



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

February 1988

Dear fellow Oblates,

I was happy to be able to attend the January day of gathering in the Fukuoka District. Unfortunately Mike was not feeling well so he was not able to be with us. The fourth Monday of the month happened to be January 25-the Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation.

Wency, Len and I were able to have a good day of sharing. We had planned to discuss some of the matter in the "Green Book" but before getting into it we started talking about the Fukuoka District. We covered many topics: community life, the parish apostolate, the apostolate for immigrant workers, and the kindergarten apostolate. Time passed quickly. It was soon midday and time for Mass. We said the Mass of the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul which I thought most appropriate.

The Oblate Prayer Book says that conversion and community are good themes for this day. In a short talk at Mass I suggested that our coming Congress is in one sense a time of conversion for us here in Japan. At the Congress we will be looking at ourselves and our ministries and seeing what we are doing well and what we can be doing better. We will be looking at ourselves and our ministries to see what we should be doing and what we should not be doing as Oblate Missionaries in Japan. This looking at ourselves and our ministries and then deciding to act is a way of conversion. I also mentioned the community day we were having and tried to emphasize how important that we make every effort to have this day

together each month.

As it was an Oblate Feast we went out for lunch to the Italian Restaurant rather than the Royal Host. The lunch of the day was inexpensive and proved to be both plentiful and delicious. We also enjoyed sharing a bottle of Italian wine during our long and leisurely lunch. Later in the afternoon we closed the day by gathering in the chapel for the recitation of the Rosary.

In the course of our conversation one question that was put to me was the following. "What else should we be doing to prepare for the Congress?" I think that it will be most helpful to read and think about our MIssion/Vision Statement and also our Criteria. (If you have lost or misplaced these documents please notify me and I will send copies to you. You will need to have them with you at the Congress.)

One other suggestion I would like to make is that we ask the people in our parishes and those involved in our ministries to pray for the Congress. (If this has not been done already.) I think it is good for the people to be aware of our efforts at trying to do the best work we can as missionaries in Japan. And also to remind them that we are in need of their prayers. Surely we need their prayers in special way at this time.

I have enclosed a copy of the prayer that we will be using during the Prayer of the Faithful here at Nakajima-cho. You may want to use this or you may not. That is entirely up to you. Finally a repeated suggestion that each one of us pray each day for the success of our Discernment Congress.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

- VOW DAY

Bro. Masashi Hashimoto and Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi will make their First Profession as Oblate Brothers at Nakajimacho Parish on March 20th. The Vow Mass will be celebrated at 3:00 P.M.

The Brothers will have a short vacation at home, before beginning their studies in Nagoya.

- ONGOING FORMATION

Fr. Ronald La Framboise will attend a meeting for formators to be held in Rome from April 18 - May 6. The theme is "Spiritual Accompaniment in Oblate Formation".

Fr. Angelo Siani has been accepted at The Institute of Religious Formation, St. Louis University for the 88-89 term. The program combines specialized classwork, workshops, spiritual direction, and a 30-day directed retreat.

- ASSIGNMENTS

Fr. Angelo Siani is assigned to Nagoya while Ron is in Rome and on homeleave.

Ange will also be covering weekends for Bill Maher, who has returned to the States upon the death of his father.

- Prayers

You are kindly asked to remember Mr. Thomas Maher in your prayers. Mr. Maher, the father of Thomas and William Maher, died peacefully on February 11. Tom and Bill have returned to the States for the Funeral.

- Mass Cards

The Mass Card designed by Fr. Dan Ward has been reprinted. The cards may be obtained from : Miss Peg Silver
781 Andover St.
Lowell, MA 01852
U.S.A.

After 6 P.M. Tel: 617-459-6553

+

Kobe

KOBE MARINERS' CENTRE is the official name of the institute in Kobe that houses the Anglican MISSIONS TO SEAMEN (popularly known as The Flying Angel) and the Catholic APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA (popularly called Stella Maris). At the end of October 1987 we moved from the existing premises at ITOMACHI, 111-112 to a newly built center at MOTOMACHI-DORI.

I had given the house number as 3-185-1, and had calling cards printed with that address. Just on the day they were ready we received notice from City Hall that our new address was to be MOTOMACHI_DORI, 3-chome, 1-16, CHUO-KU, 650 KOBE. Our Post Office Box Number has not changed, nor our telephone number 078-331-1696.

For letters then it is best to write:

Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.
 KOBE MARINERS' CENTRE
 PORT P.O. BOX 709
 651-01 KOBE

For packages sent by any means but the Post Office please use the house address.

In this latter context I would like to ask everyone who has paperbacks or magazines (of any kind) in English that he wants to get rid of to send them to me. The seamen are very happy with them, even with old ones. I like to use this occasion to say Thank You to the Fathers who have already sent me such books and magazines.

Besides our Center there is one other Christian center for seafarers in Kobe, The Norwegian Seamen's Church. At this moment their premises have been torn down to make room for a ten story hotel in which the two bottom floors are going to be occupied by the Norwegian Seamen's Church. For the time being they rent some space nearby. We are on friendly terms with them and we cooperate wherever it is practical. We get together frequently.

Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI

TOKYO

The big news of 1987-88 for me personally:

Last week I submitted my application for the proposed college at Tsukuba. The original offer made by Dr. Obata was to continue at Sophia and teach at Tsukuba part-time. However, in a more recent proposal, he asked if I'd be interested in making the "jump"... to leave Sophia completely and join the faculty as a professor at Tsukuba.

Dr. Obata doesn't think I'll have any trouble passing either of the review boards, Tsukuba's or the Ministry of Education's. We shall see. It's a national university and Japan has only recently opened professorships to foreigners (in Departments, other than Language Departments).

In prep for the new post, I hope to take advantage of summer vacations to go Stateside to research trends in deaf ed, counseling, etc. Am counting heavily on the advice of contacts that I've made at Congresses on the Deaf Ed and Psychology as well as in previous courses at Gallaudet University for the Deaf in Washington, D.C.

Hope to know by early March if I've passed the Tsukuba re-

Feb. 4, 1988

KOBE MARINERS' CENTRE is the official name of the institute in Kobe that houses the Anglican MISSIONS TO SEAMEN (popularly known as The Flying Angel) and the Catholic APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA (popularly called Stella Maris). At the end of October 1987 we moved from the existing premises at ITOMACHI, 111-112 to a newly built center at MOTOMACHI-DORI. I had given the housenumber as 3-185-1, and had calling cards printed with that address. Just on the day they were ready we received notice from City Hall that our new address was to be MOTOMACHI-DORI, 3-chome, 1-16, CHUO-KU, 650 KOBE. Our Post Office Box number has not changed, nor our telephone number 078-331-1696.

For letters then it is best to write:

Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.
KOBE MARINERS' CENTRE
PORT P.O.BOX 709
651-01 KOBE

For packages sent by any means but the Post Office please use the house address.

In this latter context I would like to ask everyone who has paperbacks or magazines (of any kind) in English that he wants to get rid of to send them to me. The seamen are very happy with them, even with old ones. I like to use this occasion to say Thank You to the Fathers who have already sent me such books and magazines.

