



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL (0888) 72-3658
FAX (81) 0888-73-7536

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



Date: January 19, 1992

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Our FAX No. (81) 888 73 7536

Total Number of Pages (including this one). [3]

To: Oblate Fathers, Australia

FAX No. 3 813 2696

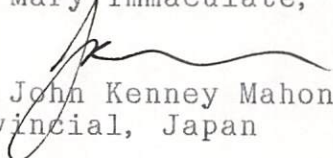
Attention: Fr. Sherman, O.M.I. or Cooper, O.M.I.
TO BRO. NOBUHIKO YAGI, O.M.I.

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

Dear Nobuhiko,

Suggest you send your vote by FAX

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL (0888) 7 2-3 6 5 8
FAX (81) 0888-73-7536

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

January 19. 1992

My brother Oblates,

This morning Ange phoned me and informed me that he has been appointed our new Provincial.

I am sure you join with me in congratulating Ange and also in my promise to pray for him as he assumes the office of Provincial.

I will soon be sending you your ballots for the election of the Provincial Consultors. These will be decided at the meeting of the General Council which will be held from May 18 to June 10.

We are requested to send the name of our choice for Delegate to the General Chapter of 1992 to Rome no later than the end of February. Therefore I would like to get the Process for the election started.

Ballots are being sent to all members of the Province having an active voice; that is, all those in Perpetual Vows. Those eligible for election are all those in vows. Therefore all members of the Vice-Province of Japan have the right to vote and all are eligible for election.

You are asked to vote for a Delegate and for an Alternate. Please mail your ballot to the Provincial Office no later than February 2. The Ballots will be counted on February 3. Please write "BALLOT" on the outside of the envelope.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

P. S. Thank you for your prayers and Masses for my brother.

VICE-PROVINCE OF JAPAN

Election for the Delegate to the General Chapter of 1992

Delegate.....

Alternate.....

Date:..... Signature.....
Name in block letters.....

¹
This form to be forwarded to Provincial Office by Feb. 2.



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL (0888) 72-3658
FAX (81) 0888-73-7536

宗教法人：カトリック聖母献身宜教会

オブレート会
高知市鷹匠町2-1-33
TEL 0888-72-3658



January 24, 1992

My brother Oblates,

Through a mistake on my part I asked you to sign your ballots for the election of the Chapter Delegate. Actually the ballot must be secret. Therefore I have destroyed the ballots I have already received. Kindly send in this new ballot. MARK THE ENVELOPE BALLOT #2. The votes will be counted on February 9.

- 3.2 - Conditions for the validity of the vote: In order to be valid and to serve, either to establish the majority of votes required or to constitute the number of votes obtained by a given candidate, the vote must be:
- a- Secret: In order to assure this, the name of the elector should not appear on his voting-paper, nor should he sign it.
 - b- Certain: Thus illegible handwriting or insufficiently distinguishing designation of a person whose name is the same as others, would render the vote invalid.
 - c- Determinate: i.e. indicating individually and not disjunctively the person for whom the vote is cast. Thus "I vote for Peter or Paul" would be invalid.
 - d- Absolute: i.e. the choice of candidate being expressed without conditions.
 - e- Free: a vote is invalid if, through grave fear or deceit, someone was directly or indirectly made to choose a certain person or several persons disjunctively (can 172).
 - f- For an eligible candidate: votes cast for an ineligible candidate are regarded as invalid or null, with corresponding effect. Likewise blank votes.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

VICE-PROVINCE OF JAPAN

Election for the Delegate to the General Chapter of 1992

Delegate.....

Alternate.....

This form to be forwarded to Provincial Office by Feb. 8.



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL(0888) 7 2-3658
FAX(81)0888-73-7536

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



February 6, 1992

My brother Oblates,

The Council met in Itami on January 27. This is a report of that meeting

The first item on the agenda was a explanation by Bert of the 1991 Rome Financial Report and the general financial matters of the Province. He will send you a letter concerning these matters.

I then read the Chapter Report and made some corrections and additions suggested by the Councilors. I am enclosing a copy of this Report which has been sent to Rome.

I requested help in the preparation of the report. I received replies from ten Oblate in Japan. (I did not request the help of the Fathers in Korea) I made copies of the replies to each question listing them from A to J. (Some of the replies were not signed.) By referring to answers A through J I thought I could get a good idea of the general feeling concerning any one question. By referring to all the replies marked "A" I could also get "A's" complete report.

At the District Meeting in Kochi on Monday I read my report and we discussed it. In the afternoon I read the above mentioned papers. It was suggested that I send copies of these to all. It was felt it would be interesting and informative reading re the thinking of some of the men on the mission.

Naturally there were some who did not agree with some of the things I have written in my report. As was made clear at the meeeting if anyone feels that he is not satisfied with part or all of my report he is perfectly free to send in his own complete report or any points he wishes to make to the Capitular Committee. Fr. Michael Foley, O.M.I is the Chairman. Use the General House address. I remind you of Fr. Zago's request for prayers for the Chapter.

There was a request from Dick for permission to build a church in Anan. This request was granted. It will be a 23 tsubo addition to the rectory on the east side. The

estimated cost of construction is 14,000,000 yen. At present through generous donations from the parishioners there is a fund of 5,000,000 yen. In his report Bert will give you the finer details of the financing of this project.

The parishioners are very much in favor of this project. I has been discussed by the Oblates in the Tokushima District and they also approve. The Bishop has also been approached and he has approved of the project. He will speak to the Fathers of the Takamatsu Diocese at the Priests Meeting to be held in March asking there help.

In his letter of request Dick mentioned the following. "As you know the parish and this facility are now 26 years old. Over these years the number of parishioners has been at 85 more or less. Thirty-five are frequent communicants. These people are fervent and devoted, and take real pride in their parish. After all these years, we feel it is time to construct a church for proper worship, where liturgy can be conducted well. A church would provide a place for prayer, adoration, whereas now there is a rectory chapel alone, and this is not always accessible."

"Again, as we are aware, in the not too distant future, the kindergarten may well be turned over to the management of lay people, and this prospect would surely hinder the use of the Kindergarten hall as our temporary place of worship. Even now, there are times during the year, due to Kindergarten activities, when Sunday Mass is forcibly squeezed into the rectory chapel. At such times as funerals and marriages there is the demand upon the Kindergarten to adjust, to dismiss the children."

Brother Leo Kawaguchi's request to receive the Diaconate was considered and approved. The ceremony will take place during our Spring Meeting in Kochi on March 25, at 6:30 P.M. Kindly keep brother in your prayers as he prepares for this important step. This might be a good time too, to urge you to even greater efforts in your search and prayers for vocations.

The matter of the Sisters of St Joseph of Osaka was discussed at the meeting. After the meeting Bert and I went to Minoo to speak to the Provincial of the Sisters concerning the arrangements. Two Sisters have already been assigned but due to present commitments will not be able to begin working in Tokushima-ken until August. They will rent an apartment in Tokushima near the Church. They will be involved in various activities in the church in Tokushima, and the churches and kindergartens in Anan and Naruto. The two Sisters will visit Tokushima in June to make final arrangements about an apartment, division of work etc etc.

The reports from the Districts concerning the topic for our 1993 Spring Meeting were discussed. In every District it was felt that Parishes should be the topic for this meeting. It was decided to discuss the particulars of this meeting at our next Council Meeting which will be held in Itami in March 2.

There will be a meeting of the Provincials of the Asia/Oceania Region on Hong Kong on February 13-14. On the 16 Luc Rene Young Chen Yin, O.M.I will be ordained to the priesthood. He will be the first Chinese Oblate ordained for the China Mission. Please remember Luc in your prayers.

Fr. John Sherman, President of the A/O Region suggested that as the Provincial-Elect Ange also attend this meeting. We will leave Osaka on Feb. 11 and return on Feb. 18.


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

P.S. I just called the Kyoto University Hospital and spoke to Takeda Sensei. Lei still has a fever which does not seem to go down. The doctors have changed his medicine in hopes this will solve that problem. After the fever goes down they will wait two weeks before making the final preparations to enable him to come home.

P.P.S. The new address of the Oblate Korean House is:

Unit 1352
Jinyang Apartment
120-3 4-KA
Chungmuro
Chung-ku
Seoul 100-014
Korea

Finally! The Columbans are sponsoring a meeting in Wakayama on February 18.

"WOMEN IN JAPAN" Awaken attitude toward and give awareness of the position of women in Japan. An awareness of how they are treated. The talks will be in English

Speakers: Sr. Naoki Iyori, Mercedes Kai
Miss Etsuko Kaji, Presbyterian

Morning from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Lunch will be served
Afternoon session from 2:30 to 4 P.M.
If interested contact Mike Healy. Phone 0734-22-4244



VICE-PROVINCE OF JAPAN

Election for the Alternate to the General Chapter of 1992

Alternate.....

This form to be forwarded to Provincial Office by Feb. 29



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL(0888) 72-3658
FAX(81)0888-73-7536

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



February 9, 1992

My brother Oblates,

This evening the ballots for the Delegate and Alternate to the General Chapter were opened and counted here in Kochi.

The Tellers were Tom Maher and John Iwo. Bill Maher was the Secretary and I was the Presiding Officer.

As a result of the balloting Angelo Siani was elected our Delegate to the Chapter. Congratulations Ange.

The voting was as follows: There were 19 valid ballots. Angelo Siani received 14 votes. The following each received one vote; Jerry Stevens, Ray Bourgoïn, John Iwo, Xave Tosa and Mike Yamasaki.

There is a very wide spread in the ballots for the Alternate. The voting was as follows: Ray Bourgoïn 1, Len Inui 1, Fran Hahn 2, Ron LaFramboise 2, John Mahoney 2, Wency Laguidao 3, Ed Williams 4, and Xave Tosa 4

Therefore a second ballot to choose the Alternate is necessary. The Council has decided to limit the list of eligible candidates to the top three names on the list. They are: Wency Laguidao, Ed Williams and Xave Tosa.

Please mail your ballots to Kochi by February 29. They will be counted at the Council Meeting in Itami on March 1-2. Also please mark the envelope "Ballot"

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



STRAW VOTE

Suggestions for choice of the Provincial Consultors

1) _____

2) _____

Please send to the Provincial Office by March 21, 1992

Please write "STRAW VOTE" on envelope.

Thank you.

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

STRAW VOTE



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL (0888) 7 2-3 6 5 8
FAX (81) 0888-73-7536

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



March 8, 1992

My brother Oblates,

The Council met in Itami on March 2. This is a report of that meeting.

After the opening prayer we spent some time in a discussion of the OMI Documentation of February 1992; Steps Towards the Chapter. The discussion centered on Part One: Nature and Aim of a General Chapter. We will discuss the other Parts of the document at future meetings. I would like to suggest that each one devote some time to reading and thinking about the matter of this issue of Documentation. Perhaps it would be possible to discuss it at the District Meetings.*

We then entered into a discussion of the Korean Mission. It was decided to recommend to Father General that he appoint an older Italian Oblate as the Superior of the Korean Mission. Naturally as Korea is part of the Japanese Province the Provincial is the Mission Superior but it was felt that an older man as local Superior would make for better liaison in matters such as administration, finances, ministries, etc.

I am going to Korea on March 13 and will discuss this matter with the men there. When I return I will write Father General about this important matter.

We then discussed the Spring Meeting of 1993. This meeting will be concerned with Pastoral Apostolate of the Mission as was presented in the Congress of 1988 and recommended by the Follow Through Committee.

The Council has asked the following to be members of the Preparatory Committee. Ange Siani, Ed Williams, Fran Hahn, Mike Yamasaki, Bert Silver and Nobuhiko Yagi. Ange Siani will be the Chairman of the Committee.

As you may know Bishop Fukahori is looking for a place for the Noe-Catechumenate Seminarians. Until such time as he can build a seminary he is looking for a place where they can all (about 20-25) live together. As a temporary solution he is thinking of expanding the facilities at Sanbanchoo in Matsuyama. Ed recommended that we offer him

the property at Nakajima-cho for this purpose.

The Council discussed this and were not in favor. Kochi is as integral part of the Oblate Mission in Japan. It was felt that giving this up would be tantamount to giving up our Oblate presence in Kochi-Ken.

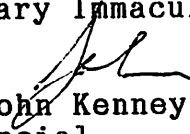
It was also pointed out that the Bishop did not request the Oblates to turn over this property even though he is aware of the size and of the facilities of the Nakajima-cho property.

I take the opportunity of this letter to remind you of our Spring Meeting to be held here in Kochi on March 24-26. As usual the meeting will begin at 9:30 on March 24 and end after the noon meal on March 26. Bishop Okada Takeo will in-put person. The topic of meeting is "Lumen 2000: Evangelization in Japan."

Brother Leo Kawaguchi will receive the Diaconate on March 25 at 6:30 P.M. This happy occasion is, of course, an added reason to make every effort to be in Kochi during these days. In the event you cannot attend please notify Ed by March 20. Supper will not be served on March 23 but there will be a Happy Hour later in the evening.

*I am sending you a copy of a paper that Des O'Donnell gave to me during his recent visit. I think it has something to say to us as we prepare for the Chapter. I am also sending a copy of a PRAYER FOR THE CHAPTER. I realise that Father General has asked all Oblates to recite or sing the Salve Regina and the invocation "Blessed Eugene de Mazenod and Blessed Joseph Gerard, pray for us." But thought perhaps this prayer could be a special prayer of the Oblate Japanese Provincial Community to be recited during this important time in our Oblate history.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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

FROM A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO A COMMITMENT TO VALUES

I am convinced that in preparation for the coming General Chapter, we Oblates should move our emphasis from a search for solutions to a deepening of values.

