

THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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宗教法人：カトリック聖母献身宣教会

オブレート会
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33
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January 8, 1991

My brother Oblates

Greetings to you at the beginning of this New Year. May it be filled with blessings for you and your Mission Apostolate.

I went to Korea on December 20th in order to spend Christmas with our Missionaries to Korea.

Vincenzo and Mauro are both fine. It was obvious that they are very pleased with their Korean studies at the Jesuit Language School. They are both happy that they made the change. The classes are small, about six, and all the students are Missionaries who plan to work in Korea. The course of studies is geared for their needs and purpose. The teaching method is one that was developed and used in the Franciscan Language School for many years with great success.

The night of my arrival we spent a great deal of time talking of plans for the future. We decided that it would be best if Vincenzo and Mauro do not attend the summer session at the language school. We came to this decision for two reasons. Seoul is extremely hot and humid during the summer. It is far from the ideal time for serious study. The Fathers tried this last summer and found it most difficult. Furthermore Fr. Lazaro had suggested that they might be able to help out in some parish during the summer months. (Fr. Lazaro is a Korean priest of the Diocese of Suwon. He studied in Rome. Fr. Zago was his advisor on his thesis. He is very fond of Fr. Zago and the Oblates)

We decided that this would be a good approach as they would get some feel of what the Korean clergy and Catholics are like and also some insights into the pastoral direction of the pastors and parishes. In order to prepare themselves for this work and to be of some use in the parish the Fathers will start saying Mass in the Korean language. An added bonus to this plan is that Vincenzo and Mauro will be able to attend the Annual Oblate Retreat and then have a couple of weeks of vacation

at our houses here in Japan.

After our evening of talking and planning we felt we were ready for the next item on our agenda.

On December 21 we had an appointment to see Bishop Anthony Kim of Suwon. We took the subway to Suwon. It is about one hour from Seoul. The Bishop's House is a short taxi ride from the station. The Bishop received us most graciously. In the conversation he suggested that Vincenzo and Mauro could be of help in the parishes if they were free during the summer months. We shared with him our interest and desire in this regard. We then spent a good deal of time with the Vicar General of the Diocese. He encouraged the Fathers to accept work in the parishes. It seems he had already approached two pastors who expressed willingness to have Vincenzo and Mauro in their parishes during the summer.

We had lunch with the Vicar General and then did some sightseeing in Suwon. When we returned to the Vicar General's Office Father Lazaro was there. He is most certainly an Oblate fan and is most anxious to be of help to the Oblates. It was obvious that he had done much of the ground work that led to this offer to help in the parishes.

Our day in Suwon ended with a delicious Korean meal with the Vicar General and Fr. Lazaro.

On the 22 and 23 we did some sightseeing and went to the movies as well. In between times we talked and then talked some more about the future. We decided that the best plan would be to take the full two year language course with perhaps summer breaks as above rather than taking the six or more month break in the middle of the course we had been considering previously. As we will be able to live at the Franciscan Monastery during this time it will eliminate the need to rent a house in Seoul. What will be necessary is a house to live in when the language school is completed.

We now feel that this house should be in Suwon. Preferably near the subway station. Seoul is only an hour away by train and if we have any work in Seoul it can be easily reached from Suwon. In our brief meeting with the Bishop I had the impression he would like to have us in the Diocese. We feel that it could well be a good place for the Oblates to work. It is now a city of about 600,000 but as it is in an industrial development area the population is expected to more than double in the next few years. This presents the possibility of many Oblate works among youth; both young workers and students. There is also the prospect of parish missions in some form.

There is not much of a possibility of getting a parish. Therefore we have to think along the lines of an Oblate Religious House as a center for Oblate Community life and works. A place where we can cooperate with the Bishop and at the same time do our own Oblate Missionary Apostolate.

On December 24 we went to the Maryknoll House in Seoul for a day of Retreat before Christmas. There were several Maryknoll Fathers there with long years of experience in Korea. They had many suggestions for a new Congregation coming to Korea at this time. Some of these suggestions are included in the above.

The Maryknollers seemed to feel that North Korea will open within five years. They also feel that it will be open territory for Missionary and Religious groups. There are 1500 Diocesan priests in South Korea but few of these will be interested in going into North Korea. It seems that if we have the men and are prepared we could be involved in rebuilding the Church there. Most North Korean Catholics were expelled or killed. There are only a few thousand (?) left. Our timing may be just right. If it takes five years to develop facility in the language our young missionaries may be ready for this challenge. This is what the Maryknollers repeated often. "This is a time of challenge for Missionary and Religious in Korea."

On Christmas Eve we attended the beautiful Mid-night Mass at the Franciscan Center. On Christmas day we had our Oblate Community Christmas Mass. We then went to the house of the Irish Capucins where we had a truly magnificent Irish Christmas Dinner. The snow falling outside the windows added to the Christmas atmosphere. The conversation at this Christmas table? Of course the challenges too and the future of Missionaries in Korea.

I returned to Japan on December 26. It was much warmer in Kochi than in Seoul. The temperature was usually below 0 c.

When I sent my letter of inquiry about the problem of the ageing I received a letter from Joe Finnerty of the Columbans. They are sponsoring a WORKSHOP ON AGEING. The speaker is Brother Dismas Mc Auliffe CFX. He will be speaking on the Problems of the Aging Process. He will conduct similar Workshops for the Columbans in the USA and in Korea.

As you see from the enclosed the meeting in the Kansai area will be held in Wakayama on Feb 21. The first talk will be at 9 A.M. So if you plan to attend you should be there on the night of the 19. I phoned Fr. Tony Cox in Wakayama about business hotels. He informed me that the Columbans have rooms in their rectories to handle us.

If you wish to attend please let me know by the 19 of

January and I will call Tony Cox. If you wish you can notify him directly. Tel. 0734 51 7469 Fax 0734 36 5991

In my letter of December 11 reporting on the December Council meeting I informed you of the situation concerning the Zendana Parish in Nagoya and the conditions under which we were willing to accept it. At the end of the year I received a call from Fr. Moriyama informing me that the SVD Fathers were agreeable to our conditions. I expect that we will be starting our work there by the end of this month. I have ask Ange to take on this responsibility. Please keep him and the Zendana parish in your prayers.

There will be a meeting of the Provincials of the Asai/Oceania Region in Bangkok from Feb 4-7. I plan to attend that meeting and also visit my cousin who is Cultural Attache there. On my way I will spend a few days in Hong Kong visiting the Oblates. Fr. John Sherman and I will make a three day trip to mainland China. We will visit Zhongshan, Shunde, Foshan and Canton. After the meeting in Bangkok I am going to Sri Lanka for about a week to speak to the Provincial and Council as well as the young Fathers and Seminarians about coming to work with us in Japan. I will be gone from January 24 to February 19. In my absence Miki Yamasaki will be acting Provincial.

Please keep the Oblate Meeting in Bangkok and my visit to Sri Lanka in your prayers.

Finally a reminder of our Congress on Kindergardens; March 5-7. Bert silver has sent you reading material and an inquiry which we feel will be most helpful for a successful meeting. Your cooperation is requested. Thank you. And again your prayers.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



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January 23, 1991

My brother Oblates,

This is a letter to inform of the Council Meeting held in Itami on January 21.

First there was a report on the Zendana parish in Nagoya. On January 15 I met the SVD Provincial, Fr. Moriyama in Fukuoka on the occasion of Enthronement Ceremony for Bishop Matsunaga. I gave Father a written statement of the conditions on which we would accept the parish. As we had discussed these before he was agreeable to them.

On Saturday night January 19 Ron and Ange met with Fr. Moriyama, Fr Gotoo, the pastor, and the members of the Zendana Parish Council. Fr. Moriyama explained the reasons for and conditions under which we had agreed to accept the care of the parish. The Council welcomed the Oblates. Ange will be introduced to the parishioners at the Mass on next Sunday. Please keep this new Oblate Apostolate in your prayers.

On January 14 I visited Sister Hashimoto, Provincial of the Sisters of St Joseph of Osaka. We discussed the possibility of the Sisters coming to work in Tokushima. She assured me the Sisters were most eager to work in Shikoku. They have had many vocations from there. She also expressed their desire to work with the Oblates because of the great help the Oblates gave to the Congregation at the time of its Foundation.

There will be a change in the Provincial and the Council in August so at this time she could not promise to come to Tokushima. She did assure me it is most likely they will be able to send two Sisters in March of 1992 but we will have to wait until September for a definite answer.

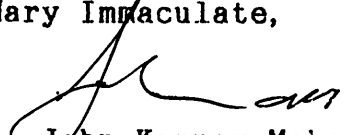
We then discussed the March Congress. The replies to the questionnaire you received from Bert are due back to him by the end of this month. He will then send copies of these to you.

Bert and I will meet with Fr. Abella at the time of the Priests Meeting in Osaka. Mainly to discuss the mechanics of the meeting. There will be a meeting of Bert, Ron and myself with Fr. Abella in Kochi the day before the meeting for the final preparations.

