

THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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January 22, 1989

My brother Oblates

On January 17 we had our first Council Meeting of the year and of the new era in Itami with Des O' Donnell.

At that meeting the matter of Districts was discussed and in the light of the fact that we now have a community in Nagoya and also that we have only one community in Fukuoka the question of re-aligning the districts was discussed.

The following decision was made by the Council.

Tokyo, Nagoya and Itami will become a District. I consulted about this matter with the men involved before the Council meeting and they accepted this plan.

The Tokushima District will now be made up of the Oblates living in Tokushima Prefecture.

After consulting the men at Koga it was decided by the Council that they would become part of what is now known as the Kochi District.

At our Meeting in March the men from each District can gather together and decide on the man they wish to become District Superior. These names can then be submitted to the Council for approval and appointment. Perhaps we can have an appropriate installation ceremony at that time.

At our Congress last year there were a number of suggestions concerning Apostolic Ministries. Please consult 1988 DISCERNMENT CONGRESS FOLLOW-UP COMMUNIQUE TO THE VICE PROVINCE OF JAPAN especially page 22 APOSTOLIC PROJECTS IN GENERAL.

All of the suggestions have meaning for us but at this writing I am mainly concerned with #3 and #4. i.e.

3. The Province clarify its stand on all Apostolic Ministries

4. That Apostolic Ministries not merely be allowed, but that those involved in Apostolic Ministries be missioned.

At our council Meeting in Itami we discussed a plan whereby we can discuss and hopefully vote on these two suggestions at our meeting in March. Therefore kindly bring your copy of the above mentioned document to the meeting.

You have already received a letter from Bert Silver informing you of our discussions and decisions concerning financial matters at the Council Meeting in Itami. There is just one point about which I would like to remind you. Every house or individual who has an income and who is a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Religious Corporation must make a financial report to the Bursar. If this is not done there is grave danger that the tax authorities will investigate and perhaps fine the Oblates in Japan. If you have any question concerning this matter please consult with Bert.

As you may know John Iwo and Len Inui are celebrating the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Ordination this year. It was decided at our Council meeting to have our Oblate celebration of the event on the last evening of the meeting in March. It is my understanding that there will also be celebrations in the respective parishes.

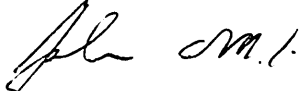
The meeting of the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference will be held in Bangalore, India. At this meeting we will also meet together with the General Council. I will be gone from February 7 to the 28. In my absence Mike Yamazaki will be the acting Provincial. If you have need of the Inkan please notify Ed Williams after consulting with Mike.

The March Mission Meeting is scheduled from 9 A.M. March 6th to 1 P.M. March 8th. Bishop Mori will be here to give us in-put and guidance concerning Criteria #3. *We will embrace a life style which reflects an open and respectfull attitude toward the Japanese and their culture.*

Please notify Ed Williams by February 20th in the unlikely event that you can not be present. I am sorry that we will not be able to serve dinner on the evening of March 5th. There will however be a Pop Corn Party at about 8P.M.

Looking forward to seeing you in Kochi in March. In the meantime please pray for the success of this meeting and also for the meeting of the General Administration and the Provincials of Asian/Oceania in Bangalore

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



March 1989

My brother Oblates,

The time since our last Newsletter has been has been eventful in many ways. In January we had a visit from our Regional Councilor, Des O'Donnell. Des was able to meet with the men in each District and share with them about Mission and Community.

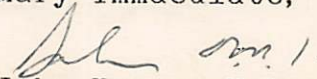
In February the Major Superiors of Asia/Oceania met with the General Council in Bangalore. Fr. Alfons Keuter the Treasurer General came to Japan. At a meeting with the Council he explained the Retirement Fund for Religious and other matters pertaining to Province finances.

In March we had our annual Province Meeting in Kochi. This was one of the best attended meetings on record, I believe. I think we grew in the process of discernment and also benefited greatly from the day with Bishop Mori. During the meeting we were all able to join John Iwo and Len Inui in celebrating their 25th Anniversary of Ordination. On March 20th Brothers Hashimoto and Yagi renewed their vows for one year. Our Assistant General, Gene Canas visited Japan in March. Gene had only a few days but during the drive from Naruto to Kochi via Muroto he was able to see a number of our place. He also met most of the Oblates.

I am sure you will agree that each one of these meetings, visits and events was a source of grace as well as an opportunity to grow in Oblate Community.

April is a time of beginnings in Japan. During this month the first meetings of the newly formed Districts will be held. I hope that each one will make an effort to be present and actively participate in these District Meetings. I hope that this day will more and more become a truly Oblate Community day. A day of prayer, a day of sharing about our works and a day of joyful celebration.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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

JOINT SESSION OF GENERAL COUNCIL AND A/O REGIONAL SUPERIORS

Excerpts from Father Zago's Opening and Closing Statements.

A joint session is an important event in the life of a Region as well as in the life of the Congregation. I hope that the present joint session will be a turning point for the emergence of a stronger Oblate Region in Asia/Oceania, and for a greater concern by our Congregation for the needs and challenges of Asia.

Oblate presence in Asia is limited; 535 Oblates, exactly 10% of the Congregation which today totals 5368 members. The scholastics are 98, that is 17% of our total students in vows. Statistically at present a limited increase is foreseen. The region at present is spread out in 15 countries and it is governed by 13 Oblate autonomous units.

But the challenges coming from the Asian reality are immense:

56% of the world population is in Asia (a country like China or India has more people than all of America or Latin America and Africa together).

85% of the non-Christians are in Asia, and generally they belong to the great universal religions like Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism.

Asian peoples who belong to old and living cultures, are faced with modernity in its many aspects and with the problems of development, of international economics, and communication, of justice internally and in relation to other countries.

We have to evaluate where we stand as a Congregation in this Asian context, as an Asian group as well as an international group. We have to discern if we perceive the challenges, and if we can respond to these challenges.

