



From the Desk of the Delegation Superior

Wency Laguidao, OMI

The Disaster's Aftermath

Four months have passed since the tragic afternoon of March 11 when nature unleashed its fury on the coastal communities along the Tohoku region in eastern Japan. The disaster forever changed the lives of thousands of people and left around 30,000 lives either dead or missing. Children were left orphans, parents lost children when the waves swallowed up schools, government workers died while doing their duties and entire communities were literally erased from the face of the earth. To this date, thousands of households remain displaced by the meltdown of the atomic reactors in Fukushima Prefecture. While the government frantically searches for solutions, people remain displaced and are forbidden to return to their homes and places of work. The sad news is that a simple solution is not in the offing, at least not in the next few months. The eerie feeling is that it can happen again, anywhere and anytime. The disaster prompted the closure of a number of other reactors in the country either temporarily or for an indefinite period of time. Plans to build new ones have also been shelved. People are told to use less electricity and conserve energy.



We have learned many lessons, big and small, from the recent disaster. There were acts of heroism, volunteerism, acts of selflessness and charity among the victims themselves and people from various sectors wanting to be counted. The nuclear accident in Fukushima is a wake up call for us to realize that we have created a monster to fuel our extravagant lifestyle. The debate between pro and anti nuclear power has gained steam but the real issue is whether we are willing to give up all the conveniences that eat up unlimited amount of electricity and fuel.

I went to Sendai a month after the disaster and saw for myself the havoc of the tsunami. I was in Itami during the Kobe earthquake 16 years ago and the big difference between those two disasters is the area covered by the devastation. The Tohoku disaster covers a coastal area of about 500 kilometers stretching along the coastline of three prefectures. By comparison, the Kobe earthquake was concentrated within Kobe and the neighboring cities hence relief, rescue and reconstruction were done at an enormous speed. After a year, there was almost no visible trace of the earthquake.

Standing on the shore where walls of water 15 meters high came and destroyed lives and property. With Fr. Aime Bolduc, a Sendai priest and Atty. Benny Bacani of Porticus Foundation.



I went to Sendai again in late June to accompany a representative from a funding agency. The resolute will among the local people to rebuild from scratch is very inspiring. So much have been done in terms of cleaning up but the work of reconstruction has barely started. Land boundaries are lost, public offices keeping records of properties and citizens are completely destroyed, bankbooks are gone, personal IDs are also gone, etc. There were piles and piles of cars being crushed into bales of twisted steel in what are now called "car cemeteries." The work that is yet to be done is simply overwhelming.

The Diocese of Sendai has established a Support Center managed by volunteer staff from all over the country. The center is funded by Caritas Japan and supervises the common effort of the Japanese Church to contribute to the effort of rehabilitation. It coordinates with the government, NGOs, NPOs and other church-based groups helping in the disaster area. The center also supervises the activities of

volunteers from all over the country wanting to lend a hand. So far, around 1400 volunteers have been registered with the center alone. They are of different nationalities and from different age levels. The nature of their work at the moment is mainly cleaning up tons of debris in towns and cities. The task is daunting but the volunteers are resolved to contribute something. At the end of each day, they gather to share and report on what they have gone through during the day and prepare for more work the following day.

More than financial aid, Sendai Diocese continues to appeal to the different religious congregations, through the Major Religious Conferences, to send priests and religious to take care of the inland and unaffected parishes for at least one year or more. This will enable the local clergy to work full time at the disaster area, which are mainly in the coastal communities.



Behind us used to be a quiet community close to the sea transformed into a lake of brine water by the tsunami.

Some Announcements and Reminders

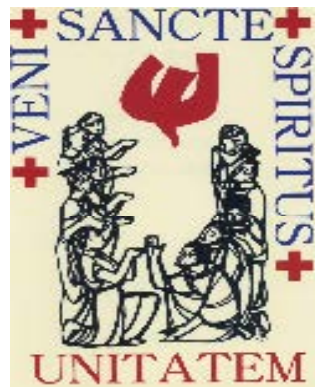
1. The July issue of the newsletter of Philippine Province had a short news on Bernard ONDAP, the newest addition to our unit. *"In keeping with our charism to be missionaries in today's world, the Philippine Province is officially sending three (3) Filipino Oblates to foreign mission at this time. It is a fitting way to celebrate the 150th death anniversary of Eugene de Mazenod. Bernard Ondap, OMI, who was ordained in December 2010, has been given his first obedience from the Superior General to the Province of Colombo--Delegation of Japan-Korea. Bernard had already spent about two years in Japan as a scholastic, and will continue on that missionary journey there. He will be a welcome addition to the delegation, which is mourning the death of one of its Oblates, Xave Tosa. Bernard is currently working on his visa to Japan while pinch hitting in parishes."* Bernard finally obtained his Philippine passport and will start the tedious process of getting a Japanese visa again.

2. This year's retreat will be preached by Fr. Francis NALLAPPAN, OMI, Provincial of the Indian Province. We would like to thank Fr. Francis for accepting. He will have the chance of visiting Japan after the retreat in Korea. This year's retreat will be held at the retreat house of the Sisters of Perpetual Help in Suji, telephone number 031-263-4222. Arrivals must be on Sunday, August 28. The retreat will end around noontime of Sept. 2, Friday. Please get your tickets accordingly.

3. As announced earlier, General Councillor for Asia-Oceania, Fr. Clement WAIDYASEKARA, OMI and our Colombo Provincial Fr. Rohan SILVA, OMI will make a visitation of the unit on October 23-30. They will be in Korea from October 20-23. They expect to meet each one of us and see all the mission stations.