Besides our Center there is one other Christian center for seafarers in Kobe, the Norwegian Seamen's Church. At this moment their premises have been torn down to make room for a ten story hotel in which the two bottom floors are going to be occupied by the Norwegian Seamen's Church. For the time being they rent some space nearby. We are on friendly terms with them and we cooperate wherever it is practical. We get together frequently.

view-board. And, by late June, I should get the results of the Ministry's review-board. It would mean moving into a 公務員宿舍, for the 3 days a week that I'll be there. See you in March at the Congress.

Many thanks for your prayers for my sister, Pat. She seems to be doing okay. The treatments have apparently arrested the spread of the cancer. Again, thanks.

Jack Deely

+

BIRTHDAYS

February

15 Len Inui

MARCH

1 Jerry Novotny
23 Bill Maher

APRIL

1 Bro. Kawaguchi
17 Gerard Stevens
17 Jack Deely
22 Wency Laguidao

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH

March 12 -Fr. Len Robitaille, OMI
April 12 Fr. Robert Gill, OMI

ORDINATIONS

February

22 Xave Yoshikazu Tosa

MARCH

19 Ray Bourgoin
27 Ron Laframboise
27 Wency Laguidao

APRIL

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

+

THOUGHTS FOR LENT

Sometimes we need to reflect on the crosses we carry in our world. They are not always as obvious as the wooden cross Jesus carried to Calvary.

The cross of discipleship -

inward struggle with the world, the flesh and the devil
wrestling with laziness and inertia...
so easy to take the less difficult path
so comfortable to join the crowd, to do what everyone else is doing

The cross of fidelity -
 to inner vocation
 to hidden grace
 to unused talent
 to making decisions
 to saying yes or no

The cross of growth -
 of the pilgrim journey
 of the uphill climb with temperament and
 personality
 of conversion after relapse

The cross of ministry -
 taking the initiative of leadership
 giving of one's self to others

The cross of caring -
 involvement
 listening
 generosity

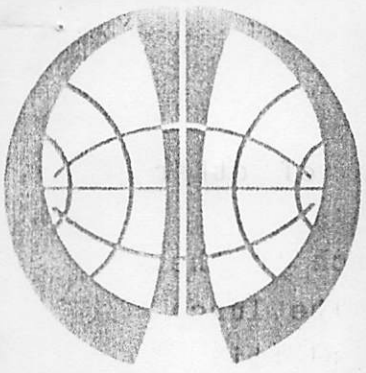
The cross of responsibility for others -
 those who turn to us
 those we would like to turn away from

The cross of our times -
 racism
 war
 poverty
 fear
 violence
 nuclear threat

Under the sign of this cross I pray:

"Gathering the Fragments"
 The cross - mine, yours, ours

+



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

June 1988

My Brother Oblates,

A District Meeting was held in Fukuoka on April 26. The Sunday before that was World Vocation Day so I suggested that Oblate vocations be the theme for our discussion. As a guideline to our discussion we used AN IMPORTANT MISSION: VOCATIONS taken from the Oblate Animation Manual. After answering the questions and sharing our ideas we formulated some concrete suggestions. We all felt that it was a very positive and practical experience.

For that reason I decided to recommend that the same topic be used for discussion in the Tokushima and Kochi Districts at their May meetings. I was able to attend both of these District Meetings. As in Fukuoka the topic was one of interest to all. We had a good sharing of ideas and again each group ended the session by making some concrete suggestions.

The following are the suggestions from the three Districts:

FUKUOKA

Prayer:

Compose a prayer for Vocations.
Distribute this prayer to Catholics.
Ask Oblates to pray for vocations.

Workshops:

Participate in Diocesan as well as Oblate Vocation Workshops.

Other:

Inform Oblates as to what is being done.

Learn from the experiences in vocation recruitment of other Congregations in Japan.

Tokushima

Prayer:

Community prayers for vocations.

A devotion day (with Mass) for vocations.

A prayer to be composed, prayed and distributed.

Workshops:

Cooperate in Oblate Vocation workshops and also in diocesan vocation workshops.

Every District should revive the Altar Boy camp.

Oblate PR:

Have an exhibition of Oblates in the World.

A world map indicating Oblate presence is impressive.

Slides on the life of the Founder.

Slides on Oblate works.

Pamphlet or booklet on O.M.I.

Others:

Visiting home may foster vocations.

In our houses youngsters should be made to feel our esteem for Japan.

Letters to parishes (O.M.I. and non-O.M.I.) to be continued and follow up to be secured.

All should make an effort to voice their opinions on vocations.

KOCHI

Prayer:

Prayers for vocation encouraged within the Oblate Community.

Christian communities should be encouraged to pray for vocations.

Mass for vocations.

Workshops:

Encourage and participate in O.M.I. Vocation Workshop.

Attend Diocesan workshops and camps.

PR:

Talk up our work in Japan

Print and easy to read vocational pamphlet

Life of Founder in Japanese as well as translation of other O.M.I. material.

Other:

Offer a challenge to the youth of today.

Visit Nagoya to encourage the young Oblates.

One of the recommendations is to inform the Oblates as to what is being done.

At the present time Ron is in charge of vocation recruitment and the Brothers are on the Recruitment Team.

There have been three Oblate Vocation Workshops - Kochi, Koga and Naruto. In the first two workshops young men from our Oblate parishes were invited to attend. Last year it was decided to invite young men from other parishes.

A letter of invitation was sent to parishes within reasonable traveling distance of Naruto. A few young men from non-Oblate parishes showed interest but due to their schedules were not able to attend. During the year the Brothers keep in touch with these young men and all those who have attended our vocation workshops. Again, this year letters will be sent to non-Oblate parishes. An announcement of the Oblate Vocation Workshop which will be held in Kochi July 28-31 will be in the Catholic Newspaper as well in the Diocesan Newspapers of Osaka, Fukuoka, Kyoto and Nagoya. Unfortunately due to the move into the new Bishops Residence in Takamatsu the Takamatsu newspaper will not be printed. One hundred and fifty posters are being printed these will be sent to Catholic Middle Schools, Highschools and Universities.

This year Brother Yagi is in charge of the Vocation Workshop. He and the Brothers are working very hard to

prepare an interesting program. I am sure they will be depending on your prayers and will be delighted if you can come to the Kochi during the Camp. Brother Yagi tells me the program for the vocation work camp has been finalized and will be sent to you directly in a few days.

As you can see a lot is being done for vocation recruitment. The other suggestions made by the Districts are most worthwhile and should be actualized as soon as possible. One suggestion was that the Life of the Founder be made available in Japanese. At the present time Ron is working on a translation and we hope to have it ready this year as an appropriate way to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of our Oblate Mission in Japan.

There are slides available on the Life of the Founder and on many of the Oblate Missions throughout the world. The English commentaries are also available. Sorry that we do not have them in Japanese. You can obtain these by contacting me.

There is one suggestion that we can all put into effect immediately and that is to pray for vocations. I know that all are doing that but we can always do more. It would also be good to have some special prayers for vocations at our monthly District meetings. Finally while speaking about prayers for vocations we must not forget to pray for our Brothers. These young men are in the process of growth in community living and religious formation. At the same time they must prepare themselves intellectually for their future Apostolic Ministries. They most certainly are in need of our prayers. We should also remember to pray for the men directly involved in the work of Formation.

