



Far East Star

Summer 2022



From the Desk of the Delegation Superior...

Brad Rozairo OMI

Preparation for 75 years of Oblate Presence in Japan



Dear Brothers,

Last December at the end of our family Christmas gathering, we formed an Ad Hoc committee to prepare ourselves both externally and internally to celebrate the 75 years of our presence in Japan.

- First meeting: April 27

In April, this year, each person was given 8 – 10 minutes for personal sharing, based on the *reports of the past sessions* we had had with Bishop Abella (Oct. 2019 & Oct. 2020) and Bishop Charlie (Sept. 2021), and the *evaluations and sharing in districts*. This was taken up mainly to prepare ourselves in the internal *preparation* for the 75th anniversary. A good amount of time was spent listening to each other. Bro. Nobu Yagi, who heads the Ad Hoc committee along with Frs. Jun Ikeda and Steve Rosario facilitated the session.

We also discussed and shared ideas on the external preparations. Each of us will be asked to make a contribution to a simple souvenir album with a short write-up and send a few photos that could be helpful in producing a video clip summary of the last 25 years. The possible date proposed for the thanksgiving celebration of the Eucharist was November 23, 2023, and the suggested venue was Tokushima church. This has already been communicated to the Bishop of Takamatsu.

- Second meeting: September 5

Soon we will be meeting in Kochi for our annual retreat, but prior to that, there will be a second meeting. I hope that the summary of our sharing in April, and the recent request sent to us on August 18th will help us reflect together in our internal preparation.

Let us continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we journey together towards the future.

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Annual Retreat: September 6 – 8, 2022



Theme: "Growing with the Culture of Synodality into God's Reign"

Preacher: Fr. A. Maria Arul Raja, SJ

In October, last year, Pope Francis formally launched the two-year global consultation process leading to the 2023 synod on synodality, with a call to 'Encounter, Listen, and Discern'.

A retreat is a time to **Encounter** the Lord, to **Listen** to him and try to **Discern** what is best for us especially at this time of the internal preparation to celebrate our 75 years of presence & mission here in Japan.

See you in Kochi.

July – a Golden time

Vincenzo Bordo OMI

In the life of every person and the institution, there are magical, unique, irreplaceable moments commonly called 'Gold time'. We, at "Anna's House" also have these miraculously surprising periods which we experienced last month.

On July 1, 2006, the 'Purumi' shelter for street children was born. Since then 1847 boys have entered the shelter and received help and support from us. On the same day (July 1), in the year 2013, we started the Anna's Chaval program for the

homeless. Through this project, we try to give our street friends the possibility of a place to sleep and to work, so that they can start a new life. So far this program has helped 346 homeless begin a new life.

The evening canteen for the homeless at "Anna's House" which began on July 7, 1998, has distributed almost 3 million meals to the poor.

This facility has also given medical

care, shower service, haircuts, lawyer-counselling, clothes etc. to 20, 905 poor people. But, it's not over yet.

On July 9, 2015, we decided to go to the streets, during the cold and dark nights, with a bus to look and care for the young people who have escaped from their





families for various reasons. This program is called AZIT, and so far, it has come in contact with 39,759 boys and girls loitering on the streets.

Sometimes intrigued, I wondered what this month of July meant for us. This month is meant for the great rains. Water, like a celestial blessing, descends from heaven and fertilizes the rice fields, which then will give us delicious and fragrant food. The 'Purumi' shelter, Anna's Chaval program for the homeless, the soup kitchen for the poor and AZIT – are also great blessings for those struggling for their survival. We wish and pray that one day all these blessings will bear abundant fruits. The month of July is a time of blessing and is also, a 'Golden time'.