We then moved into financial matters. Bert has already sent you a report of this part of the meeting

I will leave on my trip tomorrow. Please pray that it be a successful and safe trip. And of course pray for Peace

Frateranlly in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,



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



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March 11, 1991

My brother Oblates,

I am sure you have been thinking about our recent meeting on the Kindergarden Apostolate. I believe that through our discussion, prayers, and sharing the Holy Spirit has indicated to us the way that we should proceed. Thank you for your cooperation and contributions to the success of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be sent to you soon.

During the meeting there was little time to tell you of my recent trip; other than what I reported to you concerning my visit to the Oblates in Sri Lanka.

I was fortunate to be able to make a brief visit to mainland China. While there I met the Bishop of Canton, James Ping-Leung Lin. His Cathedral and seven (?) other churches in his diocese were recently returned to him. The Cathedral had been used as a factory. The Chinese government is paying for the repair of the Cathedral. The money is given for the repair of a cultural asset.

The Bishop was a prisoner for many years and suffered greatly. The Father with him was a prisoner for thirty five years. Despite that both are most optimistic and hopeful. The future of the Church in China seems to be good. The Bishop ordained three last year, two this year and will ordain three more in 1992. There is also a community of Sister on the Cathedral grounds. They have fourteen novices.

I visited China with the Australian Provincial and three of the Oblates stationed in Hong Kong. They hope to be able to accept a parish in the Canton diocese

The four Provincials of the A/O Region and Fr. Christian Gilles, Superior of the Thailand Delegation met in Bangkok for three days. Our main business was to prepare for the meeting of the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference that will be held in Australia in September.

At the time of the next Chapter the Regional Councilor will be chosen as well as members for the General Formation, Financial, and Justice and Peace Committees. We had some preliminary discussion of this as it will be on the agenda of the September Meeting.

The main topic of the meeting was the theme and agenda of the A/ORC Meeting. The theme that was decided on is "Oblate Leaders as Evangelizers in a Secularized Society". After planning the daily agenda for the meeting we decided to invite two facilitators with expertise in evangelization and leadership.

The final morning was devoted to a discussion of ways to increase regional unity and cooperation. We also shared on our experiences as Provincial; our worries, our hopes, our joys and our sorrows.

This brings me to the final subject of this letter. It is one of joy and sorrow.

Brother Yagi will renew his vows on March 20 at Nagoya.

Brother Hashimoto will not be renewing his vows.

Please pray for both of these young men.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

Enclosure: Announcement of National Priests Gathering.

P.S. Please send me your suggestions for topics for our Input Meeting for March 1992 by April 30. Thank you.



May 8, 1991

My brother Oblates,

In the April edition of OMI INFORMATION there was a letter from Father Zago in which he declared May 21 - 29 Oblate Vocations Week. In Japan we have been observing this week as a special time of prayer for Oblate vocations for some time. (Cf. Newsletter March 1989, 1990) By the General Councils decision the Congregation recognizes this as a practice for the entire Congregation.

We in Japan most certainly have a need for more vocations. Not only because the average age of the Province is climbing and we must think of replacements if the work is to continue but also because there many other places where we Oblates can be of service to the Church in Japan. We can be of service to the Church because of our charism of devotion to the poor and love of the Church. We can also make a definite contribution to the Church and the people of Japan. I have in mind our care and devotion for the poor and the needy both in the Church and outside the church. I have in mind our care and devotion for both Christians and non-Christians in our Oblate Mission Parishes.

In the time of our Founder Fr. Leonard was assigned to seeking and encouraging vocations. He was exceptionally successful. He was sending so many young men to the seminary that the Founder wrote the following: "You go from conquest to conquest and we will have to enlarge on all sides the houses which are to receive our recruits". He wrote this letter on June 10, 1847. On October 27 of the same year he had to write this letter. "There is no more room to receive the new arrivals. Nor is there any money to feed them so evidently we will have to strike our flag however courageous we may be. Lay aside therefore your fine mission *flens dico*." (Mss. Post.)

We are fortunate in that we have ample living space in Nagoya for young men wishing to become Oblates. We are also blessed with the necessary funds. Our only lack is the young men.

In March of 1992 we are planning to start a pre-novitiate

class in Nagoya. At the present time we have one young men committed. We would like to have at least three or four. We are eager to attract high school graduates. They will be expected to pass the Nanzan University entrance exam. As was explained in my letter of September 27, 1990 the University as well as personal expenses will be the responsibility of the candidate. Room and board will be provided by the Oblates.

I would like to ask each one who has contact with young men who will be graduating from highschool to approach them and encourage them to join the Oblates. It might also be helpful to approach the parents and explain that entering the Pre-novitiate program does not mean that their son is making his life time commitment to the Oblates. The Pre-Novitiate is a time for the young man to discern his vocation in life.

While our immediate concern is the Pre-novitiate class that is to start next March our long range concern is for a constant flow of young men into our Pre-Novitiate. For this a recruitment program is needed. It starts with each individual Oblate, it is carried out in each community, in each parish and in each Apostolic Ministry. It is basically a program of example and prayer.

Again I will let Fr. DeMazenod speak to us. "...my whole desire and my hope is that some of these young people, touched by your good example, your regularity, and the sublimity of the ministry to which you are devoted, may become attracted and desirous of joining our ranks."
(Yenveux II, 12)

"Let us pray earnestly that the Father of the family may send more labourers to cultivate the vineyard which He has entrusted to our care. It is by the good offices of our holy Mother that we should obtain this blessing so that we may procure the glory of her Divine Son. Let us therefore persevere in fervent prayer to her." (Missions 1872, 298-300)

In answer to Father Zago's call I hope that each one will offer some special prayers for our Oblate vocations in Japan and throughout the world. I also hope that you will encourage the people in our parishes and other groups with whom you work to join us in this special time of prayer for Oblate vocations.

I truly feel that the Apostolate of fostering Oblate vocations is one to which we are all called because it is so necessary for the future of the Oblates and for the Church in Japan.

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness..., and intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words" (Rom 8:26) Despite


the resistance of minds and hearts and of a culture steeped in "the spirit of the world", there nevertheless persists in all of creation the "longing" spoken of by Saint Paul in the letter to the Romans: "The whole of creation has been groaning in travail together until now" (Rom 8:22), that it may "obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (ibid. 8:21) May this vision of Saint Paul not fade from our priestly consciousness, and may it support us in our life and service! Then we shall better understand why the priest (and the Brother) is necessary for the world and for mankind." (Letter of Pope John Paul to Priests for Holy Thursday 1991)

While I am asking each one in this letter to be more concerned about vocations I most certainly do not mean that nothing has been done. The fact that the five young men who have been in our Formation Program have come from our own parishes attests to the fact that a campaign of example and prayer has been going on for a long time. Nor do I forget the efforts of the Brothers each year in the Summer Vocation Camp and of the Fathers who have cooperated with them. I am also aware of the work that has been done by the MAMI to make the members aware of the work and charism of the Oblates. For all of this effort I am most grateful and thank God and you for it. But at the same time I repeat my request that each one increase his efforts to seek and foster vocations.

In order to foster vocations and also to have wide participation in Oblate Vocations Week I would like to request your help and the cooperation of your parishioners and other people with whom you work. I have prepared a letter to them. I am asking them to offer prayers during Oblate Vocations Week. I am requesting that they make a spiritual bouquet for vocations. I am sending the forms for the spiritual bouquet. Will you kindly read the letter and distribute the forms. When the forms are returned will you please send me the results of the spiritual bouquet. I will in turn will send the results of all the spiritual bouquets from the different parishes, etc to Father Zago and also to you.

Sr. Ishikawa Kazuko, Junshin Seibo Kai has put the nyuusai sho, tosho, hareruya sho and haiyuroo sho of the masses of Blessed Eugene DeMazenod and Blessed Joseph Gerard to music. Ray kindly sent these to me and I pass them on to you. Thank you, Ray.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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

PLEASE SEND RESULTS OF SPIRITUAL BOUQUET BY JUNE 9

Shinpu sama

Shintodaihyoosha dono

Sakunen 1990 nen no 5 gatsu ni Oblecto-kai no Kanku-choo kaigi ga Roma de arimashita. Sono toki, Shoumei to Yousei ni tsuite no hanashi ni tsugi no you na teian ga arimashita. "Oblecto-kai no Sooritsusha I'ukusha Eugene deMazeno no shukujitsu wa, 5 gatsu 21 nichi de, Oblecto kai no moo hitori no Fukusha wa, Afurika no Lesotho no Senkyousha I'ukusha Joseph Geraru no shukujitsu wa, 5 gatsu 29 nichi desu. Korekara mainen 5 gatsu 21 nichi kara 5 gatsu 29 nichi made wo Oblecto-kai Shoumei kikan ni shimashou" to. 1990 nen 5 gatsu 29 nichi kara 6 gatsu 8 nichi made no soukai de, Souchou sama to Yakuin wa kore wo shoonin itashimashita.

Kono kikan ni, subete no Oblecto-kaiin to, Obuleetokai no kyoukai ni zokushiteiru subete no hitotachi, mata ta no Oblecto dantai ni haitte iru subete no hitotachi ga, mina Oblecto shisai to shuudoosha ga fueru yoo ni Kami ni negaimasu. Kore wa subarashii koto de aru to omoimasu.

