



O.M.I. JAPAN/KOREA

OMI Information

Newsletter ; General Delegation of Japan

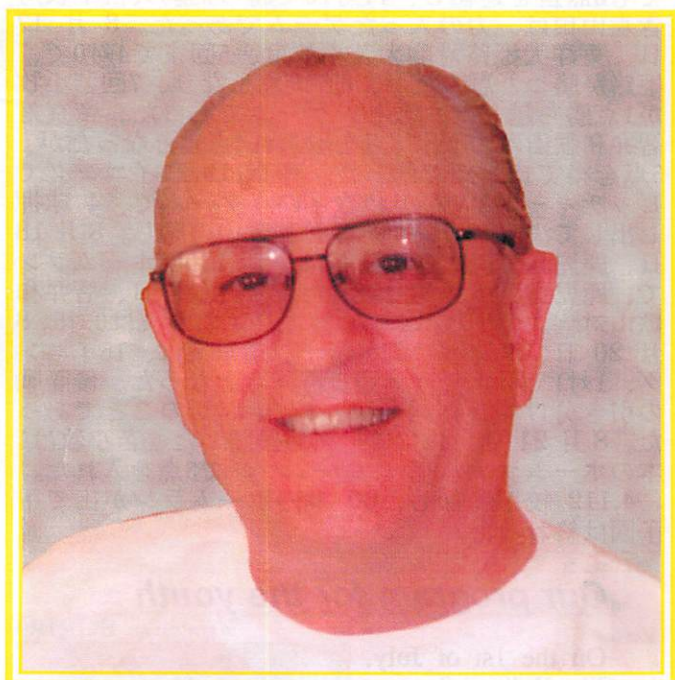
SEPTEMBER

2006

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

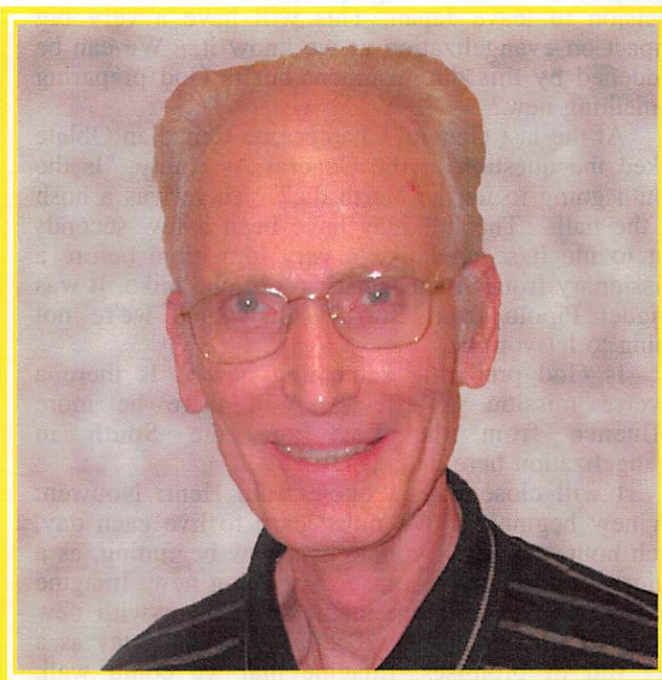
Congratulations!!

40th Anniversary of the ordination



Fr. Ray BOURGOIN

1966 – March 19th – 2006



Fr. Bill MAHER

1966 – April 26th – 2006

From the Provincial's desk:

Angelo SIANI

Dear Brother Oblates,

In 2007 a joint meeting of men and women Religious Superiors will be held from May 30 - June 1. In preparation for the meeting a forum was held in Tokyo which outlined the crises faced by religious orders and congregations and made proposals regarding the problems of evangelization. It was pointed out and the speakers insisted that it was time to transcend the differences among the various

religious orders and congregations so as to make a concerted practical effort towards evangelization.

The participants came up with no practical proposals and the questions remains: What can be expected for the near future?

