



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

March 12, 1995.

Dear Fellow Oblates,

Almost two months ago Japan experienced one of the worst earthquakes in its history. Thousands have died. Hundreds of thousands are still without homes. Recently I was in Nigawa and I can't express the sadness I felt when I saw the rubble of rows and rows of destroyed houses and the looks on the faces of people whose lives were changed drastically in just 20 seconds.

I thank you all for your prayers and the generous financial response from the province and our communities. I also wish to thank the people of our missions for sending volunteers and material aid to the Kobe area immediately after the quake.

I also thank the Provincials of the Philippines, Fr. Phil Estrella, and South Africa (Natal), Fr. Barry Wood, for their faxes of concern and promise of prayers, and Fr. Francis G. Scanlan of the Chicago Diocese for his letter promising prayers and his donation for the quake victims.

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I attended the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference (AORC), held from January 26-31 in the Philippines. Our meetings were held at the Canossa House of Spirituality in Tagaytay.

The agenda, prepared by Phil Estrella, Provincial of the Philippines, and Edmund Murugupillai, Secretary of the Conference, was presented to the members of the AORC for approval and accepted. The meeting was held in preparation for the Inter-Capitular, to be held in Bangkok in October.

#1. Reports on the Follow-Through of the 1992 Chapter Document.

Concerning this item the reporting differed in some areas, but on the Regional level since the Chapter "Witnessing as Apostolic Community" there has been a greater commitment to community prayer, participation at meetings and sharing of resources (finances, personnel, planning etc.)

#2. Oblate Apostolic Community Experience Program - Rome 1994.

The purpose of this program was to prepare some experts who would be available for animation on community in the 4 Regions. Fr. Chris O'Leary, who will facilitate our Spring meeting, attended the meeting held in Rome.

After much discussion it was decided that each unit is responsible for its follow-through of the Chapter Document, specifically in the formation of an apostolic community. This could be helped by using the Community Animation Resources from the General Administration.

At the regional level it was suggested that the 4 regional participants of the Rome '94 meeting meet and come up with an alternative program that would suit the region's cultural context and needs. This program will be discussed further after the Inter-Capitular meeting in Bangkok.

#3. Formation and the 1992 Chapter Document.

The Chapter suggested that preparation for perpetual vows be intensified and should preferably be held on the regional level. Our region has no specific program for perpetual vows. Last year the Philippines, Australia and Indonesia held a "de Mazenod Summer Program" for all scholastics in temporary vows, but whether this will be expanded to a whole program is uncertain. Other issues presented were formation of formators and the possibility of a regional scholasticate.

#4. The Laity and the 1992 Chapter Document.

The report on this issue was weak. However, our Regional Consultor, Angelito Lampon, shared with us the steps being taken by the General Administration regarding new forms of lay association.

A) to set up a network of lay associates with the goal of communicating and sharing information as well as promoting an appropriate formation for lay persons and Oblates involved in such activities.

- the holder of the portfolio of lay associates will establish contact with provinces to develop a better profile of what we are presently doing in this area.

- provinces will be asked:

1. to name a contact person for this area of Oblate life.

2. establish communication with other religious communities to see what they are doing and tap into their resources.

B) to sponsor a congress for lay collaborators in May 1996.

- The portfolio holder and an ad hoc committee will prepare a proposal after consultation with the region.

- key lay persons will be involved in the planning and preparation for this congress.

#5. Financial Sharing and 1992 Chapter.

This item was not discussed.

#6. Structures.

The 1992 General Chapter established a Post-Capitular Committee on the Structures to examine the present organizational structures at all levels of the congregation, and submit appropriate recommendations to be examined for decision by the 1998 General Chapter.

The committee was mandated to function in four phases. The first phase has been completed, and the documents prepared for presentation at the 1995 Inter-Capitular Meeting (second phase) were presented to the group by Fr. Pierre Chevroulet, not for discussion but for the purpose of familiarization with the text.

There are four major changes presented:

1. Basic values presupposed: Collaboration, participation and co-responsibility, subsidiarity and accountability.

2. All Provincial Superiors will be elected by the province for a term of 5 years: reappointment is an exception. The Superior General is elected for a 12 year term.

3. The Office of General Councillor is to be dropped and replaced by Assistants-General (at least 4).

4. Modification in the norms that govern the General Chapter, particularly in the manner of representation at the Chapter.

#7. Further preparation for the 1995 Inter-Capitular.

Oct. 17-21 Familiarization of participating provincials

Oct.23 - Nov.8 Inter-Capitular

Nov. 9 Joint Session of the General Council and the Asia/Oceania Region

Three position papers will be presented at the Inter-Capitular:

1. Socio-economic-political situation

2. Religious situation, including relations with Islam and other religions

3. Asian spirituality

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We are now in the season of Lent, a time when we draw closer to the Cross. Traditionally, Lent is a time of sacrifice, discipline and reconciliation. It is a time when we reflect on our lives both as individuals and as a community.

After the great earthquake Archbishop Yasuda challenges all of us to look at ourselves as a church. In his letter to the Archdiocese of Osaka "Matters concerning Restoration Plans..." he writes: "Basic Priorities of



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Date : 21 January 1995

To : Fr. Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial, OMI Province of Japan

Fax No. : (0888) 73 7536

From : Fr. Phil Estrella, OMI

The Oblates of the Philippine Province would like to express their deepest sympathies and offer their prayers for those affected by the disastrous earthquake in Kobe.

Suffering tests and deepens faith. We pray that the good Lord may work through this tragedy and bring out the best in people's faith and solidarity.

Praying that you and the other OMI's are fine, and hoping that you have a safe and pleasant trip to Manila. God bless.

the Church of Japan that came out of Nice I and II have guided the Church in its mission to move along those priorities. The experience of the great earthquake affirms priorities set 10 years ago. What is the meaning of salvation as preached by the Church in the face of this disaster? Where do we find salvation? Who will be saved? These are the questions that are left for us to answer after this disaster."

Further on in his letter he challenges the churches' use of money. "If by spending this much in restoration we only give the impression that we are like an exclusive club of moneyed members, then we have lost the purpose for which we, as a Church, exist... Parishes must continue the mission to search for the underprivileged, for those who are pushed even lower to the bottom ranks of society after the earthquake." The archbishop calls the restoration "A Passover journey, our participation in the suffering, the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ."

I think the questions raised by the Archbishop could open up many areas for our own reflection in regard to ourselves and mission in the context of our Oblate Charism, especially as regards our predilection for the poor and the marginalized, those least touched by the Church.

In the preface of our Rule Blessed Eugene sets down the conditions to accomplish our mission. "They must work unremittingly to become humble, meek, obedient, lovers of poverty and penance, mortified, free from inordinate attachment to the world or to family, men filled with zeal, ready to sacrifice goods, talents, ease, self, even their life, for the love of Jesus Christ, the service of the Church, and the sanctification of their brethren."

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"We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
for He is our salvation, our life and our resurrection,
through Him we are saved and made free."

HAPPY EASTER

Faternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

From John K Mahoney:

The move to the Zendana Rectory was made on February 28. I am glad to be here and the parishioners seem to be happy that I am here, too. At least they wanted me in residence, so to speak, enough to pay quite a bit to have the kitchen and my room redone. The Council has also put its o.k. on making a small tatami room into a chapel for daily Mass and meetings of small prayer groups.

There are 179 parishioners: 123 female and 56 male. The Parish Council is very active and very responsible. We are in the process of electing a new Council. I would be happy if the present Council President accepts another term but he does not want it, which may be just as well in the long run. It looks as though I will be able to work with the possible new Council Members.

There is also a new position on the Council: Secretary to the Pastor. The woman who is to have this position has already started. She is helping me to prepare for teaching converts a new book. She helps me with the Kanji characters that I cannot read. It beats searching through a Kanji Dictionary. She will also help with correspondence etc.

My room is quite large: six meters by four meters. The window on the long side of the room is 4.5 meters. I know because I just measured. This window overlooks the parking lot of an apartment house, so there is plenty of sun. So much so that there is very little need of a stove during the day. All in all it is a very nice place to live.

One of the resolutions in my "Stay Well Plan" is to walk for one hour every day. Zendana has a wonderful place for walking. Part of the walk is along the Yamasaki River. The river is lined with cherry trees as well as other trees and shrubs. The cherry trees should blossom any day now. Then it will be an even better walking site. I am sure there are other good walking spots, but for the present I am satisfied with this one.

A new subway line - The Sakura Doori Line - has made our location very accessible. It is about two minutes from our gate to the subway station. The name of our station is Mizuhoo Athletic Field. When you come for a visit use Exit #1. There is a guest room. I am hoping you will come and make use of it.

As the subway system is very convenient I use it quite a bit. And now I can ride for nothing. I went to the Ward Office and received my Honorable Aged Pass Book. This entitles me to ride the city subway and bus systems free of charge. I am also a member of the Jipangu Kurabu. Membership in this club entitles me to ride on all Japan Railroad lines at a 20 or 30 percent discount.

I think this covers just about where I am at this point. I am enjoying it all.

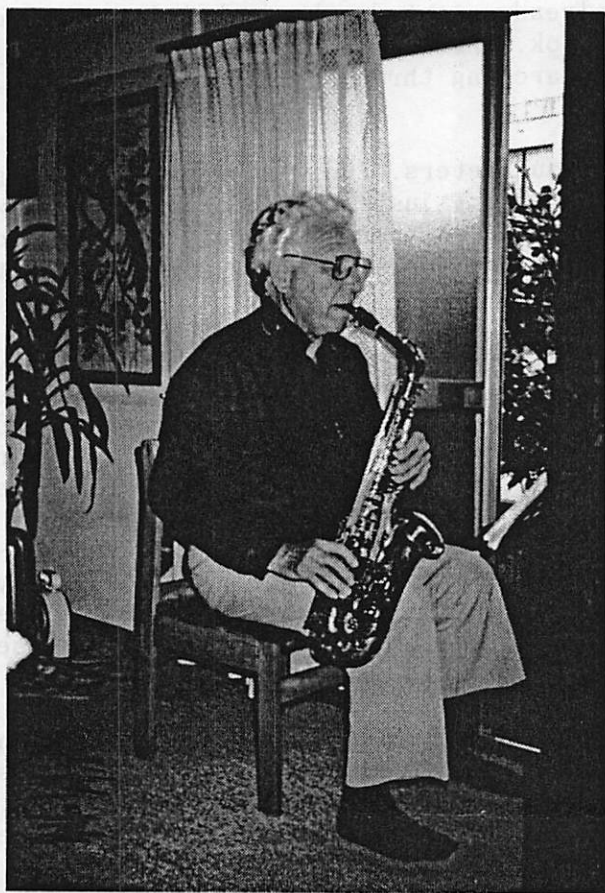
John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.

From Yoshikazu TOSA X.

Kochi Febr.1995

Spring doesn't only mean the romance of the cherry blossoms, but also the end of the school year, the entrance examinations (the so-called "examination hell") and of course the beginning of the new school year. In the meantime new "randseru", the Japanese for the old Dutch word 'ransel', meaning 'rucksack') and new desks for the first graders of elementary school, new uniforms and new schoolbooks are the articles of a flourishing spring sale.

I'm already re-hired to teach French at Kochi University, English at Rehabilitation College and of course at the Reform School, where I am already helping out for 30 years. But from April on, teaching French at the Kochi Medical College will be added to my schedule. So, the "year of retiring" is postponed again...



Together with the coming of spring we have also the 'oidasu kompa' at the schools. A literal translation would mean something like 'expelling' the graduating students, but "farewell party" is a more friendly translation. At the farewell parties of the Reform School and the ESS Club of Kochi Women's University I play my saxophone. I'm announced as "the Parting Saxo". I always make a lot of mistakes when playing. One reason is the lack of practice, another is my being nervous playing in front of others (certainly when the audience are all young girls...). Speaking about my saxophone: two months ago I joined a small brass band. I am giving them a rough time, because I don't keep tempo!

This year in Europe, America and Japan the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II is commemorated. The Japanese Government seems to prepare a statement in which it will take responsibility for the war in Asia. The Catholic Church in Japan also is preparing a statement in which it will do some self-examination about its conduct during the wartime and at the same time look to the future to become an instrument of peace in Asia. Last January the Japanese Committee of Justice and Peace held a study session about this subject. Due to the Kansai Earthquake the attendance was not as good as in normal circumstances. I would like to express my hope that the OMI in Japan will join the Church in this, and make the people around them aware of their responsibilities of becoming "instruments of peace".

Yoshikazu X. TOSA omi.

NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Since the last Newsletter there have been some comings and goings here in Nagoya.

At the end of December, Jude PEIRISPULLE and Brad ROZAIRO went to spend a wonderful time with the OMI brethren in Shikoku. In their conversations some of their experiences still form topics of discussions, so it is clear that the experience was well worth it.

Ray BOURGOIN finally returned from his long stay at home and in France attending the Aix-perience. He was raring to go, but got stalled by the enormity of the work to be done around here. A few days after arriving he accepted to preach a 10-day retreat to the Franciscans of Mary toward the end of July. Because of the volume of the other demands, only yesterday did he start to put words between the commas and periods already in his Word Processor.

Ange SIANI was in and out, mostly on provincial business. In late January he attended the Asian Provincial Meeting in the PHILIPPINES and came back inspired by the members of the other Mission Areas of ASIA. After a Provincial Meeting in Kochi and a tour of the Kochi and Tokushima District Communities, he headed to KOREA to spend a few days with the men of that wing of the Province. The 2 Korean pre-novices were due to arrive the day after he left there. He wasn't here but a day before he left for Nakamura to check in on Gerry STEVENS and then to Koga for the Kindergarten Meeting.

When he returns he won't be here too long before he'll be meeting Lito LAMPON to show him around the Province before our annual Spring Meeting.

During this period we had 2 important visitors from SRI LANKA. In late January, Sriani RANASINGHE came to spend 6 days with us. He had made the Aix-perience in January thru March of 1993. Afterwards he went for a renewal course at Notre Dame University and spent 20 months working off the debt for these studies by helping out in a neighbouring parish in Indiana.

We were struck by his simplicity and level-headedness. If we can guess by the heated discussions that went on, Jude and Brad appreciated his visit, and so did the other members of the community.

In the middle of February, on his return from the Asian Provincials' Meeting in the PHILIPPINES, the Provincial of SRI LANKA, John Camillus FERNANDO, stopped by with his nephew. Everybody in the community knew Camillus from various occasions and were happy to renew bonds. He spent 4 days with us and was very impressed with the set up we have here for our House of Studies.

Since Leo KAWAGUCHI is absent from Japan at the moment, the editing of the MAMI Newsletter is in the hands of Nobuhiko YAGI and Ray. For this reason Nobuhiko came to spend a couple of days here in order to line up articles and make an orderly distribution of the work entailed, so that the next issue can go out on time in the middle of April.

2 other major events occurred. John Kenney MAHONEY moved permanently to the Zendana Parish where he will try to be more available to the parishoners. Our new pre-novice Taku AKABAE has moved in with us and will attend KAWAI JUKU in order to take the entrance exams at NANZAN in December or in the Spring of 1996.

See you in Fukuoka!

THE NAGOYA COMMUNITY

Along with the Japanese Minutes of the 5th meeting of the present Formation Committee we include here an English summary:

(This summary was prepared last May but has not been put into the newsletter yet. Therefore we include it now. A lot of it is old hat!)

1. We summarized what we'd talked about in the first 4 meetings about the period of postulancy. As a rule it will consist of 2 years either matriculating in a college while living with OMI or just living with the OMI to experience Community.
2. We finalized the Pamphlet for vocations (to be back from the printers in early June) and the Booklet on the Founder (which will be finished in July). <Both of these you have already received.>
3. The Vocation Summer Camp will be held as usual (from Aug 8-10) and using the Booklet on the Founder as a basis, on the final day the participants will put on a play at Nakajimacho for the OMI and other Christians. <Was held, see 6th meeting minutes.>
4. On-going Formation for the Young OMI (members in Korea and in Japan) will start things off on a limited scale this September after the retreat. It will include Recreation together, discussion of some points on Apostolic Community as expressed by Fr Zago during the retreat. <Was held, see the 6th meeting minutes.>
5. We didn't have time to write up a letter and Handbook to be given to the members of the Province as regards the shorter and longer stays of future candidates within OMI communities. This topic will be addressed by Ange, Nobuhiko and Len at the next meeting slated for October 21, 1994 in Nagoya.

