

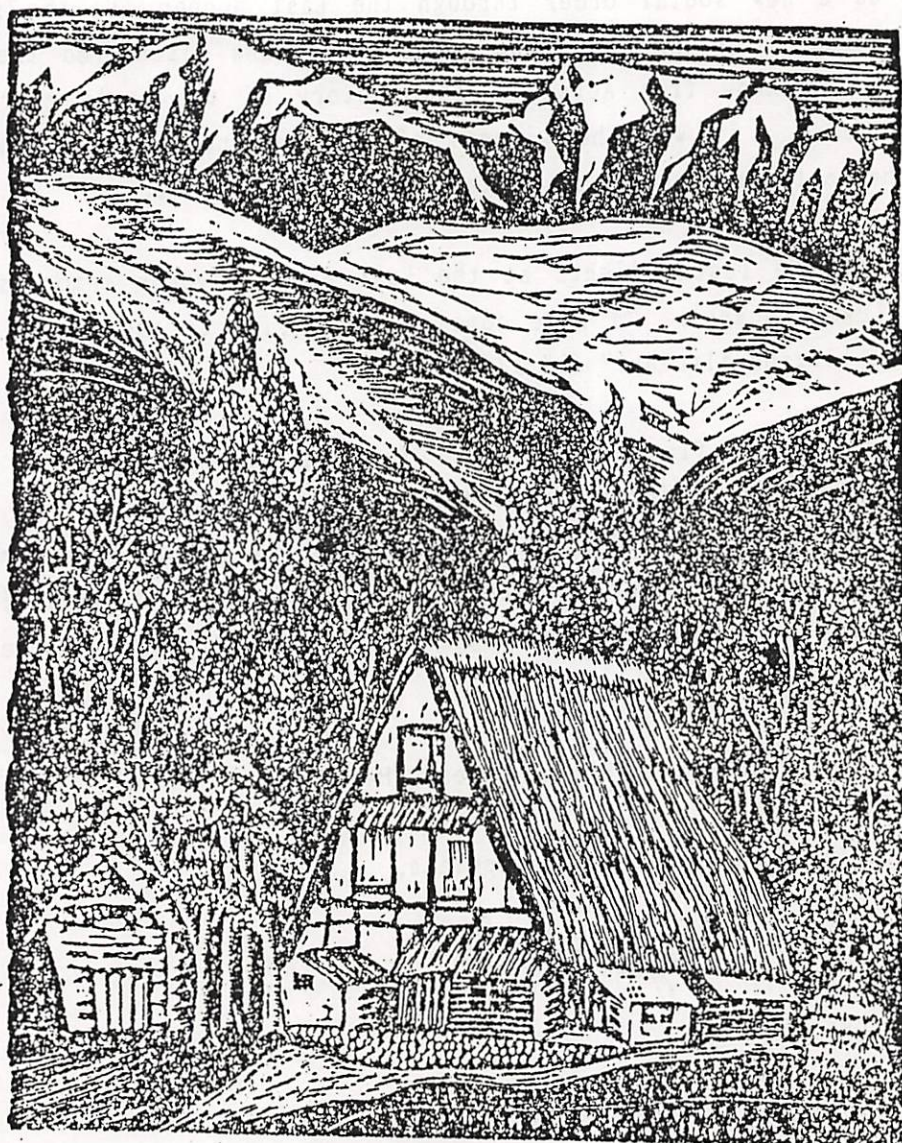


# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

SPRING 1997



Dear Fellow Oblates,

The philosopher, Beatrice Bruteau in her lecture, The Holy Thursday Revolution, states that the greatest revolution in the history of mankind occurred on Holy Thursday, the day before Jesus' crucifixion.

She says the revolution took place in two stages. The first stage occurred when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Until that moment the focus of all things was to get on top and push to get even further up. Jesus, who was already on top ... rabbi, teacher, master... suddenly went down to the bottom and began to wash the feet of his followers. In that act, she says, Jesus symbolically overturned the whole social order. Not understanding what was happening, even his disciples were almost horrified by his behavior.

Bruteau then says that Jesus, having symbolically overturned the whole social order, gave us a new social order through the Last Supper, in the symbolic form of Communion. Through Jesus the early Christians discovered the secret of community. We know from Acts and the history of the early church that this was the case. It was the witness of the communal life of the early Christians that attracted people to Christ and his way of life.

The lighting of the festal lights at the Last Supper evokes memories voiced by Jesus in Luke's Gospel. "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already!" (LK 12:49)

St. Eugene, a man on fire in his love for the church, said on so many occasions "The aim of our Institute is the very same which the Son of God had in coming on earth." We as Oblates have promised to become like Him and to cooperate in His work...; our attitude is the same as His, beginning with washing the feet of the disciples and identifying with Him in the Pascal Mystery.

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate.

*Angelo Siani*

Angelo Siani, OMI  
Provincial



### TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS

Jan VAN HOYDONCK, OMI	NAGOYA House of Studies	April-May
Bradly ROZAIRO, OMI	TOKUSHIMA	April-August
Jaime del ROSARIO, OMI	NARUTO	May-September

### SPRING MEETING 1997

Welcome to Fr. Paul FACHET, OMI. Paul will conduct a course on the Scriptures from April 1 - April 3.

### AORC TO BE HELD IN AUSTRALIA

The Provincial will leave for Australia on April 3 to attend the AORC. He will return on April 10.

### ACTING PROVINCIAL

Fr. Michael YAMASAKI, OMI will be Acting Provincial from April 3-10.

### NARUTO PARISH MISSION

The Provincial, Angelo SIANI, OMI will move to the Naruto Mission from April 11, 1997 - April 1998 while the Pastor Francis HAHN, OMI is on sabbatical leave. As of April 11, 1997, please address all your business with the provincial to the Naruto address.

### GENERAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ROME

Raymond BOURGOIN, OMI will attend the General Finance Committee meeting in Rome. He will depart for Rome on April 8 and return to Japan on May 15.

### STUDY FOR THE DEAF

John DEELY, OMI will interpret for a group of Japanese deaf people in the USA and England. The study tour is for two weeks. John leaves on March 7.

### DIOCESE OF FUKUOKA

Bishop Hisajiroo Matsunaga has asked for help in the Yoshizuka Parish. The Scarborough Fathers had to leave the parish, and because of the recent death of one of his priests, the Bishop finds himself without a replacement.

He asked for Bradly ROZAIRO to take on the responsibility of Yoshizuka Parish for a two or three year period. After consultation with Bradly, the council decided to make an agreement with the Bishop on condition that it is only for three years.

Since Bradly will be in Tokushima during the summer and then will have his homeleave, the Agreement will not take effect until after his return from Sri Lanka. Fr. Len Inui who has been covering the Yoshizuka Parish for some months now, will continue to cover weekends.

## NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Top news billing has to go to Taku AKABAE. He came back to the house with a driver's license on December 8. With his school a long way off and his heavy schedule, it was a remarkable feat to be able to attend driving school. We take our hats off to him!

Remaining on the topic of Taku, he also celebrated "Coming of Age" Day this past January 15. The Church in Zendana honored him the previous Sunday. He looked good in his suit! Actually he will be 20 March 11. Nice to be young!

Ray BOURGOIN and Angelo SIANI left Nagoya for a meeting of the Provincial Council. After the first day Alfons KEUTER, General Treasurer, joined the Council. The following day it was the Finance Committee's turn to meet Alfons.

Ray then left for Korea to join Alfons and the Korean Community in discussing their finances. He also got to meet Shirantha PERERA for the first time. Shirantha is the new addition to the Province. You can read about him in the MAMI Newsletter which comes out later this month!

Jimmy DEL ROSARIO has been experiencing the Homeless Problem here in Nagoya. He attended Mass being held for them and at another time joined in making meals and distributing them to the Homeless in a few Subway stations of the area.

The parish day of recollection went off well and most of the community joined John Kenney MAHONEY and the speaker for lunch afterwards.

The 3 prenovices: Taku, Akio HORIUCHI and Ken-ichi FURUKAWA are becoming musicians of sorts. Taku has improved on the guitar and the other 2 hone their skills on the organ. Once in a while the fruit of their work graces our liturgy. Right on, guys!

Jimmy's language classes require him to give short speeches and face questions afterwards. When he's preparing a speech, you don't hear from him! Wonder what it will be like when he prepares sermons later on!

Some of the community were able to go to cultural activities too. Akio and Ken-ichi attended a Concert in which some of their classmates took part. John Kenney and Jimmy attended Bach's "Passion of Christ" played by a German Orchestra. Since Jan VAN HOYDONCK has graciously accepted to be in the community during my absence in April and May, he may be able to get in a couple of concerts with them. Not too many groups go to Awa-Ikeda!

In order to have the prenovices experience other churches and liturgies, they are encouraged to attend area Churches. Akio and Ken-ichi seemed to have settled on Johoku-bashi Church and Narumi Church respectively. They may also learn something we can use.

Our community of students: Jimmy, Taku, Akio and Ken-ichi, all left Nagoya for the holidays. Ray spent Christmas Day, and a few days thereafter, in the hospital. No complaints! Just stating a fact.

In early January they all reassembled here with various impressions of their stays either at home or in their home parish. Listening to them you can feel that they grew from the experience. The topics of conversations also varied!

They certainly all enjoyed the Christmas Dinner in Kochi. For some it was the first time meeting so many OMI's in one place. Jimmy took the opportunity to visit Kyoto and Nara with Nobuhiko YAGI on his way back. He thoroughly enjoyed that.

Angelo, John Kenney and Jimmy also journeyed to Tokushima for their monthly gathering. From the report that Jimmy wrote in the Codex Historicus, it seems to have been a very fruitful stay with our brethren in Shikoku.



The prenovices had their year end examinations from January 21 to February 8. All 3 were successful. Because Nanzan University must revamp part of its Theology Department, our 2 seminarians were asked to take the entrance exam in the post-graduate department. They sweated out the month of February here rather than be on vacation. With this, some graduate courses would be eliminated and things should be easier for them since they would have to concentrate on only what is really essential. Getting in was not going to be easy.

BUT, we received word today that they both passed. So their college days are over and they matriculate in the University come April 1! Congratulations is due both of them for the hard work. You could have cut the tension in the house with a knife. But both Akio and Ken-ichi as well as the whole community are now in a relaxed atmosphere wearing big grins!

When Alfons was here, he encouraged Ray to get a computer in order to keep up with the finances. So in early January he did so. Now after erasing a number of things he shouldn't he is slowly starting to get the hang of it. Since he had to go the Kochi for a Formation Committee Meeting, he took advantage of the trip to consult our Computer Expert Jerry NOVOTNY. If Ray can remember 10% of what Jerry showed him, he'll be sitting pretty. Don't give up, Ray!

Our monthly retreat day in January was on the Centrality of Christ in Creation. Ange led the February based on Scripture and the Preface to the Constitutions in order to get us in the mood to consider as a group the questionnaire in preparation for the Chapter.

See you in Fukuoka!

The NAGOYA COMMUNITY

*From John Mahoney:*

From an article about Cardinal Bernadin's last days.

"One of his last public appearances was to gather the priests of Chicago for an evening of prayer. His homily that evening is an astonishingly honest challenge to those he loved so dearly, loved in fact as a father, and from whom he wanted only their very best. His words of challenge are apt for us as well.

"What does Jesus expect of me, of us," the Cardinal asked, "That we focus on essentials...that we speak the truth with love...that we minister in a special way to (one another)...He expects us to live a simple life style...He expects us to live a pure and chaste life... To accomplish the above (and more) requires that: we love the Lord more than anyone or anything else; we have deep abiding faith in him, and with faith as a foundation, that we trust him, really trust him as he accompanies us on our journey; and finally that we let 'ourselves go,' that is, that we put ourselves totally in the hands of the Lord - which can only be done if there is a lot of love, faith and trust."

