



O.M.I. JAPAN/KOREA

OMI Information

Newsletter ; General Delegation of Japan

SEPTEMBER

2005

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

From the Delegation Superior's desk:

Dear Brother Oblates,

It has been a long hot summer but I hope we've all had a chance to enjoy it.

In November 2005, I will attend the Orientation Session for Major Superiors in Rome. The process will be to focus on each Oblate Unit (Province or Delegation) viewed through the lens of its Immense Hope Project. The aim will be to review the life and mission of each Unit. The review will build on all that has been accomplished to this point through the Immense Hope Project.

The areas to be considered are:

1. The General Delegation's mission statement. Japan/Korea.
2. The external ministries through which the mission is directly implemented.
3. The ministries of formation, administration and retired living.
4. The personnel (present and projected) to carry out the mission and ministries.
5. The material and financial resources to maintain in the present and future the life and mission of the Unit.

The sessions on Japan/Korea will have a strong influence on our future status in the Congregation.

I draw your attention to number 4, the question of personnel. For Japan/Korea this may be the main issue. VOCATIONS

We are ageing and many are wondering if the work they have built up will continue. We need vocations. We need men who in the words of St. Eugene wish to follow in the footsteps of their divine Master Jesus Christ. Vocations It's each Oblate's work. It is also what we are as Oblates, what image we project?

Ange Siani, OMI

Pro Life goes to Indonesia

Jerry NOVOTNY

Kansai was hot as I boarded the Singapore 727 which would fly me to Indonesia with one stopover in Singapore. The Airlines, being punctual, closed the boarding gate 10 minutes before departure and soon we were cruising at a speed of 550 miles per hour and an altitude of 35,000 feet.



Favorite Air Lines

The 12th Asia Pacific Congress on Love, Life and Family was the first to be held in Bali, Indonesia. I was introduced to Indonesian culture by the in-flight magazine. The fourth most populous country in the world, Indonesia comprises more than 13,000 islands extending 3,000 miles along the equator from The Malaysia mainland toward Australia with a population of 188,216,000.

There are more than 100 active volcanoes and earthquakes are frequent but usually not severe. The tsunami that hit recently was an exception.

More than 300 languages are spoken in Indonesia. The official language is Bahasa and English is a second language. Almost 90% of the population is Muslim, making Indonesia the largest Islamic nation in the world. Slightly less than 10% of the population is Christian, and about 2% is Hindu and 1% Buddhist. Hindus are concentrated principally on Bali, which is known for its unique culture. Our Conference was held in Bali, about ten minutes away from the hotel that was

bombed by terrorists two years ago and over 200 killed, not to mention the hundreds injured.

We arrived in Bali 10:30 in the evening and were met at the airport by a welcoming committee with big smiles. The Conference began the next morning with Mass at 6 am with Archbishop Malcolm Ranjith, Apostolic Nuncio to Indonesia and Timor, the main celebrant, the bishop of Jakarta, 20 priests and about 300 delegates.



Sri Lanka Delegate

The Theme of the Conference this year was "The Family Towards a Culture of Integral Life." On our first day, we had good informative talks:

1. "Family towards a culture of Integral Life" by Archbishop Malcolm Rahjith.
2. "Towards a Culture of life in Asia Pacific" by Fr. Jeremias Bala Pito Duan, MSF.
3. "The Implications of People's Attitude Toward Abortion" by Mr. Michael Dua
4. "The International ProLife Movement" by Fr. Thomas J. Euteneur.
5. "The ProLife Movement in Indonesia" by Dr. Angela N. Abidin.

Following the lectures, group discussions were held on country/regional situational analysis.

Our second day begin with the Eucharistic Celebration at 6 am. At 8 am the talks started with:

1. "The Theology of Marriage and Family" by Fr. Tom Euteneur.

2. "The Spirituality of Marriage and Family" by His Excellency, Msgr. A. Sudarso. SCJ.

3. "The Moral Reflection on Biotechnology and Euthanasia" by Rev. Kusmaryanto. SCJ.

4. "The Dignity of Relationship in the Family" by Murni-JMP

5. "Strategic Planning" by Mr. Marlon Ramirez.

Following the lectures, group discussions were held on "What can we do?"

The third and final day began with breakfast at 6 am and conference beginning at 7 am.

1. Plenary Sessions I: Recommendations presented by Overseas and Indonesian Delegates.

2. Plenary Sessions II: Recommendations presented by the Indonesian Steering Committee.

3. Closing Ceremony / Eucharistic Celebration / and the reading of the Delegates's Declaration.

In closing, I'd like to mention Indonesia is truly a unique Island country with ancient traditions. The people on Bali possess a genuine sense of inner happiness that is perhaps attributed to their strong Hindu faith. But like other Asian countries, the family structure is being bombarded by a number of problems: abortion, birth control, bioethics, homosexuality, HIV/AIDS, euthanasia, etc.

