

Bishop Ovide Charlebois OMI.

Dear Brothers,

The email below and the attachments are from our Postulator General.
Let us take some time to go through them and get to know Venerable Bishop Ovide Charlebois OMI.

Thank you.

Brad

Dear Major Superior,

Today, November 20, we remember the death (dies natalis) of Venerable Bishop Ovide Charlebois OMI. As I informed you in my previous letter, given the importance of his having recently been declared Venerable, the last step for his beatification, we are going to organize a series of events tomorrow, Saturday, November 21, which will be broadcast. In the attached files you will find a letter with more information (to the English version, I add now the French and Spanish versions).

The Postulation, together with the communications service of the Mediterranean Province and its Vermicino Scholasticate, has prepared some posters with the chronology of the Venerable Ovide Charlebois. They are designed to be printed in an ideal format of 70x100 cm, although it will be possible to print in other formats, according to the needs.

Please spread it among the members of your Unit and the Sub-Units of your Unit (Delegations, Missions, Districts...).

I will send them to you in the 3 official languages. I am now attaching the English version.

May the Venerable Charlebois intercede for your mission and your Unit.

P. Diego Sáez Martín OMI
Postulatore Generale
postulatore.generale@omigen.org

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OVIDE CHARLEBOIS OMI



CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF THE SERVANT OF GOD BISHOP OVIDE CHARLEBOIS



February 17, 1862

Born in Oka, Québec, Canada to Emerence and Hyacinthe.

He was baptized on the same day. He was the seventh of fourteen children, of whom five became missionaries and priests, and a nun.

December 10, 1874

His mother dies.



1876-1882

He meets the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate during his retreat at Assumption school in Montréal.

1882

He enters the Novitiate in Lachine, Montréal.

August 15, 1883

Makes his first vows and begins his studies in Ottawa.

August 15, 1884

Perpetual Vows.

16-17 July 1887

Ordained deacon and priest by Ven. Msgr. Vital Grandin OMI.



OVIDE CHARLEBOIS, OMI

DECLARED *VENERABLE*.

CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 21, 2020



9.30 (CET/Rome) CONFERENCE - *Community Room of the General House*

READING OF THE DECREE OF THE HOLY SEE
- **Diego SÁEZ MARTÍN**, *Postulator General*

PRESENTATION

"To become saints by sanctifying others Sanctify the others to become saint"
- **Fabio CIARDI**, *Director of the General Service of Oblate Studies*

PRESENTATION

"The missionary method of Ovide CHARLEBOIS"
- **Alfred KERLING**, *Author of "Il Servo di Dios Ovidio Charlebois"*



Live streamed on the OMIWORLD YouTube channel



12.00 (CET/Rome) THANKSGIVING MASS - *Chapel of the General House*

Presided over by Paolo ARCHIATI, *Vicar General*



Live streamed on the OMI WORLD Facebook page



Christmas 2020

Dear Brother Oblates,

This is to share an update with you before Christmas.

Delegation Christmas online Gathering:

Date: December 28 (Mon) 2020

Time: 11 AM (Japan-Korea time) 7:30 AM (Sri Lanka time)

Our Provincial Fr. Roshan Silva will join us and talk to us. Therefore, see that you make yourself available at least for a short time.

The Zoom link will be sent to you later.

Fr. Mike Yamasaki:

I visited Mike yesterday and gave your regards to him. He is fine.

Mike has got appetite for food and will eat his birthday cake tomorrow (Dec. 24) as he turns 86. Remember to pray for him.

From our Superior General: Fr. Louis Lougen OMI

Just a quick note about my health: I have not had surgery and I do not yet have a date for that. I am being required to take many medical exams and consultations with specialists. Because of the increase in COVID-19 in the U.S., the priority for medical care is with those who suffer with the virus. My next consultation is on December 30 and I still have to undergo a colonoscopy. No date is currently available for that exam. This is taking so much time!

We will continue to pray for our Superior General and all those in need of our prayers especially during this Christmas season.

Attached please find a simple greeting card from me.

Blessings on you & the people you serve.

Brad

Dec.23, 2020



May God be born through our acts of love, kindness and compassion.

Have a peaceful celebration of Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Bradly Rozairo OMI

Goodbye 2020



Dear Brothers,

The year 2020 saw an unexpected visitor entering this world and getting hold of everything, and even to this day continues to manipulate humanity and the planet. During this year, either we saw on the television or read in the newspapers how people throughout the world suffered due to COVID-19 pandemic. As we bid farewell to 2020, let us not forget to thank God for His guidance and protection. I think we, the Oblates in Japan-Korea are very much blessed with the comforts of life, and we “owe God a constant debt of gratitude” (2Tes.1:3) for giving us all that we need, especially the health of mind and body.

