



General Delegation of Japan

Dear Brother Oblates,

On October 3rd, we officially became the General Delegation of Japan. It may take a little time to get used to this title. This new title has an advantage in that it invites us to see our lives and mission in a new way. I feel we are in a position of actually refounding the mission. It is no longer a question of renewal. Our mission will be different. Some of the works we cherish most may have to give way to a new way of doing mission.

It seems clearer to me than ever and to many of you that we are now at a point in our history when we are called to determine the future of our Mission. It is a graced moment for us.

The process of refounding the mission already began with "The Immense Hope Project". We took a hard look at our present ministries and celebrated our History. Now the center of our focus will be on our Oblate mission and the needs of the Church we serve. It calls for us to do some planning on the basis of a realistic analysis of our life and mission.

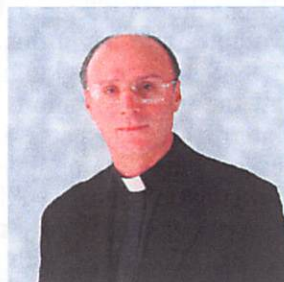
We have done a great deal toward mission planning already. At the OMI Spring Meeting 2003, our decisions were concretized in our "Being with - In Communion With" Statement. In our evening, somewhat "more lively" sessions many important expectations emerged:

- Reducing number of places run by lone and free individuals*
- Forming small communities out of which men could go out and minister*
- Caring for the old and sick (Explore possibility of establishing a residence)*
- Putting into action the Mission Vision Statement*
- Discerning on further restructuring of the Unit*
- Being attentive to the needs of the Mission of Korea*
- How to pass on the responsibilities of the mission to our younger members*

Difficult and painful decisions must be made. The Immense Hope Project will be a great guide for our decisions. Furthermore I believe the men on this mission have the courage and desire to plan our new future. God chose us to continue His work. He trusts us with His most precious possession the Church. He promises He will be with us.

Ange, OMI

*Superior
General Delegation of Japan*



And So We Go On...

Jan VAN HOYDONCK

Just back from my "short driving course", required for the renewal of my driver's license (mandatory for those of 71 years old and over), which I took at the Ikeda Hashikura Driving School with two other "old timers", one 78, the other 82, me in the middle just a month before turning 80. All three of us passed, but the instructor, very kindly for sure, made us realize that our reactions are "getting slower". That, with in mind the happenings concerning my confreres here in Japan, in my home country, and also other friends and relatives, keeps me aware that the time of my departure from this world is coming closer. In response to that I try to apply the advice Jerry gave in the previous issue of this Newsletter: To face the inevitable process of aging with courage, confidence and even cheerfulness we need a vital faith which provides sustaining resources. The Word of Christ, the Gospel of Life is precisely such a faith. Thank you, Jerry!

Best wishes to all.

From Bert

Bertram Nathan SILVER

On June the 28th the Tokushima Prefecture Police Department's Translators Meeting took place. This was the 12th meeting of this group. At this meeting I was installed at the Kaichoo (Director). There were forty translators and twenty three connected with the Police Department in attendance. You name the language and we have a translator for the department.



The group was formed twelve years ago to assist the police department in translation. Even before this time, when I was in Naruto, I was called to translate from english to japanese many times. Then the Prefectural Police Department asked for volunteers to begin this group.

Since the beginning I would spend endless hours at the police station with the detectives as they interrogated suspects in crimes in the area. Some cases went on for days until it was brought to the Procurator's Office. After that it would end up in Court. Actually I only translated in Court cases a few times. Working with the Police Departments is interesting but tiring. After one hour I would have to

ask for a break. Otherwise I would end up speaking japanese to the one arrested and english to the Japanese detective.

The detective's work is grueling and difficult. However the presence of a translator is encouraging for the arrested person. In many ways I feel that I not only help the department but also the arrested individual.

One consoling case was when I translated for two Sudanese and during the investigation they requested "amnesty" for political reasons. Through the help of the local department and the Amnesty Group in Takamatsu they were granted amnesty. When they were released they were taken care of by the Franciscans in Tokyo. Eventually one of them married a Japanese girl and now is doing well in Tokyo.

