



O.M.I. JAPAN/KOREA

OMI Information

Newsletter ; General Delegation of Japan

JUNE
2007

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Meeting of the General Delegation of Japan and Korea, June 2007



As is the custom every year so also this Spring the Oblates in Japan and Korea held their Congress, this time in Takarazuka (Mefu) at the Retreat House of the Passionist Fathers.

Although everyone was expected to assist several of the members were absent because of illness or other urgent business.

The topic of the meeting was: where does the OMI in Japan and Korea go in the future, and how? A great advantage was the presence of two members of the General Administration, Fr. Oswald Firth and Fr. Federico Labaglay, who were able to explain the desire of the headquarters and direct the local members in the way to get there. The discussions and explanations were guided by Father Eduardo Talgudtalgud, OMI, from the Philippines, who has much experience in such matters.

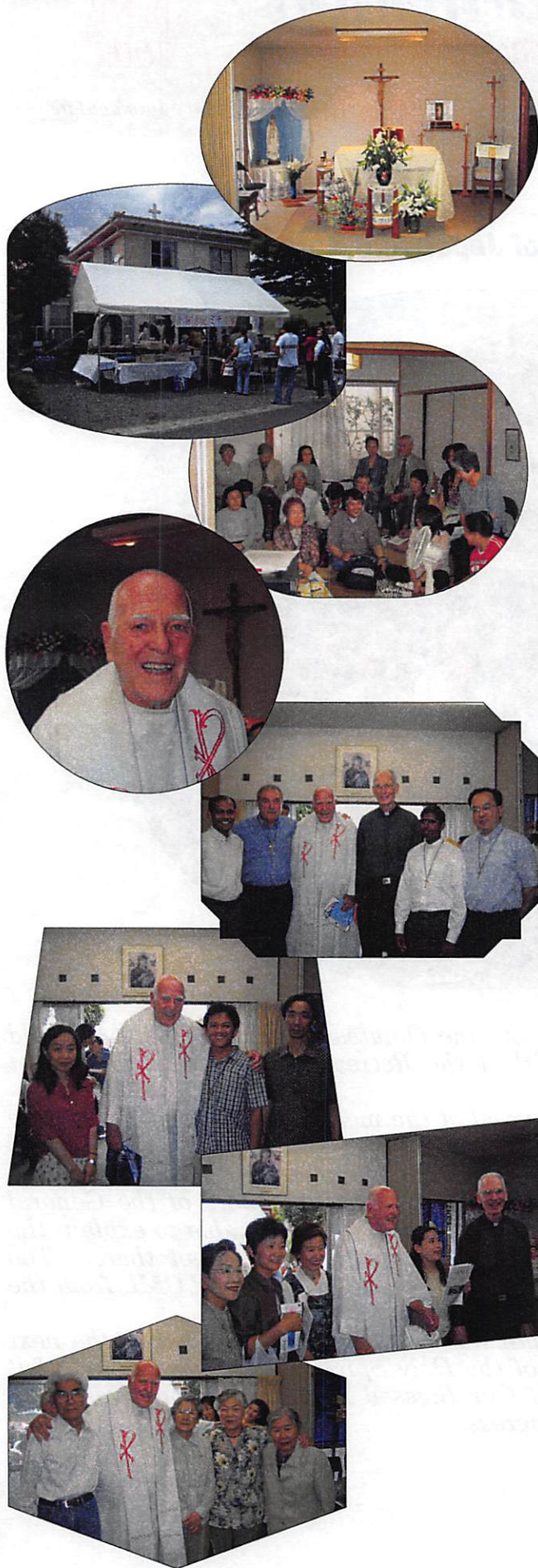
In three days of intense study a concrete plan was reached, to be applied in the next five to ten years. With the help and the grace of the Holy Spirit, which was strongly felt during the meeting, and under the tutelage of Our Blessed Mother everyone was filled with hope and confidence at the close of the Congress.

Many thanks to the Moderators of it.

Jan Van Hoydonck, OMI

Tom's 50 years of priesthood:2007.6.10

Bradly ROZAIRO



Justice and Peace General Conference 2007

Bradly ROZAIRO

This year's J & P General Conference will be held in Hiroshima, from Sept. 22 – 24. You are most welcome to attend the gathering. For further information please see the following website: www.jade.dti.ne.jp/jpj

A Day With Jakarta Oblates

Jerry NOVOTNY

I returned from Malang to Jakarta on Sunday. Since Monday was an open day, the Provincial, Fr. Antonius Andri Atmaka OMI, invited me to join the Jakarta Oblate gathering. Fr. John Peter McLaughlin OMI drove me out to Cengkareng, which is the Oblate Parish called Trinity Parish on the west side of Jakarta near the airport. I stayed with John at the OMI transit house for six days. It was located in a poor district and the hugh Muslim speakers could be heard day and night. During the day we were both busy, but in the evening after supper we managed to have some good discussions. John is involved in many Archdiocesan projects and he's quite known throughout the area.



