



OMI Information

Newsletter ; General Delegation of JAPAN

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate



Merry Christmas

From the Delegation Superior's desk

Angelo SIANI

Dear Brother Oblates,

In the convocation letter for the Chapter, our Superior General wrote: following up on the Immense Hope project: the precapitular commission "has proposed the theme: 'Witnessing to Hope: A Call, Our Mission'... The Chapter is a time of grace to receive anew this spiritual fire and revive its flame, letting it stir in our hearts a renewed missionary zeal. It is a moment

to build the unity and spirit of communion among ourselves, especially at a time when the landscape of the Congregation is turning increasingly multi-cultural. We realize more and more how precious a gift St. Eugene's charism has been and is for our time " Witnessing to Hope, the call must reach everyone, the missionary response is in our hands.

Thanks to Ron LaFrambose and his assistant Antonio Bucca the proceedings and topics of the Chapter: Internationality in the congregation, especially in our formation, Youth ministry, Evangelization and secularity, Role of Brothers in the congregation,

Leadership and governance and Laity were made available to all on omiworld.org. These topics are very practical. The feeling at the Chapter was our previous chapters have produced many beautiful and inspiring documents. The hope of this Chapter was to develop these topics in a concrete way.

In a reflection given by Fr. Oswald Firth, OMI First Assistant General, he remarked that "the old geographical borders that limit people to a given nation are gradually disappearing, and new social, cultural, religious and psychological borders and boundaries are now emerging in the world. Migrants and refugees with their traditional cultures and religions are contributing to this reality."

Here in Japan we are seeing a change. Ten years ago who would have thought our churches would be filled with Filipinos, Peruvians and Brazilians? In Nagoya Bishop Nomura celebrates Mass in Portuguese!

Another reality we have to consider is the shortage of priests and brothers. Recently I met a Scarboro Father whom I hadn't seen for ten years. He said he was the last of his group in Japan and that he would be returning to Canada in July. I felt very sad. We Oblates are very fortunate thanks to our internationality. But given the new borders and the question of our numbers and age we need new skills and new methodologies of evangelization.

At the Chapter Frank Lemoncelli gave me a copy of the instruction of John Paul II entitled Starting Afresh From Christ. In the opening pages the Pope urges "at the beginning of the third millennium to cast out into the deep" (Lk 5:4) These words have enlightened a powerful new hope, reawakened the desire for a more intense evangelical life, and broken open the horizons of dialogue and mission.

Merry Christmas



新しいカレンダー

John IWO

いよいよ2004年も終わろうとしている。あと一枚になった今年最後のカレンダー12月は、行事の多い月である。大掃除、回心式、クリスマスカードの交換、クリスマス、クリスマスパーティー、クリスマスや年末のプレゼント等の買い物、NHKの紅白歌合戦、そして最後は大晦日で1年が終わる。

新しいカレンダーを手にとって見ていくと、生きていくのだという希望が湧いてくる。そして、年が明けると、まず年賀状が届き、友人知人を思い出す。寒い冬の日が1月2月と続き、四旬節を経て、3月には復活祭が来て春となり、4月には桜が咲き野山は明るくなる。5月の輝く月は、ゴールデンウィークから始まり、6月に入っていく。雨の季節を過ぎて7月になれば、夏の到来であり、台風が来るようになる。8月はお盆を迎え、被昇天があり、9月になると段々と秋が忍びよって来る。10月は又行事の多い月で、毎週運動会が行

われる。11月には木々の葉は紅葉し、小春日和があつて安らぎを与えてくれる。

このようにして1年は巡って行く。

「天地は過ぎ去る。しかし、私の言葉は過ぎ去らない。」(マタイ 24:35)

クリスマスおめでとうございます。そして、恵み豊かな新年をお祈りします。

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Let it be

Jude PEIRISPULLE

When a king, due to his sickness, is confined to his bed,
He has no doubts:

There is no better power in this world than health.

When wealth befriends you, bringing unhappiness to your life

You have no doubts:

When you are physically disabled, left alone by your loved ones

You have no doubts:

There is no better lover in this world than confidence.

When one has his full of fighting with the other

There are no doubts:

There is no better happiness in this world than peace.

Let this Christmas and the coming New Year, 2005, bring you health, happiness, confidence and peace.



