIAL

February 14 & 15 Fr. Leo Simons conducted an Ongoing Formation Program for the volunteers of Kokoro no Dial. The program dealt with methods of correct guidance of people calling for help with various problems. The two day sessions were held at Takajoo-machi.

## Oblate Novitiate

On March 19, two young men from Tokushima Prefecture will begin their novitiate. They are Hashimoto Masashi (27) and Yagi Nobuhiko (26).

Hashimoto Masashi is a native of Naruto and is well acquainted with the Oblates. The late Bro. Tsuda, OMI was a close friend of the Hashimoto family.

Yagi Nobuhiko comes from our parish in Tokushima where he was baptized as an infant. For the past two years he has been a volunteer working with Fr. Leo Simons in the Kochi Volunteer Bureau.

### Birthdays

#### February:

15 Len Ihui

#### March:

1 Jerry Novotny  
23 Bill Maher

### Ordinations

#### February:

22 Tosa Yoshikazu

#### March:

19 Ray Bourgoin  
27 Ron La Framboise  
27 Wency Laguidao

## NEW EDITOR FOR INFORMATION OMI JAPAN Ange Siani

Fr. Provincial has asked me to be the editor of the Japanese Newsletter.

We are all grateful to the former editor Wency Laguidao for his excellent Newsletters.

I would also like to thank in a special way those who have contributed excellent articles through the years. Please keep them coming! And I'd appreciate any comments or suggestions which might help to serve you more effectively.

Fr. Provincial has suggested that the Newsletter be published every two months. The next issue will be printed in April. Please send your articles and items of news by April 20.

OMI MARCH MEETING : please send enclosed postcard by March 15 to Ange. Thank you.



1st Asian-Pacific Regional Conference

on

DEAFNESS

"Toward Better Communication, Cooperation and Coordination"

The conference was held in Hong Kong, 8-13 December. Since my expenses were being provided by both Tsukuba and Sophia, I decided to leave early and go to Taipei to renew some contacts that were made at the seminar I gave at Gallaudet two summers ago.

Before leaving for Taipei, I wrote to a Dr. Wayne Smith of Gallaudet College (who attended that seminar) to inquire of the whereabouts of two Taiwanese who had also attended that summer seminar and have since returned to Taiwan. Unfortunately, I was late in writing to Dr. Smith and had left Tokyo before hearing from him.

On arriving in Taipei, I asked people at the front desk of the Mandarin Hotel to call the Taipei School for the Deaf to arrange a visit there. The school authorities, or, at least, whoever was on the other end of the phone turned me down because I didn't have a formal letter of recommendation, which I thought was rather strange. Over the phone, it was explained that security throughout the city was tight because municipal elections were being held that same day. However, on meeting the Principal, I was told that, in his absence, no one wanted to take responsibility for okaying my visit.

To make a long story even longer, I went to the school anyway and waited at the gate (where I was again refused entrance) till I saw someone signing. I spotted a teacher who was signing in Taiwanese Signs, so I got his attention by signing in Japanese Signs. From then on, I was home free...had four fabulous hours with the Principal, teachers, and kids. Pictures are forthcoming. Also received two books on Taiwanese Signs, which will come in very

handy in the future. The following day I was treated to a dinner at the flat of the teacher I spotted at the gate to the school. He was having two deaf Koreans, two deaf people from Hong Kong, and a couple of deaf Taiwanese for dinner, and thought I would enjoy meeting them. What an afternoon! Four different Sign Languages! When we couldn't get through to one another in sign language in our discussions on such topics as the education, rehabilitation, and employment of the deaf, we wrote the appropriate Chinese ideographs. One of the Koreans was a deaf Protestant Minister. I found out later that another reason for inviting me to the dinner was to ask if I'd be able to help the other Korean. He passed the entrance exam for Gallaudet, but the Korean government won't let the deaf study abroad unless they have letters from VIPs. I told him that I'd be meeting the head of Gallaudet's International Center, at the Hong Kong Conference...who, by the way, has since said that he will gladly provide whatever papers the Korean government requires.

In Hong Kong, I stayed with the OMIs. And, before I forget, John Chai and Stan Sun want to be remembered to those of you they have met over the years, through their trips to Japan and your visits to Hong Kong. They also asked me to pass on to all of you their best wishes and promise of prayers.

Hong Kong was quite an experience. There were over 600 delegates in attendance (250 from foreign countries). The schedule was quite grueling (would like to go back someday to see the sights). Of the 600 or so delegates, I was undoubtedly the only non-professional.

There were doctors, audiologists, teachers, researchers etc. who were reporting on some pretty heavy stuff, both in the Plenary Sessions and in the Workshops. Yours truly presented a paper for Tetsuji Tomikawa (a deaf friend I work with here in Tokyo...who has also been asked to teach at the proposed Tsukuba College of the Deaf). I hired a camera-man to videotape the presentation,

hoping that NHK will use the tape for its Sunday-nite "Deaf Hour". Over the holidays, I plan to rewrite the paper and send it on to The American Annals of the Deaf and to other journals for publication. The paper emphasizes the importance of communication between teacher & student and among the students themselves in language acquisition.

There was also an unexpected "bonus" in attending the conference. While the main thrust of the conference was in the area of medical, social, and technical services for the deaf...one lunch was arranged for Pastoral Workers in the Asian Region, at which we discussed what services and programs were being offered for deaf Christians. Among the countries represented at this luncheon were Australia, Sri Lanka, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Japan. It was suggested that there be greater exchange of information in the future.

In sum and substance, that is what my trip was about...an exchange of information on what is being done to bring the deaf into the mainstream of society.

Am very very happy that I was able to attend and participate in the Conference. Besides the experience of being there and of meeting these people who are so determined to make it a better world for the deaf, I'm sure that the information I gathered and the contacts I made will go a long way in helping me to better organize my work in the future.

以上

Jack Deely

61.12.20

FORUM ITS NATURE AND HISTORY

HISTORY In the 1970's, because of the inhuman situations of injustice and oppression in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the local Churches in various nations began to establish Episcopal Commissions or Councils for Justice and Peace. At the same time the Vatican set up the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace.

Between 1970 and 1986 the situation of the poor and the oppression they experience has become much worse, especially in emerging nations. It has become more and more evident that the prosperity of the northern developed nations through their international systems (international policies and institutions of economy and trade) and their instruments (Trans-national Corporations; Military Dictators, etc.), is the largest cause of the poverty and suffering experienced by two-thirds of the earth's population. And, further, this prosperity is causing the wanton destruction of the earth's resources and environment.

Because of this, the Local Churches of both the North and the South have widened and deepened their involvement in the cause of the poor and the oppressed, in their own and in other nations. Encouraged by the National Offices of Justice and Peace many Diocesan Offices, or Committees were established in the early 1980's. This was followed by Religious Congregations who have set up desks for Justice and Peace under the wing of the National Bishop's Councils. Congregational Chapters and General Assemblies are no longer able to ignore the pattern of exploitation and impoverishment and de-humanization experienced by the peoples of the world. More and more Christian Religious, both men and women have felt the urgency of the Gospel mandate and their founder's inspiration to become involved in the coming of the Reign of God.

In Japan, together with the National Council for Justice and Peace the Diocesan priests and Congregations of men have tried to deepen their commitment through seminars, experiences and prayer. In 1985 the men's orders and Societies joined in establishing a FORUM IN ASIA.

FORUM NATURE It is a FORUM to encourage and assist Religious Congregations in their understanding of their mission for justice and peace as mandated by the Gospel and the Church through her recent documents. It is also a FORUM for those already active in this mission as a "place" to meet together for mutual encouragement and sharing, and an opportunity to deepen a spirituality for justice and peace. Of itself it is not another organization for action but a support for and the sustainment of existing groups, or individuals who are involved.

FORUM I This FORUM was held in the Philippines in 1985 and only the men's congregations and societies were represented. However there were present observers from ASC and other groups. Their suggestion that women's congregations be represented was enacted in the 1986 FORUM II.

FORUM II The presence of Women's Congregations was an important contribution to the whole meeting, especially in sharing the people's situation and in their insights.



## FORUM FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

(Forum Of Religious for Understanding their Mission for justice & peace)

### SECOND CONFERENCE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

October 7 - 13

New Delhi, India

Theme: "The Peoples' Struggle for Justice and Peace in Asia and Oceania in the Context for TNC's and Militarization Today".

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Report to the Association of Major Superiors of Women, Japan, & the Maryknoll Sisters.

At a later date the Conference Ad Hoc Committee will send out a reflection paper giving a brief taste of the conference. Following this a booklet describing the conference in detail will be compiled and distributed. However, in the meantime, I would like to give my own summary and reflections.

One of the most outstanding features of this Conference of 12 congregations of Women, and 9 men's orders and societies, was the support and solidarity that was felt by 46 members of the group. This happened almost immediately even though 12 countries were represented and the participants included both nationals and foreign missionaries. Perhaps the reason for this was the theme which attracted sisters and priests working with grass roots people affected by TNC's operating either directly or indirectly in their countries. For some of the participants it was an awareness raising experience, while others have experienced harassment and even imprisonment as a result of their faithfulness to the Gospel.

We owe FORUM to the Religious priests in Asia who felt the need for solidarity, spiritual encouragement, and networking. With the assistance of OND they held their first FORUM meeting in Davao, Philippines in 1985. At that Conference, AMORE was represented by 2 women Religious who encouraged the men to open FORUM to women's congregations. Thus the 1986 FORUM II, included men and women from congregations that work in three Asian countries, and who have members involved with justice and peace, or working with people whose lives are affected by justice issues.

