



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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January 19, 1990

My brother Oblates,

On January 25 we will celebrate the 174 Anniversary of Foundation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. This is an occasion when we can well reflect on the Charism of the Founder and the Oblates. I think it is good to use our days of Oblate celebration to do this in order to become more aware of our Oblate Identity.

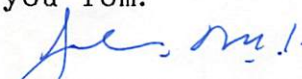
While reflecting along these lines I thought it might be well to take out my notes on our Oblate Charism Retreat of last year. In my notes I found some questions that were presented by Kevin Casey. *"How real am I as an Oblate? Is Jesus the center of my life? Who is Christ to me? Am I willing to pay the price of being a member of the Oblate Community?"* You may have the same question or others in your notes. It might be well to reflect and pray on them on January 25. It can also be an good time to reread the resolutions you made at the close of the retreat.

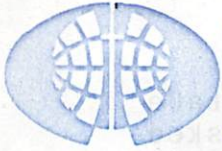
During the retreat we considered our Oblate prayer life and our Oblate Vows. We also looked at our Oblate devotion to the Blessed Eucharist, the Sacred Heart and to our blessed Mother, Mary. All of these things (and many others) are what make our Oblate Identity. Surely we should make time in our life for reflection and prayer on them in order to have a clear Oblate Identity.

In his letter to us Fr. General spoke about the need of a clear Oblate identity. *"For this, (vocations) as for personal and community growth and effectiveness in the missionary apostolate, a clear identity is necessary. The Oblate charism has different aspects. Besides the missionary and community dimensions, I wish to recall also the demands of religious life and especially the life of faith. Oblate identity is fostered through our prayer as indicated in our Constitutions and especially by the Eucharist. (C33)."*

Happy Foundation Anniversary Day. I will remember you in Mass in a special way on January 25.

I am enclosing Tom's report. I am sure you will find it interesting and enlightening. Thank you Tom.


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



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Feb 5, 1990

My brother Oblates,

At their meeting in November the Follow Through Committee recommended that we "get to a deep discernment of the kindergartens. Where we are? Where do we go?".

They suggested that this be done in preparation for the Spring Meeting of this year. The Directors of the Kindergartens were consulted. They agreed that such a deep discernment is necessary but felt very strongly that there was not time enough for the needed preliminary discernment to be done before the March 1990 Meeting. Therefore the Council decided we should consider the Kindergarten Apostolate in depth at the Spring meeting of 1991.

I asked Bert Silver as Chairman of the Kindergarten Corporation to make arrangements for the first meeting on the Kindergarten Apostolate. He has proposed the following for the meeting.

Participants: Directors and other interested parties

Place: Koga

Time: 9:30 A.M. March 6 1990

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

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

The Provincial Council met in Itami on January 22. The main subject on the agenda was the Province Finances. You have already received a letter from Bert reporting on that portion of the Meeting.

I will mention other points that were on the agenda.

We discussed the Justice and Peace Meeting that is to take place in Kochi from March 12-14. As you know I have asked Xave to be Chairman of this meeting. He and I have met twice to prepare for the meeting. Xave is also going to visit Fr. Honda, the input person, next month. After that Xave and I will be meeting again in an effort to make this a meaningful and productive meeting for Justice and Peace in the Province. I will send you further information in good time for the meeting.


The Council discussed the feasibility of asking the Province of Sri Lanka to send some young Fathers to work in Japan. Fr. Zago has urged me to do this on several occasions. Therefore I have written to Fr. Anselm Silva the Provincial of Sri Lanka concerning this matter. I will see him at the Intercapitular meeting in Rome in May. I will keep you informed on this and ask your prayers.

We next discussed the Intercapitular Meeting which will be held in Rome from May 2-23. Provincials are asked to prepare a report on the Province. We decided that the main item for the next Council meeting will be the preparation of this report. As Fr Zago has asked that the Provincials include their Consultors and others Oblates in the Province in the process of reflection I am enclosing the questionnaire he has sent. I would appreciate your reply in time for the next Council Meeting which is March 26 in Itami. Will you kindly send your material directly to Mike in Itami. Thank you.

I am also inclosing THE PRIEST WE NEED NOW the English translation of the statement on the Priesthood by the Bishop's Conference of Japan. It is a statement each one of us should read and meditate upon.

In January the Takamiya Gallery sponsored an exhibition of Brother Tsuda's paintings to honor his Tenth Anniversary. Mr. Takamiya produced a brochure in color of Brother Tsuda's Way of the Cross as a memorial for this occasion. A Complimentary copy will be sent to you. (N.B. Actually Brother's Tenth Anniversay is next year.)

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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

Reports and questionnaire

The program will include a personal report by the Superior General and, if need be, reports by members of the General Administration. Each Region will give a report which will take account of the Delegations. We do not ask you to forward this report to us in advance.

In order to facilitate your personal preparation for this exercise in coresponsibility and the preparation of the Regional report we suggest the following list of questions. We ask you to include your consultants and other Oblates of your Province in the process of reflection.

1. What concrete steps have been taken in your Province/Region to increase AWARENESS and REFLECTION on the document "Missionaries in Today's World"?
2. Have any NEW INITIATIVES been taken in your Province/Region as a result of "MTW"?
 - methods of evangelization
 - forms and quality of Apostolic community
 - the association of the laity with our mission
 - first and ongoing formation of the members of the Province/Region
 - etc.?
3. What remains to be done regarding "MTW" in your Province/Region? -awareness? - initiatives?
4. What has been the OVERALL IMPACT of the General Chapter event and its final document, "MTW", on the life and mission of your Province/Region?
5. How could the Congregation benefit more from "MTW" in the two pre-Chapter years? What should be done?
6. Have you any suggestions on how we might REFLECT TOGETHER on "MTW" during the Inter capitular meeting?
7. What other matters would you like to have discussed at this meeting?

The Priest We Need Now

(今、望まれる司祭)

To our brothers and sisters, the priests, Religious and all the faithful:

You will remember how the Bishops' Conference published in 1984 a pastoral entitled "Basic Policy and Priority of the Japanese Church" and how in 1987 we sponsored the "First National Incentive Convention for Evangelization" (herein-after NICE). In the light of these developments it is only natural to ask what is expected of our priests, the men who must take the lead in the task of evangelization. Proposals sent to the Bishops' Conference from NICE advocated not only "providing means for the lifelong education of bishops, priests, religious and laity" (NICE. Prop. I : Sect.2) but also "the promotion of dialog and exchange between priests and people, and also between priest and priest by foster a community spirit among priests." (NICE. Prop. III : Sect.4). In other words pointing out the necessity for renewal in the priest himself. We feel that the laity desire and expect an extremely high ideal of a priest, and keenly aware of this, some priests have often asked what the Bishops' Conference expects.

For this reason, at our Ordinary Plenary Assembly last June, under the heading "The divine call and mission of priests in modern Japan", we discussed what kind of life and outlook would be expected of the ideal priest in our times. Here it must be understood that our discussion was not a general examination of the theological and spiritual aspects of the priestly office.

A Prayerful Priest

1. Communion with God, with Christ.

A life of prayer with the Mass as center is the foundation of a priest's activity. Consequently, even in his daily life, the priest, as one who shares the cross of Christ, must by sacrifice and reparation strive for his own evangelization. At home in the Bible, let us meditate on the words and works of Christ seek the will of God, and accept the challenge to carry it out. "So with the faith: if it does not lead to action, it is in itself a lifeless thing" (James 2:17). A priest must admit his own helplessness and rely wholeheartedly on God. We would wish too that the priest be a man who prays and works not only for the flock immediately committed to his care but for all the people who live in his district.

2. A priest conscious of being sent.

"As the Father has sent me I also send you" (John 20:21) are the words of Christ who remaining with his Father to the end, obeyed even unto death on the cross. The priest too,

relying on the power of Christ who is with him, must carry out the will, the desire of the One who sent him. We would wish the priest to find his true fulfilment and satisfaction not in doing what he wants himself but in accomplishing the desires of Christ. In the same way, what the priest must teach is not what he thinks himself but the tradition he inherited from the Apostles, the teaching of Christ. His relation to the Pope and the bishops too must be thought of in the light of his relation to Christ.

A Priest Who Cares For People

3. Who can work in a team

We need priests, official ministers of the Church, who can fill a need when the occasion arises and co-operate not only with the bishop and fellow priests but also with his own Christians. Granted it can only be done by God's help and by conquering one's self, but we do need priests who can dialog with people, who are ready to share, able to give and take. Were we not told, "I living in them, you (Father) living in me..... that their unity may be complete" (John 17:23)?