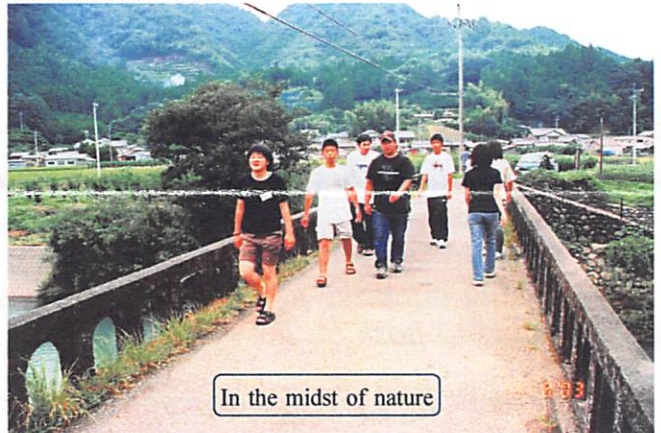
At our meetings talks are arranged on various topics pertaining to the crime rate among foreign residents in Japan and on the efforts being made by the police departments to give their personnel opportunities for learning foreign languages. The translators are continually reminded of their responsibilities as translators and our help is appreciated by them.

I feel that is a service that I can provide to help locally with the police departments and also to be available to be of assistance to those who find themselves arrested here in Japan.

OMI Summer Camp

Nobuhiko YAGI

The theme for this year's Summer Camp was "Return to Nature". Of course by communing with Mother Nature, we were able to feel its blessings, God's greatness and also God's gentle kindness but that is not all. Through all this we tried to seek and return to our true natures. This was part and parcel of the whole theme.



27 young people from churches where the Oblates minister (Zendana, Itami, Tokushima, Naruto, Nakajimacho, Koga, Yoshizuka and Minami-Kasuya) assembled. Including the OMI who participated and the Sisters who came to help we were 36 members in all. We were together from August 12 to August 14 at the Kochi-ken Geisei-mura Ikoigaoka Undo Koen (a sports facility called Ikoi-no-oka in a small town called Geisei-mura). At this place we were able to spend a

meaningful and fruitful time of sharing, prayer, Mass along with games and recreation.



Friends ; after 3 days

On the 13th we went to a river on the outskirts of Aki City where we were able to commune deeply with Mother Nature. Because of a typhoon a few days before the camp, the river was too dangerous for us to swim in, however. But we enjoyed ourselves walking along the river, fishing, drawing sketches while participating freely in other activities. As mentioned above, we had a taste of nature's blessings. The young people, who rarely have the occasion to commune with nature in such a form, were able to face the gentleness as well as the ruggedness of nature. It was also an occasion for them to face themselves.

It was really a great 3 days. We want to thank all those who helped us at the place itself but also those who were not there but helped with their prayers. Below we add the reflections of one of the participants.

She is a first year high school student called AONO Yuko

This year, since I am a high school student, I took part in the camp from the day before in order to help with the preparations. Since at meals were would seat according to lots, I was in charge of that and of prepared the prizes for the various games. It was quite a busy 3 days. Compared to last year I was able to make many more friends and so the days were very fulfilling.



AONO Yuko in the middle

This year's theme was "Return to Nature". Compared to previous years, there was more time for discussions. We centered on the theme of BEING ONESELF, and BEING NATURAL in our

relationships. This was very difficult for me. I should know myself the best of all, but when it came to put things in real words, I was at a loss and felt very small. I thought to myself that probably because I live such a busy life, I end up burying my beautiful points and my true self. However, being in nature, my subconscious self was at ease, I could be myself and I realized that that was the real me. I believe we were presented with a real worthwhile theme for the camp. Next year also I would like to see a theme given to the camp where we can hold a number of discussions.

For 3 full days, being away from newspapers, TV and games and thrust into a little village full of nature, I was able to learn many things that I don't get a chance to learn at school.

