

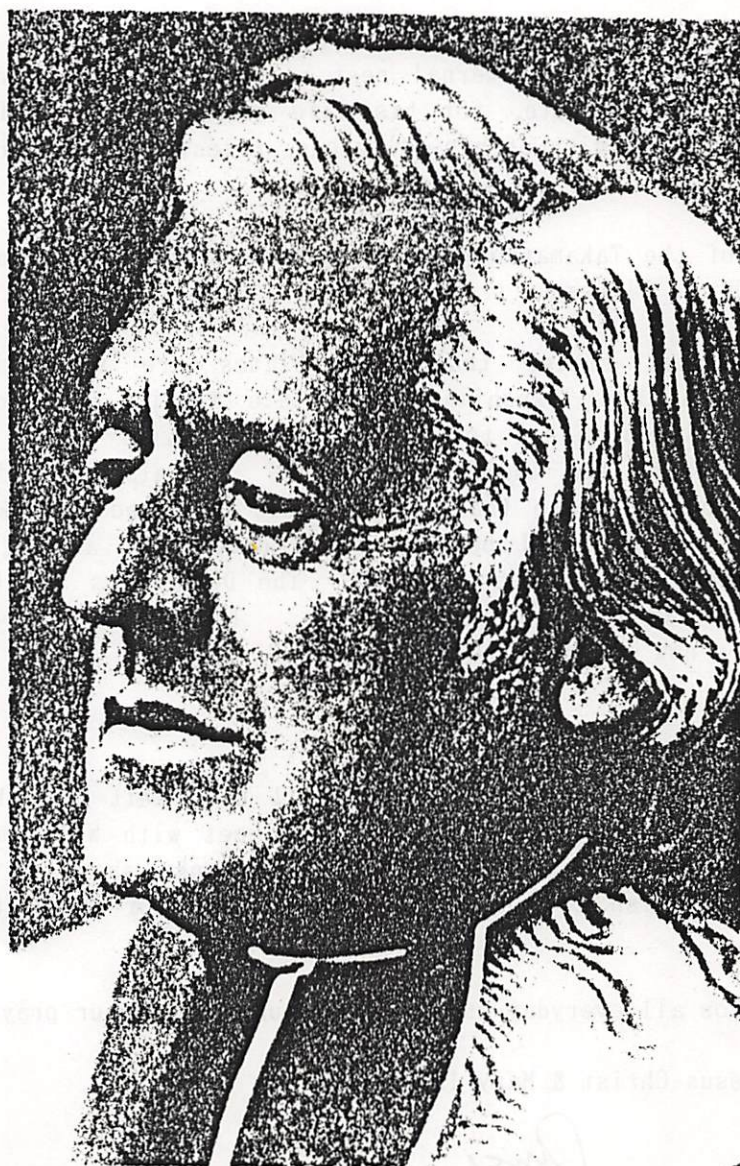


OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

SUMMER 1996



June, 1996

Dear Fellow Oblates,

On May 10, 1996, our brother Gerard STEVENS, OMI was taken up to his home with the Lord. The image of Gerard which sticks in my memory is that of a man like Paul bringing the Good News into the mountain area of Ikeda, sometimes walking for twenty kilometers with a bag full of pamphlets to be distributed so as to give people an opportunity to come in touch with Jesus and his church.

I will remember Gerard, we all will, but especially all those needy, the poor and the Filipinas he searched for, to be sure they were not neglected by the church. Gerard has sown the seed. It remains for someone else to reap the fruit.

May the Lord give Gerard his eternal rest with St. Eugene. We thank Gerard for his example as an Oblate, for his life committed and dedicated to the poor and for the daily living of his religious, priestly and missionary life.

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Bishop Fukahori of the Takamatsu Diocese has asked that the Oblates draw up a new contract with the Diocese.

Our present contract states that the Oblates are responsible for the Prefectures of Kochi and Tokushima (ie. Oblate Mission Territory). In the new contract the Bishop wishes to abolish the notion of Oblate Territory and instead make contracts for individual places. He also stated that as men working for the whole diocese the Oblates could be asked to take a church in Ehime or Kagawa and he would perhaps bring Dominicans and others into the Kochi and Tokushima areas of the diocese. The Dominicans and Burgos Fathers have already made contracts to that effect. The Bishop proposes that the Oblates complete a new contract by December 1996.

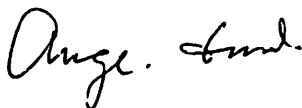
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By the time this letter reaches you, I will have left for the Philippines where the visitation team for Sri Lanka will meet with William MORELL, OMI. It is a preparation meeting. Then on to Sri Lanka where I will be until August 14. If you wish to contact me please write or phone the Provincial House in Colombo.

I will pray for you all everyday and will be counting on your prayers too.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial



Fr. John P. SHERMAN, O.M.I., former Provincial of Australia, has sent the following Memo on April 10, 1994:

"I received a letter from an organization which helps Japanese students come to Australia for one or two years experience of education in Australia. While I am happy to work with them, the thoughts occurred to me that we might be of some use for such experiences for young men in our own Oblate parishes or for Oblate contacts. They would need to be in their last two years of secondary school. If you can it might be good to mention the possibility in your province newsletter."

Another page gives a description of the requirements of SATO (Students Abroad Transpacific Organization).

Anyone interested can contact me for further details.

Ange, O.M.I.

MEMORANDUM

High School Integration and Preparation Program

- The High School Integration and Preparation Program (HIPP) is for Japanese High School students. Under the program, a participating student will study at a host school in Australia for a minimum of one year. Full fees are paid for the student's tuition and other expenses.
 - Students Abroad Transpacific Organisation (SATO) acts as the student's guardian and is responsible for: placing the student in a suitable Australian school; arranging appropriate accommodation for the student; payment of tuition and other expenses; liaison with the school in respect of the student; correspondence with the student's parents in Japanese in respect of the student's activities, progress and welfare, including the translation of academic reports and any correspondence from the school in respect of the student.
 - All correspondence concerning a student under the HIPP program, should be sent directly to SATO, including any invoices for school fees and expenses in respect of the student. Under no circumstances should any notification of school fees/expenses be sent directly to the student's parents in Japan.
 - Prospective students are interviewed by SATO Area Representatives in Japan prior to selection as a participant in the program. Although all Japanese students study English as part of their High School education, many students have limited English language skills when they first arrive in Australia. For this reason, the host school is expected to provide ESL classes for the student within the school, or if special arrangements can be made, outside the school, in order to further the student's English language progress.
 - The host school must be willing to accept HIPP program students, not only at the beginning of the school year, but also at the beginning of a term or semester throughout the year.
 - Under the HIPP program, the student is normally accommodated in the school's boarding house or with a host family throughout their stay. If the boarding house can not accommodate the student during school holidays, it is preferable for the student to stay in the area with a host family for these periods. It would be expected that the school would assist in arranging such accommodation.
- At the conclusion of the HIPP student's stay at the host school, all outstanding fees will be settled in accordance with the hosting school's cancellation policies. These arrangements will also be made by SATO on behalf of the student.

Visitation Team for the Province of Sri Lanka

Angelo SIANI, OMI, Manuel MINA, OMI and Sebastian MAHARA, OMI have been mandated by the Superior General, Marcello ZAGO, to comprise the Visitation Team for the Province of Sri Lanka. The visitation proper will take place during the month of July. Preparations will begin in June in the Philippines with input from William MORELL, OMI, (Texas). Angelo SIANI as Team Leader will be in Colombo until August 14 so as to be present for the opening day of the Provincial Congress of Sri Lanka.

Acting Provincial, June 14 - August 14

Michael YAMASAKI, OMI will be the acting provincial June 14 - August 14, 1996.

Summer Vocation Camp, August 8-11

The summer camp will take place at the Oblate Mission in Koga from August 8th to the 11th. This year, the theme is "Looking To The Future".

Meeting of Young Oblates, August 26 - September 1

This year there will be a meeting of our young Oblates in Seoul, Korea. Mauro CONCARDI and Maurizio GIORGIANNI prepared the program. Fr. Jerry Cotter, S.S.C. will be the input person.

Annual Retreat September 2 - 6, 1996

The retreat will be held at the Passionist Retreat House in Fukuoka.

The Retreat Master: Glenn ZIMMER, OMI, from St. Mary's Province, Canada.

"Choice" Asian Conference, Taiwan

Raymond BOURGOIN will attend the "Choice Asian Conference which will be held in Taiwan from July 30 - August 5, 1996. The Asian Conference is composed of 7 nations.

AORC

The Asia/Oceania Regional Conference is going to be held at the Nagoya Catholic Center of Studies, from October 17 until 21, by the Provincials and Vice Provincials of said Region.

14th Meeting of Formation Committee REPORT

Held at Nagoya Mar 26, 1996

In attendance: Len, Bradly, Ray, Nobuhiko, (Leo)

Topic #1: Enlist the 3 pre-novices to help with the Koga Summer Camp in view of giving them the responsibility in coming years. The theme will be "Looking Toward the Future". Bro Yagi will animate this theme bringing to it study and research. The Pre-novices will devise the program including games and sports, etc. We discussed where a proper place would be for swimming.

Topic #2: The April "Come and See" Program seemed to be a success. An outing for the day was planned and on arrival at the destination: a brief respite, reading of a Scripture passage and a 20 minute period of silence and meditation. After that each participant shared about his vocation and what brought him to the Lord's Service within the Oblates. A very fruitful discussion ensued. The usual program followed on arrival at the House of Studies. Next meeting June 8 and 9.

Topic #3: An over all exchange on the progress of our 3 pre-novices. All seem to be enjoying the various programs they are following.

Topic #4: Besides and over and above the things mentioned in the last Formation Report, the next MAMI Newsletter will feature Gerard Stevens as top billing. We also finalized other articles.

第 1 4 回 養 成 委 員 会 報 告

1996年5月15日 於：名古屋修学院

参加者：ブルゴアン、乾、八木、ブラドリ、(川口)

議題1、今年のサマーキャンプについては、3人の志願者と共に準備を進めていく。テーマについては、「未来へ」とする。海水浴の出来る場所については、近くの海岸でも良いし、また10分～30分ぐらい車で行けば良い海岸がある。研修内容と勉強については Bro 八木が考えて練る。また、ゲーム、遊び、スポーツについては志願者が計画しスケジュールに組み込む。なお準備のために8月は4・5日早めに行って準備するようにする。

議題2、4月に行なわれた杉江君のための一日プログラムは、たいへん良い成果があった。目的地に着いてから少し休んで聖書を読みあと沈黙のうちに20分ほど散策してもらい、それぞれ自分の召命について話してもらった。一人ひとりの歩みが語られ、たいへん有意義だったと感銘している。皆さんよくプログラムに沿って行っていたと見ている。次回は6月8・9日。

議題3、志願者、志望者の状況について意見情報交換した。皆楽しくやっているようです。

議題4、マミ・ニュースレターの内容：Gerry Stevensのことについて一番に書く。後は前回に決めたことを参考。

次回委員会について：7月06日(土)、伊丹修道院。9:00から16:00。
書記は八木、お祈りは乾。

NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Greetings from Nagoya! Ray BOURGOIN usually gathers information from the Codex Historicus in order to write this column. He found that the reporter, who has been Jimmy DEL ROSARIO since March, is much more verbose than Brad ROZAIRO, the previous historian, was. Instead of adding meat to the text, he had to cut fat! He had a lot of reading to do!!

Ange SIANI was on the road a lot visiting various parts of the province for meetings, camaraderie and sometimes not always happy occasions. All the OMI members joined him in KOCHI for the funeral of Gerard STEVENS after his untimely death. Then later we were all back in ITAMI for the De Mazenod year-end celebrations which all here enjoyed. Meeting old friends, making new ones, participating as ONE in an international group, the celebration of our Founder and Father was an inspiration to everyone. The four who drove back by car, hit heavy traffic and arrived at 1 in the morning after a six and a half hour drive.

For 2 of these 3 months Ray was running around to various meetings and spending some time with his parents as well as preaching a retreat for the Ottawa Sisters in SENDAI. The longest meeting was of the General Finance Committee in Rome, of which he is preparing a report and will disburse it through another forum.

John Kenney MAHONEY held a series of prayer services in Zendana for Lent and the Month of Mary with an added motif of SAINT EUGENE. Some members of the community were able to attend. On May 21, we marked the day with a special prayer service in our Chapel, besides the morning Mass and evening Ice Cream. On May 29, we reversed the special service to the morning period prior to the Mass in honor of Blessed Joseph GERARD!

After entrance exams, orientations and other preparations, the three pre-novices all started their respective courses in April. One thing we didn't count on, was the late schedule of Taku AKABAE. That, plus following courses to get his driver's licence left him with little community time. He now goes to driving school only once a week.

Akio HORIUCHI and Kenichi FURUKAWA are reacquainting themselves with college life in a totally different field of study. Of course, this entails Latin study, which both seem to thrive on. In their mid-term exams the two Oblate pre-novices were the only students to get full marks on that exam!

Jimmy, Jude PEIRISPULLE and Brad finished their studies in Japanese Society and History. They were well-praised for their reports on various topics, especially the one that included interviewing Japanese Nationals and Foreigners living in Japan on the needs of Japan as it faces the future. This included the need for "Japan to nourish its own culture and tradition as well as maintain its economic wealth. It also has to promote global relationship with the West and other Asian countries."

Jimmy has taken advantage of the various programs offered by Nanzan University in order to acquaint himself with Japanese History and Culture. He also took advantage of being a student of Nanzan in order to get a lot of swimming, (his favorite pastime) and jogging done in campus facilities. He lost this right at the end of May and must wait till he matriculates again in September in order to continue this "free" period of exercise!

Since December, Jude has been the official Assistant House Bursar and after some training, he was alone to do the March and April reports. He thinks the struggle was well worth it. Ray, you better watch out for your job! He mentioned that seminary training never prepared him for this. Ray could add "ditto" for himself. One of the topics of the GFC in Rome was to explore ways that will introduce young men in first formation to the realities of this aspect of community life. Maybe future Bursars won't have to struggle as hard!

Jimmy also had a baptism of fire, since both Ray and Ange were gone so much he was left with the responsibility of the house and the seminarians. But we

didn't notice any scars on his face so he must have pulled through somehow!
We had the April "Come and See" program with Nobuhiko YAGI in Aichi Park. Our aspirant Atsushi SUGIE joined us. A mixture of prayer, meditation on Scripture and sharing on each one's vocation with various sports helped make this a very delightful and fruitful day. Too bad Ray, you missed it!

We received the members of the Formation Committee for their May meeting. It was good to see other faces around the house for a couple of days. It brought home even more deeply the need for larger facilities. 9 of the 23 OMI in Japan were under the same roof besides the pre-novices! Ray spent one full day with the Architect in measuring the present land and facilities in Zendana in order to plan for our future.

With our monthly recollection in June we will have finished the 10 step program on the Founder prepared by the Committee for the Spiritual Preparation of the Canonization. It was real worth it!

With the rainy season and summer coming up, we all do wish you take good care of yourselves and we hope to see you at the retreat in September.

Above we mentioned that our three scholars, Jude, Brad and Jimmy had finished their Japanese Society and History Courses at Nanzan. Following are copies of their certificates. Congratulations to all three!

Certificates

No. 2188

This is to certify that

Jolina Dal Rosendo

*has participated in the
language and culture study program of
the Center for Japanese Studies
Nanzan University Nagoya Japan
during the period of
January 1996 to May 1996*

*H. Ueno
President*

*Morikawa
Director*

Certificates

No. 2196

This is to certify that

Joseph Bradley Rosales

*has participated in the
language and culture study program of
the Center for Japanese Studies
Nanzan University Nagoya Japan
during the period of
January 1996 to May 1996*

*H. Ueno
President*

*Morikawa
Director*

Certificates

No. 2192

This is to certify that

Juda Palacios

*has participated in the
language and culture study program of
the Center for Japanese Studies
Nanzan University Nagoya Japan
during the period of
January 1996 to May 1996*

*H. Ueno
President*

*Morikawa
Director*

THE NAGOYA COMMUNITY

From Lei SIMONS:

In memoriam Gerard Stevens.

On the evening of May 9 (1996) I talked with Gerard on the phone for a few minutes. He was determined to be back in Akaoka by Sunday evening (12). Xavier was going to Tokushima for the Sunday Mass, and they would come back together. His last words, then: "I'll see you on Sunday".

The next day, a little after twelve o'clock, a telephone call came from Ogawa-san (the housekeeper in Tokushima), who said that Gerard had died a few minutes before twelve o'clock. It was so sudden and unexpected that I could not reply.

Saturday morning, about eleven thirty, Gerard's body arrived at Akaoka where it was placed in the church where I thought he would have wanted to be the most.

We planned a wake in the evening for the people of the parish. The message was spread around, and by seven the church was filled.

That night, at ten o'clock, a Filipina from Higashi-Iya came to pay her respects to Gerard, and after midnight some more came. On Sunday still many more came, thanks to the mayor of Higashi-Iya, who had hired a small bus for the Filipinas and their families. So, not only the Philippine brides were there to greet Gerard, but also their husbands and their mothers-in-law.