Formation Committee

Along with the Japanese Minutes of the 6th meeting of the present Formation Committee we include here an English summary:

(First we would point out that Len Inui's brother died just as the meeting was slated to start and that therefore the meeting was held on October 21 with only Nobuhiko Yagi and Ange Siani in attendance.)

1. The first topic consisted on a looking back at the summer camp to see if something could be learned from it. In general all went well with everyone participating heartily in learning about the Founder and putting on a skit based on his life.
2. The second topic which the chairman had asked us to consider was a reflection on the Younger OMI 3 day experience together. Also to consider was the preparation for a March meeting of the Younger Oblates and its feasibility.

Father Zago gave the opening input. A pilgrimage-trip to Nagasaki followed. Friendships were deepened or begun, since it was Brad and Jude's first opportunity to get together with the Korean element of our province. Sharing was not as deep as contemplated, but this is because it was all very new.

They would like to have the next experience in Korea, and if not then in Kochi.

3. A few ideas were batted around on the question of a letter and Handbook to be given to the members of the Province as regards the shorter and longer stays of future candidates within OMI communities. It will remain on the agenda for future consideration.

It was decided not to set a date for the next meeting till Ray returns. <That date has now been set for March 27 in Koga.>

Formation Committee

第7回養成委員会報告

1995年3月27日 古賀・暁の星幼稚園
Fr.ブルジョア Fr.乾 Fr.マウ Br.八木

議題1 志願院のしおりについて

志願院の目的、志願院に入るために、養成過程、目標等を韓国の状況をおりまぜながら、サレジオ会やオブレート会の養成の資料を参考に話し合う。より具体的な項目は総会期間中、Fr.ブルジョアとBr.八木が話し合う。

議題2 志望者のための定期的な接触、集まり等々

韓国の状況を聞く。この集いは、レクリエーション（遠足、ハイキング、スポーツ）や勉学（オブレート会について、日頃の学習）や祈りを通して、オブレート会共同体での生活を体験することを中心とする。

議題3 共同生活の体験を希望する若者が出た場合、その体験の場所を提供してくれるオブレート会員への協力の願いと手引き

Fr.シニ、Fr.山崎の意見とサレジオ会の資料を参考にし、たたき台を作成。それについて話し合う。オブレート会の養成の資料を参考にしながら、後にこの願いと手引きを作成する予定。

議題4 サマーキャンプの準備

若い神父様や志願者が参加してくれそうなので、従来の2泊3日から一日のぼして3泊4日へ。今年は8月7日～10日、考える村で開催。なお青年の準備会は8月6日から中島町教会で。

議題5 若い会員の養成のプログラムについて（9月）

韓国での受け入れ態勢がまだ整っていないので、次回は日本で。候補としては高知。指導者は、前回はずい神父様（海外からの指導者）だったので、次回は身近にいる人が好ましい。

次回委員会について

中島町教会にて 1995年5月11日（木）P.M.2:00～
5月12日（金）A.M.9:00～

Growth in any one of these types of communities is not an easy process. At the Spring meeting we became aware that there are many blocks to the process of growth as an apostolic community. The blocks can be personal or corporate mission policy, real or imagined.

Some of the blocks to growth as community have been removed, others still need a lot of work. But the ground has been prepared. A lot of healing took place at our meeting and the trust in the Oblates here was made very clear.

I feel the fruits of the hard work of the Spring meeting are already having an effect on mission and community life. To mention one, I was encouraged by the Kochi District Meeting when the question of our mission in Nakamura was discussed. I felt it was a real exchange of ideas which then led to decision, and a decision of the whole community.

As Chris said so often, "these things don't just happen". Such times are graces but they also take a lot of work on our part. If we want community we must listen and share with each other. This can take place in our house, as in Korea, but for most of us the District Meeting is the place where we share. The important thing is to be present with our Oblate brothers, to examine before God where one's life is going, if we are "at the service of God in his people" (C35), and if we are truly being led by faith, hope and charity.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo, SMI

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

PRAYER FOR THE DEMAZENOD YEAR

God our Father we thank you for having called Eugene de Mazenod to follow Christ the Savior and Evangelizer.

Passionately in love with your Son, Jesus, and sharing in His compassion for humanity, he put himself unconditionally at the service of your Church for the evangelization of the poor and he raised up missionaries in all parts of the world.

Through his intercession, grant us to burn with living charity for Christ who is calling us to holiness and to the mission; teach us to build communities that are signs of your love, dedicated to the evangelization of the poor and abandoned souls.

We thank you for giving us Mary Immaculate as mother and guide in receiving Christ to proclaim Him Savior of the world.

Amen.

MARCELLO ZAGO, OMI, SUPERIOR GENERAL

Opening of De Mazenod Year

Kochi, Nakajimacho Church

June 4th, 1995

Pentecost Sunday

On this day at 3:00 P.M. the opening Mass for this holy year was celebrated at Nakajimacho Church. Joseph Fukahori, the Bishop of Takamatsu, the local diocese, celebrated the Mass with eight concelebrants, the Chancellor of the diocese, the Oblate Provincial, Angelo Siani; four other Oblates, and the pastor of the neighboring church Father Matsunaga. During the Mass there were baptisms for two school children, a boy and a girl. The boy we named, Eugene, and the girl, Mary. Also at this Mass there was a short ceremony to send forth the adults who had been baptized on Holy Saturday night at the Easter Vigil. Both of these rites were most appropriate for a Mass celebrating a man who had dedicated his life to evangelization and sent forth so many to be missionaries. The names chosen, Eugene and Mary were very much in the heart of everyone celebrating the Oblates on this day. The church was completely filled. There were representatives of the various congregations of Sisters in the diocese, and most of the parishes, not only here in Shikoku but in other places where the Oblates work as well. Among those attending were a large number of foreign migrant workers and students. At the end of the Mass Father Siani gave a fine talk about the Oblates and Bishop DeMazenod. Finally, after all the ceremonies were finished we had cakes and drinks for all in the hall of the kindergarten.

Ed Williams, OMI

7th Meeting REPORT

Held at Koga March 27, 1995

In attendance: Len, Ray, Nobuhiko, Mauro

Topic #1: Using material from the OMI and Salesians and hearing the situation in Korea we worked on Pre-noviciate Program. Ray and Nobu finalized things during the Spring Meeting.

Topic #2: Again also hearing the Korean situation we worked on the program for inviting youngsters who feel a call but are yet too young to enter now. Program includes Recreation, Study, Prayer and an experience of Community Life.

Topic #3: We barely touched the letter we will present other OMI for receiving in their communities young men and boys who would like to enter. We will definitely finalize this at the next meeting.

Topic #4: Summer Camp. Since we foresee more OMI able to help with the program, it was agreed to lengthen the camp by a day. This year the Camp will be August 7-10, in Kochi as usual. Older boys will be asked to help prepare the camp on August 6.

Topic #5: Our Korean brothers don't feel it is feasible at this time to have the meeting of the Young OMI in Korea. So the Fall get together will be planned for Japan. We will try to find a local In-put person.

Next meeting to be held in Kochi on May 11-12

Formation Committee

第8回養成委員会報告

1995年5月11日、12日 高知中島町修道院

Fr.ブルゴアン Fr.乾 Br.八木 Fr.川口

- 議題1 「養成の手引書」をB5サイズ2枚で作成。日本語、英語の二部とする。オプレート会日本管区の名前で発行し、各修道院に保存しいつでも使えるようにする。それに説明の手紙を同封して郵送。
- 議題2 6月の志望者(杉江淳君)のためのプログラムにスポーツを取り入れる。松崎春光君と鳴海の少年たちへも呼びかける。
中島町の堀内さんを志望者として養成委員会は受け入れる。管区長の許可の後、彼にこれからのコースを説明する。司祭職を志す32歳の彼の場合、来年から名古屋で勉強を始めたほうがよいと養成委員会は勧める。
- 議題3 夏のキャンプ二日目、JudeとLeoからのビデオを入れる。三日目のレクリエーションはLeo担当。
- 議題4 若い会員養成プログラムには、心のわだかまりをのべる、INPUT、遊びの三要素が必要。次回は9月1日から3日まで古賀か黙想の家で行う。
- 議題5 次回のマミ会報内容は、Fr.G STEVENS(司祭職40周年)の記事、Rayによる創立者の連載記事、信彦のキャンプ案内、Fr.T MAHERの記事(監獄褒章)、Leoの記事、少年達にカードを送る系の募集。原稿は7月1日までにLeoに送る。

次回委員会は名古屋修学院にて7月14日(金)午後二時からと15日午前中

Friends Oblates,

It was a rather wet spring season. But "what you can't change, accept" somebody would say. Well, I used to be very conscious of what the weather would be on this or that day...I love my motorbike except when it rains. But now, I can move around without getting wet, even in the rainy season. "Somebody" gave me a car! It's a four-years-old car, but it has done only 16.000kms. A beautiful stylish Honda Integra! The only thing I don't like about it is its white color. Something I didn't tell my generous donor...Now at least, I will be able to go to my schools without my books getting wet.

Speaking about schools: my weekly schedule is rather heavy. Everyday, from Monday till Saturday I teach 4 hours. Only Sunday is for the Lord, but He allows me to do my laundry that day...Among all those schools and classes, there is only one place where I don't feel comfortable yet. That's the Kochi Medical College. I was supposed to teach the freshmen/freshwomen, but on the second day, without any previous notice, the school added 25 sophomores. What made things worse, there was no suitable room available. So I must teach French to 35 students in a hall that seats 100 students. In French one would say: "Tant pis pour le dialogue!"

The "Whole Shikoku Intercollege Oratorical Contest" has just taken place in Matsuyama. Kochi All Women University got first price - not the individual price, but the best university price. Only two entrees from each university or college were allowed. It shows the level or quality of the school, and at the same time the efforts put in by the students and their.....coach! (Thank you for your compliments.)

Yoshikazu Xavier TOSA omi

8th Meeting REPORT

Held at Kochi May 11-12, 1995

In attendance: Len, Ray, Nobuhiko, Leo

Topic #1: Using material from the OMI and Salesians and after consulting a number of Oblates, we came up with a Provincial-approved document that we will eventually send to all the houses in Japanese and English. This document describes the treatment of young people who aspire to join us.

Topic #2: We decided it would be good to include sports in our Nagoya program for youngsters (aspirants) who feel a call but are yet too young to enter now. We will implement this in June. We also decided to invite other young people in Nagoya to experience this COME and SEE program.

In dealing with Aspirant matters we discussed at length Mr Horiuchi of Nakajimacho, who definitely wants to be an Oblate. He is 32 years old. Since in April of next year he would still need a year to fulfil the desired 3 years after Baptism, we decided to suggest to the Provincial his coming to Nagoya in April 1996 as an Aspirant and after one year he could begin his Postulancy. This would allow him to start required classes at Nanzan. He is a graduate of Hiroshima University in Economics. The Provincial has accepted this procedure.

Topic #3: We discussed more in detail the Summer Camp. The theme will be "On the Road to Sanctity, the De Mazenod Year". A video on Sri Lanka will also be shown. Jude and Leo are in charge of that. Leo will take care of the recreation on the 3rd day. OMI are invited to take part in the Getting-to-know-you part of the program on the last day.

Topic #4: The Young OMI meeting will be held the 3 days prior to the annual retreat. We are negotiating with an INPUT person at the moment. Insistance was made that these 3 days have Input, that the Young OMI feel free to speak their mind on any topic they want, and that some recreation be on the agenda. This topic will be on our agenda next meeting.

Topic #5: We also finalized the material for the next MAMI Newsletter.

The members all agreed that they preferred the format of meeting over a 2 day period, so that whenever possible we will do the same in the future.

Next meeting to be held in Nagoya on July 14-15

Formation Committee

NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Greetings from Nagoya! We have a few things to report that might be of interest. Since our readership extends beyond the bounds of Japan/Korea, sometimes there are added explanations.

Brad ROZAIRO is our Codex Historicus Secretary, so it makes it easier for us to recall what happened when writing this newsletter. Thanks Brad!

Since the last letter Lito LAMPON has come and gone. We had very useful discussions with him in this House of Studies. He brought a lot of warmth with him and his unassuming manner made it so much easier to speak with him and to know you would be listened to. Come again Lito!

On the day, in March, that Ange SIANI left for Sendai to attend the Perpetual Vow Ceremony of the Ottawa Sisters, Jude PEIRISPULLE and Brad left for their brief stays in Itami and Tokyo, respectively. Brad enjoyed Tokyo very much and among his many adventures he had a brush with authorities for walking along the railroad tracks. He didn't know that in Japan that was a no-no. Luckily they finally left him off the hook so that he could make the Bus Tour of Tokyo.

Jude on the other hand readily enjoyed Itami. He is still in close correspondence with friends he made down there. His visit of the devastated city of Kobe has left a lasting impression on him. While we are on the subject of Jude, he missed a couple of days of classes last week, because he had his foot in a cast. Playing Cricket he twisted his ankle so bad that he stretched and tore 3 important ligaments in his right foot. Ray BOURGOIN now drives him down everyday to school and he takes the subway back. Of course by the time you read this the cast will be off!

Of course we all joined the Province at our Spring Meeting. Our impressions were that we aren't getting any younger! We enjoyed Chris O'LEARY, facilitator, as a welcomed addition to our meeting.

Ray absented himself from Nagoya for an important Formation Committee Meeting in Kochi. He also attended a meeting of the 50th-anniversary-of-the-Oblates-in-Japan-Committee with Jan VAN HOYDONCK and Ed WILLIAMS, chairman. It was realized we have a lot of work to do in the next 3 years. Ed will report to you on some of the decisions of that meeting.

The Formation Committee recommended, as you can see in the accompanying committee report, that the Aspirant Mr HORIUCHI join us in Nagoya in April of 1996. The Provincial has accepted this recommendation. Another person briefly discussed is a Nagoya man, who is 35. Mr KANENO will be further interviewed by Bro Nobuhiko YAGI this coming weekend. He was referred to us by Sister MONIQUE of the Ottawa Sisters.

Ange and John MAHONEY represented us at the festivities of the opening Mass to launch the 'De Mazenod Year' in Kochi on June 4. From all reports it went off well.

Nobuhiko has been in and out a few times. He runs the program for the young aspirant Mr SUGIE and our postulant Taku AKABAE. Taku is now struggling with the courses at the Prep School. His warm and easy personality is a welcome addition to the community here in Nagoya.

We had a couple other visitors. Pat O'REILLY, an Irishman who works in the Australian Province spent a few days with us. He had been briefly with Leo KAWAGUCHI in Brisbane. His impressions of Nagoya was "rain and more rain". Come again Pat, you may have better luck next time!

Also former Oblate Scholastic Masashi MIYAMOTO, who was up for a meeting of Social Workers especially involved in Orphanages, spent one night with us. He reminisced about his days in the Seminary. His 3 daughters are all growing very fast. One plays the organ for the Church Services at the Enoguchi Parish in Kochi.

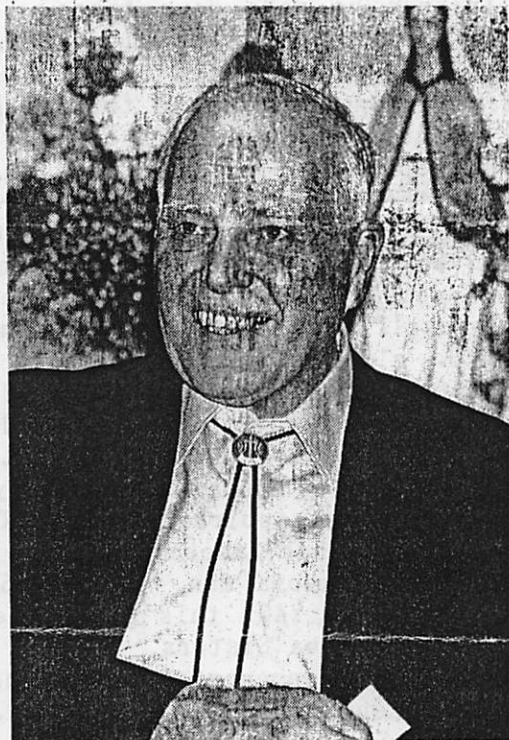
Prestigious Award To Oblate

Fr. Thomas MAHER, OMI, a chaplain at the Kochi Prison for 23 years, received an award from the Japanese Ministry of Justice on May 15, 1995. The award was signed by the Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama. Fr. Maher received a beautifully engraved Silver Medal. Fr. Maher was also invited to an audience with the Emperor of Japan.

