

## REPORTS:

### **Ongoing Formation Program: Oblates 5 ~ 10 years of priesthood**

#### **2008 gathering - Genjii no Mori (Ray & Nobu)**

As to the program for the new priests, Ray had been asked to be the moderator, since Nobuhiko might not know what a priest's struggles are and Gen is younger than 2 of the new priests. Ray accepted, as long as he had the input of the other team members.

For a first gathering, we decided to have the three, Anselmo, Ken-ichi and Eduardo, meet with the formation team, prior to the annual retreat, at GENJI NO MORI, August 29, 2008, for a time of relaxation and input on the purpose of these get-togethers.

On August 30, we would move to Koga, and use our new annex, to have one or two inputs by the retreat master, with sharing among the members. They would attend the parish Eucharist the next day, followed by an evaluation, after which they would move to the retreat house for the annual retreat.

#### Evaluation:

It was felt that after the first gathering, it might be a good thing to let the participants prepare and choose the time and place of their next gathering, and also to choose the input person for facilitating their sharing.

#### **2009 gathering - Yufu-in (Clement)**

Since the younger Oblates did not feel that they were ready to go it alone, it was up to the committee to form the general outline. After an elongated discussion, we came up with the following. The gathering of the members would be prior to the annual retreat, to wit: August 29 (Sat) and August 30 (Sun). The place would be Yufu-in at the Sisters' convent. We opted to have the retreat master, Fr. Clement, as the facilitator for their meeting together.

#### Evaluation:

Our first item was to have the young OMI meet with us and talk about their experience a few days before at Yufu-in. Both Anselmo and Ken'ichi were present. Eduardo was absent so we had interviewed him earlier on in conjunction with other matters.

Overall we saw that the 3 men were unsatisfied with the overnighter they had. Their main complaint was that there was no definite plan and therefore they didn't know what

to do. In Eduardo's words, good sharing, but poor planning. Anselmo said he was tired from traveling here and since there was no plan it was not good. He felt lonely and like an orphan. Besides there was another group there which was boisterous, when they themselves were seeking a silent atmosphere. Overall he preferred the previous year when Nobu and Ray were present. Ken'ichi was tired from the hassle with the other group, having to search for the onsen and was not happy there was no clear-cut plan.

After the young OMI left the room, the team tried to identify the causes, and were surprised that the young men themselves could not plan their stay there.

At this point Clement, who had been their facilitator, joined the team and we heard his observations. The program had been left up to him. He centered on having them share about their reasons for joining the OMI. He thought that their sharing in that area was OK. His overall evaluation was that "they criticized the fact that they are treated like babies, but on the other hand they didn't seem to know how to organize themselves and therefore acted like babies." Our overall reaction was that they still needed to be spoon-fed!

Clement's suggestion was that all of them, in various degrees, need to be accompanied closely, or they will eventually drift away from the community and go on their own. He also thought that the frequency of their get-togethers should be increased from just a once-a-year affair.

Points for us to ponder as a team: the problem of accompaniment and how to go about it, and planning out next year's program.

**2010 gathering - Koga (Sr.Gillis)**

**For this ongoing formation program the input person was Sr. Gillis.**

**Evaluation:**

Kenichi: He said that he couldn't concentrate on the program due to his involvement in arranging for the retreat and other things. But on the whole he said that it was a good sharing.

Anselmo: He said that he benefitted from this year's ongoing formation program than the couple of previous ones. Sr.Gillis through her sharing was able to make us understand the two worlds - outside world and inside world; outer being and inner being. She was able to sort out my problems and difficulties. I was able to make

certain resolutions after the sharing. I liked the content from the sister even before the program, to get to know the participants, in order to arrange a good input.

Eduardo: He too said that this year's program was well arranged unlike the previous ones. And the inputs were solid from sister. He felt that it could have been better if an Oblate was there to guide them through out the program. The sharing he said made him look into his inner self.

Hiran: Participated in the program but was not present for the evaluation because of the language school.