In preparation for the Religious Superior's Meeting in order to have a common consciousness from the very start and in order to involve all the religious, we are asked to respond to the following question.

Can you suggest some common task or proposal that will merit the cooperation of all religious orders

and congregations and will lead to concrete action for evangelization in Japan? We are asked to make our answers as concrete as possible.

We've heard this question so many times an immediate reaction might be "Oh not again."

At our recent annual retreat Fr. Miguel Pipolo, OMI the Provincial of Brazil began the retreat with an invitation to READ THE SIGN OF THE TIMES. He asked the question "Am I different today than what I was 25 years ago? The same question can be asked of the Church and of religious congregations in Japan.

Wouldn't it be nice if the church could have some kind of common approach to the Asian mission?

If you would like to make some suggestions they are most welcome. Perhaps your impression about Team Ministry as it is experienced in Kochi, Tokushima and Itami could be a good starting point.

It is a fact that Religious Congregations are ageing and some congregations have made the decision to leave Japan. This will have a very big impact on evangelization as we know it. We can be saddened by this diminishment but is God preparing something new?

At the last General Chapter one Canadian Oblate asked the question in the General Assembly, "Is the South going to let the North die?". There was a hush in the hall. The lull may have been a few seconds but to me it seemed like a very long time before a missionary from South America took the mike. It was Miguel Pipolo from Brazil, "Of course we're not going to let you die."

Is God preparing something new? Is there a reverse mission in affect? Will there be more influence from the East and the South in evangelization here in Japan?

I will close with a quote from Henri Nouwen: "A new beginning! We must learn to live each day, each hour, yes, each minute as a new beginning, as a unique opportunity to make everything new. Imagine that we could live each moment pregnant with new promises. Imagine that we could walk each day as a day full of promises. Imagine that we could walk through a new year always listening to a voice saying to us: "I have a gift for you and can't wait for you to see it!"...We must choose to listen to that voice, and every choice will open us a little bit more to discover the new life hidden in the moment, waiting eagerly to be born."

Ange, OMI
Delegation Superior Japan

The Saint Paul Miki Catholic Church's 100th Anniversary

Bill MAHER

I'm not sure how the invitations are going to be sent or when but I want to invite you all to the 100th Anniversary of the Church. It will be held on November 23rd, 2006 starting with Mass at 10:00 am. We'd like to spend the time in a relaxed and prayerful way remembering the many blessings that we've been given over those many years. Things should be over by about 3:00 pm but your welcome to stay as long as you like. If you need a place to stay or any other assistance please let me know.

We were started by the Dominicans in Meiji 39 (1906), and the Oblates took over from the former Bishop Tanaka in Showa 24 (1949) in the person of Fr. Len Robitaille. Looking forward to seeing you in November.

夏だ！甲子園だ！

John IWO

灼熱の夏の甲子園は又、1000度にも達する高校野球の死にもものぐるいの戦いの場であった。

8月6日、開幕。初日の第3試合、横浜対大阪松陰の試合は、松蔭が11対6で逆転勝ち。8月8日第1試合、関西対文星芸大附は、文星が9回裏、3点差に逆転勝ちした。10対11、激闘であった。常総学院対今治西は8対11の打撃戦であった。八重山商工対千葉大附の延長逆転も素晴らしかった。福岡工大城東は専大北上(岩手)に対し、4対0で完封した。8月12日、鹿児島工対高知商業は緊迫したゲームで3対2であった。3回戦からになると、投手は疲れがたまって、生き生きとした姿が見られなくなった。その中でも6点差を逆転し、11対10で勝った駒大苫小牧対青森山田は、力が入ったゲームであった。8月17日、東洋大姫路対駒大苫小牧は、5回まで4対0で、姫路が勝つと思ったが、6回同点となり、7回苫小牧が1点勝ち越した。激しいゲームであった。帝京対智弁和歌山は、9回に8点を取られ4点差となったが、5点を得て12対13で勝った。帝京は9回1イニングでピッチャーが3人もかわるというゲームで、4球押し出して決着がついた。智弁和歌山の勝ち。8月18日、鹿児島工対福岡山成美は、延長10回ホームランで、鹿児島工が3対2で勝った。8月19日、智弁和歌山対駒大苫小牧は4対7、鹿児島工対早実0対5。8月20日、決勝戦は駒大苫小牧対早実、15イニング、1対1で引き分け。翌日再試合となった。優勝戦の引き分け翌日再試合は、37年ぶりのことであった。8月21日、4対3で早実が優勝した。苫小牧は1本のホームランと2ランホームランで3点を入れた。