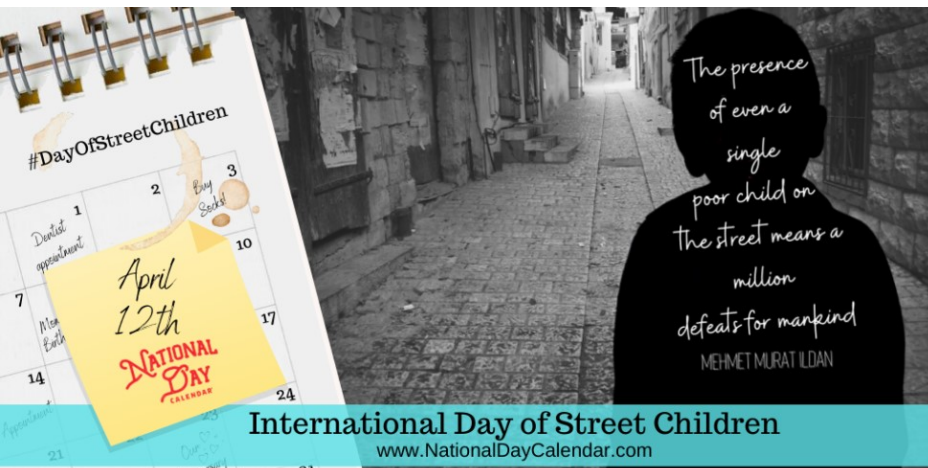
My Experience with kids in the Shelter

Peter Hong Jang Won OMI

Covid-19 has affected everyone. Some people have suffered economically while others have suffered emotionally. It has forbidden people from gathering and talking. Many restaurants have been closed. People are afraid of meeting someone else because of infection. It has affected Christians too. Masses were officially banned or only a small number of people could participate. As MAMI Director, I could not go to parishes to celebrate Masses. In Korea, we rely on parishes run by dioceses since we do not have our own parishes. I had to follow the rules of dioceses and of parishes. Frequently, I had nowhere to go and felt frustrated because I felt myself nothing was functional. Also, I could not do anything with MAMI members since people from different regions were not recommended to gather and do some activities together.

For a while, I stayed in the community house, but it was too boring and meaningless. So, I decided to get more involved in Anna's house where a lot of the homeless and street kids are being looked after in many ways. Anna's house has three shelters which play different roles in caring for the youth. Thank God for the time given to me to pursue studies in counselling psychology which I finished before Covid-19. Now I am involved in counselling with kids in the shelters. This I consider a special ministry and am happy to share my knowledge in helping them.

I do counselling with a number of kids individually 4 times a week. These are tremendous experiences for me because what they share with me is very dramatic. In many cases, their memories are clouded with tragedies caused by violence, family break-up and poverty. But their eyes and hearts are always open to new possibilities. I realized that counselling is not about fixing a broken person. We cannot try to fix someone and that is a very arrogant attitude. We have to respect and accept others as they are even though their lives look like failures. Many times, I have told each kid that *"I am proud of you."*



International Day of Street Children

www.NationalDayCalendar.com

If I were you, I could not have achieved what you have achieved. You are so great. I respect you because you have survived this.”

Personally, I had a difficult time during the pandemic season for various reasons, but through counselling, I was able to see the light in the darkness because I met many great people who are not successful, but just beautiful as they are. I believe that the beauty of God expressed in human beings does not disappear despite human weaknesses.

Summer Camp 2022

Maurizio Giorgianni OMI



After 3 years of the pandemic, we were able to have the summer camp for the migrants this year in July. It was a special event because of the number of participants. There were more than 700 migrant workers from different countries (Vietnam, Philippines, Cameroon, Congo, Nigeria and East Timor) who came together for one night and two days. Those migrants were the members of various Catholic communities that are in the diocese of Suwon. In the diocese, there are about 8 communities in different areas. Frs. Sobuj, Sebastian and Maurizio are responsible for these communities living in three different places (Baran, Pyonthek and Gwangju). The diocesan priests take care of the remaining five communities.



It was not easy to organize and put together so many people from so different cultures and backgrounds. The majority of them were workers but there were also multicultural families with their children.



We arrived at the campsite on July 16th in the afternoon and began dividing people into groups for various activities and started preparing dinner. Then, after dinner, there was recreation and some entertainment. Each group prepared a performance (dance, songs etc.) to animate the night.

The following day, Sunday, July 17, Bishop Linus, who is responsible for the pastoral care of migrants in the Suwon diocese, presided over the Eucharist with other priests. His message was





simple: *We are migrants but first of all, we are Christians, and that bond with Jesus bonds us with one another, and gives us strength to endure the difficulties and to witness his love.* The Apostolic Nuncio in Korea, Mons. Alfred Xueber sent a message of greetings to the migrants.

It was a tiring experience but joyful. We were a lot worried about many things and the Covid-19 situation was one of the many. But with the grace of God, the work of the priests responsible and the collaboration of the migrants it was a successful event. Many migrants expressed their words of gratitude to us for giving them an enjoyable and relaxing time to be together. It was an experience of “resurrection” after three years of “being buried in the tomb” of the pandemic. Thanks to all the people who accompanied us with their prayers and support.

During the preparation for the summer camp, due to many difficulties, there was this thought of ‘giving up’ came to mind. But we recalled the words of our Founder “leave nothing un-dared”, and so, decided to carry on.

I guess St. Eugene was happy to see his men “daring” to give love and joy to the migrants in the form of a summer camp.



Retreat - Korea

Our brothers in Korea had their Annual Retreat from August 8 – 12. The theme of their retreat was “**An Experience of Ignatian Retreat**”, preached by Fr. Gonzalo Borquez, a Columban Missionary.

