



From the Desk of the Delegation Superior



Wency Laguidao, OMI

Since this issue of the newsletter is intended for our outside readers, we would like to assure all our friends that the Delegation of Japan and Korea has survived the restructuring process and is alive and well. We are now a part of the Province of Colombo. The problem of aging within our ranks has become more real than ever and local vocation recruitment has not made progress in recent years but blessings have come to us in a different form. One young Oblate from Colombo Hiran JAYAWARDENA has joined us and is now studying Japanese. Two more young Oblates from Jaffna Province, Robinson ROBERT and Christy PAKIANATHAN, will join us soon. The new Province of India is also open to sending us more men to shore up our personnel. The grace of God indeed comes to us not necessarily in the shape nor form that we expect it.

CONGRATULATIONS and MORE POWER to the new PROVINCE of INDIA

We join the whole Oblate world in wishing the new Province of India Congratulations and Good Luck! As a new Province in a country that is a cradle to some of the world's great religions, a vibrant economy that promises to be a new emerging power and a country that is home to more than 1B population, the new Province of India will surely be faced with countless challenges. But not to worry, it is in the able hands of its first Provincial, Fr. Francis NALLAPPAN who has been a mainstay in the field of formation in the AORC region for many years.

THE DOG DAYS of SUMMER

Some thirty years ago, when I was new in Japan, we always looked forward to going to the beaches during summer to enjoy the sea and the sun. There was the small and crowded Tei Beach in Akaoka or even the one behind the rectory in Koga. However, going to the beaches is something that I will not dare doing anymore now and it is not only because I am much older. 35C-37C might not seem too hot but the quality of the heat has somehow changed. It can be the greenhouse effect that environmentalists have always talked about but summer heat is becoming unbearable without some artificial cooling in our homes. I also remember that 30 years ago, the Itami rectory only had one air conditioner for the whole house. Now, even the new rectory's laundry room and kitchen have to be air-conditioned. However changing climate patterns is not only about not being able to enjoy the beaches anymore nor limited to selling more air-conditioners. Worldwide, the changing weather pattern has brought havoc to people's lives. Pakistan is suffering from the worst floods it has experienced in many years. Parts of China have again suffered from flash floods causing deaths and destruction of property. We recall how, last year, parts of Europe that never experienced flooding in the past have been inundated also causing severe damage to lives and property. Changing weather patterns has serious and direct repercussions especially on people whose livelihood is directly affected by the forces of nature such as farmers, fishermen, etc. Even in climate change, the first ones to suffer are the poor or those who have limited resources to protect themselves.

Fr. Daisuke NARUI, SVD, superior of the SVD Seminary in Nagoya has contacted me about a conference being organized by VIVAT International to be held in Nagoya in October 2010. Since the OMI is one of the original signatories of the charter of Vivat International. Bradley and myself have signed up for the meeting. Climate change and its adverse effects on poor countries is one big theme that VIVAT International tackles. The Oblates in recent years have made headways to be present in international forums where the fate of the poor is at stake. VIVAT International is one venue where the Oblates together with other religious congregations try to be the voice on behalf of the poor and the voiceless.

WHAT IS VIVAT?

I have lifted the following information from the homepage of VIVAT <http://vivatinternational.org/about/>
VIVAT International is an organized network of all the members of SSpS and SVD, ASC, CMS, CSSP, MCCJ, MSHR, OMI, whose work, expertise, and experience has a direct bearing on issues related to social justice, development, peace and ecology, and whose work, expertise, or experience has direct bearing on issues

related to social justice, development, peace, or ecology. It also includes those directly associated with these congregations in their apostolate and activities related to the above issues.

VIVAT International is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status at the UN, uniting the voices of its members from around the world. We serve all our members and the global community through our presence at the UN and particularly by bringing spiritual and ethical values to the UN and other international organizations.

What is ECOSOC Accreditation?

Non-governmental, non-profit, public or voluntary organizations may formally contribute to the work of the UN after being granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) under Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations and on ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31. These accredited organizations may participate in meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, including the functional commissions, in accordance with the rules of procedures of those bodies.

Our members around the world run schools, hospitals, Justice and Peace offices, shelters, and specialize in many services for the poor. Our work at VIVAT International is to bring grassroots voices to the United Nations forums in New York and Geneva, in an effort to witness against human rights violations and advocate for a more just and peaceful world.

WELCOME, Sr. INIGO!

This year's annual retreat is being preached by an Indian sister from New Delhi. Brad ROZAIRO who has attended some of her sessions has the following profile of her:

Sr. Inigo Joachim, SSA comes from New Delhi, India. She belongs to the Congregation of St. Anne, Madras. Besides holding 3 University degrees from Madras, she did her Counseling and Spirituality in London. She was the only woman elected to represent South Asia at the Synod of Bishops held in Rome on the theme "Vita Consecrata." In February 2008, the Bishops' Conference of India selected her as the only woman religious to represent 95,000 women religious of India to present a paper on "Empowerment of Women in the Church and Society" and it was well received. She is very much sought out as a resource person and lecturer both in India and around the world. She is currently living in New Delhi with her 3 sisters bringing the Word of God and ministering Christ to the prisoners of Tihar Jail, the biggest jail in Asia.

Bernard Ondap, OMI WHAT'S UP?

Last June 15, 2010 I was ordained as deacon at Sto. Niño Parish, Midsayap, Cotabato. I am so blessed that Fr. Ken-ichi and Fukaisan graced the affair. Words could not express how thankful I am for the support that the OMI-Japan/Korea is continuously giving me. From the very beginning when I was still applying for my missionary visa (3 years ago) up to the present you have been always there journeying with me. My missionary experience in Japan helped me a lot in my formation as an Oblate. In fact, one of the reasons why I said my final Yes to this kind of life is because of my very rich experience while I was in Japan. And I think I owe you

guys my sincerest gratitude. 心からありがとうございます。 (Thank you from my heart).