4. Who knows how to lead

Christ who was Lord and Master became the servant of all and washed the feet of his disciples (John 13:4-15). So, the first condition to being leader of the church community is to humble oneself and become the servant of all. The most valuable leadership is always born from an humble attitude and a willingness to serve. He who is the shepherd must, through this kind of service, give life to each one of his people, guide them to maturity and gather them into one flock. The power bestowed upon a priest must not be construed as a power to restrain others but rather as a responsibility to be fulfilled.

A Priest In Step With Society

5. Preaching the Word

Christ said "Make disciples of all the nations" (Mtt. 28:19). Unless the teaching of Christ, his life, the promises he made, the mystery of the kingdom of God, are handed on, there can be no true evangelization. We need priests who even when no results are to be seen, will neglect no means, use every opportunity to hand on the gospel to those who do not know Christ, lead them to Baptism and welcome them into the company of the people of God. We need especially priests who train apostles and work with them whole-mindedly in evangelizing the community. Or again, priests overseas who can share the life of the people of that country and rear up future generations of missionaries.

6. A Priest who walks with the weaker ones of society

In concluding the parable of 'The Good Samaritan', Jesus said, "Go and do as he did" (Lk. 10:37). A priest must possess a deep understanding and compassion for human nature just as it stands. We need a priest who will take his stand with the sick and with those who suffer oppression and discrimination, whose dignity as human beings has been wounded. We should like the priest to be one who can share their sorrow and suffering and at the same time be resolved to fight relentlessly the power of darkness which violate the rights and dignity of men and women who have been created by God and redeemed by Christ. Correcting people's standards of judgement and scale of values and aligning their interests and lifestyle with the words of God and the plan of salvation..... that also is an important part of evangelization.

Lastly we have a favor to ask of the lay Christians. Do please pray for the priest. Is it asking too much, to discover, in one so full of faults, the seal set there by God who called him? Do, please, take your stand by his side. It is no easy task in these rapidly changing modern times and especially in Japan where Christians are such a tiny flock, for the priest to be confident of his mission and live up to it. Help and support him to carry out faithfully the office entrusted to him in the midst of God's people.

And to all the priests we wish to say that we are convinced there can be no renewal in the church without renewal on the part of bishops and priests. The reform of oneself entails a hard fight but let us accept the challenge to live the kind of life the gospel teaches, trusting in Christ's help and supported by the faithful. There may be lots of mistakes but we are certain our efforts will move the heart of God our father, call forth ever greater cooperation from our people and become the driving force for evangelization and renewal throughout the whole church.

We send our Apostolic blessing to all those who pray for priests and help them and work for renewal in the church and the evangelization of our nation.

December 12, 1989

Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

(The translation was done by the Oriens Institute for Religious Research.)



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Feb 8. 1990

Dear John,

Made a mistake in my most recent letter concerning the date on which the Council will discuss material for Inter capitular Meeting.

It will be discussed on February 26 not March 26. Will you please have your material in Itami by that date.

Sorry! Thank you.

Happy February 17th.

postcard



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March 1, 1990

My brother Oblates,

The Provincial Council met in Itami on February 26. The meeting was opened with recitation of Morning Prayer. We spent some time reflecting on the life of the Founder. We are using a study program prepared by the Oblates of the Southern US Province. I hope in the future to send the tapes and material to the Districts for their meetings.

Preparation for the Intercapitular Meeting was our main business. I was able to prepare a preliminary draft after hearing the opinions of the members of the Kochi District at their meeting last month. There were also a number of letters waiting for me in Itami. They were very helpful in broadening the replies to the various questions. Thank you for sending them to me. The actual report is not as yet completed. If you have not had a chance to send in your contribution I will be most happy to receive it. I plan further work on the report and will include it in the March Newsletter.

Mention of the Newsletter reminds me that this would be a good chance to ask you to send your contributions. I would appreciate receiving them by March 20. Thank you.

It was brought to the attention of the Council that the town of Pikit in the Mindanao Province of the Philippines was devastated by a group of Moslem rebels (the MILF). There was a great loss of life as well as much material damage to the town. The Council voted to send \$5000 to the Provincial of the Philippines to be used for the relief work in Pikit. Please keep the Oblates and the people of Pikit in your prayers.

I have enclosed information concerning the Meeting on Justice and Peace to be held here from March 12 -14. Please notify Ed Williams as soon as possible in the event you are not planning to attend. We will not be able to serve meals on the evening March 11. I look forward to seeing you in Kochi at our Province Meeting on Justice and Peace.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

SPRING MEETING ON JUSTICE AND PEACE March 12-14

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. Communiqué 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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April 14, 1990,

My brother Oblate,

The forty days of Lenten fasting, prayer and penance are over and we now enter the fifty days of celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, Our Savior. May this joyous Easter Season be for us a time of great happiness and even greater faith in the mystery of the Resurrection. May it be a time when we are inspired more deeply with the urgent desire to share this wonderful news with the people to whom we were sent.

I am sending you a copy of a letter announcing the XXVII World Day of Prayer for Vocations and a copy of the Holy Fathers Message. I strongly suggest that we all make an effort to participate in the World Day of Prayer. Not only personally but that we encourage the people in our parishes and others with whom we are working to join us and the world on this day of prayer.

May I remind you once again at this time to pray in a special way for our own Oblate Vocations during the nine days between the Feast of Blessed Eugene, May 21 and the Feast of Blessed Gerard, May 29. While praying for new vocations I think we should also pray for the three Brothers who are now in formation as well as the members of the Formation Team.

As you know we are hosting the Asia/Oceania Regional Mission Meeting. The theme of this meeting is Mission in a Secularized Society. The dates of the Meeting are from the evening of July 2 to noon on July 7. You are most welcome. Ed Williams is chairman of the meeting. He will be in contact with you.

Another most important date to mark in your calendar is the annual Oblate Retreat, September 10-14. Fr. Nemesh, S.J. will be our Retreat Master.

I will be leaving for Rome on April 24. After the Inter capitular Meeting I will go to the States. My return date is June 23. Mike will be acting Provincial.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



L.J.C. et M.I.

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MAY 10 1990

MY BROTHER OBLATES,

THE PROVINCIALS GATHERED HERE IN ROME
A WEEK AGO. SINCE THEN WE HAVE HAD MEETING
EVERY DAY BUT SATURDAY - THIS WEEK-END WE WILL
HAVE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FREE.

BEFORE COMING TO ROME - I MET JOHN SHERMAN
PROVINCIAL FROM AUSTRALIA IN AMSTERDAM. IT WAS
THE PERFECT TIME TO SEE THE TULIPS. THE TOUR
BUS POSSESSED ACRES AND ACRES OF RED, YELLOW
PINK, WHITE AND PURPLE FLOWERS - (I SENT
SOME BULBS TO ED - MAYBE HE'LL SHARE THEM
WITH ANGE + OTHER TULIP GROWERS.) WE THEN
ARRIVED AT A PARK THAT HAD 8,000,000 TULIPS.

OUR DAYS IN AIX WERE A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE.
I AM THANKFUL I WAS ABLE TO HAVE THIS TIME TO GET
BACK TO OUR ROOTS. THERE WERE ONLY SIX OF US
THEIR BUT THIS MADE IT EASY TO BE TOGETHER.

AIX ITSELF IS A BEAUTIFUL OLD TOWN ESPECIALLY
THE MAIN AVENUE -

ON THE THIRD DAY WE WENT TO MARSEILLE.
I WAS CHOSEN TO PRESIDE AT THE MASS AT THE
TOMB OF THE FOUNDER. I OFFERED THAT MASS FOR
EACH ONE - MENTIONING EACH ONE BY NAME.
THE ADVANTAGE OF A PROVINCE OF 23.



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WE THEN WENT TO NOTRE DAME DE LA GARDE.
IT WAS FROM THIS SITE OVERLOOKING THE SEA THAT THE
DEPARTURE CEREMONIES OF THE FIRST OBLATE MISSIONARIES
WERE HELD IN THE PRESENCE OF BLESSE EUGENE.

THE DEPARTURE CEREMONY FOR THE TWO OBLATES
FOR KOREA ^{TOMORROW} WILL BE HELD. AT THAT TIME FR. ZACC will
GIVE THEM THEIR OBEDIENCE TO JAPAN. THEY WILL
LEAVE FOR KOREA ON MAY 11.

LAST SUNDAY I WENT TO VINCENZO BORDO'S
VILLAGE. A SMALL ONE STREET VILLAGE OF 2000.
OF COURSE HE IS KNOWN AND VERY OBVIOUSLY LOVED
BY THE WHOLE TOWN. WE CONCELEBRATED THE DANISH
MASS TOGETHER. THERE WAS A FAMILY DINNER - WHICH
WAS A FEAST. AT FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON THE WHOLE
TOWN GATHERED FOR A TWO HOUR SHOW PREPARED
AND PRESENTED FOR VINCENZO BY THE PEOPLE OF THE
TOWN.

