



OMI Information

Newsletter of the Vice Province of Japan

JUNE
2000

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Celebrating 10 Years of Oblate Presence in Korea

It is 4PM, May 22, year 2000. We are in a church to celebrate a thanksgiving mass. The mission is now 10 years old!

There is a proverb in Korea that goes like this "Even the mountains and the rivers make some changes in ten years". This is to say that even though the Korean mission is not celebrating a centennial or a golden jubilee, 10 years do mean something.

For sure 10 years ago everybody was 10 years younger with a lot of fresh ideas, strength and faith. Thanks be to God we can say with Saint Paul "I have kept the faith".

The first two Oblates in Korea, Fr. Vincenzo Bordo from Piansano (close to Rome) and Fr. Mauro Concardi from Lodi (close to Milan), touched the Korean soil with their dark hairs, on May 12 1990. But the idea of an Oblate presence in Korea has a longer story. The first desire to open this mission goes back to the 70's. At that time, the Oblates of the Philippine province were looking for a mission to start and, among other

possibilities, Korea was included. Some contacts were made through the Japanese Vice Province to look into the situation, and the two provincials of Japan and Philippines went to Korea. Unfortunately, an Oblate presence in Korea was not started at that time. For sure and without any doubt the former Superior General Marcello Zago, gave a big push in order to realize that desire for a foundation in Korea. After some letters exchanged with some Bishops and the Nuncio in Korea, and the visit of Fr. Desmond O'Donnell in Korea at the beginning of 1989, the idea of a foundation in Korea become more real and the former Bishop of Suwon, Kim Nam Su, (president of the Korean Bishop's Conference at that time) was willing to invite the Oblates to work in Korea. The General Council during the plenary Session held in Bangalore in May 1989 approved the proposal to start a mission in Korea. The intentions were several. Korea has a strategic position in Asia, it is a geographical, historical and cultural bridge between

China and Japan, and the hope is that Korea could also be a bridge to help the church in other countries of East Asia. The Korean Church also needs missionary and religious life, so the goal was to offer our Oblate charism to the Korean Church through evangelization of the poor, dialogue and the formation of local Oblates for a future presence in North Korea and maybe China. The Vice Province of Japan was asked to support the mission and Korea became part of Japan. The Provincial at that time was Fr. John Kenney Mahoney. Fr. Marcello Zago in his homily at the farewell mass for the first missionaries held in Rome reminded the two young missionaries that they are sent not to found a Church but to bring a missionary presence and to bring our charism and religious life inside the healthy and young Korean

church. In fact in Korea 13% of the population is Catholic and the Church is well established. 92% of the clergy is local and all the bishops in the 13 dioceses except one are Koreans. The first problem to face the two young pioneers was where to live. Through the help of the Provincial and Fr. Bert Silver, bursar at that time, two rooms in the Franciscan Friary would be "the house" of the Oblates



The members of the Korean Mission with Fr.E.Williams and two pre-novices

for the first years. Life was very simple which included studying Korean language and encounter with other missionaries in order to understand the culture and the church. At the end of 1991, Fr. Giovanni Zevola arrived. He is also from Italy. His hometown is Zungoli (close to Naples) a very famous place, because of him. With the new arrival the Friary was not enough (as 007 says in a famous movie: "The world is not enough"). So before Christmas 1991 a small apartment in Seoul was rented. It was located in downtown Seoul, very close to Sogang University where the Oblates were studying the language. In 1992, the first two missionaries started helping in different parishes and doing other pastoral works. In 1993 Fr. Maurizio Giorgianni (from Sicily to complete the Italian map) arrived. In 1994 after long research and consultation with the province and thanks to the Vice Province of Japan and other support from Italy, Canada, United States, and our general bursar Fr. Keuter, the Oblates bought a house in Korea. In 1996

Fr. James Jeyachandran from Jaffna Province arrived and in 2000 Fr. Varam Anthonysamy from the Indian Delegation joined the mission.

The difficulties we experienced at the start were the normal ones, the study of the language, the effort and the failures in building relations among us and with the people, the fact that nobody is ahead to guide us, and to help us to steer the mission in the right direction put on our shoulders big responsibilities to carry, but also helped us to become more mature and capable to make decisions. The relation with the Japanese Province has grown every year. We feel the support and the love of all the members and are thankful for the financial support that has been always present since the beginning.

