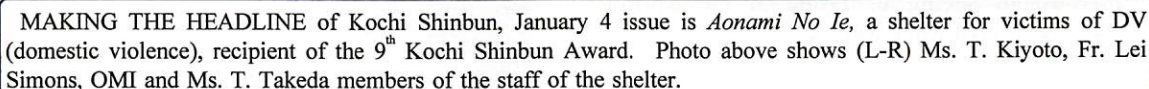




**MARCH**  
*2002*

## ***AONAMI NO IE -Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence- Takes 9th Kochi Shinbun Award***





## From the Provincial's desk:

Dear Brother Oblates,

The glorious season of Easter is upon us. The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism to welcome new members in many of our parishes has added more joy to the glory of Easter. It also reminds us that we are catechumens all our life.

I would like to congratulate our Golden Jubilarians this year, Dick HARR (50<sup>th</sup> in the Priesthood), Eddie WILLIAMS and Tom MAHER (50<sup>th</sup> as Oblates). May you have many more years in the ministry. Congratulations also to Lei SIMONS and the members of his staff, Ms. Toshi TAKEDA and Ms. Tomiyo KIYOTO) at Aonami No Ie (a house for battered women) for being awarded this year's prestigious "Kochi Shimbun Prize."

Congratulations, too, to the Aki and Kochi kindergartens who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year of foundation this year.

I lost both parents early in life and when I watch as you worry about your sick and aging parents (and other relatives), I sometimes consider myself "lucky." At the same time, I wish I had the chance to have taken care of my parents when they were still around.

Ray BOURGOIN left for home to be with his dying mother on March 17th. His mom died just when he was leaving Kochi for the U.S. Jack DEELY was with a group of students in Ireland when his dear mom expired. "We gave Mom a royal send off on the 28th...she had an incredibly blessed life...9 children, 20 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren and she passed away peacefully...what else could a person ask for in life?" said Jack. We condole with the Deely family. My condolence also to Jan who lost a brother recently. Varam has asked to extend his stay in his home in India to continue caring for his sick father. He thanks everyone for their prayers. Gen's mother is recuperating in his hometown in northern Brazil after a series of infections in the leg. Jude's mother broke her arm, I heard. Xave was able to visit his sister who has cancer. Xave himself is still not comfortable with his pace-maker. There are many other relatives who need our prayers. Let us make it a tradition to include them in our daily prayers.

Below are a few items from the Provincial's desk.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Meeting which starts on Easter Monday.

*Wency Laguidao*

### AORC Meeting: Manila and Cotabato

The annual meeting of Provincials and Superiors of the Asia-Oceania region was held in Manila last February 20 to 25. An optional trip to Cotabato, 26 to 28, followed the meetings.

Fr. Rufus WHITLEY, Treasurer General, made himself available to the group for one full day of input on Finances. (He also gave an input during the AORC meeting in Aix last year.)

Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation was another big topic that the AORC took up. Since Fr. Rufus holds the portfolio of JPIC, he along with Fr.

Oswald FIRTH (JPIC General Administration) and Fr. Seamus FINN (JPIC U.S.A. Province) gave enlightening talks on the topic.

**On Finances:** In brief, Fr. Rufus' talk on Finances revolved around two main topics, namely: **Stewardship** and **Self-Sufficiency**. Fr. Rufus emphasized that responsible stewardship always calls for a constant evaluation of our assets, income and resources as to whether they are "performing" (or non-performing) to cover for our biggest expenses under the main categories of **mission, sustenance and formation**. The rule of thumb is: if an asset is non-performing, why not convert it into something that would generate income? Responsible and wise stewardship should make a unit **self-sufficient**.

Fr. Rufus stressed the fact that in the whole Oblate world, the trend is, our expenses are continually getting bigger than our revenues and there will come a time when we may not be able to fund our mission, sustenance and formation if we do not take necessary steps to correct the imbalance. How? Conditions vary from country to country but the constant reminder is: Do our resources (land, labor and capital) serve our needs (mission, sustenance, formation)? Do we have non-performing assets? Should our contracts with the dioceses be evaluated? What policies do we have on accepting new ministries? What are the possibilities of traditional fund-raising such as MAMI as source of income? What are the units' policies on Oblates' salaries and other income? On surpluses?

**On JPIC:** This area of concern has yet to be organized especially in the General Administration level. There are big projects that are being looked into like: accreditation from the United Nations that will enable the congregation to have some active voice in the U.N.; cooperation with the Jesuits in their justice and peace ministry, setting up of a permanent Justice and Peace secretariat in Rome, etc.