As a regional group, in order to perceive and respond to the challenges, we have to develop an Asian corporateness and awareness supported by a certain unity or regionalization.

The Asian regional structures are very loose and there are reasons for this: distances, visas, expense, different situations, small groups. But I think we have to move in the direction of greater unity in the Region, first because the Congregation is moving toward this, and second because the Church in Asia has already moved in that direction. (cf FABC with its different groups).

My hope is that the Oblates in Asia/Oceania develop:

1. a more common awareness of the needs and challenges of the continent,

-which requires more exchange of information;

-and more collaboration in missionary vision, goals and strategies

2. a greater availability to respond to the calls emerging from where we are and from where we have not yet come.

In our respective countries and in the Region as a whole we should be concerned not merely for the Christian communities. Because we are missionaries we are for all men and women, as the Founder was insisting with Bishop Allard and Father Semeria. Today, of course, we should be present and act from a new understanding of the missionary presence and action.

Where is the Region Moving?

a) The Region has already a great vitality in the missionary commitment, in the quality and number of local vocations, on Oblate identity. Don't have an inferiority complex.

b) I think the Region will move with greater unity and collaboration. Don't be afraid to move as a Region with the sub-Regional collaboration and appropriate activities.

c) The Region is moving also with local changes. I am happy to inform you that the Jaffna Delegation has become a Vice-Province, and the official declaration will be done on the occasion of my visit next August 1989.

The three Indonesian Delegations are in the process of becoming a Vice-Province, even though it will take some years.

I hope that vocations will allow a similar move for the Indian Delegation.

d) We are looking for a stronger presence in the region, and especially in strategic areas of the Asian scene.

We are looking for a more significant presence in Hong Kong as a privileged and realistic introduction into China. (the Provincials of the Philippines, Australia, and Anglo-Irish Povinces will meet with me and the Regional Councillor in Rome next April.

We are looking for a presence in Korea, for its

strategic historical and present situation in Confucian Asia. (Fr. O'Donnell visited the country and the general Council will study the possibilities next week).

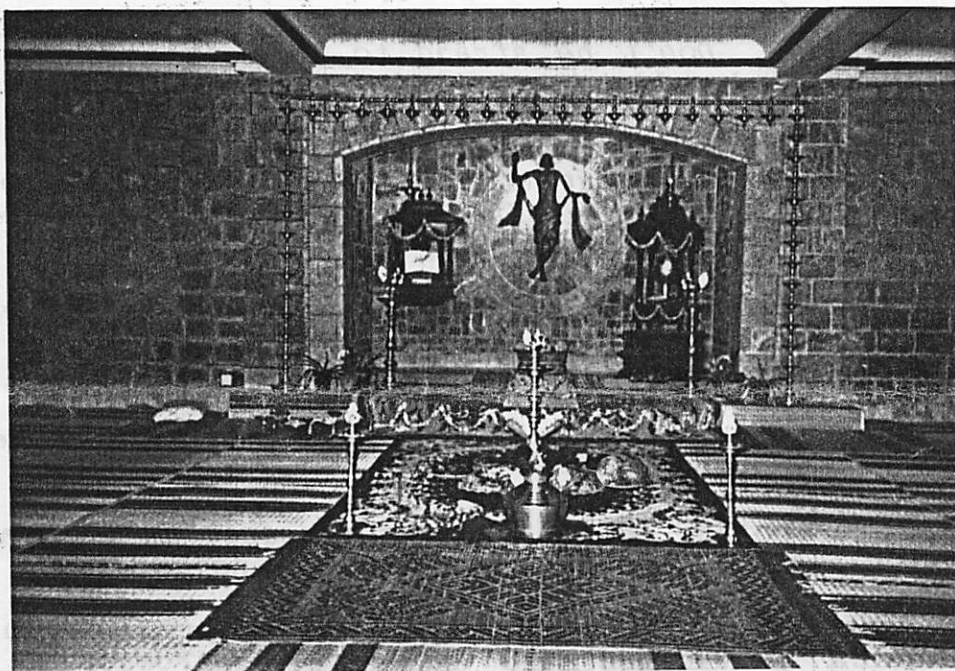
Two other countries need personnel in the next year in order to assure our missionary presence: Japan and Thailand. For Thailand dialogue has started with the Philippines.

Oblate Missionary Vision should be fostered at the local and Regional level

It is important to share a common vision as a congregation, but at the same time a contextual missionary vision according to the local or regional area.

This is accomplished through reflection on what is done and what could be done.

Oblate missionary identity is the over all goal of our planning as the General Administration. Our different programmes have in view not a desincarnated spirituality, but our missionary identity, expressed in our apostolic commitments as well as in our apostolic community. Our efforts in formation and in enabling an appropriate leadership are in the same perspective.



Chapel at Oblate House NIVEDANAM in Bangalore, India

**STATEMENT
OF THE
AORC ASSEMBLY 1989**

The Major Superiors of the Oblate Provinces and Delegations of Asia and Oceania gathered in Regional Conference in Bangalore, India, from the 13th to the 17th of February, 1989. The theme was: "Our Missionary Involvement in the Face of the Challenges of Inculturation". Fr. Aloysius Peiris, S.J. of Sri Lanka served as resource person.

With Fr. Peiris' help we became increasingly aware of the complexity of the challenges of inculturation, particularly of the centrality of cosmic religions in the culture of our Region.

As a result of our reflection and discussion we feel called:

- a. to clarify and deepen our understanding of inculturation in the context of our option for the poor
- b. to become rooted in our religious and cultural traditions
- c. to meet people of other religions in their experience of God.
- d. to be aware in all this of the impact of modernity and secularization
- e. to draw out and carry out the practical implementations of inculturation understood as 'inreligionisation' for initial and ongoing formation.

Together with Fr. General and the members of the General Council, we reflected and shared on our Oblate life and mission in the Region. This process we experienced as a brotherly journeying together.