4. Our prayers and congratulations to the new bishop of Takamatsu Diocese, Bishop John SUWA Eijiro. He was a diocesan priest from the Archdiocese of Osaka who came to help out in Takamatsu Diocese some seven years ago. Let us give Bishop Suwa all the support and prayers that he needs.





Bishop Suwa's Crest



Brother PETER HONG, OMI to Profess Final Vows in Australia

Meet Brother Peter HONG, OMI, our Korean scholastic who has been studying at St. Mary's Seminary in Mulgrave, Australia. Bro. Peter was born in 1983. He lost his father in 1988 and the siblings, (he has two sisters), were raised by their mother, a devout catholic. He joined the Oblates in 2002, went to Sri Lanka to study English there and eventually spent the novitiate year in Bandarawela, Sri Lanka. He made his first vows in 2007 and was sent to Australia in 2008 for his scholasticate and studied at the Catholic Theological College in Melbourne where he earned his Bachelor of Theology in May, 2011. Brother Peter was unanimously recommended by his formators in Australia for final vows. James JEYACHANDRAN, mission superior of Korea, will attend Bro. Peter's final profession on September 8th in Australia. His mother and sisters also plan on attending. You can send a message to Bro. Peter: peterhong0124@hotmail.com CONGRATULATIONS, Brother Peter!



Remembering Xave



They came to say goodbye...

"I did not come to Japan to be a parish priest," was a remark we often heard from Xave and he was true to his conviction until death. We remember Xavier for many of his "unorthodox" ideas and he carried some of those even beyond death. He somehow knew that he might go anytime so he made it known to some Oblates close to him that he has left the details of a "liturgy" that he wanted followed for his wake and funeral. Ray, Iru and myself went to look for the instructions that Xave left behind and we found them on his desk. In particular, he did not want that his non-christian acquaintances would be left out at his wake and funeral so he specified certain things so that both christians and non-christians would be

one in celebrating his life. Then bishop-elect Fr. SUWA (who is now Bishop Suwa of Takamatsu) himself insisted that we should follow Xave's wishes. Both the wake and funeral rites were well attended by a crowd that literally overflowed to the streets. It was a grand send off for a man who begged to be different from the traditional mould of christianity and stood by what he believed in even at the cost of being ostracized by those around him.

What was more impressive was to see people from all walks of life weeping openly as they pay their final respects to someone they loved whom they fondly called "Deru-chan" or "Poppo-chan" (both monikers were derived from his original name "Delporte" which some of his friends found difficult to pronounce.). He definitely touched the lives of many people whom he met.

He was at one time the head of Seibo Gakuen, the former Oblate language school in Kochi and also taught French and English at different schools, taught at the orphanage next to the Enoguchi Parish and was active in many circles in Kochi, the city close to his heart. He left a good collection of his woodblock prints or hanga, an art he painstakingly learned and eventually mastered through the years. He was active in several justice and peace movements within the church and was present in the many of their national meetings.

Born Xavier Josef DELPORTE in the Flanders part of Belgium (Kortrijk) on October 27, 1927, he joined the Oblates right after WWII in 1946. He was ordained in 1953 and taught at the Juniorate in Belgium before coming to Japan on September 3, 1955. He became a naturalized Japanese citizen some 30 years ago, taking the name TOSA Yoshikazu. He was assigned in Aki after language school in 1957 then moved to Akaoka in 1964 and to Enoguchi in 1969 until he died on March 31, 2011. He was 84 when he died.

Xave was buried at the OMI plot in the catholic cemetery in Nangoku, Kochi on May 21, 2011. The mass and simple burial ceremony was also attended by a good number of parishioners from both Nakajimacho and Enoguchi, some non-christian friends and Oblates.



Sayonara, Poppo-chan!



One for the road. Oblates and other priests sing the *Salve Regina* before the final farewell.



Goodbye and till we meet again...

Brad Rozairo

"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but live in thankfulness that he was" - Hebrew proverb.

It was really sad to learn about the passing away of Angelo Siani.

A man of mission and community who accomplished his mission on earth has gone to be with his Father. As we mourn over his death, let us be thankful to God for the gift of this person.

Eternal rest to Ange, and consolation to his mother and sisters.
Ange was one of the early birds to send his contribution to our newsletter. Below is his message.

Pictures of Ange's last visit to Japan, August 2010



Ange with his sister



His 74th Birthday (Aug.23)



With some of his OMI brothers

Angelo Siani

Dear Brothers.

We say it so often " It is a joy to live with our brothers in community."
I have experienced so often these past few years. However this past week being put on oxygen etc the response of care and concern was overwelling.
The Oblates at Holy Angels what support!!! calls from Japan, Hawaii and Hirowatari Sensei.....I am grateful and experience the joy of living in community. St Eugene's words are alive "charity among ourselves"
Keep our communities a holy place.
God bless you all.

Bert Silver

I remember! Fr. Alfons Keuter, OMI

Father Alfons died recently and is buried at the Oblate Cemetery in Hunfeld, Germany.
My recollections of a wonderful Oblate.

The year I can't remember...when I first went to Rome to attend the Oblate Treasurers' Meeting was when I first met him. Before one of the meeting several of us met in Frankfort. With Alfons we visited several of the Oblate houses. We ended up in Hunfeld The "Wall" was still there and Alfons wanted us to see it – so he drove us to it. We got out of the van and stood at the wall. Alfons wanted to make sure the guards that were posted nearby saw him...he approached the fence...looked at the guards and "pissed" on it. A look of satisfaction was on his face and said "Let us now go". We drove in Alfons' van from Hunfeld to Rome...Alfons did all the driving. No highways...all back small roads. Over the Alps – through the Bremen Pass and into the village in the picture I took.