I WAS HAPPY TO BE PART OF THIS AND TO GET
TO KNOW HIS FAMILY. IF POSSIBLE I HOPE TO MEET
MAURO CONCORDI'S FAMILY IN MILAN ON MY TRIP
BACK TO AMSTERDAM.

HOPE ALL ARE WELL!!

FROTHERNDLY IN JESUS CHRIST MARY IMMACULATE



L.J.C. et M.I.

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May 21 1990

MY FELLOW OBLATES,

THIS EVENING WE ARE GOING TO THE GENERAL HOUSE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FEAT OF St. EUGENE DE MALEND. WILL REMEMBER ALL OF YOU IN THE CONCELEBRATED MASS.

MAY 22 - TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF THE INTERCAPITULAR MEETING. IT IS MAINLY A DAY OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION ON OUR EXPERIENCE. FROM 3:30 THERE WILL BE AN EXTENDED LITURGY. WE WILL START WITH THE LITURGY OF THE WORD - THEN BREAK UP INTO GROUPS OF 3 TO EVALUATE - THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY FR. GENERAL'S CLOSING WORDS. WE WILL THEN VEST FOR THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST - WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MISSIONING CEREMONY.

THEN THERE WILL BE TIME FOR ORATION & DINNER. I LEAVE AFTER DINNER TO TAKE THE SLEEPER TO ZURICH.

THIS WILL BE A GOOD TIME TO TELL YOU SOME THING OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING THESE 20 DAYS IN ROME.

WE BEGAN ON MAY 3 AND HAD MEETINGS TILL MID-DAY ON SATURDAY. THIS WAS MAINLY A TIME OF



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ORIENTATION AND GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE PARTICIPANTS. THE REGIONS ALSO HAD TIME TO MAKE THE FINAL PREPARATION FOR THE REGIONAL REPORTS. THE WEEK FROM MAY 7-12 WAS SPENT LISTENING TO THE REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS. AFTER EACH REPORT WE GATHERED IN REGIONS TO DISCUSS THE REPORT AND TO PREPARE A PAPER ON THE REFLECTIVE FOR EX. ASIA/OCEANIA REGION OTHER IF THE REGION ON THE REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS WE WERE ASKED TO USE THE FOLLOWING FORMAT.

1. AFFIRMATIONS TO THE REGION THAT GAVE REPORT
2. CHALLENGES TO THE " " "
3. EMERGING ISSUE TO BE FACED BETWEEN NOW AND 92 CHAPTER AND/OR ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CHAPTER.

ON FRIDAY MAY 11 FR. GENERAL GAVE HIS REPORT.

WE THEN HAD TIME TO STUDY THE REPORT AND TO PREPARE QUESTIONS THAT FR. GENERAL ANSWERED ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND MONDAY MORNING. FR. GENERAL ~~ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS.~~

THE WEEK-END OF 12+13 WAS FREE WENT TO POMPEI, SORRENTO AND CAPRI.



L.J.C. et M.I.

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THE WEEK OF MAY 14-19 BEGAN BY MR. GENERAL'S
ANSWER TO QUESTION. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE
PRESENTATION OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT. IN THE AFTERNOON TIME WAS SPENT STUDYING
THE REPORT. THEN TIME TO RESPOND TO REPORT.
THE EMERGING THEMES FROM ALL THE REPORTS
AND RESPONSES WERE PUT INTO 7 BASIC CATEGORIES
CORRESPONDING TO THE 7 CHAPTERS OF THE GREEN BOOK.
WE DIVIDED INTO INTEREST GROUPS - I WAS IN
GROUP ON SECULARIZATION. WE WERE ASKED TO
PREPARE "CALLS FOR ACTION". THESE WERE PRESENTED
TO ALL AT PLENARY SESSION. THIS ^{WAS} CRITIQUED - AND
REWRITTEN TO ~~REPRESENT~~ ^{BETTER} ~~THE~~ ^{THE} ~~THE~~ ^{THE}
THE INTER-CAPITULAR REFLECTIONS OF THE
PRINCIPLES & THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.
THESE "CALLS TO ACTION" ARE GUIDELINES FOR THE
PROVINCIALS FOR THE TWO YEARS BETWEEN NOW
AND THE CHAPTER.

ON THE 19th I WENT TO THE SHRINE OF
MARIA TAHERL IN AUSTRIA TO TAKE PART IN THE
JOPAN MISSION PILGRIMAGE SUNDAY.
FESTERALLY IN JESUS CHRIST & MARY IMMACULATE
A.



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July 17, 1990

My brother Oblates,

While I was in Rome attending the Intercapitular Meeting I tried to keep you informed by the letters I sent by FAX. I thought that I would have to write one more letter upon my return to Japan. However between the end of the meeting and my return to Japan you have received excellent coverage of the Intercapitular Meeting in COMMUNIQUE No. 53, July 1990 as well as in the June and July issues of INFORMATION.

I think the reflections made by Jim Deegan, Provincial of the Central Province, express the thoughts and feelings of many of the Provincials present at the meeting.

"The Intercapitular was shorter and less intense than a General Chapter which by definition is more formal and structured. The Provincials seemed to enjoy the relaxed and informal tone of the meeting. Many described it as a retreat experience in that we reflected on the essentials of Oblate life in a prayerful way. It was an experience of Oblate life at its best.

While lengthy discussions took place at the Regional and Inter-Regional levels there was a sense among the participants that the Congregation is moving and being driven by the same goals and objectives. There was a substantial agreement in terms of our priorities for the future especially as they are articulated in Missionaries in Today's World.

During the Intercapitular many of us reflected on the time, effort and pain which went into the development of Missionaries in Today's World at the last Chapter. In many ways this is perhaps the most unpolished document that we have as a Congregation, and yet it accurately reflects the current reality and direction of the Congregation.

I encourage you individually and in your communities to once again spend time reflecting on Missionaries in Today's World and Father Zago's address "At the Service of

the Oblate Charism". These two documents, along with the Constitutions and Rules reflect who we are striving to be and where we want to go in the future."

When I read Fr. Zago's address to the Intercapitular Meeting, At the Service of the Oblate Community, I find many things in it that speak to us in Japan. I would like to share some of these with you.

In Tension Between Home Missions and Missions Abroad, # 17 Fr. Zago wrote the following; "Our presence in Hong Kong has been reinforced because of its strategic position; it is no longer a mission of the Philippines Province but of Australia. Let us hope that a similar process can be realized in the case of other mission territories such as Japan and Thailand, also because of their strategic importance".

When he wrote this I believe that Fr. Zago had in mind requesting the Province of Sri Lanka to send missionaries to help us in Japan.

When he visited Japan we discussed the future of the Japan Mission. While rejoicing in our Japanese vocations, and while confident that more young Japanese will join us we agreed that the Japan Mission will need the help of missionaries from abroad. (You may recall that I wrote to you about this in my report of the January 1990 Council Meeting.)

In the spirit of unity and community and interdependence within the Asia/Oceania Region Fr. Zago suggested the the Sri Lankan Province might have some young Oblates who would like to join us in Japan.

After discussing this matter with the council I wrote to Fr. Anselm Silva, Provincial of Sri Lanka, asking him if there was the possibility of Sri Lankan missionaries coming to Japan. He was not in Sri Lanka when my letter arrived but I was able to discuss this with him when we met at the Intercapitular Meeting. He felt that the Sri Lankan Province could send some missionaries (hopefully 2). He suggested that I go to Sri Lanka to speak to the Council, the young Fathers group and the Seminarians.

While in Rome I also had a a long talk with Father General about the Province. The Mission to Korea and Sri Lankan Missionaries where major items.

I hope you will pray that the Province of Sri Lanka and our Province may be open to God's will in this matter.

In the "Challenges" there are some that speak to us very forcefully.

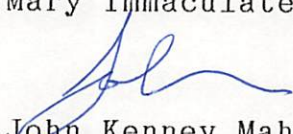
At this time, when we are discussing our Oblate Parish Apostolate and when the Province is becoming more and more involved in other Apostolic Ministries, I think that all of us should include in our consideration Father General's words in the section on Evangelization #38; especially the third and fourth paragraphs.

I see the section on Commitment to Justice #39 not only as a challenge but also as an affirmation. I say this because many of the things of which we became more conscious in our March Meeting on Justice and Peace can be found in Fr. Zago's words. Again it is a challenge to us because we must always keep renewing and re-enforcing our awareness of the intimate relationship between Justice and Peace and Evangelization. "It is an integral part of evangelization".

