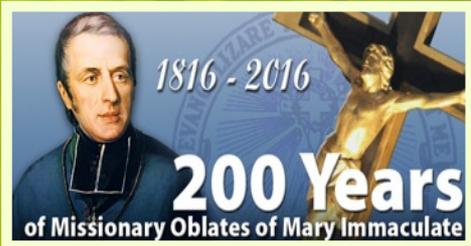


The Far East Star

OMI Japan and Korea Newsletter

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April 2014



There are those who have been sown in rich soil; they hear the word and accept it and yield a harvest, thirty, and sixty and hundredfold. -Mark 4:20

AORC MEETING IN JOGJAKARTA, INDONESIA

From The Delegation Superior's Desk: *Wency Laguidao omi*

The annual meeting of the AORC Provincials and Superiors is usually a time to exchange notes on the major concerns in the region especially in the areas of Formation, Mission, Personnel, Finance, etc. The meeting is usually convened by the AORC President and the General Councilor for the region attends.

I remember that when I was the AORC President many years ago, we had one annual meeting outside of the region, at the very house where the congregation was born in Aix en Provence. (It did raise eyebrows from some people but in the end, the Vicar General at the time thought that it was after all an excellent idea for the Provincials and Superiors to have come as a group to the birthplace of the Oblates.) During that week, we visited the different places in Aix and in Marseilles that were close to the Founder. We also said mass at his tomb in the cathedral of Marseilles. The mass lasted for more than two hours as each one shared his thoughts on the Founder and about being an Oblate. Some were even moved to tears as they shared their thoughts.

This year, the AORC met in Jogjakarta, (fondly nicknamed "Jogja" or "Yogya" by the locals) Indonesia. It is a bustling city, an hour away by plane from the capital city of Jakarta. It should be noted that Jogjakarta along with Jakarta are situated on the major island of Java. It must also be said that, although 90% of the total population of Indonesia (roughly 200M) is Muslim, the Javanese people take pride in their Hindu-Buddhist roots. Even Muslim mosques are built not in the traditional Muslim architecture with minarets but with the Hindu-inspired details such as mountain-shaped roofs, etc. Even the architecture of some Catholic churches is Hindu-inspired. We visited a big parish church with statues of Christ

and the Trinity carved like Hindu gods and buildings built looking like Hindu temples. There is religious syncretism but perhaps the better way of saying it is the presence of religious harmony among the major religions.



From about four in the morning, blaring loudspeakers from all directions wake up everyone to rise and pray. It is called "AZAAN," the Muslims' call to prayer. The call to prayer goes on five times throughout the day calling the faithful to prayer. Public places always have prayer rooms where Muslims can pray facing Mecca.

I grew up with the Muslims in Southern Philippines but I cannot remember being bothered by the blaring sound of speakers calling everyone to prayer. I remember instead the pealing of the huge bells from the cathedral usually calling people to pray the Angelus.

AORC meetings can also be very tiring especially when we start talking about the different concerns: problems we encounter in our formation houses, Justice and Peace issues in the region such as human trafficking, financial instability of many units, nagging concerns such as on-going wars and violence in some parts of Asia, etc. However, also very evident is the very "Asian-way" of dealing with problems, big and small. There are no heated debates or arguments.

There is always a movement towards harmonious relationships and peaceful settlement of certain issues that might be on hand without sacrificing what is true and just.

Indeed, it is an Asian-way of dealing with different situations, round-about and never confrontational.

However, AORC meetings are not all work. Excursions, parties and receiving gifts from the host unit are part of the meeting. In Jogjakarta, we were treated to a cultural night watching a very colorful local ballet ensemble which was truly a showcase of the people's pride in the Javanese culture. Yes there were parties and pictures and the never-ending giving of gifts like the beautiful "batik" shirts and others, for the participants to bring home.

A week before we arrived, several airports were closed because of the eruption of Mount Kelud, the very active volcano in the island of Java. The whole country, which is a string of islands, lies on the "Ring of Fire" hence, volcanic eruption is not seen as a rare phenomenon but something that can happen any day or at any given time.

They look at volcanic eruption from an optimist's point of view:

The ashes from the eruption will make the land fertile and conducive to farming.

