

On-going Formation – 2019

Resource Person: Fr. Chinnappan OMI (Indian Provincial)

Participants: Frs. Bernard & Steve (from Japan); Frs. Shitol, Peter, Samuel & Sobuj (from Korea)

Japan-Korea On-going Formation (OGF) for the young Oblate priests (between 5 ~ 10 years of priesthood) was held in Koga, Fukuoka from Aug 30th to September 1st. Fr. Chinnappan, OMI, Provincial of St. Eugene province-India was the resource person for the said formation program.

The gathering began with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Chinnappan, OMI. In his sermon, Fr. Chinnappan reminded the young Oblates that God created each one with talents in a different way. Just like the servants who made use and doubled the talents that were entrusted to them, Fr. Chinnappan also challenged the young OMI's to once again reflect and realize how blest they are with the many different talents that God has showered upon them. He added that these talents must not remain hidden in the cupboard, rather, it must be shared to others especially to people they minister with.

After filling their hearts with God's word, they filled their stomachs with a simple breakfast. Fr. Chinnappan then animated the group's session with a challenging talk about religious life. *Where does the vocation of a priest begin? Whose choice is this to become a priest? Your choice or God's choice? Who is a happy religious? How do you say one lives a happy religious life?...* these are just some of the questions that stirred the hearts of the young Oblates.

The session was basically divided into three parts: **1) what a religious should expect to face, 2) challenges a religious face, 3) how to overcome these challenges.** To cite an example: A religious may find today's world more difficult to minister compared to 50 years ago. With this in mind, a religious must expect that there will be some genuine opposition(s) or even false accusation(s) from others. However, a religious must never give up or even think of throwing in the towel. To overcome these challenges one of the keys is to have a self-knowledge, knowledge about the community members and deep spiritual life. The group was so engrossed with the session that they even forgot the time for lunch.

After a sumptuous lunch prepared by our loving MAMI member, the group went for a quick sight-seeing and recreation at a nearby amusement park. The young Oblates wrapped up the one-day session with a very deep heart to heart faith sharing session and prayer.

To further strengthen the bond of brothers, the young Oblates had a BBQ for dinner. The very next day, the group joined the Koga Catholic church community for the Sunday Holy Eucharist.

- Reported by Steve





What to Expect from Others

1. Expect genuine opposition
2. Expect false accusations
3. Expect resistance to your approach
4. Expect indifference to your ideas and suggestions
5. Expect resistance to cooperation
6. Expect false glorifications
7. Expect different types of pressure tactics
8. Expect anonymous letters
9. Expect only a portion of people to cooperate with you
10. Expect attempts to discourage you

2. Challenges to Religious Life

1. It is becoming increasingly difficult to practice the religious vows
2. Members leaving the Congregation has become more frequent now, with hardly any stigma attached to that
3. There are times when the parents even encourage the members to leave the Congregation
4. Modern generation finds it difficult to make life-time commitment
5. Worldly attractions are so strong that many religious are drawn towards it, knowingly or unknowingly
6. The level of commitment by the members is frequently very shallow and there is no depth
7. The external action, movement, etc. are becoming more attractive at the cost of inner spiritual depth dimension of life
8. Cherished values have lost their status and it is extremely difficult to stand by these values – honesty, truthfulness, justice, etc.
9. There is fear of looking at oneself and discovering oneself objectively
10. Many religious and priests have their own personal agenda based on their selfish desires and on the basis of social and political considerations
11. Financial accountability and transparency is a major problem today
12. The members do not want to own the responsibility entrusted to them and so they do not put their heart and soul
13. There are demands and expectations from friends and family members and the religious are often under pressure to satisfy their demands and needs
14. The desire for power and position is so great among the religious, that they have the tendency to demand and use different pressure tactics to get what they want
15. Many have their own personal agenda as opposed to the common agenda of the community or the Congregation

What we need

1. Self-knowledge
2. Knowledge about the team members
3. Knowledge about the members and the congregation
4. Deep spiritual perspective
5. Professional approach to administration
6. Principle of subsidiarity
7. Collective Responsibility
8. Leadership qualities

Young Oblates: Japan-Korea
31st August 2019
I Delegation

1. Major strengths of the Delegation and ways to further enhance these strengths

- a) The Major Strengths:**
- b) Ways to further strengthen these strengths:**

2. Major shortcomings of the Delegation and concrete ways to eradicate or minimize these

- a) Major Shortcomings**
- b) Ways to eradicate the shortcomings:
for developing or improving our ministries**

3. Major challenges or threats for the growth of the Delegation and concrete steps to face these challenges or threats effectively:

- in the administration:**
- in the apostolates/ministries**

II. The Status of Young Priests Today

4. Positive aspects regarding the Young Priests of the Delegation and ways to further enhance these aspects:

- a) Positive Aspects**
- b) Ways to improve the positive aspects ways and means**

5. Major shortcomings of the Young Priests and concrete ways to eradicate or minimize each of these shortcomings:

- a) Major Shortcomings**
- b) Ways to eradicate these shortcomings**

6. Major challenges or threats for the Young Priests and concrete steps that will help them to face these challenges or threats effectively:

- a) Major Challenges
in the way they carry out their ministries**
- b) Ways to eradicate the challenges or threats of the young priests**

in the Ministries

III. Community Life and Team Spirit

7. Major strengths of the community life of the young priests at present and concrete ways to further enhance each of these:

- a) Major Strengths**
- b) Ways to further enhance the strengths**

8. Major shortcomings of the community life of the young priests at present and concrete ways to overcome or eliminate these shortcomings:

- a) Major Shortcomings**
- b) Ways to eradicate these shortcomings**

9. The status of Team Spirit in the Delegation in various ministries – both positive and negative – and concrete suggestions that will help in building up good Team Spirit:

- a) Positive Aspect:**
- b) Shortcomings:**
- c) Suggestions for promoting team spirit**

IV. Inner Joy and Positive Thinking

10. The over-all atmosphere of positive thinking and constructive approach:

- a) Over-all atmosphere
in the various communities:
in individual members;
in the young priests**

b) Concrete suggestions to promote positive thinking and the right attitude throughout the Delegation:

- in the communities;
in individual members;
in the young priests**

11. Possible causes for the negative atmosphere that may exist in some or all the communities, among some individuals and more specifically among some young priests and ways and means to overcome this negative atmosphere:

- a) Possible Causes**
- b) Ways to overcome the root causes**

V. Leadership & Administrative Skills for Religious

12. Concrete ways which the young priests can do on their part to grow in the areas of leadership and administration

13. Concrete suggestions that the administration can implement on its part to assist the young priests to enhance their skills and capability in leadership and administration

VI. The Dreams of YOU: Personal Level & Delagation Level

14. Dreams of the Young Priests for the personal growth of the young priests in the years ahead

15. Specific Dreams for the Delagation as a whole – in different aspects, such as, formation, administration, ministries, etc.

VII. Concrete Action Plan for Individuals & Recommendations to the Delagation

a) Action plans that will be implemented by the young priests at their personal level:

b) Action plans that will be implemented by the communities/superiors

c) Recommendations to the Delegation administration, related to the young priests and their growth