X'Mas greetings from Suwon - Oblate House of Formation

Varam ANTHONYSAMY

Hello dear everyone,

Christmas is around the corner, if this message has taken time to reach you, just done. This is a very special time for us. We look at Christmas as time for us to give thanks, as a time to look back on our lives and smile, as a time to be grateful for many things-family, friends, good health etc. It is with great joy and love that we (Oblate house of formation, Korea) extend our wishes this season brings our way. As Christ is born again this Christmas, may He bring to each and everyone glad tidings in the miracle of his birth. May each and all hear the bells of Christmas announcing peace on earth and in everyone's heart, telling of the birth of an Infant Brother, Prince, King & Saviour, Yes! The Lord's doing in this season challenges us to share His Love with each other and many who

need it. It's free. Let's share it in our presents, prayers, wishes and being, this time round. May the



meaning of Christmas fill us with **love**. Let's remember God truly loves us and his love brightens our hearts just like the star of Bethlehem. May the Spirit of Christmas giving, shower **graces** upon you from above. His love for us is priceless and it will never end. May the festive decorations **brighten** your nights and days. May the joy of this Season fill your hearts with **delight** to overflowing, all round the coming year. We too extend our thanks and love for the numerous ways you support us through your prayers and contacts. Thanks once again.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2005!!!!
Love and prayers,



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Jan VAN HOYDONCK

Getting old is something that cannot be avoided (as long as you stay alive), which brings with it the worries (in others) that something may happen (sickness or even death), and for that reason it is not advisable to continue living alone, at a great distance from your brothers, who could be of help when something untoward happens. Therefore I have been asked to stop living in Ikeda, and am in the process of moving to Kochi. As long as nobody is assigned there I keep taking care of the place, and health and other circumstances permitting I go to Ikeda twice a month, for the second and fourth Sundays. On those occasions I bring some of my books and other materials to Kochi. At the actual pace it may take quite some time before that will be finished. And to get it all stored away will take even longer. At this moment I can't find something I put somewhere only half an hour earlier. That too is part of the aging process: nothing recent stays in memory - quite vexing most of the time!

May the starting year be a happy and blessed one for everyone. For that I pray to the Lord, especially on these Holy Days.

Looking forward to see you all soon in Kochi.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all

Ken-ichi FURUKAWA

After returning from Rome, I had a holiday in Japan for about one month. Now I am in Australia at the Provincial House improving my English. I find English difficult. For 4 weeks, I will study at Hawthorn English Language College. I am in the upper intermediate class. Fr Daniel Szewc OMI, a Polish priest with an obedience for Australia is also at this college. Also, every week I have a class with a professional speech teacher to improve my pronunciation. The Oblate Fathers are helpful so I don't have any problems. I will go back to Japan in the middle of January. And then I

will resume my theological study at Nanzan University in Nagoya.

I met Pio Youn who is a Korean Oblate student. We had a meal together in a Korean Restaurant and are planning to have another meal in a Japanese restaurant. I hadn't met any Korean students before, so I am happy with staying here for this reason too.

It is summer in Australia. It is my first Christmas in summer.

I am looking forward to this. I wish you a good Christmas.



L.J.C. et M.I.

Tom MAHER

Three typhoons passed through Nakamura last summer. We are next to the Ushiro River so the wind and rain pound the front and side of our Church - house. The first typhoon did all the damage. It was just to the outside, the inside was not damaged. I am sending you some before and after pictures. Feel free as to whether you want to use them or not. The repair work was done for the most part by us, especially by Mr. Shizuyo Tokuhisa who moved here recently from Kochi. We made the garden narrower to get more parking space.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Oremus pro invicem,

Before



Now



Apocalyptic Times

Xavier Yoshikazu TOSA

Typhoons, floods, tempests, earthquakes, wars, terrorism, religion against religion, divisions inside the same religion and so on. Is it really the end of the world? Or has it always been like this? The evolution theory tells us that this was the way the earth took its present shape. Is the fact that we cannot change this tumultuous world the reason to hope for a "here-after-world"?

Somewhere in this long evolving span of the earth's existence, I am 50 years in Japan. But a human life history is similar in some way to the evolution in history: chaos, loneliness, misunderstanding, failure, despair, indifference, mistakes, fights with superiors. In that darkness I see a twinkling little light, a winking star: "It was not in vain."

Towards to end of January I will undergo a small treatment for the heart. It pumps and moves, but as the doctor told me again: 55% is the bare limit.



From James

James JEYACHANDRAN

Wishing you a very happy and holy feast. May you continue to enjoy the maternal care of our Blessed Mother. Be assured of my prayers.

God bless you.



Meaning of Christmas, Materialism

Bradly ROZAIRO

A television interviewer was walking the streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?"

