OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

Provincial Newsletter of the OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Vice Province of Japan

March 1989

My brother Oblates,

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

JOINT SESSION OF GENERAL COUNCIL AND A/O REGIONAL SUPERIORS

Excerpts from Father Zago's Opening and Closing Statements.

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

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

But the challenges coming from the Asian reality are immense:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-which requires more exchange of information;

-and more collaboration in missionary vision, goals and strategies

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

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

Where is the Region Moving?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are looking for a presence in Korea, for its

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

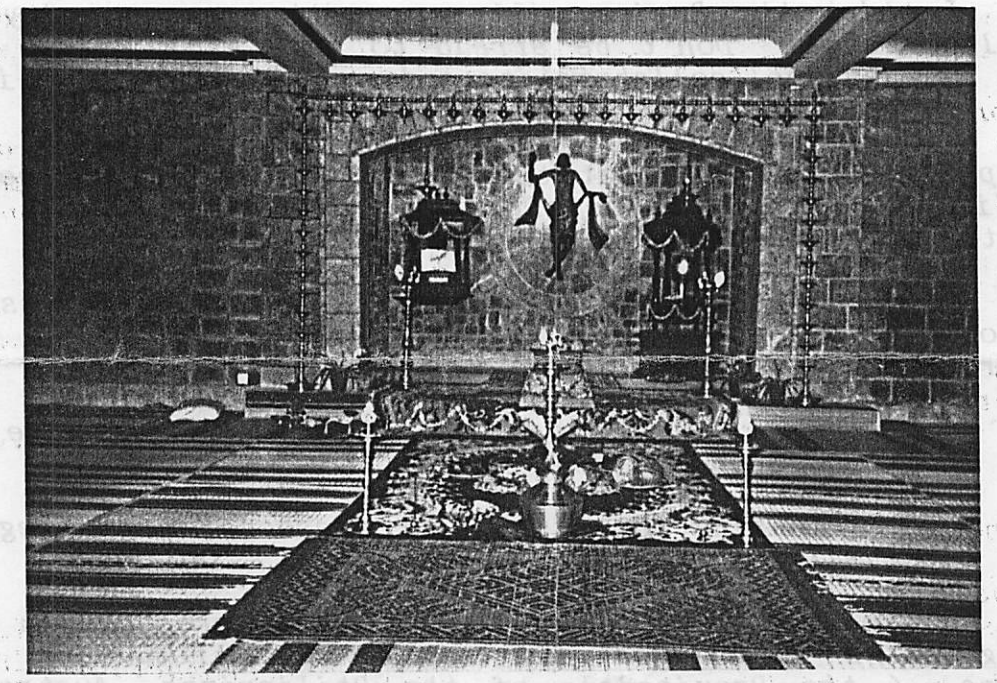
Two other countries need personnel in the next year in order to assure our missionary presence: Japan and Thailand. For Thailand dialogue has started with the Philippines.

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

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

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

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



Chapel at Oblate House NIVEDANAM in Bangalore, India

STATEMENT
OF THE
AORC ASSEMBLY 1989

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

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

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

a. to clarify and deepen our understanding of inculturation in the context of our option for the poor

b. to become rooted in our religious and cultural traditions

c. to meet people of other religions in their experience of God.

d. to be aware in all this of the impact of modernity and secularization

e. to draw out and carry out the practical implementations of inculturation understood as 'inreligionisation for initial and ongoing formation.

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

In this matter, we feel called to:

a. Set up appropriate structures that will help us work together as a Region, specifically, to determine the functions of leadership and coordination.

b. Share personnel and material resources.

c. Work together in formation at all levels.

d. Improve our communication network.

e. Initiate common project in line with our mission priorities.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

A. REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

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

A2. Be it resolved that the role description of the Regional President include:
   a. to provide overall leadership for the Region
   b. to convene the Regional Assembly and assure an appropriate preparation
   c. to collaborate with the Executive Coordinator in the ongoing functioning of Regional life
   d. to represent the Region when called upon to do so at Congregation-wide and inter-regional meetings

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

A4. Be it resolved that the Office of Executive Coordinator be established for the Region. Be it further resolved that his role description include:
   a. to work with the President
   b. to represent the Region at various meetings
   c. to work with the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees of the Region
   d. to pursue any other services requested by the President or by the AORC Assembly.

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

A6. Be it resolved that the following Standing Committees be officially recognized or established:
   a. Formation Committee (AOFC)
   b. Mission Committee (AOMC)
   c. Justice and Peace Committee (AOJPC)

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

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

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

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

B. INITIAL FORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. ONGOING FORMATION/ANIMATION

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

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

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

c4. Be it resolved that the Executive Coordinator oversee the development of a number of "dosiers" and make them available to the Oblate Major Superiors: eg., Refugees, Development, Inculturation, etc.

D. INCULTURATION

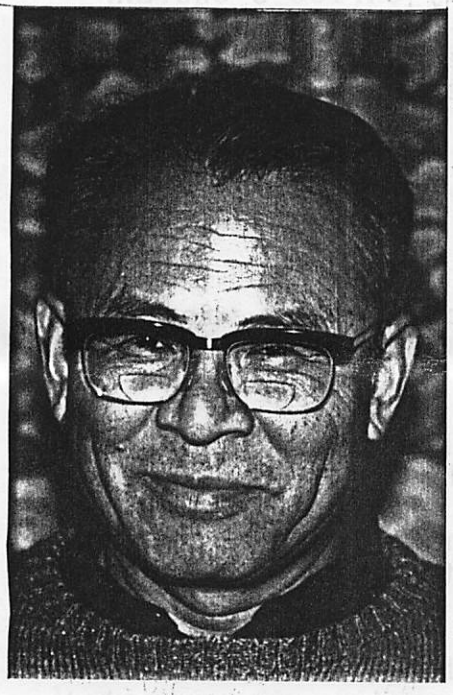
D1. Be it resolved that the Mission Committee, when established, develop a way to provide for ongoing reflection on our theology and spirituality of mision as Oblates.

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

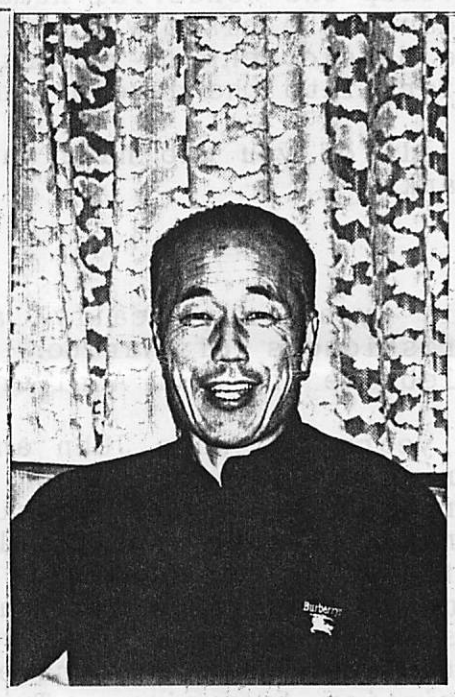
D3. Be it resolves that the Mission Committee, when established, look into the possibility of sending young Oblates into another culture for an inculturated ministry experience. These Oblates should have a minimum of five years experience in their own culture. A report will be expected at the next Assembly.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

TWO JAPANESE OBLATES CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Fr. John Iwo, O.M.I.



Fr. Leonard Inui, O.M.I.



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

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

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

John Iwo, O.M.I.

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

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

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

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

Fr. Leonard Inui, O.M.I.

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

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

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

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

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

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

REFLECTIONS BY THE BROTHERS ON THEIR PASTORAL EXPERIENCE DURING SPRING VACATION

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

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

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

Bro. Hiroshi Hayashi, O.M.I.

The Beauty In This Life

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

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

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

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

May the Lord be with them!

Bro. Leo Kawaguchi, O.M.I.

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

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

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

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

Bro. Masashi Hashimoto, O.M.I.

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

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

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

Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi, O.M.I.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

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

May 29 Tom Maher

June 2 Hiroshi Hayashi

Ordinations

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

May 30 John Mahoney
Tom Maher
Bert Silver
31 Ange Siani

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

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

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

JKM

A note from Ray

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

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

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

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Vice Province of Japan

June, 1989

My Brother Oblates,

The new Council, Mike Yamazaki, Ange Siani and I met in Naruto from the 26-28 of June. The meeting was opened with a prayer service about the Community. The subject for the first day was the role of the Provincial Team. To aid us in our sharing we referred to a talk given by Fr. General concerning the Role of Major Superiors. The second day we used as our discussion outline a paper on the Major Tasks which face New and Existing Teams. During these two days we considered the ways and means in which we can best function as a team that can serve the Province Community

The third day we held the First Council Meeting of the new administration. We began the day with an appropriate opening prayer service. We then discussed the re-establishment of the Follow Through Committee to help in the process of activating the suggestions of last years Congress. The Council discerned a number of reasons in favor of re-establishing the Follow Through Committee but the strongest was that it was a means of community sharing, participation and collaboration in the spirit of C. 72. "The good government of the Congregation demands that we participate appropriately in it through responsible collaboration." The following have accepted appointment to the Follow Through Committee. Jack Deely, Chairman, Ray Bourgoin, Ed Williams, Xav Tosa and Ange Siani.

