

Antony Mary Shudayana

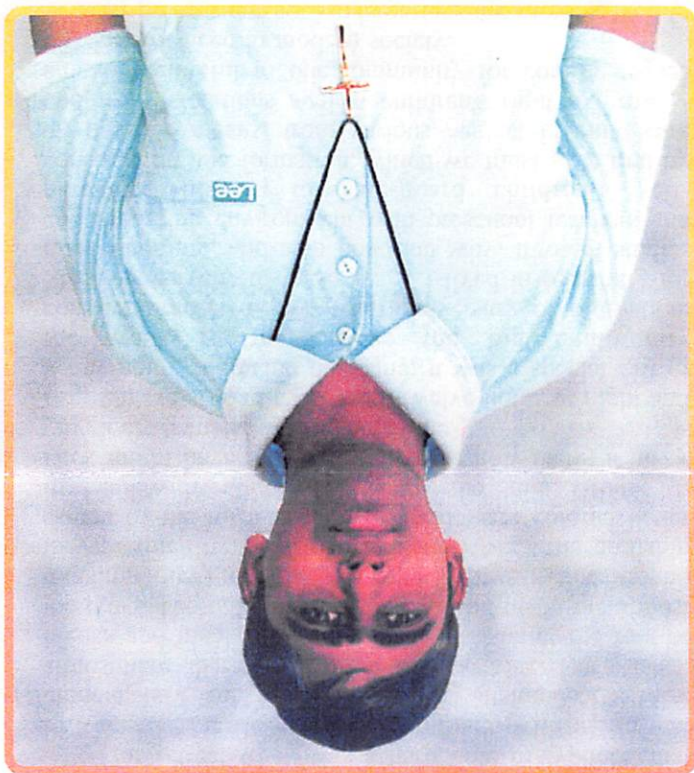
God Bless You  
With prayer and love

Abraham was called by the Lord to go to a new land which was unknown to him. Moses was sent to Egypt in order to redeem the people of Israel. The God of Japan has called me to work with the people of Japan. In spite of different culture, food and language. Oblates from many countries have served the people of Japan since 1948.

August 31<sup>st</sup> 2004 when I landed in Japan I felt happy and thought of the Missionaries who had arrived here before. That (Aug. 31) same evening, I met the Oblates at the Retreat house, in Fukuoka. The warm welcome which you extended to me was really a wonderful one. I felt that you were longing to see me in your midst. I really felt at home with you all. I am happy just because I am an Oblate. I didn't have any fear of coming to Japan because it is also an Oblate world.

I hope and pray that the Lord who helped the Missionaries, may continue to help me to learn the language and the culture better in order to serve the people of Japan.

Dear Oblates in Japan and Korea



Fr. Iru,  
Welcome  
to  
JAPAN

O.M.I. JAPAN/KOREA



OMI Information  
Newsletter ; General Delegation of Japan

2004

SEPTEMBER

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate



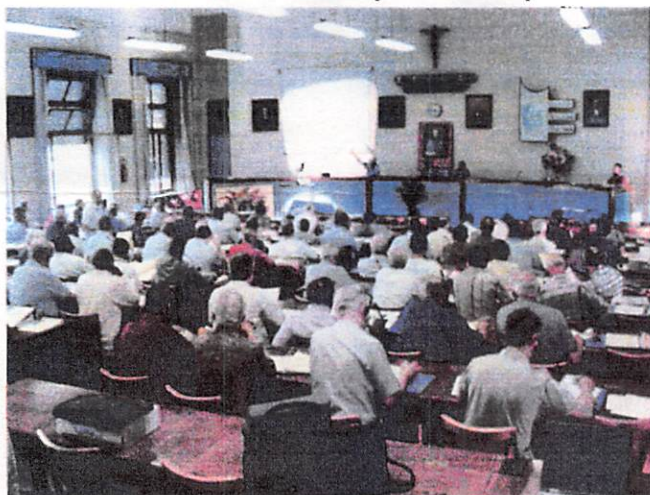
## From the Provincial's desk:

Dear Oblate Brothers,

Ron LaFramboise met me at Da Vinci Airport. I was glad he came and it soon became evident that he has mastered the Roman way of driving as we sped to Via Aurelia.