They say that any crisis comes with a lesson and an opportunity to change and to move forward. The present pandemic has taught us important lessons and we find some mentioned in Pope Francis’ message written on the occasion of the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (Sept.27, 2020):

- **The pandemic has created a dramatic and troubling silence that has given us an opportunity to listen to the cry of the poor, the abandoned and our seriously ill planet.**
- **The pandemic has reminded us that in spite of our differences in nationality, race or colour we are all in the same boat, and what we have in common are our concerns, fears and anxieties.**

- The pandemic has also taught us the importance of co-responsibility and the contribution of each person.

Brothers, we have seen humanity at its best during this crisis, as many came forward to extend their helping hand and to care for the suffering. Some of us might have witnessed the generosity and kindness of people who even risked their lives in order to help and support the poor and the abandoned. Thanks to some of you in Korea for finding new ways to help the homeless and migrants, and to some in Japan for making a contribution out of your own pocket to help refugees who went jobless during the 'state of emergency' period. I think, although the pandemic and travel restrictions prevented in-person contact, our connection to each other did not diminish but grew stronger. Thank God we have the luxury of social media which has helped us remain connected and continues to enable us to hold meetings and prayer sessions.

As we come to the end of this year, I would like to express a word of thanks to all of you for your contribution to the Delegation, for your patience and perseverance in times of difficulties, and of course for your prayers. Let us continue to remain united with each other, help and support the other as we journey together.

I wish you all a peaceful and a healthy New Year.



don't forget your mask!

Thank you & God Bless you.

Brad Rozairo OMI

Immaculate Conception: Mother to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate



December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

In honour of a day so special to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Fr. William Clark, OMI offers this brief reflection on how the founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod came to name his congregation.

It seems the Founder's original intention was to name the congregation in honour of St. Charles. Upon learning, there was already a congregation honouring St. Charles, the founder followed the suggestion to name the congregation in honour of the Blessed Virgin under the title of Mary Immaculate. Reportedly he was pleased with that idea and considered it providential rather than fortuitous and inserted in the rule that Oblates should always look upon Mary as their mother. Many years later in 1854 the Founder as Bishop of Marseilles participated in the declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Currently, the Oblates relate to the Immaculate Conception in a special way. An international community of Oblates is stationed at Lourdes where Mary appeared to Bernadette and identified herself as the Immaculate Conception. Thus, Oblates minister to pilgrims and participate in fostering devotion to the Immaculate Conception.

The Immaculate Conception, like the Assumption, is not an isolated privilege but a mystery filled with meaning for the whole Church. It has a special meaning for Oblates since they are dedicated to the Blessed Mother under that title. The Immaculate Conception is a powerful symbol. A symbol is a sign but not just any sign. A symbol is a sign that "works mysteriously on our consciousness so as to suggest more than it can clearly describe or define." Or as someone else put it a symbol is "pregnant with meaning which is evoked rather than explicitly stated". The Immaculate Conception functions as an especially powerful symbol for the Oblates.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Missionary Oblates, associates and friends will join the entire Church in celebrating the feast of Immaculate Conception – **December 8**. To commemorate the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of Oblates, JPIC invite you to join say this prayer.

Missionary Oblates Prayer for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

God, Father of all.

You have created the world as our common home. Through your Word and your Spirit you have brought forth life in which we delight. Help us to treasure this gift of life. Grant us your strength that we may love and protect all life on earth.