But, what is the status of the mission now?

It is our common experience that in building the mission more than following our ideas and desires we are led by the effort to understand the reality and to give an answer to the needs that we see.

Instability and flexibility are two good characteristics of our mission in Korea. We are always challenged by the changes in a society that moves very fast. The effort and the suffering of the initial years have helped us to ponder some points which are the main characteristics of our presence in Korea.

Inside the Korean church we are called to be a different type of priests, to help also the local clergy to be an example and a support to their spiritual life. Our presence and work should be done in communion and collaboration with the local church. These are two points also stressed in a meeting we had recently with the new Bishop of Suwon, Choi Tok Hee.

During the first 5 years we were in an attitude of searching. We searched for a house to live in, for a place inside the local church, for a place inside the Japanese province, for our personal and common identity. We worked for the handicapped, the homeless, the jobless, the young and old people and even had some contacts with non-Catholics.

In 1995 we welcomed the first two students whose desire is to share and know the Oblate way of life. In 1998 we rented an apartment in order to start a pre-novitiate and a center for vocational animation. Two Oblates and two young people are living in that house at present.

Slowly the mission is taking its own shape. We now focus more on activities we feel needed in the Korean church. We work in two dioceses, Seoul and Suwon, in poorer areas, with the homeless, the jobless and the immigrants. We work also in a hospital, in parishes, and have our own formation program.

The feast of St. Eugene is an occasion to say thanks to God and to the people who, in these past 10 years, have been supporting us with their prayers, financial support and work. In a small church, more than 100 people attended the celebration. Also present to represent the Vice Province of Japan was Fr. Eddy Williams. The presence of two Pallotine priests and a Korean diocesan priest at the mass was also an encouragement to us.

Many hopes and dreams are in our hearts. Now that relations with North Korea are improving the dream of entering the north is

becoming more real. But what concerns us more is to make our presence here in Korea more and more meaningful for this church and for us.

We often remind ourselves that we have to reach those people that normally the church doesn't reach and that our future is more in the hand of our future Korean Oblates. So our lifestyle and our community life are to be a sign of this hope.

Looking at the faces of the people who celebrated with us, we realize more deeply how blessed we are, and how big is the love of God for this small mission. We can continue our mission thanks also to the love and care of those people before us.

During the mass a small piece of paper was distributed to the people so that they could write their impressions. Many of them wrote that they are impressed by the fact that we work with the poor and their wish is that we will continue to do so. It is a clear direction to go for us. Our people want it, because they want us to be truly Oblates, as our founder wants, too.

Maurizio Giorgianni

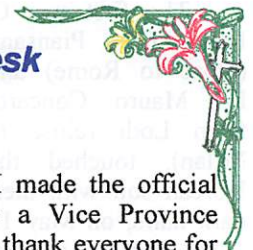
From the Provincial's Desk

Dear Brother Oblates,

During the Spring Meeting, I made the official announcement that we will have a Vice Province Congress in March next year and I thank everyone for the reassuring approval and the promise of cooperation. While in Rome in late May, I was able to talk with Fr. Eugene KING, Vicar General, who has promised to help us during the congress itself. Needless to say, the time of preparation is key to the success of any congress. During the months preceeding the congress, we will try to identify our goals and list down the questions that we want to answer during the congress. The next meeting of the Provincial Council will be devoted to the preparations for the congress. Since many will be away during the summer months, I intend to send to you the guidelines for the Congress sometime in September.

I attended the 4th Filipino Chaplains' Meeting held in Rome, June 1-5. Giovanni ZEVOLA was one of the representatives from Korea and at least two other Oblates from HK and the U.S. also attended the meeting. It was a good gathering of chaplains from all over the world ministering to Filipinos in the diaspora. The outdoor Mass with the Holy Father was very impressive despite the scorching sun. Thousands of Filipinos joined other peoples from around the world to celebrate the Jubilee for Migrants on June 1.

Before the chaplains meeting, I led a group of ten parishioners (five married couples) from Hikarigaoka Parish in Fukuoka, all MAMI benefactors, to a pilgrimage to Rome, Marseilles and Aix. While in Rome, we were guests for one morning at the General House where we celebrated the mass of the feast of the Founder. Ron LAFRAMBOISE gave the group a good tour of the house. From Rome, the



group went to Marseilles where we celebrated Mass at the tomb of the Founder in the cathedral. We also visited the foundation house in Aix where the congregation was born. It was some sort of a spiritual journey to celebrate the Holy Year and to trace the roots of the Oblates in Marseilles and Aix.