That there is a dynamic interaction between solutions and values is obvious and what I speak about is emphasis, not separation nor dichotomy. We Oblates generally describe ourselves as practical men, even pragmatic and solution-oriented. Being this way we have the benefit of eliminating too much theory but we could also have the limitation of sometimes drowning out discernment. It is fatally easy to allow the pursuit of solutions to precede the possession of deep and transcendent values.

Using the Oblate Constitutions and the Pope's recent, challenging encyclical on mission - *Redemptoris Missio* - I will try to show that they both come down unambiguously on the importance of having motivating values before and while solutions are being pursued.

After having described "these evils" in the Church of his time, in the Preface, the Founder called for "apostolic men" to remedy them but he immediately asks how did Christ proceed in order to make his apostolic men effective. We know the answer - "(He) trained them in piety ... filled them with his Spirit ... schooled (them) in his teaching (asks them to) strive to be saints (and) to wholly renounce themselves." He called them to lived values as an essential of mission. Faith is the foundation of mission just as values precede solutions - "Growing in faith, hope and love, we commit ourselves to be leaven of the Beatitudes at the heart of the world" (C.II). Without this prioritizing, solutions sought by even hardworking celibate social-workers might not be those of the Gospel.

The Holy Father puts it this way: "Mission is an issue of faith, an accurate indicator of our faith in Christ and his love for us" (RM.II). He had already written: "In the modern world, there is a tendency to reduce man to his horizontal dimension alone. But without an openness to the Absolute, what does man become?" (RM.8). In par.20, he gives a wide description of how mission is practised and then stresses that "In carrying on these activities however, the Church never loses sight of the priority of the transcendent." Transcendence constantly rediscovered in prayer, has to be a non-negotiable in the life of an Oblate missionary. So too I am convinced that we now need a Chapter which will emphasize values as forcefully and as successfully as the 1986 Chapter pointed towards solutions in M.T.W.

The Holy Father states that in the modern world which is "heavily secularized," "a gradual secularization of salvation has taken place ..." (RM.8) and if there is one thing the modern world seeks, it is solutions, often without much emphasis on values. This tendency towards the immediate answer, the pragmatic solution, could motivate even missionaries into undiscerned situations.

Someone said that technology knows the cost of everything but the value of nothing because values are not in its vocabulary: it is productively, functionally directed and solution oriented. It believes that all problems have a solution if there is enough research by a task force and experiment to follow. The language of technology can easily influence our pastorate, unless we keep up constant commitment to values. It could likewise influence any gathering of apostolic men, even during a Chapter.

Most Oblates are familiar with the words: "Our mission is to proclaim the kingdom of God and to seek it before all else" (CII) but there is always the temptation to identify the Kingdom with a well-planned course in catechetics, a social programme, with one church teaching or even with an ideology. These may often help in building the Kingdom but the Holy Father thought well to remind missionaries everywhere that "the Kingdom of God is not a concept, a doctrine or a programme subject to free interpretation, but it is above all else a person

with the face and name of Jesus of Nazareth, the image of the invisible God" (RM.18). There is no confusion between the search for solutions and commitment to a value here.

While recognizing that "the often misunderstood path of dialogue" can sometimes be "the only way of bearing witness to Christ" (RM.17), the Pope implies that every missionary should regret having to be silent about Christ" (RM.17). This is surely true in many Asian countries, where Oblates must endure the constant frustration of not being able to speak of Christ whose loving presence they experience each day in personal prayer and in the Eucharist. Dialogue and "offering generous service to others" (RM.57) would never become more than inadequate solution-expressions of a deeper value in the heart of these missionaries. The Chapter could usefully concentrate on how we might deepen these values,

When it was pointed out to Mother Teresa that her success in helping the poor was limited, she is said to have replied that God does not demand success; only fidelity: in other words, not always measurable solutions but a constant fidelity to values. In line with that, Redemptoris Missio encouragingly reminds us that "The holy Spirit is indeed the principal agent of the Church's mission ... In all it is the Holy Spirit who gives life" (No.21). Only the man who is "guided by the Spirit" (Ga.5.16) - and this is a value - can continue to seek solutions and still know he has found God, even when the solutions are still not obvious. He will not easily have a vocational crisis in the situation.

Our Constitutions remind us that neither a response to people's needs nor prayerfulness alone are Oblate values: "Our life is governed by the demands of our apostolic mission and by the calls of the Spirit already dwelling in those to whom he is sent: (C.26). A search, however purposeful, for people's needs, is no substitute for a prolonged listening together in community to find our "common mission in his Spirit" (C.3).

It is not new to be told that "unless a missionary is a contemplative, he cannot proclaim Christ in a credible way" (RM.91) but perhaps the definition which follows, finds our attention more forcefully: "He (the missionary) is a witness to the experience of God." This is a long way from beginning or ending with a search for solutions. The Holy Father is saying that there is no solution until each of us missionaries has a personal experience of God which is surely the deepest and most effective value-experience possible. How to deepen our experience of God as missionaries could be a useful Chapter theme.

The experience of God takes place both in solitude and in service, as it did for Jesus - "Large crowds would gather to hear him and have their illnesses cured, but he would always go off to some deserted place and pray" (Lk.5.15,16). Our Oblate Constitutions tell us too that ministry is not just solution-seeking and selfless service - "We achieve unity in our life only in and through Jesus Christ. Our ministry involves us in a variety of tasks, yet each act in life is an occasion for personal encounter with the Lord" (C.31). And "in the prolonged silent prayer we make each day, we let ourselves be moulded by the Lord and find in him the inspiration of our conduct" (C.33). Missionary prayer could be a courageous Chapter theme too.

It is not unexpected that in the social encyclicals we find stress on the need to simplify our living standards in the first world but in this encyclical on mission we read "I therefore exhort the disciples of Christ and all Christian communities - from families to dioceses, from parishes to religious institutes - to carry out a sincere review of their lives regarding their solidarity with the poor" (No.60). Here we touch interior, personal solutions which demand corresponding values "in order to correct in their behaviour whatever is contrary to the Gospel and disfigures the face of Christ" (RM.43).

Ofcourse our Constitutions already stress this value for Oblates: "Our members adopt a simple life style, remembering that it is essential for our religious institute to give collective witness to evangelical detachment" (C.21). It always seems easier to struggle for the poor and certainly to write documents about this than to interiorize the value of evangelical simplicity. Could not the meaning of our Vow of Poverty today also be a Chapter theme?

As Oblates, we search for an apostolic or missionary spirituality. Redemptoris Missio offers us two elements to reflect and act upon: "Missionary activity demands a specific spirituality which applies in particular to all those whom God has called to be missionaries. This spirituality is expressed first of all by a life of complete docility to the Spirit This docility then commits us to receive the gifts of fortitude and discernment which are essential elements of missionary spirituality" (No.87). Again before we seek solutions outside - either at congresses or Chapters - the Holy Father reminds us that they must first be found inside by the prayerful interiorization of transcendent values.

Desmond O'Donnell OMI



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL (0888) 7 2-3658
FAX (81) 0888-73-7536

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



Correction of letter dated March 8, 1992

March 9, 1992

My brother Oblates,

The Council met in Itami on March 2. This is a report of that meeting.

After the opening prayer we spent some time in a discussion of the OMI Documentation- of February 1992; Steps Towards the Chapter. The discussion centered on Part One: Nature and Aim of a General Chapter. We will discuss the other Parts of the document at future meetings. I would like to suggest that each one devote some time to reading and thinking about the matter of this issue of Documentation. Perhaps it would be possible to discuss it at the District Meetings.*

We then entered into a discussion of the Korean Mission. It was decided to recommend to Father General that he appoint an older Italian Oblate as the Superior of the Korean Mission. Naturally as Korea is part of the Japanese Province the Provincial is the Mission Superior but it was felt that an older man as local Superior would make for better liaison in matters such as administration, finances, ministries, etc.

I am going to Korea on March 13 and will discuss this matter with the men there. When I return I will write Father General about this important matter.

We then discussed the Spring Meeting of 1993. This meeting will be concerned with Pastoral Apostolate of the Mission as was presented in the Congress of 1988 and recommended by the Follow Through Committee.

The Council has asked the following to be members of the Preparatory Committee. Ange Siani, Ed Williams, Fran Hahn, Mike Yamasaki, Bert Silver and Nobuhiko Yagi. Ange Siani will be the Chairman of the Committee.

As you may know Bishop Fukahori is looking for a place for the Neo-Catechumenate Seminarians. Until such time as he can build a seminary he is looking for a place where they

can all (about 20-25) live together. As a temporary solution he is thinking of expanding the facilities at Sanbonmatsu in Kagawa-Ken. Ed recommended that we offer him the property at Nakajima-cho for this purpose.

The Council discussed this and were not in favor. Kochi is an integral part of the Oblate Mission in Japan. It was felt that giving this up would be tantamount to giving up our Oblate presence in Kochi-Ken.

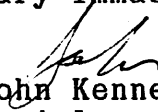
It was also pointed out that the Bishop did not request the Oblates to turn over this property even though he is aware of the size and of the facilities of the Nakajima-cho property.

I take the opportunity of this letter to remind you of our Spring Meeting to be held here in Kochi on March 24-26. As usual the meeting will begin at 9:30 on March 24 and end after the noon meal on March 26. Bishop Okada Takeo will be the in-put person. The topic of the meeting is "Lumen 2000: Evangelization in Japan."

Brother Leo Kawaguchi will receive the Diaconate on March 25 at 6:30 P.M. This happy occasion is, of course, an added reason to make every effort to be in Kochi during these days. In the event you cannot attend please notify Ed by March 20. Supper will not be served on March 23 but there will be a Happy Hour later in the evening.

*I am sending you a copy of a paper that Des O'Donnell gave to me during his recent visit. I think it has something to say to us as we prepare for the Chapter. I am also sending a copy of a PRAYER FOR THE CHAPTER. I realise that Father General has asked all Oblates to recite or sing the Salve Regina and the invocation "Blessed Eugene de Mazenod and Blessed Joseph Gerard, pray for us," but thought perhaps this prayer could be a special prayer of the Oblate Japanese Provincial Community to be recited during this important time in our Oblate history.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,


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



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL(0888) 72-3658
FAX(81)0888-73-7536

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



March 23, 1992

This letter contains the results of the straw vote and your ballot for Rome. BE SURE TO SEND YOUR BALLOT TO ROME FOR MAY 1st.

Your vote must be in Rome by May 1, 1992

Proviincial Consultors:

First		Second	
Name	No. of Votes	Name	No. of Votes
Iwo	2		
Yamasaki	3	Yamasaki	1
Simons	2	Simons	3
Williams	2	Williams	2
Bordo	3		
Bourgoin	1		
Tosa	1	Tosa	2
Silver	3	Silver	1
Hahn	1	Hahn	2
Stevens	1	Stevens	1
		Laguidao	2
		Zevola	1
		LaFramboise	1
		Van Hoydonck	1
		Inui	1

First place 19 votes received; second place 18 votes received.

John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.

CONSULTATION

VICE-PROVINCE OF JAPAN

PROVINCIAL CONSULTORS

Suggestions for the choice of Provincial Consultors

1) _____

2) _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name in Block Letters

This form is to be forwarded for May 1st, 1992 to:

Very Reverend Father General
C. P. 9061
00100 ROMA-AURELIO
ITALY



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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



March 1992

My Brother Oblates,

Some months ago a friend sent me a clipping from the New York Times about John Paul II's Encyclical Letter; MISSION OF THE REDEEMER. In the article it mentioned that Father Zago was greatly involved in the writing of this Encyclical. It was for this reason that I especially wanted to read this encyclical letter.

As I read I was stuck by the feeling that I was reading the Oblate Constitution and Rules. Expressions that called to mind the Preface of the Founder and of our Constitutions and Rules appear in many places but especially in Chapter 8: Missionary Spirituality.

Some of the expressions which spoke to me in this chapter are in section 87; "this spirituality is expressed first of all by a life of complete docility to the Spirit" and again in Section 88; "An essential characteristic of missionary Spirituality is intimate communion with Christ".... "this is an emptying of self which is permeated by love and expresses love. The mission follows this same path and leads to the foot of the cross"

The title of the next section is "Loving the Church and Humanity as Jesus Did". Here we find this sentence which rings with the very words of our Founder "The missionary is urged on by 'zeal for souls' a zeal inspired by Christ's own charity, which takes the form of concern, tenderness, compassion, openness, availability, and interest in people's problems".

The last paragraph of section 89 closes with these words. "Finally like Christ he must love the Church." This line echoes the call of the Founder in his Preface. "The sight of these evils has so touched the hearts of certain priests, zealous for the glory of God, men with an ardent love for the Church, that they are willing to give their lives, if need be, for the salvation of souls".

The title to section 90 is; "The True Missionary is the Saint". This title called to mind other words from the Preface. "And how should men who want to follow in the

footsteps of the divine Master Christ conduct themselves if they, in their turn, are to win back many souls that have thrown off the yoke? They must strive to be saints".

This section elaborates very clearly upon this need for sanctity. "The universal call to holiness is closely linked to the universal call to Mission....The renewed impulse to mission *ad gentes* demands holy missionaries".

In section 91 we find these words "For their part, missionaries should reflect on the duty of holiness required of them by the gift of their vocation, renew themselves in spirit day by day, and strive to update their doctrinal and pastoral formation. The missionary must be a 'contemplative in action' ."