### 2011 gathering - S. Korea

#### A SHORT REPORT OF YOUNG OBLATE MEETING 2011

**26/08** The arrival of the Young fathers from Japan and reception in the Maryknol father's house.

**27/08** After morning prayers and breakfast we started our sharing mission experience and Oblate life in our respective missions. All came out with their experiences and shared with open minds and hearts. The sharing was combined with joy and sorrow, success and failures. Everybody acknowledged their own limitations and failures in the mission and Oblate community life. After the sharing we all offered our success and failures to God, the loving Father in the Holy Eucharist. Then after the lunch we had a exodus together for sightseeing. We visited Seoul tower and had dinner in the river side. It was also a moment of joy and encouragement for each other. Then in the evening we had nice happy hour.

**28/08** We participated Korean Mass in the Seoul cathedral. All were delighted to participate the Korean Mass. It was also a part of experiencing Korean culture. Then after the lunch and little nap we departed for annual retreat.

Shitol Nokrek

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At the end of our meeting we had an evaluation gathering at the retreat house before the start of our annual retreat.

At that time we have evaluated sharing among us it was good and we want repeat

that next year in Japan. But, we are not excluding the possibility to have someone else for a short talk just in the beginning of our gathering. That can be helpful for us, but it is not our priority planning next year meeting.

For next year we are planning to do some sightseeing connected to the main program of our sharing. As our meeting it will be in Japan, and almost all of us want to 'climb' Mount Fuji. We are planning to do our meeting right before our retreat but with one or two days in between. Like that we will be able to do our ongoing formation meeting and attend the retreat. For that I and Ken'ichi will search about what we need for a safe visit to Mount Fuji and also costs for staying at least one night in somewhere (ホテル、旅館など).

We already checked if it was possible for Shitol to come here a little before than Anselmo was usually coming. Looks like it is OK with him.

Five of us are in Japan (now we are 6) and all of us will be meeting in Toyohashi Church and from here depart to Shizuoka Province where Mount Fuji is located.

The last think we could talk about it was just remembering that three of us will celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary and will leave the Ongoing Formation Program (Ken'ichi, Hiran and I). One of the ideas we shared is the suggestion we got from the formation committee about ourselves be in charge of this program. At that time either one of us (Ken'ichi, Anselmo or myself) felt was prepared to take care of this, we are now trying to help the newest members get this job, as it will be like a continuation of the way we are walking till now. I think it is just that for a while.

Eduardo de Assis Santos, OMI

2012 gathering - Koga (Bert)

### **Minutes of the Annual Young Oblates Gathering (YOG) 2012**

Japan and Korea

As planned, we the young oblates, five members from Japan and three from Korea, gathered in Koga, Fukuoka with the facilitator Bertram Silva on the 31of August 2012. On the day of our arrival at Koga, the young oblates together with the oblate community in Koga celebrated the birthday of the speaker after having had an introductory talk by him.

As there are a good number of MAMI members in Koga parish, recognizing their support and prayers for us, we decided to participate in the parish mass together with them all and have a sometime with them.

The speaker not only provided us with some printed matter, also spoke from his experience in a fraternal tone. He shared with us on seven topics such as Change and

information, The challenge of Mission in the face of inculturation, Circular letter to Priests on Missionary Identity. He gave input talks for the good part of the day. The meeting started with the introduction on Friday evening and went on from Saturday morning to Sunday morning with breaks. On Sunday after lunch we the young oblates gathered by ourselves to share our experience, feeling and dreams. We went out for dinner by ourselves and then to *onsen*. It was also a refreshing experience.

As already decided when we met the Ongoing Formation Committee together with the delegation bursar Ray Bourgoïn, we were financially supported to meet the little expenses of this gathering.

This gathering was the last one for four of young oblates as they complete five years of their priesthood in 2012. We bade farewell to them. We also decided that the rest of the members take turn to be the president of YOG for one year.