Our special thanks to Ray BOURGOIN for balancing the financial reports for the fiscal year that ended last March.

As announced earlier, this year's retreat (September 4-8) will be preached by Fr. Mike HUGHES of the Anglo-Irish Province.

Below are a few news items (some of them not so new anymore) and a few matters of interest. Have a good summer and see you at the retreat.

N.B. As of press time, official announcement on the resignation of Cardinal Shirayanagi as Archbishop of Tokyo, the resignation of Bishop Mori as Auxiliary Bishop of Tokyo, the resignation of Bishop Hirayama as Bishop of Oita, and the appointments of new bishops for the dioceses of Urawa, Oita and Sendai has been received. These new events will bring changes to the Church of Japan. Let us remember the bishops concerned in our prayers.

Wency Laguidao

■ PROVINCIALS' MEETING in Karuizawa

Provincials and Superiors of the different religious congregations and missionary orders in Japan met at the St. Claire's retreat house in Karuizawa last May 9-11. Bishop Michael MATSUURA gave a presentation on the Team Ministry project of the Archdiocese of Osaka. The project which aims at revitalizing the parochial structures of the archdiocese puts together several small parishes into the care of a "team-ministry pastoral team" which oversees the different needs of the communities under its care. The emphasis is on the team approach to parish ministry. Rather than having a parish priest and his assistants who oversees the running of every small parish, team ministry stresses the importance of collective responsibility in planning and decision making in the areas of responsibility involved. The team is usually composed of three or more priests and lay persons who meet regularly for planning, evaluation, prayer, etc. The project has been going on for more than five years now in a few areas in the Archdiocese of Osaka. The project is bringing a sense of freshness and new life to the archdiocese while trying to overcome barriers, according to Bishop Matsuura.

Bishop MORI of Tokyo was another resource speaker who also had to cover for the Papal Nuncio who cancelled his commitment at the last hour. Bishop Mori, who is well appreciated for his crystal-clear presentations, explained the ongoing revamp in the organization and structures of the Japanese Church, particularly after NICE I and II.

There are ongoing talks about redefining the boundaries of parishes as well as the question about whether the Japanese Church needs 16 dioceses. There is a proposal to combine the 16

dioceses into three.

The role of foreign missionaries and religious in the ongoing revamp of Church organization and structures was also discussed. Do we become "hindrances" rather than catalysts of change in the Church because of our different "charisms" as religious groups? Do religious and missionary groups put their so-called "charisms" ahead of the needs of the Japanese Church as a whole? These and other vital questions were discussed.

Bishop Mori also briefed the group of the Bishops' Conference's stand with regard to the Neo Catechumenate movement in Japan. He said that there has been a closed-door discussion (bishops-only) of the mounting problems involving the neo-catechumenate particularly in the Takamatsu Diocese. As far as the building of the seminary in Takamatsu is concerned, the CBCJ as a body has declared it a violation of an agreement that there will be only two theological seminaries for the Church of Japan, namely, Tokyo and Fukuoka, and therefore building another seminary is "illegal." The bishops took a vote and 13 were against and 3 were in favor of building a seminary in Takamatsu. Bishop Mori however said that the Bishop of Takamatsu, even with the absence of a collegial consent of the rest of the bishops, can go ahead and build a seminary on his own. Bishop Mori further explained that the Papal Nuncio is well aware of the different angles of the problem concerning the Neo Catechumenate.

There was also a lengthy exchange of information on the formulation of contracts between the dioceses and the different religious orders, particularly, with regard to *parochia religiosa*, parishes that are held by religious/missionary orders in perpetuity. In general, many religious groups are still struggling in their effort to make a workable contract with the dioceses where they work.

■ GATHERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

It started with a handful of youth in the parish of Itami and now we hope that we can bring it to other Oblate parishes. Most recent addition is the parish of Koga. Leo KAWAGUCHI has been meeting a group of young people ages 15 and above to talk about their life's concerns and vision of the future especially in this tumultuous time that they live. There has been an enthusiastic response from the participating youth who are bombarded daily with news about crimes committed by young people.