One other suggestion that I would like to recommend is that you visit the house in Nagoya. This can be a great source of encouragement and inspiration to the Nagoya community as well as a way to build a spirit of Oblate Apostolic Community for all of us.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

NEWS * NEWS * NEWS * NEWS

FR. JEAN DROUART, OMI

We extend a warm welcome to Fr. Jean Drouart, OMI. Father will arrive in Japan on August 1. Fr. Provincial has invited Fr. Drouart to assist us in our Formation Program.

NAGOYA

The Brothers will end their busy school term on July 16, after two weeks of exams. July 19-20, we are planning to go mountain climbing for the relaxation, and to prepare for the busy camp schedule.

Summer camps will begin on July 21. Bros. Kawaguchi and Yagi will be assisting the Narumi Catholic Church with their Sunday School Camp, July 21-23.

July 23-25, Bros. Hayashi and Hashimoto will help with the Tokushima Camp. Bros. Kawaguchi and Yagi will only be able to attend the last day of the camp.

July 28-31, all four Brothers will be in Kochi for the OMI Vocation Camp.

August 8-10, two of the Brothers will be going to Itami to assist in their Sunday School Camp.

After the camps and our days with Fr. Drouart, the Brothers will have a week to spend with their families before beginning the second term of the school year.

MAMI

Thanks to the work of Fr. Ron La Framboise and the assistance of the Brothers, MAMI has been reborn in Japan. Over 700 invitations including a short history of the OMI, the Founder, and the meaning of MAMI have been mailed to the people in our parishes and other friends of the Oblates. To date, 100 people sent in replies and not only did they want to become members but also requested more information about the Oblates, the men and their works. We must be thankful to these Associates not merely for their financial support and prayers but especially for their apostolic activity on the frontlines "in which they build up the Church, sanctify the world and give it life in Christ."

TOKYO

This coming September, Fr. Joseph Gerard, OMI will be beatified by Pope John II, in South Africa. It is a sure sign to all of us that the Oblate way of life can and does lead to sanctity. Thanks to the hard work of Ray Bourgoin, Fr. Gerard's life and work of evangelization will be available to you in Japanese. Ray is translating from the Italian, a book entitled "Vincenzo Severo P. Gerard" written at the OMI Scholasticate in Frascati.

John Deely, OMI

Many thanks for your letters, cards, notes and promises of prayers for my sister Pat. Along with the support of friends and relatives, it all helped to ease the pain and the sadness. The Deelys and the Grouges want me to extend their gratitude to all the OMI's in Japan for your prayers and words of comfort. Pat kept her illness a secret for the past 10 years. And, she swore her husband, Al, to secrecy to save the rest of the family the anguish. Pat was the oldest of our gang. While Mom was busy with the smaller ones, Pat would keep the rest of us in line. As I said at the burial; we were always very proud of our big sister as we watched her grow to be the lovely lady that she was. Thanks again.

The Provincial and Council have given me permission to take advantage of the next couple of summers to do whatever study/research that will be required to better equip me for my post at Tsukuba. As far as teaching at Tsukuba, I think I have the proper qualifications; but to be the pipeline that they want me to be at the Research Center on Deafness at Tsukuba, I'll have to stay in top of things ... at Gallaudet University, at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester, and at the National Center On Deafness (NCOD) at California State University of Northridge (CSUN).

Present plans for

2 weeks of study at Gallaudet in Deaf Psychology under Drs. Bill Mc Crone and Jerome Schein.

1 week at NTID to study under Dr. Castle (Technology and Deafness)

1 week at NYU (International Sign Language Institute) Shimkin Hall.

1 week at CSUN at the National Center on Deafness.

Visits to the offices of the (Deaf Missions) (Des Moines, Iowa) and the International Office of the Deaf (D.C.)

Will report on the outcome of the trip in the August or September Newsletter.

Another news item: I've been asked to give a talk to the Bishops, Clergy and Laity on (The Status of the Deaf Catholic) at the Cathedral on June 19th.

See you in September at the Retreat!

Annual Retreat

The annual retreat will be held in Kochi from Sept. 26-30. Fr. Sawada Kazuo of the Tokyo Diocese will be the Retreat Master. Father works among the poor in Sanya.

HOMELAVE

Tosa Yoshikazu, OMI July 11 to the end of August
 Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI August 5 to November 5

STUDY

John Deely;
 Gallaudet, NTID, NYU, and CSUN

Jerry Novotny:

Right to Life Convention in Washington D.C.
 South Wales University in Sidney, Australia

Ange Siani:

St. Louis University, IRF

RIP

Pat Grouge, the sister of John Deely passed away on May 19.
 Please keep her in your prayers.

Illness

Fr. John Mahoney's brother Peter Mahoney is seriously ill,
 Please keep him in your prayers.

Birthdays

June 2 - Bro. Hayashi Hiroshi

Ordinations

June 2 Dick Harr
 7 Ed Williams
 14 John Iwo
 14 Len Inui
 24 Mike Yamazaki

July 1 Jan Van Hoydonck
 5 Leo Simons

August 4 Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi
 23 Ange Siani
 31 Bert Silver

PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT

JERRY NOVOTNY, OMI

There is a saying that I read recently, "Persevere--things will get worse before they collapse." Whoever wrote that must have spent some time studying the abortion problem and the state of the Pro-Life Movement and the Church in Japan. Speaking with a diocesan priest several weeks ago, I discovered that the bishops had pleaded with the Pope, several years ago, not to mention the abortion problem on his visit to Japan. And surprisingly he didn't.

For over 15 years now Japan has been involved in a tremendous war which has killed more human beings than all the wars put together since the day I was born. This is the war against the unborn. Literally, millions of preborn human beings have been slaughtered during this period of time. The unborn child is helpless in its mother's womb and the most dangerous place to be today is in that womb. The law gives the women a legal right to do what she wants with her unborn child. The child is defenseless.

In order to defend these children, the Pro-Life Movement was established in Kochi last year. John called last night and asked me to write a brief report to you concerning the project. Here's a short rundown.

This month marks exactly a half year since the first PRO-LIFE NEWS was published. In two weeks, the sixth issue will be sent to some 3000 Catholic Churches, Educational Institutions, and one copy to each bishop. At 70yen per envelop, the postage alone places a heavy drainage on our financial resources. The Newsletter costs about 11 yen per copy to publish. At present there are about 180 subscribers. Hopefully, with better PR and your support, this number will enter the thousands bracket within the coming year. The NEWSLETTER would then become self-supportive and our limited budget could be used in other areas.

Through the newsletter we are advertising, as one set, an actual size model of a 12-week preborn baby and an explanation card, This is ideal to use when giving talks on any phase of human life to any age group. Last year I talked about abortion in one of my classes at the University. After showing the movie "Silent Scraam", I held up this plastic doll and started to read the information on the card. I never finished because the entire class was crying. All 26 students, including myself. The message was communicated and well received. Since then, four of those students have written articles for the newsletter. The inexpensive models are sold for the same price it costs us. This price should not create any financial burden on parishes, kindergartens, or organizations in Japan.

This holds true also for the pamphlets that are offered in the newsletter. 25 different pamphlets will be available by the end of this year. Are there any suggestions on how to attract people or groups to buy and distribute these pamphlets to young people in society?