We then considered the Formation Team. A plan to form a more active and directly participative team was suggested by Ron LaFramboise and Ange Siani. The Council agreed that these suggestions would greatly improve our formation process. The members of the Formation Team are Ron LaFramboise, Ange Siani, Leo Simons and Len Inui. "As disciples of the same Lord, the formation personnel along with those in formation make up one community. While remaining close to the candidates, the formators constitute a nucleus at the heart of the formation community. They have a specific responsibility to the Church and the Congregation as well as to the candidates". C. 51

Other subjects discussed were the visit of Fr. Zago, Vow Day and the Annual Retreat. Confer below for information concerning these coming events.

I would like to thank Wency Laguidao for the help he gave to me and to the Province during his term on the Provincial Council. His spirit of cooperation and the sacrifices of time and of his own convenience that he had to make to be an active Councilor are most greatly appreciated. Thank you Wency on behalf of myself and the Province.

Finally, we are once again entering the very busy vacation (?) season. A time for parish summer camps, vocation workshops, etc. etc. I hope that in the midst of it all you will be able to find some time for rest and recreation for yourself. Have a good summer.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

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

NEWS ITEMS

Brother Leo Kawaguchi was approved for Perpetual Vows at the recent meeting of the General Council. The Vow Ceremony will be held in Itami on September, 8 at 11 A.M.

Brother was on the Deans List of the Department of Arts and Letters-Theological Faculty. He was one of twenty out of a student body of 2000 who was so honored.

Fr. Ron LaFramboise and Bro. Hiroshi Hayashi are working for the Diocesan Council for International Cooperation. One of the activities is Mass each month for international married couples living in Nagoya. About fifteen couples attend this Mass.

Brother Hayashi is also a member of Amnesty International. Recently the Nagoya Community cooperated in an Urgent Action Appeal to the government leaders of the Peoples Republic of China.

The Brothers are now busy in the last minute preparations for the Oblate Vocation Camp to be held in Kochi from August 4-7. The Community which also takes care of MAMI for the Province just issued the second edition of the MAMI Newsletter. Ron reports that the members have been most cooperative and generous in the renewal of their membership.

The new District Community of Honshuu (Tokyo, Nagoya, Itami) held their second community gathering on June 16. The community was most happy to have Jim Flavin of the Eastern American Province at their meeting.

Ange Siani has completed his year of study at the Institute for Religious Formation in St Louis. He is now on the staff of the Oblate House of Studies in Nagoya. Ron LaFramboise will be leaving in August to attend the same course of studies. Our prayers will be with him during this very important year for Ron and the Province.

Wency Laguidao has written a paper entitled "CHAPLAIN'S DAIRY". It is a ~~28~~ 13 page record of his activities as National Chaplain for Filipinos in Japan. It includes records of trips made, meetings attended, and some personal notes on the experiences and encounters. This record will be made available through the Districts. Included in this Newsletter is an interview of Wency that appeared in the Manila Bulletin.

Leo Simons is also in the news. It was announced in the Kochi Newspaper that the Kochi Volunteer Bureau was to be awarded by the Ministry of Social Welfare. A National Awards Ceremony was held in Tokyo on June 24. One hundred individuals and groups involved in works of social welfare throughout Japan were honored at this ceremony. A further ceremony was held at the Office of the Governor of Kochi at which there was a presentation of the citation.

Bert Silver will return from his home leave on June 10. Leo Simons will leave for Belgium on July 5th and will be back in Kochi on July 22. Tom Maher is planing to leave for the States on Aug. 6th. He plans to return on September 16. As you will read on Jack Deely's report he too is planning to travel during the summer. Wency will also make a brief trip to the Philippines. A welcome home to Bert and our wishes for happy, successful and safe travels to Leo, Tom, Jack and Wency.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays:

July 31 Leo Simons

Aug.. 4 Nobuhiko Yagi
23 Ange Siani
31 Bert Silver

Sept. 6 John Iwo
20 John Mahoney
22 Fran Hahn

Ordinations

July 1 Jan Van Hoydonck
5 Leo Simons

VERY IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Aug.. 29 Arrive Itami.

Aug.. 30 Nagoya Meeting with the Nagoya Community.

Aug.. 31 Leave Nagoya in the afternoon for Naruto

Sept. 1 Meeting with Tokushima District

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

Sept. 3 Kochi

Sept. 4 Meeting with the Kochi District

Sept. 5 Koga

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

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

Sept. 8 Vow Ceremony and Reception

Sept. 9 Departure for Hongkong

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

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

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

On June 11, 1989 Father John Iwo celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at a special Silver Jubilee Mass in the hall of the kindergarten in Aki. He is pastor there and Principal of the kindergarten. The chapel used as a mission church was no where near spacious enough to the number of people who wanted to attend.

For the Mass the kindergarten hall was overflowing. About 120 people were present--a number about equal to the total Mass attendance in an entire year. Five Oblates (the Provincial, Fr. John Mahoney first of all, plus Fr. Simons, Fr. Tosa, Fr. Tom Maher, and Fr. Williams) and Diocesan Fr. Matsunaga concelebrated. Perhaps it was the most heavily attended Mass in the history of Aki Mission.

John gave a brief history of his vocation starting in Naruto when it was only an outstation through all the years down to the present. Studies in Washington, D.C., ordination in Tokushima Church, assignments to Akaoka, Brazil (eight years), Itami, Nakajima-cho, and finally since 1978 Aki. The Provincial spoke briefly and appropriately then all gathered outside for pictures and a pleasant garden party. John's mother and family who were all present must have been immensely proud of him. The people who came such long distances to attend were a tribute to his goodness and service through all these many years.

All of us pray, John , that there will be at least as many more years.

E. M. Williams, O.M.I.

On the 4th of June the Koga parish celebrated in grand style Len Inui's 24 Anniversary of Ordination. We had a difficult time finding a Sunday in June on which to hold this celebration due to Len's busy schedule. Finally June 4th was decided upon. Because this sunday followed so closely after Pentecost Sunday when we had a parish party the Parish Council decided to limit the party to sandwiches and juice. As we came closer to the big day, however, people began volunteering to bring various foods for the party. As a result on the day of celebration we had the biggest feast that I have seen since I came to Koga.

Len presided at the 9:30 Eucharist after which there was the presentation of the usual bouquets and many speeches.

We were not able to take a parish picture on either Easter or Pentecost Sunday so the Council decided to use this occasion to take this years parish picture. After the picture was taken we filed into the parish hall and commenced with the feasting. Since only about one fourth of the people who attended could be accomodated in the hall tables were also set up on the lawn. During the party the parishioners gave Len a monetary gift which he intends to use to purchase some vestments.

Len was smiling and happy throughout this wonderful day and one and all had a grand time.

Fran Hahn, O.M.I.

FOR OUR ENGLISH READERS
PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE

News from Tsukuba

平成元年6月20日

お元気ですか。僕も元気です。お陰様で体重は一グラムも減っていません。

さて、僕は上智大学を退職し、筑波聾技術短期大学へ移り、ようやく3ヶ月が過ごしました。引っ越しや諸手続きの雑用もヤット終わり、宿舎での暮らしにも慣れてきました。

毎日会議で来年四月から入学する聴覚障害学生の受け入れ体制を考え、設備図面や授業システムを話し合っているところです。子供たちの教育そして人格形成をはかるため、一人一人の聾生徒のニーズに合った教授法を見つけだし、開発している段階です。

今は僕の部屋から筑波の燃えるような緑が見えて心を和ませてくれます。空気も美味しいですよ！

「機会があれば、気晴らしにどうぞお越し下さい」と招待したいですが、単身赴任用アパートですし、狭くてご招待するどころではありません。来年か再来年、一戸建住宅に入れたら、ご招待します。

夏の予定ですが、7月9日～15日、ワシントンで開かれる「ザ・デフ・ウエイー」という世界聾者会議に参加し、また、8月の半ば頃、ロチェスター聾工科大学で開かれる聾教育者大会に参加することになっています。

今回アメリカ行の目的は、聾者の言語・文化・歴史に関する国際会議出席です。従来のこの種の会議は、各分野でばらばらに開かれていたが今回の会議は手話、リハビリ、福祉、社会参加など聾教育各分野の専門家が一堂に会する初の機会となります。

この会議に参加することにより、アメリカ及び世界の聾教育事情を日本に紹介するつもりです。特に、将来筑波聾技術短期大学を卒業する学生の就職 — これまでの職種の枠にとらわれず — 専門職にも就き得る学生の教育、養成の際に強力な指針になればいいなと僕は期待しています。

それでは、黙想会の時にお会いしましょう！

ジャック

〒 305 つくば市並木2丁目301-903 ☎ 0298-52-6161

Greetings from Tsukuba! Hope this finds everyone in good health and ready for what promises to be a wet and very muggy rainy season.

Can't believe that I've already been 3 months here in Tsukuba. Left Sophia U. for the Technical College for the Deaf at the end of March, and have finally settled-in, after a lot of paper work for the Ministry of Education and all the odds 'n ends of moving. Can't believe, either, that I haven't lost an ounce in all of this!

Since coming here, we've had nothing but meetings...meetings on how to best prepare for the deaf students who will be coming here next April. It's great being in on the groundwork of this new endeavor where we are presently discussing the blueprints for facilities, teaching methods, etc.

Right now from my room, I'm viewing the lush greenery of Ibaraki's late spring. Delightfully refreshing as is the air here. Wish I could say: "Come on up for a visit and a change of pace!" But that's impossible at this stage. Unfortunately, I'm in cramped quarters. With a little bit of luck, I'll be able to extend that invite next year or in the near future if and when I move into larger quarters.