I am happy to be part of the missionary engagement of the Oblates here in Sto. Niño Parish, Midsayap, Cotabato. My short stay here exposes me to the varied challenges of the priestly life. The opportunity to immerse in the pastoral situation of the parish and to work with the people deepened my sense of mission and dedication to a life of service. Most especially, journeying with the youth is a blessing because it keeps me young (笑い) despite the demands of the sacramental life as a deacon. I really love what I am doing. And I give praise to God for always being with me.

Hopefully, by the end of this year I will be ordained as priest. As soon as I know the details I will immediately inform you guys. 皆様によろしく...いつかまた会いましょう。 (Regards and see you again).



Bert Silver, OMI



Me...before moving to the Rehab section-Kyoe Hospital, Hana-ura, Anan.

Today is August 10th - came here on July 3rd. "Might be out by Christmas". Walking alone with a cane. Not bad.

Best to all.

Bill Maher, OMI **Vacation?**

It's hot as you know what and I had decided to take the Archbishop of Tokyo's advice that priests should take their entitled vacation time seriously, so I canceled all my classes in August and was looking forward to a hot but relaxing summer. Then all these requests for articles for the church bulletin and Oblate newsletter and two parishioners dying and all the other people coming who never read the Archbishop's letter. Anyway things seem to be just as busy as always just in a lot of different ways.

So for this newsletter I've decided to push a book that's been very helpful for me personally as well as a great help for many others when I've shared it with them. As a matter of fact I may have mentioned it before in the newsletter.

The problem of suicide has been in the news a lot recently as well as brought very close to home by one person I know actually taking their own life and one attempting to do so. The book I want to recommend is: 'Feeling Good' by Dr. David Burns. It's a book on depression, and one method of trying to deal with it. Dr. Burns says that the problem can be approached from the correcting of our faulty cognitive distortions (thinking patterns).

I'll just list ten definitions of these cognitive distortions which he explains more in detail in the book as well as giving exercises to work with them.

- 1. ALL OR NOTHING THINKING: You see things in black and white categories. If your performance falls short of perfect, you see yourself as a total failure.*
- 2. OVERGENERALIZATION: You see a single negative event as a never ending pattern of defeat.*
- 3. MENTAL FILTER: You pick out a single negative detail and dwell on it exclusively so that your vision of all reality becomes darkened, like the drop of ink that discolors the entire beaker of water.*
- 4. DISQUALIFYING THE POSITIVE; You reject positive experiences by insisting they 'don't count' for some reason or other. In this way you can maintain a negative belief that is contradicted by your everyday experiences.*
- 5. JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS: You make a negative interpretation even though there are no definite facts that convincingly support your conclusion.*
 - a. Mind reading. You arbitrarily conclude that someone is reacting negatively to you, and you don't bother to check this out.*
 - b. The Fortune Teller Error. You anticipate that things will turn out badly, and you feel convinced that your prediction is an already-established fact.*
- 6. MAGNIFICATION (CATASTROPHIZING) OR MINIMIZATION: You exaggerate the importance of things (such as your goof-up or someone else's achievement), or you inappropriately shrink things until they appear tiny (your own desirable qualities or the other fellow's imperfections). This is also called the 'binocular trick'.*
- 7. EMOTIONAL REASONING: You assume that your negative emotions necessarily reflect the way things really are; 'I feel it, therefore it must be true'.*
- 8. SHOULD STATEMENTS: You try to motivate yourself with should and shouldn't's, as if you had to be*

whipped and punished before you could be expected to do anything. 'Musts' and 'oughts' are also offenders. The emotional consequence is guilt. When you direct should statements toward others, you feel anger, frustration, and resentment.

9. LABELING AND MISLABELING: This is an extreme form of overgeneralization. Instead of describing your error, you attach a negative label to yourself: 'I'm a loser' When someone else's behavior rubs you the wrong way, you attach a negative label to him; 'He's a dam louse'. Mislabeling involves describing an event with language that is highly colored and emotionally loaded.

10. PERSONALIZATION: You see yourself as the cause of some negative external event which in fact you were not primarily responsible for.

I read an article on this book in 'Human Development' in the 1980's but was re-introduced to the book about 3 or 4 years ago. It's still a bestseller and it's been translated into Japanese but I'm not sure of how good the translation is. I'm using some of it at the Tokushima prison and they find it good but sometimes I think the translation may be hard to understand. I hope everyone has a good second half of August try not to melt in this heat.

Boyet Palomo, OMI **Home Sweet Home**

"Home Sweet Home" oftentimes used as an expression especially if a person has been afar from a family and now back in his or her home. The same feeling I have had after not having my vacation for three years. Truly, how sweet indeed to once again see my beloved parents, my brothers and sisters, my grown-up nephews and nieces. Our longing for one another could not be expressed in just a single word or not even in words but of kisses and of hugs.

April 7, 2010 was my arrival in my hometown after two years of exposure in Japan and few days of staying in the seminary in Manila. Inside the Davao airport, I almost lost my patience at the immigration area. I was hoping that the long queue would finish soon in order to see my family waiting outside the airport. From the arrival area, I could already see some of them waving their hands. I recognized that almost all of my immediate family was present to fetch me. One of them stood-out in my attention – my Mother, she became skinny, weak and pale. But I only think that she is getting older, the reason why she looked at that way. But I heard from my sister that she was just discharged from the hospital.

My mother was (again) confined in the hospital. There were essential and serious decisions that my family had faced. First is whether to agree on the advice of the doctor that my mother would undergo a surgical operation considering her age. Second is regarding financial capacity and that somebody should always stay with her during hospitalization.

Prayers and guidance from the Holy Spirit have led us agree upon her surgical operation. It took more than a month before she was discharged. But it did not feel us tired and bored in the hospital because of the visitors that kept on coming and visiting. In fact, the room was filled and most often overflowed with visitors. Truly, I very much appreciated the support of my relatives and friends in and through many and little ways. It was truly a consoling moment for us. Truly grace abounds!