On Sunday afternoon eight of Gerard's brothers and sisters arrived at the Kochi Airport, from where they went straight to Akaoka to see their brother.

Many more persons had wanted to come, but they were not able to take time off from work.

The Belgian ambassador in Japan, who was on a visit in Kochi, also was able and kind enough to take some time out to come over and greet Gerard. About nine o'clock Sunday evening he arrived at Akaoka and spent a few minutes at the bier. We appreciated his visit very much and thanked him for his coming.

On Monday morning I accompanied Gerard's body to the Nakajima-chô church in Kôchi city, where the funeral service was held at one in the afternoon. The Bishop of Takamatsu presided, assisted by about forty priests, with almost three hundred people attending.

After we returned from the crematory dinner was served at the rectory for the family and the Oblates.

The next morning Gerard's family, together with some Oblates and some of the faithful went to the cemetery for the burial.

Later that day and the following days the family had a chance to see some places of the country where Gerard had spent forty years. They were happy to see Awa-Ikeda, where Gerard stayed twenty-six years. Before their departure for Japan, Gerard's father, who is ninety-two years old, had asked the brothers and sisters to go to see that place. He remembers that the most because of Gerard's long stay there.

On Friday morning the family left again for home, thankful for the kind reception, and surprised and happy to see so many people having come to see them off.

A few days later a Filipina, living in Akaoka, dropped in at the church. Gerard had tried to contact her before but had received a rough reply on the phone from her husband telling Gerard to stay away. When she came to Mass on the Sunday after her first visit to the church her husband was with her. And whether it was meant as a sign of kindness or as an apology I don't know, but he brought some fish with him. Since then the two Filipina brides living in Akaoka have come to Mass every Sunday.

It is still difficult for me to realize that Gerard is not coming back from his monthly trip to meet the Filipina brides. For them he was like a father, a listening ear, and a helping heart in their difficulties. There is no doubt that they feel lonely now, not having Gerard with them any more.

Fr. Lei Simons, O.M.I.

From Giovanni ZEVOLA, O.M.I.:

TO THE PLACE WHERE WE BELONG

People coming from different countries, with different languages and faces, wearing colourful clothes, meeting at the same place, in the same spirit, trying to go behind barriers looking for what is common to all of us. "Sollal" is practically for all Koreans an opportunity to go home, to stop for a while from their usual business, and to try to express the same feeling of being part of the family. Spending so many hours on the road is not deterring people from doing what they feel is not only important but also vital to the spirit of belonging.

That same spirit we expressed through the third festival in Seoul with the foreign workers (more than 1500 workers from 15 different countries, in the presence of cardinal Kim), together with Koreans as well.

To be part of a bigger family, beyond the boundaries of your own religion, way of thinking and acting, does not require a formal document: by the fact that you are a person you belong with full rights. At "Sollal" Koreans go back to their home town, and the foreigners somehow try to feel at home. The same spirit expressed in different languages, different songs and dances, and all the different colours combining to a beautiful rainbow, that is a human task that resembles divine work.

Difficulties there are, and there are many, but that does not prevent us from trying to go through: it is but a challenge. The shadows we make and see tell us that we are alive and that the sun is shining behind our shoulders, and after a heavy rain a rainbow fills the sky over the clouds. Things that are easy to achieve do not fully satisfy us; we go for what seems to be beyond, and there we find satisfaction because there is our fulfilment.

To be called priest, pastor, mister or simple "agiosci", depending on the person and situation, is not so important; what counts is the relation you keep with people around you, the trust they can have in you, how reliable your attitude is to open wide your heart and mind.

Who is foreign? A person coming from a different country to earn his living here? A person speaking a strange language, and behaving in a different way? What about ourselves? Are we not foreigners when we lose the perception of the place where we belong together? We can also be foreigners in our own land, if we put barriers in our way of thinking and acting, and obstacles to a wider relation. In fact we are all foreigners here on earth; we come from outside, from a different place high up there (call it God or whatever); and here we are only passing by, on our way home, to the place where we belong.

Fr. Giovanni O.M.I.

From Xave:

Dear Friends,

After a long winter finally spring came. The hyacinths and the tulips in front of my entrance showed off their beautiful colors. But then there was summer!

School started with the blossoming of flowers. Do I show signs of old age? Why? Well, it isn't easy to follow the young fashion. Let say that among the 30 male students one third of them are "ringed". Some of them have even three earrings!!! And half of all the students dye their hair. Many female students have a pocket phone or DO CO MO pocket bell on their desk during the class...However they don't show signs of six years English studies.

This coming summer instead of making a visit to the family in Belgium, I'm thinking to visit my youngest sister in Canada. I'll be absent from Japan for about one month. I hope to get some rest, (something I don't get when I travel to Europe.)

After the funeral of Fr. Gerard, naturally one reflects on the life and work of a missionary. What are the results of a lifetime dedication to the people to whom we were sent? Is it a 20th century fashion to want to see results? It seems that the disciples of Jesus were eager to see results, too.

"Lord, dost thou mean to restore the dominion to Israël HERE AND NOW ?"
We know Jesus' answer: " It is not for you to know the times and seasons which the Father has fixed..."

Must we say that Gerard died, but that thanks to his dedication his message is still alive...? It is so easy to make a sermon, but it is so difficult to live according to it.

Yoshikazu Xavier TOSA

News from Kochi Volunteer Bureau:

On July 8 we will finish the fiftieth oyagyô-group work session (P.E.T.). P.E.T. was started by Thomas Gordon in 1962, in Pasadena, California. Soon it spread all over the U.S.A. and Europe. At the request of some parents we started P.E.T. (Parents Effectiveness Training) in Kôchi in 1980. When Father J.Sullivan came to Japan to guide a workshop for us he strongly encouraged me to continue that work. He was convinced that the course was beneficial, even for priests. He was a little surprised that there was not more interest.

The purpose of oya-gyô is not trying to solve problems, but first of all to help parents to create a healthy relationship with their children. Gordon says: *It is easy to blame the parents; but who is helping the parents?* Looking back I dare say that there have been marvellous results: parents who realized that something had to be done, because they had lost contact with their children, and then worked hard to create that fundamental trust that is necessary for a healthy relationship.

Kokoro no daiaru. (Emergency Telephone)

At this moment we are in the seventh training course. We would really like to expand the time that the telephone is attended to; it is hard to find the necessary volunteers.

Fr.Lei Simons,O.M.I.

From Dick:

GREETINGS FROM ANAN

It's about time a word or two from Anan hits the Oblate press. This area of the Oblate World is normally very quiet and if a reminder of its existence is not announced occasionally, I fear oblivion.

At this writing, I personally am preparing to return to the United States for a vacation. I'll be leaving here on June 17th. Gerry Stevens was hoping to replace me here, and so now I'm praying & hoping & requesting in all circles for help. Two Jesuit Fathers from Tokyo have asked to come: one (Father Nakamura, Kenzoo) during August, and another (Fr. Kitahara-Frisch) for September until I return.

While home, a Harr-family reunion will be a high-light. All of us (I estimate about 40) will gather at a resort in Minnesota for 3 days. There's to be swimming, boating, golf, and a lot of gabbing to spark this outing. I'll be a month in Nebraska with one brother, and another month in Indiana with another brother. On September 8th I am to be in Tewksbury, Mass. with classmates to honor our first vow-taking. I believe there'll be 10 of us present from this- which also will be fun and spiritually invigorating.

Just a word about this part of Tokushima-ken, Anan. During my 8 years here, there hasn't been much change in the town. It seems there are more people leaving for Honshu than are entering here. However, in the not too distant future, I do believe more & more people will move into this part of the Prefecture with new opportunities for employment. Right now, there's a steady 20 people attending Sunday Mass. Once a month I go to Mugi (an hour's drive south of Anan) and 6 people attend. Other parish activities are the usual. I'm not being over-worked certainly, and I relish the free time.

The Kindergarten is now in its 30th year. 74 kiddies are enrolled. This number is down from 85 last year and 105 a few years ago. All schools are witnessing this kind of decrease, but admittedly it's sad to see the number of children diminish like this, and we "oldies" increase. On the staff are 4 teachers and one bookkeeper.

My sincere regards to each. Anan is a choice place for a swim, a cool drive in the mountains, a bit of cycling. You're most welcome anytime.

Dick Harr, O.M.I.

From Wency Laguidao a thoroughly researched report came in on the situation of the migrant workers in Japan, with the following introduction:

The following is the text of the talk I gave during the meeting in Manila jointly sponsored by the Pontifical Commission on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and the Geneva-based International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). More than 70 participants from 27 countries attended the conference, mostly bishops and archbishops who are actively involved in the work with migrants and refugees. Observers from the World Council of Churches (WCC), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Philippine Government were also present. During the meeting a lot of things were said about "the uprooted", "the displaced", "migrants in irregular situations". I said to myself "Aren't these words the modern-day equivalent of the Oblate term 'the most abandoned'?" (Hey, they're singing our tune!)

I humbly dedicate this report to Fr. Gerry Stevens, OMI. I was making the finishing touches of this report when the news about his death came and I gave this report in Manila on the day of his funeral. I covered for him (in Tokushima) on the weekend (May 4-5) before he died (May 10) and his last words to me were "Give my best regards to everyone I know in Manila!" Rest in Peace, Gerry, and please continue to care for the Filippina brides in Japan to whom you have shown a lot of compassion.

Wency Laguidao, O.M.I.

(Editor's note: Although I would very much like to include the report because of its relevancy, its length takes it beyond the scope of this Newsletter. On the other hand, shortening it is not doing it justice. Therefore, I am making it into a separate folder, added to this Newsletter for every house within the Province. To anyone who wants a copy, anywhere, I will gladly send one.)

From FRAN HAHN:

For the Oblates of Japan May '96 was a month to remember. There is the long holiday that starts it off; it is filled with the Easter Promise; it is Mary's month. But this May, on the 26th, in Itami, the Oblates held the final celebration of their 'Holy Year' in commemoration of the canonization of St. Eugene. Here in Koga I was 'inspired' to invite our Bishop and clergy for a special celebration in conjunction with our "Parish Day", which we celebrate on Pentecost Sunday. As the provincial affair was to be on the same day, and our Bishop had a Diocesan Confirmation Ceremony scheduled for that day, we decided to have the "Koga Day" celebration a week earlier, on the feast of the Ascension, inviting all the clergy of the Diocese to join us then.

The celebration was slated for the afternoon, apart from the Feast, in order to enable as many priests and others as possible to attend. I was afraid that not many parishioners would come, and that the smorgasbord-like party to which each one brings a dish would be a flop; but it seemed the only way possible to invite the priests. How happy I was to see the church filled; with eight priests, many Sisters and Christians from other parishes joining us! The party was the best ever. Unlike at previous parties that we held after the 9:30 Mass, no one left. It was a great time! Msgr. Matsunaga came here after finishing a retreat for Sisters in Nagasaki, and although I am sure he was tired, he was most gracious in staying for the party. The most impressive thing was the singing at Mass. Mr. Yokoyama, the organist, played with great gusto and the people responded, their voices filling the church, rivaling the heavenly chorus, I am sure.

But all of this festivity was given a very poignant and somber dimension by the sudden death, on May 10th, of Fr. Gerard Stevens, O.M.I.. His funeral was a celebration of the unique gift that he was. Having eight members of his family here with us was a special grace. A first meeting for many of us, we all felt very close and one to these people who so clearly mirrored the brother we had each just lost. Death makes us reflect on and confront the fleeting nature of life. It places us before the Eternal Promise we have in Jesus Christ. That Gerard was called "home" to celebrate the end of our "Holy Year" with the Founder in heaven was for each of us a shock, but it was also a call to rededicate ourselves to the mission we received from the Lord, through St. Eugene, and exemplified by Gerard. I ask both the founder and Gerard to pray that we can be all that we are called to be for the people of Japan, and especially that we will serve the "little ones" with as great devotion as he did. "Requiesce in pace", Gerard!

Fran HAHN, O.M.I.

From JAN:

Little did I think, when I wrote a couple of pages on the apostolate of Gerard among the Philippine women in this area, a few months ago, that these words would so soon become the last chapter of the earthly missionary activity of Gerard.

Friday, May 10, at noontime. Try to imagine my consternation when I received that phone call from the housekeeper of our church in Tokushima. The message: "Father, Father Stevens has just died!" Getting ready to leave the hospital a couple of days later his doctor wanted to give him another brain scan. A brain haemorrhage struck him at 11:45, just when he was about to get on the table for the test.

The funeral Mass in Kôchi the following Monday, May 13, was a moving tribute to his zeal and a vivid expression of the love and esteem that so many felt towards him. It was presided by the bishop of the diocese, Joseph Fukahori, assisted by all the Oblates in Japan, many diocesan and missionary priests and a large number of faithful from the different parishes where Gerard had worked.

How this love and esteem were built up I intend to show in the near future in a more extensive composition, relating more in detail the missionary activity of Gerard, and his life as a person, a priest and a religious. On the subject of his activities in the area of Ikeda there is plenty of material to be found in the Codex Historicus, which Gerard kept really faithfully. On the time he spent at his other assignments I am less well informed, as is also, to a large extent, the case about his personal life and his priestly and religious life. I would be very grateful to everyone who would be so kind as to communicate data on those points, so as to make this a worthwhile, true to life description of Gerard's life in the service of the Lord and the Lord's children he loved so much.

May I make an appeal to whoever wishes to cooperate for a speedy contribution of whatever is considered appropriate? With many thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Jan Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.
IKEDA.

Sermon (delivered in Dutch) of Fr. Xavier Delporte TOSA, O.M.I., at the funeral Mass of Fr. Gerard STEVENS, O.M.I., in Kōchi on May 13, 1996.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Gerard,

Even believing in a loving God it is still always too early to take leave from Gerard. And although we believe that the farewell is not forever it is not easy to sing Alleluia...

As you know I have known Gerard from when he was eleven. The Gerard of then and the Gerard of now is the same Gerard. He has never changed, there was no need to change. Gerard was unique.

During his High School years in Turnhout the Jesuits made him wiser in Latin and in Greek. But Gerard remained Gerard. The Oblates, in the noviciate at Korbeek-Lo, and in the scalasticate at Gijzegem taught him how to read the breviary. But Gerard remained Gerard. Gerard was unique.

In the way he was raised at home in Baarle, in that same way he has lived here in Japan. His values have never changed. He was not a priest to sit behind a pastor's desk. What Gerard has done cannot be shown in statistics. It was not right to ask him how many communions, how many marriages, how many baptisms he had administered... Gerard did not wait for the people to come to him: he went to the people, wherever they lived and worked. With a satchel full of leaflets and pamphlets he went from door to door, from mountain to mountain. The dogs barked when they caught sight of him... But at sunset his bag was empty, the seed was sown. To quote his own words, he was not so much a follower of Saint Peter, but rather a wanderer after Saint Paul as a model. He was a sower, not a harvester.

His lifestyle, too, was unique; maybe for some a thorn in the side. Anyway, it was not easy to imitate his way of life. Just as Gerard had lived in Flanders during the war and immediately after, so he went on living here. From what may have been a necessity then, he made a virtue later.

Gerard opted deliberately for the downtrodden and the ones Japanese society looked down upon, especially the Philippine brides and entertainers among the immigrants. He did not do this because it is written in the Oblate motto. No, that was how he was, it was his God-given charism. Gerard was unique.

Now Gerard lies here very quiet. But he could be angry, too! That happened when he could not find Christ in the way things were done.

A friend of us is no longer among us. We certainly will miss him! But we firmly believe that he will continue to work with us, sowing the seeds of the Good News. Gerard was a gift from God to us, and we thank God for him.

Please, take our sincere feelings of gratitude to your father and all the members of the family.

TOSA Yoshikazu, O.M.I.

From Jack Deely:

UPDATE FROM HOYA

Hello from Hoya! Hope everyone is genki! Since my last contribution to the Newsletter, I've been fiddling around with the computer. And as computer illiterate as I still am, I have been able to fax from the computer (a great convenience and easy on paper), and have been able to receive the Daily Gospel and Commentary over the Internet...and... am presently working with a deaf convert to catholicism on creating our own HOME-PAGE on the Internet for deaf christians worldwide (am anxious to see how that works out). The most exciting piece of news, though, is that I started a Bible Study/Faith-sharing Session with the deaf last October... and the sharing by these deaf people who have had little opportunity for instruction in the faith has been a real inspiration. By the way, as I mentioned at the end of the March Meeting, if any of you have video tapes on the Bible that are captioned in Japanese, please let me know. Would appreciate all of the visual aids that I can get.

And the last bit of news that I have is that in addition to being the advisor to the Japanese Sign Language Club at Sophia, from this April I have been teaching American Sign Language at Sophia's Volunteer Bureau. Has been interesting! The course is open to faculty, staff and students...it is a golden opportunity to help people become more conscious of the needs of the deaf. That's all folks! Hope to see you all in August (or, is it September?)

