

JAPAN VICE PROVINCE KOREA MISSION

SPRING MEETING

FINANCES

Input

Alfons Keuter, OMI

OBLATE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

Facilitator

Christopher O'Leary, OMI



Munakata

Fukuoka

March 23-25, 1998

SPRING 1998 MEETING
OPENING PRAYER



Opening Hymn: Come Holy Spirit we need You...

Let us Pray...

Spirit of God, from the dawn of creation you are Lord and Giver of Life;
You are with us now... to give new life,

to lead your people as you have done down the ages,
to guide your missionaries in the work of evangelization.

Open our hearts to your presence in our Mission here in Japan...

to your movements in hearts of all people...
to your inspirations in these new and changing times...

Mary, Woman of the Spirit, Woman of Hope, intercede for us...

that we may trust in the Spirit as you did,
that we may cherish the Spirit-Inspired Word as you did,
that we may be faithful in our Mission as you were.

The Spirit at work in Creation... and in the Time of Promise

1st. Reader:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep and God's spirit hovered over the water. (Gen. 1:1-2)

Yahweh God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and thus man became a living being. (Gen. 2:7)..... (Pause)

I will pour out my spirit on all mankind.

Your sons and daughters shall prophesy,

your old men shall dream dreams

and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the slaves, men and women,

will I pour out my spirit in those days. (Joel 3: 1-2)

Prayer:

*Spirit of Holiness, divine breath which moves the universe,
come and renew the face of the earth.*

Come and renew each of us.

Deepen our hope in the Promise of the Father.

Strengthen our faith in the victory of Jesus.

Enrich our hearts with love for each other and for the people of Japan/Korea

Renew in each one of us the gift of our Oblate Missionary Vocation.

The Spirit in the Fullness of Time...

2nd. Reader:

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee.... and he came to Nazara where he had been brought up and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden,
to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. (Luke 4: 14-19)

And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then until you are clothed with the power from on High... (Luke 24:49)

Reflection...Prayer:

*Holy Spirit, most welcome guest of our hearts,
you were at work in the depths of our hearts as you led each one of us
into our Oblate Missionary Community
and when you inspired us to serve your people here in Japan/Korea
Open our hearts to you, work in our depths now as you did before
Make us one with Jesus so that, as Oblates,
we may truly be his co-operators in proclaiming the Good News.
Come Holy Spirit, help us in our Mission here in Japan/Korea*

The Spirit in the Last Days... in the Church... in the World...

3rd. Reader:

When the day of Pentecost came around, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire, these separated and came to rest on the head of each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. (Acts 2: 1-4)

4th. Reader:

The Spirit manifests himself in a special way in the the Church and in her members. Nevertheless, his presence and activity are universal, limited neither by space or time....

The Spirit offers the human race the light and the strength to respond to its highest calling.... The Spirit's presence and activity affect not only individuals but also society and history, peoples, cultures and religious....

Thus the Spirit, 'who blows where he wills', who 'was already at work in the world before Christ was glorified' and who 'holds all things together' now leads us to broaden our vision in order to ponder his activity in every time and place....

Our own time, with humanity on the move and in continual search, demands a *resurgence of the Church's missionary activity*. The horizons and possibilities for mission are growing ever wider and we Christians are called to an apostolic courage based upon trust in the Spirit. *He is the principal agent of mission.* (RM ## 28/29/30)

Reflection...Prayer...

*Creator Spirit, hidden builder of the Kingdom,
guide your people as we cross the threshold of the new millenium.
Spirit of Wisdom, inspiration of minds and hearts,
direct science and technology to the service of life, justice and peace.
Spirit of Life, help us in our Mission to your people of Japan/Korea,
guide us as we discern what we are being called to be...
and to do in these new times.
Mary, Woman of Faith, Hope and Love... intercede for us...*

Final Hymn: "Salve Regina"

The Church's mind and heart turn to the Holy Spirit as this 20th. Century draws to a close and the 3rd. Millenium.... approaches.... What was accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit in "the fullness of time" can now emerge from the memory of the Church only through the Spirit's power. By his power it can be made present in the new phase of man's history on earth: the year 2000 from the birth of Christ... [cf. Dominum et Vivificantem #49-51]

While it is a historical fact that the Church came forth from the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, in a certain sense one can say that she never left it. Spiritually, the event of Pentecost does not belong only to the past: the Church is always in the Upper Room that she bears in her heart.... *The Spirit and the Bride say to the Lord Jesus Christ: Come* [cf. DV # 66]

What is the Spirit doing now in the mission?
saying

What do you want to say to the new prov. administration

on
The Mission Obl. Ap. Comm. Anything Else.