The video movie "Silent Scream" is going very well. So far, orders from nursing schools, universities, and churches average about one tape every two days.

Other expenses include translators, office supplies, ordering books and materials, as well as having an inventory on hand for orders coming in. There are about 20 senior citizens who are the backbone of this project. Our office is in the home of a retired couple who are in their early seventies but talented and extremely active. Most envelopes are addressed at the home of senior citizens. One elderly lady went out and found 25 subscribers to the newsletter. If all Christians throughout Japan would do this, the abortion issue would soon become a major crisis on a political level.

This summer, as part of on-going formation, I have the opportunity to attend the National Right to Life Convention in Washington D.C. The theme "PROGRESS THRU PERSEVERANCE" covers areas in anencephalic infants and fetal transplants; post-abortion syndrome; pro-life education for children; adoptions, infanticide; etc. The I head for South Wales University in Sydney, Australia and attend a training course in the Billings Ovulation Method and in Christian Sexuality Training in High Schools.

APARTHEID AND JAPAN

TOSA YOSHIKAZU, OMI

The Japanese Cabinet is composed of only members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LPD). The LPD also has a vast majority in both chambers of the Parliament.

It can be said that Japan (LPD) has been active in the UN in opposing apartheid, but it has been rather lukewarm in taking actions in its bilateral relations with South Africa.

There is in existence a Japan-South Africa Parliamentarian' Friendship Union. About 45 members from both the ruling and the opposition parties belong to this Union.

On February 3, 1988, the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus in a letter to the Prime Minister, N. Takeshita of Japan, accused Japan of taking advantage of the international anti-apartheid campaign, to become the largest trading partner with South Africa.

Japan's two-way trade with South Africa in 1986, increased 25 percent to \$3.60 billion, and in 1987 it increased 19 percent to \$4.27 billion, to become the No. 1 trading partner for the second year in a row.

More than ten years ago Japan banned all direct investments in South Africa. It also prohibits imports from South Africa - iron and steel; limits cultural, sports and tourism exchanges and bans exports of computers which might be used to enforce the apartheid system.

Because of the ban on direct investment, most Japanese companies sell products through South African owned distributors.

The Asahi Evening Newspaper of March 30, 1988, admitted that 5 percent of Japan's iron came from S.A. (5.5 million tons for last year). Coal imports from S.A. in fiscal 1987-1988 are expected to exceed 4 million tons (7 percent of the total Japanese demand.)

JAPANESE OFFICIAL REACTION

1. Japan's first reaction was to call untrue the Causus' charge that Japanese firms had increased trade ties as a result of their U.S. counterpart's withdrawal from South Africa.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita was the first one to promise that Japan would continue to join with the rest of the international community in opposing South Africa's policy of apartheid. He called for "Resolute action".

The increase was due largely to the appreciation of the yen. Calculated in yen, Japan's total trade with South Africa rose by 2.1 percent to 619 billion.

"Japanese trade with South Africa is not increasing sharply and Japan is not taking over the role of U.S. companies, so Japan is not doing anything wrong", a Foreign Ministry official said. "But because being No. 1 hurts Japan's image, we might need to take some action".

Pretoria stopped announcing trade statistics with specific trading partners in 1986, out of concern for international reactions.

2. Without consulting with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), the Foreign Ministry took the initiative in urging Japanese business leaders to implement "voluntary restrictions" on their trade with South Africa.
3. MITI on the other hand stated that it is difficult to spell out quantitative guidelines for regulating trade with South Africa and that such guidelines are not necessary. However, the Ministry urged industries to restrain trade.
4. Finally, March 11, 1988, the government officially decided against laying down quantitative guidelines for reducing Japan's trade with South Africa.

Instead, the government will wait until summer and see whether Japan's trade with South Africa will decrease as a result of voluntary restraints.

5. Japan officially denounced South Africa for banning all political activities by 17 organizations which oppose its policy of apartheid. (Feb.25, 1988)

REACTIONS OF JAPANESE FIRMS

1/ Car Industry

Motor vehicles account for 40 percent of total exports. Last year, sales of Japanese cars totaled about 310,000 units, up 16 percent from a year earlier. In 1987, Toyota was the top in sales in the South African auto market, representing an estimated 50 percent of the South African market.

Nissan and Toyota are considering restricting exports of knockdown vehicle kits. Toyota now holds the largest share:

28 percent and Nissan 13 percent. Nissan said it is creating jobs for blacks and thus helping to raise their living standards. Of the 4000 local employees 2600 are blacks.

2/ Electric and electronic markets

Major Japanese trading houses blame the criticism on auto majors' soaring exports to that country. They are reluctant to pull out of South Africa.

NEC Corp. and Pioneer Elect. Corp. have totally suspended their exports to S.A. as a step following "Self-restraint instructions" from the government and from fears that a continuation of trade with S.A. could effect shipments to the U.S.

Fujitsu Ltd. has stopped shipping printers for personal computers.

Hitachi Ltd. asked a West German computer maker not to export systems using Hitachi components

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE?

1. A plan proposed by 21 major Japanese trading houses and manufactures calls for about 100 Japanese firms doing business with S.A. to donate \$200 to set up a "Japan Fund" to help improve the lives of those oppressed by apartheid.

however, the Japan Fund Program is seen as a way to appease international criticism. "The Japanese companies are giving funds that ought to be coming from the South African government, allowing the government to use the savings to fund the military". (Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the National Union of Mine Workers).

2. The Foreign Ministry intends to increase economic assistance to the black countries surrounding South Africa who are working towards economic independence. The chief beneficiaries of this policy will be the nine members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

3. Anti-apartheid advertisement was put in two South African Newspapers by the Japan anti-apartheid Committee. Titles, "Press Freedom Protects Human Freedom, Free the South African Press." The full-page ad appeared in the New Nation, on Dec. 10, 1987, and a one-sixth page ad was carried 3 days later in the Sunday Star.

This advertisement carried the names of 65 individual and 17 organizations, but the only diet member was Satsuki Eda, leader of USD (United Socialist Democratic Party).

4. On April 10, 1988, the Japan Anti-apartheid Committee placed a full-page advertisement in the Sunday Star. This advertisement was signed by 133 Japanese Members of parliament, trade unions, churches and human rights groups. The appeal urged justice for the "Sharpsville Six, the release of political prisoners, the lifting of restrictions imposed in February on anti-apartheid organizations and more freedom for trade unions. The as also objected to the title "honorary whites" saying this was a dishonorable title. Of the 133 signatures in this advertisement, 99 came from the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) and United Socialist Democratic Party (USD)

THE JAPAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Nothing official from the Bishops Conference, as far as I know)

1. The Catholic Weekly Newspaper on March 13, 1988 carried an article on apartheid based on a conference given in Tokyo February 25, by the Redemptorist Fr. R. Koffman.

2. The same Newspaper on March 26, had a second article on apartheid carrying the question "What must Japan do?" The answer was that discrimination is a problem of our heart...

3. On May 1 of this year, the Japan Anti-apartheid Committee organized a meeting in Tokyo where Allan Boesak spoke. The Japan Catholic Justice and Peace Committee is a member of this organizing committee.