Then the Cardinal concluded: "I am in the midst of this 'letting go'. It is like the cross: sometimes it is sweet and easy; sometimes it is very difficult. But my faith is unswerving. It shapes my mind and will and keeps me on the right track. But human emotions can be quite fickle, as all of you so well know. But there is no need to hide those emotions. In no way is there a contradiction between them and our faith and trust."

Happy Easter

John Kenney Mahoney, O.M.I.

## 17th Meeting of Formation Committee REPORT

January 27-28, 1997, Kochi  
In attendance: Brad, Nobu, Ray, Len

### Topic #1: Aspirants and Postulants

We had an extensive discussion on our Prenovices.

### Topic #2: Easter MAMI Newsletter

We finalized the articles, Ray: Easter Greetings; Nobu: Aug Summer Camp 1997; Shirantha: Self introduction; Ray: Founder; Leo: Life in St Louis; Mauro: Life in St Louis; Ray: News from the House of Studies; Ray: MAMI appeal; Hirowatari: Meeting MAMI members abroad.

### Topic #3: Summer Camp 1997:

Place: Koga Kindergarten

Dates: August 7-10

The Prenovices will oversee everything with Nobu keeping a low profile

### Topic #4: General Formation Guidelines:

Spent one hour on translating important parts of this document. Nobu's Reaction: I can use this at the orphanage!

### Topic #5: Others:

a. New Formation Committee: Remains the same except for Leo becoming the head of the committee and Ray becoming a consultant.

b. Use of the Formation Pamphlet in a more meaningful manner: distribution of same and appeal to cooperators

c. MAMI: Some type of certificate; Small pamphlet with greetings from director, Outline of St Eugene's life, Prayers, Contact addresses; Badge or Cross; Drawing up of Constitution.

d. Youth: Work on programs, retreats etc for youth.

The next formation meeting will be held Apr 1 (Tue) or Apr 2 (Wed) in the Fukuoka Retreat House, for a couple of hours. Brad will lead the prayer and sharing.

## 第 1 7 回 養 成 委 員 会 報 告

1997年1月27-28日 於：中島町修道院  
参加者：ブルゴアン、乾、八木、ブラドリ

### 議題 1、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 2、3月号のマミ・ニュースレターについての最終確認

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）、マミ会員（廣渡先生）

### 議題 3、サマーキャンプの日程と場所

8月7日～10日、古賀教会・暁の星幼稚園  
志願者が中心になって準備する。

### 議題 4、本部からの養成ガイドラインの検討の続き

有意義な時間を過ごした。

### 議題 5、その他

- ・養成委員会の新構成。新委員長としてFr.川口、Fr.ブルゴアンは顧問として続く
- ・オブレート会のパンフレットの有効活用。配布先・協力体制について
- ・マミの会員証について  
会員証  
小さなパンフレット（テレフォンカードサイズ、マミ担当司祭の挨拶、ウジェーンの簡単な略歴、種々の祈り、連絡先）  
バッチまたは十字架  
規約書
- ・青年の研修会（黙想会）の可能性について

次回委員会について：4月1日（火）か2日（水）、オブレート会総会中。  
場所は福岡黙想の家



## **REPORT from the PASTORAL COMMITTEE (PC)**

Minutes of the PC Meeting, Tokushima, January 13, 1997, 3-5:30PM

In attendance were Frs. Angelo, Wency, Dick, Bill and Bradly

We tried to situate ourselves by recalling the purpose of forming a "Pastoral Committee." The idea was conceived during the Provincial Congress in 1993 (With Sr. Monique and Ron LaFramboise as moderators). In the very broad sense, the Pastoral Committee is to "help find and obtain relevant materials here and abroad on matters that are 'pastoral' in nature." The committee will also keep track of available short updating courses in Japan and suggest them to the group. The committee can also facilitate in sorting out materials from Oblate sources, e.g. OMI Documentation and non-Oblate sources, e.g., materials from Japan Catholic Center, the Korean Church, FABC, Vatican, etc. The amount of materials coming out from all places is overwhelming. How can we be of help in sorting out what are useful to us and perhaps help people save time by separating the grain from the husk without being superfluous nor pretentious. It was also noted with regret that the committee was just meeting for the first time since the 1993 congress.

The group discussed the meaning of the word "pastoral" and came to agree that it covers all our ministries, from parish work to teaching, etc. When we share in the work of Christ, the Pastor, then we are sharing in the Church's pastoral work. The work is not ours, we are only partakers in Christ's work through His Church. The group agreed that the term "pastoral" is all-inclusive. There is no work that the Vice Province is involved in through the work of each member that does not fall under the category of pastoral work. "Pastor" does not only refer to a parish priest in charge of his flock but to a leader who tries to continue the work of Christ in His Church through a particular ministry.

The relationship of PC with the other committees was also discussed. It was suggested that we try to save time and resources by working with the other existing committees and try to avoid duplication though the tasks might overlap. Are there things together with the Ongoing Formation Committee, for example? How can we work together and be more effective?

Lastly, we took a cursory look at the Vision-Mission Statement of the Vice Province (until one member of the committee exclaimed "I never knew that such a document existed!"). Would it be too presumptuous on our part as a small committee to suggest to the Vice Province that it's time to take a second look at our V-M statement considering that the Vice Province has received a lot of blessings through the opening of the Korean Mission, the arrival of our brothers from Sri Lanka and the Philippines, a modest answer to our years of praying for vocations, etc. The changes in the realities of the local Church and society since the time we formulated the V-M statement might lead us to want to change the way we view ourselves as a group through our V-M statement. The Chairman of the committee also presented to the group the latest statistics on the composition of the Church of Japan in relation to the whole Church. The report is the latest from the Committee on Social Concerns of the bishops' conference (CBCJ) and takes into consideration the changing demographics of the Japanese Church. How should we as a group see these recent "sign of the times?" Copies of the report will be made available during the Spring Meeting. Below is a reprint of our V-M Statement:

*We the Oblates of Mary Immaculate of Japan are called by the Holy Spirit, as a Christian Community (C37-44, R23-28), for the proclamation of, and witness to Jesus Christ. (C2)*

*In a spirit of interdependence amongst ourselves and with all around us: (C6)*

- ◆ *we seek and embrace the Kingdom values in the people, their religions, traditions and culture. (C8, R8)*
- ◆ *we foster and work with christian communities and other Kingdom building communities. (C6)*
- ◆ *we proclaim the Good News to those who have never heard God's word, especially the most abandoned. (C5, 7-9)*

*WE DO ALL OF THIS (sic) TO BRING ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. (C5, 7, 9)*

Reported by J. Bradly Rozairo, OMI and Wency Laguidao, OMI

## **THE DEATH OF TWO OBLATE BISHOPS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

by Wency Laguidao, OMI

The Oblate missions in the islands of Sulu and Tawi Tawi, in the southernmost tip of the Philippines, have always been the showcase of Oblate work in the Philippines, particularly, the work with the Badjaos (sea gypsies). It is in keeping with the Oblate tradition of going to places where other religious groups would not dare go, that the Oblates are in Sulu and Tawi Tawi. (Although others say that the Oblates are there because of the pristine beaches that Jolo and the other islands are famous for!) The town of Jolo serves as the capital and it is where the first Bishop of Jolo, Frank McSorley, OMI built an imposing cathedral as the seat of the vicariate in the center of this predominantly Muslim town. The Oblates also run a college and other congregations run high schools where both Muslim and Christian students attend classes. Jolo has always longed for peace but peace has remained very elusive. People of Jolo, Muslims and Christians alike, have tried hard to live together in harmony under very volatile conditions. Efforts for peaceful co-existence have always been dampened by a small band of Muslim extremists who terrorize the town through extortions, kidnappings, killings, etc. Rumors about these extremists being funded by countries like Libya are also heard though unverified. The murder of Bishop Ben de Jesus of Jolo on Feb. 4, 1997 was so far the most daring act of violence by a desperate group who wants to rule by the barrel of the gun. Fear about the start of a religious war between Muslims and Christians is purely speculation and unfounded.

When I heard the news about the murder of Bishop de Jesus, I felt a sudden urge to go and at least, attend his funeral. I immediately called up Fr. Phil Estrella, Provincial of the Philippines and a good friend, who made the arrangements for us to fly together from Manila to Zamboanga where we would transfer to a smaller plane that would take us to Jolo. There were four of us, including Bishop Tony Nepomuceno and Fr. J. Jacobe. We woke up at 2AM to catch our 4AM flight and it was early afternoon when we arrived in Jolo met by heavily armed marines to escort us to the bishop's house where all the guests were being housed. Upon arrival, we were briefed that under no circumstances are we to go outside designated places without "clearance" from those in charge and without the escort of the marines! We were practically held captive at the bishop's residence, guarded by the marines 24 hours a day, with nothing to do but eat, sleep and tell stories until late at night. There were threats of revenge from the followers of those who were put to jail for the murder of the bishop and the military did not take them lightly. After all, everyone knows that hand grenades are a very common commodity in town and there had been incidents of grenades being lobbed at innocent crowds at the slightest provocation or sometimes for no reason at all.

It turned out to be a grand reunion of Oblates from Cotabato, Manila and other nearby places. For me, it was a good chance to meet several young Filipino Oblates for the first time and visit Jolo also for the first time. The remains of Bishop de Jesus was at the Carmelite Monastery right next to the bishop's residence where people had kept vigil, night and day, since the day he was killed. The hundreds of people who kept vigil plus the soldiers and guests had to be fed three times a day but there was never shortage of food as it came in all forms from different places.

The murder hugged the headlines of the national dailies for days and was condemned by President Ramos and Pope John Paul II. It was said earlier that Bishop de Jesus was the first bishop to have been murdered in the Philippines but that was corrected by an historian who said that two other bishops were murdered earlier this century, one by a petty thief during a burglary and the other by Japanese soldiers when the bishop tried to protect young girls from being taken away for prostitution. Questions remain unanswered as to the motive of the killing of Bishop de Jesus but what seems closest to the truth is that he was murdered for putting to jail two well known extortionists in town who had been terrorizing the cooperative store connected to the Church. The father and a brother of the two extortionists in jail are being held as suspects for the murder of the bishop and vendetta as the reason for the killing.

The day before the funeral, the body of the bishop was transferred from the Carmelite Monastery to the Cathedral after a send-off liturgy presided by Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI. The long procession to the cathedral was composed of grieving Muslims and Christians. The funeral mass was held on Feb. 14 and concelebrated by some 20 bishops from all over the country led by the Papal Nuncio and more than a hundred priests. Big politicians flew in from Manila and the funeral became a "national event." Muslims and Christians wept openly during the funeral mass presided by retired Bishop George Dion, OMI, former Bishop of Jolo assisted by Archbishop Phil Smith, OMI of Cotabato and the immediate predecessor of Bishop de Jesus in Jolo. Muslims and Christians eulogized the bishop as a man of peace but nothing was more moving than the appearance of three young Badjao girls in their native costume who came to sing a native love song of the Badjaos for whom Bishop Ben had a special affection. *Amare est servire* (To love is to serve) was his episcopal motto which he tried to live in his service to both Muslims and Christians. In death, the same motto reverberates in the hearts of many who were touched by his life and who have vowed to continue his search for lasting Peace in Jolo.

Fate sometimes adds insult to injury as in the crash of one small plane chartered to carry some guests who attended the funeral. On that plane was yet another Filipino Oblate Bishop, Tony Nepomuceno, OMI. He died in that crash with three others. Bishop Tony invited me to go with him to the airport to wait for a "vacant seat" in one of those chartered flights but luckily, I already was able to get a reservation on the commercial flight that same day. I saw the black smoke bellow from a distance as our plane took off but did not know that Bishop Tony was on that ill-fated plane. Later, I learned that the people who should had been on the plane that went down were the nephews of the slain bishop but did not show up so their seats were given to other people, one of them, Bishop Tony. They have families, wives and little children waiting for their return in Manila. Bishop Tony took their place so they could be with their families.