Jack

From Jack Deely:

保谷からの便り（最新情報）

皆さんこんにちわ！お元気ですか？ニューズレター最後の投稿以来、私はコンピューターを少しいじっています。まだまだコンピューターを使い慣らすことができませんが、コンピューターを通して、ファックスを送信・受信でき、（便利で紙の資源節約に役立っていますよ！）。そしてインターネットのお陰で毎日の福音とその解説が入ってきます。また新教から改宗した耳の聞こえない人とホームページを作成して、そのホームページで世界の聾信者とのコミュニケーションを計ろうとしています。最近の出来事は、耳の聞こえない方と聖書勉強会や信仰の分かち合いを始めたことで、信仰や聖書について勉強する機会が少ない聾の方の素直な洞察力に感心させられたことです。それに関連して3月に福岡で開催されたミーティングでも言いましたが、もしどなたか聖書に関する日本語字幕付きのビデオテープをお持ちであれば是非お知らせ下さい。この聖書の勉強会には視覚的教材がとても必要なのです。よろしくお願いします。

最後になりますが、大学の日本手話サークルの顧問を担当し、4月から大学内ボランティア・ビューローにてもアメリカの手話を教えることになりました。受講生は教員、職員または学生で、耳の聞こえない人に対する正しい理解を深めてもらう絶好のチャンスだと思っています。それではまた8月だったかな？9月だったかな？にお会いしましょう。

ジャック

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

June

24 Giovanni ZEVOLA

July

4 Mauro CONCARDI

23 Jimmy DEL ROSARIO

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 YAMASAKI

July

1 Jan VAN HOYDONCK

5 Lei SIMONS

August

22 Jude PEIRISPULLE

22 Bradly ROZAIRO

September

8 Giovanni ZEVOLA

23 Jimmy DEL ROSARIO

Perpetual Vows

August

4 Nobuhiko YAGI

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

July

3 Timothy MULVEY

23 Sueho TSUDA

September

4 Daniel WARD

PRAYER INTENTIONS

In your prayers are recommended:

Our beloved deceased:

-- Our fellow-Oblate Gerard STEVENS

-- The mother of Jerry NOVOTNY, O.M.I.

-- The father of Maurizio GIORGIANNI, O.M.I.

Their respective families.

Our sick and suffering, particularly:

-- The father of Jerry NOVOTNY, O.M.I.

-- The mother of Giovanni ZEVOLA, O.M.I.

-- The father of Raymond BOURGOIN, O.M.I.

-- Our fellow-Oblate Bert SILVER, O.M.I.

And all those who need the Lord's special assistance, and who count on our prayers.

CLOSING WORD

Many thanks to all for your cooperation, in writing or otherwise, with my best wishes for a pleasant Summer, and an invitation for your contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter, to be in by September 10.

Jan, O.M.I.

COMMITTEE OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF O.M.I. JAPAN ALBUM

The request forwarded by Bill to all the members of the Province for a short description of their life and work in Japan, realizations and expectations, has met with good response and Bill extends his thanks to all who sent in their contribution. The request also asked for two personal photographs, one of the time of arrival in Japan, the other a recent one, of a size that can be readily reproduced (3x5 inches at the most). Some writings have been received without these. And from 12 members everything is still awaited. The idea is using one sheet of the album for every member, one side English, the other Japanese, together with the photographs. So, please, try to make your text neither too long nor too short. If at all possible in English and in Japanese, but where that proves difficult the committee will take care of the needed translation.

The tentative deadline was the end of May. With all the work still to be done, any delay will hamper the progress. May we implore your speedy reply?

Looking eagerly forward and thanking you for your cooperation.

The Committee,
Bill Maher, Ray Bourgoin, Jan Van Hoydonck



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

S P R I N G 1 9 9 6



S A I N T E U G E N E D E M A Z E N O D

March 1996

Dear Fellow Oblates,

During the past few years our retreats and provincial spring meetings have dealt intensely with our Oblate Community, particularly with the General Chapter '92 document, WITNESSING AS APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY.

We began this process with a retreat directed by Fr. Marcello ZAGO which was followed by a retreat by Fr. Frank DEMERS, and last year with input from Fr. Chris O'LEARY for our provincial spring meeting. At the conclusion of the '95 Spring Meeting, we felt it would be of benefit to move on to the area of Mission.

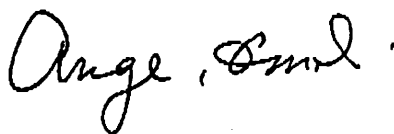
Mission or evangelization, as we realize does not take place in a vacuum. It must take place not only within, but in terms of, the concrete conditions of those evangelized. Therefore, we decided that Japan and Korea would look at this subject in their respective countries.

On the list of priorities for the Japanese Mission was the program set up by the Japanese Bishops which we know as NICE. To facilitate our meeting, I have invited Fr. Takehiko ODA Ph.D. Fr. ODA is a priest of the Osaka Diocese. He presently holds the office of Director of the Japan Catholic Research Institute for Evangelization at the C/O Japan Catholic Center in Tokyo.

St. Eugene was always disposed to respond to the call of the Church and he wanted us to be faithful co-workers with the bishops. "We coordinate our missionary activity with the overall pastoral plan of the local Churches and we collaborate in a spirit of brotherhood with others who work for the Gospel". (C 6)

Our objective then is to be at the service of the local Church. We contribute our abilities, our talents, our way of being and doing, born of our charism, to building up the Kingdom and the Church.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,



Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

NOMINATION

Fr. Mauro CONCARDI has been made a member of the Formation Committee.

12th Meeting of Formation Committee REPORT

Held at Tokushima Jan 4-5, 1996

In attendance: Len, Ray, Nobuhiko, Leo

Topic #1: This year the Summer Vocation Camp will be held in Koga, from Aug 8 to Aug 11. For the meals etc we will ask the Christians, especially MAMI members.

Topic #2: We will ask Jude to think of a program for the February Come and See experience for Mr Sugie, the section from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Topic #3: We spent over an hour studying and starting to translate the pertinent sections of the Formation Handbook from the General Administration.

Topic #4: We discussed the arrival of our 2 newcomers in March. With our meeting in Fukuoka in late March, it was deemed important not to have to leave them by themselves just a couple of days after their arrival. Ray will be absent from March 22 to May 9 and it was also deemed important that they spend sometime while he is there. So we are aiming for their arrival around March 15.

Topic #5: We discussed at length the present situation of our candidates.

Topic #6: We prepared the contents of the April MAMI Newsletter: It will include Ray's continuing series on the Founder; a word of introduction of our 3 candidates as well as a greeting from each one; an article on the Canonisation Pilgrimage by a participating member; a summary of the Pope's Sermon at the Canonisation; a list of former members of MAMI who have passed away; The Summer Camp Place and Dates as well as an appeal for help during the camp. It will include the pertinent forms for membership dues and a copy of the Province and Asia-Oceania Region daily intentions. The deadline for articles is February 24.

Topic #7: We left for another time discussion of the Formators Formation program.

Topic #8: We worked on a questionnaire to present to our candidates which will make ourselves but will be similar to a Summary, and include their Baptismal and Confirmation records etc.

Our next meeting will be held during the Spring Meeting. Bro Yagi will preside the prayers and be the secretary.

We thanked Leo for his work on the Committee since this was the last time he attends as an official member, following the Province policy that Provincial Council members must resign from the Formation Committee which proposes candidates to the Provincial Council.

Formation Committee

第 1 2 回 養 成 委 員 会 報 告

1996年1月4日、5日 於：徳島修道院にて

参加者：ブルゴアン、乾、八木、川口

議題1、今年のサマーキャンプの場所として、古賀を考えたい。信徒、マミ会員に協力を呼び掛ける。8月8、9、10、11日に行なう予定。

議題2、2月17、18日に行なう杉江君のためのプログラムをJUDEに願います。

議題3、本部から発行されている養成ハンドブックを学びなおした。そして日本語訳を共同で行ない始めた。

議題4、志願者、志望者の名古屋修学院受け入れ準備を予定通り進める。3月15日をメドにしている。

議題5、志願者や志望者の状況について意見情報交換した。

議題6、4月のマミ・ニュースレターの内容：Rayの創立者についての記事、赤波江、堀内、古川の紹介と本人の挨拶。列聖巡礼について平田均さんに依頼する。会費用紙同封、死亡会員の名前記載、日本管区の日々の祈りの意向、アジア・オセアニアの意向を会員にも紹介してともに祈る。それは別紙に印刷して同封する。列聖式での教皇の説教の要約、サマーキャンプの日時、場所の紹介とマミ会員への協力要請。原稿〆切2月24日とする。

議題7、養成者の養成の件：保留

議題8、志願者、志望者の個人カード作成について。記載内容：洗礼、堅信などの秘跡記録、そして履歴書の様式を参考にして項目をこちらで作る。

次回委員会について：春の福岡での管区ミーティング期間中。3月25日から26日に行なう。祈り、分かち合いテーマ、書記はBro八木。

From John IWO, O.M.I.

There were two big events here in Aki in February:
the First: having the big sendan tree, which was at the corner of the kindergarten, cut down. It was 65 cm and 86 cm across, with a circumference of 2,74 meters. The tree had grown very large and had become higher than the roof of the kindergarten. When there was a strong wind branches would fall down. It had gotten really dangerous for the children, and its roots had wrecked the waterpipes etc. That is why I decided to take the tree down on February 15.
the Second: new lead-in waterpipe to the Rectory. When the city officer came to read our water meter he found that there was a leak. I immediately called the plumber but they were very busy and it took a month before they got over to fix it. But they could not find the leakage. I decided to get new pipes. Now the house has new waterpipes, no more rusty water, and I am happy to have clear clean water.

TWO INVITATIONS:

The 45th graduation ceremony of our kindergarten will be held on March 19 at 10 A.M. Everyone is cordially invited.

On Sunday, April 14th at 2 P.M. we of the Kochi district will celebrate a special Mass commemorating the canonization of our Founder Bishop Eugene de Mazenod. For this also everyone is cordially invited.

John Iwo, O.M.I.

安芸からの便り

硫黄 神父

2月には二つの大きな出来事がありました。

- 1) 運動場から幼稚園に行く所に大きなせんだんの木がありましたが、風の強い時には枯枝が落ちてきたり、根が地中を走っている水道パイプをもち上げて壊すこともあったし、台風の時には屋根瓦を落とす事もあったので、切り倒した。夏には運動場に木陰が出来てよかったのですが、木の直径は61cm & 85cm、周囲は2m74cmあった。中に穴があいていた。
- 2) 水道管を新しくした。1月に水道の検針に来た時、水漏れを指摘された。早速、業者に連絡したが、年度末で忙しいと一ヵ月過ぎて修理に来たが、漏れている所がわからず、パイプを新しく引き込む事にした。炊事場、バスルーム、洗濯場と二階はバスルームだけにしたので、現在、二階のどの部屋にも水は通っていない。
- 3) 3月19日、第45回卒園式が行なわれます。皆様出席して下さい。
- 4) 高知県信徒会の呼びかけで、4月14日午後2時から安芸教会で聖マズノ司教列聖記念ミサが行なわれます。これにも皆様御出席下さい。田舎の宣教地こそオブレート会にふさわしい所です。

NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Greetings from Nagoya! Since the last Newsletter, the biggest thing to happen in NAGOYA during December was the hospitalization of Brad ROZAIRO for "Chicken Pox" right before Christmas. He spent December 22 to January 2 in SEIREI (Holy Spirit) hospital. Though Brad had had Chicken Pox at the age of 10, this was a different brand and could have ended in meningitis if not caught and healed on time. He felt the suffering of the people he used to minister to as a Hospital Chaplain for 2 years. He had lost a little stamina because of the ordeal but seems to be on the up and up.

Jude PEIRISPULLE spent the Christmas and New Year's holidays in our parish in KOCHI with Ed WILLIAMS and gained a lot of experience there. Ed had some warm words regarding Jude and his relationship with the parishioners.

Ange SIANI and John Kenney MAHONEY were in KOCHI for the Christmas meal held there for the whole Prefecture. Ange had gone down to install the new Provincial Council and hold its first meeting. Ange and John Kenney moved on to TOKUSHIMA for that Prefecture's Christmas get-together before returning to Nagoya for the New Year.

At that point Ray BOURGOIN left for TOKUSHIMA for a Formation Committee meeting, a speaking engagement on SAINT EUGENE, and to start familiarizing himself with the Provincial Treasurer's job. The Provincial Council meeting in late December had nominated him for this ministry.

Ange visited our members in KOREA and returned just in time to meet our new arrival Jimmy DEL ROSARIO who flew in from the Philippines January 8 praying to see snow! As if he were a miracle worker, it did snow quite heavily on January 9 and though we pleaded with him to stop praying, from that time on we had an extraordinarily snowy winter for Nagoya. Jimmy is a welcome addition to the Community brightening it up with his warm humor and disarming simplicity.

In early January Brad, Jude and Jimmy enrolled in Nanzan University for a 4 month course in Japanese History and Japanese Society thus familiarizing themselves on an intellectual level with the Culture of Japan. Jimmy is attending intensive courses of Japanese at YWCA where he will become a full-time student from April to July. From September he will be enrolled in the Nanzan course of Japanese language Studies.

In conjunction with the new ministry of Provincial Treasurer Ray has had to attend a number of meetings in Naruto, Tokyo (2) and Osaka (2). These last two were in conjunction with the new laws governing Religious Corporations as well as a remolding of the contents of our Financial Reports. One of these had him in Tokyo at the time of his birthday, so the community celebrated it when he returned.

A community outing was held on the Monday after Constitution Day. We spent the afternoon bowling and finished off with an evening meal outside. Though Taku AKABAE tried very hard to dethrone Ray as the "Champion", Ray was able to uphold the name of the older generation. Experience sometimes can overcome youth!! Brad, Jude and Jimmy have potentialities to challenge both Taku and Ray in the future!

A few days later Nobuhiko YAGI joined us for our Retreat Day on February 17, which was also the day to welcome Atsushi SUGIE to take part in the Come and

See program. This time it also included a welcome party at ZENDANA for those who came from afar in order to partake in the Memorial Mass at MEIJIMURA in honor of SAINT EUGENE. It was very successful considering the weather. Bishop Augustin Junichi NOMURA was the main celebrant for the affair. Hats off to John Kenney and the parishioners at Zendana for the great preparations they made for the celebration. Taku read the second reading.

Taku has been busy taking various entrance exams in local Colleges and Junior Colleges. We pray for his success. Akio HORIUCHI and Kenichi FURUKAWA were here to take their entrance exams at Nanzan at the end of February and are due to join us permanently in Nagoya on March 15. For this reason Brad and Jude have moved into a little house on the Zendana Property for the duration of their language studies which finish at the end of September. Otherwise someone would have to sleep outside and there were no volunteers!

On February 24 Brad and Jude presented SRI LANKA to a number of people interested in their country. The presentation was sponsored by the YWCA and held there at their auditorium. They also had to sing a number in their Mother tongue to create the atmosphere. Jude presented the general picture, history, culture and economy and Brad spoke about the strife going on in that country.

Anxious to see you all in FUKUOKA!

THE NAGOYA COMMUNITY

Dear Fellow Oblates,

I wish to thank you all for the warm welcome you extended to me. The Oblate Community at Nagoya accommodated me so well as soon as I arrived on the 8th of January, from the Philippines. Your phone calls from all over Japan and the fax message from Korea were all heartfelt hurrahs for your newest member. All of these welcome greetings kept me warm in the midst of Winter. It was my first step on the snow on the following day. How I wished that there could be snow even inside our bedrooms. But now, I hope spring would come soon because I pity the trees without leaves.

Anyhow, my nihon-go classes, Japanese History and Society subjects make up the leaves of my life now. These undertakings are my contribution to our mission in Japan at the moment.

As one poem goes: "But only God can make a tree," so is our mission in God's hands.

Hajimemashite !

In Christ,
Fr. Jimmy del Rosario, OMI

From Taku AKABAE

私が修学院に入ってから、早一年になろうとしている。

この一年間で、いろいろな事が学んだ。一番成長したのは、英語力である。これまで、日本語しかしゃべることができなかったが、今では英語の電話がかかってきても、あせらず対応できるようになった。

スリランカから来た二人の神父、ジュードとブラドリの日本語アップも、目を見はるものがある。彼らには英語を教えてもらい、私は日本語を教えるという。時々生徒また時々先生という彼らにも、私にも良い関係がある。

今年の一月からフィリピンのジミ神父様も日本語の勉強が始まっている。多分彼もすぐ日本語が上達するであろう。... 先生はいいから...

赤波江 卓

A year has flown by since I first arrived to the House of Studies.

During the year I have learned many things. Where I have grown the most might be in the use of English. Till now, I could speak but Japanese. Now I don't feel afraid to answer the phone even when it is in English. I'm able to respond in some way.

I've also been watching Fathers Jude and Brad's great progress in Japanese. They teach me English and I teach them Japanese. The three of us at some time or other are either students or teachers.

In January this year Father Jimmy came from the Philippines. He is now studying Japanese very hard. I'd be willing to bet that he'll progress very fast. ... After all, he has a good teacher!

Taku AKABAE

From Yoshikazu Xavier TOSA

Hello Friends!

Spring and Easter: new green and new life around us..., and that I feel inside me, in my heart and in my bones.

At the beginning of this year I entered the ningen dock, i.e. I got a medical checkup. The doctors gave me a perfect score. I only have to be careful for the amount of cholesterol (...not too many beefsteaks!)

