

Dear Brother Oblates,

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

I saw this message stuck on car bumpers while on vacation in America. It's a simple message calling for us to get away from all the parties and fireworks and to prepare for the nativity of Jesus.

The Season of Advent gave us a time for spiritual preparation for Christmas when we mark Jesus' birth and to His second coming. We are waiting for what God is yet to do.

2004 promises to be a momentous year for the Japanese /Korean Mission and the Oblate World. The Immense Hope Project will find it's culmination in the General Chapter. In a spirit of Hope we are waiting for what God is yet to do.

See you all at our gathering in Kochi.

A Blessed & Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Angelo SIANI

Christmas and New Year's Greetings

Merry Christmas!!! from Rome

Ken-ichi Furukawa

How are you? Have a good Christmas?

In Rome there were a lot of celebration. For example beatification of Mother Teresa. And celebration of bishop Hamao become cardinal. I think Papa was very busy in this moment. I also feel that time flies. Especially from the new semester started. My study is still difficult. But fortunately in the school there are classmates who are a priest and a sister from Japan. They teach me therefore now I can follow the class. Indeed I am interesting spirituality day by day.

I have an idea that my thesis that treat with our founder of spirituality. It is great idea isn't it.

Anyway I have to keep it up. Finally I hope you are fine. Have a happy new year to all.

Learn to part

Xavier Yoshikazu TOSA

Last September I took a short trip (about a week) to Belgium to visit three cancer patients. One of them died the 1st of November. She was my best girlfriend among many. She had lung cancer and was in palliative care with 24 hours continuous morphine injection. She decided herself to "go to sleep" and not to wake up here among us. She chose All Saints Day. A few days before going to sleep, she phoned me from her bed to wish me a "happy" birthday. "I will continue thinking of you ... " were her last words for me. Her family asked if I could write the homily, which I did (sent it by e-mail.)

She left a beautiful sentence in her testament:

"When you grieve and cry,
look again into your heart.

You will see that you cry for things
that have given you deep happiness."

Now my time has come to learn to part with a thankful heart from many things and many people I treasure; to learn to part with a charitable heart from people who disagreed, misunderstood me and opposed me.

My elder sister has breast cancer. It is inoperable. Her time of parting is very close. All this makes me think about euthanasia. I don't like the word 'mercy killing' or 'suicide'. And I don't like the traditional saying that God alone decides the time of life and death. That opinion is based on the literal interpretation of the Adam and Eve myth. The universe and life are not easily explained existences. Science is giving us more and deeper insights in a growing mystery.

Modern man has reached a degree of autonomy and emancipation. The Church has great difficulty to cope with that reality. Science continues to look for solutions of problems. So our attitude towards suffer and pain has changed. Don't patients have rights too? We speak about "respect for life". Does that mean "to add days to life" or "add life to the days"? Shouldn't we try to give attention to and care for the quality of life, a life worthy of a human being? Shouldn't we start thinking about the right to "sleep in eternity"? After all, eternity is God!

When we speak or think of an Oblate dying, we worry about a replacement! In a concelebrated Mass, at

the common prayer, we ask prayers for the dead Oblates ... I don't understand that custom. It is as if we don't believe that our "brothers" are with God in eternity ... but in that not-anymore-existing purgatory.

Would it be a bad idea to have an input on euthanasia and palliative care?

With all my sincere wishes!



Pro-Life Missionary Trip to Singapore

Jerome NOVOTNY

A brief message to wish everyone a "Meaningful Christmas" and much Happiness in the coming "2004".

Fast approaching is the 'year and half' mark since my cancer operation. The good days are now outnumbering than bad days which is a good sign. The rough part is handling the side-effects of the medication. The amount hasn't changed since the operation. Cutting down on the amount of medicine would increase the risk of the six-letter word, so for the time being I count my blessings.

Turning 63 in March ended the first stage in my life, opening the door to several new challenges: my art career which has more bad days than good and the recent HLI Asia-Pacific conference on Love, Life and the Family which I attended in Singapore. Flowing through the talks among the various Asian speakers, the problem-similarities revealed areas of concern both in Asia as well as their respective country. What affects one country seems to ripple over all of Asia, including Japan.