The next meeting of the AORC will be held in Bangkok in January, 2002. This will be preceded by the **Joint Session of AORC and the General Council** and a Symposium on Interreligious Dialogue. Before the Bangkok meetings, a member of the General Council will make a visit of the Vice Province. Details will be worked out later.

### Formation News



A.UEZONO

The House of Studies in Nagoya welcomes a new member in the person of Akito UEZONO, 23 years old and a parishioner of Hirabari Parish in Nagoya. He is finishing his university studies in March (major in economics) and has already been accepted for employment but turned it down to join the Oblates.

In a letter from the Superior General dated March 5, it was learned that Bro. Kenichi Furukawa has been accepted to the International Roman Scholasticate. "Today the staff of the Scholasticate have informed me that they have all the clarification needed and it is a pleasure to let you know that the application for Br. Kenichi Furukawa has been accepted. His presence will be an enriching addition to the community," the



Superior General wrote in his letter. Kenichi will finish his baccalaureate requirements at Nanzan University in March. He will work on finishing a licentiate while in Rome. He will start working on his visa to study in Italy as soon as the necessary papers arrive and hopefully leave for Rome sometime in May.

He will be the first Japanese to have studied at the International Roman Scholasticate. Congratulations and Good luck, Br. Kenichi!

Meanwhile, Br. Akio HORIUCHI has been very busy working with the ministry for the homeless both in Nagoya and Osaka.

The recent economic slump in Japan has driven thousands into unemployment and as a result the number of people living in the streets has increased dramatically. Keep up the good work, Br. Akio!

In Manila, Br. Jerry VILLAS, OMI, who spent two years in Japan, will be ordained to the priesthood on April 27th at Grace Park Parish, Metro Manila.



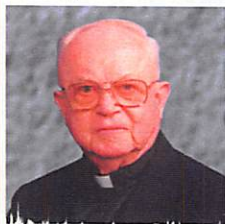
Br. Akio and Br. Kenichi with the Provincial after they renewed their vows in Itami, Feb. 17th

## Need For A Bigger Formation House In Korea

At our formation house in Korea, the good news is: there are three new aspirants and the bad news is: there are not enough rooms to house them! Luckily, Thomas, the lone aspirant, has left for Australia making one room vacant but provisions have to be made for the two Korean novices when they return early next year.

Different possibilities are being explored once again to find a solution to the problem of lack of rooms. The matter has been discussed by the Provincial and the Superior of the Mission with the Treasurer General during the AORC meeting in Manila. Fr. Rufus WHITLEY will try to visit Korea and Japan after the meetings scheduled for January, 2003 in Bangkok.

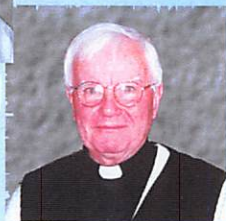
## Congratulations To Our Jubilarians!



D.HARR



T.MAHER



E.WILLIAMS



Dick HARR celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination this year. He was ordained on June 2, 1952. Tom MAHER and Eddie WILLIAMS are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their vows. A simple celebration will be held during the Spring Meeting in April. Congratulations!

## From Tokushima

Fran Hahn

No news is "Good News" except when you have newsletter to get out. Took Br. Yagi to a bar that he likes here in Tokushima, he claims the "food" is the best Japanese he's ever had, and that's pretty much how I see it too. I take the provincial and whoever else likes to venture out into the night, there, we always go before 6 so we can be home for my bedtime which these days is 9:30 PM. If anyone reading this wants to see if were exaggerating, come stay here and I'll take you there for supper.

We had our first council meeting in the "chihou" (地方), the council decided its good to meet in the various districts occasionally, overnight, so we can meet the men and hear their views, if they want us to hear them that is. The other side of it is that since most of the council lives in Kansai it is a bit hard on them. We'll have to see how this goes.

I bought a scanner a year ago and it never seemed to work. I tried to get Ray to show we what to do, but we couldn't get it going so I decided to uninstall it and then reinstall it. I used it today for a document in Japanese and it worked perfectly! My "Scanning Days" are here! Now all I have to do is find things to scan. If it worked on our hearts it might be a good help in this season of lent, but I haven't got the right program for that type of scanning yet, if anyone knows of such a program let me know I could use it!

I have plans to go back to the States this summer, from the end of June to the end of August. I lost one of my last three aunts this past Dec., just after Christmas, so the places to "go back to" are getting fewer and fewer. Life at near 60 is much different than it was in the first 5 decades! Since I'll be there, I've been asked to help set up a pilgrimage for a neocatechumanate group going to the World Youth Days in Toronto, getting hotel rooms and buses for the days they'll be there is about all I can do. I'll probably join them, but camping out in a sleeping bag the night before the Main Mass is something I'm not looking forward to. I'll see how cold it is then and decide.