In the new school year, starting in April, I'll have fewer classes. I refused to continue teaching at the Medical College. The school doesn't honor the conditions to which both sides agreed when they hired me. The personal problems and desires of teachers seem to be preferred over the education of the students. In such an environment there is not much I can bring in. All I got out of it was frustration and stress. This experience has set me to a lot of thinking about the present Japanese school and education system.

In the beginning of March I went to Okinawa for the Justice and Peace Committee meeting. We also had two days of touring around to see for ourselves the American Military Bases. We also received some input on the Ryuukyuu culture, religion and on the "Okinawa War". The Okinawan people are very friendly and helpful. I bought a video about the Okinawa War. It is a documentary framed together from the so called 'one foot' films of the American military. Excellent material for peace education, for adults and children alike.

Y.X.Tosa, O.M.I.

From Gerard STEVENS, O.M.I.

A STUDY TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES

For 5 weeks I was able to get away from the cold, spending a wonderful time in the Philippines, but it was not a vacation. I was kept pretty busy there, due to the shortage of priests and the large number of Catholics to be taken care of, especially around Manila. Not knowing enough Tagalog I helped out with the English Masses. The huge crowds of people, especially on week-ends, are overwhelming, all the more so since I am used to mini-groups in the remote missions: 3 to 5, sometimes 10 to 20 people attending Mass here in Shikoku.

I also made some trips to remote areas, trying to find out where the "asawa" (Philippina girls married to Japanese farmers, often living far away in rural areas) come from.

Here are a few of my impressions:

- the roads and the dust reminded me of the Japan of 40 years ago, with this difference that there are many more cars, tricycles, jeepneys etc. now, causing real traffic jams and grayish layers of smog.
- the cheerfulness of the people, in spite of their poverty.
- the great number of children everywhere! I felt like living in a children's paradise, compared to the drastic shortage of children in Japan.
- the piety and devotion of the ordinary people. Some may not know much of their catechism, but their living faith impressed me very much.
- an amazing number of Japayuki girls, living even near our churches, jobless now, as they don't have another chance of working in Japan.
- quite a few people told me that they have a relative married to a Japanese, but most of these live in Northern Japan. How many thousands could there be?

I had a chance to visit the Oblate missions around Cotabato, but not those in Jolo because of the tense situation there (Moro extremists). The visits to Santiago (Isabela) and Cabanatuan (nueva Ecija) and Pampanga, all in the North of Luzon, are unforgettable.

Many thanks to Ange for this opportunity, and to all the Oblates in the Philippines for their kind hospitality. Maybe next Winter again?

Gerard Stevens, O.M.I.

From Maurizio and Mauro

Time flies really fast and it is time for our Newsletter to come out again. Everytime we are taken by surprise, so we try to look back fast, to see if there is something to tell. Actually there are so many things that we don't know where to start..., and we don't want to take all the space either.

This time there is something we feel belongs to everyone. Our Korean student, Lee Paolo, was able to enter the Suwon Seminary. Like in Japan, to pass College examination is not easy at all. And this, in many cases, can also stop a young boy who is willing to follow Jesus' call. Paolo is going to the Seminary everyday and he has started his battle with Latin, philosophy, Holy Scripture... Nothing personal with them, of course; but they are some of his battlefields for the moment. He is happy...

Ciao!

Maurizio and Mauro.

From Giovanni ZEVOLA, O.M.I.

GETTING RID OF OUR VILLAGE MENTALITY

When I was a young boy I used to play soccer and sometimes to run after a ball was not only a game but a fight. In fact in a tournament to play against another team, especially if it was from the near by village would be a real fight. In playing such a game was important to win no matter how, because for us, small boys as we were, the other village was like the enemy, they were not from our village, they were outsiders.

When after few years I joined the mayor seminary in Naples, at that time I supported the Naples soccer team and when they were playing against Milan AC, what a spirit! My only hope was to win, because Milan is a city far away from Naples and we were supposed to show through the game that we were much better than them. I almost forgot about my small soccer team in the village, but I kept the same spirit : we are better than the others, especially if they don't belong to our circle, they are outsiders.

The years passed, the situations changed, the same spirit was still there. I was studying english in Ireland and the Italian soccer team was playing against the Irish; of course I supported Italy...

After few years I was in the Philippines, so many things were different: weather, food, language and sometimes making a comparison I was tempted to say that we Italian are better. That's a temptation because we don't recognize the difference, it's not a matter of right or wrong, black or white, it's simply different; a different way of cooking, a different way of doing, a different way of thinking. When we don't recognize and so accept the difference, the old spirit come up: we think we are better than the others, because they come from outside, they don't belong to our group, circle, city, country, etc...

We have to free ourselves from this village mentality, to be open to the difference and try to accept it. Is it simple? No at all, it requires sacrifice, strength, constancy but the result is wonderful. It's climbing a mountain, you go up and start with enthusiasm and after a while you fill tired, you rest, don't give up and keep going and when you reach the top what a vision, you can look far away and the place from where you started to climb it's almost invisible, everything seems to be so small. When we look from a different point of view everything looks different, because we have a new prospective, a more comprehensive vision.

These are some of the feelings I have while meeting the foreign workers here in Korea: faces of different color, people coming from a different country, eating a different food, talking a different language, having a different religion, with different way of thinking and understanding... The difference is there, the temptation to compare and judge is just there and the old spirit wants to come up: we are better...

No! The reality is : we are different, that's all. If we try to climb these difficulties and differences by first accepting them, we can acquire a different point of view with a broader understanding where the difference is not a problem, but rather a richness, a plus.

To accept others it means to create space in ourselves, to empty something, to get rid of our so narrow village mentality; God doesn't live in a particular village, it's everywhere, He is at the top of the mountain and from there He looks towards us and our differences are small, so small...

Giovanni Zevola, O.M.I.

From John MAHONEY, O.M.I.

Last year while talking to the Parish Council about the parish observance of the DeMazenod Year one of the members suggested we have a Mass of Thanksgiving at Meiji Village. Meiji Village is a tourist attraction that has buildings from the Meiji Era. (1886 to 1912) One the buildings is the former Cathedral of the Kyoto Diocese.

The parishioners were pleased by the idea so they went to work. There is an admission fee to the Village. It was decided that the parish would foot the bill for this. We estimated that about 100 would attend and made our budget accordingly. The requests kept coming and coming by the deadline about 270 had sent word of their intention to attend and requested that we send them admission tickets. Our budget was of course all out of wack. But we were most happy that so many from the diocese and some from distant Oblate Parishes were so interested in our celebration. Fortunately the donations took care of our expenses.

Our second worry was the weather. We knew we were taking a chance when we chose February 18. But in the warmer spring time the Church was already booked for weddings.

When I woke on the morning of the 18th snow was on the ground. I rode in a five car caravan of the staff; that is those who were involved in the last minute preparations for the Mass. As we drove along on snow and ice we wondered how many would make it to Meiji Village.

We arrived some what behind schedule. We had to bring every thing needed for the Mass. After unloading the cars one and all went to work. As luck would have it one of the cars got separated from our caravan. In it were the altar cloths and vases for the flowers. A cause of concern but there were other preparations to be done. Some unexpected like shoveling snow from in front of the church. (The young children pitched-in and did a fine job). Lugging water-filled vases on snow covered paths from a distant water spigot. Dusting the benches which was done by the early arrivals whose help made it possible to meet the eleven o'clock deadline.

At 10:50 the Zendana Parish Choir sang a few hymns and the hustle and bustle of the people in the pews and those entering the church slowly quieted down. During this time the Bishop and his co-celebrants made their way along a slippery path from the sacristy to the entrance to the church. Fortunately no one slipped

The church was not full but about 180 had braved the snow and ice to be present on this special occasion for the Oblates and the Diocese. During the Mass the sky outside seemed to brighten; by the end of Mass the sun was shining. The happy faces of all in the memorial photo indicate that they were most happy to be present for this holy and happy occasion

To continue our parish observance of the DeMazenod Year we have decided to have a Holy Hour every Friday until the close of the Year. During Lent the Stations of the Cross are the format of the Holy Hour. During May it will be the Rosary, The Fridays between Lent and May we will have Devotions to St. Eugene as our theme. The intention of these Holy Hours is "to awaken or to reawaken the faith of the people to whom we are sent and help them to discover "who Christ is'." .
(cf. Constitution #7) John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.

Bill Maher

I hope everyone has a very Happy and Blessed Easter. It certainly promises to be that here in Tokushima. We are preparing a young couple for baptism and gradually everyone is starting to prepare for the Easter celebrations. However the few weeks we have left for the preparation are getting busier and busier as a lot of extra things have popped up in the schedule. Three or four short things to get written and sent in this week, a meeting in regards to Rotary exchange study groups in Takamatsu and then to Fukuoka for a meeting of the district superiors with the Provincial Council. Back here for Sunday Mass and then back to Fukuoka for the Oblate General Meeting we have once a year in the Spring. This district coordinator or district superior depending on what term you like is all new to me of course since we just talked about it a few weeks ago, and not everyone in this district was present at the meeting so maybe this isn't a valid appointment!

Then of course there's the trip home that I have planned after Easter, since Gerry Stevens has so generously offered to take my place here for that period. I'd like to ask for your prayers for my brother-in-law, Ed Zimmerman who had a stroke and is in the long process of rehabilitation. His right side is paralyzed and he can't speak. On the bright side however my Aunt is celebrating her 100th birthday and her much younger sister Sr. Patricia is 97 or 98 this year. Also my cousin is going to be ordained to the permanent diaconate for the Rockfort Diocese on April 27th. I hope to have a good visit to Mom and Dads' grave as well many of my other friends in the Chicago area and the USA. I will be able to be reached at:

Mr. & Mrs. Zimmerman

2 S. 520 Oaklawn Dr.

Glen Ellyn IL 60137-6963

May the Risen Lord shower his blessings upon you at this special time of celebration of his presence with us.

JUBILEES

BIRTHDAYS

23 Bill MAHER

April

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

May

29 Thomas MAHER

June

24 Giovanni ZEVOLA

ORDINATIONS

March

19 Ray Bourgoin
27 Wency LAGUIDAO
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

NEWS

ANNUAL RETREAT

Our retreat this year will be at the usual place, The Passionist Retreat House in Fukuoka Prefecture.

The TIME: September 2 - 6 , 1996.

The Retreat Master will be Fr. Glenn M. ZIMMER, O.M.I.

Fr. ZIMMER is a professed Oblate for just over 30 years, and will be ordained 25 years this October, during which month he will also turn 50 years of age. For 8 years he worked in an Oblate communications ministry, and for 14 years as director of our Retreat Center in Saskatoon. In September of 1995 he was assigned to begin a new ministry , viz. a house of prayer.

ONGOING FORMATION

Fr. Leo KAWAGUCHI will be attending the IRF (Institute for Religious Formation) at St. Louis University. He will take the course for formators 1996-1997. The course begins in late August.

PRAYERS

are always in order for a wide variety of intentions. This time special prayers are requested for the mother of Jerry NOVOTNY who is very seriously ill. Jerry has gone home to be near her and near his father who also still needs our prayers.



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

AUTUMN 1996



September 1996

Dear Fellow Oblates,

It is good to be back home after two months of work and travel to the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The Visitation Team for Sri Lanka began its work in Manila. Bill MORELI presented us with five days of in-put by way of preparation for the visitation. It was Bill's enthusiasm and know-how that gave us the impetus to take on the work of the visitation.

The most important part of the visitation was the personal interviews with each Oblate of the Province. For the most part the interviews were done in Districts and our travel took us as far south as Maggona and as far north as Anuradhapura.

The primary goal of the visitation was for the Province to look at itself as a group and to assess the quality of religious life, the effectiveness of mission in the Province with a view to the future. This is a big change from visitations as they were conducted in the past. In the past more emphasis was put on correction and observance of the Rule. This new way of visitation is more of an animation tool where the province assesses itself and plans its own future. The advantage of a team effort in this process was that we could accomplish our task in one month! In the past a visitation could take as long as six or seven months.

Sebastian MAHARA, Manuel MINA and I completed our work of the Canonical Visitation of the Sri Lankan Province on August 13 with the handing over of our 37 page Report. The beautifully done closing ceremony prepared by Claude PERERA began with the lighting of the traditional lamp, drums and music of Sri Lanka. The ceremony had a dual purpose as it also served as the opening of their Provincial Congress.

Our work done, we left Sri Lanka with a feeling of having been very much privileged and graced by being able to share in depth with so many men of such goodwill, generosity and commitment.

Reflecting on my personal experience of the visitation, I was struck with the fact that we Oblates must always remain faithful to the Gospel and be open to respond to new needs. Here in Japan, we are in a time of transition. We are aging as a group but we also have been blessed with new missionaries and this gives us much hope for the future but perhaps the future will take on a new presence. I was also struck with the fact that team effort is possible. Sebastian MAHARA from South Africa, Manuel MINA from the Philippines and I from Japan were brought together for a task and asked to work as a team. We did that and made some good friendships too.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

NEW ASSIGNMENTS- VICE PROVINCE JAPAN

The following assignments become effective on April 1, 1997.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present Assignment</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>
<u>BOURGOIN Raymond</u>	Nagoya Superior/Formation	<u>Nagoya</u> <u>Assistant/Formation</u>
<u>HAHN Francis</u>	Koga Pastor	<u>Naruto</u> <u>Pastor/Principal</u>
<u>HARR Richard</u>	Anan Pastor/Principal	<u>Aki</u> <u>Pastor/Principal</u>
<u>IWO John</u>	Aki Pastor/Principal	<u>Itami</u> <u>Pastor</u>
<u>KAWAGUCHI Leo</u>	St. Louis Studies/Formation	<u>Nagoya</u> <u>Superior/Formation</u> (June 1, 1997)
<u>MAHER William</u>	Tokushima Pastor	<u>Koga</u> <u>Pastor</u>
<u>PEIRISPULLE Jude</u>	Nagoya Language Study	<u>Kochi/Nakajimacho</u> <u>Pastor</u>
<u>ROZAIRO Bradly</u>	Nagoya Language Study	<u>Koga</u> <u>Co-pastor</u>
<u>SILVER Bertram</u>	Naruto Pastor/Principal	<u>Anan</u> <u>Pastor/Principal</u>
<u>WILLIAMS Edward</u>	Kochi/Nakajimacho Pastor	<u>Tokushima</u> <u>Pastor</u>
<u>YAGI Nobuhiko</u>	Akaoka Vocation Director	<u>Kochi/Nakajimacho</u> <u>Vocation Director</u>
<u>YAMASAKI Michael</u>	Itami Pastor/Principal	<u>Itami</u> <u>Principal</u>

SPECIFICS ON THE CLERGY IN JAPAN - SEPTEMBER 2, 1996

TOTAL :	1,867	AVERAGE AGE :	58.87 years
i.e.	996 Japanese	"	: 56.35
	870 foreigners	"	: 62.36
Bishops: in retirement	5	"	: 83.6
active	13	"	: 65.7

A G E B R A C K E T

AGE	TOTAL	JAPANESE	FOREIGN
95-90	7	3	4
89-85	30	14	16
84-80	77	31	46
79-75	98	30	68
74-70	242	89	153
69-65	292	122	170
64-60	232	124	108
59-55	221	136	85
54-50	166	106	60
49-45	140	93	47
44-40	135	100	36
39-35	129	83	46
34-30	88	58	30
29-25	9	7	2
TOTALS	1,866	996	870
AV. AGE	58.87	56.35	62.36

Notes: 1. THE DISCREPANCY IN TOTALS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE BIRTHDAY OF ONE PERSON COULD NOT BE OBTAINED.
2. THE PRIESTS ORDAINED IN SEPTEMBER ARE INCLUDED.