Laughing, she responded, "I don't know. Is that the day that Jesus died?"

In a sense there is a profound truth to her answer. The commercialism of Christmas begins the death of Christ at Christmas.

Wishing you a season filled with peace, warmth and joy.



Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Leonard Simons

First of all thanks very much to Brother Yagi Nobuhiko for putting so much work and energy in editing this nice looking and enjoyable Newsletter.

Going on eighty isn't without physical changes but thanks God I can still move around fairly well. Because I had an operation on both eyes I can see things I couldn't see before.

In October Kochi Inochi no denwa (Life Line) had planned two study days for the Chu-Shikoku block but because of the typhoon the event was canceled.

In November we finished our 68th oyagyo-groupwork (groupwork for and by the parents). Recently the Yomiuri newspaper is relating problems (murder of parents, delinquency etc.) to the family.

Saito Satoru speaks about disfunctional families, others talk about reactive attachment disorder. The

conclusion of the Newspaper is the country has to do something about it. Maybe the country could pay some attention to private initiative.

The main purpose of oyagyo-groupwork is not solving problems but helping parents to build a creative relation with children, preventing the occurrence of such conduct.

The fundamental vision of the Kochi Volunteer Bureau and oyagyo-groupwork is that one-way help without solidarity and integration doesn't produce the desired results but often the opposite.

2005 is the 30th anniversary of the Kochi Volunteer Bureau.

2005 is also the 25th anniversary of oyagyo-groupwork.

I wish you all the blessings of the Christ-child and a New year with good health filled with the Holy Spirit.



From Anan

Bertram Nathan SILVER



2005 !

Bill MAHER

I hope this greeting finds you all in good health and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. Looking back on this year I have to thank Him for so much. After a very pleasant Easter I was able to go home to the States for a gathering of my minor seminary. The place was open from 1944 – 1971, and anyone who attended during that time was invited. About 130 people gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Bellville Ill. and we spent three days together. It was a great experience. Good companions, good setting and lots of relaxed time for talking and reconnecting. I had just had the same experience the year before with my eighth grade class and it was wonderful, so I'm wondering if I couldn't swing something for kindergarten in 2005!

The above title of this piece is to express my surprise at how fast 2004 has passed, I never really did get caught up with things. It's been a year of just meeting the deadlines, as I'm now doing with this letter.

Since it's 10:00 pm on the 10th of Dec. the deadline date I'm going to keep it simple.

The American election is over but we still have a lot of praying to do for peace. Let's keep praying. I think it's our only hope. At the same time however I hope that you're all experiencing a sense of serenity in the Lord and may the year 2005 be your best year ever. You're in my prayers.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.



Christmas Today

Irudayaraj ANTONYSAMY

December 3rd was the 2nd anniversary of my Ordination. In the evening Angelo, Gen and myself went to Nagoya for a meal out. From the Panorama House at JR Central Towers I saw the beautiful city of Nagoya with varieties of colorful lights. All the lights sparkling at night and people walking quickly in the cold air reminded me of the newly arrived winter season. Almost all the Japanese feel different at Christmas time. There is a special energy in the air and in people's hearts. A huge tree with colorful lights made me think what is Christmas for Japanese today. For them Christmas is a season for buying, selling, and wearing new clothes. In my class we are 13 from 8 different countries. I asked some of them what is Christmas. They told me that it is a time that people come together and make merry. And also they shop at this time because new varieties of things are available at this season.

On 10th December we had a Christmas party at the YWCA School. This was the first Christmas party I attended without a word being spoken of Jesus Christ. For all the teachers and the students it was an entertainment day. But we shared a Christmas gift to each other. Christmas, in other words, Mass of Christ or you can say people of Christ. Who are the people of Christ? What was the purpose of Jesus coming to the world? What did he bring? He brought joy to the world. People look for happiness. In each action man looks for satisfaction, contentment, joy and happiness. That is the Christmas the Japanese look for today. Family gathering is always a joyful gathering. This is the time people come together and share their life experiences.

We celebrate Christmas on 25th December. It is the great day for Christians as well as for the whole world. We commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. We thank God for the wonderful gift of Jesus that He has given to humanity. A special joy and happiness we feel and experience in our hearts. Many people go out in the evening of the 24th in groups singing Christmas carols (songs) around the neighborhood. And many people go to church on the evening of the 24th to thank God for the joyous season.

It's a glorious time of year for everyone.

I like to wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2005!