The village...although in Italy...most of the residents were of German descent. Alfons stood in front of the farm house where we were to stay...looked at the magnificent mountains surrounding the village and said..."in the summer I climb that mountain (pointing) from here to there" and added "in the winter I ski there". A few years went by and I was to join him in Korea when we were to purchase the first house for the Oblates. Vincenzo will remember. Vincenzo took us to look at several houses. Not cheap by any means. Alfons was getting real tired. And Vincenzo wanted to show him some more and Alfons with his hands on his hip took one look at Vincenzo and in his typical German guttural voice said "we will see no more houses...we will buy the first house we looked at...period" "the money?" "it will come". End of quote. A wonderful Oblate...caring for the missions in a way we will never know. I am grateful for having known him as a brother Oblate. My thanks, Alfons. May you rest in peace.



July 3rd. Anan Mission



showed were from the local missions.

This is the day that the Takamatsu Diocese has set aside as a day to remember Father Yuki, SJ. Father Yuki is one of the 188 Japanese Martyrs declared Beatified a few years ago in Nagasaki. As Father Yuki was originally from the area where our mission of Anan is located in Tokushima Prefecture the ceremony has taken place there for the past few years. After a period set aside for lunch there was a lecture given by an historian, Professor Miki. Then the Eucharist took place with our newly ordained Bishop, Bishop Suwa as the main celebrant. The eighty or so that

Bill Maher The Birthday Party

Tom and I returned to the States in the middle of May to attend a surprise birthday party for his twin brother Jack. Jack's daughter had planned the affair to be held at her huge house in Atlanta Georgia. Since my elder sister lives about an hour away in Bremen Georgia and my younger sister about 5 hours away in South Carolina, every one gathered in Atlanta on May 29th and surprised my brother Jack. After a grand time of renewing our connections, great food and a little beach ball, everyone stayed that night and returned after Mass in the afternoon of Sunday. We had another party that night at my elder sisters' house, and guests were coming and going the whole week.



The only bad thing about a good vacation is the fact that you have to come back to work! But the rest and time away give a new perspective to life in general.



We spent almost the whole month in Bremen Georgia but I was able to get a ride to Bellville Ill. where the Oblates have a large Marian Shrine, Our Lady of the Snows and a residence house on the property of the former juniorate. I spent almost a full week there connecting with old classmates and many of the Oblates I've known for a life time. There are men still active in ministry, some in reduced ministry and a few retired. I always enjoy the time there on the beautiful grounds and a must is a visit to the cemetery where I know almost all the occupants. Some of whom have entered in the last two years since I was last there. Two large deer

meandered away as we approached.

The one picture is my family. My older sister Pat, 83, the twins 80 that day, Judy my younger sister 65 and yours truly 73. I can't figure out why my older sister looks the youngest.

The other picture is morning Mass at the residence house. I get a lot out of the visits with adoration and night prayer and morning prayers and Mass in community.

If you get a chance celebrate a birthday. It's been statistically proven the more birthdays you celebrate the longer you live.

Christy Pakianathan **Indelible Impressions**

Being a missionary in a unique atmosphere, where two extremes of 'natural challenge' and 'affluence' are found to be rivalling one another, is very interesting but at the same time very often dramatically unexpected things happen. Japan is in fact, a peculiar milieu, where plenty of adaptation, versatility and so forth are demanded. Launching into a totally unknown reality, where things, starting from 'A' to 'Z', are completely new, is no doubt, a big challenge. But the transcending of such realities is a remarkable process, which leaves behind indelible impressions.

It is in this sense that I review my past months in this completely different set up from the one to which I have been accustomed. These things give a lot of incentive to launch further and further afield. On the other hand, the task of adaptation and accommodation particularly to a new language, culture, food, customs and so forth, though this has its own pros and cons, yet in a broader sense, teaches much of not only knowledge from the pages of a book but gives never fading memories broadening my perspectives and deepening my convictions.

Experience with the newly met people who have become part of my life now, continues to teach me the theology of praxis. To be specific, the attitude shown here, when the natural calamity arose in Tohoku, is remarkably impressive, even though I had a similar experience a couple of years ago. All in all, the experiences that I am having, viewed from the missionary point of view are worthwhile, teaching me, indelible.

Dick Harr **From: Tewksbury**

Tewksbury, as usual, has been rather quiet. Recently to honor celebrants who are observing years in the priesthood and religious life, 75 Oblates gathered for a day of celebration. There was Mass together and then dinner. The priests came from all directions. One priest had ruined his shoes and I was able to find a pair in my closet to help him. It was a good thing I had an extra pair. In all it was a grand celebration. I myself celebrated 65 years in religious vows. And it seems hardly that long at all.

I'm so thankful that none of the community there suffered any injury from the earthquake earlier this year. Here in the U.S. there have been some awful tornadoes--even here in Massachusetts. The damage is severe in those areas. I guess we can say that this has been a tough year for so many.

The grounds here at Tewksbury are quite extensive, and they look just beautiful. It's a good-looking spring. I enjoy my daily walks here. My health is holding up pretty well. The care we receive is excellent.

I wish a good, healthy summer to each of you. May God bless each of you always and give success to your labors.