TOTALS ACCORDING TO COUNTRY
OF ORIGIN OF FOREIGN
MISSIONARIES

U.S.A.	147
ITALY	139
SPAIN	126
CANADA	66
FRANCE	66
GERMANY	59
BELGIUM	51
IRELAND	49
POLAND	23
AUSTRALIA	20
PHILIPPINES	17
SWITZERLAND	12
MEXICO	12
ARGENTINE	11
HOLLAND	8
GREAT BRITAIN	6
INDIA	6
INDONESIA	6
BRASIL	6
COLUMBIA	5
KOREA	5
ZAIRE	4
CZECHO	4
NEW-ZEALAND	4
VIETNAM	4
HUNGARY	3
PORTUGAL	2
SRI LANKA	2
SLOVENIA	2
CUBA	1
PERU	1
CHINA	1
LUXEMBURG	1
GHANA	1

TOTALS IN RELATION TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS,
CONGREGATIONS, SOCIETIES

JESUIT	269	S.J.
FRANCISCAN	152	O.F.M.
S.V.D.	98	S.V.D.
SALESIAN	92	S.D.B.
COLOMBAN	54	S.S.C.
CONVENTUAL	54	O.F.M. Conv.
DOMINICAN	53	O.P.
PARIS FOR. MISS.	52	M.E.P.
C.I.C.M. (SCHEUT)	52	C.I.C.M.
XAVERIAN	41	S.X.
REDEMPTORIST	40	C.Ss.R.
CARMEL	31	O.C.D.
MILAN FOR. MISS.	29	P.I.M.E.
MARIANIST	27	S.M.
MARYKNOLL	25	M.M.
QUEBEC FOR. MISS.	22	M.E.Q.
OBLATE	22	O.M.I.
PAULIST	20	S.S.P.
SACRED HEARTS	17	SS.CC.
TRAPPIST	16	O.C.S.O.
MISS. S. HEART	15	M.S.C.
CLARETIAN	14	C.M.F.
PASSIONIST	13	C.P.
BURGOS FOR. MISS.	13	I.E.M.E.
AUGUSTINIAN	12	O.S.A.
BETHLEHEM FOR. MISS.	12	S.M.B.
SCARBOROUGH " "	11	S.F.M.
OPUS DEI	11	Opus Dei
CAPUCHIN	9	O.F.M.Cap.
ATONEMENT	9	S.A.
PIARIST (Escolapios)	9	S.P.
SULPICIAN	9	S.S.
MARIST	8	S.M.
GUADALUPE FOR. MISS.	8	M.G.
VIATORIAN	6	C.S.V.
BENEDICTINE	5	O.S.B.
VINCENTIAN	3	C.M.
PTS FRERES DE L'EV.	3	P.F.E.
LITTLE BROS of JESUS	2	P.F.J.
PHILIPPIN FOR. MISS.	1	M.S.P.
FOCOLARE	1	Focolare
SS.P&P WORKERS' MISS.	1	M.O.P.P.

AORC 1986

The Vice Province of Japan will be host country for the Asia/Oceania Regional Conference. The Conference will meet at the Research Center in Nagoya from October 17 - 21. Bertram SILVER will be the facilitator. The secretaries are Edmund MURUGUPILLAI and Raymond BOURGOIN. Angelito LAMPON, our Regional Consultor will attend the meeting. He arrives on October 14 and departs for Manila on October 22.

ON-GOING FORMATION TEAM

The Provincial Council has appointed John DEELY, John IWO and Jaime del ROSARIO to the On-going Formation Team for the Province. John DEELY will be the Team Leader. They will hold their first meeting in October.

NEW DIOCESAN/OBLATE CONTRACTS

The Provincial Council has appointed Edward WILLIAMS and Bertram SILVER and John IWO to study and present to the Province a new contract for the Oblates and the Diocese of Takamatsu. Raymond BOURGOIN has been asked to be a consultant and Bro. Nobuhiko YAGI to be secretary. They are expected to have their material ready for the Provincial Council Meeting to be held in Naruto on December 9.

SABBATICAL YEAR

Fran HAHN will be taking a sabbatical year in 1997. During his absence, the Provincial Ange SIANI will be Administrator of the parish of Naruto as well as Assistant Principal of the kindergarten. Xave TOSA and Ray BOURGOIN have offered to fill in when the provincial must be away.

CONGRATULATIONS BRADLY ROZAIRO AND JUDE PEIRISPULLE

Bradly ROZAIRO and Jude PEIRISPULLE have completed their Japanese Language studies. They will graduate from the YWCA Japanese Language School on September 25. Bradly will leave for Koga and Jude for Kochi in October.

VISIT OF GENERAL TREASURER

Alfons KEUTER will visit Japan from December 9-14. His purpose is to discuss with the Provincial Council the General Administration's view of our financial situation. He will meet with the Provincial Council on December 10.

He will also have a meeting with the Finance Committee on December 11.

The General Treasurer will leave for Seoul Korea on December 14. The Provincial has asked Ray BOURGOIN to accompany him because the Treasurer of the Korean Mission Mauro CONCARDI is studying at St. Louis University. Ray will meet with the General Treasurer and Maurizio, the Superior of the Korean Mission.

ON-GOING FORMATION HELD IN KOREA

We had our on-going formation in Seoul, South Korea from August 26th to September 1st. We were Yagi, Bradley, Vincenzo, Maurizio, James, Jude and Jimmy. Because Leo and Mauro were in the U.S. for studies and Giovanni was in Italy, they could not attend our gathering. We had three objectives namely: to see the Oblate Mission in Korea, deeply know one another, and support each other.

We visited the Oblate House in Kangnam, Seoul. We met Paolo Lee Kiyong, our 20-year-old Korean seminarian. He was very kind and good in English. Then, we stayed at the Maryknoll House for the gathering.

We saw the ministries of the Oblates. We served lunch for the poor, at the "Soup Kitchen". Vincenzo's ministry is to prepare lunch for about 200 poor people, with the help of lay volunteers. He said that there are other programs too like prayer meeting, sharing and Retreat. Supported by the local Church and the laity, there are ministries to the illiterates, a village of the poor, handicapped and the sick. We were deeply impressed at this dedication to the poor.

We also visited Giovanni's ministry, which was the Office for Migrant Workers, fully sponsored by the Diocese. The lay co-worker and two Sisters narrated to us how thousands are assisted in their human rights problems. We saw this as a challenging ministry.

Maurizio also informed us of his ministry. He gives Retreat to the Blind, meets with the handicapped, says Mass in the hospital, handles Vocation work, meets with the youth in the university and takes charge of the work of Mauro too. He assists the sick in the hospital, is in charge of Formation of Paolo and the House bills. We found Maurizio a versatile missionary for these.

Then, we had our Sharing for two days. Fr. Jerry Cotter, an Irish Columban priest in Korea for 40 years, facilitated the sharing. He also gave some input from his counselling experience. Everyone had the opportunity to speak of one's joys, difficulties, fears and hopes in the mission. We had four areas of concern namely: culture, community, ministry and the future.

There was a feeling of joy in discovering a new culture and knowing new people. There was an experience of being welcomed into the homes of the people. Learning a new language unravels the people's experience. However, it was also difficult. We had the sentiment of being looked down upon because we are foreigners. In these Confucian societies, we feel that the people see us as outsiders. We feel disregarded and vulnerable. Some people look only for what we can do for them to measure our worth. Thus, we have a feeling of "being used". We felt that most people look at the differences in the color of our skin, our nationalities, and cultural ways, instead of our good intentions to serve them.

We felt the need for a support system. In our Oblate communities, we long for fraternal care, good communication, and acceptance. We cannot give God's love to people if it is not present in our communities. There were feelings of not being accepted and not regarded for our opinions and suggestions.

We realized the need to improve our communication skills in our Oblate communities so as to be more open to one another's feelings, hopes and points of view. Sometimes, our high expectations of our fellow Oblates cause our own frustrations. Understanding with the heart is important. Community life is built on love and trust. Love is shown in genuine concern for one's brother Oblate. We realized that we are responsible for building a loving Community, beginning with what "I" can share. This love then extends to our ministries.

We saw that our ministry is to be with the poor, those ignored by society. The Oblates bear witness to Christ's love among those who do not know Christ yet.

We appreciated the Oblates who set the foundation of the mission in Japan in nearly 50 years. We feel the need for guidance from them in the ministry. Looking into the future, we expressed our desire to venture into the many more faces of the Poor in Japan, whom we still need to reach. We hope the Oblates may adapt to change, if necessary, to respond to the signs of the times.

For Korea, the situation of having an established local Church makes the

local clergy feel that they are already self-sufficient. But, it is precisely in this setting that the religious have a prophetic role of looking for the "new poor". There are apostolates that an insider of the established system does not see. As the Oblates in Korea are on the pioneering stage, their experiences are a source of learning for all of us.

There was a concern for English to be used in our Oblate gatherings because those from Korea do not speak nihon-go. It was also suggested that English be used in the Seminary, including the Liturgy, for some days in a month, for our seminarians to have more chances of learning it. In Korea, they are already doing this.

In both countries, the small number of Oblates is our serious concern. We look into a future in which the Oblate ministries begun are immense for fewer personnel. There were other areas which were not deeply explored that we agreed should be addressed in our next gathering.

We had a glimpse of Korean life as we visited the Demilitarized Zone, watched Korean Dance, visited the Royal Palace and Museum. We had Mass at the Korean Martyrs' Shrine where we were welcomed by Fr. Glenn, a Filipino priest.

The gathering gave us moments for sharing, praying and recreation. We felt the need for this to continue, as we journey through the mission.

- Reported by Jimmy (On behalf of Y, B, V, M, J & J)

第 1 5 回 養 成 委 員 会 報 告

1996年9月3日 於：福岡黙想の家

参加者：ブルゴアン、乾、八木、ブラドリ

議題1、サマーキャンプの反省

3人の志願者が中心になって運営したことは良かった。が、大変疲れているようでもあった。昨年よりもプログラムがゆっくりしていて参加者もリラックスしていた。古賀教会の受入れ、歓迎ぶりは非常に良かった。でも地元の参加者が少なかったことは残念だった。「未来へ。」というテーマの幅が広過ぎて、勉強の内容も少しあいまいだった。創立者の名前や列聖されたことを告げる機会が少なかった。今年は高校生がリーダーを勤めたが、ある高校生は頑張っていたが、ある高校生は少し自覚が足りなかったようだ。全体的に、参加者は兄弟的な交わりを持て、すばらしいキャンプであったように思う。

議題2、志望者や志願者の状況

志願者、志望者の状況について意見情報交換した。

議題3、マミ・ニュースレターについて

クリスマスのあいさつ (Frブルゴアン)

サマーキャンプについて (Br八木、広渡先生)

ジェームス、シランタ

創立者について (Frブルゴアン)

アメリカでの生活 (Fr川口)

転勤について

12月5日印刷 12月15日発送予定

次回委員会について：11月25日(月)・26日(火)、場所、時間等詳細は未定。

NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Jimmy DEL ROSARIO has started the process of changing his Philippine Driver's License to a local one. This involves taking some practical driver's lessons, a written test and a driver's test. The whole community is cheering him on, on the sidelines.

Akio HORIUCHI and Kenichi FURUKAWA spend a lot of time studying in their rooms and the efforts seem to pay off. Their reactions were of satisfaction with their exam efforts.

The community has started the program devised by Des O'DONNELL and his community, entitled "The New Testament Way to Community". In order to ensure Taku AKABAE's participation, we moved our weekly community meetings to Sunday Evening. Language creates a problem but at the instigation of the community members Ray BOURGOIN translates the gist of each member's sharing.

Nobuhiko YAGI came to Nagoya a number of times for the Come and See program, and to get together with the Postulants preparing the Summer Vocation Camp. From all reports this last one was a marvelous success again this year. A lot of preparation went into it. The Postulants are to be on their own for future preparations. Part of the growing process.

Again this year our Japanese Language Students took part in the annual Speech Contest of YWCA. John Kenney and Ray were there to cheer them on. Jude PEIRISPULLE won the most advanced group and Jimmy won the beginners' group. Each got certificates totalling 5,000 yen to buy books. After Bradley ROZAIRO's victory last year, all our OMI have hit pay dirt. Congratulations are due for a job well done.

For Jimmy it meant the end of the YWCA program since he began at Nanzan University as of September 8. Brad and Jude finish Language Studies in September and will leave our community to face their first assignment. Jude and Brad presented a Sri Lankan song at the YWCA Peace Festival which was very appreciated.

Angelo SIANI left the community for 2 months: close to two weeks of training in Manila and the rest of the time leading the team that made an official visitation of the Sri Lanka Province. He claims the experience was well worth it and had high praise for the men of that province.

Leo KAWAGUCHI visited us when he came to give a 2 day recollection to the novices of the Ottawa Sisters. He brought a number of things to be left in our store room in back. The sisters spoke very well of his input.

John Kenney MAHONEY had the visit of the retired Bishop SOMA and a member of the MAC program. They were sensitizing the parishioners to their work with Substance Dependents and to appeal for funds toward their building project in Nagoya.

Most of the residents of Tenpaku, all except Jimmy, had symptoms of the Flu at some time in the summer. Ray was the hardest hit with 2 weeks in bed. Some wondered if it was the O-157 bug. If it was, the doctors in Nagoya cleared it up!

Our postulants spend many evenings playing catch. Unfortunately, Akio got the ball right in the left eye and had to see the doctor a few times. No permanent damage seems to have been done but it was touch and go during the exams.

John Kenney took a couple of days off to meet Bertram SILVER and his brother in Kyoto. Bert was happy to have visit from home, we're sure! John Kenney was there to help celebrate the occasion.

When the Zendana Parish held its Summer Camp for the children, Taku who helps ordinarily with the Catechetical Program of the Parish, was called upon to help for the 2 day affair. His reaction: tiring but worth it. Mass was presided by Brad and the Homily given by Jude.

Jimmy enjoyed himself at a gathering of Filipino Missionaries at the SVD Provincialate. A good sharing ensued on their involvement with their compatriots in Japan. Jimmy got a better picture of the problems of the migrant

workers here.

Most of the community enjoyed a night out at a concert given by the Sistine Choir in early July. The singing was superb but many commented mostly on the director who had a way all his own. Later in the month we took the opportunity of everyone's presence to have a community day in honor of Jude and Brad as September seems to be full for everybody. Jude was high scorer in bowling: 177.

Ray was in Taiwan for a one-week meeting of the Asia Conference of the Choice Weekend Program. 80 delegates from 6 countries participated amidst the fiercest typhoon Taiwan has had in 30 years. It wrecked the water purifier so that they had no showers or flushing of toilets for the last 4 days of the Conference. Drinking water came from the super market. Needless to say Ray rushed into the shower room on arrival to Nagoya.

Ray preached the second of the annual retreats of the Ottawa Sisters in Sendai. From their reactions, he could see that the Holy Spirit must have had a ball working in the hearts of the participants! He certainly was impressed by the graces they received and was most thankful for the grace of accompanying them on a short part of their spiritual journey.

The NAGOYA COMMUNITY

15th Meeting of Formation Committee REPORT

September 3, 1996, Fukuoka Retreat House
In attendance: Brad, Nobu, Ray, Len

The original 15th meeting was to be held in early July but was called off because of Ray's illness. Not to have too much time lapse between meetings we gathered during the retreat on a limited number of topics)

Topic #1: Review of Summer Vocation Camp

The fact that the Pre-novices were central to the whole affair was really great. On the other hand they were quite tired. The program being less crowded than usual, there was a more relaxed atmosphere. The reception by the people of the Koga Church was fantastic. We could not have asked for better. However, it was too bad that there were not more young men participating in the Camp itself.

The theme "Looking to the future" was a little too broad as a topic so that the content remained rather vague. The occasions for bringing up the Founder's name or his Canonisation were too limited for an OMI Summer Camp.

This year the leaders were High School Students. As expected, some took their role seriously and tried hard, others didn't really know what was expected of them. On the whole however, an atmosphere of brotherhood was present and felt, and therefore we believe it was a successful camp.

Topic #2: Aspirants and Postulants

We had an extensive discussion on our pre-novices.

Topic #3: The December MAMI Newsletter

In Leo's absence Ray and Nobu will edit the Newsletter, Nobu will print it and Ray will mail it. Some of the topics: Christmas Greetings (Ray), Summer Camp report (Nobu and Hirowatari), Introduction of James and Shirantha, (James and Shirantha), More about the Founder (Ray), Life in St Louis (Leo), Changes in the Province

We intend to print the Newsletter December 5 and mail it out December 15.

The next formation meeting will be held Nov 25 (Mon) and 26 (Tue) at a location to be named later.

The Summer of '96

Bert, OMI

As many of you know, for the past several years I have been cooperating with the Prefectural Police Department as a translator. A few years ago a translator group of about forty members were gathered and formed the Tokushima Prefectural Police Translators Association. They chose me as the Assistant Director. They have contacted me on many occasions to assist in translating. First at the police station with the Detective, then to the Prosecutor's Office and ending at the Court House. It has involved, at times, many hours of tedious translation. However, I feel that the cooperation has not only been a help to the Prefectural Police Department but also for the non-Japanese who are being interrogated. Having a translator available gives them some peace of mind that what they are saying will be translated to be of help to them and also to understand the procedure for the investigation. On one occasion we were able to use International Amnesty to help two non-Japanese in securing permission to reside in Japan even though they had overstayed their visas. Because of the years in this work the Prefectural Police Department gave me an award on the 9th of July for this service. I consider it an award to the service the Oblates are making in this area.

The day after this my brother, Ron, arrived in Japan for a three week stay in Naruto. He was here six years ago with his wife, Stacia, but this time she wanted him to come alone. During his short stay we were able to visit Kyoto at the time of the Gion Matsuri and go to Himeji Castle. We also went with the kindergarten children to the YMCA camp in Anan. As he is a retired electrician he filled in his time by repairing some of the wiring and also built me a beautiful "work bench" (something that comes in handy with my hobby). After Ron put on a few pounds I saw him off in Osaka.