The arrival in India at 3 AM was in itself an experience for most of the delegates from the rest of Asia. The remainder of the day, October 6th, was given to situating ourselves in the city of Delhi and settling-in at the Indian Social Institute which the Jesuits put at our disposal. The next morning we awoke to the morning praises of hundreds of birds, the bells of the Hindu temple and the insistant lowing of a sacred cow!

October 7 Each congregation that was not present at FORUM I, shared their charism and the present expression of their founders' and foundress' concern and involvement with people who are poor, and whose lives were deliberately made less human by governments or by society.

Father Desmond de Sousa from OHD. gave us an over-view of the Spirit working in and through religious life in history as God fashioned it in each changing age. Father challenged us with a warning that unless Religious Communities' Charisms become once again, prophetic in their expression, that we are heading for irrelevance!

Bishop Labayan, well known to many as the dynamic bishop of Infanta, Philippines spoke to us of the powers of this world and their use of deception in order to make National Security States and loss of human rights and freedoms seem a national good and actually acceptable to large majorities of peoples. This is done by constantly insisting that danger and conflict comes from the East, or from the West, depending on where you live! Thus the unjust and inhuman situations created in the south to maintain the northern countries standard of living and economics, this is kept on the periphery of our consciousness and concern. This is properly termed as neo-colonialism and unfortunately, most organized religions have for the most part legitimized this deception. Bishop warned us that the super-power struggle is basically an economic one, not a religious conflict as is portrayed to keep us divided among ourselves, whole nations and whole peoples! Bishop challenged us to understand that we cannot re-form these systems which are basically evil.

The afternoon we spent learning about TNC's, their hold on the world economy, and their ways of gaining control in resource-rich nations of the south. We learned that for most of the emerging nations that the only choice open to them is to go along with the TNC's and the northern world's economic system or be doomed to poverty and hunger. This is of course, no choice at all. The basic choice is an option for a way of life and appropriate alternatives to support that option.

October 8 The representatives divided into their respective Asian Areas: South Asia, South East Asia, East Asia, and Oceania. There the national reports were presented with special emphasis on TNC's and militarization in their respective areas. In the afternoon these reports were synthesized into one report which was presented to the whole group on the 10th.

October 9 This was a day dedicated to an exposure for the whole group. Father Desmond facilitated the preparation, followed by videos of the TNC's

cruel interventions in India. The Bophal incident is the most famous and it was shocking to us to learn that until today the people are still suffering the consequences of this accident and that justice has not been yet been done. The second video was about small boys sold into labor to make the beautiful Kasimir rugs so famous in the world, for a British company. The rationalization of the company representative revealed the corrupt and cynical philosophy of economics operating in our world today.

In the afternoon, Swami Agnivesh explained the bonded labor system which even today keeps around 5 million persons in virtual slavery in India, and this is in spite of the Indian Constitution and an Abolition act of 1976. After showing us a video we went to meet and experience the very people we saw in the film. There working in a rock quarry we met men, women and children breaking rocks to be used for gravel. Some of these people have been in bondage for three generations, and still it is impossible for them to become free from their debts. We discovered that any improvement on the conditions of these dignified and brave persons was due to the efforts and activities of the Swami and the people themselves. The Swami gave us an example of the role religion and religious persons must play in renewing society according to God's dream.

October 10 The area reports were presented to the total group in the morning and were synthesized by Bishop Labayan who summarized the cry of the poor as the voiceless, powerless peoples of the world and named as the anti-christ the actors in the world today, namely TNC's, governments, military supporting inhuman economic systems. Bishop called for honest soul-searching on the part of religious and religions on the part they (we) have played in these systems through our institutions and our silence. He challenged all remember our heritage as an example to explore options open to us in our present historical situation.

Father Tissa Balasuriya, OMI, spent the afternoon with the group deepening their understanding of the situations described the Area Reports

October 11 Father Tissa continued his presentation. Father summarized his dynamic analysis with the need for the transformation of the Church and of Religious who are both multi-national and multi-community in the good sense. To do this requires first a re-thinking of our values, and the needs of the people, and also a re-orientation from personal salvation to committing ourselves to service with the people against original and organized sin in the world from which they are suffering. This pointed out the need for a new spirituality and to capture the inspiration of

of our founders as applicable to the present.

The afternoon started with a brainstorming to name the important points and inspirations the group discovered during the past days. Father Samuel Rayan, S.J. led us back to Faith roots in Moses and in Christ, and to what it really means to believe; to believe is to face and to resist powers that oppose God, and to destroy human life, dignity and rights is to abolish God. Father Sammy opened to us the doors to a deep and nourishing spirituality and we could hear the words of Christ, "Fear not!"

October 12 The Area Groups met to work out plans based on the reports and needs of the areas. Following this the Congregations also met to do the same. Another task was to design the future of FORUM, what it should be and how it will act in the future.

October 13 This was only a half a day dedicated to the presentation of the reports of yesterday's Area and Congregational plans. The final item of business was the groups decisions about FORUM III.

After the business was completed and the final words were given we shared our last meal together. Some prepared to leave immediately while others were able to experience Indian culture and beauty before returning to their countries refreshed and renewed by their inter-community experience at FORUM II.



聴覚障害者教育福祉に関する第一回アジア太平洋会議  
「よりよいコミュニケーションと協力と調和をめざして」

会議は香港で12月8日～13日まで開かれました。私の費用は筑波大学と上智大学から支払われていたので、私は少し早く台北に行って、二年前ギャローデット大学で私が指導したセミナーで知り会った台湾の人たちに再会することにしました。

台北に出発する前に、二年前のセミナーに参加していたギャローデット大学のスミス博士に手紙を書いてその人たちの連絡先を尋ねました。残念ながら私がスミス博士に手紙を書くのが遅かったために彼から返事をもらう前に東京を発つことになってしまいました。

台北に着いてすぐに私はマンダリン・ホテルのフロントの人に台北市立聾学校に電話して訪問を希望していることを伝えてもらいました。電話に出た人は、学校の責任者だったのかどうかわかりませんが私が正式な推薦状を持っていなかったため、断われました。私としては、推薦状なんてかえっておかしいと思ったのですが、向うはその日に市で選挙があるので警備が厳しくなっているのだと説明しました。ところが、校長先生にお会いしてみると彼の留守中には誰も私の訪問を許可する責任を負いたくないからだったということがわかりました。

話がよいよややこしくなりますが、私はとにかく学校へ行ってみました。門のところで待ってみたのですが、また断われてしまいました。その時私は誰かが手話をやっているのに気付きました。台湾の手話でした。そこで私は日本の手話で挨拶を送りました。それからは万事うまくいきました。校長先生や他の先生方や子供たちと楽しく四時間程過ごしました。その時の写真がそのうちに送られて来ることでしょう。また、台湾の手話の本を二冊いただきましたがこれから非常に役に立つことでしょう。次の日に、学校の門のところで会った先生が自分のアパートで御馳走して下さいました。彼は、その時八人の聾者（韓国人二人、香港人二人、台湾人数人）も招待していました。私とその人たちとの交流を楽しめるだろうと思ったらしいのです。何という素晴らしい日だったのでしょう。四つの異なる国の手話が飛び交い、聾者の教育やリハビリや雇用などといった諸問題を話し合う時に手話が通じないと漢字で補いました。一人の韓国人は牧師でした。後になって、私が招待されたもう一つの理由がわかりました。牧師さんと見えていたもう一人の韓国人の手助けをしてあげられないだろうか頼まれたのです。彼はギャローデット大学の入学試験に受かりましたが、韓国政府はVIPの推薦状がなければ聾者に留学を許可しないのです。そこで私は香港の会議でギャローデット大学の国際聴覚障害者情報センターの

所長に会う予定があることを告げました。そしてこの所長さんは韓国政府の要求するどんな書類でも喜んで提供します、と言ってくれています。

香港では、私たちオブレート会の学校に滞在しました。そして、忘れないうちに、お伝えしますが、チャイ神父とスン神父が皆さんに宜しくとおっしゃっていました。

香港では素晴らしい経験をしました。参加者は600名を超え、そのうち、外国からの参加者は250名でした。超過密スケジュールだったので、今度、ゆっくり観光で行きたいと思います。600名程の代表のうちで専門家でなかったのは、間違いなく私だけでした。

総会で、また分科会で、医者や聴能士や教師や研究者が専門的な密度の濃い報告をしました。私は友人である富川さんの代りに発表をしました。彼は、私がここ東京で一緒に研究をしている聾者の方で、今計画中の筑波聾短大で教鞭をとるよう、依頼されています。私はカメラマンを雇ってこの発表をビデオに収めました。NHK が日曜の夜の「聴覚障害者の時間」に放映することを期待していたのです。休暇の間、私は その原稿を書き改めてアメリカの聾教育専門誌やその他の雑誌へ投稿するつもりです。その原稿は言語習得に於いて先生と生徒の、また、生徒間のコミュニケーションの大切さを強調しています。

会議に出席して思わぬ「ボーナス」がありました。会議の主題は医療や社会生活や技術面でのプログラムに絞られていましたが。一度だけアジア地域の聾信者のもとの働く神父やシスター、そしてカテキスタのために昼食会が用意され、聾信者に対してどんなプログラムが提供されているのか話し合われました。この昼食会に出席したのはオーストラリア、スリランカ、インド、シンガポール、香港、マレーシア、日本でした。将来的にはより幅広く情報交換がなされることが提案されました。