The section on Our Mission with the Laity #40 struck me more forcefully when I returned to Japan than it did when I heard Father General read it in Rome. I am impressed by the way the lay people in our parishes have taken their responsibility to be cooperators and leaders in Naruto and Anan. I think of Ken Sasaki electing to return to the Philippines to work for Radio Veritas. I think of the group of parish leaders I saw gathered in Tokushima to prepare for the Tokushima Ken Family Camp. In conclusion of this consideration I can agree whole heartedly with Father General's statement. "Our mission with the laity is growing and holds promise". I can also agree that; "it is an area in need of greater development".

While each and everyone of Father Zago's challenges deserves our reading, meditation and sharing I will mention just one more. Becoming Other Christs #44. If as Father says this "is the very soul of our missionary dynamism", then this is the most important section in his report to the Inter capitular Meeting and to each Oblate.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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

IMPORTANT DATES.

Oblate Summer Camp August 2 2:30 P.M thru August 4.
For details confer letter sent by Br. Yagi

Oblate Retreat September 10-14, Kochi Fr. Nemesh, S. J.

Kindly send the enclosed form to me as soon as possible.

Province

Province

NameFirst Names.....

PAST ASSIGNMENTS

Positions held in the Congregation= Provincial, Superior, Bursar, Provincial Consultor, etc...

<u>Place</u>	<u>From - to</u> (years)	<u>Position A (2)</u>	<u>Position B (2)</u>
1-			
2-			
3-			
4-			
5-			
6-			

(2) Position B= where 2 positions were held simultaneously

Ministries= e.g. Pastor, preaching, teaching, chaplaincy (give type), administration, oblate formation etc...

<u>Place</u>	<u>From - to</u> (Years)	<u>Ministry</u>
1-		
2-		
3-		
4-		
5-		
6-		

Please return this form to your Provincial / Delegation Office, or to the

General Secretariate
Casa generalizia degli Oblati
C.P.9061
00100 ROMA-Aurelio
Italy

Oblation Nr.....

Province / Delegation.....

Father / Brother.....
(Name) (First Name)

Dear Father / Brother,

We are anxious to bring the personal records of the General Secretariate up to date, with a view to further computerizing our data. We would be grateful if you would assist us by filling in the following questionnaire.

LANGUAGE FLUENCY

<u>Language</u>	<u>Degree of fluency</u>	<u>Table</u>
		(1) Read Write Speak
		(2) Read Write Understand
		(3) Read Write
		(4) Read
		(5) Other

STUDIES / TRAINING

<u>Type of study / training</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>(1) to (1)</u>	<u>Place</u>

(1) Indicate day, month, year (in that order)

PLEASE TURN OVER



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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August 7, 1990

My brother Oblates,

This is a report on the Council Meeting which was held in Naruto on July, 25.

1. I gave a report on our Mission in Korea which I had visited a few days before the meeting. The content of that report appeared in the August Newsletter.
2. Permission was given for necessary repairs and painting of the Oblate residence in Hoya.
3. The SVD Fathers in Nagoya have a parish which they will no longer be able to staff and plan to make it a Mission Station. They approached Ron and asked if the Oblates would be willing to provide a man for Sunday Masses and some parish work. The man could live in the Oblate house or he could use the rectory.

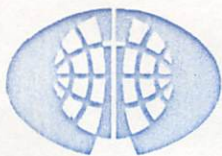
This Parish is about 20 minutes by car from our House of Studies. The rectory has three bed rooms and so could be used for Pre-Novitiate or Novitiate. It would also provide a place where our young men in formation could get their pastoral training in a more supervised atmosphere than as at present

As this is very much in line with the recommendations made by the Formation Committee in their meeting of October 19, 1987 the Council asked Ron to investigate the matter further.

4. The Commission for International Cooperation wrote to me requesting that Wency's contract be renewed. I spoke to Wency and he is willing to continue in this Apostolate. In light of this and because of the unique contribution that Wency can make to this Apostolate the Council agreed to the renewal of the contract.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



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August 27, 1990,

My brother Oblates,

This is a short reminder of our Annual Retreat. The Retreat will be held from Monday morning September 10th until noon of Friday September 14th. The opening conference will be at 9:30 A.M. on Monday morning. Fr. Nemesh, S.J. will direct the Retreat..

Will you kindly bring your English and Japanese Breviaries. (If your happen to have both.) Please bring your alb, too.

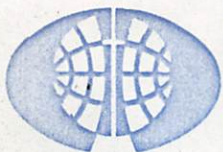
Vincenzo and Mauro will be here at the time of the Retreat. I expect them the beginning of next month. When I spoke to them they said they were looking forward to meeting all the Oblates in Japan at the Retreat.

I am sorry that we will not be able to serve supper on Sunday evening September 9th.

In the unlikely event you will not be able to attend this Oblate Retreat please notify Ed by September 5th.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



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September 27, 1990

My brother Oblates,

The Council met at Itami on September 25. After the reading and approval of the minutes Ange gave a report on the Formation Committee Meeting.

One of the items discussed at that meeting was the pre-novitiate program. It was recommended by the Formation Committee that the pre-novitiate period for highschool graduates should be four years i.e. until they obtain their B.A. from Nanzan University. The Novitiate will follow after this. The University tuition and fees as well as personal expenses will be the responsibility of the candidate. Room and board will be provided by the Oblates. (This is similar to the policy of other Communities.) These recommendations of the Formation Committee were approved by the Council.

It was also decided that the Nagoya Community will spend Christmas in Nagoya. December 22-26. There will be a day of retreat to prepare for Christmas. On Christmas day the community will participate in the liturgy of the local parish. The Brothers will then go to our smaller Oblate parishes from December 26 to January 6. I will be in contact with the Pastors concerned.

Next there was a report from the Kindergarten Committee by Bert Silver. He will be sending a letter concerning the Kindergarten meeting.

We then discussed the Sisters of Notre Dame in Tokushima. In July the Sisters notified us that they will be leaving Tokushima in March of next year. As you know the Sisters have been helping the parishes and kindergartens in the Tokushima District for many years. This situation raises a number of problems for the Diocese and the Oblates. Bishop Fukahori and I had a meeting here in Kochi to discuss the matter. This was followed by a meeting of the Bishop and the Oblates of the Tokushima District. The conclusion of these meetings was that the Fathers involved as well as the Bishop would like to have the continued service of Sister in the District. A number of Communities that might be interested in working in

Tokushima were mentioned by the Bishop. The Bishop is now in Rome for the Synod so the next step will have to wait until his return. In the meantime please pray that some community of Sisters will come to Tokushima. This matter has not been made public as yet so please do not discuss it outside the Oblaté Community. I feel that you should be aware of this and rely on your discretion.

There was a brief report on Wency Laguidao's Apostolate. His contract with the Japan Catholic Migration Commission was renewed for two years. The Commission have increased Wency's allotment. Although the amount is not very large I think it is an indication that the Commission values the work being done by Wency. They expressed the desire to provide more financial assistance but their budget is very limited.

In the afternoon time was allotted to reflect on two subjects that are of concern to the Province; the annual retreat and the problems of an aging community.

Concerning the annual retreat it was the unanimous conclusion of the group that our house in Kochi is not the ideal place for a retreat. It is fine for meetings such as our annual March Meeting. However it just does not have the peaceful and quiet atmosphere nor the space necessary for a retreat. It was decided to try to find a retreat house where we could be accommodated for our retreat in 1991. If you have any suggestions please contact Ange.

We also discussed the ever present problem of dates. It was suggested that I send out a consultation with three possible dates: August 26-30; September 2-6; September 9-13. Kindly fill in the enclosed consultation form.

As to the problems we are facing as an aging community. It was decided that there is need to have a fund for the care of the ill or retired. 10,000,000 Yen has been allocated as a beginning of this fund. However money is not the only problem that we must look at as an aging community. What are our needs and desires? Do we want to return to our Province of origin when we are too old to work or do we want to remain in Japan? What if we are in need of intensive medical treatment. Could any of our present communities care for elderly brother Oblates? These are just few of many questions that we should all be considering. I would like to suggest that some time be given to the consideration of this topic at our District Meetings.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

CONSULTATION FOR DATE OF THE 1991 RETREAT



There are three proposed dates.

In the event it is possible for you to attend on three of the proposed dates kindly circle CAN after the three dates.

In the event it is possible for you to attend on two of the proposed dates kindly circle CAN after those two dates.

In the event it is possible for you to attend on only one of the proposed dates kindly circle CAN after that date.

In the event it is not possible for you to attend on any of the proposed dates kindly circle CAN NOT after the three dates.

AUGUST 26 -30.....CAN.....CAN NOT

SEPTEMBER 2 - 6.....CAN.....CAN NOT

SEPTEMBER 9 -13.....CAN.....CAN NOT

Finally, in the event you circled two or three possible dates kindly write in your order of preference.