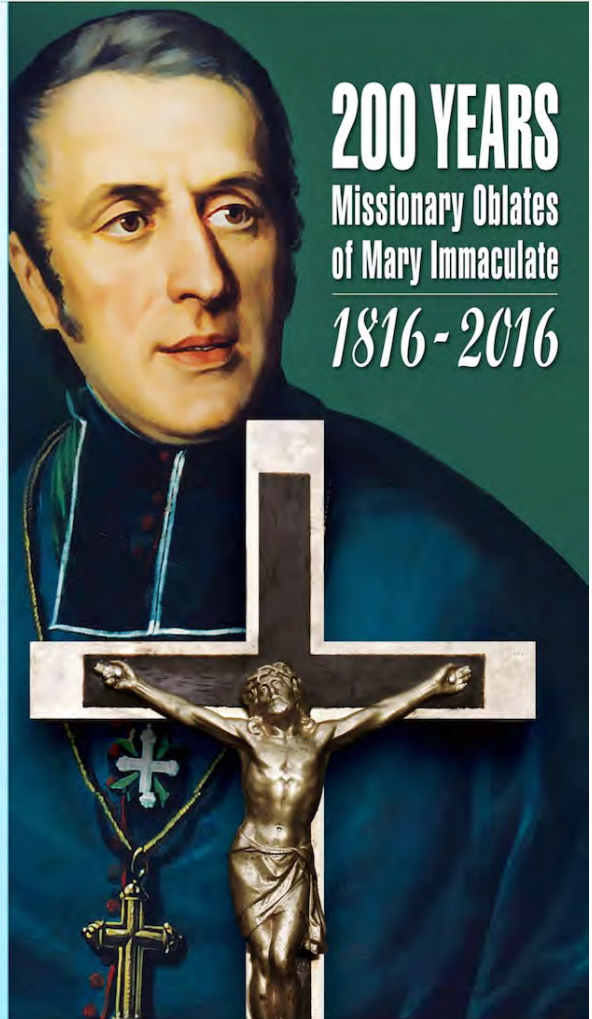
Fill us with your peace and love that we may live in harmony with all of creation; May we recognize others as our sisters and brothers.

Following our Founder St. Eugene De Mazenod, help us to leave nothing undared in our ministry of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation so that the “liberating presence of Jesus Christ and the new world born in his resurrection” may be a reality today.

As Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, help us to be close to the poor with their many faces. We implore from Mary, our Mother, the strength to stand at the foot of the Cross where many of our brothers and sisters suffer today.

This we ask you, Father of all, through the intercession of our Mother Mary, Saint Eugene and all our Blessed Oblates. Amen

(Oblate Prayer Book 2016)



WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY FEAST DAY.

Brad Rozairo OMI

Lay congress: OLAC

Dear Brothers,

This is to bring you an update on the Oblate Lay Associations Congress (OLAC).
At the Inter-chapter meeting in Odra, Poland in July 2019, the plan for the second Oblate Lay Associations' Congress was launched,
and the Superior General and Council has fixed the date of the Congress to July 16-18, 2021.

For further information please see the attachment.
Also, take a look at the links with video clips below.

Let us pray for the success of the Congress.

Thank you.

Brad
Dec. 9, 2020

<https://www.omiworld.org/media/the-omi-lay-associations-virtual-congress-july-2021/>

<https://www.omiworld.org/media/2nd-oblate-lay-associations-congress-2021/>

2nd OLAC 21 - GUIDELINES FOR THE REGIONAL TEAMS AND HOSTS



Introduction

The Oblate Central Government in fulfilling a mandate from the 36th General Chapter and has organised a Lay Association Congress, "Living as Oblate People." The themes we have chosen for this Congress' actions, Celebrate, Connect, and Commission describe the purpose of the Congress.

We want to celebrate, connect and commission to recognise the commitment of the thousands of people throughout the world who share, live, and work with the Oblates and are inspired by the Oblate

Charism.

The event aims to share locally, regionally, and internationally the depth and variety of ways of connecting as a big family of lay Oblate associations joined through the charism of St. Eugene de

Mazenod. To organize the Congress on a Regional level and serve as a link with the Central Working Team, each Regional Major Superiors' Conference is asked to nominate a Regional Team. This Team will have a co-ordinator and other members (Oblates and lay people). It would be preferable if representatives from different Units were on the Team, especially if they already are members of an Oblate Lay Association and have some experience of them.

The Regional meetings

The Regions will gather throughout the world as the International Congress (16-18 July 2021) and connect online for 3 hours each day with the Centre in Rome. The General House will be the Centre and will be broadcasting each day at 14:00-17:00 Rome time (CEST= UTC+2) the same time in Hünfeld (CEST) 14:00-17:00; Manila (UTC+8) 20:00-23:00; San Antonio (UTC-5) 07:00 – 10:00; Colombo (UTC+5:30) 17:30-20:30; Chile(UTC-4) 08:00-11:00; and Mexico(UTC-5) 07:00-10:00. Because of the differences in international time zones it will mean that some Regions will gather at unusual hours.

Most of the Regions have already established the place/places for the gathering. If your Region has not decided yet, it is urgent that you should do so as soon as possible.