The meeting was held at the Wisma De Mazenod, the Oblate Scholasticate which is situated at a sprawling complex of cottages and meeting halls also made available for the use of outside groups. The local airport is 20 minutes drive away and so is downtown where you will find the usual horde of tourists. Jogjakarta is also a university town, there are about 17 universities in the city, three of which are Catholics. Needless to say, the population is young and vibrant.

The Indonesian Province is young. They have a number of juniors, novices and scholastics. Most of the native Oblate priests are young. It is a small unit that is slowly growing amidst the colorful blend of different religions.



Some of the Indonesian Oblates. Young! (second from left is the Provincial)



The AORC group with some of the Indonesian Oblates

It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start.

Mother Teresa





**GOOD LUCK,
SAMUEL AND FRANCIS!**

Samuel HONG is preparing to join the Kenyan mission of the Province of Lacombe, Canada. Samuel was ordained last December 8, 2013 in Suwon, Korea and has received his Obedience to the Kenyan mission.

Fran HAHN will join the Province of Natal, South Africa. He will remain a member of this Delegation until he is officially incorporated by the Province of Natal. Fran will leave for South Africa immediately after the Congress.

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome three important Oblate visitors who will grace our Delegation Congress scheduled from March 31 to April 4.

We would like to welcome
*Fr. Clement WAIDYASEKARA, General Councilor for Asia Oceania, and
*Fr. Rohan SILVA, our very own Provincial who will act as resource persons.

*Fr. Francis NALLAPPAN, Provincial of India who will act as the Facilitator of the Congress.

Welcome Fathers Clement, Rohan and Francis. We hope that you will have the time to visit some of the missions after the Congress.

THANK YOU EDDIE!

After giving 50+ years of his life to the Japanese mission, Eddie WILLIAMS returns to the U.S. on May 19. He will join the community at the Oblate retirement home in Tewksbury, MA. Eddie is lucky to still have 6 or 7 siblings around the area.

He has been a parish-oriented missionary serving places like Kochi, Tokushima, Itami, Koga. His last assignment was Principal of the kindergarten in Koga.

We wish Eddie good luck and good health. Thank you very much Eddie for the many years that you have given to the mission!



Not too old to sing and dance. Taken during the last Christmas party.

Remembering our 'Roots!'

By Rve. Fr. Clement Waidyasekara

- General Councilior for Asia Oceania

At the end of the World War II, the Japanese picked up the pieces of their shattered lives and engaged in a gradual process that contributed to their nation's reconstruction and a return to normalcy both in terms of political revival and accelerated economic growth. With the passage of time, Japan began to make its presence felt as an important member of the East Asian Region.

But the Japanese soon realized that economic development alone was not sufficient to restore their war stricken lives. They were in pursuit of something deeper, something spiritually authentic, on which to rebuild their lives. In this historical context, the year 1945 was an important watershed. It is around this time that there was a call from the 'wilderness' for missionaries who could respond positively to the spiritual and other basic needs of this devastated country. But who in the world would want to commit brave and well-seasoned men to respond to such an overwhelming challenge? Nevertheless, at the unwavering behest of Bishop Yoshigoro Taguchi, Ordinary of Osaka for missionaries from overseas, a ray of hope sparked off and touched the zealous heart of Fr. Leo Deschatelets, OMI, the then Superior General, who is reported to have said: *"If no one else will, then we must go!"*. Thus was born the Oblate mission in the "Land of the Rising Sun."

To the Oblates known the world over for being *specialists in the most difficult missions* and inspired by a spirituality

founded on life in community and God's Word, the Church's call to take on the mission of Japan was irresistible. Since then this missionary journey has continued, though not without its moments of joy and sadness, daring and drawbacks. Amidst the twists and turns of changing fortunes, Japan was transformed from being a Vice-Province to a General Delegation. As the years rolled on, the Korean Mission was established and linked to the Unit which then came to be known as the Japan-Korea General Delegation.



At the dawn of the new millennium, concerns were raised whether Oblates should continue their missionary presence in Japan-Korea seeing that no fresh members were joining their ranks. In the meantime, policy changes were occurring in the General Administration to gradually relinquish the concept of General Delegation in favour of aligning these entities with energetic Provincial Units for greater efficiency, or even suppressing them as an ultimate option. But God's ways are otherwise. Given the hard work, sacrifice and determination of the earlier Oblate missionaries and the legacy they had generated and left behind for posterity, combined with the dedicated missionary commitments of the dynamic and youthful missionaries of today, in no way could one envisage writing off the Japan-Korea Unit.