Obleetokai no senkyoushi wa 60 ka koku ijou no kuni de hataraitte imasu. Karera no ninzuu wa, 5,000nin wo koe, koredake de mo tsuyoi inori ni narimasu. Keredomo, 60 ka koku ijoo ni sunde iru Oblecto no kyoukai no shinto, Oblecto no ta no dantai ni zokushite iru hitobito no inoru koe wo kore ni kuwaeru nara kore wa, hakari shirenai tsuyoi oinori ni naru ni chigai arimasen.

Watakushi tachi wa, Nihon de hataraku Oblecto kaiin to kyoudai no minasan ga ima shinpai shite iru no wa, Nihon de hataraku shisai no heikin nenrei wa 55 sai ijou desu. Soshite, hansuu ijou no 20nin wa 60sai ijou desu. Ima, Nagoya no shuugakuin ni wa futari shika imasen. Kore wo kangaemasu to, kono Obleetokai Shoumei no kikan ga Nihon de wa tottemo taisetsu desu. Dakara, korekara hitori hitori no kyouryoku wo o-negai itashimasu.

5 gatsu 21 nichi kara 5 gatsu 29 nichi made mainichi Oblecto no shoumei ga fueru you ni oinori shite kudasai.

Watakushi wa, Shinpu sama ni reiteki hanataba no kami wo okurimashita. Kyou, Shinpu sama wa minasan ni sono kami wo kubarimasu. Iroiro no inori ga kaite arimasu. Jibun ga dekiru inori wo erande, kami ni shirushite kudasai. Soshite, kyoukai ni motte kite kudasai. Shinpu sama wa, minasan no hanataba wo kanku jimusho ni okuru you ni tanomi mashita. Kankujimusho de, kaku-kyoukai kara itadaita reiteki hanataba wo matomete kara, Obleetokai no Souchou sama Zago shinpu sama ni okurimasu. Mata, kaku kyoukai ni mo okurimasu.

Shinpu sama to Shinto ichidou no kyouryoku wo negatte kono tegami wo owarimasu. Doumo arigatou gozaimashita.

Kami no shukufuku ga minasan no ue ni arimasu you ni.

1991 nen 5 gatsu 7 nichi.

Nihon Kanku-chou Mahoney Shinpu

神父様

信徒代表者様

昨年1990年の5月にオブレート会の管区長会議がローマでありました。

その時、召命と養成について、色々な話しがありました。

召命の問題についての話しに次のような提案がありました。

「オブレート会の創立者 福者ユージン・デマジノの祝日は、5月21日で、オブレート会のもう一人の福者は、アフリカのレソトの宣教者 福者ヨセフ・ジェラルルの祝日は5月29日です。これから、毎年5月21日から5月29日までをオブレート会召命期間にしましょう」と。1990年5月29日から6月8日までの総会で、総長様と役員はこれを承認致しました。

この期間に、すべてのオブレート会員と、オブレート会の教会に属しているすべての人たち、また、他のオブレート団体に入っているすべての人たちが、皆オブレート司祭と修道者が増える様に神に願います。これは素晴らしいことであると思います。

オブレート会の宣教師は60ヶ国以上の国で働いています。彼らの人数は、5,000人を越え、これだけでも強い祈りになります。けれども、60ヶ国以上に住んでいるオブレートの教会の信徒、オブレートの他の団体に属している人々の祈る声をこれに加えるならこれは計り知れない強い祈りになるに違いありません。

私たちは、日本で働くオブレート会員と兄弟の皆さんが今心配しているのは、日本で働く司祭の平均年齢は55才以上です。そして、半数以上の20人は60才以上です。今、名古屋の修学院には二人しかおりません。これを考えますと、このオブレート会召命の期間が日本ではとっても大切です。だから、これから一人一人の協力をお願いします。

5月21日から5月29日まで毎日オブレートの召命が増える様にお祈りして下さい。

私は、神父様に霊的花束の紙を送りました。今日、神父様は皆さんにその紙を配ります。色々の祈りが書いてあります。自分が出来る祈りを選んで、紙に記して下さい。そして、教会にもって来て下さい。神父様が、皆さんの花束を管区事務所に送る様に頼みました。管区事務所で、各教会からいただいた霊的花束をまとめてから、オブレート会の総長様ザゴ神父様に送ります。また、各教会にも送ります。

神父様と信徒一同の協力を願ってこの手紙を終わります。どうも有難うございました。

神の祝福が皆さんの上にあります様に。

1991年5月7日

日本管区長 マホニ-神父

オブレート会召命祈りの 花束のお願い

5月21日は福者ユージン・デマジノ

5月29日は福者ヨセフ・ジェラルルの記念日です。

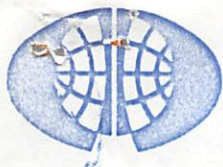
オブレート会は、この福者の記念日5月21日から5月29日までを、特に召命祈祷期間として、皆様に毎日自分の出来る祈りを召命のために、花束として下さい。この花束を教会ごとにまとめた物を一緒にして、ローマの総長ザゴ神父様に送ります。皆さんよろしくお願い致します。

オブレート会召命期間の花束

5月	21日	22日	23日	24日	25日	26日	27日	28日	29日
ミサ参加									
聖体訪問									
ロザリオ									
主 祷 文									
天使祝詞									
マリア連祷									
召し出しの祈									
儀 牲									

召し出しの祈り

いつくしみ深い父よ、あなたの民を顧み、イエス・キリストのために生涯をささげるオブレート会の司祭、修道者の召命をお与え下さい。聖霊の恵みと力に支えられて、多くの青年があなたの招きに答え、あなたの愛に強められて、兄弟に奉仕する心を与えられますように。主キリストによって。アーメン。



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宗教法人：カトリック聖母献身宣教会

オブレート会
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33
TEL 0888-72-3658



May 16, 1991

My brother Oblates,

The Council met in Naruto on May 1.

We began the meeting with a reflection on Apostolic Community after listening to a video talk on the subject by Fr. Zago.

We then discussed the March 1992 Spring Meeting. We decided on the theme: Lumen 2000-Evangelization in Japan. I have asked Fr. Okada Takeo to be the input person. He is a member of the NICE II Preparatory Commission. He was highly recommended to me by Fr. Nicolas.

The meeting will be held in Kochi from March 24-26.

The next item on the agenda was the 1993 Spring Meeting. This will be a meeting concerning the Suggestions made at the 1988 Congress. (Please confer: 1988 Discernment Congress Follow-Up Communique to the Vice-Province of Japan) In order to determine which Suggestions should be the concern of the meeting we decided upon the following process.

Each District is asked to discuss this at the District meeting. You are asked to decide on one suggestion or one group of suggestions that the District feels should be the matter for discernment at the 1993 Meeting. It is hoped that this step can be completed by the District Meeting held in October.

In the second step the recommendations made by the four Districts will then be discussed by each of the Districts in order to come to a general agreement of the Province as to the matter for discernment at the March Meeting in 1993. It is hoped that this step can be completed by January of 1992.

At that time the Council will decide on a committee that will make the necessary preparations for the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the selection of a Delegate to the Asia/Oceania Treasurer's Training Session

to be held in Manila in July. Mike who is a member of the Finance Committee was asked to be our Delegate. He has accepted. Thank you Mike

In the matter of other business we discussed Brother Yagi's Perpetual Vows. In reply to Brother Yagi's request to make his Perpetual Oblation I received a rescript from Rome in the affirmative. Congratulations Brother!

Bother would like to have the ceremony in Kochi on Sunday August 4th. The Vow Mass will be in the late afternoon (about 4) to enable as many Oblates as possible to attend.

Brother chose this time and place because the Oblate Vocation Camp will be held at that time. He hopes that witnessing this Vow Ceremony may move some of the young men to follow in his footsteps.

It was decided to send \$5000 to the Oblates in Bangladesh.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



June 5, 1991

My brother Oblates

Council met in Itami on May 20. This is a report of the meeting.

Korea was the first matter on the agenda. It will most likely be necessary to rent a house in Seoul by the beginning of 1992 for our men studying the language. The Franciscans will not be able to continue to make room available to us.

One does not simply rent a house in Korea. A large sum of money -forty to fifty thousand dollars- is turned over to the renter. He receives the interest on this money; then at the end of the contract returns the initial amount.

The Belleau Foundation which is based in Montreal Canada, (Fr. Charbonneau, O.M.I. is the Executive Secretary) has been funding the Korean Mission. The fund does not give money for buildings so we have to look to other sources. Fr. Eugene Canas suggested I contact Fr. Charbonneau for suggestions of other sources that will help finance the housing project.

Bert Silver who knows Fr. Charbonneau will be in the States this summer. The council asked him to meet with Fr. Charbonneau and if possible with other groups that might be willing to fund the Oblate house in Korea.

We discussed the Zendana Parish. As you know we agreed with Bishop Sooma and the SVD Fathers to take care of the parish for one year. At that time Ange was appointed Assistant Pastor (shunin daihyo). He has been going to the parish on week-ends. He also has a bible class and has begun a parish visitation. Brother Kawaguchi has been helping. He has taken over the care of the parish books and also has a group for Bible Study once a week.