As for the summer, I'll be attending two conferences, Stateside. From July 9th to 15th in D.C. for The Deaf Way, an international celebration of the 125th anniversary of the establishment of Gallaudet University (the only university of Liberal Arts for the deaf, in the world). And in August, I hope to attend a conference in Rochester, at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Previously there have been international conferences on different areas of deaf education and deaf rehabilitation, etc. but this is the first time that there will be a concentration of experts in all areas of deafness at the same time. The purpose of my going to these conferences is to gather all the info that I think will be of help to this newly established College for the Deaf here in Tsukuba.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the retreat!

Jack Deely Namiki 2 Chome 301-903, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture 305

OBLATES IN THE PHILIPINES - 50 fruitful years.

The Republic of Philipines consists of nearly 60 million people from III cultural & linguistic groups, living on 700 of the country's 7,107 islands. They won independence from Spain in 1898, from the USA in 1946 and ousted Marcos in 1986. About 83% are Catholic, 9% Protestant and 5% Muslim mostly in the South. Literacy is about 88% and life expectancy is 64 years.

All is far from well, despite President Aquino's popular mandate. Corruption, A Communist insurgency, crime, militant cults & vigilante groups, an army that appears to abuse its power and constant killings make for a very mixed & unpredictable situation. The Church and the Major Superiors speak out courageously for justice & peace as they condemn most excessive uses of power.

The OBLATES came to the Philipines from the USA in September 1939, choosing the southern provinces of Cotabato & Sulu as their mission. During the war, the missionaries were interned by the Japanese & two were killed on their way by boat to Australia. There are approximately 100 Oblates now working, in Manila - each OMI parish has about 75,000 people, half of whom are squatters - & in the south.

Under the leadership of Bishop Mongeau OMI - we have five Oblate bishops at present - the thrust was pastoral and educational. The Province now cares for 18 kindergarten, 27 elementary, 61 high, 4 graduate, & 2 post-graduate schools as well as 9 colleges and 1 university. Many parishes have been built up and handed over to the Passionists and Marists.

A dialogue of life has gone on with the Muslims in Sulu and with the Sea-gypsies through schools, cooperatives and clinics. One of the most modern & notable aspects of the Oblate apostolate is the high level of lay involvement everywhere and the foundation of a thriving congregation of Sisters by Bishop Dion. OMI. Even in these remote southern islands, the abuse of drugs and gneral lawlessness are now serious problems.

The Province has four of its members working in Hong Kong in two schools and a quasi parish, as well as two working in the Argentine Province. It also has a thriving MAMI & strong Vocational ministry.

With 55 young men in its minor seminary(College level), 20 in its 2-year novitiate program & 20 Scholastics, the future of the Congregation looks well at this time when it is celebrating its 50 year of existence.

Desmond O'Donnell OMI
General Councillor

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Filipinos bare woes in Japan

A teeming number of mestizo Filipino-Japanese babies are being born and abandoned, constituting a new breed of social outcasts in Japan, while the exploitation of Filipino women goes on and most Filipino male

(Turn to page 19, col. 3)

FILIPINOS

(Cont'd from page 1)

migrant workers who were junior executives in the Philippines are confined to doing heavy, manual, and dirty jobs which the Japanese will not take.

Fr. Wency Laguidao, a Filipino priest who is head of the Filipino chaplaincy of the Commission for International Cooperation of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan, identified these as the most pressing problems facing Filipinos in Japan.

Laguidao, who runs a center in Japan where Filipinos can come for any type of assistance, said that more and more children are born of Filipino women who entered Japan illegally three years ago.

"The problem of exploitation has graduated into marital problems," Laguidao said, noting that many Filipino women have entered into marriages without the necessary preparation.

Laguidao, who is in Manila to confer with government and non-government leaders on the plight of Filipinos in Japan, said that many of the Filipino women who are married or who have children by Japanese men give up their children for adoption or sell them to foreigners living in that country.

He noted, however, that the abandonment of these babies has been checked to a certain extent after Social Welfare Secretary Mita Pardo de Tavera visited Japan and authorized only one organization in Tokyo to handle the adoption of Filipino-Japanese children.

He said that the Japanese are biased against interracial marriages, especially between Filipinos and Japanese. Japanese immigration authorities make it difficult for Filipino women to acquire Japanese citizenship, he said, adding that some Filipinos are required to renew their visas every month.

Abuse of Filipino women is still rampant despite greater awareness of the problem. He revealed complaints of some Filipino women who have been asked to have sex with eight to 10 customers a night, 30 minutes with each client, for 8,000 yen (₱1,200).

The girls are promised 3,000 yen (₱500) a night for each customer but end up getting only 3,000 yen a night for eight to 10 customers, he said.

One girl has been sold to a Japanese buyer for 600,000 yen (₱10,000) which she has to pay back to her employer after [illegible] years of working. But by the time she has paid that amount, she is no longer attractive to customers and therefore has to be sold to the next buyer, Laguidao said.

Laguidao said there are now four girls under the care of the chaplaincy who have a pending court case against five Japanese male workers of the funhouse "Lapan" which means rabbit in Japanese.

The girls have complained of forced confinement, multiple rape, threat with guns, non-payment of salaries, and violence against the workers.

He said that despite the filing of various charges, the prosecutors office in the city of Nagoya recognized only the charge of illegal confinement.

In relation to this case, two Japanese reporters were reportedly beaten up by workers at the funhouse when they went to the prostitution joint to investigate the case on the basis of a letter from one of the girls.

Some members of the Japanese police have reportedly been involved in the case because of alleged reports that one of the women escaped from the joint to seek the help of the police department. But instead of being helped, the girl was allegedly fetched by a worker at the funhouse who was believed to have been tipped by the police.

On male Filipino migrant workers, Laguidao said that many of them are engaged in relatively cheap, heavy manual labor such as in construction and the cleaning of septic tanks where they earn about 10,000 yen or ₱1,600 a day.

Many of these young men working in Kotobukicho, the poorest area in the city of Yokohama, are reportedly former junior executives in Makati companies. (Marcia Rodriguez)

OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

Provincial Newsletter of the OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Vice Province of Japan

September 1989

My brother Oblates,

The month of September has been most eventful for each one of us. The visit of Father General made us more aware that we are part of the world wide Oblate family. His words encouraged us in the work we are doing and at the same time challenged us to greater efforts to deepen our Oblate Missionary and Community committment.

The Perpetual Oblation of Brother Kawaguchi reminded each one of his own day of Perpetual Oblation; of his committment to God and to the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The Oblate Charism Retreat brought us back to our Oblate roots. We recalled our Oblate identity, our Oblate prayer life, our call to be saints. During the days of Retreat we lived that Oblate life. At the end each of us made a committment for the days ahead. Now we must try to live that committment each day; to make the words of Blessed DeMazenod; "They must strive to be saints" a personal and daily challenge.

The day after the Retreat ended I went to the Philippines to participate in the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Oblate Philippine Mission. There is not time or space to recount all the various festivities, the Masses, parades, fire works, cultural presentations and musical extravaganzas. But in all these gathering of the the Oblates and the faithful to celebrate "God's Golden Graciousness" one thing was most apparent. That is the the love of the Oblates for the people and the love of the people for the Oblates. This love has enabled them to work together to establish vital Christian Communities and to build a strong and growing Church in the Provinces of Cotabato and Jolo.

Perhaps the Message of September's events is that Oblates are men who are striving to be saints and men who love and live for the people to whom they have been sent.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.
Provincial

REFLECTIONS ON FATHER GENERAL'S VISIT TO OUR HOUSE OF STUDIES.

First of all, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers at the time of my Perpetual Oblation.

I was very happy to meet Father General who was so different from the impression given by his photograph. I found him very friendly and open hearted. Of the many things we spoke about, my lasting impressions are about our Oblate Community way of life.

Bro. Satoshi Kawaguchi, O.M.I.

As Japan is an affluent society, I think it has lost its appeal as a missionary country. I was deeply impressed that Father General would make the time in his busy schedule to visit the Brothers of such a small Province. I was also deeply impressed that Father General showed so much interest in what we thought about Religion in Japan and many other topics. Father General has a deep affection for the marginalized. I could feel his love for children and was impressed with his gentleness.

Bro. Masashi Hashimoto, O.M.I.

The Superior General, Fr.Marcello Zago seems to me to be a man of calm and amiable appearance. He always had a smile and when he spoke with me I could feel his friendliness as he put his hand on my shoulder.

When he spoke to us in English he spoke slowly and used simple language so we could understand. I received a strong impression that I was an important person in his eyes. I deeply felt his concern for us as well as the many problems facing us in Japanese society, in our courses at the University and in our Religious Life.

From the General we learned much about the conditions facing our Oblate Brothers around the world. He also spoke to us about the Oblate way of life. He was quick to answer our questions and as a result I have come to love the Oblate Charism more.

I am sure that the love I felt will flow into all our Oblate Missions and the whole world. I pray for the health of Father General as he continues to animate the Oblates all over the world.

Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi, O.M.I.

BROTHER KAWAGUCHI'S PERPETUAL OBLATION

On September 8th the Oblates of Japan were immensely encouraged by the first Perpetual Oblation ceremony in 26 years. Brother Satoshi Kawaguchi pronounced his perpetual vows in the presence of the Superior General, Father Zago, the Provincial, Father John Mahoney, and most of the Oblates in the Japanese Mission. Several Fathers from other Congregations who have worked with the Oblates were also present. The Feast of Mary's Birth being a Friday, a normal

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Bro. Kobunito Yagi, O.M.I.