要するに、これが私の旅行のあらましです。聾者を社会にとけこませるためにどんなことが行なわれているかという、情報が交換されたのです。

私は会議に出席できたことを非常に嬉しく思っています。それに出席して社会を聾者の住みよい場所にすることを主張している人々に出会ったという経験に加えて、私は自分が集めた情報・資料やつながりが、きっと将来私の仕事の大きな助けになるものであるという、確信を得たことをここに御報告します。

以上

ジャック・ディーリ

61・12・20

## FORUMよりのご報告とご案内

(Forum Of Religious for Understanding their Mission for Justice & Peace)

正義と平和の使命遂行のための宣教・修道会連盟

最近行なわれました(1)国内第2回FORUM('86.10.11~13 於:登別)と(2)アジア・太平洋地域第2回FORUM('86.10.7~13 於:インドのデリー)のご報告と(3)国内第3回FORUM('86.2.<sup>23</sup><sub>~25</sub> 於:日野ラサール研修所)と(4)東アジア地域FORUMの一環としての「正義と平和のための霊性」の黙想・研修会('87.8.23~29 於:関東および関西各3日間)のご案内を致します。

### (1)国内第2回FORUM

10の宣教・修道会より16名が参加し、各教区代表の担当司祭と共に第2回の集まりを行ないました。

1)正平協の有馬信夫担当司教より次の激励を受けました。

「指紋押捺拒否など人権、正義の問題がますます国際化する時代に、宣教・修道会の方々が個人としてだけでなく、各会の正義と平和委員会の代表・担当者として、各協区担当司祭と共に、このように年2回の会議に参加して、正義と平和の問題に取り組んで下さることは実に心強いです」

2)今回の正義と平和全国会議がとくに指紋押捺拒否の問題と取り組んだので、各会ともさらにこの問題に積極的に関り、特に各会の国際的ネットワークを活用して協力すること、さらに'87NICEに向けて、司教団の基本方針に各会とも協力することを確認し合った。

3)第1回での決定事項(各会の「正義と平和」担当者は、今後とも正平協の担当者会議<年2回>に出席し、各会の担当者間の連絡を緊密にすること)を確認し合った。

### (2)アジア・太平洋地域第2回FORUM

ピンスコ師(メリノール会)が代表して参加する予定でしたが、直前に病気になったため、('86.10月以来病気で、只今アメリカで手術、療養中。ピンスコ師の健康回復のため祈りをよろしく)Sr. ジーン(メリノール会)だけが出席することとなりました。最近、Sr. ジーンからその報告をいただいたので、それを抄訳して紹介します。

#### 1)FORUMの内容と歴史

歴史:

アジア、アフリカ、ラテンアメリカなど特に第三世界諸国では不正と抑圧による非人間的状況がいつそう厳しくなるところから、1968年パウロ六世教皇はバチカンに教皇庁正

義と平和委員会を設けると同時に各国にも設置するようにした。

1980年から現在に至るまで、人権抑圧の状況はいっそう激化している。先進諸国による国際政治―経済秩序、多国籍企業とその受人諸国の軍事独裁政権による「支配―従属」関係が全人類の2/3の貧困と苦悩、さらには地球の資源・環境破壊のおもな原因となっている。

この「南北問題」の解決をめざして、南北両地域の地方教会は貧困と抑圧解決のためにその取組みを広め、深めている。1980年代に入り、全国レベルの正平協に力づけられ、各教区でも正平協が設置されるようになった。各宣教・修道会にも司教団の傘下に「正義と平和」が設けられるようになった。各会の総会ではもはや現代世界の人々が直面している抑圧、搾取、非人間化の現状を無視できない。男女いずれの宣教・修道会も、福音の使と創立者のカリスマをこの分野に見出し、積極的に応えようとしている。

日本に於いては、カトリック正平協と共に教区司祭や宣教・修道会司祭は研修会、体験学習、祈りなどをとうして、この分野に取り組んでいる。1985年には男子宣教・修道会がアジア地域FORUM設立に参加した。

内容:

宣教・修道会が福音の使と最近の教会公文書の要請として、正義と平和の使命を理解し、遂行することを促進し、助けることがFORUMの目的です。すでにその使命を果たしている場合には、各会が相互に連絡を取り合い、助け合い、正義と平和のための霊性を深める機会を提供することもFORUMの目的です。これは新たな活動の組織ではなく、すでにこの分野で取り組んでいるグループや個人を支えるものです。

## 2) アジア・太平洋地域第2回FORUM

アジア・太平洋127国から21の宣教・修道会(女子12, 男子9)の46名が参加、全員が互いの連帯と支持を深く感じた。そのおもな理由としては、今回のテーマ「多国籍企業と軍事化」が各国の草の根レベルの人々にとって大きな影響を及ぼすものであり、彼等と連帯する参加者にとっては、身近かな問題として受けとめられたからであろう。

以下、10月7~13日の内容については、英語の資料をご参照ください。

おもな講師は次のとおり

Fr. Desmond de Sousa (OHD)

Bp. Labayen (フィリピンのインファンタ教区)

Fr. Tissa Balasuriya (スリランカOMI)

Fr. Samuel Rayan (インド S. J.)





# *The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

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高知市蔵匠町2-1-33  
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February 17, 1987

Dear Oblate friend,

These have been very joyous and exciting times for the Oblates working in Japan. In September of 1984 two young men began their Novitiate training in Kochi. A third young man who hopes to become an Oblate Brother started his Novitiate in January of 1985. These three have made their temporary vows and are now at our Oblate House of Studies in Nagoya. On March 19 two more young men began their Novitiate training.

We have in Japan three Japanese Oblates Fathers one of these was ordained twenty five years ago and the other two twenty three years ago. We were beginning to wonder would there be any more Japanese Oblates. Now we know there will be young Japanese to carry on the Oblate Mission Apostolate and so for all of us who have been missionaries in Japan for fifteen, twenty or thirty years there is great joy. There will be Japanese Oblates to carry on the work and so we face the future with greater hope and confidence and this is exciting.

We do have a problem though but it is a problem in which we rejoice. These young men have to be fed, clothed and housed. They also have to go to college or to the seminary. In order to do this we must have at least ten thousand dollars a year for each young man.

Since 1965 the Oblate Province of Japan has been living on a fixed income. Some of the Fathers also receive salaries as teachers in highschools and colleges and as directors of kindergartens. One or two of the larger parishes also contribute to the Oblates. In this way the Oblate Mission of Japan has been able to support itself and do its work.

Now we have to find fifty thousand dollars a year to keep these young men in training. It is like suddenly having five sons you have to put through college all at once and at the same time. There is also the very wonderful likelihood that some more young men will seek to join us in the coming years. In fact we hope and pray that we will have this "problem" for many more years.

We realize that in order to handle this "problem" we are going to need help. That is the reason for this letter. We are turning to the families, relatives and friends of the Oblates working in Japan to ask their help. We ask you to contribute to the Oblate Formation Fund. It is our hope that you will do this on a monthly basis. Whatever contribution you can make will be most welcome and very greatly appreciated.

With this letter we also hope to widen our circle of friends. To do this we are asking for your help. Will you tell your friends about the Oblates in Japan and about the Oblate Formation Fund. Can you invite nine of your friends to join you to form a Circle of Ten. The Circle of Ten would pray for the young men in formation and contribute to their support each month. As the organizer of the Circle of Ten you would collect and send the monthly contribution.

The check could be made payable to Oblate Japanese Mission. In this way I believe the contribution would be tax exempt. You can mail your check to the Oblate from whom you received this letter or to the Provincial Treasurer.

Fr. Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I.  
Azū-Matsushima 72-1, Kurosaki  
Muya-cho, Naruto-shi  
Tokushima-ken, 772, Japan

This letter started by telling you of the joy and excitement of the Oblate Mission in Japan. The formation and training of young men to be Oblate Missionary Fathers and Brothers is the cause of this joy and excitement. I am sure the knowledge that you are sharing in that work of formation and training will bring a bit more joy and excitement into your own life too. I am sure that Jesus Christ and his Immaculate Mother will bless you abundantly for participating in this work which will bring about the growth of the Kingdom in Japan.

God bless you,

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





# The Results of the Questionnaire About Our March Meeting

Schedule: Good to Fine 8  
Tight 4  
Relaxed 2  
Other comments: Free nights fine  
Prayer sessions very good for  
community life.

Meals: Good to excellent 16  
Other comments: Sufficient and satisfactory.  
Good--not too luxurious.  
Very tasty--coffee awful.

Accommodations:  
Good 15 Excellent 1  
Other Comments: Change "Dorm" toilets to western  
to style.  
Rooms were cold.  
Good, always ways to improve.

Liturgy: Good 8  
Very good 2  
Prefer Liturgy for Oblates only 2  
Liked having liturgy in the church 2  
Other comments: Excellent but lack of sufficient  
preparation of readers.  
Readers not loud enough.  
Office in common fine.

Theme and Content:  
Good 7  
Very Good 3  
Other Comments: Two hour talks too long for both  
speaker and audience. An hour  
and a half or even one hour is  
sufficient.  
Concrete problems like this meet-  
ing are good.  
Extremely informative much better  
than things we have been reading.  
Interesting, of course it will be  
different each time.

