

OMI Japan - Korea Newsletter # 6



March 2008

YOAKENOKAI

Ray

This year, as we do every year, through the YOAKENOKAI, we were able to contribute to a cause involving children. As you know, the YOAKENOKAI was conceived by Xave, with the cooperation of Jude and Ray. When we set it up, we chose this name, “Dawn Association”, to help for the needs, especially education, of Asian children. Through the years we’ve helped children in Sri Lanka (orphans), Jaffna (orphan tsunami victims), India (minor seminary), Pakistan (orphan war victims), Bangladesh (orphan flood victims). This year, as an exception we decided to help children afflicted with AIDS/HIV in Africa.

We receive donations and in return we give calendars to the donors, which are designed by the committee with Xave’s HANGA, as you all know.

We normally send a note of thanks to the parishioners, and kindergarten parents for their cooperation, as was also the case this year. Normally we also add a note of thank you to the OMI through whom these organizations get involved. This year the OMI note is part of this newsletter. Besides a thank you to all of you, we want to explain a little, the program we sent the money to.

Fr. Frans SAMYN, OMI, classmate of Gerard STEVENS, has about

300 AIDS/HIV children victims in his program in South Africa. Most of the children's parents have died of AIDS and these children are HIV-positive. Most live with a relative, but come daily to the center for their food, education and medicines. This is where the donations are spent. The program is 6 years old.

Besides the calendars, Ray makes an appeal to his friends at Christmas and New Year, for the same cause. Here there are no calendars involved, just a thank you note and a receipt.

This year because of the value of the dollar being low as opposed to yen, all the above contributions, brought us \$7,000, which we sent to Frans in January.

Included is a photograph of some of those children with the lady, called by Frans, the "Mother Teresa" of South Africa, who runs the programs, Mrs. Susan K. Mfusi.

Again thank you for your cooperation.



Jerry

Here's a brief run-down on knee replacement located on the Internet. I thought it would make an interesting article for the newsletter. The past three years the pain has been increasing and limiting my activities. The knee replacement surgery can relieve the intense pain which is my primary reason for having the surgery.

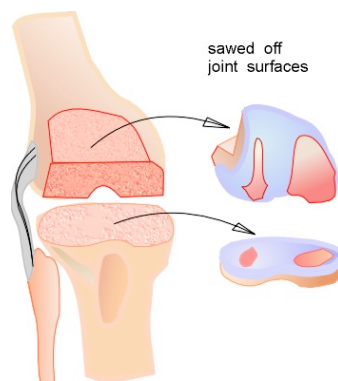
What is “Total Knee Replacement”?

This operation involves the removal of the damaged, worn ends of the thigh (femur), and leg (tibia) bones that make up the knee joint, as well as the back of the kneecap (patella). The bone ends are precisely reshaped and recapped with metal surfaces, with special plastic liners added as a bearing surface that promotes low friction gliding between metal and plastic.

How is it done?

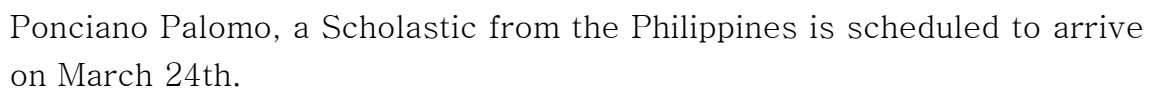
Basically, this resurfacing project is stepwise precision carpentry. After an incision is made, the surgeons remove the damaged portions and surfaces of the bones using guides or jigs, and oscillating saws. Precise amounts of bone are removed, usually between 2 and 12 mm. The ends of the bones are shaped to accommodate the prosthesis to be used. Trial, or test prosthetic components are then used to evaluate the fit, range of motion, stability, alignment, and balance of the soft tissues. When all is satisfactory, the final prosthetic components are cemented into place, and the surgical wound is closed.

The surgery takes about three hours.



[illegible]

Palomo



Justice and Peace Council Annual Meeting

Brad



The Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace held its annual administrative meeting Feb. 8-10 in Tokyo. About 60 delegates from across the country attended, dealing with business from last year and exchanging news from dioceses and local council

meetings. This year's meeting was special because seven representatives of young adult Catholics were called to participate.