藍綬褒章

カトリック教会神父

マヘル・トマスさん(63)



「神の愛は変わらない」と話すマヘル・トマスさん（高知市鷹匠町2丁目、中島町カトリック教会）

受刑者に神の愛伝える

「実はちょっと恥ずかしい。仏教や神道などの他の宗教の方たちも一生懸命やっています。私だけがもうというト教の教戒師として二十三年

「受刑者に神の愛伝える」
「相手が受刑者かどうか、皆罪びとなんですから」

米国イリノイ州シカゴ生まれ。昭和三十三年にカトリック神父として来日。福岡県で宣教後、四十三年に来高した。刑務所へは英会話指導も含め週に二回以上通っている。

「出所後に洗礼を受けたと手紙をくれた人もいますが、ほとんどの人は連絡がありません。でも神の愛は変わらない。罪多き私たちを、神はいつでもありのまま受け入れてくれます。全国に散ったみんなにそう伝えたい」

マヘルさんは五月から中村市の教会へ移るが、高知で骨を埋めるつもりだという。「もちろん、追いつかれないのだからね。そう言っているから笑った。」

Provincial Formation Guidelines

You will soon receive a small pamphlet of Guidelines for future candidates. It is meant to be a help for those communities who invite young men to "Come and See" our life as Oblate Missionaries.

Retreat for Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

Fr. Raymond BOURGOIN, OMI will be the Retreat Director for the annual retreat of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Hakone from July 21-30.

Asia/Oceania familiarization/immersion experience

Prior to the Inter-Chapter the Provincials of the different Regions will be in Asia/Oceania for a familiarization/immersion experience.

The Provincials proposed by the General Administration for Japan are the provincials of Haiti, Eastern USA, Chile and Pilcomayo; for Korea, Italy and Spain.

The familiarization experience will be held from October 17-21.

The Inter-Chapter will be held in Bangkok from October 23 - November 8 and will be followed with a meeting of the Asia/Oceania provincials and the General Administration. Let us keep these important gatherings in our prayers.

New Appointments

Nakamura

Fr. Thomas MAHER, OMI
From: Nakajimacho, Kochi

To: Nakamura as pastor. Tom will continue his work as Chaplain at the Kochi Prison.

Akaoka

Fr. Gerard STEVENS, OMI
From: Nakamura

To: Akaoka for the ministry to international communities.

VARIOUS DATES TO REMEMBER

B = Birthday
O = Ordination
V = Final Vows
A = Arrival in Mission
D = Death

JANUARY:	2/1930 WILLIAMS Ed B	SEPTEMBER:	/1992 JEYACHANDRAN James V
	5/1993 GIORGIANNI Maurizio A		2/1994 PEIRISPULLE Jude A
	22/1938 BOURGOIN Ray B		2/1994 ROZAIRO Bradly A
	29/1926 HARR Dick B		3/1955 TOSA Xave A
FEBRUARY:	2/1978 MC BENNETT Charles D		4/1975 WARD Daniel D
	13/1963 GIORGIANNI Maurizio B		4/1991 ZEVOLA Giovanni A
	15/1935 INUI Len B		6/1930 IWO John B
	21/1957 BORDO Vincenzo B		8/1949 HARR Dick V
	22/1953 TOSA Xave O		8/1950 VAN HOYDONCK Jan V
MARCH:	1/1940 NOVOTNY Jerry B		8/1950 TOSA Xave V
	11/1977 AKABAE Taku B		8/1951 SIMONS Lei V
	12/1979 ROBITAILLE Leonard D		8/1951 SILVER Bert V
	19/1966 BOURGOIN Ray O		8/1952 MAHONEY John V
	23/1938 MAHER Bill B		8/1953 STEVENS Gerry V
	27/1976 LAGUIDAO Wency O		8/1955 WILLIAMS Ed V
	29/1993 KAWAGUCHI Leo O		8/1961 BOURGOIN Ray V
APRIL:	1/1960 KAWAGUCHI Leo B		8/1961 YAMASAKI Mike V
	4/1968 NOVOTNY Jerry O		8/1961 INUI Len V
	11/1970 DEELY Jack O		8/1961 SIANI Ange V
	12/1982 GILL Robert D		8/1962 MAHER Bill V
	17/1930 STEVENS Gerry B		8/1963 IWO John V
	17/1941 DEELY Jack B		8/1964 NOVOTNY Jerry V
	22/1949 LAGUIDAO Wency B		8/1965 DEELY Jack V
	25/1987 BORDO Vincenzo O		8/1967 HAHN Fran V
	26/1966 MAHER Bill O		8/1989 KAWAGUCHI Leo V
	29/1972 HAHN Fran O		8/1990 ZEVOLA Giovanni O
MAY:	12/1990 BORDO Vincenzo A		11/1954 SILVER Bert A
	12/1990 CONCARDI Mauro A		15/1964 NOVOTNY Jerry A
	17/1987 CONCARDI Mauro V		16/1965 SIANI Ange A
	29/1931 MAHER Tom B		16/1967 HAHN Fran A
	30/1954 MAHONEY John O		17/1958 MAHER Tom A
	30/1954 SILVER Bert O		17/1958 WILLIAMS Ed A
	30/1957 MAHER Tom O		17/1984 PEIRISPULLE Jude B
	31/1965 SIANI Ange O		17/1967 JEYACHANDRAN James B
JUNE:	2/1952 HARR Dick O		19/1956 STEVENS Gerry A
	7/1957 WILLIAMS Ed O		20/1925 MAHONEY John B
	14/1964 IWO John O		21/1955 MAHONEY John A
	14/1964 INUI Len O		22/1943 HAHN Fran B
	24/1962 YAMASAKI Mike O		23/1965 DEELY Jack A
	24/1962 ZEVOLA Giovanni B		25/1962 MAHER Bill A
	24/1975 LAGUIDAO Wency V		28/1991 PEIRISPULLE Jude V
JULY:	1/1951 VAN HOYDONCK Jan O		28/1991 ROZAIRO Bradly V
	3/1982 MULVEY Timothy D		30/1961 BOURGOIN Ray A
	4/1962 CONCARDI Mauro B	OCTOBER:	1/1988 CONCARDI Mauro O
	5/1953 SIMONS Lei O		10/1923 VAN HOYDONCK Jan B
	23/1981 TSUDA Sueho D		13/1952 HARR Dick A
	31/1925 SIMONS Lei B		19/1991 GIORGIANNI Maurizio O
AUGUST:	4/1960 YAGI Nobuhiko B		25/1976 LAGUIDAO Wency A
	4/1990 YAGI Nobuhiko V		27/1927 TOSA Xave B
	15/1955 MAHER Tom V		28/1955 STEVENS Gerry O
	16/1955 SIMONS Lei A		30/1964 ROZAIRO Bradly B
	21/1953 VAN HOYDONCK Jan A	NOVEMBER:	
	22/1992 PEIRISPULLE Jude O		
	22/1992 ROZAIRO Bradly O	DECEMBER:	8/1986 BORDO Vincenzo V
	23/1936 SIANI Ange B		8/1989 ZEVOLA Giovanni V
	31/1928 SILVER Bert B		8/1990 GIORGIANNI Maurizio V
			8/1993 JEYACHANDRAN James O
			24/1934 YAMASAKI Mike B

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

June

24 Giovanni ZEVOLA

July

4 Mauro CONCARDI
31 Lei SIMONS

August

4 Nobuhiko YAGI
22 Ange SIANI
31 Bert SILVER

September

6 John IWO
17 Jude PEIRISPULLE
17 James JEYACHANDRAN.
20 John MAHONEY
22 Fran HAHN

ORDINATIONS

Happy Anniversary to:

June

24 Mike YAMAZAKI

July

1 Jan VAN HOYDONCK
5 Lei SIMONS

August

22 Jude PEIRISPULLE
22 Bradly ROZAIRO

September

8 Giovanni ZEVOLA

Perpetual Vows

August

4 Nobuhiko YAGI
(for others see the complete list
on page 11)

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

July

3 Timothy MULVEY
23 Sueho TSUDA

September

4 Daniel WARD

PRAYERS are requested for

Jerry NOVOTNY's father, our sick and convalescent fellow-Oblates, relatives, friends and benefactors, and all who count on our prayers.

AND LASTLY

The next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for mailing by September 21. May I again appeal to eventual contributors to send the items to be inserted by September 10 ? And, if possible, ready for straight copying (i.e. without spelling and typing errors, matching size etc.)? Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Summer Assignments for Language Students

Fr. Bradley ROZAIRO, OMI Itami as of August 2.

Fr. Jude PEIRISPULLE, OMI Koga as of August 2.

Taku AKABAE will begin his summer vacation at his home in Naruto on August 1.

Reminders

Summer Camp

The summer camp will be held from August 7-10. We had a very good number of young people attend our camp last year. We are looking forward to another good year. Please talk it up with your young people.

Ongoing Formation for our Young Members

The meeting will be held from September 1-3. Fr. Daniel Collins, SJ will be the in-put person.

Annual Retreat

Dates: September 4-8

Place: Passionist Retreat House

Japanese Language Retreat Director: Bishop Kyuujiro MATSUNAGA

English Language Retreat Director: Francis DEMERS, OMI

Acting Provincial

Fr. Leonard SIMONS, OMI will be acting provincial from June 19 - July 14.

Summer Leaves

Fr. Bertram N. SILVER, OMI	June 11 - August 8.
Fr. Angelo SIANI, OMI	June 19 - July 14.
Fr. Thomas MAHER, OMI	June 24 - July 12
Fr. Wency LAGUIDAO, OMI	June 28 - July 17.
Fr. John DEELY, OMI	July 26 - September



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

De Mazenod Year

Bishop Joseph Satoshi Fukahori
Diocese of Takamatsu
Opens De Mazenod Year for Oblates
at the
Parish of the Immaculate Conception
in Kochi
on June 4, 1995



Bishop Eugene De Mazenod, OMI
Founder of the Missionary Oblates
of Mary Immaculate



THE MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

Dear Fellow Oblates,

At our Spring meeting this year we dealt with some very deep missionary and personal issues. Some of these issues go back as far as our founding days; some are more recent. During the meeting these missionary and personal issues were expressed and shared. Fr. Chris O'Leary remarked that it was rare to see a group of men share as profoundly as we did at that meeting.

Four months have passed since the Spring meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the ideas which have come to mind.

To begin with, I want to tell you how happy I was to be with you at this important time in our history. As the meeting progressed I think we came to realize that a healing process was unfolding, with trust and loving acceptance. I never would have dreamed that we as a province would sit down and discuss and share so openly. The Spirit breathes where and how he wills. It seems to me that our meeting was a time of grace. It has provided an opportunity for a deeper growth in community.

So much has been written about community that the word could be a "turn off", but I would like to share some ideas on community with you. I will expose four types of community. They may help us to evaluate what kind of community we are and perhaps give us a vision of the kind of community we would like to work toward.

1. The Autocratic type:

In this type the authority figure is on top. His relationship to the group is clear and he hands down decisions. Role takes place over persons. Charism is static and understood in terms of apostolic work. This is the type in which most of us were formed. This type is efficient and has worked well in the church for a long time.

2. The Therapeutic type:

In this type the authority is diffused and unclear. Decisions are vague, roles not clear and the person takes precedence over role. Community charism is seen as secondary to the personal charism. Individualism.

3. The Participative type:

In this type the authority is central to the community and functions in view of the whole. Here people take part in the decision making (dialogue). In this type people strive for a balance between persons and roles.

4. The Collaborative type:

In this type the authority finds itself at the point where Church and the Congregation meet. Relationships are broadened and are marked by mutual acceptance in the community. Church and society. Decisions are made in community dialogue with broader religious and civic realities. Person/role fit in a creative balance internal to community with defined ecclesial/civic issues. And the corporate charism is understood as a gift to the Church and integrates values and ministry.

MORE NEWS

7. Two postulants have joined the Oblate Community in Korea.
8. Wency has translated, at the request of Archbishop Yasuda of Osaka, the diocesan document MATTERS CONCERNING RESTORATION PLANS (REBIRTH) AFTER THE GREAT HANSHIN-AWAJI EARTHQUAKE.

NEWEST NEWS

Our Regional Consultor, Fr. Angelito LAMPON, OMI, arrived in Japan on March 14. He will attend our provincial Spring Meeting, and leave for Korea on April 1

WELCOME, LITO!

LATEST LATEST NEWS

Received by FAX in the early morning of March 17:

Fr. Francis DEMERS, OMI, of the Northern USA Province, will direct our annual retreat. The dates of the retreat are Sept. 4 - 8, 1995.

H.E. Bishop MATSUNAGA of FUKUOAKA will direct the Japanese part of the retreat, same time, same place.

AND IN CLOSING

The next Newsletter is intended to be mailed by June 21. May I ask the contributors to have me reach their creations by at least 10 days before that date? It would be a great help, time and labor saving, if the contributions could be free of spelling and typing errors, and in a format that matches the size of the Newsletter (with sufficient margin!), so they can be printed as they come in, without retyping. Arranging, retyping (where needed), printing, assembling and mailing require time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

JUBILEES

Gerard STEVENS - 40th anniversary of Ordination
John DEELY - 25th anniversary of Ordination

BIRTHDAYS

April

1 Satoshi Leo KAWAGUCHI
17 Gerard STEVENS
17 John DEELY
22 Wency LAGUIDAO

May

29 Thomas MAHER

June

24 Giovanni ZEVOLA

ORDINATIONS

March

29 Satoshi Leo KAWAGUCHI

April

4 Jerome NOVOTNY
11 John DEELY
25 Vincenzo BORDO
26 William MAHER
29 Francis HAHN

May

30 John MAHONEY
30 Bertram SILVER
31 Angelo SIANI

June

2 Richard HARR
7 Edward WILLIAMS
14 John IWO
14 Leonard INUI
24 Mike YAMAZAKI

PRAYERS are requested for

The father of Sr. Watanabe, who has died on March 9.
Our sick and convalescent, particularly at this time Gerard, also Ray's father,
Jerry's father and all those among our relatives, friends and benefactors who
count on our prayers.

OTHER NEWS

1. Ed Williams will prepare some programs and celebration for the canonization of the Founder.
2. The 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Japanese mission of the Oblates will be held in 1998. Ed, Jan and Ray will be working on a publication to be ready by that time. Ed is also in charge of preparing the 50th anniversary celebration.
3. As Sr. Watanabe will retire from the Itami kindergarten Mike Yamazaki has agreed to be the new Principal.

Some news items from Nagoya (some already mentioned in the "News from Nagoya")

4. Taku AKABAE has come to Nagoya. He comes from our parish in Naruto, and graduated from High School this year.
5. Bradly and Jude have Spring vacation! Brad is going to Tokyo and Jude will go to Itami.
6. John K Mahoney has moved to the Zendana parish, but he returns every day to the House of Studies for community prayer and supper.