4,112校が参加し、60本のホームランが出て甲子園は終わった。

Our program for the youth

Vincenzo BORDO

On the 1st of July, the City Hall of Seoung Nam officially approved the program of Anna House for the teen agers living on the streets. Actually this program started, little by little, since 1998 when some adult homeless, who came to our Center to have dinner, brought us some difficult kids living on the streets.

On the beginning we prepared an educational program, for those young people, who where abandoned by the family, dropped out of the school and were marginalized by the society and after few years with the help of the parish and a lot of volunteers we also started a shelter.

Now our program has a clear identity and is articulate in tree different houses: Benedict's House, Anna's House Group Home and Eugenio's House.

1- Benedict's House. This is a shelter where the run away teen agers can find the first help. They can



stay in this shelter for 6 months. In that time, with the help of professional people, they receive counseling, educational program..., and in dialogue with the client and his family, when it is possible, we try to bring him to his own family.



2- If for some reasons it isn't possible to return to his own home, and he wants to continue to go to school we offer him the possibility to stay in our 'Anna's House Group Home.' Here, while he continues to study, we offer him a family context where he can grow up as a healthy person integrated in the society.



3- The third level of our program is done in 'Eugenio's House.' Here those who can't follow the normal curriculum of studies, have the opportunity to start to work, under the supervision of specialized people, and enter in to the society in a healthy way. All those who complete this program and start their own life can enter our 'Mentoring Program' where an adult person follows up these boys and offers them the opportunity to have a reference point in their new life.

I WILL CALL HIM GERSHOM

Giovanni ZEVOLA

The rainy season is almost over and we are left with these nights where humidity seems to be your steady companion. Sweating all over looking for ways to get some breeze and yet a recurrent thought crossing my mind "you are but a foreigner". A simple thought, almost innocent at first, appearing and suddenly disappearing, like the face of someone you have been waiting for and yet being unable to let him stay, extending some welcome and let him be familiar. "You are a foreigner" first heard on the lips of those kids, jumping around you, staring at you strange face, shouting those words and running away, carried away by their laughter. And there you might think that being a foreigner is just a question of fitting in a different culture and language and the years would eventually bring you closer, to seat at the same table, enjoying in the host country not only their food but a more desirable "familiarity". No matter how good you are in the language and in the way you adjust to "the new and different" to the point of making them wonder how it is that "a foreigner" knows "their ways" and yet ... that same wonder in their eyes without words says "you are but a foreigner".

Eight o'clock in the evening, it is time to join the group for a walk that brings us around the fields and hills and while walking a lot of talks and sharing and there the question: "Do you go often home? How do you like being there?" The usual answers about visiting friends and relatives, enjoying food and company but there again that thought reappearing and

going, leaving behind that message "you are but a foreigner". And there you have to confess to yourself that is true, no matter how many the friends willing to open their doors, you are one, who in fact does not belong. You could be a possible guest, but not integral part of the family. The language they are speaking, your own native language sounds now strange to you, you hear the sounds but unable to understand the meaning any longer, because things have changed, persons have grown and you are a different one.

Being foreigner in a foreign land that could be understood even by those who are insisting but not convincing that "nothing is foreigner to a missionary". But I am saying that precisely because we are missionaries we feel much more that "being a foreigner" is a stable condition even at home. "Home is where you belong", but do we really belong to somewhere or to someone?