Participants

The Host in collaboration with the Regional Team determines the number of people gathering at their respective Regional Gathering place. The Host will take into consideration the limitations of the site and the available budget. Each Regional Team will decide the criteria for participation and the method employed to invite representatives from the Units. The main concern is that there must be representatives from all Units, especially from those who already have an understanding of the reality of Lay Oblate Associations.

The participants should principally be lay persons who are already members of organized Lay Oblate Groups or Associations. As the names change in each Unit (Lay Associates, Friends of Saint Eugene, Lay Oblates, MAMI, Oblate Collaborators, Oblate Partners, Mazenodian Family, etc.), the Host in consultation with the Units will determine the profile of the participants. The OMI Rule 37a and the Associates' definition from the 1996 Aix Congress can serve as a guideline for the decision making.

In Units where the official constitution of a determined group is vague or unclear, the leadership might invite persons who draw inspiration from specific characteristics of St. Eugene's charism for their lives or are working towards this. In any case, the Unit's leader must ensure the laity in groups have some sense of identity of belonging, knowledge of Oblate spirituality, and collaboration on the Oblate mission. We want to support the laity who invite others to live and share the Oblate charism.

Oblates directly accompanying these groups of Associations are also invited to participate, and other Oblates that the Regional Team/Host considers can fit into the Gathering (Superiors, Young Oblates, Oblates in formation, Oblates that work with young people, etc.). Some other representatives of the Oblate Family could be invited, such as Consecrated Women and Men inspired by the Oblate Charism, representatives of Oblate Youth etc. The representatives should, above all, be people who are involved with laity or can help inspire and encourage the Oblate laity in some way.

The Regional Programme

The Regional gathering programme outside of the combined International programme (3 hours), will be organized by the Regional Team (plus the Host) in dialogue with the Units. The Regional Team should use the topics (CELEBRATE, CONNECT, COMMISSION) for the three days as a guideline for the regional programmes. Some Regions might have more than one Gathering place. Each one would have their own Host. The information collected from the Units and local associations' preparation could help design the Regional Programme.

The Regions are free to make their own unique logo for their meetings, as well as choose their own theme and song as long as they complement the topics for the three days: Celebrate, Connect, and Commission. There is the freedom to use the time outside of the international section to discuss the issues that most concern you in your Regional gathering/s context.

To develop a possible programme, the Regional Team could consider the following material as a general guideline. The Team is free to adapt, to make modifications, or change freely.

Day 1: Celebrate

As a worldwide Oblate family, we celebrate how St. Eugene's charism is lived out daily.

How do Lay people in your Region live the Oblate Charism?

Sharing experiences from different places can be an excellent way to get to know each other and to be able to celebrate together. Other people can learn from sharing the stories of the various groups or Units. The Regional Team could choose some significant and unique experiences from the information collected from the Units and local associations' preparation. You could do this in many ways (personal experiences, videos, pictures, PowerPoint, songs, etc.)

Celebrate as a Region the beauty and life as members of the Mazenodian Family.

The Region wants to celebrate being a part of the Oblate family. The Unit Contact Team could collect the information from the Units and local associations' preparation, which would help the Regional Team organize the event. You can consider a two-part celebration: a community prayer (vigil, Eucharistic celebration, adoration etc.) and a social gathering-party (songs, dance, artistic expressions. etc.).

Day 2: Connect

When members of Oblate Lay Associations and Oblates connect, they enrich each other in living their Oblation.

The second day can be a day for more reflection. Even if the experiences are very different, the Regional Team can find a common path in our heritage as People of God and Oblate laity.

You can refer and discuss some of the documents listed in the appendix below. Again, the information collected from the Units and local associations' preparation could help in choosing some particularly interesting experiences or reflections.

You can use small group meetings and workshops to reflect on "*How to grow in communion.*"

The following questions might help:

How do people in the Region connect or have connected in the past with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Honorary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Members of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate, Young People living the charism, Families living the charism?

*What is the experience of the Region on the partnership between Oblates and Oblate lay people?
How is collaboration between the lay people and the Oblates achieved?*

How do the laity work and collaborate amongst themselves: organization, formation, information? Discuss ways of increasing communication and connection with in the Unit and the Region.

How can we create a Regional and even a Worldwide Network of Oblate Laity? What tangible initiatives would help to achieve this goal?

The ideas collected can help prepare the next day and future programmes.

Day 3: Commission:

The evangelization of our lifetime cannot be done only by selected bodies of religious. It must be done together with the laity. (Marcello Zago, 1998).

The third day looks towards the future, and it would be helpful to arrive at some tangible proposals for the future in the Regions and the Congregation.