Comments concerning type of meeting:  
Would like same type of meeting 6.  
Would like both types.  
Others recommended a combination  
such as non-Oblate speaker on one  
day and Oblates on the other days.  
Input from outside necessary since  
we are a small group.  
If possible start on Monday 1



## フィリピン旅行での体験

熊城 博

私は、3月28日の午後3時に成田を出発して、午後9時（フィリピン時間）に、フィリピンに着きました。出発までに色々なフィリピンの情勢を新聞、テレビ等で聞かされていました。（特に三井商事の事件）そして、政治の状態も悪く、マルコス派のクーデターが鎮圧された後でもあり、少々不安もありました。

フィリピンの空港に着くと、日本の寒さから、フィリピンの夏が待っていました。湿った厚い空気が息苦しく感じました。英語の話せない不安もあり、何となく気持ちが落ちつきませんでした。税関のゲートを過ぎると、そこには大勢の人々が出迎えに来ていました。日本語でホテルがあるかどうか聞いてきたので、相手にするのが怖かった、いそいで教会からの迎えの人を捜して、林君を見つけることが出来やっと「安心」。迎えには、ケソンの神学生数人が一緒に来てくれました。私が行くまでは、林君と川口君は彼らと共に楽しく遊んでいたようでした。その夜は、神学生ハウスに泊まり、翌朝は日曜のミサのために、グレースパークの教会に行き、初めての海外でのミサを経験しました。暑さの中で大勢の人々がミサに預り、一日に7・8回ミサが行われます。教会の前は、一日中お祭りのような状態が夜まで続きます。神父様方も忙しい中、私達のために、大変親切にしてくださいました。次の日は、朝早くからコタバトに向い、考える間もなく、飛行機はコタバトに着きました。私は初めから、観光旅行のつもりでいましたので、楽しく遊びましたし、初めての色々な経験もできました。コタバトの神学生ハウスには、神学生、修練者、志願者、食事の世話の人々等40名ぐらいの共同生活でした。毎日は、規則正しく、合理的な生活スケジュールで、動いています。また、若者たちに交じっての生活は、若さが戻ってきました。そしていっしょに20歳の様な気持で生活が送れました。

また単調な生活の中にも、いろいろな体験が生まれました。その一つに林君の手術です。これは、旅行中の出来事の中では一番の大事件でした。日本に連絡が出来なくて本当に困りました。日本の便利さに慣らされていたので、フィリピンでのこの体験は考えさせられるものがありました。また、山の農民たちとの交流もあり、苦しいことも、楽しいことも、あっとゆうまに、1ヶ月が過ぎてしまいました。この体験を通して、感じたことが、人間の欲望についてであります。今の日本人の多くは、子供、大人に限らず、いつも、他の人から何かを貰うかして、貰うことばかりを待っています。それも再現も無く、人に与える事は忘れたかのようです。フィリピンでは、町の人々は程度の差こそあれ、日本とほとんど同じでした。しかし、貧しい山の農民たちは、貧しい中から他の人に、何かを与えようとしていました。この姿を見て、自分の心の醜さを感じることができました。人間は、物質的に貧しいほうが、心が豊かであり、物質的に豊かになればなるほど、心は貧しくなるのではないかと思います。貧しい村を訪問した時にも、貧しい人々から、いつも何かを貰うことを気持していたのではないかと、自分が本当に、恥ずかしくなりました。フィリピンでのその後はできるだけ、人々に与えるように生活し、その結果、もらうことより、与えることをたいせつに、これからは生きていきたいと思います。

おわり。





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April 16, 1987

Dear

During this Easter Season when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior you and your ministry will be in my Masses and prayers.

Each Sunday of Lent we have been having the Initiation Rites for those who wish to receive Baptism on Holy Saturday. In the prayers of these ceremonies a word that often occurs is "chosen or called".

Each of those who will be entering the Life of the Church on Holy Saturday is one chosen by Christ and called to be a witness to His Resurrection. These thoughts caused me to reflect on the Oblate Fathers and Brothers here in Japan. If we reflect on why we are Oblates, why we are priests, why we are Brothers, and why we are Missionaries in Japan, the root answer goes back to that first call which we received when we were chosen to be one of the Baptized.

The meaningful ceremony of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises at Easter is an excellent time to rejoice in that we have been chosen. It is a time to renew our resolution to answer that call each day in our ministry to the people of Japan.

Your ministry is demanding of your time and energy. But it is ministry that has value and is needed in Japan. In your ministry there are days of joy and days of hardship. I pray that the times of joy will be many and that in the hard or difficult times Jesus the Lord who called you will give you the strength and perseverance you need.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate, *J. M. I.*





# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

May 1987

Dear Fellow Oblates,

A few days ago you received my letter and the material you will need to participate in step 3 of the Province Discernment Process. I am sure that when you read this you realized how much of your time the team discernment is going to require. I feel that if we are going to be Missionaries in Today's World here in Japan this is a sacrifice we are all going to have to make. I believe that this is what Father General and the Congregation are calling us to do. In his first letter to the Oblates Father General addressed this call to us.



*"The celebration of the Chapter is happily concluded; now we need to proceed to its implementation. This ought to include two things. First of all each part of the Congregation needs to relive the Chapter's own experience: a community experience of fraternity and prayer, of listening to one's brother in order to perceive God's call, of community discerning, searching and deciding objectives in terms of missionaries in today's world. I am convinced that provincial gatherings and meetings of committees, groups and communities will benefit from such a positive experience."*

In our monthly district meetings we have begun to do this. The sharing and discussion which we have begun in each district using Fr. Des O'Donnell's REFLECTION PROCESS ON THE CHAPTER DOCUMENT is certainly part of what Fr. Zago is speaking to us about. I am happy that this is being done in our district meetings. I also feel it is very important that the Districts make a real effort to have this meeting each month and for each one to make it his duty to be present. Every single Oblates contribution to the sharing and discussion is important. If one is not present the community loses.

*"Then we need to implement the Chapter's orientation which articulates our missionary vision, determines general policy for the Congregation. (C106). Making these orientations more concrete and translating them into life is a matter of concern not only for provincial gatherings and councils; it involves each community and every Oblate. Every single Oblate needs to face up to these directives. The Congregations future depends on each single Oblate, on*

each community, on each delegation and province. At every level we need to make real what the Constitutions say about formation, namely, that "it enables us to accept ourselves as we are and develop into the person we are called to be" that it "calls us to an ever renewed conversion to the Gospel and a readiness to learn and to change in response to new demands" ( 47)."

I feel the Discernment Process that we are in is most certainly a response to Fr. Zago's call for our ongoing formation. In this regard I think the section from GENERAL NORMS FOR ONGOING FORMATION concerning the Nature of Ongoing Formation is most meaningful for us at this time.

"Ongoing formation is a process of integral growth and renewal through which we become more and more capable of living our religious and apostolic life in the concrete circumstances of our daily existence. This implies openness of spirit and constant conversion to the Gospel and assures our response to the needs of evangelization.

Ongoing formation is a continuous process. As the Oblate continues to grow and live out his vocation, he inevitably becomes aware of his own limitations. While these limitations may finally lead to the abandonment of some forms of ministry, they also call the Oblate to enter into new stages of development or to new forms of ministry.

Ongoing formation is a daily process. It is not simply a matter of going, from time to time, on a sabbatical, or of following courses or taking part in some special session; it is rather a matter of daily effort. Through daily self-examination, prayer and meditation, through one's daily effort at self-renewal according to the Gospel; through one's sacramental life, through regular study carried on with perseverance, the Oblate takes in hand his own ongoing formation.

The ongoing formation of individual Oblates goes hand in hand with the renewal of the Congregation and of the Province in which they live and minister. In this way, harmony is established between the renewal of the individual member and of the group of which he is a part.  
(The underling is mine.)

The fruit of ongoing formation is achieved intergration. If someone has been trully liberated and renewed in his vocation, he ought to be able to live community better, fulfil himself in it and contribute to the fulfilment of others."

This is a long quote but I do feel that if each one of us thinks of the Discernment Process we are in as part of his

personal ongoing formation it will help him to make the necessary sacrifices to participate fully. I feel that if we are aware of the effect that our personal renewal can have on the Oblate Mission in Japan we will willingly and most urgently want to pursue the process in preparation for our Province Discernment Congress in 1988.

May the Holy Spirit give you, His Comfort, His Strength, and His Light. May the Holy Year of Our Mother Mary Immaculate be a time of grace and growth for each one of us.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

NAKAMURA TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER CHURCH

Hata-gun including the three small cities of Nakamura, Sukumo and Tosa-Shimizu is located at the Southeast end of Kochi Prefecture. It has a population of 112,000 people. For many years the Oblates had been serving the Hata area on a monthly basis. In April of 1970 Nakamura was established as a permanent mission with Fr. William Maher as its first pastor.

In 1970, Bill rented an old small Japanese house. The furnishings were donated by various churches, the Oblates and the Catholics in the area.

Bill writes, "We asked Bishop Tanaka to write in his own hand a scroll for the Church's 'tokonoma' (Alcove - place of honor). When he asked, 'what should I write', I asked him to write, 'yorokobi to kiboo' (Joy and Hope), the first words of Vatican II's Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World. This was to be our community's charter, our spirit for the mission in Hata-gun.... The underlying principle of my ministry has been and still is to proclaim the Gospel message to the world."

"On June 21st. 1987 the Mission of Nakamura will celebrate the 10th. anniversary of the building of the present chapel-living quarters combination. We are not sending out formal invitations but if any Oblate would like to celebrate together with us, the welcome mat is out and you're welcome to stay as long as you like. If you can't make it in person we ask you to please keep our small community in your prayers in a special way on that day.



## SCHEDULE:

10:30 Mass - Bishop Fukahori  
 12:00 Lunch  
 12:45 Reminisces & Witness  
 1:45 Refreshments  
 2:30 Closing Remarks

Please let me know if you are coming and why not spend a few days with us?"