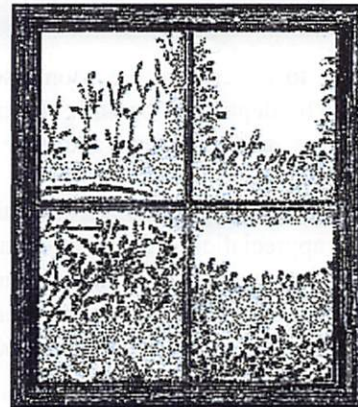


WINTER TIME

Giovanni ZEVOLA

"Which season do you like the best?" this was one of the classic homeworks the teacher would assign to us very year during the elementary school period. We little students were discussing and at times even arguing about spring and summer, which one was the best season. Some of my classmates insisted that spring with the full awakening of nature in flowers was the best, my preference went to summer, time for sun, sea and beaches and above all no class! May be it goes with the age the choosing of the seasons, while here in Korea I do love autumn with its foliage, time for harvest, festival, family gatherings, excursions.

Did you ever consider winter season? So long and cold! If it is so long and cold for Korean people what must it be for the majority of the migrant workers coming from tropical countries? In one word winter is not popular and I wonder if anyone would consider it to be the best season! Wintertime, time for what?



Jesus in order to convey the message of God's kingdom used to speak in parables so that ordinary people might easily catch the deep meaning:

"The kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the head, and finally the head full of grain ' (Mk 4, 26-28)

Winter is the time when the seed scattered into the field is sprouting and growing. That long and cold season is the time for new and abundant life! Winter is the time for patience and faith; do we believe that goodness has been planted within our hearts and do we patiently wait for its sprouting and growing? Like winter is the difficult period of time we spend undergoing difficulties of any sort (language barrier, different cultural background, lack of family support) and yet it could be the time for new life and we can make the difference.

Keep warm with patience and faith, and let this new life grow and bear abundant fruit.



From Len

Len INUI

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ! AND MAY
THE NEW YEAR BE BLESSED AND PEACEFUL
AS THE PROMISE OF THE NEW BORN KING.



In the Kindergarten

Nobuhiko YAGI

I have been working at the kindergarten for 9 months.

The children's smiling faces as they called out "Brother Yagi" were a source of great good feeling for me, of joy, of consolation, of affirmation. They made me wonderfully happy.



The opportunity to experience the Montessori way was an eye-opener. The depth, the breadth, the mystery, all were new to me and a great addition to my education.

The environment, teaching materials, the things we did, the children's appreciation that they come from God, the changes in them were a revelation to me. I saw the children naturally begin to know themselves, to relate helpfully to others, to wait, to appreciate others, to absorb and radiate peace.

Having found these things in the children it is easier to see the love of God represented by the infant of Christmas.



T'is the season to be jolly

Francis HAHN

T'is the season to be jolly, but when you're running about like the proverbial chicken with it's head cut off, it's hard to be anything but "busy", and as the Chinese-Japanese character for that concept tells us: "destroying the heart".

Christmas is essentially a time for building up the "heart", preparing for His coming, but as I have just returned from a trip home, arrived back on the 3rd of December, and as I witnessed for myself in the States, most everybody has forgotten the real meaning of this feast and turned it into a big gimmick and a great hassle to sell things, decorations, food and otherwise. Ever "erotica" can be found on the net to send as your Christmas gift to your favorite sex object! It's all so artificial and that's part of the reason I'm not into decorating my residence like I used to. The other part of that is I have no one to share it with, and the basic part

is I'm getting too lazy! 61 and still climbing, and yet I must confess that I do love the liturgical season, and especially the readings at Mass etc. They really tend to instill hope in the midst of a world filled with despair, war and hatred.

My 6 weeks in the States went by spectacularly well, I almost feel guilty about it. Saw Dave Ullrich in San Antonio while attending the 3rd symposium on "Evangelization in a secular world", I stayed with his parents and had a great reunion. Paul Facht, OMI, the Canadian scripture scholar who spent some time with us here in Japan, and came back one spring to give us a mini scripture course, was there and it was great to see him. Paul had near death experience, coming down with a bacteria in the Andes while on sabbatical there, became totally paralyzed and had to be flown home, and it took some time before they discovered the problem and were able to reverse it, he's now 90% better. I also saw many other Oblates that I had met on my journeys to Rome for the bursar's course, or in Israel on my sabbatical; it was good to see and get reconnected with these men, but especially nice being with Dave a few days and reconnecting. He'll probably be in China for 6 months to teach English there as his sabbatical, after finishing up with his service on the council. He promises to stop and hello us, going or coming.