Japan-Korea is a vital cog in the wheel of the Asian mission for evangelisation.

These are countries that have opened their doors to migrant workers from all parts of Asia, a reality that needs to be recognized in reviewing the delegation's mission strategies for the future.

In our missionary commitments and undertakings it is imperative that we realize that as Oblates we do not have all the resources at our disposal to confront and respond to all the needs of the poor with their *many faces*. Nor do we have all the answers to the manifold questions that are being posed by constantly changing realities of the world, and especially those raised by an affluent Japan. We need to ask the vital questions that will enable us to grasp the contemporary reality and move ahead as a Congregation well implanted in this country. It is crucial that we try to see with the eyes of faith and guided by the spirit of our Founder a new and more relevant way of being and becoming a Congregation among the people of Japan-Korea. The re-reading of the *Immense Hope* Project during the next Spring Meeting in April 2014 will hopefully provide a strategic direction to this Unit.

Looking towards the future, what I envisage is that the thrust of the Oblates be focused on a serious search of the divine-human inter-relationship as it unfolds in our midst, respecting one another's personal freedom while recognizing and valuing the richness of pluralism.

As Oblates we need to foster the non-negotiable value of being '*men of community*,' while our mission needs to be always one that is essentially people-centered. However, there is always the danger of our becoming institutionalized, and even more precarious, being lured into unwanted political ideologies. This would only contribute to the weakening of our prophetic intensity and undermine our efforts in preaching the Good News. Let us continue to journey together trusting in God and trusting in each other. May St. Eugene accompany us, as we journey in building God's Kingdom in a land that has fast recovered from the trammels and tragedies of war.

Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile!

News from the Oblate District community of Fukuoka.

A minor meeting place

For meeting people Koga is a fascinating venue. Every Monday night the community comes together for dinner. But besides this faithful district community lots of unusual people show up. Lately two Bishops have shown up for Monday supper. More frequently though, we have had some of the neighborhood religious, Capuchins, Passionists and the occasional seminary professor. All are welcome and all make the conversation more informative and entertaining and each one in a different way, depending upon the interests and pre-occupations of the participants. It keeps us from getting bogged down in the minutiae of a small community.

".....Oblate houses and hearts are open to all.... Priests and religious are always welcome and other evangelical workers will be received so that they may share the bread of friendship..."
from R41a

This is a very felicitous rule and of course leads to many more levels of hospitality

God's plan for us

By Provincial- Fr. Rohan Silva

Should we spend our time in trying to know God's plan for us, or should we simply accept it as it unravels?

We believe that God has a plan for each one of us. And it is within the bigger plan that He has, establishing His reign here on earth. His invitation to us is to be partners with Him in realizing this great project.

Despite this belief, we continue to act as if we have to give God a plan that we have for us. Our dreams and our hopes are part of the plan we have for ourselves. And therefore, our prayer becomes most of the time, a prayer of supplication, asking the Lord to help make our dreams and hopes come true. Of course, when we ask from God for our needs, we demonstrate well that we depend on Him, and that we need His help. But, supplications are also a way of saying "let my will be done".

But, our experience is that God answers our prayers in ways that we do not understand.

Our dreams and hopes may not all be realized the way we want, but we will be made to realize that what is good for us is eventually granted and not what we desire.

Isn't this the revelation of His plans for us in some measure?

Let me share with you an anecdote:

Once upon a time three young trees were growing side by side in a huge plantation. With typical youthful enthusiasm, they shared with one another their hopes for life when they reach maturity.

One hoped to be used in the building of some mansion, so that its grain and quality would be admired by the great and the famous.

The second hoped to form the tallest mast in the most beautiful sailing ship, thus gaining full attention as it sailed into any port.



The third hoped to be part of some big public spectacle, well out in the open, so that passers-by would stop and look on in wonder.

The reality for the trees, according to the legend was:

-The first was cut down, and part of it was used to make a trough for animals, and it later became a manger in a stable.

-The second was cut down, and part of it was used to make a very simple fishing boat that spent a lot of its time tied up on the shore of the sea of Galilee.