My "home sweet home" was a perfect timing. It was a perfect time because I could once again share my love and care to my mother. God has purposely prepared my vacation not only to me but to people dear to me. Again, to all of you I have asked to pray for my mother and my entire family, DOMO ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU!

Brad Rozairo, OMI



From this April I have started going to two places (Sanda and Sasayama) to serve Christian communities. For me these two places are not 'parishes' but mission stations. On Sundays I leave the house around 7:45 am and come back home after 5:00 pm. From Itami where I live to Sanda it takes almost an hour, and from Sanda to Sasayama is also the same. I travel by train. The above mentioned places are far away from Osaka. The people are very nice and co-operative. Sanda has got a small church with 80-100 people for mass on Sundays. People take care of their church. After all it is theirs!

In Sasayama there is no church as such. We have a Japanese style house for religious activities. On Sundays around 15-20 people attend mass, and after mass we have a tea party! Here I experience a homely type of atmosphere. It is a beautiful place surrounded by mountains and trees and a nice place to relax too. There are 2 sisters of St. Joseph's congregation who live in an ordinary house. They are very helpful to me and to the people in that area.

During the week days (2 times a week) I go to the Catholic Social Action Center (CSAC) in Kobe to help the homeless. We have for about 10-12 volunteers who come together to cook a meal for about 250 homeless. This is done 3 times a week. We also do what we call a 'night petrol'(visit the homeless) on Wednesdays. CSAC is very much open to the poor, the drop-outs of the society and foreigners too. The diocese of Osaka is actively involved in this ministry, and I am happy to be part of this diocesan program. So that's about my work at the moment.

2010 Summer Camp, Sanda



Dick Harr, OMI

Greetings from Tewksbury, MA, again.

Here it is the middle of July and it's been an unusually hot summer until now. I'm sure the beach people are enjoying this, but here for all of us it's a matter of enduring the elements. For the summer months of July and August we always enjoy the cookouts. Here at Tewksbury on every other Thursday there is a gathering of many Oblates living in the area and those who are back on vacation. The cooks dress in Hawaiian attire or wild west attire, for example, and all of this brings some happy relief to all who attend. While munching on hamburgers and hot dogs, etc., the comradery is most enjoyable. On the average, about 30 Oblates are present for this and we all look forward to them, catching up on Oblate happenings in the Oblate world. For those of us who are infirm, these gatherings are a special community opportunity. All the best!

Fran Hahn, OMI

From Itami

I have not been very good at communicating these past few years in the newsletter, I used the excuse that I had so many "hats" going at one time that I was too busy to write, but God has been gracious in removing them one by one, and so now I have very little excuse. I am about to leave on a two month vacation, it has been three years since I was last in the States, and I thought I would take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your great patience with me during my term of service as treasurer. I have no illusions that I was suited for the job, nor that I did a great job, but I did my best



and while I feel sad that Ray has to take this on again, I hope that it will truly be only for a short interim till we find a younger person to carry the "cross". I am now aware that this service is a great and necessary responsibility, and needs a lot more time and attention than I was able to give to it. I hope that in the future we will work to have professionals develop a program that will be able to tie in all the various reports and programs into a simple and unified format, and that will make it possible for most any one with basic accounting and computer skills to manage. Also I would recommend that we hire a person to do the daily book keeping, to free the bursar to do the work of planning and maintenance that should be his main concern. However it goes, I wish to thank you all, especially the District bursars, for their great cooperation.

The "hot house effect" seems to have kicked in with real force this summer with the floods and heat waves striking with great force to the suffering of so many. The heat seems to be getting to me too, more this year than I can ever remember. Must be the "aging process" really taking hold, the hairs are fewer and greyer and the wrinkles more pronounced. I wonder if anyone will recognize me when I arrive, and more so will there be anyone I recognize. I hope to get to the Boston area to see Dick Harr and maybe Jack and Yumi Quinn, but that depends on a lot of factors, two months seem like a long time till you start factoring the time it takes to travel here and there to see this and that person. I will be trying to juggle my time and my budget to get the most out of this chance. I feel bad that I will miss the retreat, but my mother's side of the family is having a reunion August 29th, they have it every 15 years, and my cousin Norma who is the matriarch of the family turns 86, in August and this will be probably the last one for either of us to attend, so they asked me to come and I agreed. My mother's side is Protestant, but they are more proud and supportive of the Catholic priest in their line than the Hahns are, or at least as much so, all my family has been really great to me. I will preside at



the wedding of the grandson of dear friends in DC and hope to visit the sister of a deceased Oblate with who I have been close to 45 years. She was involved in a terrible car accident and her neck was broken, they live in So. California and I am not sure I will be able to get there, but will try.

I hate to leave Wency and Brad to hold the fort but they seem very gracious about it. I feel especially bad for Wency as he already has so many things on his plate now. May your retreat be a time of great grace and enlightenment for all and by God's grace I hope to be back at the end of October rearing to go. Thanks again for your patience these past years.

Hiran Indika, OMI **Its 5 months in Japan**

It is almost 5 months of stay for me in Japan by the month of August. Since the country and the culture were totally new to me, during those 5 months, I came across with abundance of new experience and learning. So I felt whenever one faces new situations and demanding challenges, he or she begins to think anew and as a result act anew.

At first it was not that easy to start living in this particular country, especially without knowing their language. Often there is very little and at times never the use of English for any guidance. So being unable to converse in Japanese and not knowing their life style will certainly make a foreigner feel extremely helpless. But thanks to my Brother Oblates, I could easily overcome that first obstacle and now I am on the process of learning Japanese with its culture and mind-setup.

The language seems to be extremely difficult with characters called "Kanji" and their readings, but the interesting factor is that, this very language seems to be very rich in grammar, symbolism and the embedded politeness of it. So I feel the unique significance of this culture is harmony and tranquility which is expressed in nature, in the gestures of the Japanese people and by and large in the use of language and symbols.