One lecture by a Singaporean couple lamented the selfishness that has been driving down the birthrate in this little country of 4 million people for many years. It has now reached an all-time low of less than 1.4 children per woman, and the government is seriously worried about not having enough Singaporeans to maintain their national identity. Now they are paying incentives for couples to have more kids. The Singaporeans are not taking the bait, though. They have been fed hateful anti-child ideas for three or four decades now, and a few thousand dollars is not even an attractive counterweight to the anti-child mentality this culture exhibits.

Some of the reasons various speakers at the conference cited as to why Singaporeans are not having children all have to do with the "prosperity fear" factor: "It is too costly to raise children." "I don't have enough time, my job is too demanding." "Children will slow me down in my career." "Children will make it harder for me to enjoy the good life." The speakers at the conference sounded a rather accurate remark -- the Muslims are not afraid of children, and they will take over Western society by sheer numbers because they will outbreed us.

Singapore is a highly controlled society where people feel afraid to step out of line. It is all conformity to what the one-party government dictates. In fact Singapore is so tightly controlled that residents have to pay for driving into certain parts of the city; chewing gum is illegal; and you can be fined for spitting in public! The tremendous number of fines that the government assesses has prompted the locals to often joke that they have a "fine city"!

The culture of death (sterilization, birth control and abortion programs) was introduced in the '60s and '70s. Once installed in a society it has a spiraling effect

downward and is difficult to reverse. The fertility rate is 1.4, 2.2 is necessary to survive. In Singapore they have had abortion since 1972 and kill about 14,000 little precious Chinese babies each year. They can kill them up to 24 weeks in the womb on demand. People just don't want children. As Fr. Tom stated at the conference, "It is virtually impossible to change the ingrained selfishness of people once they have begun to worship Planned Parenthood's plan to de-populate the earth."

This year also shows one quarter of all marriages ending in divorce. Interestingly two thirds of all the divorces are now initiated by women. The breakdown of the traditional Chinese family structure is happening at an alarming rate as busy professionals delay childbearing or have fewer children, as well as dump their elderly in well-provided government housing. They are also one of the fastest aging populations in the world. Euthanasia will likely be the next frontier for the culture of death. As a result of the breakdown cohabitation is skyrocketing, homosexuality is rampant and AIDS is spreading at an alarming speed.

The ultra-modern Singaporean culture presents a massive challenge to the teaching of life issues, of the Church's total truth about human life and the sanctity of marriage and the family. This massive challenge applies to all Asian countries. Getting to know the local pro-lifers, meeting other Asian leaders and listening to their needs and contributions at the 'leaders 2-day meeting' prior to the Asia-Pacific conference was deeply inspiring and revealing for me: the goodness, the involvements, the conviction and the determination of God's people in Asia.

The next stop is Christmas followed by another New Year and a 64th birthday. Will people change? It remains to be seen. I guess the only way we will really know is if the birth rate begins to rise again. Maybe this is what "Christmas" is all about this year.

God Bless and enjoy the holidays!



What is new? How are you doing?

Jude PEIRISPULLE

When you meet someone you often ask "how are you doing"? If I ask you the same question you might say there is not much difference. But some of you with your new assignment, might have all kinds of things to share. For me, as I'm in the same place and doing the same work, even with the new changes nothing has affected me yet. But that doesn't mean I have nothing to share.

For me this year, I had a few chances to experience something new. In February I had the chance to go to Thailand for an inter-religious dialogue meeting and in April I had the chance to go to Rome for a Bursar's meeting. Also in August I was called again to conduct a retreat to the Sri Lankans in Yokohama. The participation was good and I felt this was the best retreat I have ever preached. That is because of the cooperation of the members. The place was also changed to Mishima church. The theme of the retreat was "what is important to me". This was a two day retreat. I chose this topic because most of these Sri Lankans work as labourers. After the retreat one of my dreams came true as I climbed the Fuji mountain with Guyen.

There are many other events that kept me busy. With all these things now I'm looking forward to the

Christmas party. The cook will change and I'm wondering what will happen to the menu.楽しみだ, Waiting for it. Hope I'll have the chance to say everybody happy Christmas and New Year, here in Kochi. Till then I wish you all the same wish through this letter.