It might sound repetitive, but I was happy to make many friends. Compared to last year I didn't do too well in the Card Tournament, but I still received a prize. We laughed loudly during the quizzes. I learned a lot of card games from Hayato (one of the participants). However, the last day clinched all for me and was the most impressionable, I stayed up till 6 in the morning, playing cards all night and had only one hour of sleep!

The 36th Convention of Japan Montessori Association in Okinawa

Leonard Morio INUI

This convention is scheduled two years ago as the first time event at Okinawa, where the Montessori Education method has been taken in many christian facilities since around 1980. Our convention is the official presentation and exchange of the theory and practice of Montessori education.

The theme of this year is PEACE TO BE SOUGHT WITH CHILDREN, that is my strong urge to be heard by the millieau, who seems inclined to have their works be successful on social business base and not in the authentic peace construction of mankind. This is a revelation of the last century , i.e. the century of the child; we must not be our eye closed at this new cosmic sean of of our human society.



At the meeting

The spirituality of Maria Montessori is to live and complete our task on earth according to His Creation plan so that His will be done on earth. Our

society and nations can work, through various cooperations, to prevent or delay wars in order to keep present peace we have, but our works are not positively creating that reality. Without talking much, we must notice our negligence to learn about the peace / shalom as the fundamental task entrusted to mankind in His cosmic order, within which were made this universe and earth. AND, the child is its last offspring, who has to keep up and construct his personality for this purpose following the same order. This is the present task of these children. This is true and real. Why don't we shift our sight of value as such : to learn and help children who are before the age of selfish evaluations and who are seeking wholeheartedly to prepare and train themselves for the aim. They are very fond of praying, and praising the creator. We should be considerate in order to not prevent them doing so by any ways, and attentive to keep their freedom to grow physically, mentally and spiritually. So doing, children are doing also guiding us adult to notice and support the important human vocation in His cosmic plan. The growth and fulfilment of oneself, from one's childhood up to adulthood, in this innate program is the important personal accomplishment of peace, shalom. This is an art of human philosophy : preschool age's education : formation of man.



Fr. INUI at the mike

This reality of peace in each individual is not limited in oneself as these expressions may give limited understanding, but rather exists and raises a strong ties among the members of a family or a group of children and adults. This is the power we have to construct and progress peace on earth among all creatures; we may say the gospel is brought into us through little ones, as this was said in the kingdom of God in the Scripture. May the children's right to grow freely be guaranteed and their contribution in our present human society be accounted fairly.

The convention called 477 attendants from all over Japan; some visitors from Korea; more than half of them were from Kyushuu group. Four persons were among them from our school staff, included myself.

I thank you for your prayers and voices to encourage for my heavy task of business chairman of the convention as Kyushuu chairman, although living in Shikoku. Children and their Creator have worked

very much for this event as the powerful witness; that is my truthful observation at this point. Deo gratias and shalom to the readers!

Formation

Nobuhiko YAGI

Our pre-novice Gwen (NGUYEN THANH VU) who spent 6 months with us in the Nakajimacho community has realized during that period that the religious life was not what he is called to. For this reason on Sept 29 he returned to his family in Himeji. Please pray for him as he embarks on a new path.

Treasurer's office

Ray BOURGOIN

Even with my appointment to Aki, the treasurer's office (incl. address and TEL / FAX numbers) will remain in Kochi. Any requests demanding Post Office or Bank transactions will be done only on Monday and Tuesday.

Anniversaries

■ Birthday:

October

05 1973	Ken-ichi FURUKAWA
10 1923	Jan VAN HOYDONCK
27 1927	Xave TOSA
30 1964	Bradly ROZAIRO

December

20 1970	Varam ANTHONYSAMY
24 1934	Mike YAMAZAKI

■ Ordination / Final Vows:

October

01 1988	Mauro CONCARDI
19 1991	Maurizio GIORGIANNI

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

Christmas issue is scheduled for December 15. Please send in your contributions and Christmas greetings by December 10. Whenever you send an article for the newsletter, always include a title to the manuscript. Sorry, this newsletter was late.