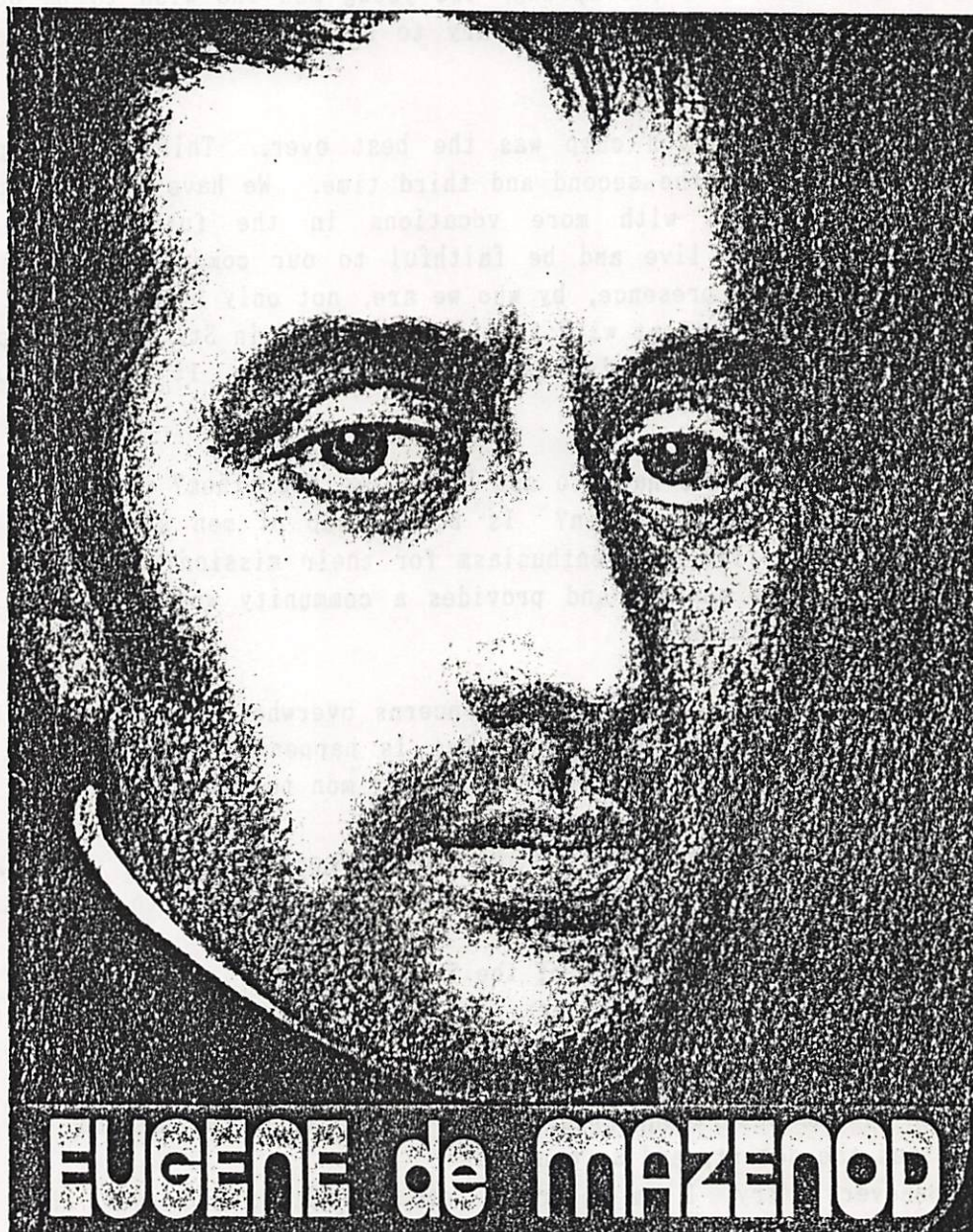
OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

FALL 1995

de Mazenod Year



Bishop Eugene De Mazenod, OMI
Founder of the Missionary Oblates
of Mary Immaculate

Dear Brother Oblates,

This year, we have have been blessed with two new missionaries. Fr. Marcello ZAGO, OMI, the Superior General, has given first Obediences to Fr. Shiranta PERERA, OMI and Fr. Jaime del ROSARIO, OMI for the Vice Province of Japan.

Fr. Perera from Sri Lanka has been assigned to our mission in Korea. Fr. del Rosario from the Philippines has been assigned to our mission in Japan. I thank God for these new missionaries and welcome them to the province.

With the arrival of Fr. del Rosario in Nagoya, every room in the House of Studies will be filled. In the spring, two young men who wish to be Oblates will also need lodging making it necessary to use some rooms at the rectory of the Zendana parish.

This year the summer vocation camp was the best ever. Thirty young people attended many of them for the second and third time. We have every reason to hope we will be blessed with more vocations in the future. And this challenges each of us to live and be faithful to our commitment as we will attract candidates by our presence, by who we are, not only by what we do. Fr. Demers opened our annual retreat with the first question in St. John's Gospel. "What do you want?" An Oblate is called to be a saint. It is this quality which will draw new candidates.

Once we have new members, we have to ask How do we keep them? What kind of a group have we invited them to join? Is it a group of men settled in their own ways or a group filled with enthusiasm for their mission? Is it a group who warmly welcomes new members and provides a community where each can live in a loving and caring manner?

It is important that we don't let these concerns overwhelm us to the point of stagnation but we do need to recognize what is happening within our mission and, consequently, what it is that we invite young men to join.

I would like to conclude with this story which speaks of risk, change, and letting go. It comes from the Sufi tradition. I invite you to pray it with me.

The Tale of the Sands

A bubbling stream reached a desert, and found that it could not cross it. The water was disappearing into the fine sand faster and faster. The stream said aloud, "I want to cross this desert, but I can see no way".

The voice of the Desert answered, in the hidden tongue of nature, saying, "The Wind crosses the desert, and so can you?"

But, whenever I try, I am absorbed into the sand; and even if I dash myself at the desert, I can only go a little distance."

The voice of the Desert said, "The Wind does not dash itself against the desert sand."

"But the Wind can fly, and I cannot."

"You are thinking in the wrong way; trying to fly by yourself is absurd.

Allow the Wind to carry you over the sand."

"But how can that happen?"

"Allow yourself to be absorbed in the Wind."

The stream protested that it did not want to lose its individuality in that way. If it did it might not exist again.

Said the Voice, "When the Wind absorbed moisture, it carried it over the desert and then let it fall again like rain. The rain again became a river."

But how, asked the Stream, could it know that was true?

"It is so, and you must believe it, or you will simply be sucked down by the sands to form, after several million years, a quagmire."

But if that is so, will I be the same river that I am today?"

You cannot in any case remain the same river that you are today. The choice is not open to you: it only seems open to you. The Wind will carry your essence, the finer part of you. When you become a river again at the mountains beyond the sands, people may call you by a different name; but you yourself, essentially will know that you are the same, only because you do not know which part of it is even now your essence."

So the stream crossed the desert by raising itself into the arm of the welcoming Wind, which gathered it slowly and carefully upward, and then let it down with gentle firmness, atop the mountains of a far-off land. "Now" said the Stream, "I have learned my true identity."

But it had a question, which it bubbled up as it sped along: "Why could I not reason this out on my own: why did the Sands have to tell me? What would have happened if I had not listened to the Sands?"

Suddenly a small voice spoke to the Stream. It came from a grain of sand. "only the Sands know, for they have seen it happen; moreover, they extend from the river to the mountain. They form the link, and they have their function to perform, as has everything. The way in which the stream of life is to carry itself on its journey is written in the Sands."

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

From XAVIER:

Dear Fellow Oblates,

A visit to Korea:

After a heavy first trimester teaching at different schools, I thought I could take a few days off. So I went to visit the Oblates in Korea. The first week of August I spent with them in and around Seoul. No need to say that everybody there gave me a royal treatment. The house was under reconstruction, but I got a good room. They all gave me a lot of their time. I got a good introduction in the "works" they are engaged in. We all think Japan is a difficult mission, but in Korea they don't have it easy, either. While staying with our "confreres", I did some soul-searching. All too often I have considered the Korean mission and its Oblates there as an "annex" to the Japanese mission, more a burden than a responsibility.

They made some more rooms by dividing bigger rooms, but soon that house will be too small for the growing community.

Only one suggestion : visit Korea before you get your Japanese citizenship. When you are introduced as a catholic priest, missionary, Flemish or Walloon, working in Japan, anything, they give you a big ovation. But when they are told that you became a "Japanese", they turn their back to you...It wasn't always easy just by looking at their faces to see the difference between Koreans and Japanese, but for sure the national character is very different. They are more outgoing, more natural with strangers, friendlier when dealing with an unknown person. As long as they didn't know I was "Japanese", they gave me their seat in busses and trains.

A letter to Mr. Jacques Chirac, president of France:

As the representative for Justice and Peace Committee (J&P), I sent a personal letter to the French president, Jacques Chirac, asking not to resume the nuclear tests in Polynesia. I wrote to him as an Oblate and missionary in Japan, using H. Scripture as arguments. It was a polite letter with the promise

of praying for him, - what I have done, too. I wonder if the president ever reads such a letter.

Justice and Peace Committee:

I have not spoken much about the J&P Committee. Most of the work is rather indirect, you may say. I do go to meetings, congresses etc.. But in this letter I like to inform you about the monetary contributions to various movements. This is not a financial report, but to simplify the reading I limit the information to the first half of this year. I've also tried to classify the contributions under big headings.

Human Rights (Anti death penalty, Pro Life, Amnesty Intern., Kamagasaki day labourers' pension, etc.): ¥ 54.000

Ecology (anti-nuclear reactors, Earthday etc.) : ¥ 5.000

Catholic NGO's (Peace on Earth, Hands of Peace, Japan TNC, Comfort Women etc.): ¥ 49.000

Mr. Aoyagi's court case(Fukuoka) : ¥ 4.000

Japan Cathol. J&P Committee (Tokyo) + local J&P Committees: ¥ 27.000

Cath. Buraku Liberation Committee : ¥ 4.000

Cath. JOC (Young Workers) : ¥ 4.000

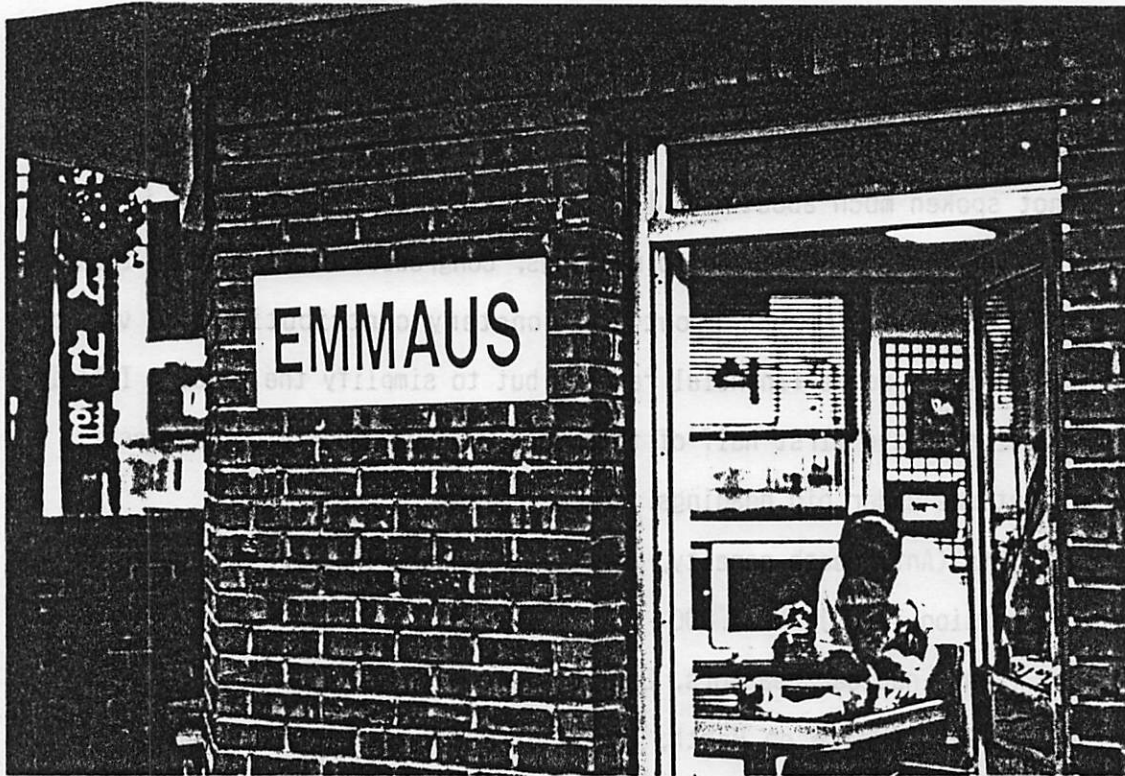
That is a total of ¥ 144.000. Expenses for meetings, travel and information bulletins are not included, (the postage for president J.Chirac's letter neither). Only the membership to the Japan Catholic J&P Committee is in the name of the diocese of Takamatsu; all other contributions are made as an Oblate. That doesn't mean that you become "exempt" of contributing personally or together with your community (parish).

Just finishing the yearly retreat I quote the Roman letter : " The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of justice and peace given by the Holy Spirit".

Kochi September 1995

Yoshikazu Xavier TOSA omi

From Giovanni ZEVOLA:



EMMAUS

Many people passing by, look at the office entrance where they can read "EMMAUS ". What does it mean?

I can see their faces through the window and sometimes they ask me straight out, " Scinbunim - father- , but what is this Emmaus? " .

Most recently it was the "harabogi" (old people), owner of a small restaurant across the street, who told me that he couldn't find that word even in the english dictionary !

A worker's counselling office with such a name, what's the reason? I'm sure many of the christians are familiar with the passage of the gospel , where it says that the risen Jesus walked with two people who were going back to their own village, namely Emmaus. There are different reasons why I chose that name:

- * the two people are walking from one place to another; they are migrants like the thousands who are here in Korea;

- * the two people after following Jesus in whom they put all their hope, now are disappointed; with the death of Jesus, their hope is also dead. Now they are sad and disillusioned. Let's consider the situation of the migrant workers; didn't they come here with high hopes trying to solve their problems and their families as well? And what is the reality? A different one where disappointment is present everywhere (salary, accidents, fears...).

- * How did Jesus approach those people? By saying " Here I am, I'm the Savior... trust me? " No! He himself became a migrant, walking with them, standing by their side; first listening to them. So it's only by understanding the worker's situation that little by little we can discover Jesus saving presence.

EMMAUS: migrant people and their situation and above all our approach. We not only work for them, but walk with them. We don't give an answer before carefully listening to their questions; it's by discovering in us a companion that they will come to discover what's the meaning of being a christian. The big majority of the people we meet through Emmaus office are not christians, what a great chance for us to come to know a different, but more realistic face of the suffering Christ.

In few words, Emmaus simply is to try to follow the example of Jesus who " for our sake made himself poor though he was rich, so that we might become rich by his poverty". (2 Cor 8,9)

Formation Committee REPORT/9th Meeting

Held at Nagoya July 14-15, 1995

In attendance: Len, Ray, Nobuhiko, Leo

Topic #1: Last preparations for the Summer Camp: Becoming a Saint. The participants will consider the Sanctity of Eugene and on the last day will let us in on the results of their research at Nakajimacho. They will also have learned the Salve Regina and will sing it. {When you read this, it'll be all over!}

Topic #2: Mr Sugie looks forward to joining us periodically at the House of Studies. We would like to go on an overnigher with him if possible. We decided to try to integrate some Bible Study into the COME and SEE program also.

Topic #3: The gathering of the young OMI was discussed. The place as determined earlier is the Retreat House in Fukuoka. Rooms have been reserved starting August 31.

The input person is Dan Collins, SJ, on the topic of Counseling and Spiritual Direction.

Sep 1: An AM and a PM session are foreseen with some group activity also.

Sep 2: An AM session. The afternoon is for free exchange.

Sep 3: Attendance at the Parish Mass in KOGA.

Leo Kawaguchi is in charge of the details of the rest of the program.

{This will be over when you read this!}

Topic #4: It was decided to send some Oblate Pamphlets to the major churches throughout Japan. Bro Yagi will also tour the Nagasaki area. The dates are not yet set.

Topic #5: We will start to translate the most important parts of the OMI directory on formation.

Topic #6: We discussed at length our candidates. At the time of the meeting it looked good for Mr Furukawa of the Itami parish to join us in April. {He has since decided to do so!} He will receive some financial aid from the Itami Parish.

Mr Horiguchi will quit work in September and spend the next few months in Nakajimacho preparing to take the transferral exam for Nanzan on February 27, along with Mr Furukawa.

Mr Akabae is working hard in order to take exams at various universities next Spring including Nanzan.

Topic #7: We finalized the July MAMI Newsletter.

Next meeting to be held at the Fukuoka Retreat House on Sept 8 at 1 pm.