Best wishes to all

Bertram Nathan SILVER



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 2004

Takaji IWO

クリスマスと新年おめでとうございます。毎年繰り返される挨拶ですが、こうしてあいさつが書けることは幸いです。久しぶりに去る10月同窓会に出席しました。やはり亡くなった方々の話が出ました。膝が不自由とはいえ、昨年と同じように仕事をこなすことができたことを神様に感謝しています。

1) 去る11月、二泊三日で沖縄に行ってきました。一緒に戦の時をもち、占領された地として、一度は行ってみたかったところです。特に「ひめゆりの塔」とはこんな鍾乳石の洞くつで120余人の15才16才の見習い看護婦であった少女が手榴弾や毒ガス弾、火焰放射器をあびて死んだことは悲惨極まりないことである。

2) 有史以前の歴史書を読んでいる。2002年9月発刊のものである。天文学と数学の才能が必要である。最後の方はアダムからノアまでの論文になっている。七曜表が作られた話やノアの洪水は氷河期の終わりに全世界が大洪水におおわれた紀元前11,000年ころに起こったとする。

3) 先月はトルコ展を見ることが出来た。トルコのヒッタイト帝国、ビザンチン帝国、オットーマ

ン帝国の歴史と遺産である。

4) イラク問題はますます悲惨になっているようである。イラクへの自衛隊の派遣は、「狼の中に羊を追い込むようなものである」。犠牲が出てさわいでも何にもならない。「正義と平和」が社会運動を起こすことを希望する。

来年もまた、新しい発見があるように学んでいきたい。



A MOST BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Ray BOURGOIN

I hope this finds you all in fine shape notwithstanding the busyness of preparing for the Christmas Holiday Season. I know I have become busier with my added duties, over and above the treasury, of coming to grips with the kindergarten apostolate and preparing the Sunday liturgy at this small mission.

As I reflect back, what kind of year has this been? Besides the usual duties of the office, in March I went Stateside for a workshop in San Antonio, Texas. It dealt with fundraising for our various activities in the Oblate World. We had participants from all over, some of whom I already knew and had not seen for 42 years and some with whom I made a first acquaintance. The input from various experts was very well done and most of us benefitted from the experience.

On my way there, I was prevailed upon to help out on Ash Wednesday at the new Cathedral in Los Angeles where I met Cardinal Archbishop Mahony for the first time. The Archbishop and I were the only priests giving ashes. The other 20 were all married deacons!

After rushing back for the Immense Hope meeting, which lasted 10 days, I had to fill in for our pastor, Jude, who was gone for special training to eventually take over the worries of the treasurer. This will be a drawn out process, but at least it was a blessing to see some preparation being made to eventually release me from this job. But it also meant doing more than I should and I really needed a rest and time to pray and think.

So for 10 days I made a directed retreat in the quiet of the mountains near Tokyo and made some decisions which made me get hold of things. No more working till all ours of the night 7 days a week. I started a program of exercise, which I had lacked for a number of years, walking a couple hours a few times a week. I found a great change.

Many hours had been spent in finding financing for the new seminary in Korea. So I was happy to go to the dedication of this facility in June with a number of Oblates from Japan. My week in Korea was a change of pace from my regular duties and was a pleasant experience. Welcoming the seminarians into the new facility was a joy!

After returning to Japan, I spent the summer months in translation. I have been translating, off and on, the letters of our Founder pertinent to our way of life, to help the formator with his work of preparing young men for a career as an Oblate. I'm nearing the end of that project and it feels good to see it reaching its final stages. One lady in the parish is helping me with the final corrections.

At the Aki mission there are only a few Catholics, about 40 people are on the books, but most are elderly

and others never show up, so that we have only about 10 active members who help support this mission financially.

The Star of the Sea Kindergarten is very small also, with only 32 children, but this is a whole new experience for me, preschool education. The 2 teachers are very competent and we are trying to introduce the Montessori method of education. So far we are having very good results and the children are responding very well to the new style of the curriculum. I'm sure the parents will be very happy with the changes they find in their children.

A nice pat on the shoulder came the other day when a water color painting teacher, who comes twice a month, approached a regular teacher and said, "What happened to these kids? They are all quiet and concentrating on their painting. I've never experienced this before. They usually argue and talk all the time." Then she came to me and said, "You have to PR this, it's amazing!" I said, "You can be our first PR person!"

All this after only 2 weeks of the new program!

Once again many happy returns for the holiday season.



and he came ...

Giovanni ZEVOLA

"Welcome, have a seat!" and right away we give them a cup of tea or coffee, "well, sister I have a problem.." the migrants try to expose their problems and the reason why they came to our office, instead we try to focus on them "How are you? Where do you come from? How long have you been working here in Korea? Do you have friends or relatives with you? How is your family back home?" The people seat on the sofa and while drinking they could read some magazines on their own language and then, only after that, we start to make an interview in order to assess the problem for which they came to visit us.