Then on to Washington where I spent time with Dotty and Charles Bradford, a couple that I first met in Anan, she was Dick Sudlick's secretary, later secretary to the last two Eastern Province provincials, they are great soul mates and I try and bug them for a few days each return. I usually succeed. From there it was on to Cleveland to see cousins, and then to Buffalo for 4 weeks. Each visitation was better than the last. Did a lot of shopping in Buffalo, a depressed area with lots of "bargains", now I have clothes to fit me, f a while at least. My last three days were spent on Vancouver Island in Victoria, BC with my cousin and his family, it was a real relaxing time, I got to see the famous Bushet gardens, all decorated for Christmas, and it was a good time to wind down and get ready for the real world. Now I'm back and very "busy", but looking forward to seeing you all in Koch, Even if there won't be a turkey on the menu!!.

Pro-Life Missionary Trip To Singapore, Sri Lanka and India

Jerry NOVOTNY

Christmas Blessings and Prayers to all Oblates in Japan and Asia. My Pro Life trip to Singapore, Sri Lanka and India left me with wonderful memories of many dedicated Oblates, their life, their work, their wonderful hospitality and kindness. I felt at home wherever I went.

In Singapore I attended a Conference on Homosexuality by Fr. John Harvey who founded the worldwide group "Courage" for men. It is universally

recognized and experiencing much success. I met Fr. Harvey in person and he promises to send more material for my Website www.lifeissues.net. I stayed with the Redemptorist Community while in Singapore. It's a young community with interesting insights into Pro-Life Issues.

Four days later, I flew to Sri Lanka for six days, a three hour and thirty minute flight on Singapore Airlines. Fr. Rohan was my guide for three days and two nights. A tremendous man, "safe driver" and a great missionary. In Kandy, we stayed with the Oblate community; visited the famous Buddhist Temple of the Tooth Relic of the Buddha (Dalada Maligawa) and a Shrine dedicated to the elephant that carried the coffin of the tooth; and ate hot curry breakfast, lunch and supper. I loved the small, yellow bananas though. To my surprise, everyone here knows Iru, Jude and Bradley very well. They left a good impression. There's a healthy interest toward this part of Asia and several seminarians are keenly interested in coming to Japan.

From here we headed for Colombo, a four-hour drive, had lunch with the large OMI community, their house situated next to a slum area, and then headed for Jude's hometown where I visited his mother, five brothers and their families. Singalese was the big problem for me. Couldn't talk as much as I wanted to. Many fond memories. Hopefully I will get a chance to return in the near future and help set up HLI in Sri Lanka. The Oblates I spoke with are very interested and promise to help.

HLI Asia (Human Life International) works advocates the cause of the unborn child in the womb, the needs of women in crisis and the defense of the family. Through Conferences and speaking tours, HLI trips are designed not only to bring people to Christ, but to help them build a culture of life in their own land, fostering a culture that welcomes and respects life from natural fertilization to natural death. For example, HLI may assist local leaders in developing a network of crisis pregnancy centers to care for women and children in need; teach seminarians how to be solid pro-life priests; aid teachers in developing chasity programs for school-aged children; establish post-abortion healing centers and much more. Through the conferences and speaking tours, HLI tries to help men and women to understand they are not alone in their fight. The fight for life is a global fight, it is an Asian fight and it is a fight that can be won.

Thursday evening (Nov. 4) I flew to Bangalore, India. After spending two days with the Holy Cross Community and four days in St. John's Hospital with a viral infection, I was able to participate in the tail end of the speaking tour. The 11th Asia-Pacific Congress on "Love, Life and Family" followed for one week, starting on the 11th. Over 800 Asian delegates and 23 speakers participated. Among the speakers were Hindu, Moslem and Buddhist Priests. My speech was on the "Aging Experience." A stimulating Q/A followed. At the

Post Conference for training Pro Life teachers, I gave the morning session. A large portion of the people were from Goa -- the cradle of Christianity in India.

The last several days I spent with Fr. Jeeva and the OMI community in Bangalore. The vocations are many, many, many. I was asked to address the seminarians on Pro Life and at last count, nine young men are interested in coming to Japan. Here also everyone knows "Iru", "Jude" and "Veram". Before the evening talk, I visited Veram's family. Please pray for his father who must go the hospital regularly. The last morning I was the main celebrant at an Indian Style Liturgy which was very moving and personal. That evening I flew back to Japan.

The trip left me with mixed feelings about Asia. The noise, the food, the various levels of poor, the quick smile, the kindness and the sincerity and dedication of those concerned with Life Issues.