TAKAJOO-MACHI FR. TOM MAHER GUEST SPEAKER

On May 16 and 17, Fr. Leo Simons arranged a meeting for the volunteers of 'KOKORO NO DIAL". There were 30 volunteers in attendance. Fr. Maher gave three 2-hour sessions. The theme was "Maturing and Communications by getting in contact with your own feelings".

PRO-LIFE INFORMATION CENTER

Fr. Jerry Novotny has gathered the most recent materials on the PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT. He will provide video tapes, slides, books and other materials for the asking.

Jerry will lend this material to you for up to four weeks. If you prefer to have this material in your own library, Jerry will be happy to order it for you and have it sent to your address.

This material is excellent to use with any age group, Church organizations, youth groups, English class etc.

BIRTHDAYS

April

17 Gerard Stevens  
 17 John Deely  
 22 Wency Laguidao

May

29 Tom Maher

June

2 Bro. Hayashi

ORDINATIONS

April

1 Bro. Kawaguchi  
 4 Jerry Novotny  
 11 John Iwo  
 26 Bill Maher  
 29 Fran Hahn

May

30 John K Mahoney  
 30 Tom Maher  
 30 Bert Silver  
 31 Ange Siani

June

2 Dick Harr  
 7 Ed Williams  
 14 John Iwo  
 14 Len Inui  
 24 Mike Yamazaki(25 years)

NEW ADDRESS:

As of October 20, 1987, Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck's new address will be:

Kobe Mariner's Center  
 Port P.O. Box 709  
 185-3 Motomachi-doori, 3 Chome  
 Chuo-Ku, 650 KOBE

ILLNESS:

Please continue your prayers for Ray Bourgoin's mother and John Deely's sister. Both Ray's mother and John's sister are in serious condition.

THE LUCKY SEVEN

On March 14, Bros. Hayashi, Kawaguchi and Kumashiro, who were visiting in the Philippines, were due to leave for Jolo. The plane however did not arrive and lucky for Bro. Hayashi. That night, he had a sudden attack of appendicitis! He was rushed to the hospital. When the doctor saw that it was not Brother's appendix that was the problem, he made another incision and discovered the problem was a stomach ulcer. The resulting scar appeared to be the number "7" and Bro. Hayashi calls it his lucky seven. However, it appears that the wound is not healing properly and the operation may have to be done over. What next? A figure "8"? Thank you for your prayers while Brother was hospitalized.

TOKYO

Ray Bourgoin is working on a translation into Japanese of MISSIONARIES IN TODAY'S WORLD (General Chapter 1986) and Blessed Eugene de Mazenod SELECTED TEXTS related to the O.M.I. Constitutions and Rules. Much of this work has been completed. Many thanks to Ray for doing this important work. This material has been a great help to the Scholasticate and Novitiate communities.

KAMAKURA - RETREAT

Fr. Parmananda, S.J. from India will direct the retreat. Since he is an expert in spirituality and has experience in many apostolic fields, Fr. Ikenaga, S.J. Provincial of the Japanese Province thought that non-Jesuits also may be interested in making a retreat with Fr. Parmananda. The retreat is planned as follows:

Director: Parmananda Divarkar, S.J.

Date: September 20, evening - September 26, morning.

Place: Jesuit Retreat House of Kamakura.

(Kamakura-shi, Juniso, 80, tel 0467-25-1616)

Language: English. Father will give 2 or 3 talks a day and

make himself available for personal direction.

Fee: 28,000 yen (everything included)

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE RETREAT HOUSE IN KAMAKURA



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オブレート会

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

July 11, 1987



Dear fellow Oblate,

As you know the Oblate Vocation Camp is to be held in Naruto from August 18 to the 21. Ron and the Brothers in Nagoya have worked very hard to prepare for this gathering. I would like at this time to ask you to pray everyday for the success of the vocation camp. The Lord has blessed us with vocations and for this we must thank Him. I am sure you will agree there is much Oblate work in Japan for which we need many more Oblate Priests and Brothers. The annual Vocation Camp is our main effort in attracting young men to the Oblates. So please pray with great faith in the Lord's generosity and I am sure He will send us the men we need.

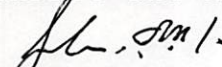
This year the Oblate Retreat will be held from August 24 to August 28. Fr. Tom Singer, O.M.I. of the Central Province will preach the retreat. He is now stationed in Washington, D.C. and is Director of the Oblate Conference. The Conference coordinates the activities of the five American Provinces.

The Retreat will begin on Monday morning at 9 A.M. and end on Friday evening 5 P.M. The Brothers will be making their Retreat at the same time and like last year the Office and Mass will be celebrated together. Therefore will you please bring your Japanese Prayer of the Church. It would also be helpful if you would bring your own Mass vestment. Thank you.

Kindly send the enclosed postcard to Ange. And also pray the Retreat may be a source of grace for each one of us.

May Mary the Mother of Oblates watch over these two Oblate community events and join her prayers to ours that they become a source of grace and growth for the Japanese Oblate Province.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

  
John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.  
Provincial





# *The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

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宗教法人：カトリック聖母献身宜教会

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August 1, 1987

Dear Fellow Oblate,

This is a short note to say that I hope you are bearing up under the heat and humidity. Summer is vacation time but it seems to be a time when all of us are busy with what I suppose might be called the Summer Apostolate.

I recall how many years ago most of us were able to get a way for a week or even two for a summer vacation. It was a good custom. I realize now that is often difficult if not impossible to do but I hope you will try to get a few days at least for yourself. Body, mind and soul will most certainly benefit and as a consequence your missionary apostolate.

The Discernment Process seems to be moving along fairly well. I know that many have already been able to do the team discernments. Some of the men plan to come to Kochi a few days before the Retreat or stay after in order to do the team discernments. This is a fine idea. I do think however we should avoid doing the team discernments during the days of the Retreat. I am afraid it could interfere with a spirit of silence and recollection.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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





# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

September 1987



Dear Fellow Oblates,

This evening there is the feeling of coolness in the air perhaps it means the long and hot summer is about over. It also means that we will all be back on full schedule in are varied and important ministries.

I have been seeing each one about his Discernment .This has meant reading the histories and personal discernments of each and then having the dialogue or sharing which has come to be called *being done* as in--*Have you been done yet?* But whatever the expression used it has been an enlightening and inspiring experience for me. I am sure that through this process we are going to grow as individuals and as a community. Because this mutual soul searching and exchange will help us to know ourselves and each other better and on a deeper level.

According to the suggested schedule we should be finished the team discernment by the end of this month. I know that we have all been trying to see those we have to discern and often at a sacrifice of time and money.

I myself have three men I have not done yet but plan to do them as soon as I get back from Indonesia. If you have not been able to do your team discernment yet will you kindly do so as soon as possible. As you know the next step is for the three man teams to get together and prepare their report. If all the team members have not done the man involved this will be difficult.

I will be leaving for Jogjakarta on Sept. 15 and will return on Oct. 2. At that time we can make plans as to how best proceed with the next phase of this team discernment step.

You may have heard that Jim Sullivan had heart surgery. I have had a letter from him recently and he assures me that he expects to be here in March. He has canceled some other commitments in order to get the needed rest for full recovery. Please keep him in your prayers.

Speaking of praying-- please pray for your brother Oblates working here in Japan and also for the success of the Discernment Congress next March.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

A new administration means many new things for the Congregation and I know you will be interested in a view from the inside. Since only three of the original Council remain, it was a distinctively new group which met for our two Plenary Sessions since the Chapter.

Our new General impresses me with his very purposeful style of leadership; I find him challenging & supportive, uniquely well-informed about the Church everywhere, clear about Oblate essentials, open & committed to the Chapter mandate, but perhaps most of all, he is actively concerned about our response to the modern world & to our mission ad gentes.

Father Cazabon, our Vicar General, who cares for the government of the Congregation while the General meets the men in these early years, is a man of great experience and wisdom in administration. In him too, and in his present role, we are very blessed. God's gift of these two men to the leadership of the Congregation certainly confirms me in the importance of a discernment process for all leadership decisions in the future. I would challenge each of our Provinces & Delegations in A-O in this regard - why not a good discernment process prior to the straw votes & final voting ?

The General Council is forming an apostolic community successfully as we share, support & plan about our goals & strategies for our leadership in the years ahead. We have already drawn up our priorities and projects in a PLANNING DOCUMENT which we circulated to the Major Superiors for their comments. The last COMMUNIQUE indicated our response to their suggestions and our Plenary Session in November will draw up the final edition of this Mission-vision which will guide us in leading the Congregation.

Some new realities are emerging for GENERAL COUNCILLORS. It has been decided that we will take a more active & prolonged role in the ordinary government of the Congregation, with a consequent stress on a full six weeks Rotation annually. A decision to hold one Plenary Session each year in a different region - USA(Nov '87), Canada(May-June '88), Asia-Oceania(Feb.'89) - with an invitation to spend some time visiting that region, will also limit our time in our own regions. We have made a decision to allot four rather than three weeks to each Plenary Session - to help community building - with the same effect on our time in our own regions.

You are aware that all Major Superiors of Asia-Oceania will be in Indonesia in September of this year for their biennial meeting. No doubt your own provincial will be pleased to have your suggestions for the agenda at this meeting. And may I ask your prayers for God's blessing on our time there ? Father Cazabon will attend and visit all the Oblate provinces/Delegations that are on his way there.

At present I am in Australia giving the three annual Oblate retreats. From here I go to Sri Lanka to give the Scholastics' retreat & to conduct an Oblate Development seminar with them in Kandy. May I ask your prayers for the peace movement just begun in that country.? From there I go to Java for the AORC meeting and then back to Rome for one week, after which I go to the USA for visits to each province before attending the next Plenary Session in California. From there I visit the Philippines where the discernment for a new Provincial will be in progress. Then its back to Rome for my Rotation and the next Plenary Session in February 1988.