To be a missionary and especially to be an Oblate Missionary is truly a gift. It is a gift because through it we can lead others to know of the great joy there is to be found in union with the Father. It says in section 22 of the Encyclical; "The ultimate purpose of missions is to enable people to share in the communion which exists between the Father and the Son". After saying this the author cites the text below. He says of it: "This is a very important missionary text".

"That all may be one as you Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one as we are one--I living in them, you living in me.--that their unity may be complete. So shall the world know that you sent me, and that you loved them as you loved me". (Jn. 17: 21-23)

It is the task as well as the joy of Missionary Oblates to make Christ's prayer a reality among those to whom we are sent. May we always find joy in the gift of being Missionaries. May we remember each day that we must strive to be saints. May our one desire be to share this joy and this saintliness with those to whom we have been sent.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

1992 GENERAL MEETING

From March 24 to March 26, the Oblates came from all over Japan and Korea for their annual General Meeting. This year the input person was Bishop Takeo OKADA from the Urawa diocese. The topic was Evangelization/Mission.

The Bishop first gave us an overview of his approach, then a more detailed vision of the problems involved and finally left us with many problems to discuss, now and in the future.

He showed us where the Vatican II document on the Liturgy (SC) was like the FOUNDATIONS/ROOTS of everything that followed. After which the one on the Church (LG) was like the TRUNK, the various other documents were the BRANCHES, and finally the documents on Missions (AG) and on the Church in the Modern World (GS) were the FLOWERING/FRUIT.

The above were produced in the 1963-1965 years. The document on Evangelization (EN) was on the 10th anniversary of the last two documents and the one on Mission (RM) was on the 25th and these would be the basis for his on-going talks.

From the very beginning the GS document includes a tension between Mission and Evangelization. Paul VI chose to emphasize the theme of evangelization in EN in the line of the great Social Encyclicals starting with RERUM NOVARUM. John Paul II has chosen to stress the aspect of Mission in REDEMPTORIS MISSIO. This shows us that the Popes themselves are struggling with the tension and interplay that exist between the two concepts, emphasizing one without denying the other, always showing them not as an "either/or" but as a "but also" vision.

We can see that when the pendulum seems to go in the direction of one, the documents emphasize the other and vice-versa.

The Church is constantly struggling with the problem also of the relationship of the Church with the World, in the concrete, between Religion and Politics/Economics. Some documents and statements forthrightly try to show the underlying vision that Pol/Econ should be based on the basic spirit of Religion. Others make it clear cut that Religion and Pol/Econ do not mix. Again the tension is clear.

Other problems arise because of statements that originate from the Universal Church as opposed to the Local Churches; from those emanating from the Curial decisions as opposed to Local decisions. These local decisions can emanate from a local diocese, from the

Hierarchy of a whole country, or of a region as the Federation of Asian Bishops (FABC).

To further complicate things, we may have decisions coming from a bishop, as opposed to decisions of priests or even laity on the local level. The fact that each one comes to different conclusions about Mission/Evangelization is quite normal since from the beginning in GS you already have that tension.

The above tension of Mission/Evangelization is clear in NICE I, where this body, when considering the foundational orientation of the Japanese Church, decided to emphasize Evangelization. NICE I looked upon the gap that exists between our life within the Church and its application to the Modern World, in order to bring into focus and unify our call to evangelize the structures of Society. At the present time, there is a movement within the Japanese Church to follow the swing of the pendulum toward stress on Mission.

While re-introducing us to the central message of EN, the Bishop began with the VAT II definition of Laity, but then followed this up with the newer approach of the Synod on the Laity held in the '80's. This latter stressed that rather than say the Laity work in the World whereas the Priests in the Church, the whole Church itself works in the World with Laity and Priest having different roles, different ministries. This is based on incarnational theology.

Again the tension between Mission (the proclamation of the Gospel) and Evangelization (the renewal of the Earth), and also between the Spiritual Order and the Temporal Order, came to the fore.

EN was produced after the '71 Synod on JUSTICE AND PEACE with its emphasis that these were integral to the Gospel Message (incl. Human Rights, Dignity of People, Respect for Life) with its message of Transformation of the World and the '74 Synod on Evangelization in Today's World, continuing in the direction of the previous Synod, with the added element of Liberation of Peoples.

It is at this point that EN was produced. It emphasized again that Evangelization is a PROCESS with the interplay of very many elements and aspects neither one of which contains the WHOLE truth, ALL being necessary including both direct proclamation and witness as well as working toward the transformation of VALUES in Cultures, keeping the positive ones, renewing the negative ones and giving direction to the neutral ones. All these elements are mutually influencing each other at all times.

The necessity of the Church to involve itself in Social

and Liberational Issues (Illiteracy, Human Rights, Right to Life etc etc) i.e. the temporal order, certainly exists, but by the same token we cannot forget the spiritual order. And vice versa, the spiritual order must exist, or religion disappears, but it must also have its role in the temporal order. As mentioned before, herein lies the tension, the never-ending struggle to find the balance between the two.

Looking at the roots of the evils of illiteracy, the gap between rich/poor etc etc as coming from the piling up of individual sins into a structural sin in society. Though the word SIN is never used, the Popes have outlined the concept in their recent encyclicals. This SIN comes from three major passions, that toward materialism/consumerism, that of power/domination and that of idolatry/letting ourselves be governed by self-made gods.

We can fight these only by identifying ourselves with the poor, keeping a right vision of personhood with its values of dignity of the person, respect for life. That is where the Socialist/Communist/Capitalist Systems have failed.

After VAT II and EN, there has been the danger of identifying this emphasis on Evangelization with Social Action and that this last would be sufficient. So the present Pope decided to bring us back to a traditional view of Christian teaching by re-emphasizing Mission without denying the necessity of Evangelization. The struggle goes on.

Our Mission is based on the original mission from the Father to the Son, from whence comes the mission of the Spirit. And all 3 in different ways mission us the People of God: the Father being the Prime Missioner, the Son being the Direct Missioner, and the Spirit being the Actual/Everyday Missioner.

With this RM restates that it is not sufficient to fight evil, but we must also stress conversion and hope; it is not sufficient to be a social worker, but the proclamation of Jesus Christ as the unique Saviour is important; that it is not sufficient to have Action, but that we also need Prayer; that it is not sufficient to find the Values in Society and to develop them, but also to witness Jesus Christ.

NICE I had taken these two elements as the basic outlook of the Japanese Church, but had chosen to stress the former as most documents since Vatican II had also done.

The Pope reminds us that we must avoid the two extremes of an "anthropo-centered" and "theo-centered" notion of God's Kingdom, to one centered in the Redeeming Christ and

his Church.

After reminding us that the Spirit acts in and through other Religions and Cultures, the Bishop discussed the meaning of Mission which needs 3 different Japanese expressions to explain it: HAKEN/SHIMEI/SENKYO. This mission is to the areas that ignore Christ; that haven't sufficiently received his message; and that have been de-christianized. It also encompasses not only new lands, but new situations (cities, immigrants etc etc) and the whole field of communication.

In treating the Paths of Mission, after re-proclaiming the usual paths of witness, direct proclamation, conversion and baptism, the bishop spent much time on the last two items of John Paul's suggestions of Inculturation (incarnation in and transformation of cultures) and Dialogue with other religions, always keeping in mind the need for evangelization in this process. Here the Pope seems to be tying together the Mission/Evangelization axis.

Bishop Okada finished by introducing us to the most recent FABC report which stresses the need in the Asian area for acting as Christ did which is a proclamation; dialogue with other religions and cultures to find points of unity; and direct proclamation. It also stresses the need to think of not only what the Church of Asia must DO but also what it must BE in this vast area. The suggestion is that we put on the face of the COMPASSIONATE Christ, in order to be and feel WITH the Asian people: poor, women etc etc

RM as EN, though stressing one or the other of the Evangelization/Mission axis does give some time to the other stress. RM toward the end, in describing the role of Active Congregations as well as that of Women's Congregations and of the Laity in general, reminds us of the necessity of involving ourselves in the various social works and pressing problems of the times, which we have pointed out so far.

The bishop also introduced us to the FABC report of 1990 which re-emphasizes most of the points which were brought out so far, especially as it applies to the Asian scene.

He finished by giving us an evaluation of the Honda/Brzostowski debate about "Reaping Mission" as opposed to "Implantation Mission". conceding that the vision of Fr Honda is a very important contribution to our outlook, he also emphasized that the traditional teaching of implantation must go hand in hand with that view. We see another tension between two opposites which we can only reconcile not by eliminating the other but by cooperating with it.

For me personally, this meeting helped me to put both sides of issues in perspective, from VAT II, thru EN and RM, as well as the above mentioned debate. I could not help but recall Ron's thesis in its latest version where a number of these problems were well analyzed. Ray Bourgoin.

BROTHER KAWAGUCHI'S ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

"I've come to serve not to be served." Do you want to follow me? With the help of God I answer this call". (Paraphrased from the Pontifical for the Diaconate)

On March 25 the Feast of the Annunciation the church of the Immaculate Conception in Kochi was filled for the first ordination of a Japanese Oblate to the diaconate in over 20 years. Bro. Satoshi Kawaguchi was ordained by the Bishop of the Takamatsu Diocese, Bishop Fukahori. The Bishop of Urawa, Bishop Okada Takeo was also present for the ceremony.

It was a very happy day for the over 20 Oblates, and several Diocesan priests as they stood at the altar with Satoshi and celebrated, praised, and thanked the Lord for the gifts He has given to us.

Brother Kawaguchi was born in Amakusa on the island of Kyushuu on April 1, 1960. While working as a medical technician and attending school near the Oblate Parish in Koga, he came into contact with the Oblates. He still smiles as he explains that although he was in the parish for three years; it was only after being there for two years that he became aware of the Oblates as a Congregation of the Church. Fr. Mike Yamasaki, the pastor, was open minded enough to suggest that since he was already involved in the medical field for 6 years perhaps another Congregation would be more appropriate if Satoshi wanted to become a Religious.. Thinking back on things now; he says that Fr. Mike's attitude at that time probably made him decide on the Oblates.

After making his Novitiate in Kochi he has spent the last 7 years at the Oblate House of Studies in Nagoya while attending Nanzan University. He studied three years of Philosophy and is now in his fourth year of Theology. He will graduate next year with a Licentiate in Biblical Studies. He says that he is open to any type of work the Oblates would like him to do.

Congratulations Satoshi, you are in our prayers.

Bill Maher

FIRST OBLATE ORDINATION IN HONG KONG

Ange Siani, O.M.I.

In early February, the Provincial and I were in Hong Kong to meet with the provincials of Asia-Oceania to prepare our Regional Report for the General Chapter. We completed our work on February 15.

There was a lot of excitement at Notre Dame College on Shing Tak Street on the morning of February 16. Little wonder, today we would witness the ordination of YOUNG CHEN YIN, OMI. Fr. Yin, one in a family of twelve children was born in Mauritius. He was christened Luc Rene.

Luc entered the Oblates in The Philippines where he made his novitiate and then did his theological studies in Canada. After completing his studies he volunteered for the Chinese Mission.

The Hong Kong Cathedral, dwarfed by the surrounding apartment buildings, is gothic in style. Recently renovated the interior is very beautiful and the red banners and flowers made it a very welcome place.

The cold and rain was completely forgotten as 90 priests and 700 friends filled the church. The Cardinal of Hong Kong ordained Fr. Yin to the Priesthood on February 16, 1992.

After the Mass, Fr. Sun read Fr. Yin's First Obedience from Fr. Zago, the Superior General. Fr. Yin then expressed his thanks in Chinese, French and English.

On February 17 gathered around the newly ordained Fr. Yin we celebrated Mass together, renewed our Vows and conferred the Sacrament of the Sick upon Fr. Jan Lempens, OMI. In the evening, the newly ordained celebrated Mass in French for his family.

HONORING FORTY YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Dick Harr, O.M.I.

I call my Oblate community to join with me in celebrating my 40th anniversary as an Oblate Priest. As I enter the latter years of service to Our Lord and His Church, this indeed marks a milestone for me.

There exist many and varied vocations with which Our Lord blesses us humans. The Priesthood far surpasses all. I've reflected on this in the sense that God puts great demands on Priests. But, He also fills them with very special joys. He requires them to be other Christs preaching and blessing His people and all peoples, carrying His cross with Him to the top of Calvary, and there becoming a sacrifice for the salvation of all. What a life!!! There are joys and sorrows and suffering, but underlying every

moment is the very special joy that only Our Lord can give. Love given is love received. This is paradoxical but proven true by experience.

With deep joy of heart, I thank all those who have assisted me to this point in life. I'm grateful to Our Lord Who is the High Priest, to my families--both by blood and by religious profession. All have been a powerful influence in my Priesthood. The encouragement, advice and most of all the friendship have been real blessings without which I could not have reached this moment of celebration.

I thank each, and I pray for each. Most of all, thank you Lord

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

April

17 Gerry Stevens
17 John Deely
22 Wency Laguidao

May

29 Tom Maher

June

July

4 Mauro Concardi

31 Leo Simons

Ordinations

June

2 Dick Harr
7 Ed williams
14 John Iwo

Ordinations

April

4 Jerry Novotny
11 Jack Deely
25 Vincenzo Bordo
26 Bill Maher
29 Fran Hahn

May

30 John Mahoney
30 Tom Maher
30 Bert Silver
31 Angelo Siani

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

May 21 to May 29 Time of special prayer for Oblate Vocations. Please confer letter from Fr. Cazabon.