I could not help but notice the stark difference between our small Japan and the huge, poor Third World India. India is a cultural mix that defies definition. There are some 20 or more languages spoken in India, with Hindu as the major religion (80%) followed by Islam. Christianity comes last with a minority status of only 2.5 percent of the whole population. However, the Catholic Church is contributing strongly to the nation's healthcare, social services and education not discriminating against anyone on the basis of creed or color. The Indian Catholics are strong, attending Mass weekly and participating in many social works. This must be why their seminaries are full and why they have nuns to spare for the rest of the world's needs.

I received the impression from reading the local English newspaper that it is the "poor" who get blamed for problems that are totally out of their control. Poverty is not the cause of overpopulation. If that were the case, then the very densely populated Singapore should be poorer than India. India's big cities have problems which cannot be solved by eliminating the poor by contraception and abortion. Their problem is overcrowding, not overpopulation. The cities are magnets for the poor rural people who cannot find work in the countryside. They come to the cities seeking work and create the big slums that are so common in India's big cities. Governments ignore the need of the rural areas, the cities do a poor job of handling the influx of people and their needs. It is all an extremely vicious cycle, which the poor are unable to break. Blaming the poor for overpopulation is the typical response of the privileged classes in India and the Western world.

Next year I have been asked to speak at the 12th Asia-Pacific Congress to be held in June in Bali, Indonesia; in April, at the Seminarians for Pro Life and a NFP Conference to be held in the Philippines. I look forward to going, meeting another part of Asia and learning. What does all of this mean for Japan? I think it means "everything" because Japan is a part of Asia.

It's future and survival depend on working together with Asia rather than placing their money, hopes and sights on the West.

Look forward to seeing you all in Kochi on the 28th.

God Bless and Merry Christmas!

ABOUT CHAIRS

John Kenney MAHONEY

Chairs have been, are and will be a part of my life.

The rocking chair used to induce sleep is the chair of my earliest memories. Another chair of early memory is the High Chair. Used at meal time the child sitting in this could join the family around the table. It also served to keep a child from getting underfoot when dinner was being prepared. My first desk chair was really one of the dinning room chairs. The dining room table served as the family desk. When it became needed there would be a desk chair chosen with great care to assure comfort but also good posture. This was followed in time by the one armed desk used while in the seminary. It provided neither comfort nor good posture.

The word chair has been associated with sitting but I discovered the chair has served another purpose. We spoke to it. We shouted out our desires, failures, frustrations. We subjected it to listening to a litany of complaints which we tried to blame on the chair. Chair talk is not often heard today. The constant complainer however may be told to "Put it in the Chair"

In recent years another chair has come into my life. - The computer chair. The relation in height between computer and desk is most important for efficient computing so much so that this chair almost becomes a personal possession.

There is also what is referred to as "my chair". This is the chair in the family or TV room which is referred to as Mom's or Dad place. Guests are guided to chairs never used by the family. This is done to assure that the "my" chairs remain such. The my chair syndrome is very strong in religious communities. Some members of community will not enter the community room if his chair has been taken. This possessive attitude is strange when one considers the chairs were purchased for the community not for individuals.

People form an attachment to chairs. The little rocking chair has a place in the corner of the family room despite the fact that the children and grandchildren are grown. In many an attic or basement there is a wooden high chair. The desk and its chair though scratched and worn are in the family room ready to be called into service when a grandchild comes for a visit. Finally the chair that has had to listen to angry words and complaints and been drenched in tears stands off in a corner keeping its secrets and ready to serve if called.

There is one more chair that must be mentioned. It is not my chair but it was purchased particularly for my use. It is a very good looking chair. The color is beige.

Actually the color does not matter. But the upholstery does. It is leather. Leather makes it perfect for one who has PD or for any shaky elderly Father or Brother. Crumbs can be dispensed with quickly. Barbican Non-alcoholic Beer as well as Lady Borden Ice Cream can easily be wiped leaving no stain. Oh Yes the chair is comfortable.

New Years in Tokushima

Bill MAHER

I'd like to cordially invite anyone who can make it to a NewYears dinner at Tokushima on the 6 th of Jan. at 5:30 pm. If you can come early you can take in the Otsuka Museum of Art or the other great attractions we have in the area. Please let me know by the 28 th of Dec. at Kochi if you can make it and if you need a room we can make some arrangements.

From the editor

Nobuhiko YAGI

The next issue is scheduled for March 15. Please send in your contributions and photos (if you have any) 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

