



O.M.I. JAPAN/KOREA

OMI Information

Newsletter ; General Delegation of Japan

SEPTEMBER
2007

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Fr. Ryu Hi Gu Anselmo: First Korean Oblate Priest

Jerry NOVOTNY



South Korea is a land of high mountain ranges, valleys and narrow plains. About three thousand islands, mostly small and uninhabited, lie off the western and southern coasts of the country. The weather was hot and dry as our plane touched down at Incheon International Airport in Seoul. It was August 16th, 2007, the day before Bro. Ryu Hi Gu Anselmo's ordination.

From Japan, Bro. Bernard Ondap, Bro. Nobuhiko Yagi, Frs. Jude Peirispulle, Brad Rozairo, Antonysamy Irudayaraj, Ed Williams, and Jerry Novotny arrived at the OMI seminary at 6 pm and soon settled down to an evening barbecue of pork, beef and duck. Even though the Korean English pronunciation of duck sounded like "dog", we were assured that the spelling of the word was "D-U-C-K" and it was delicious.

The next day at 2 pm, the ordinations were held at the nearby Suwon Cathedral, about ten minutes from the OMI seminary. Both the local Parish Church and the Cathedral are located in the same building, the Parish Church on the second floor while the Suwon Cathedral was on the fourth floor - an interesting arrangement.



barbecue



blessing

modern Korean oil-painting. The walls, on both sides left and right, were built with dark maroon-colored bricks. Carved out of dark mahogany wood, the Stations of the Cross were evenly fastened to the bricks, towering about one and a half meters high. The choirloft stuck straight out from the back wall, covering about one fourth the length of the Cathedral. I was amazed at its size, the large number of Koreans it held and how low the structure rested above the heads of the people underneath.

A very personal and private moment came after the ordination when Fr. Anselmo gave his first blessing to his father, Augustine, and his mother, Maria.



Fr. Varam, the Superior of the seminary, gives the first speech

Fr. Varam, the Superior of the seminary, gave the first speech, introducing the Oblates from Japan, thanking the people for their continual friendship and support over the years, and congratulating Fr. Anselmo and his parents.

Fr. Jude, the acting Superior of the Japan-Korean Delegation, expressed his joy and the happiness felt by the entire Oblate Congregation on this great historical day. He stated that the new diocesan priests received their obedience directly for a parish from their bishop; however, Fr. Anselmo received his obedience directly from Rome to

Except for five professional photographers, no digital cameras were allowed during the ceremony; consequently, no ordination photos in this article. Yet the atmosphere was strongly charged with Catholicism. Rt. Rev. Choi Paul was the attending Bishop and was assisted by a Bishop from a neighboring Diocese. Seventeen young men were ordained to the Priesthood - one Oblate and sixteen diocesan. For me, it was inspiring to see our first Korean Oblate being ordained with a group of sixteen Koreans for the diocese. Lined across the front pew sat the proud parents and just in back of them some 300 priests, maybe more. The remainder of the Cathedral was literally packed with Sisters, friends and relatives, forcing many to stand outside.

The modern art background behind the altar left most with different interpretations of the biblical scene - simple message but a brilliant piece of



Fr. Anselmo leads with a short prayer and blessing

There was no main hall for everyone to gather after the ceremonies. Most of the families, I understand, had rented space at different restaurants to celebrate the occasion with their immediate family and friends. The Korean Oblates decided to hold their celebration at the OMI seminary. As you will see from the photos below, about 80 Korean friends and benefactors gathered in a room on the basement floor which was beautifully decorated. A catering service took care of the food preparations and we enjoyed the evening with a Korean buffet-style meal served with wine. The evening was filled with speeches, singing and laughter.

become a global Missionary Oblate. Then as acting Superior, Fr. Jude gave Fr. Anselmo his first obedience: to work with the poor in the soup kitchen apostolate and assist at a nearby parish with the purpose of developing pastoral experience. He concluded by stating that Fr. Anselmo's dream to become a Missionary in a foreign land someday is still a very strong possibility. Fr. Vincenzo Bordo, the Superior of the Korean Community, acted as Fr. Jude's interpreter.

Then came the singing, laughter, excitement and tasty Korean food.



Fr. Jude expressed his joy and happiness



Blowing out one lit candle, signifying the beginning of his priesthood.



Among the balloons, two long tables with a variety of Korean dishes.



Fr. Brad and a diocesan priest watch Bro. Bernard expertly using the chopsticks as Fr. Jerry makes a point and finds himself with an empty plate.



Fr. Maurizio and Korean group of ladies add to the lively atmosphere.