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work day here, we did not expect too many people but practically the entire church at Itami was filled. Brother Kawaguchi has a very large family and this alone accounted for some 22 of the people in the benches.

After the Vow Mass there was a reception and catered lunch for all in the church hall. God even provided a good day which helped so many of us who had to take airplanes back and forth to the celebration.

Father Yamazaki, Itami's Pastor, provided superbly for everyone's needs.

May God grant us many of these days in the years ahead.

Fr. Edward Williams, O.M.I.

MUSINGS

When John asked me at the end of the retreat to write a page of reflexions on it I got to wondering how I could fill an entire page. Yet, after thinking about the subject for a while I found that there is no lack of things to talk about.

After just having met Father General and heard him talking about the life, the working, and the future of the Congregation all over the world , and having been given a chance to speak to him about ourselves, I was all the more eager to hear about the Oblate Charism. Our Retreat Master, Fr. Kevin Casey, O.M.I., a missionary in Indonesia, had made a retreat on the same topic. Combining the experiences of that retreat with those of his life as a missionary, he shared with us his understanding of our Oblate Charism.

I was pleased with the clear outline we were given from the beginning in how and on what the retreat was going to be. Looking over the (short) notes I took during the conferences there are enough references there to our basic Oblate writings for a long time of study and meditation on the aspects of our Oblate identity as expressed in our Rules and Constitutions, our Oblate Prayer tradition, and the writings of our Oblate confreres. The first task of everyone is personal sanctification. How this can be pursued within our Oblate Charism was demonstrated by the examples of our Blessed Oblates, our Founder, Eugene de Mazenod and Father Joseph Gerard, and by the application of our Oblate Prayers. Especially the use that was made of the Oblate Prayer Book was to me an incentive for making regular use of those prayers even when alone

At the first conference we were told that one aspect of our Charism is to pray for each other. Later it was mentioned that a good chance and time to do so was at our daily evening adoration and that the Founder wrote to missionaries that he was especially united with them at those occasions. This struck me as a beautiful way of caring for one another.

[illegible] days here, [illegible] people in particularly the southern [illegible] at Ruam. We filled. Another [illegible] Kaugucch [illegible] family and this alone accounted for [illegible] people in the benches.

[illegible] Water: the Vom Ass, there was a reception and catered lunch [illegible] Kaugucch Ambie [illegible] provided a good day [illegible] ship [illegible] who [illegible] the airplanes back and [illegible] the celebration.

[illegible] Yamasaki [illegible] supplied superbly for [illegible] everyone's needs.

[illegible] days and good wishes [illegible] these days in the years ahead.

[illegible] William, O.M.I.

MUSINGS

[illegible] Mandelbert the end of the retreat to write a page [illegible] political [illegible] to wondering [illegible] could fill an [illegible] Oblates' [illegible] about thinking [illegible] the subject for a [illegible] Oblates [illegible] to talk about.

[illegible] Father [illegible] Bachelard [illegible] kept him talking [illegible] about the [illegible] future of the [illegible] congregation will over the [illegible] been given a [illegible] about [illegible] all the more [illegible] to Oblates [illegible] Oblates [illegible] Fathers Master [illegible] Kevin Casey [illegible] missionary [illegible] had made a [illegible] the experience [illegible] (jumping the experiences of that [illegible] with [illegible] of his life as a missionary, he added [illegible] Oblate [illegible].

[illegible] with clear guiding [illegible] given from the [illegible] and [illegible] what the [illegible] was going to be. [illegible] looking [illegible] (Mark) notes he took during the conference [illegible] there is our basis Oblate [illegible] a [illegible] study and meditation on the [illegible] of our Rules and [illegible] and the writings [illegible] Oblate [illegible] of everyone is [illegible] for [illegible] our Oblate Prayers. [illegible] made of Oblate Prayer Book [illegible] for [illegible] use of those [illegible] prayers even when alone.

[illegible] one aspect of our [illegible] was mentioned [illegible] our daily evening [illegible] that the [illegible] possessions that be [illegible] This [illegible] and any [illegible] for one another.

Looking at the logistics of the retreat the first thing that comes to mind is the weather. The first half of September is still a hot and usually muggy period. Provisions are made for more coolers, but even then, one would like to go outside for a meditating walk in the fresh air. Is there a possibility of having the retreat at a cooler time of the year. This is a regularly recurring question, and one to which there has been no positive answer, but maybe consulting everyone may bring up something.

The dining room arrangement with smaller tables and self service proved to be a happy improvement, also for the dishwashers. And the meals were superb!

Getting everyone in the recreation room for "talk time" is a problem. Had there been a couple more people present it would have been impossible. Also, to have to be there every evening .....My feeling is that it is more suitable, and spiritually profitable, to decide on a couple of evenings of all being there and leaving other evenings open to choice.

Thanks again to everyone for being together as brothers, which is, as we also heard during the retreat, a very distinctive mark of the Oblates.

Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck

OBLATE SUMMER CAMP

The Oblate Vocation Summer Camp was held in Kochi at Nakajima-cho. In all 12 were in attendance, 8 of middle school age, 3 highschool and one adult.

Since we had so much rain and with the threat of a typhoon , we were worried about the weather but the day the camp began we were blessed with clear skies.

Our days were filled with various topics. Among them were and introduction to the Oblate charism, our history and our way of life. We also had time for sightseeing in the city of Kochi and an afternoon at the beach as well as a visit to our mission in Aki and the Volunteer Bureau. One evening we had a great time at the Kagami River Festival. The last night of the camp we had a barbecue which was followed by games and entertainment. The Brothers Band put on a show for the group.

At the final Mass we all gathered around the altar where we formed a ring holding hands and exchanged the sign of peace.

At the closing ceremony, we were surprised by a sudden visit of Bishop Fukahori. The Bishop gave a talk on vocations. Holding his words in their heart each person returned to his home.

I was filled with great joy and am very thankful for the opportunity to gather with these young men, to have meals together, attend Mass and for the companionship.

Looking at the logistics of the retreat the first thing that [illegible] comes to mind is the weather. The first half of September [illegible] is still a hot and usually muggy period. Facilities are adequate [illegible] for more comfort, but even then one would like to go outside [illegible] for a meditating walk in the fresh air! Is there another possibility [illegible] having the retreat at a cooler time of the year. There is a irregularity [illegible] and one to one [illegible] which there has been so positive [illegible] but maybe something [illegible] everyone a way [illegible] something.

The closing [illegible] with [illegible] service proved to be a happy [illegible] also for the dishwashers [illegible] were [illegible].

Getting everyone [illegible] from [illegible] time is a problem [illegible] could [illegible] people present. It would have been [illegible]. Also, to [illegible] be there every evening [illegible] that [illegible] suitable, [illegible] spiritually [illegible] to decide on [illegible] of evenings [illegible] all being there [illegible] other events [illegible] choice.

Thanks again to [illegible] for being [illegible] which [illegible] during [illegible], [illegible] very distinctive [illegible].

Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck

OBLATE SUMMER CAMP

The Oblate Vocation Summer Camp was held [illegible] at [illegible]. In all 12 [illegible] attended [illegible] ages [illegible], high school [illegible].

Since [illegible] with [illegible] we were worried about the weather but [illegible] the camp began [illegible] we were [illegible].

Our days were filled with various topics. Among these [illegible] and introduction to Oblate charism, Oblate history [illegible] of life [illegible] also [illegible] a visit to our mission [illegible]. One evening [illegible] a [illegible] the last night of the camp [illegible] by games and entertainment [illegible].

At the [illegible] we formed a [illegible] building [illegible] of peace [illegible].

At the closing ceremony [illegible] of Bishop [illegible] holding [illegible] words [illegible] to his home.

I was filled with [illegible] opportunity [illegible] together [illegible].

I hope that this camp provided a good opportunity to sow the seeds of vocation. We must cooperate in God's work. He plants the seeds. I feel that we must pray with all our hearts for these young men.

Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi, O.M.I.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

September 22 - 24, the National Catholic Meeting for Justice and Peace was held here in Nagoya. The main speaker was Mr. Sachi Hideo who talked about the Emperor System, it's history and effect upon politics and Japanese life in general. Among the many topics discussed were the migrant workers problem, segregation and the problem of foreign aide to mention a few.

All of us from Nagoya attended. Bro. Kawaguchi was one of the guides as well as secretary. Bro Yagi was secretary and also translated the various speeches into sign language. Bro Hashimoto helped Jerry Novotny with his display on the Pro-Life Movement.

Fr. Angelo Siani, O.M.I.

LETTER FROM RON

Thank you for your recent letter and the little newsletter about the events of September. By now Fr. Zago's visit is underway, I am sure and I pray that it will be a meaningful time for the whole community.

I will sure miss being with you all for Bro. Kawaguchi's Perpetual Profession. It is the Lord's way of keeping me humble, helping me to realize that He is the formator, and I only a small instrument. I will be with you all in mind and heart on the 8th

Here, since Monday we have been going through the tedious process of being registered and becoming students again. Long lines, it took me two and a half hours to complete the whole procedure yesterday. Thank goodness they had given us a detailed explanation the day before and helped us fill out the forms. Got my ID card which gives us free access to all University facilities. Now with my Nike sneakers on -- getting sore feet walking -- I feel like one of the gang, just a little older.