Minus two, there are three remaining Oblate bishops in the Philippines, namely: Archbishop Phil Smith of Cotabato, retired Bishop George Dion and Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of the Archdiocese of Vigan, northern Luzon.

*From Bill Maher:*

I don't know what it is but I can't seem to get my thoughts together for this month's newsletter. With the moving and all I'm really busy. But I had a lot of time to prepare for it and I thought it would be much easier than it has been. I hope that you all have a very Happy Easter and I'm looking forward to seeing you in Fukuoka.

Bill



*From Xavier Tosa:*

OMI Spring letter 1997

Writing the "OMI Spring Letter" coincides with Lent in the church calendar. Lent is for me also the end of the school year. So, it is a religious as well as a profane soul searching season.

The beginning of a school year is not easy. There are various reasons. Except for the students at the Kochi State University most of the freshmen/ women ( or should we coin the word 'freshperson'?) don't want to learn English conversation; it is a compulsory subject. During their Junior and Senior High School years, their ears were never trained. They can hear English sounds transcribed in 「kana」 (Japanese syllabary). They can 'see' English words. They can make an English sentence with 4 words, not with 8 words. It takes them almost the whole first semester, to accept my method and ...me. Just like Easter follows Lent, in the second semester we have a happy working relation. The teacher even comes to love all the students and it happens that the students donate flowers at the last class.

However there is no 'Time after Easter'. A new schoolyear in April means the beginning of 'Lent' again.

As a christian educator, I am more concerned about the students' scale of values than about their English ability. The Japanese society looks more and more like a broken mirror. There seems to be more chaos than, let's say, 25 years ago. As an educator I must try to bring these 18/19 years old students a little bit closer to maturity. In the classroom I expect obedience. I expect discipline. I expect some respect towards the teacher (authority). How to be a christian educator among young people who don't seem to feel the need for 'christian' (human) values. How to work in their pluralistic society? How to make them feel true values, and at the same time respect their "freedom to be lazy"...? May I give an example? 18 years old and

they think it's normal to have their 'pocket bell' on their desk in front of them during the class hour. When I confiscate it ( after they had been warned during the orientation hour), the answer is: times have changed! During my education at home and with the Oblates, the virtue of 'obedience' was strongly stressed; 'discipline' was very important.

The situation at the Reform School ( till 15 years of age) is something different again. Since last year, corporal punishment is completely forbidden. Even the traditional 'zazen' way of sitting is corporal punishment! "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is an obsolete proverb. The so called 'delinquents' know very well "the Rights of a child". But some 14/15 years old boys and girls behave more like dogs than as human beings. How do you train (educate) a dog ? By counseling? I have been working in this school for about 31 years, but my days are counted.

I know that in order to have my tulips in bloom at Easter, I shouldn't pull them up during Lent. I must fertilize and water them...and wait for the sun to give them warmth. Faith in youth and patience seem to be two virtues I need most, rather than expecting obedience and respect. Somebody told me somewhere along the way of life, that Christ didn't call me to be successful but to be fruitful... ("...bear fruit...."). However, it isn't easy to believe that one's life is in fact fruitful, if no fruits are seen.

Yoshikazu Xavier TOSA omi

## JUBILEES

### BIRTHDAYS

March

23 Bill MAHER

April

1 Satoshi Leo KAWAGUCHI  
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

26 Thomas MAHER  
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

### HONORABLE MENTION

Akio HORIUCHI (pre-novice)	passed the entrance exam for Nanzan University
Kenichi FURUKAWA (pre-novice)	passed the entrance exam for Nanzan University
Taku AKABAE (pre-novice)	second year college
James JEYACHANDRAN, OMI	Korean Language Studies
Shirantha PERERA, OMI	Korean Language Studies
Leo KAWAGUCHI, OMI	St.Louis U. formation studies completed March
Mauro CONCARDI, OMI	St.Louis U. formation studies completed March
Giovanni ZEVOLA	Aixperience completed March

### ANNIVERSARY of the DEATH of our MISSION's FOUNDING FATHERS

12 April Robert GILL



## CONGRATULATIONS

- with the Golden Jubilee in Religious Vows, to  
Xavier DELPORTE TOSA, OMI                      Jan VAN HOYDONCK, OMI
- with Forty Years of Priesthood, to  
Edward M. WILLIAMS, OMI                      Thomas MAHER, OMI
- with the Silver Jubilee of Priesthood, to  
Fran HAHN, OMI

## PRAYERS

are always in order for a wide variety of intentions. This time special prayers are requested for

- Betty WILLIAMS, the wife of DANNY, Ed WILLIAMS' brother. Betty died of a stroke, this month on March 11, at 58 years of age. With our profound condolences to Ed and the families.
- Gerard STEVENS, OMI at the first anniversary of his death (May 10).
- the mother of Paul FACHET, OMI, who died on November 28 last year.
- Bishop Ben de Jesus, OMI and Bishop Tony Nepomuceno, OMI.
- deceased relatives and friends.

Also for all those dear to us who for reason of age or illness or other needs count on our prayers.

And, in closing:

**JOYFUL AND HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!**



AUTUMN 1997



OMI

JAPAN

Provincial Newsletter of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Vice Province of Japan

INFORMATION

Dear Fellow Oblates,

I returned to Japan on September first. Making it back in time for the retreat was a real plus as it gave me the opportunity to meet all of you after my six weeks of absence spent in the Philippine Islands for their Canonical Visitation.

Kevin CASEY, OMI, Antony JEEVARATNAM, OMI and I formed the Visitation Team. We began our assignment with a week of input by our General Consultor, Angelito LAMPON, OMI. Many thanks for this excellent input. It helped bond us as a team and paved the way for smooth work.

The Provincial, Phil ESTRELLA, OMI and all the Oblates gave us a very warm welcome. The Filipino Oblates really know how to make you feel right at home. Where else but in the Philippines can an invitation for a cup of coffee turn into an eight course meal...and at ten in the morning?!!

The Canonical Visitation was a wonderful experience. For one month, we visited eighty-six Oblates. We began in Manila and worked our way down to Jolo, Bongao, Batubatu and then on to Cotabato and Kitapawan.

The Visitation which we conducted is an animation process which is different from the kind of visitations held in the past. The Official Mandate given to us by Father General stated that the primary goal was "to evaluate the quality of religious life and the effectiveness of mission in the Philippine Province. It also identifies today's reality and tomorrow's vision."

Our interviews with each Oblate lasted for about two hours. In some Districts after our orientation session, some were so eager to get going, they were literally jumping over tables and chairs to sign up for their interviews!

The result of the Visitation was a sixty-six page report. It is hoped that our team effort has reflected to the Philippine Province its own concerns and hopes for the future. I think the report is a valuable source of information and foundation for animation.

After participating in the visitation of two Provinces, Sri Lanka and the



Philippines, what has impressed me very deeply is that Oblates want to be authentic, that is as OBLATES. There is a great desire to return to the inspiration of our Founder, St. Eugene.

What made the Founder so different in his day? We know that he dared to preach in the dialect of the people...unheard of in those times. He initiated new ministries with the poor and the youth. He wanted men first of all who "follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ" and who would "dare" anything to extend the Kingdom of Christ.

We know that St. Eugene went to those whom the Church wasn't reaching but it was not enough for the Founder to have an Oblate who was the best teacher, preacher or pastor. The Founder wanted Oblates to be where they could respond to the needs of the people. This is what marks the Oblate.

Today, everyone is talking about a new "world culture", the youth are "different"; "we don't speak their language". As the saying goes "things-are-a -changing".

CHANGE, any change is difficult. The next General Chapter will be talking about changes in our structures. The decisions will certainly have a big effect and bring a change in our Vice-Province. The presence of the Diocesan Seminary in Takamatsu with thirty seminarians will certainly bring a change. The reunification of Korea would bring an enormous change. Are we ready to respond? How would we respond? In his book "From Chaos to Mission" Gerald Arbuckle insists on the fact that, "what we are being called on to do is not renewing our congregations but refounding them"! Vatican II asked all religious congregations to return to their founding experience in order to rediscover and reown the vision and driving energy of the founders. We can respond to the new changes we face today, only if there is a CHANGE IN US. The change in us must be the rediscovery and reowning of the vision and driving energy of St. Eugene, to be faithful to what makes us really Oblate.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,



Angelo Siani, OMI  
Provincial

## ON-GOING FORMATION ON SPIRITUAL LIFE

To constantly renew our zeal, deepen our bonding as Oblates and look into our spiritual life as missionaries, we had our On-going Formation at the Takarazuka Retreat House near Osaka City. It was a blessing that we had perfect attendance this year. Thus, from Korea, Maurizio, Vincenzo, Mauro, Giovanni, James and Shirantha came. From Japan, we were Noby, Leo, Bradly, Jude and Jimmy. We had it from August 25th to 31st, on the theme Spiritual Life.

Our resource person was Fr. Bob Deiters, S.J. from Tokyo's Sophia University. He facilitated our sharing of experiences. He guided us on spiritual discernment of our present concerns and future plans. He pointed out that our spirituality in a mission country calls for self-emptying to be like Christ among the disadvantaged. We share in the people's sufferings for a culture that does not fully know Christ yet. Our struggles in building our Oblate communities vis-a-vis our apostolates or studies were among our dominant concerns. Fr. Bob gave us five steps for discernment of spirits. To be faithful in Christ and loving in community and ministry were the culminating steps.

At one night, we had the opportunity to listen to Fr. Mike Yamasaki's personal sharing. He was very open. We deeply appreciated his presence with us, coming from Itami by bicycle.

Part of our regular schedule were the Eucharist and Communal Prayer. We took turns in presiding the Mass, leading the prayers, and giving homilies or sharings.

We had the chance to visit Kyoto. Spending some recreational time together fostered our camaraderie. We also visited a few places in Osaka.

For some apostolic exposure, we stayed overnight at Kamagasaki Area of Osaka. We witnessed the plight of the thousands of homeless people sleeping at the train station, the park, and on the sidewalks. Fr. Honda, a Franciscan, gave us some sharing on this apostolate. We also helped prepare soup for the homeless people's lunch, on the following day.

Since our Oblate parish of Itami was just nearby, we joined the altar boys and girls for swimming at a nearby pool. We enjoyed being with them. We also had the chance to converse with the parishioners who prepared the barbecue supper for us. After that, most of us had an experience of homestay with the parishioners. It was a real christian experience of having been shared Japanese homes by some families, for one night. We had intimate talks and an exchange of our diverse cultures being Korean, Sri Lankan, Italian, Filipino and Japanese.

We celebrated the Sunday Eucharist with the parishioners of Itami and Fr. John Iwo, the Pastor, the following day. Leo presided at Mass and delivered the homily. The MAMI members had a good meeting with us, after the Mass. Lunch was also served. Some of us took the chance to drop by Hiroshima along the way to Fukuoka. Noby and Leo were our indefatigable tourist guides anytime. The following week of Oblate Retreat was timely indeed to fortify what we gained from the on-going formation.

From the On-going Formation, we saw the importance of deepening our spirituality in our present concerns and self-giving in community. We opened up ourselves making us closer to one another. We learned from each other's sharings and made our togetherness in the mission as a source of spiritual support, despite physical distance of places.

We saw the value of continuing this program of on-going formation in the fruits we gained from it. Hence, we planned to have our next On-going Formation to be held in Korea, sometime near our Oblate Spring Meeting in March 1998. We set December to be the deadline for us to decide on our theme. Some suggestions were Community Life, Prayer and Mission, Affective Life and Mission.