June 15 Tentative date for the Installation Ceremony of New Provincial and Council Location Kochi; time will be announced at a later date.

Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 Annual Oblate Retreat at Passionist's Retreat House in Fukuoka.

Mission to the Middle East.

In March (15~25) I had the opportunity to visit the Middle East on a mission organized by GEREK. This is not a complete report, because my notes and other papers were mailed out of Israel, and they didn't arrive yet.

WHAT'S GEREK? This is the organization that collected donations from all over Japan, to send the Gulf War refugees back to their respective countries by charter planes. Gerek is composed of Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist and Shinto religions. After all refugees were repatriated a big amount of money was still available, so Gerek decided that it should be used for relief projects in the Middle East. Until now Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq have received aid from Gerek. This organization changed its name to "Middle East Contribution Project". (N.B. this is my own translation of the Japanese name).

THE SECOND MISSION : This M.E. Contribution Project organizes four missions. The first group was sent last year in August. I joined the second group. This year in the summer and next year in the spring (?) the other missions will be sent. Our group only visited Jordan, Israel and Palestine. The purpose of the second mission was to learn and get more acquainted with the Palestine problem and to witness how people work and struggle in the present conditions.

In our group there were 9 Catholics, 3 Protestants, 5 members of new religions and 4 not affiliated with any religion. The leader of the group was the well known bible scholar Michiko Ohta.

It was my first trip to the M.E. and we had a rather busy schedule. There was not much time for leisure (=shopping), although we had the opportunity to visit Old Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth. We visited places, offices and projects where GEREK was involved in. Before going to an on-the-spot inspection we had an explanation from the "local partners". Moving around to different projects in a group of 22, would be too conspicuous, so we were divided into 4 groups. Therefore nobody was able to inspect all projects.

LOCAL PARTNERS : This is not a complete list of the organizations through which Gerek is helping in different projects.

- CRS: Catholic Relief Service is an organization of the American Bishop Conference.
- Caritas Jordan and Caritas Jerusalem (and the Caritas organizations in other countries).
- PMP : Pontifical Mission for Palestine.
- SCF : Save the Children Federation.
- PARC: Youth Organization for Agriculture Assistance.

The relief given by Gerek is always a joint project with these and other organizations.

ON-THE-SPOT INSPECTION : I myself didn't enter a refugee camp. I passed before a few. To enter a camp one needs permission. Some of those camps are 40 years old, others are more recent. They have poor housing (no tents), poor sewage. (I might be wrong but, one might compare these camps with slums.) I myself visited clinics, chicken-, goat-, pig-, sheep farms and a small factory. A visit to the Gaza Strip was on our schedule. That would have given me the occasion to observe the activities of PARC. But as the Gaza had been closed for an indefinite time, we were rescheduled to Nazareth.

"YAD VASHEM" : We visited the monument erected by the Jews to commemorate the Holocaust in Europe. Very impressive , - rather shocking photographs.

PERSONAL IMPRESSION : The M. E. is a big problem and a solution seems far away. Am I wrong to say that the problem is 70% religious? On both sides the extremists dictate the politics. In the occupied territories, Gaza and West Bank, the freedom and rights of the people are very limited, (commerce, housing, land, travel etc.) However, in general the people didn't give me the impression of being defeated. (Only the Kuwait refugees were depressed.) In Amman (Jordan) and from people in Palestine I heard twice the same hope: " We only want peace". Looking at the Holocaust pictures in 'Yad Vashem' made it more difficult to understand why the Jews create such a situation for the Palestinians. Of course there are no gas chambers, but by different laws -old and new ones- just like in South Africa's apartheid, the Palestinians are being deprived of their fundamental rights.

This mission helped me to feel and understand better Christ's words: Go and tell John what your own ears and eyes have witnessed; how the blind see and the lame walk.....

CONCLUSION : I intend to write about this problem once more. But, instead of reading my experience, why don't you join the next mission? However remember, you have to pay your plane ticket.

One more little thing: going to the Holy Land now on a "pilgrimage", without a small exposure to the actual situation of the Palestinians, seems to me to be a historical or an archeological trip, not so much a "following of Christ".

Yoshikazu Xavier Tosa. o.m.i.

March 9, 1992

Dear John,

Greetings from Rome. I got here on the 26th of February. The flight to Rome was comfortable, though long, 19 hours all together. I flew from Nagoya to Seoul. After a one hour stop we boarded a jumbo for Rome via Amsterdam. Strangely enough the plane flew back to the coast of Japan just off Kanazawa, then north to Sendai before turning west for the flight over Siberia.

My "boss" here gave me one day to rest and then we started work. We have typed over two hundred pages of Province and Delegation reports since then. We are putting them into the computer so as to make the work of sorting and synthesizing easier.

It is very interesting work, because we get a view of the whole Congregation. The question of aging and few vocations in many places is a grave concern. However those Provinces that show an increase in vocations are often the ones that have clearly defined mission priorities and that stress praying together and working together. As we sort all this material the most important issues that should be placed on the agenda for the Chapter seem to be emerging. Fr. General will soon be sending out a letter about this.

Yesterday I went down to St. Peter's and prayed for all of you at the tomb of Peter. I met some young Japanese tourists in the square. They were asking what this big church was, and who the man in white in the window was. (The pope had just come to the window for his Sunday message and the Angelus with the twenty thousand or so people gathered in the square.) The city is flooded as usual with Japanese tourists. Some of the Fathers here at the General House say we should start a mission in Rome to help these people see the faith that lies behind these quaint looking churches and pieces of art. Interesting idea isn't it!

My thoughts and prayers are with you all during the coming Province meeting and as you celebrate Leo Kawaguchi's ordination to the diaconate. Please pray for us and for the success of the Chapter.

RON LAFRAMBOISE, OMI

ASIA-OCEANIA NEWSLETTER

Santiago,
Chile.

On my way to Chile where the General Council is meeting with the 17 Major Superiors of the Latin American Region, I first visited Sri Lanka & I succeeded in visiting the Trincomalee area which up to now was war zone. I found the men courageously at their work standing with their suffering people; in one of the parishes, over 300 men have disappeared and burnt homes are everywhere visible. Of course even in the mostly Singalese parts of the island, 60,000 people are still 'missing'. The country in general is somewhat depressed because of the armed conflicts, increasing cost of living and mounting unemployment. The statisticians tell us that there are 35,000 drug addicts and about 55,000 school dropouts under the age of 13 in a country where 35% of the population is under 15. The Oblates continue their work in parishes and now have nine younger men very busy on a mission band. After a comparatively lean period, they have good news that eight young men will be ordained this year.

I then visited KOREA where our three young Italians struggle bravely with the language and culture before getting into any direct apostolate. One of them has already given his first homily in Korean. As they study, they are continually investigating possible areas for future apostolates. They deserve our admiration and need our prayers.

From there I make the short journey to JAPAN to consult the men about their next Provincial. Fr. Siani has since been appointed. In a country governed by economics and successful through hard work, the Oblates continue their work in the most neglected southern part of the country. 0.3% of the 122 million population is Catholic, but there has been an unprecedented immigration of Filipinos, Brazilians & others. Estimates now are that over half of the Catholics in Japan are immigrants, mostly unregistered. The great need of the Oblates is more local & overseas personnel. Any volunteers from our Asia-Oceania Scholastics?

Our China Mission in Hong Kong is thriving even if anxiety rises among the population about July 1st 1997. 55,000 people left for overseas last year but the population remains about 5½ million. The Oblates - 3 Chinese & 3 Oblates - rejoice over the priestly ordination of Luc Young Chen Yin on Feb. 16, this year.

Tahiti with its eight Oblates continue to refound the modern Church which now numbers about 35% of the 65,000 population. I've rarely seen Oblates work so hard as they continue to man the seminary, model new parishes, build up lay leadership and care for some of the surrounding 80 inhabited islands. This is a big year for our men there as they will witness the ordination of three fully Oblate-trained young men for the local diocese. From there I completed my round the world journey to Chile.

In contrast with the inspiration which the Latin American Oblates gave us by their unambiguous dedication to the poor and their lifestyles in keeping with this, I felt depressed to see the oppression of the majority poor by the mostly-military minorities in most of these comparatively rich countries. The sects are still misleading great numbers as they peddle spiritual consumerism with selective biblical texts. There are 406 Professed Oblates in Latin America of whom 156 are local (75 are in formation). Their representation at the Chapter will be very valuable.

To end this letter, may I encourage every Oblate to pray for the Chapter and not to hesitate in sending proposals to the Commission headed by Father Mike Foley in Rome.

My next journey will probably take in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Java and Samarinda and hopefully Laos.

Pray often for our Oblates in Jaffna whom I have been unable to visit for so long.


Desmond O'Donnell O.M.I.
General Councillor.



OBLATI DI MARIA IMMACOLATA

CURIA GENERALIZIA

C.P. 9061 00100 ROMA - AURELIO, ITALIA

TO THE PROVINCIALS AND DELEGATION SUPERIORS

re: Time for prayer and animation in favor of vocations.

Dear Friends:

The 1992 Oblate Ordo mentions for the first time "a special time of prayer and animation for Oblate vocations" that is to be celebrated across the whole Congregation. It opens on May 21, feast of Bl. Eugene de Mazenod, and closes on May 29, feast of Bl. Joseph Gérard.

This initiative was launched by Father General in his March 31, 1991 letter to the Congregation. This letter is a stirring appeal to all Oblates to commit themselves to the pastoral activity of nurturing and accompanying vocations. Each community is invited to special common prayer for vocations and each Oblate parish or institution to organize times of prayer and meetings of vocation animation. At the end of his letter, Father General entrusts this ministry of prayer especially to Oblates who are ill or elderly. This vocation effort has been well received throughout the entire Congregation.

Last December I wrote to those in the Congregation who are in charge of the vocations apostolate and asked them to relaunch this time of prayer in their respective Provinces and Delegations and to prepare an animation plan for this purpose.

Father General and his Council have just met with the Oblates of Latin America. We witnessed the creativity and perseverance with which our confreres of that Region are dedicated to nurturing and accompanying vocations. Prayer and animation go hand in hand in their case. In several areas of the Congregation we find the same pastoral zeal for vocations.

In Father General's name and in that of his Council members I invited you to continue your efforts so that this time of prayer and animation may be for all Oblates an occasion for renewal in their religious and missionary commitment. "Come and see": the quality of our personal and community life is a challenge and an invitation addressed to the young who observe how we live.

Dear fellow Oblates, I thank you for your collaboration in this matter which is so vital for the future of our Congregation. Send us your suggestions so that this project may continue to grow in the spirit of the Church and the Congregation.

I am fraternally yours in the Lord and Mary Immaculate,

Gilles Cazabon, O.M.I.

Gilles Cazabon, O.M.I.
Vicar General

Rome, February 17, 1992.

Happy Easter

May the Joy of the Risen
Lord Bring Hope to All

May we receive his power
to bring that hope to all
those to whom we have
been sent.





THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL (0888) 7 2-3 6 5 8
FAX (81) 0888-73-7536

宗教法人：カトリック聖母献身宣教会

オブレート会
高知市蔵匠町2-1-33
TEL 0888-72-3658



May 7, 1992

My brother Oblates,

I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Golden Week. It was just after Golden Week last year that I wrote to you asking your cooperation in promoting Oblate Vocations Week.

In the March Newsletter you read the letter from Fr. Cazabon asking that again this year we Oblates pray in a special way for Oblate vocations from May 21 the Feast of Blessed Eugene De Mazenod to May 29 the Feast of Blessed Joseph Gerard.

This is also a time to encourage our parishioners, and other friends of the Oblates to pray for Oblate Vocations. This year once again I would like to ask these good people to make a Spiritual Bouquet for Vocations. I am enclosing a copy of the Spiritual Bouquet form. Will you kindly make the number of copies necessary for distribution to the people.

In the recent M.A.M.I. Newsletter there was an article by Sugie Jun. He is only in the Fifth Year of Primary School but he has a strong desire to become an Oblate. Of course, Jun has a long road ahead of him. That is why the prayers offered during Oblate Vocations Week are so important. Surely there are other young men interested in the Oblates who with the help of our prayers will join us one day.

Please copy the enclosed Spiritual Bouquet Form and explain the great need the Oblates in Japan have for vocations when you distribute it to your people. Kindly send the tabulation of the prayers offered to the Provincial Office by June 9. I will send the grand total to Father General.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

May 7, 1992

My brother Oblates,

I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Golden Week. It was just after Golden Week last year that I wrote to you asking your cooperation in promoting Oblate Vocations Week.

In the March Newsletter you read the letter from Fr. Cazabon asking that again this year we Oblates pray in a special way for Oblate vocations from May 21 the Feast of Blessed Eugene De Mazenod to May 29 the Feast of Blessed Joseph Gerard.

This is also a time to encourage our parishioners, and other friends of the Oblates to pray for Oblate Vocations. This year once again I would like to ask these good people to make a Spiritual Bouquet for Vocations. I am enclosing a copy of the Spiritual Bouquet form. Will you kindly make the number of copies necessary for distribution to the people.

In the recent M.A.M.I. Newsletter there was an article by Sugie Jun. He is only in the Fifth Year of Primary School but he has a strong desire to become an Oblate. Of course, Jun has a long road ahead of him. That is why the prayers offered during Oblate Vocations Week are so important. Surely there are other young men interested in the Oblates who with the help of our prayers will join us one day.