We have a fine group 2 brothers, 13 priests, twenty two nuns and 2 lay persons. From all over the world. There are two young Redemptorist priests from Thailand -- both proficient in English -- just ordained a couple of years. They are going to be part of a team opening a mission in Korea next year. Told them about our two Italian Fathers.

The accommodations here at DeMattias are very nice. The Sisters in charge go out of their way to make us feel at home. Our group has 29 members, but there are other groups of men and women residing here too, so we are 90 in all. Very lively, meet someone new everyday.

Tomorrow is our last orientation day, but we did start classes this morning with an 9:00 A.M. class -- Synoptic Gospels by Dr. Arkin -- Ange knows him -- very interesting course, very interesting man. Felt quite funny dashing across campus at 7:45 getting lost looking for the right classroom among the other 1000 new students. Total student population this year is just over 11,000.

We bought all our books for first semester today, and got reams of notes for two courses. Looks like Labor Day weekend is going to be a lot of reading. I am quite excited.

So this year I prepare myself to better serve the Lord and the vocations He will send us in the future. I am grateful to you and the community in Japan for giving me this opportunity.

My regards to the whole community, my prayers are with you during retreat and especially I share in your joy of September 8th.

Ron LaFrambois, O.M.I.

Ron's address is: De Mattias Hall
3825 West Pine Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

NEWS ITEMS

Bill Maher who was operated on for a perforated ulcer is back in his parish. His recovery has been rapid and he is almost back on full schedule

Tom Maher and the Kochi AA Group sponsored an AA Open Speakers Meeting at the Hamayuu Hall on October 9th from 9:30 to 4:30. The guest lecturer was Dr. Moriguchi Susumu of the Moriguch Mental Hospital in Kagoshima. About 80 participated in the day. Many of the participants shared the stories of their recuperation.

Tom was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as Prison Chaplain by the the Religious Teachers Association of Japan.

Fran Hahn left for his home leave on October 2nd. He plans to be back early in December. In his absence Len Inui with the help of the Passionist Fathers is taking care of the parish.

The Itami parish will celebrate its Fortieth Anniversary on October 29. Congratulations to Mike, Wency and the good people of Itami. There will be Mass and Lecture at 10 A.M. followed by a Garden Party at noon.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

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

December
24 Mike Yamazaki

Ordinations

October
28 Gerard Stevens

ASIA/OCEANIA NEWS

The following is from a letter of Fr. John Sherman O.M.I., Provincial of Australia and President of the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference concerning the Oblate Mission is Tahiti.

In 1977 the Franco-American Province answered a call from the Archbishop of Papeete to help establish a local clergy in a group of islands that had a Catholic population of 50%. They had few local Priests and the number of foreign missionaries were quickly diminishing. Today, there are five Oblates there. If you open your Personnel O.M.I. - 1987, at page 308, there is the Archdiocese of Papeete. Papeete is the capital of Tahiti. Faaa where the Oblates are stationed is the town next to Papeete.

In coming to form a clergy the Oblates were conscious of the need to know the local people, and to have contact with them. They asked for a poor parish and were given the parish of Faaa which is one of the largest and poorest on the island. Presently it is being run by Gil Boucher with some help from the other men especially Roger Roy. Jules Guy was home on holiday at the time of my visit.

Pratrice Morel is the Director of the Seminary with eleven students drawn from all the French territories in the Pacific, except New Caledonia. Pratrice and Roger concentrate their effort on the seminary, enlisting help from other local religious. They would appreciate hearing from Formation men who can speak French, and would be prepared to give even as little as three months to help them.

Daniel Nassaney is running and building the junior seminary. With eighteen young men over seventeen years of age, he has little spare time.

In addition to all this work, because of the shortage of Priests each man has adopted a number of the outlying islands, some of which are 1,000 kilometers from Tahiti. He then spends one month of the year ministering to the people.

Tahiti and New Zealand are the real Oceania section of our Region. I was glad of the opportunity to learn of their valuable work and to grow in appreciation of what they are doing. They certainly could do with the help of a couple of

DATES TO REMEMBER

Birthdays

October
7 Ron LaFrenaye
10 Jan Van Kooten
27 Anne Vanderzee Tosa

November
24 Mike Vanasdahl

Ordinations

October
28 George Greyens

ASSAMPCHAIA NEWS

The following is from a letter of Fr. Jeffrey Shoreen O.M.I., Provincial of Australia and Presiding at the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference concerning the Guinea Mission is taking.

In 1977 the Franco-American Foundation supported a call from the Archbishop of Papeete to help establish a local library in a group of islands that has a Catholic population of 40%. They had few local priests and the number of foreign missionaries were quickly disappearing. Today, there are five Oblates there. If you open your Personnel N.M.I. - 1987, at page 30A, there is the archdiocese of Papeete. Papeete is the capital of Tahiti. Pass where the islands are scattered in the town east to Papeete.

In coming to form a clergy the Oblates were conscious of the need to know the local people, and to have contact with them. They asked for a poor parish and were given the parish of Faa'a which is one of the largest and poorest in the island. Presently it is being run by Gil Bouchet with some help from one other non especially Roger Roy. Gil is now home on holiday at the time of my visit.

Martin Morel is the Director of the seminary with eleven students drawn from all the French territories in the Pacific, except New Caledonia. Martin and Roger concentrate their efforts on the seminary, spending help from other local religious. They could also provide help from Francophone men who can speak French, and could be prepared to give such as little as three months to that group.

Daniel Massaney is chaplain and teaches junior seminary. With eighteen young men from secondary years of age, he has little spare time.

In addition to all this work, because of the shortage of Priests, each man has adopted a number of the outlying islands, some of which are 1,000 kilometres from Papeete. He then spends one month on each visiting the people.

Tahiti and New Caledonia are the equal dioceses of our region. I were glad at the opportunity to learn of their vocations work and the grow in appreciation of what they are doing. They certainly could do with the help of a couple of

community minded Oblates who are not afraid of hard living and can speak French.

FROM THE PROVINCIAL DESK

The following are the FAX Numbers in Japan

O.M.I. Provincial Japan.....888 73 7536

Filipino Chaplaincy (Wency Laguidao).....727 83 9634

Kochi Volunteer Bureau (Leo Simons).....888 73 2814

Ministry to the Non-Hearing (Jack Deely).....424 61 9258

I am sorry for the delay in the Newsletter. The Main Board of the Word Processor brokedown and could not be repaired before my departure for Korea.

On October 2nd my brother Paul died. He had a very beautiful and peaceful death. On my own behalf and on behalf of his wife and children I want to thank you for all your prayers. The knowledge that so many were praying for Paul was a great source of comfort and strength to him and the family. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. Thank you. JKM

L.J.C. et M.I.

SUPERIOR GENERALIS

MISSIONARIORUM OBLATORUM
B.M.V. IMMACULATAE

00165 Roma, October 24, 1989
Via Aurelia, 290 Tel. 6370251
C.P. 9061, 00100 Roma-Aurelio, ITALIA

LETTER TO THE OBLATES
OF THE ASIA-OCEANIA REGION

Dear brother Oblates,

The year 1989 has been the year of the Asia-Oceania Region. Every Province, Delegation or mission has been visited by one or other member of the General Administration. I myself have visited every country in Asia and have promised to visit Australia and New Zealand during the coming year. Our visits enabled us to become more aware of the difficulties which you and your people are facing, the challenges to be met in the mission and of your generosity in meeting them.

1. Your Region forms one tenth of the personnel in the Congregation: 534 out of 5,322. Of these, 408 are born in countries within the Region and 126 are from elsewhere (92 from Europe, 31 from North America, and the remaining 3 from Southern Africa, Brazil and Mauritius respectively). Missionaries from your Region in a third country are 158, that is, more than one third of the apostolic personnel.

2. Your presence in Asia is due to the initiative of the Founder who sent the first Oblates to Jaffna in 1847. His prophetic sentiments at that time have been fulfilled to the letter:

> *What a great field of apostolate is opened up before us... I have accepted this new mssion therefore, one of the most beautiful on earth, in the foreknwledge that this great island will one day become the prerogative of our Congregation, which will sanctify all of it" (Letter to Fr. Vincens, August 12, 1847)*

Our presence has left a deep impression on different churches and societies of the Asian continent. The slogan on the T-shirts made for the Oblate Golden Jubilee in the Philippines ("Imagine Jolo without the Oblates") is also applicable in other places, as I had occasion to see from the testimony given by the people on the occasion of my visits.

../..

3. Your presence in Asia is very significant for the whole Congregation since it is there that 60% of the world's population lives and 80% of all the non Christians in the world. In Asia you are faced with the great challenges of the mission. The great religions and the most firmly rooted cultures are there side by side with modern living and secularization, underdevelopment and misery coexist with an explosion in industrialization and material progress. The Christian diaspora in the continent as a whole has had success with conversions and the expatriate Oblates with exceptional forms of inculturation.