It's always interesting and challenging to be a missionary. I feel it is still more demanding and interesting to live-out a mission in this particular culture. You cannot disturb this tranquility but at the same time you have another culture to impart to them. That is the culture and thinking pattern of Jesus, the Lord; a prophet, a priest and a king, for the Kingdom of God. It is this Kingdom of God, where God alone reigns, is the most tranquil culture that we believe in and preach.



Iru Antonysamy, OMI

Greetings from Nakajimachou, Kochi

We have many celebrations, many gatherings and very many meetings. After each celebration I ask my self "What it means to me?" Some time I get answer from myself and some time I don't. But the fact is: there is always a meaning in being together.

Hope to see you all at the Retreat House.

Congratulations to the Blossoming of a new Oblate Province of India !

On 15th August 2010 The Oblate Province of India Celebrated the Establishment of St.Eugene Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate at Chennai, India. I felt that I was really privileged to be with them in the moment of great joy and happiness. I was able to see in each one of them A New Heart, a New Spirit, and a New Mission.

The Indian Oblate Mission was born on 1st July 1968.

It became a Delegation on 1st August 1979.

It became a New Province on 29th May 2010.

I wish and pray for each member of the new Oblate Province of India that all His choicest blessings for peace, Joy and New Life.



Jack Deely, OMI

Greetings from USA

I hope everyone is well and that you have been surviving the heat wave as well as can be expected. The same weather phenomenon has also hit the east coast here with soaring and suffocating temperatures!

I'm afraid the only news that I have (and it is good news) is --- that I had a wonderful visit with John Mahoney on August 2nd. I'm very happy to report that he looks great, that he is very alert and that his sense of humor hasn't failed or dulled at all. We reminisced about the last 56 years, from the time he and Dan Ward introduced me to the OMIs in 1954 up until the present situation of the Japan/Korea Delegation. He was asking about everyone and of course wants to be remembered to all of you.

I hope and pray that Dick Harr is as equally well when I visit him in a couple of weeks. Enjoy the rest of the summer. I know that I will !!!

USA からこんにちは。

皆さん元気で、猛暑を乗り切っていらっしゃるでしょうね。同じ気象現象は、ここ東海岸も襲っていて、こちらも息がつまるような暑さです。

残念ながら、たった一つの、でもとても良いニュースと言え、8月2日の月曜日に John Mahoney を訪ねることができたこと！嬉しいことに、彼はとても元気そうで、絶え間のないユーモアは相変わらずで全く衰えることがあり

ません。私たちは、彼と Dan Ward が OMI に私を紹介してくれた 1954 年から今までの 56 年間、日本/韓国 Delegation で起きた様々な出来事を懐かしく思い起こしては語り合いました。

彼は一人一人のことをどうしているかと訊ねて、みんなに宜しくとのことでした。

数週間のうちに私が訪問するつもりでいる Dick Harr も同じように元気で変わらないことを祈っています。

では、お互いに残りの夏を楽しみましょう。

ジャック

Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI

Having no special news I hesitated to send in my contribution, but I want to stay in touch and greet all of you.

Hello everybody! I hope you are all doing well. There is not much news here, and my getting older and slower does not enhance that. The main news in the province came at the end of July and the beginning of August, when in a little over a week three of our confreres left this world to go to the Lord, one of the French-speaking sections, and the other two from the Netherlands. Other than that the Summer went well. Lots of tourists here in De Panne, at the seashore. That is coming to an end, with vacations almost over.

Those of you who have had (or still have) health-problems I wish and pray for a speedy and full recovery, and for all a fruitful apostolate.

I remain interested in the goings on in the Japanese OMI-world. Please, keep me informed.

Fraternally yours in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Jan.

Jerry Novotny, OMI

"Asia-Pacific Catholic HIV/AIDS Network"

Violence spread across Thailand as my plane landed at Suvarnabhumi New International Airport. The day before, a bloody crackdown in the center of Bangkok by the Thai military, set off rioting across the country. Rioters set fire to 30 buildings in Bangkok, including a massive shopping mall and the country's stock exchange.

The first week of the conference was held at the Camillian Pastoral Center about a 30-minute drive from Central Bangkok. A militarized zone was set up around the heart of the city and no one could enter. This resulted in a shutdown of the subway system and the streets surround the rioters were deserted by the curfew.

Even though the area was dangerous, the closest we got was watching the evening news. The representative of 16 countries gathered for a workshop to create the first Asia-Pacific Catholic HIV/AIDS Network. In attendance included five Asian bishops, the Nuncio from India, United Nations, experts in the field of HIV/AIDS and many priests, sisters and laypeople. Two other Oblates also attended: one from the China Delegation and one from Thailand.

The Theme of the workshop was "The Challenges of the HIV and AIDS to the Catholic Church in Asia and Pacific."

Briefly the "Objectives" of the workshop consisted of 5 areas: (1) To sharpen the response to HIV/AIDS of Catholic Church in Asia and Pacific. (2) To exchange and dialogue on AIDS Ministry between Catholic organizations in Asia and Funding agencies. (3) To build close relationship and cooperation among Catholic organizations in Asia and Pacific. (4) To promote and sustain the spiritual strength of Catholic individuals and organizations involved in the ministry to persons living with HIV and AIDS. (5) To dialogue and promote concerted efforts to reduce the new HIV infections in collaboration with other religions, belief and government policies.

Briefly the "Expected Outcome" of the workshop was centered on: (1) Forming an Asia-Pacific Catholic HIV and AIDS Network. (2) Coordination and collaboration among Catholics in Asia and Pacific. (3) Access to financial resources by Catholic Organizations responding to the challenges of HIV and AIDS. (4) Individuals and Catholic Organizations engaged in the ministry to people living with HIV and AIDS gained spiritual strength and deeper commitment to witness to Gospel's values of love and compassion. (5) Deeper awareness on the situation and impact of HIV/AIDS so as to response appropriately to each challenge.