Please copy the enclosed Spiritual Bouquet Form and explain the great need the Oblates in Japan have for vocations when you distribute it to your people. Kindly send the tabulation of the prayers offered to the Provincial Office by June 9. I will send the grand total to Father General.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL(0888) 72-3658
FAX(81)0888-73-7536

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



June 3, 1992,

My brother Oblates,

At Ange's Installation Ceremony I said that I had very little to say in fact that all I had to say could be expressed in one word. "Thank you". I repeat that in this letter so that those who were not able to attend the Installation will know that I am most grateful for their cooperation, encouragement and prayers during my term as Provincial.

There was a Provincial meeting on May 11 in Itami. I did not have time to report on that meeting. I was in Anan for three weeks covering for Dick Harr.

At that meeting I gave a report on the "GOATS". Since that report some more money has come in which I sent to Indonesia yesterday. The total amount sent as of June 2 is \$17,952. Thank you all for your wonderful cooperation. I have received a letter of thanks from Charlie Burrows to all those who have made donations. I will enclose a copy with this letter so that you can read it to those who have been so generous.

At the meeting we discussed the new church building in Anan. There were reports of plans for a new road which might take part of our property. Bert Silver checked with the Tokushima Kenchoo. He was told there was little need to worry. In the event the road ever does go through we would be reimbursed for our property.

Another topic for discussion was the Sisters for the Tokushima District. As you know the Sisters of St. Joseph of Osaka have agreed to come to work with the Oblates. They will visit Tokushima on June 24 and also meet with the Bishop. At present we are looking for a suitable apartment for them near the Church in Tokushima. The sister expect to begin their work in the Tokushima District in August.


I am also happy to announce that another Father, Maurizio Giorgianni has received his first Obedience to the Mission to Korea.

I will be leaving for my sabbatical on June 15. I will take about two months of vacation with my family in New York. Then I will go to San Antonio for the "Ministry to Ministers Program". I will be there from August 15 to December 15. I plan to spend the Christmas and New Year Season with my sister-in-law and nephews and nieces in Arizona. After that I will go back to Texas to Lebh Shomea for what is called the "Desert Experience". After that I will make a stop in Hawaii to visit my family there. I expect to be back in Japan about March 20 of next year.

If there is a Word Processor available I will send a note now and then. If not I was requested not to send hand written messages as no one can read them. It was suggested that I simply send a postcard with my signature. In any event each and everyone will in my Masses and prayers. Please keep me in yours especially that the study program and the 40 days in the desert will be of profit not only for myself but for the Vice Province of Japan.

I close by thanking Ange and all in the Province for the opportunity for this sabbatical leave.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate.


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

皆さん、

こちらの中学生たちが教育を受けられるように皆さんが山羊を
買うための資金を寄付してくださってありがとうございます。

この山羊を利用して、生まれて来る子山羊を売ったり、そして
肥料としてフンを売ったりすることによって学校の月謝、本代と制
服代などを手に入れます。もう一つの大きな実りは生徒たちが
自尊心と自信を養う機会となります。なぜかという自分の手で自
分の教育のための諸費を得ることができるからです。もちろん皆さ
んからの最初の資金は大きいけれど、それを利用して自分の手で、
自分の仕事と努力で自分の道を作っていきます。

多くの貧しい家庭の親と子供に希望と喜びを与えます。私は彼
らの代わりに心から御礼を申し上げます。そして神の祝福が皆さん
の上にありますようにお祈りを申し上げます。

4月4日

ブローズ神父



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

PROVINCIAL OFFICE
2-1-33 TAKAJOOMACHI
KOCHI 780 JAPAN
TEL (0888) 72-3658
FAX (81) 0888-73-7536

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



3 June 1992

Dear Brother Oblates,

In my first letter to you, I wish to thank you for accepting the new provincial and the new consultants, Leo and John.

I thank those of you who were able to be in Kochi for the installation. I thank Ed for providing a beautiful Liturgy and also for the luncheon party which followed.

As you know a lot of time and effort went into establishing the Formation Team. Many of you have expressed the desire that the team should remain intact. Therefore, at this time it would seem necessary to spend as much time as possible in Nagoya. However as the Provincial Office is in Kochi, I will frequently be traveling between Nagoya and Kochi.

I include here the short sermon I made during the Installation Ceremony.

In Jesus and Mary,

Angelo
Angelo Siani. OMI
Provincial

私たちの主は、度々私たちに分かち合いの時を与えて下さいます。ある時は悲しみを、又、時には喜びを分かち合うために私たちは集うのです。

今日の集いの目的は何でしょうか。それは、私たちが誰であり、なぜここに存在しているのかを考えるためであり、又オブレート会々員としての召命と、主の使命の協力者として呼ばれたことを主に感謝するためでもあります。私たちのオブレート会の十字架は、「私たちはキリストを知らない人々に、キリスト、すなわち十字架につけられた主を宣べ伝える」（会憲4）という使命を私たちに思い起こさせます。この使命を私たちは共同体として果たすのです（会憲3）。

現代に生きる私たちは、とすると「私たちは誰であるか」ということよりも「私たちは何をするか」によって自分が誰であるかを決めがちです。けれども実は重要なのは、むしろ「私たちは誰であるか」の方なのです。私たちは使徒活動に召された修道者です。私たちは宣教に召された修道者です。私たちは共同体です。私たちがそうなるべく努めているということは、私たちが管区として度々集っていることから分かるでしょう。

聖パウロが好んだ考えの一つに、キリスト者の共同体は一つの体である、という考えがあります。この体に属するメンバーは互いの重要性について比較して議論する、ということはありません。体の各部分は自分に固有の働きを果たします。というのも、自分が果たすその役割は、全体の善のために貢献するようにと神から与えられた特権であると確信するからです。福者ユージンが自分のグループのことを、真の体、生え抜きの体と呼んだ時、彼の心にあったのは、このような考えであつたに違いありません。

ここで私は日本のすべてのオブレート会々員を代表して、マホーニー神父様ならびに顧問の皆様に対して、6年の長きにわたる共同体への奉仕を心から感謝申し上げたいと思います。

私たち新管区評議会は今、管区とその使命に対する奉仕を開始します。総長ザゴ神父様は私宛ての手紙の中で次のように述べておられます。「日本に於けるオブレート会々員の存在は重要です。というのは現代の世界やアジアに於いて日本は極めて重要な国だからです。神父様、あなたの管区長としての任務は、会員と共に歩み、彼らが主とその使命に献身できるようにすることであり、又、共同生活や邦人会員の召命促進を深め、かつ外国人宣教師を協力者として招くことです。」今日の福音は「収穫は多いが働く人は少ない。だから収穫の主は働き人を送って下さるように願いなさい」と告げています。皆さん私たちも、使徒的共同体としての使命にしっかりと根差し、ますます互いの支え合いを強め、救いの喜ばしい知らせを宣べ伝えていきましょう。

最後に、私たち新しい役員たちのために皆様のお祈りを心からお願いしたいと思います。主が私たちに知識と理解と判断力をお与え下さり、私たちが相応しく識別をなし、主の使命の遂行のために霊に対して開かれた姿勢を保つことができますように。

As a community our Lord gives us many opportunities to share. We gather to share at times our sorrows at others our joys.

An occasion such as this is a time we reflect on who we are and why we are here. An occasion such as this is a time we thank God for our vocation as an Oblate and that we have been called to be cooperators in His mission. Our Oblate cross reminds us "We proclaim Christ and Him crucified to those who do not know him". (C 4) We do this as a community (C 3).

in our modern age, we tend define ourselves more by what we "do" than who we "are". Yet who we are is important and perhaps more important. We are apostolic religious. we are religious missionary . we are a community. Our province meetings give evidence that this is what we strive to be.

One of St. Paul's favorite thoughts is to think of the Christian community as a body. The members of the body neither argue or dispute about their relative importance. Each part of the body carries out its own function with the conviction that his part is a God given privilege to make his own contribution to the good of all. I think Blessed Eugene had this in mind when he described his group as a real corps...and elite body.

In the name of all the Oblates in Japan, I would like to express a warm thanks to Fr. Mahoney and his consultants for their years of service to the community over the past six years.

We the new Provincial Council begin our work of service

to the Province and the mission. In his letter to me, Fr. Zago the Superior General wrote "the Oblate presence in Japan is important, because of the missionary and strategic importance of the country in Asia and in the world. Your task as provincial will be to accompany the Oblates in their commitment to the Lord and to His mission, to foster community life and local vocations, to invite foreign missionaries to join in your group." As we are reminded in today's gospel, "The harvest is rich but the laborers are few. So we ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers unto the harvest." Let us persevere in our mission as an apostolic community and with increased mutual support proclaim the Good News of Salvation.

In closing may I ask for your prayers for the new administration that God may grant us the knowledge, understanding and good judgement to guide our discernments, to be open to the Spirit so as to accomplish His work.



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

July 1992



Dear Brothers,

In OMI Communique 1992, Father General writes that after consultation with the Oblate World, "Witnessing in Apostolic Community" has emerged for the Chapter Theme. He adds that this is a missionary theme. It is not a withdrawing into ourselves to see how we live. The Chapter invites us to improve the quality of our lives so as to respond more fittingly to the "people's need for salvation" (C 1).

The theme echoes the mind of the Founder who wrote in the Preface "How, indeed, did our Lord Jesus Christ proceed when he undertook to convert the world? He chose a number of apostles and disciples whom he himself trained in piety, and filled them with his Spirit. These men he sent forth, once they had been schooled in his teaching, to conquer the world"

"Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven, he is my brother, and sister and mother." (Mt. 12:50) According to Mathew -the disciple- the apostle is the one who puts into practice the teachings of Jesus. To put into practice the teachings of Jesus, we must first learn them and that is why Jesus always asks the disciples, "Do you understand all this?"

According to the Gospel of Mathew it is the person who understands and puts Jesus' teachings into practice that is a disciple.

We share in the life of Jesus by sharing in his authority of healing and preaching. "He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness" (Mt. 10:1)

Jesus calls us to share in his authority. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations..."

The theme of the Chapter, Witnessing in Apostolic Community, challenges us to know Jesus and share his authority. In short it is the experience of God that gets translated in the world.

Angelo Siani

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

Provincial Council Meeting July 13, 1992

The provincial council met for the first time on July 13 in Kochi. The purpose of the meeting was to update the council on the status of the province. This included a discussion on personnel and the problem of aging.

Statistics:

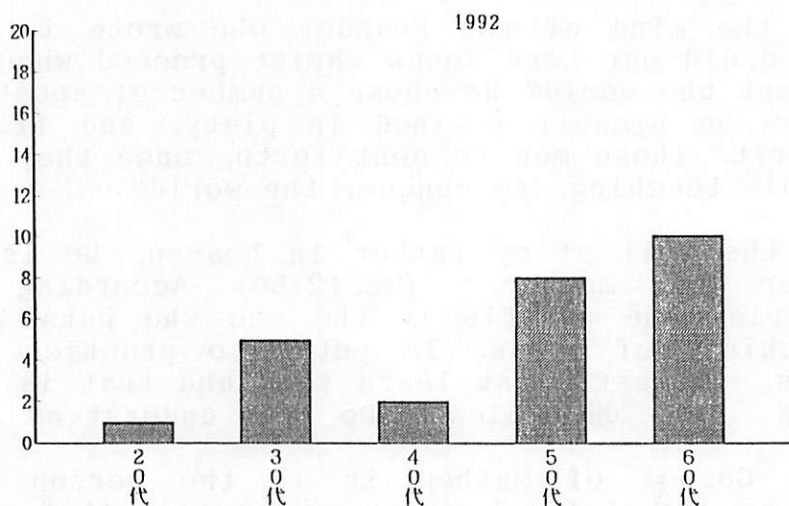
Members of the Province: 26

The average age (Japan & Korea) is 50.2

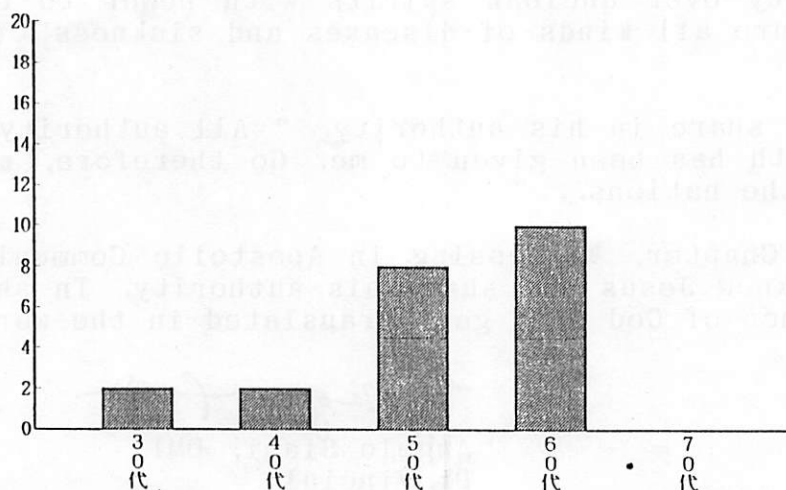
Age of professed Oblates:

Age:	Number:
60+	10
50+	8
40+	2
30+	5
20+	1

Age Chart of Present Personnel Japan Vice Province



Age Chart of Personnel in Japan Proper



What are the implications of the above data?
What does it mean in terms of future commitments?
As a province how are we to realistically orient ourselves
for the next 5-15 years?

Election of District Coordinators

Due to the proximity of the General Chapter which I will attend, it was decided to hold elections for District Coordinators in November of this year.