(Prioritize top 3)

Alphonse Keuter



a) Provinces	beginning	Transaction	Interest	Fluctuation	Total	ending
Poland	3.880.70	(4.062.72)	182.02		0.00	0.00
Haiti		60.000.00			60.000.00	60.000.00
Jaffna	0.00	8.730.00			8.730.00	8.730.00
Pakistan	70.354.33	(50.000.00)	2.258.17		22.612.50	22.612.50
Samarinda	52.536.82		2.663.18		55.200.00	55.200.00
Region Africa	6.237.71	13.007.10	335.30		19.580.11	19.580.11
HongKong	0.00	28.640.18	148.22		28.788.40	28.788.40
Sub-Total	133.009.56				194.911.01	
b) Individual account	beginning					ending
Mgr Staccioli (person	177.436.98	8.127.60	9.244.97		194.809.55	194.809.55
P. Parent FFR	7.631.24		386.27	(960.90)	7.056.61	7.056.61
P. Malavialle FFR	25.067.01		1.268.83	(3.156.36)	23.179.48	23.179.48
P. Marek Jazgier	3.377.85	(3.470.06)	92.21		0.00	0.00
Cedara. St. Joseph Sch	7.088.62	(8.050.00)	370.67		(590.71)	(590.71)
Sub-Total	220.601.70				224.454.93	
c) Dioceses	beginning					ending
Colombo Diocese	289.812.03	(289.500.00)			312.03	312.03
Anuradhapura	922.67	0.00			922.67	922.67
Badulla	4.340.33		219.86		4.560.19	4.560.19
Kurunegala	8.154.03	1.500.00	395.23		10.049.26	10.049.26
Jolo Diocese	14.874.61	2.739.04	884.77		18.498.42	18.498.42
Rundu. Namibia	7.323.32	92.18	371.14		7.786.64	7.786.64
Mohale's Hoek Diocese	18.725.40	(1.000.00)	930.30		18.655.70	18.655.70
Garoua Diocese	2.194.12	(84.06)	111.13		2.221.19	2.221.19
Idiofa Diocese	5.767.80	8.611.61	364.93		14.744.34	14.744.34
Insangi Seminary	0.00	978.00	13.53		991.53	991.53
Sub-Total	352.114.31				78.741.97	
d) Divers ecclésiasti	beginning					ending
Apostoliques de M FFR	35.375.35	(19.811.93)	937.41	(3.496.82)	13.004.01	13.004.01
Auxiliaire M.M. Chies	26.057.54	(2.939.13)	1.311.48		24.429.89	24.429.89
Srs Ste Famille d'Ami	182.778.05		9.258.46		192.036.51	192.036.51
Carmel de Kandy	758.22	(34.65)	37.59		761.16	761.16
Carmel de Colombo	1.928.95		97.71		2.026.66	2.026.66
Carmel du Pakistan	2.246.26		113.78		2.360.04	2.360.04
Dominican Sisters FFR	3.990.80	(4.000.00)	164.89		155.69	155.69
Fr. Dilan Marius Fernando		50.00	2.47		52.47	52.47
Fr. Jude Piyal Fernando		1.338.02	15.58		1.353.60	1.353.60
Fr. Mervyn Jayakody		1.300.00	5.18		1.305.18	1.305.18
Fr. Gerard Gally		1.559.67	25.85	(13.97)	1.571.55	1.571.55
Fr. Luke Chengalikavil		10.127.26	42.89	(180.26)	9.989.89	9.989.89
Fr. Benet Shantha F'do		1.711.58	4.69	(28.07)	1.688.20	1.688.20
Sub-Total	253.135.17				250.734.85	
e) Divers externes	beginning					ending
Melle Tassel FFR	1.145.69			(143.70)	1.001.99	1.001.99
Interest bear	960.006.43	(234.440.31)	32.258.71	(7.980.08)	749.844.75	