On arrival, I received a tour of the Church complex. The main body of the Church consists of 800 seats, but on Sundays the sides are opened and 2000 more people flow over to the outside porch which has a canvas covering. In addition, there is a parish hall and a few additional buildings. The Catholic population for this parish is close to 21,000. Preparations to divide the Parish into two Churches have been completed, but due to the strong Muslim atmosphere, it will take many years for permission to be granted, someone mentioned 15 years.

The parish has only two Oblate Priests: Fr. Fransiscus Xaverius Sudirman OMI and his assistant recently ordained Fr. Ignasius Wasono OMI.

Fr. Andri OMI was in Jakarta and joined us for the day. He lives in Semarang (roughly a 1-hour flight to the east of Jakarta). He was in town because the Catholic Diocese was celebrating its 200-year anniversary of the Catholic Church in Jakarta. To everyone's surprise, the President of Indonesia also attended with many dignitaries.

The District Superior, Fr. Peter Subagyo Stoll OMI, came over from Calvary Parish which is on the other side of the city - the east side. He is the Pastor of a smaller parish with over 5000 parishioners. Fr. Peter has a young assistant priest from the diocese helping him. He plans on opening a new Website in the near future and will notify us.





After a pleasant chat and drinks, we all headed off in one car for lunch. The restaurant was 20km away and due to the heavy traffic, the trip took some time but

the duration spent together was worth every minute. The Jakarta Oblate have a tremendous sense of humor and the time passed quickly. We ate at Abadu Restaurant in Pluit. The trip back was faster since the traffic had eased up. Fr. Andri had a plane to catch for Semarang and a pleasant day ended with many promises to meet again.

My vote is still 100% for the formation of an Asian Oblate Community - the potential talent, organization and sharing that would take place, one can only dream about.

Journey Into the Heart of Asia: Indonesia

Jerry NOVOTNY

Indonesia has the 4th largest population in the world and the 3rd in Asia with 234,693,997 people. I was amazed to learn that it has 17,000 islands, 600 of them are inhabited by people. Because of its location, it is called the "emerald belt at the equator".

On the first leg of the 10-day speaking tour, my plane touched down at a military base just outside of Malang City, a 1-hour flight east of Jakarta. Escorting me to the Carmelite Major Seminary was Fr. Yermias, MSF, the Secretary to the Bishops Conference and the Executive Director of the Commission for the Family. A good man with an excellent insight into the Church in Indonesia and loves to sing with the people.

Two Carmelite Theologians met us at the airport. It was a 45-minute trip through some of the most beautiful country I have ever seen. Due to an annual



rainfall of 7600 millimetres, the visibility is usually poor, but the three days I spent there the view was spectacular. The one airstrip was carved from the thick green jungle growth and a similar drive into the city revealed palm trees, a variety of fruit trees and towering bamboo poles.

Fr. Agung Wahyudianto, O.Carm, the acting director, met us with a big smile at the entrance of the seminary and after initial greetings, showed us to our rooms. Next tea and a slight snack, and then Fr. Agung gave us a tour of the seminary grounds which were surrounded by a SVD seminary, a diocesan school for theology, a high school run by Sisters and the local Parish. Small houses and children dotted the open areas.

While walking down one of the corridors, a Pro

Life seminar was being held in one of the classrooms. Fr. Agung insisted on introducing us to the students and to Fr. Beny Phang, O.Carm, who conducts a weekly Pro



Life seminar for the third year theologians. The topic on this day was "Anencephalic Infant's Human Dignity". A research paper was being presented by one of the students. The atmosphere was light, but the interest was keen. Every week a different student prepares a 1-hr presentation on a different topic. A discussion follows the presentation with Fr. Beny as moderator. I felt very much at home and enjoyed listening to their explanations. I left the room with a feeling that I had just met the future generation of Indonesian Pro Life Priests.

My PowerPoint Presentation began at 4:30 and ended around 8:00. The topic: "Spirituality Behind the Pro Life Movement". A translator is always necessary; however, I felt that a large part of the student body was able to follow exactly what I was saying. In all, approximately 70 people attend: major seminarians, priests and nearby Franciscan Sisters.