As the topic of Connect was treated the previous day, the meeting could focus the third day on the theme of Commission seen through formation and mission..

Formation:

Considering that there is a common Oblate identity with a common heritage, would it be possible to devise a common (homogeneous) Formation Programme for all the Lay Oblate associations/groups in the Regions?

Has there ever been any Interprovincial (Delegation/Mission) formative experience? Do you think this type of activity could help the formation of the Oblate lay people?

Mission:

How to share our common vocation and the Oblate mission to respond to the Church and the World's urgent needs?

What are some future scenarios that could be used for evangelization in the Oblate context of your Region concerning the following:

▪ Family, ▪ Work contexts, ▪ Social and political commitment, ▪ Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation ▪ Other.

These questions could be used to guide the reflection in small group discussions. It would be desirable to end up with a document (even a simple one), that could be sent as proposals to the Regional Major Superiors, Units, and different groups and associations.

Collaboration with Central Programme

The Region is invited to collaborate with the Central programme by presenting some recent experiences of lay people in mission that exhibit the Oblate Charism in a video presentation. Each video submitted should be no more than 10 minutes long.

To show a variety of mission experiences, the Central Working Team will choose the ones that fit best into the, themes of the International Congress, usually no more than one or two from each Region. The others could be used at the Regional gathering.

The Regional Team will communicate in time to the Central Working Team which experiences or videos they are planning to send. In any case, the videos must be sent to the Central Working Team at least two months before the Congress (preferably in English, French or Spanish).

One or more persons in the Regional gathering could be requested to present the work of the Regional group online during the international Central Meeting (they should speak, preferably English, or, at least, French or Spanish). The Host must communicate these persons' names and their contact details to the Central Working Team.

Technical issues

The language issue must be considered so that participants can communicate with each other. If a translation is needed, the Host should organize it. The programme from the Centre will broadcast in English, French, and Spanish. If other languages are required, the Host must provide for them.

The Hosts will need to have very good Internet connection to connect and communicate with the Centre. For technical details, contact our technical coordinator Fr. Shanil (e-mail: shaniljomi@gmail.com).

Finances

The Units and Regions will cover the Congress's financial costs, according to their financial capabilities and working together with the laity and the Oblates in each Unit. The General Administration will oversee the finances for the Centre. If lay persons that participate in the Regional Gathering are asked to pay for themselves, it would be desirable to have financial support for those who cannot afford it. This is to be worked out by the Units or by the Associations themselves who decide how to accommodate the support either by donations or some other way. They should not forget that the primary purpose is the interaction between different Lay Oblate groups. Personal contact is essential, an on-line only connection can never the value of the personal encounter. It is worthwhile trying to achieve this.

Contacts

For further General Information, each Region can contact their General Councillor:

Canada-USA: Fr. Warren Brown brown@omigen.org

Latin America: Fr. Alberto Huamán consejerolatam@omigen.org

Africa-Madagascar: Fr. Guillaume Muthunda consafrmad@omigen.org

Europe: Fr. Antoni Bochm conseuropa@omigen.org

Asia-Oceania: Fr. Peter Stoll pstollomi@gmail.com (Coordinator)

The Central Work Team is available on omi.fam.oikia@gmail.com

For technical issues: Fr. Shanil Jayawardena: shaniljomi@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.omiworld.org/our-family/oblate-lay-associations/>

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/oblate.oikia/>

Terms – glossary

The Centre – is in the General House in Rome

Central Working Team – Central Working Team: Mrs. Mary Tyrrell, Mr. Stefano Dominici, Fr. Fabio Ciardi, Fr. David Lopez, Fr. David Muñoz, Fr. Shanil Jayawardena working with Mr. Tarcisio Arzuffi as technical assistance from Focolare Movement and Fr. Peter Stoll as coordinator.

Regional Team – Members (Laity with Oblates) determined by the Region who are coordinating between units in the region and the Central Working Team.

Host – Committee (Laity with Oblates) in the Place/s for a Regional Gathering on 16-18 July 2021 determined by the Region.

Unit Contact Team – Members (Laity with Oblates) determined by the unit who are coordinating with Associations/ groups of Laity in their unit and the Regional Team.