We agreed to continue to have a resource person who will facilitate our personal sharing of experiences and provide some experiential input. We saw the value of having some days for the sharing and some days for communal recreation. We also planned to compile the reports of our previous On-going Formation gathe-

rings for future reference. We planned to provide next year's resource speaker with these reports, so that he can be guided on the level of sharing that we have reached so far. Because we still do not have a report of the first gathering, we requested Mauro to do it until December. Last year's and this year's reports are already available in our Provincial Newsletter.

We also talked about until when our group will gather. We thought that the number of years since our arrival in the mission be considered, in stead of the year of ordination. In this regard, since we have no designed program yet for those who have been in the mission for a longer period of time, it was our general sentiment that everyone will still gather together next year. After that, we will evaluate how we may follow up on the On-going Formation of those who had been in the mission for a number of years now.

Our On-going Formation gathering was a real experience of nourishing our Oblate Spiritual and Community Life, for the Mission. So, we will strive to keep this kind of On-going Formation going, through God's graciousness.

Reported by Jimmy del Rosario, OMI

From XAVE:

Autumn 1997

Dear Friends,

Typhoon No. 19 passed. Now we are waiting for No. 20!!! There should be enough water in the reservoirs to bring us to next spring.

On the 31st of August, I returned from a visit to the living and the departed family in Flanders. The trip itself was no problem. My stay with my sisters seems to have had some good influence. They all seem to be on speaking terms again...

I also met a lot of OMI confreres from the Flemish and the Dutch Province. The colour of their hair is just like mine ( if they have some left)! One really ponders how the Congregation (and the Church) will develop and what she will become in the next century.

The Sunday the Pope was in Paris for the International Youth Gathering, I was there, too. The Pope didn't see me, but I saw him on TV! Speaking about TV, I spent a lot of time in front of my set, watching the funerals of Diana and Mother Teresa. I realized that with my advanced age, one becomes very emotional. The morning of the death of Mother Teresa there was a phone call from the Kochi Newspaper. I told the reporter that I had met Mother Teresa 43 years ago in dirty Calcutta. She and me, we were still young. She only had started her new vocation about 3 years before. She wasn't famous yet...and that I only saw a small little woman bending over dying people in an annex hall of a Hindou temple. She didn't have any "special" famous sentences yet, which I could quote for the Newspaper. But I told the reporter that I had a few sentences now, like "Works of Charity are works of Peace"...However the reporter asked me about my feelings now. I answered that I wasn't "sad", if that what he expected me to say. "Why not?" asked the reporter. "Because Mother Teresa had fulfilled her mission in a heroic way. She was ready to go to Heaven etc...etc...I also told the him that I was thankful to have met her when she and I were still young... (The Kochi Newspaper didn't quote anything of the interview, only my name and telephone number...)

On the 2nd of September I was back in the Reform School. There were a few newcomers. The beginning of school is also difficult for the teacher. I have the impression that I don't have the patience I used to have...

Yoshikazu TOSA omi

From WENCY:

**TWO MEETINGS: Kidapawan, Cotabato and Pattaya, Thailand**  
by Wency Laguidao

***OBCOM Meeting in Kidapawan***

The General Council of 1992 has served as the catapult for the congregation's recognition of mass media as an integral part of Oblate mission. The same Chapter has mandated the General Administration to: bring a special attention to the area of media, and seek to develop appropriate resources within the congregation; support the development of an international Oblate communication network; include an adequate preparation in media in initial formation. Media is understood not so much as technology but as a culture. Hence, the Oblate Communications (OBCOM) Animation Committee was born to give attention to media apostolate and develop resources in media within the congregation. Obcom Animation Committee stands along other committees in the congregation such as Formation, Finance, Mission, Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation, etc.

The meeting in Kidapawan held from August 11 to 13, was called by the OBCOM contact person for Asia, Fr. Ed Tanudtanud who is also the General Manager of the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corporation (NDBC), a network of six radio stations serving several dioceses and juridical provinces in Mindanao. NDBC has recently branched out into Marketing (advertising). There were 10 participants during the meeting from the provinces/delegations of the Philippines, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Australia and Japan. There was an extensive sharing on the media involvement of each province/delegation. With the exception of the Philippines Province which is involved in radio and print media, the rest of Oblate Asia/Oceania is not directly involved in institutionalized media but involvement in such traditional forms of media such as street drama, ethnic song composition, etc. are works that are distinct to the region. As mentioned earlier, the understanding of media as culture and not only as technology enabled the participants to freely share about their work through the wider meaning of the word media. On the last hours of the meeting, two delegates to the OBCOM meeting that will be held in San Antonio, Texas on Nov. 18-22, 1997 were selected. Fr. Cyril Joseph Augustine of India and Wency Laguidao will represent Asia/Oceania during that meeting.

Involvement in the media apostolate, however, predates the 1992 General Chapter. Many Oblates all over the world have been using media in their work of evangelization. The late Archbishop Gerard Mongeau of Cotabato envisioned the delivery of the gospel message through the airwaves more than three decades ago. To fulfill his dream, he started with very modest facilities for a radio station but at the time of his death, the network of media apostolate of the Philippine Province was far more extensive than what the Archbishop originally envisioned. Another pillar in the media apostolate of the congregation is Fr. Pierre Babin, Founder and Director of CREC-AVEX in France which offers professional and pastoral training programs in mass media. The regions of Canada, Latin America and Africa are also actively involved in the media apostolate.

During the meeting in Kidapawan, the influence and impact of the most recent form of media, namely, the Internet were also discussed. Information-highway and cyberspace are fast becoming household terms. Can we just close our eyes to the influence of the Internet on people's lives? Or, can we look at it as one possible vehicle for evangelization? Can we create an Oblate website that people can visit? To start with, we should make a list of people who use the e-mail. These were topics we touched superficially since they will be discussed at length during the meeting in San Antonio.

Waste of time and money? It is more difficult to convince people that our lives are not affected by the influence of the media than to prove otherwise.

**PATTAYA, THAILAND: OHD-FABC Meeting**

After Kidapawan, I had one week in Manila to prepare for the colloquium in Pattaya, Thailand organized by the Office for Human Development (OHD) of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC). The meeting was held at the Redemptorist Center in Pattaya, Thailand, Aug. 25-31. The topic was *Church In Asia In the 21st Century: Communion and Solidarity in the Context of Globalization* and was attended by about 150 participants including some 40 Asian bishops, representatives from the Vatican, Caritas Int'l., Missio, Miserior and the rest composed of priests, religious and lay persons from all over Asia who are either members of committees of episcopal conferences or invited by the organizers. Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, President of the Pont. Com. for Justice and Peace and also head of the Great Jubilee celebrations graced the affair. I went as the official representative of the Commission for International Cooperation of the local bishops' conference. Other participants were persons involved in education, parish ministry, community development, administration, social communications, Basic Ecclesial Communities, Youth ministry, etc.

It was good to see the Asian bishops in action (no pun intended!). The meeting showed us how wide and diverse Asia is. At least English, though not Asian, is a common language we could communicate. We shared our similarities as well as differences. Outside of the conferences, there were customs we laughed at or baffled us. (If you find rolls of toilet paper on the dining table, don't be so naive to think that you can do it there! Can only happen in Asia.) We noted the fact that harmony is something that is treasured by the great part of Asia but at the same time lament the fact that in many places in Asia, division and strife are the daily bread of people. The Church in Asia is very much alive. It is home to great religions though we are the minority. It is where poverty shows itself in its ugliest forms but at the same time a region so rich in natural resources. Indeed, Asia is a land of contradictions.

A very select group of people were asked to present their papers on different topics that affect the Asian region. These topics were discussed as they relate to the overall theme of Globalization. Globalization is a very strong current that is sweeping through Asia today, shaping the lives of peoples. It can be a blessing or a curse. During the meeting, we looked at Globalization from the economic, theological, sociological, political standpoints and also as it affects the ministries of the church in the media, the youth, the marginalized, etc. The range and scope of the topic were overwhelming but the group was able to identify challenges and formulate pastoral strategies that can be of help to the local churches.

I have copious notes from the colloquium (about 500 pages) which I can share with those interested. They are: The World of Media; Religious Fundamentalism; Youth Ministry; Transnational Mobility of People; Right to Food As Fundamental Right; Religious Traditions and Cultural Communities In Asia/Pacific; Globalization: Tasks for the Church and others.

THE DAILY YOMIURI carried the following heart-warming articles in its issue of September 20, 1997:

# JOMAS:

By Tsuneo Sugishita  
and Satoru Watanabe

Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writers

*The fourth annual Yomiuri Shimbun International Cooperation Prize has gone to Japan Overseas Missionary Activity Sponsorship (JOMAS), a charitable group active in poverty-stricken areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Throughout its 25-year history, the group has tried to live up to its motto: "Practice charity without being noticed." Programs that JOMAS launched years ago have expanded with each passing year and are bearing fruit. The organization owes a great deal to its founder, Ayako Sono, who is also a well-known author and the group's representative.*

It all started with a phone call.

In 1972, a South Korean publishing company called Japanese author Ayako Sono to confess that it was translating and selling her works without her permission.

Sono's reply was, "Why don't you donate what little profit you may make to a charity in your country?"

She never expected the caller to heed her suggestion.

Some time later, however, Sono received a call from a Catholic priest working in a South Korean community for patients with Hansen's disease. He expressed his gratitude for "a present from Ms. Sono."

Thus began a friendly relationship between Sono and the community, known as Saint Lazarus Village. Sono, with long-time friend Eiko Ishikura, even decided to set up an association to support the village.

The group was a predecessor of the Japan Overseas Missionary Activity Sponsorship.

Sono wrote about the sad yet heart-warming life of the village. She also wrote about a poor maternity clinic in Madagascar, the Ave Maria Maternite, where newborn babies were destined to die.

Her writing moved her readers, who gradually began to offer donations. Sono then established another association to support the clinic.

In 1987, the two associations were merged into a single body, JOMAS, which has since been involved in a wide range of

activities, including giving donations to Japanese Catholic priests and nuns who help the poor in developing countries.

JOMAS is particularly careful about "making the best of its donations."

The steering committee follows strict rules—working expenses are to be covered by the leader and the committee members themselves, and donations are not to be used for religious purposes.

Today, about 1,600 people of various backgrounds continue to offer donations to the group. In fiscal 1996, the total amount collected surged to a record ¥49 million, which was distributed to 16 countries worldwide.

The money has been used for various causes, including the construction of a citizens center in the Philippines, and the purchase of incubators in India.

Twenty-five years after its inception, JOMAS continues to receive letters of thanks from all over the world for its contributions.

## Donations appreciated

The headquarters of JOMAS is 3-5-13 Denenchofu, Ota Ward, Tokyo 145.

Donations can be sent to "Ayako Sono, Representative of JOMAS" at the above address by registered mail.



# 25 years of worldwide service



Courtesy of JOMAS

Above: Nuns and children in Bolivia welcome members from Sono's group. Right: Sono shakes hands with a patient at St. Lazarus Village about 15 years ago.

## Screening committee members

- Shinichiro Asao, president, The Japan Foundation.
- Hisashi Owada, ambassador to the United Nations.
- Yoriko Kawaguchi, managing director, Suntory Ltd.
- Shoichi Saba, adviser to the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).
- Yukitsugu Nakagawa, deputy chairman, Institute for International Policy Studies.
- Kenya Mizukami, chairman of the board, The Yomiuri Shimbun.
- Tsuneo Watanabe, president, chief executive officer and editor in chief, The Yomiuri Shimbun.



## Responsibility, integrity fundamental to group's approach

Yomiuri Shimbun

Ayako Sono, founder and representative of Japan Overseas Missionary Activity Sponsorship (JOMAS), said she was pleased to accept the The fourth annual Yomiuri Shimbun International Cooperation Prize on behalf of JOMAS.