These are challenges which make the demands of the mission all the more urgent. Presence, dialogue, cooperation seem to be the practicable ways for Christian witness. Inculturation must embrace the whole of life and must be used as a response to the different requirements of peoples, whether cultural or religious, economic or social. Because the Church is called to the service of the whole human person and of all humanity, she is required above all to seek their "salvation" and their "holiness". The aims of the mission are growing wider: although the Church is always ready to witness to Christ and to gather peoples around him, she must cooperate in the coming of God's Kingdom, which is the main scope of her activity and the beginnings of which go beyond her own visible confines. It is precisely here in Asia that we realize that the Church, and all of us as her members, is a cooperator in and not the proprietor of Christ's mission; that the mission must entail the commitment of all christians who are animated by the missionaries.

4. These requirements of the mission in Asia have guided a number of decisions taken and directives given by the General Administration this year. It was decided to start a foundation in Korea, a country which is worthy of note in the ecclesial and cultural evolution of the present time and for its historic role as a bridge in the Far East. In order to reinforce our presence in Hong Kong which is an important opening to China, this mission has been entrusted to the Vice-Province of Australia. The Jaffna Delegation has been established as a Vice-Province and the three Delegations of Indonesia are being encouraged to move towards integration. We are committed to strengthening our presence in Thailand with the help of the Philippines and in Japan with volunteers from other countries. It is intended that the impetus thus given to the activities and structures of the Region will serve the mission which has specific challenges to face at this time.

5. The Region is very dynamic. Vocations are numerous and of good quality. In first formation there are 104 Oblates, which means about

one-fifth of the total number of the Oblates in the Region. They are from eight different countries. Twenty-three made first vows in 1988.

The vocations are the result of the image which the Oblates project and of the constant efforts being made to promote them. First formation is well cared for and an ever growing and increasingly better prepared number of formators is being provided.

The Oblates are seen as a distinct group of missionaries and they are growing ever more conscious of their own identity. Most Provinces and Delegations have a missionary statement/outlook) which is a source of unity and inspiration.

Presence among the poor and sharing of the aspirations and sufferings of the people, commitment to evangelization, formation of Christian communities with very committed members, are characteristics of the Oblate apostolate in the Region. Intereligious dialogue on a living level has given surprisingly positive results in the Philippines; commitment to human promotion goes hand in hand with the growth of the christian community in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan; ministry for justice is being emphasized in Sri Lanka; the transforming blend of modern and traditional societies can be seen in Japan and Thailand; a commitment to the formation of young people is typical of Australia and Hong Kong; the use of mass media is being promoted in the Philippines, the formation of the laity in Indonesia. Because of the growth in local vocations the map of the Oblate presence in the world is changing and Indonesia with its 22 scholastics is a significant element in this change.

Generally there is a sense of belonging and a good community spirit expressed especially in the District communities. Lifestyle is simple and there is a search for greater closeness and similarity to that of the poor.

There is a good integration with the local church. The Oblates have been able to transmit their spirit and lifestyle to the local church and especially to the clergy, as I noticed in Sri Lanka.

6. In my letters to the different Oblate Provinces and Delegations, I have noted the challenges to be met by each group. Here I wish to recall some of the principal challenges common to the whole of the Region.

There is room for improvement in the quality of commnity life at District level in terms of common prayer, in depth exchange and discernment.

Inculturated evangelization of the living cultures in both their traditional and modern needs continues to be one of the principal problems.

An evangelical presence among non christians requires

more personnel and effort.

There is a widespread demand for the integration of the social dimension in evangelization, for the promotion of justice and peace, for the formation of the laity and of basic christian communities, and for a deeper, more authentic and better adapted spirituality.

These requirements should be emphasized throughout the whole course of formation both initial and ongoing.

Ongoing formation is a requirement of our fidelity to the mission and to our religious consecration. Because of deficiencies in this field there is often a waste of useful energy, a persistence of debilitating tensions, persons who are dissatisfied, crises which drag on or remain without a positive solution, and especially missionary challenges which remain unanswered. Ongoing formation may take place in a variety of ways. It is part of the ordinary life of each one especially in following the guidelines provided by the Constitutions and Rules, of regular community exchange, of sharing in provincial activities such as retreats, congresses, courses; and finally, it has special forms according to the requirements of individuals and of the ministry.

In a continent where spiritual searching and accompaniment is prevalent, it seems to me to be important that the practice of spiritual direction should be rediscovered since it is a requirement for any interior progress and especially during the period of first formation.

Finally, I wish to emphasize the priority to be given to the formation ministry and also the importance of the study of local languages for an effective apostolate and of international languages for the unity of the Congregation and for international contacts.

7. Dear Oblate brothers of Asia and Oceania, the Congregation is looking in your direction and is counting on you. I hope that the Congregation will commit itself increasingly with you to answer the challenges of your continent. I thank you and I ask God to bless you and Our Blessed Mother Mary to give you her protection.

Fr Marcello Zago omi

p. Marcello Zago, OMI
Superior General

Rome, October 24, 1989

OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

Provincial Newsletter of the OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Vice Province of Japan

CHRISTMAS 1989

Dear brother Oblates,

The angel said to them: "You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you, tidings of great joy to be shared by all the people".

Christmas is a time of communication. We celebrate the communication of the angel to the shepherds but more so we celebrate the communication of a our loving Father who sent His Son; His Word of love to you and to me. In his life; in his acts and words Jesus himself communicated that message of love. The message that we are the beloved of the Father

The angel proclaimed that this good news the tidings of great joy are to be shared by all the people. This Christmas you and I are the ones sent by the Father to communicate that message of love. Like Christ each one of us is a missionary of God's love.

We are sent first to our own Oblate Brothers so that our communities, our districts, our province may be places of love. Places where the love of the Father is shared. We are then sent to all the suffering, the homeless, the oppressed, the forgotten to communicate to them the love of the Father we have experienced in our Oblate Community.

We are sent to all of these in such a way that they will not only hear the message, "This day in David's city a savior has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord", but will through us experience, as we have, the love and joy and peace of the angel's message.

You will be remembered in my three Christmas Masses. May you experience more fully, more deeply the love of the Father. May you communicate to all the love you have received. And finally may our loving Father bless you and your ministry in 1990.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O. M. I.
Provincial

NAKAMURA

The last Newsletter had a little note attached with a request for on article about Nakamura for the December edition. My first reaction was, "How can I write about a place where I have just arrived?". But then it dawned on me that I have been here for 400 days. The time has gone by so fast that I wonder what I have done.

Before I could even unpack there was a funeral. It was at the extreme South-West end of Hata-gun which meant a half day of traveling by bus with a change of buses enroute. Not long after this trip there was a second funeral.

The first two months I was also in charge of Ikeda which meant a couple of trips up there. And of course there was the regular work of preparing sermons, children's catechism, visiting the Christians, etc.

It also happened that there were a few groups of Filipina entertainers working in bars in Nakamura, Shimizu, Kubokawa, and Sukumo. Their numbers reached a peak last Christmas with 25 attending Christmas Mass. Our Japanese Catholics received them warmly. The Lord's Prayer was sung in Tagalog whenever Filipinas attended our parish Mass. Because of their schedule they preferred to have Mass on Saturday afternoon at 4 P.M. in Nakamura and every

other Sunday at 1 P.M. in Shimizu. This was an English-Tagalog Mass.

Since last April their numbers have been dwindling down to almost zero because of the visa restrictions now in force against them. But there is now a steady increase of Filipina brides. I now have nine such couples and there will be more in the future. Some of these are victims of dishonest marriage brokers, but most are marriages of love. The young man and woman become acquainted at some bar. Usually the young man goes to the Philippines to arrange for the wedding. It seems that in the case of International Marriages it is much easier to get married in the Philippines than in Japan.

Most of these brides are married to men who live far away from the church. In fact in remote villages far way from everything. Villages to which young Japanese girls refuse to go as brides. When I try to find their new homes for a first visit I can't help thinking that if I were a Japanese girl I would refuse to go to live there too. Why should foreign girls then....? Add to their loneliness, the difference of language and cultural background, the lack of friends, and you understand why they welcome a visiting priest so warmly even though some may not have been fervent christians in their own country. But now they are here. The lay missionaries God sent us to bring the Good News to these remote places. Places we could hardly ever reach given our small numbers, lack of time, and other demands upon us in our immediate surroundings. We must do all we can to help these young women keep the faith.

In between all of these happenings somehow I have been able to visit almost all the territory confided to me. It is an area as large as Kagawa-Ken or the State of Rhode Island with a population of 120,000. Two thirds of whom live in the three cities of Nakamura, Shimizu and Sukumo.

Sukumo is the only city with an economic future. Thanks to the widening of the seaport and other construction work large vessels will be able to enter the harbor and provide transportation for the planned industry-zone. Housing complexes are being built and new job opportunities will be available in the near future. Surely these facts challenge the Church to take a look in that direction, too?

I intended to write about the childrens groups, and summer activities. But I will close now. Must attend our weekly meeting to study the problems of Discrimanted Groups at the Uyama Neighborhood Hall from 7:30 to 9 P.M.

With best wishes for a happy Christmas and a very blessed 1990

Fr. Gerard Stevens, O.M.I.

NAGOYA

Greetings from Nagoya. It was a most eventful year for us. Among the highlights was the Perpetual Oblation of Bro. Kawaguchi Satoshi, O.M.I. and the visit of Father General. Father General's visit was a big boost to our understanding of community life as well as giving us a renewed interest in the Founder and the apostolic ministries of the Oblates on the international scene.

The formation team was a plus for us. Frs. Leonard Simons and Len Inui come to visit once a month. They participate in our regular schedule and also give a spiritual talk.