Order of Preference

FIRST.....

SECOND.....

THIRD.....

NAME.....

Please return by October 10, 1990

THANK YOU



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November 13, 1990

My brother Oblates,

The Council met in Itami on November 6. The first hour was devoted to a reflection on Apostolic Community. Bert Silver then read the minutes of the previous meeting.

There were three matters of old business; the locale of the Retreat, the possible parish of Zendana in Nagoya, and the problem of aging personnel.

At our previous meeting Ange was asked to locate a retreat house we could use in August. All of the places he contacted were already booked; some even for two or three years ahead. He has learned of some other possibilities and is looking into them now.

Concerning the Zendana parish: a meeting has been set up with the Provincial of the SVD Fathers. Ron, Ange and I will meet him on November 22.

At the suggestion of the Council I sent a letter to ten Congregations similar to ours asking them about their plans concerning the problem of aging personnel. I received six responses to my letter. I will send copies to the District Coordinators for discussion at the District Meetings.

The afternoon was devoted to financial matters; the budget, the Financial committee, etc. You have already received a letter from Bert Silver concerning these matters. I would like to thank, Mike, Ron, and Fran for so readily agreeing to be on this very important committee.

The General Council has suggested a new set of criteria for determining Financial Competence. Heretofore Financial Competence for all the Provinces was calculated in US dollars. Under the new plan the amount will be calculated in the national currency of each Province. According to this new plan the suggested Financial Competency for the Japan Province is as follows: the Provincial in Council Y. 14,000,000; the Provincial alone Y. 700,000.

The Provincial Councils are asked to discuss the new suggested competency and to send their reactions to the General Treasurer. The Council has agreed to the suggested Financial Competencies for Japan.

The next Council Meeting will be held in Kochi on Dec. 4.

As you most likely already know Leo's brother died on Sunday. He was 57 years old. Kindly keep him and his family in your prayers. Leo is leaving Osaka this evening and will be back on Nov. 25.

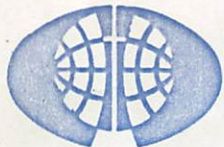
The two year term for the Diocesan Consultors from Tokushima Prefecture - Bill Maher - and from Kochi Prefecture - Jerry Stevens - have come to an end. Thank you for your good work. At recent district meetings Ed Williams was elected to represent the Kochi Prefecture and Jan Van Hoydonck to represent Tokushima Prefecture. Thank you for your cooperation.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS
MESSAGE FOR THE NEWSLETTER
BY DECEMBER 1.

A short or long news item about you Apostolate would also be greatly appreciated.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



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December 11, 1990

My Brother Oblates,

The Council met in Kochi on December 4th. This is to inform you of that meeting.

The main matter on the agenda concerned the budget for 1991 and other financial matters. You will be receiving a letter concerning this part of the meeting from Bert.

We then discussed the Zendana Parish in Nagoya. Ange was able to convey the opinion and recommendations of Ron and himself. After discussing these it was decided to inform Fr. Moriyama, the Provincial of the Missionaries of the Divine Word of our willingness to take care of the parish.

The following were the conditions under which we would accept the care of the Zendana Parish.

1. We will accept the parish for a trail period of one year which of course can be extended if the SVD Fathers, the Pastor Fr. Goto, and the parishioners as well as the Oblates so desire.
2. The Oblate in charge will not be the pastor of Zendana Parish but the Shunin Dairi.
3. He will spend week-ends at the parish and other days as the needs of the parish community become known.
4. Repairs and upkeep of the Parish buildings will be the responsibility of the SVD Fathers.
5. We will present in writing the above conditions as well as what services we feel we can provide and under what conditions we are willing to do so.

On December 6th I phoned Fr Moriyama and informed him of the decision of the Council. He said the he would discuss this with his Council and the Parish Council.

We had hoped to have the Retreat the last week in August. Ange has been searching for a Retreat House that could accomodate us at that time. Everyplace he contacted was

filled for that week; in fact some are booked two or even three years ahead. The Passionists in Fukuoka said they could accommodate us the first week of September; that is from the 2-6 of September. For some this week was not the first choice but there were enough "can attends" in our questionnaire to allow me to make this decision.

I will be leaving for Seoul on December 20 and spend Christmas with Vincenzo and Mauro. When I spoke to them on the phone yesterday they ask me to send thir best wishes to all.

We are in or coming into one of the busiest seasons of the year. Please try to give yourself some time for rest and even a little recreation.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

CHRISTMAS 1990



My Brother Oblates,

It is the time of the year when we recall the cast and the the sights and the sounds the first Christmas. There are angels, and shepherds and kings from the East. There is Herod, his soldiers and the innkeepers too. We recall the animals; the sheep in the fields, the oxen in the stable and the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem. We see twinkling stars, and hear the angel chorus. And of course we picture Mary and Joseph kneeling by the crib of Jesus. Each and every one of these sounds or sights or persons points to the center of all of this; the Infant Jesus. Jesus is always the center of the Christmas Mystery. The angels announced Jesus, the shepherds come to worship Jesus, the kings led by the star laid their gifts at the feet of Jesus. Jesus-the center-the one sent by the Father to save the world.

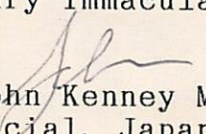
What are the cast and the sights and sounds of Christmas 1990? There are the stars over Iraq; the dessert sands of Saudi. There are the sights of khaki clad soldiers and underfed babies. There are the sounds of Christmas Choral CDs and of children rejoicing around the Christmas tree. There are sights and sounds we do not want to look at and others that we rejoice to hear and see. But one thing has not changed in this Christmas of 1990. The center of all of this is the Infant Jesus. The soldiers point to him as the one who brings peace. The starving children look to him as the sign of hope and love. The joyous sounds and family feasts of the day remind us that it is Jesus who is the source and center of all joy. For this year too Jesus is the one sent by the Father to save the world.

Jesus is always the center. The center of our lives not only as we gather in hope and joy and love around the Crib on Christmas but the center of our lives each day. It is only when He is the center of your life and my life and the lives of all men that the swords will be turned into plowshares, that love will fire the hearth and that the earth and all mankind will be whole.

Let us remember each other in our Christmas Masses. Let us pray that Christ will become more deeply the center our lives, of our Communities. and of our Mission in 1991.

Thank you for your support and and cooperation during this year. Merry Christmas and a Blessed 1991.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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

SEOUL

Christmas is for us a new occasion to express to you all our joy to be part of the Japanese Province. Living far from you all; a very simple Christmas Message means a lot. It is the expression of our mutual love as members of the same family. And Christmas is the feast of the family. We are the last ones to come into this family and so we feel your special love. The love and special attention that every one in every family has for the new born baby! Nevertheless be sure of our love for you. Isn't this a good step in a tremendous mission: Mutual Charity?

And so: Merry Christmas!

Vincenzo Bordo
Mauro Concardi

As Christmas 1990 nears, I have been thinking about the opening words of Albert Nolan's book, "Jesus before Christianity." "Many millions throughout the ages have venerated the name of Jesus, but few have understood him and fewer still have tried to put into practice what he wanted to see done." I am struck by the truth of this statement as I look at the world.

While the winds of hope still blow in eastern Europe, the old animosities and rivalries between minority peoples are far from settled. There is a growing solidarity in the European Community while the Soviet Union breaks apart and the people face a bleak winter of empty store shelves and hunger.

In many third world countries military governments still oppress the "little people" so that a minority elite who own most of the land and control most of the industry can continue to reap profits from their toil. Those who dare speak out are labelled subversives or leftists, arrested, tortured and murdered. Readers of the First World press are bored by the gore going on in far off countries, so most of the atrocities go unreported, unless it involves some foreigners or persons of prestige. First World governments get excited for awhile and soon push it under the rug as so much dust.

In the U.S. the city streets are not safe, the number of homeless increases with little serious effort to include them in the last national census. Small business increasingly feels the pinch as unemployment rates rise; and there are rumors of depression, while the President drags the world to the brink of war in the Middle East.

In Japan the glitter and sparkle of the enthronement rites are now history. An extravaganza that cost millions of public funds that could have been better used for aid to refugees in the Middle East desert, and aid for the small countries affected by the trade embargo against Iraq. The media gave but token space to the few voices that questioned the meaning and contradictions of the whole affair. Government officials are more intent on squabbling about the fingerprinting of Koreans most of whom are descendants of the labor force forcefully brought here to keep the war machine going. These officials seem to have forgotten that these people were once citizens of the Empire (forcefully so by annexation) and then dis-enfranchised by imperial decree May 1947. Few seem to recall that 45 years have past without any effort on the part of the government to compensate these victims of the war for the injustices inflicted upon them.