Formation Committee

第9回養成委員会報告

1995年7月14日(2:00~5:00)、15日(9:00~11:30) 名古屋修学院
Fr.アルトゥロ Fr.乾 Fr.川口 Br.八木

議題1 サマーキャンプの最終準備

「少しずつ聖人へ」のテーマのもと、初めに参加者たちと聖人について考え、最終日の中島町教会で、どのようにウジェーンが聖人になったのかを班ごとに発表し、サルヴェレジナの歌も歌う。その他はおよそ日程通り。

議題2 6月に行われた志望者(杉江)のためのプログラムの報告と反省の下で9月のプログラムを考える

杉江君は楽しみに修学院に来ているようだ。修学院外(観光地や自然が美しい所)での一泊の体験も取り入れたらどうか。聖書勉強や祈りの時間をもう少し増やしたらいいのでは。

議題3 若い会員の養成のプログラムについて(9月)

福岡黙想の家にて 指導者はイエズス会のコリンズ・ダニエル神父。

9月1日 午前、午後に各一回の講話(カウンセリング、霊的指導について)

その後、ロールプレイ

2日 午前中に一つの講話 午後は自由な分かち合い

3日 古賀教会のごミサに参加

詳細はFr.川口が担当

議題4 オブレート会のパンフレットをどのように有意義に使えるかを考える

できるだけ全国に配布する。主要都市の大きな教会に返信用のハガキを添えて郵送する。長崎方面はBr.八木がパンフレットを持参して出向く。期日は未定。

議題5 オブレート会の本部よりの養成に関する手引き書を見ながら日本語にした方がよいものを選び翻訳する。

基本的なもの、土台となるものから順に翻訳する。

議題6 志望者や志願者の状況

古川君は、来春名古屋修学院へ行く旨をほぼ決定。経済的な面を心配していることから伊丹修道院でそれを援助する方向へ。堀内君は9月に辞職し、中島町教会で生活しながら、来年2月27日の南山大学への編入試験のための準備をする。来春から二人修学院へ来るので、その受け入れ体制を考えていく。赤波江君は彼なりにがんばっている様子。

議題7 その他(マミのニュースレターの最終確認)

7月28日(水)にボランティアビューローで印刷予定。

次回委員会について

福岡黙想の家にて 1995年9月8日(金) P.M.1:00~

10th Meeting of Formation Comm. REPORT

Held at Fukuoka Sep 8, 1995

In attendance: Len, Ray, Mauro, Nobuhiko, Leo

Topic #1: Summer Camp: As far as the content, process, overall unity of the camp, all thought it was excellent. We had a very positive reaction from the participants as well. It was felt however that it may be time to change the venue in the future.

Topic #3: The gathering of the young OMI. The participants felt that the sharing on the first night on their joys and sorrows on the mission, was the highlight of the whole time together. The content of the input was very good but the expectations of the participants was elsewhere. In the future, the input person should attend all the sharing sessions and be able to comment afterwards on the concerns brought up. It is hoped that the next meeting will be in Korea in late August.

Topic #5: We discussed at length our candidates.

Mr Horiguchi has given notice to his company that he will quit work by September 25th and spend the next few months in Nakajimacho preparing to take the transferral exam for Nanzan on February 27, along with Mr Furukawa.

Mr Furukawa's mother has been told that her son's Nanzan expenses will be borne by the OMI since he has already graduated from college and normally would be contributing to the income of the family.

The above 2 and Mr Akabae hopefully will all enter Nanzan next Spring and we must now attend to the necessary arrangements and preparations.

Topic #6: We finalized the December MAMI Newsletter. The continuation of the articles on the Founder by Ray, articles by Gerry and Tom, a full report on the Summer Camp by Nobuhiko, as well as his asking for volunteers to write follow-up postcards to the summer camp participants. There will be a report on the Young OMI meeting and a notice of Jimmy, Shirantha and James joining the Japanese Province (with 2 going to Korea) in the near future.

Next meeting to be held at Itami on November 16 PM and Nov 17 AM. Len will preside the prayers and Nobuhiko will be the secretary.

Formation Committee

第 10 回 養成委員会 報告

1995年9月8日 於：福岡黙想の家

参加者：ブルゴアン、乾、コンカルディ、八木、川口

議題1：夏のキャンプについての反省。夏のキャンプは内容、進行、まとまりともたいへんよかった。参加者からも肯定的な評価を得ている。他の意見として、場所をそろそろ変えた方がよい。

議題3：若い会員の養成のプログラムについての反省。今回の「若い会員養成プログラム」では第一日目の喜びと悲しみのわかしあい深いものとなり、参加者全員にいい時間となった。INPUT はいい内容だったが、参加者が望む分野とは違っていた。次回は INPUT の人がわかちあいにいて導いてくれることを希望する。次回は来年8月末週に韓国で行う予定。

議題5：志望者や志願者の状況。堀内君は9月中に現在の職場を退職し、中島町修道院に名古屋へ行くまで住む。古川君のお母さんに健一君の南山での学費をオプレート会が負担することを伝えた。赤波江君、堀内君、古川君たちの来年度の南山受験申し込みの準備として神学部に問い合わせる。

議題6：12月のマミ・ニュースレターの内容。Fr BOURGOIN による創立者の記事、Fr STEVENS と Fr T MAHER からの記事、Br 八木によるキャンプの報告と参加者にカードを贈る系の募集、「若い会員養成」の報告、Frs J DEL ROSARIO, S PERERA, J JEYACHANDRAN 日本管区移籍の報告等。

次回委員会は11月16日午後と17日午前、伊丹で行う。祈りはFr 乾、書記はBr 八木担当。

From Ray:

NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Greetings from Nagoya! We have a few things to report that might be of interest. Since we last wrote Ange SIANI has spent a good few weeks with his parents in Buffalo, NY. He came back refreshed and ready to cover for Bert SILVER in NARUTO for a month.

He then attended the Vocation Summer Camp which the Oblates hold every year in Kochi to encourage and find Vocations. The camp was well attended and had as theme, "Progressively Becoming a Saint" with St EUGENE as the main attraction. Others from Nagoya who attended the 4 day session, in whole or in part, were Brad ROZAIRO, Jude PEIRISPULLE and Ray BOURGOIN, as well as our pre-novice Taku AKABAE. This took place August 7-10.

Brad then returned to ITAMI where he spent the summer with the Community there. Jude returned to KOGA for the same purpose of getting better acquainted with our men and our OMI works in Japan. They enjoyed side trips with members of the local communities.

Ange, Ray and Taku returned to the 37-39 degree heat of humid NAGOYA. They survived. John MAHONEY held the fort in NAGOYA all Summer and not only survived very well but also seems to have thrived.

Backtracking a little, last June 30th the YWCA where Brad and Jude are studying Japanese, held a Speech Contest which Ray attended. As can be seen from the accompanying document, Brad won in his class of 14, with his topic being his "Favorite Place, Trincomalee". When he finished his speech the judges looked at each other, hoisted their shoulders and seemed to say "What more can we ask?" Well done Brad. Jude spoke on the "Differences to be found between Japan and Sri Lanka". After pointing out a few differences, he ended the speech with "I also found similarities" and left the podium. As he was leaving the stage, one judge said: "We would like to hear some of those similarities"! Jude replied: "That's the subject of my next speech". This on-the-spot repartee was all in Japanese which shows the progress that our 2 language students are making.

Taku spent a good part of the summer taking Summer classes. He claims that they keep the air conditioners so high that it is freezing in the classroom. He had a cough all summer to prove it.

Ray had his first experience at preaching a retreat, a 10 day affair, to the Franciscans of Mary, in HAKONE near TOKYO. He marvelled at the sudden bursts of inspiration he received from the Holy Spirit and its effect on the retreatants. A very humbling experience indeed!

Ray was asked by the committee for celebrating the Canonization of the Founder, to prepare a 30 minute talk on the spirituality of the Founder which could be given at the OMI parishes during Mass on various Sundays throughout the De Mazenod year. He should be ready to do so anytime after October 15. If pastors could coordinate things there would be less travel expenses incurred. For example, Ray could stay in an area a full week, hitting both Sundays on either end of the same trip. Please let him know of your choices (give 2 or 3 as there may be several requests for the same time, or Ray might not be free for your first choice).

THE NAGOYA COMMUNITY



表彰状

最優秀賞

J.V

ジョセフ・ロザイ才殿

あなたは 本校主催の第七回
スピーチコンテストにおきまして
上記のような優秀な成績をお
さめられました。よってこれを
表彰します。

1995年 6 月 30日

名古屋YWCA学院 日本語学校長

島田 麗子

From John MAHONEY:

The people of the Zendana Parish in Nagoya have shown great interest in the de Mazenod Year. At the beginning of the de Mazenod Year in May they decided to make the nine days of prayers for Oblate Vocations special. As usual everyone received a form for his/her spiritual bouquet. The efforts of the parishioners in offering Masses, Communion, Rosaries and other prayers were impressive. In order to emphasize the importance of the Nine Days of Prayer and at the same time inaugurate the beginning of the de Mazenod Year the parish had Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Rosary every evening from May 21 to May 29.

In Japan the 15th of September is a National Holiday: "Respect for the Aged Day". On September 20th the pastor will be seventy years old. To mark those two events the Parish Council has sent invitations to parishioners of 65 and over to a party on Sunday September 24. This will be the inaugural meeting of the parishioners of this age group. Meetings are planned for the future: community prayer meetings, visits to the sick, trips to museums and other social gatherings. This Club for the elderly of the parish is to be called the "Eugene Club". Since Blessed Eugene lived till the age of seventy nine I am sure he will be a good model for those in what the Japanese refer to as the Silver Years.

In discussions at the Parish Council Meeting the President suggested that the Parish sponsor a Mass of Celebration of the Canonization of Eugene de Mazenod at Meiji Village. Meiji Village near Nagoya is a village with various buildings from the Meiji Era (1867-1912). One of the buildings is a Catholic church, a church dedicated to St Francis Xavier, which was built in Kyoto during the Meiji Era. The church is often used for weddings, concerts and other events. It is difficult to reserve the church but we were able to have the use of the church on February 18 of next year. We plan to invite parishioners from other parishes in Nagoya as well as from the Oblate parishes in Japan. Of course, any of the readers of the Japan Newsletter will be most welcome.

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.

The News

Ordination to the Presbyterate

The Rev. Jaime D.G. del ROSARIO, OMI will be ordained on September 23, 1995 by The Most Rev. Orlando Quevedo, OMI, D.D., Archbishop of Nueva Segovia at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Kalookan City.,

Fr. del Rosario, we congratulate you and pray for you as you enter this new service of the Lord.

The provincial, Fr. Angelo Siani, OMI and Bro. Yagi Nobuhiko, OMI will attend the ordination. Fr. del Rosario will celebrate his first Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Tugatog Malabon, Metro Manila on September 24.

Bro. Yagi will stay a few days longer so he will be able to visit the houses of formation and research the recruitment program of the Philippine Province as well as to investigate their NAMI.

Arrival of the New Missionaries

An application for a Certificate of Entry to Japan has been made for Jaime del Rosario at the Visa Department. Barring any unforeseen delays Jaime will arrive in Japan this coming January.

Fr. Vincenzo BORDO, OMI is working on Visa's for Fr. James Jeyachandran, OMI and Fr. Shiranta Perera, OMI. All going well, they will arrive in Korea in January 1996.

Provincial Council Meeting

On September 5, the provincial council met with the District Coordinators in attendance. The topics on the Agenda were: 1.) the celebrations for the de Mazenod year, 2.) preparations for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese Mission 1998 and 3.) the possibility of rebuilding our facilities for the house of formation.

1. The de Mazenod year will close with a Mass at our mission in Itami. The Archbishop of Osaka, Archbishop Yasuda will preside at the Mass. More details will be given at a later date.
2. It was recommended by the preparation committee for the 50th anniversary of the mission that we produce a short history of the province. Fr. Edward WILLIAMS will send all of you a letter in regards to this project.

3. Frs. Siani and Bourgoïn explained why our present facilities at the house of studies are inadequate. The rooms are small, there is only one shower for six people, the chapel is too small for more than six people, the dining room seats six (there will be nine of us next Spring), the library is insufficient and we have no conference room.

All agreed that we have to improve our facilities.

- 1.) We could buy the neighboring land and build. This was not seen as a good plan as it would not provide us with much more than we have now.
- 2.) We could sell our present house and move to another area. However, the price of land is prohibitive.
- 3.) We could sell our present house and move to Zendana. The advantages are: 1. we would not have to purchase any land. 2. there are 700 tsubo of land, so there is ample space to build. 3. the house is at a one minute walk from the subway station. 4. city sports facilities are at a ten minute walk from the property and 5. the bishop stated that he is in favor of the Oblates moving there.

Frs. Siani and Bourgoïn were asked to investigate the cost of building at Zendana. This report would then go to the finance committee to determine whether we could finance such a program. Depending on the finance committee's report it would then be brought to the whole Province for consideration.

Visits before the Inter Chapter

I am happy to announce that Fr. Daniel Corijn, OMI, Vicar General, will be making his first visit to Japan. A warm welcome to you, Father. Father Corijn will arrive on October 13 and depart for Bangkok on October 19.

The Provincials of the Eastern American, Pilcomayo, Haiti and Chile Provinces will be in Japan for an immersion program from October 17 to 21. All depart for Bangkok on October 22.

Home leave to visit sick parents

Raymond Bourgoïn, OMI, Sept. 13 - Oct 7.
Jerome Novotny, OMI, Sept. 4 -

Acting Provincial

Fr. Leonard Simons, OMI, will be acting Provincial from Sept. 18 - 25.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

October

10 Jan VAN HOYDONCK
27 Xave TOSA
30 Bradley ROZAIRO

December

24 Mike YAMAZAKI

ORDINATIONS

Happy anniversary to:

October

1 Mauro CONCARDI
19 Maurizio GIORGIANNI
28 Gerard STEVENS

December

8 James JEYACHANDRAN

In your PRAYERS are recommended:

The Father of Ray BOURGOIN , the Father of Jerry NOVOTNY, our ailing and our convalescent fellow-Oblates, relatives, friends and benefactors, and all who have asked for or count on our prayers.

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

NEXT comes the Christmas-New Year's Issue of the Newsletter. May I ask the contributors (Everyone, I hope!) to have their messages in by December 10? And again, many thanks in advance!

DECEMBER 3

CANONIZATION OF OUR FOUNDER!!!