-The third was cut down, and part of it was used to form the beams of a cross, which was used for crucifixion.

Despite the dreams of each individual tree, God has a personal plan and purpose for each. Isn't it true of our personal life stories too? God works His way through with our lives, since he has a plan for each of us.

'May your will be done', was the prayer of Jesus. He surrendered himself to the plan God the Father had for him, even when he knew it was a path of the cross. Because he followed the way of the cross, God the Father, gave him the crown of glory.

When our prayer becomes at all times, 'May Your will be done', then we too surrender ourselves to the plan, God has for each one of us. By this, He makes us partners with Him to establish His reign here on earth. He makes us not passive observers, but active collaborators in this challenging mission.

Mission Superior of Korea : Maurizio Giorgianni



Dear brothers

During these days, I take the parable of the Good Samaritan for my morning meditation.

I think everybody in his ministry can think of himself as the man from Samaria. We try to see the need of the people around us and

try to take care of their wounds and give them some help.

Sometimes we are successful.

I experience many times in my life that the help I give covers just a particular need. There will always be another need, another problem to solve, another wound to cure and it probably will be difficult to make a change in the life of the person we help.

I found many good points of meditation in that parable, especially in relation with the ministry I do in Korea. I want to share just a small one with you.

I was very much touched by the fact that the Samaritan disappears after leaving the man in the shelter.

Most probably, the man wounded by the thieves did not even know the face of the person who cured him.

He was almost dead on the street and unconscious. The Samaritan did not wait for the wounded man to wake up and say thanks or to be recognized for what he had done. The Samaritan gave that “honor” to the inn owner. He told him to take care of the poor man and left.

In today’s society where people sometimes want to “appear”, to affirm themselves, I found so much to learn from that attitude of the “disappearing” Samaritan.

Many times we like to be recognized for what we have done...we look for a kind of gratitude, even small... The Samaritan teaches me that have to do good, disappear and leave others to take the merit of my work.

Probably that is a real love and really the Mission. If that “Other”, who takes the merit of our job, is our Good Lord, then we have accomplished all.

“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Mt.5, 16)

Have a good Lenten season.

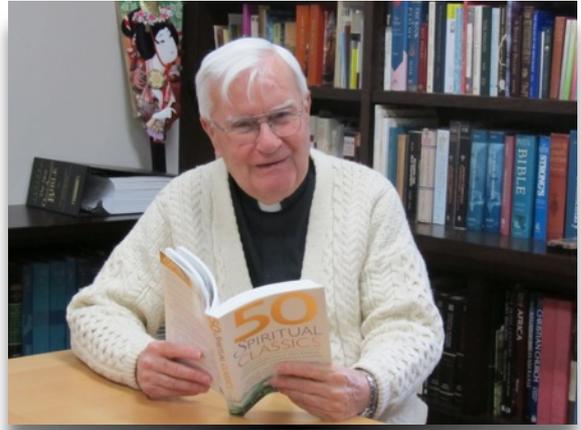
Congratulations and Prayers to our Cardinal Orlando Beltran QUEVEDO omi



Fr. Len Inui (Second from the left) representing our delegation, went to Rome to share the joy of his classmate’s reception of ‘Red Hat’.

“Look both ways before crossing the street.”

By Edde Williams omi



Every place there was much to learn, or perhaps it should be 'everyone had something of value for me'.

The street is the Pacific Ocean in this case plus the American continent. Fukuoka to Tewksbury and probably the old saw should be restated.

“Look ahead and look back”

“Look back” Boston—New York, St. Louis, San Diego, Honolulu, Wake island, Tokyo (Haneda) September 17, 1958, Language school, we began the next morning. “This is a pen”, “kore wa pen desu” with Mrs. Minobe, through two years, (then to Okinawa for 3 months helping the US Army).