The parishioners are very happy with the presence of the Oblates in the parish. As a result the attendance at Mass and other activities has increased. The spirit in the parish is more relaxed and a feeling of community is

developing. The parishioners are most desirous that the Oblates continue their care of the parish.

Our promise to take care of the parish for one year will come up for consideration very soon. We must inform the Bishop, the SVD Fathers and the people of Zendana of our intentions by late Fall.

At the Council discussion it was suggested that if we decide to renew the agreement we should make it clear that we will make a contract for three years. We would agree to care for the parish for three years in order to continue to serve these people; we also hope it can be a place for a pre-Novitiate and also serve as a place where young missionaries doing language studies would be able to have some practical pastoral experience.

We will discuss this matter further at our meeting in September.

Brother Yagi will make his Perpetual Oblation on August 4 in Kochi. After a few weeks at home he will go to Australia for six months. Fr. Sherman, the Provincial, sent a list of various options that are available. After consulting with Ron and Ange and Brother it was decided that Brother will spend his time in Melbourne. He will be based at Mazenod College. It is part of an Oblate cluster. He will get a real sense of Oblate community--college-parish-seminary are all within two miles. The Provincial House is twenty miles down the freeway. In the summer--Dec-Jan.-- Brother will take part in the youth work the Rosies community do both on the streets and in the Oblate parish of Rosebud which is a big holiday parish.

After his six month in Australia brother will spend some time in Indonesia. Kevin Casey has invited him. The details will soon be worked out.

Brother Kawaguchi has requested minor orders. He will receive them at the time of the Retreat.

Special news: Ron has been appointed to the Chapter Commission. He will be going to Rome for a few weeks in October for the first meeting of the four commission members. Congratulations Ron. We will keep you and this important work in our prayers

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate

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

LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEWSLETTER DEADLINE THE END OF THIS MONTH. HELP!! THANK YOU.



June 18, 1991

My brother Oblates

There will be a meeting of the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference in Australia from September 23-27. The theme of the meeting will be "Leadership as evangelizers in a Secular Society."

As part of the preparation for the meeting Fr. John Sherman has sent the following request. "The first day of the meeting will be spent hearing from each other on the challenges of our particular missions. In presenting the report on your mission, it would be helpful if you could highlight three or four ways that you see secularization challenging the mission."

In order to present as broad a picture as possible I would appreciate it very much if you would answer the questions on the accompanying page and get it back to me by July 15*. I am enclosing a self addressed envelop to facilitate matters.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

* If you are departing for home-leave kindly send in you reply before you leave Japan.

1. How does secularization challenge your life as an Oblate Missionary?

2. How does secularization challenge the Christians with whom you are working?

3. How does secularization challenge the non-Christians with whom you are working.

Two or three responses to each question will be most helpful in compiling the report. Please mention both positive and negative challenges. Thank you.



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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宗教法人：カトリック聖母献身宣教会

オブレート会
高知市電匠町2-1-33
TEL 0888-72-3658

July 30. 1991

My brother Oblates.

Warm greetings from Kochi.

It is time to make the final arrangements for our annual Oblate Retreat. I must notify the Passionists of the number attending, etc. by August 15.

The Retreat will begin on Monday morning September 2 at about nine. It would be good to plan to be at the Retreat house on Sunday evening. Supper will be served at 6 P.M. for those who request it. The Retreat will end at noon on September 6th.

I am enclosing material that should help you to find your way to the Retreat House.

Kindly send the enclosed postcard by August 10. I will be in Naruto at that time.

I hope that you will be able to make this Retreat. It is one of the best ways for us to grow in our Oblate community and Oblate unity.

In the event you are not able to attend this Retreat please make arrangements for your annual retreat if you have not already done so.

"To put ourselves increasingly at the service of God in his people, we will set aside special times each month and each year to deepen personal and community prayer, for reflection and renewal. One week each year will be spent in Retreat. Fraternal gatherings and exchange on Apostolic experiences could well precede or follow the retreat." (C. 35)

You may recall that we are asking each one to cover his own expenses for the retreat. The cost for food and lodging at the Passionist Retreat House is six thousand yen a day. If you have difficulty paying this the Province will take care of it.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

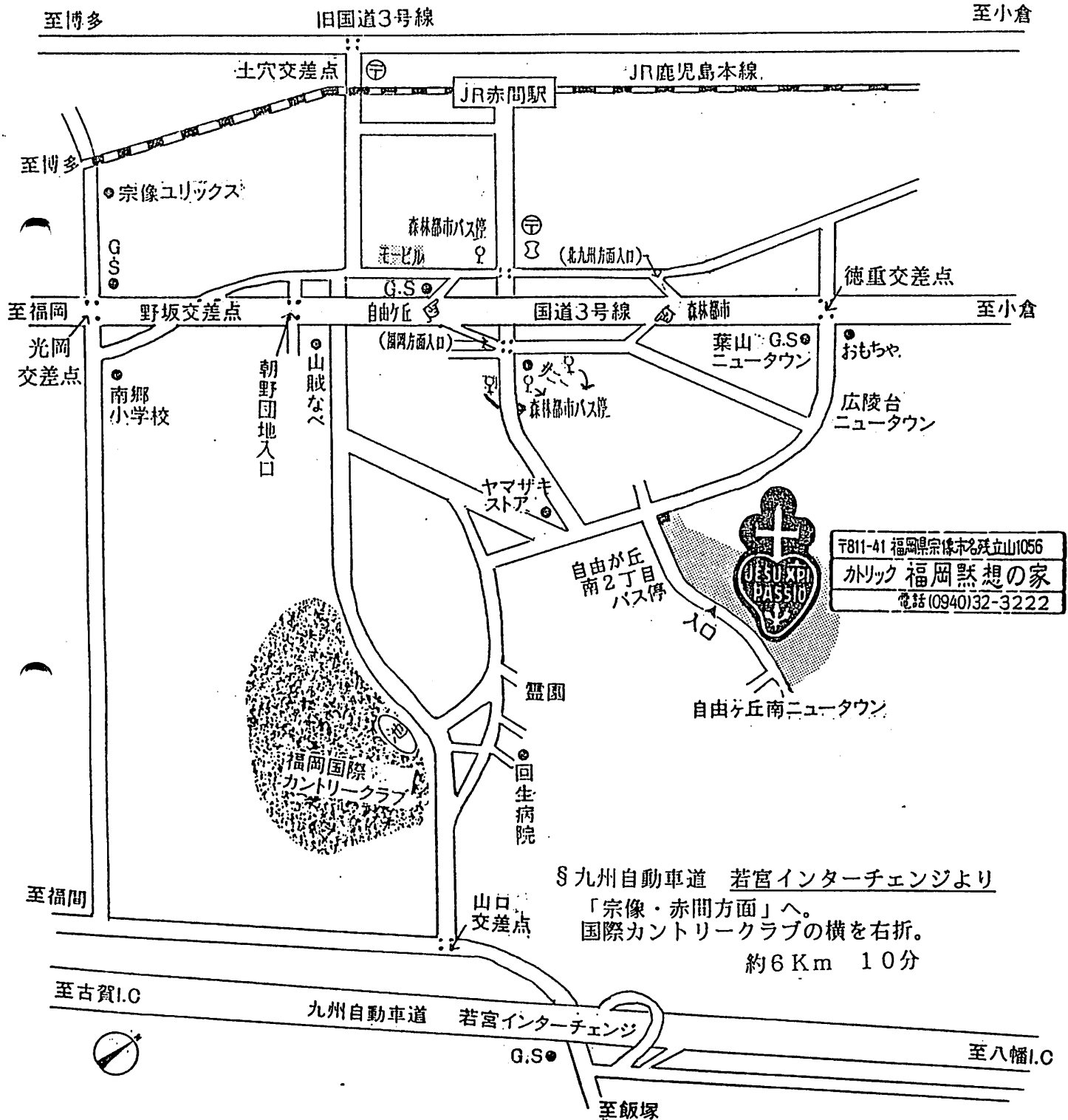


福岡黙想の家・ご案内図

§ JR鹿児島本線 赤間駅下車南口 (森林都市・自由ヶ丘方面)より西鉄バスにて
「自由ヶ丘南三丁目行」に乗車、自由ヶ丘南二丁目下車すぐ。

§ 国道三号線 福岡方面より (バイパス) 東郷方面の表示を経て光岡、野坂、朝野団地入口の各交差点を直進し、陸橋を上った所の左側モータービルGS横「自由ヶ丘」方面(表示あり)より入りすぐに右折し、下った所の信号を更に右折、3号線ガードをくぐって直進。突き当たり三叉路を左折後すぐの四つ角を右折、左側。

§ 国道三号線 北九州方面より (バイパス) 富地原交差点を経て、徳重の交差点を左折後しばらく直進し『黙想の家』の看板が出ている四つ角を左折。左側に入口あり。
または、徳重の交差点を通り過ぎた場合は「英ちゃんうどん」の先の「森林都市」方面(表示あり)より入り右折してスーパー・サニー角信号を左折。あとは福岡方面に同じ。