The second week consisted of a field trip to Nongkhai in northern Thailand, near the Laos border. Poverty and suffering were present in all the villages we visited: grandparents raising grandchildren whose parents died

from AIDS and a large number of these children were infected with the HIV virus or suffering from various diseases as a result of having AIDS. Someday I will compose a photo story of this one week. It was an experience I'll always carry close to my heart.

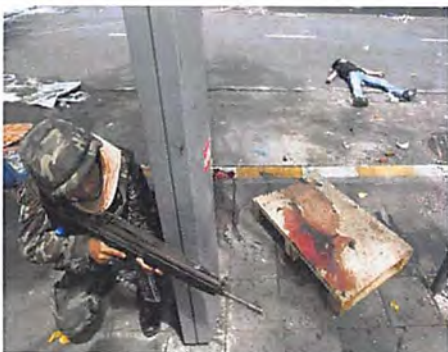
In conclusion, I would like to give a short background why a Catholic Network is necessary for Asia-Pacific.

According to the UNAIDS and WHO statistics, new HIV infections have risen by almost 20% since 2001 in East Asia. HIV is highest in South East Asia: Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia show declines, but the epidemic is growing at a particularly high rate in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, India, Philippines, Japan and Vietnam.

HIV/AIDS is a critical challenge for faith communities. It is not only a health crisis but a dilemma that affects basic human dignity and rights, including the right to live, the right to be healthy, have access to public services, the right to work, the right on migration, the right to security, the right to participate in social and political activities as well as the right to receive spiritual guidance to achieve the fullness of life. Dealing with HIV/AIDS is everyone's responsibility.

One primary objective for the Bishops' Conference of Japan could be to actively motivate the Churches here to be aware and willing to work on AIDS through prevention, care, support, coordination and advocacy.

Finally, I thank Fr. Giovanni Contrin, the chairperson, Mrs. Usanee Nanasilp, secretary to the Bishops Conference of Thailand, and Mr. Rungrote Tangsurakit, diocesan HIV/AIDS co-ordinator. The three are close friends from my years in the Pro Life Apostolate and I thank them for their personal letter of invitation. The roots have been planted by the participants and now serious prayer-support is needed for the future growth of the "Asia-Pacific Catholic HIV/AIDS Network". A follow-up conference will be held next year in Korea



Violence in Bangkok



AIDS has paralyzed this young village lady from the waist down



Our group in Nongkhai



This child is HIV carrier

Len Morio Inui, OMI **A Montessori Convention in Tokushima**

The 43rd Convention of JAM (Japan Association Montessori) was held on July 28th ~30th in Tokushima; with its theme "Seek with children what they want to absorb".

The theme is put to arouse an attitude of teachers and adults, who are trusted children in preschool age. This attitude is so basic environmental setting for their children as they have to absorb all their needs to grow into a human person, although the adults are inclined to educate them for their school-like works. This dispatch of the two group of human being is carried on only in human kind not in any other mammals. The adult is bound to pursue mostly their cultural development without knowing or caring enough the real needs of their offspring; we may call this as ignorance.

In order to see and integrate our anthropological science with its cosmic background, I asked a theologian from Sophia University, Mitsunobu Ichirou; who presented an excellent development of creation vision into genuine personal growth as blessed since the beginning. It is each child's right and freedom to grow in his environment as his inner energy directs him to develop physically, mentally and spiritually into a person. This is natural development even the environment is cultural, that is the only condition we have. This is human natural development, but it has super-nature vocation in the creation program, to continue the work of creation with other creatures. That should be the peace promised by the Creator.

As Dr. Maria.Montessori one day asked mothers, who have their babies," please don't win the baby", for these little ones should not be imprinted such an emotional shade saying don't be won for life. She has foreseen to avoid our unwanted fighting nature, even though it works unconsciously. She was nominated three times for Nobel Peace prize, although the war situation erased the choice.

The convention attendants came from all over Japan, and a friend teacher from Shanghai; 492 all together. The program and presentations were acknowledged with joy ; reports and letters tell us that this convention has aimed and achieved a real integration of theory, practice with each one's spirituality.

This convention is entrusted to us, Shikoku district of which trustee is myself, and the district has least number in the association. But the members are very efficient and devoted for the cause since the planning till the presentations of many speakers. This was their great opportunity to experience cooperation and to grow themselves

I thank everyone for their prayers and patience for this program which has given many a deeper sight and courage with responsibility. Deo Gratias!

全国大会を終えました、ご協力有難うございました。

L e n 乾 盛夫

去る7月28日、29日、30日の三日間、日本モンテッソーリ協会（学会・JAM）の第43回大会をした。実行を委員長を務めた。

大会テーマに“子どもが探しているものを求めよう”と呼びかけたところ、思ったよりも参加者が多く、積極的な手ごたえがあったのでとても有り難かった。北海道から沖縄、上海から492人が集まった。このテーマで、人類が自分の文化・文明の伝統を重宝するあまり普段、忘れやすい子どもへの態度を自覚することが大切であることが認められたと受け取ってよいと思う。事実、参加者のアンケートにも本音を恐れずに問いかけたことへの評価が多く書かれていたからである。

大会の企画・運営には、会員が一番少ない四国支部なので、他地区の関係者も心配してくれたが、四県のモンテッソーリ実施園のエネルギー的な協力が途切れず、見事に成し遂げてくれたのである。これもこの大会での貴重な協働体験となって成長の機会になったと感謝している。

モンテッソーリの幼児教育は現代の平和構築に向かって、おとなと人に育つ子どもとの相互の共存探求によって培われる人柄に格別の信頼と期待とをおいている。この本音に向かうのは、現代人の改心（メタノイア＝metanoia）が求められるかと思う。と言うのは、乳幼児はおとなとの接触交流でその態度から自分の存在意義を倣う（＝吸収する）からである。人種、国籍に関係なく営まれている人格の基礎になる自然が組んだ親子関係だからである。しかも、その人格には創造からの召命が懸かっているのである。

