

MAURO APPOINTED ASSISTANT GENERAL TREASURER

We received a message from The Vicar General, Fr. Eugene King, OMI. It stated that



Fr. Mauro Concardi, OMI

has been given an appointment from Father General Wilhelm Steckling, OMI as Assistant General Treasurer.

We as a Mission thank Mauro for his many years and work in Korea. We congratulate him for his generosity in responding to the needs of the congregation. We will miss you Mauro but you will always be with us in our prayers.

*Angelo Siani, OMI
Delegation of Japan/Korea*

Fr. King writes:

I want to say a word of thanks to your two units, Japan and Korea for accepting with good grace to release a fine missionary for service to the whole Congregation. Given the way that our recruitment patterns are moving, the decline of resources in the old strongholds of Canada and western Europe and the growing needs of young units, Mauro has been named to a very important post. I am sure he brings great talent to the post and that he will make a good team with Rufus. It is my prayer that your units will be blessed in your act of giving, and we will not forget any help we can offer from the General Administration in the years to come.

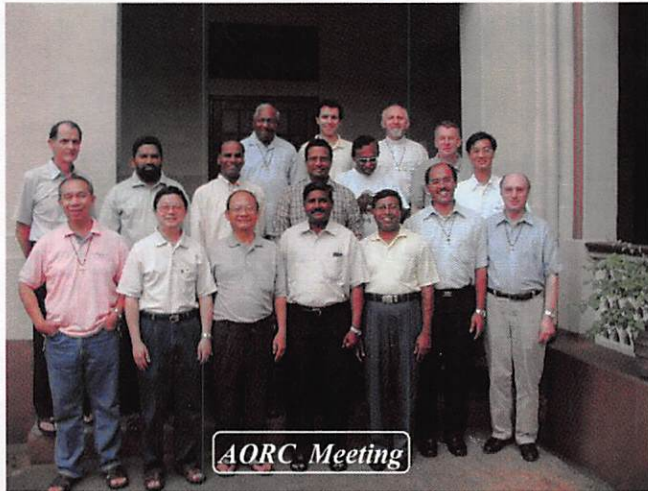
Mauro wrote:

Dear Angelo,

Yesterday, Eugene King called me... and I guess you have received his letter... Let's take this will of God together. It is good that we will see in few days... it will help. I know God is touching my life, the life of the Mission, of the many people I know in a very special way through this obedience. Let's pray that we all may live these moments knowing that we are in touch and dealing with God. Please pray that the good I have done in the last 14 years in Korea might be only for his glory, and that the many mistakes I have done can be covered with God's mercy... and transformed by his love..

Keep in touch!

Dear Brother Oblates,



Have you had this experience? Someone or some event just hits you and it changes your life.

In 1968 I was in the Philippines for a study of the spirituality of the Founder as found in the Preface of the Rule. The study was conducted by Fr. Drouart. That study was a turning point in my life in my attitude toward the Founder and the Oblates.

Recently, I went to Sri Lanka for the AORC Meeting. The hospitality of the Oblates in Colombo and Jaffna was unbeatable! I also visited Jude's mother and Shirantha came to visit Vincenzo and me. It was very enjoyable.

The AORC Meeting itself was a preparation for the General Chapter. We discussed at length the Major Elements with which you are all familiar published by the Precapitular Commission Rome, January 2004.

After the meeting we went by bus to Jaffna on the way, we stopped at the famous Church of Our Lady of Madula. Thousands of pilgrims come to pray at this church. My friend Stan Phillip OMI, whom I met in Rome in 1982, is pastor.



In the city of Jaffna I saw the churches and institutions of education all built by the Oblates. The seminary (now diocesan) built by the Oblates in 1842 still remains. The first public library boasting 93,000 books, built by an Oblate, was destroyed in the war. It has been restored according to the original plan. They are still looking for books to fill the empty shelves. A huge statue of Fr. Long, OMI who founded the library stands on the left side of the main entrance.

To some of you the name Thamilselvan may be

familiar. He is the number two man in the Tamil Tigers. The Tigers were formerly known as a terrorist organization. Today they or at least some of their members are working for peace.

The Oblates arranged a meeting for the AORC Members and Mr. Thamilselvan. He spoke to us for about an hour at his headquarters. He stated that he and his group were working for peace and justice in Sri Lanka. I was moved by his speech. I wondered what could have changed this man of war to a man of peace?

Moments of grace and chance for change come to all of us as individuals and as a group. The Oblates are facing a moment of grace in the Program of Immense Hope. Are we ready for the challenges? Are we ready for change?



Prayer for the Chapter

Loving Savior!

Through St. Eugene you have called us to be your co-operators.