SOME RESOURCES

1. Eugene de Mazenod 101 course;
<https://moodle.ost.edu/course/index.php?categoryid=28>
2. Dictionary of Oblate Values: (Association for Oblate Studies and Research) Rome. 2000. Articles esp. Laity p.504. <https://www.omiworld.org/lemma/laity/>
3. <https://www.omiworld.org/our-charism/what-is-oblate-charism/> Summary of Charism
4. <http://www.centremazenod.org/mission/famille-mazenodienne> Mazenodian Family
5. <https://www.omiworld.org/our-family/oblate-lay-associations/> the Directory of the Lay Associations. Also the video of Fr. Frank Santucci OMI explaining the Mazenodian Family.
6. Congress of Lay Associates, Aix-en-Provence - May 1996 (a brief rundown of the findings). You can download from the Resources Section of our website: <https://www.omiworld.org/our-family/oblate-lay-associations/>
7. Vie Oblate Vol. 55 no. 2 https://www.omiworld.org/wp-content/uploads/55_2.pdf
This gives a rundown of the first Congress held in May 1996.
8. The former Superior General Archbishop Marcelo Zago (1994) developed a 7-step progression on the relationship between Laity and the Oblates that can help us understand this dynamic: "Oblates and Laity can cooperate in the light of the Charism", in Vie Oblate Life", 54/1 (Ottawa 1995) p.10-12.



Dear Brothers

The late Pope St. John Paul II announced the “Appeal for Peace” in February 1981 at the Peace Memorial Park of Hiroshima with these words, ***“War is the work of man. War is the destruction of human life. War is death...To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future...Let us promise our fellow human beings that we will work untiringly for disarmament and the banishing of all nuclear weapons.”***

In response to this appeal, the following year the Catholic Church in Japan instituted an annual “*Ten Days for Peace*” (August 6 –15), a special period to think about our responsibilities to peace, to learn about peace and to work for peace and human rights. As we begin the “*Ten Days for Peace*” from tomorrow, let us pray in a special way for world peace and also for a nuclear-free world.

On a different note, kindly continue to remember Mike in your prayers. At the moment he is admitted in the hospital for treatment.

Thank you.

Brad

75 years after Hiroshima & Nagasaki:
<https://youtu.be/m-CkOPS9Rs>

Dear Brothers,

This is to bring you a short update.

RENEWAL OF VOWS:

Bro. JOON BIN LIM (John) and Bro. JUSTINO HYEONJO KIM (Justin) will renew their vows tomorrow (Aug. 22) in Korea. Please remember to pray for them and for our mission in Korea.



John
(First profession: August 22, 2016)



Justin
(First profession: August 22, 2019)

FR. MICHAEL (Mike) YAMASAKI OMI:

Presently, Mike is admitted to the Seifu Hospital (せいふう病院) in Itami for treatment and rehabilitation. Kindly continue to remember him in your prayers.

Thank you.

Brad Rozairo OMI

We invite you to *“PROTECT ALL LIFE”*
during the *“SEASON OF CREATION”*

Brad Rozairo OMI



“PROTECT ALL LIFE MONTH”: *September 1 – October 4*

In order to respond to the message of Pope Francis when he visited Japan in November 2019, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan has introduced *“Protect all life month”*: *September 1 ~ October 4*, every year starting from 2020.

Needless to say, that changing lifestyles and daily behaviors are important to protect life. In order to deepen awareness on the importance of life, the entire Japanese church would work with local people, especially with the youth to take concrete actions to protect all life.

As Pope Francis has stated in his encyclical "Laudat Si" (2015) that we must relate environmental issues to social, economic and human rights issues and understand them from a comprehensive ecological perspective. The natural environment of the earth has become more serious since the

mid 20th century. Today various problems such as global warming, climate change, water resource crisis, food problem, population problem, poverty, deforestation, the energy problem, garbage problem and biodiversity crisis are faced by humanity. Moreover, it has been pointed out that most of these problems are the result of various industries and human activities. Therefore, we must restore the deteriorated environment by our own hands. Experts warn that it will be irreversible if you do not take appropriate measures right now.

Therefore, as Pope Francis emphasizes, first of all, an “ecological conversion” is needed for both individuals and communities. We must acknowledge that we have damaged God's creation by actions and negligence and dare to consider environmental problems as our own personal suffering. We need to figure out what we can do about it and work together to build a better future for everyone.