"All those who have supported the needy should be thankful (for this award). We appreciate being evaluated highly and will share the news with our donors. Most donations come from individuals, some anonymous, who will feel honored as well," she said.

Despite the religious nature of the group's name, Sono said that about 90 percent of JOMAS' donors are not Christian. The group also has made it a rule, she said, not to use donations to fund missionary work. JOMAS occasionally solicits help from priests and nuns, but it declines requests from religious groups to build churches and dispatch missionary workers.

JOMAS requires its staff to watch expenses carefully, Sono noted. They must pay for phone calls and stamps, for example, out of their own pockets. Funds are always handled by at least two staff members to prevent theft and misuse.

Sono, who believes in fiscal responsibility, routinely visits project sites at her own expense to see how funds are being used.

"We should realize that there's always a chance of embezzlement, so we need to caution those involved that we will return from time to time to check on their activities," she said.

Sono will even go so far as to visit the homes of Catholic priests who oversee local charities and notify them of the purpose of her visit.

"When projects go smoothly, I occasionally apologize (to the priests and

nuns) for having had doubts," she added with a shrug.

Asked if she had ever encountered such problems, Sono said there had only been three cases and that she thoroughly documented them in her books.

She surmised that people have come to trust JOMAS because of her honesty and willingness to reveal everything about the group, even its mistakes.

Sono also gently chided her fellow Japanese for being ignorant about the true nature of poverty. As an example, she cited people who send clothes to Africa, of which 60 to 70 percent are "party dresses" or of other designs that are not suitable for the recipients.

"This mismatch occurs because Japanese don't bother to consider what others need and simply send what they no longer use," she said.

"What people in Africa really need are T-shirts and jeans. But in South America people have many T-shirts, probably more than Japanese. (Therefore) Japanese should know the different shapes that poverty takes."

Sono, a Catholic, believes in divine destiny. For that reason, she prefers not to make concrete plans for the future of the group.

"JOMAS will continue to carry out its work as long as God wants us to," she said.

Sono also said she has learned from the Bible that it is better to give than to receive. A Korean friend taught her that it is right for those who help others to feel thankful.

Sono takes great satisfaction in knowing that JOMAS has been operating for a quarter of a century, much longer than she ever expected, and has surely saved hundreds of lives.

"I feel content and extremely grateful," she said.

From our men in KOREA:

### ***WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?***

This morning the sun found me waiting; yes this morning very early I went up to the mountain and while climbing, the darkness was leaving space to a light so small at the beginning. . . When at the top, I sat down and trying to relax I waited for the sun.

How many times I desired such a thing and there it was, the sun didn't surprise me this time, finally I was waiting for its coming. Days after days spent in asking other people about the weather, if it was raining or shining; I was too busy for other things considered to be much more important, task to accomplish, people to look after, situations claiming my presence.

But this morning was different I was waiting for the sun, to shine around me making visible what was already there in the darkness, but for so long invisible to me; shining within me and clarifying and letting things come down and take their own place. Always running, trying to accomplish things and the self is scattered here and there, small pieces everywhere and the risk of losing the sense of unity.

This morning I was waiting, nothing else to do, just waiting and the silence around me made possible to hear the question from within: "What are you looking for?"

Years spent in activities, somehow the people say it is a success but look at this, there is no satisfaction, I desire much more. Do we go for something that is meaningful or we are buying from the market place? Do we make the choice or we take what is simply being offered ?

We are going to celebrate 50 years of missionary presence or simply our presence in this beautiful land? I'm part of that, because there is a sense of belonging, of sharing the same charisma. What about making this celebration a thanksgiving and a challenge for us as a group who believes it has something to say or the offer. What about giving a sign, not only for the outsiders to see, but also for us so that we might believe.

Do we try to keep the positions or we are able to take the opportunity and ask ourselves about a renewed missionary presence; I'm still young in age and I want model to follow. Are we as a group too old to run? At the least show the way! Let us keep the fire burning; are we simple followers or we try somehow to be leaders? Let us celebrate together not only a presence but a missionary one.

Yes, it was this morning while waiting that I heard from within; " What are you looking for?"

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

October

5 Ken'ichi FURUKAWA  
10 Jan VAN HOYDONCK  
13 Akio HORIUCHI  
27 Xave TOSA  
30 Bradley ROZAIRO

December

24 Mike YAMAZAKI

## ORDINATIONS

Happy anniversary to:

October

1 Mauro CONCARDI

19 Maurizio GIORGIANNI

December

**In your PRAYERS are recommended:**

Our beloved deceased:

--The Father of Ray BOURGOIN

Our mourning, suffering and/or ailing beloved:

-- Ray Bourgoïn and his family in particular

-- All those that have been recommended before, our ailing and our convalescent fellow-Oblates, relatives, friends and benefactors, and all who have asked for or count on our prayers.

**NEXT ISSUE ! ! !**

With my thanks to the contributors of this issue and looking forward to your contributions for the coming 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!





# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

SUMMER 1997





Dear Fellow Oblates,

1998 marks 50 years of Oblate presence in Japan. We naturally look back to the time of our founding fathers with a sense of awe and pride. We remember the first three men, Frs. Robert Gill, Charles McBennett and Leonard Robitaille, who came to Japan in 1948 to bring the Good News of Christ as the nation struggled to rebuild this great country after years of war and near starvation.

When you talk with some of the older Oblates you will inevitably hear stories of "in those days when" it took 24 hours to go from Fukuoka to Itami by train, three hours to get a phone call through from Ikeda to Kochi and the only source of heat in the winter was a small "rentan" (charcoal burner) ... a totally different world from the Japan of today!

There was much success. The Oblates established 14 missions and 6 kindergartens, worked in universities, prisons, delinquents' schools, teaching English and doing volunteer work. In recent times, the Oblates added new apostolates with the non-hearing, pro-life, justice and peace, migrant workers and the establishment of the Korean Mission. Our history however was not all that rosy. It also revealed some hard times with years of polarization and some departures.

Marking 50 years is a time of challenge. What direction will the Oblates take for the next 50 years?

Recently, I was given a copy of the "TREND LETTER". It is a business publication. On the first page there is a Free Offer

BY PRIVATE INVITATION ONLY

"Dear Friend:

Imagine discovering what's hot ... one to six months before most people read it in the "The Wall Street Journal". Just think what you could accomplish." It then goes on to list the POWERFULL TRENDS which companies who ignore or resist will fail. Those who adapt will succeed. The list included such trends as: #1 From THE STATUS QUO to PLEXIBILITY, #2 From VOGUE to VALUE, #3 NATIONALISM to GLOBALIZATION, #4 COMPETITION to COOPERATION" etc.

As we move into our next 50 years our works and attitudes will certainly be shaped by the trends and sign of the times. We may even adapt the positive values of the modern and secularized world but in the process we must continually recapture the inspiration of St. Eugene, that is, like him we seek to gather around the person of Jesus Christ, as apostolic men, in order to respond to the challenges presented to us, so as to continue our service in the church as missionaries to the most abandoned.

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani, OMI  
Provincial

*Angelo Siani*



## NEWS FROM NAGOYA

Just off the press! Leo KAWAGUCHI arrives to the House of Studies to take up his duties as Superior of the Community. He just finished his courses at the IRF program in St Louis, Missouri where he studied/experienced Formation and Spirituality. Welcome to our tight quarters, Leo! We'll cooperate as best we can.

Congratulations are in store for Taku AKABAE, one of our postulants. He received Confirmation at the hands of the Bishop Jun-ichi NOMURA of the Nagoya Diocese, on the feast of Pentecost, May 18. Former Scholastic Hiroshi HAYASHI is his Godfather, but could not attend so Ray BOURGOIN stood in for him. All responsibility is now Hiroshi's!

Jimmy DEL ROSARIO finished his first full year of Language School at Nanzan University. Congratulations! During his break of over 3 months he will help Ange SIANI hold the fort in Naruto during Fran HAHN's absence. Ange is there for one full year. He goes to the Philippines for a Visitation in July and August, so Jimmy will get his baptism of fire then! Hang in there! We're praying for you here in Nagoya.

Ray went to Rome for the General Finance Committee Meeting in early April and returned May 15 to get ready for the CPA audit June 5-6. He brings back greetings from Ron LA FRAMBOISE who is on the chubby side but very busy and happy! Jan VAN HOYDONCK ably covered Ray during his absence. He made little repairs here and there as only Jan can do!

John Kenney MAHONEY continues to thrive in Zendana. He has just finished a novena long prayer service for vocations (May 21-29). He also had a baptism of twins! We don't know the history of the parish, but this may be a first! Talk about sudden influx! Get out more seats!

In late March, the Nagoya House put in a whole new Phone System. Now there is less running up and down stairs to get someone who is not home! We also put in a new Gas Range, something we can gather around, when we cook together. It saves hours for the cook too! She can do all the fish at once!

The Postulants are in full swing with their studies. Our two new university students Akio HORIUCHI and Ken-ichi FURUKAWA are kept quite busy with seminars and trying to master Latin and Greek at the same time!! Imagine studying Aesop's Fables in Latin rather than Greek!

During the Golden Week in early May, Ken-ichi attended the CHOICE (an off-shoot of MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER for young unmarried people) Program in Himeji. Because of cancellations by all the other young men who were to attend, Ken-ichi had to share with young women only. An experience in itself! Luckily, there were four male presenters on the Weekend (a priest, 2 husbands with their wives and a young man) so he didn't feel so alone!

Jimmy gave a Recollection for migrant workers in conjunction with Mother Teresa's Sisters. Participants were Japanese, Filipinos and Indians.

Nobuhiko YAGI was in town to help the Postulants prepare for the Summer Vocation Camp. He will be here again with Len INUI and Brad ROZAIRO for a Formation Committee Meeting in conjunction with Leo and Ray, June 10-11. You think we have tight quarters, how about room for three more! We'll do it! TV Room, Library etc. Nobuhiko will take the opportunity to familiarize himself with the Provincial Treasurer functions. If something happened to Ray, someone has to be in the know. Ask Bill MAHER about that sometime, if you have more than a minute to spare!

Dear Friends,

When the by now traditional postcard arrives from Jan inviting us to send something for the Newsletter, my first reaction is: "how time flies !" I don't think that the Newsletter is becoming a superfluous letter, as so many other items in brown or other colored envelopes.

Time after Pentecost! Green vestments and green trees! And back to school! This year I have a good impression of the freshmen/women. The orientation on the first day was probably very effective. As a matter of fact, I gave them an examination!!! Only when it was over, did I tell them that it was a foretaste of what the last hour of the year will be like...

The Sundays have become rather busy. Since Jan went to Nagoya for some weeks, I replaced him for the Sunday masses in Awa Ikeda. Now that he is back untill he leaves for Europe, I cover Nakamura while Tom is in America. Going to those places makes me think again about 'mission' and 'religion'...What are we bringing to the people and why is nobody interested in our 'merchandise'?

At the Reform School we got a new principal and the work atmosphere has completely changed for the better. However the boys and girls are still difficult beings...

The case of Ft.Tissa Balasuriya omi doesn't seem to have faded into oblivion. I like to thank all who cooperated with the appeal from Hong Kong and Tokyo. Still new articles and comments appear around and about this excommunication . One has the feeling that the Church is trying to ignore Vatican II. With the revival of Islam and the trend now in the Church, I got

interested in fundamentalism. In the Church there seems to be a kind of tendency to repopulate the church buildings, rather than taking an interest in pluralism and freedom. Unity and discipline are emphasized, (authority of the Pope and one catechism for all cultures etc.). I know this Newsletter isn't a magazine for essays, so....Xave will stop here. Though of one thing I try to convince myself: behind 'fundamentalism' there are always concrete people, each one with his/her personal life history.