Incidentally, from the same group of young people in Itami, five are attending the Youth Gathering being sponsored by the General House community in Rome. They will be accompanied by Leo Kawaguchi and will be held from August 11-20. The General House will provide lodging for youth groups from the different Oblate-run parishes and institutions all over the world. It will coincide with the gathering of some 1.5 million young people for the World Youth Day as part of the Jubilee 2000 celebrations. We are glad to have a few young people from the Oblate parishes to attend the meeting in Rome.



The Oblate Vocation camp which has been going on every summer and on its 15th year this year, will be open to both boys and girls. This was decided during the last Provincial Council meeting in Itami. The idea is not to limit our efforts in fostering vocations to the Oblates but to help our young people as they struggle to choose a vocation in life, be it a husband, a wife, a priest, a sister, etc. This year's summer camp will be held at the Koga Parish and Kindergarten from August 1-3 and will be open to boys and girls from Grade 5 and above. Leo KAWAGUCHI is in charge of the camp.

■ WELCOME!

Despite his very busy schedule as the newly appointed in charge of the Information Service in Rome, Ron LAFRAMBOISE has agreed to come for a month and a half to give a short course to our novices mainly on the recent trends in the congregation, recent documents, etc. He still has to work out his schedule but as of now he hopes to arrive sometime around July 10 and be back in Rome around August 15. Thanks Ron.

■ MILLENNIUM RETREAT IN HONG KONG

Brad ROZAIRO attended the Millennium Retreat in HK organized by the Delegation of China. Invited to attend the retreat were a few Oblates from the neighboring countries of Madagascar, Indonesia, Australia and Japan who joined the Oblates of the HK Delegation. Around 13 Oblates attended and the retreat was preached by Fr. Jim FITZPATRICK, former Postulator General. The retreat also coincided with the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Primary School in Kowloon which is run by the Oblates.

■ AORC MEETING in Melbourne Australia

The Asia-Oceania Regional Conference met at the Provincial House in Camberwell, Australia (a suburb of Melbourne) for its annual meeting last March 11-16. There are fourteen member units of the conference which include Provinces, Vice Provinces, Delegations and Missions. The conference welcomed its newest member which is the mission of Turkmenistan, a mission of the Polish Province. Turkmenistan Mission used to be a member of the European region before it joined the AORC since geographically it belongs to Asia. The mission is composed of three members from the Polish Province. Public celebration of the Eucharist nor any form of public gathering for worship is not allowed but the pioneering missionaries hope that things will change in the future. Their presence is a living sign of that hope. Turkmenistan is a predominantly Islamic state. Important decisions made during the AORC meeting were: The setting up of a formators' training course for the region in 2001. This has been discussed during past AORC meetings and hopefully might be realized next year. The General Formation Committee headed by Fr. Baudouin MUBESALA, Assistant General, is also organizing a session for formators in the region.

This will be held in Sri Lanka from November 20 to 25, 2000. Another meeting of formators will be held in Sri Lanka right after the November session, December 4-9, organized by the Asia-Oceania Formators Conference (AOFC). The AORC also selected a new representative to the General Finance Committee in the person of Fr. Camillus FERNANDO (Sri Lanka) who takes the place of Ray BOURGOIN who finished his term this year. In the same meeting, the group chose Indonesia to be the place for the joint session of the General Council and AORC in February 2003. The group will meet at the Foundation House of the Oblates in Aix en Provence for its annual meeting in April next year.

■ VISITORS:

Dave BARTON visited Kochi recently and had an enjoyable time. He says in his letter: "Again I want to thank you and all the Oblates in Japan for your invitation to the 50th two years ago. I wasn't able to attend, as you perhaps recall, but this year I was able to visit Nakajima-cho for the first time since I left the Oblates in 1971. What a happy time together with Xave, Dick, Jerry, et al..." Dave made another generous donation to the mission. Thanks Dave and come visit us again!

■ PRAYERS

For the sick: For Mauro CONCARDI's father who underwent an operation.
For Tom MAHER's twin brother who also had a major surgery.
For Bert SILVER's brother who is doing well after surgery.
For the departed: For Fr. Mario BERTOLI, former Provincial of the Province of Indonesia who died of lung cancer, April 25. He was 60 years old.
For Fr. Tom REDDY, former Provincial of the of the former Eastern American Province and also a former Assistant General. We remember Tom as a great benefactor of the Vice Province for many years. He was 75 years old.
For the grandmother of novice Kenichi FURUKAWA who died last June 6.
For Peace In Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
In the southern Philippines where the Oblates work.