Rural areas of Japan seek out foreign brides, because young local girls prefer to go to the city rather than marry into the rigorous rural farm society. The cities are flooded with a tide of foreign laborers who manage to get in despite the closed door policy against unskilled workers. But the authorities don't seem too concerned. Big business needs this cheap labor force to do the menial jobs locals don't want to do anymore in order to keep its edge in the international market. And what would the night life districts do without the tens of thousands of asian girls? Most of these workers being illegal they are easily exploited, and if they cause trouble the Police and Immigration Authority are happy to deport them. The cry of the day is "internationalization". But to those with a discerning eye it

looks more and more like expansionism and exploitation all over again.

In such times "Merry Christmas" sounds very hollow. I rather wish and pray that the One who is called "King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Prince of Peace" show us what he wanted to see done and give us the courage to put it into practice. May his kingdom come, the kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, the kingdom of justice, love and peace.

Ronald LaFramboise, O.M.I.

Dear Fellow Oblates,

Good news...everything here in Nagoya is going well...more good news...as we have one applicant for the Oblates from Itami we will be opening the pre-novitiate in the spring of 1992! I hope you will introduce more young men to the Oblates so we can have a class of ten! Yoroshiku! (Please)

Merry Christmas and the peace of Christ. The Russian Saint, St Seraphim said, "Have peace in your heart and thousands around you will be saved" I wish you that peace for Christmas.

Angelo Siani, O.M.I.

One day in December a cold and hungry person was walking through the night streets. "Where shall I sleep tonight? Where shall I get something to eat?"

Then from afar could be heard a song that had never been heard before. The person walked in the direction of the strange song. The singing was coming from a small old house. The door was open and upon entering, there in the unheated place about ten children and adults were standing around something. Since they all smiled pleasantly the newcomer spoke.

"If it is something good, won't you share it with me?"

"We can't share the baby, but please share in the joy of the birth of this child."

It was really a long time since seeing a newborn baby so close.

"Might it not be fate that brought you here. Won't you name the child for us?"

After thinking a while the newcomer said:

"Well, is my name alright?"

"What is your name?"

"My name is Joshua."

Joshua decided then and there: I shall spend the rest of my life watching over this new Joshua

Looking on and on at the new Joshua, hunger and cold were soon forgotten.

Leo Satoshi Kawaguchi O.M.I.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

I write the following to the Lord and to my brothers about 1990.

I made mistakes and had some success. I also had much sadness, pain and pleasure in 1990 concerning my life, relationships and Oblation. I wish to thank the Lord and my brothers for all the happenings of 1990.

I ask the Lord to strengthen me physically, spiritually and in every way in 1991. I hope to be a child in my heart forever.

John Hashimoto Masashi, O.M.I.

On this Christmas and New Year I send you my cordial compliments. May the joy and peace of Christmas always be with you.

Nobuhiko Yagi, O.M.I.

TOKYO

Greetings from Tsukuba

...hope this finds everyone in good health and ready for the start of a new year! As for myself, I've been diagnosed as having a fat heart and a fat liver. So with my next visit to the doc's, in order to avoid being diagnosed "a fathead", I figure I better start taking better care of the ole bod!

...never a dull moment here at the College for the Deaf, with all the different needs of the students.

...attending the International Catholic Deaf Association's Workshop in St. Louis in July, with 12 deaf Japanese Catholics was an invaluable experience for all of us. And, attending the International Congress for Deaf Educators, in Rochester in August, with 140 Japanese educators also provided participants with a wealth of information on how to implement change (e.g. how to bring about change in attitudes towards deafness and deaf people).

A MEANINGFUL AND MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOOD HEALTH IN 1991!

Jack Deely, O.M.I

*A Blessed and Happy Holiday
to you and those you love*

Hope this finds you all well.

At Christmastime, I rather like to celebrate the on-going birth of Christ in our hearts and in our society.

As I see it,

When JUSTICE is truly born there, so is CHRIST.

When PEACE and RECONCILIATION are truly born there,
so is CHRIST.

When LOVE... When TRUTH...

On March 19, 1991 I will be celebrating my 25th anniversary of ordination. May it be the beginning of another 25 years of fostering JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION, PEACE... I beg your prayers that that be so.

Ray Bourgoin, O. M. I.

KOCHI

Christmas best wishes and greetings to all the Oblates in Japan and Korea.

All have been here this year as far as I know and it was wonderful to see you all. This is one of the blessings of being here in the Provincial house. During the year have been able to make a few changes for the better, I hope, in the house here. The latest is the installation of a new wooden tabernacle from the Pieta Sisters in Tokyo in the house chapel. If everyone is as pleased with that as I am I will be satisfied.

Attendance is good in the parish, the old people seem to appreciate my loud voice. For next Easter we have nine people (including a family of four) preparing to be baptized. Your prayers are asked for these catechumens. Another bright spot in this apostolate is that we now have three young men coming to church here, two of them are coming to Bible class and another has been through Tom Maher's catechetical course. This is a particularly bright hopeful thing as we have so few young people here. The Marian cultists are still pursuing their stubborn dangerous way. Absolutely will not listen to the priest or the Bishop. And as they are very actively evangelizing any newcomer they can approach, they make catechizing the new members a big problem. For this also we need prayers.

Our oldest member is 97 years old and doing fine; our youngest is two days old. In between we have about 400 members of all ages. Pray for all of us this Christmas as we pray for you.

Ed. Williams, O. M. I.

"1990" Celebrations of life, celebrations of death, celebrations of recovery and growth. "Subete yoshi, subete kansha". (All is good, all is thanks)

It was a joy to be with my aunt and relatives at her 70th Anniversary in Religious Life. Three priests celebrated the Mass in August. My cousin Joe, Bill and I. In God's plan Fr. Joe Calleton C.S.B. was taken to his own celebration in heaven on November 24.

Again I saw recovery from addiction as well as death from addiction. My own going-on-recovery one day at a time is a gift that must be shared. This has become a major part of my work.

"1991" Bill's 25 Anniversary and my sister's 25 Wedding Anniversary. My twin brother and I will turn 60. "There is nothing I can not master with the help of the One who gives me strength." Phil. 4: 13

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Love,

Tom Maher, O.M.I.

Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

The years seem to pass faster and faster as one gets older. Looking backwards for just a little while, one sees only good things. Especially two events were encouraging and at the same time a kind of "consolation". First, I had the opportunity to meet fellow Oblates from Asian countries and Australia in the Justice and Peace meeting held in Sri Lanka. The second event was the official recognition and start of the J. & P. Committee in the diocese of Takamatsu. I have great hopes that Justice, Peace and Ecology involvement will contribute to make the Church more genuine and bible-like.

My esophagus is healed, but my left knee got old too early. I can still play tennis once a week but twice a week is too much. In order to keep fit, I decided to go to a "fitness" training center. I try to go twice a week, but unfortunately circumstances usually allow me to go only once a week. Can you imagine me among the "senior citizens", doing all kinds of stretching manoeuvres...? Oh, yes you guessed it my belly sticks out too far!

Hopes and wishes for the next year? Indeed I wish many things for you and for me, too. To be more specific: for you; I pray that all your wishes come true. And for me? Not too much: something like the past year wouldn't be too bad.

Hoping to see everybody a few time in the coming year.

Y. X. Tosa, O.M.I.

Christmas Greetings !

The past year has been good both with my student work at Kochi University and the involvement in the Pro-Life Ministry to save unborn children.

For the coming year, I pray that the Lord, as our co-pilot, will continue to guide the involvement of each Oblate in the Japanese Province.

Merry Christmas!

Jerry Novotny, O. M. I.

AKI

Here in Japan it seems that 1990 is coming to a safe end; but if one looks at international society it seems we will enter the coming year with the problem of Iraq unresolved. I pray that this problem will be solved peacefully as soon as possible.

This Christmas of 1990 I wish you a Merry Christmas. As we look to the New Year I wish you a Happy New Year. With the help of God may you climb the staircase to heaven step-by-step.

John Iwo, O. M. I.

AKAOKA

A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for everything during the past year, especially for remembering my brother in your prayers.

December 8th Aonami no Ie was one year old.

May the blessing of the Christ Child be with you during the New Year.

Leo Simons, O. M. I.

NAKAMURA

Fully two years have flown since I arrived in this mission of Hata-Gun (County), and I can say that in spite of my age (60) and a few other handicaps, I have been able to visit almost the whole territory entrusted to my care; 9/10 of it at least once, many places more often, and some on a regular basis. The remaining 1/10 is due mostly to the difficulty of getting to those remote villages.

