



O.M.I. JAPAN/KOREA

# OMI Information

## Newsletter of the Vice Province of Japan

SEPTEMBER  
2001

*Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

### 16th OBLATE VOCATION SUMMER CAMP

Fourty nine participants of the 16th Oblate Summer Vocation Camp gathered at the Ikoigaoka Undo Koen (鵜ヶ丘運動公園) last August 1 to 4. The campers were from the seven Oblate parishes of Zendana, Itami, Tokushima, Naruto, Nakajimacho, Aki, Koga and Yoshizuka. Students ranging from university to elementary levels were joined by some adults, including eight Oblates. Br. Nobu YAGI was the head camp organizer assisted by scholastics, Brs. Kenichi FURUKAWA and Akio HORIUCHI. Parishioners from the nearby parish of Aki were also around to help the organizers.



### That Irreplaceable YOU! (かけがえのないきみへ)

Japanese young people are usually part of a faceless crowd, in school or in the community where they belong. Importance is placed on group behavior and conformity and individuality is oftentimes lost. During the camp, an effort was made to appreciate the fact that God has called each one of us by name. God knows us as individuals and not as mere members of a faceless crowd. We are unique and irreplaceable. Each participant was made to realize and appreciate this fact.

Discussions revolved around the fact that God calls us to plan the course of our own life and our own future. We can make a difference in school and in the society where we live, if we want to. Discussions were lively though the age of the members of the groups ranged from elementary school age to a number of young and not-so-young Oblates and parishioners joining the discussions. The topics were difficult which might have left more questions than answers in the tender mind and heart of the young participants. The Eucharist was the center of the activities of the day. There were sports activities, parlor games at night, or just time to spend

together away from home and school homework and the pressures of daily life.

### "The Young People Who Came to Love the Philippines"

Mission for Youth Educational Exposure Program: August 21-27

Leo KAWAGUCHI

Not even the typhoon that was threatening to cancel all flights from Kansai last August 21 could stop the group of 13 young people from departing for Manila for an exposure program. The members of the group were young people from the different Oblate parishes. In Manila, scholastic Kenichi FURUKAWA who was spending his summer break there and Provincial Wency LAGUIDAO were at the airport to welcome us when we arrived.

The group stayed at the Institute for Social Order at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City. The first day was spent visiting Oblate places around Manila. First destination was the parish of Bagong Baryo where they were welcomed by the parish priest Fr. Oscar LUCAS and some parishioners. Next stop was Notre Dame of Greater Manila where the senior students and their teachers, led by the school director Fr. Jun JACOBÉ prepared a grand welcome for our group, complete with dances, songs and a sumptuous meal. There was time for our group and the students of ND Manila to forget about language barrier and exchange pleasantries, gifts, email addresses, souvenirs, and what-have-you, only known to young people of their age.

The next three days were spent on a small island called "Talim" (meaning: sharp, since the shape of the small island is like a pointed sword.) on Laguna de Bay about an hour away from Metro Manila. To go to the island, we took a small wooden boat that could carry about 20 people. A storm was bringing in heavy rains. We were fetched by "Nick" a young man from the island who was to be our guide the next 3 days. Nick belongs to a prayer group that lives a life in imitation of the disciples of St. Francis of Assisi. The island could only be visited by a priest several times a year and this situation has encouraged lay people like Nick to take the leadership in the community's prayer life, catechetical instruction, youth leadership, etc. The community is reminiscent of rural Japan 40 years ago. The group immediately got a first-hand training in making handicrafts out of bamboo. Several families played hosts to the members of our group for nights' lodging.

The experience in Talim Island has left an oasis in the hearts of the young people in the group and will for sure reverberate for sometime. The warmth of



the families that gave us lodging, the welcome reception that made us feel at home, the smile on their faces, the cultural exchange with the young people of the island who were coming home for the weekend all done through songs, dances and even some Japanese games, etc. were gifts that we received from the people of Talim. The welcome party went on beyond midnight, everyone was tired but, surely, our group have experienced something that it cannot experience here in Japan.