Francis Hahn **Greetings from Itami.**

It has been a while since I have tried to write something for the newsletter, probably because I have very little "news" to report. Life here in Itami is pretty steady in terms of events. Wency being named Delegation Superior has caused him to travel almost weekly, and that does necessitate Masses being covered, but since we are four active men we seem to be able to work it out.

I have been relieved of the district bursar work as well; Jack Deely has graciously taken up the gauntlet, and so now at last I can concentrate on the parish, and the prison work, areas I feel I have been neglecting too much due to other duties.

I'm will be celebrating my 40 anniversary of ordination in April of 2012, and intend to take 6 weeks off around that date to go to the States. Some dear friends will celebrate 60 years of marriage three days before my anniversary date, so I will join them in DC and then fly on to Buffalo to celebrate with a mass of Thanksgiving. I have no intention of having a party, but just want to celebrate with my family, while some who remember the event are still alive. I'm not sure I'll be around for the 50th, and I fear most of those who do remember the day may not be there in 10 years either, so I'm going for it now. It's called Xairos, Greek for "grabbing the moment". I also have asked for a half year sabbatical, next year, but with Jude and Gen out, I will wait till Jude gets back, and then go for it. I hope to do some study in "spirituality", I need a bit of a push as I'm, getting lazy in my old age.

We all felt the sadness of Tosa's death, compounded by the fact that he was alone, while we were all away at a general meeting, and that he was not found till some time after the fact. Care for our elder brothers, respecting their desire to work or keep up some pastoral activity, yet trying to make sure they have the care and security they deserve is difficult. There is the question of when to insist they move back into a community house or a facility where they can get the care they need. When to tell them it is time to stop driving a car and on and on. We all hope that they will realize this themselves, and we don't want to force them or make them feel that they are a burden or unwanted, trying to hit the right balance is hard, and then there is the fact that each man is different, and one can not make general rules, all this makes for a difficult discernment process. This is not just an Oblate issue, or with the aging of the Catholic clergy and religious, a church issue, it is one for the whole western culture. With the rapid aging of these societies, all are facing these kind of questions. The problem of the elderly trying to maintain their dignity, independence and quality of life, and those concerned about them trying to help them realize that goal, but also knowing that there is a "time for letting go" and moving on to a new stage, is one of the main issues we face as a delegation. (This is true not only for the elders but for most of us as well). There are no easy solutions; only a deep respect for and trust of each other, will win out in the end.

This year, for the first time in my life, I have a "physical" ailment not easily cured. It is a very common one in those over 60, or so my doctor says, and now I fell part of that club (over 60) for sure. I remember my grandparents, and aunts and uncles all complained of such pains, but not till now have I had a problem. Life marches on and I'm not complaining, I'm actually enjoying every moment. We now have three new young men in the delegation studying Japanese, and making remarkable progress, and a newly ordained Filipino priest scheduled to arrive in the late summer or early Fall. The Lord "Gives and Takes away. Praise be the Lord!" so the scriptures tell us. I pray for the grace to graciously accept what God "gives" and happily relinquish what He decides to "take away". It sounds nice but when the "time of relinquishing" the things I really cherish comes, I wonder what I'll do? That's why I want to study something on "spirituality", maybe I'll find out the HOW. If so I'll gladly share it with you; that is if you care to listen, two big "ifs" to deal with.

Peace and prayers that the summer heat doesn't get to you.

Giovanni ZEVOLA **THE CONSTANT GARDENER**

Sitting on the stairs, staring at the wet garden after a suddenly rainstorm which has almost

destroyed the little flowers planted last month. Little flowers they call “Italian poksungha”, so weak at the appearance and will go on until many years flowers to plant each are different collect and eat. A nose with and yet it changes and going as well. because “there is



The main have ears to hear through in coming people who have crossed that gate has witnessed my

yet able to bloom again as soon as the sun is back and this winter comes in. The garden there in front of me... how looking after it: trees to prune, weeds to uproot, grass to cut, and water. The different trees have a cycle of their own, in shape and time of blooming and even with their fruits to garden that can satisfy the eyes with colors and shade, the perfumes in spring and fall season, the taste of its fruits... through the seasons; each season has its place in coming A cycle of nature to be acknowledged and respected, simply a time for everything”.

gate to our little garden has stories to tell only to those who an time to seat and listen. How many persons have passed and going, being a desired guest waited for so long, or just come for business, never mind the intention, all have which has changed the paint color few times. The garden enthusiasm when cutting the grass and planting the flowers,

I did imagine group of friends gathering for a barbecue and a cold beer under the trees’ shade. In that same garden I have walked alone with the desire to be in solitude or because there was a sense of being alone with no one to walk with, out of loneliness. To the garden you give attention and care season after season and yet you receive much more because it is a metaphor of ourselves, where body and spirit are claiming that attention and care. Everything at the proper time and with constant care..

These are some of the thoughts that crossed my mind like clouds in the open sky, carried by the summer breeze... the can of beer I was drinking is now empty, time to return “to be busy” and be carried by the usual activities.

A little reflection about gardening; where is the garden and who is the gardener? Do not make my same mistake of thinking that you were the one, I mean the gardener. I was rather trying to talk about me as a garden always in need of care throughout the seasons and of course of God as the constant gardener. Enjoy your season!



Irudayaraj ANTONYSAMY FAN THE FLAME OF FAITH



Apostleship Of the Sea East and Southeast Asia Regional Conference which took place at Taiwan on May 9th to 13th 2011. There were 39 delegates from 11 different countries. From Japan we were five. This was the second regional meeting of the AOS of East and Southeast Asia after the world Congress in Gdynia in Poland and before the next World Congress in Rome.