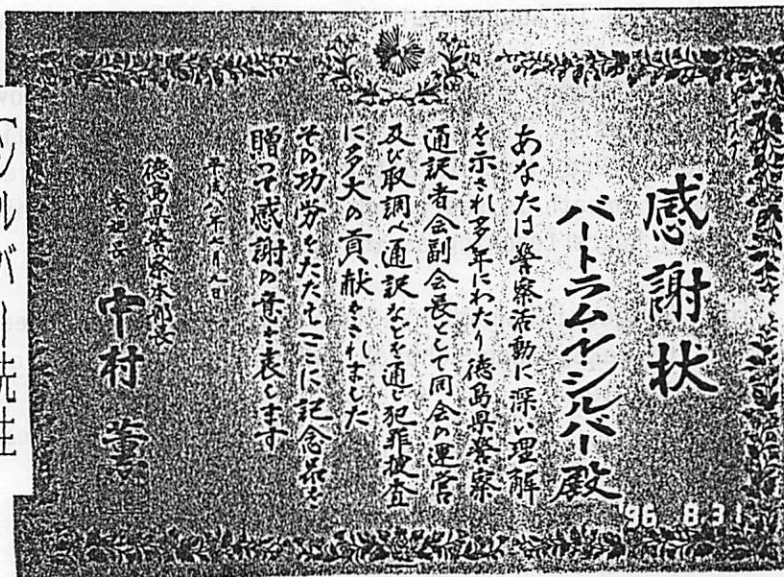
The summer is never summer without the Awa Odori. As usual I ended up with the "oodaiko" with the Lion's Group.

Throw in a few seminars connected with the school and that is the end of the summer. A very enjoyable one at that!

Enjoyed being with everyone at the retreat in Fukuoka and thought that Father Zimmer's input for the retreat was quite different and beneficial.

ご紹介致します。
長感謝状を授与されましたので
日に徳島県警察本部から本年七月九
貢献度が認められ、通訳業務に對する
に及ぶなど、通訳件数は、二四件
活躍されているところであり、
設立以前から、英語通訳として
シルバー先生は、通訳者会の

「シルバー先生
に本部長感謝状」



From Xavier:

The dark green colored leaves of mid-summer are waiting to be whirled down by the autumn wind. At night I hear the fall cicadas singing along the railroad in front of the house. They are gentle, not like the noisy chirrup of their summer relatives. I hear them very clearly, because my asthma often keeps me awake.

Most of you know that since last April I am 'officially' an asthma patient. The nights are my most difficult times. The doctors don't know the reason. One thing is certain, I don't have allergies. There are two possibilities: according to the doctors in Kochi, it might be a side effect of the cobalt radiation I received long years ago (about 20!). The other possibility is a late effect of my former smoking. If the doctors don't know the real reason, how can they decide on the right medicine...

Anyway, I made my planned trip to Canada. Instead of visiting the family in Flanders, I went to stay with my youngest sister in Ontario. Canada was enjoyably cool. Of course, I did some sightseeing, but I also visited two Flemish missionaries in Vancouver. One of them is completely blind and it was with him I discovered the city of Vancouver. You probably wonder who was guiding who... That's when I discovered Canadian beer! I also stayed with two married Oblates: one my own classmate and the other of Gerard Stevens. This friend of Gerard is very active in the parish. His wife also gives out H. Communion. Their 15 year old girl's voice echoes through the old Jesuit church. I looked and listened with my heart... and I saw the future Church.

Thanks to their generosity and friendship, I crossed through the rough Rockies and the windy prairies of Winnipeg. It was here in Winnipeg that the ambulance brought me to the emergency room of Saint Boniface Hospital. (It looks like the Oblates of Winnipeg paid the medical expenses...) What an experience! No comparison with the emergency of the Red Cross Hospital here in Kochi, where I had been two weeks before my trip to Canada. I recommend Saint Boniface. The emergency ward was overcrowded and they had to put me in a corridor for 10 hours, but the examination was seriously done. To make the story short, the doctors told me to forget about the medicaments I had brought from Japan, and they put me on steroids. (Now I cannot participate in the olympics!) Thanks to Saint Boniface I could enjoy my sister's kitchen and visit the Grey Nuns in Ottawa. Now the steroids are worn out... and again sometimes my breath is short and my breast squeaks and hisses. However, I think I can do my hours teaching as in the past.

Since Enoguchi Church has two newly assigned priests, I have offered my services to Nakajimacho Church, where there is only one priest for the busy weekend schedule.

Yoshikazu Xavier TOSA omi

CELEBRATIONS

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

December

8 James JEYACHANDRAN

FATHER EDWARD D. LOWNEY, O.M.I.

First Vows.....September 8, 1952....Ipswich, Mass.

Perpetual Vows..September 8, 1955....Essex, N.Y.

Ordination.....June 9, 1956.....Washington, D.C.

1st High Mass....June 17, 1956.....Sacred Heart Church,
Lowell, Mass.

1956 - 1976.....Japanese Mission

1976 - 1988.....Church of St. George, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

1988 - 1991.....Church of St. Monica, Carol City, FL

1991 - presentChaplain, Tewksbury Hospital

I sincerely thank all those who made this day possible, especially my parents, my Aunt Mary, my brother John and my sister Mary. I am deeply grateful to Mary and her family for all they did preparing for this day. Many thanks too to Fr. Gerald Flater, O.M.I., pastor of St. Williams, and to the magnificent choir for their beautiful music. I especially thank the Lord Jesus for having allowed me to serve for 40 years in His Priesthood as a member of the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Fr. Ed Lowney, O.M.I.

"HE HAS SENT ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR
THE POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM."
(OBLATE MOTTO)

Congratulations, Ed, and our wishes and prayers for many more happy years!

IN MEMORIAM

You are asked in your charity to pray for *Neil E. ENRIGHT, O.M.I.*

Born: November 18, 1902

Ordained on June 10, 1929

Died: September 4, 1996 in Tewksbury

Neil, a great friend of the then Bishop of Fukuoka, Bishop Fukahori, encouraged the Superior of the Oblate mission, Robert GILL, O.M.I., to open the parish of Hikarigaoka. Neil raised half of the revenues needed to build the mission of Hikarigaoka and was a great benefactor for many years. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

+++++

In your PRAYERS are recommended:

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

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

SERIOUSLY NOW !!!

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!

AND A PLEASANT INDIAN SUMMER TO ALL!



OMI INFORMATION

JAPAN

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

CHRISTMAS 1996

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

Dear Fellow Oblates.

I would like to open my Christmas greeting with a poem by Henry Van Dyke.

A Prayer for Christmas Morning

The day of Joy returns
Father in Heaven,
and crowns another year with peace and good will.
Help us rightly to remember the birth of
JESUS,
that we may share in the song of the angels
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wiseman.
Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love
all over the world
Let kindness come with every good desire, with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be children,
and the Christmas evening bring us to bed
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for JESUS sake. Amen

++++

This Christmas, I feel we have many things to be thankful for. The year 1996 closes on a good note for the Vice Province. Three new missionaries arrived on the mission, Jaime del ROSARIO (Japan), James JEYACHANDRAN and Shirantha PERERA (Korea). Our pre-novices Taku AKABAE, Akio HORIUCHI, and Kenichi FURUKAWA are fine and making progress as future Oblates and in their studies. Jude PEIRISPULLE and Bradley ROZAIRO have completed their Japanese studies and have begun their ministry in the Japanese Church.

While celebrating the birth of Christ, we include a celebration of our Oblate Community, for its faith life and for the many works accomplished for Christ.

Next year, most of you will take up new assignments. I am grateful to each of you for your faithfilled response. Leaving the people you have grown to love is no easy matter. You have shown that you are willing to put the needs of the mission before your personal preference and it attests to the vitality of the Province.

We do not know what the New Year will bring but perhaps this saying of an old Jewish sage will be of encouragement for our part. "Life is like a scroll, write on it only the things you wish to remember."

Have a Merry Christmas and the best of God's gifts in the New Year.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani, OMI
Provincial

Angelo Siani

-3-
16th Meeting of Formation Committee
REPORT

November 25-26, 1996, Koga
In attendance: Brad, Nobu, Ray, Len

Topic #1: Korean Experience:

Both Brad and Nobuhiko gave their impressions of the program that the younger OMI had in Korea last August. On the whole, it was nice to hear ideas and opinions of people of the same generation. We were able to see and experience the apostolate of the Korean Mission and various ways of being mission. By having a chance, even for a short while, to experience Korean Culture and Customs and having crossed the border between the two Koreas, we were able to think about the division between North and South.

The Columban priest who accompanied us, listened very well to our sharings and was able to give worthwhile comments. We did feel that our Spiritual Life needed to be deepened.

Topic #2: Indonesia Formation Session:

Ray spoke of his experience at the Asia-Oceania Formation Session held in Indonesia from November 4 to 9, 1996. He spoke at length of each participating country's Formation Situation. This included especially Vocation Recruitment, Discernment and Screening, the various levels of Formation programs, Program for Perpetual Vows, Spiritual Direction.

Ray also spoke briefly of the other parts of the program which included input by Kevin Casey on Community and discussion thereof. The Secretary for Asia-Oceania Formators, Edmund Murugupillai, spoke about the revision of the OMI General Guidelines which were fine-tuned in Cedara South Africa recently. Finally Lito Lampon gave us input on Forming Apostolic Community and the relationship that should exist among members of the Formation Staff to be effective. We also discussed the situations on this question in our respective areas.

Topic #3: Aspirants and Postulants

We had an extensive discussion on our pre-novices.

Topic #4: The December MAMI Newsletter

We finalized the articles, changed the date of printing, but kept the original date of December 15 for sending out this issue. Since Ray will be in Korea, the Postulants will be asked to do the mailing. Ray already has the addresses printed on the envelopes. Since Shirantha will arrive in Korea only December 2, we will ask him to write a self-introduction article for the next issue.

Topic #5: The Easter MAMI Issue contents were discussed: Easter Greeting (Ray), 1997 Summer Camp (Nobuhiko), Shirantha's self-introduction, continuation of article on the Founder (Ray), follow-up on Leo's life in St Louis (Leo), News from Nagoya (Ray), if possible some article by a MAMI member. Printing around March 15 with mailing March 20.

Topic #6: We also discussed some issues that Rome sent us to consider.

The next formation meeting will be held Jan 27 (Mon) and 28 (Tue) in Kochi at Nakajimacho. Nobuhiko will lead the prayer and sharing.

第 1 6 回 養 成 委 員 会 報 告

1996年11月25-26日 於：古賀修道院
参加者：ブルゴアン、乾、八木、ブラドリ

議題 1、若い会員の韓国での体験

同じ世代の会員の考え方や意見が聞けてとても良かった。韓国のオペレート会の仕事がよく見え、宣教の方法を学ぶことができた。韓国の文化や習慣に触れることができ、板門店で北朝鮮問題について考えることもできた。指導司祭は、私たちの話しを聞いてくれ、良いコメントも与えてくださった。ただ、私たちの霊的生活の深みに欠けていたようだ。

議題 2、インドネシア・アジア会議での体験

Fr.ブルゴアンから主にそれぞれの国の養成現状、プロセス(召命、識別、養成の段階、終生誓願のプログラム、霊的指導)を聞いた。短く次のことにも触れた。会議中インドネシアの Kevin Casey 神父のインプットで共同体生活について話し合った。Edmund Murugupillai のローマ本部の一般基準と調整について説明した。Lito Lampon のインプットで共同体作りや特に養成スタッフの関わりを深めるための姿勢を一緒に考えた。

議題 3、志望者や志願者の状況

志願者、志望者の状況について意見情報交換した。

議題 4、12月マミ・ニュースレターについての最終確認をした。

シランタの紹介については次回へ廻した。12月13日までに印刷されたものをFr.ブルゴアンに送付、志願者をお願いして15日に発送する。

議題 5、来年の4月号のマミ・ニュースレターについて

復活祭のあいさつ (Frブルゴアン)、サマーキャンプについて (Br八木)、シランタの自己紹介、創立者について (Frブルゴアン) アメリカでの生活 (Fr川口、コンカルディ)、修学院だより (Frブルゴアン)、マミ会員会費お願い (Frブルゴアン)、出来ればマミ会員からの原稿

議題 6、ローマから寄せられた案内について

ローマから届いたいくつかの検討事項を話し合う。

次回委員会について： 1月27日(月) 13:00~17:00・28日(火) 9:00~11:30、
場所は中島町修道院

NEWS FROM NAGOYA
MERRY CHRISTMAS
MOST BLESSED
NEW YEAR

This was a rather busy 3 months for the Nagoya Community. First of all after the annual retreat James JEYACHANDRAN came and spent a few days in Nagoya before returning to Korea. James enjoyed the few days especially with his former classmates Jude PEIRISPULLE and Bradly ROZAIRO. Come again James!

Speaking of Brad and Jude, they had a busy month of final classes, exams as they finished their formal training in the language and left us for their new assignments in Koga and Kochi respectively in early October. Very model students at YWCA, at graduation they received high praises for their efforts.

This was their first difficult task in acculturation and their mission in Japan took this form for 2 years. As priests who had already been involved in the apostolate before coming here, we are sure they found themselves at times quite helpless. But they survived as we all did. Congratulations Brad and Jude for a job well done. Our prayers are with you as you approach the real world!

In September we saw the return of our pre-novices, Taku AKABAE, Ken-ichi FURUKAWA and Akio HORIUCHI. Taku's classes started up September 2, and he spent a lonely week while we were all on retreat. Akio joined him on September 16 after attending the Japan Youth Rally in Saitama Prefecture, an occasion for him to become aware of a number of programs for youth in Japan, and to make new friends. Ken-ichi arrived the following day after spending the summer with his family and attending intensive courses in Japanese, in order to get ready for the February entrance exams at Nanzan University.

Toward the end of the month these 2 got their July exam results and then felt relieved as they were extremely successful.

Twice during this period, the community was invited to Zendana parishioners' homes for sumptuous meals. Aspirant Atushi SUGIE's parents had the community over and the following month Mr and Mrs OKUMURA, who are thinking of moving to the Atami area for their golden years, went all out also.

A number of birthdays were celebrated, Jude, John Kenney MAHONEY, Ken-ichi, Akio were all celebrated in turn. We had to celebrate Brad's at a distance, since he had already left us! Since Angelo SIANI's birthday is in the summer when all are away, we kind of fit him into one of the celebrations also.

When Jimmy DEL ROSARIO returned from the annual retreat he sat for the placement exams at Nanzan. The results were good enough for him to be placed in the 2nd level. He keeps saying how much work he has, but consistently gets grades in the upper 90's. We could use that level of weather in this fall season.

Len INUI visited Nagoya briefly to have an interview with one of our pre-novices. Ray BOURGOIN was not there to receive him though. In fact Ray, since late July, has been in Tenpaku a total of 30 days at most. In conjunction with the new laws for Religious Corporations he was on the road a lot, in order to familiarize the brethren with the new system. The only one he hasn't seen is Leo KAWAGUCHI, the next superior of the House of Studies, who is now attending a Spirituality and Formation Program in St Louis.

In early October a young man driving a van rammed into the back end of John Kenney's car. John Kenney did complain of neck problems and we feared whiplash but no permanent damage seems to have been done. As to the car, however, the cost of the repairs would be more than the listed value of the car so now John Kenney is driving around in a brand new car!

Another big event in Nagoya during October, was the Asia-Oceania Major Superiors' Meeting held at the Research Center in Nagoya. Ray and Ange were busy with meeting, entertaining and seeing off the many participants, who also took time off to visit the House of Studies and some even stayed one or two nights. The participants all celebrated at the Parish in Zendana. The meeting lasted 5 days and was hosted by Angelo. Other participants included Lito LAMPON, Councilor General for Asia, John Camillus FERNANDO, President of the Conference, Phil ESTRELLA, Philippines, Pat MORONEY, Australia, P P PHILIP, Jaffna, Mario BERTOLI, Indonesia, Bruno ARENS, Thailand, Stan SUN, Hong Kong, Yousuf GILL, Pakistan, Anthony JEEVARATNAM, India, Emil MORAES, Bangladesh, Maurizio GIORGIANNI, Korea. Assisting were Bert SILVER as Facilitator, Edmund A MURUGUPILLAI and Ray as Secretaries.

Along with his Japanese classes Jimmy is also taking up SHODO (Japanese Calligraphy) and IKEBANA (Flower Arrangement). We await every Thursday to see his new creations which he brings home to adorn the chapel! It saves the Liturgy man running around looking for flowers, and it beats anything we ordinary folk would be able to produce.

Jimmy and Taku are on the verge of getting their driving licenses. By adding to the number of drivers, errands will be shared on a wider basis. Heaven is right around the corner!

John Kenney and Jimmy took advantage of the opportunity to attend NOH and KABUKI theatre in order to imbibe some of the traditional Japanese Culture.

A decision was reached to the effect that we were unable to finance the projected rebuilding in Zendana. When Ange announced it to the Christians of the Zendana Parish, there were deep sighs of sadness.

Two other visitors to Tenpaku were John IWO and John DEELY who met with Jimmy and Ange for the first meeting of the On-Going Formation Committee. John IWO stayed a couple of nights and took over the kitchen for one wonderful meal. John, you should think of becoming a cook in a famous restaurant as a second career!

Ray was off on another trip in late October. The Asia-Oceania Formation Session was held in Indonesia. We had a rather successful encounter. Everyone became aware of the plusses and minuses of each other's programs in formation. Ray did come back earlier than planned because of health problems. If you refer to the Formation Meeting Report, you can see what topics were discussed in Kalioti, Java.