In this matter, we feel called to:

- a. Set up appropriate structures that will help us work together as a Region; specifically, to determine the functions of leadership and coordination.
- b. Share personnel and material resources.
- c. Work together in formation at all levels.
- d. Improve our communication network.
- e. Initiate common project in line with our mission priorities.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

A. REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

A1. Be it resolved that a Regional President be elected from among the Major Superiors for a term of two (2) years. He may be elected for one additional term.

A2. Be it resolved that the role description of the Regional President include:

- a. to provide overall leadership for the Region
- b. to convene the Regional Assembly and assure an appropriate preparation
- c. to collaborate with the Executive Coordinator in the ongoing functioning of Regional life
- d. to represent the Region when called upon to do so at Congregation-wide and inter-regional meetings

A3. Be it resolved that a Vice-President be elected from among the Major Superiors for a concurrent term. Should the President be unable to complete his term, the Vice-President will assume that office until the next election.

A4. Be it resolved that the Office of Executive Coordinator be established for the Region. Be it further resolved that his role description include:

- a. to work with the President
- b. to represent the Region at various meetings
- c. to work with the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees of the Region
- d. to pursue any other services requested by the President or by the AORC Assembly.

A5. Be it resolved that the present General Councillor for the AOR assume this office for a period of two years.

A6. Be it resolved that the following Standing Committees be officially recognized or established:

- a. Formation Committee (AOFC)
- b. Mission Committee (AOMC)
- c. Justice and Peace Committee (AOJPC)

Be it further resolved that the President and Executive Coordinator follow up on this proposal by helping in the organization and effective functioning of these Committees

A7. Be it resolved that the Asia/Oceania Region be divided into three Sub-Regions:

1. Australia, Japan, Tahiti, (Korea)
2. Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand
3. Sri Lanka, Jaffna, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan

Be it further resolved that these Sub-Regions meet every two years. After consultation with the Major Superiors involved, the Executive Coordinator will convene an organizational meeting.

B. INITIAL FORMATION

B1. Be it resolved that the Asia/Oceania Formators Conference consider the feasibility of the following suggestions and make proposals if appropriate:

B1a. How to select scholastics for study in another culture where they might possibly minister in the future.

B1b. How to bring about an effective exchange of teaching and formation staff where appropriate.

B1c. How to identify and utilize regional resources to assure fluency in English for all candidates.

B1d. To study the advisability of designating a specific scholasticate to receive selected students from other Provinces or Delegation for part of their post-novitiate formation.

B1e. To explore the advisability of convening a Congress for our scholastics in the Region.

B2. Be it resolved that the Major Superior in which the AOFC is meeting assure liaison with the AORC.

C. ONGOING FORMATION/ANIMATION

C1. Be it resolved that all Major Superiors sponsor an Oblate Charism Retreat utilizing an Oblate specifically prepared for such a retreat

C2. Be it resolved that two or three members of the Region attend the 1990 DeMazenod experience at Aix in view of organizing a similar experience in the Region.

C3. Be it resolved that a list of Resource Persons, Oblates or others in various areas of competency be compiled by the Executive Coordinator and made available to the Oblate Major Superiors in the Region.

C4. Be it resolved that the Executive Coordinator oversee the development of a number of "dosiers" and make them available to the Oblate Major Superiors: eg., Refugees, Development, Inculturation, etc.

D. INCULTURATION

D1. Be it resolved that the Mission Committee, when established, develop a way to provide for ongoing reflection on our theology and spirituality of mission as Oblates.

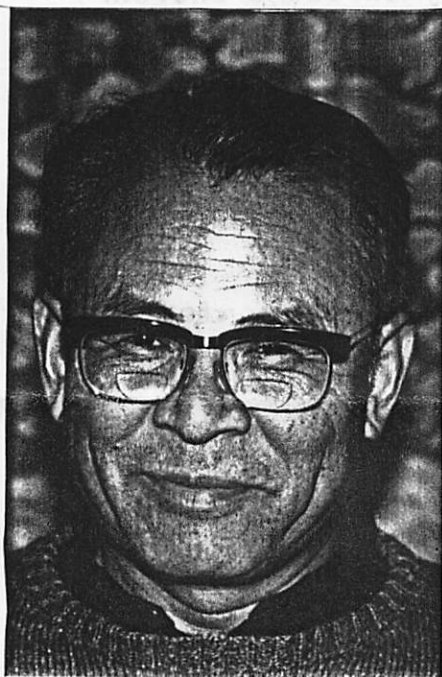
D2. Be it resolved that the Mission Committee, when established, explore the feasibility of convening a Congress on Islam for Oblates working in Islamic Countries.

D3. Be it resolved that the Mission Committee, when established, look into the possibility of sending young Oblates into another culture for an inculturated ministry experience. These Oblates should have a minimum of five years experience in their own culture. A report will be expected at the next Assembly. The President is to communicate this to the Chair of the Mission Committee.

TWO JAPANESE OBLATES CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Fr. John Iwo, O.M.I.

Fr. Leonard Inui, O.M.I.



Thank you very much for the celebration of our 25th anniversary of priesthood on March 6th. Many of you have already passed 25 years of priesthood. Now, I feel, I also have entered your community.

This year, 1989, the first year of Heisei, is a really meaningful year for me. I was baptized forty years ago on August 15, 1949 by Fr. Robitaille. Thirty eight years ago I went to the Novitiate in Aki. I was ordained on June 14th 1964 by Bishop Tanaka at the Tokushima church.

After Ordination my first assignment was to Akaoka with Fr. Tosa Yoshikazu. A year later I went to Brazil and had the experience of many priestly works. I returned to Japan in October of 1972. I was stationed in Itami and then Nakajima-cho parish. I have been in Aki since 1978. I enjoy life here with my many little friends in the kindergarten surrounded by the beauties of nature. Many thanks to God and to all of you.

John Iwo, O.M.I.

Looking back over the last 25 years, they seem to have been years rich in change.