Fr. James enjoying the moment with young people.



Fr. Ed, who several days before had minor surgery in Japan, lightens the evening with a few Irish oldies.



Bro. Yagi captured the stage with his Japanese songs and flute concert.



Fr. Anselmo with his parents.



Closing speech and Blessing.



From left to right: Shitol Sebastian Nokrek (seminarian from Bangladesh), Frs. James, Jerry, Anselmo, Ed, Iru, Bro. Yagi and Mrs. Fukada.

The day ended with wonderful memories and a few personal reflections on the meaning of Oblate in a very difficult world. The first Mass was held the following morning in the community's small chapel.



OMI Summer Camp

Bradly ROZAIRO

Every year during the month of August we organize a gathering for kids. For the last 20 years we have been calling this gathering "OMI summer camp".

This year we invited some high school and university students for a 2 day session. It was held at Kangaeru Mura in Kochi, from 4 to 5 of August. There were 15 participants. In a very relaxed atmosphere, every participant was given some time to reflect on one's past and present. After reflection each one shared his/her life experience with the group. Most of the sharing was very deep and sincere. Some times they



sounded like a confession to me. The present day youth have some very unique experiences which they can share only with a small group.

During our Mefu meeting in June this year, when we spoke about the opportunity for OMI Japan, one of the things that came up was the youth. After listening to the young people, I really feel that in the present society, reaching out to the youth is a must. I think every year it is good to have a gathering for young people, so that it will give them an opportunity to come together and share their joys and sorrows.

August baa humbug!

Bill MAHER

I thought August was supposed to be a restful month. This August was not, to say the least. Camps, study sessions, stifling heat, special liturgies, a funeral, more heat, the city's festival and dance and visitors galore. Bert also went in for major surgery and there's nothing you can do but pray and commiserate with him. He's home now thank the Lord, but going through some difficult healing pains. Please keep him in your prayers.

Anyway I'm overjoyed that Tom was ordained 50 years ago, because that gets me a trip to the States to celebrate with my family. I'll be off on the 10th of Sept. since the celebration is on the 13th. I will be a little more than three weeks in the States. During that time I will visit Angelo and John Mahoney in Texas. I'll also get to visit the retreat house in Sarita Tex., where a friend of mine I met on the De Mazenod Experience in France last year, is pastor.

Unfortunately I will miss the Symposium on one of the 188 Martyrs of Japan who are to be beatified next year, Fr. Diogo Ryosetsu Yuuki. It will take place in Tokushima on the 15th of Sept. since he was born and raised in the Anan area; and, whose mission activities included Osaka and Shikoku. Presently we are working overtime preparing for it. The Bishop has pulled out all stops for this. If you can, put it on your schedule.

Fr. Iru will be filling in for me while I'm gone and I'm sure he'd welcome you if you need a place to stay during the Symposium.

Dear Brother Oblates,

Angelo SIANI

I thank Fr. Jude and Fr. Gen for their leadership during my absence and for keeping me up to date on the happenings in Japan/Korea.

The Japanese Delegation will soon have a new missionary presence. We have had signs to give us hope. This year we had the blessings of the ordination of our first Korean Oblate, Fr. Anselmo, the ordination of Fr. Furukawa here in Japan and the ordination of Fr. Eduardo in Brazil. In Korea the number of seminarians has increased. Here in Japan Bro Bernard from the Philippines goes into his second year of language studies with much confidence. Thank God for all of these young Oblates. Calling on the intercession of St. Eugene we can plan for the future full of confidence.

While I have been in the States the Oblates at Holy Angel's have been most welcoming.

I thank you all for your prayers and I assure you that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

In Jesus & Mary Immaculate,

WAITING FOR A CLOUDY Sky

Giovanni ZEVOLA

"What a wonderful day!", I could not refrain myself from shouting out my reaction to the blue and sunny sky covering like an embrace my little native village up in the mountain of southern Italy.



What a contrast with the usual gloomy and gray sky of Korea, particularly during the long humid and rainy season. The blue sky looked like a big open field covered with white clouds like sheep searching for green pastures. Continuing my enthusiastic enjoyment of the sky I tried to follow those clouds and they were the ones provoking and capturing my fantasy and there I was once again a young boy imagining clouds becoming dragons, lions and other great figures. The blue and sunny sky of the young boy I was, looking after the clouds in the afternoon and being carried away by dreams. Dreams of what life would be, where those lions and imaginary dragons would eventually fill the world ahead of me.