A special challenge are Okinoshima and Ugurushima, which have a daily boat service, but whenever I plan going to those

islands (about one hour each way from Sukumo Port) there is either a typhoon or a sea storm, so that the ships remain moored in the harbor; moreover the trip itself turns out to be at least a two day affair on account of the boat and bus schedules. In the meantime I am not idling the hours away, as there is still more than enough to do. Each mission trip make me realize how large my territory is, because of the distances between the many small mountain villages.

Hata-gun contains extended areas of national forestry (kokuyuurin). The scenery is very beautiful, as the roads are usually cut out in the mountains along the rivers. However the remaining population consists mostly of elderly person and there are almost no young couples and thus few children. Remote area schools have had to close down at the average of one a year. One can't avoid the impression of living in a dying-out country. (A punishment for too many abortions?)

Thank God the Filippina brides are bringing new life and hope to this Mission.

My prayerful best wishes to all for Christmas and 1991.

Gerard Stevens, O.M.I.

TOKUSHIMA

This has been a very eventful year and it went so fast I have not had time to think about it in depth. I hope to get some time for that after Christmas. But I do want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May it be your best year yet.

Beside the fact that I'm getting older myself, and the wrinkles that are sprouting in the morning mirror offer ample proof of that, two more events of the past year have highlighted the wonderful gift of "time" for me. One was the celebration of 70 years as a Religious of my 89 year old aunt in Canada with 3 other of her immediate family present, including my mother. When we totaled the ages of the four of them we found that 356 years of the gift of "time" was sitting in the front pew of the beautiful convent chapel. At the same time on the altar beside the main celebrant, my brother Tom, stood my cousin Joe Calleton a Basilian Father and myself. Although Joe was only 55 years old he died on November 24th. The Lord has taken the gift of "time" from him and given him eternity.

For this renewed consciousness of "time"; the years He has given me and for the years He may give me in the future, I thank the Lord. May the Lord give you all a wonderful "time" this Christmas and during the New Year. You are in my prayers.

Bill Maher, O.M.I

NARUTO

A very special Christmas remembrance for each and everyone in the Community.

In November Shibaori-kun from Naruto began his Novitiate at the Trappist Monastery in Hakodate. Brother Hashimoto is doing well at our Oblate House of Studies in Nagoya.

At Christmas we thank the Christ Child for these vocations from our small Mission Parish and we pray that he will continue to call more young men into His service.

Bert Silver, O.M.I.

ANAN

A VERY MERRY, MUCH BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

The year 1990 brought some good things my way. One was a grand 3 months of vacation at home. It was hot in Nebraska also. Another was the honor of attending the Oblate Pastoral Conference in Winnipeg, Canada. The views of our Canadian Missionaries (70 in all) plus those of the General Administration were aired, and these gave new life to each of us. Myself and Father Kegler from the U.S. Central Province were the only non-Canadian Missionaries at the meeting.

More recently I was present at the Santa Retreat for Priests where Evangelization 2000 was explained and urged on all 60 in attendance. In the near future there will be reading material available on this great work of the Church. It is spread all over the world, leading the laity to take a more active part in the evangelization effort. There are some good men working on this. Now if I can muster the same spirit and effort here in Anan we'll be even more blessed.

Dick Harr, O.M.I.

AWA IKEDA

From the "center" of Shikoku I extend my best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all my brother Oblates in Japan and wherever they are in the world. May the Lord lead you, protect you and bless all your activities.

No (at least visible) miracles have occurred concerning the Ikeda Parish, so about my apostolate I cannot relate much, except that most of it takes place outside this area, be it at the Bishop's residence or in the Kansai region. There is another part that I would rather call "indirect apostolate", a mosaic of all kinds of things (mainly translating), by which I hope to be of service.

Jan Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.

ITAMI

CHRISTMAS and Voices of 1990

Filipinos love to sing *I'm dreaming of a white Christmas...* (n.b. no snow in the Philippines) as if to parody the peace and joy that Christmas sings about every year. At home and in every country like Japan where there are Filipino migrant workers hired as domestic workers, construction aids, factory workers, hostesses, computer operators, etc., their outcry is for fairness in the job and to be treated as human beings. The mythical plastic Santa Claus takes his usual seat at the show window of the ritzy department store this Christmas with his checklist of who has been naughty or nice... the Filipino worker stands outside the thick glass wall wanting to ask good old Santa... *Is it a sin to be poor?*

Instead of the usual christmas message, I would like to share with you portions of my diary, quotes I found very meaningful from people this year, voices of joy and despair and even a threat left on my answering machine... they are my unworthy gift to you this Christmas:

Baptisms of Fil-Jap babies are becoming a weekly event of our group in Osaka. Just think about the implications of this to the catholic population of Japan. I had four funerals of four people, two Filipinos died of illness, one Japanese married to a Filipina committed suicide and the fourth was a 21 year old Filipina murdered by her Japanese boyfriend. I brought back to Manila the ashes of the two who died of illness. After explaining to the father of one over the phone that we have to cremate the body of his son, he tearfully made a simple request: "Please take a nice picture of him before you..." (he wasn't able to finish his sentence).

Work-related accidents are also a big problem among undocumented workers. In case of an accident while at work or on the way to or from the work place, the worker is entitled to compensation regardless of status. I made another trip to Manila to deliver a check for 7M yen to a Filipino worker who had an accident in Nagoya. Another undocumented worker cut a very small part of his finger while at work and was compensated for 1M yen. A joke went around the foreign workers... "Now we know what to do when we will be in need of money!"

A Japanese historian teaching in Manila told me this: "What is happening to your people in Japan happened to the Japanese at the start of this century." She has compiled historical records of Japanese immigrants to the Philippines. Early Japanese settlers worked as housemaids, carpenters, plumbers and many *karayuki-san* (Japanese prostitutes) plied the streets of Manila 1903-1920. Politely, I agreed to what she said that history is repeating itself but Japanese immigrants to the Philippines did not suffer from inhuman treatment and discrimination like present day Filipino workers in Japan.

A Filipina who gave birth to a baby-girl: "Father, I had a

girl! (then jokingly) but since Japan only allows hostesses to work here I will raise her to be the best hostess in Osaka!"

A Filipina writer in Tokyo: "Why should FILIPINA be scarlet letters scrawled across ones face?" Overheard from a group of Japanese girls on a train: "Firipina mitai!!" (Gee, you look like or is acting like a Filipina!). Japanese kids learn from their elders how to look down on others early in life. A child of a Filipina mother refuses to go to school since his classmates have been bullying him... "Firipijin, Firipinjin!" No less than the "Justice" minister makes a parallel between blacks and prostitutes at a raid of a prostitution district in Tokyo. Adding insult to injury was his scathing additional remark... "I'm surprised there were no Filipinas among the prostitutes arrested."

In April, 8 Filipino trainees at a nearby tire factory in Itami walked out of their company and sought refuge in the church. Four TV stations and 6 newspaper crew came to listen to their complaints. An analysis by a Waseda Univ. professor on the case: "This couldn't have happened if the trainees were from western countries. The Japanese look down on poor Southeast Asians, this is a reality we cannot deny."

From AISA-Yokohama (Asian Institute for Social Action of FABC) Statement: "The mistakes committed by the Japanese in the past are being repeated in its inhuman treatment of foreign migrant workers."

Yes, about that threatening phone call. A guy has been intimidating me over the phone with his record of names and cases I have handled... "You have been engaged in activities not in keeping with your status of residence (shikakugai katsudo), better stop of else..."

We are still following the case of 27 Filipina computer operators in Osaka who were brought in as trainees but actually made to work for 15 hours even on Sundays for a pittance. Luckily, we have no less than the Osaka Bar Association behind us and several labor groups in Osaka and Tokyo to help us pursue the case.

Fr. Honda, the Franciscan Provincial who now works as a day laborer said about his life with the poor: "It is not what I can give them but what they give me that counts... they are the ones evangelizing me."

"I envy you for the work that God has called you to do..." were the consoling words of Fr. Nemes at our retreat. I'd like to think of Christmas not as a time to temporarily forget the ills of our society but rather as the mystery of the coming of God in Jesus to pick up the pieces of a shattered humanity. I know I still have to be converted to the real meaning of Christmas.

Wency Laguidao

Merry Christmas!

I hope the coming year brings bountiful blessings from our Lord to all.

By the way, the roof of the church building has been leaking for a long time. The experts haven't located the cause of the leak. So what they did was to set a huge vat under the ceiling to catch the water. Now we have another problem to solve: how to drain the water in the vat.

The building is still beautiful externally, but you see age and wear on the inside. Hope that no one thinks the building symbolizes the present state of the parish. Sure we have had ten funerals this year so far, and many young people have moved out to the country where it is much easier to purchase a piece of land. However more children have started to come to Sunday Masses. They call me "Ame Shimpu", (Father Candy) as I distribute candy after Mass out of "my pocket" No matter what! They come to Mass.