Poverty also exists here, much like the Philippines. Indonesia has a tremendous amount of natural resources, but due to internal governmental problems and corruption, poverty and hardships are experienced throughout the country. Labor unrest has been a persistent problem due to the tensions between the predominantly ethnic Chinese business owners and a workforce made up almost entirely of ethnic Malays.

Yet, as my plane lifted off the ground and headed back to Japan, I felt that I had just scratched the surface of a country which enjoys a rich culture, a complex history and a beautiful people. A poor people very close to the earth and yet deeply spiritual. Hopefully, someday I will be able to return and learn more of Indonesia's history which is recorded in its legends and preserved in its religions. On the other hand, the close family unity in Indonesia is facing many modern crossroads and challenges, our support and prayers are needed.

The following is the "Declaration of the Delegates of the 12th Asia Pacific Congress on Love, Life and the Family" which was held in Kuta Bali, Indonesia, August 5-7, 2005.

We, as representatives of many of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and leaders concerned about life and family, declare our readiness to contribute to the dialogue on the future of life and family in our region. As citizens and leaders of our own cultures, we also accept our own responsibility to participate in the strengthening of the family and the protection of human life and dignity in our region.

We call upon the governments and citizens of Asia to reaffirm the recognition-expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations - of the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all, including the inviolable right to life, as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in Asia.

Our shared identity as Asians is based upon recognition of the fundamental dignity of the human person, which is possessed by all and must always be respected, from conception until natural death. This intrinsic dignity is the basis of all human rights and must never be violated in any way. We therefore plead that every form of abortion be prohibited by law and that all life will be protected and welcomed in our societies and in our hearts.

Government, as servant of the primary institutions of social stability, marriage and family, must ensure the development of social and political conditions in which marriages and families will thrive and grow. We therefore plead with our government and social leaders that laws and policies will be implemented for the protection and strengthening of marriage and family as the basis of harmonious social life.

We recognize an Asian culture in which children and youth are considered a precious gift and resource, not a burden on society. We assert with conviction that our children are our future and that there is no such thing as an unwanted child. We declare that the population control programs from western powers which aim to reduce our fertility rates and violate our families

are destructive of Asian culture. We therefore plead with our government, our social leaders and most of all to our medical professionals, that they prohibit law all contraceptive programs and policies and help families to be prosperous, with authentic health care, social justice generous public assistance.

We commit ourselves to participate in the construction of Asia as a free association of peoples, respecting their unique civilizations, committed to the protection of fundamental human rights, and to creation of a renewed Asia based upon justice and authentic human values

(Adopted Sunday, August 7th, 2005 by family representatives from Indonesia, Belgium, China, Holland, Hong Kong, Japan, India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Korea, Thailand, and the United States.)



Singapore Delegate



Chinese Delegation
(Indonesian Garment)



Hindu Temple

太陽の光を受けて

John IWO

暑かった夏も終わろうとしている。この夏の熱い太陽に顔を向けて、熱と光を全身に受け入れて、豊かな実を結ぶ植物がある。それは、ヒマワリや

イチジクである。教会の庭に一本のイチジクの木がある。数年前、鳴門の妹の家に沢山の果実をつけていたイチジクの小枝を持ち帰って、さし木にした。その小枝が成長して、毎年沢山の果実をつける。今年は特に二、三百の果実をつけている。毎日、イチジクのジャムを作っている。冷凍室はジャムで一杯になる。このイチジクを毎日見ているが、手のひらをひろげたように、葉を太陽に向けて一杯にひろげている。ヒマワリの花が太陽に向かってその光を一杯に受け取るように。イチジクもヒマワリも太陽の光を一杯受け入れて、豊かな実を結ぶ。私もイチジクやヒマワリのように、顔を太陽である神様に向けて、神様の光である恵みを一杯受け入れて、豊かな実を結びたい。

Nagoya Snap Shots

Nobuhiko YAGI



Community outing & sharing



A TASTE OF HEAVEN

Thomas MAHER

50,000 people from 92 countries (including Russia and China) had gathered in Toronto, Canada for the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, which is held once every five years. Men and women, old and young, different races and colors, different languages, different religious backgrounds...you name it...have gathered because of "the tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution (to our disease of alcoholism) on which we can absolutely agree and which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action." (The AA program of recovery)

It is truly a religious experience to attend such a gathering because "We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. (Step 2)" and Step 3 :: "made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him." The harmony, the peace, the joy and the love and sharing which permeated the gathering insured me that God was there. It was really a Taste of Heaven.

After the fall gathering of the Oblates in the

Passionist Retreat House, the 30th Anniversary Of AA in Japan was held in Fukuoka. Besides members from all the Prefectures in Japan, members from U.S.-Canada, Korea and Mongolia attended, I met many "old timers" whom I had not seen for a long time. Some of us "old timers" were asked to share our experience, strength and hope with those attending, close to 1,000.

I'll end with a short story from the book, "The Spirituality of imperfection" by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham, Bantam Books.