A Word from Aki

It's been sometime since I passed a word to the community. It was not that I was so busy, or I went into isolation. I must admit that my use of communications leaves a vacuum almost, but I do cherish each and everyone.

There isn't an abundance of news from Aki at any one time. The 2 Novices are doing well. They're keeping a rather rigid schedule. They never miss a meal though. My function is to provide Mass for them each morning- no collection though. Every Tuesday I enjoy teaching them English- it's Nebraska English, mind you. The rest of the week is spent making sure

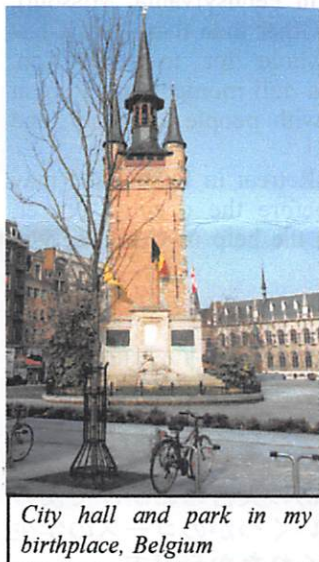


enjoy teaching them English- it's Nebraska English, mind you. The rest of the week is spent making sure provisions and facilities are adequate.

The 2 Novices have done a grand job of painting and cleaning the place. Everything looks just great.

They've been most helpful (in cementing our small Catholic community also. There were 2 -a young couple- for Baptism at Easter, and we now have $\frac{1}{2}$ persons taking instructions. The $\frac{1}{2}$ refers to one who is very close to studying.

All goes well in Aki. I'll try to update everyone as we go along this one year.



City hall and park in my birthplace, Belgium

Dick Harr

From Xave

Dear Friends,

Last March on my way to Flanders (Belgium), I stopped for two days in Barcelona to wonder at and admire the esoteric architectures of Gaudi. (His full name is Antoni Gaudi I Cornet and died in 1926 at the age of 74). The stopover was worthwhile but a gang of five got away with my passport.

One can never be careful enough.

Visiting the family and old friends wasn't always that pleasant either. Getting old alone, doesn't seem to be easy. However getting old together with your life partner doesn't seem to go so smoothly either.

While in Flanders I met a large part of Gerard's family. They keep vivid memories of their sojourn in Japan. They still regret not having visited Japan when there were no funerals. They asked me to relate their best wishes to all of you.

Since April I teach at an all girls college. I have two classes of about 25 students a week. My first problem was to change the classroom from a dressing room into a study room. The first 15 minutes one third of the students were busy adjusting their make-up. I asked if they did it for me and the answer was no. Luckily there are some students who want to study. The class at Kochi University is different. There are only eight students and they seem to be motivated.

In front of my house near the railroad there are big works going on. The little dirty open sewage in front of the house is now even dirtier. There is no water in it anymore. They are going to fill it in to make space for temporary tracks. The plan is to elevate Kochi station and the tracks so as to do away with the crossings in the city. It's a five year plan, but already one year has passed. Sometimes they work during the night and than of course I do not get enough sleep!

TOSA

From the 1999 Fukuoka Diocese Statistics

Fukuoka Diocese consists of 55 parishes situated in Fukuoka prefecture, Saga prefecture and Kumamoto prefecture. The number of Catholics in the diocese is 30,968, the Kokura parish is the largest with 2055 members. Counted by prefecture Fukuoka has 24,273 Catholics, Saga 2707 and Kumamoto 3988.

In 1999 Yoshizuka Parish had 758 parishioners.

There were 5 baptisms of children, 4 of adults, it had 5 catechumens, there were 7 funerals. The average Sunday Mass attendance was 210.

Yoshizuka has a dependant church in Minami-Kasuya. The Sunday Masses in those two churches are as follows:

Yoshizuka: Saturday evening, 7:30 p.m.

There are about 30-40 attendants.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Minami-Kasuya: Sunday morning, 8:00 a.m.

In the Minami-Kasuya area new houses and apartment buildings are constantly going up. That brings with it an increase in Catholics, the tenants being mainly young families with children.