PROTECT ALL LIFE: BECOME MISSIONARIES OF LOVE

Pope Francis@ Apostolic Visit in Japan

23-26 November 2019



教皇フランシスコ来日決定
東京・広島・長崎
2019年11月23日(土)~26日(火)

来日テーマ
「すべてのいのちを守るために」
PROTECT ALL LIFE

United with the red flame representing martyrs as the foundation of the Church in Japan and the light blue flame representing the Blessed Mother embracing all humanity as her children, the green flame in the likeness of Japan abundant with nature expresses the mission to proclaim the Gospel of hope. The red circle as the image of the sun embraces all life equally with love. -CBCJ



The Season of Creation, which runs yearly between September 1 and October 4, is that time of the year when we renew our commitment to pray and care for creation.

What is the Season of Creation?

"September 1 was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation (World Day of Prayer for Creation, or Creation Day) by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I for the Orthodox in 1989, and was embraced by the other major Christian European churches in 2001 and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015.

And it has happened that in recent years many Christian churches have started celebrating the "Season of Creation" (also known as Creation Time) between that date and October 4, which is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (author of the Canticum of the Creatures in the 13th century) that some Western traditions observe.

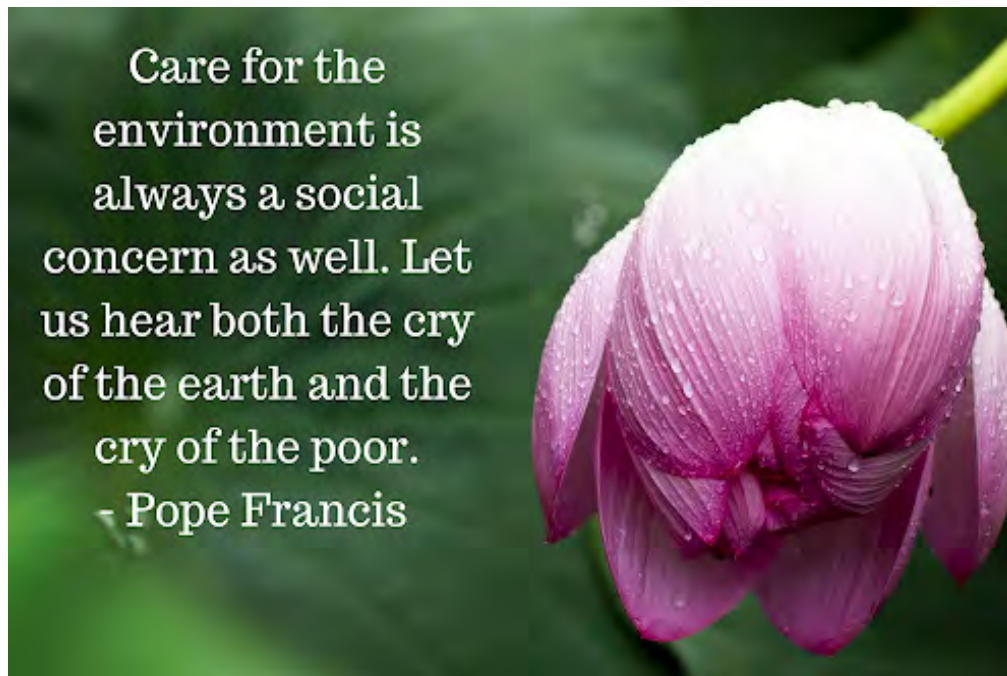
It is meant to give flexibility to celebrate prayer services for creation in alternative dates throughout the month, while engaging in different actions to care for creation throughout the season. Several statements from the past few years have called to observe this month-long Season of Creation, such as those of the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines in 2003, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu in 2007 and the World Council of Churches in 2008."

(Source: Season of Creation website)



Let us participate in the Season of Creation!

Home Page of Season of Creation: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>



Care for the environment is always a social concern as well. Let us hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
- Pope Francis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19v0A19DDXs&list=PLdu7tsNYIRxnPm4sbqz8mvkg7icfKK4J->

Dear Brothers,

Hope you are staying healthy and safe in these challenging times.

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic as people across the globe practice social distancing and in some cases a national lockdown, social media has become very useful to communicate with family and friends.

How about us?

As you know we come together as a Delegation two or three times a year. Our gatherings not only give us an opportunity to meet each other but also help create a family spirit and strengthen our bond. I think this is very important for us because it enables us to function as a Delegation and to work together. It was very unfortunate that we could not come together this spring in Korea, but I hope and pray that we will be able to meet each other at the end of August when we come for our annual retreat.

I think, these challenging times of lockdown and social distancing are also an invitation for us to stay in touch with each other as a community of brothers using new methods of communication. Therefore, I encourage you to give importance to social media, and communicate personally on a regular basis with each other (one to one) by email, facetime, skype, line, zoom, telephone, etc. If for no other reason than just to say 'hello' and to assure each other of our thoughts and prayers during this time of fear and uncertainty.