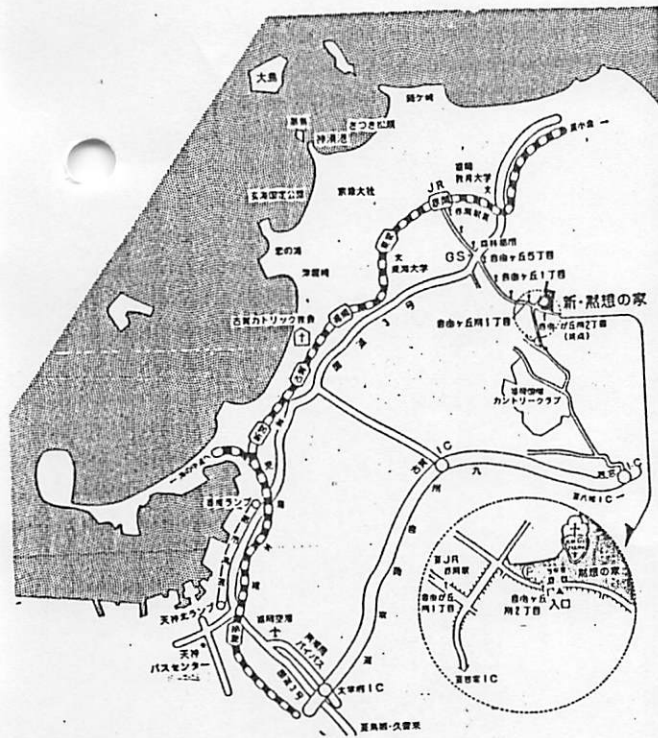
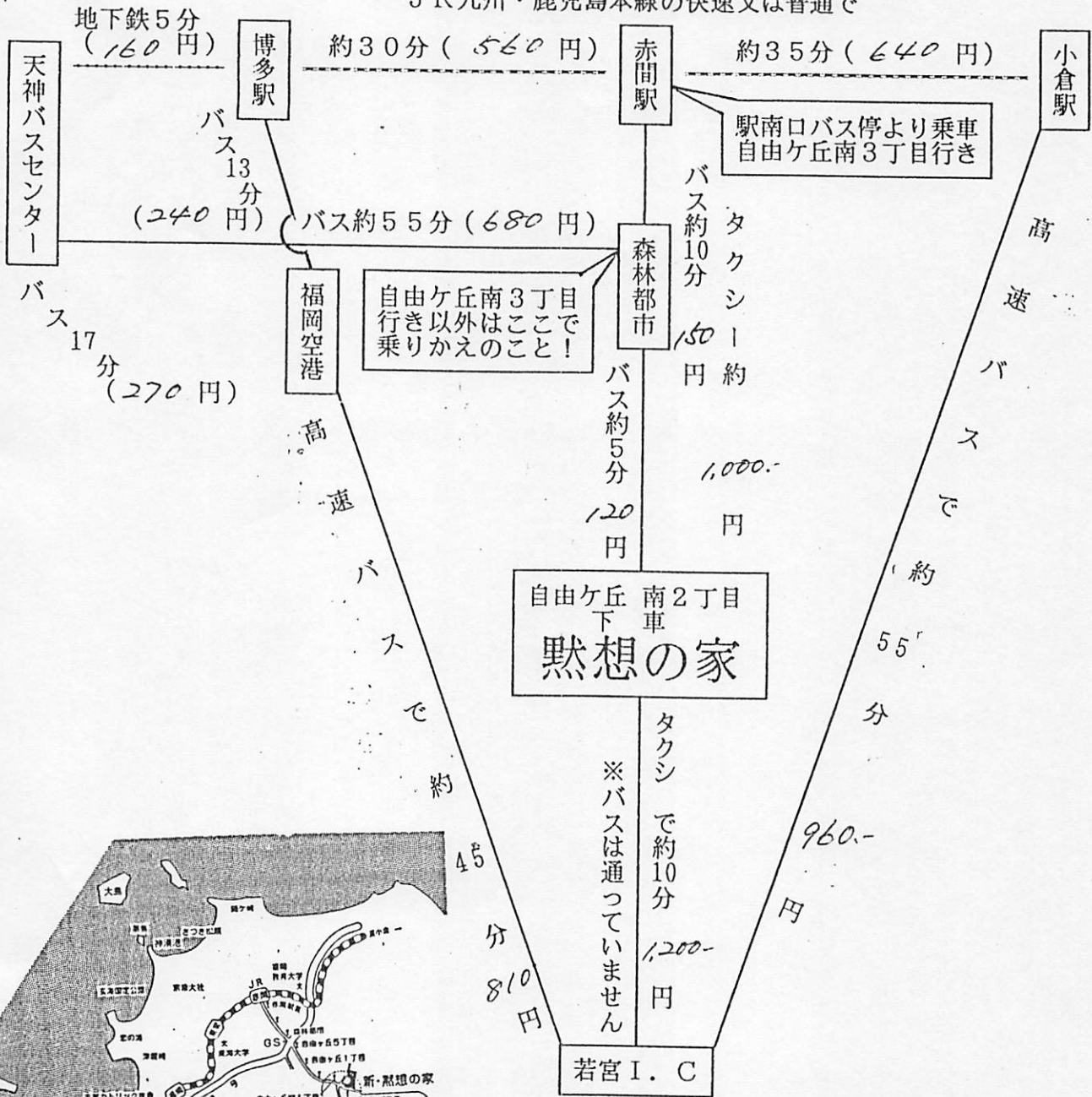


§ 九州自動車道 若宮インターチェンジより
「宗像・赤間方面」へ。
国際カントリークラブの横を右折。
約6 Km 10分

カトリック 福岡黙想の家までの交通機関及び所要時間

※新幹線及び鹿児島本線特急・急行は赤間駅に停まりません。

J R九州・鹿児島本線の快速又は普通で





OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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



September 1991

My brother Oblates,

In July we had visitors from Rome; Fr. Jim FitzPatrick, Postulator General, and from the Eastern American Province; Fr. George Kirwin, Provincial and Fr. Gerry Flater, Provincial Treasurer. Though only here a short time they were able to visit many of our Oblates houses. They also had a brief introduction to the culture of Kyoto and were able to visit a few of Shikoku's 88 Temples.

We were very happy to have these Oblates visit us and hope that more will be able to come our way. When you read George Kirwin's letter you will realize what these visits can do to increase inter-Province awareness.

On August 1 about 15 middle and highschool boys arrived in Kochi for the Oblate Vocation Camp. It was a great success. The high point was Brother Yagi's Perpetual Vow Mass. Ed Williams has written about this.

This summer a number of the Fathers were on home leave. Three to celebrate their Ordination Jubilees and a few on their regular home leave. As a result I have been covering on weekends in our different parishes. Of course all of these are one man parishes.

For the last ten years I have been living in Kochi where there have always been two or three Oblates. At one period the Novices were with us so we had a rather large community. The experience this summer has made me realize that I have been blessed. I have become very aware that a number of our men must feel rather alone at times. Whether it is watching T.V or saying Evening Prayer it is always better when you have someone to share it with. My thanks to you men who are living alone, in our small and very small rural parishes.

Hope one and all had an enjoyable summer.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

GEORGE KIRWIN ON HIS VISIT TO THREE ASIAN MISSION
Taken from the Eastern American Province Newsletter

July 1991

Having just returned from our trip to the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan, I wish to share some reflections with you about my experience of these missions.

First of all, I am grateful to the Province for making it possible for me to visit these missions. It was a privilege and a joy to see the places whose names were so familiar but whose history, past and present, was so miniscule in my awareness: Grace Park, Jolo, Cotabato, Kidapawan, Midsayap, Itami, Kyoto, Nagoya, Kochi, Naruto, Anan, Aki, Tokushima, Tokyo.

Secondly, I am particularly grateful to the men whom we visited, who received us with open arms and treated us royally. They are too numerous to mention and I might forget one. The humbling part was to realize that they were saying thanks to the Province through us, thanks for the men of the past and present, the pioneers and the present-day missionaries who gave of their wealth (their lives, their energies, their talents, their spirituality) to help to enrich the people of these missions.

The image I bring with me from this visit is that of tens of thousands of people, some of whom have been touched in a very clear way by the gospel message brought by our men, through their preaching and especially through their educational ministry; many of whom, though good people, have not yet received the light of Christian faith though they have been touched, at times deeply, by the kindness and the loving concern of our men. That contrast exists both in the Philippines and in Japan / Hong Kong. I was surprised by the strength of the Muslim presence in the Philippines and the consequent challenges that brings to our missionaries. In that respect I would think that the missionary task is similar in the Philippines and Japan / Hong Kong. On the other hand, one certainly experiences the difference between incredible numbers of Catholics attending Mass in the Philippines and the handful one sees in Japan and Hong Kong. That certainly is one of the great consolations for those who minister in the Philippines and one of the greatest challenges to our men in Japan and Hong Kong. Yet what I experienced as the sharpest contrast between these countries was the poverty and the wealth. I would say that the poverty we saw in the Philippines was comparable to what I saw in Brazil last year. The favelas of Sao Paulo are no worse than the slums of Manila and the pitiable condition of those who "live" in the garbage dumps of "Smokey Mountain" on the edge of Manila. Japan and Hong Kong on the contrary, are thriving economically. Strikingly, in both of these

situations we met wonderful people, people who are trying to live by the gospel. We met two women in Japan, two blood sisters, who had been successful in their earlier careers and who were now dedicated to taking care of battered women. We met catechists who have devoted their lives to the Church in terms of teaching and fostering the faith, especially among youth. In the Philippines the story was much the same: men and women who have responded to initiatives taken by our men to provide health care, education and religious training for thousands of people.