On the third Sunday of September, the 17th, at 10 a.m., Minami-Kasuya Church will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its foundation. 40 years ago a Scarborough Father bought a private house in Shime and so the church began. Four years ago the faithful built a new church. They paid for it by bazars and donations, and ... loans, for the repayment of which they are still working today... There is room for parking about 60 cars. An urgent need is the construction of a Parish Hall.

1999 年度福岡教区統計

福岡教区は福岡県、佐賀県、熊本県にまたがり、55の小教区からなり、総信徒数は30968人。教区で一番信徒の多い小教区は、小倉教会の2055名、福岡県信徒数24273名、佐賀県は2707名、熊本県は3988名となっている。

吉塚教会 信徒数758名

幼児洗礼5名 成人洗礼4名

求道者5名 死亡7名 主日ミサ参加210名

毎日曜日のミサは南粕谷教会(巡回教会)は午前8時、吉塚教会は午前10時、土曜日は吉塚教会で午後7時30分。30~40名の出席がある。南粕谷地区は住宅の建築が進み、信者の数は自然増加している。若い世代の人が多く、子供たちが多い。

9月17日(第3日曜日)、午前10時から南粕屋教会創設40周年記念式典と堅信式が行われる。スカポロ会が40年前志免町の民家を買収して教会として発足し、4年前現在の地に信徒の手によって新築された。バザーや寄付金によって建てられ、現在も建築ローンを支払い中である。約60台駐車可能な駐車場があり、差し迫って信徒会館をつくる必要が生じている。

John Iwo

THE 12 KEYS TO AGELESSNESS

1. Transform your attitudes about maturation
2. Seek love everywhere
3. Delight in connectedness
4. live in the now
5. Accept your true self
6. Forgive others and self
7. Let go of anger and other inner turmoil
8. Give yourself to others
9. Celebrate your faith
10. Discover the deep meaning in your life
11. Make your feelings work for you
12. Achieve balance in your life

Aging is not a contradiction of God's promise of abundance ; rather, it is an extension of that promise. Aging allows us to live in abundance. For us to benefit from this promise of abundance , we most learn to celebrate our own aging as a valuable process of growth.

These thought are taken from "The Twelve Keys to Sui ritual Vitality. by Richard P. Johnson. Ph.D. They express more clearly than I myself could where I am and what if am thinking, feeling and experiencing.

Christ said. "I came that they may have life and have it to in abundance." With the passing of years I am coming to realize more and more this abundance of life.

John Kenney Mahoney

Things We Can Learn From A Dog



Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

Take naps and stretch before rising.

Run, romp and play daily.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout ...run right back and make friends.

Anonymous

From Tom Maher

News from Hoya

No real earthshaking news to report. But that does not mean that everyday is not interesting and exciting! Of course I should thank Governor Ishihara and Prime Minister Mori for helping to make my Comparative Culture Courses even more interesting and lively --- thanks to their recent gaffes which have stirred up the students a good bit!

I do have the Signed Bible Classes and Signed Lectures as always and another Signed Retreat in September. And, in August I will be accompanied by another professor and a staff member to visit several of our partner universities in Pennsylvania, Missouri, Minnesota and New York. Other than that --- as I just said --- there isn't a whole lot to report on. Fortunately, there is never a dull moment and I count myself lucky that I work with people everyday, and not machines or paper work!

Hope to see you all at the Retreat in Fukuoka. I may be arriving just minutes before the opening prayer, but --- I will be there, with the help of God. See you then!

保谷便り

あいにく今回は地球を揺るがすような大ニュースはありません。といっても、毎日面白くないとか、エキサイティングではないという意味ではありません。ある意味では、石原知事や森総理にお礼を言うべきでしょう——あの失言のおかげで僕の担当している比較文化のいくつかのコースの学生たちの興味をかきたててくれたからです。

相変わらず聾者のための聖書研究会や手話付き講演会があり、また9月には聾者のための黙想会を予定しています。それに、8月にはもう一人の先生や大学の職員と一緒に、ペンシルベニア、ミズーリ、ミネソタ、ニューヨークの留学協定校を訪問する予定です。そのほかには、さっき言ったように、報告することがあまりありませんが、おかげさまで、退屈している間はありません。というのも、機械相手やデスクワークではなく、毎日人を相手にしているからです！