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

September 1988

My fellow Oblates,

Despite the warm weather I think we can say that summer is over. It has been an eventful time for us here in Japan. The Brothers with the cooperation of many of you conducted a very successful vocation camp in Kochi. In August Fr. Drouart was with us. I am sure all will agree it was a time of growth in knowledge of the Founder and the spirit of the Congregation. Ron, Mike and Fran did great work as the translators. We owe them a vote of thanks. Then on September 4th the parish of Hikarigaoka was turned over to the Diocese of Fukuoka. It was the devoted efforts of the Oblate Missionaries who worked to develop Hikarigaoka into a fine parish that made this possible. At the Mass the Bishop and the parishioners expressed their appreciation to the work of the Oblates.

Today is the 33 anniversary of my arrival in Japan. I am sure September is the time when most are recalling those first days in Japan. Our first taste of raw fish, our troubles with the language, our first experience of trying out our newly acquired language ability. The many humorous, frustrating, anxious, carefree days of those first years in Tokyo as we prepared ourselves for the Missions.

Today is also the Feast of St Matthew. The gospel is of course the account of his vocation. "And he said "Follow me" and he got up and followed him." The

comforting thing is that Matthew was a tax collector, an outcast of the Jewish community and a sinner. I think you will agree we can all relate ourselves to Matthew in our weakness and rejoice with him (he threw a party) in our call from Christ

With the help of our Immaculate Mother may you continue to follow Christ each day and rejoice always in the call to be His Missionary in Japan. Happy Anniversary!

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.
Provincial

FR. DROUART IN JAPAN

This summer the Province was blessed with the visit of Fr. Jean Drouart. During his month long stay he gave conferences at the district meetings in Tokushima and Kochi, plus three days for the men in charge of formation as well as six days of conferences for the Scholastics and Brothers.

The three days he spent with Ange and I were more of an informal exchange than conferences. After briefing him on our formation program, we probed areas of concern, areas to develop in the future. Fr. Drouart drew from his rich knowledge of the Founder and his many years experience in formation ministry as well as his long term of service to the congregation as Assistant General and resource person on the history and charism of the Congregation. He helped us to get in touch again with what an Oblate was in the mind of Eugene De Mazenod, and how that can be explicitated today. To use an old expression, he drew out the "perennial values" that are central to the Oblate spirit, values that are beyond time and place.

The two three day sessions for the Scholastics and

Brothers were also very rewarding and reassuring. I found them rewarding because in tracing the evolution of the Founder's personal vocation he helped us to see in a broader context the development of the Oblate vocation - the spirit or charism of the Oblate. He insisted that the spirit or charism is beyond definition, since it is a spiritual thing, and he has long given up trying to define it. For me it was a rewarding experience to have presented so clearly the link between the Founder's vocation and that of the Congregation, a most natural phenomenon to be sure, but I had never been so much aware of it.

I was also reassured that what we have been trying to communicate to our young men about Oblate history and spirit was on target. What we have been stressing as essentials, he also confirmed as essential.

More than the conferences however, I was impressed by the man himself. His joy and ever present smile. His vitality. His openness to try everything and anything. He celebrated his 77 birthday while with us. His ability to give four hours of conferences a day and still spend many hours keeping up a huge correspondence are a witness to his vitality. His eagerness to try everything was equally impressive. He polished off a box lunch (o-bento) with relish and savoured a "tataki teishoku" as if it were beef steak. These attest to an inner vitality that is fed from a special source. That source would seem to be the unostentatious depth of his spiritual life. The values he propounds in his conferences he attempts to live very sincerely and simply.

One of the Brothers said, "he has the face of a saint".
He is probably right.

Ron La Framboise

HIKARIGAOKA, AN OBLATE FIRST

On September 4th, the Oblate parish of Hikarigaoka,

Fukuoka was proudly entrusted to the local Bishop. The parish of 900 parishioners took the occasion to offer their gratitude to the Oblate Fathers, and to bid them a warm, and even tearful farewell. The church was crowded beyond capacity, over 350 managed to squeeze in. Because of this and the evident fervor of the people the Mass, as many exclaimed, was particularly fervent. Many who had been baptized in the parish as well as many who had been married in Hikarigaoka came back to be present on this occasion. Many other former parishioners came from a distance to be on hand for the Mass and party which followed. It was a touching event for all. Despite a rather heavy rain, everyone managed to get under tents and the eaves of the Church to continue the family gathering after Mass.

This parish has been in the custody of the Oblates from its very inception. During thirty five years the community grew from a mere fifty to the present rather substantial number of 940. During that time there were almost 700 baptisms. Hikarigaoka is now recognized as a mature, self-supporting parish.

In 1948, when the Oblates first came to Japan, it was to fill a need due to the lack of priests. Since that time a number of diocesan priests have been ordained. The parish itself has grown into one of the largest and most vital parishes in the Diocese of Fukuoka. This physical and spiritual growth is due to the excellent spirit of cooperation of the Christian community of Hikarigaoka. Therefore it was with a heart filled with gratitude to the parishiners as well as feelings of just pride and also joy that the Oblates turned the parish over to the Diocese and set out for other mission works in Japan.

The name of the Oblates is ingrained in the history of Hikarigaoka parish and it will always remember the 35 years of Oblate presence and endeavor with pride. As for the Oblates, we can say that we did what we came to do, and that is a pretty good feeling. Dick Harr

88' O. M. I. SUMMER CAMP

"We are united into one by the Lord"

There is a song entitled "MARANATHA" in the Japanese hymnal. The first words of this song are, "We are united into one by the Lord, we sit around our Lord's table, we eat the bread of life, we drink the wine of salvation". I experienced the meaning of these words during the summer vocation camp.

July the 28th to the 31st fourteen young men (three young adults, one high school student and ten junior high school students) gathered at the Oblate headquarters. After the welcoming party and orientation we gathered in the chapel, thanking God for the joy of this encounter we offered Mass. Then, until Sunday's Mass on the final day, we learned about the charism and history of the Oblates and the Founder. In spare moments from our studies, we went to the neighboring swimming pool, sightseeing in the city, enjoying a relaxing moment with the campers. Some of the more pleasant events of the camp included showing some slides of life at the house of studies, giving a concert at the barbecue party by our newly organized band, the "MATER BAND". Some of the campers said, "I wish the camp was longer". "I want to participate in the camp next year." I was very happy to hear such reactions.

During the four days that I lived and offered Mass with the campers, I felt a strong bond of unity with Jesus Christ, as if we formed one body in Him. I think they each returned to their homes with the same thoughts.

Our role is sowing the seeds. Making them grow is God's role. This camp was a good chance for sowing seeds.

It was a great time of blessing given us by God. I think we must cooperate with God's work and not neglect to pray for the campers' future.

Finally this camp was supported by everybody's prayer. Thanks to all of you. Thanks be to God.

Bro. Dominic Nobuhiko Yagi, O. M. I.

NEWS ITEMS

Vow Day

On the morning of September 8th Brothers Hayashi and Kawaguchi renewed their vows. It was a joyous occasion for them and for all of us here in Japan. It is a good time to remind ourselves to keep our four Brothers in our prayers and to pray for more vocations.

40th Anniversary Celebration Plans

At this time we plan on having a gathering of the Oblates on the 4th and 5th of December. On the 4th reservations have been made to stay at the Passionist Fathers' Retreat House at Mefu. That evening we will have a Holy Hour and an evening meal followed by entertainment. The next day, the 5th, a concelebrated Mass will take place at the Itami church followed by lunch in the parish hall.