From Talim Island, we went back to our quarters at the Ateneo University. The group had the scare of its life when one member fell ill, with high fever, shortness of breath, etc. We called up a Japanese sister who lives nearby for help. The sick member was brought to an emergency hospital on a stretcher while the rest prayed the rosary ... after three hours, the sick member came home by taxi, looking nonchalant, as if nothing had happened at all. Everyone believed it was the power of prayer that cured her.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who helped make our exposure program successful: to Fr. Jun JACOB and his students and teachers at Notre Dame of Greater Manila, to the people of Talim led by Nick, to Sr. Miriam YAMASHITA of the Visitation Sisters in Manila and her community, to the seminarians of the Oblate formation houses in Quezon City, to the Oblates of the Manila district. We want to go back in the near future. Perhaps in the months of March and April when there is less threat of rain and when the magoes are even sweeter, we were told. *Maraming salamat po!*



Mission for Youth. Educational Exposure Program, Philippines, Aug. 21-27.

### From the Provincial's Desk:

Dear Brother Oblates,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Vice Province, I would like to thank once again Fr. David POWER for the spiritually invigorating retreat. His talks were like fresh water on parched land, bringing life to weary souls. Thank you very much Fr. David!

Below are items 1 to 6 from the Provincial's Desk.

Fraternally in Christ,

Wency LAGUIDAO

### 1. Interchapter Meeting in Cuautla, Mexico:

As I already have announced earlier, I will be attending the Interchapter Meeting in Cuautla, Mexico from October 6 to 20. (I will be away from Sept. 25 to October 30 or 31.) About 80 participants are expected to attend. Before the Interchapter Meeting, participants usually visit the Oblate missions in the region for a period of exposure. I have asked go to Brazil, particularly to Belem (where Genivaldo comes from), which is another six hours from Sao Paulo. I will spend two nights in Sao Paulo and four nights in Belem. The feeling of awe due to the overwhelming vastness of the region of Latin America is starting to precede my first visit.

During the Interchapter Meeting, Father General will make a report on the state of the congregation since the last General Chapter. There will be an update on the ongoing project: *Bringing to Life an Immense Hope*.

Something of foremost interest to us will be the discussion on the future the Vice Provinces. As I have said once, let us listen to what the General Administration has to say about the future of the Vice Province of Japan. We would like to take note that we do not fulfill the minimum number of members required for a Vice Province but we also take note and are thankful for the gift of *internationality* in us as a unit. More than numbers, internationality was emphasized more in the last General Chapter.

Other matters to be taken up are: number of regions; report from the host region of Latin America; report from the Treasurer General; remote preparation for the Chapter of 2004; first and ongoing formation - internationality; Communications and Media; Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation.

**2. Thank You!** As we await the naming of the members of the Provincial Council, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the members of the outgoing council, Leo KAWAGUCHI, Jack DEELY, Xave TOSA, Maurizio GIORGIANNI and Ray BOURGOIN (Secretary), for their support and service to the Vice Province. Thank you, too, to the outgoing district superiors. Even before the new council is named, we have already scheduled a joint meeting of the outgoing council together with the new council on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, in Itami.

**3. Archdiocese of Osaka:** The Archdiocese of Osaka has been working on a plan to unify all institutions in the archdiocese (parishes, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, etc.) into the team ministry or the "block" approach to ministry. Under this plan, all institutions in the archdiocese will be under the supervision of the archdiocese and will affect assigning of personnel, planning, etc.

Archbishop Leo IKENAGA has met the Provincials and Superiors of congregations and groups working in the Archdiocese of Osaka to introduce the plan. The second meeting will be held on September 20-21 in Nagoya.

The Oblates are involved in two places in the archdiocese, namely, Itami Parish and Itami Kindergarten. We can expect that these two places will be affected by the plans being made in the archdiocese.