Listening, a lot of listening, desire to open our hearts and make space to all of them, with their delusions, anxieties, frustrations, and hopes. Different faces, different colors and flavors indicating their different cultures and they are Filipinos, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Nepalese, Sri-lankan,.. Different faces, so peculiar, typical but a familiar face, His face! Jesus' coming is still taking place, and every time is a new face, the person who is asking for welcome, hospitality, and space where to feel at home.

to dwell...

"Emmaus office? We have some winter jackets for the foreign workers, can you come to collect them?" Since several years now, every winter season we ask Korean people to give us their used jackets in favor of the workers who are usually coming from tropical countries. It is like a context of generosity, forcing the Koreans to think about other people's condition and try to help accordingly. The workers can choose their sizes and colors and shape and it is a consolation to see them happy with smiling faces. The winter jackets donated by the Koreans seem to be somehow warmer than the usual jackets; it is because love is like a fire?

among us...

Waking up early in the morning, a strong cup of espresso, and a drive of two hours down to Taejeon.

Since four years now every month I have my date there ... Taejon prison with a population of about four thousand Korean inmates and among them a little more than two hundred foreigners. Two hours meeting with a group of them (Philippines, Uzbekistan, Chile, Nigeria, Vietnam, Pakistan): prayer session, a parable from the gospel, some counseling, and as usual a lot of listening. Other people are helped by letters exchange and some money given for their necessities (tooth paste, soap, shampoo, clothes...); the man at the reception asks me about my relationship with the inmates and he writes down "friend", well that is partially true, in fact they are my brothers, but that might take too long to explain why.

Three flashes, three episodes of life with the hope that could help to see the meaning of Christmas in all its brightness. We hope that it will not be true for us "he came to this own but they did not welcome him" (Jn1,11) we hold instead to what follows "to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God" (Jn 1, 12). So, have a Merry Christmas in this way!



News from NishiTokyo

John DEELY

What do you associate with Tajimi? For me, the first thing that comes to mind is the brutal heat that we had during our OMI retreat there 30 or

more years ago! Well, I was back in Tajimi for a SIGNED RETREAT in late September and the heat was just as wicked; in fact, during the outdoor mass, those who weren't in the shade of a tree, had a nice sunburn by the end of the mass. The theme of the retreat was "Deaf Catholics in the Building of the Kingdom". And as always, I marveled at how these people who have never had a real opportunity to learn about scripture and the teachings of the Church are able to come up with such incredible insights and interpretations. Obviously, the Spirit is at work. For the signed outdoor mass, we had not only the retreatants but also some seminarians from Nanzan University and members of Sign Language Study Groups from local parishes as well as Nanzan University.

A Merry and Holy Christmas Season --- and --- Good Health in the New Year!

西東京市だより

多治見と聞くと 30 年前の「暑〜い」黙想会を思い出しますが、その多治見で、9 月末に聾信者の黙

想会をしました。相変わらず暑く、野外ミサの時、日向にいた信者は日焼けしたほど。テーマは、「信者としての宣教一神の国の建設に聾信者としてできること」聾信者の黙想会では、指導しているつもりですが、結果的には指導されています。公教要理を学んだ経験がないのに、キリストの精神に対する理解力、洞察力が素晴らしい。聖霊のおかげでしょう。野外ミサには、神学生、手話サークルの信者、南山大学手話サークルの学生なども参加しました。

元気で過ごせたことを感謝して、メリークリスマス！



Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year,

William MAHER

I had one grand vacation from the middle of Oct. till the middle of Nov. but the only bad thing about that is getting back to work! It's funny none of the work ran away it was all still here when I got back! I hope everyone has a grace filled Christmas and blessed 2004. The outside crib is being slowly set up and the other outside preparations should be finished by the 14th. The inside decorations will be finished after Mass on the 21st. The yearly City Christmas Program put on with all the Christian churches of the city was a success and even though the speaker wasn't up to his best because of a cold, the signed choir and the regular choir were excellent. All their practice paid off. Since we have the most convenient place to gather all the churches, they practiced here several times. I didn't have to do anything this year but I heard that Fran was the head of the whole program last year.