貧しいもの、小さいもの（小さくされてしまわないうちに）との正義から平和へと乞い願う教会の仕事が、ここに現代社会から支持を求められていると言われている所以である。

今まで四箇所で大会の役をしてきたが、今回には本音を問うことができてよかった。

Maurizio Giorgianni, OMI

EMMAUS Kwangju Center In Chonjinam Shrine Korean Martyrs with the Nuncio

April 2010. On the 18th, we started the day very early. The center was open since 9 o'clock and the Filipinos started coming to the center. It is a particular Sunday. The nuncio Bishop Osvaldo Padilla is going to say mass in the shrine. The responsible of the Shrine, Mons. Byon Ki Young, invited the Filipino community to participate to that mass. For this reason, I decided to cancel the Sunday mass in Kwanju church, and go to the shrine. We had two buses waiting for us but there were not enough sits. In fact, the Filipinos were 130 so there were many people standing in the bus. In addition, my



small van was full with six Vietnamese and five Korean volunteers. All the people in the shrine were around 300 but the Filipino community was the biggest. The Bishop was very happy to see all the Filipinos and Mons Byon was underlining and praising our foreigner workers. The mass was in Korean at 12:00. We prepared the slides of the readings in English so that we could follow. Before the end of the mass, the Filipinos sang a song and it was a very beautiful moment. After the blessing, the Nuncio invited the people to take pictures with him. At that moment, the Filipinos were going here and there close to the bishop to have their own pictures.



After the mass Mons Byon offered to all a delicious lunch and the Filipinos were eating very well and thanking Mons. Byon for his warm welcome to all of us. For me was beautiful day.

When we have together in one mass Korean, Filipinos, Vietnamese and other countries, praying and singing together we can see the real face of our Church. Our church is catholic, which means universal, without barrier or difference of nationalities we are all brother and sisters. This occasion I think was very important to know better one another. Koreans could know the workers not only as "workers" but also as Christians. They share the same faith and the same joys and sufferings. For the foreigners that was an opportunity to have a positive

experience of the Korean people and the Korean church. They could feel that Korean people are not like the one the meet sometimes in their working places. Workers are sometimes insulted or discriminated, not treated well but inside the church, they could feel that they were part of the community, loved by the Korean people. We came back at the center around four in the afternoon very happy.

However, that joy lasted not for long...On Monday 19th I received phone calls reporting that some members of our community were caught by the immigration, Also on Tuesday others were caught. I went to visit them in the detention center during the week from Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th. I felt so sad but they were grateful for that Sunday together. Sometimes in life the moments of joys prepares us and give us strength to endure during the moment of trials and sufferings. God has his own plan, and I believe that God has a plan of love for all since he loves us. Therefore, at the end I have to be thankful because everything is a gift. The smile and the tears of the workers when I went to visit them in the detention center always surprise me and make me think that between us, there is really a relation of Love and that is because we tried to be faithful to our faith and to God even in the difficult time. That love lasts in my heart and of the hearts of the workers even when have to say good-bye.



May in Emmaus Kwangju Center.



We start the month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It is very important for the Filipinos so devoted to Mary. They use to bring flowers to Mary every Sunday during the mass.

This year we decided to go on a pilgrimage.

Saturday 15th we prepared the merienda for the Filipinos going to the pilgrimage. Some volunteers came to prepare for 100 people. On 16th of May we left Kwangju Church at 1:30 pm in the afternoon with two buses to go to the Shrine of Our Lady Of Namyang for our Sunday Mass. The majority of the workers were Filipinos but there were also some from Vietnam, Sri Lanka and some volunteers. Fr. Lee Sang Gak, responsible of the

shrine showed us a video in English about the Shrine. We had mass and after that we had a moment of prayer. Dinner was at 5:00pm, offered by Fr. Lee.

We left Namyang at 6:00 pm to go and see the island of Cebu...but we found the bridge closed. So we saw the island from far and went back to Kwangju. I was very surprised that the workers were not so upset but happy anyway to be together sharing food and relax the good weather. We arrived in Kwangju at 8:00 in the night. All the



people were happy and grateful to give their homage to Mary in the Shrine.

On the 9th of May we start also another important event for the Filipinos: The Basketball tournament". I was in the Emmaus Kwangju center at 7:30 in the morning and at 8:30 we started the opening ceremony in the elementary school of Kwangju. People from the Embassy of Philippines came to attend. After the ceremony the games started. The tournament will go on every Sunday until 4 July. The year we have nine teams that will play and try to win the tournament. We are having this tournament since 2005. Every year it is an opportunity to relax and enjoy together but most of all it is an opportunity to grow in our personal relationship and as a community. Sometimes there are division among the workers, but the game helps us to feel happy and to understand that we are strong when we are not single person but when we are a "team" as in the games, we are strong when we are a community supporting one each other to "play" well our life.



Nobuhiko YAGI, OMI

A PLACE WITHOUT FENCES (On my trip to Indonesia)

From February to March, during one month, I visited Indonesia. I spent the time in Borneo (Kalimantan) and Java visiting the Oblate Missionary area.



Borneo is the 3rd largest island in the world. It is about twice size of Japan. However, there is very little population, spread all over the place. Most people are in a few cities along the coast, about 5,600,000. The rest is jungle area. At first, I left the capital of Jakarta by plane to an airport along the coast. From there, on a huge bus, I traveled for 10 hours, to a place in the inside of the island, which had a population of 100,000 people. Again I changed to a smaller bus (about the size of a High-Ace) and went for 2 hours to a small village. From there, by motorbike I followed a river for an hour and a half and arrived at a small port. Then I boarded a small boat to finally arrive, 2 hours later, at the Oblate missionary center.

