

Dear Brothers,

The memorial celebration of Christ's Birth is only four weeks away. Why is this Christmas gathering so important for us as an Oblate Missionary Family? When we come together in Kochi for Christmas, we partake in a family tradition where everyone has a sense of belonging, sharing and focusing on Jesus' birth. The Christmas tradition can be powerful incentive for the Oblate family. For one thing, it brings us closer together. It allows us to spend time together making new memories while remembering the past and those who came before us. It allows us to stop our busy cycle of missionary activities long enough to reconnect and strengthen bonds, much like the traditional Japanese Bonenkai and Shinnenkai. In this spirit of OMI family tradition, the Christmas Organizing Team presents the following schedule for 2019.

Japan OMI Traditional Christmas - Dec. 25-26-27, 2019

Place: Nakajima-cho, Kochi City

Rooms: Priest Residence
Church Residence
Oriental Hotel

******* For Room Reservations contact Iru
before December 9th. (iru.raj@gmail.com)

Schedule:

----->**Dec. 25th ARRIVAL**

(Evening) - No Meal at Nakajima Parish. There are at least five restaurants within 5-10 minute walk from the Parish for those who are interested.

----->**Dec. 26th Thursday**

(Morning) - **[7-9am]** Breakfast at Nakajima-cho. Coffee and Bakery Goodies.

******* There was a good feedback on the variety of last year's international native dishes, we would like to continue this tradition. (optional, prepare amount for only 5-6 people) Kitchen will be open like last year from 9-12noon. Obento boxes will be provide for leftovers. Please notify Iru if your bringing food.

(Afternoon) - [12:30pm] - Noon Meal at Restaurant.

*** For Noon Meal notify Fr. Iru

before December 9th.

(iru.raj@gmail.com)

[2-3pm] - Meal table and Gaudeamus preparations – Honshu Community

[3:30-4:30pm] - Liturgy prepared by Kyushu Community

[5-6pm] – Gaudeamus hour

(Evening) - [6-7:30pm] - Christmas Meal

-various homemade dishes

-sashimi

-sushi

-pizza

-Christmas cake

[7:30-8pm] - Wash Dishes, Clean up area.

[8:15pm] - Christmas recreation prepared by Tokushima Community

----->**Dec. 27th DEPARTURE Friday**

(Morning) - [7-9am] - Breakfast at Nakajima-cho - Coffee + Bakery Goodies

[10am] - Nangoku-Gomen Bochi. Fr Jude will lead us in a brief service.

For additional inquiries email organizing team:

Iru- iru.raj@gmail.com

Jude - peirisp@gmail.com

Jerry - jerry@shirt.ocn.ne.jp

...they have seen a great light – Bernard Ondap OMI



Last **December 26-27, 2019**, the Oblates of Japan delegation together with some clergy from Takamatsu diocese gathered at Nakajimacho Rectory (Kouchi, Shikoku, Japan) for their annual Christmas gathering. The simple yet very meaningful gathering started with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Bsp. Suwa (Takamatsu Diocese). In his homily, he empathized on recognizing the light that God has given to us in our day to day life. We may face a lot of challenges as a missionary, as a

church in Japan but God never fails in giving us that light to give us hope.

After the Eucharistic celebration, the group moved to the parish hall for the “Gaudeamus”. The Oblates spent an hour chatting and sharing their experiences that they brought with them from their respective ministries. It was an opportune time to make new memories with the present members while remembering the good memories that the former members have left as their legacies.



The group then transferred to the adjacent room for their sumptuous Christmas meal. Just like last year, some Oblates shared their culinary skills by preparing some native dishes of their respective countries. Of course, the meal would never be complete without the Sushi and Sashimi.

It was indeed an international meal. The 1st day gathering would not be over without the much awaited “BINGO game” with a twist.



On the 2nd day, several Oblates visited the Oblate cemetery to offer a prayer and thanksgiving for all the Oblates who have served and buried in Japan. It was also a time for the young Oblates to know some history of the delegation through the sharing of the life stories of these Oblates who have gone ahead of us. The visit in a way have sparked another light to the young Oblates to continue the mission that departed Oblates have started. After the cemetery visit, group then went back to their respective ministries refreshed and with the

enthusiasm to radiate that light that God has shown to them.

We thank the “Christmas committee” composed of Frs. Jerry, Jude and Iru for organizing and spearheading the memorable event.

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