

OMI Information Newsletter; General Delegation of Japan



Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Congratulations!!



1965 — May 31st — 2005 40th Anniversary of the ordination

From the Delegation Superior's desk:

In diocesan circles Team Pastoral Ministry is the hot topic.

More bishops are talking about Pastoral Team Ministry. Last month Team Ministry was the theme for discussion for the Fukuoka Priests' Meeting. In some dioceses Team Ministry is a fact.

Last month at the Superior's Conference held in Karuizawa Bishop Mizobe again brought up the topic of Pastoral Team Ministry. He sees this team ministry as being accomplished by a group of priests and brothers of different congregations along with diocesan priests living together in the same community.

The Bishop also stressed the need to make to make new contracts. (Some congregations have not renewed their contracts in over 50 years.) He implied that bishops want a more direct say in the naming of pastors and the formation of Pastoral Teams. All of this will have an affect on our Oblate way of doing mission.

In his letter on Obedience Father General wrote "In many places our mission has added a special flavor to the local Church because it is carried out in community and according to the proverbial family spirit of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. This is what we will continue. The decision made at our Spring Meeting to create two or three Oblate Communities is gives us hope for the future of the Oblate Mission.

In his Letter on Obedience Father general notes and I think it is true also of the Japanese Mission "During our period of steady growth we generously stretched ourselves and our resources to respond to many missionary needs. Now we find ourselves too scattered in some of those places and situations, and consolidation is needed. We have too many small communities and too many Oblates who habitually live alone in contradiction of our Rule.

We have many challenges to face up to but with the charism of St. Eugene and the Spirit of Christ within us we have we have HOPE.

I personally have always promoted Oblate Community as Mission.. I have already told Bishop Nomura I do not believe Oblates should live in other communities. What do you think? Discuss it in your Districts. What answer shall we give to the Bishops?

Ange, OMI Superior Delegation of Japan



A LONG WAY

Giovanni ZEVOLA

Yes, we have walked a long way indeed! While celebrating the migrant's day and the 10th anniversary of Emmaus I tried to recall the beginnings of this apostolate. There was a time when the presence of foreigners here in Korea was considered to be something new and strange at the same time and many people thought that it would not last very long. Some lay people and few religious started to do something by opening the first offices; too many the difficulties and we thought that our main task was to help out I solving various problems (salaries, health, accident, etc).

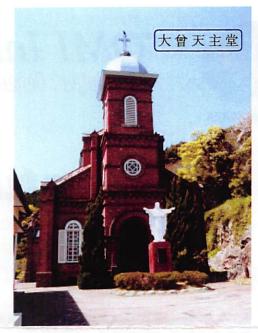


Nowadays we are witnessing to the fact that the workers try their best to help each other in providing support for those in difficulties (small communities, solidarity, meetings, sport activities) and more can be done when everyone contributes with his/her own talents and abilities. Like the disciples of Emmaus we keep walking and along the way we have met so many people who like Jesus have become our companions (doctors, Korean teachers, volunteers, benefactors); to them our sincere thanks and gratitude, knowing that only God knows how to bless all of them "Come, you have my Father's blessing. For I was stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25). What is the migrant apostolate all about? It is about a vision, God's vision for all humanity, where people of all races, languages and cultures will be able to welcome each other with a deep sense of respect.

Time will come when we as Korean society and Church will consider the migrants not mainly as a problem but rather as a chance and opportunity to open ourselves and enlarge our horizons. Yes, ahead of us there is still a long way to go but we are filled with the confidence that God will always grant our heart's desire.

上五島巡礼

John IWO



時に頭ヶ島 教会でミサ を棒げ、 リシタン墓 地に参り、 坂本龍馬ゆ かりの岬に 立ち寄った。 12時30 分青方港を 出航し、1 8時55分 博多埠頭に 着き、巡礼 の旅は終わ った。上五 島には29 の教会があ るが、現在、 過疎化のた めに使われ ていない教

会もあるが、世界遺産になるような教会群である。

Missionaries as in the old days!?

"We don't have missionaries as in the old days." I've heard it many times and some of us may have used the expression. Every time it comes up I get a different feeling. Sometimes I get upset; Sometimes I get a little bit embarrassed, especially When I sense some reason for the remark. But lately this feeling has being changing. I suppose it is not a good thing to say but sometimes I feel verry happy not being a missionaries "as in the old days".

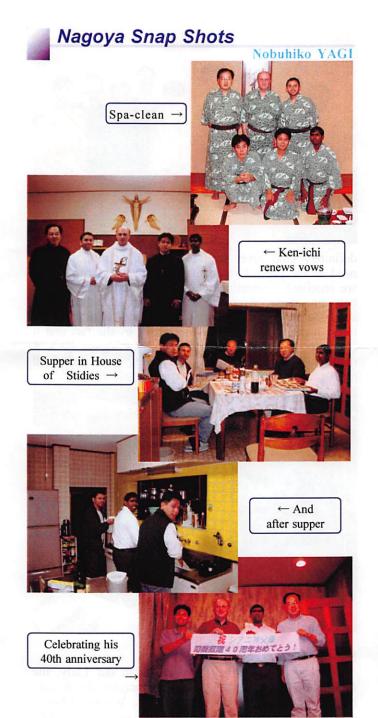
I must confess that along with the wonderful withness of so many of our elders there is as well some withness that is not really inspirational.