One more piece of information: I am leaving for Flanders at the end of July, when summer vacation begins. I have to be back for the new classes, officially beginning on the 1st of September.

Have a "cool" summer!

Yoshikazu X.TOSA o.m.i.

P.S. When I had finished this writing for the Newsletter, I received a letter from Ft. Daniel Corijn omi, which you will find in this Newsletter. The documentation sent by Daniel are : ① A text from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ( signed by Joseph Card. Ratzinger and Tarcisio Bertone). ② Note from the General Administration of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on Fr.Tissa Balasuriya, omi. (These documentations ① and ② were sent in January to all the OMI houses.) ③ An article published in 'America' and written by David Toolan sj. The title is: Heresy or hokum in Sri Lanka? Those of you who are interested in having these documents and article, please ask me directly and I copy them for you, (all together 9 pages).

Xave



# OBLATI DI MARIA IMMACOLATA

Curia Generalizia

C.P. 9061 00100 Roma - Aurelio Italia

Rome, 26 April 1997

Rev. Fr. Yoshikazu Tosa, omi  
Kita Honmachi 3-9-13  
KOCHI 780  
Japan

Dear Father Tosa  
and all those who signed your April 2 letter,

re: Fr. Tissa Balasuriya, omi.

Thank you for your letter manifesting your concern for Fr. Balasuriya.

For the past five years Father General and the members of the General Council have been following this case and have tried to find a solution which would be fraternal and respectful of all concerned. Such solution presupposes goodwill on both sides. Father Balasuriya, therefore, must do his share by expressing his faith and recognizing the Church's Magisterium. Perhaps you could encourage him to do so and thus help facilitate a solution.

Be assured of our desire to help Fr. Balasuriya and our commitment to finding an outcome which will be both amiable and just.

Including I am sending you some documentation which you may perhaps not have seen.

Yours sincerely in the Lord Jesus and Mary Immaculate.

Daniel Corijn, o.m.i.  
Vicar General

## 18th Meeting of Formation Committee REPORT

April 1, 1987, Fukuoka  
In attendance: Brad, Nobu, Ray, Len

### Topic #1: Aspirants and Postulants

We had an extensive discussion on our Prenovices.

### Topic #2: Easter MAMI Newsletter

We prepared the articles for the July issue. Founder (Ray); Invitation to the Summer Camp (Prenovices), Word from MAMI Director (Leo); Anniversaries; 40th (Ed), 40th (Tom), 25th (Fran); News from the House of Studies (Prenovices); Article by a MAMI Member (Sugie); etc.

### Topic #3: Summer Vocation Camp 1997

Over 80% will be left up to the Prenovices. Akio Horiuchi will be the main leader. Nobuhiko will come to Nagoya in April to speak with Prenovices about the Camp.

The next formation meeting will be held June 10 (Tue) and June 11 (Wed) at the House of Studies in Nagoya. Len will lead the prayer and sharing. Brad will serve as Secretary.

## 第 1 8 回 養 成 委 員 会 報 告

1997年4月1日

於：福岡黙想の家

### 1. 議題1：志望者や志願者の状況

志望者や志願者について意見を交わした

### 2. 議題2：7月号のマミ・ニュースレターの準備

創立者（レイ）、キャンプ最終案内（志願者）、レオのあいさつ、叙階記念（フラン、エド、トム）、修学院便り（志願者）、マミ会員（杉江）など

### 3. 議題3：サマーキャンプの必要な準備など

殆ど志願者に任せる。総式、堀内。信彦は名古屋に来て相談する

### 4. 次回の日程と書記

6月10日、11日、名古屋で、書記はブラドリ

## OFFICIAL NEWS

- Mike YAMASAKI will be the acting provincial from July 12 until early September during Ange's work in the Philippines.
- Jimmy DEL ROSARIO moved to Zendana (Nagoya) on May 13, and will live there until the end of his language studies.

## BIRTHDAYS

### Happy Birthday to:

June

24 Giovanni ZEVOLA

July

4 Mauro CONCARDI

23 Jimmy DEL ROSARIO

31 Lei SIMONS

August

4 Nobuhiko YAGI

23 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

22 Shirantha PERERA

September

8 Giovanni ZEVOLA

23 Jimmy DEL ROSARIO

## Perpetual Vows

August

4 Nobuhiko YAGI

## GOLDEN JUBILEE of Religious Vows

September 8 Jan VAN HOYDONCK and Xavier Yoshikazu TOSA DELPORTE

## DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

July

3 Timothy MULVEY

23 Sueho TSUDA

September

4 Daniel WARD

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

In your prayers are recommended:

Our beloved deceased:

-- The brother of Shirantha PERERA, O.M.I.

Shirantha and the PERERA Family.

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.

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 16.

Jan, O.M.I.





# OMI INFORMATION

## JAPAN

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

CHRISTMAS 1997

BLESSED CHRISTMAS



*F. Casa*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## NEWS

### ROME

The most Rev. Angelito Lampon, OMI will be ordained Bishop by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II at St. Peter's Basilica on January 6, 1998. The new Bishop's installation in the Vicariate of Jolo will be held in February.

### NAKAMURA

The 20th anniversary celebration of the Mission in Nakamura was held on November 2. The celebration was attended by more than one hundred guests.

### ITAMI

A meeting of all the principals and teachers of Aki no Hoshi Gakuen (Kindergarten Corporation) was held in Itami from November 9-10. The guest speakers were Sister Sato, SND and Leonard Simons, OMI .

### KOCHI

An exhibition of Yoshikazu Tosa's woodblock prints was held in Kochi from November 25-30.

### ASSIGNMENTS

Jaime del Rosario, OMI is assigned to Nakajimacho in Kochi for the duration of his Christmas holidays from Language School.

Raymond Bourgoin, OMI will be acting Pastor at Nakajimacho in Kochi from January 5 - March 22, 1998, while Jude Peirispulle is on homeleave in Sri Lanka.

### LEADERSHIP CONSULTATION

Vicar General Daniel Corijn, OMI will visit the Vice Province of Japan to conduct a consultation for the new Provincial. He will be in Japan from January 20 to 28.

CONGRATULATIONS

BISHOP ANGELITO LAMPON, OMI

APOSTOLIC VICAR

OF

JOLO

PHILIPPINES

FROM THE

VICE PROVINCE OF JAPAN

Dear Brother Oblates,

Not long before her own conversion to Catholicism, Pulitzer-winner Annie Dillard published a reflection on Catholic liturgy in Teaching a Stone to Talk. "On the whole" she wrote, "I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we blithely provoke?...It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake up someday and ...draw us out to where we can never return."

The scripture readings during this season of Advent offer a similar caution. Perhaps, we too easily tend to tame the God we await this season. We anticipate a sweet infant lying in a manger. Yet Luke reminds us "Make ready the way of the Lord."

Advent reminds us that we are "waiting" but also "becoming". Our part in the "becoming" is a way for preparing the future. The decisions we make now, in a sense create our future. Our General Chapters provide the opportunity for this renewal.

The theme of the forthcoming Chapter is THE EVANGELISATION OF THE POOR AT THE DAWN OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM. The Congregation once again focuses us on the basic foundation of our vocation as Missionary Oblates, to serve the poor. We are called to shape our future by renewing ourselves in the service of our people and seek new ways to make that service more effective and Christlike in the new millennium.

+

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Fraternally in Jesus Christ & Mary Immaculate,

Angelo Siani, OMI

*Angelo Siani, OMI.*

**Oblate Communications (OBCOM) Meeting**  
**San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 18-22**  
by Wency Laguidao

1997 has been a year of meetings. The latest that I attended was the OBCOM Meeting held in San Antonio, the "Heart of Texas." "Connections: Oblate Mission and Media Into the Third Millennium" was the overall theme of the meeting. Some 25 participants, Oblates and laypersons closely working with Oblates in mass media, from the six Oblate regions (U.S., Canada, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia-Oceania) gathered at the new Oblate Renewal Center in the sprawling campus of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. The Oblates in San Antonio provided the excellent venue and the Oblates from the U.S. Central Province led by Fr. Tom SINGER provided the expertise and resources in running the meeting. Fr. Ron CARRIGAN and Fr. Lito LAMPON are the mass media animators from the General Administration who were at the meeting. Mr. Ed MURRAY, recently made an honorary Oblate and in communications work with the Oblates in St. Louis, is the OBCOM Executive Chairman and was also a moving force during the meeting.

The organizers put us to work for five straight days. We did not even get the chance to see the Alamo or downtown San Antonio except for a few glimpses of the city skyline at night but we were treated to real Mexican fiesta twice, real margaritas, fajitas, tamales, etc. and of course those hot salsas! Fr. Charlie BANKS, Provincial-Southern and Fr. Bill MORELL, Director of the Oblate School of Theology were gracious hosts. The meeting was well run, exploring the resources and possibilities in each region as far as mass media work is concerned. There was enough time to discuss and report about media work in ones own region as well be enriched by listening from Oblates coming from various parts of the world. There were language barriers as always happens in international meetings but these were easily bridged by the presence of Oblates who spoke three or more languages.

The importance and influence of mass media in evangelization cannot be overemphasized. We live in a world where values and attitudes are shaped and formed by mass media, oftentimes, without us knowing it. Education in mass media is a must for evangelization especially as we enter the Third Millennium. There is still fear or misconceptions regarding mass media, however, among many: technology, specialization, expensive machines, bad influence are but a few thoughts that people associate with mass media. But how can we deny the influence of mass media in our lives?

One strong proposal put across by the participants is the inclusion of mass media training in the General Norms of Oblate Formation. How can an Oblate preparing to be a missionary in the Third Millennium remain ignorant or indifferent about the recent developments in mass media and multi-media? The discussions during the meeting were lively as we were guided to some hands-on experience in creating a website, video film-making, etc. We also heard reports from some areas in Asia where modern technological gadgets are a luxury such that street plays and dramas or puppet shows are used as means of bringing the Gospel to the people.

Towards the end of the meeting, we were led into drawing up concrete proposals that the Obcom Animation Committee will present to the capitulars during the Chapter of 1998. Another strong proposition is to make Mass Media a permanent portfolio in the General Administration. I can share with those interested the minutes of the meeting which will be sent by the Animation Committee perhaps sometime in February.

As another year comes to a close, I join all of you in thanking the Lord for the many blessings He has given us as a group and individually. I thank him personally for the chance of meeting so many people this year who are involved in various works of evangelization especially during the FABC Meeting in Thailand and again in Texas.

May the economic gloom that hovers all throughout this region be a pruning process that will bring us back to a realization that no "economic miracle" will ever surpass the miracle of God becoming man in Jesus Christ. To all of you:

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

From John Deely:

### News from Hoya

保谷俊り

Wow! It's been quite awhile since I last contributed to the Newsletter. No legitimate excuses. It's just that the deadlines come 'n go before I know it!

Actually, nothing earthshaking has happened over the past year...except that I am teaching Japanese Sign Language at Junshin University as a fully accredited course which, I've been told, is a first in Japan. And, starting next April, I'll be teaching American Sign Language at Sophia...another first. It was 20 years ago this November when I first suggested that Sign Language be accepted at Sophia as a fully accredited course. It took a long time, but the thinking has changed. In fact, the University has asked me to interpret the graduation and entrance ceremonies into Japanese Sign Language. So things are looking up in that respect.

Shortly after the OMI retreat, I had a Signed Retreat with the Deaf at the Catholic Center. We tried some new things with the liturgy to make it more intelligible to the deaf; for example, we didn't use any missal...everything was done in sign language without reading or voicing. The Eucharist took 3 full hours! It was quite an experience. In fact, I think it's the way to go and will probably do the same at the retreat in Kanazawa.

I hope to see many of you at the Kochi Christmas Party. If I don't see you there, then I'll see you at the retreat in Fukuoka (since I won't be able to attend the March Meeting).