A common goal, being part of a community, the mission of the congregation ... not even these ideals have shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of that insistent thought. And now finally we start to learn from Moses that being leaders and pilgrims it is not a given but a learning experience. The baby Moses abandoned by his parents and welcomed by a young foreign lady; rejected by his own people and welcomed in the land of Midian; finding a home, a family, a spouse, having a baby and yet he has to confess to himself first and to all the people who will hear his son's name what he is, his own identity. "His wife bore a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said "I am but a foreigner" (Ex 2,22).

The rainy season is over, summer nights are almost gone, early in the morning the air is quite cold, a blanket is at hand to keep you warm, you and your new born baby. I will call him Gershom.

Journey For Life into the Heart of Asia - Sri Lanka

Jerry NOVOTNY

On the morning of August 16th, I picked up my ticket at Kansai International and boarded Thai Airlines for Sri Lanka with stops in Manila and Bangkok. After a 5-hour layover and a 2-hour delay, the



Textile workers

plane touched down in Colombo at 2 a.m. Dr. Resty Monzon, Mr. Marlon Ramirez, Dr. Eshan Dias and Sister Kathleen were patiently waiting for me in front of the airport building. Following a 1-hour drive to Colombo City, my 2-week adventure began five hours later -- an interview with a local newspaper.

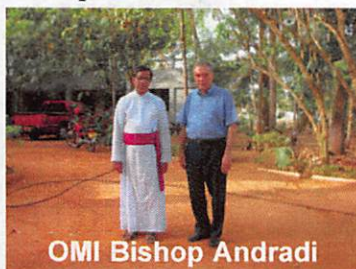


Sri Lanka boy, the future.

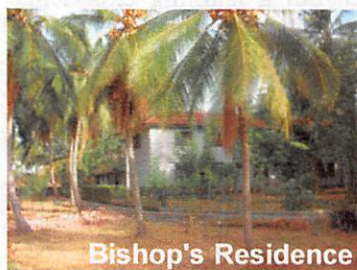
Caritas Sri Lanka and Cultural Vitae organized the Pro Family/Pro Life Issues tour which consisted of lectures to 19 different groups, two radio programs and five

newspaper interviews. To summarize, the two weeks were a tremendous learning and educational experience. The difficulties facing the population, the terrorists threat, the sufferings are all real. In spite of this, the people were wonderful, wanting more information than time would permit, yet bombarding me with many concrete questions on Family and Life Issues. Most of the lectures required translators.

Audiences included textile workers between 16 to 30 age group; the plantation workers in Kandy, requiring two translators: Tamil and Sinhalese; one day spent with OMI Bishop Andradi in Anuradhapura, he was my translator for a group of Family leaders from surrounding villages (also former professor of Jude and Brad, friend of Ange, Jack and others in Japan); the two Sundays placed me in OMI Parishes (Fr. Sriani and Fr. Bob) with Masses and sermons followed by lectures to parishioners; and finally talks to Leaders at the Colombo Caritas Diocesan Center, a number of Religious Convents and Buddhist groups. After my final Power Point Presentation at 8:30 p.m., Sunday evening



OMI Bishop Andradi

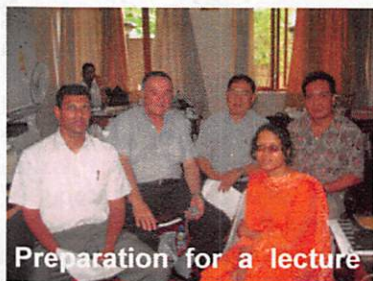


Bishop's Residence

(the 27th), I took a taxi to the Airport and shortly afterwards, began my return trip to Japan.