The conference focused on how we can best prepare ourselves for the World Congress. It was an opportunity for chaplains and AOS workers and volunteers to come together to share our life experiences as ministers to people of the Sea. As ministers to the people of the Sea we are faced with challenges brought about by rapid changes in the maritime world. Our faith in the Lord Jesus sustains us

in this work of ministry of welcome. Fan the flame! Fan the flames of love in our ministry. Let each of us consider how to stir the embers of our spiritual fervor and really get on fire for God and the people we minister to. We have to be on fire for God. He wants us to love him with all our hearts and all we have.

He wants us to use whatever talents, skills or spiritual gifts he has given us to make a difference in this world.

Jack Deely Greetings from Tokyo

Unfortunately there isn't much to report on, especially since I was down with a cold for close to 5 weeks. The big news is I hope to take full advantage of the summer months to make several trips to Sendai. By the way, that is a great picture of Xave on the calendar. See you all in Korea.
Jack

保谷便り

東京からこんにちは。

5週間近く、風邪でダウンしていたので、残念ながら報告することはあまりありませんが、大きいニュースと言えば、夏の間は出来るだけ何度も仙台に行くことを、最優先にしたいと思っていることでしょう。

ところで、カレンダーのXaveの写真はすごいね。

それでは、韓国で会いましょう。

Jerry Novotny Pro Life: Trafficking and HIV/AIDS in Asia

The Catholic Asia-Pacific Coalition on HIV/AIDS (CAPCHA) was officially launched with a Prayer Service on July 1, 2011 at a meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Apostolic Nuncio H.E. Giovanni d'Aniello made the address. With him one archbishop from Papua New Guinea and five bishops from five countries concelebrated the Mass.



PowerPoint presentation on the HIV/AIDS situation in Japan

CAPCHA was created to present a Catholic Identity for HIV/AIDS in Asia/Pacific. Through "networking together", the coalition will learn from one another as well as foster mutual aid in the work with vulnerable and marginalized people who live with HIV or affected by AIDS.

48 representatives of Catholic organisations working on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific attended: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Taiwan, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Laos, the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

HIV/AIDS in Asia/Pacific is very alarming with almost 5 million people living with HIV in 2009. Among them, 1.7 millions are women and 160,000 children. These people are living in great hardship

and are seriously affected not only by the virus, lack of adequate access to care, but also discrimination, stigma and even rejection. In the face of this reality, CAPCHA was launched to give witness to the 'Love of God', to help and accompany those who are living with HIV or affected by AIDS, and to help them rediscover their human dignity as the Image of God.

With the Vision, Mission, Goal, Objectives and Strategic Direction agreed upon, (CAPCHA) was officially launched. A commitment was made to work together more effectively and efficiently for the cause of these vulnerable people as followers of Jesus Christ.

Following the 4-day input, I was impressed most by the emphasis placed on Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS. As we know, the trafficking industry has increased rapidly in recent years owing to its huge profits and relatively few risks. The traffickers have a well established network and their methods for recruitment are sophisticated. There is also an obvious link between traffickers and the law enforcement personnel.

One of the speakers pointed out that Trafficking is used for a wide variety of purposes, such as

sexual servitude, pornography, mail-order brides, domestic labor, factories, sweatshops and agricultural labor, fields, mines, and in the case of children for begging, illegal adoptions and child prostitution and pornography. Checking UNODC's website, 79% of all trafficking worldwide is for sexual exploitation and the victims used for this purpose are predominantly women and girls. They are being referred to as SLAVES of trafficking for sexual exploitation.



Philippine Oblate working in Thailand

Sr. Michelle Lopez, the people who purchase sex come from all walks of life - some are university students, some are business people - some are factory workers - or they can be called uncles, husbands, fathers and boyfriends.

The truth is that sex trafficking is nothing less than globalized prostitution and prostitution that takes places locally is domestic prostitution. The traffickers transport victims across national and international borders and hand them over to prostitution rings - separating them from family and friends and leaving them without any support.

Our modern culture, especially the media, continues to play a strong role in normalizing prostitution by depicting it as being liberated, independent and empowered but the unimaginable pain and suffering behind the smile is never spoken of. Violence against women and children is universal but is invisible because it is showed in silence. It is denied, unreported and even accepted in some cultures as normal behavior. The disproportionate power relationship that still persists between men and women must be made visible and challenged.

The big question is: What can we do? We don't need new laws. What we need is public awareness. Informing our people of the existing laws such as The Palermo Protocol, which holds countries accountable to end trafficking.

To this question, 3 points were touched upon:

- 1) Globalization from Below
- 2) Develop a perpetrator-focused approach
- 3) Power of the Pulpit.

1. Today we have Globalization from below through which people at the grassroots around the world link up and speak from their perspective. Listen to what the people who have been prostituted.

2. A Perpetrator Focused Approach means several things: across the board education on human rights, gender equality, zero tolerance for violence, rape, sex trafficking, prostitution or any behavior that treats another person in a sub-human manner. A Perpetrator Focused Approach starts with analyzing the demand side:

- (a) The people who buy commercial sex acts
- (b) The exploiters who make up the sex industry
- (c) The countries that are destination countries
- (d) The culture that tolerates or promotes sexual exploitation

The focus is on the perpetrator: why is he or she pimping, why he or she is profiting by exploiting another person? I was deeply surprised when one of the speakers stated that according to the 2009 UN report the perpetrators behind human trafficking around the world are often women. Women are the

The overall size is estimated that there are 27 million slaves in the world today, 24 million from Asia. The majority of trafficking victims are between 18 and 24 years of age, with a surge in children trafficking.