When I was ordained I felt very strongly that this was a gift I had received for people. I felt strongly that my family, my neighbors, the church community, my school

mates all contributed to this visible gift. The kindergarten has been my work from helping out in the beginning to full time now. The difficulty has been to develop the wonderful humanity taught by Christ's Church. Because the history of all the universe is concentrated in the development of a person I feel that I must put all my effort into the development of human persons.

To all of you who have walked with me so far, my sincerest thanks.

Fr. Leonard Inui, O.M.I.

This year is really a very special year for the parishioners of Naruto. Special in the sense that we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of John Iwo and Len Inui.

25 years ago when John and Len were ordained Naruto was a parish. However, when they decided to become Oblates Naruto was only a mission station. At that time Fr. Tanaka, Father Robitaille and Brother Tsuda were the influencing personalities of the Naruto group. It was a time of sacrifice for the Christian community. The war was over only a few years. For the most part the catholics had to travel to Tokushima for Mass and christian community. Train and bus service was not what it is today.

When the a mission station was established in Naruto the group's numbers increased rapidly. Christianity was not an accepted religion to belong to in this part of Shikoku. Some of those who chose to follow Christ were forced to separate themselves from their own families. Yet even in the face of this John and Len chose first to receive Baptism and then later to ask for entrance into the Oblate Religious family.

For those of us with a Catholic culture background the choice to become a Religious is a tremendous joy for our families and our friends. I often wonder if this was the case with our two Silver Jubilarians. Time has passed and now it the time to join with them as they share their joy with us as a Religious Family dedicated to working with their Japanese families and friends.

Personally I would like to thank them for making their decision to be Oblate Missionaries. May the sacrifices they made to become Catholics and Religious Priests be a source of strength to them in the work they are in and in the work that Christ may ask of them' in their future ministry in Japan. God's choicest blessings on you both from all in Naruto and may our Blessed Mother continue to watch over you!

Fr. Bertram N. Silver, O.M.I.
Pastor of Naruto Parish

REFLECTIONS BY THE BROTHERS ON THEIR PASTORAL EXPERIENCE
DURING SPRING VACATION

I experienced what "To Live Is To Love" means. I was a volunteer worker at EMMAUS from February 9th to March 4th. "To Live Is To Love". This is an article of faith for the people living at Emmaus. In the beginning it is difficult for the people who enter the community and there are problems but after a time they begin to live in friendship and community. By living at Emmaus the person begins to know himself and grow into a kind and freindly person.

Emmaus is situated in Nishnari-ku in the city of Osaka. The very poorestt of the working class live in Nishnari-ku. Some are forced to live in the streets. In the winter some of these die in the street. At night the members of Emmaus bring food and blankets to these poor people.

I thought that the poor of Emmaus and the poor in the streets of Nishinari-ku know themselves and that they know God. These people are not poor. They live with God.

Bro. Hiroshi Hayashi, O. M. I.

The Beauty In This Life

I was a volunteer at the Hospice in Hamamatsu city from February 6 to March 4th. There were thirty terminal cancer patients as well as their families, physicians, nurses, a Protestant chaplain, clerks, helpers and volunteers (a university student, a diocesan seminarian and myself). We were all a "big family". While taking care of the patients, the big family of the Hospice shared joys, sorrows and faith, but especially we shared their last days together.

During my stay there five patients passed way. The patients and their families lived almost like religious and treasured each day they had together before God called them. I shared in the fond farewells with them.

At the Hospice I became aware once again of something that I had felt before. "To be sad is good". It is because of love that we are sad. "T'is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all".

A month at the Hospice was equal to two year in class.

May the Lord be with them!

Bro. Leo Kawaguchi, O. M. I.

During the Spring Vacation I was a volunteer at the Jagaimo Tengoku Rehabilitation Center. This center was started some years ago by a man who had worked at a Protestant Rehabilitation Center.

The Rehabilitation Center is located deep in the mountains in relaxed and natural surroundings. At the present time one boy and two girls are at the Center. During good weather they engaged in slope farming, chopping wood and growing mushrooms. On rainy days they spend their time in the wood working shop.

At our first meeting they accepted me as I am and they wanted to be accepted by me as they were. They had not been accepted as persons by their own families or at school. There were also many people around them who were like them but they were not accepted even by these. They became delinquent because of the frustration of non-acceptance.

If God did not accept me as the person I am, and if the Community did not accept me as I am.....

Bro. Masashi Hashimoto, O.M.I.

The most abandoned town in Japan is "Kamagasaki". In Kamagasaki thousands of workers live in a narrow area (0.62 sq. km.) But their living place is not necessarily a sweet home. It is a dirty apartment, a badly equipped hotel, the roadside or the park. They think nobody in the world loves them. But I really feel the presence of Jesus in them.

I spent two weeks among them in February. What did I see? I saw Japan. I saw the Church. I saw myself. Is Japan truly a peaceful country? What is the Church doing for them. Have I avoided them, I wonder? Various kinds of doubts spring up in my mind.

I think that the many experiences during my two weeks in Kamagasaki were a good opportunity to reconsider various things.

Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi, O.M.I.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

April 1 Leo Kawaguchi
17 Gerry Stevens
17 Jack Deely
22 Wency Laguidao

May 29 Tom Maher

June 2 Hiroshi Hayashi

Ordinations

April 4 Jerry Novotny
11 John Deely
26 Bill Maher
29 Fran Hahn

May 30 John Mahoney
Tom Maher
Bert Silver
31 Ange Siani

June 2 Dick Harr
7 Ed Williams
14 John Iwo
Len Inui
24 Mike Yamazaki
28 Jose De Fruyt

At the closing Mass of our Province Meeting I mentioned the idea of special days of prayer for Oblate vocations between the Feast Days of Blessed Eugene De Mazenod, May 21st. and Blessed Joseph Gerard, May 29th. The Lord has indeed blessed us with fine vacations but I am sure you will agree we have need for many more. Certainly our two Blessed will join us in our prayers. Perhaps in those places with two or more men some special community prayer could be said. Kindly urge your people to pray for Oblate vocations at this time.