I was invited to visit Dave in Texas, to see his Mom and Dad, I had stopped off there in '72 after my ordination, and had a great week and he says they'd like to see me again, and the same goes for me, so if we can work something out again, I might make a stop there, if I can work out a cheap ticket, that is. The last two times I went home a kind of shirttail relative who worked for United close to 35 years gave me "companion passes" which got me into business class, but always standby (the anxiety of whether you'll get on or not takes away some of the appeal), and I've gotten used to traveling in "wide seats". Going back to coach will be a great sacrifice. I wonder if I have



enough miles with Northwest to get an up grade, either that or lose some weight, the problems of missionary life!

Since I'll be gone from the end of June to the end of August if anyone wants a nice break let me know, Tokushima is the place and there are lots of Sundays that I have to try and fill in for. If no priest is available we have to prepare a "liturgy of the Word" schedule. Around the "awa odori" and the feast of the Assumption is a great time to be in Tokushima if you like excitement. Anyone who wants to volunteer just let me know, first come first served. Fr. John Kenny Mahoney has always been most generous in taking my place these past times but since either Bert or Ange will be gone for part of the time I away, he can only be in so many places, and all that running about will make him need a vacation too! No New is good News!

## From Awa-Ikeda

Jan Van Hoydonck

Progressing day by day on our journey towards Easter, this time my mind has been turned mainly to what was happening to my youngest brother Mil. His failing health, the first warning of which I received last year in March - nothing alarming yet -, gradually deteriorated, until it was diagnosed as cancer, which had metastasized throughout his body. Mil himself was aware of his impending death, and took the situation (at least externally) quite philosophically. What I knew of him came from himself - by e-mail, but rather scarcely - until the day that Father Willy Staes informed me - also by e-mail - that I had to prepare myself for the hard news. It surprised me because I had not expected it so soon. Reflecting on it, I firmly believe that for all concerned and involved in it this was the best, and I thanked the Lord for his mercy.

Sure enough, a few days later the message came that Mil had left this world on Wednesday, February 20, at 10:45 PM (Thursday 21, 7:45 AM Japan Time).

One of my greater worries was how his wife Anny would cope with it, ailing as she is herself. But in all this I was comforted and put at ease by the frequent notices from Fr. Staes, to whom I am infinitely grateful for his constant interventions, who informed me that all the necessary steps had been taken for what was required immediately and for the future. To all the persons who have given their time and efforts during the illness, at the funeral, and will continue to do so from now on for Anny, I want to express my profound gratitude. To name only a few: there is first Father Staes, as mentioned already, also Father Eugene Van Helden, the pastor of the Fatima-chapel, who as the pastor of Mil and Anny, assisted them and presided at the funeral ceremonies, there are also our brother Oblates of the same house to which the Fatima-chapel belongs, there are the neighbors of Mil and Anny, and there are the many friends and acquaintances who helped and still help with their prayers.

May the Lord give eternal rest and happiness to Mil, his continued support to Anny, and his generous blessings to all who in whatever way have shown their sympathy.

My heartfelt thanks to all again.

## From Kochi

Xavier Yoshikazu Tosa

My February trip home to Flanders was very short, a little more than two weeks. Over there they know that I don't make trips for funerals, so I went on a "sick call". On the 1st of March I was back in Kochi, where I belong. I had no difficulties of speaking Flemish at home, but I feel how 47 years of Japanese culture have changed me. Paying in euro instead of francs was not difficult ... just pay what they ask. However one doesn't feel if it was expensive or cheap.

Europe, including Belgium is still in the progress of emancipation. With this I mean emancipation in the narrow sense of the word: God and religion are no longer a social concern. God is a private matter. It is total secularization. Almost all religion is banned from schools and hospitals or the governments are trying to do so. In the Flanders the media even make light of religion. Traditional Catholics are afraid to show their belief. Somebody told me that all proselytizing is a kind of fundamentalism ...

The Flemish OMI province doesn't seem to care much about our "Immense Hope" homework. The province is very "gray" and "bald".

I didn't meet F. José De Fruyt nor the family of Fr. Stevens. I also felt bad that I couldn't go to the funeral of Jan' brother.

## From Anyang

Mauro and Maurizio

The last two months have been quite busy and interesting here in Anyang. Visitors, young students, relatives of our seminarians, friends and, finally, three new Oblate Candidates have populated our apartment.