**4.Ministry to Young People.** They are called by different names: Gen X, Gen Y, etc. Here in Japan, they are sometimes called the "Lost Generation." They are today's Japanese youth, born to the affluence of material wealth but desperately wanting in family life, human values, the very basic love and respect that generations past nurtured around the warmth of the proverbial home.

What can we do for the young people in our midst? Br. Nobu YAGI and Leo KAWAGUCHI have started with small efforts to do something for them through group sessions, individual counseling, home visits, vocation camp, exposure program in foreign countries, participation in the World Youth Day, etc.

The most important, I think, is the precious time that we can spend with them just to listen to their hopes and dreams and to reassure them that, yes, somebody is there willing to listen. Let us give Nobu and Leo our encouragement and support.

**5.Computer Virus Attack.** Nobody feels safe from computer virus attack. Like terrorism, it is vicious, no one knows when and in what form it will attack. When you receive an email with the name of somebody you know, with an attachment that looks like [wencylaguidao@doc.1&%\\$\\*!#](mailto:wencylaguidao@doc.1&%$*!#), DO NOT OPEN the attachment. It is infected with virus. When in doubt, call up the person whose name appears on your incoming mail to verify. Remember: the virus, in most cases, is not coming from the person whose name appears on your screen.

**6.Prayers.** The terrorist attacks on American landmarks and institutions and on the American people were hard to bear. The images we saw on TV were more for fiction than reality, until September 11, 2001. I had the privilege to have studied in NYC and the places destroyed were very familiar sites. We can only pray for the victims and their families.

One of the hijacked plane's pilot was the uncle of the wife of one of Bert SILVER'S nephews. Let us pray for him. I sent an assurance of prayers from us to Fr. David KALERT, Provincial of the USA Province.

REV. FR. DAVID KALERT, OMI  
PROVINCIAL  
OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE  
PROVINCE OF U.S.A.

DEAR FATHER KALERT,  
PLEASE KNOW THAT WE HERE IN JAPAN ARE ALL  
PRAYING FOR YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA  
DURING THESE MOST TRAGIC MOMENTS. MAY  
GOD' S PEACE REIGN OVER AND ABOVE ALL.  
FR. WENCY LAGUIDAO, OMI  
And THE OBLATES OF THE VICE PROVINCE OF  
JAPAN

Dear Wency,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful words and prayers. While these have been difficult times, hopefully we will learn to find more peaceful ways to resolve differences. Things will never be the same after all of this, for sure. Thank you again, and please greet the Oblates for us.  
David (Kalert)

## IMMENSE HOPE

The Animation Committee (Ray BOURGOIN - Unit Animator, members: Fran HAHN, Nobu YAGI, Brad ROZAIRO and Giovanni ZEVOLA) of the Immense Hope Project has completed the working plan that should steer the Vice Province until the Fall of the year 2004. The working plan will be presented by the Provincial during the Interchapter Meeting in Mexico. The committee has met several times to complete the working plan. Their last meeting was last September 4th.

The project will be launched officially during the annual Christmas Party in Kochi on December 27, this year. Three input meetings on the subjects of "Society," "Mission," and "Church" have been scheduled at different dates and venues in Korea and Japan during the months of September, October and November. (cf. Supplement)

N.B. The following letter was received by email as part of the Update on the Immense Hope Project. The message is from the General Council and was sent by Fr. R. Szymycki, Assistant General. Ed.

*And they shall still bear fruit in their old age. Ps 92:15*

Dear Veteran Oblates!, our message is simple: *you are missionaries!*

"Mission does not cease with age; it merely changes form. Advanced age is a grace and a responsibility for the elderly themselves. They are called to respond to new calls which are often more demanding because they are mixed with suffering, powerlessness and separation. ....The aged and the sick remind us that mission is cooperating with Christ and it is accomplished first by the quality of our existence and by our prayers ...." (Fr. Zago, Chapter 1992).