"Where is the dwelling of God?"

This was the question with which the rabbi of Kotzk surprised a number of learned men who happened to be visiting him.

They laughed at him : "what a thing to ask, is not the whole world full of his glory?"

Then he answered his own question.

"God dwells wherever man lets him in."

ABOUT COMMUNITY

John Kenney MAHONEY

In the morning I have the habit of walking. This began about ten years ago. During that period I have walked in many places.

My sister lives in Staten Island I enjoy the walks there. Over the years the trees planted on both sides of the road have grown so much that the branches from each side touch forming a tunnel of loaves. I find walking here very pleasant.

The people on the street have mostly been long time residents. Through the years the neighbors have formed a strong community spirit. In front of each home there is an American flag. When a child is born there is a large sign on the lawn announcing to all the neighbors as well as all who pass by the birth of this new neighbor. The spirit of community reaches its height at the time of the annual block party.

Now I am living in Koga. I am still walking. When I made my first exploratory ventures I came upon what has proven to be a delightful walking area. Thousand Bird Pond located in Thousand Bird Park. (It loses something in the translation)

There are not one thousand birds in the park or pond. There are a community of ducks who seem to have mastered the art of community living. When some walker tosses crumbs on the grass near the pond their seems to be a sense of sharing within the duck community, I have noticed that there is a tendency among the duck community to travel in threes. Not being an expert on ducks I am not sure of the exact reason for this. Maybe in the duck world it takes at least three to form a community.

Vow Day

Angelo SIANI

On October the 5th, Bro. Ken-ichi Furukawa will make his Perpetual Oblation.

Congratulations! The Oblate family is happy to celebrate with you.

Busy Busy Me

Francis HAHN

This summer was probably one of the busiest one's I have had in years. The pressure of trying to learn how to keep the finances in proper order, and of running a parish at the same time are part of the reason. The fact that Dave Ullrich was here for two weeks, a real pleasure in itself, but none the less trying to make sure

his visit was a good, one added something. The parish telephone system went crazy after a thunderstorm in July, and we had no phone service for days at a time. They come fix it, leave and two or three days later the same problem occurred. This repeated five times, till I finally convinced the parish council that we had to get a new system. That took two weeks more weeks and trying how to learn the interim systems they kept giving me to try and bridge the problem, was a challenge. One of those solutions was getting me a cell phone, which I still don't know how to use, and forget to carry.

With all these phone problems, there was the looming retreat and shopping to prepare for it, and keeping the Passionist informed on who would be there and who wouldn't and, a unique feature this year's retreat was the late arrivals and early departures of several. Not being able to phone or receive phone calls didn't help. That plus trying to remember what Ray said I have to bring to cover the different payments, anyway an endless list of little details for which I'm not particularly good at remembering all contributed to a feeling that I'm "busy". Then there were the three funerals, all at the end of July, given as an added bonus.

There were, however, several moments to relax. Dave and I went to visit with a family in Aichi prefecture, that we have had contact with more than 35 years, one which I've visit each year for a few days, and they treated us royally with a special over night stay at a wonderful seaside "Hot Spa" hotel, the likes of which I have never seen, and most probably will never see again. There were the many chances to see the Oblates, the summer camp and the trips to Kochi. Fr. Lagapay's visit gave us a chance to have some good meals in Kochi with the men there, and the support of Ray and Jude has been just fantastic, in getting this treasurer thing down. So all in all this "business" has been manageable.

Another main reason for the "busy feeling" was the 50th anniversary celebration that this parish held yesterday on 9/11. The preparations and details were many and while this parish runs quite well with the parishioners taking the initiative and doing all the work, still there were many details they had to come to me for, and "kimochi" problems that I had to help solve. The Bishop came and most of the former pastors attended, even one from France where he now works at their general House, and we had a great celebration. The bishop blessed a baptismal font, which the parish lacked, and which I thought would be a good symbol to start a new "fifty" years of evangelization with. The party afterwards was very relaxed and informal, the people all had a good time, the storm clouds that filled the sky the day before, mostly disappeared over night, and all went well.

Now I have two weddings looming In October and the preparation talks, plus the final 4 confirmation talks, each talk given three times so all can attend. We have about 12 middle-high school candidates and 8 adults from ages 23 to 73 in the class. The Confirmation will be in November. Then it's time to start packing and getting ready to move. I have to do it twice, from Mizumaki and from Kochi. All this listing of my "business" is not to impress or bore you, just to let you know where I' ve been and where I' m heading.

If I make some mistakes and bother you with stupid questions or make you check your reports, sometimes needlessly, it's my way of begging your patience. It will all settle down in God's good time, and in the meantime it is His way of getting me to discern

and turn my heart to what's really important, and to let go of the rest.

From Anan

Bertram Nathan SILVER



From Anan, Bert

This year for the bazaar, over and above the Christmas items, I have added some clocks!



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
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From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

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