Budget 1989

The Provincial is planning a Council Meeting for the 5th of December. At this meeting a preliminary discussion will be had of the budget for 1989. If you have any financial petitions for the coming year please send them to the Bursar as soon as possible.

Inter-diocesan Meeting on Synod on Laity

Bert Silver attended this meeting. Bishop Shimamoto from Yokohama, who attended the Synod, gave the talks. He also applied them to the Church in Japan. The talks are taped. If anyone wants a copy you can contact Bert.

Home and Study Leave

Wency Laguidao is now in Europe, beside spending some time with his sister he plans to visit centers for migrant workers conducted by Oblates in Europe, He will also have

a week at the Oblate Center in Aix.

Ange Siani is now well into his studies at St Louis University, Institute of Religious Formation. He sends his best to all. He also asks for prayers for his father who has a clot on a vein in his neck

Word from Jan Van Hoydonck is that he is fine and enjoying his time at home. He had a 3 hour wait in his plane before they could take off from Hongkong. After his arrival in Belgium he caught cold, the first in five years. He too, sends his best to all.

John Mahoney will be leaving Japan on October 1st and will return on November 29. He asks for your continued prayers for his brothers. In his absence Mike Yamazaki will be the acting Provincial. Those who have need of the Oblate inkpen should contact Bert Silver.

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter will be the December issue. As in the past we would like to include your Christmas message and/or greeting. Please send it to the Provincial office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

October 7 Ron LaFramboise
10 Jan Van Hoydonck
27 Xave Yoshikazu Tosa

December 24 Mike Yamazaki

Ordinations

October 28 Gerry Stevens

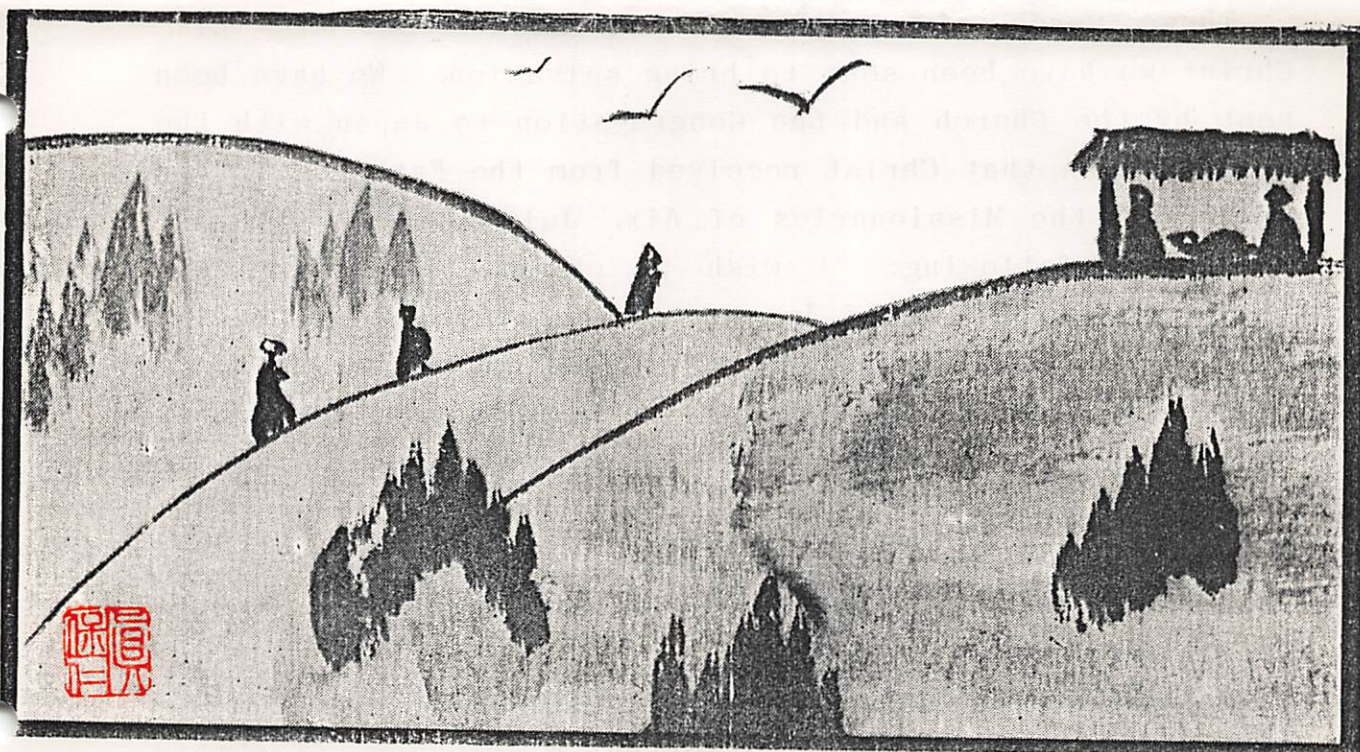


OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

Christmas 1988



Dear Brother Oblates,

Two Oblate events this year; the beatification of Joseph Gerard, Missionary to Lesotho, and our recent celebration of forty years of Oblate Missionary work in Japan may explain the fact that my thoughts this Christmas are Mission oriented. At this time I have come to a deeper awareness that Christmas is a feast that has special meaning for Missionaries. Perhaps especially so for Oblate Missionaries

As we look at the Infant in the crib we are looking at the Savior sent by the Father. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life. God did not send the son into the world to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him." In Luke we read the words of Christ which show his own awareness that he was the one who was sent to save. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and release for prisoners. To announce a year of favor from the Lord."

These words of Christ are our Oblate motto. Like Christ we have been sent to bring salvation. We have been sent by the Church and the Congregation to Japan with the same Mission that Christ received from the Father. In his letter to the Missionaries of Aix, July 1816 the Founder wrote the following: "I wish to change the end of our litanies; instead of of Jesu sacerdos, we must say Christe salvator. That is the aspect under which we ought to contemplate our Divine Master. Our particular vocation is such that we are associated in a special manner with the redemption of men..."

As we kneel before the Infant saviour at Christmas let us ask Him to be our strength and courage as we strive to continue His Mission to Japan.

Perhaps these words from the Preface can be a fine New Year resolution or guideline for our missionary efforts in the 1989. "We must lead men to act like human beings first of all, and then like Christians and, finally, we must lead them to become saints".

God bless you, and the people to whom you have been sent,

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

MORE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ANAN

I enjoyed our 40th anniversary celebrations immensely. Along with the fun of being together, it was a stimulating event of true Oblate spirit. Recalling the first Oblates to come to this mission, their experiences and the persistent zeal they exercised, made me do some fresh thinking. There was also the spirit and evident zeal of Blessed Gerard which compounded the feedback, and made it all so real. I think we're all so lucky to be part of this deeply rooted and history-proven team. And I feel the Lord is blessing us richly. A very deep spiritual Christmas to each of my brothers, and a very happy and successful New Year.

Dick Harr, O.M.I.

JUSTICE AND PEACE COUNCIL IN JAPAN

During the past year, activities for Justice and Peace have increased little by little.