第6回養成委員会報告

1994年10月21日 名古屋修学院
Fr.ｼﾌ= Br.八木

議題1 サマーキャンプの報告と反省

全体的に良かった。クイズを通してマズノをよく知らせることもできたし、マズノの生涯を劇で表すことも彼らなりに一生懸命表現していた。

考える村の建物の中で、ビーチボールを使ってサッカーをやっていたが、それはあまり好ましいことではない。報告集の中に典礼（ミサや祈り）の風景の写真がないのが残念。マズノの人生の中で重要なポイントをもう少し伝えたら、劇の中でそれを表現しやすかったかもしれない。

議題2 若い会員の養成のプログラムについて（前回の反省と次回の準備）

第1日目（9/9金）

夏のオブレート会黙想会終了日の午後、ザゴ神父様より若いオブレート会員についての講話があり、それを皆で分かち合う。その後、十字架の道行のコースを皆で歩き祈る。夕食後、また自由に分かち合った。

第2日目（9/10土）

朝食、御ミサの後、長崎へ出発。高速道路のサービスエリアで昼食をとり、出津・黒崎へ。それから長崎市内に入り、稲佐山へロープウェイで登る。夕暮れまで待ち、夕食をとりながら長崎市の夜景を見、カトリックセンターで宿泊。

第3日目（9/11日）

朝食後、カトリックセンター内でミサを捧げる。その後浦上教会の主日のミサを見学。原爆資料館を見学した後カトリックセンターで昼食。午後から大浦天主堂、グラバー邸、26聖人記念館を訪問した後、古賀教会へ向けて出発。古賀教会には午後8時前に到着

お互いを知る上で良い交流や分かち合いもできたと思うが、初めてのことで、少し遠慮があり、深い分かち合いまでには至らなかったと思う。次回を期待したいが、彼らの中から次回のこの集まりについての積極的な意見は、あまり聞かれなかった。

次回は、春のオブレート会総会前に韓国で。あるいは高知で。

課題3 共同生活の体験を希望する若者がした場合、その体験の場所を提供してくれるオブレート会員への協力の願いと手引

2人だけだったので、あまり活発な意見はでなかった。シアニ神父様、山崎神父様からその手引きになる内容を聞く（別紙参照）。それとサレジオ会の資料（別紙参照）を参考に手引きを作成していく。

次回委員会について

ブルゴアン神父様が帰国されてから、彼と相談の上決定。

第5回養成委員会報告

1994年5月20日 名古屋修学院

Fr.ブルバツ Fr.乾 Br.八木

議題1 今までの会合で決めたものの整理

「志願期」についての再確認。志願期は原則として2年間とし、大学、共同生活での体験とする。

議題2 パンフレットと小冊子の最終確認

パンフレットは6月初旬、小冊子は7月中に発行予定。

議題3 夏のキャンプの詳細

昨年と同様に、大学生や高校生の助けを借りる。完成した創立者の小冊子をもとにグループ対抗のクイズや演劇を準備し、その劇をキャンプ最終日に中島町教会で神父様方や信者さんの前で披露する。

課題4 若い会員の養成のプログラムについて

9月の黙想会后、親睦・交流を中心とした集まりを持つ。

9/9 (金) 黙想会后、長崎あるいは湯布院方面へ出かけその晩は行った先で宿泊する。

9/10 (土) 観光、古賀教会へ戻る

9/11 (日) 古賀教会で主日の御ミサに与る。その後、黙想会中のザゴ神父さんの講話について分かち合う

9/12 (月) 反省会、次回の計画、帰途の準備。解散

課題5 共同生活の体験を希望する若者が出た場合、その体験の場所を提供してくれるオプレート会員への協力の願いと手引

手引案を作成し、次回の委員会でFr.シアニを交えて具体的に審議する。

次回委員会について

1994年10月21日 (金) 名古屋修学院にて

9:30~11:30、1:30~3:30



CANONIZATION: A NOW-EVENT

*(Summary of Fr. James FitzPatrick's talk on the Canonization of the Founder
given during the AORC meeting in Manila, Jan 26, 1995.)*

A. The Canonization Event as a Process

The canonization event must not be seen as something which only Rome is doing, but something in which the whole Congregation is involved. This is the reason why the Postulator-General is moving around the regions to let them know what is happening and to share and solicit ideas about the preparation for the event.

The cause for De Mazenod's canonization was first introduced in 1936. Since then, continual work -- research, juridical procedures -- and prayer, has been done. The canonization is only the last step in a long process. It is not an isolated event. For each of us Oblates, the event of the canonization should come at the end of a deep process of preparation, prayer, spiritual renewal. These will make the canonization fruitful and a true value for all.

In this sense, the JOURNEY to the event is much more important than the destination itself.

B. Three Directing Principles of Preparation

1. The Canonization is a NOW-EVENT

The canonization is not about a

dead body, nor about the past, about 1861. It is based on the past life of De Mazenod, but it pertains more to today than to yesterday. It is an affirmation and celebration of the continuing memory of De Mazenod; it is about us Oblates as the living memory of Eugene de Mazenod, not just in our words, but in our activity, our way of life as heirs to De Mazenod's charism. The canonization is an occasion to hold up the Congregation's life and thrust and compare it to the life and thrust of the Founder. He was the ideal Oblate, and we need to see how close we are to his ideal, and if necessary, move ourselves. If our memory of De Mazenod and his charism is active and faithful, then the canonization event acquires greater significance. It becomes a re-affirmation of the validity of the Oblate vocation and way of life, and that by living the Oblate way of life, we can, in a special and privileged way, draw close to God and attain salvation. For us, being Oblate is a major part of our personal definition. It calls for renewed fidelity, here and now, to the Founder and his ideals.

2. The Canonization is for the whole Church, and not just for the Oblates

The public reading last December 17 of the declaration of acceptance of the miracle attributed to De Mazenod and the following consistory of cardinals reflects the action of the Church in proclaiming De Mazenod a saint. As such, canonization is not for

the personal glorification of the person canonized. It is an expansion of De Mazenod's role and presence in the Church. He is now presented to the whole Church as:

- a. model for life, and
- b. intercessor.

But he remains first of all a model and intercessor for each Oblate.

Looking at ourselves as Oblates today, we are reminded of our expanded role and new responsibility to the whole Church, to serve as "model" and "intercessor" in behalf of our people; and to share the charism of De Mazenod to the whole Church, which now has the right to know him.

3. Canonization is a GRACE/GIFT of God

Canonization is a great gift of De Mazenod who has given so much to the Congregation. We must thank God for this grace, even though some of us did not deserve it. But let us mend our ways and live up to this grace. This grace, if it is to grow and not remain static, must be rejoiced in, celebrated, used, and developed. The grace of the canonization reflects the action and the goodness of God which calls for our response. It should be our endeavor to make sure that our life acts in God. That response of thanksgiving is our growth in personal holiness. This is the way De Mazenod would want us to respond to God's grace.

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE - PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION
UMHLANGANO WAMAOBLATE KAMARIA ONGENASICI 39 Pioneer Road - Congella 4001



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Box 17035, Congella, Durban
4013 NATAL, South Africa

19 January 1995

ATTENTION : FATHER ANGELO SIANI, OMI - PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR
FROM: FATHER BARRY WOOD, OMI - PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

DEAR ANGELO,

OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU IN YOUR TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN JAPAN.
THE OBLATE PROVINCE OF NATAL AND VERY MANY PEOPLE OVER THE WHOLE OF
SOUTH AFRICA ARE PRAYING FOR YOU ALL IN JAPAN.

YOUR BROTHER IN JESUS CHRIST AND MARY IMMACULATE,

REV. FATHER BARRY WOOD, OMI.



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

CHRISTMAS 1995

B L E S S E D C H R I S T M A S



H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



Superior Generalis
Missionariorum Oblatorum Sanctissimae et Immaculae Virginis Mariae

C.P. 9061, 00100 Roma-Aurelio, Italia

LETTER TO OMI MAJOR SUPERIORS
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 8, 1995

Dear Oblate confreres,

Eugene de Mazenod has been declared a Saint for the universal Church. In a special way he is a Saint for us as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and for all who take their inspiration from him and from his charism. During these days the greatness of Saint Eugene and his nearness to us and to our people have been obvious. His charism appeared in all its glory through the hundreds of Oblates who were present and the thousands of pilgrims who saw themselves as part of the great family of Eugene de Mazenod. The Canonization was indeed a visible sign and a deep experience of our Oblate identity. I thank all of you for your support and your participation.

The celebrations in honor of Saint Eugene have already begun in many countries and will continue over the coming months. This is a time of grace and of thanksgiving for the Oblates, for those who are close to us and for the whole Church. I invite you to hold these celebrations everywhere possible and to involve as many young people and poor, Sisters and priests, lay collaborators and associates as possible. The lamp must be placed on the lampstand. I especially ask that you animate the house and district communities; so that they measure up to the Founder and so that, personally and as community, we may become **EUGENE DE MAZENOD TODAY**. For this purpose use your personal initiative and the abundant material sent to you by the General Administration.

The Canonization is a *knock* in our renewal for mission, in our commitment to holiness, in our efforts to lead a more intense and more apostolic community life. It is a light to discern and to invite those who are called to the Oblate way of life. It encourages us to involve the laity to share in the Oblate charism.

Together with Saint Eugene we can advance more surely on our way as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. A Happy and Blessed Christmas to you and to all Oblates and their friends.

Marcello Zago omi

Marcello Zago, omi
Superior General

From Father Bill Sheehan, provincial of the Eastern American Province,
some very kind words on our address. Thank you, Bill.

Eastern Province Newsletter

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

December, 1995

Dear Brother Oblates:

As we celebrate the canonization of Blessed Eugene, I want to share some highlights of the Intercapitular Meeting in Thailand. The experience included a five day visit to our mission in Japan as a preparation. The Intercapitular Meeting included the General Administration, the Provincials and the Superiors of the missions and delegations in Asia-Oceania.

The visit to Japan was especially enriching for me because of its historical connection with the Eastern Province. The Oblates in Japan staff parishes and participate in the ministry of education as a primary way of evangelization. In more recent years, there have developed specialized ministries: outreach to the deaf, to battered women, a vibrant migrant ministry, as well as involvement in the "Right to Life Movement." It was wonderful to see how this mission has evolved since 1948, not only in the variety of ministries, but also its international makeup. There are Oblates from the U.S., Belgium, the Philippines and Sri Lanka in Japan. The mission in Korea, staffed by four Italian Oblates, is attached to the Province of Japan.

As I became more acquainted with the variety of ministries that make up Oblate life in Japan, I also became aware that

Japan remains a non-Christian culture. Christians constitute a minority within a very vibrant ancient culture. To be an Oblate in Japan, requires deep faith and infinite patience. I have only admiration for these Oblates whose gifts, in this non-Christian culture, become identified with a ministry of presence and a willingness, to witness to the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

I flew to Thailand, looking forward to being with my brothers from all over the Oblate world. The Intercapitular took place in a recently constructed conference center, built by the Archdiocese of Bangkok. It was a beautiful setting that lent itself to the purpose of our gathering. During these weeks, we were invited, not only to evaluate how the decrees of the 1992 General Chapter are being implemented, but also to develop a plan of action that will guide our missionary effort prior to the 1998 General Chapter.

The evaluation took place through the sharing of detailed reports from the six Regions that make up the Congregation. There was also a report by the General Administration. These reports included reflections on community, mission, vocations and formation, and lay associates. The process invited the participants to listen to these

reports, and then discuss them within both Inter-Regional and Regional groups. The process not only provided us with the opportunity to evaluate how we are doing Congregationally, but also challenged us to work together to further develop these important areas that make up our Oblate life. The workdays were interspersed with leisure time, prayer moments and the celebration of the Eucharist.

One of the highlights was the keynote address given by Fr. Zago. As Superior General he visits every part of the Congregation and communicates the international dimension of the Congregation in a unique way. He possesses the wonderful capacity, to both encourage as well as challenge in our ongoing effort to revitalize our life and mission around the experience of apostolic community.

This recent experience of Japan and Thailand assures me that the Congregation is alive and well. Enriched by this Intercapitular experience, I want to assure everyone, in the words of the recent synod on consecrated life: we are being invited... "to renew the zeal and strength poured out upon us at our beginnings by the Holy Spirit." May St. Eugene continue to inspire and encourage us as we seek to respond to God's call.

Bill

December, 1995

Dear Fellow Oblates,

The canonization of our Founder Eugene de Mazenod is undoubtedly an occasion for us to celebrate and give thanks because as Fr. James FITZPATRICK stated, "the canonization of de Mazenod is not only an affirmation of the man but also of the congregation he founded." St. Eugene's charism is alive in us his Oblate sons. St. Eugene de Mazenod is a new model of sanctity for the universal Church.

The Inter-Chapter, October 23 - November 8, was held at the Pastoral Training Center of the Bangkok Archdiocese. This spacious Center located in Baan Phu Waan boasts of 186 rooms. It has a magnificent Chapel that can accommodate over 250 participants.

The purpose of the Inter-Chapter was to evaluate the extent to which policies adopted in the Chapter have been carried out and to provide for the remote preparations of the next Chapter.

The meeting was held in five stages:

Stage 1 was a time to renew acquaintances and make new ones, and to form community of brotherhood and prayer. This time also provided the occasion to share experiences of the familiarization/immersion period and to reflect on the Asian reality.

Stage 2 was given to Fr. General's key note address on the progress since the last Chapter. In his 16 page speech, he points out that in Witnessing as Apostolic Community, "there are areas of light and shade. However, almost everywhere some effort has been made. There have been many initiatives to renew community, to make our mission more a community commitment."

Fr. General's report was followed by Regional Reports on Witness as Apostolic Community in the areas of community, mission vocations-formation and lay associates. The international character of the congregation was stressed in many of the reports. For Asia in this international context the importance of English as the regional language and the sharing of personnel was emphasized

Stage 3 This period was for discussing and deciding the representation for the next Chapter. It was decided that all provincials whether of provinces or vice-provinces will attend ex officio (for this chapter only). This will increase the number of elected delegates bringing the full number of the next chapter to 126 members.

We then considered Administrative Structures of the Congregation. An excellent working paper, produced by the Structures Committee, (Frs. Frank MORRISEY, Pierre CHEVROULET and Michael FOLEY, provided a basis

for our discussions. Our suggestions were then given to this same Structures Committee. They will produce a working paper which will be sent to each member of the congregation for remarks before it is presented to the Chapter.

Stage 4 & 5 resulted in a call to action. The ideas brought forward and the proposals which evolved from them in Stage 5 demonstrate clearly the intention of all the participants to pursue intently the application of the orientations found in the 1992 Chapter document "Witnessing as Apostolic Community".

On November 8 and 9 there was a good exchange between The General Administration and the Asia/Oceania Region. Fr. Angelito LAMPON facilitated the meeting.

The General Administration affirmed:

1. our missionary presence and growth.
2. our efforts at creating Regional Structures.
3. our efforts at entering the spirit of WAC 1992.
4. our efforts for vocations.
5. our mission ad extra ie. sharing personnel: Sri Lankans and Filipinos to Japan.
6. our presence in non-christian countries; it is prophetic.
7. our option for new ministries, eg. the migrant workers.
8. our financial growth (in some areas as the MAMI).

The challenges:

1. To improve the relations between provinces, delegations and missions.
2. How to make our Region work better.
3. The question of leadership, especially on the local level.

The meeting ended with a consideration on corporate mission. Mission is not a personal thing but a community effort including its internal life and our link with the local church.

On this eve of Christmas, I pray for each one of you, that Christ's love fill your hearts with blessings and peace.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

Angelo Siani, OMI

NEWS FROM NAGOYA

HAPPY CHRISTMAS MOST BLESSED NEW YEAR

Greetings from Nagoya! In September Ange SIANI, accompanied by Nobuyuki YAGI, went to the PHILIPPINES to take part in the ordination of 3 Oblates, one of whom is coming to mission in JAPAN. Jaime "Jimmy" DEL ROSARIO will join us most probably January 7, 1996. Welcome Jimmy!

During the same time Ray BOURGOIN was visiting his parents for close to 3 weeks. Brad ROZAIRO and Jude PEIRISPULLE attended graduation ceremonies at their Language School, YWCA. After some time off they began their second year and are finding that language studies are no piece of cake!

Ange went to KOREA in early October to visit that part of the Province. He brought back greetings to all. John MAHONEY had a physical check-up and was happy to find out that there were no problems. The Community joined him in his joy!

In the middle of the month, Vicar General Daniel CORIJN visited us on the way to BANGKOK for the Inter Chapter Meeting. During his stay we were able to exchange various ideas with him and he was able to learn about our life here in NAGOYA. At that time Jack DEELY joined us from TOKYO for a few hours. Come again Daniel and Jack!

Changing places with Daniel was Roger HALLEE, provincial of the Haitian Province. He and Ray studied together, one year apart, from grade school thru the first years of College. That's why Roger chose Nagoya for his immersion experience into Japanese Culture. We visited MEIJI VILLAGE and NAGOYA CASTLE and otherwise exchanged notes on the Japanese and Haitian Missions. For those who never heard of Meiji Village, it is a museum of buildings which were transported there because of their cultural value. Among them are the former Cathedral Church of Kyoto and the first Catholic Church ever built in Japan.

Ange left for the Inter Chapter with the visiting provincials. Ray went to spend a few days with Jack and then took part in a CHOICE Weekend for young adults in the IZU Peninsula area.

In mid-November Ray went to attend a Formation Committee Meeting in ITAMI and took the opportunity to give his talk on St EUGENE's Spirituality to the parishioners. The following weekend he was in KOCHI for the same purpose.

In the meantime Ange was on the road to ITAMI, NARUTO, TAKAMATSU, KOCHI. Ange and John then left with the other participants for the Canonisation, a group which included our cook Mrs Hideko TAKASHIMA. Yes, for the duration we fended very well for ourselves in the kitchen!

Jude remarked that the experience of having both Ange and Ray away at the same time, forced him and the two others to fend for themselves, and thereby gain valuable insights into the running of the community. It was a well-appreciated growth experience.

Along the way, in the last 3 months we celebrated John, Jude and Brad's birthdays. Everybody just forgot his diet and dug in!