Ange spent a month in the USA with his folks, after visiting Leo and Mauro CONCARDI in St Louis. He returned December 5 in order to be in time for the Provincial Council Meeting with Alfons KEUTER on December 10.

Dick HARR also showed up for an evening meal and spent the night in Zendana. He had just finished attending a retreat held at the Research Center. From what we've heard, he was fully satisfied. 2 retreats a year, he may be canonized before long!

Nobuhiko YAGI came up on one of his regular trips to visit with the pre-novices and weigh their progress. He took the opportunity to review the Summer Vocation Camp with them in order to improve it next year. Nobuhiko's presence always enlivens the House of Studies.

The annual bazaar at Zendana was rather successful. Taku, Akio and Ken-ichi were involved in the kebobs and games for the children. They were bushed at the end of the day, however.

The library is adorned with the Encyclopedia Britannica in Japanese, a gift from the TAKASE family in Kochi. We hope the seminarians can make good use of it.

Taku and Akio went to spend a day on retreat with physically handicapped people. The priest who helped translate our Constitutions and Rules a number of years ago Yoshifusa ISHIWAKI was giving the retreat. They said that they got a lot out of it. Since Ray was gone to Koga for 2 meetings, Jimmy to the Japanese Martyrs celebration in Kyoto, Ange to the USA, Ken-ichi was alone for the day. He said that being alone for the first time, he was somewhat scared, so he left lights on all over the place in the evening! As you can see we prepare our pre-novices for any eventuality!

Once again Happy Holidays!

The NAGOYA COMMUNITY

John Kenney MAHONEY

sends his best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a year filled with the blessings of Our Lord.

From Brad:

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR

It's good to feel that Christmas time is always a special part of all the treasured memories we cherish in the heart and it's good to know that Christmas gives such warmth and joy by filling hearts with happiness and love year after year.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus let us be aware of the people who are not in a position to experience the warmth and joy of Christmas. I, in a special way, think of the people of Sri Lanka and I hope and pray that the birth of Jesus may bring peace and joy.

Brad, O.M.I.

メリークリスマス & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

1996年は、私にとって新しいスタートの年でした。初めて大阪を離れての生活は、新鮮で興味深いことが多い反面、忙しくてものすごく時間が過ぎるのが早く感じました。

1997年は、新しいスタートの歩みを続けて歩いていく年だと思っています。まだまだ、方向、歩幅、歩数もままならない私ですが、これからもよろしくお願いします。

古川 健一

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

For me 1996 was a year of beginnings. It was my first experience to live away from home. On the one hand it was a year of freshness and a deeply interesting year, but on the other hand I felt I was so busy that the year went by too fast.

I know 1997 will bring new beginnings as I walk on its path. However, I still haven't got used to the direction of that walk, nor the size steps I should take, nor again the number of steps I will need, but I will keep walking with the help of your prayers.

Ken-ichi Furukawa

窓の外の木々はすっかり葉を落とし、季節は確実に過ぎていきます。早いもので、今年も後残すところ少しとなりました。この一年は今まで過ごしてきた中でも、とりわけ時間が流れるのが早かったように記憶しています。と同時に、数多くの出来事のあった一年でもあります。普段は日々に追われ、自分自身の中で消化しきれずにいることも多々ありますが、今一度我が身を振り返って見るには、ちょうど良い頃かと思います。どうか、皆さんが良きクリスマスをお迎えになれますよう、切にお祈り申し上げております。

堀内 亜紀夫

As I look out the window, I see that the leaves have fallen. The season is surely changing. There are only a few days left before the year ends. Of all the years I've gone thru, I will remember this one as one that went by very fast. At the same time, many things happened this past year. I'm so busy each day that I don't have time to digest completely everything, but this is a good time for me to look back at myself and ponder my life.

I hope and pray hard that everyone has a good Christmas.

Akio Horiuchi

HAPPY クリスマス!

みなさん元気ですか。私はこの修学院に来て早や2度目のクリスマスをむかえることになりました。二人の兄貴、堀内さんと古川君とも仲良くがんばっています。

今年、生まれて初めて風邪で病院に行きました。元気(健康)がとりえの私としては不覚でした。みなさんも風邪には気を付けてくださいね。自動車学校の方は、順調に進んでおり、この記事が読まれている頃には免許を取っているはずです。みなさんも、病気をせず、安全運転で今年を乗り切り、来年もがんばりましょう。

赤波江 卓

How's everybody doing? This is already the 2nd Christmas since I came to the pre-noviciate. I am holding on along with my two brothers Horiuchi and Furukawa.

This year for the first time I had a cold and had to go to the hospital to see the doctor. For someone like me who thought that my health was my strong point, this was a great defeat for me. Please, everybody, be careful of catching colds! As far as the driving school is concerned, everything is progressing well. By the time you read this, I should have my license in hand!

Hopefully we can avoid colds and drive safely throughout this whole new year.

Taku Akabae

From Tom Maher:

I for one will miss one person very much this Christmas. And that person is Gerry Stevens, O.M.I. He was the pastor of the Nakamura parish for Hata-gun. The area is larger than all of Kagawa-ken, he used to tell me. He cried when he had to leave it for health reasons.

Gerry didn't drive a car but that didn't stop him in the least. By bus and on foot he covered the whole area more than once. This included the back roads as well. He knew the names of all the schools in the area and often visited them. Sometimes some people gave me the impression that he only worked with foreigners in the area, but that is not true at all. Although the number of Christians in the area is small, he regularly visited them especially the fallen away.

On his journeys he looked for Philippinas married to Japanese and lovingly showed concern for them. At present 21 are connected to the Church in some way. Although there are not many Christian girls working in the bars now, he had a list of all the bars in the area and visited the girls working there, during their free time. He had a secret knock, the "Angelus knock" he called it, and when they heard it they opened the door for him.

Gerry was not a T.V.man, nor one to be overconcerned with his living conditions. The chapel was his favorite place and he spent a lot of time with the Lord. Maybe that is why he never said he was lonely. He had great praise for Father Des O'Donnell, O.M.I., the assistant general at that time, for spending a few days with him in the area. Gerry loved the Oblates and the Church, and everything that came from Rome was read with attention. He explained everything in detail about the parish, drawing maps on how to get to each Catholic's home. He was supposed to come back to Nakamura once a month. I thought I would have plenty of time to ask more questions.

Gerry, how you liked to talk and laugh! Remember when we hung the big picture of the Founder in the sacristy? Who would have suspected that you would be with him in a short time in the presence of the Trinity?

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation and tells Zion 'Your God is King!'" (Is.52,7)

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Tom.

From Dick HARR

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM ANAN

A very joyous and fruitful Christmas to all!
And that goes for the New Year too!

As this year is closing out, I personally have so many blessings to be grateful for. 1997 will see a change of station for many of us, and that too is something to look forward to with its new challenges.

Lord, bless each of my Oblate brothers in a very special way.

Dick Harr

From Jerry NOVOTNY:

Dear Fellow Oblates,

1996 has been a long, trying year for me regarding my family, university and the Pro Life Movement. First of all, on behalf of my Dad and the family, I want to thank all the Oblates who through their prayers, telephone calls and letters, expressed concern for my mother during her final bout with cancer. It was a painful ending for a wonderful person, but thanks to your kindness and generosity, she died with dignity and with a special love for the Oblates both in the Central Province and here in Japan. Your expressions of sympathy on her death were deeply appreciated. Thank You very much.

The running battle over my contract at the university continues. In addition to working with young people, the job is also one source of income for the Pro Life work. Can't afford to loose it right now. I have six years left to retirement. What will happen after that, I don't have the slightest idea; will leave it in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

I am very grateful to Bishop Fukahori for giving me two hours (4-6pm) at the priest meeting (11/11) to talk about my Pro Life work. Discussion continued throughout supper and into the late evening (10pm) in the priests' rec room. During this time a Fax arrived from Bishop Hamao informing me that he had his diocese stop publication and distribution of the Manuel For Migrants (住民として地域で暮らすための情報移住労働者生活マニュアル) . I can't thank him enough for his courageous decision. Pages 77-91, 145-151 were in opposition to the encyclicals "Humanae Vitae" and "Evangelium Vitae".

During the presentation, the following statistic of the number of child executions within the womb of mothers caused genuine concern among a large number of the priest present. Briefly, let me share it with you.

An estimate of the number of abortions in the world covering a one-year period.

About 80,000,000 IUD users abort about twice a year = 160,000,000

About 60,000,000 users of hormonal contraceptives

abort perhaps per year..... = 9,000,000

About 45,000,000 surgical abortions per year..... = 45,000,000

=====

214,000,000 deaths of unborn children

John F. Kippley comes up with a rough figure of 250-300 million deaths by abortion per year (*Birth Control & Christian Discipleship*, pp15). That would mean there are now more abortions per year in the world induced surgically, mechanically and chemically than the 145,000,000 annual live births.

Although it is a season rooted in joy, my mood this year is shadowed by family illnesses, the deaths of several dear people, and by unacceptable conditions that continue to exist in the world today. But Pope John Paul II speaks of a "new culture of life" in his new encyclical "Evangelium Vitae". He says, "his primary intention is to proclaim the good news of the value and dignity of each human life, of its grandeur and worth. It is to promote a 'culture of life' in which human freedom will find its authentic meaning by joining forces with truth, life and love." He says, "This new culture needs new lifestyles which will recognize the value of human sexuality in the development of the person...."

At the dawn of salvation, it is the birth of a child which is proclaimed as joyful news..... The source of this 'great joy' is the birth of the Savior; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfillment of the joy of every child...."

Warmest wishes for a New Year of meaning!

Jerry Novotny, omi

From Nobuhiko YAGI

幼い頃、クリスマスが近づいてくるとサンタクロースが運んでくれるプレゼントを楽しみに待ったものでした。12月25日の朝、枕元には自分の希望通りのおもちゃやプラモデルがそっと置いてくれていました。両親から、「神様から遣わされた人（サンタクロース）には、信彦が好きなものはちゃんとご存知だよ。」と言われ、幼いなりに神様ってすごいなと感じていました。

それから数十年たった今、私はどんなプレゼントを心待ちにしているのだろうと待降節になると考えるときがあります。たぶんそれは、世界中でたった一人しかいない私を神様がこの世に送ってくださったこと、そして神様から遣わされた人（キリスト）が、私の弱さや欠点、又長所をよく知っていてくれて、その私がかげがえのない大切な存在であるということを知らせてくださったこと、これが最高のプレゼントではないかなと思います。数十年たった今でも、神様ってすごいなという気持ちには変わりありません。このキリストが運んでくださったプレゼントを、まわりの人々に配るために、これからも一生懸命働かせてもらおうと思っています。

クリスマスおめでとうございます。

Bro. 八木信彦

Where There Is Hope
Jimmy del Rosario, O.M.I.

I wonder how the Christmas Season will be celebrated here in Japan. I surely will miss the nine consecutive dawn Masses before Christmas Eve in the Philippines. Along with these are the carolling groups nightly and the excitement of exchanging gifts with friends. Ofcourse, my family, brother Oblates there and warm friends will be kilometers away from me this season.

But, the true meaning of Christmas will remain. Christ is born so that we may be born with Him in His Passion, Death and Resurrection. Christmas continues to be enjoyed by those who hope for the Final Coming of Christ. Wherever we are all over the world, Christ is our living Hope.

The fact remains that Christ was born in a manger in a poor village of Bethlehem. He is the hope of those born in poor living conditions, physical handicap, sickness and those who grow up as victims of a corrupt and violent society. He is the hope of the people who do not know Him yet. In a nation like Japan, amidst economic affluence, in every person's heart is a longing for meaning. In Christ's own time, everyone will know that our search is over, because we were the ones lost. Christ searched for us and found us.

He is right here in Japan too, this Christmas Season and always. In a heart that longs for prosperity for the marginalized in society, for peace in troubled lands, for unity in families and for love among victims of injustice, there is hope. In every heart where there is hope, there is Christ.

Merry Christmas and a Hope-filled New Year to one and all!

Christmas wishes from Y.Xave Tosa omi

With the celebration of Christ's Birth, I am sending my warm thanks for the past year and sincere wishes for the New Year.

Some of us rarely write in this Newsletter, some write occasionally and then again some seem to enjoy writing. Some of us write things personal, things interesting and then again others write things banal...It's true, during 3 months not many history making events happen in and around us. But it is also interesting to know what you're thinking and feeling, to be able to share in your vision and philosophy. That is how we grow together in a community (a big word nowadays in Rome...).

Indeed in my case nothing special has happened since last summer. Although I can say that my asthma doesn't bother me so much. I don't know if I can say that it's healed. The doctors here in Kochi give me now the same medicine (steroid) as in Canada. I seem to respond well and no side effects (such as diabetes) yet...

When I read the report of the Plenary Session on Canada in the OMI Communique of October 1996, I couldn't help but comparing it with our Japanese mission. Since Christmas is a peaceful time it might be a good moment to share a few thoughts. The title of the report reads: "Daring to live the Oblate charism in the Canadian context", but I read: "Daring to live the Oblate charism in the Japanese context."

We are growing old as in Canada. Japan is a secularized society, indifferent to Christ, with very many dislocated families. Japan, as Canada and the West, is a part of a declining empire - where the radical changes that are attempted are based on apparent values. The Japanese OMI mission is nearly 50 years old. What are we celebrating? It can be an occasion to dare to re-define our mission in this country.

Why do I write and speak like this? For several reasons. One is the fact that we so easily speak about the "poor". "The poor with their many faces" is a sentence made to please everybody. In the Canada Report the word "new poor" is coined. We in Japan have also immigrants, refugees, jobless, homeless, drug addicts, delinquents...On a personal level some of us here have worked for those "new poor", but I don't think we can say that it is a common (on the provincial level) Oblate endeavor. I have to admit that in our parishes, effort and time is given for the spiritual and sacramental life of the catholic immigrants. What about the non-christian 'new poor'? Do we dare to be a sign by committing ourselves as a province or as a community to the 'new poor'?

One cannot deny that our primary attention is pastoral work in a traditional parish setting. The kindergarten work is not sacramental or parochial, but in our present system it is very much connected with the local parish. The last Japanese OMI Newsletter gave the list of the new assignments: all are only assignments for work in parish structures. Some Oblates who are not directly engaged in traditional "pastoral" work, are "untouchables". It also happens that those "untouchables" are called "individuals",

Oblates a little outside the OMI community, not completely belonging to the main stream.

I could give you examples enough: The Volunteer Bureau; Pro Life Movement; 'Aonami' House for battered women; Speech handicapped people; Juvenile delinquents; Montessori Method ... (I didn't mention "Justice and Peace", because that is not a 'work' or a 'movement', it is the social dimension of the Gospel and so it is a part of the spiritual and pastoral education in a christian community.)

To do justice to the Oblates in direct pastoral work, I must say that there is a genuine endeavor to bring the spirit of solidarity and mission into their communities. In this way, our parishes may differ from the ones run by the diocesan priests. Still I say that if the OMI want to stay in Japan with their unique charism, we must have provincial projects which are not connected with a parish set-up. Some bishops are looking for parishes to staff with their own priests, some dioceses are switching to mixed pastoral teams, some bishops are jealous that Congregations are taking all the priest vocations... The Japanese OMI province must establish a project not directly under the power of the local bishop.

The history (if any) of the Japanese OMI priority has 'forced' some Oblates to go their own way, in order to be truthful to the Oblate formation in their home provinces and to the guidelines from Rome, especially since 1972. Some of us were put in a situation where we couldn't believe in religious communities. One became an "individualist" without choosing to be one. As an "individu" I send messages all over the world, against human rights violation, for justice and rights in East Timor, to abolish the death sentence... Is this so called individualism bad? Why did it enter (and is still present in) our Japanese Province? What is the meaning of solidarity in our Province, especially for the year 1997? It's all fine and nice to say we must make community but how, for whom, for what?

Somewhere deep in my heart I think that a common acting, a common stand, a common OMI priority project is not only an ideal but a necessity. Only when our OMI Province frees itself from the 50 year old concept (a Boston Province legacy) that OMI priority is sacramental and direct pastoral work, will "individualism" naturally dissolve. There was a time when the society in the West was 'christian'. At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, our society was still a unity: one culture, one belief and religion (christian), one vision on Church and society. God was central. Everything stood in relation to the absolute God. In such a society it was normal that the parish was central. But we face another society in Japan (and elsewhere too). The catholic calendar is not followed. Economy and industry (things we never studied), banks and politics (things we never studied) are molding the shape of the society. The influence and the activities of the Church are reduced to CHARITY (Mother Theresa) and PROTEST VOICES (Justice and Peace). The Churches seem to be able to do something for the dropouts of the society... Maybe that is where we are called to be a SIGN....

Christmas is a season of best wishes, of peace, of prayer... not a time to make waves... Sorry!

From Fran HAHN:

Dear Brothers in Christ:

It's hard for me to believe but this Christmas will be my 30th since arriving in Japan! I can't claim it as my 30th one in Japan as in 1981 I went home for 3 weeks at Christmas-time as Dad had a leg amputated and He wasn't doing well. I thought I'd be saying goodbye, but thank God, he rallied and lived 2 more years. That Christmas was not spent in Japan, hence the above wording.