This dramatic increase in trafficking followed the legalization of prostitution. Many are asking: What is prostitution? Why has the debate to legalize prostitution never ended? Why can't we come up with an agreeable definition for trafficking? Who are the traffickers and who is being trafficked? Why does our society fail to ask the simple question: Who is purchasing sex? And why are we afraid of the answers.

According to interviews conducted by



My good friend Fr. Giovanni, a Camillian who is in charge of 3 centers and a director of their hospital

majority of traffickers in almost a third of the 155 nations the U.N. surveyed. They accounted for more than 60 percent of the human trafficking convictions in Eastern Europe and Asia. "Women commit crimes against women, and in many cases the victims become the perpetrators."

3. Religious leaders should play an important role in the prevention of trafficking. Do we always have to use the pulpit for explaining the Word of God? Can we not use the Pulpit to make the cries of our people heard? Can we not use the Pulpit to remind a congregation that globalized prostitution, sex-trafficking and the sex-industry are global crimes? The human being, the temple of God, is being desecrated and it is an insult to our Creator. We cannot be called a civilized people if we allow this crime to continue.



Presenting the Buddhist Monk with a gift after his lecture

Having met so many wonderful and deeply dedicated people at this meeting in Bangkok, I felt depressed to see everything coming to an end and people heading for the airport to board a plane and head for their respective countries. However, we did share something in common as we separated:

* We returned with a vision: motivated by the compassionate love of God, to work together for the prevention, care, support and treatment of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, irrespective of ethnic, national origins or religious beliefs.

* We returned with a mission: empower Catholic organizations in the Asia-Pacific to communicate accurate and value-based information about HIV/AIDS, deliver services with compassion and love, and make advocacy

an integral part of our work.

* We returned with a goal: that CAPCHA become the face of a Catholic response to HIV/AIDS in the Asian-Pacific Region.

Several months ago, resulting from last year's meeting, I was asked to create a web site for CAPCHA. It's 90% completed and opened to the public. You may access it at <http://capcha.org/>. God Bless.

Nobuhiko Yagi

Osaka Metropolitan Priest's Study Session

150 people involved in Pastoral work, priests, deacons, religious men and women and several laity, from the Archdiocese of Osaka and the four dioceses that are under its auspices, Nagoya, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Shikoku gathered in Osaka at the new Sacra Familia Catholic center, from June 7th to the 9th for a Pastoral study session under the theme: 「Having received the call, becoming priests who respond to the voices of the age- a vocation forged out of reality」. I was asked to share my experience working with youth; what place their faith has when confronting the social issues and constantly changing environment they face. The following is a summary of that sharing.

A. Youth surrounded by affluence

1) "Affluence" Its Advent

The advent of an affluent society has not created the utopian world one thought it would. Materialism and unlimited access to information confronts us with a jungle of lies and deception. In other words they must constantly confront their passions and temptations. In the midst of abundance they must constantly make many difficult choices.

2) "Scarcity" Era's values

Living in this world of abundance, the value of waiting for things we want, and having to struggle and strive toward of a goal, makes no sense to them, and in a world of instant gratification, to have to do so is wearisome and a source of maladjustment and weighs heavily on them.

3) The Gap

Youth seek advice not on how to sacrifice and endure, but rather on how to live in a world filled with choices and possibilities. Most adults don't have this experience, and we keep trying to prepare them for something they have never experienced.

4) Changing Conceptions

Today's youth, born to affluence, are groping with the challenge of how to survive in this new situation. They are the forerunners in this challenge to forge a new approach to a life filled with choices and possibilities, they are the ones who will show and accompany us in opening a new vision and approach to this affluent style of life. This is the great transformation of concepts we are facing.

B. The society, environment, real world, work and employment possibilities the youth face

1) Employment • Work

Possibly because they were born in a world where the economy is weak, they don't have dreams or hope. They long for security and don't want to deal with difficult problems. In a word, they are spiritless. The jobless rate for those in their 20's is extremely high as is the number of them in part time employ. The situation for the employment of youth gets worse by the minute.

2) Their fluid situation

We can see a sudden upheaval in the arrangements and actions of the youth who must be very flexible. Even in the case of the college students who are making changes in the courses they take, every half-year in order to find work. At a glance they seem very carefree but in fact the future they are facing looks very bleak.

3) The gap between the values of the church and society

- The timetable, rhythm, values and goals of the church and the business don't meet, and they are like day and night apart, almost to the point of incomprehensibility.
- Talk of justice is impossible. If one tries to, they get put down very harshly. Justice is confronted with a totally opposite power system. There is no sense of having to make things turn out fairly.
- The importance of Faith and spiritual values in the home are waning.

C. As For the Church

1) The sad and Unfortunate reality the church faces

- There are many different types of youth, some very difficult to categorize but if I try to do so then I would say:
- Those seriously involved with and overwhelmed by their work, who when asked to get involved in church activities, feel it as an imposition.
- Those who try to act on the values taught by the church but being weak spiritually they are unable to get anywhere.
- Making long-range yearly schedules for activities does not fit well in their life style, as mentioned above (their fluid situation).
- Those who feel they have been hemmed in by rules and regulations. They had to be "good"! On the other hand, those who have suffered greatly are more apt to be vulnerable. They have a firm stable base to build on.