Yesterday Dec. 8th we had a great retreat day with Bert leading us in a consideration of Mary as presented in the Oblate Values book. He even had us saying the rosary together. That's something I haven't done in a long time with a group of Oblates. Mrs. Ogawa's roast pork was another highlight of the day. We are going to have another meal here on Jan. 8th if anyone is interested please let me know before the end of the year. We have to be able to plan after we know the numbers. Right now at least 8 should be here but we can handle more.

I was worried but it seems like I'll be able to get all the year end correspondence done after all. I attended an 8th grade reunion while I was back in the States and that added a lot to the list as well as changing parishes which adds the thanking of those in the former parish, parishioners as well as friends who were so good while in Fukuoka. And with these lines I at least have a small contribution to the Province Newsletter. I hope to see you all in Kochi on the 26th of December. Have a good Christmas.



From Len

Morio INUI

私たちの間にお生まれになったみどりごに賛美!

クリスマスおめでとうございます。聖家族と共に、現代の人類への天の御父の憐れみと赦しとを祈ります。私たちに認められ、受け入れられる姿にま でなった神なるおん父の心意気を、私たちが聖家 族と共に地上で味わい生きて、いまでも子どもと共 に人類に期待される神の国の平和を誇りと慶びを もって築きましょう。

盛夫君はいまごろになってこんなことを言っ ているのかと問われると、イエス様が子どもに近づ かれて互いに認め合った場面がやっと神さまのや り方だとわかる気がするからです、と答えよう。 おとなのやっていることには、知らずに十字架に 犠牲を捧げた歴史の上塗りをしているようで、そ のなかで殺されても赦しを願わないといけない私 たちではないかと思ひます。

本当にクリスマスが有り難いものだと思ひてい ます。

Praise be to the New Born Infant! Merry Christmas to you. I pray, with the Holy Family, the mercy and forgiveness on us from God the Father in heaven. This Father's love and thoughtful approach to us mankind is shown today : He wanted and planned to be recognized and accepted by little ones from whom His work-message shall be revealed to us adult. Every one has been shown His Kingdom's Peace shall come and built from and with these little ones, who save nothing for himself in order to built the Peace and who cannot grow into himself without It. The mystery of the Incarnation is taken up into many kind of human formation work, and there is His spiritual guide present. I have a joy on this feast anew this year. Merry Christmas to you !



To all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jan VAN HOYDONCK

The year that is coming to an end has been filled with turmoil and violence all over the world, if it is not with clamor of war everywhere, there are few places where one can feel really secure and without fear of being attacked. Hardly a day goes by with the news free of mention of crimes that have happened the day before, perpetrated by one individual or by larger groups. May Our Lord grant us the peace that we are all longing for, and may all mankind live in the way that this peace can reign in the world.

For that I pray especially on the Feast of Our Lord's birth. May his peace and blessings be upon you all through the New Year.



Just a word

Mauro CONCARDI

I know that this year we have sent a "group" news from Korea Yet, I just want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Let's stay in Jesus' joy, hope, love



Dear Oblates, friends and benefactors,

Oblates in Korea

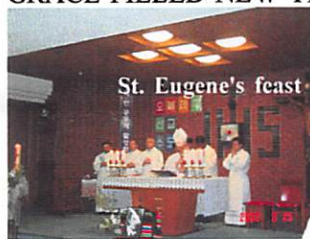
We as a mission thank Rev.Wency for leading us for over a period of 5 years and more and wish him well for his future ministry. Thank you Wency! And at

the same time we have a new leader Fr..Siani Ange. As we welcome him wholeheartedly we wish to assure him our continued support and cooperation. Congratulations Ange!



Oblates in Korea

We would wish to share with you some moments of our life through some pictures for the year 2003. To summarize in the words of Blessed Mother Theresa, "we see ourselves the little pencils in God's hands who is writing His love-letter to the world (Korea)". This we fulfill through our ministry to homeless, migrant workers, the sick and dying and in the formation of the future Oblates and missionaries! With much love and prayers we would like to wish you all MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GRACE-FILLED NEW YEAR 2004!

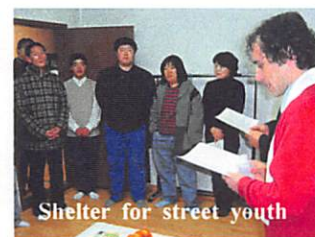


St. Eugene De Mazenod Feast Day Mass: The feast of our founder and father St.Eugene de Mazenod's feast was celebrated with solemnity on May 25th 2003, in the presence of 200 people

including our volunteers, friends, benefactors and families known to the Oblates. The Mass was presided by Rt.Rev. Giovanni Battista Morandini, the papal nuncio in Korea. And thereafter there was a moment of sharing of joy with some eatables.