Season of Creation



Season of Creation - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UKvhmxAQZA>


The action on behalf of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation has been confirmed as an integral part of Oblate evangelization in the world among and with the most abandoned (cf. RR. 9a). This priority has been re-affirmed by the 36th General Chapter in 2016: “*We will participate in efforts to care for the integrity of creation in the face of environmental devastation. We will continue to strengthen our commitment to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)*”

Toyohashi
豊橋




ジュード神父
Fr. Jude


Tokushima
徳島



スティーブ神父
Fr. Steve



乾神父
Fr. Inui



ブラザー八木
Br. Yagi

Itami / 伊丹



ヒラン神父
Fr. Hiran



ウェンシー神父
Fr. Wency

Suwon / スウウォン



シトル神父
Fr. Shitol



ソブジュ神父
Fr. Sobuj



ジャスティン神学生
Sc. Justin

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ペートル神父
Fr. Peter



アンセルモ神父
Fr. Anselmo



ヴィンチェンゾ神父
Fr. Vincenzo

Manila
マニラ



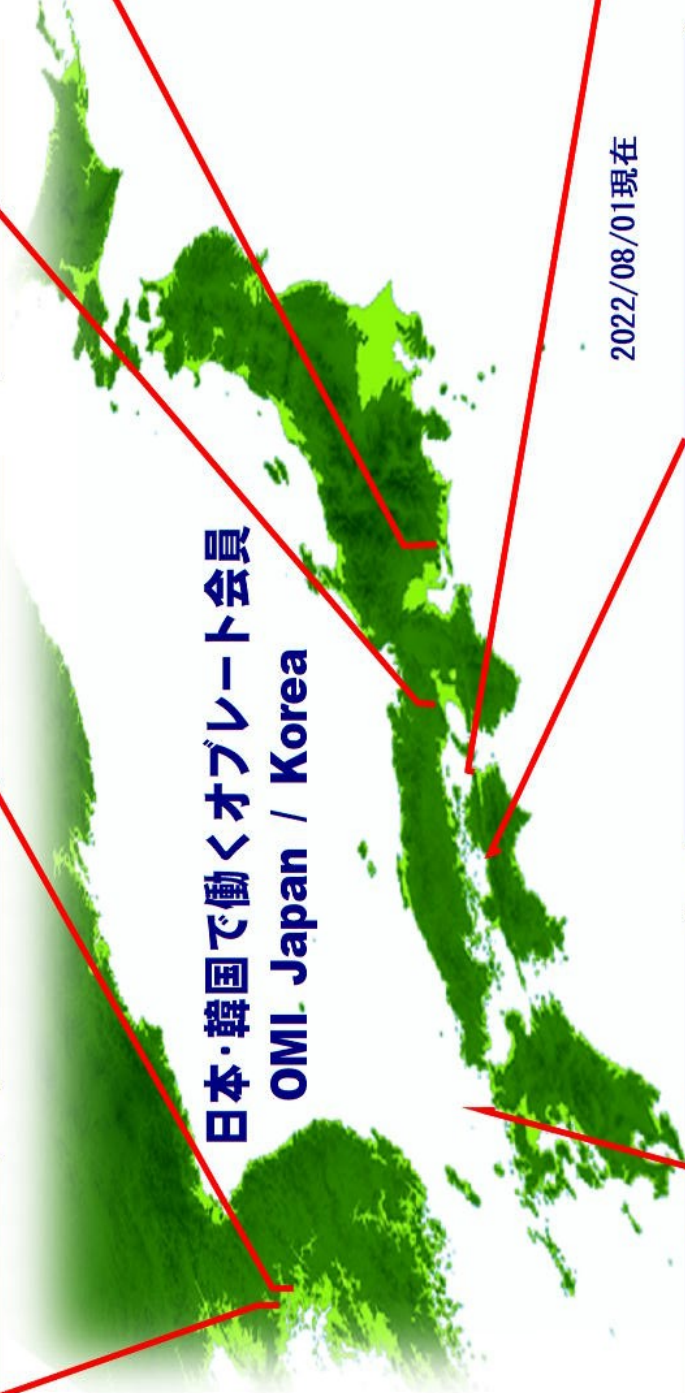
ポール神学生
Sc. Paul



ピーター神学生
Sc. Peter



サビノ神学生
Sc. Sabino



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OMI Japan / Korea

2022/08/01現在

Kochi / 高知



ノボトニー神父
Fr. Novotny



硫黄神父
Fr. Iwo



池田神父
Fr. Ikeda



古川神父
Fr. Furukawa



ブラッドリー神父
Fr. Bradley

Koga / 古賀



マール神父
Fr. Maher



イロ神父
Fr. Iru



ベルナール神父
Fr. Bernard