I will be attending the Provincial's meeting in Rome. I will be gone from April 22 to May 13. In my absence Mike Yamazaki will be acting Provincial.

JKM

A note from Ray

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lei's information was too late for the print out but thru the newsletter I'm letting you know of the changes and they will appear in a future edition.

There are 3 additions:

- ① "Nigori" are to be added
- ② -1 added to address
- ③ Bureau address, phone + FAX number + the Pro Life Phone number.

The bottom item is the correct version. Thank you Ray.



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March 11, 1989

My brother Oblates,

Thank you for your cooperative participation on our Province meeting.

As you recall we discerned concerning Apostolic Ministries. The final step in the process was the filling out of the Discernment Sheet. In the rush of the final day I was not able to inform you of the results of this Discernment.

As you will also recall we were to discern whether the Apostolic Ministries were in line with Criteria #2.

"We will seek out and gear our works to the most abandoned".

The Community Discerned that the following Apostolic Ministries are in line with Criteria #2:

Administration	Parent Effectiveness Training
Chiropractic Healing	Parishes
Choice	Prison Chaplains
Counseling	Reformatory
Formation	Retreat Preaching
Justice and Peace	Seamen's Apostolate
Marriage Encounter	Telephone Counseling
Mission (rural)	Youth Work

Outcasts

At the close of the meeting I mentioned the visit of Father General in September. I forgot to mention that Father Eugene Canas, Assistant General, will be visiting from March 25 to 31.

As the News Letter will most likely not be in your hands before Easter I will take this opportunity to wish you a most Happy and Glorious Easter. I will remember you and your work in my Masses on Easter.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate, *John Kenney Mahoney*

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

SPRING MEETING ON JUSTICE AND PEACE March 12-14 /1990

Meeting Coordinator: Fr. Xave Tosa, O.M.I.

Speaker: Fr. Honda Tetsuroo, OFM

Purpose: To conscientize ourselves, to make ourselves more aware of the Justice and Peace problems in Japan and of our responsibility as individuals and as a Community to work for Justice and Peace.

To consider how we can answer the call of the General Council. (cf. Communique No. 51/89 Oct. 89)

Method: To talk and reflect in small groups on the talks given by the speaker and to come up with questions reflections and impressions etc. to bring to the speaker and the group.

Schedule:

Monday 7:15-Morning Prayer and Meditation
8:00-Breakfast
9:15-Talk by Fr. Honda
10:00-Coffee Break
10:30-Small Group Discussion and Preparation of Questions
11:45-Mass
12:30-Lunch
14:30-Question and Answer Session with Fr. Honda
15:15-Coffee Break
15:30-Talk by Fr. Honda
16:15-Small Group Discussion and Preparation of Questions
17:15-Evening Prayer and Adoration
18:00-Supper
19:00-Short Meeting of Pastors

Tuesday 9:15-Question and Answer Session with Fr. Honda
10:15-Coffee Break
10:30-Talk by Fr. Honda
11:15-Small Group Discussion and Preparation of Questions
12:00-Departure for Ensoku and Visit to Ao Nami Ie
17:15-Mass
18:00-Supper
19:30-Question and Answer Session with Fr. Honda and Orientation by Xave Tosa

Wednesday 9:15-Small group discussion on Xave's input. Questions, suggestions, etc. with the objective of reaching practical conclusions in light of the call of the General Council.
10:15-Coffee Break
10:30-General Session report of small groups. Practical conclusions for personal and Community action.
11:45-Closing Mass





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My brother Oblates.

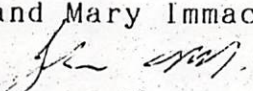
The meetings of the three districts were held in Kochi, April 10th; Tokushima, April 17 and the new District on April 21. I am sending you the results of the Discernments in the respective Districts concerning the Missionary Apostolate of Tom Maher for Chemical Dependents and of Wency Laguidao for Philippine Migrant Workers. Kindly use this material for your final discernment at the May District Meetings

Due to an oversight on my part I failed to include the Neo-Catachumenate-- 新共同体運動 --on the list of Apostolic Ministries that are in line with Criteria #2. in my letter of March 11, 1989.

I am leaving this evening for the meeting of new (and not so new) Provincials in Rome. Please keep me and the meeting in your good prayers.

May you have a happy Golden Week and please do not forget the prayers for Oblate Vocations between the Feast Days of Blessed Eugene deMazenod May 21, and Blessed Joseph Gerard, May 29th when making your plans for the month of May.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.
Provincial



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August 23, 1989

My Brother Oblates

In the June Newsletter under the title VERY IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER Father General's Visit, Brother Kawaguchi's Perpetual Profession, and the Annual Retreat were listed. (Enclosed is a copy of that page.) The purpose of this letter is to give you up-dated information about these events.

The format for Fr. Zago's visit to the Districts and Communities will be to have a talk by Father in the morning. The afternoon will be more or less open to enable Father Zago to have a chance to talk with each one. If it is wish of Fr. Zago or the group an informal sharing could be included in the afternoon program.

Brother Kawaguchi is now making his Retreat in preparation for Perpetual Profession. Kindly remember him in your prayers during these final days of preparation. Mike is making the arrangements for a fine Oblate Celebration. Please bring you white stole and mass vestment.

Fr. Kevin Casey asks that you bring the following for the Retreat. THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES, the O.M.I. prayer book entitled OBLATE PRAYER (this book has a dark blue cover), and the 1986 Chapter Document MISSIONARIES IN TODAY'S WORLD (the "green book"). We have arranged to have simultaneous translation if you wish to take advantage of this please bring a small FM radio and air phones. You are also requested to bring your Japanese breviary and the Fathers to bring their mass vestment.

The Retreat will begin at 9:30 on Monday September 11 and end after lunch in Friday September 15. Sorry but we will not be able to serve supper on Sunday evening September 10. In the unlikely event that you will not be able to attend this Oblate Charism Retreat please notify Ed by September 5th. Thank you.