I take a long walk practically every day. Occasionally you see strange things. The other day I came upon a little hill, fenced with barbed wire. Several places on the fence I saw pieces of wood. There on the the wooden boards was written, "Dangerous! Stay away". The hill was a cemetery with many tombstones shining in the afternoon sun.

Hoping to see you at our Meeting in March.

Mike Yamasaki. O.M.I.

KOGA

This year has been a busy one for me. I hope that the coming one is more Christ filled and less me-filled. He is coming and I only pray I'll be there, awake and ready to move with Him and His Spirit. May he also fill all your days and moments with His Peace and Hope.

Have a Blessed and Holy Christmas and the Best of Years to Come. Peace in Christ.

Fran Hahn, O.M.I.

A blessed Christmas.

This last year was filled with the joy of becoming free for many peoples. It was a wonderful year.

Among the students at the training course in Kyushu was a former teacher and school board member; seventy years of age. She studied right along with the young teachers; trying to become more useful to Society.

We pray that all the teachers who go through the course will be blessed with good health and joy as they carry what they learned into their work places.

We pray to that the New Year will be a wonderful year for all; and thank you for all your goodness to us this year.

Fr. Len Inui, O.M.I.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthday

JANUARY

2 Ed Williams
22 Ray Bourgoin
29 Dick Harr

FEBRUARY

15 Len Inui
21 Vincenzo Bordo
23 Masashi Hashimoto

MARCH

1 Jerry Novotny
23 Bill Maher

APRIL

1 Leo Kawaguchi

Ordination

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

22 Xave Tosa

MARCH

19 Ray Bourgoin
27 Ron LaFramboise
27 Wency Laguidao

APRIL

4 Jerry Novotny
11 Jack Deely

DATE TO MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 5-7 MISSION MEETING ON THE KINDERGARDEN APOSTOLATE

Place: Kochi

Animator: Joseph M Abbella, C.M.F. (Claretian)

SEPTEMBER 2-6 ANNUAL OBLATE RETREAT

Place: Fukuoka Passionist Retreat House

Director: Fr. Kelly Nemeck, O.M.I. U.S. Southern Province

クリスマスおめでとうございます。今年は世界中で、解放を喜ぶ数多くの
人々とともに感謝でき、信頼を強めてお祝いできて嬉しいですね。

九州のトレーニング・コースの研修生の中には、70歳の元教師で教育
委員も務めた人も若い人たちといっしょに学んでおられます。48人来て
います。幼児“現場”に立てることを祈ります。

新年が、素晴らしい年でありますようにと、お祈りいたします。

今年中、皆様から頂きました数々のご好意に心からお礼申し
上げます。有難うございました。

乾 盛 夫

Christmas Message

1990年も無事終わろうとしています。しかし、国際社会を見ると、イラク問題が残ったまま
年を越そうとしています。一日も早く平和的に解決出来るようにお祈りします。

1990年のクリスマスに当たって、

メリークリスマスとお祝い申し上げます。

又、1991年の新年を迎えるに当たって、

新年おめでとうございますと申し上げます。

神様の御保護をもって、天国への階段を一步一步上って行く事が出来ますように。

1990年12月1日

FR. John Luo S.M.

クリスマと新年おめでとうございます。

年をとったせいかもしれませんが、今年が去年よりはやく過ぎ去ったように感じます。
ちょっと振り返って見ると、毎年繰り返さない出来事が二つありました。まず、スリ・ラ
ンカで行なわれたOMIの正平協の会議、それから高松教区において、正平協の設立。
両方の出来事は私にとって大きな励ましと慰めでした。

私の食道は直りましたが、左のひざははやく“年”を取りました。週に2回テニスを
やる事は無理になりました。健康体力のために高知社会保険センターでストレッチン
グをやっています。うまく行かない時があります。。。その理由を想像する事が出来るで
しょう。そうです。。。おなかが出過ぎるから。。。。

来年は？ あなたの夢と望みが全部実現されるように祈ります。 私のために？新年
は去年のような年になってくれば、満足です。

では、1991年中たびたび出会う事が出来るように。。。。

土佐義和

その人は12月のある日、寒さと空腹に耐えながら夜の街を歩いていた。

「今夜はどこで寝ようか、どこで食べ物を手に入れようか」

遠くから聞いたことのない歌が聞こえてきた。その人は不思議な歌が聞こえる方へ足を運んだ。歌は小さな古い建物の中から聞こえていた。扉が開いていたので中に入ってみると、暖房がないそこに子供と大人合わせて10人くらいが何かを囲んで立っていた。新しい訪問者に皆はうれしそうな顔をしたので、

「何かいいことをしたら、私にもそれを分けて下さい」

「赤ん坊は分けられませんが、この子が生まれたことの喜びをあなたも共に喜んで下さい」その人が生まれたばかりの赤ん坊を追って見たのは本当に久しぶりであった。「あなたがここに来たことは何かの縁かもしれません、この子に名前をつけて頂けないか」その人はしばらく考えた後「私の名前でもければ」

「あなたのお名前は」「わたしの名はヨシュア Josua」

その人は決心した「これからの私の人生をこの新しいヨシュアを見守るために使おう」と。その人は新しいヨシュアをいつまでも見ていた、寒さと空腹を忘れて。

Leo. 川口 枝

Dear John,

I hope I'll be in time to get my new address in the newsletter:

Father José De Fruyt, o.m.i.
Missionarissen Oblaten
A. Gomandstraat 24
1090 Brussel
BELGIUM. Tel. (02) 426.84.19

Yes, after 6 years in Antwerp, I'm moving to another o.m.i.-community. Our house in Antwerp closes. At one time we were 10 oblates here in the house. But our brother superior died suddenly. The provincial doesn't live here anymore. Two people left for Bolivia. A few others moved. The seven members of a sharing group in town here, with whom I have been leading a life of sharing for the last three years, will bring my packed books to Brussels on Sunday. Only two members will then be left in the house. Part of the house will be closed down at the end of Februari, when four students at the Tropical Institute will leave the facilities. Only two oblates will then be left at the house. They will move before the summerholidays next year to strengthen communities in other houses of the province. Our numbers go down, so we have to start closing houses. In the house of Brussels, Father Wilfried Kossel has been nominated superior last month. He asked me to join the community in Brussels.

I'm also changing my job. At the end of October I ended two terms of three years at the Pontifical Mission Works in the Diocese of Antwerp. I'm moving to the diocese of Cardinal Danneels (Brussels-Malines). From next January I will be prison chaplain in the prison of Forest (Vorst) in Brussels, half-time. Tom Maher will enjoy it, I would think, when he will read that I am again a colleague in the same job. After my arrival in Brussels I will look out how I best can combine this work with another half time job on the scene.

Next year in Februari I will be 50. I feel it's time to spend my heart in a very simple way to very ordinary people. I always believed that God is to be found with poor people. I concluded that I had somehow to be in the neighbourhood of such place. I don't know well what I am starting, but I guess that, if God is there, he sure will do the rest, as long as I will give my best. As an oblate, I twinkle an eye to our blessed founder who was once a prison chaplain himself. In Brussels I will have a colleague who is on pension from the same job in the same prison. In Matthew 25 I get a gospel-line that should inspire me for this kind of pastoral work: "I was in prison, and you visited me." You certainly won't refuse a prayer that the guy's I'll meet there will be blessed sacraments to me!?!

Dear John, let me round up this letter with thanks for sending me faithfully the O.M.I.-Japan-Newsletter. I always read it with much interest and best memories of my 15 years missionary life in Japan. Now and then I'm also able to pass on part of the news to our local o.m.i.-newsletter in Belgium. Our circle of friends who get this letter still counts 5000. Every year we bring the families of our missionaries together in two of our houses for an afternoon of sharing. On such occasions, our missionaries tell us that they count on us to keep their stories spreading in the homechurch.

Last month, during a visit to my aunt with the Passionist Sisters, the mother superior asked me to write a letter in English to their community in Japan in order to arrange some matter for both the communities in Japan and Korea. I thought of the link of the oblates between the missions of Japan and Korea. Things may go slowly over there, but the mustardseed of the gospel keeps filling our heart with hope. It's always again the small beginning of Bethlehem. But the promise of that little 'House of Bread' keeps defining the course of history. To one and all, I wish a very Blessed Christmas and a Joyful and Fruitful New Year 1991. Your old acquainted and from now on 'Brussels sprout', José De Fruyt, o.m.i.

[Signature]
F. 7014702

total loss

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11. *Chrysomelidae* 25

To search AOL