Mauro, in good health, is busy in his new Ministry as Assistant General Treasurer. Mauro and I had a chance to chat before he left for Lyons to learn French. Kenichi returned from Ireland just in time for our American style barbeque. He was in Ireland to study English.

The 34th General Chapter began on August 29th. There were 96 Oblates and 6 Lay Associates present.



The Regional Reports were presented and discussed during the first week. It was also a time for getting acquainted with the Chapter participants.

Father General gave his State of the Congregation Report on September 2nd. His message was highlighted by the words FAITHFULNESS and CHANGE. He states "We Oblates exist to evangelize the poor and it is only by remaining faithful to our mission that we have a right to exist. As a Congregation we are also experiencing an exceptional time of change. In such a time faithfulness cannot mean to continue the same as always. Paradoxically, today, if we want to remain faithful to what we are, communities of missionaries to the poor and abandoned, we need to change.

Some areas Fr. General outlined were; internationality, the sharing of personnel and finances; new ways of mission in a secular world; first formation including internationality and finances; the changes in demography and it's affect ie. growth in Africa Asia and South America while there is a decline in the first world countries ; community and religious life. He pointed out that although 800 Oblates live alone, the Oblates were constituted as religious that live in apostolic communities. Today, the conviction that "evangelization is not the work of lone rangers, but is a community effort" has been restated.

It was noted by the assembly that the Immense Hope Project was the source of an important movement of renewal in the Congregation. It has helped all to grow in co-responsibility. It has opened us Oblates to one another and also to other Units. The fruits of this project will unfold and be the work of the Chapter for the next number of days.

The election of the Superior General and Assistants

as well as Regional Councilors will take place during the third week of September.

We have a lot of work before us. Please keep us in your prayers.

In Jesus & Mary Immaculate,

Angé  
Superior, General Delegation of Japan

## My Gratitude for the retreat and the commemoration of 40th anniversary of my ordination

Len M. Inui

Our retreat week was a hard time of typhoon that Fr. Richard MacAlear had to go through with us. In that climate, however, I have felt a very genuine or sincere atmosphere there: at most Fr. Dick MacAlear's talks, breaks and meals, and community oraison at the foot of the cross. His talks were so natural and made me almost touching our Founder's movements at Aix and around the sea-smelling town of Marseilles. My little and thin sketch of the hill side and the port were colored better in detail with enlightened story of the Saint. I think Fr. Dick might have met the saint some how there; a lucky guy, a charismatic messenger to me.

On the second day I slept twelve hours at night and a few hours following day time: it was a special gift of the week to me, above the big community commemoration of my 40th anniversary of ordination. Most of the time of these years, I lived in searching for man-becoming, and also how and why, through studies and preparing environment with preschool teachers and parents. This is to safe-guard children's self-construction and formation, which we must save first by all possible means, from various neglect in child care and from violations against children's right to grow. I am very grateful to our community for coming to see this kind of need in modern society.

At present our six kindergartens are moving well to fulfill the task through effective studies and training in Montessori philosophy and methods; for this movement I and the staff of the schools appreciate very much the devoted work of Ms. Assumpta Chiyoko Hirowatari of Akenohoshi Kindergarten in Koga, of which Fr. Angelo Siani, OMI is the principal. I am always encouraged in seeing the deep joy of the children in the school. DEO GRATIAS and PEACE of HIS KINGDOM TO ALL!

## Class reunions

Xavier Yoshikazu TOSA

On August 14, a Saturday evening, I attended the class reunion of the Aki Junior H. School graduates of the year 1959. Well counted, I graduated 45 years ago. My classmates are turning 60 and thinking of their pension. They all remember me very well, not as a good student but as a good soccer player. 45 years ago the Ministry of Education tried to introduce a "new" sport. Can you imagine, about 50 boys all at the same time trying to kick that one ball?!