You are missionaries! Now, you are being invited to give a fresh contribution to the Oblate mission. The occasion is the **Immense Hope** project.

We envisage a double contribution: a) you are invited to share the wisdom of your age and your experience, the memory of your past missionary endeavors, the Oblate values which you lived, the wonders that the Lord worked in you; b) by your prayer, you reinforce the contemplative dimension of our life and our ministry, and thus help the Oblate mission.

You are missionaries! Let us think of our Patriarch Abraham! who, "hoped against all hopes" and without considering his advanced age, trudged along towards the Promised Land. Once more you are cordially invited to accompany the Congregation yet a little further: to take an active role with your Province in discerning its mission, to inspire the young Oblates by your daring, to pray for the Congregation in this crucial moment of its history.

And you, young Oblates, are invited to appreciate in your community and in your Province the presence of Oblates who are advanced in age, or are being tested by infirmities! Ask their prayer. Listen to them. Encourage them to take part in the



celebrations of our past missionary achievements, involve them in the Community discernment of the signs-of-times, and in the re-founding of our commitments. All the Oblates are missionaries!

**Regardless of our age let us give birth in us, to an Immense Hope!**

Rome, September 8, 2001

## ANNA'S HOUSE - Bringing Hope to People in the Streets



Papal Nuncio visits the Anna's House, February 2001.

It has been known to us as "Vincenzo's Soup Kitchen." Vincenzo BORDO disagrees with the name given. "Soup kitchen" is a generic name given to ministries that provide hot meal to the homeless and for Vincenzo, it falls short of describing what they are actually doing. The correct name of the center is "Anna's House."



Volunteers prepare *kimchi* from a mountain of donated vegetables

The center started in 1997 and the key money that started the project came from a generous Korean man whose mother was named "Anna," hence the name of the center. Although feeding the hungry has been the major activity of the center from the time it was started, the services offered have branched out to medical, counseling, referrals, etc., even providing much needed haircut to people who cannot afford to have one. In general, the center gives some rays of hope to people who otherwise would not see them at all.

The center offers a three-step care of: 1. Getting to know the person by talking to him or her and knowing about his or her life; 2. Offering basic assistance such as food, clothing and shelter. This is followed by introduction to a self-support program through cultivation of self-esteem, introduction to job

opportunities, teaching basic skills to find a job, etc. 3. Follow-up programs.

Korea, as a nation and as a people, might appear rich to those outside since it is among the fastest growing economies in the region. But the number of people, young and old, who have been displaced by progress and are left in the streets to fend for themselves has been increasing dramatically.

The plight of young people who live in the streets and are victims of drug traffickers cannot be over-emphasized. Most of them have resorted to drugs as a result of their traumatic family experience. One young man in his early 20's said: "My mother left us when I was fifth grade in elementary school and my father killed himself from the shock. I have lived in the streets since then." Drugs, unwanted pregnancies, vagrancies, a life without a future are the "daily bread" of the homeless youth of Korea.



Anna's House counsellor, Andrea, (now an OMI aspirant) with some of his wards.

The center has started a counseling service for the homeless youth. With it's meager budget, it hires a professional counselor. One of the counselors, Andrea, who has a degree in counseling and was one of the most active in counseling the youth has decided to join the Oblates! The center's loss and the Oblates' gain!

Vincenzo constantly appears on Korea's popular magazines and TV programs to make appeal for his ministry. He has been recognized by the city of Songnam for his efforts, the only foreigner who has received such award.

## FORMATION NEWS



Br. A. Horiuchi with Indian scholastics.



Scholastics Akio HORIUCHI and Kenichi FURUKAWA came back from their month-long summer exposure program, in India and the Philippines, respectively. Akio was able to visit the different formation houses in the delegation and a few missions in the fast-growing delegation. He was under the supervision of Fr. Francis NALLAPPAN, Superior of scholastics in India. Kenichi had a rich experience with the large seminary communities in Manila (more than 80 juniors and about 12 scholastics). He was asked to teach Japanese language to a group of juniors. He was under the supervision of Fr. Manny MINA, Superior of scholastics in Philippines.