One of our members commented that it would be better if we have more time for sharing. As all agreed on this point, we have planed YOG this time leaving more room for sharing by ourselves. We have had two short meeting at different occasions after the last annual YOG.

The date, venue and the facilitator of the next YOG was decided by the young Oblates.

The ongoing formation committee is informed.

Date : Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2013  
Time : 16.00 -Introductory Talk  
Venue : "Genjinomura"  
Facilitator : Gerard Rosairo omi

Prepared and read by Robinson

Proposed by Sebasitan shitol

Second it by Bernard

**2013 gathering - "Genjii no Mori", Fukuoka (Gerard Rosairo)**

#### **Minutes of the Young oblates gathering to 2013**

Date : 30th of August to 1st of September 2013  
Venue : "Genji no Mori"  
Facilitator : Gerard Rosairo omi

As we have planned, we the young Oblates , four members from Japan and three from Korea gathered in Koga Church before leaving to the decided venue "Genji no Mori". Its

being a place surrounded by the natural beauty set the tone for us to get into the right track to relax and listen to the speaker in earnest.

The speaker, Gerard Rosairo omi from the Province of Colombo, directed us by his three talks. He spoke to us with his wider experience of being a formator, a teacher and a thinker. The subject of his talk was on " The dialogue on cultural diversity and the richness of the people as way to accept the differences and to buildup the mutual respect"

It's very important, he said, that as we, the young oblates, who have come from diverse cultures, need to understand ourselves to accept our differences and to build up the mutual respect among ourselves first.

Consequently, we are enabled to come together to serve in Japan as missionaries in context.

"Culture has two main foundational roots", he said, Those are language and land. Destroying the language and displacing people from their land will eventually destroy the culture. Therefore, it is necessary that we understand ourselves as well as the people we serve in the context of land and language. Life style, worship patterns, thinking, vision, feelings, emotions, relationships, structure of the society and the sense of belonging and so on are shaped by the land. This is expressed through language; verbal language, body language, symbols, art, music etc.

We also had barbeque, group walk through the paddy field, played Korean games etc. On the whole the YOG was full of fun, relaxing at the same time inspiring.

Robinson  
YOG Coordinator  
2013

**2014 gathering - Fukuoka (Rohan Silva)**

### **YOG 2014, IN A NUTSHELL**

We, the young oblates gathered at Fukuoka for our annual "Young Oblates Gathering", under the guidance of Fr Rohan, our present Provincial, from April 28th evening to 30th evening. We were nine, including the facilitator Fr Rohan, three from Korea and the rest from Japan.

Normally the gathering takes place during summer, prior to the annual retreat. But this time we had it before our spring meeting, which was our congress after the Mefu meeting. Since, this 2014 congress was the first congress for many of us here in this delegation, we as the future and the hope of this delegation, came together specially in view of giving a strong voice in the forthcoming congress. The gathering, particularly the input talks, sharing, discussions and so on helped us to understand the history of our delegation in details, right from the time of the missionaries' arrival to Japan and Korea till now, and look forward to the future with broader vision.

This time the congress of our delegation also coupled with 200th year jubilee preparation of our congregation, called 'Triennium Preparation', was the main topic to be dealt with. Hence, we gave importance and focused our attention not only the Congress, but on the jubilee of the foundation of our congregation as well. Therefore, the program that we had, was,

**28th evening** - orientation, supper followed by social hour

**29<sup>th</sup> halfday** -focused on the Congress and **the other half day** on Triennium Preparations

**30th after the Sunday mass** at Minamikasuya, had community relaxing program, which involved sightseeing, Onsen etc at Euphuin.

All in all, as a young group, we were very happy, and had a wonderful time with Fr Rohan, who directed us to take our time in going into ourselves, sharing our feelings with one another, challenging each other, of course, with fraternity and so on and so forth.

When I try to pen it down, I'm filled with gratitude to all.

Christy

**2015 gathering** - The guys wanted to gather before the spring meeting in Korea, but it wasn't materialized.