Fr. Leonard Simons will be acting provincial while I am away.

25 years of priesthood

This year Fr. Ron La Framboise celebrates 25 years of priesthood. Since Ron has been in Rome for the preparations of the General Chapter, we have not been able to have a proper celebration for him here in the province. Awaiting your return Ron! Ron sent this reflection to share with us.

Looking Back Over 25 Years

"Write something on your silver jubilee for the newsletter." Easier said than done. I started several times, and still had a blank page, so I decided to look through some old photos. As I started looking through the photos and reminiscing, all kinds of thoughts came to mind. I share a few of them with you.

There were photos from the juniorate. I wondered where all those guys were now and what they were doing. We were 50 to enter the juniorate that year. Of those, five were ordained. Three of them left, so only two of us are celebrating a jubilee this year. How strange and unpredictable the Lord's ways are? Why is one chosen and not the other? It is not because one is more worthy or more capable. Among those guys there were many more capable. Why only two of us left? Is that the mystery of "vocation"?

Then there were the ordination day pictures. What a day. How excited I was! How happy I was! "I am a priest! I am a priest!" Looking back now, it seems more realistic to say I was a new born "baby priest". It has taken many years for this new born to grow up. Today, the silver jubilee seems more like a "seijinshiki", a "coming of age day". The real growth and maturation is just starting.

I am grateful to all of you who have accompanied me this far on the journey, for your encouragement, your support, your understanding and your forgiveness, for your prayers and for your love. It is your understanding and support that have made the more trying moments of the growth process easier. Thanks. I look forward to more growth now that the "seijinshiki" is over and feel confident that I can continue

to trust in your prayers and support.

In closing I would like to say a special word of thanks for the many thoughtful messages you faxed to me in Rome during your spring meeting. That Fax really made my day, and helped me to recover from a bout of homesickness because of missing Leo's diaconate ordination. Thanks for being so thoughtful.

Ron

Birthdays

July

4 Mauro Concardi
31 Lei Simons

August

4 Nobuhiko Yagi
23 Angelo Siani
31 Bertram Silver

September

6 John Iwo
20 John Mahoney
22 Fran Hahn

October

7 Ron La Framboise
10 Jan Van Hoydonck
27 Xave Yoshikazu Tosa

Ordinations

July

1 Jan Van Hoydonck
5 Lei Simons

September

8 Giovanni Zevola

October

1 Mauro Concardi
28 Gerard Stevens

Sisters of St. Joseph, Tokushima

Through a good friend of Bert Silver, the Sisters will have a beautiful apartment. It is only a five minute walk from the Church.

Fordham Studies

This summer Wency is completing his second session at Fordham. Our prayers are with you Wency.

Visa renewal

For those of you who will be renewing your visa please apply for the necessary documents as soon as possible. I will be in Kochi from July 29-31.

Summer Camp, July 29-31

This year the vocation summer camp will be held in Kochi. We are hoping for a capacity attendance. We count on the cooperation of the Oblate pastors.

Vocation Director

Bro. Yagi has been 150 % in his efforts to ensure the success of the summer camp and other vocational work. Vocational ministry is of great importance and we actively cooperate with Bro. Yagi in his efforts.

Provincial Schedule

July 20-23 Korea. with Bro. Kawaguchi
July 29-31 Kochi, Vocation Summer Camp
August 1-19 Nagoya
August 19 departure for USA and Rome
October 16 return to Japan

Prayers

We ask for prayers for Mrs. Laurel Mahoney, sister-in-law to Fr. John Mahoney. She died in Hawaii on July 6.

Mark these dates, August 31- September 4

Annual Retreat at the Passionist Retreat House in Fukuoka. The Retreat Director is Fr. Shoji, OFM. As previously decided you are expected to pay your own room and board. If you need assistance please apply to the bursar Bert Silver.

March 30 - April 1, 1993

Our Provincial Meeting will be held in Fukuoka at the Passionist Retreat House. Preparations are coming along fine. You will soon receive some preparation material from the FTC Committee.

Oblate Publication in Japanese

Holy Mirth

Theology of Laughter by Canadian Oblate Father, Richard Cote, OMI has been published in Japanese by Seibo no Kishi. It may be purchased for 500 yen.

Dear Bill,

Hope you are having a good vacation. I'm sure your Mom is happy. Please give her my best. Maybe she'll remember we met at Sunset Beach - Take care + God bless - Angelo

15 August 1992



Dear Brothers,

The next Newsletter comes out in October, but here are a few items you might find of interest.

From July 20 through the 23, Bro. Kawaguchi and I visited our mission in Korea. Mauro and Giovanni were on vacation from language school. Vincenzo, who is presently an associate in a parish in Suwon, was able to get a few days off to be with us. We spent almost all three days in meetings reflecting on their Oblate Mission in Korea.

Since they have a new man (Maurizio Giorgianni) arriving in December, their ambition is to have two men in vocation work and two in another, perhaps a parish where the Oblate Charism would take root.

Their present task is language. Vincenzo is getting practical experience in a parish. He says Mass in Korean as well as preaching and other parish duties. Mauro while attending classes spends a lot of time with university students to get practical experience in the language. Giovanni also looking for a way to put his language into practice, has taken a job in the Franciscan restaurant for the poor.

In reflecting on the Korean mission, I was impressed by their sense of mission and community. Their time together is a precious commodity whether it be for prayer, discussion or recreation.

Oblate Vocation Camp

A word of thanks to all who helped with the camp. It must have taken a few days for Bros. Yagi and Kawaguchi to get over their fatigue! I know how I felt!

The camp opened with Mass at the mission in Akaoka. Lei

Simons had a beautiful Liturgy, but the Chapel was steaming!
The next few days, ^{July} Aug. 29-31, were spent at "kangaeru no Mura".
One of the highlights was a day at the beach. We were supposed
to have "suikawari" but someone dropped the melons in the
parking lot! Jerry Novotny came for the swimming but didn't get
wet!

The liturgies were very well prepared and Bro. Kawaguchi
gave a short and inspiring homily every morning.

In attendance we had 7 from Nagoya, 3 from Itami, 3 from
Takamatsu, 2 from Naruto, 1 from Tokushima and 1 from Kochi. It
was a good turn out.

Sisters of St. Joseph

The Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Tokushima on August 6.
Their apartment was named "Joseph no Ie". They will be working
in the missions of Tokushima, Naruto and Anan.

Ottawa Aitoku Kai (Grey Sisters)

As you know the Sisters at Nakajima-cho will be leaving
next March. I began looking for some other Sisters for the
Church and Kindergaten. I was surprised to discover the Grey
Sisters were here in Japan. As you know these Sisters have
always accompanied the Oblates in their missions especially in
Canada and among the Eskimo.

I called the Provincial a few days ago. She will be going
to Kochi in September. She will present her findings to her
Council and hopefully we will have a favorable answer shortly
thereafter. Please keep this intention in your prayers.

John Deely will be directing a retreat for the deaf at
Asahikawa Church August 28-30.

John Mahoney sent a word of thanks for your prayers for
his sister-in-law Laura. A memorial Mass was held at Point

Lookout on Long Island July 19.

Summer used to be a time of work slowing down and relaxation, but nowadays many of us have become more busy! you need some rest too, so be sure to take some time for yourself.

While at the Chapter I will keep you up on developments through FAX and the good services of Ed Williams.

Wishing you a happy feastday on the Assumption of Our Lady.

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angelo Siani".

Angelo Siani, OMI

Provincial

JAPAN

FAX 888-73-7336



Sept. 13, 1992

Dear Brothers,

Greetings from the Chapter.

Great news! Today Fr. Marcellus
Zago was re-elected Japanese
General. Thank you for your
prayers — also.

Fr. Camillus & I have been informed
that two missionaries from Sri Lanka
will receive obedience to the Mission
of Japan — God bless. Prayers

Amaze.

Angels Maria & I

Japan.

FAX

888-73-7536

Sept. 16, 1992



Dear Ed,

Hope all is well. We had our second day of elections. Today we voted for Union General. Dr. Ben Carignin is the new Union General. He received 82 out of 104 votes -

They will soon be replacing the "Old Personnel". Please for me the new address of Koga. We need the Romance version. Best to all.

Angelo.

Angelo Simonetti

1037-1038-1039



These things are not
to be taken as evidence
of anything but the
fact that the things
are in the hands of
the people. The things
are not to be taken
as evidence of anything
but the fact that the
things are in the hands
of the people. The things
are not to be taken
as evidence of anything
but the fact that the
things are in the hands
of the people.

JAPAN FAX 888-73-7536



Sept. 26, 92

Dear Ed,

Hope all is well. Writing to get your idea about a facilitator for the spring meeting. Fr. Gerard Laprise is here and I asked him if he would be open to coming to Japan for our meeting on parishes. He says he is open to the idea.

Before inviting him, I want the opinions of the preparation committee. Could you do this for me and fax your ideas?

NEW ASSISTANTS
GENERAL

The first General Asst. is Ryszard Smydki (poland)

The second General Asst. is William Steckling (South America)
Asia-Oceania Councilor, Angelito Lampon (Philippines)

As we get closer to the end of the Chapter, we get busier.

Ken is fine.

Take care and God bless.

Excuse mistakes

These European typewriters have the keys in the wrong places!

Age. and



10-10-68

Dear Sir,
I am writing to you regarding the matter of the
for the coming meeting. I am sorry to hear that I could not
be would be open to coming to town for our meeting on October 10. I hope
be to open to the school.

Before leaving, I want to mention that the
committee would like to see you and the group before

The first of the group is the group of the
The second group is the group of the
The third group is the group of the
The fourth group is the group of the
The fifth group is the group of the

As we are at the end of the day, we get
in the time.
Thank you and God bless.
These are the things that I have to say to you.

[Handwritten signature]

Nagoya, October 23, 1992



Dear Brothers,

When I left for Rome last August, I promised to send you a Newsletter in October. However, since I will not be able to make it down to Kochi this month for printing etc. I am sending this "mini newsletter" in its place.

Fr. General's Letter to the Oblates of Japan

Before leaving Rome, Fr. General gave me a letter addressed to the Oblates of Japan. It is a most encouraging message.

The General Chapter

The General Chapter was a great event and experience ... impossible to put down in a few sentences. I hope to share some of that experience at your District Meetings. However, I would like to share some of that experience in this short letter.

The Chapter wished to deal with our Oblate missionary vocation, spirituality and community life as evangelizers in today's world. How to be a community of truly apostolic men according to our Oblate charism in the world today? So rather than producing a document for study, it decided to put out a paper for animation called "Witnessing as Apostolic Community". You all should have a copy of this paper from Rome by now. In all the discussions in preparation for this paper, the question of the "quality" of the individual and of the community was a dominant theme. We profess as Oblates to live as an Apostolic Community. Does our lifestyle give witness to that

profession?

There was a general feeling for more coopertion on the Regional and Inter-regional levels, regional novitiates and scholasticates for example. This is easier where there is a common language and culture. But even here in our region cooperation has begun. The mission of Thailand sends novices and scholastics to Australia. Bro. Yagi also was well received in Australia for an intensive English program. He also participated in their work with marginalized peoples. He also experienced mission in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Japan excepted the mission of Korea and received four missionaries from Italy, the newest named just recently, Fr. Maurizio Giogainni. And while in Chapter, Fr. Zago gave obediences to two missionaries from Sri Lanka for Japan. Fr. Joseph Bradly Rozairo and Fr. John Canisius Peirispulle.

There was a call for a change in structures. This could not be dealt with at this chapter but will most certainly be in the future. Some feel Vice Provinces should be done away with and new criteria be established for the creation of provinces and delegations.

The General Bursar proposed a plan for the financial autonomy of all provinces in the Oblate World for their ordinary expenses. The plan was accepted by the Chapter. It will call for provinces which have the means to share their capital funds.

In the five weeks of the Chapter we shared on many areas of

concern. I think the main concern was for renewal and forward thrust in the Church and in the world. There was a call to fidelity, fidelity to Christ, faithfulness to the Church and faithfulness to our vocation, faith in what we are as Oblates. There was a call to be a credible witness which exhibits itself in caring: caring for our relation with God, caring for our relation with the other/community, and in caring for our mission and its continuity. A credibility seen in our sharing: sharing our faith, our being and what we have. A credibility seen in our bearing, that is sacrifice, to endure difficulties in ministry.

The Annual Retreat

The annual retreat next year will be preached by Fr. Phil Estrella, OMI. Director of the scholasticate in Manila.

Provincial Phone and Fax in Nagoya

The provincial will have a new phone number and fax in Nagoya. Service will begin on October 26. The new number is (052) 807-1209.

Sister of Charity of Ottawa (Grey Nuns)

The Sisters of Charity have decided to begin work in Kochi. Three Sisters will be assigned in December. They will begin work in March of 1993.

Return from Chapter and Homeleave

Following the Chapter Ron La Framboise took a months well deserved rest with his family. Ron returns to Nagoya on November

8. Welcome back Ron.

Visitors from Canada

From November 3-17, Fr. Gerard Charbonneau and Bro. Andre Dagenais will be visiting the province. Both Gerard and Andre put much effort into obtaining funds for the Korean Mission. Gerard and Andre, I thank you both in the name of the Japanese Province. Enjoy your stay in Japan.

Provincial Council Meeting

On November 19, the Council will meet in Koga. The items on the agenda will be: 1 Report on the Chapter

2 The Provincial Bursar

3 Contract with the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa

4 Church of Zendana.

To date we have been making a yearly contract for our services in the parish. I had a meeting with the SVD Provincial on Oct. 20. He suggested that we might like to make a 3 or 5 year contract. Or if we want to cease our presence there, he is open to that also.