There, for the first time in my life, I washed myself and my hair in the river (the color of the water was like houji tea), washed my clothes and went to the toilet. Of course there was no toilet paper, so I would wash with the river water and let it go downstream. At first I kind of resisted because I thought it rather unsanitary, but as I got used to it, I realized that the river water was better for the body than all the water we use at home, which supposedly is cleaner and sterilized. On the contrary, I started to feel that the dirt, grass and twigs with their nourishment were mixed with the water to make it more able to strengthen our bodies.

At this place, I didn't feel there was a border between peoples, nor between human beings and nature, between people and God. I'm sure that the warm atmosphere has something to do with it but, doors and windows never fit well, people came from everywhere in the neighborhood to drink tea, have pleasant conversations together. I saw this everywhere. Within this harmonious circle, small children as well as babies frolicked, (no matter if it were deep in the back area, there were children, babies, and many young people), not only the parents but, it seemed that all the people were warmly looking over the kids. Therefore, I felt that there seemed to be very little barriers between nature and the children.

Besides that, it could be because of the atmosphere they live in, in general the personal relationships were peaceful and not at all unsociable. Even if someone makes a mistake, there was no atmosphere of condemnation, they just left the children be themselves. The lines of approval seemed to be far above what you find in Japan.

I was well received by many people. After returning from Indonesia, I felt first of all, including the Oblates in that country, so many people during this visit, I don't know how much time, money, food, goods, considerations, efforts, tenderness, kindness, smiling faces they were able to give me. "What, this also", is all I could think of as people took good care of me. I'm just so thankful.



During this trip, I was taught what was most important for people. That is, giving oneself up to the workings of nature, enjoying the harmony of family and neighbors, and within this lifestyle, recalling the graces that God has given us, to thank and praise Him, is what it's all about. That is, in ordinary life, in the simple workings of everyday, something very important is hidden. This is not necessarily only within great works or great events.

This is very difficult to perceive within the Japanese atmosphere, so my own theme is to see how I can assimilate all these things that I have experienced on my trip into my own life. At least, I don't want to blame it on my present atmosphere, but I want to be careful about the way I carry this in my heart.

Tom Maher, OMI **A Taste of Heaven**

To whom it may concern: (taken from the BIG BOOK of AA)

I have specialized in the treatment of alcoholism for many years. In late 1934, I attended a patient who, though he has been a competent businessman of good earning capacity, was an alcoholic of a type I had come to regard as hopeless.

In the course of his third treatment he acquired certain ideas concerning a possible means of recovery. As part of his rehabilitation he commenced to present his conceptions to other alcoholics, impressing upon them that they must do likewise with still others. This has become the basis of a rapidly growing fellowship of these men and their families. This man and over 100 others appeared to have recovered.

These facts appear to be of extreme medical importance because of the extraordinary possibilities of rapid growth inherent in this group. They may mark a new epoch in the annals of alcoholism. These men may have a remedy...for thousands...of such situations.

You may rely absolutely...on anything they say about themselves.

*Very truly yours,
William D. Silkworth, M.D*

I felt it necessary to quote the above in order to understand what I meant by my title "A TASTE OF HEAVEN".

Once every five years, Alcoholics Anonymous has an international convention. This year, the 75th anniversary of the beginning of AA, the convention was held in San Antonio, Texas. (This city has a long Oblate history and with the work the Oblates have been doing in Mexico. John Mahoney OMI has retired there in the Oblate Madonna Residence. He sends his best wishes to all)

But to get back to the purpose of this article, far beyond what Doctor Silkworth predicted, AA has taken root in 90 countries and all had sent members to this convention, over 80,000. In the many meeting rooms, groups gather according to language, in the morning and afternoon and in the evening all gather together in the huge dome where instantaneous translations of the talks in different languages were provided.

But despite the many differences among us, for example sex, age, language, nationality, education, occupation just to name a few, there was harmony, peace, love, acceptance just as we are. What are we that we had in common? Recovering day by day from the disease of alcoholism, by the grace of God, or if you prefer, a power greater than ourselves. As Bill Wilson, the cofounder wrote: we have the language of the heart.

Varam Anthonyswamy, OMI (Oblate formation house, Suwon)

Meeting with the parents of our Oblate Scholastics and students.....

Our ancestors who stood at Mount Sinai and heard God utter "Honor your father and mother."

Therefore this honoring of parents does not depend on what your parents did for you, or even whether they were good parents. Rather, we honor parents simply because they gave us the gift of life, of course for bringing us up as earthly parents.



Imagine you were drowning and a stranger came along and saved your life. You would be forever indebted to that person. All the more so we should be grateful to our parents who gave us life.

By honoring those who brought us into existence, we learn not to take things for granted and develop an appreciation for the kindness of others.

With this in mind we invited the parents of our three brothers – Bros. Hong Pedro (in Australian scholasticate), Hong Sameul (in the second year of graduate school, in Korea), Kim Simeon (following his novitiate program in Sri Lanka) and Jeong Joseph (at Kandy Scholasticate, Sri Lanka). It was amazing to see that all were present for the gathering in spite of their busy schedules.

We welcomed them all in our midst first with some tea or coffee to drink. And after a brief meeting with the formators we led them to Eucharistic celebration – praying for their families and for vocation of their sons. And thereafter we had a festive dinner in honor of them. All were very happy with the gathering, so much so they expressed that this gathering can be arranged as often as possible twice or thrice a year. They also exchanged their contact details among themselves.



Interreligious Dialogue (abstract of the Master's Degree – Fr.Varam, OMI)



We live in a world marked by political, cultural, ideological and religious pluralism. It is no longer possible to think of a group of people anywhere who will be politically, culturally, ideologically and religiously homogenous, except for some hitherto unexplored tribal groups deep in a forest or high on some mountain, if there are any. Therefore living together and learning each other's traditions, cultures are a necessity in today's world.