福岡の黙想会での再会を楽しみにしています。はじめのお祈り、ぎりぎりに着くかもしれませんが、神のご加護があれば必ず出席します。それでは！

Deely

Pastoral-Liturgical committee meeting

Just arrived back from the Pastoral-Liturgical committee meeting in Itami. All the members were present and it was a good meeting for us who attended. How to make this profitable for all is one of our duties. We had agreed to discuss "sacred space" and place special attention on the four main focal points of the Liturgical action. The President's chair, the Ambo, the Altar-table and the baptismal font. We agreed to try and find material to help us understand the importance and meaning of these focal points, and Ed Williams came up with a very simple but great book from his many shelved library put out by

OMI Information ; Japan Page 6



Liturgical Press in Collegeville with excellent presentations on all that we needed plus other points like the meaning of vestments, the Easter candle and several other sacramentals that are central to the liturgy. It was an excellent review for us and we even picked up some new insights about the importance of the President's chair, and the altar and baptistery.

I didn't take proper notes so I won't put it down here but the books very simple to read with first quotes from the pertinent documents on liturgical reform; then an explanation of the theology behind the symbol and its relation to our faith celebration and then 'praxis' about what should or should not be done, but principles, with plenty of room for adjustments to reality of the place and culture. The book is entitled "The Liturgical Environment" by Mark G. Boyer, published by Collegeville Press 1990. And it cost \$9.95 then, a paper back about 150 pages or less. Very easy reading. We agreed to have a brief meeting during the Retreat, one member will be away, and have a full meeting in Nov. the exact time and date and place to be decided later. We will want input from the men as to how they see this committee and what they want from us in way of service, and we will try to have a brief questionnaire for you to answer at the retreat then we'll try and focus on that come Nov.

We have limited sources and time to do too much professionally, even getting these reports came down to mostly Ed having that book and it helping us to focus and discuss things. Maybe we can have a meeting with all the men involved in parish and mission station work and see what they want. Any ideas will be welcome and any input as well.

As for me I'm so busy at times that I can't believe a week has ended, they seem like what a day used to be like...is that age? Hope you all have a great summer. Hope to make the Koga 'co-ed' camp and retreat before a five of six week vacation home. Tokushima will be making a pilgrimage to Tsuwano in July and having a charity millennium concert in November, and before you know it we'll be a new century, by God's grace. Hope all make it with flying colors.

Peace Fran.

Ongoing Formation Meeting

Those of us who are in the early stages of the mission of ministry, gathered for an ongoing formation meeting from March 25-25, at the Passionist Retreat House in Fukuoka just before the start of the last Spring Meeting. From Korea, there were Mauro, Maurizio, Giovanni, James and its new member, Varam (Vincenzo was on home leave) and from Japan, there were Leo, Nobu, Jude and Brad.

This year we came together to evaluate our past meetings. Our Provincial, Fr. Wency Laguidao was present during the session. Each one was given time to make his own evaluation. The last five gatherings really helped us see as where we were, where we are and what we want to do in

the future.

It was suggested by the group that instead of meeting separately from the other members of the Vice Province, we make a suggestion to the organizers of the yearly Spring Meeting that a time for SHARING be set aside to allow people to share on deep level their hopes and aspirations on their ministries and life as Oblates, etc.. For example, three groups can be formed to be composed of:

Group I Those within 10 years of ordination or oblation

Group II Those more than 10 to 30 years

Group III Those above 30 years

We welcome your comments on the suggestions above.

Reported by Bradly Rozairo

"GIVE ME ANOTHER PUSH!"

Different countries with different games; each country seems to have its own games and way of spending time together, an expression of the different cultures. There are however games which are common to many countries, a sort of common heritage. The swing for example is a game very popular with children all over the globe and it seems to fulfill their desire of touching the sky with the sensation of flying while the father or mother is pushing them. It is a pure joy going up and down, back and forth in a constant movement, which is our inner desire to free ourselves from whatever is holding us to the earth. And whenever the going back and forth seems to slow down there you have the little child that cries to the mother: "Please give me another push!". And the play goes on...

The particular relationship between God and Israel people undergoes ups and downs as well. There are experiences of enthusiasm and disappointments, miracles and punishments. The enthusiasm of the liberation ("You brought us on eagle's wings") is followed by complaints against Moses ("Why did you bring us out of Egypt? There we had such nice onions to eat!"). In all of these ever present is God's faithfulness to his plan of salvation, a God who patiently is educating his own people.