Three new deacons, Brs. Jerry, Howard and Gil, are flanked by Bsp. Lampon (ordaining bishop), Br. K. Furukawa, Fr. F. Labaglay (Phil. Provincial) and Fr. W. Laguidao.

Incidentally, the two Filipino scholastics who were with us for two years, Brs. Jerry VILLAS and Howard TATEL, were ordained to the diaconate last August 18. Congratulations!

### COURSE FOR FORMATORS

Br. Nobu YAGI will attend a psycho-spiritual course for formators at the Oblate Missionary Center in Manila from October 20 to December 20. The course is a project of the Asia Oceania Conference of Formators. Resource person is Fr. Silvaratnam, OMI of Jaffna Province and the staff of his center which is based in London, England.

Brs. Jerry and Howard distribute Holy Communion.



### WORLD YOUTH DAY 2002

Preparations are underway for the World Youth Day 2002 which will be held in Toronto, Canada. An Oblate gathering will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape from July 18-21, for youths from Oblate places around the world, before the World Youth Day proper. Leo KAWAGUCHI and Ray BOURGOIN have been asked to lead the delegation of young people from Oblate parishes in Japan.

### JAPANESE OBLATE SHARING FUND

During its most recent meeting last September 3rd, the Finance Committee (members: Ray BOURGOIN-secretary, Leo KAWAGUCHI, Ange SIANI and Brad ROZAIRO), made headway in its effort to draft the Vice Province's "finance directory." Among the items discussed was the plan, that will be submitted for approval, to set up a Japanese Oblate Sharing Fund, a humble effort to participate in existing network of sharing funds that help other units in the Asia-Oceania region. During the past years, the Vice Province have been helping small projects in the region.

### From Fran

Francis HAHN

After a terribly hot summer things have cooled off somewhat but I doubt that I will last. I always anticipate the worst, and then I'm never disappointed! From Sept and the Retreat things will get hectic here. The Diocesan Day will see the Bishop come to confirm 25 in Naruto. 13 from here. I've spent two Saturdays a month, since April, preparing the 13 from here, and today, Aug. 31st, we have mini retreat, from then on it's up to them and the Holy Spirit, not necessarily in that order! I have a bible class at the NHK Culture center, twice a month and will be teaching weekly at a Junior college 3 hrs of English conversation, to 100 students, 50 per class, and that's as lot of fun, but need the income. Then we have the monthly meetings in Ikeda, they've asked me to be on the Kindergarten Board, as Kanji, so that's another trip to Koga this month, the parish is getting Bazaar fever, and I have been asked to be the head of the Shimin Christmas, this year, which is all honorary and no work, but you have to attend the preparations and smile. Anyway I'm not listing these things to try and impress any one, I can think of 30 of you who have a lot more going than that, but still it's a bit much to think how my life flies, and you want to pull the break cord but there is none. Besides all that there's the animation committee, a truly important service, I've started a parish visitation, and there are about 8 to 10 people who are preparing for baptism. Thank God the flower watering and grass cutting will end soon. (~o~). Dave Ullrich will be in Japan next month (Oct.) and I hope he'll be down for a few days, and my cousin who lived in Hiroshima may be over for the Bazaar. Life marches on so I'd better get in line and go with the flow. Haven't written for the newsletter in so long that I'm feeling guilty, but now that I've gotten that off my chest, I can relax probably and sit back and read your contributions. I like doing that more.