Among the many visitors we would like to mention Br. Nobuhiko, who spent a week with us. We invited Nobu to help our students to see and get into touch with a least one Oblate Brother. They had seen only Oblate priests and it was worthy to have an Oblate brother (and a very good one!) with us. Our students really felt at home with Nobu, to the point that it is impossible to tell here the whole story of his visit and the many things he did. Nobu's ability to simply blend in with people has won our students' affection. He finished his visit to a SPA Resort with all the students and with a final trip to Pusan, where he stay overnight with the family of one of our new students.



Korean Formation House Community with Br.Yagi

Many young people visit us too. In Middle January we had a three-day meeting with 8 high school students. For four of them it was the first visit to our community and ... they were well impressed and



touched. There are at least two of them who are really considering the possibility of joining the Oblates. Can any of you who have visited our apartment image our place filled with 13 people for three days? Nevertheless it was fun!

Then ... our candidates. Paolo and Anselmo began their novitiate year with a simple ceremony in St. Mary -Melbourne- on February 16. Thomas, the candidate who lived with us during the last 12 months, joined them in Australia on March 3 and started English classes on March 4. His departure was delayed due to his Visa: it took almost two months to obtain it.

On February 27 three new candidates joined the community. Pedro is 19 and he is attending classes at Suwon Catholic University. He is from Seoul. Ioan is 27. He is from Pusan and a graduate from Pusan Catholic University. Pio, 33, is from the nearby parish where our community members (fathers and students) have worked during the last two years. He has also studied for one year at Suwon Catholic University. Pio and Ioan will attend intensive English classes in Seoul.

I will not tell you about the many friends that visited us in January and February: it will be to long! And again, if I tell you everything, I may spoil your desire to ask more questions when we will meet in Fukuoka! We have many hours waiting in front of us during our Spring Meeting at the Passionist House! We may continue our sharing there.

So this is it! What do you think? Is it better to have a big ... empty house or a small-crowded apartment?

Please pray for our community and for our students in a special way.

Ciao ...

## REPORT OF ANIMATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**Fran Hahn**

The Animation Committee met on the 4th of September 2001 at the Passionist Retreat Center, in MUNAKATA from 7:00-8:40 PM. The following members were present: Ray, Fran, Nobu and Brad. Giovanni was absent due to his preparation for home leave.

The meeting considered the following and they were subsequently implemented:

1. 3 input meetings in the fall of 2001 at Itami and Awa-Ikeda:

On September 17, Itami, Society,  
Nobuhiko: 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00 -3:00 p.m.  
On September 24, Awa-Ikeda. Society,  
Nobuhiko: 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00 -3:00 p.m.  
On October 22, Itami, Mission,  
Maurizio: 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00~ 4:00p.m.  
On October 29, Awa-Ikeda. Mission,  
Maurizio: 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4 00p.m.  
On November 12, Itami, Church,  
Fr. Nicolas SJ: 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.  
On November 26, Awa-Ikeda Church,  
Fr. Nicolas: 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

These days had input, and sharing, according to the directions of the input person on the topics given.

2. In December we held the launching liturgy for 'the Immense Hope Program. This took place in Kochi,

December 27 at the time of the annual Christmas Dinner. Bradly prepared this in conjunction with Wency.

In January each District met to deal with the First Topic: Focusing our vision. The reports of the discussions were to sent to Ray.

All the above having been accomplished:

The above program was sent to all with a detailed outline about what was to follow. The next page is a revised and updated edition of that program.

Please bring the following schedule with you

3. The Spring Meeting of 2002:

Celebration of our History:

Arriving in the evening of April 1st, 2002 at Munakata,

(No supper) we will start the following morning.

### Tuesday April 2nd

7:15 Lauds & Mass

8:00 Breakfast

The Provincials' sharing\*

9:30-10:30 Part I (Bert, Ron (video) John)

11:00-12:00 Part II ( Ange & Wency )

\*We asked the men who have served as provincials if they would not share for 15 to 20 minutes their thoughts and impressions of the period in which they served. This not a "report on their stewardship", nor a time for explaining everything in detail, but just a time for us to hear what they "felt, saw and touched" as they tried to help us to fulfill our mission.

12:00 lunch

14:30 Coffee time

15:00 History of Korean Mission:

A half hour of input on the history of the mission, the ups and downs. The first Superior: Vincenzo, and its present one: Maurizio (15minutes each).