I want to thank you for your prayers for my brothers. My older brother is doing quite well. There is nothing more that can be done for my younger brother. I was glad to be home when I was. It is now only a matter of weeks or at most a few months. At this time he and his family are most in need your prayers. Thank you.

VERY IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 29 to September 9 visit of Father General Marcello Zago. Fr. Zago's Itinerary.

Aug.. 29 Arrive Itami.

Aug.. 30 Nagoya Meeting with the Nagoya Community.

Aug.. 31 Leave Nagoya in the afternoon for Naruto

Sept. 1 Meeting with Tokushima District

Sept. 2 Meet with Bishop Fukahori. Travel to Kochi.

Sept. 3 Kochi

Sept. 4 Meeting with the Kochi District

Sept. 5 Koga

Sept. 6 Return to Itami Meet with Arch-Bishop Yasuda

Sept. 7 Meeting with the Fathers of the Honshuu District at Itami

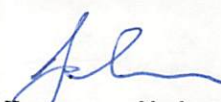
Sept. 8 Vow Ceremony and Reception

Sept. 9 Departure for Hongkong

September 11 to 15 Annual Retreat. This is the Oblate Charism Retreat prepared by a special team two years ago in Rome. Fr. Kevin Casey who is a member of the team will conduct our retreat. It is the wish of Father General that every Oblate make this Oblate Charism Retreat.

September 8 Brother Kawaguchi will be making his Perpetual Profession surely an important day for the Province. The Council by the arrangement of the time and place (i.e. 11 A.M. in Itami) hopes that many will be able to attend. After the Vow Mass there will be a reception at the church which will begin at 12:30. This will most likely be over by about 2. This information should help you in making your travel plans.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.
Provincial



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September 10, 1989

My brother Oblates,

On September 7 in Itami the Provincial Council met with Father General. This is a brief report on that meeting.

The first item on the agenda was the Formation Team. Ange gave a report on the meeting of the Team held in Kochi on August 8. The recommendations of the Formation Team were accepted by the Council. Ange will send you a copy of this report.

Financial matters were the next topic discussed. It was decided that Fran should be asked to join the Financial Committee. He has accepted. The members now are Bert, Ron, Mike and Fran. The role of the committee members is to be well informed of the financial situation of the Province. The Council hopes that this increase in the members of the committee will strengthen our spirit of community sharing, participation and collaboration.

Bert then gave a report on the financial situation of the Province at this time. He will soon be sending you a copy of this report.

Finally Fr. Zago shared with the Council his observations after visiting the Province and meeting with each one in the Province. He first spoke of the positive aspects of the Mission and then of the challenges that he feels the Mission faces today. He will soon send a letter to the Province in which he will present this report to each one.

After the Retreat I will be going to the Philippines to participate in the 50th Anniversary Celebration. In October Bert and I will go to Korea to prepare for the Oblates coming next year and also to participate in the Eucharistic Congress. In my absence Ange will be acting Provincial

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.
Provincial



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October 20, 1989

My brother Oblates

The Council met in Itami on October 15-16. This is a letter to inform you of that meeting.

We spent the first hour and a half reflecting on the Constitutions and Rules; in particular the Forward and the Preface. For this we used a study and reflection program prepared by the Texas Province. We will continue to use this study aid in our coming meetings. I hope it will be used at our District Meetings in the future.

The first item on the agenda was a report on Korea. As you know Bert Silver and I went to Korea during the International Eucharistic Congress with the intention of making contacts concerning our future Mission there.

Fr. Zago asked me to see Bishop Angelo Kim of the Suwon Diocese. He told Fr. O'Donnell he would send a letter inviting the two Italian Father, Vincenzo Bordo, and Mauro Concardi, to Korea for language and culture study. This letter is necessary in order to obtain a Visa but it had not been received when I last spoke to Fr. Zago in Manila.

I phoned Bishop Kim the night we arrived in Seoul. He agreed to meet me after the Opening Mass of the Congress. I finally located him among the crowd of Bishops. He informed me that he had sent the letter some time before. The next evening he called to apologize and say he had been mistaken the letter had not been sent but that he was then writing to Father General.

The next day Bert and I visited the Superior of the Columbans. We thought the our Fathers might be able to stay with them. However, the The Columbans do not have people stay with them for long periods. Fr. O'Brien the Columban Superior informed us that the Franciscan's have facilities in their Monastery in Seoul for boarders.

We asked about places to study the language. He told us the Korean Language Institute of Yonsei University was the best place. We also the discussed the possibility of the fathers living with a Korean family or renting a small apartment. Students studying the language do both of these but usually

not until they have completed one year of the language. Many also do some pastoral work after the first year for about six months and then continue the formal study of the language.

The following day we visited Fr. John Lee the Provincial of the Franciscans who is Korean. He told us our Oblates can most likely stay with them. He is going to consult with the Superior of the Monastery and then write to me. We also asked him his opinion as to the best place to study Korean. His answer was that the best place for foreigners to study Korean is at Yonsei University. The University is about 20 minutes by bus from the Monastery.

Akaoka was next on the agenda. A few days before the Council Meeting Ed and I went to Akaoka to see Leo's project in order to give the Council an update. Leo spoke to us about the project at our District Meetings in Kochi and Tokushima in June and I talked about it at the District Meeting in Nagoya so I do not think it necessary to go into the details here. Leo had spoken to me of the work that was being done to prepare the building but I was completely surprised by the looks of the old place. There are nicely furnished rooms for the guests with adequate sinks and toilets, and a fine ofuroo. The combination kitchen-dining-community room is most comfortable. There are also two large rooms for group work and occupational training. The large windows in all the rooms make the whole atmosphere light and airy. Leo is now consulting with the Bishop about hoojins and registration of the facility. He is also consulting with his lawyer on the legal aspects and obligations of the project.

We next discussed the Province Meeting in March. The dates of the meeting were set for March 5, 6 and 7th, Monday to Wednesday. The Follow Through Committee has been asked to prepare for the March Meeting. The FTC is meeting next month.