May God continue to be with us all in our apostolic endeavours.

Desmond O'Donnell O.M.I.  
General Councillor.  
Aug 9. '87.



## オブレート会 召命キャンプ レポート

「真、剛、寛、誠、実、孝、延」「広、敏、博」とずらっと漢字を並べてみました。この漢字と 先日(8/18~21)鳴門教会で行われた オブレート会召命キャンプと 何の関係があるのだろーと思いきや、実は、これは、キャンプに参加した1人1人の名前なのです。

野口真(しん)君は 鳴門教会所属の高校1年生……どんな会話の中でも、気が付くと知らぬ間に、話題提供者は彼になっているという喋り好きの若者。阿南教会の宮川剛(つよし)君も高校1年生……演歌(特に「浪花節だよ人生は」)を歌うのが上手。現在、地元の高校のテニス部員。徳島教会の小山寛(ひろし)君……鳴門駅から鳴門教会まで3時間もかかって歩いてきた彼は中学2年生、道に迷ったらしく、鳴門市内を隅から隅まで歩いたらしい。必ず一度は、コップに入った飲み物をこぼすというとてもひょうきんな中学生。光ヶ丘教会の吉貝誠(まこと)君は19才……とてもおとなしく、無口だけど 優しそうな青年。吉貝実(みのる)君は、誠君の弟で、中学1年生……彼も初めは、おとなしく、無口だったけど、終わりの方になって 純朴な笑顔がよく見られ、皿洗い等の仕事をよく手伝ってくれた。中島町協会の谷脇孝延(たかのぶ)君は中学2年生……洗車が趣味という彼は、海水浴や 睡眠不足で どんなに疲れていても、洗車中は、真剣なまなざしで仕事に励むという とてもおもしろく明るい中学生。

以上6名が集い、又、名古屋からBr.林広、Br.川口敏、Br.熊城博 と高知から私達修練者2名(橋本、八木)も参加しました。参加者は6名と少なく、中・高生がほとんどでしたが、返って家族的な、和やかな雰囲気の中で行われたように思います。

昼間は、シルバー神父様の運転する幼稚園のバスに大の男10数名が乗り込み、近くの海へ…… そこでは 海上ドッチボール大会が行われ、夜は、バーベキュー、花火やカラオケ大会、恐い幽霊の話(中村のマヘル神父様の幽霊の話は、なかなか好評でした)のレクリエーションは、家族的な雰囲気を盛り上げる一因となったようです。

また、ウィリアムス神父様とシアニー神父様のオブレート会創立に関する講話やハーン神父様の海外でのオブレート会の活動報告、そしてブラザーたちのフィリピン体験記は、オブレート会を知るにふさわしい機会となり、参加者も興味深く、話しに耳を傾けていました。

彼らと4日間、寝食を共にし、共同生活を行う中で、前記したように、神様が参加者1人1人にかけがえのない存在として素晴らしいお恵みを与えられていることを感じます。彼らは、若い故に、さほど深く召命の意識は感じていないようですが、この家族的な和やかな召命キャンプが、彼らの心の中に種をまく良い機会となり、その種が大きな木に成長するよう必要なお恵みと支えを彼らに与えて下さるよう、神様に願わずにはいられません。



## 1, 本の紹介

○

General Chapter 1986

MISSIONARIES IN TODAY' WORLD

上記の本を日本語に訳した「1986年度の総議会・現代世界における宣教者」があります。そのコピーを御希望の方は、今月末までにブルゴアン神父様に、葉書きでお申し込み下さい。

○

A HISTORY of the MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY  
IMMACULATE (Vol. 1) Donat Levasseur, OMI

上記の本を御希望の方は、マホニー神父様まで御連絡下さい。

## 2, 祈り

○ ブルゴアン神父様のお母様、ディリー神父様のお姉様のためのお祈り、ありがとうございます。引き続き、よろしくお願い致します。

○ ハーン神父様のおばさんが、危篤状態に陥り、そのため、神父様は帰国されました。彼女のために、お祈りをよろしくお願い致します。

○ Br. 林の手術は、皆様のお祈りのおかげで大成功の内に、無事終了しました。どうもありがとうございました。

9月 誕生日

6 硫 黄 神 父

20 マホニー //

22 ハーン //

10月

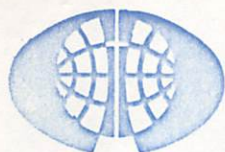
7 フランボア //

10 ヴァン・ホイドンク //

27 土 佐 //

叙 階

28日 ステュープンス



# THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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TEL 0888-72-3658

October 7, 1987

My Fellow Oblates,

On October 2nd I returned from the 1987 Meeting of the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference which was held in Jogjakarta, Indonesia from September 21 to 25. All twelve Provincials and Superiors of Delegations were present at the meeting. Father Cazabon, Vicar General and Des O'Donnell, the Regional Councilor were also present. In addition there were three resource persons at the meeting--Dalston Forbes for Inculturation, Bernard Quintus for Oblate Spiritual Renewal and Beato Taliman for Justice and Peace.

You will find inclosed a copy of the resolutions of meeting. They are rather clear so I do not think explanations are necessary. If you have any questions about them I will be happy to answer you.

One resolution that may need some explanation is the fourth resolution on Oblate Spiritual Renewal. Therefore I am also inclosing a copy a letter from Fr. Corijn which will explain the reference to the "programs offered by the General Administration in 1988". We will discuss this matter at our next Council meeting on Oct. 19 in Koga. If you should be interested please let me know before that date.

I have also included copies of the reports of the Provinces and Delegations. I debated whether to send these to you or not. I think it is worthwhile taking the time to read these reports. It will help us to know what is being done by our fellow Oblate Missionaries in the Region. Many are doing tremendous work under very serious obstacles. The reports on the vocations in the Region and the work being done in Formation I found enlightening and encouraging. In short I found reading these reports helpful to me as an Oblate Missionary. I hope you will too.

After the Meeting I was able to spend three days visiting the Oblates in Cilicap, Java. They are doing wonderful work there in helping the people in their material need as well as their spiritual need. To tell you all that I saw would take many words. I do have many pictures and a video of the Mission will be sent to me. I hope that I will be able to show these to you.

On my way back to Japan I spent two days in Singapore. A completely different country from Indonesia. Here every thing is neat, orderly and well planned with no signs of material poverty and want.

Before closing I would like to thank Mike for taking on the responsibility of acting-Provincial in my absence. My thanks too to Tom and Ange for taking care of things here at Nakajima-cho.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.





# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

November 1987

Dear Fellow Oblates

The last few days seems to have brought the change from summer to winter. The stoves are now in place and ready for use, the electric blanket is on the bed and the summer clothes are put away till next year. The nip in the air reminded that we are coming to the end of the year and the Christmas Season. This is a busy time for all of us. But I have a request. It is that as you go about your work you keep in mind the Newsletter. Many of the things that seem ordinary to you are newsworthy and our Brother Oblates in other parts of the world would like to hear about them not to mention our Brother Oblates here in Japan. Please send these items to Ange and he will see that they get into the next Newsletter



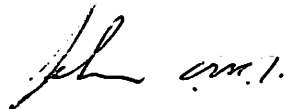
Sometime ago I asked Ron to be the Director of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate (MAMI). At the time of our retreat last August we took some time to talk of MAMI. We presented a plan to revive MAMI in Japan. Each parish would send a copy its parish register to Ron. He would then send a personal letter to each parishioner asking them to become a member of MAMI. This direct approach from a central office would save the pastors from the need of involving themselves in the administration of MAMI i.e. mailing letters, sending thank you notes etc.etc. Naturally those involved in other ministries are most welcome to send in lists of names of people they think might be willing to help. We need all the help both spiritual and material that these people can give. I bring this to your attention in this letter because some were not present at the time this was discussed in August. There was also some confusion on some points of the procedure on the part of others. To repeat you are requested to send a copy your parish register and others lists to Ron as soon as possible in order that he can get the revitalization of MAMI moving.

At the Council meeting held in Koga on October 20 we discussed the Resolutions of the 1987 A/ORC Meeting. (Confer letter of Oct. 7, 1987). Under the heading Justice and Peace, Resolution #4 calls for the appointment of a contact man for Justice and Peace. I have asked Ange Siani to be the contact man for the Forum JPD and Xave Tosa to be the contact man for other matters concerning Justice and Peace in Japan. Under the heading Oblate Spiritual Renewal, Resolution #4 requests each Province and delegation to send a man to the Workshop on an Oblate Retreat Experience to be held in Rome from January 18 to

February 5, 1988. Ed Williams has been asked to attend this Workshop. Under the heading Inculturation, Resolution #2 asks that a man be appointed to monitor the effects of modernization in our Provinces and Delegations. Ray Bourgoin has agreed to be our Monitor. Under the same heading Resolution "#7 speaks of a contact man for the exchange of information and experiences in the field of Inculturation. Bill Maher has been asked to take on this work. I would like to close this section by thanking each one of you for your cooperation in accepting these assignments. I am sure your work will benefit both the Mission in Japan and the Asia/Oceania Region.