The years have passed one by one and slowly changes have appeared to the point that in the sky the sun is getting too hot and the boy, now grown up, is looking for some shadow instead, where to find rest from the scourging heat. This summer after a long period of drought, myself too, along with so many other people were waiting not so much for white clouds, but for those big and dark ones possibly carrying rain to refresh and cool down. Waiting for a cloudy sky, that was and it is my strong desire. Every morning there, after a night spent almost sleepless and sweating, every morning hoping that today some clouds will cross this too blue and sunny sky.

All of this is but an allegory and conveying the experience of a journey under the same sky, where changes are taking place and the clouds are only a

figurative way of telling the transformation at work in me. I see myself in that young fellow staring at the white clouds and driven by their shapes in the hope-assurance of the sunny day. It was the time when ideals (mission, commitment, leadership in the Congregation) were all one with the perceived reality. The very young boy kept following the changing shapes of the white clouds only to discover that reality confronts and reshapes and transforms our very ideals. The dreams with open eyes under a sunny sky are giving space to other dreams this time made during a sweating and almost sleepless night.

Last summer was a great one indeed; many white clouds crossed my sunny sky but did not carry any desired rain. The only hope accompanying me is the knowledge that rain will not simply come down from above; it is rather because of the humidity on earth that eventually a dark cloud will appear on the horizon. While keeping sweating I am, first and above all, keeping waiting for ... a cloudy sky.

Ps. "His mercy is as welcome in time of distress as clouds of rain in time of drought" Sirach 35,26

International Mass & Get together

Bradly ROZAIRO



On the 19th of August (Sunday), the Committee in charge of International Affairs here in Kochi Nakajimacho church, organized an international

mass and a get together. We had people from Poland, Slovakia, America, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka & Japan! A very good number attended the mass which was lively.

A get together followed the mass. Some women who came early in the morning made food for everyone and so we enjoyed



a meal. After that the Filipinas introduced their "bamboo dance". They also made some people dance (see the photos below). It was real fun. Then we had karaoke! The internet facility in our house helped Bro. Yagi download some songs and that worked very well. We had solos, duets and group singing! Everyone enjoyed karaoke. It made some relax too.



Bishop

Mizobe of Takamatsu, in one of his Pastoral Messages says this: "In a small diocese like ours there is no need to increase the number of masses. It is important to put one's energy into making the principal Mass on Sunday a sign of unity in the parish. Each person should do his/her best to be present at the Mass and contribute to its vibrancy".

I think what the Bishop says above, was realized on this Sunday. In spite of differences, both, Japanese and Foreigners could come together to show their unity. They not only came together but also made their contribution, and because of that we could have a meaningful liturgy and a fruitful gathering. We hope to have international mass and gatherings in future too.

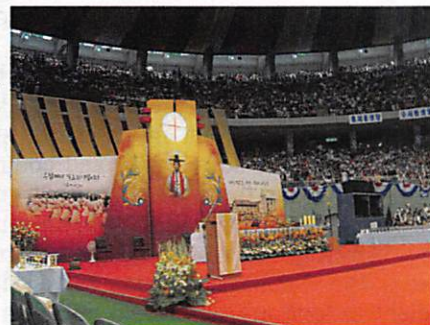


Greetings from Hoya

Jack DEELY

As I mentioned to some of you during the Retreat, the big news in the Deaf World is that on July 6th the first deaf Korean was ordained to the priesthood in Seoul --- and get this --- at the Seoul Stadium! The young man who was ordained, Min Seo Park, studied Theology in the States through the medium of American Sign Language (ASL) which he mastered while he was there. So, I'm thinking that it would be a great idea to have him come to Japan occasionally to lead the Japanese deaf Catholics in a Signed Retreat or to offer a Signed Mass and I could interpret his ASL into Japanese Sign Language (JSL). We shall see.

Another piece of news is: that the National Association of Deaf Catholics will hold its 8th Convention (Sept. 15-17) in Nagasaki where we hope to iron out some difficulties



regarding communication methods when the born-deaf, the later-deafened and the hard of hearing attend the same Mass or Retreat or any other gathering. Each group relies on a different sign language system which really complicates matters. At the Convention, I will try to explain what I do in such a situation. I try to sign in the language of the born-deaf (which does not follow the grammar & syntax of spoken Japanese --- which of course means that it is impossible to voice & sign at the same time); and then for the later-deafened (those who acquired Japanese language before becoming deaf), a hearing interpreter (watching me sign) will translate my signs into spoken Japanese for still another interpreter who will listen to the spoken Japanese and interpret it into Japanese signs that follow the grammar & syntax of spoken Japanese; and finally there are two or three other people whose job it is to transcribe the interpreter's

spoken Japanese onto a screen for those hard of hearing people who understand little or no Sign Language. In that way everyone is guaranteed equal access to the Liturgy or the Retreat or whatever the gathering might be.