Anna's House (Center for homeless)

Christmas: 'When I was naked you clothed me' are the words of Jesus, but a homeless in our center meant it without pronouncing it in words on the Christmas eve, when Santa Claus came with lots of warm clothes and many other gifts also accompanied by Rt.Rev.Giovanni Battista Morandini as the biggest gift for our friends, who wanted to spend that day with us in the center. In the words of the Nuncio, "Christmas is the day to witness the love of God manifested in the incarnated person of Jesus living in the midst of homeless, sick and dying".



Shelter for street youth

A dream come true: at last a shelter for street-youth: Providing daily meals is not the only activity carried out at the center. There are number of other programs such as free health care clinic, psychological counseling, legal and job counseling, a weekly haircut and distribution of clothes, etc. We had a dream to provide a shelter for the young homeless (street-youth). This became a reality on November 27, 2003, with the help of the parish priest of that area, offering us a small house adjacent to the parish.

5th Anniversary celebrations: The Anna's House celebrated its fifth anniversary in the presence of as many as 200 volunteers and benefactors. This was mainly arranged in gratitude for their love and service rendered to the Oblates' center for the homeless and to the poor in particular.

Emmaus Summer Camp (center for migrant workers)

Summer Camp: Two summer camps had been



Emmaus summer camp

arranged for the migrant workers in July and August 2003. Workers from 7 countries Philippine, Sri Lanka, Mali, Guinea, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nigeria participated actively despite the differences in nationalities, color and language. Having been all-together for a couple of days was very enjoyable and gave them a meaning of being together in a foreign land. Both the camp spots were small islands namely, 'Anmyondo' and Jebudo where the Koreans also spend their summer.

House of Formation: We would like to let you know the salient events took place for the academic year 2002-03. At the beginning of 2003 Rev.Fr.Rufus Whitley, treasurer general of our Congregation, Fr.Pilipiah Jesunesan, counselor for Asia-Oceania and Fr.Mark, one of the formators in Australian Novitiate visited us on different occasion. We did cherish their presence in our community.

The first two Korean candidates namely, Bros. Hasang Paulo and Anselmo made their first profession in Australia at the end of their novitiate.

Fr.Varam Anthonyswamy has joined the present formation team consisting of Frs. Mauro Concardi, Maurizio Giorgianni, in August 2003. Now the community is a composition of three fathers and four students. Other than our ordinary life in the formation house



MAMI

we are involved in hospital ministry, confession in one of the Marian Shrine 'Namyang', conduct regular vocation meetings once a month, formation and Masses for MAMI and give a help in 3 different parishes on weekends.

The new house of formation: The auxiliary bishop of Suwon diocese Rt.Rev.Lee Mathias blessed the house in the presence of our then Provincial Rev.Wency Lagidao and many other Oblates from Japan and Korea and the families of our seminarians at the end of June. Thanks to our benefactors and our then mother province Japan who took a special care of us and continue to do so now as a general delegation.



Our students



New house of formation



Vocation camp

Vocation Camp: working for local vocation is being part of our mission in Korea. Thus we had the vocation recruitment camp in January for three days. There were 12 high school students participated.

The summer camp (July 25-27,2003): We had the

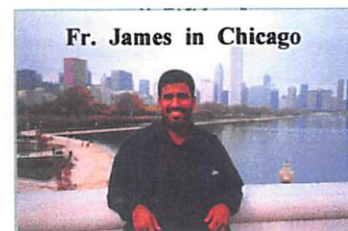
summer camp for the middle and high school students in our neighborhood. About 18 of them participated in the three-day camp.



Hospital Ministry: Recently the Diocese of Suwon approached the Oblates to take up hospital ministry. The Oblates true to their charism in the words of the Founder 'no ministry is strange to the Oblates',

willingly accepted and appointed Rev.Varam Anthonyswamy as its first chaplain.

Sabbatical: Rev.James Jeyachandran, who was involved in hospital ministry in Seoul Diocese for three years, is on a study leave in the States. We wish him a fruitful sabbatical and happy return to Korea.



Fr. James in Chicago



Listening...