In a recent letter from Father Zago he wrote the following: In the 1986 Chapter the capitulars, moved by the Spirit, tried to hear the call of Jesus Christ through the people's need for salvation today (C.1) and, after discernment, they proposed them to the Congregation. These directives, as presented in the green booklet Missionaries in Today's World, should be the object of reflection, evaluation and prayer by every Oblate, every community, every Delegation and every Province. As I said above this is a busy time for all but even then we should take to heart these words and make an effort to put them into practice. This is something, as Father Zago reminds us, that each one of us should do. After reading these words I reflected that at the time of the monthly days of gathering I take the green booklet in hand but at other times it remains on the shelf. I must do more. Perhaps you are in the same category as myself. If so then it is time for both of us to do more. I am afraid if we do not we will not be full fledged members in the Oblate Missionaries in Today's World. Or to put it another way we could well be making ourselves into marginalized Oblates.

Fraternally yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,



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



*This is the  
Will of My  
Father...  
all who  
believe in  
the Son  
shall have  
eternal life  
and I shall  
raise him  
up on the  
last day.*

*-John 6:40*

## NEWSLETTER

### REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED

"We will keep alive the memory of our deceased and not fail to pray for them, faithfully offering the suffrages prescribed on their behalf." (Const. No. 43)

Throughout the month of November let us remember to pray for all the deceased Oblates who have served in the Province.

Fr. Daniel Ward	September 4, 1975
Fr. Leonard Robitaille	March 12, 1979
Bro. Suneo Tsuda	July 23, 1981
Fr. Robert J. Gill	April 12, 1982

The following deceased Oblates served in the Province at one time:

Fr. Tim Mulvey  
Fr. Charles McBennett  
Fr. John O. Meyer

"Once a month every Oblate priest shall celebrate Mass, and every Brother attend Mass, for all deceased Oblates." (CC&RR, Appendix No. 5)

Please also keep in your prayers Fr. Fran Hahn's aunt. Mrs. Marion A. Card (74) died in Buffalo on November 5th.

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

### BENIUZU KAI 40th Exhibition

The Beniuзу Kai, the Artist School of which Bro. Tsuda was a member will have it's 40th exhibition in Naruto, at the City Library from November 12-15. Among the paintings which will be presented for exhibition are paintings by the late Bro. Tsuda, Mr. Saika and Mr. Takasago.

### ISRAEL - PILGRIMAGE

Fr. Yamazaki along with two priests and three Ministers will serve as Chaplain for a group of pilgrims going to the Holy land. The pilgrimage three weeks long will return to Japan in mid-December.

### BIRTHDAYS

We have one Oblate celebrating his birthday this month.

Mike Yamazaki                      December 24

### AA OPEN SPEAKERS MEETING

ON November 3rd. an AA Open Speakers Meeting was held in Kochi from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and help others to recover from alcoholism.

### GOHOKU MURA KARATE COMPETITION

On November 8 our "Black Belt Winner" Jerry Novotny was "kentei" (official examiner) for the school Karate Competition. Congratulations Jerry.

### JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMITTEE MEETING - YOSHIKAZU TOSA

From the 9th. of October to the 11th, the Thirteenth Annual All Japan Meeting of the Justice and Peace Committee was held in Sendai. It was the best attended meeting the Justice and Peace Committee has had. Bishops Sado and Sooma also participated in the meeting. The Dominican Sisters had provided for both our living quarters and meeting facilities in their High School complex.

The first day(evening) we listened to the "Voice of Sendai". Three ladies gave a twenty minute talk about their engagement in society. The third speaker was especially inspiring. She 9mrs. Niimura) is a co-founder of the 小生会. Like the PRO LIFE MOVEMENT, this association opposes all abortion, but at the same time, it has an organization to foster adaptation. She challenged "Mother Church" to listen to the voice of women and not to repeat stereotyped phrases ....It was a courageous talk.

The second day, the meeting continued with five committees:

The Alien Registration Law  
The National Secret Law  
The Third World  
Nuclear Weapons and Atomic Power Generation  
Capital Punishment and False Accusation

On the third day, we heard Mr. Nishinomiya, (73 years old and former member of the House of Representatives). He spoke about "The Citizen's Movements" on international, national and local levels.

On the second evening there was a Happy Hour with plenty of good food and kara-oke (singing).

At the closing session there were voices asking for the committee to allow for a broader cooperation by Lay Christians. Some said that they had the impression that Lay Christians were "allowed" to join in the clergy-made policies and clergy-organized movements.

Indeed after the General Meeting, there was a special gathering of the officially appointed 'priests' of the dioceses, orders and congregations (担当司祭) In this meeting it was decided to drop the word 'tantoo-shisai' (priest in charge) and to replace it with 'tantoo-sha' (person in charge) thus allowing all chairmen and chairwomen of local committees to join the annual meeting.

The plan for a "Lent Campaign" was announced. It will take the place of the traditional "Ai no undoo" (Love Movement). Co-operating in this campaign are all the sub committees of the Social Welfare Bishop Council. The primary purpose is to educate and make Christians aware of their social obligations.

I introduced a dossier on "Human Rights in the Church" prepared last year in Belgium. I presented them with an English translation, hoping that in Tokyo someone would translate it into Japanese.

The meeting ended earlier than scheduled, so I took a short trip to nearby Mt. Zaoo.

Y. Tosa

NOTE: Enclosed are subscription forms for the Justice and Peace Newsletter. Many of you are already receiving this letter. For those of you who do not receive it, the Provincial will be happy to provide you with a years subscription. Send your request to the Provincial Office.

#### ANNUAL BAZAARS

At the beginning of this month annual bazaars were held in Tokushima, Naruto and Anan. Bert, Ed and Fran were not only happy with the financial returns but also with the wonderful cooperation of those who organized and ran the bazaars.

#### NAGOYA

The OMI House for Studies was blessed October 22 in a simple ceremony conducted by Bishop Sooma. The blessing was followed by a community celebration attended by the Bishop, the local pastors and the Provincial.

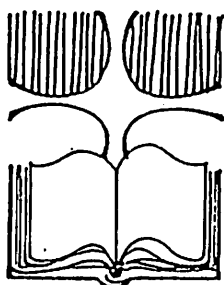
#### Priests Retreats

Ron La Framboise finished preaching his third retreat for priests. The first was for the MSC's. It didn't take long for the news to get around and soon after the SVD's requested Ron for a retreat. The last which was held at the Trappist Monastery, was for the Maryknoll Fathers.

#### NBCLC

Enclosed is a list of seminars and Courses offered at the NATIONAL CATECHETICAL AND LITURGICAL CENTRE, Bangalore, India. If you are interested please contact the Provincial.





*Rejoice-  
Your Name  
is Written  
in HEAVEN*

## THE VICTORY OF FR. K. LEISNER

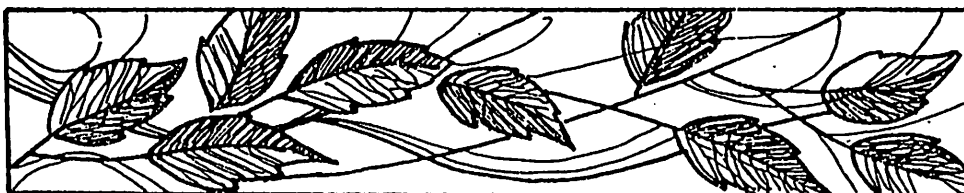
- by M.A. Keohane, O.M.I.

One of the strangest and most unusual ordinations to the Priesthood was that of Fr. Karl Leisner. It took place in Dachau Concentration Camp. A French Bishop, also interned there, performed the ceremony. The ring and the crosier were made by a Russian prisoner in the camp workshop. Fr. Leisner was born on February 28, 1915 in Reco, a little town in the lower Rhine. He was a deacon in Holy Orders and suffering from tuberculosis when arrested the the Nazis. When the Nazis launched an attack on Catholic Youth Organisations, Karl fought back boldly and was interned with hundreds of Priests and even Bishops who opposed Hitler.

The Gestapo took the opportunity to humiliate and torture all Priests and Religious at Dachau. Karl although at times depressed and suffering from a serious cough and vomiting blood, never showed resentment, discouragement or anxiety according to a Jesuit Priest also a prisoner, and his courage and example made him popular with those around him who used to hide him when doctors examined all those unfit for work and thus saved him from the gas chamber.

His will to live and his desire to be a Priest and offer Mass kept him alive. Shortly after his ordination the allied forces captured Dachau and liberated all those interned there including Karl. Fr. Leisner had the privilege of offering one Mass. He died after his release. His body was taken to his home village for burial. Dressed by his friends in the vestments as a gift for his ordination and first Mass, red roses and green palms decorated his coffin. A symbol of martyrdom and victory. His life is a wonderful triumph of faith in God and shows the strength of the human spirit against the forces of evil. He emerged from the horror of Dachau with his love for God and his fellow man as strong and pure as ever. His last entry written in his diary was that of St. Stephen, the first martyr blessing his enemies. "Lord lay not this sin to their charge".

May his courageous soul rest in peace and his love for the Mass and the Priesthood be an example to all Priests in our modern world.



I • HAVE • COME • THAT • YOU • MAY • HAVE • LIFE •



Dear Brother Oblates,

Christmas 1987

May we all share in the joy of the birth of our Savior. May we all be enriched by His coming into our hearts.



I will remember each one in the Masses of Christmas. My prayer will be that you and your works will be blessed in great abundance in 1988. I will also remember your families asking that the Lord will keep and protect them in the coming year.

God bless you.

John, OMI

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I'm wearing red sweaters, red trainers, red hats(?) ... That has nothing to do with Santa Claus. Only, I turned 60! 60 Christmases! and always again and again wishing and hoping.

My health condition stays the same, although I will have to "swallow" the camera, around Christmas.

I just read a sentence I'd like to share with you:

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

Merry Christmas,  
Xavier

+  
Thank you for everything in 87 and I hope 88 is  
a good year for you.