The next matter on the Agenda was the Asia/Oceania Meeting which is scheduled to be held here in Japan from July 2 to 7. The theme of the meeting is Mission in Secularized Society. Fr. Francis George has been invited as a input person. An expert in this field in Japan will also be invited. Delegates from the Provinces and Delegations of the Asia/Oceania Region will attend the meeting. Anyone in the Province who wishes to attend the meeting is also most welcome. Ed Williams has agreed to be coordinator of the meeting. Financing the meeting was discussed. Fr. Canas is looking into a means to cover the expenses of Fr. George. I will be in contact with Fr. John Sherman, Provincial of Australia and President of the Asia/Oceania Conference as to ways and means of subsidizing the other costs of the meeting.

In May of 1990 there will be an Inter capitular meeting in Rome. Recently I received a letter and questionnaire concerning preparation for the meeting. I asked the Council members to answer the questionnaire as a help to me in preparing for the meeting.

I reported to the council that while in the Philippines Bishop Dione asked me about the possibility of the Oblates of Notre Dame Sisters coming to work in Japan. I told him that I thought that Bishop Fukahori would be most happy to have these Filipino sisters working in his diocese as there are now many Filipino's living in the diocese. I spoke to Bishop Fukahori about this. He is indeed quite interested. I will convey this information to Bishop Dionne. It will then mainly be a matter between Bishop Fukahori, Bishop Dione and the Superior General of the OND Sisters

Ange reported on the Nagoya Community's assessment of the Summer Vocation Camp. They feel the format must be changed and be directed more at the middle and highschool level as this is the age group that attends. Also that greater variety in the program is necessary as some of the boys come every year. They also feel a shorter time at some camp site type of place might be helpful. The Brothers also stressed the importance of the participation of the Fathers even in an informal way.


We also discussed means to attract young men in the 20-30 age bracket. There was some discussion about putting an attractive ad in the Catholic Newspaper perhaps inviting such young men to come to the Nagoya house to spend a weekend.

The next Council meeting will be held in Naruto on December 4 and 5. The main matter on the agenda will be finances. I would like to remind that your applications for financial help must be sent to Bert by the first of November if you need to receive help from the Province next year.

I would ask each one of you to pray each day for the success of the Oblate Mission to Korea and of course for vocations.

Enclosed is a copy of Fr. Zago's letter to the Province.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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



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November 4, 1989

My brother Oblates,

I have just received word from Fr. Gene Canas that Bishop Kim of the diocese of Suwon has sent a letter to Fr. General inviting the Oblates to Korea. This means it is certain that the Oblates will have a mission in Korea. The first two Fathers Vincenzo Bordo and Mauro Concardi will be coming early next year. I hope that they will have time to visit Japan before going to Korea. Please keep them and the Korean Mission in your prayers.

Recently I was able to meet with Fr. Justin Bartoszek the Passionist Superior from Korea. I did not have much chance to speak to him in Korea. Fortunately he was in Mefu on October 29 to attend a meeting of the Asian Passionist Superiors. Incidentally after 25 years on Korea there are 30 Korean Passionists.

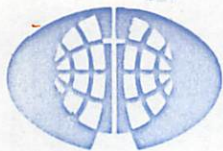
He felt that the Oblates should do very well. The Koreans have a great devotion to our Lady and our name itself will be an attraction for many. The fact that we are missionaries to the poor will appeal to many young Koreans. He said that there are a number of dioceses that would most certainly welcome missionaries who wanted to work with the poor. He also pointed out that at present there is no Congregation in Korea that specializes in giving Parish Retreats. Justin felt that any group that wanted to do this work would be most welcome anywhere in Korea.

While in Korea I attended the Holy Hour for Priest at which the Holy Father gave the enclosed sermon. Many points brought back to mind matter that was presented by Kevin at our Retreat. The Holy Father said "We must celebrate the Eucharist with faith, receive it with reverence, and allow it to transform us through adoration". The words I have underlined seem to echo a phrase of Kevin's from my retreat notes "to be molded by the Lord".

The theme of the Holy Fathers sermon also bring to mind this sentence from our CC and RR. "In gratitude for this great Eucharistic gift, we will seek the Lord often in his sacramental presence."

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.



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November 28, 1989

My brother Oblate,

At their meeting the Follow Through Committee made the following recommendation in order to activate the suggestion concerning Parish Apostolates.

"After much discussion the FTC proposed we get the process going by:

1. Asking all those in Parish Apostolates to meet by the end of December or at the latest the end of January.
2. Place: Kochi
3. Participants: Pastors and other interested parties."

At their meeting the Council approved of the FTC recommendations.

This meeting will be held in Kochi on December 11 from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

In order to facilitate the process of the meeting each participant is requested to send a short paper to the Provincial Office.

Please write your suggestion for a Chairman and Secretary and if possible briefly mention the major points of your vision.

For further details concerning this meeting kindly refer to your letter from the FTC that Ange sent to you.

This meeting will constitute the December Retreat day for the Kochi District. The Schedule from 3P.M. will be the same as usual.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.
Provincial



December 12, 1989

My brother Oblates,

The Council met on December 5 in Naruto. After reciting morning prayer we spent some time reflecting on Mission as found in CC 1-5. We used a video tape prepared by the Southern Province.

The main point of discussion was the 1990 budget. This discussion will continue at the meeting to be held in Itami on January 22. After that meeting Bert Silver will send you a report on the financial situation of the Province. I can make one brief observation at this time. As you know we have been trying not to go into our reserves but if we are not careful as to the use and distribution of our funds there is the strong possibility we may have to do this. We should all do our utmost to try not to let this happen.

We then discussed the recommendations made by the Follow Through Committee concerning the Kindergarten Ministry and also the feedback from their recommendation. The response of the Directors of Kindergartens was that March of 1990 would not allow adequate time for the in depth consideration of the Kindergarten Apostolate called for by the FTC. After considering various possibilities the Council decided the Kindergarten Apostolate will be the agenda for the March Meeting of 1991. Fr. Silver the Chairman of the School Corporation was asked to consult with the other Directors to decide the time and place of the first meeting perhaps sometime in January. I will then ask them to send me their choice for Chairman and Secretary of the Kindergarten Committee and also ask them to write a brief paper on the Kindergarten Apostolate i.e. an evaluation and points that should be discussed.