The spirit among the men was typically Oblate. They extended wonderful fraternal hospitality to us and showed great respect for each other even when there were disagreements as to approaches to ministry etc. I come away greatly edified by the genuine desire of the men to meet the varying needs of their people. I come away with a strong feeling of pride because of all that they have done to make the Church a reality in the midst of cultures vastly different from their own. I come away with gratitude for the grace of God which has sustained the missionary efforts of "ordinary men" like ourselves. I feel that they shall stimulate me to trust more than before in the power of God's love in the world.

KOREA

I am happy to welcome the newest member to our Province. Fr Giovanni Zevola, formerly a member of the Italian Province, has been assigned to the Korean Mission. Giovanni is 29 years old. He was ordained last year on September 8. He studied at the International Scholasticate. His field of study was Biblical Theology. Before his ordination Giovanni had two years of pastoral training in the Philippines. Welcome to the Province, Giovanni.

At the end of the April Vincenzo Bordo and Mauro Concardi went to Italy for R and R. Vincenzo returned in June for the summer course which he has just completed. He has started helping out on Sundays in parishes in the Suwon Diocese. Mauro remained in Italy for an On-going Formation Program. He has also participated in a number of youth camps. Mauro and Giovanni will arrive in Seoul on September 5.

Our Korean Missionaries have been living at the Franciscan Monastery in Seoul. Now, the Franciscans need the rooms so we must find our own living quarters. This is going to be an expensive proposition. Even to rent will involve a sum of about \$70,000 due to the renting system in Korea.

Kindly remember the Korean Missionaries. Also pray that we find a suitable place for the first Oblate House in Korea.

P e r p e t u a l P r o f e s s i o n
o f
B r o t h e r D o m i n i c N o b u h i k o Y a g i
S u n d a y , A u g u s t 4 t h 1 9 9 1
K o c h i , N a k a j i m a c h o C a t h o l i c C h u r c h

The weather was very hot but otherwise rather reasonable on this Sunday afternoon. People filled the church, about 150 people from various parts of Japan. Young people made up a very noticeably proportion of the congregation. The Oblate camp for vocations was in session at the time so these middle and high school boys all lent a hand in the affair. They were the readers at the Mass, the acolytes, the attendants at the reception desk in the church entry, a remarkable presence in a church where young people are rather few.

In spite of the fact that it was a Sunday afternoon a rather large number of priests were in attendance. Father John Mahoney,(our Provincial), was the principle celebrant along with the following Oblates, Fathers Tom Maher, William Maher, John Iwo, Leonard Inui, Yoshikazu Tosa, Ron Laframbois, Lee Simons and Ed Williams. Father Yooji Matsunaga Diocesan Pastor of the other Kochi parish and a young Dominican Deacon Masashi Tanaka also concelebrated.

The Mass, the vow ceremonies, the final remarks were all 'signed' (given in sign language). People well versed in this technique 'signed' the Mass and Brother Yagi himself signed his own final remarks. According to Brother Yagi this is the first time Mass has been 'signed' in this diocese.

After this a reception was held at a nearby hotel, the Sansuien, where all had a wonderful feed, especially the young people present.

Several people who attended this celebration made it a point to tell us how deeply they were impressed by everything. The young people seem to have been the most impressed of all. It was a memorable occasion for the Oblates, Brother Yagi, his family, and for all who joined us on that day.

FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS APOSTOLATE

Report submitted by Wency Laguidao

Purpose and Objective of Work: Pastoral care of Filipinos through cooperation with individuals, groups, (catholic and non-catholic), parishes, and institutions in their activities of responding to the growing needs of the Filipinos living and working in Japan. My work is done mainly through the general objectives of the Association for Solidarity With Migrant and Foreign Workers under the Commission for International Cooperation.

Nature and Scope of Work: It must be noted that chaplaincy to Filipinos is a very recent apostolate in Japan. Considering that an overwhelming number of Filipino nationals are here on overstayed-visa, planning out an appropriate apostolate for them has always been difficult. Most of my time and work are spent responding to their immediate needs and problems. Filipinos in Japan can be divided into three groups.

1) Workers: those in the entertainment business; unskilled labor; skilled labor; trainees; seamen; etc.

2) Married to Japanese: those who came to marry a Japanese and those who got married with a Japanese while working in Japan.

3) Others: those who don't fall under 1 & 2. Recently, many Filipinos come to Japan to visit relatives.

Main Activities of 1990:

1) Participation in the planning and carrying-out of the year's activities of the Association for Solidarity With Migrant Workers

2) Handling of labor-related problems. Workers who are brought to Japan under "trainees visa" but actually are made to work without the workers' benefits have increased sharply recently. I was involved in two big cases last year involving workers with "trainees visa". I was able to work closely with members of various support groups. Each problem is carefully analyzed and studied before concrete actions are taken. Privacy and personal interest of the workers involved in the problem are held in priority. Meeting of the members of the network formed were held almost weekly.

3) Handling problems related to life in Japan. I handled several cases of Filipinos married to Japanese. Cultural differences and conflict in expectations on both parties are the usual cause of marital problems.

4) Sacramental functions. I made several trips to different parishes with large concentrations of Filipinos to celebrate mass or to give a day of recollection. There were many baptisms, a few weddings and 3 funerals of Filipinos during the past year. When in Osaka, I help out with masses in Kitahama and Tamatsukuri.

5) Adoption of children. I have helped in the process of adoption of children born to Filipinos. Reasons for wanting the child to be adopted were: inability to take care of the child who is usually born out of wedlock and desire of the mother to continue working hence could not take care of the child. Proper legal procedure must be followed in the adoption of a Filipino child. I have worked with the International Social Services (ISS), the only organization authorized by the Philippine Government to process adoption papers of its nationals and the Missionaries of Mary (Kami no ai Senhkyookai).

6) Cooperation with government and non-government organizations. Philippine Embassy in Tokyo and Consulate in Kobe refer some problems to me and vice versa. I work closely with ALS (Arusu no Kai) in Nagoya and learn from their handling of many cases involving foreigners. I try to be of service to the other organizations helping Filipinos.

7) Trips to Manila. I made 3 trips to Manila in 1990: to deliver large amounts of workmen's compensation money (rosai), to deliver remains of 2 Filipinos who died and upon invitation to give talks by Radio Veritas-Japanese Broadcast. Whenever in Manila, I try to make contact with Filipinos whose cases I handled in the past and also update organizations in Manila who link with us in helping Filipinos like the Center for Overseas Workers (COW) and STOP (Stop Trafficking of Filipinos).

8) Others. Telephone counselling is common, either directly from the person or from a third party. Recording of important events and problems is also a work that I consider very important hence I try to do it faithfully. Cooperation with planning and actual conducting of AISA-Yokohama in November of 1990 was another big activity of the year.

Main Problems and Difficulties encountered:

1) Absence of medical and health insurance. 90% of the Filipinos in Japan have overstayed their visa so they are denied health insurance benefits. This has become a very serious problem. In cases of death, the bereaved family back in the Philippines is usually forced to agree to have the body of the deceased cremated here to avoid tremendous expense in transporting remains. Employers

usually shun responsibilities in the cases of sickness and death of a Filipino worker.

2) Labor-related problems. Since 90% of Filipinos in Japan are workers without proper visa, they remain vulnerable to exploitation and deception by their employers and brokers. Recently, those who enter with some form of contract are even more exploited than those without working visa. For example, an illegal working Filipino can earn 3-4 times what an entertainer or a trainee earns in a month. Not all of those with some kind of contract papers are entered into some form of health insurance by their employers.

3) Problems with Filipinos. Cases of exploitation of Filipinos by Filipinos are increasing. Many Filipinos are acting as unscrupulous labor brokers now.

4) Family problems of Filipinos married to Japanese are many and varied. Differences in culture are a main cause of marital conflict. Likewise, those who come to work and have left families in the Philippines are faced with loneliness that drives them to neglect their families back home. Some of them get involved in crime.

5) Discrimination. This is a cause of suffering for many of them at the work place, in the society where they live and even when they live together with their in-laws.

Plan of activity for 1991: Continuation of activities mentioned above with particular emphasis on cooperation with the activities of network organizations helping foreign migrant workers,

Conclusion: As expected the revised immigration law which took effect in June, 1990 has not improved the conditions of the foreign migrant workers. Important facts and figures regarding the foreign migrant workers were thoroughly discussed during AISA-Yokohama.