2) On the positive side

- In the church they have a chance to meet good role models, and to share and learn from people of varying age groups, to build relationships that are impossible to forge in school. That part of church life they like and want to give something back in return.
- As in most people in modern society they have been brought up influenced by Christian values, which they wish to further.
- Christ's Gospel is a source of hope and comfort to the many in society who are anxious and troubled.
- (Christian) Human and work values have become the norm for society.
- The Eucharist is seen as a source of power, energy for life.

D. The proper posture and life attitude for people in pastoral work

(If all were as is written below how sweet it would be)

1) Posture, Attitude, Life Style

- There is too much dependence on words to convey the message; evangelization by example would get better results. Wordless sermons delivered through actions, and work attitudes are what is sought for now. Before we seek unity amongst the Christians we religious need to get our act together. Lead by example.
- We need persons who radiate happiness and contentment in their daily life.
- Need to be true to our vocation. Go back to the roots of our "calling".
- Openness to sharing our weaknesses.
- Men who show an interest and sensitivity in what is happening in the schools and society. Talk from people who have no idea of the real does not resonate and seems to be off in the clouds somewhere.

2) Religious close to the people, who reach out to them

- There is a need to really get to know the religious leaders. To have the youth come close to come to know them as real persons, who are there for them. Just to be close to them. To seek out the places they are, and be there for them.
- Persons who are close to both God and men.

E. Concerning Vocations

1) The fostering of vocations

- There is the real question when taking up the theme about the 『lack of vocations』. Have we truly made serious efforts in this field. One with concrete long-range plans put into practice in order to attract the youth. If this has been done and all these efforts have turn out fruitless then despair makes sense but if not, is not the church's present “cry” over a lack of vocations just a 「outburst of anxiety and melancholy」 without foundation?
- Even now it is not too late to take up this theme and with wise planning I believe we will get positive response.

2) Concrete suggestion

- Create and challenging atmosphere where a vocation seems attractive. Now to accept a “calling” seems to carry many awful burdens, and very limited possibilities. There is a need to show an affirmative, positive image of this life. Also if one should later leave for another work that they will not be ostracized from the community.
- There is an image that religious people are special, and aloof. We need to make people feel the opposite.
- Create places where the youth can interact with religious and those who are candidates for this life.
- Retreats for all and not just centered on a vocation.
- In as far as possible to facilitate information on what a vocation is in a plan and simple manner.
- Recognizing while religious are flawed persons there is a need to respect them, and see them as ultimately the ones called to help to bringing about unity when there is division.



Robinson Robert ON MY WAY...

It is almost a year since I came to Japan. I am filled with gratitude for the support and encouragement I have received from Fr. Wency and all the other oblates I have met in Japan. All of you have been a gift of God to me.

My Japanese studies take up all my time and energy. Gradually I am learning. I am just beginning to celebrate mass in Japanese. It is a small beginning, accompanied by Fr. Williams, to the pastoral life; the evangelical life that I hope awaits me in Japan.

The Oblates in Japan and Korea seem to be just wonderful. I am looking forward happily to the meeting of the young oblates in Korea prior to our annual retreat there.
God bless.

Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God- what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Rom 12: 2

Varam Anthony The National Hero turns to Catholicism.....

I am happy to serve and to share the pain and sufferings of the patients in two of the university hospitals as chaplain, viz., Pundang Seoul National university hospital and Ajou university hospital. I am sure, we in Korea and Japan are very familiar with this news about saving a ship by its captain from the Somali pirates; but for others it will be the first time you will hear about it.

The captain, Seok Hae-kyun, was shot at least six times during the Jan. 21, 2011 rescue staged by the South Korean Navy on the **Samho Jewelry**, a freight ship hijacked by Somali pirates in the Arabian Sea



earlier in the winter 2011.

Mr. Seok is now recovering from his injuries after multiple surgeries at Ajou University Hospital in Suwon.

South Koreans, meanwhile, remain fascinated the saving captain's bravery. While considering him a hero of the nation they also are taken by stories about how the five captured Somali pirates are faring.

But I had a rare opportunity to be close to him during his entire hospitalization since I work in the particular hospital as chaplain. We used to visit him once a week and pray for him. Though he was not a Christian he used to cooperate well with us and made efforts to respond to

our prayers.

Since he was not following any particular religion when enquired, along with the sister, also working with me in the same hospital, we proposed him to be baptized. He had no objection to it. After 10 weeks of intensive catechism he was baptized on July 17, 2011. After the baptism he is planning to return to his hometown, Busan, to continue his physio-therapy and other treatments as well. He is now looking better and we hope he will soon recover at the earliest. The national hero!

Meanwhile the South Korean ship captain Seok Hae-kyun, was picked as the recipient of an international maritime award in recognition of his bravery in July 2011.

News Bits from the Oblate Mission of Korea....

Fr. James Jeyachandran, the mission superior went through a minor surgery on his knees to remove the pins which were fixed in for over 5 years to protect his knees. He is now better and moving around well with his ministries. We wish him a speedy recovery...

Fr. Vincenzo Bordo, continues to be in the soup kitchen and in the homes for kids as usual. And recently he appeared on a national channel KBS (Korea Broadcasting Station), on a program called 'the beautiful people'. He didn't tell us about it, as it has become a routine for him to appear often on TV and radio, but some of the faithful who watched the program had called us (me), and were happy to see him on television.

Giovanni, seems to be a professional Chinese speaker. As we went out for a community meal, which happened to be a small Chinese restaurant and the waitresses were all Chinese themselves. He told them in Chinese 'the food is delicious', though we found the food was the worst of Chinese meals we ate! She replied him it seems in Chinese, 'welcome sir'. As much as he was delighted with this conversation, he is eagerly waiting to become part of the Chinese Oblate Mission in few months.