JAPAN		YEN	US-DOLLAR	exchange rate		Previous year		Previous year	
64	31.03.1997	116.0000	64.0			31.12.1995	100.0000	31.12.1994	99.8500
10	Current Assets	69,892,311	602,519.92	10.1%		20,917,643	64.0	11,575,945	64.0
14	Financial Assets	306,873,932	2,645,465.10	44.3%		294,808,483	53.4%	301,815,543	2.2%
16	Fixed Assets	313,643,627	2,721,082.99	45.6%		236,316,016	42.8%	214,432,867	57.2%
	TOTAL Assets	692,411,890	5,969,068.02	100.0%		552,042,142	100.0%	527,824,355	100.0%
20	Liabilities - Loans	17,348,035	151,276.16	2.5%		210,000	0.0%	859,500	0.2%
26	Deposits	3,535,386	30,477.47	0.5%		24,553,256	4.4%	33,700,000	6.4%
30	Funds	226,300,000	1,950,862.07	3.0%	181,753.63	26,300,000	4.5%	25,700,000	6.5%
32	Reserves	27,699,062	238,785.02			10,048,386		9,400,000	
35	Net Worth	417,329,407	3,597,667.50			490,930,500		458,164,835	
-39	OMI-PATIMONY	671,328,469	5,787,314.39	97.0%		527,278,886	95.5%	493,264,835	93.5%
	TOTAL L + OMI-P	692,411,890	5,969,068.02	100.0%		552,042,142	100.0%	527,824,355	100.0%
39a	Fixed Assets	313,643,627	2,721,082.99	47.0%		236,316,016	44.8%	214,432,867	43.5%
39b	Funds and Reserves	253,999,062	2,189,647.09	37.8%		36,348,386	6.5%	33,100,000	7.1%
39c	Free Liquidity	101,683,780	876,584.31	15.1%		254,614,484	48.3%	243,731,988	49.4%
-39	OMI-PATIMONY	671,328,469	5,787,314.39	100.0%		527,278,886	100.0%	493,264,835	100.0%
Oblate members		31.03.1997	29	199.563	April 96 - March 97	30	175.760	28	176.431
40	Oblate work	87,478,897	754,128.42	56.8%		12,290,000	19.2%	12,320,894	30.6%
42	Investment	11,077,937	95,499.63	7.2%		7,436,550	11.6%	7,576,306	18.8%
45	All Others	9,429,963	81,292.78	6.1%		10,590,228	16.6%	12,113,660	30.1%
47	Gifts	43,597,672	375,842.00	28.3%		8,204,459	12.8%	8,249,376	20.5%
48	Extraordinary Rev.	2,496,772	21,523.90	1.6%		25,348,120	39.7%	0	0.0%
	TOTAL Revenue	154,081,261	1,328,286.73	100.0%		63,869,357	100.0%	40,260,236	100.0%
50	Prov. Administration	3,707,004	31,956.93	2.4%		12,767,473	41.0%	13,889,398	60.5%
51	Oblate Communities	41,228,091	355,414.58	26.7%		1,734,536	5.6%	3,098,815	13.5%
54	First Formation	14,683,872	126,583.10	9.5%		3,000,000	9.6%	451,500	2.0%
55	Apostolate-Activities	89,336,090	770,138.71	57.8%		7,662,335	24.6%	4,059,535	17.7%
56	Interest to Deposit (26)	1,972,719	17,006.20	1.3%		2,276,683	7.3%	0	0.0%
57	Charitable contribut.	3,700,553	31,901.32	2.4%		3,662,200	11.8%	1,473,200	6.4%
58	Extraordinary Exp.	0	0.00	0.0%		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	TOTAL Expenses	154,628,329	1,333,002.84	100.0%		31,103,227	100.0%	22,972,448	100.0%
=60	Surplus (Deficit)	(547,068)	(4,716.10)	-0.4%		32,766,130	51.3%	17,287,788	42.9%
60a	Income	96,908,860	835,421.21	65.1%		22,880,228	90.9%	24,434,554	113.7%
	Expenses	(148,935,057)	(1,284,095.32)	100.0%		(25,164,344)	100.0%	(21,459,248)	100.0%
60b	Ordinary budget	(52,046,197)	(448,674.11)	-34.9%		(2,284,116)	-9.1%	2,935,306	13.7%
	Net Charity	39,897,119	343,940.68	26.8%		4,542,259	18.1%	6,776,176	31.5%
60c	Portfolio	11,602,010	100,017.33	7.8%		30,507,987	121.2%	7,576,306	35.2%
	per capita/365 days	17,205,124	148,320.03	-0.4%		12,290,000	130.2%	12,320,894	80.4%
	Interest % - rate	95,459.63	3,247,985.03	2.9%			11.22		12.07
STATEMENT OF OMI-PATIMONY in		YEN	0			493,264,835	475,350,862	0	17,913,993
OMI-Patrimony at		31.12.1995	527,278,886			0	0	0	
Allocation to Funds and Reserves			(547,068)			32,766,130	17,287,788	0	
Surplus (Deficit)			217,650,076			1,248,386	655,720		
Funds and Reserves transfer			(73,054,625)			(485)	(29,515)		
Rectification-previous period			671,328,469			527,278,886	493,264,835		
OMI-Patrimony at		31.03.1997	671,328,469			527,278,886	493,264,835		
Figure as presented (line 39)			144,049,583			34,014,031			
DIFFERENCE TO BE RECTIFIED			0			0	0		