### キリシタンの島訪問記

Takaji IWO

7月16日(月)朝10時過ぎ、吉塚教会出発。川口神父様の運転で乾神父様と三人で上五島訪問に出発した。上五島訪問を思い付いたのは、吉塚教会で結婚する青年たちは、ほとんどが上五島出身者なので、是非一度見ておきたかった。正午前、佐世保に到着。午後2時のフェリーで上五島に向



かった。梅雨の晴れ間で海はおだやかであった。午後4時45五分、有川港に着く。これから丸尾教会、青砂ヶ浦教会、曾根教会を訪問。午後7時、ホテル新魚の目に着く。翌17日(火)朝9時出発、絵袋教会に10時頃着き、これより再び南下して、桐教会に行き、次いで奈良尾港で昼食をする。帰り浜串教会を経て、鯛ノ浦教会訪問。旧天主堂は信徒会館になっていた。ルルドは非常に美しく、水が今こんこんと湧いていた。上五島には30の教会があり、各漁村に教会があった。神の島、キリシタンの島である。

7月15日(日)午後から川口神父様の実家訪問にお供をして天草に行った。崎津教会に着いたのは午後6時であった。7時頃、川口神父様の家に行き夕食の後、民宿に行った。翌朝、大江教会で御ミサをし、昼食の後本渡教会を訪問し、キリシタン資料館に行った。天草四郎の像と聖体とカリスの画かれた旗を見た。鬼頭港からフェリーで長崎の口津港に渡り、島原を経て午後8時30分、吉塚に帰った。天草の地からヨーロッパ文化が入ってきたことに驚いた旅だった。

## From Bert

Bertram N. SILVER

"Would you be kind enough to come here..."



Mass at Grotto of Apparition of Blessed Mother

## Lourdes, France



From the 23rd of July until the 4th of August in Italy, we were able to visit the General House, Orvieto, Assisi, Siena, Florence.

Then in France to Lisieux. After saying Mass at the Carmel convent where the remains of St. Therese are, we then went on to Lourdes. The morning Eucharist at the Grotto was a moving experience for me. We also attended the International Eucharist.



Those in the group were from Kochi, Ariake, and Naruto

Before the International Mass I met two of the Oblates working at the Shrine. At the Mass I was able to distribute Communion to the sick.



All in all an excellent Pilgrimage Bert, OMI



## From Xave to All,

Yoshikazu TOSA

The oldest brother of the family Delporte became a Jesuit missionary in India. After working there for a 55 years and more, the doctors decided on a heart bypass operation. That would be better done in Europe, they thought. However the doctors in Europe

where not of the same opinion. Instead they operated him on the left eye and his prostate. When he left India, it looked like his superiors would keep him in Belgium. In spite of that he decided to leave his sweet birthplace and travel back eastward. If there would be no room anymore in the Jesuit house, he would find a place in a Trappist convent.

The youngest of the family Delporte who lives in Canada, got a cancer operation on the breast. The doctor seems to be satisfied with her work. I proposed to take a few days vacation after the trouble is over and cross the oceans, but she refused: "... a waste of money. Come when I can dance again ..."

The middle one of the family Delporte is going to be a volunteer in the second 'National Athletic Meeting for Handicapped People' to be held in Kochi next year. The prefecture is recruiting 430 volunteers. I signed up for the deaf and dumb people. Every week there is a special training in sign language for two hours. I can already sign my name and "thank you"...

## Anniversaries

### ■ Birthday:

#### October

05 1973 Ken-ichi FURUKAWA  
10 1923 Jan VAN HOYDONCK  
13 1963 Akio HORIUCHI  
27 1927 Xave TOSA  
30 1964 Brad ROZAIRO

#### December

20 1970 Varam ANTHONYSAMY  
24 1934 Mike YAMASAKI

### ■ Ordination / Final Vows:

#### October

01 1988 Mauro CONCARDI  
19 1991 Maurizio GIORGIANNI

## From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

Christmas Issue Deadline: Dec. 1st. Please send your contributions to wencylag@ta2.so-net.ne.jp (by email) or by fax to Itami since I will be in Manila from Oct. 18 to Dec. 26. Thanks.



Retreat 2001. Retreatants with Fr. David Power, OMI, retreat master.