As far as the Church is concerned the number of Filipinos coming to Church is something that cannot be ignored anymore especially that most of them will live in Japan permanently. For example, some small churches in Shikoku have more Filipino than Japanese Catholics.

Meanwhile, the economic and political situation of the Philippines only turned for the worse at the outbreak of the Gulf War. For millions of Filipino workers "dekasegi" is the only means to survive and Japan remains the most attractive place to go.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

September

6 John Iwo
20 John Mahoney
22 Fran Hahn

October

7 Ron LaFramboise
10 Jan Van Hoydonck
27 Xave Yoshikazu Tosa

December

24 Mike Yamasaki

Ordinations

September

8 Giovanni Zevolta

October

10 Mauro Concardi
28 Gerard Stevens

Brother Yagi will depart for his stay in Australia on September 3rd. He will be there for six months. Bon Voyage, Nobuhiko! You will be in our prayers.

The Asia/Oceania Regional Conference will meet in Melbourne from September 23-27. The theme of the meeting will be, "Leadership as Evangelizers in a Secular Society". I will leave for Australia on September 13. Before that I will go Seoul for a few days after the Retreat to look into a new location for the Oblates. After the meeting in Melbourne I will spend some time in Australia then visit the Oblates in New Zealand and Tahiti. I plan to return to Osaka by way of Honolulu. I will spend about ten days there with the Hawaii branch of the Mahoney family. I will return to Osaka on November 5. Mike Yamasaki will be acting Provincial during my absence. Incidentally if you need Visa Renewal Forms please inform me before September 12. J. K. M.

Gerry Novotny's father is doing quite well. I spoke to Mrs. Novotny this morning. She sends the family's thanks for your prayers. Gerry and the family request your continued prayers.

You are also asked to remember in your prayers Bro. Leo Kawaguchi's uncle Fr. Yasuyori Kawaguchi who died on August 19.



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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November 26, 1991

By brother Oblates,

I am forwarding you Father General's letter announcing the consultation for the new Provincial. I am also sending you your consultation form. The instructions in Father Zago's letter are quite clear. I would just like to call your attention to the fact that the completed consultation form is to be mailed to Nakajima-cho.

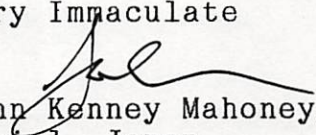
You will also find the results of the straw vote. This vote is merely an indication of how your brother Oblates are thinking concerning the selection of a new Provincial. It of course has no binding power. You are perfectly free to vote for a man even if his name does not appear on the list.

Lei Simons is in the Kyoto University Hospital. He phoned last night and told me he will have the first of the treatments for the removal of kidney stones on Tuesday, November 26. I intend to be there. I will keep you informed of his progress. Please keep Lei in your prayers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers for my brother Peter. He has cancer of the lungs and the duodenum. He also has internal bleeding. The doctors have been unable to stop this. In a further attempt to do so they have started chemotherapy. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Finally a request for your contribution for the Christmas News Letter. I would like to have your contribution by December 15.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate


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

I. What do you see as the most urgent needs of the Vice-Province at this time?

II. Please name three Oblates, in order of your preference, whom you believe can respond to these needs. It would be helpful to give a few of the qualities of these men which make them apt candidates for leadership of the Vice-Province.

1)
Qualities:

2)
Qualities:

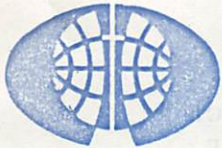
3)
Qualities

III. What advice would you give the man who will be your Provincial?

Date: _____ Signature: _____
(Name in block letters) _____

- This form to be forwarded for December 31, 1991 to:
Father General
c/o Fr. Des O'Donnell, O.M.I.
Catholic Mission
Takajoo-cho 2-1-33, Kochi 780

	1	2	3
Fr. M. Yamasaki, O. M. I.	9	5	2
Fr. R. LaFramboise, O. M. I.	6	4	1
Fr. A. Siani, O. M. I.	3	4	3
Fr. E. Williams, O. M. I.	2	1	1
Fr. Y. Tosa, O. M. I.	1	2	0
Fr. W. Laguidao, O. M. I.	1	0	2
Fr. J. Iwo, O. M. I.	0	1	2
Fr. G. Stevens, O. M. I.	0	1	0
Fr. B. Silver, O. M. I.,	0	0	2
Fr. F. Hahn, O. M. I.	0	0	1
Fr. L. Simons, O. M. I.	0	0	1
Fr. J. Deely, O. M. I.	0	0	1
Fr. W. Maher, O. M. I.	0	0	1
Fr. L. Inui, O. M. I.	0	0	1



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

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宗教法人：カトリック聖母献身宣教会

オブレート会
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33
TEL 0888-72-3658



December 27, 1991

My brother Oblates

The Provincial Council met in Itami on December 6th. On this occasion Des O'Donnell was also present

There was a discussion of the Report of the Finance Committee. You have received a copy of this report from Bert Silver.

One of the matters discussed was the administration of the finances of the Korean Missions. There has been some confusion as to the matter of financing the Korean Province. In letters between Fr. Keuter, General Bursar, and Bert and myself this matter has been cleared up.

The Council recommended that a final letter be sent to Father General making our position very clear. The following three point were decided upon.

1. The Japanese Province can not give any financial support to the Korean Mission from Japanese Provincial Funds .
2. The Japanese Province will try to raise money for the Korean Mission from various Funds and Foundations.
3. In times of necessity we will seek the help of the General Administration in obtaining funds for the Korean Mission.

The Council also accepted unanimously the recommendation of the Financial Committee concerning Stable Patrimony. Notification of this has been sent to the General Administration.

It was also agreed that the remaining debt to the Credit Union for the Nagoya house be paid from our Vice Province Funds

Preparation for the General Chapter was the next item on the agenda. As soon as the new Provincial has been named forms for the election of our Chapter Delegate will be sent.

The Council also discussed the participation of each member of the Province in the preparation for the Chapter. A questionnaire has been received from Rome. Many of these questions are of a statistical or informational nature. These can be answered by the Provincial and Council. Other questions are matters of opinion concerning the Province and the Oblates. I ask your cooperation in answering these questions. "The Chapter in fact concerns everyone and all must be involved because it should 'express our members' participation in the life and mission of the Congregation' (C105))" (From Letter of Convocation)

Will you kindly return your responses to the Provincial Office by Jan 20. This will give the Council time to process them. We are requested to have our reports in Rome by February 15.

Preparation for the 1993 Mission Meeting was also discussed. Suggested topics have been received from the Kochi and Itami/Nagoya Districts. In order to continue the process we would like to hear from Tokushima and Tokyo. Please confer my letter of May 16, 1991. Your suggestions would be appreciated by January 20 so they can be discussed at the next council Meeting.

In closing this letter I would like to thank you for your cooperation and support during the past year. I assure you it is greatly appreciated. If I have succeeded in doing any good for the Province during this year it is entirely due to you and your help.

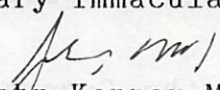
I ask you for your continued support and prayers for the remainder of my Provincialate in 1992. I also ask you to pray for the man who will become our New Provincial.

My brother, Peter died on December 26. As you may know he had cancer of the lungs and duodenum. He never experienced any pain and died in his sleep. I am sure these are answers to the prayers of many who were praying for him. Thank you. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.

I am most thankful that I was able to return to the States and be with him in November.

I pray that God will bless you and your work in 1992.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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

ANSWER THE CHECKED QUESTIONS
IN PART ONE AND ALL OF PARTS
TWO, THREE AND FOUR.

INTRODUCTION

Province reports to the General Chapter were introduced by the Chapter of 1856, after the division of the Congregation into 4 Provinces and 4 Vicariates. These reports, therefore, are a well established tradition in the Congregation. They provide the Chapter with an overview of the "lived experience of our communities as well as the challenges and hopes of our ministry", thus providing a basis for "community reflection and conversion" so that we can thank God "for the work of salvation which he accomplishes through us" (C.105).

In order to achieve this purpose, the data provided by these Reports must be expressed in a form which is readable and which can be used to produce an overall picture of the Congregation.

The information gathered from Part One will provide the basis for statistical tables and graphs which will show both the present situation of the Congregation as well as future trends. The personal comments will be compiled as a basis for the discussion on the Chapter Theme. The actual reports will be made available during the Chapter in both French and English.

TO PROVINCES WITH DELEGATIONS: PLEASE NOTE
THAT DELEGATIONS ANSWER SEPARATELY.
THEREFORE, DO NOT COUNT THEIR MEMBERS WITH YOUR
PERSONNEL IN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

THE TERM "PROVINCE" APPLIES EQUALLY TO VICE-PROVINCE AND
DELEGATION.