Your financial statement 1996 compared with similar Provinces
 Votre relevé de compte 1996 comparé à celui de Provinces semblables
 Su estado de cuentas 1996 comparado con aquello de Provincias semejantes
 Deine Finanzbericht 1996 im Vergleich mit gleichartigen Provinzen

CONGR. REGION MEMBERS PATR/pc ORD. INC							E Asia JAPAN 29 members Your figures in % Votre chiffres en % Vuestras cifras en % Eure Prozentzahlen	
		ASIA	20-39	100-199	160%-74%	Average		
Members Total	4.778	590	358	1.331	1.446	12		
Provinces in valuation	62	11	13	13	12	---		
Members in valuation	4.766	590	358	1.331	1.446	283		
Europe	1.477		23	386	576	---		
Canada	950		0	632	89	---		
USA	548		0	193	40	---		
Latin America	397		148	0	204	---		
Asie	590	590	105	120	254	---		
Africa	804		82	0				
10 Current Assets	11,5%	7,0%	5,7%	9,8%	8,8%	8,6%	10,1%	Current Assets
14 Financial Assets	63,0%	52,0%	43,1%	67,1%	63,5%	57,7%	44,3%	Financial Assets
Fixed Assets	25,5%	41,0%	51,2%	23,1%	27,7%	33,7%	45,6%	Fixed Assets
TOTAL Assets	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	TOTAL Assets
20 Liabilities - Loans	7,2%	3,1%	3,9%	5,8%	4,9%	5,0%	2,5%	Liabilities - Loans
26 Deposits with you	11,3%	2,5%	4,2%	15,6%	16,1%	9,9%	0,5%	Deposits with you
=39 OMI Patrimony	81,6%	94,4%	91,9%	78,6%	79,1%	85,1%	97,0%	OMI Patrimony
TOTAL Liab.+ Patrim	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	TOTAL Liab.+ Patrim
39a Fixed Assets = 16	31,2%	43,5%	55,7%	29,4%	35,1%	39,0%	47,0%	Fixed Assets = 16
39b Funds and Reserves	40,4%	37,4%	22,0%	44,0%	41,6%	37,1%	37,8%	Funds and Reserves
39c Free Liquidity	28,4%	19,1%	22,3%	26,6%	23,3%	23,9%	15,1%	Free Liquidity
=39 TOTAL OMI-PATRIMC	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	TOTAL OMI-PATRIM
Patrimony per capita \$	98.240	54.529	90.065	140.641	84.935	93.682	199.563	Patrimony per capita
40 OMI pastoral work	30,8%	30,1%	22,4%	35,6%	46,9%	33,1%	56,8%	OMI pastoral work
42 Capital earnings	30,8%	14,3%	15,4%	29,4%	29,8%	23,9%	7,2%	Capital earnings
45 All Others	16,5%	8,7%	29,9%	17,8%	8,7%	16,3%	6,1%	All Others
47 Gifts	17,5%	25,3%	20,2%	13,8%	11,8%	17,7%	28,3%	Gifts
48 Extraordinary Rev.	4,3%	21,8%	12,1%	3,5%	2,9%	8,9%	1,6%	Extraordinary Rev.
TOTAL Revenue	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	TOTAL Revenue
50 Prov. Administration	10,7%	9,2%	14,2%	10,2%	8,2%	10,5%	2,4%	Prov. Administration