As for myself, in addition to my work here, I have been helping with Sunday Mass once a month at the Hibari Church. I also have mass twice a month at the Cathedral for the Filipino Migrant Workers. I have also been asked to help couples in "international marriages". We meet the third Thursday of the month to discuss international marriages and related issues. We provide them with counseling and also Bible study.

Merry christmas to you all. May god bless you abundantly now and in the New Year.

Fr. Ange Siani, O.M.I.

1989, what an amazing year! You could feel the flow of history. In June the tragic drama in China at "Tenanmon" displayed to the the world the plight of people who live in a communist regeme. In the drive for democracy in East Europe, we witnessed the call to freedom and human dignity. These events clearly show us that no one way or idea is absolute and all must constantly be purified. One era ends, history moves on, and we can see the hand of God in its flow.

The history of humankind has truly changed since the Son of God became incarnate. God became man. For humanity it became a great event. Perhaps when Jesus died on the cross, it was a small item of news for the people of Jerusalem but for humanity as a whole it was to be the greatest event in history. The birth of Christ has forever changed the history of mankind, The works of God are truly a mystery. Thanks be to God.

Bro. Leo Satoshi Kawaguchi, O.M.I.

Merry Christmas !! I pray to Jesu for all of you that you may be blessed with much happiness and good health.

Bro. Masashi Hashimoto, O.M.I

Editors note: Brother has past the entrance axamination for Nanzan University. Congratulations Brother.

This is my Christmas gift message to you "Merry Christmas". On this holy day may the joy and peace of Christmas be with you.

I also send you a New Year gift message. I heartily wish you every good in 1990.

Bro. Noboyuki Yagi, O. M. I.

AKAOKA

December 8th, the Feast of Mary Immaculate, the Bishop of Takamatsu, Bishop Fukahori, the Provincial, Fr. John Kenney Mahoney, and ten other priests joined by more than fifty parishioners and friends celebrated the Feast of our Lady and the blessing of Aonami no Ie (Blue Wave House).

The Aonami Kindergaten originally built by the Domincan Fathers more than fifty years ago was rebuilt after the Oblates took over the parish. At the request of the local authorities this building became a Day Nursery. In 1975 because of local circumstances the town officials considered the Day Nursery no longer necessary so it was closed in 1976.

At that time the Nursery School under the direction of Mr Fumio Abe had become a place for the study of pre-school education, particulary the "Montessori Method". Over one hundred teachers applied to attend the last session. Following that period the buidings were use by the Emmaus group for about four years.

Through the Kochi Volunteer Bureau and also the Emergency Phone Service the need for a house for troubled women was apparent. Even before that some girls in need of help and refuge were taken in by Miss Toshi Takeda who at that time was the Directress of the Hakuai Orphanage.

The buildings at Akaoka were waiting for new inhabitants and we thought it to be an ideal place for such work. With the understanding of the Oblates and the permission of Bishop Fukahori the work of preparing the buildings was started in July. This was far behind the planned schedule but a contractor could not be found. Finally a painter and a plasterer who was also an amateur carpenter took on the job. Thanks to their efforts and the cooperation of several people including Fr. Matsunaga most of the repairs and cleaning up was finished by the end of October. In fact Fr. Matsunaga is now an expert varnish remover.

By the middle of January we hope to be able to open our doors, The purpose is to give these women the chance to feel at home and find themselves. We want Aonami House to be a place where they feel accepted and where they can

become aware of their worthiness and ability The stay will be for about three months and if necessary prolonged for another three months.

All staff personnel are volunteers. The permanent staff are Miss Toshi Takeda, retired Directress of Hakuai Orphanage and Mrs. Tomoyo Kyoto who is in charge of the vegetable garden. Some other people will come and help out on a part time basis. Please remember the staff and also the troubled women who come to our home.

I would like to thank all of thos who came to celebrate with us or sent congraulatory messages. I would alo like to thank you for your understanding and cooperation. May the Christ Child bring to all of you Peace of Heart and a year of blessing.

Fr. Leonard Simons, O.M.I.

KOCHI

Dear Everybody,

A year has past - that brings us to a happy year end. At least that is what I wish for all of you. May Christmas bring memories of the past and hopes for the future.

It was a rather normal year for me - teaching hours as usual. Only at the reformatory school things are getting more and more "administrative" and less place for human relations.

The OMI Communique from Rome (Oct. 1989) has given me much consolation and courage in the work for Justic and Peace. Quote: "This is not optional, it is a must". I hope that we Oblates in Japan follow this trend and spirit in solidarity with the Oblates all over the world.

While I was thinking what to write in my Christmas "message", I got word from Belgium that my brother-in-law died from lung cancer. He was just sixty years old. I thought to go and see him before he died during this winter vacation. Still I think I'll take a short trip to Flanders anyway... (if I can get a ticket.)

Y.X. Tosa

At Christmas I thank God for protecting all of you through this year and pray that He will extend His protection and other blessings through the year ahead.

Ed Williams, O.M.I.

All is good! For all things thanks! Praise be to God!
Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Tom Maher, O.M.I.

Dear John, Oblates and friends,

A few words to wish you and those close to you a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with much Peace and Warmth. Thank you John for asking me to share a few ideas in the December issue of the Japan Newsletter about my Pro-Life Ministry as an Oblate in Japan.

The Japan Pro-Life Movement Ministry is a Christian, pro-life ministry geared toward a 99% Buddhist society. As you know, the pro-life ministry was established to rescue the lives of innocent human beings in danger of being killed by abortion, infanticide or euthanasia. The present number in Japan is 6000 abortions per day. We believe that the "right to life" from the moment of conception until natural death, is the most basic, fundamental, God-given human right. We are a voice in the Right to Life Movement which speaks out for those who cannot speak for themselves.

The Japan Pro-Life Movement Ministry was officially started a couple three years ago by myself, Mr. Komatsu and Miss Aoki, with the strong support of the Oblates here in Japan. During this time, the movement has spread throughout Japan and we work together with various other groups, directly and indirectly, to intervene for the lives of unborn Japanese babies threatened with death by abortion. God has blessed this work through these three years and I believe many Japanese women have changed their minds and given life to their babies. This ministry is gradually becoming national in scope and hopefully within the near future, will be able to command media attention.

Through a regular Newletter, designing various pamphlets, translating books, videos, writing letters, attending related seminars and many other activities, the Pro-Life Ministry is saving lives of babies and, hopefully in the coming year, our work will impact more Christians and non-Christians with the pro-life message.

Please pray and consider how God wants us to help save lives. At present, we are in need of many prayers, more prayers, and many benefactors to help us spread the pro-life message. If you have any suggestions, questions or would like more information, please write us at: Japan Pro-Life Movement Ministry, Shinhonmachi 1-7-31, Kochi City, Japan, 780.

Have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas!

Your brother in Christ & Mary,

Jerry Novotny, OMI

Jerry Novotny, OMI

AKI

My dear brothers,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Now, another year is just about to pass. I have a very simple life here in the rural parish of Aki. The only noise is that of the very active kindergaten children playing outside. This spring two of the teachers will marry and leave the school.

I pray for you all, expecially in the Mass of Christmas.

Fr. John Iwo, O.M.I.

NARUTO

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
キリストのご降誕おめでとうございます。

This year was a most happy one here in Naruto - what with the visits of Fr. Zago, Alfons Keuter ,Gene Canas, and Des - the ground-work visit to Korea for our Oblate Missionaries from Italy -signs of strengthening of our Christian community here - a full enrollment of our school for 1990 - the possibility of a vocation to the Trappists from our community.
Especially at this time I join with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Europe and Asia who are seeking freedom. May they find it from the blessings of our Christmas Eucharist
With best wishes to one and all,
Bert, OMI

TOKUSHIMA

Dear Brothers in Christ,

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. It's been an eventful first year at Tokushima, many wonderful memories but on bad one my stomach operation. The first year here has been a great opportunity to stretch my development in general and now I'm hoping the Lord will stretch the half of my stomach I have left! I'm sorry I missed everyone at the September gathering. I was really looking forward to it. But I want to thank you all for your prayers. They worked. I'm better. You are all in my prayers in a special way. May we all rest deep in His love. Bill

ANAN

Christmas pretty well wraps up the year and all it contains. None of our parishes can be considered large in the sense of many foreign parishes, but still each of us, I think, are as occupied as any priest in the world. Coming to Anan, I dreamed of lots of free time, but it's not that way at all. My days are pretty well scheduled. The busyness of Fran Hahn continues. There is an average of 30 people attending Sunday Mass: we're few in numbers but strong in unity and Faith. There should be two baptisms at Easter next year. Our kindergarten will be graduating 35 in March, and at the present time, we've signed up 38 newcomers for the coming year. My english teaching work continues to involve me with Kosen Technical College and several groups here at the rectory. Another involvement I like is golf occasionally with 22 local merchants. It has been a good year and I'm thankful.

Dick Harr, O.M.I.

AWA-IKEDA

Hello, everybody! A blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with all the blessings of the Christ Child to everyone!

The past year has been another new experience, added to the many that I have lived before. Part of the time went into taking care of material needs, the rest was divided into a variety of activities, almost all of them away from here. After a slow start the desk work for the Bishop has picked up, and it may be coming in regularly from now on. Once a month I go to Itami for a week-end to give chiropractic treatments to several persons. Here in Ikeda this has not yet caught on; some people have inquired about it, and "were going to come" but I am still waiting for the first one. One Catholic lady has come from far away, Uwa-cho, next to Uwajima.