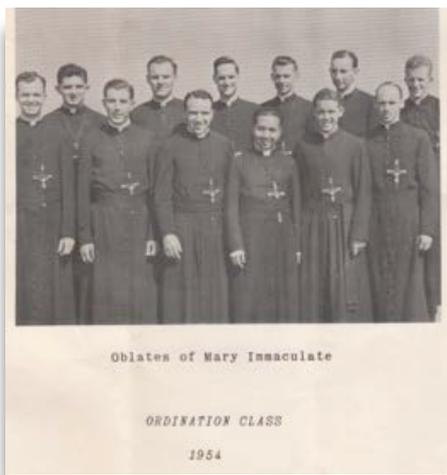
First assignment—Naruto with Bert Silver. Reported my change to the gods at Ise Jingu on the way. Somehow I managed to bankrupt Naruto in six months; income 5000 yen a day outgo 7000 yen. It was as fated as was that prophecy written on the Palace Wall during Belshazzar’s feast in Daniel 5. But just as Belshazzar could not decipher what was written neither could I, and with no Daniel at hand Bert came back, the Provincial was notified. He covered the debt and I was promptly sent to Hikarigaoka in Fukuoka for five years and a day of good experience. Nick Neville was the Pastor and as he busied himself largely at the Itazuke American Airbase, I was left to learn much pastoral. And it was there I began to expound the Bible. The Old- New Testament in one volume had recently been issued. In fact, one of the first people I baptized in Japan came to visit me recently, still faithful after 50 years. Another older man from that first Bible took the name ‘Abraham’ when he was baptized. When I started my mission work I knew almost everything only to find out as the years passed that I was mostly wrong. The transfers came through the years. Unpacking and discarding my wrong knowledge, I went from Fukuoka to Kochi to Itami to Tokushima to Kochi again, Tokushima again, Koga (Fukuoka), Zendana (Nagoya), Toyohashi and then Fukuoka again. And now the ultimate return trip to America, probably Tokyo (Narita) then Boston.

One example will have to suffice. Bert Silver had a course in Christianity for the four weeks of Advent. It was expressly for non-Christians. The next year or two a Mohammedan Imam had a similar but somewhat longer course on Islam in Tokushima. So we tried that for several years in Tokushima. I believe it was 8 times, free, for non-Christians. Nishikawa sensei gave some talks each time, the Bishop, a married couple, me. It clearly ended, was not open-ended as were most of our classes. It was easy to ask friends to attend as it was limited and they could finish it without offending the introducing person. This avoided the difficulty of quitting along the way which was what happened with most of our classes. For non-Christians this kind of evangelization worked very well. But in reality in every place one went there were things to learn to replace the ones that were gradually being jettisoned of the original bag of knowledge with which I’d started. Probably it’s the same journey all of us Oblates took.

And now it is time to look across the Pacific and America to the next adventure. This time there are no bags of knowledge, merely hopes. In all the changes through the years, the appointment started with the wrenching of separation but always ended in even more happiness. Since it is the same God then and now, I am sure the wrenching of leaving all of you and this wonderful mission will be changed into joy, as it says in the Gospel.. Nonetheless, the tears always come first.

A word about Bishop Turquetile, OMI

By . Bert Silver



1954 Washington, DC
Oblate Scholasticate
My Ordination
Presiding Bishop
Bishop Turquetile, OMI



After having spent over forty years with the Eskimos the Bishop chose to retire at our Scholasticate in Washington. He lived with our Oblate Community for about ten years. During this time he would daily meet with us scholastics sharing his experiences of living for and with the Eskimos. Annually, on the eve of the feast of “The Little Flower”, St. Therese, he would share with us how she, who was not canonized yet, was helpful in bringing the first converts to him. It was the year 1916 – Father Turquetile’s fourth fruitless year with the Eskimos. Two Oblates had been murdered the year before. His bishop granted one last year before closing the mission. Then two unsigned envelopes arrived from Normandy, France. One of the letters contained dust from under her casket. Father and Brother Girard prayed and the next day sprinkled some of the dust over the unsuspecting Eskimo visitors. The next Sunday these visitors asked for instruction - 17 Eskimos were baptized – the mission was saved. With tears in his eyes he would end his talk with us. The year after my ordination the Bishop went to our Lord and he is buried at our Oblate Cemetery in Tewksbury.