The same relationship of Jesus with his disciples follows the same pattern: enthusiasm ("You are the Messiah") and denial ("I do not know that man"). Jesus by words and deeds is forming his own followers and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit he leads them to a deeper and progressive understanding of the paschal mystery. It is the paschal mystery the coming together in harmony and unity of death and life, light and darkness ("Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?").

Life is like a swing. Back and forth, up and down, strong desires and enthusiasms followed by shortcomings and frustrations. A God full of



compassion and mercy is walking with us and encourages our pilgrimage. He is like a mother always ready to listen to the child who cries: "Give me another push!" And the play goes on...

Giovanni

LEARNING TO MUTTER ANYYOHASEYO

I had a dream; I'm standing in the middle of a busy city sidewalk. I'm completely unfamiliar of my surroundings and everything looks foreign to me. There are people all around me and I'm being pushed and shoved. People are screaming at me, but I can't seem to understand what they are saying. I tap a woman on the shoulder and ask her where I am. She screams some nonsense at me and turns around to walk away. I ask another person. I get the same response. I begin to walk, but I don't seem to go anywhere. Everything looks the same. All the people look the same. I don't understand the language they are speaking. I walk and walk and walk. Then I wake up.

I look up at the ceiling. Spider vein decorates my room. I sit up and look around my room. I've been in Korea for a couple of months now but I feel as if I haven't unpacked some of my packages of cultural and traditional barriers.

I feel it wasn't I by all means wanted to be in Korea or anyone else. Probably I begin to understand that God has a plan for me in bringing me down to Korea. This is how I console myself. I really sometime wonder at their culture and traditions very often just opposite to mine. I had a few opportunities to meet with foreigners both priests and lay people and got a few very useful information. The first thing I learned was that there are a lot of people like me out here. This really surprised me. The next thing I learned was that I need to adjust to Korean life. The first step in adjusting to Korean life was to learn the language. And thus I have been put to study in "Sogang University"- a Jesuit University to learn the language. Now I begin to mutter few words in Korean with great difficulty such as "anyyohaseyo"-how are you? And "kamsahamnida"-thank you and a few more.

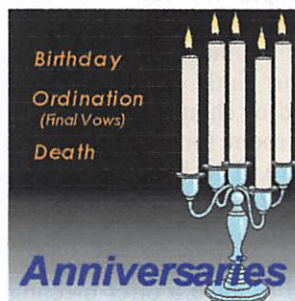


I disliked the Korean food in the beginning as I felt that I was missing my favorite Indian dishes- curry and rice. And I miss the familiar Indian T.V channels, missing my home people still. But I have to adjust. Easier said than done. However, where do I start? To get my mind of this subject, I decide to go outside for a walk or usually to climb a mountain. As I walk people are speaking all around me but I don't understand what they're saying. As I walk to the school, both men and women come up to me and hand me business cards to their bars or nightclubs, which still worsens my headache.

I quickly run back to the community after the school and I close the door behind me. I lie down and think of my country and the home

people, etc., My thoughts quickly shift from these to Korea and having to adjust to live here. As these thoughts float around in my head, I soon fall into a deep sleep. Tomorrow is a new day and ready begin a new life.

Seoul. Varam



■ Birthday:

July 04 1962 Mauro CONCARDI
31 1925 Lei SIMONS

August

04 1960 Nobu YAGI
23 1936 Ange SIANI
31 1928 Bert SILVER

September

06 1930 John IWO
17 1964 Jude PEIRISPULLE
17 1967 James JEYACHANDRAN
20 1925 John MAHONEY
22 1943 Fran HAHN

■ Ordination / Final Vows:

July 01 1951 Jan VAN HOYDONCK
05 1953 Lei SIMONS
21 1998 Varam ANTHONYSAMY

August

04 1991 Nobu YAGI (Final Vows)
22 1992 Jude PEIRISPULLE
22 1992 Bradley ROZAIRO

September

08 1990 Giovanni ZEVOLA

■ Death:

July 03 1982 Timothy MULVEY
23 1981 Sueho TSUDA

September

04 1975 Daniel WARD

From the editor

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

Nobuhiko