At this writing Taku AKABAE is busy taking entrance exams and Jude is challenging the driver's license road test. Hope we eventually have good results on both fronts. Ray is still available for the talk on the Founder.

Brad presided and Jude preached for the first time in ZENDANA on Dec 3. They reversed roles on Dec 8. Brad called it "a baptism of fire"!

Brad and Jude will spend the Christmas and New Year's Holidays in the KOCHI area, while Taku goes to spend some time with his family in NARUTO.

THE NAGOYA COMMUNITY

第 1 1 回 養 成 委 員 会 報 告

1995年11月16日、17日 於：伊丹修道院

参加者：ブルゴアン、乾、八木、川口

議題1、フィリピンの滞在の報告：私（八木）にとって非常に良い体験であった。ここでは特にフィリピンの召命係の仕事の内容や、その召命の状況等を報告。参考になるものを日本でも取り入れて、召命係として役立てていきたい。またマミの資料も提供。

議題2、11月に行われた志望者（杉江）のためのプログラムの反省とそのプログラムの来年度の続行・日程：修学院近くのグラウンドで、野球やドッジボールなどのスポーツをして過ごす。楽しいひとときであった。来年度は彼は中3になるが、本人の希望で高校の入学試験期間までこのプログラムを続けたいとのこと。来年は2/17・18、4/13・14、6/8・9の予定。

議題3、DEL ROSARIO の受け入れ体制：来年の1月7日の来日予定に向けて準備を進めていく。

議題4、4月に向けて志願者を受け入れる体制及び志願のしおりの見直し：「志願者のしおり」を通り見直したが、特に訂正事項はなし。堀内君、古川君は来年3月下旬に名古屋修学院へ。

議題5、志願者や志望者の状況：3人ともそれぞれの必要に応じて順調に進んでいる。

議題6、12月のマミ・ニュースレターの内容の最終的確認：原稿〆切は11月末。12/13~15印刷、12/19発送予定。

議題7、養成者の養成の件：川口神父とブラザー八木がフィリピンの養成者養成コースに参加する予定。

次回委員会について：徳島教会にて、1996年1月4日（木）2:00～5:00と1月5日（金）9:00～11:30。祈りはブルゴアン、書記は川口。

11th Meeting of Formation Committee REPORT

Held at Itami Nov 16-17, 1995

In attendance: Len, Ray, Nobuhiko, Leo

Topic #1: Brother Yagi experience in the Philippines: I (Yagi) thoroughly enjoyed the good experience I had there. At this time I especially reported to the committee on the work of the Vocation Director there and its content. I also spoke of the vocation situation there. The overall picture is quite different than what we can do in Japan but I would like to integrate some things. I also spoke at length with the MAMI Director and brought back materials.

Topic #2: Reflection on the program we held for Mr Sugie in November and its aftermath: The afternoon was spent playing sports and in the evening, as usual, we had Mass, made supper, studied about Eugene etc. Since Mr Sugie will be a 3rd year Middle School Student next year, this program will continue till the summer only. The dates are: Feb 17-18, Apr 13-14, Jun 8-9.

Topic #3: Jaime "Jimmy" Del Rosario is due on January 7, 1996. Preparations have been made to have him take Japanese History and Culture courses at Nanzan from Jan 12 with Brad and Jude. He will study the Japanese Language at YWCA till the summer and join the Language Course at Nanzan in September.

Topic #4: In order to prepare for the arrival of our 2 new candidates, we went over the Guidelines we had set up previously and found that they were basically sound. So we changed nothing in the text. However, in practice, more emphasis should be made on some of the important issues.

Topic #5: We discussed at length our candidates and found that they all are progressing well toward their integration into the Nagoya Community.

Topic #6: We finalized the December MAMI Newsletter. November was made the cut-off date for the articles to be in. Printing will be in Kochi between Dec 13 and 15, and hopefully the Newsletter will be in the mail Dec. 19.

Topic #7: Since formation of future OMI will be in the hands of our Japanese OMI, it was decided to send our 2 younger OMI for Formation Studies in the near future.

Next meeting to be held at Tokushima on Jan. 4 PM and Jan. 5 AM. Ray will preside the prayers and Leo will be the secretary.

Formation Committee

From John Mahoney:

There are a number of things I would like to tell you about but I leave tomorrow for Rome and find that the time is closing in. I will however tell you about the Diocesan Day that I was reluctant to attend. I thought that I could use that Sunday afternoon to address Christmas Cards and write up my contribution to the News Letter. Then I recalled that we Oblates are 'the Bishops' Men' and decided to attend. It was a very good meeting. The first part, the Liturgy of the Word, was not held in the Cathedral but in a large basement meeting room. After the reading of the Gospel, there was a short presentation of a mock Parish Council meeting. The group had gathered to prepare for the Christmas Liturgy and the program for the Christmas-New Year's Season.

Shortly after the the meeting began there was a knock at the door. A foreign woman and her child came in. They had just entered the country but had lost their money and baggage etc. etc. The mother was seeking a night's lodging. The Pastor was away. The Council did not feel they could take the responsibility of putting them up at the rectory. The President then asked if anyone present would give the mother and child a place to sleep? The response was silence. They finally agreed that the mother and child could put up in a store room. A present-day Christmas story.

After the presentation those present gathered in groups of about eight. They shared their reactions to the brief skit. After about fifteen minutes there were reports from about four or five of the groups. The Bishop then spoke on his reactions to the reports.

The Liturgy of the Word was concluded with the recitation of the Creed. The congregation then proceeded upstairs to the Church. The Co-celebrants vested and joined the Bishop in offering Mass.

I am sure it was the impressions of the De Mazenod Holy Year that caused me to recall that we Oblates are 'the Bishop's Men'. I think that part of the reason is that the parishioners of Zendana Parish are very active in observing this year with special celebrations. On January 14 we will celebrate the Parish De Mazenod Day. Ray Bourgoïn will be on hand to give his talk on the Founder. This will be followed by the blessing of the Small Chapel which is dedicated to Saint Eugene. We will also hang a picture of Saint Eugene in the Parish Hall.

Plans for the Memorial Mass to celebrate the Canonization of Eugene De Mazenod are proceeding nicely. The Zendana Choir has already started preparing for the Mass. The special committee has met several times and the work has been carefully allotted. It should be a well organized day and we are hoping that many of you will be able to join us at the St. Francis Xavier Church (former Kyoto Cathedral) at Meiji Mura. The Mass will begin at 11 AM. There will be a Choral Presentation before Mass for those who arrive early.

The wonderful thing about these Holy Year events is the enthusiasm of the parishioners. Many of the

events have been suggested by them. There is a real interest in the Oblates and in the Founder's Canonization.

This will bring you up to date in the happenings at Zendana Parish. Oh yes! There are two other important events. Fr. Jude Peirisulle will preach in Japanese for the first time on Dec.3; Bradly will be the celebrant. On Dec. 8 Fr. Bradly Rosairo will preach his first Japanese sermon; Jude will be the main celebrant. I am sorry that I will not be on hand to hear them. The parishioners are very delighted that they will be Jude's and Bradly's first audience.

We have not forgotten that Christmas will be celebrated on December 25. Plans are going ahead to make it a holy and happy occasion for the Zendana Community; to add to the joy of the occasion we will have two infant Baptisms

You will be in my prayers on Christmas. My prayer will be that we Oblates and the people we work for and with will be greatly blessed in 1996

Fraternally in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.

From Dick Harr:

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL!

I can't account for the 365 days of this year; don't know where they've gone. Anyway, it's been one grand finish with the celebration of December 3rd, and our Saint-crowned Founder. Now we can step out into 1996 with new vigor and firmer confidence that the Founder is with us, interceding for our every effort.

I am about to mark 44 years on this mission, and 50 years of vows during this coming year. So, I'll be celebrating still.

I thank God for each of you. You are a real gift that makes this life so much easier. Thanks so very much for all the years together, but especially 1995. Let's continue to support one another vigorously.

Dick Harr, O.M.I.

BECOMING THE MANGER

My first Christmas has fled into the past. I don't know why it was so quick. Anyway, day to day activities have almost forced me into a Christmas Mood, once again.

During this past year there were a lot of ups and downs, specially trying to make progress in the Japanese Language, getting to know the Japanese life style, customs and so on. May the 31st was also an unforgettable day for me as I twisted my leg and damaged 3 ligaments in my foot. This led me to the experience of using crutches.

Now we are in the Christmas Season. My thoughts run to the manger where Jesus was laid. How much will I be glad if I can be this manger, to make the place pleasant, pleasurable and peaceful for His birth. It is not so easy, as you know, to be a manger. We have to give up many things, we have to sacrifice and face suffering for Him.

So dear brethren, my wish for this Christmas is that we may find Peace in our own hearts and make the surroundings, the MANGER, for Christ's coming.

Jude PEIRISPULLE, OMI

From Brad:

Today, due to one reason or other, most of the people suffer from hunger, thirst, war and so on. Owing to this unpleasant experience their hearts become dark and their spirits disturbed. Thus they begin to live without hope and consolation. They also think that Christmas does not bring any meaning to their lives. I think there is a message from God to this type of people, and that is Christmas.

Jesus, who was born for us, becomes our hope. I feel that during this season of Christmas it is good for us to share this message of hope with those who are really in need of it, so that their lives may flourish.

This is just a small reflection that I would like to share with all of you, and I wish each and everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Brad

クリスマスと新年おめでとうございます

私は、修学院に入って約10ヶ月になる。

今までつらかったことや楽しかったことなど、いろいろ経験した。初めの頃、なかなか慣れなかったのは、朝、早く起きることである。それまでの私の目覚まし時計は、ビビビと鳴る物であり、音が小さかった。だから、私はそのせいと思い、ジリリリと鳴るベル式の物を買った。しかしその目覚まし時計は、神父様たちを起こしただけで、私を起こしてくれなかったのである。

今では慣れ、5:50 AMに起きることができる。朝早く起きると、その分、一日が長く感じる事が出来る。だから、皆さんも早起きをし、長い一日を有意義に過ごして下さい。

赤波江 卓

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all!

It has been about 10 months since I came to the House of Studies.

So far, I have experienced difficult as well as happy events. At the beginning, the most difficult thing for me to get used to was getting up early. The alarm clock I was using was one of those that you can hardly hear ring. Thinking that that was the reason for my failure to rise, I bought one with a big bell attached to it. The only thing that did was to wake up all the Fathers but me.

Now I'm used to getting up at 5:50 am. Getting up early helps to make the day feel longer. In any event, I hope you all get up early and live meaningful days.

Taku AKABAE

From Bill Maher:

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR,

I'm just back from the Canonization Pilgrimage and what a wonderful experience it was. On the 3rd and 4th of December the Oblates owned Rome. The Founder's picture was on the front of St. Peter's Basilica and thousands of people were walking the streets with his badge proudly pinned on their coats. Oblates or Oblate related people of every nationality and color celebrating the great occasion. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience. At the Mass on the 3rd, Takashima San, the cook at the house of formation in Nagoya, helped bring up the gifts at the offertory and said a few words to the Pope. Then, at the audience with the Pope, Angelo pulled rank, sat with the other provincials and shook hands with the Pope. Before he washed it everybody else shook hands with Angelo.

The whole trip was a special grace for me and I'm thankful to all for letting me partake in it. You were all in my prayers in a special way during those ten days, as you will be this Christmas and throughout the coming New Year. Let us pray for each other. Now I have to get back to work on old "terra firma", but these ten days of highs were wonderful. I hope to see you in the near future.

Bill

Christmas Greetings from Xave Y.Tosa

I hope you can look back to the past year with satisfaction and look forward to the new year with hope and confidence.

On the 26th of last November, I went to Tokyo to attend the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace. The solemn mass was celebrated in the crypt of the cathedral. I had brought my stola and alba, but I was 10 minutes late...

There were two special speakers. The first one was a diocesan priest from Korea, Father Ham (咸世雄) and bishop Julio Xavier Labayen of Quezon City (Philippines). The message of Mgr. Labayen was for me easier to understand, because he spoke in English. As theme Bishop Labayen chose 2 Peter 3:13: "...we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which justice dwells." Father Ham had as theme: "God of Revelation, God of Justice." Among the other special guests there were a few famous Protestant ministers and a Buddhist monk. Of course after the messages, we had a toast with Spanish wine (no French wine of course). I couldn't stay until all the bottles were empty because I had to be on the last plane to Kochi, where ordinary teaching days were waiting.

The Catholic Church (the Bishop Conference and the Japanese Cath. Council for Justice and Peace) have done a long self-examination. Fifty years after the war they have finally expressed their regret for the mistakes committed by the Church in the past war. Now they are reflecting on how Japan has and is exploiting the Asia-Pacific region as a means to Japan's prosperity. Instead of weapons and tanks, now bulldozers and chain saws are destroying the forests. Instead of warships huge merchant ships continue to rob the riches of the earth and sea. In this way we have allowed economic invasion to replace the war of aggression.

The Council for Justice and Peace will undertake the work of watchperson.
"If the watchperson sees the sword coming against the country, he (or she) must sound his (or her) horn to warn the people." (Ezk. 33:3)

The students of the Kochi Women University this year, too, got the first prize in the All Shikoku English Drama Contest...But you are used to that kind of news.

Have a good winter vacation!

From *Jan VAN HOYDONCK*:

When I mentioned in my Christmas greetings of last year that there had occurred quite some changes within a short time, I can continue in the same vein this time too. Somewhere else in this issue you find a detailed report on one aspect of those changes. Paperwork takes up a good part of my time, and that includes the putting out of this Newsletter four times a year, besides translations and reports for the diocese.

The Little Sisters of Jesus continue to be a big asset and a great help for the parish. Around the middle of the year their number of three grew with the arrival of an aspirant, who just recently got "promoted" to the rank of postulant. The novice, who has been here from the beginning, finished her canonical noviciate year, but since their rule calls for another year of trial she has to go one more year before taking her first vows. Since she now can take some activities away from home she is looking for a job.

I am still in the dark about their plans after March, whether they'll continue living here or whether they are going to move to another area. I hope to get a definite answer soon.

For this Christmas, too, I wish you an abundance of the Lord's love and blessings and His fatherly guidance throughout the New Year, so that you may have

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI.

From Gerard STEVENS:

Looking back over the past year: Since May 1 I have been assigned to the O.M.I. residence of Akaoka, near Kochi, from where I am to take care of the foreigners living in the countryside of Kōchi and the Awa-Ikeda area. "Foreigners", mainly Filipinas, either entertainers or brides (married to Japanese).

Following an agreement between the Japanese and the Philippine governments there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of entertainers and laborers from the Philippines. Some bars and snack bars have closed down, but the majority of nomiya's (drinking places) now employ "talents" from ex-communist countries like Rumania or Russia, but also from China and other Asian countries. Apart from new language problems (e.g. using Latin with the Rumanians), there are new religious challenges: Orthodox Christians, or Chinese interested in the Church (and for me not knowing Chinese, and they only very little Japanese)....

The number of Pinay (=Filippina) brides keeps growing, especially in the countryside around Awa-Ikeda: Up to now I have found 32 of these brides, with so far 43 children in these international marriages. It is a pity that they live so far apart and far away from the church. The monthly Masses set up especially for them in Ikeda and in Nakamura (Kōchi-West) provide a unique chance to keep their faith alive, and to teach their children how to pray and to prepare these children for first Communion and the other Sacraments. The children usually speak Japanese much better than their mothers (even to the point of acting as interpreters for them), while these mothers know their prayers only in Tagalog or (for those from South-America) in Spanish, with not enough knowledge of Japanese to teach religion to their children in Japanese.

With the exception of my first two years in Japan this year is also the first of my 39 years in Japan in which I have no Kodomokai (a kind of Sunday-school) or oya-ko-kai (neighborhood children and parents association), mainly because my new assignment keeps me on the move, especially on week-ends which is the prime time for reaching the children. I hope to get something going for the children of the international marriages, were it only during the holidays and vacations. But long distances and poor public transport in those rural areas are a serious obstacle.

Anyway, I've got no time yet to retire, or to get really sick, and less so to die.

I wish each and all of you a most blessed Christmas and a very happy 1996, in Christo et Maria Immaculata.

Gerard Stevens, O.M.I.