Health and Blessings on you and the people you serve! Merry Christmas!

Jack

ワオ！前回のニュースレターに投稿してから随分時間が経ってしまいました。言い訳もありませんが、ただ、気付かないうちに時間だけが過ぎていってしまっていたのです…。

実は、この一年間、純心女子大学で日本では初めて正式科目として日本の手話を教えた事以外はこれといって大きなニュースはないのです。強いて言えばもうひとつ、来年度の4月から正式科目としてアメリカの手話を上智大学で教える事にもなりました。科目として取り入れられるまでに時間はかかりましたが、手話に対する考え方が変わってきたと言えるでしょう。また、大学側からこの先の卒業式及び入学式において手話通訳を頼まれました事もまあまあ大きなニュースと言えるでしょう。この事はかなり手話や障害者に対して期待できると思います。

我々の黙想会の数日後、名古屋のカトリックセンターで聾者の黙想会の指導をしました。典礼に関して、先天性ろうあ者に通じるように色々な事を試してみました。例えば典礼書を使わずに、読んだり声を出したりせずに手話のみで表現するなどです。ミサは3時間以上かかりましたが、収穫は多かったように思います。又、金沢でもこの先このようにミサをするつもりです。

高知のクリスマスパーティーでは、皆様方にお会い出来たら良いなと思っています。もしそこでお会いできなかったら、多分福岡でお会いできるのではないかと期待しているのですが…（残念ながら私は3月のミーティングには参加出来ないと思いますので）。

あなたと、あなたの廻りの方々が健康で、幸せでありますように。

メリークリスマス！

ジャック



### A CHRISTMAS SHARING

Fr. Jimmy del Rosario, OMI

In reading a novel or watching a movie, some people have the habit of wanting to know the ending first before beginning to read it or watch it. Similarly, the Gospel reading for the Sunday celebration of Christ the King struck me first, before I made my reflection on Christ's birth.

Jesus said, "My Kingdom does not belong to this world.... I was born and came into the world for this one purpose, to speak about the truth. Whoever belongs to the truth listens to me," as He was being interrogated by Pilate. To me, this Gospel reading serves as a prelude to the Gospel reading on Christmas day, "The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw His glory, the glory which He received as the Father's only Son."

Indeed, our one and only King is our Lord Jesus Christ. But, the world's priorities appear to be some 'things' else or even the 'self' first. A person without money does not seem to be listened to, as if he is not a person at all. Money has become more important than persons.

Christ the King was born in a manger, and to a carpenter and a simple housewife. He came as a vulnerable infant entrusted to the care of Joseph and Mary. He was pursued by Herod to be killed. Among us humans, He came to give us life to the fullest. It was a life of forgiveness, healing, and casting off of evil. Most of all, it was a life of love given to us, unto death on the cross. It was a victorious death, for in His resurrection, He has shared with us eternal Life.

This Christmas Season, I pray to God: "Thank You dear Lord for sharing Your very Self with all of humanity. Thank You for all of Your gifts to each one of us. May we share Your gifts of faith, hope, and love, especially with our brothers and sisters who are treated as outcasts from humanity, because of race, language, gender, religious affiliation or social status. Help us to forgive those who offend us physically or emotionally. Forgive us when we quell our neighbor's growth and hopes."

"Lord, as we approach the year ahead, may You harvest the fruits of our labor of love. You sowed the seeds throughout the 50 years of Oblate presence in Japan, and recently in Korea. Our continued growth is in Your hands, in the years to come. May we glorify Your Name forever."

May the Lord inspire us through this scripture passage: "Let us profess the truth in love and grow to the full maturity of Christ the head. Through Him, the whole body grows, and with the proper functioning of the members joined firmly together by each supporting ligament, builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4).

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all!

From Bill Maher:

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR,

I don't know how many of you I'll meet during the holidays but I've got my tickets for the Dec. 26th celebration in Kochi and I'm looking forward to it. In my mind, Fukuoka is an entirely different ball game than Shikoku. There are all kinds of Church related activities and responsibilities, as well as the fact that everything is on a much bigger scale than I was used to. Living with other Oblates in the same house has been great, plus the fact that we have more people, Oblates and otherwise coming through from time to time.

I hope the Christmas and New Year's Season is one of abundant blessings for everyone. You'll all be in my prayers during this time, please keep me in yours.

Bill



From Len Inui:

ご降誕祭のお慶びを申し上げます

(Mission for children)

For the Feast of Nativity of 1997

一塊の宇宙からの塵が、造り主からの霊によって私たちと同じ形のいのちの者に成って生まれました。しかも、それから年月を懸けて人に役立つ丈に成りました。... これと同じように乳幼児が育って行くことに仕える事が在ります。両親も、回りの方々も、パンを得る仕事の源に、この仕事も大事にして、「地には善意の人に平和」と感謝しましょう。

A handful dust of the universe has been constructed into a living form, same as ourselves, by the loving Spirit of God. He was named Jesus. Then He had to spend growing years on earth so that He may serve for the other creatures of the loving God. ... Some people have noticed that there is a service-work for infants to grow in the same way as Jesus has been helped by the holy family's parents. Let's celebrate this season, as "Peace on earth for the people of good heart"!

Len Morio Inui, O.M.I.

From Jerry Novotny:

Greetings from Kochi!

This year came and went so fast that I forgot to celebrate my birthday. Yet Christmas season is a good time to reflect on this year and that is what I did last night on my Internet, searching for Pro Life materials. Let me share some Catholic World News Briefs, available via email, which are bringing this year of 1997 to a close. (To subscribe or for further information, contact subs@cwnews.com or visit the Web page at <http://www.cwnews.com>.)

#1. Kevorkian and his attorneys have stated that he has helped between 70 and 100 people kill themselves. The former pathologist lost his license to practice medicine in 1991 and has been acquitted on assisted suicide charges three times with a fourth trial ending in a mistrial. On Wednesday night, Dr. George Reding helped Martha Wichorek, 82, kill herself while Kevorkian was present in the woman's home, according to Kevorkian attorney Geoffrey Fieger.

#2. SUSPECT ARRESTED FOR DUMPING ABORTED UNBORN BABIES. Los Angeles County sheriffs on Tuesday arrested a man suspected of taking the bodies of 45 aborted children from an abortion clinic and dumping them in a field where children often play. According to a state waste management law passed six years ago, aborted babies must be disposed of by cremation.

#3. US ABORTION RATE DROPS TO LOWEST IN 20 YEARS. This year the US killed only 1,210,883 babies.

#4. FLORIDA COURT RULES ON MOM SHOOTING UNBORN CHILD - Florida's Supreme Court ruled on Friday that a pregnant woman cannot be charged with murder or manslaughter for shooting herself in the belly to kill her unborn child.

Kawana Ashley, then 19 years old, was arrested in March 1994 when she shot herself in the stomach in an attempt to kill her six-month-old unborn child because she didn't have enough money to afford an abortion. She underwent an emergency Caesarean section and delivered a 2-pound 2-ounce girl who had a bullet wound on her wrist. The baby died two weeks later. Prosecutors charged Ms. Ashley with third-degree felony murder and with manslaughter, both with possible 15-year sentences.

The murder charge was dismissed, first by the trial court and then by an appeals court. Both the state and Ashley appealed to the state Supreme Court. The state wanted the murder charge reinstated and Ashley wanted the manslaughter charge dismissed as well. In today's unsigned ruling, Florida's highest court said an expectant mother can't be criminally charged with the death of her child resulting from self-inflicted injuries during the third trimester of pregnancy. But the Supreme Court noted that opinions by earlier courts have held that a third-party -- but not the pregnant mother -- can be held criminally liable for causing injury or death to an unborn child.

#5. TEACHER CLEARED OF WRONGDOING IN DISCUSSING "ELLEN" - The Alameda school board has cleared a fifth-grade teacher of wrongdoing when she discussed the homosexuality of the main character in the television show "Ellen" with her class, according to a report in the San Francisco Chronicle.

The board acted on the complaint of parents who complained that Victoria Foresters violated their rights by discussing the show in their daughter's class, despite an order on file with the school that they should not be required to participate in such discussions. Mike and Judy Trelow said Forrester described the Ellen character as "brave" and "proud" for announcing that she was lesbian. When his daughter did not agree, Trelow says Forrester suggested that she be open to other points of view. He said the alleged comment trampled on his parental rights and his Christian beliefs by putting homosexuality in a positive light.

Board president Anna Elephant said the parents' allegations were not supported by the

evidence because no student was "harassed, intimidated, ridiculed, or intentionally embarrassed."

#6. BRITISH PRO-LIFERS RECALL KEY ANNIVERSARY - Since the Abortion Act came into effect in April 1988, more than 4.5 million abortions have been carried out under the law. The 1990 Human Fertilization and Embryology Act set the upper time limit for legal abortion at 24 weeks, and subsequent attempts to lower the limit have not succeeded.

-----

And the list continues. Part of the speech that follows was transcribed by Father Anthony Zimmerman who was at the time executive director of the Japan Family Life Association, which sponsored Mother Teresa's tour in Japan. (Quote)

In your country, in Japan, like in India, the government is very anxious about overpopulation. And we have helped our government. In India, in Calcutta specially, in ten years, we have had over a million babies not born - more than a million fewer babies in ten years. So we have helped the government.

And that is why our government has fully recognized natural family planning; and our sisters are doing that all over India. And I hope someday, some of you will come to India, learn there, and come back to your country and teach it, teach them that very beautiful way. You can plan your family without destroying anything, without committing sin. And that is not very difficult. If our poor people, our beggars, can learn it, how much more people who are better in life, who are better educated.

Abortion destroys conscience. Lately a Hindu lady came to our house and told her great sorrow. She was rich, she had everything, but was in great sorrow. She said, "I just saw a child of eight years old. Eight years ago I did an abortion; and as I saw that child, immediately my heart was so painful, my conscience hurt me so much. My child would be eight years old today if I had not killed it."

And if you do not want the child, give me the child. I want it. I will find a family and give the child to them. Do not kill. Do not destroy.

I ask you one thing. When I spoke to the Diet in Tokyo, I asked them to change the law of abortion. And I ask you also to get together and never allow, in this beautiful country, that regular killing which destroys not only the life of the child but destroys your very heart. You will never again be the same person. God forgives; but deep down in your heart the pain of having destroyed some life remains always. So get together and ask the government to change the law to respect and to love life that is created by God.

(end quote)

-----

Two little words are in my heart this Kochi Christmas: Mary was "with Child." This little Child was never called a fetus, was never experimented upon and certainly not a glob of tissue. From the moment of conception, Jesus was referred to as a child. Two thousand years have passed and we still rejoice on this birthday. But mingled with the joy of celebrating this birthday, is the sorrow we carry in our hearts over all the mothers with child who will not give birth as Mary did. We close out another year with the haunting reality that just in Japan, another 380,000+ unborn babies were aborted in the past twelve months.

How can we allow this to continue to happen to tiny Japanese children without speaking out? Pro-choice people often argue that life does not begin at conception. But Jeremiah's life began before conception! Jeremiah's life began in the heart, in the mind of God before he was ever conceived in his mother's womb. (Jeremiah 1:5) The same holds true for every person ever born on this planet. And I guess that's exactly what makes life so sacred. To abort an unborn

child is to destroy something precious, something unique, something created in the image of God. (Ps.139:14,16)

This Christmas message strengthens my conviction that all human life is very, very sacred. I ask that all Oblates unite themselves with all Pro Life people throughout the world in praying for unborn babies who deserve a chance at life, for women in crisis pregnancy, for women who have had abortions and need to know that God loves, heals and forgives, and finally for the men involved to accept their responsibilities as protectors of life.

Merry Christmas and be assured of love and prayers. Jerry Novotny, omi

From Lei:

My wishes are that the coming of the Lord be a time of grace and peace for everybody.