And still another piece of news is: I have been asked to lead another Signed Retreat in February here in Tokyo. Wish me luck because it involves that very complicated process that I mentioned above.

That's about it. Take care.

保谷だより

黙想会のときに、何人かには話しましたが、私の関わる聾の社会で重大ニュースがあります。去る7月6日に聾の韓国人がソウルで叙階を受けました——あのソウルスタジアムで！叙階式は聖書に比重を置いたものでした。その時の写真をご覧ください。叙階を受けたパークさんは、習得したアメリカ手話を使って、米国で神学を学びました。時々彼に日本へ来てもらい、日本の聾信者の黙想会で指導司祭をしたり、手話ミサを挙げたりしてもらうことを考えています。そのとき、私がパーク神父のアメリカ手話を日本手話に通訳すれば、日本の聾信者にとって、一生忘れられない思い出になると思います。乞うご期待。



もうひとつニュースがあります。9月15日～17日に第8回全日本聾信者大会が長崎で開かれます。先天性聾者、中途失聴者、難聴者などそれぞれ異なる

手話システムを使う聾者が同じミサ、同じ黙想、その他の同じ行事に参加した場合のコミュニケーション手段の問題がうまく解決することを祈っています。そのような状況で、私がどのような役割を果たすのか説明しましょう。私は先天性聾者の使う手話、つまり日本語の口語の文法や構文とはまったく違った言語を使います。すなわち、手話と声を同時に使うことができないことを意味します。そこで、中途失聴者のために、読み取り通訳者が私の手話を日本語に訳し、それを聴いた別の通訳者が日本語の文法や構文に沿った手話で通訳します。それと同時に、手話をほとんど、またはまったく理解できない難聴者のために、読み取り通訳者が声に出して通訳した言葉を要約筆記者が文字に書き起こして会場の画面に映し出します。こうすれば、参加者全員がすべての集まりに平等に参加できることを保証することになります。

さらにニュースがあります。来年2月に東京で行なわれる手話黙想会の指導を頼まれました。そこでも上に書いたような複雑な問題がありますから、成功を祈っててください。

では、皆さんお元気で。

近状報告

John IWO

6月18日(月)、変形性膝関節症の為、福岡市民病院で約4時間にわたる手術も、良い医師団と看護師団によって無事終わり、予想外の回復で7月11日退院し、現在誠十字病院で週3回リハビリ

を受けている。

入院中は古川神父さまが吉塚教会、南粕谷教会の奉仕をしてくださいました。現在も修道院のミサと南粕谷教会の日曜日のミサをしていただいています。評判は非常にいいです。

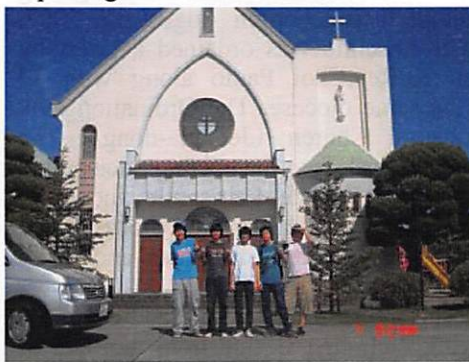
その後8月には運転免許状の更新も終り、9月の黙想会にも出席できました。

紙上をおかりして、皆様のお祈りと励ましに心から感謝します。Deo gratias.

2007 Summer Camp: in Japan

6-10 August Varam ANTHONYSAMY

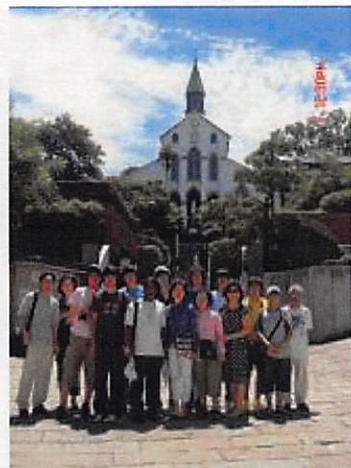
This year unlike the other years we planned to have our summer camp in Japan along with youngsters in Japan. The intention was to bring closer the people of Korea and Japan who have been still divided for the past enmity experienced due to Japan colonizing Korea. But it was a step like 'a drop in the ocean'. But we're aware of the saying that 'every beginning is half done'. Due to many reasons we had to have it separate respecting each others' views.