Why mention Bishop Turquetile in this article - because he is my model as a “missionary”. During my several years in Washington I met many Oblate missionaries who had been working in foreign countries. I was one of the group that took care of the Missionary Files. About three years before ordination I had made up my mind to ask for “the foreign missions”, mostly because of the example of Bishop Turquetile. I gave a lot of thought to the missions our province was connected with, Brazil, Philippines, and Japan. When I was in Theology Bishop Taguchi, the Bishop of Osaka and the Prefect of Shikoku, came to the scholasticate and gave us a talk about Japan – specifically about Shikoku. The Oblates had gone to Japan in 1948 and he was thankful to the Superior General for accepting the invitation to send missionaries to his Diocese. Again, I think it was the Holy Spirit guiding me

on being “sent” to Japan. I received permission, with three other scholastics to take courses in Japanese at Georgetown University. For which I was grateful. But receiving my obedience to Japan in 1954 was one of the happiest days of my life. Thanks to Bishop Taguchi and Bishop Turquetile.

Just about sixty years have “gone by”. I am grateful to the Oblates for letting me spend most of these years in the Prefecture of Tokushima. I made efforts to become “adapted” to Japan and the Japanese. My love for the sound of the Japanese drum has opened doors for evangelization.

Involvement in “Utai” – Japanese cultural opera singing. Learning to play the Japanese flute-“shakuhachi” also introduced me to the silent sounds of the Japanese culture. Just “being available” seemed to be my missionary outlook. To bring Christ to those who do not know Him.

My thanks to the Oblate community in Japan for “putting up” with me for these sixty years. I plan on enjoying the “Golden Years” – with the help of our Lord and the love of our Blessed Mother.



From the “Big Drum” to...The “Little Drum”...for an Oblate going on 86.

“From Fukushima to Rokkasho Village” - By Bradly Rozairo

-A Study Tour-

Last year in September I took part in a study tour that was organized by the Catholic Justice and Peace Conference of Sendai Diocese. Since the tour was to start early in the morning, I arrived in Fukushima on the evening before the event. At the exit of JR Fukushima station, I heard the sound of drums and the loud anti-nuclear chants of people. Many were carrying banners and slogans and were protesting against the nuclear power. That was the welcome I received as soon as I arrived. It made me feel that I had just stepped into the radioactive zone, and within me the study tour had already begun!

In the morning of Sept, 14th, we left Fukushima City for Minamisoma which is about 25 kilometers north of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, the site of the nuclear accident. Our first stop was Haramachi Catholic Church in Minamisoma. Fr. Kari-ura of Nagoya Diocese and a few Catholics were there to welcome us and also to lead us into prayer. After the prayer service, we paid a visit to a volunteer’s center called Caritas Haramachi Base, which the Catholic church operates in Minamisoma City. With the help of many volunteers, the Center caters to the needs of those affected by tsunami and nuclear accident.

attending to them. Having seen and listened to the tour guide, it was very clear that the government of Japan has dumped a huge amount of money to clean the nuclear affected areas risking the lives of many. It was sad to learn that the rice fields and the lush green mountains that once nourished the lives of so many, are now poisoned by the invisible radioactivity. Although there are many houses and buildings in the vicinity, there is no movement of people. Odaka village looked like a ghost town to me. What impressed me most was the bicycles of school children that still remain unattended next to Odaka railway station. The triple disaster (earthquake, tsunami & nuclear accident) has not only made people suffer, but also made them hopeless. There is nothing for them to look forward to, and the future remains very bleak. After having spent a good amount of time there, we left Iitate Village and took the bullet train to Hachinoe in Aomori.



On the second day we visited Rokkashomura, where Japan has built a nuclear reprocessing fuel plant that is used to recycle nuclear power

by removing plutonium from used nuclear power fuel. Close to this, there is a nuclear fuel PR center, which we were allowed to visit with the help of a guide. The presence of the plant continues to threaten the lives of the people in that village.

From there we went into the Odaka District, and took the national highway to Iitate Village (a place with high levels of radiation) by bus and reached a small town called Odaka. On the way we could see many temporary storages that were full of black bags containing contaminated soil, and men wearing masks



We paid a visit to Keiko Kikukawa, who pursues her activism in order to stop the reprocessing plant. She runs a "Village of Flowers and Herbs" (花とハーブの里). She grows tulips and other plants to help raise awareness of what Rokkashomura still has to offer. Many volunteers from various parts of Japan and abroad not only visit her, but also live with her for a period of time and help promote organic farming. She shared with us her experience. While listening to her story I felt that she is very much convinced of what she is doing and has given herself totally to fight for a cause. Although not very healthy, she wants to continue her silent protest. I was challenged by her simple life style and dedication.