Maurizio is quite busy with arranging the upcoming summer camps for the migrants with whom he works. Just few weeks back he concluded a basketball tournament for foreigners. He jokingly told us that the basketball game turned out to be boxing since in the Philippines they love boxing too!!! And the few people from our surroundings who come for our daily Eucharist enjoy his minute observations....

Anselmo Ryu, our only Korean Oblate priest was on a mission in Bangladesh. Unfortunately he is back here in Korea after six months to fix his dislocated back-bones(discs). He is being treated in a specialist hospital in Seoul suburban; and for convenience sake he stays with Maryknoll missionaries. He is planning to return to his mission in Bangladesh end of August 2011.

Shitol, a missionary from Bangladesh returned to Korea in October 2010, after his ordination. He was here for a couple of years as scholastic on overseas exposure program. He is now helping out in a parish full time. He lives in the presbytery except on Mondays he is with the community participating in monthly recollections and meetings. As he is quite busy in the parish, we hope the Bishop will not ask him to be its next pastor!

Samuel Hong, a scholastic, completed his academic studies & requirements in the seminary. Since he joined the Oblates few years later than the others, though he completed all his studies, he has to wait another year to renew his vows and make his Oblation. Well, it will not be an easy wait! We wish him all the best on his completion of the seminary studies.

Pedro Hong, a scholastic, is at St. Mary's Seminary in Melbourne, Australia. He also is almost completing his academic studies at CTU. He will be also ready for his Oblation in a year if everything goes well with him until then. Once in two years during the winter he visits Korea for a period of two months. He is anxiously waiting to return in this winter 2011.

Simeon Kim, another scholastic, who made his first profession (at the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Bandarawela, Sri Lanka) this year April 2011, is now in the Philippines at the Oblate Scholasticate. He

pursues his Seminary Studies at Ateneo, a Jesuit University. We wish him all the success! Will have to struggle without 'Kim'-chi(traditional pickle mad with Chinese-cabbage)....

Joseph Jae, is a novice, at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Sri Lanka. As Joseph was sold by his brothers but settled down well in Egypt; it is same with our Joseph too. Though he is alone and still trying to coping up with Sri Lankan situations, he steadily progresses well with the help of the Novice master and the overwhelming support of all the other novices...

Varam Anthony (me), am faring well in two hospitals (Pundang Seoul National Hospital and Ajou University Hospital) as chaplain. While enjoying my ministry with the sick people, I admire the dedication of the number of volunteers who work few times a month regularly and some others once-a-week and even few times a week. This enables me to dedicate and re-dedicate myself to the sick.

Anniversaries

Name	Birthday	Final Vows	Ordination	Arrival
Anselmo RYU HI GU	03/24/1969	02/02/2007	08/17/2007	—
Bert SILVER	08/31/1928	09/08/1951	05/30/1954	09/11/1954
Bill MAHER	03/23/1938	09/08/1962	04/26/1966	09/25/1962
Brad ROZAIRO	10/30/1964	09/28/1991	08/22/1992	09/02/1994
Christy PAKIANATHAN	06/28/1980	07/17/2009	12/14/2009	08/25/2010
Ed WILLIAMS	01/02/1930	09/08/1955	06/07/1957	09/17/1958
Eduardo SANTOS	12/15/1970	02/04/2007	09/15/2007	01/18/2008
Fran HAHN	09/22/1943	09/08/1967	04/29/1972	09/16/1967
Gen OLIVEIRA	08/14/1973	05/21/2000	05/05/2001	05/14/2001
Giovanni ZEVOLA	06/24/1931	12/08/1989	09/08/1990	09/04/1991
Hiran INDIKA	01/30/1979	09/24/2006	09/15/2007	02/08/2010
Iru ANTONYSAMY	09/12/1970	10/28/2001	12/03/2002	08/30/2004
Jack DEELY	04/17/1941	09/08/1965	04/11/1970	09/23/1965
James JEYACHANDRAN	09/17/1967	09/28/1992	01/15/1994	04/29/1996
Jerry NOVOTNY	03/01/1940	09/08/1964	04/04/1968	09/15/1964
John IWO	09/06/1930	09/08/1963	06/14/1964	—
Jude PEIRISPULLE	09/17/1964	09/28/1991	08/22/1992	09/02/1994
Ken-ichi FURUKAWA	10/05/1973	10/05/2005	02/17/2007	—
Len INUI	02/15/1935	09/08/1961	06/14/1964	—
Maurizio GIORGIANNI	02/13/1963	12/08/1990	10/19/1991	01/05/1993
Mike YAMASAKI	12/24/1934	09/08/1961	06/24/1962	—
Nobu YAGI	08/04/1960	08/04/1991	—	—
Ray BOURGOIN	01/22/1938	09/08/1961	03/19/1966	09/30/1961
Robinson ROBERT	05/30/1978	07/17/2009	12/14/2009	08/25/2010
Shitol NOKREK	12/20/1976	03/17/2009	02/05/2010	10/14/2010
Tom MAHER	05/29/1931	09/08/1955	05/30/1957	09/17/1958
Varam ANTHONYSWAMY	05/02/1969	12/09/1997	07/21/1998	02/24/2000
Vincenzo BORDO	02/21/1957	12/08/1986	04/25/1987	05/12/1990
Wency LAGUIDAO	04/22/1949	06/24/1975	03/27/1976	10/25/1976