I'm beginning to realize how difficult it can be to move from some appointement which we have loved and to which we are accustomed; to overcome the difficulties, yes, even the traumas that have come to us. Some of us may get old (and it isn t merely a matter of numerical age) and begin to harden, becoming unable to do something that I suppose is essential for us: "Forgiving". Therefore, some might live forever in "in the old days".

For the sake of respect of "individuality" or "culture" we just allow things to go on. There are some good points to this, but if some young oblates do the same thing will there be the same reaction? The most commom reaction I have heard is "There was something wrong in his formation?" In that case what to say about the elders?

In many Oblate units, as well as in other religious congrations, there is an age gap. Because of that some generational shocks are bound to come up. This could bring difficulties but also opportunity for growth for both sides of the gap: "The young and the old".

To finish, it s not my intention to upset anybody or anyone in particular, but I'd like to share some questions that are revolving in my mind lately. Also I m praying that us young oblates will be able to learn from the storng points that I m sure far outnumber the weak points.



Anniversaries		
Birthda	v:	ici signi
		Mauro CONCARDI
July	31 1925	Leonard SIMONS
Augu		Econard Shirtoria
riugi		Nobuhiko YAGI
		Antonio Genivaldo
	11 17/3	CORDEIRO DE OLIVEIRA
	23 1936	Angelo SIANI
		Bertram Nathan SILVER
Sente	ember	Dorman Haman SIZ FZ
Septe	06 1930	John Takaji IWO
		Antonysamy IRUDAYARA
	17 1964	
	17 1967	
	20 1925	
		Francis HAHN
Ordinat	ion / Fina	al Vows:
		Jan VAN HOYDONCK
		Leonard SIMONS
	21 1998	Varam ANTHONYSAMY
Augu	ıst	
		Nobuhiko YAGI (FinalVows
	22 1992	Jude PEIRISPULLE
	22 1992	Bradly ROZAIRO
Septe	ember	A / 000 a
Septe	ember 08 1990	Giovanni ZEVOLA
Septe		Giovanni ZEVOLA
Septe		Giovanni ZEVOLA
Death:	08 1990	ALLO COMPANIES
Death:	08 1990 03 1982	alaboration of the second
Death: July	08 1990 03 1982	Timothy MULVEY

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

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



EMMAUS

On 1st May (Feast of St.Joseph, worker) the center for migrant workers celebrated the 10st anniversary of its birth in the diocese of Suwon. This center was started and run by Rev.Giovanni Zevola, OMI. The Nuncio presided the Holy Eucharist. In his homily he mentioned, "we (including himself) all are foreigner workers for the Kingdom of God. However He has called us to serve in different categories. And therefore take courage that the Lord who journeyed with the Israelites is also with us in our pilgrimage. We might have left behind our families, friends, children and well wishers but not the LORD as He always accompanies us".



Thereafter a festive dinner (buffet) was served to all (350) gathered for the celebrations. In spite of the intense screening and scraping down of the migrant workers, many of the foreigners turned up. On the part the Oblate all were present to support their fellow oblate in his work.

OBLATE FORMATION HOUSE

Oblates celebrate Saint Eugene's feast with Lay friends and benefactors



Oblates along with our friends, collaborators, benefactors, diocesan clergy and religious gathered to celebrate Saint Eugene's feast on 22nd a day after the actual Feast day. Increasingly more Koreans are coming to know and like the Oblate charism. This year, approximately two hundred people took part in the celebration.



The celebration took place once again this year in the formation house. The house is in the city of Suwon, near the bishop's house and to somewhat closer to the Major Seminary. This allows the five young students who live there to attend the theology courses there as they prepare to become the first Korean Oblates.

May 21-29 Intense prayers for vocation

We spent everyday one hour in praying for Oblate vocations starting from the feast of our Founder and ending with the feast of Blessed Joseph Gerard. We followed the instructions suggested from the General house. These materials were translated into Korean, as we were able to pray part of them with Koreans. Definite miracles happen in our lives every day and



definitely God gives us the most important grace we need at the present moment. It is since two years that we received a vocation in our formation house. So in between these days of intense prayer, there was someone by name Simeon who phoned us after going through our homepage. He was struck by the fact that it fits into his thinking as he is planning to join a missionary congregation. If everything goes well he'll most probably join us in the beginning of next year.



Marian Vigil

Month of May being dedicated to our Lady, the faithful in Korea dedicate everyday praying the Rosary and a night vigil in honor of Mary. We the Oblates dedicated to the Immaculate Mother, spent many days praying the holy rosary and Marian meditations, etc. as the highlight of this devotion on 31 May, on the feast of Visitation we had a Marian Night renewing our devotion to our beloved mother and patroness of our Congregation. On this day many of our Catholics in our surrounding joined us.