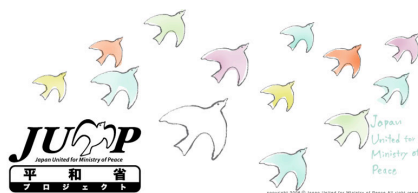
On the first day of the gathering, participants gathered at the Nicolas Barre Convent of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus for a lecture by Yumi Kikuchi, who gave a speech entitled "My peace work started on 9/11." She spoke about American foreign policy and the 2001 terrorist attacks as a lead-in to her proposals on the best ways to promote peace.

Since that terrorist incident, Kikuchi has been working as a world peace activist toward cooperative opposition to war, questioning the authenticity of reported news and pointing out inconsistencies through her reflections on high-profile terror. Before The Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, the United States had shown restraint in its dealings with foreign nations, but defense industries now have a large effect on those policies, she said. She also talked about the importance of speaking for those people who do not have voices.

She has a project called JUMP (Japan United for Ministry of Peace) Website: www.ministryofpeace.jp.



Yumi Kikuchi



Participants talked about greatly enjoying the July 2007 Justice and Peace Contemplative Prayer Meeting and hoped to do it again this year. There was also a report about how international cooperation efforts through Pax Christi, a Catholic peace organization, are progressing throughout 50 countries across the world. News also touched on the participation of the Japanese council in an October 2008 international meeting, and more broadly on human rights, safety and stability, demilitarization, peace education, and Article 9 of the Constitution.

This year's National Justice and Peace Convention will be held in Osaka in September. Guided by this year's theme of "Breaking Barriers of Discrimination," Catholic high school students will hold a prayer service together with foreigners and people of other faiths.

Preparations for increasing awareness of martyrs in Japan are also going well, according to diocesan representatives. There was also direction and encouragement for activities relating to this year's 60th World Human Rights Declaration and July's G8 Toyako Summit.

Miracles do happen!!! Really

James

I was preparing my homily for the 4th week of lent. It was Saturday night that I was getting ready with my homily for morning mass. As we all know that the Gospel speaks about the healing of a blind man. Almost I prepared the homily but I wanted to narrate some story or incident before the actual homily. I was tired of looking for a story. I was about to close the computer, I got an email from my sister in law, who writes to me very rarely. There was nothing except the story. I like to share this story with you all. There is always a better way.

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said, "I AM BLIND. PLEASE HELP." There were only a few coins in the hat. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by

will see the new words. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy.

That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked. Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write? The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." What he had written was "TODAY IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND I CANNOT SEE IT."

Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective? There are at least two lessons we can learn from this simple story.

The first is, "Be thankful for what you have. Someone else has less. Help where you can".

The second is, "Be creative
Be innovative
Think differently".

There is always a better way. We too need sometime different out look to see our religious life which is sometime stagnated. On the process of meaning making of our life we need new eyes to look at our life.

Let us pray for the healing of our inner eyes.

As we rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of Christ, I wish you all a very Happy Easter. See you all soon. James OMI

Happy Easter!

Jan

Although there is not much news to be mentioned I wish to use this opportunity for sending my warmest greetings and wishes for a Happy and Joyful Easter to all, with my continued prayers that the special celebration of Christ's resurrection may bring us all closer to our Savior. For the ones under medical treatment I wish and pray for good progress in the recovery, and for all who are well that they may continue in good health. And for all the works of the Delegation and all its members I pray that the blessings of the Risen Lord be upon them. I keep being very interested in

the doings of the Delegation. Any item of news is eagerly awaited and gladly received.

With my best wishes and warmest greetings again to everyone, and expecting a prayer from you, I remain

Brotherly yours in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Jan, OMI.



John K M

Oatmeal is delicious. That is one thing I re-realized since I arrived in San Antonio. I put some butter and cream or milk in the bowl. Tomorrow I will go to my dentist I have not gone in a long time because my neck brace would make her work difficult. Now to something more spiritual. I saw this quote in LIVING WITH CHRIST. "Nowhere does the Torah say, 'invite your guest to pray'. But it does tell us to offer a guest food, drink and a bed" (a Jewish Proverb).

I take this opportunity to wish one and all a blessed Holy Week and glorious Easter. JKM

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Spring Meeting:

Arrival – March 31st (Mon) night.

Meeting – April 1-4



The team wishes everyone a Blessed Easter.

The Team (Varam, Nobu, Jerry & Brad)



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