51 Oblate Communities	39,0%	40,4%	34,3%	45,6%	50,1%	41,9%	26,7%	Oblate Communities
54 First Formation	6,9%	13,9%	10,0%	4,5%	5,1%	8,1%	9,5%	First Formation
55 Apostolate-Activities	18,3%	29,2%	28,0%	15,3%	20,8%	22,3%	57,8%	Apostolate-Activities
56 Interest Depos.(26)	5,8%	0,6%	2,2%	6,5%	9,1%	4,9%	1,3%	Interest Depos.(26)
57 Charitable contrib.	9,0%	3,9%	9,3%	12,6%	5,3%	8,0%	2,4%	Charitable contrib.
58 Extraordinary Exp.	10,3%	2,8%	2,0%	5,4%	1,4%	4,4%	0,0%	Extraordinary Exp.
TOTAL Expenses	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	TOTAL Expenses
=60 Surplus (Deficit)	15,9%	31,0%	40,2%	10,5%	5,5%	20,6%	-0,4%	Surplus (Deficit)
60a Income 40-45	75,1%	60,5%	101,1%	79,0%	69,8%	77,1%	65,1%	Income 40-45
Expenses 50.55	-100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	Expenses 50.55
Ordinary budget	-24,9%	-39,5%	1,1%	-21,0%	-30,2%	-22,9%	-34,9%	Ordinary budget
60b Net charity 47-57	15,7%	35,2%	28,4%	3,7%	8,5%	18,3%	26,8%	Net charity 47-57
60c Investm. 42+48-56-58	34,3%	52,7%	48,2%	32,8%	28,5%	39,3%	7,8%	Investm. 42+48-56-58
Surplus	25,2%	48,4%	77,8%	15,5%	6,9%	34,8%	-0,4%	Surplus
Houses Contrib.c/d \$	6,6	1,81	2,45	10,87	6,02	5,54	14,01	Houses Contrib.c/d
Investment Rev %	10,2%	5,4%	9,2%	7,9%	9,6%	8,4%	2,9%	Investment Rev %

(Please retain for future reference)

Facilitator: Fr. Chris O'Leary, OMI (Philippines)

Number of Oblates present: 22 (including facilitator)



THE QUESTIONS THAT WE ASKED OURSELVES:

- ♦ WHAT IS THE SPIRIT SAYING AND DOING NOW IN THE MISSION OF JAPAN AND KOREA?
- ♦ WHAT DO WE WANT TO SAY TO THE NEW PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION WITH REGARD TO
 - 1) MISSION
 - 2) OBLATE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY
 - 3) ON ANYTHING ELSE?

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PROCESS: We spent sometime to answer the questions above. We prioritized our answers, numbering them 1 -3 in the order of importance and below is a collation of our answers. In addition to our answers, we gave a possible theme for the next Provincial Congress added to the answers below. The same answers may appear more than once and are being repeated intentionally in the collation to show how we answered identical questions.

COLLATION OF ANSWERS (WHAT WE WROTE ON PIECES OF PAPER WITH OUR NAME):