However, I'd like to point out that the people of the parish do appreciate the presence of the Oblates. In addition it has been a plus for our formation program as it provided a place for regular ministry. I can also see it as a place where our new missionaries can get experience in language as well as ministry. Your comments are welcome.

5 The March Meeting.

A report on the work of the preparation committee by Fran Hahn.

6 Other

If you have any items you would like discussed by the Council.

Please send your request to me or one of the Councilors.

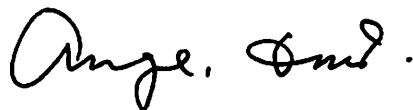
Finances

The bursar wishes to remind you that all financial requests should be in to him by the end of this month.

Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be sent in December. Please send me your contributions and Christmas message by the end of November.

In Jesus and Mary Immaculate,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ange. Siani".

Angelo Siani, OMI

Provincial



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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



CHRISTMAS EDITION
December 1992

Dear Brothers,

I begin this letter with a poem written by Joyce Rupp taken from her book "May I Have This Dance":

The Road To Life
another year is coming to an end.
I can feel her tug at my calendar;
I can sense her insistent movement.
I can hear her call to cross over.

Something in me wants to hold on,
to gather all good things close to me.
A part of me that yearns for security
keeps encouraging me to grasp it all.

Then a tiny thimble-full of light
moves its way through my insecurity;
it weaves a thread of courage,
sending sparks into the dark.
Up and up it rises through my spirit
until it meets my controlling grip.

The firefly flickers of God's grace
are enough to embrace the unknown.
A surge of powerful surrender
takes over all my looking back,
and ever so gently and hopefully
I risk the road of another new year.

Joyce Rupp

Our life is a journey. We are always "on the road". Each time another new year greets us, we have the opportunity to pause, to see where we have been, to notice how far we have come and to ponder how that journey has been for us. Each new year is also a time to clear our vision, to take stock of our resources, and to refresh our dreams as we set out once more on the journey that is ours as Oblates.

It was the dream of our Founder; it seems to be a sign of the times as echoed in the General Chapter calling us to renew ourselves as an apostolic religious community. For the most part our community is the district. We need to evaluate the vibrancy of our district communities, the quality of our life together as a district, our own personal contribution to building our community. In our efforts to live community according to our Oblate charism, we are called to deepen the quality of our community life in order to be true to our calling and to witness to the church and to society. "By growing in heart and mind we bear witness before the world that Jesus lives in our midst and unites us in order to proclaim God's reign.

I pray that God will walk closely with us in the coming year. "Lord, we are walking into mystery. We face the future, not knowing what the days and months will bring or how we will respond. Be love in us as we journey. Deepen our faith to see all life, as Blessed Eugene often prayed, 'through the eyes of the crucified savior'. Fill us with hope and an abiding trust that you dwell in us amid all our joys and sorrows. Thank you for the treasure of our faith life lived in Apostolic Community. Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day knowing you walk through the day with us. Amen."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Angelo Siani

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial



*I come to proclaim
good news to you*

A WORD OF THANKS
TO

FATHER
DES
O' DONNELL, OMI

who has served us
so well for so long.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A WORD OF WELCOME
TO

Father
ANGELITO
LAMPON, OMI

with whom we wish
to walk
the years ahead.

W E L C O M E

ようこそ

F A T H E R M A U R I Z I O
G I O R G I A N N I , O M I

f r o m I t a l y

イタリア から

F A T H E R J O S E P H
B R A D L Y R O Z A I R O , O M I



F A T H E R J U D E C A N I S I U S
P E I R I S P U L L E , O M I

f r o m S r i L a n k a

スリランカ から

T h e
J a p a n e s e V i c e
P r o v i n c e
i s w a i t i n g f o r y o u

from Ray Bourgoin OMI

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND

A MOST BLESSED NEW YEAR

I'm sure, as always, each one of us will be busy during this season of joy, trying to understand with our various communities the depth of the meaning of this feast we will be celebrating.

I think of a former student who wrote to me that she was expecting a child around Christmas.

She went on to say: "For me, it's the third child; I'll be on a nice linen bed in the hospital for my delivery; a doctor will be at my side to assist me; a midwife will wash the baby clean at birth and place it in a nice soft baby crib.

Mary was a teenager facing her first delivery which is always the toughest; she most probably had no doctor in a cold stable; I imagine the animals lapping up the baby clean and that Jesus was placed on straw in a manger. What a difference!

This scene repeats itself time and time again in so many poor countries today! While I count my blessings, my heart goes out to them."

When I read this meditation of a simple young mother, my heart became warm as I thought that she was able to share these thoughts with me. A beautiful person.

I'm sure all of us have similar experiences of the faithful speaking to us and revealing to us everyday simple truths. At Christmas I want to thank the Lord for the graces and consolations that doing his ministry can bring us in whatever form that might be.

Carry on! May God bless you and keep you!

Ray

from Jack Deely, OMI

Greetings from Sukuba. It's been a long time. How's everyone? Since my last contribution to the Newsletter, I guess one highlight was in July when I went with 15 deaf Japanese Catholics to Gallaudet University for the International Catholic Deaf Association's Workshop. The main theme of this year's workshop was the spirituality of the deaf and it's implications for pastoral workers

And, just the other day, the 16 of us got together in Hagi for some reflection on the Workshop. Hagi proved to be another inspiring experience. We visited the shrine to the martyrs in Tsuwano, where Fr. Bob Flynn, S.J. gave us a guided tour, after our signed Mass.

But to get back to summer...shortly after returning to Japan, I had a signed retreat for the deaf Catholics in Hokkaido, at a Church in Asahikawa, that was also a mind-boggling experience in that it made me appreciate once again the

quality of the faith & spirituality of the deaf. It never ceases to amaze me how they have kept their faith without the benefit of things that hearing people might take for granted (priest & nuns and our pastoral workers who speak our language, who can help us to appreciate our faith better, etc). Obviously proof that the Spirit has been working!

More recently was the National Catholic Deaf Association's Meeting in October, in Osaka. In preparing for my talk, I researched the different ways to present Scripture, the spirit of Christ etc. and realized again the truth of a study made by some pastoral workers in the States that the deaf have a lot in common with the Hebrews when it comes to their way of thinking.

Hope all of you are enjoying good health. Looking forward to seeing some of you over the holidays. A Holy and Merry Christmas. Health and Happiness in the New Year. As well as God's Blessings on you, your work and the people you serve.

Jack

from Jan Van Hoydonck OMI

Although I may raise some unbelieving eyebrows if I say that the past year has been a quite varied one, that is nevertheless a true statement. But then, I have to add that it has been so by being out of Ikeda for all that variety. And glad to be back here each time I had been away. What will it be in the New Year?

May Christmas bring joy to all, and may the New Year bring you and all the ones dear to you an increase in unity with the Lord.

Jan

from Bert Silver OMI

TO MY OBLATE BROTHERS-CHRISTMAS 1992-MAY THE CHRIST CHILD BRING TO EACH OF US HIS SPECIAL BLESSINGS OF LOVE AND PEACE!

Coming more and more to realize how blessed I have been during this year with all of the help and cooperation that is given to me from so many wonderful people. In my work here in the parish, in the school, and in the work entrusted to me by the Oblates as Bursar and Director of the School Corporation it is due to their directing me, encouraging me, and challenging me that I feel so happy about what I am doing. A special word of thanks to the members of the Financial Committee who have been helping to better our financial structures and sharing. Especially my appreciation to Ron who has brought the School Corporation to where it is. Without his efforts we would not be solvent as a corporation, not have the legal protection we have, and not have the religious direction of this apostolate. Even though Ange is now directly involved, the corporation still depends on Ron's direction and encouragement for the serious problems that face the school apostolate.

Three outstanding events for this year for me: my little sister Peg's one month stay with me in Naruto. Fr. Joseph

Dinh returned to Naruto to say his first Mass after being ordained in the Tokyo Archdiocese (he was here as a refugee eleven years ago). Bro. Lazarus Shibaori (from Naruto) took first vows at the Trappist Monastery in Hakodate.

At this Christmas, my thanks to each one of you and may the coming year be as blessed as this one certainly has!

Bert OMI

from Yoshikazu Tosa OMI

Sincere wishes for a quiet and blessed Christmas and much confidence in the New Year, in spite of uneasy tensions in other parts of the world.

The year 1992 for me was the year of the encounter with the Arabian world and culture. I twice had the occasion to join the relief mission to the Palestinian refugee camps in the Near East together with the "Hand of Peace", Catholic NGO of the Osaka Diocese. The second time (last summer) was a stay of one month. That gave us an opportunity to visit, in addition to Israel and Jordan, two other "dangerous" places: Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

In Lebanon we were hosted by PMP (Pontifical Mission for Palestine). In Lebanon, we were not allowed to go to the refugee camps in the south of the country, but we did visit a project in a rural area about 50 kilometers to the south of Beirut. During the civil war, the Christians were forced out by the Muslims and their villages destroyed. They lived in camps inside their own country. Now after suspended hostilities, the Christians are allowed to return home. However since they could not stay over night (no housing), they could not work in their fields. So the PMP did some wise thinking. They started a project to build or rebuild one room, so that some members of the family could start working and later would be able to restore the rest of the house themselves. The PMP provides pipes for drainage and water and helps to put roofs on schools and churches. They also help out with salaries of teachers and provide basic medical care. It's not just a "giving of money", but it's trying to create a situation where the farmers can save themselves with their own hands. The Lebanese government is weak and has no income at all...

The situation in the Gaza Strip is completely another problem. This small occupied territory used to be "owned" by Egypt. Besides the Palestinian city of Gaza, there are 8 refugee camps with more than 200,000 Palestinian refugees (numbers given by the Israeli police). More than 60% of the Gaza population are refugees. Only those with a permit can leave and work outside the camp.

The United Nations (UNRWA) was our host. We toured the Strip in a white bus with 'UN' letters painted in blue on the sides. Very small children threw sand at our bus... We were asked not to take pictures! The first thing one sees after passing the check point is dirt and garbage. But then all at

once a cluster of beautiful houses, protected by barbed-wire and police comes into view. Even in Gaza there are settlements for Jewish immigrants.

In Cairo the head of CRS explained why the embargo on Iraq is hurting them as much as Iraq. Father Moesha of Caritas Jordan urged us to ask our politicians to stop the embargo, because it was hurting Jordan and all the relief services more than it did Iraq...

Of course besides seeing misery and listening to a lot of information, I enjoyed the Arabian kitchen and had an unforgettable swim in the Dead Sea... and the Sea of Galilee!

May we all help God to bring peace on earth.
Yoshikazu Xavier Tosa

from Bradly Rozairo OMI

Dear Brothers,

Greetings in the Lord

I am Fr. Joseph Bradly Rozairo. I am a Burger who lives in Trincomalee, the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Both my parents are living. I have two sisters of whom one is a Religious Sister, who belongs to the order of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. I am the youngest in the family.

I joined the juniorate on the 10th of Jan'81. After having completed four years in the juniorate I entered the Pre-Novitiate and then the Novitiate. I made my first profession in the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1986. I entered the Major Seminary which is in Kandy. I did my two years of Philosophy and three years of Theology at the National Seminary, Kandy. On the 28th. of Sept'91 I made my Perpetual Vows and was ordained a Deacon on the 29th of Sept'91. As a Deacon I went out to get pastoral experience as part of the fourth year theology program and came back to the Scholasticate for the B. Th. examination which was held in July'91. I was ordained a priest on the 22nd. of Aug'92 in Colombo. At the moment I am working as a Hospital Chaplain in Colombo. I have to come and see you all in the near future.

Wishing you all good wishes for a happy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year. I remain,

Fraternally in Christ &M. I.
Joseph Bradly Rozairo



from Jude Pierispulle OMI

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.
When Brother Nobuhiko Yagi came to Sri Lanka I said that I would like to come to Japan to work as a missionary. I have been given my Obedience to Japan and I am ever ready to come to Japan and face the challenges and work for the People of God. It is a dream come true.

I am getting on fine and I hope you are too. May our heavenly Father guide you. With much love,

Yours in Christ & M.I.

Jude C. Peirispulle

from Vincenzo Bordo OMI, Giovanni Zevola OMI, Mauro Concardi OMI

Again this year, this Christmas Newsletter gives us the opportunity to greet each and everyone in our Japanese Province. For us here in Korea this will be a very special Christmas. In fact we are anxiously waiting for Maurizio, the new man in our community. He should arrive just after Christmas. What a magnificent gift!

WE know that two new men are supposed to come to Japan too. We pray that this will be soon and we pray also for everyone of you there in Japan.

And now a promise, we hope to be there with Maurizio for Bro. Leo's ordination and the spring meeting.

From Korea a very Merry Christmas!

Vincenzo
Giovanni
Mauro

from Maurizio Giorganni OMI

My name is Fr. Maurizio Giorganni. I have received my first obedience for Korea. I thought I'd write this letter to share my happiness with you and to establish a relationship of communion. I want to express my desire for working in unity in our mission.

I'd like to tell you something about myself, so that we can become a little more acquainted. I am 29 years old. I met the Oblates when I was 15 during a mission retreat. I belonged for five years to a group guided by the Oblates in my own parish.

After high school, I studied at a university in my home town. It was then I felt the call of God. I left my study of physics to become an Oblate.