You have entrusted us with the mission of proclaiming your Gospel

To the poor and the most abandoned.]

to the least touched by the regular ministry of the Church,

we ask for the gift of your Spirit on every Oblate.

Let the Chapter be a moment of truthful evaluation, leading to a renewed sense of our mission;

A time to renew ourselves

in a religious and community life centered on you;

an opportunity to commit ourselves with a new

daring,

to the needs of the world, for which you gave your

life.

Let us become channels of your immense hope

In a world thirsting for the Spirit,

Longing for justice, peace and love.

We ask this of you

Through the intercession of Mary our Mother

And St Eugene de Mazenod.

Amen

Angelo Siani, OMI
Delegation of Japan/Korea

From the Provincial's desk:

Angelo SIANI

■ **Treasurers Formation Rome:** Bradley Rozairo will attend this meeting from March 14- May 2

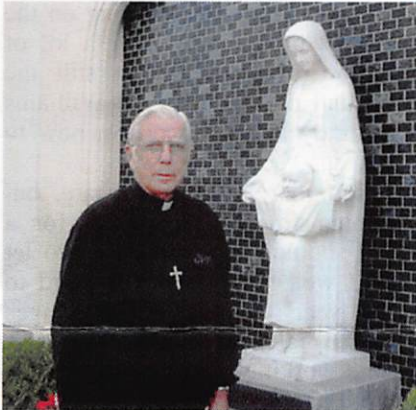
■ **Anniversaries:** Congratulations to Bert Silver and

John K. Mahoney on the occasion of their 50th. Anniversary of Ordination.

■ **New Assignments:** As of April 1, 2004, Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi will begin his new assignment at Akenohoshi Kindergarten.

50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD IN THE MISSIONS OF JAPAN

Bertram N. SILVER



May the 30th 1954. I was ordained by Bishop Arsene TURQUETIL, OMI, former Missionary among the Inuit peoples, at the Oblate College in Washington, D.C. That same year in the middle of August, I headed

to San Francisco by train. Some five days later I arrived at my Grand Uncle's home. The next day I went to the port to check out the freighter, President Buchanan, that was to take me to Japan. The Oblate superior on the west coast was there and he wanted to send me by plane but Father Raymond HUNT, the provincial of the Eastern American Province, refused. After dodging three typhoons I finally arrived at Yokohama on the morning of the 11th of September to begin my fifty years in Japan.

The first winter break from language school was spent in Itami, where I almost died of gas poison. Charlie McBENNETT, the pastor, put a "rentan" (pressed - coal) in my room and the next morning I passed out. Luckily Tim MULVEY found me and I survived.

After two years in language school (almost) I was sent to Itami for a year, then on to Tokushima to fill in for Pat BRADY who was going home on vacation. As a young missionary I was not surprised at the schedule Pat had: Awa-Ikeda, Naruto, Mugi, Komatsushima you name it, it was on the list. That winter the gas water heater exploded while I was taking a shower. Pat didn't think it was necessary to have a chimney that went straight up. After burning my leg on a bed warmer it was spring and work then was in the wind for Naruto.

Some years after having been there I had to go to Kobe with Dick HARR on the hydrofoil. About five minutes after leaving port we ended up on the rocks on the other side, slowly sinking. I managed to jump over the women and children and be the first on deck to see the captain bleeding. I managed to convince him to send fishing boats for us and we survived.

NARUTO. The Number 2 Muroto Typhoon almost tore the roof off the rectory. But with the help of Joe HOFMANS we were able to hold the front door from imploding. After moving to the new location in Kurosaki in Naruto we had the Hanshin Earthquake. Again I survived. Survived that was Gerry STEVENS' favorite word!

Over the years despite the above experiences my missionary work has been more than satisfying. I have been able to share the joys and sorrows of so many

Japanese, Catholic and non-catholic. The results of fifty years I leave in the hands of our Lord. But I am grateful to my parents, family and friends who have supported me over the years. My thanks go to the Oblate Community in Japan for having put up with me for these years. And my appreciations go to the Japanese who have befriended me and stood by me, encouraging, correcting and just being with me for fifty extremely happy years. Some have said that my "swan song" should be "I did it my way". What, no answer?

Memories of ordination

John Kenney MAHONEY

The ordinand had of course been considering for a very long time the great step he would soon take. This day, this moment, had been, the subject of his dreams, the object of his prayers. Dreams and prayers that had sustained him in times

of doubt, in times of discouragement, in times of concern about the challenges waiting him.

Now that day was just ten days away. The time for the ten day Ordination Retreat. One last time for deep consideration of the blessings as well as the crosses; the joys as well as the trials; the ecstasy as well as the humdrum of a priest's life, A time for self examining, for contemplating the future for praying.