-Policies for the Province; new situation of the mission including the laity (Asianization - end of era of European and American missionaries and Asians taking positions of responsibility); parish ministry- canonical boundary in contrast to personal boundary; specialized ministry; directory of policies for the Province; new situation of the mission- Asianization; parish ministry- personal parishes (itinerant missionary); awareness of problems of ageing; youth, include whole gamut of things, appealing to youth (formation), responding to delinquency; common project to help unify members by being centered - does not mean all have to contribute equally, but at least have something to do with it; laity: cooperative level, interdependence level - give and take with laity; vocations; parish ministry, consider taking new parishes; consider date of general meeting; study Japanese laws on religious corporation; youth; poor; vocation; a directory which speaks of policies of the Province re finances, ongoing formation, sabbatical; training of new members to take up specialized ministry which are already being done; new ways of recruitment for increase of vocation in Japan and Korea; specialized ministries; directory/ policies on religious life, formation, vocation; specialized ministry - poor; communication - visiting Oblates; vocation ministry; specialized ministry; vocation ministry; common project; parish ministry - renewal program; kindergarten apostolate; vocation ministry (relocation of house of formation); vocations; blending of parish ministry with specialized ministry; laity; parish ministry - still has a place; common project; directory; common project; stimulate community life; vocation; directory to help stimulate community on local and district levels; awareness - how the "new" can work with the "experienced" in the Province; youth; oblate work not directly connected with pastoral/sacramental work, eg, welfare institution, Pro Life Movement, not one-man project; not only territorial parishes but personal parish, etc.

SUGGESTED CONGRESS THEME:

- Inculturation - Acculturation
- Specialized Ministries and Parish Ministry in the context of a new situation in the mission and in the Asian context.
- Common Project for the Province
- Common Project
- Who are the most abandoned in our particular country
- Directory/ Policies for the Province

(Congress Themes, cont'd.)

- OMI General Chapter of 1998 and AsianSynod of Bishops (1998) how will they affect our mission?

- Asian Synod of Bishops
- Who are the poor in our mission?
- Laity
- Youth
- Outcome of Asian Synod of Bishops
- Globalization and Post OMI Chapter
- New Situation of Mission: Asianization - Globalization - Laity

2

PROCESS: We gathered in a General Assembly after personal reflection to answer the guide questions. We had a short but meaningful sharing and the following are:

THE ANSWERS TO THE SAME GUIDE QUESTIONS AS THEY WERE PRESENTED ORALLY DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

ON MISSION:

- That the Korean Mission be represented separately in the Provincial Council (adding one representative from Korea to the present number of councilors). This was to be given priority.
- "My lifestyle counts a lot in my mission." Americans and Europeans are more easily accepted.
- Asianization of the Vice Province - the end of an era of European and American missionaries.
- Should we offer our services to other dioceses that may need us other than Takamatsu?
- who are the most abandoned? Let us go out to serve them.

ON OBLATE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY (OAC):

- We need input from somebody outside the district on certain topics.
- Strengthen district meetings.
- There is lack of communication regarding work, family, etc. "Lot of things about people." eg, balloting done in secrecy.
- Regarding Provincial Meetings: have proper agenda and send agenda to districts to be talked about.
- From a Korean member: we need help in terms of personnel eg, somebody from Japan living in Korea for a few months. Will help strengthen community.
- need for a common project on district level (like the Language School in Kochi in the past where many Oblates came to help).
- Finance Directory that will include guidelines for hiring/firing.
- problems of ageing in the Vice Province. Get appropriate time to start meeting in consideration of those coming from inconvenient places.
- visit by the Provincial is important- quality of relationships, not merely staying together.
- need for deeper physical presence in various Oblate gatherings.
- need for recreation - Oblates visiting fellow Oblates.
- need for fundamental restructuring of our finances.
- continue to exert effort in area of formation. People in formation coming for experience - laudable.
- Oblate community gives me my physical needs but doesn't fulfill my spiritual needs, instead I find it in a non-christian community. How do we respond to this? "Removal of masks" toward an honest, genuine communication.

3

PROCESS: The facilitator summarized what had been expressed during the assembly and the following is the summary: (Again, they are answers to the same guide questions above)

KEY AREAS OF CONCERN: THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUMMARY OF WHAT WE WANT THE NEW PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION TO WORK ON.

ON MISSION:

- 1) Asianization - Globalization
- 2) Parish Ministry - still has a place, there are needy parishes.
 - link with other ministries.
 - Canonical and personal parishes (personal has no geographical boundary)
 - need of renewal for Oblates in parish ministry.
- 3) Specialized Ministry - (we are in search of an appropriate word to name this ministry)
 - special works
 - kindergarten
 - youth ministry
 - youth
- 4) Vocation Ministry - needs to be addressed. There should be an understanding of the values and concerns of the young people today.
- 5) Laity in our mission

Others: Animation and Renewal
Discernment on the Korean mission by the Provincial and General Administration.