On August 12, there was another class reunion in Kochi this time, rather on a small scale. Six former ESS members of the same class of Kochi All Women University, got together after 14 years "not seen". I remember them all very well. I remember even their names. Now they all have another name and 2, 3 or 4 children! I am happy when I meet them. Somehow I have a feeling that my missionary life was not in vain,



only I am a little bit jealous when I see their children.

On September 18, there will be still another reunion of the ESS club of the same University. This one seems to be on a larger scale. It might be a "thank you" and at the same time a "farewell" party. Who will be there? Will I remember their names? Maybe not, but I remember certainly their faces, a little more mature, of course. These reunions bring back long years of memories, memories of different colors.

At the retreat some asked how I was doing. This is what I tell everybody: In general not so bad. Is it just aging or my weak heart but I forget names of people and places, and when speaking I have to look for words. When walking, I sometimes lose my balance. My legs are easily tired and I walk very slowly. Sometimes I feel I like to sit down. And it is getting more difficult to love my enemies.

## Harmony Delegation Council

Vincenzo BORDO



As everybody knows the delegation council is doing very well. Why? The reason is that the political wing of the council (wise deep thinking... and bold) and the military wing of the council (revolutionary tough...and long haired) are working together with love and harmony. For this reason, a bright future is ahead for the delegation.

## A Wonderful Vacation

Bill Maher

In June and July I was able to spend three weeks in the States. As explained in the last news letter I attended an 'all classes reunion', of my minor seminary held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, run by the Oblates. Over 99 former seminarians came and with the wives or children 130. I stayed at Kings House Retreat Center and was able to meet many Oblates whom I knew and I had a chance to visit the graveyard where I also knew most of them. I thought, 'my, my, everyone died so young' but then I was reminded that I am 66. We were able over a period of three days to leisurely renew old acquaintances and make some new ones. My classmate Jim Allen gave a beautiful homily at the Mass, and slides from the old days and remarks about them were enjoyed by all.

I'm singing a new song called 'Lord we don't need anymore typhoons we've had typhoons enough'. How about this, they seem to be lining up to come through Tokushima. Actually we've been very lucky damage wise, nothing really bad here. I'm writing this before the retreat so I'm still worried about the big typhoon that's supposed to arrive tomorrow or the next day.

The shocking news that Fr. Sasaki drowned yesterday has not really been accepted by my mind yet. It will hit me when I go to the wake tomorrow. I'm not sure what the Lord has in mind, he was only 46. He had just helped me out with some marriage cases so I got a chance to meet him. Let's keep him in our prayers.

## Sport-Page 男が泣くとき

John IWO

今年の夏は甲子園の高校野球から始まり、アテネのオリンピックゲームで、毎日テレビ、新聞がにぎわった。私にとっては、やはり高校野球は見のがせないもので、特に終盤はできるだけ見るようにした。毎日の新聞も取ってある。初めは勝つように思われたチームが、終盤になって逆転される時には力がある。中京対浦和、京都外大西対横浜、熊本工対明德、日大三対駒大苫小牧、ドラゴン試合となった千葉対東北、横浜対明德、聖光学院対東海大甲府、中京対済美、済美対千葉、優勝戦の済美対駒大苫小牧は打ち合いと、点の取り合いで、ハラハラ、ドキドキであった。最後は皆泣いていた。甲子園は力を出しきった(尽くした)男が泣く所である。