In the parish we got one new parishioner after Easter, a young man from Anabuki who was baptised in Tokyo just before coming home after completing his University studies. He is employed near his home. He is a very nice lad, and very helpful to the other parishioners, especially since he has his own car and is happy to give them a lift on his way to and from church. I hope(with a dose of doubts) to have another man for baptism at Easter. Will you help giving it a push with a prayer for that intention?

Anyone wanting to stop by (even stop over) is very welcome! But, please, call beforehand to make sure that I am home, otherwise you might not be able to get in.

If anyone wants to communicate by Fax, that can be done by using FAX # 0883-72-5884.

GREETINGS! Until we meet again, hopefully soon!

Jan Van Hoydonnck O. M. I.

KOGA

On my return from two months of vacation in Europe and the States, one of the nicest vacations ever, I found the people of Koga committed to their faith and to one another.

Next year, if God allows, I hope to have a catechesis in the parish to open up a catechetical way to help those who are interested to mature their faith. Again, if the Lord allows, maybe some Catholic families from Spain will come to live in the parish boundaries to witness as family. I have lots of plans and hopes but will have to see what the Lord has in mind.

The Merriest and Holiest of Christmases ever and may the Risen Person of Jesus the Lord fill your new year in all ways.

Fran Hahn, O. M. I.

Merry Christmas! This Christmas let us rejoice in the loving heart of the Child Jesus. I pray that the New Year will be a wonderful year for each one. At this time I want to thank each one for the many kindnesses shown to me in the past year. Thank you, and again Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Len Inui, O., M. I.

ITAMI

I would like to share some anecdotes with you about one of my parishioners. He is a six year old boy whose name is Kiichi. Kiichi often comes up with very unique statements.

One day, while watching the T. V. news showing the results of a landslide which crushed several buildingss, he suddenly stood up, and grabbing a stick started poking at the corpus on the cross on the wall. His father asked him, "What are you doing?". The boy answered "I'm punishing God for making people suffer".

Another day, he was asked if he was interested in the priesthood, he said "Do I have to have grey hair like Fr. Yamazaki to be a priest?". He thought it is a sine qua non for a priest candidate to have a bush of grey hair even at the early age of six.

He said several weeks ago, "God is the greatest, then comes Buddha, after that in the following order: Ojizo-san (a road side statue), the parish priest, farmers and then daddy". His mother asked, "Why does Buddha come after God?". He answered, "A lot more people pray to God". His mother asked him, "Why does the Ojizo-san come before the priest?". "Well he replied, anticipating the next series of questions, Ojizo-san protects us by standing on the corners of streets, but the priest doesn't do that. Farmers produce the rice we eat. Daddy supplies money to buy rice. But if there is no rice his money is useless".

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Yamazaki, O.M.I.

FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY Itami

As of this writing, Manila is still under siege. Another coup (the nations favorite pastime) has been staged by a reformist group in the army. The very same group catapulted Aquino to power but now demands her resignation, and not without reasons. Corruption and incompetence in the government is worse than ever. A bleak Christmas has come early for the millions of Filipinos.

And here in Japan, life goes on for the thousands of Filipino migrant workers. They still arrive by the trickle though the Japan Embassy in Manila has stopped issuing tourist visa to Filiponos. If approved, a new immigration law that will make it punishable to employ foreigners without the proper working visa will take effect next June. It is feared that this new law will just encourage more the proliferation of labor sharks and the exploitative working conditions for foreign migrant workers.

Sunday Masses in English and Tagalog held all over the country are occasions when Filipinos can escape from their woes. Last November, I was invited to celebrate mass at the Akabane Church in Tokyo and I couldn't believe the number of Filipinos who came. About 400 filled the church and another hundred remained outside not able to get in. Similar situations can be seen at other place that I have visited.

1989 was a busy year. I chalked us 40,000 km. of travel within the country plus three trips to Manila, once to bring back the remains of a Filipina who died and another to accompany the victims of the Lapin case. The Lapin case took 8 months of court battle and it was physically and psychologically exhausting. My sincere thanks to the Nagoya community for their warm support while the case was in progress. Incidentally, together with two lawyers and

a journalist, we are putting out a book on the Lapin case which should be out before Christmas. Another book that you might be interested in is Children's Rights (Nihon Hyoronsha), which is already out in the bookstores.

Last Christmas, I said mass with Ron at a Filipino restaurant in Nagoya at 4:00 AM to accomodate Filipinos coming home from work at nightclubs. It was a journey back to the stable and so much different from Christmas in Hikarigaoka church.

May this Christmas be joyous for all of you and may you start another decade full of Hope.

Wency Laguidao, O.M.I.

TOKYO

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A BLESSED NEW YEAR

As I was preparing my Christmas cards I was listening to Bing Crosby's "Secret Of Christmas" and one line struck me especially: The secret of Christmas is not what you do at Christmas time, but the Christmas things you do all the year through.

This led me to thinking of the "Christmas things" which to me mean Love, Peace, Hope. So all the year thru I should be telling someone I LOVE him/her, all the year thru I should be making PEACE with someone, and all the year thru I should be bringing HOPE to someone. If I do the secret and spirit of Christmas will remain the whole year through.

I also saw at the same time that the main thrust of the Marriage Encounter and Choice Movements was centered on these. Of course LOVE is central to these and often they take the form of PEACE (Reconciliation) and HOPE especially for the young people who feel society crushing them.

I hope the seasons blessings will be with you now and throughout the whole year.

Ray Bourgoin, O.M.I.

Greetings from Tsukuba! Hope this finds everyone "genki" and ready for the start of a new year! I have a couple of projects on the back burner which I'll try to get off the ground by mid-January. But, I figure my immediate task is to work even more closely with the deaf to help make sure they don't get the short end of the stick, either in the Church or here at the College. I have a copy of The

Clagget Statement, a collaborative report by Deaf Protestants and Catholics in the U.S. and Canada, in which they cite examples of discrimination in the Church and society by well intentioned but misinformed hearing people (clergy and laity alike, volunteers included). If I hadn't known beforehand the origin of the report, I would've sworn it was a report on the present situation here in Japan. Will bring you up to date on my latest shenanigans, when I see you in March! In the meantime,

A Meaningful and Merry Christmas!

- And-

Good Health in the New Year!

Jack Deely, O.M.I.

ST. LOUIS

The first semester has gone by so quickly. Each of the courses and workshops were very refreshing. I am grateful to all of you for having this opportunity for renewal. Many thanks also for your prayers and expecially for the words of greeting you sent during your retreat. I will be celebrating Christmas with my family, the first time in a dozen years. I am greatful for this gift.

My best wishes to each of you for Christmas and a New Year filled with His blessings and surprises.

Ron LaFramboise, O.M.I.

Finally from the two newest members of our Province our Missionaries to Korea who will be coming the end of April.

It is our joy to express to you and to all the Japanese Province our wish for a Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year!

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Mauro Concardi, O.M.I.
Vincenzo Bordo, O.M.I.

『どうぞ、子どもが生まれることを恐れないで下さい。神の贈物として、尊い授かりものとして、子どもを受け入れて下さい。ちょうど聖母が幼な子イエズスをお迎えになったように……。私たちへの愛のために、そして、ご自分よりも、おん子をもっと愛されたために、貧しさの中で、苦しみながら、そのおん子をお生みになった、素晴らしい母である聖母マリアの前に、一つの強い決心をいたしましょう。子どもは、神からのもっとも大きな贈物であり、その子どもをとおして私たちの愛も、愛情も、すべては神の賜であるということを宣言いたしましょう。その子どもは、私たちの家庭の、そして私たちの国の、そして世界の中で、神の生きた現存であるということを明言いたしましょう。』　マザー・テレサ

今年もいよいよ押し詰まって来ましたが、皆様いかがお過ごしですか。春に事務所を開設したと思ったら、もう冬です。この間、事務所の活動も少しずつ増えてきました。9月～「カトリック正義と平和全国会議」、10月～「ビリングス医学博士夫妻とオーデブラト医学博士によるワークショップ」、11月～「キリスト者の家族計画を考えるワークショップ」等に参加。その他、プロ・ライフ支援のためのチャリティーコンサートも開かれました。地元新聞社を訪ね、中絶問題（特に十代の）についてのお話も伺いました。　また、ビデオやパンフレットの注文をいただいたり、励ましのお便りやお電話をいただいたり、少しずつ少しずつ運動の輪が広がっていっているのを感じます。プロ・ライフを支援してくださる方々や、同じ思いで運動している他のグループの方々と共に、これからも頑張りたいと思います。この一年間、本当にありがとうございました。たくさんの出会いを感謝しつつ……。では、よいクリスマスと、そしてよいお年をお迎え下さい。

1989年12月

ノボトニー・ジエリー，ＯＭＩ

つくばだより

皆さんは元気で新年に備えておられることでしょうね。僕はやりかけの仕事がいくつかあり、1月中旬までには終えようと努力しているところです。けれど僕にとっての今一番の仕事というのは、教会でもここの大学でも不利な立場に置かれている聴障者のもっと近くで働くことです。アメリカとカナダの聾信者が集まって出した「クラゲット声明」を最近読みました。日本の聾信者の方々はアメリカは進んでいると思っていますが、今でもこんなに差別的状況に置かれているということを知ることで、大きな力になるのではないかと思います。3月に会ったときに改めてまた報告します。

それでは・・・

よいクリスマスを！

ディーリ