This time I call my two weeks an adventure because there was much traveling; many check points by both the police and soldiers, at least seven or more each day due to the tense terrorist situation which has filtered down from the North, resulting in long lines of buses, cars, trucks and three-wheelers. The police, soldiers and security people (many as young as 18-19-20, holding rifles with their index finger on the trigger) trust no one, and the ordinary people are the brunt of their continual search for terrorists. The tension is very high, yet the people manage to survive and tend to display a big smile when conversing with each other.

Sri Lanka is a beautiful country, has a rich history and culture. With stronger motivation, the



Preparation for a lecture

people will someday find peace and security. For the present, it faces a strong economic depression due to unplanned economic policies, globalization and the Northern conflict that has been

ranging for more than two decades.

Women, working in the migrant labor force (comprising 70%), consisting mainly of foreign-controlled garment industries and tea plantations, suffer exploitation due to extreme low wages and no work benefits. Both children and women come to the big city in search of employment. They become easy prey for traffickers. Many, including children as young as 8 years old, resort to commercial sex in order to meet their basic needs.

As my plane touched down in Osaka, I felt as if a part of me had remained in Sri Lanka. On the other hand, I also brought lingering memories back to Japan, memories of a people searching for a future. If today looks bleak, remember Emerson's words that a weed is a plant whose virtues haven't been discovered yet.

Nishi-Tokyo-shi

Jack DEELY

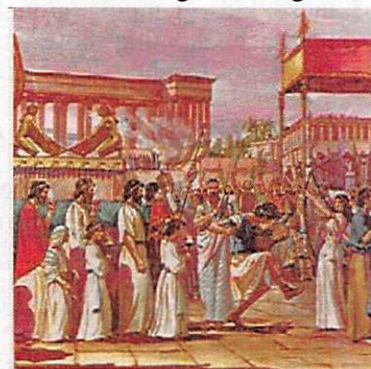
Usually, I have very little fresh/exciting news for the Newsletter, but this time I do have one item. I will be giving a "signed" retreat for the deaf Catholics of Sapporo & Asahikawa on 9/16 and 9/17 at Fuji-gakuen Seminar House, in Ishikari-shi, Hokkaido. If there's a good picture out of the batch that will probably be taken, I'll be sure to send it along in the next Newsletter.

It goes without saying that it was indeed great to see everyone for the first time since our Spring Meeting in Korea! Would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked to make our stay at the Fukuoka Retreat House as pleasant as possible. Must also thank those who prepared the Liturgy & Music everyday. All of which helped to make for a meaningful couple of days. As for the music during the Mass, I didn't want to disrupt your meditation, so I forced myself during each Mass to remain seated...I wonder --- was I the only one who felt like dancing...dancing like David?!

西東京市だより

皆さん、春の韓国の会議以来、久しぶりに会えてうれしかったです。いつもなら新しいニュースは無いと書くところですが、今回はひとつあります。9月16日から17日にかけて、北海道石狩市の藤学園のセミナーハウスで札幌や旭川周辺の聾者を対象にした手話黙想会を行います。いい写真があったら、次のニュースレターに載せて頂きたいと思ひます。

先日の黙想会の世話をしてくれた皆さん、ありがとう。ミサの中で典礼や音楽を担当してくれた皆さんも、ありがとう。おかげで充実した時間が



持てました。ところで、黙想の邪魔になると思い、我慢しましたが・・・あの音楽を聴きながら、ダビデのように踊り出したかったのは僕だけでしょうか？

Workshop

Bradly ROZAIRO

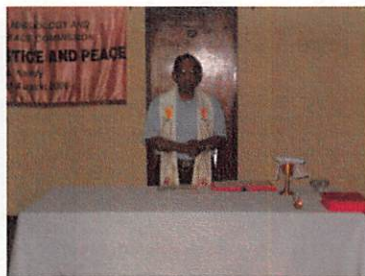
The Asian Institute of Missiology and OMI Justice & Peace Commission of Sri Lanka organized a workshop on Justice & Peace. It was held in Kandy, Sri Lanka from Aug.19 ~ 27. The theme of the program was "Training for Justice & Peace Creating a Better World with the Victims of Globalization". There were 30 participants from different denominations and organizations.