May 30 1954 was an absolutely glorious day. The ordinand and his classmates gathered in the Narthex of the Oblate Chapel. At the sound of the Entrance Hymn the ordinandi, vested in sparkling white alb and cincture fall in line behind the cross bearer and proceed down the aisle toward the sanctuary. The ordinand's eyes are on the life size Miraculous Medal hanging in back of the altar. The medal he had looked at each day of his years at 391.

The ordinandi lay prostrate before the altar as the choir sang the Litany of the Saints. A call to God and all the Saints to protect these young men. At a sign from the master of ceremonies the ordinand steps from the group walks forward slowly to kneel in front of the ordaining Bishop. As he kneels the Bishop places his hands on the young mans head. He holds them there one or two seconds.

The new priest stands and moves back into the sanctuary. Here he is assisted in putting on the priestly garments. John's family look on proudly as their son and brother stand in his vestments. No longer John but Father John.

The ordained Fathers Joined with the ordaining Bishop in offering the Concelebrated Mass. Together they recited the words of consecration "This is my body." "This is my blood." They have, of course, recited these sacred words, in practice, many times. This time, however, by their priestly powers the bread lying on the paten became the Body of Christ, the wine in the chalice the blood of Christ.

At the distribution of Holy Communion Fr. John's family and friends came forward and knelt at the altar roll. Before them they saw their son carrying the



ciborium which contained the sacred hosts which had been connected by John's words. It was a moment of intense emotion. A moment when a new relationship was formed between them. John was not only their son, their brother, friend John was also their Father. John's brothers and sister were the next in line when they received the white host which they had seen him consecrate they knew that Father John had reached his goal. That his desire to be an Oblate Father was fulfilled.

After the ordination Mass the new Fathers and their family and friends gathered outside the chapel where kneelers were arranged for those who did not get the opportunity to be blessed by all the new Fathers. The first in line were the parents. Despite the fact they had received Fr. John's blessing already they still desired to be blessed once more. To once more experience the feelings of joy and pride they felt the first time he blessed them. Feelings of joy and pride. Joy that their son had been chosen to be a priest of God. Pride that John had been chosen to serve God in a very special way as a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

From Jan

Jan VAN HOYDONCK

Dear Brother,
Good morning!

I was informed that you are the contact person concerning our meeting in Munakata. Whether it is necessary to do so, I am not sure, but with this I just want to let you know that I am attending.

Seeing you shortly. Fraternally yours in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Easter is coming

Fran HAHN

Lent is in full swing, and the days are warming up. We are getting closer to the spring meeting and things are moving along whether we like it or not. I have found out that being 60 is quite different than being, "50-something"! For some reason just after I turned 60



my back began to hurt my knees wouldn't let me sit in the "seiza" position on 'tatami', and my mind doesn't seem to register things, though I'm sure many of the brothers would wonder if it ever did? A lot of this is due to my being a bit over weight, about 25 kilos, and I'm found out I have the problem that while sleeping I stop breathing for a about 20 or 30 seconds, so I've scheduled an appointment with a major

hospital to have it checked, I'm also getting a check up on the heart, stress test or what, I go in the Monday of Holy week for an over night stay. All of which is not to ask for sympathy, I know I have to diet and exercise, or for prayer, though that is always welcome, just to say that being 60 seems like a window on what the future holds. Not that I'm frightened, I've grown up with aging grandparents and a crippled father, it's just interesting to realize I might be able to understand where they were

at, and where many of the people of the parish I serve are at, better, not a bad thing.

I can't believe how quickly the days fly by, maybe another sign of being 60, and all the good intentions that I have seem less and less fulfilled. On the other hand I am very happy and content, getting used to this "non-Oblate" parish and getting to like it and the people more and more. It's good to have four other Oblates close by, we are making an effort to meet monthly for an overnight stay at the retreat house, to pray and just relax, and we talk about various topics, centering on the Oblate Dictionary of Values but ranging over a lot of topics. I enjoy hearing the 'older men', I'm still the youngest in this District! and now with Eddie Williams near by, I have a great library at my fingertips, now to make use of it.

I have no great wisdom or insights to share, but having not written anything for the Newsletter for a couple issues, I thought I should write something to let you know that I alive and well. I'm looking forward to Easter, and a fruitful new year with a lot of challenges and much uncertainty, but I really do have an Immense Hope that God is alive and working in our midst.

Prayers for all!

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

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

The next issue is scheduled for June 15. Please send in your contributions by June 10. Whenever you send an article for the newsletter, always include a title to the manuscript.