Bro. Hashimoto Masashi

+  
Dear One & All,

These years are getting faster & faster. I'm  
worried because I don't feel old, and the health is  
still good. - I wish each of you a most blessed  
Christmas, renewal in Our Lord's Presence, a bundle  
of health and energy to offer Our Lord. May this  
happiness be yours throughout 1988.

Dick Harr, O.M.I.

+  
Abundant Blessings upon everone at Christmas,  
and all through the New Year.

Jan

+  
It is my sincerest wish that each of the  
brethren have the Happiest, Most Christ-filled  
of Christmases ever, and that our New Year will  
really be a Pentecost for us, to begin anew, in  
a radical way, our committment to the gospel pro-  
clamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Fran Hahn, OMI

+  
クリスマス おめでとう ございます。皆様方の 祈りに  
ささえられて 今年も 無事に こまで やってくることが できました。  
ありがとうございます。これからむまた 湿ひく見守り。引き続き  
よろしく おねがいします。よいクリスマスをお過ごし下さい。

Bro. 熊城 博

+  
My best wishes to all of you during this  
special season of the year. For me this season  
always impresses upon me the fact that I am but  
a pilgrim on the way, looking forward to and walking  
towards His return with eagerness - and sometimes  
not so eagerly!

Many thanks for your continued support, both  
material and spiritual. I wish Nagoya was not so far  
from the "rest of the family".

RonLa Framboise

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My Lutheran Liturgy professor, Carl Volz, loved to tell us about the controversy over the question of celebrating the birth of Christ in the time of the Fathers. Of course some were for it and some against. St. Cyril of Alexandria was supposed to have said, "What celebrate birthdays in the Church... it will only become an occasion for over eating and drinking!"

By the 16th century, people began mixing merry-making with honoring Jesus' birth. Celebrations in England became so wild that in 1654 Parliament passed a law which erased Christmas from the Calendar.

Today, no other holiday in the whole year is so widely celebrated throughout the world as CHRISTMAS.

### "Christmas Is Forever"

"When the song of the angels is stilled ...  
When the star in the sky is gone ...  
When the Kings and the Princes are home ...  
When the shepherds are back with their flock ...  
The work of Christmas begins ...

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry,  
To shelter the homeless,  
To comfort the lonely,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart,  
And to be at home with Christ."

May you be blessed with His love - this Christmas  
and all the days to follow.

Ange, OMI

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Dear Fellow Oblates,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I will say many thanks to all of you for your kindness to me this year and ask you all for warmer friendship in the coming year.

Fr. John Iwo, OMI

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Christmas comes and goes but the mystery of  
God-becoming-man continues to unfold in our daily  
lives.

May the old meaning of Christmas renew our hearts.

May it bring new Hope to the Vice Province.

May it bring peace to the people we work with  
and everyone dear to us.

Please remember Hikarigaoka in your Christmas  
Mass and I will do the same for all of you (even if  
I don't send you a Christmas card this year).

Have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Wency

+

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year to all. As  
usual things are hectic at this time of year. The  
Shimin Kurisumasu Program is over. It was well attended.  
And this Sunday starts our Christmas Celebrations with  
Mass and a parry in Simizu. We'll have our Christmas  
in Nakamura on the 25th. centered on the kids. The  
Sisters are coming from Kochi to help and it starts  
at 2:00 P.M. for the children. The adults are to come  
at 5:00 P.M. for confessions, Mass, prepared by the  
children and a party. By the afternoon of the 27th.  
I should be dead and more than happy to go to Kochi  
for a break. May the Lord find a place in your heart  
at Christmas.

Bill

+

Dear Oblate Fathers and Brothers,

I send all good Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year wishes to  
you and your community.

How are you?

I hope you are keeping well  
in this weather.

And

In the New Year I wish you  
prosperity and happiness.

Love and Prayers  
Bro. Hiroshi Hayashi

+

## Christmas Greetings:

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year from both the Ikeda (Tokushima) and the Ryoonan (Kagawa) missions. Having to take care of 2 places is a tougher job than I expected, but I am surviving. And I wish the same to all of you: stay in good health in spite of the freezing weather.

Sayonara  
Gerard Stevens, OMI

+

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

A Merry Christmas to you! I will try to write an essay in English.

We'll welcome Christmas this year again, but what is the reason to celebrate Jesus' birthday on a global scale?

I have read the "Little Prince" through recently. Saint Exupéry, the author, writes in a fairy tale style, but for adults. Here is a scene which is one of my favorites.

And after a little silence, the Little Prince spoke again: "The stars are beautiful, because of a flower that cannot be seen." I replied, "Yes, that is so." And, without saying anything more, I looked across the ridges of sand that were stretched out before us in the moonlight.

"The desert is beautiful." the little prince added. "What makes the desert beautiful is that somewhere it hides a well..."

"Yes". I said to the little prince. "The house, the stars, the desert - What gives them their beauty is something that is invisible!"

I suppose that one of the reasons why we celebrate Christmas is because the life of Jesus hides a well that is invisible.

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly."

Bro. Kawaguchi

+

To all a joyfull and Holy Christmas. May the star of Bethlehem lead the Oblates in their

discernment and the Church in the search for an  
"hirakareta Kyookai" to offer the fruits of their  
work to the CHILD and receive His blessing and  
mission to persevere in their search and in living  
the resolutions as to be a sign of the real  
presence of the Lord.

Lei Simons

+

Health and happiness to everyone in the New  
Year. Looking forward to seeing everybody in Kochi.  
In the meantime have a Holy and happy Holiday.

Jack

+

救い主をおつかわいになった神様を 皆様と共に 賛美できることは  
喜びでいっぱいです。 やがて 訪れる新しい年む。 神様に見守られながら  
皆様と共に 歩んでいけにら と思います。 今までの お祈り。 けげましのお言葉  
どうも ありがとうございます。 新年も 皆様の上に 神様からの お恵み  
と平安が 豊かに 注がれますように……。

Bro. 八木 信孝

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# THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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December 30, 1987

Dear fellow Oblates,

There are only a few days left of 1987 and before it ends I would like to send you one more letter. I suppose it could be called a letter of reflection on the year and a letter of thanks. Especially a letter of thanks.

First the reflections: The main thrust of Community effort has been the preparation for Discernment Congress. Each one has been most cooperative in this. The team discernment phase which we are now in has perhaps been the most difficult. It has meant rearranging schedules and traveling long distances to be at the right place at the right time. But I think you will agree that the chance to sit and talk and exchange views has been helpful and encouraging. I think we are all getting a much better idea of the Oblate Missionary Apostolate in Japan.

Another important Province effort this year was the study and discussion of the the Chapter document Missionaries in Today's World at our monthly gatherings. This effort had a double purpose. One was the effort to try to have all the men in the Districts to come together on a regular basis for prayer, community and sharing. I think that perhaps we have done better than in the past but that we must try to do even better in the coming year. (I will try to be present at these meeting if it is possible.) The second purpose was to discuss, study and and make our own the chapter document Missionaries in Today's World. How well we have done this is perhaps something we should all reflect upon and discuss at the first Oblate gatherings in the Districts in 1988.

At the beginning of this year we purchased the building that is now our Oblate House of Studies in Nagoya. This of course became necessary because we have been blessed with vocations. If you reflect that the average age of the Fathers in the Province is now 55.5 these vocations are vital to the Oblate Province in Japan. Each summer we have a Vocation Camp to seek out and encourage vocations. I think you will agree that this work of formation must have a top priority in our Missionary efforts. In the coming year we should all pray for the young men in formation as well as the members of the Formation Team. We must also continue our effort to seek out and encourage young men to join us in our Missionary efforts not only in Japan but in the Oblate Missions of the world.



Next year is going to be a very important year in the history of the Oblates in Japan. We will have our Discernment Congress in March. This will be the culmination of the Discernment Process that was begun in October of 1982. Perhaps the use of the word culmination is not too correct as it has the sense of the end of something in its meaning. I know the Congress in March will be more like a new beginning.

1988 will be the Fortieth Anniversary of the Oblate Mission effort in Japan. Surely it is a good time to reflect on ourselves and our ministries. A time to ask what we as Oblates Missionaries in Today's Japan should be doing. A time for each one of us to ask ourself and each other how we can best fulfill the Mission given to us by Christ and the Congregation in today's Japan.

The thanks that I want to express in this letter are first of all to each one of you who have been generous of your time and effort to meet the various demands of the Province discernment process. In a similar vein I also appreciate your cooperation in trying to gather each month for the Oblate day of community. With special thanks to the District Superiors.

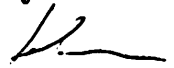
I would also like to thank all those who have been so helpful in the matter of supporting the Formation Program both in Kochi and Nagoya. I thank each one for your prayers. Many have been most generous in sending contributions to the Nagoya community. Many have been most cooperative in sending their surplus to the bursar. With the added expenses of the houses of formation this help is especially needed and especially appreciated.

Remember the important Oblate date for 1988 are:

Oblate Discernment Congress  
March 22 to 24.  
Oblate Retreat Sept. 26 to  
30. Fr. Sawada Kazuo

Gerard I want to thank you for all the good Missionary work you are doing. Despite the fact that you are no longer as young as you were you are a man with a double or is it a triple Apostolate. I think it must be triple for surely the work you are doing for the Bishop and the diocese is also an Apostolate. And an Oblate apostolate too as we are always the Bishop's men. I thank you too for your effort to be at the monthly day of Oblate gathering. It shows your desire for and devotion to Community. Please keep the Congress in your prayers. May Mary protect you and may God bless you in every way in 1988.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

  
John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.  
Provincial