Since the decision was made about the changes to be made in the province come April I'm sure all are busy preparing for the new reality each will facing. For me the real challenge is the one "within", the perennial struggle to accept my self and the world God has made, instead of recreating it in my own image. God transforms His creation not by overpowering it and forcing it to be as He wants but by loving and embracing it as it is, "calling" it to be. His "call" always implies the "power" to realise its mission. In that sense I will accept it and embrace it with all my heart.

On April 29th 1997, I'll celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination in Buffalo. I hope to begin the rejoicing with you at our Spring meeting, and with your blessing go on from there. I have asked for and received permission to take a sabbatical year next year to study and try to prepare myself for however many more years the Lord may deem to grant me. Technically I'm pastor in Naruto but I'll be in the U.S. for a good part of '97, April-August, celebrating, studying, & visiting as many as the Lord and our budget will allow. Then I'll go to Israel from the end of August till late Dec. to study for 4 months. From Jan. - March of '98 I'll be in So. France, at Aix en Provence, to attend our renewal program for 3 months, before finally returning to serve my new mission, at the end of March 1998. I know this will inconvenience many, especially the good people of Naruto, and I wish to thank the provincial and all of you for making this possible. By God's grace I will make this not just a "personal-perk" but a basis for facing the "call" to prepare, with you, for evangelization in the new millennium. 1997 looks like it will be a year of much grace and challenge. May this Christmas and the coming year be your most blessed and joyfilled year ever!

From Wency LAGUIDAO:

CHRISTMAS 1996

Everytime I call up some people, the question that I usually get before they start entertaining my call is: "Where are you calling from?" As a child, I always dreamt of traveling around the world and the most important part of the night prayers I mumbled was always to ask God to allow me to travel, someday, ... and the wish started hesitantly with "... and by the way, Lord, if it is not asking too much..." I met a young Filipino migrant worker in Rome the last time I was there and he told me his story. He said that as a child, he dreamt always of being able to see St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He even thought that St. Peter's Basilica was the "heaven" that was taught in catechism. He told God in his prayers that once he has seen St. Peter's, he will ask for nothing more. Then, all of a sudden came the chance for him to go to Rome for some work that was not even clear. For the past ten years, he has worked as the caretaker of a warehouse just outside of St. Peter's. "Prayers get answered, don't they?" he said.

My latest trip brought me to Rome for the International Filipino Chaplains Meeting held during the last week of October. It was supposed to coincide with the ad limina visit of the Filipino bishops but plans for the bishops and our meeting had to be changed all of a sudden when the Holy Father was hospitalized for surgery. The meeting was a very lively exchange of ideas and work experiences between Filipino chaplains ministering to Filipino migrants around the world. Ron LaFramboise was a gracious host at the General House. He even took the time to pick me up at the airport and bring me to see Assisi. From Rome, I went to visit my sister Lulu in Germany. She has somehow recovered from the shock resulting from the sudden death of her husband in February. She thanks many of you who sent messages of support.

1996 has been a fruitful and travel-ful year. I am thankful to everybody in the Vice Province for the continued support that came in various forms and for allowing me to devote fulltime in the Filipino ministry. When I came back from Rome, Mike had already fixed up two rooms for me in preparation for the changes in April. Everything is new (except the occupant) and the office is just a little bit bigger than the previous one. Come and see, I might have enough space for a little party where we can do the *Macarena!*

Have a spirit-filled Christmas and may 1997 be bountiful year for you.

Wency Laguidao

From John IW0:

オブレート会の皆様に

クリスマスと新年のお慶びを申し上げます。

今年も本当にお世話になりました。お祈りや御親切ありがとうございました。

今年は5月にスチーブンス神父様が、11月にはボランチアの山崎さんが亡くなりました。

私自身も段々と人生のゴールに近付いているのを感じます。

安芸での幸せな19年間も終わろうとしています。緑の庭や二階のベランダでのストレッチ、それにあの太平洋での水浴はパラダイスを感じさせてくれました。

4月から都会の生活に移るけれど、何時も田舎の親父の雰囲気を持ちつづけたいと思っている。

長年の安芸生活に感謝しながら、神様の御導きに従って、新任地に行きたいと思っています。

4月に転任する皆様と共に、神様が常に一緒に居て下さいますように。

Deus vobiscum sit semper.

Fr. John Iwe O. M. I.

From John IWO:

Dear Brother Oblates,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I wish to express many thanks to you all for your prayers and your kindness. During this year Fr. G. Stevens died in May, and in November Mr. Yamazaki, a member of the Kochi Volunteer Bureau. I feel that for myself, too, the goal of my life is coming closer. The end of 19 years of happy life in Aki is coming.

I felt like being in Paradise when stretching out in the green garden or on the veranda of the second floor, or when bathing in the Pacific Ocean. From April 1st I move to life in the city. However, I want to keep the atmosphere of a country-dad. Grateful for my many years in Aki I want to go to my new mission in abidance with God's guidance.

May God always be with all of you who move to a new mission in April!
Deus vobiscum sit semper!

Fr. John Iwo, O.M.I.

From Jan:

All the Lord's blessings upon everyone on Christmas and during the whole New Year.

Uppermost in my thoughts since his sudden demise in May is the memory of Gerard Stevens, but since several others have given eulogies on Gerard in this issue I am leaving it at that this time. I still have the intention of gathering whatever I can find or receive on him in a separate publication. I gladly accept any contribution of any kind (text, photographs, sayings etc.) towards that project, with my thanks in advance.

Together with this painful separation there is the constant reminder of getting up in years by the repeated news of the death or illness of beloved ones and other acquaintances.

Still, that is not the whole picture. There is also the activity of the younger members of the province and of the places where we work. They look with expectant eyes at the task before them, filled with hope of performing something worthwhile. And if I may no longer be physically able to follow their pace I can and will assist them with my prayers and encouragement.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS and A BLESSED NEW YEAR.

Jan Van Hoydonck, O.M.I.

From Lei Simons:

May the joy of the birth of Christ be with you all during the New Year. When we are gathered around the manger celebrating the birth of Christ, the long awaited Savior, two people very close to me will be celebrating and experiencing the love of the Father, which Jesus Christ came to proclaim, in a different place.

Father Stevens suddenly left us on the tenth of May. Being in Akaoka for one year he went on his monthly trip to Nakamura and Awa-Ikeda to visit the Philippina brides, trying to bring them together at the church.

Emmanuel Yamasaki Masayasu, who has spent the last eleven years and seven months at the Kochi Volunteer Bureau, passed away on November 19. Everyone who witnessed their funerals could see what the presence of those two people meant in the Church and also in society.

Yamasaki-san not only left an empty space at the Volunteer Bureau, but also a lot of work. It will take some time to get used to him not being there anymore.

At the last meeting of the National Catholic Volunteer Association in Nara it was proposed to have the next national meeting in Takamatsu Diocese. Bishop Fukahori asked us to take care of the preparation. The meeting will be held in Kochi on the 5th and 6th of April, which is the week after Easter. Brother Yagi is the chairman of the committee.

At the Aonami Home the average age has gone down quite a bit, since we have a young mother with her baby boy. She is very proud of her baby. She wants to show him to everybody around.

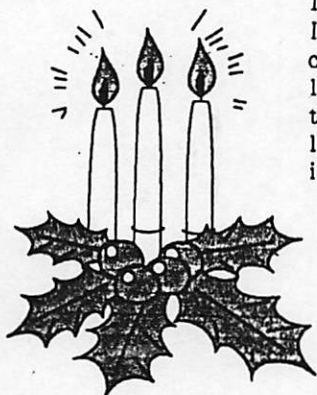
Advent is the liturgical time of hope, the hope of the Lord coming to us in a very special way during the liturgy of Christmas. May the joy and peace of Christ be with you.

Lei Simons

From Bert Silver

ご降誕と新年おめでとうございます

MAY THE CHRIST CHILD
BRING JOY TO EACH OF US!



1996 was a very blessed year for me. I hope it was for all of you. May the coming year be filled with our Lord's love and that this will be our strength to work with Him in bringing this same love to those we come in contact with in our apostolates!

Bert, OMI



From Bill MAHER

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HOLY NEW YEAR,

As usual with the business of this time of the year I find it very hard to sit down and write faith inspired letters. But I do want to give all of you assurance that you'll be in my prayers in a very special way during this season and if you are in the area please stop in. The Tokushima District is planning a meal together on Dec. 30th, at about 5:00 pm. If you'd like to come please give me a call.

After the 8 yrs. I've been here I think I'm finally catching on to this parish and learning the ropes at a new place will be hard but I think it's at least good for the parishioners and probably the priest also, to change every so often. I'm looking forward to Koga as a big challenge on this journey of faith we are all engaged in. First time in a long time that I'll be living in community, I hope my brothers can stand me! I was able to spend some time in Koga a few weeks ago and I must say it was a very pleasant time.

I just finished saying a memorial Mass for a person from Tokyo who's here with a professional sextet from Hungary. They are giving a show tonight in Tokushima but they came to Mass and sang for her Mother's Mass today. It was really beautiful. I wish they were parishioners here.

I found Pope John Paul II's book, 'On the Threshold of Hope' very good, also 'The Gospel of Life' is what's necessary for our World now., If you haven't read them yet, give yourself a great Christmas present. I hope we can meet somewhere during the holidays.

Bill

CALL TO BE POOR

Greetings from Nakajima-cho, Kochi, to everybody.

As the Japanese expression says 何時の間にか (itsunomanika) "before one knows it", the time has passed - the time of my language studies at Y.W.C.A. is no more. I have finished my formal study of the language. Now I start learning it. I know I have a big challenge ahead of me. I will try my best to answer my call, as an Oblate.

I am waiting to celebrate Christmas here in Nakajima-cho. Even though it is my 3rd Christmas here, I feel this time is quite different from the others. This time I have more weight on my shoulders.

Jesus Christ took the form of a slave to save us. As we come to celebrate another Christmas I would like to share a small reflection with you all. Joseph and Mary were searching for a place to give birth to Jesus. But they could not find anything except a manger, among the cattle. We reflect why on earth they couldn't find a better place. Of course God had a special plan. It happened so, because it is the place where everybody could visit. Rich and poor, king and beggar, outcast and accepted etc, etc. It is the place of Jesus. It is the heart of Jesus. As we are brothers and sisters of Christ, we are also invited to make our hearts like the manger, so that everybody can find Jesus in our life in our own hearts.

Wishing you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Jude Peirisulle OMI.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION OF KOREA

As the Korean people are getting ready to meet the winter, by preparing Kimchi and other food items we too are preparing ourselves to meet the Lord in the season of Advent. We are very happy to say some news about our community. As we are looking forward to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, we have already celebrated the birth of new baby in our community. He is none other than Fr. Shirantha. With his arrival in Korea on the 2nd of December, we are six in our community. The whole community was there to welcome him in to our midst. Now it is the time for him to experience our community. Due to lack of members in our community our superior is busy with lot of works. He has to prepare himself for the internal and external meetings in Korea as well as out side of Korea. Recently he went for the Asia -Oceania meeting in Japan and Major Religious meeting in Korea.

As the people are on the move, our Rev. Giovanni too, is trying to move with them wherever they are. From the month of Rosary to the birth of Infant Jesus he is visiting the factory and organizing liturgical services in the respective places. As he is on the move he has to renew himself in the spirit of the Founder. So he will be in Aix in Provence from January to April. Wish you all the best and have nice time in France. Fr. James started his language classes on the 7th of October. Most of his time, he is in the university and busy with his home work. Two of our members are away from our community not in spirit. Fr. Vincenzo is in Italy for his vacation and he will be back in January. Fr. Mauro is having a one year formation course in America and he will be back in the next summer.

With regard to our formation we have a good news to tell you. Our student Paulo is completing one year of studies in the Seminary. As the Government law requires he will be going for Military service for 26 months. Wish him good luck and pray for his safety. During these days we were blessed with lot of visitors. The Provincial of Jaffna, Fr. Philip on his way to Japan, came to see Fr. James and the Korean Mission. On the way back to their respective places, Provincial of Indonesia, Fr. Mario Bertoli and Superior of Hong Kong, Fr. Sun Stanislaus paid a short visit to our community. At the end of December Fr. General Bursar and Provincial Bursar will be visiting us. Wish you all Happy X'mas and New year.

From the Community

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

This morning I have to wake up early and go to meet some Filipinos who want to start a strange peregrination, strange for the Koreans because there is nothing like this in their liturgy, a peregrination of a small statue of Our Lady going from one factory to another. A good occasion to let the workers come together in the evenings, praying the rosary and enjoying their friendship; an occasion to express their faith in a foreign land, share their feelings, joys and sufferings; an occasion to build up a community.

A wind is blowing (I don't know if from Siberia or not, anyhow it is cold enough) so I stay in the car while waiting for them in front of the Suwon University; "Good morning father, did you wait for a while? (Filipinos time is still part of a cultural difference). Let's go!"

The small mini-van seems too small but always there is always room for more: guitar, Filipino Sisters in charge of the choir, workers and Mary (the statue I mean). Direction? Always a new one! This Sunday we go quite far away to a new industrial area, where many foreigners are employed. We enter in the room already arranged, a table is our altar, two candles, beautiful flowers. After a while we start the rosary sitting around the statue of Our Lady, who once again makes the miracle of reuniting the dispersed children, letting them feel a communion and a sense of belonging.

While praying my mind wanders to the hill of Judea and there is Mary walking toward the house of Elisabeth, to visit her, to help her, to share with her the grace she has received. A visitation is taking place again, she is the one coming to us, where we live, where we earn our living, where we stay, in our life for all its expressions. These are some of the things I tell to the people before the blessing and then a delicious Filipino food is waiting for us, so this time there is no delay!

On the feast of the Immaculate we bring back the statue to the church and there we make our consecration to her, we want her to be our model, a pilgrim, always on the move.

Advent season is starting and here we are still on the move; every Sunday we go out to visit different factories, singing Christmas songs, blessing the rooms where these people are living and of course... having something to eat. What about the novena for Christmas? Still on the move, every night we travel in our mini-van, mass at 9.00 PM in different areas and inviting everyone to gather for Christmas Mass. There for the Christians, for everybody a party with singing contest, dance and raffle? Did you buy your ticket?

A pilgrim church, that is what we are; a pilgrim people that is our identity, but we don't move around , rather we move towards a final destination, it is the content of our faith. With this knowledge we make David's prayer our own "we are foreigners and pilgrims before you, as were all our ancestors". Abraham is there too, our father in the faith to show the way by reminding us that we are people on the move.

A PILGRIM LIKE YOU

OFFICIAL NEWS
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PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Provincial Council met in Naruto on December 9th and 10th.

On Dec. 9 the council discussed the budget of the Vice Province for the coming year. The Provincial Treasurer, Raymond BOURGOIN, first presented to the council an INTERIM BUDGET, January 1 - March 31 1997. As you know, because of the new laws regarding Religious Corporations, next year the fiscal year will begin on April 1 and end on March 31. Therefore a second budget was submitted. Both the INTERIM BUDGET and the Budget for April 1, 1997 - March 31, 1998 were approved.

As the terms of tenure of the various Provincial Committees were made for one year they were reassessed and appointments made.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

The Provincial Treasurer, Raymond BOURGOIN, Bertram N. SILVER, Jude PEIRISPULLE and Nobuhiko YAGI.

FORMATION COMMITTEE

Satoshi KAWAGUCHI, Bradly ROZAIRO, Nobuhiko YAGI and Leonard INUI. Raymond BOURGOIN as formator will also attend the formation committee meetings.

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Wenceslao LAGUIDAO, William MAHER, Richard HARR and Bradly ROZAIRO.

ON-GOING FORMATION COMMITTEE

John DEELY, John IWO and Jaime del ROSARIO.

PREPARATION COMMITTEE FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROVINCE 1998

William MAHER, Jan VAN HOYDONCK and Raymond BOURGOIN.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR CONTRACTS

Edward WILLIAMS, Bertram N. SILVER and John IWO. For consultation: Raymond BOURGOIN and Nobuhiko YAGI.

On December 10th the Council met with the General Treasurer, Alfons KEUTER. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss with the Provincial Council the General Administration's view of our financial situation. On December 11, Fr. Keuter met with the Financial Committee for the same purpose.

The Council and the Province thank the General Treasurer Alfons KEUTER for taking the time to visit the Vice Province of Japan and to share with us his expertise.

The next Provincial Council Meeting will be held in Itami on February 24, 1997.

The Spring Meeting of the Province will take place in Fukuoka, APRIL 1 - 3.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:
December

24 Mike YAMASAKI

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:

15 James JEYACHANDRAN

February

22 Xave Yoshikazu TOSA

March

19 Ray BOURGOIN
27 Wency LAGUIDAO
29 Leo KAWAGUCHI

CONGRATULATIONS with the GOLDEN JUBILEE of VOWS to

Dick HARR on September 8, 1996
Jan VAN HOYDONCK and Xavier TOSA on September 8, 1997.

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. Especially recommended are Jerry Novotny's father and Ray Bourgoin's father. 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. Also sending documents on THERMAL paper (Faxes or other prints) by mail is to be avoided, because of the danger of getting smudged or stained.