

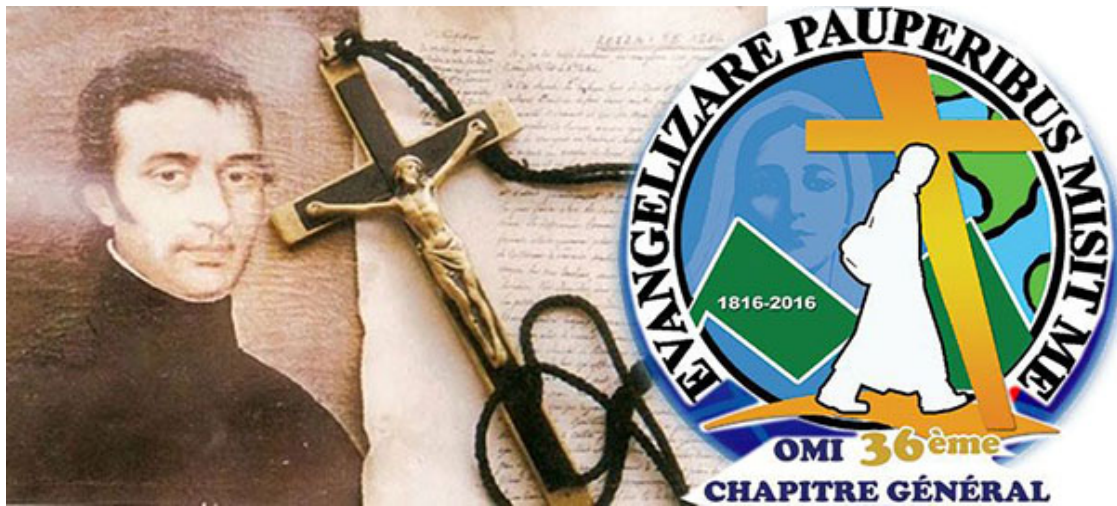
A SESSION with Bishop J. M. ABELLA (*Auxiliary Bishop of Osaka*)

Place: SACRA FAMIGLIA, Osaka Umeda Catholic Church

Date: OCTOBER 15 ~ 16, 2019

Time: 2 PM

PURPOSE: To begin a process of REFLECTION and EVALUATION of our mission in Japan



Our last General Chapter (2016) pointed out six areas of mission for our reflection and work. One of them, the first in the Chapter document was about the new faces of the poor. This is a real challenge for us all, in a time where “*the Church, along with the entire world, is experiencing an age of great transformation, in the most diverse of fields.*” (Pope Francis).

But we should strive to seek out those at the peripheries with their many faces: migrants, refugees, victims of addicts, war, violence, trafficking and those that are materially & spiritually poor, and do not know Jesus Christ.

As we thank God for our seventy years of presence in Japan, let me invite us to reflect on our future in this mission. In preparation for our session with Bishop ABELLA let me propose a few questions that would require prayer and discernment both at the personal and community levels.

Let us ask ourselves –

- What is OMI identity for Japan in order to know why I am/we are here?
- Do we still make a relevant presence in Japan or are we just trying to survive?
- Does the church in Japan need religious, if so what is our contribution?
- If we are to make a difference in the society, are we ready to let go of our past, fears, security etc.?
- God wants us to break away from our 'comfort zone' and step out in faith to do what He thinks is best for us. Are we ready to take up this challenge?





It is not just about migrants. It's also about our fears...

At the request of various bishops' conferences, Pope Francis has changed the date of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the last Sunday of September. The World Day for Migrants and Refugees will be held this Sunday, September 29, 2019. The theme for this year's celebration is, [**"It is not just about migrants."**](#)

Pope Francis has always been close to refugees and migrants and has been willing to walk together. His message for this year argues that the problems surrounding refugee migrants are not only theirs, but more of all our problems. In today's society, individualism, utilitarianism, and disposable culture are at the heart of values, and everyone is at risk of being eliminated. Under these circumstances, the empathy that resonates with the deepest human string invites us to feel the pain and encourage action to help those in need.

What is our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration? According to Pope Francis, our response can be summed up in four words - WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE and INTEGRATE.

For further explanation please read the attached message of our Holy Father. The same has been posted on our website: <https://www.omi-japankorea.net/>



- Bradly Rozairo OMI

Dear Brothers,

GATHERING WITH BISHOP ABELLA ON FEBRUARY 24 (Mon), 2020

Dear Brothers,

In preparation for our gathering in February, the council during its last meeting had requested Br. Yagi to write a summary (see the attachments) of Oblate presence and ministry in Japan for the last 70 years. This is to give us a picture of our past and to help us plan our future mission in Japan. Please see that you go through the summary prior to the meeting.

The council also spoke about the present situation of the Catholic Church in Japan. As the number of migrants/immigrants increases, the Japanese begin to feel that they are a minority. During our discussion, it was mentioned that we need to give importance to the Japanese as well as foreigners and help especially the migrants in their process of integration in the society, and for those who are Catholic, into the Japanese Church.

Since our Oblate parishes have a big number of migrants/immigrants, we have thought of choosing five mission parishes where five of our men are working. They are Frs. Jude (Toyohashi), Iru (Kochi), Hiran (Itami), Bernard (Koga) and Steve (Naruto). What we plan on doing on Feb. 24th is to have a PANEL DISCUSSION with these five men. To help them prepare for a discussion we suggest a few questions.

- As an Oblate, what is parish ministry for you today?
- How can your mission-parish be a free and simple out-word looking “church which goes forth”
Pope Francis?
- What efforts your mission-parish has made in integrating the immigrants/migrants into the Japanese church?
- What are some of the difficulties or obstacles in this process of integration?

Our session on February 24th will be facilitated by Bishop Abella.

Thank you.

Bradly Rozairo
Jan. 29, 2020