ON THE OBLATE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY (OAC):

- 1) Stimulate OAC on local and district meetings. Fidelity to OMI meetings and events.
- 2) Awareness of Systems - Structures - Scheduling:
 - situation of ageing Oblates.
 - situation of new Oblates
 - situation of Oblates in Korea
- 3) Communication:
 - qualitative communication
 - life - person - mission
 - removal of masks
 - visiting, helping and listening to each other
 - sharing of personnel, eg, older Oblates to Korea?
 - venues of support - recreation - fun
 - agenda for Provincial Council be shared to all.
- 4) Directory/ Policies for the Province
 - covers all areas of life and mission of the Province.
 - districts to coordinate apostolate and finances.
- 5) Common Project that will involve many Oblates

COUNCILOR FROM KOREAN MISSION: Does the Superior of mission becomes automatically the Councilor? Members of Korean mission agreed that same person hold the two positions.
Voting whether to: (Option A) retain number of councilors of 3 including one from Korea or (Option B) make number of councilors 4 (3 from Japan 1 from Korea).
Option B prevailed. Voting: Option A = 5 Option B = 14

ADDENDUM: Regarding the NEOCATECHUMENATE

4 PROCESS: The Facilitator asked the group: What do you think should be the Oblate response, reaction, position with regard to the Neo-Catechumenate Movement. What are the facts as we know them. What are our experiences of them? Is it possible for us to make a position in an hour? The following are the observations presented especially by those who have had direct contact with the members of the group:

THE FOLLOWING ARE WHAT WERE SAID:

- What should be the response of the Oblates? N.B. Dominicans in Ehime and Spain Mission in Kagawa came out openly denouncing the movement.
- they are increasing in number in Shikoku. Are other religious groups being pushed out?
- they are taking over parishes.
- we should not allow Neo Catechumenate in parishes entrusted to Oblates. Their charism doesn't agree with ours. They are against inculturation and Justice and Peace issues.
- not allow them in our parishes.
- not to allow their seminarians in Oblate houses since they can go to parishes entrusted to them.
- it is cultic, centered on a guru-type leader.
- they don't understand or refuse to understand Japanese culture.
- there is zeal in the group but they refuse to learn from the country they are coming to.
- they bring a package which they want to impose on people.
- "We are THE way," they want a separate liturgy, their own music, etc.
- as a young Oblate who just finished language school, I was lost in the presence of a seminarian living in the same house.
- we should not encourage them in our parishes.
- "They were trying to recruit me and I was afraid."
- if they come in contact with our seminarians, they will invite them to join their group.
- they are a danger!
- they can only work through parish structure - in and through.

THE GROUP WAS ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING POSITIVE THAT ANYONE COULD SAY:
NONE.

The process was just a surfacing of reactions, experiences and although we fall short of making a common stand as a Province, WE SAY NO TO THEM BECAUSE THEIR WAY IS NOT OUR APPROACH OF DOING THINGS AS OBLATES AND NOT OUR WAY OF LIFE.

5 OTHER MATTERS: Scheduling of future meetings: We will take into consideration the Sunday schedule of those in parish ministry, the inconvenient train/plane schedules of certain places in scheduling the starting time of our meetings (Spring Meeting and Retreat).

It was deemed doubtful whether we will be ready for a Provincial Congress in the Spring of 1999 considering that there are events of great importance between now and next Spring, particularly, 1) The Asian Synod of Bishops; 2) The OMI General Chapter; and 3) 50th Year Japanese Mission celebrations in December. It was suggested that we take what will come out from the Synod and the Chapter as materials for our Provincial Congress.

In the meantime, we can trace back the presence of God in our works during the past 50 years in gratitude and celebration. Where do we see the hands of God working in the Japanese mission during the past 50 years? Do we recognize him in our works? Where did we succeed? Where did we fail? Perhaps, these are the questions we should ask as we prepare to celebrate the 50th year of God's grace in the Oblate Japanese mission.