Kierkegaard wrote: "You have loved us first, o Lord. Alas, we talk about that as if it is just history, as if You have loved us first only once; and we forget that You love us first continuously, every day and all our life."

In our Christian community not much has changed, except that people are getting older and weaker. Two young families have moved in, so, the average age has come down a little. This year we had four baptisms, but only one of them is still living in the parish. In the *Aonami no Ie* (Blue Wave Home) people come and go. We call the Home *Tachi-agari no ie* (where people try to get back on their feet). I wouldn't say that this is always achieved; it is so easy to fall back into one's old habit.

The Volunteer Bureau I started to promote volunteer work in Kochi is 22 years young, and I may say that it is recognized in the city and even more widely. This year I was made a member of the Committee for the establishment of a Volunteer Center in the city. Because the word volunteer is very much associated with social welfare the name was changed to *Shimin Katsudo Support Center* (Citizens' Service Support Center) to make clear that all volunteer work is included. On September 30 we went to the City Hall to present the proposal to the Mayor.

Four years ago I was on a committee to compose a proposal for improvement of the living conditions of handicapped people, and I was introduced to the Mayor; this year I am on the committee to review the proposal.

The *Kokoro no daiaru* (emergency telephone) is becoming 12 years of age, and Kochi together with Miyazaki Prefecture being the only places in Japan where there is no *Inochi no Denwa* (Life Line) has prompted us to start the *Inochi no Denwa* in Kochi in the near future. Because the headquarters of that movement request the necessary structures many more people have to be involved.

The year 1998 will be a great year for the Oblates in Japan. I wish you all a fruitful year and a joyful Golden Jubilee.

Lei Simons.

## THE BIRTH IS FOR SACRIFICE

Once again we are all looking forward to a beautiful, happy Christmas. Let me first of all wish you a very happy Christmas.

Christmas means the celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ. If you think of the great event, it goes even further to the sacrifice of his life. I think the birth of Christ is for sacrifice.

Sacrifice of our life, time, talents etc. to welcome the coming of Jesus.

This year this theme reflects to me in a special way. Because my original plan was to spend Christmas this year with my family members. Bradley and I came to Japan together. He is now back in Sri Lanka, enjoying his Christmas with his parents. Due to unavoidable circumstances I have to spend this year Christmas with my parishioners, sacrificing my life, my wishes, in order to welcome Christ into my heart and to welcome him among my brothers and sisters of the parish.

Sacrifice also brings blessings, happiness. I leave for my first home vacation in January to spent Lent in Sri Lanka.

Jude Peirisipulle, O.M.I.



ブルージュ

土佐義和(とさ よしかず)



### ■略歴

カトリック教会司祭

1927年10月27日 ベルギー生まれ

1957年 安芸市カトリック教会司祭

1978年10月17日、日本へ帰化

希望が丘学園・高知リハビリテーション学院

非常勤講師(英語)・高知大学非常勤講師(仏語)



From Xavier Tosa:

A Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Peace in the whole world and in our hearts!

A lot of things have happened during the last year, but most of the happenings have been written up in previous OMI Newsletters. The only thing I must tell you is the exhibition of my lino printings (版画) in Kochi last November. Friends of mine (all used to study French some 20 years ago in the Seibo Gakuen) wanted to celebrate my 70th birthday. So they came up with the idea of an exhibition of my selfmade New Year cards. I was, of course, opposed to this idea, for my prints don't have much artistic value. Finally I gave in because I thought that I had to respect their feelings. They borrowed the NHK (Japanese Broadcasting Corporation) gallery and paid all expenses themselves. 32 printings were hung on the walls, and on two tables photographs, old passports, newspaper clippings etc. introducing Flanders and my 40 years of working and living here in Kochi Prefecture were on display. I was introduced first as a catholic priest and then as a teacher of languages and as a companion in life for some. ( Trying to "witness" the gospel values is not a waste of time, but it cannot be put in statistics.) To the visitors who were not acquainted with me, I was introduced as a man with two countries, (two "fatherlands"), and as a bridge between two cultures.

More than 700 people visited the exhibition during its 6 days. That is rather a success. And 222 prints were sold. (We are still in the progress of making them one by one ...) Selling prints was an afterthought and I was again not in favor of that idea. A big part of the profits went to the end-of-the-year charity project (歳末助け合いチャリティ) of NHK. As for myself, I was a little tired. My ordinary schedule of teaching (and hearing sisters' confessions) continued as usual. However, meeting the visitors at the exhibition was a great compensation and deep joy. People I hadn't met for 30 or more years came to encourage me. Some flew in from Osaka and returned the same day. The mayor sent a telegram with friendly well-wishings. Not a few Oblates took time off and came to the gallery, while others phoned or faxed to "congratulate" me. It was all very heartening. Sitting in my easy chair in the quiet evening and staring at the light of an early Christmas candle, tears can come to my eyes when I rethink everything.

God and his people have been good to me.

( Yoshikazu Xavier TOSA )

From John Iwo:

Merry Christmas to all of you.

This Christmas message comes from Itami. It is almost nine months since I arrived here. The noise is not as bad as I feared, and I have enough to do every day. I study the Church's teaching, Church documents and Bible. I sleep well and my health is good. While I was in Aki I stayed on a good diet, but now I am gaining weight. Since I have been here I have done the rooms over, painted the church fence, repaired the roof and the outside wall. I was able to do that thanks to the people's help.

It is still a little early, but I wish to send you my New Year's greetings anyway:

H A P P Y   N E W   Y E A R !

The dentist of the City Hospital give me the following little story:

## *Footprints*

*One night I dreamed a dream.  
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand  
one belonging to me  
and one to my Lord.  
When the last scene of my life shot before me  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
There was only one set of footprints.  
I realized that this was at the lowest  
and saddest times of my life.  
This always bothered me  
and I questioned the Lord  
about my dilemma.  
"Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You,  
You would walk and talk with me all the way.  
But I'm aware that during the most troublesome  
times of my life there is only one set of footprints.  
I just don't understand why, when I needed You most,  
You leave me."  
He whispered, "My precious child,  
I love you and will never leave you  
never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints  
it was then that I carried you."*

クリスマスおめでとうございます。

伊丹からのクリスマスのメッセージを送ります・

こちらに来てから9ヵ月がたとうとしています。来る前に思ったよりも静かで、毎日十分な仕事があり、教会関係の勉強もしていますが、睡眠不足などにもならず元気です。安芸ではダイエットが出来ていましたがこちらではもとのようになりました。就任してから部屋の改造と教会のヘンスのペンキ、屋根の雨漏りの修理、外壁のコウキング、大きくなった庭木の剪定などをしました。信徒の御協力を得て、一つ一つ成し遂げています。

少し早いですが、終わりに新年のお慶びを申し上げます。

新年おめでとうございます。

市民病院のDentistが次の様なノートをくれました。

## あしあと

ある夜、わたしは夢を見た。

わたしは、主とともに、なぎさを歩いていた。

暗い夜空に、これまでのわたしの人生が映し出された。

どの光景にも、砂の上にふたりのあしあとが残されていた。

一つはわたしのあしあと、もう一つは主のあしあとであった。

これまでの人生の最後の光景が映し出されたとき、

わたしは、砂の上のあしあとに目を留めた。

そこには一つのあしあとしかなかった。

わたしの人生でいちばんつらく、悲しい時だった。

このことが、いつもわたしの心を乱していたので、

わたしはその悩みについて主にお尋ねした。

「主よ。わたしがあなたに従うと決心したとき、

あなたは、すべての道において、わたしとともに歩み、

わたしと語り合ってくださいと約束されました。

それなのに、わたしの人生のいちばんつらい時、

ひとりのあしあとしかなかったのです。

いちばんあなたを必要としたときに、

あなたが、なぜ、わたしを捨てられたのか、

わたしにはわかりません。」

主は、ささやかれた。

「わたしの大切な子よ。

わたしは、あなたを愛している。あなたを決して捨てたりはしない。

ましてや、苦しみや試みの時に。

あしあとがひとつだったとき、

わたしはあなたを背負って歩いていた。」

From Ray Bourgoin:

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and  
A MOST BLESSED NEW YEAR

Hope this finds all of you healthy and striving.

Of course the biggest news for me this year was my Dad's death. In a separate letter, I already shared with you my feelings at the time, so I don't need to repeat myself here except to add that my Mom is doing better all the time, thanks to so many people's prayers.

I was kind of behind schedule with the CPA because of my long absence, but I seem to have caught up and now it will be only keeping up till I must leave for the annual General Finance Committee meeting in Rome in April.

As the Christmas Season approaches I want to wish each and every one of you the best for this season and the New Year.

Ray

From Jan:

To All a Christmas Season and a New Year full of the Lord's blessings!

Going over all the contributions to be put in this Newsletter I rejoice seeing all the activities everyone is involved in. And an encouraging tendency is the recognition that is given to those activities in different fields.

As for me here in Ikeda, my activities may be at a more humble level, but I am happy that I can be of help in things like this putting out of the Newsletter, or doing some research for some projects, or relieving persons from their backaches and many more little things that cannot be classified but that nevertheless keep one really occupied. All the while I am hoping that it all contributes to the building of God's Kingdom.

Immediate church work is limited, as it always has been in this rural area, but even more so now with the moving out of young people to more industrial centers and the ensuing rapid aging of the staying population. Those elderly people are not prone to change from their traditional way of life. On the other hand there is only a small number of parishioners, mainly higher up in age also (the oldest is a lady of 93); another factor is the long distance away from the church, where practical all of the parishioners live, to the East and the South (the church is located right in one corner of the triangular parish territory, the sides stretching about 50 kilometers to the East and about 60 to the South). With my advancing (or should I say advanced?) age restricting my moving around, especially by car on narrow and winding mountain roads, and the immigrated Christian women living on those mountains for the most part unable to get around on their own, the contacts are not frequent.

One of my regular prayers, and one that I dare recommend to you, is imploring the Lord to send someone younger to look after this corner of his Garden.

Let me again extend my fervent wishes for an abundantly blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year with good health and happiness.

Jan Van Hoydonck.

From his home, where he is on vacation, Bradly sends his greetings:

Greetings from Sri Lanka!

I thank God for giving me this opportunity to be with my family for Christmas this year. The situation in Sri Lanka remains the same. People who live in the war zone go through lots of hardships and suffering. But still there is hope for peace. We hope and pray, so that the birth of Jesus may bring peace to our country.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 1998. May the Infant Jesus fill our hearts with joy and peace to share with one another, to give to all we meet and to light the lives of others everyday of the New Year.

Brad

名古屋修学院から

From Leo Kawaguchi

川口 敏

6月から名古屋修学院で働き始めましたが、養成委員会のメンバーを始め、皆さんの支えに感謝します。志願者の堀内亜紀夫と古川健一は南山での勉強に熱が入っています。授業の予習・復習はもとより、レポート作成、ゼミ発表に追われる毎日です。それでも元気にクリスマスを迎えることができます。皆さんの祈りと金銭面での支援はありがたいです。鳴門からの志願者だった赤波江卓君は来春短大卒業です。赤波江君は就職という道を選びました。名古屋市内に来春からの就職先を見つけ、現在修学院から引っ越し、アパートから通学しています。このような変化がありましたので皆さんにご報告いたします。よきクリスマスと新年でありますように。何人かには高知で会えることを楽しみにしています。

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お知らせだよ。」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、これから一生懸命動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

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:  
December

24 Mike YAMASAKI

January

2 Ed WILLIAMS  
6 Shirantha PERERA  
22 Ray BOURGOIN  
29 Dick HARR

February

13 Maurizio GIORGANI  
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

Lei SIMONS and Bert SILVER on September 8, 1998.

**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 Repeated 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. (6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 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.