This fact and experience of Dialogue illustrate how Christians, thinking and working together on issues of poverty, violence and discrimination, were led, as an imperative of their faith, to 'collaborate with all believers in God in the fostering of social justice, peace, freedom and harmonious living among peoples. With the same thought in mind, those

engaged in inter-religious dialogue have always felt, sooner or later, that the compassion and kindness, which all religious traditions urge upon their followers, must be brought to bear on a broken world and the pressing concerns of our time.

Some years ago, I had the opportunity to listen to a talk on "Christian commitment to inter-religious dialogue." The participants were mostly lay people from various parishes in the city. In the course of the seminar, the speaker repeated Pope John Paul's teaching that "each member of the faithful and all Christian communities are called to practice dialogue, although not always to the same degree or in the same way." In the question-answer hour that followed, a woman spoke up and said, "I agree on the importance of inter-religious dialogue, but I can't be discussing the Trinity with my Muslim or Hindu or Buddhist neighbors. I am a housewife, mother of four children, and haven't had the opportunity for higher education. I would probably explain our faith badly." The speaker answered, "You are right and the Church does not expect you to be carrying on theological discussions with Muslims or Hindus or Buddhist. But he said, "You can teach your children from their earliest years that God also loves Muslims, Buddhists and others, and you can reinforce that teaching by your attitudes and the way you act towards the followers of other religions." This is the short study that I tried to do.

I thank with all my heart for the able guidance of the professors in Yonsei University; to the Oblate religious community both fathers and brothers for their encouragement, understanding and silent approval. Last but not least to HIM, who is the God of love, unity and dialogue, the source of knowledge and wisdom, my heart rises in love and gratitude. His unseen presence with me was a great source of inspiration and strength during the course of study that lasted for five semesters.

Scholastic Hong Seon Cheol Samuel, OMI

Dear Everyone!

I am in the sixth year in the major seminary. I may hopefully finish the theology studies in the year 2011.

During the past year, I have experienced various pastoral works. Sometimes I helped Fr. Vincenzo, OMI at the Anna House (soup kitchen). For sometimes I worked at a home for the aged people. At the moment I am doing pastoral work at different parishes. By doing these various pastoral ministries, I could find what it means to be an oblate. I have found that I, as an oblate, need my personal conversion from time to time and to be closely connected to the community and be open to Lord.

Yoshikazu Xavier Tosa, OMI

Priest or Missionary?

What is the 'work' of a 'priest'? To say H.Mass every day? If a Christian or a nun(even confreres) hear that you don't say Mass every day, they look at you with doubtful eyes.

What is his work? To administer the Sacraments and give 'spiritual' advise or direction? "A priest participates in the Universal Priesthood of Christ." Here I have my questions and doubts.

Christ, in fact, for a while baptized people in the Jordan River. (Joh. 3 : 26). However in John 4 : 2 is written that Christ never baptized but his disciples did. Which of the two statements is correct?

However, reading the 3 years of public life of Jesus, wandering about in Galilee, indeed he didn't baptize. Seeing the faith of the people in distress, He would tell them that God had already forgiven. Jesus had no confessional, no baptismal font, no altar and no Roman collar. He only said Mass once during his short 33 years of life. "Do this to commemorate me." And he tried to show and explain to us what He meant with that 'commemoration' by washing the dirty stinking feet of his disciples. It wasn't a way to increase the amount of graces in our heavenly bankbook.

Neither did Christ show us or explain that his Father wanted us to establish a strong organization. Only one commandment: 「互いに愛し合いなさい」. "love each other". For me that is 'commemoration' of Christ. Christ was not a Roman Catholic Priest but a *missionary*.

I come from a 100% Catholic culture. During my junior and halfway senior high school, we had a war. Because of the Allies bombardments there were no classes. We had to do 'homework' in mother's kitchen. But it was a time of thinking what 'Christianity' could bring to the world. The Japanese Emperor was forced to denounce his 'divinity'. That got me interested in Japan. Could Christ take the place of the emperor in the hearts of the Japanese? I didn't come to Japan to be 主任神父 "a pastor of a parish". As for me, Christ was first a missionary. Later the Roman organization invented the word 'High Priest'. (What does it mean?) Now in the Catholic Church, Christ is first of all a "priest" and maybe secondly a "missionary". I find it difficult to follow Vatican's thinking.

In my 55 years in Japan I have changed or must I say 'grown up'? From a 'priest' according to the constitutional Church (system of laws and regulations) I have become a missionary. Therefore I left the priest house to live among the non-baptized people. Christ too lived for a while among the Samaritans.

Why then did I become an ordained priest? That was the culture in the years 1940~1960 in Flanders. To become a missionary one had to become a 'priest'. 'Brothers' were accepted because they didn't learn Latin, but were good with their hands. They were considered a step or two lower than the priest. And then we have the laymen standing three steps lower than the priest. We have a Japanese word: 司祭団, the priestly body. That separates the priests from the Christians. Maybe the character for 「だん」 (group) must be 「段」 (a higher step), (a higher rank)...Some people think that a priest is a step closer to God than an ordinary believer. I don't like the word 司祭団 and I don't like to join the group of priests only, apart from the ordinary people.

A missionary is sent to people who don't know (much) about Christ. A priest house is not the place where you meet those people. Living in a priest house is usually separating oneself from the ordinary society. Christ left the community of John the Baptist to start wandering among ordinary people. It's true, a missionary tries to make 'Christian communities', but I don't like the saying that a priest must "expand" the church. Experience has told me that there is a difference between a 'Christian community' and a 'church'.

NB: you don't have to accept my experience



Anniversaries

Name	Birthday	Final Vows	Ordination	Arrival
Ange SIANI	08/23/1936	09/08/1961	05/31/1965	09/16/1965
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
Bobby CAHILIG	09/15/1959	09/08/1990	04/25/1991	09/06/2008
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
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
Xave TOSA	10/27/1927	09/08/1950	02/22/1953	09/03/1955



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