A. PERSONNEL**a) STATISTICAL DATA**

(Projected)

1980 1985 1991 2000

1. Total Number of Oblates in your Province.

a. Priests and Bishops

b. Brothers in Perpetual Vows

c. Brothers in Temporary Vows

d. Scholastics in Perpetual Vows

e. Scholastics in Temporary Vows

f. Novices

g. In special situations

(eg. Temporary exclaustation. As they are still formally members of the Congregation, these should also be included in a-f above)

2. How many of the total number of Oblates in your Province or Delegation are native born?**3. Departures from the Congregation since the last Chapter.**

The number that have left

The number that have died

4. Average age of professed Oblates:
(Sum of all ages divided by the total number of Oblates counted)**5. Age groups of professed Oblates (As at 31 December, 1991)**

Category Number

80+	
70-79	
60-69	
50-59	
40-49	
30-39	
20-29	
-20	

b) COMMENTS:

1. What development in the personnel situation of your Province do you expect over the next six years? (Until the 1998 Chapter)

2. How will these developments affect the mission/ministries in your Province?

3. What are the likely financial implications of these developments?

4. Other comments on personnel development:

B. MISSION**a) MINISTRIES****1. Statistical Data:**

Personnel distribution in ministries:

How many Oblates in your Province are engaged in the following ministries?
(The same person could be included under more than one category)

	Full time	Part time
a. Preaching Ministries		
b. Parish Ministries		
c. Chaplaincies:		
- Religious communities		
- Hospitals		
- Prisons - Military		
- Educational Institutions		
- Other		
d. Refugees and Migrants		
e. Oblate Formation		
- Formators		
- Studying		
f. Vocation Ministry		
g. Youth Ministry		
h. Education Ministries		
- High Schools, juniorates,		
- College, University, Maj. Seminary		
i. Publishing and Printing		
j. Maintenance and service in Oblate community		
k. Oblate administration and animation		
l. Totally retired or sick		
m. Other (Specify)		

2. Comments:

✓(i) How have the mission and ministries in your Province evolved since the last Chapter?

✓(ii) Did the Chapter document, *Missionaries in Today's World*, influence this evolution? If so, describe how.

✓(iii) What are the major difficulties you face as a Province in the living out of your missionary commitments?

✓(iv) How would you characterize the present missionary orientation in your Province in two (2) words?

1

2

✓(v) As you look to the future of the mission in your Province what most readily comes to mind? (in a few words)

b) APOSTOLIC RELIGIOUS LIFE:

1. Community:

(i) Personnel distribution in Communities (Indicate the number under each category)

a. Living in an Oblate community

b. Habitually living alone:

* belonging to a district community

* usually isolated

Comments:

✓ (ii) How has the community life in your Province evolved since the last General Chapter?

✓ (iii) What has been the influence of the Chapter document, *Missionaries in Today's World*, on community life?

✓ (iv) How would you characterize the community orientation in your Province in two (2) words?

1

2

Comments:

2. Prayer Life:

- ✓(i) How has the Prayer life in your Province evolved since the last General Chapter and how does it express itself in the light of CC 31-36?

- ✓(ii) How would you characterize the prayer life in your Province in two (2) words?

1

2

Comments:

3. Religious Life:

- ✓(i) How is the religious life dimension of our charism understood and lived in your Province?

- ✓(ii) What influence do our religious vows have on the life-style of the Oblates in your Province?

- ✓ (iii) As you look to the future of the apostolic religious life of your Province, what most readily comes to mind? (in a few words)

C. VOCATIONS AND FORMATION

a) STATISTICAL DATA

1. Entries into the Congregation

- a. Admission to Novitiate
- b. First Vows
- c. Perpetual Vows
- d. Ordination to permanent Diaconate
- e. Ordination to Priesthood

1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991

- #### 2. Departures - during initial formation
- within 5 years after

3. Formation facilities:

- a. What formation facilities do you have in your Province?
- b. What formation facilities do you make use of outside of your Province?
- c. Indicate any significant changes since the last General Chapter.

4. Oblates involved in Vocations/Formation ministry:

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
a. Vocation Ministry						
b. Initial Formation						
(i) Pre-Novitiate						
(ii) Novitiate						
(iii) Post Novitiate						
c. Ongoing Formation						

b) COMMENTS

1. How has the vocation/formation situation evolved since the last General Chapter?

2. Has it been influenced by the Chapter Document, *Missionaries in Today's World*?
In what way?

3. How would you characterize the vocation/formation situation in your Province in two (2) words?

1	
2	

Comments:

4. Do you have an established policy for ongoing formation?

Yes	No

5. What are the initiatives for ongoing formation in your Province?

6. What is done for the Oblates in the first five years of their ministry?

D. NEW FORMS OF ASSOCIATION

1. Is there a particular form, other than the M.A.M.I., of associating lay persons with us in your Province? If so, specify.

2. How has this evolved since the last Chapter?

3. How many people are involved?

E. PROVINCE ANIMATION

- ✓ 1. What have you found most useful in the animation of your Province? (eg. congress, meetings according to pastoral interest, program of district meetings etc.)

- ✓ 2. Indicate the themes of the Chapter Document, *Missionaries in Today's World*, that had the most impact in your Province.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission, poverty and justice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission and secularization
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission and inculturation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission with the laity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission within the Church
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission through an apostolic community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our mission and its future

- ✓ 3. Which one of these themes do you think your Province needs to give more attention to?

- ✓ 4. Is there any other important avenue for the animation of your Province at this time that needs to be explored?

F. FINANCIAL SITUATION

1. How would you describe the financial situation in your Province?

a. Very Good (able to share)

b. Good

c. Poor (cause for concern)

d. Difficult (need aid from outside)

2. How do you see the future?

PART TWO

PROVINCE REPORT

GENERAL CHAPTER AGENDA

GENERAL CHAPTER 1992

INTRODUCTION

After consulting the Provincials,
the Superior General will propose topics for the Chapter's Agenda.
R.110 § 2

The information gathered from this part of your PROVINCE REPORT will contribute to the development of an Agenda to be proposed to the 1992 General Chapter. As already mentioned, we encourage you to consult your Province in the reflection stage leading to the formulation of your responses.

The Precapitular Commission will prepare a DRAFT CHAPTER AGENDA DOCUMENT incorporating the suggestions received from the different Provinces. This document will be mailed to the Capitulars prior to the Chapter.

Region:

1. At the Intercapitular Meeting in 1990, the Provincials expressed a desire to have the next Chapter continue and deepen the reflection of the 1986 Chapter on the evangelizing mission of the Oblate in today's world.

Various ways of approaching the question were indicated. Each one focused on a different aspect. Among those more commonly mentioned were:

- the apostolic man
- the apostolic community
- the formation of the apostolic man
- the reality of the modern world
- the call to a new evangelisation

Indicate, in the light of your experience, the particular approach that you would consider most important at this time.

2. In terms of the life and mission of YOUR OWN PROVINCE, what do you see as the two (2) most urgent concerns for YOUR PROVINCE at this time in its history?

Concern One:

Comments:

Concern Two:

Comments:

3. Based on your experience of the CONGREGATION AS A WHOLE, what do you see as the two (2) most important challenges we face as a Congregation at this time in our history?

Challenge One:

Comments:

Challenge Two:

Comments:

4. What do you suggest as the MAJOR THEME for the 1992 General Chapter?
Could you suggest a creative way of formulating this theme?

Theme:

Formulation: (Slogan)

Comments:

-

PART THREE
ELECTIONS AND LEADERSHIP

PROVINCE REPORT
GENERAL CHAPTER
1992

INTRODUCTION

At the general level, the Provinces together make up the Congregation, which is united and animated by the Chapter and by the Superior General with his Council. In the spirit of the Founder, these ensure that the Congregation remains faithful to the demands of the religious life and its mission. They guarantee our availability for the needs of the universal Church. C.76 § 3

Because every Chapter involves elections to positions of leadership in the Congregation, it seems appropriate to reflect on this question of leadership. This third part of your Province Report invites you to initiate this reflection in your Province and to share its fruits with all the Capitulars.

You may find it useful to review the following articles in our CC & RR:

- On the General Administration: CC.110-121; RR 122-141
- On Superiors: CC.80-85
- On the spirit of Government: CC.71-74

1. In the light of the challenges we will face as a Congregation over the next years, what type of leadership would you expect from the next General Council?

Answer this question by identifying two (2) characteristics you consider most important relative to the next General Council. Place these in order of priority.

1

2

2. In the light of the challenges we face as a Congregation, what advice would you give to the one elected to be Superior General?

PART FOUR

ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL CHAPTER

PROVINCE REPORT

GENERAL CHAPTER 1992

INTRODUCTION

The Superior General in plenary session of the Council will appoint a Commissioner and the other members of the Precapitular Commission to make the necessary preparations for the Chapter. R.110 § 2

The members of the Precapitular Commission welcome any suggestions you might have for the PREPARATION AND ORGANIZATION of the Chapter. These suggestions could address prayer life, schedule, meals, reports, special events, etc. If possible, consult the elected delegate(s) from your Province when preparing the responses to this part of your PROVINCE REPORT.

The Precapitular Commission will review your suggestions at its next meeting.

1. Suggestions: (Please give a brief rationale for each suggestion)

2. Please indicate any special skills or interests you and the delegate(s) from your Province have that could be helpful during the experience of the Chapter, ie. liturgy, music, group facilitation, etc.