Nobuhiko YAGI

At the end of September our Vietnamese postulant Gwen returned to his home in Himeji. At that point I asked myself what type of work I would be given now.

Since the Immense Hope program gave us a direction of "Being With", I decided to try to live in that spirit by doing what I could manage on my own. In the present day society "listening" is a very important aspect of "Being With". I thought that in this way I may be able to reach out to people in my own way.

First of all, here in Nakajimacho walking with a number of young people, forming a group of non-christians at a friend's house in Aki, lending a hand to people in Tokushima who asked me to accompany them in their spiritual journey were all possible ways of putting this into practice. I decided to try this twice a month for each group. Besides this I have had the opportunity to lend a helping hand to groups of youth in our other Oblate parishes.

Along with this, I visit the Hakuaen orphanage once a week and listen to the children express their feelings. They seem to be at ease with sharing their inner selves and this makes me very happy inside. While "listening" I realize that I learn so much more than if I spent my time reading books and doing research. I saw that listening is not only a one way street, it's a mutual adventure.

This past year I was able to meet with the MAMI members of the Kochi area, I participated in the meeting of the "Ake no Hoshi Gakuen" by giving a talk. I shared with the participants, but also from their sharing I learned that this was also a way of "Being With" people.

"Listening" is said to be the highest form of kindness we can bestow on someone. I believe Christ also followed the same pattern. So next year also I want to "Be With" others by "listening" with all my heart.

Have Blessed celebration of the Birth of the Lord.



New year resolution

John Kenney MAHONEY

Pray harder for Oblate mission in Japan and Korea.

We are in dire trouble.

From the Superior's desk

Angelo SIANI

On Going Formation; The Former Provincial, Wency Laguidao will be on a Sabbatical Year. Wency leaves on December 12th. Have a good year, Wency, our prayers are with you.

Visit to James Jeyachandran & Richard Harr;

On my way home I made a stop in Chicago to see James. His pastor Fr. Pat Casey, OMI says he is at the top in his class nothing but straight A's!!!

I went to Tewksbury to visit Dick. I was delighted to see him in such good health. Dick is planning to return to Japan as soon as he gets the ok from his doctors.

I had an enjoyable chat with Ed Lowney recalling our days in Tokushima. Remember? Tennis, bowling and a movie..all on the same day!!



Council Meeting; We will be having a council meeting in Kochi on December 27. On the Agenda will be a serious look at our personnel to ensure the future of our mission. In line with that we will address the school issue. The input for the school issue will be presented by the Head of the School Board, Len Inui. The school Board meets in Itami on December 15.

Immense Hope Peer Visitation; The Peer Visitation will take place in January of 2004. I do not have the exact dates yet.

Vocations 101

Thomas MAHER

It was a "vocation moment" Mary Johnson couldn't resist. When her cousin, Father Bill Maher, O.M.I., came home from Japan recently for a visit, she invited him to her seventh-grade classroom at St. Cajetan (W. 112th St.). (Maher was 5 years behind Cardinal George in the seminary.) He told students here that as a young priest, when he arrived at his first assignment in Japan, he knew his superior had a sense of humor- at 6' 5" he had to duck to get into most doorways. He says he's learned Japanese after 40 years and is now "shrinking." Maher said he loves his ministry, shared some of the customs and taught the kids how to count to 10 in Japanese. They asked him many questions: had he ever seen a sumo wrestling, meet (he had) and had he seen Mt. Fuji (he climbed it). Father Maher also celebrated Mass for the students. The seed's planted.

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

The next issue is scheduled for March 15. Please send in your contributions by March 10. Whenever you send an article for the newsletter, always include a title to the manuscript.



Anniversaries

■ Birthday:

January		
02 1930	Ed WILLIAMS	
22 1938	Ray BOURGOIN	
29 1926	Dick HARR	
February		
13 1963	Maurizio GIORGIANNI	
15 1935	Len INUI	
21 1957	Vincenzo BORDO	
March		
01 1940	Jerry NOVOTNY	
23 1938	Bill MAHER	



■ Ordination / Final Vows:

January		
15 1994	James JEYACHANDRAN	
February		
22 1953	Xave TOSA	
March		
19 1966	Ray BOURGOIN	
27 1976	Wency LAGUIDAO	
29 1993	Leo KAWAGUCHI	

■ Death:

February		
02 1978	Charles MC BENNETT	
March		
12 1979	Len ROBITAILLE	