The March meeting in 1990 will be devoted to Peace and Justice. I have asked Fr. Honda, O.F.M. to be with us as an input person during this meeting. The Council felt that Peace and Justice is something that we must discuss especially in the light of the decisions made by the General Council concerning Mission, Poverty and Justice at the October Plenary Session. (cf. Communique No. 51/89 October 1989 excerpt enclosed) The dates of this meeting

are March 12-14 1990.

The date for the 1990 Retreat will be September 10-14. Fr. Nemesh, S.J. will be the preacher. These date were set with him early in 1989.

We then discussed the Honshu District. After consulting with the men involved it was decided at the January 1989 Council meeting to establish the Honshu District. At the time of the March 1989 Meeting Jack Deely was appointed District Coordinator. Since then the District has held meetings but due to the difficulty of arranging schedules so that all Fathers and Brothers could participate these meetings have been infrequent and of short duration. At a discussion of this problem at the Distric meeting in Nagoya in November we came to the conclusion that because of varied and unadjustable schedules, long hours of travel for some, and the expense of travel etc. that Tokyo should be reestablished as a district. I will try to attend the District meeting held in Tokyo. It has not yet been decided to which district Mike and Wency will belong. The community in Nagoya is large and has monthly community days. I will make it a point to keep them informed of what is taking place at the other District Meetings in order to have them participate in Province discussions.

There was an update on the Korea Mission which has now become somewhat a matter of history as I received word yesterday that the two Fathers will not be coming until late April. They intend to start their studies in the Summer Semester. They were not able to get their visas in time to make the Spring Semester.

We had a brief discussion on vocation recruitment. We discussed the possibility of advertising in a newspaper or magazine to attract Japanese vocations. It was decided to make further study of this matter. We also decided to act on the recommendation of Fr. Zago and write to the Provincial of Sri Lanka as to the possiblitty of young missionaries from Sri Lanka coming to work in Japan.

Finally I reported to the Council on the matter of the Oblates of Notre Dame coming to work in Japan. Bishop Dione acknowledged my letter expressing his pleasure in Bishop Fukahori's interest. He suggested that I ask Bishop Fukahori to write to him directly. When Bishop Fukahori was here to bless Ao Nami no Ie I gave him copies of both my letter and the letter from Bishop Dion. He I believe will now write to Bishop Dion.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.

Call to the Oblates

In our task of animating the Congregation, we once more call attention to this essential ministry of active compassion and love for the suffering people of God. "We Oblates are sent to evangelize the poor and the most abandoned, i.e. to proclaim Jesus Christ and his kingdom (C. 5), to be witnesses of the Good News to the world, to motivate actions which might transform individuals and society, to denounce whatever is an obstacle to the coming of the kingdom" (MTW 14). To be a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate in today's world is to have an active concern for the suffering of millions of people, an active concern for justice and peace in our world. This is not optional, it is a must!

Practical conclusions

Among the practical conclusions reached by the General Council were the following:

1. We invite all Provinces/Delegations and Regions to strengthen or to establish J.& P. committees, so that as soon as possible a renewed Congregation-wide Network, based on these committees, can be brought about.
2. The Council's internal J.& P. committee is requested to prepare the outline of a Vade Mecum on Justice and Peace, and to see to the realization of such a project with the help of Oblate experts in this field.
3. The Council's internal J.& P. committee is also requested to study the feasibility of an international Oblate gathering on J.& P. during 1991 in order to help the Council evaluate the J.& P. dimension of our missionary activity as a world-wide Congregation, and to propose lines of action for the future, which could be submitted to the 1992 General Chapter.
4. The Council decided to adopt the following short message as a call to action in the animation of the Congregation:

WE MISSIONARY OBLATES CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE
MISERY OF THE POOR. LET'S ACT IN SOLIDARITY.....!



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December 30, 1989

My brother Oblate,

The Christmas Newsletter did not have a list of birthdays, anniversaries, and important dates. This is due to an oversight on my part.

Birthdays

JANUARY

2 Ed Williams
22 Ray Bourgoin
29 Dick Harr

FEBRUARY

15 Len Inui
23 Masashi Hashimoto

MARCH

1 Jerry Novotny
23 Bill Maher

PROVINCE MEETING

March 12-14 Justice and Peace Fr. Honda Tetsuroo, O.F.M.

ANNUAL RETREAT

September 10-14 Fr. Odon Nemesh, S.J.

ASIA/OCEANIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE MEETING ON MISSION

July 2-7 Mission in Secularized Society Fr. Desmond O'Donnell, O.M.I. and Fr. Ernest Piryns, C.I.C.M. If you wish to attend this meeting you will be most welcome.

The address of our house in Nagoya has been changed to the following: (the mailing address remains the same)

新住所

郵便番号 4 6 8

名古屋市天白区 中平二丁目2627番地

(方内)

氏名 オブレト会名古屋修学院

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation during the past year. I hope and pray that 1990 will be a good year for you and for our Province. It is going to be an important year as we look in depth at our Parish and Kindergarten Apostolates. This will require time for personal study, prayer and reflection. It will also entail meetings which will require an added sacrifice of time for each one of us. The meeting in March at which we will consider the problems of Justice and Peace can also have considerable effect on our Oblate apostolate in Japan.

It is most important that we all pray for the success of these Oblate activities. It is also most important that we all continue to pray for the young men in our House of Studies in Nagoya and also for the members of the Formation Committee. Joined with this should be our unending prayers for vocations. Another object of our prayers in 1990 should be the Mission to Korea.

Finally I would like to thank each one for his efforts to participate in the District Meetings. I encourage you keep up these efforts.

May Mary Immaculate protect and guide you and the Province in 1990.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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