At 6:00, we had a 20-minute lunch box break. Then everyone gathered for a one and a half hour Question and Answer period. The highlights of

the discussion period centered on the Pill, Contraception, Abortion and Post Abortion Syndrome. The questions usually were presented in the context of a specific case, for example, a mother who cannot support another child, poverty a major cause of marriage breakdown, an unwanted child by a mother seeking self-fulfillment in the city. In this atmosphere I also felt that many also wanted to hear the clear teaching of the Catholic Church on Life Issues. A definite concern for the people was present.

Following the session, the students returned to their rooms to prepare for up-coming examinations. Fr. Yermias and I headed for the rec room where we continued exchanging ideas with a number of the faculty members.

The next morning at 7:30, a car picked us up at the seminary and we drove to the Cathedral Hall. Here, I presented three 1-hour lectures, followed by a one-hour Q/A session for each. Fr. Yermias acted as my translator for the PowerPoint Presentations and the ensuing discussions. Over 150 women, representing 13 different groups, packed the hall and a lively seven hours filled the day. The topics consisted of: (1) The Family at Crossroads: Gift and Hope; (2) The Family at Crossroads: Men Hurting Too - PAS Men (Trends

and Challenges); (3) The Family at Crossroads: Life or Abortion (Trends and Challenges).



Before going home, a 30-minute photo session followed. The people have a beautiful custom in Indonesia, before leaving, everyone comes forward to shake your hand and

say thank you. Also a request was made by the organizing committee for a copy of the PowerPoints. They want to translate them into the Indonesian language and share the Family and Pro Life message with as many people as possible.

The following morning I was asked to preach at the 6:00 morning Mass. Breakfast followed with the Carmelite community and by 8:30, Fr. Yermias and I were boarding the plane at the military base.

While flying back to Jakarta for the second leg of the speaking tour, I contemplated on how important Indonesia was to Asia and to the world. It offers splendid natural beauty, variety of rich cultures, customs and languages as well as a warm hospitality. All this, including plants and animals life represent valuable beauty. The strength, voice and determination of the Indonesian people will someday become a tremendous beacon for Asia.

The Oblates of Kochi district had their community day in Akaoka on 18th June '07.

Bradly ROZAIRO

The input person was Sr. Gillis



Oblate Gathering of Young People

Nobuhiko YAGI

The Oblate Gathering of Young People will consist of the following. Sharing will take up the biggest part of the gathering. Everyday young people might think of a variety of things about their vocation but they rarely go

deep into anything. A sharing among the young people of the same generation about this and their role in life or society, or again "that something" which only themselves can accomplish, may be fruitful and give new impetus to something that they harbor in their hearts.

Theme: A variety of vocations

Time: August 4th (Sat) -5th (Sun) with closure at 4 PM

Place: "Kangaeru Mura" (overnight lodging) 2505-2 Nishibun Kou, Geisei-mura, Aki-gun, Kochi Prefecture.

Telephone: 0887-33-3681

Participants: High School students to 35 year olds

Participating Fee: 3,000 yen (An additional 2,000 yen for those who visit Ryugado)

Other: On the 2 days mentioned above there will be very little time for recreation. Those who can come on Friday the 3rd by 1 PM in Nakajimacho please do so. We will visit Ryugado, but not through the regular route. We will challenge the Shonyudo route. What is needed for this trip will be lent to us at the entrance. No matter what age or sex you are, there is no problem, so be at peace. That night we will stay at Kangaeru Mura

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

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

Anniversaries

■ Birthday:

July

31 1925 Leonard SIMONS

August

04 1960 Nobuhiko YAGI

14 1973 Antonio Genivaldo

CORDEIRO DE OLIVEIRA

19 1980 Bernard ONDAP

23 1936 Angelo SIANI

31 1928 Bertram Nathan SILVER

September

06 1930 John Takaji IWO

12 1970 Antonysamy IRUDAYARAJ

17 1964 Jude PEIRISPULLE

17 1967 James JEYACHANDRAN

20 1925 John Kenny MAHONEY

22 1943 Francis HAHN

■ Ordination / Final Vows:

July 01 1951 Jan VAN HOYDONCK

05 1953 Leonard SIMONS

21 1998 Varam ANTHONYSAMY

August

04 1991 Nobuhiko YAGI (Final Vows)

22 1992 Jude PEIRISPULLE

22 1992 Bradly ROZAIRO

September

08 1990 Giovanni ZEVOLA

■ Death:

July 03 1982 Timothy MULVEY

23 1981 Sueho TSUDA

September

04 1975 Daniel WARD