Still we went on with this schedule to take students from Korea to Japan. The camp was slightly changed as coupled with pilgrimage to Nagasaki and

the summer camp. The program was worked out with Fr.Jude with the counterparts here in Korea Fr.Varam and scholastic Simeon.

There were 10 students (mostly who attend our vocation camp every month), four volunteers who helped us with food, etc. Thanks to Fr.Jude who accommodated us in the Oblate house. From there we moved up and down to visit Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Hakata, etc. During this camp we had regular spiritual discourses, Mass, Prayers. All the



participants cooperated very well and were very happy to be in Japan. It was an eye opener for many to see the Oblates, communities, and to experience their hospitality. As part of our pilgrimage we visited the Nagasaki Atomic bomb blast site, Museum, the Cathedral, Japanese Martyrs' shrine, Maxmillion Kolbe's shrine, etc. the last day we spent time on the clean beaches of Japan and concluded with the BBQ party.

We also remember with gratitude the many persons who helped us during our stay in Japan. Mr&Mrs Muramoto, Frs.Jude, Ken-ichi, the cook (she was really wonderful and was caring for us so much), and the teachers and others.

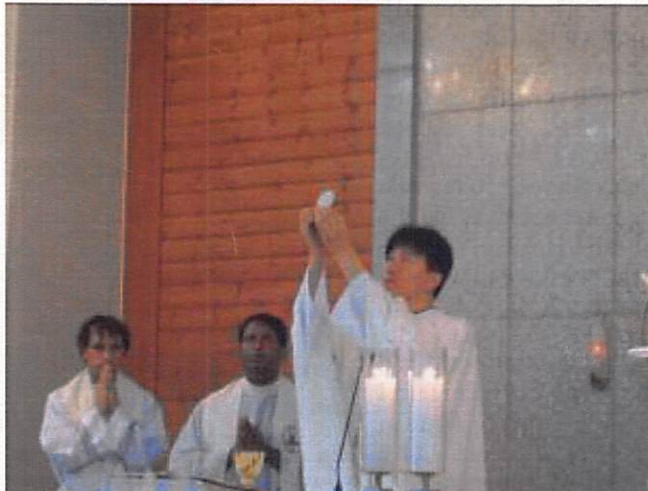
The Sacerdotal Ordination of Fr. Ryu Hi Gu Anselmo 17.08.2007

Varam ANTHONYSAMY



The Oblate Mission in Korea thanks God for giving them the first fruit of their labor on August 17, 2007. Deacon Ryu Hi Gu Anselmo was ordained a priest by Bishop of Suwon Rt.Rev.Choi Paulo along with 17 other deacons of the same diocese. The Ordination took place at the Cathedral Church (Jeongja-dong). The Ordination was witnessed by the acting delegation Superior of Japan-Korea Fr.Jude Peirispulle and other priests and brothers from Japan; also many diocesan and religious priests from the dioceses in Korea and many sisters and over 3000 faithful.

The bishop in his address all the time addressed the Oblates for receiving their first Oblate from the land of martyrs, Korea. He also thanked the Oblates for working in the diocese and the many Oblates actually who witnessed the Ordination. It is coincidence that the bishop himself preached the retreat for deacon Anselmo.



The many faithful who participated at the Ordination ceremony thanked God for giving the Oblates their first native priest after 17 long years of their service in Korea. They also promised to pray that God bless the Oblates with many vocations and their ministries with the poor and the most abandoned.

It was a joyful event not only for the Oblates in Korea but also for the Oblates in Japan as we are one unit; also for the Oblate Congregation at large. We bow our heads and thank all of you for praying for us unceasingly. We once again congratulate and wish Rev.Fr.Ryu Hi Gu Anselmo many years of service in the Lord's vineyard.

First vows of Hong Jang Won(Pedro) in Sri Lanka:

Varam ANTHONYSAMY

On August 22, 2007, Hong Jang Won Pedro professed his first vows in the presence of the Oblate provincial of Sri Lanka Fr.Clement and Fr.James and his mother and friends/relatives who went all the way from Korea to witness this. He'll be returning to Korea on



August 28, 2007. Our joy has been double by one Ordination and one first vow. He will pursue his seminary studies at Suwon Catholic University.

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 Irudayaraj ANTONYSAMY

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

With the publication of this newsletter, my role of editor comes to an end. Since the fall of 1999 till the present, without missing a beat, I have been able to publish it 4 times a year. This is of course due to the encouragement and cooperation of everyone. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Henceforth, with Jerry Novotny taking on the main responsibility, the newsletter will be sent by e-mail. Please look forward to this new format of our OMI newsletter.