アテネ五輪は大きく力強そうな外国人に勝っていく日本人を見て、努力の賜物だと思った。特に体操団体競技やシンクロナイズドスイミングは驚異のものであった。

私たちも最後の栄冠、オリーブの冠を得る様に努力しなければならない。

## From Bert

Bertram Nathan SILVER

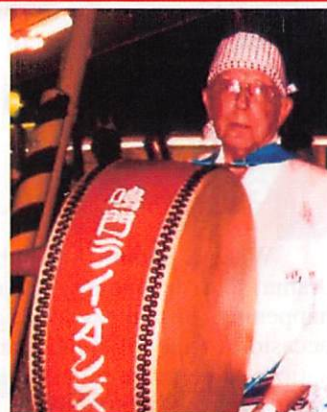


Aug.10,2004

Awa Odori

Naruto

The Awa Odori with the Lion's Club...the end of a great summer!  
Bert



## What you see, What you get

John Kenney MAHONEY

The time to say a few words to the Japan /Korea Delgation has arrived once more. As the deadline for this comes a short time after the annual retreat there is not too much to SAY THAT IS NEW. This year I have a bit more pressure than heretofore. Bro. Yagi, the editor and I, the contributor are now living together in the Koga Community. Bro. being both a gentleman and a gentle man is not one to put on pressure. This very fact increases my desire to contribute something but



what?

I seem to be in a confused state of mind. While looking through my files in search of some hints I came across this picture. I think it is a good representation of my state of mind at this time.



As I type this I can hear the voices of our kindergarten children playing outside. They seem to be running around with great delight, forgetting the last few days of rainy typhoon weather that kept them at home. From my

window I looked at the playing children with their red and white caps. The little girls were dressed in many bright colors. Boys were not so brightly clothed perhaps they were more concerned about winning races than in how they looked. Amidst all this the voice of Mister Nakata who was wearing somber brown could be heard encouraging the children to enjoy the weather and the fun they were having.

The sights and sounds once again caused me to look at this picture.

## GOD AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Giovanni ZEVOLA

What a show! A combination of culture, history, drama and technology, that is what we have seen happening in Athens during the past month. On the occasion of the Olympic Games more than two hundred nations have come together in one place to celebrate the inner desire of humanity to be one while competing in showing the best of us. A great competition for peace, harmony and respect among nations, this is what the Olympic Games are all about. Every four years this event takes place in a different country by rotation and this time the games went back to Greece, the place where they originally started. At the opening ceremony the Greek organizer could proudly say "Welcome home", the Olympic Games were celebrated in fact in their native land. This is our human way of celebrating the Games, every four years all nations come together to compete in one place.

I do imagine God being very much connected with

the Olympic Games; God is always, at any time looking at all of us as one family coming together to celebrate, that is His fundamental project, "all to be one". This is the dream God has for all of us, seeing all His children together in peace and harmony, coming back to Him and there listening to His words "Welcome home", back to our native place. Is it too much to see God in this way? To consider ourselves athletes competing in order to show the best that we have within ourselves? When I look at the migrants I see people from many nations coming to one place and are we showing the goodness that is within our hearts? In order to compete at the



Olympic Games is not enough for the athletes to have the desire to be there, they have to qualify, to daily practice their skills, to keep training themselves. Practice, concentration, teamwork pave the way for success; consider what happened to the US basketball team, they surprisingly lost their games for lack of those requirements.

To you migrants I'd like to make a strong invitation to compete, to train yourselves; do not give up because of the difficulties, keep practicing and believe in yourself! Recently we witnessed many problems arising among the workers and there is no one to blame but ourselves and the way we conduct our lives.

Let us reconsider our vocation:

- we are good athletes
- we need daily practice of our skills
- we are competing at the Olympic Games

organized by God himself

Be aware of this and get ready to gladly hear God saying to all of us :

"Welcome home".



### ■ ASIAN OBLATE BISHOPS AT 'FABC' (in Korea, Taejon)

The Asian bishops' representatives gathered in South Korea from August 17-23, 2004 for the 8th FABC Plenary Assembly. The Plenary Assembly discussed on

the theme 'THE ASIAN FAMILY TOWARD A CULTURE OF LIFE'. And there were two Oblate bishop participants, viz., Archbishop Orlando Quevedo from the Philippines and Bishop Khamsey from Laos.

The National Catholic REPORTER quoted:





“Archbishop Orlando Quevedo from the Philippines, the single most important author of recent FABC documents, working with FABC staff, hammered out a 15,000-word document on family life. It was sent to all Asian bishop conferences in January 2004. Responses were due by July 2004. Quevedo then incorporated those responses into the working paper through various drafts. The result of that work is the draft of the instrumentum laboris distributed to the bishops upon their arrival here. The work has been tedious, but has been aimed at reaching a general consensus”. (Reported from: The National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company. Aug 17, 2004)

The Oblates in Korea went to visit these Oblate bishops on the final day of the Assembly. It was a nice moment to share our Oblate bond. We too shared a very light moment with many jokes while engaging ourselves on a discussion on the FABC Assembly's outcome.