Professor Francois Houtart, from the university of Louvain, Belgium spoke on "The Impact of Globalization on the Third World and the Need for Global Justice". His vast knowledge and insights were very rich. I was really impressed by him. There were also three Oblates Frs.



Oswald Firth (our Assistant General), Seamus Finn (Oblate JPIC Rome) and Hilarion Dissanayake (Professor in Theology) who gave inputs on "Evolving a Spirituality of Justice". Dr. Shirley Wijesinghe (University Professor) spoke on "Bible and Justice". It was mainly based on the Old Testament.

The one week program had not only lectures but also group discussions, sharing, ecumenical mass, prayers, singing of songs in Tamil, Sinhala & English and an exposure. I, together with two others visited a plantation sector (a tea estate). In this estate there are lots of poor people whose living condition is very bad. There is no electricity, no medicine, no proper toilets and so on. These are uneducated people who get up very early in the morning and climb the hills of Kandy in cold and rain to pluck tea. They are not paid well and are deprived of their basic rights. I visited some of their houses and interviewed some children in that area. It was an experience.



On the last day Fr. Rohan Silva OMI helped us with some action plan. The group was asked to reflect on the following question: How can we, in our own little way, use our talents and abilities to have

another world? I think this is not only a question to reflect but also homework for the participants!

The workshop helped me to know the world outside better. I feel that I'm thrown into a situation where action has to take place. I also feel challenged. This program gave me an opportunity to practice my Tamil, meet some known people among the participants and at the same time make new friends. Looking at the participants I said to myself that there

are lots of young people who want to work for Justice and Peace in future. I think it is a good sign.

Thank you for taking time to read this report.

OMY Team meeting

Bradly ROZAIRO

The OMY (Oblate Ministry for Youth) team met at the retreat house in Munakata, Fukuoka on 7th Sept. at 7:00 pm. Those present were Nobi, Jude, Brad, Gen, Varam & Kenichi. Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the previous meeting was read. Some clarification concerning the function of OMY team and the Formation Committee was made.

As it was mentioned before, the OMY team will function as a group in charge for youth in our missions and support those in formation. But when it comes to dealing with candidates who are in formation and making decisions etc. the OMY team felt the need for a Formation Committee. The group wants to know whether there is a Formation Committee at present.

Formation and youth ministry in Korea:

There are 7 scholastics at the moment. Vocation is slowly growing in Korea. James and Varam are involved in the formation work. We shared our opinions in order to help and support formation team.

Regarding youth ministry, Varam mentioned that they have started a club for youth and they are trying to get some young people.

FYCC :

Fukuoka region has founded a group for young people. It is known as FYCC (Fukuoka Young Catholic Club). The Founder is Bp. Mizobe of Takamatsu. The fourth meeting of FYCC was attended by Jude and Kenichi. According to them, this group is comprised of 60 middle and high school kids. FYCC has a good program. It conducts regular meetings, camps and gatherings that are well attended. FYCC somehow finds time and get members easily. The members of FYCC want to share what they have received, and that becomes one way of spreading the gospel. Young people want the presence of priests and nuns. In fact there are priests and nuns who are involved with youth. Being with the young people is important. Jude and Kenichi are invited to attend FYCC gatherings.

Toyohashi:

Gen mentioned that Toyohashi is a challenge. He finds it difficult to work for young people, because of his involvement with migrant workers. But Gen is thinking of doing something for the youth in that area.

OMI summer gathering:

Brad was asked to give a brief report on the gathering held on 28th & 29th of July in Itami. The purpose of this year's summer gathering was to evaluate on the summer camps we have had in the past. We invited high school kids, university students and other young people (adults) who have been attending our camps. There were around 15 of them. On the 28th we got together for supper and spent the night in Itami church. The following day we had two sessions. In the morning after prayers, we watched a DVD. Nobi made use of the camp photos and came out with a very good DVD. It was a 30 minute "flash

back" of our 20 year old OMI summer camp. It refreshed some memories of camp. That was a good beginning to start our evaluation. Each one was given enough time to share his or her experience of the camps.