Thank you.

Brad Rozairo OMI
Delegation Superior
May 4, 2020

2020 Spring meeting in Korea

Dear Brothers,

Due to concerns over the current coronavirus outbreak, the council has made the decision to cancel the spring meeting scheduled to be held in Korea.

Some of you might have already bought your tickets, sorry, but you can cancel them.

A word of thanks to our brothers in Korea for taking the trouble to prepare our meeting. Sorry, we are unable to be together this spring, but I am sure in the future we will be able to meet in Korea.

Let us pray for the victims and for all those affected by the coronavirus in China, Japan, South Korea and in other countries.

May they find a path to recovery as soon as possible.

Stay safe.

Brad Rozairo OMI
Delegation Superior
Feb. 22, 2020

UPDATE

Dear Brothers,

If not for this COVID - 19 crisis we would have been in Korea these days, isn't it?

Hope we can meet in Korea next year!

Below are a few things that I would like to bring to your attention.

Yoshizuka & Minami-Kasuya missions:

After Robinson left us in December 2019 we promised the diocese of Fukuoka that the Oblates would continue to take care of Yoshizuka and Minami-Kasuya missions until Easter – April 12, 2020. Now that Easter is over we have handed them over back to the diocese after more than twenty years of our ministry to the people. We would like to thank all those who made their contribution to these two missions.

Fr. William (Bill) Maher:

After Easter, Bill has moved his residence from Yoshizuka to Koga. While residing at the Koga rectory he will assist the pastoral responsibilities in the parish of Koga.

The second term of the Delegation Superior and New Council:

At the end of November last year, you were informed by our Provincial Fr. Irwin Morais about my appointment as Superior of the Delegation of Japan-Korea for a second term. Since January I have been waiting for a new council to be formed, but it looks that our Provincial is taking his time. I have already talked to him about this a few times and I hope he will have a word for us soon.

“Policy for Protection of Children and Vulnerable adults”:

For our spring meeting this year, we had planned to take up the ‘norms’ or ‘guidelines’ to protect minors and vulnerable adults for discussion. But since we could not have the meeting, I thought of sharing them with you. See the attachment.

Please go through them, and if you have comments/suggestions to make you may do so **before May 25, 2020**.

These 'norms' will be finalized by the Council and be sent to the Holy See for the final approval. We would like to thank Jun Ikeda for helping us prepare the policy for OMI Japan. The Oblates in Korea will work on a policy for their mission.

From Korea:

Paul, Peter and Sabino are already in the Philippines to begin their Novitiate. Justin is in Korea waiting to go to the Philippines to begin his theological studies. He will join John the Baptist who is already studying at the Scholasticate in Manila. Let us pray for them.

Fr. Michael (Mike) Yamasaki:

Mike was discharged from the hospital today. Please continue to remember him in your prayers.

Thank you.

Brad Rozairo OMI

Apr. 22, 2020

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



With the Apostolic Letter “*Patris corde*” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “**Year of Saint Joseph**” from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “*the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,*” who nonetheless played “*an incomparable role in the history of salvation.*”

Source: Vatican news



In the cold of the stable or the uncertainty of the flight into Egypt, Joseph was their rock, the one who (in the image of the Father) made everything okay. Whether cold or frightened or just exhausted, Jesus and Mary knew Joseph would hold them. Mary was without sin but Joseph was the one ordained by God to be the leader of their Holy Family and he gave every moment of his life to serve them.

Joseph's "YES" to God

Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him...(Mt. 1:24)

We often speak about Mary and preach on her response to God at the annunciation. I think the "Year of St. Joseph" invites us to reflect on the obedience of Joseph and his "YES" to God.

The Scripture says that when Joseph awoke from his dream, he realized that he was being called by God to receive Mary and to accept her as his wife. Although he could not understand the message of God, he accepted the challenge that was thrown at him, but with faith. Isn't that how we too, live our life? Even if we do not know and understand how God works in our lives, we too respond with faith.

At this time of the pandemic as many face financial difficulties, family problems and health concerns we are asked to deepen our faith in God and remain faithful like Joseph. Instead of relying on our own projects and schemes to get us through life, we are asked to trust in God and be strengthened by talking to him. God's faithfulness to what He has promised us should be a source of encouragement to all of us, especially in moments of crisis and uncertainty.

Have a meaningful "Year of St. Joseph".

Brad Rozairo OMI