From left to right, first row: Fr. Varian OMI, Bishop Salvadore Lobo (India), Br. Khamsey, OMI, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo OMI, Fr. Vincenzo OMI, second row: Fr. Maurizio OMI and Giovanni OMI

#### ■ Summer Vacation of Oblates Brothers

During this (2004) summer vacation, each of the Oblate seminarians had been assigned to some voluntary service at Stella Maris (home for disabled), Ant Industry (tiny candle making industry for handicapped people, and House of Anna (Center for homeless). At Stella Maris, Br. Anselmo had been with the disabled and on the weekends he served at the hospital at Aju University. At Ant Industry, Br. Joseph helped to make candles with the disabled and on the weekends he served at a church, teaching catechism to children. At the House of Anna Br. Michael had been helping in the service for homeless people and also helped in shelter for street/homeless youth and on weekends he served at Emmaus (A center for Migrant Workers).

The students write: “like these, even though we were busy and felt difficult in Stella Maris, Ant Industry, and House of Anna, we have had meaningful experiences by the grace of God during the whole

month of July 2004.”



And then, in August there were a lot of summer camps. Br. Anselmo and Br. Michael went for a camp to Jumunjin Beach with the children in a group home, run by Franciscan Sisters of Assisi, for 2 /3 days. Br. Joseph participated in a camp held in a retreat house with the disabled in Ant Industry.

After the camps, they had individual vacation with their families. Especially in this time, formators visited their houses (of the students). So they had meaningful vacations.

After their vacation, they had a retreat together with our fathers at Franciscan retreat house for 3 days. With this retreat, we could finish our summer vacation program on a joyful note.

#### ■ Summer Retreat

The purpose was to experience the love of God by uniting ourselves with the nature. The summer retreat took place at the Franciscan sisters of Assisi retreat center in Yangyang, from August 25-27. While enjoying beautiful scenery of Gangwon province and experiencing the love of God, we got to realize for ourselves that this love of God in nature has to be revealed to all our brethren otherwise it is useless.



Summer Retreat: "One with nature", Yangyang

As we are one, as brothers and sisters, we can also be one in our relationship with God. To be one means to be united in heart and mind. This unity does not mean uniformity but unity in our diversity.

To live as Oblates is to fulfill our mission of proclaiming God's Word to the most abandoned and the



poor with their many faces as our Constitution tells us.

During this retreat 'one with the nature', we realized and had the opportunity to meditate that the love of God is complete with love of my neighbors. And in this sense the immediate neighbors are not out somewhere in the air but they are our own community members with their ups and downs and the people we are sent to serve and above all my own self. The retreat was rich as we had chances to share our experiences during the ministries at different places and meditation on the Founder's letters and shared prayers. And at the end we concluded our retreat with a solemn Eucharist and communal confession.

## ■ News from Anna's House Center for the Homeless and street youth

↓ Annual Meeting for Volunteers in Anna's house



Anna's house steering committee meeting ↓

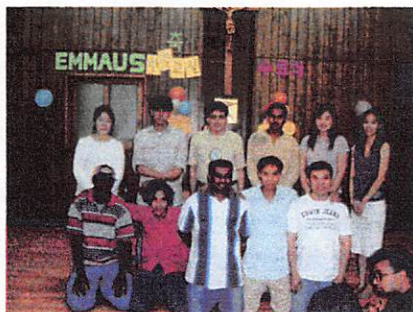


## ■ News from Emmaus (Center for migrant workers)

↓ Emmaus volunteers' formation day



Emmaus - Korean language graduation ↓



↓ Festival for foreigners in Korean Church



Basketball tournament for foreigners ↓



## 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.

## 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

December

03 2002 Antonysamy Irudayaraj