Last February I joined the study week, organized by the Japan Justice and Peace Council in Okinawa. The study was -of course- about "war and peace" plus the present problems in Okinawa. We visited battle fields, entered caves, listened to witnesses and survivors, (Himeyuri gakutotai) walked the red light district in front of the American bases etc... It was a heavy schedule and for me it was a real study.

It was during this study week that I, for the first time, realized what the Imperial System involved. During the evening session, I asked Bishop Souma if the Bishop's Conference could clarify its standpoint on this problem and give guidelines, especially to foreign missionaries. It became a heated discussion about "X-Day" (which was a new word for me). (Ed. note: X-Day i.e. the day of the Emperor's death.) Bishop Souma needed a nights sleep to make up his mind to bring the problem to the Bishop's Conference.

Last September, we had the annual All Japan J. and P. Congress. This year it was held in Osaka. The organization was perfect. The attendance was above the expected number. This year we tried to avoid all signs of triumphalism or to make a "social gathering" out of the Congress. There were so many problems discussed in so many different subcommittees, that it really is difficult to make a summary. However, it was encouraging to see that in the Japanese Church the awareness to get involved in the whole society is gradually growing and becoming visible.

Next year's Congress will be held in Nagoya, although rumors spoke about Shikoku. It was decided to hold the next study week in Mie Prefecture, with the "Imperial System" as the subject of study.

A big change in the Japanese J. and P. Council is the broadening of participation in the working meetings. What used to be a closed priests meeting of tantoo shisai, (ed.note: priests in charge) has become a meeting of all the "people in charge" (tantosha). After the Congress in Osaka, there was such a meeting and the "laymen in charge" outnumbered the "priests in charge".

On the local scene we had some activity, too. In Kochi, Catholics who really want to get involved in the society as a whole are still few. But there are other good people organizing different movements and actions for justice and the preservation of nature. So we join them. The easiest way to participate in actions for justice, peace and ecology is "signature collecting". We have done a lot of this. However some Christians believe that collecting signatures won't stop injustice. I hope that they will pray for justice and peace.

As the Oblate appointed to the Justice and Peace Apostolate I wonder how I can be of help to you in our Oblate parishes, kindergarten and other works. I am most happy to help you in anyway I can in the promotion of Justice and Peace.

May the Prince of Peace give the gift of His peace to each and everyone of us. May He inspire us to be more actively involved in the Justice and Peace Apostolate in 1989.

Tosa Yoshikazu

Christmas greetings from the snow mountains of Yamagata. I'm here on a five day visit with the Filipina brides in the mountains. I don't know how the people survive here when the villages are buried in snow the whole winter. Thank you very much for the interest and support you show in my new work. They are good Christmas gifts. May 1989 be a good year for everyone in the Province.

Below are my address and telephone numbers:



FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY
COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

FR. WENCY LAGUIDAO, OMI

National Chaplain

Office: Osaka Catholic Seminary
2-24-22 Tamatsukuri
Higashi-ku, Osaka 540
Tel: 06-491-4999

Residence: Oblate Fathers
5-3-21 Umenoki
Itami-shi 664
Tel: 0727-83-9634

Merry Christmas. For all that has been in '88, thanks.
For all that shall be in '89, Yes.

Bro. Hashimoto,

O.M.I.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. We've successfully finished the Bazaar and the life size crib has been built on the front lawn of the church. Everybody is in the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations. I'm sitting in the office hearing anyones' confession that comes in and doing odds and ends in between. All in all

it promises to be a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I hope it will be the same for each one of you. You'll be in my prayers in a special way at Christmas.

Bill

After 26 years in the mountains of Tokushima-West, often called the Tibet of Japan, moving to the South-West of Kochi Ken, near the ocean, and with a milder climate, has been quite a challenge. Somehow the time seems to fly by much faster here than in Ikeda and in Ryoonan (Kagawa). And just as before I now have again almost as many Filipina Catholics as Japanese, however the former are not in the records, mostly because of their short term stay. Christmas will be celebrated again in Japanese, English and Tagalog. Maybe we should revert to Latin with a Gregorian High Mass... Anyway you will be remembered in the memento of that day, in the language of the heart.

Gerard Stevens, O.M.I.

Dear Oblates,

How do you like your church. Hope all goes well with you. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I do hope your well and getting on nicely.

Bro. Hayashi

A Merry Christmas to you!

The Word became a man to walk together with humans, so I am glad. And Christmas presents a person with a second chance at life, so I start my life afresh. Christ bore sorrow and joy, so I entertain hope in Him.

Here is a poem I remember that's one of my favorites.
You can't see the rainbow till after the rain
And you can't share the joy till you've weathered the pain.
For life is a blending of laughter and tears that brings
love and meaning to all of our years.

May the Lord send peace which surpasses understanding.

Bro. Leo Kawaguchi Satoshi

My Christmas message to all Oblates in Japan. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. June 14, 1989 is the 25th Anniversary of my Ordination. Please pray for me!

Fr. John Iwo, O.M.I.

A blessed Christmas and a New Year with much happiness and many blessings to all, wherever you are, in your new place or without change continuing where you were. And when you can make it to this place in the mountains you are always welcome, provided you don't all come at the same time (yet) and I am there. You can make sure with a phone call

Your brother in Christ,

Jan

To my fellow Oblates,

Many thanks for your prayers and support this year. My best wishes to each of you at Christmas and a prayer that you be blessed with peace and joy in His service in the new year.

Ron

May the joy and peace the Christ Child brings on earth be with you during this holy season and the new year. May this love be our love in bringing the Good News.

To all a Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Leonard Simons

Christmas again in Japan. May it bring joy to all of us and to all the people with whom we are engaged.

Ed williams, O.M.I.

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr

Wishing you
Serenity
Courage and
Wisdom.
Merry Christmas

Tom Maher, O. M. I.

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

May Mary envelop you with her tenderness, modesty and peace.

Bro. Yagi Nobuhiko

Greetings and best wishes from Koga to all my brothers! Since my arrival September 16th we have had close to 70 new "arrivals" in the parish, but of course the reason is the building boom in the area not the new pastor.

God is busy breaking up my world and rebuilding it and may He be praised.

Have the most Christ-filled New year ever.

Fran Hahn, O. M. I.

I greet you all with the prayer that the Joy of the Lord who is constantly revealing Himself in our world will lead you to a truly "renewed" New Year.