In the afternoon we went to the tuna fishing port of Oma, located in Shimokita of northeastern Aomori, where the nuclear power plant is under construction! There, we visited the outpost of activism that is "Asako House," named after the late Asako Kumagai, a local woman who refused to sell her land and forced a planned nuclear reactor site to be shifted 250 meters further away from her home. At present her daughter Atsuko Ogasawara who lives there, refuses to sell the land, despite plant operator J-Power's offer of more than US\$2 million for her log house.

The one-kilometer pathway that allows access to 'Asako House' is unpaved and fenced on both sides. Those visiting this lonely place are watched by a company security guard. The surroundings make you feel that you are caught in a cage. In this set up Atsuko Ogasawara lives alone and continues her fight. I was very much impressed by her courage and bravery.

Her house, now surrounded by J-Power's land, is a focal point for Japan's antinuclear movement, attracting letters and visits from supporters across Japan and abroad.

For me, the first day was heavy because of what I saw and heard, but the second day became heavier especially after seeing the construction site of a nuclear plant. This created in me a feeling of disappointment and anger. Some in the group also felt the same. Even after a big nuclear disaster, Japan has not really learned a lesson.

On the last day of the tour we gathered at the Hachinoe Shiomachi Church to listen to two speakers, one from Minamisoma and the other from Aomori. They spoke about life after the nuclear accident and the difficulties and suffering they go through everyday. Listening to the people of the area was something special, and for me it was more than what the media tells us. After their inputs we got divided into small groups and shared our thoughts and feelings on what we saw and heard during the study tour. Our coming together for 3 days, came to an end with the Eucharist. That afternoon, before a strong typhoon could have its downfall in the northeastern region, everyone, including myself was in a hurry to catch the train to get back home.

Finally, we may make use of the media and other sources to know what is happening in the northeast, but it's nothing like seeing and listening to the cries of the people living in the disaster affected areas. For me it was worth making a trip. A word of thanks to the Catholic Justice and Peace Conference of Sendai for a well organized study tour.



Study Tour Participants

News on Formation From Korea

By Sebastian Shitol

Fr. Anselmo, OMI, the rector of the seminary visited Sri Lanka last December. The intention of his visitation was to meet our scholastic, Bro. Joseph, OMI and to experience the formation program there. Bro. Joseph, after his novitiate in Sri Lanka continued his study on philosophy. Fr. Anselmo spent a few days with our scholastic and then visited formation houses. His experience of formation in Sri Lanka will be very helpful to form the future Oblates here in Korea he said.



Last year three young men expressed their willingness to our Oblate way of life and joined our community. After spending a year with us they sat for the entrance exam in the Catholic University of Suwon, South Korea. They all passed in the exam and showed a very good image to the diocese as well as to the other congregation. For the small communities like us, it is a very good news too. They will start their classes from March 3, 2014. We ask your prayers and support for these three young men that they commit themselves fully for the poor and marginalized.

Last December 7, 2013 was another great day for the Mission of Korea to praise and thank God. On that day we welcomed another local priest Fr. Hong Samuel, OMI. He is the third local Oblate priest ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Jagath, OMI, the representative of the province of Sri Lanka and Fr. Wency OMI, the Superior of Japan/Korea delegation participated in that joyous occasion and doubled our joy. Fr. Hong Samuel received his first obedience to Kenya. Though we are short of Oblate priests in South Korea we are delighted to share our brother and first Oblate missionary from a tiny mission with the Kenyan Mission. We pray for him to have a good and fruitful mission in Kenya.



News from the Oblate District community of Kochi.

The Kochi Oblate District, which works in keeping with the strategy of “team ministry” introduced by the diocese of Takamastu, Japan, gathers to pray, discuss and share a meal almost every month. In a prayerful atmosphere we share our joys and sorrows and also discuss the ministry and work in detail with particular assignments for the coming month. We take up turns for the week day Holy Eucharist and the rotation turn for the Sundays as each member rotates between 5 mission stations for the Sunday Liturgy. Thus it is with one Spirit, we try to work together, for the good of the people and for the Church. Lastly, all of us who gather, share our meals, encouraged by the faith-sharing of one another. Thus we say; “Our togetherness has meaning, as long as there is purpose for our togetherness”.

