



Delegation Superior 's Report

TWO MEETINGS IN THAILAND: Annual AORC Meeting and Inter Chapter

Two back-to-back meetings were held in Samphran, Thailand (a Bangkok suburb), first was the annual Asia-Oceania Regional Conference which was held jointly with the members of the General Administration from April 15-19 followed by the Inter Chapter from April 22 to May 3rd. Around 70 participants including Provincials, Superiors, translators and facilitators gathered at the sprawling Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Bangkok, fittingly called *Baan Phu Waan* meaning "Sower's Field."

The whole proceedings of the Inter Chapter could be followed through <http://www.omiworld.org/> hence for the sake of brevity I will only dwell on some topics among the countless topics discussed during the 3-week meeting:

THE ASIA-OCEANIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE Annual Meeting (A Joint Meeting With the members of the General Administration) April 15-19

The Provincials and Superiors of the Asia-Oceania meet once every year. Once every six years, the AORC meets with the members of the General Administration.

IMPORTANT Concerns in the AORC Region:

- ◆ Consolidation of formation houses. We have been talking about the establishment of an "Asian International Scholasticate" but the plan has never took-off the ground. It is felt that there are too many scholasticates in the region and we are wastefully replicating efforts and resources at a time when they are most wanting.
- ◆ The need for sharing of financial and human resources in the region. While some units are experiencing abundance in vocation, other units like Japan has zero number of formandi. There is need for a give-and-take relationship between units in the region. Units that are receiving new members from other units are asked to reciprocate by, for example, supporting the formation program of the sending units.
- ◆ There is a need for self-sustainability. Units are asked to look for local resources to support its formation programs and mission as a whole.
- ◆ Identify young members who can take over the leadership in the future, as well as possible treasurers

and formators in the future. The AORC will organize training programs for future formators and treasurers in the near future and units are being asked to send participants to these sessions.

- ◆ The need for “new mission initiatives.” It is strongly felt that even in Asia, we are so much caught up in parish work. We sacrifice so many of our men and resources for our involvement in parish work. It was observed that we are involved in parishes (and schools also) mainly because of the security that the work gives us. However, are we really serving the poor and the needy through our vast network of parish work and school system?

Next meeting will be in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in February next year.

THE INTER CHAPTER: April 22 to May 3

Why “Inter-Chapter?” Since the meeting is held in between two Chapters (in this case between the 35th General Chapter in 2010 and the 36th Gen Chap 2016), it is called an “Inter-Chapter Meeting.” The Inter-Chapter meeting does not make decisive or canonical changes in any aspect of the congregation. The purpose of the meeting is mainly to evaluate how the proposals and recommendations of the last Chapter have been carried on so far and to propose a possible topic for the next Chapter. This time, the Delegation Superiors (who are not ex-officio delegates of the Chapter) have been invited to attend the Inter-Chapter.

SOME IMPORTANT Topics and Concerns raised during the Inter-Chapter:

- ◆ Oblate Triennium: Each member in the whole congregation is being called to actively participate in the three-year preparation for the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the congregation in 2017. (Please refer to the letter I sent last May 21st.) The purpose of the Oblate Triennium is: “To fan the flame of Oblate life and mission in anticipation of the 36th General Chapter and the 200th Anniversary of the Congregation.”
- ◆ Financial Crisis? I hope the term is not an over-statement but the Treasurer General has expressed an urgent appeal to all units to come to the aid of the General Administration as it faces financial difficulties especially in the repairs that must be done in the General House.
- ◆ Formation concerns: Europe and the Americas are making headway in the consolidation of their formation houses. The Asian region still has to implement the necessary reforms. Increase in vocation in Asia, Africa and Latin America has been noted while decrease or no increase in North America and Europe was noted.
- ◆ Report of the Superior General: The report of the Superior General echoed “immense hope” in the congregation despite the many problems that we are experiencing at the moment. He reiterated the importance of each and every Oblate heeding the call to Conversion by the 35th General Chapter

especially in the five aspects of Oblate Life (cf Call to Conversion document of the 35th General Chapter).

- ◆ Revised Edition of CCRR: The revised version of our Constitution and Rules will be made available to all in the near future. It incorporates all the changes, amendments, additions, etc. made during the past General Chapters. In the meantime, please do not throw away your old CCRR yet!
- ◆ Oblate Brothers: At most Oblate meetings, the topic about “Brothers” comes up very often. In the region, the Brothers are being asked to meet and discuss what they think is their role in the congregation is. The possibility of Brothers being made superiors was mentioned. In the future, is it possible for a Brother to be the major superior of a unit?
- ◆ Possible topics for the next General Chapter: The participants were asked to bring to the surface possible topics for the next chapter. Obviously, the theme of “Mission” and its various facets emerged as the most popular.

Wency Laguidao, Itami, May 24, 2013



The Superior General carries the Founder's Oblate Cross (AORC Opening Liturgy)



And there was time to sing and dance, too! (behind me right are Maurizio and Fr. Lougen)