I took my first vows in 1985. Then I went to Paraguay for one year in 1989 for pastoral exposure in the Oblate mission of Chaco. This experience was very important for me; I know much more about the Oblates and the mission. When I returned to Italy, I asked for Perpetual Vows.

I then went on for my licentiate in missiology. Because of my studies I read the latest Encyclical about mission. I felt stronger than ever the needs of the Asian mission. Now, I am very happy to go to Korea because I desired it, but especially because through the Obedience I received, I think, it is the will of God.

I know that the needs there are great, so I feel very small before them. God will help! Jesus and His Spirit are the ones in charge of mission. My first task, I think, is to let Jesus live in myself and in the community.

I remember the province in my prayers. It is the way for now that I can be united with the province.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Maurizio

from John K Mahoney OMI

This brief Christmas message is being written in San Antonio, although I will be in Phoenix at Christmas time. The program here at Ministry to Ministers is soon coming to a close. Today is Thanksgiving. We have the weekend free. Tomorrow some of us are going to Houston to visit NASA.

The closing 8 day retreat begins on Nov. 30 and will end on Dec. 8. After that there will be a few days for re-entry processing, farewell dinners etc. etc. We will all leave San Antonio on Dec. 13.

The experience here at MTM - or perhaps it is more accurate to say the MTM experience has been wonderful for me. I feel I was in the right place at the right time.

Christmas, I will be at my Sister-in-law's home. I am looking forward to spending my first Christmas in the States in 30 years with Marge, my seven nephews and nieces and assorted grand nephews and nieces. I am sure it will be a very different Christmas. But you can be sure that I will remember you in my Masses and prayers.

In January I will be going to Lebh Shomea for my "40 day desert experience". Your prayers will be greatly appreciated. With prayers and Best wishes & Great Blessings in '93.

Faternally,
John Kenney

from Wency Laguidao OMI

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of you!

"We don't hear much about the Filipinos these days" is a kind of greeting that I usually get nowadays. This remark just confirms what I said a few years ago that after a while Filipinos will "blend" with the local populace. New arrivals have decreased but thousands remain in Japan. Until they are

caught and sent back home by the immigration authorities. Are things getting better for them? No, both here and at home, things are just as uncertain as when they first came, Philippine economy remains non-viable to lure back millions of Filipino migrant workers around the world. Japan's recession is taking its toll of jobs at construction sites and even at bars and night clubs where Filipina women work.

I have a new desk at the spanking new Japan Catholic Center which replaces the old Chuo Kyogikai (Did I hear comments already that the place is a Tower of Babel?) No, I'm not moving to Tokyo, even if I have to commute from Osaka just to use my desk. Besides, Mike says he will miss me if I move to Tokyo. In January, you will receive a pastoral letter from the bishops on the migrant workers issue (kokuseki Wo Koeru Kami no Kuni). It is an urgent appeal on the problems of foreigners in Japan. We worked on the statement for more than a year and I was asked to do the English translation.

I am glad to have been given the chance to work on my MA at Fordham University in NY. I only go during the summer. The course is on Pastoral Planning leading to an MA in Sociology.

December is a busy month but I must admit that I don't run around as much as I used to. On Christmas day, Mike and I will cook turkey for the first time. Hope you will find time yourselves to celebrate quietly the birth of our Lord.

Wency Laguidao

~~from Tom Maher OMI~~

At the National study for Prison Chaplains, held in Fukuoka on Oct. 29, 1992, I received a certificate of Appreciation and a gift (vase) from the Minister of Justice of the Japanese Government for work in the prison.

It is hard to believe that I have been going to the Kochi prison for over 20 years.

In addition to meeting individual prisoners at their request, the Group Church and the English class, I have been asked to give talks to those addicted to drugs. My own sobriety for the past 16 years (by the grace of God) has prepared me for this special work.

The prisoners have certainly given me more than I have given them. They have helped me to be more honest and real.

I thank God for using me as His instrument in this work and the Oblates for leaving me free to engage in this work.

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

Tom Maher,

from Francis Hahn OMI

Dear Oblate Brothers,

Tis the season to send greetings to all and I haven't even started my Christmas cards. We just finished the celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Kochi. It was a great feast as always and the only regret I have is having to get up early enough to catch the 7:50 A.M. plane for home.

This has been a year of many events, I celebrated my 49th. birthday, so that means this will be my 50th. Christmas! I celebrated 20 years of priesthood April 29th. and 25 years in Japan Sept. 16th. The Spanish families I invited to help work in Koga finished their 1st. year. I became a grandfather twice rushing the women to the City Hospital at midnight. It was a real "movie like" experience. We had the usual flow of births and deaths in the parish and somehow the parish seems to be growing by God's grace. If for no other reason 1993 holds all sorts of promise for many graces, one of the biggest will be Bro. Kawaguchi's ordination in Koga in March.

I may make a trip home to join the Pope in Denver for the World Youth Congress and will be able to celebrate a cousins' marriage in Sept. in the Falls, but all of that is just something possible. I'll wait and see what the Lord and the Provincial have in mind. Being in Koga puts one at the end of the world (Oblate) but it is a great place to be. Maybe I'll be able to drop over to Seoul a couple of times next year to visit the Brothers and give them something to do, they'll realize how small their apartment is if I stay with them.

We're looking forward to the Sri Lankan Brothers arrival, and may God continue to renew us to be all that He calls us to be for the Church and His World.
Please have the most Christ-filled Year ever and May God Bless us one and all.

Frank J. Hahn OMI

from Nobuhiko Yagi OMI

At Christmas time I would like to have
a warm caring heart like St. Joseph,
a humble and tender heart like Mary,
a pure and simple heart like the Infant Jesus.
Blessings upon all during this Holy Season and throughout the New Year.

Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi, OMI

from Gerard Stevens OMI

When Ange asked me about a message for the Christmas letter, my first reaction was: "What? I just wrote an article a short time ago!" Gradually, I realized that this short time actually meant about 366 days earlier...How fast time flies by! And what do I do outstanding enough to report? Thinking back over '92, there was the usual share of work: sermons and talks to prepare, visits to be made to the people living far

etc. What would be worth mentioning otherwise? Oh yes, the 3 typhoons that hit us last August, especially No.11, that almost flooded the whole area; and had the dike near the church collapsed, I wouldn't be here now writing this letter: just too much muddy water racing by with wild violence, too strong to survive swimming or floating.

But inspite of the cool and rainy summer we are still alive.

Not much else to report except a few more Filipina brides found, married to Japanese men and usually living at a good distance from the church. The only baptisms to be recorded are of children born into such homes...

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a Happy 1993 to each and all.

Gerard Stevens, OMI

~~from Bill Maher OMI~~

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope this season is filled with the Lord's blessings for all of you. This year the Lord has continued to bless me in so many ways, the parish here in Tokushima, a wonderful month in Calif. that I was able to spend with Mom, while staying at my nieces' and nephews', and a year of relatively good health.

The bazaar this year was a great success and we sold all 700 pies and all the arts and crafts, things that the ladies of the Parish have been making for the past year. We made \$13333 and \$8333 of that will go to the charities both in Japan and in other counties. For the size of this parish they certainly do a lot of work and that makes it easy to work here. The parish has only about 460 Christians and about 100 of them are coming to Sunday Mass but there is a large influx of Catholics from other countries who have married Japanese or work in this country now. In the future some Churches in Japan will have more foreign Catholics than Japanese Catholics.

We also got two St. Joseph Sisters from Osaka in September. The Notre Dame Sisters left last year and sold the girls' dormitory that they were running. The present sisters are from Osaka and they were founded by the former Archbishop of Osaka. They are presently here for 3 years to study possibilities in this area. So the two sisters are living in an apartment near the Church and they agree helping out in the 3 parishes near here. They are employed by this parish as the secretaries. I have to hand it to them they are 68 & 61 years old but still give it their all.

As a Parish we are putting a lot if work into developing a RCIA program for new comers and trying to push prayer groups centered on the Scriptures. You are all in my prayers this Christmas.

Bill

from Dick Harr OMI

A holy and joy-filled Christmas to all. Queen Elizabeth laid claim to her year as horrible, but my own (we were not born the same year) was just the opposite. So many joined me in praising Our Lord for these 40 years of service.

And it's not over yet. There's a Church to build in Anan. I had hoped for a Christmas completion; now we're aiming at Easter with fingers crossed. It'll be a 100 person capacity, occupying fully the garden next to the rectory. When it's up and ready, do plan on joining us at Anan to really celebrate.

May God bless each of you.

Dick Harr, OMI

from Ron LaFramboise

It is good to be back in Japan after a year of more than usual activity. Though I did build up a lot of mileage as a frequent flyer! The Christmas festivities will require our services for a Mass at a Nursing Home on the afternoon of the 24th. parish Eucharist and celebration that evening, a Mass for Filipino workers at 4:30 A.M. on the 25th. followed by another Eucharistic celebration at Zendana later in the morning. I am glad to have our Deacon, Leo Kawaguchi, to share the preaching with me (a very good preacher, by the way). All of you will no doubt have similar schedules. To one and all my best wishes of joy in Him Who Is and Who Comes!

Ron

from Leo Kawaguchi

Merry Christmas and a special thanks to all my brothers who have supported and helped me. This Christmas is special, as Deacon to proclaim the Gospel on the feast of the birth of the Lord. Thank you.

Leo Kawaguchi

from Mike Yamasaki

My biorhythm is not too good today.
My mind (if I have) is not functioning too well.
It has been a quiet year. Only four completed their lives here on earth.

We had 17 adults and 12 children baptized so far this year, including a family of 5 Koreans. Some more will be baptized on Christmas Eve.

I baptized a couple of Filipino babies whose mothers are married to Japanese.

We have a boy from Indonesia working as a trainee at a furniture company. He wants to become a Christian.

Three Sri Lankans were here one time. But they disappeared. One was complaining about a pain in the chest.

The Parish Council is talking about repairing the walls of the rectory. They are also discussing about adding a Meeting Hall to the Church building.

Living with Wency is very pleasant and he is inspirational for me.

Hope the coming year is filled with God's blessing for all the Oblates working in Japan.

Mike

from Ed Williams OMI

As the year winds down here in Kochi all of you flit through my memory. I hope God has granted you a good year in your work, in your health, in your advance in holiness. Nakajima cho parish shows some bright spots, and, of course some shadows. Our attendance continues to rise, about 4% this year over last. I am not sure but I think much of the rise is due to the many non-Japanese Christians now amongst us. The Japanese Catholics continue to grow older but at the same time we are encouraged by the presence of a few splendid university students. This year at last we have resumed our parish news which had languished since after I took over from John. By the end of the year Tom and I will have celebrated 84 weddings. Of these ten or so have been of Catholics. Lately people studying what we used to call catechism have increased considerably in number (12 people). Some of the increase comes from our Introductory course in Christianity held in May. Two of those people are from among those married here. It is a meagre group indeed but among them may be the saint who will convert this country. The difficulty of arousing people to an awareness of our calling as missionaries and as instruments of God's care for all his people especially the disadvantaged can be very discouraging at times. But small advances have been made. Our social work committee is manned by three or four very competent and very aware ladies. They are frequently calling us to greater efforts. In this regard starting next January the church has decided to set aside 1% of all income for the less fortunate. The percentage will be raised by 1% a year until we reach 10% for this purpose. Money is, of course, only one tine of the fork the handle being an awareness of heart and a clarity of vision. But maybe one tine will grow into two, three and then four tines.

Many of you have been able to grace Nakajima cho with your presence during the year. It is always wonderful to see you come and even though I must admit that the departure of Oblates is often not an undiluted sorrow I want you all to know that you are always welcome here. Come tell us what you are doing, what success, what failure, what plans, what hopes, what dreams. Cheer us up and give us new ideas. Tell us what books you've read, what studies you've made, what countries you've seen. Brighten up our days.

A thoughtful and peaceful Advent and Christmas season, a new

year 1993 filled to the brim with work and joy and holiness is my prayer for all of you.

Ed Williams
OMI

Birthdays

Ordinations

January

2 Ed WILLIAMS
22 Ray BOURGOIN
29 Dick HARR

February

15 Len INUI
21 Vincenzo BORDO

March

1 Jerry NOVOTNY
23 Bill MAHER

April

1 Satoshi KAWAGUCHI
17 Gerard STEVENS
17 Jack DEELY
22 Wency LAGUIDAO

February

22 Xave Yoshikazu TOSA

March

19 Ray BOURGOIN
27 Ron LAFRAMBOISE
27 Wency LAGUIDAO

April

4 Jerry NOVOTNY (25)
11 Jack DEELY
25 Vincenzo Bordo
26 Bill MAHER
29 Francis J HAHN

NEW FAX NUMBERS

Bert Silver	FAX	0886-84-1530
Ange Siani	FAX	052-807-1209
Mike Yamasaki	FAX	0727-72-2488

Ron LaFramboise OMI

Bishop Fukahori Director of Ongoing Formation has asked Ron to be a member of the Steering Committee of the Nagoya Study Center.

Ron has also taken on the responsibility of the Zendana parish in Nagoya.

Nobuhiko Yagi OMI

The provincial and his council have asked Bro Yagi to begin Bursar training.

The Grey Nuns of Ottawa

The Grey nuns of Ottawa will begin their apostolate at Nakajima cho after March 20.

Yoshikazu Xavier Tosa OMI

The girls of the Girls' Junior College Dramatic club have taken first prize in the all Shikoku competition. Their coach and director beamed with pride as he informed us that all the judges gave a score of 200. The highest possible score!