JOY AND SORROW OF THE APOSTOLATE AMONG THE IMMIGRANT FAITHFUL

Sunday, 15 October, 1995, 1 p.m., third Sunday of the month.

Over half an hour the special Eucharistic celebration for the Philippine wives of Japanese men, living within the confines of the Ikeda parish, is supposed to start. We are getting a little nervous, especially Gerard STEVENS, who has made all the preparations and who is going to celebrate the Eucharist, in which some babies will receive Baptism. Is it going to be the same as last month when with the same preparation and the promise of several of surely going to be there, nobody showed up at the convened hour of 1 p.m.? Close to 2 one lady drove into the church yard, with her three small girls. We waited for others but nobody else showed up, and finally, near three, the service was begun.

This time it was different. Shortly after 1 several cars drove up, some driven by the Philippine ladies themselves, but most of them by the Japanese non-Christian husbands. With a little delay (Philippine time) Mass could get started around 2. This time there were 15 Philippine mothers, residing in the parish, as well as one from a neighboring parish (Marugame) who is a friend of one Philippina of our parish, and further the mother of one of our Philippina ladies who had come over to Japan to visit her daughter and her family, and then about twenty children. Last but certainly not least were several of the husbands who had driven their wives and children over. Some of the men had also been so kind as to take some neighboring Philippine ladies, friends of their wives. All in all there were about fifty people around. That includes three of the Little Sisters of Jesus, living in our parish, who we had asked to baby-sit during the Eucharistic celebration. Since the weather was beautiful the children played on the church playground with the Sisters, under the watchful eye of the men who kept the little ones from running into the street.

Having such a crowd around was a relief and a satisfaction for Gerard, who had exerted himself during the past week to get them all together. Easily said but far from easily done. To get a little idea of what it involves to visit all those people at their homes a simple description of the geography of the parish will be helpful. In its simplest form we can picture the parish as an inverted L. One leg stretches from West to East over a distance of 50 km. The other leg goes from North to South for about 60 km. The church is located at the joint West and North of the two legs. These two legs are stretches of the main arteries going through the inland of Shikoku Island. But that does not mean that everyone lives along those main roads. Only a few of those ladies of our parish do so. To get to most of them one has to branch off to the left or the right for several miles, sometimes tens of miles, to reach the intended house. The train is good in some cases (very few), often combined with a bus ride. A car can get you closer in other cases, a motorcycle is more convenient for still others, but it is sometimes necessary, in order to reach some of the persons living deep in the mountains, to telephone and request them to come down to the house of a friend and meet there. In any case, before setting out on a tour to meet those Philippine women (and eventually also Japanese parishioners living in the same direction), one must contact them first by telephone about the possibility and the time of meeting.

During the week preceding the monthly gathering at the church Gerard spends every day trying to meet as many of these Philippine women as possible, at their own home, alone or with others from the neighborhood who got together there. On these occasions, too, he picks up news of new arrivals, of the departure of others, and of events in the life of one or other of their compatriots in the area. It is not easy to come by all that information and it takes quite some time before those ladies gather enough confidence to freely relate their problems. Since Gerard has assisted them from the very beginning in this area he is accepted, and the older ones refer him to the newcomers, even at far

distances. That is also the reason that I am happy that Gerard takes care of that part of my duty that I would not be able to perform satisfactorily, and I gladly give him all the assist that he needs for his work.

For a better understanding of the possibilities and the difficulties related to these Philipinas (we can use this nationality indication because in this area there are hardly any other nationalities involved) it must be mentioned first that there are two kinds of these immigrants, one type is the one we have been talking about so far, permanent residents in this area because of their marriage to a local person, tied to the family land; the second type are temporary residents, and in this area more precisely "entertainers", working in bars for a limited period (the Japanese government allows only six months visa's under this heading, renewable only after a lapse of one year - although some find ways around it). In general the latter "class" is rather hard to contact, not of their own will, but mainly through the refusal of their employers.

What is the attraction that brings so many Philipinas to such a remote area? Some have gotten into it by deception. Several years ago certain Japanese groups looking for a new way of making a fast buck, after the government got more severe about their activities within the country, conceived the idea of setting up a marriage brokerage to provide brides for young men of the mountainous areas of this region. According to Japanese tradition it befalls on the first son to secure the protection of the heirloom and the continuation of the family name. As long as at least one of the parents is alive that son has to stay at the property. None of the young ladies of the mountain area wished to continue the hard life of a farmer in those secluded, dull areas and left for a more exciting lifestyle in the city. That left these young men without a chance of finding a bride. For a price the brokers would find one. They took to the Philippines with a pile of enticing folders and photographs. And with the help of their Philippine brothers-in-arms, they enticed the young girls with promises of opportunities of making good money and having lots of fun and entertainment. For many of the girls who heard their sales talk, and most of them coming themselves from similar mountainous area where they had to work very hard, helping to provide for a rather frugal life in a large family, these promises sounded like a message from Heaven for a better life for themselves and for their beloved with the money they could send them. Their appetite was still whetted by comparing those sales talks with their knowledge of local customs. In many areas of the Philippines a "farmer" is a gentleman-farmer, rich beyond imagination, who does not even know himself the extent of his domain. Becoming the wife of a 'farmer' would mean as much as becoming a queen. Another trick that was used was that of announcing a "beauty contest" in which the price would be a FREE trip to Japan. The thing not advertized was that that FREE trip was going to be a one way journey to Japan as the wife of a Japanese husband.

Those selected and accepted had to get "married" first in order to get permission to live in Japan. The "marriage" ceremony was in most cases performed at a protestant church near the Japanese embassy in Manila. The Catholic rules concerning marriage were, of course, not observed.

Great was the disappointment of those girls when they arrived at the place where they were to live, without a word of Japanese, while on the other hand the bridegroom nor any of his relatives knew any English. I heard of a case where the young wife had come from a remote mountain village where there was not yet electrical power. The day after her arrival at the home of her husband's parents she had a mountain of clothes of her husband put in front of her and by sign language made to understand that she was to clean all those clothes which included a suit, several pieces of underwear, even a pair of shoes. Eager to please the young wife nodded vigorously and proceeded by dumping the stuff in the washing machine. The husband's suit came out grammar school boy's size.

The commotion was even greater when it came to registering at the village office. Nobody knew where to turn to get an interpreter. That is when they appealed to Gerard, who from his many years living in the area and his regular apostolic tours to every nook and cranny of his parish territory, was known by all and was himself familiar with all those places. He was thus called upon and was able to settle and solve a lot of difficulties that had seemed unsurmountable. That assistance endeared him very much to those involved, officials as well as the families and mostly the Philippine girls who found in him someone to whom they can turn with their problems. The word spread throughout the local Philippine "community" and has endured to this day.

Apart from the problems of non-understanding by lack of a common language, and misunderstanding because of the different cultural backgrounds, problems which generally had to be left to them to solve, for a Catholic missionary who saw himself all of a sudden in charge of a group of new "parishioners" coming from the Philippines, "where everyone is Catholic" (except in the South) a whole new line of problems to be solved had arisen. To have some certainty about the Catholicity of his new parishioners Gerard had to ask them to get a copy of their baptismal record from their home church in the Philippines. A few complied, others didn't bother or forgot, still others asked but were turned down by their home pastors who refused to help those who "threw themselves into prostitution" (putting all of them indiscriminately under the same heading). The records that were received complicated the issue still more. For, among these were Catholic certificates but also certificates from the Independent Catholic Church, a schismatic church with a large following in the Philippines. Many of the women we have in the parish do not even know the difference, and I have certificates of some who took their children back to the Philippines to be baptized there in the Catholic Church, while they themselves belong(?) to the Independent Church.

The marriage situation is still more complicated. "Free to marry" has a quite different connotation for a Catholic and for a non-Catholic. Most of the Philippine brides are aware that their marriage is not in line with Church requirements and for some it is a real source of pain. But to get it straightened out is not an easy task and requires a large amount of delicacy.

It is quite natural that for some the strain gets too big. Some run away, some try to get a divorce. Whatever it is, when Gerard gets wind of it, as well as of other problems they (may) run into with the official instances, such as visas, work permits, Gerard brings them up to the legal consequences of their (intended) actions. That means that he himself has to acquire that knowledge first, which means for him to contact the officials.

Through his continuous efforts he got to know by now thirty of those Philippine women, married to Japanese and living within the territory served by the Ikeda Catholic Church. These are not the only ones he takes care of: he exerts the same activities in the rural areas of Kochi Prefecture. But let us for now limit ourselves to the Ikeda area. Those thirty ladies mentioned have so far a total of 41 children. That brings their number as (expected) parishioners to 71 so far. And at the same time it raises the brow-knitting problem of educating those children to a Christian life, at least for those who through baptism join the Church. For, although practically all the mothers desire so, some husbands set themselves against it.

Coming back to our Sunday afternoon Mass: present at it -- as I said before -- was the mother of one of the Philippine wives. Through her daughter, translating and interpreting for her, she knew what was going on, for she did not understand English, much less Japanese, but in her national Tagalog she could communicate with all of them. When Mass was finished she asked Gerard

through her daughter whether she could say a few words to the audience. Gently and friendly, but with fervor, she told all those young women that they had to keep their faith, and now that they knew where the church is, and also that on the third Sunday of every month there would be a special Mass for them, she urged them sternly to be there and live up to their faith. That was a very welcome assist to Gerard's efforts, and likely to be effective, coming as it does from one of their own.

After Mass there followed a little party, as a celebration for the two babies that had been baptized during Mass and for their parents. Indeed, although the men did not assist at the Mass, off and on the fathers of those babies had stuck their nose inside and were joining them all now. They feasted on some goodies that some of them had prepared and brought along, a habit with them when they come together.

Late in the afternoon, when everything was eaten, the place cleaned up, things put back where they belong, and everyone had gone back home, Gerard went back to the rectory, tired, but happy for what the Lord had wrought, and already with new insights and new plans for the coming weeks and the next meeting the following month.

About the other type of Philippine workers in the area, the entertainers, I have not said much so far. Through their limited period of staying it is not so easy to get in touch with them, and depending on the person in charge of them and their place of employment, contact with them may be normal, difficult or completely blocked. When they are allowed to be met it is usually in the early evening, just before the bar opens. Generally only a few words can be exchanged, but occasionally some surprising and consoling things may happen. Such as on that day when, just before their work, one of those young ladies, already made up and dressed up for the coming hours, asked: "Father, can't we pray?" Taken by surprise Gerard blinked his eyes and replied: "Where?", to which they answered: "Here!", whereupon they knelt around a low table in the bar and recited a decade of the Rosary. During their working at the bar everything is above water, but afterwards some of the customers invite some of those entertainers out... That may also, not infrequently, bring about new marriages, but a less favorable sequel is that it gives rise to discrimination and avoidance among the group, whose common Christian faith could be a source of apostolic progress around here.

May the Lord grant life and growth to this little plant in this corner of His Kingdom.

From FRAN:

As usual the days are flying by and I hear this Christmas message has to be in by the 3rd, so I'm trying my best, which is all I can do. 1995 has been a good, peaceful year and healthwise I'm fine, but unfortunately not losing any weight. The Koga parish seems at peace, but there are areas that have to be attended to, especially the youth. All pastors feel the exodus of the young from Church, and it is hard to know what to do to correct the situation. Even if you have an idea it is hard to put it into practice at 52. One thinks of the Founder and his youth work, and I know it is part of our charism, but I feel inadequate. This could turn into a public confession of my inadequacies, but then, you're aware of them, so, I'm sure it comes as no surprise. Christ became incarnate in the midst of poverty and human weakness. Both the manger and St. Paul are one in their witness to this fact, and this is my only consolation. I've gotten a few calls wishing us congratulations on the Founder's canonization, including one from our Bishop. I'm beginning to realize the Founder is important to all the Church and not just to the Oblates. As well as seeing his relevance to me personally Eugene the Mazenod is proclaimed to have been filled with the "Spirit" of the Risen Lord to a heroic dimension. And as Mary, the Apostles and the Saints through the ages witness to the saving power of the Risen Lord, he has been given to all the Church as one preeminently worthy of imitation. As 1 Cor.4:16 tells us to imitate St. Paul so he is telling us the same in regards to St. Eugene. Until recently I had a hard time identifying with him, his writings or story. It all seemed so flowerly and "French". But the more I read his words and learn about the times in which he lived the more I see a strong message for our age as well, with the secularism convinced of the material world as the only absolute, ready to put down non-empirical things as superstition and nonsense, with so many priests and nuns abandoning sound doctrine, embracing the whims of the age, leading lives of scandal, more concerned about their own comfort, personal fulfilment and about public opinion ("the majority thinks so, thus it is a fact 'for now'") than witnessing to the truth (the Cross as God's definitive statement for all ages and cultures of His love for man). In such a situation de Mazenod's love for the Church as Christ's body and for the Pope as its head seems to me to be the example that is needed now even more than before. The incarnate love of God in the person of his Son, so beautifully proclaimed in the manger story, and its extension in the Church. His body left on earth as Sacrament sign witness seems much closer this year, due to its realization in this one man, Eugene, Oblate par excellence and Saint for all ages.

Merry Christmas, and I hope 1996 will be your holiest year ever.

P.S. This isn't meant as a sermon, but just as something I'm feeling, and I'm rather amazed at it myself.

Fran HAHN, O.M.I.

NEWS

Provincial Council Named

The new provincial council for the Vice Province of Japan has been appointed. Appointed are: 1. Michael YAMASAKI, 2. Yoshikazu TOSA and 3. Satoshi KAWAGUCHI. The installation of the new council will be announced during the month of December.

New Mass in honor of the Founder

Ray BOURGOIN has completed the translation of the Mass of St. Eugene de Mazenod. Copies have been sent to each Oblate in Japan. Thank you Ray.

Assignments

Jude PEIRISPULLE and Bradly ROZAIRO have been assigned to Kochi beginning on December 23. Their Japanese classes resume on January 8.

Full Time Professor

John DEELY has been employed at Sophia University in Tokyo as a full time professor.

Visit of Leo-Paul Nobert, OMI

On his return to Canada from the Inter-Chapter, Leo-Paul NOBERT visited our mission. Leo-Paul formerly the General Treasurer is the Director of the Oblate Shrine at Cap-de-la-Madeleine.

Closing of Oblate de Mazenod Year

The closing Mass of the Oblate de Mazenod year will take place in Itami at 2:30 in the afternoon on May 26, 1996. The Archbishop of Osaka will preside at the Mass. The Nuncio has accepted our invitation. Fr. Leo Kawaguchi, OMI will be the Homilist. You are all invited to take part in this closing ceremony.

Fr. Jaime del Rosario, OMI

Jaime has obtained a three year Visa. He will arrive in Nagoya, Japan on January 7, 1996.

Deaths

Please pray for Richard WHITNEY husband of Fr. Bertram N. Silver's sister. Richard died on October 23.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

January

2 Ed WILLIAMS
22 Ray BOURGOIN
29 Dick HARR

February

13 Maurizio GIORGANNI
15 Len INUI
21 Vincenzo BORDO

March

1 Jerry NOVOTNY
11 Taku AKABAE
23 Bill MAHER

ORDINATIONS

Happy Anniversary to:

February

22 Xave Yoshikazu TOSA

March

19 Ray BOURGOIN
27 Wency LAGUIDAO
29 Leo KAWAGUCHI

ANNIVERSARY of the DEATH of our MISSION's FOUNDING FATHERS

2 February Charles McBENNETT
12 March Leonard ROBITAILLE

PRAYERS

remain in order for the intentions that have been brought to your attention before, our deceased near of kin, our ailing or/and aging beloved, all those that count on our prayers out of gratitude or of justice. May God's mercy and blessing embrace them all.

EVER VALID REMINDERS

Check - expiration date of Visa, Alien Registration, Driver's License, Health Insurance Certificate, Reduction Certificates for the Aged, etc.

Editor's Request

The next issue is scheduled for March 21. Could I prevail on you to have your texts in by March 10, and may I again implore ALL of you to reread and CORRECT your texts so that I am not obliged to retype AND correct them. May I also ask you to leave a margin of at least one inch from the top and bottom (A4 size pages, please!), and the width of the text no more than 17 cm. (6³/₄ in.)? Some FAX-machines and some typewriters may need some cleaning, although sometimes weather conditions may cause some smudges in a FAX.