15:45-17:30 Former members Sharing: (on video)

Jack Barrett, Pat Brady, Don O'Brien, & former Oblates (Tom Reilly, Hank Matimore, Eduardo Quiocho) and seminarians: (Pat Yamashita, Jack Quinn, Regis Barber, Mr. Miyamoto). Several other were asked but no response was received. (Jose DeFruyt sent a paper. A Summary will be read. Hank also sent several articles, which will be given out).

### Wednesday April 3rd

7:45 Lauds

8:00 Breakfast

9:30-10:30 Part I "Elders sharing"

The 5 oldest men on the mission: Dick Harr, Jan Van Hoydonck, Xave Tosa, Tom Maher, and John Iwo will be asked to share for 10 minutes each on their experiences.

11:00-12:00 Part II "The Youth"

5 of the youngest men: Akio, Bradley, Jude, Br. Yagi, Leo K., will be asked to share for 10 each minutes on their experiences.

12:00 lunch

14:30 Coffee time

15:00 Sharing from the Laity We Requested 8 people from our parishes, kindergartens and social works to give a written paper on how they see the Oblates and what they expect of the Oblates. We translated and summarized their papers, at the meeting the full written text of each will be given and a summary of



the main points will be read.  
 16:00 Mass of Celebration of the "Mirabilia Dei" on  
 the mission (Dick Eddie and Tom)  
 17:00 Party (for Jubilarians)

#### Thursday April 4th

7:45 Lauds  
 8:00 Breakfast  
 Reflection Phase I  
 9:30-11:30 & 14:30-16:30 2<sup>nd</sup> Topic: Evaluation of  
 Current Missionary Practices (district groups)  
 17:00 Mass of Oblation (Wency)

#### Friday April 5th

7:15 Lauds & Mass  
 8:00 Breakfast  
 9:00-10:00 Provincial Business  
 No Lunch

### Kochi and Aki Kindergartens Jointly Celebrates 50th



Words of gratitude from Dick Harr and Sr. Aogo.

The kindergartens of Kochi and Aki jointly celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> year of their foundation in Kochi last February 25<sup>th</sup>. Both kindergartens were started by pioneer Oblates until they were turned over to the Ake No Hoshi school corporation (head of the board of directors is Fr. Bertram N. SILVER, OMI). Oblates from different prefectures trooped to Kochi to join the staff of both kindergartens headed by Sr. Toshiko AOGO (Ottawa Sisters), Principal of Kochi kindergarten and Fr. Dick HARR, OMI, Principal of Aki kindergarten. A testimonial dinner was held at *La Vita* hall in Kochi with about 70 people attending, composed of Oblates, school officials from the Prefectural Office, other kindergarten principals and former students of both kindergartens. The celebration was made very meaningful by the performance on the marimba and piano ensemble of two former students of the Kochi kindergarten.

The first principal of Kochi kindergarten was the late Fr. Bob



A former "kiddie" of Kochi kindergarten plays the marimba.

GILL and the late Fr. Len ROBITAILLE was the first principal of the Aki kindergarten.

On March 21, another celebration was held in Aki to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the kindergarten there. Dinner was held at Hotel Tamai with the city mayor in attendance. A prefectural government official who was a graduate of the Aki kindergarten made a speech recalling the early days. Oblates from Tokushima and Kochi districts attended the affair.

#### Anniversaries

##### ■ Birthday:

April 01 1960	Leo KAWAGUCHI
17 1941	Jack DEELY
22 1949	Wency LAGUIDAO
May 29 1931	Tom MAHER
June 24 1962	Giovanni ZEVOLA

##### ■ Ordination / Final Vows:

April 04 1968	Jerry NOVOTNY
11 1970	Jack DEELY
25 1987	Vincenzo BORDO
26 1966	Bill MAHER
29 1972	Fran HAHN
May 05 2000	Genivaldo OLIVEIRA
30 1954	John MAHONEY
30 1954	Bert SILVER
30 1957	Tom MAHER
31 1965	Ange SIANI
June 2 1952	Dick HARR
7 1957	Ed WILLIAMS
14 1964	Len INUI
14 1964	John IWO
24 1962	Mike YAMASAKI

##### ■ Death:

April 12 1982	Robert GILL
May 10 1996	Gerard STEVENS

#### Prayers for Our Departed Relatives

Please pray for the repose of the sould of:

Jan VAN HOYDONCK's brother, Mil  
 who died last February 21(Japan time).  
 Jack DEELY's mother.

She was laid to rest on February 28th. She was 93.  
 For Ray BOURGOIN's mother, Lillian,  
 who died last March 17th (Japan time.) She was 88.

#### From the editor

**Nobuhiko YAGI**

The next issue is scheduled for June 15. Please send in your contributions by June 5.

*Happy  
 Easter to all*