In the afternoon, Wency brought some nice food and entertained the group. After lunch we sat together for the second session and had a discussion on the future of summer camp. After expressing different ideas and opinions the participants said that they would like to have the summer camp every year. They mentioned that coming together once a year helps them grow and learn things for the future. Talking about the content of the camp they expressed two things: Study and Re-creation. Their comments were very positive. So, we came to a conclusion saying that we will have the camp every year. Next year's camp will be held in Kochi, most probably from 3-5 of August at Geiseimura.

We, the OMY team encouraged young people to take the initiative to communicate with others and invite their friends for the yearly camp. The participants agreed to do so.

Youth of Takamatsu:

Nobi mentioned that working with Bp. Mizobe helps him learn different things especially when it comes to youth. Bishop knows the know-how. He somehow gets young people and makes them alive and active. Recently he invited some middle and high school seminarians from the Salesian community to perform a chorus at Takamatsu. The purpose of this was to promote vocation in the diocese. Nobi's experience with the Bishop and the youth of Takamatsu will help the OMY team to form young people in future.

WYD 2008:

The next World Youth Day will be held in Sydney, Australia. The official dates are 15 -20 July. Visit www.wyd2008.org. Before the WYD proper, the Oblates in Australia are organizing a gathering for the young people from 9-12 July. (For details visit: www.oblates.com.au).

We decided to take up WYD 2008 during our OMI summer camp next year and find out whether our young people want to attend this gathering. If they join a larger diocesan group then there is a better opportunity to relate to others and make friends. If they go as an Oblate group then they are limited. We shall see which is possible, and encourage young people to participate in the WYD.

In Korea it may not be easy to join a diocesan group. Therefore, it is better to go as an Oblate group. It was mentioned that adults also can go to assist different groups.

Other things:

- * The Salesian fathers in Miyazaki are planning a gathering for young people in February 2007. Nobi will get some information on this and let the group know.
- * The diocese of Fukuoka has formed a team to be in charge of youth. Jude is a member of the team.
- * Bro. Anselmo in Korea and Bro. Eduardo in Toyohashi are getting ready for their Perpetual vows. "Please pray for them."

The next OMY meeting will be held on 14th & 15th of November in Korea.

Jude closed the meeting around 9:30 pm with a short prayer.

An Excursion:

After the retreat in Fukuoka, Iru, Bernard and Eduardo joined the OMY team to visit a place called Genjinomori where we had our summer camp last year. To get to this place it takes for about an hour by car from Munakata retreat house.

We spent some time along the river side, enjoyed a game of volleyball and relaxed in an onsen (hot spring). This outing helped us share our togetherness.

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

Christmas issue is scheduled for December 15. Please send in your contributions, photos (if you have any) 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

15 1970 Eduardo SANTOS
20 1970 Varam ANTHONYSAMY
24 1934 Mike YAMAZAKI

■ Ordination / Final Vows:

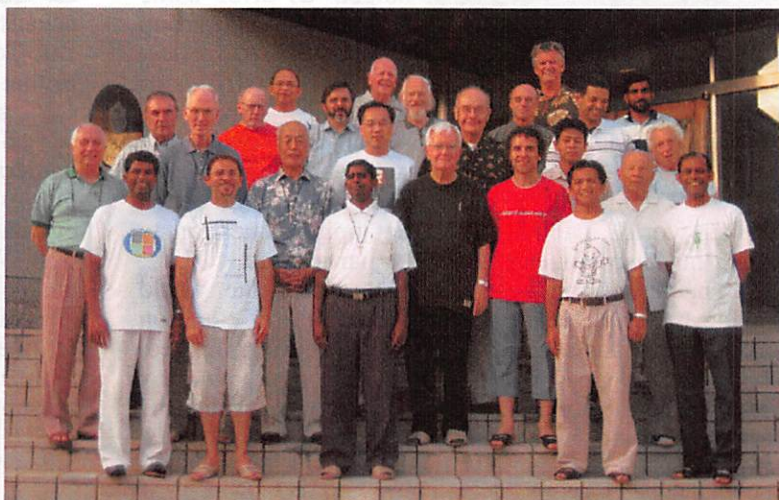
October

01 1988 Mauro CONCARDI
19 1991 Maurizio GIORGIANNI

December

03 2002 Irudayaraj ANTONYSAMY

↓ Annual retreat 2006



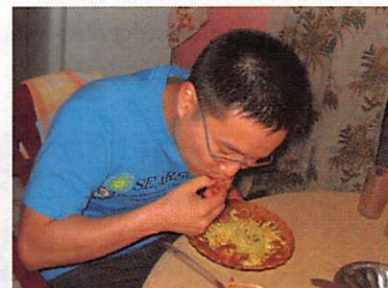
NEWS FROM THE HOUSE OF FORMATION – SUWON(KOREA)

1. Br. Shitol Sebastian Nokrek, a Bangladeshi scholastic on exposure in Korea for a period of two years renewed his vows on 14 June 2006. It was a simple but a meaning full ceremony had in the company of couple of his friends and the Oblate community from Seoul and Suwon. We're very sure that Shitol enjoyed this moment in his life though away from his own country.



2. As Fr. Varam was in India for his vacations, he visited Peter (who has just joined the Novitiate program) in Sri Lanka. Peter enjoys good health and excellent company of 35 scholastics and 7 priests. All in Kandy (Sri Lanka) scholasticate were very happy

about his presence. They also admire him as being very simple, friendly and a community-person. He after having completed a brief course on polishing his English, on 14 August 2006 with a retreat happily began his Novitiate.



3. The formation house community went on foot treading the path of St. Kim Dae Gon Andrea – the first of 103 martyrs of Korea.

It was very hot summer. In spite of the scorching sun we wanted to walk the pilgrimage out for about 50 kilometers in two days covering 6-7 shrines of the martyrs. After the pilgrimage we spent a

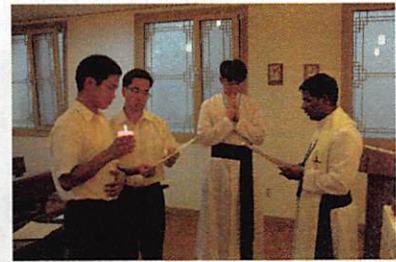


couple of days camping in one of the parishes relaxing as part of our annual picnic. The parish priest of Gusan was very kind enough to accommodate us and even hosted us for a dog-meat party (a customary meal in hot summer!).





a diocesan seminary completed his graduation in philosophy and theology. And when he came in contact with an American Oblate in the seminary staff teaching English expressed his desire to join a religious congregation. He basically felt that he has not been called to be a diocesan but a religious. And with the recommendation of this Oblate from the States he started visiting us for one year and only then he was allowed to join us after strict observations and enquiries. He seems to be happy with us.



months of regency (exposure). As part of bidding farewell to him we invited his family members and relatives for a Eucharistic Celebration and dinner. We thanked God for the vocation He has given him and for the gift of parents, relatives and friends as source of strength and support in his life.

5. Another student (Michael) is leaving for Sri Lanka. First of all he'll follow English course for one full year and then gradually join the Novitiate. He has completed three years of philosophy and theology and had 6



Ministry and the Call. This attracted many young people both boys and girls and including the Bishop of the diocese Rt.Rev.Choi Dok Ki Paulo as we see on the picture.

6. Vocation Sunday Celebrations: We had the opportunity to participate in the vocation Sunday gatherings organized by the Diocese of Suwon. This was held in the major seminary. We were able to display an exhibition on our Congregation's Mission –