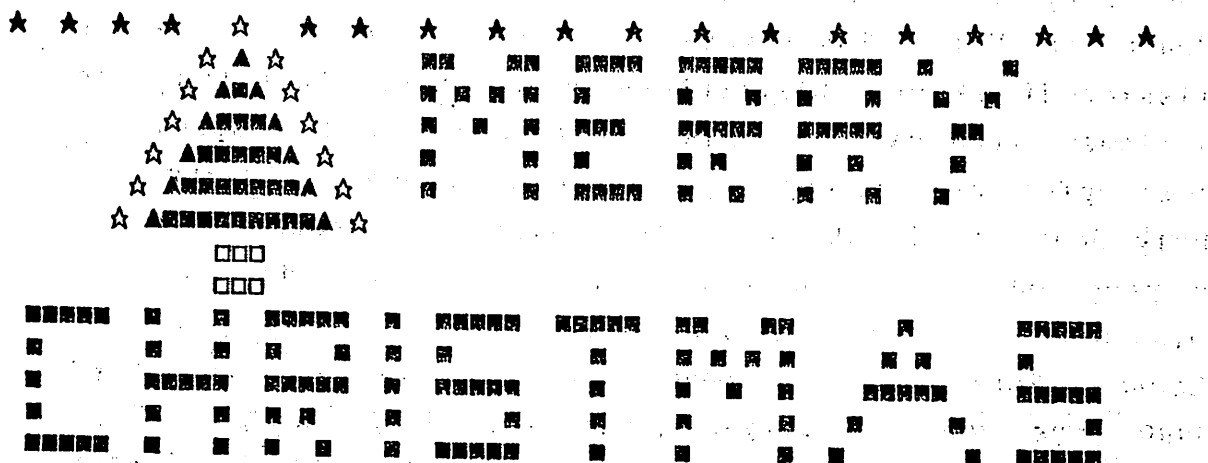
Leonard Inui Morio, O. M. I.

Sure was good to see many of you at the Fortieth. Looking forward to gathering again in March.

Things are starting to gel at Tsukuba. We had our first faculty meeting. Judging from the personnel things look good. More about that later right now I'd like to

wish you all a Holy and Merry Christmas and good health in the New Year. God's blessing on you and your work.

Jack



*That the coming year may bring
us even closer to one another
in the service of His Son,*
Bert, OMI

クリスマスと新年おめでとうございます！
本年もどうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。
オブレート会の仲間にとってすばらしい一年
でありますように祈っています。

私も元気に土佐での二十年目のクリスマス
と正月をむかえます。また、高知で会いまし
よう。

ノボトニー・ジェリー, OMI

神が人と成られた秘義を
より良く理解することが出来ますように

支えをありがとう
励ましをありがとう
立派な仕事をありがとう
存在して下さることにありがとう
来る年も幸多い一年でありますように

Mike Y.

40 YEARS RECALLED AND CELEBRATED

On December 4th, eighteen members of the Oblate Community gathered in the Passionist Father's Retreat House in Mefu, Takurazuka City to honor 40 years of mission in Japan. Six members were unable to attend for various reasons. This gathering, was especially meaningful and strengthening for everyone. During the Holy Hour of silent, intimate prayer, the Brothers showed a prepared selection of slides of the early days of the mission. The diary of one of the first missionaries, Fr. Leonard Robitaille was read, and all heard at first-hand the joys and struggles of those first days. This particularly led all to reflect on our present mission life. Following this a series of slides was shown on the mission field of Blessed Joseph Gerard. Hailed as the exemplar of Oblate Missionaries, Blessed Joseph Gerard lived the true Oblate faith and spirit. It was stimulating to recall and reflect upon this during the 40th Anniversary Holy Hour. The Holy Hour was indeed an inspiring spiritual experience for all.

An entertainment followed which was prepared and given by the Brothers. It was a most memorable evening of Oblate family-togetherness.

The next morning everyone gathered at the Itami Oblate Parish Church for Mass together with many of the parishioners. The Provincial, Father John K. Mahoney delivered the sermon, recalling the first days of the mission, he concluded that our Oblate roots are deep and firm. He went on to say that the stellar example of Blessed Joseph Gerard will always be our ideal for persistent faith and zeal. He also mentioned that our community, over the past few years, has been meeting to discern our missionary thrust for the future. He said that much hope and assurance can be derived from this pursuit.

After Mass there was a buffet lunch for all present. All could leisurely relax with old friends from our oldest

foundation in Japan, the Itami parish.

With one voice, we Oblates feel deeply indebted to all those missionaries who preceded us. We went away from this 40th Anniversary get-together resolved to continue, even more so now, the the Oblate mission spirit so well recalled and celebrated.

Dick Harr, O.M.I.

LIGHTER REFLECTIONS AFTER FORTY YEARS

We are survivors!! Consider the changes we have witnessed:

We were before Television, before Penicilin, before Polio Shots, Frozen Foods, Xerox, Contact Lenses, Frisbees, and the Pill.

We were before Radar, Credit Cards, Splitting Atoms, Laser Beams, and Ballpoint Pens; before Dishwashers, Clothes Dryers, Electric Blankets, Air Conditioners, Drip Dry Clothes and before Man Walked on the Moon.

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagons. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

We thought Fast Food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the BACK of Lowe's State Theater.

We were before House-Husbands, Gay Rights, Computer Dating, Dual Careers and Commuter Marriages. We never heard of F.M. Radio, Tape Decks, Electric Typewriters, Artificial Hearts, Word Processors, Yogurt, and Guys Wearing Ear Rings. For us, Time-Sharing meant Togetherness - NOT Computer or Condominiums; a "Chip" meant a piece of Wood, Hardware meant Hardware and Software was not even a word! Pizzas, "MacDonald's" and Instant coffee were unheard of.

WE hit the scene when there Five and Ten Cent Stores where you bought things for five and ten cents.

Walgreen's and Howard Johnson's sold Ice cream Cones for a NICKEL or a DIME. For one nickel you could ride a Street Car, make a Phone Call, buy a Pepsi, or enough stamps to mail One Letter and Two Postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600.00 but who could afford one; a pity too, because Gasoline was ONLY 11 CENTS a gallon.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink, and POT was something you cooked in and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's Office.,

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

JANUARY

2 Ed Williams
22 Ray Bourgoin
29 Dick Harr

FEBRUARY

15 Len Inui
23 Masashi Hashimoto

MARCH

1 Jerry Novotny
23 Bill Maher

Ordinations

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

22 Xave Tosa Yoshikazu

MARCH

19 Ray Bourgoin
27 Ron LaFramboise
27 Wency Laguidao

DATES TO MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 6-8 MISSION MEETING

Theme: Discussion and Consideration of Criteria #3.

We will embrace a life style which reflects an open and respectful attitude toward the Japanese and their culture.

Animator: Bishop Mori Kazuhiro

SEPTEMBER 11-15 "OBLATE RETREAT"

In his letter of December 8th, Father General explained the Oblate Retreat in these words. "A retreat based on the Oblate charism as lived by the Founder and throughout the Congregation's history up to the present time." He also wrote; "I would very much like to encourage you, dear Father, to take the necessary steps for organizing one or more such retreats in your area".

A list of those who attended the meeting in Rome to prepare themselves for giving this Oblate Retreat was included in Father General's letter. One of those on the list is Father Kevin Casey of the Indonesia: Java Mission. I have contacted him and he has agreed to come to lead this most important retreat. You may remember Kevin. He was here in 1985 at the time of the Asia-Oceania Regional Conference Meeting.

The date is earlier than the 1988 retreat in order that the Brothers will also be able to attend.

Please keep these dates in mind when making your plans for 1989. Thank you.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL APPEAR IN MARCH PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE BY MARCH 15th

Thank you for your prayers for my brothers. They are doing well but are still in need of prayers.

Please pray for all our relatives and benefactors especially those who are suffering or in need. Thank you

JKM

Ray Bourgoin's Christmas message has not arrived. Due no doubt to the slow mail delivery we are experiencing in Kochi at present. I am sure he would want me to extend to all his wishes for a Merry Christmas and many blessing in 1989.

