**OMI Japan Delegation Business Meeting**

December 29, 2021, Kochi Rectory

9:30 AM—10:30 AM

The business meeting started with an opening prayer led by Fr. Bradly.

**Agenda:**

**1. 75 years of OMI presence in Japan**

Fr. Bradly reminded the members of the delegation regarding the 75 years of Oblate presence in Japan by 2023. He then asked the members to share their thoughts and ideas.

The following were shared by the members:

**IRU**—It is fitting and right that we celebrate the 75 years of OMI presence here in

Japan as a sign of our thanksgiving and gratitude for all the missionaries and

mission partners who have served here in Japan.

**JUDE**—Toyohashi Catholic Church is also celebrating its 75 years as a church. We

Oblates should also celebrate our 75 years of presence here in Japan. External (外

面的) and Internal（内面的）preparations are recommended. We celebrate for two

reasons:

a. To show to the people our (OMI) missionary journey up to now.

b. To express and make an appeal to the people of our vision for the future.

If we choose to celebrate our 75 years here in Japan, then there is a need to form an Ad Hoc committee for this purpose.

**JERRY**— We should celebrate our 75 years of presence here in Japan. Considering

our number and financial status, it is advisable to make the celebration a SIMPLE

one. There is no need for us to look back from the very start of the mission since

we have done that already when we celebrated the 50th anniversary. What we can

do now is to look back at what had happened for the past 25 years since our 50th

anniversary celebration. If we are to produce a souvenir, make it as a kind of Book

II, a continuation of the 50th.

**WENCY**—Make our celebration a simple one. A simple album and celebration will

suffice. We should consider that we are a small congregation in a Japanese church.

**JUN**—We make a simple souvenir album on our own and not ask a printing

company for the printing process.

**LEN**—If I may look back at the past 25 years since we celebrated the 50th

anniversary, I don’t see much change. It seems we remain stagnant. There is a need

for us to be active, assertive in our missionary works. It seems we remain passive.

We must not forget our Oblate charism which is to go out and preach the gospel.

**BILL**—There is a need for us to exert more effort in our ministries especially with

MAMI and other parishioners.

A consensus was made that we will have a SIMPLE celebration for our 75 years of OMI presence here in Japan. The **Ad Hoc committee members** are:

**Fr.** **Jun IKEDA, Fr. Stephen SAVARIMUTHU and Bro. Nobuhiko YAGI.**

**2. Aki Kindergarten**

After the closure of Umi no Hoshi Kindergarten in Aki city by March 2022, Akenohoshi Gakuen will return the borrowed building and land to the Oblates. The land purchased by Akenohoshi Gakuen will also be sold to the Oblates at a very cheap price. The Oblates will then decide for the future of the land and properties in Aki.

**3. Spring Meeting**

Spring Meeting for the year 2022 is scheduled from April 25-28 at Koga OMI residence, Koga city, Fukuoka. The Oblates in Korea will join the meeting via zoom. A speaker based in Indonesia is scheduled to share his talk via zoom on April 26, 2022. Further details will be communicated later.

**4. Finance**

The delegation bursar, Fr. Furukawa, through Fr Bradly, wishes to thank the members of the delegation for their continuous support to the delegation.

**5. Building Earthquake Resistance Test**

Respective Oblates in-charge of churches or kindergartens are highly encouraged to have the buildings checked for Earthquake Resistance Test.

**6. MAMI**

A delegation wide MAMI online gathering is scheduled on February 19, 2022, Saturday. Oblates are encouraged to invite their parishioners to participate in the said MAMI zoom conference.

An Oblate International Lay Congress (online) is scheduled in May 26-27, 2022.

**7. Fr. Tharanga**

Fr. Tharanga has already begun learning basic Japanese language studies via online. Fr. Bradly with the help of a person is preparing Fr. Tharanga’s documents for a visa. Fr. Tharanga is expected to arrive in Japan by July 2022.

The business meeting came to an end with a prayer at around 10:30 AM.

The Oblates then proceeded to the Catholic Nankoku cemetery to pay their respect to the Oblates buried there and to pray for them.