



Merry Christmas



Joyous Christmas and a Most Blessed New Year

Ray BOURGOIN

As I get older I wonder how many more Christmases I will be able to celebrate!

Actually, if I live each moment to the full, each moment is Christmas since Christ is constantly reborn anew in my heart or better yet I am more and more assumed into his. What better celebration than this!

Sometimes the aches and pains may make me forget this mystery, yet on the other hand these are the facts of life which remind me more and more that I am growing in Christ's reason for being, which is **love**. The **incarnation** of Christ and my **incardination** in him who assumes me in this season and especially at every Eucharist is for me the greatest **joy**! That is the **peace** which I celebrate more in depth at this time of year but which I hope to have in mind always.

May the mystery we celebrate bring you **love, joy** and **peace**.

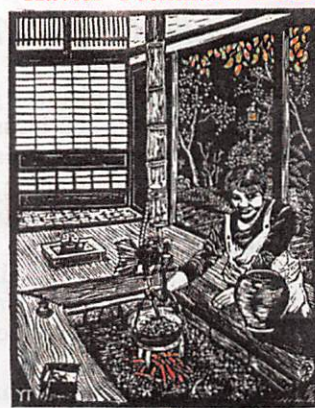


A smiling 2007

Xavier Yoshikazu TOSA

The New Year allows me to become 80!

When I was 40 or so, I asked to be allowed to do my second novitiate. Rome thought that I needed it, but the provincial then had other thoughts. Later I asked to be exposed to the "De Mazenod Experience". I was told that I was too old. I never asked for and I never was proposed a sabbatical year. I decide



now to take my sabbatical in the year 2007. It will be shorter than 12 months and it will not be in winter.

Meanwhile I am going around just smiling.... hoping I get a smile back.. I know there is apostolate by preaching, by teaching, by praying, by counseling but is there an apostolate by just smiling to the people?

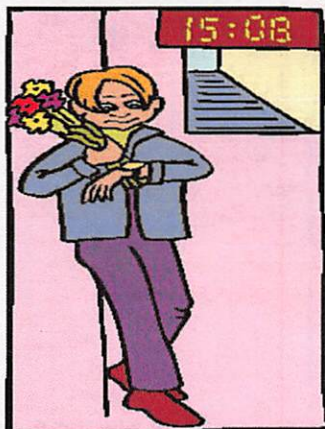


WAITING FOR . . .

Giovanni ZEVOLA

This evening I have to meet a dear friend of mine; he called me few days ago and we arranged to meet at Chongno, we will watch a movie together and have a nice pizza with something to drink. It will be great to see each other and talk over about our lives and whatever has happened since we met last time. I'm looking forward to this evening ... While taking a shower I feel like singing (even though I'm not like Pavarotti or Bocelli) and I already see the two of us embracing and laughing, happy to meet after so long; I'm not sure what to wear for the evening in any case I want to show the best of myself, it is going to be great. I arrive at the meeting place well ahead of time and the few minutes left seem to be an eternity, other people are waiting for their friends as well. Everyone seems to be in a good spirit, all very nicely dressed, someone with a bouquet of flowers or a special gift arranged for the occasion. Another look to the watch and there he is, my friend is coming!

How many times did you have a similar experience? Can you recall your first date? Anxiety, trepidation, joy all are mixed together while excited to meet your loved one ... Well something similar is our waiting for Christ in this special season called Advent. As Christians we are waiting for Jesus to come, to meet us and share a special relationship. While waiting we are preparing ourselves, getting ready for the special occasion. We are waiting with a hope that never fails, because our God is a faithful one, he keeps his promises. Jesus is calling us for a date, did you receive the call? Let's wait together and rejoice while getting ready, it will be a wonderful experience!

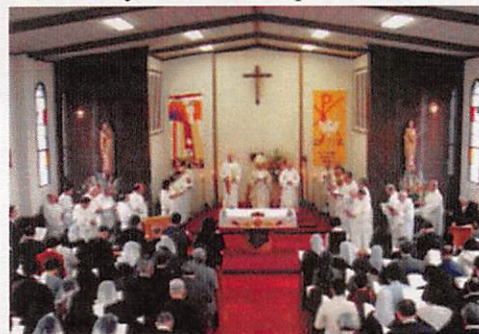


One Hundred Christmases Celebrated on Nov. 23, 2006

Bill MAHER

I hope this Christmas greeting finds you in good health and enjoying the blessings of the born, died, and risen Christ. We've just finished the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of this church and it was wonderful. People came from all over and celebrated with us and we had visible proof that the Lord is still walking with us and His Spirit is still guiding our small community. The Church was filled which is between 250 and 300 and most of them went to the hotel for the party and about an hour of remembering our past blessings. I told everyone that we are not used to these

100th anniversary celebrations so some of the preparations were finished just in time and some were not completed but everyone gave their all to prepare and we've taken notes, so when we gather for our 200th anniversary we'll have it perfect!



The next thing on the agenda is our annual Christmas program for the City which is put on by all the Christian Churches together.

This will be the 30th year it's been done so we asked the speaker who came for the first one. He's famous for his work in the radio apostolate, Pastor Shigeru Masaki. Actually this will be the third time he's come so he must be good. The combined church choir is practicing too and I might say they are very good.

I want to assure you all of my prayers especially at Christmas. The news paints a pretty bleak picture of many parts of the world. We certainly haven't found our salvation in these worldly things. So let's continue to trust in the Lord. Let's stick close to Him in the coming year and ask Him for the gift of His Peace for our world. We have the custom of spending the last hour of this year in front of the Blessed Sacrament and starting the first hour of next year with Mass you'll be in my prayers in a special way at that time.



A Blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

Leonard SIMONS

Akaoka is as quiet as ever. Even being a part of Konan-shi seems to make it more quiet. The only buildings catching the eye are three supermarkets.

Oyagyo-group work had the 71st and 72nd session in Kochi. In June I was asked to start a group in Takamatsu Seibo Yochien, which will last until March. Luckily I have an assistant like Mrs. Ichikawa Kimiko otherwise I wouldn't be able to do it. At the end of September after eight years the office of the Inochi no Denwa moved out of the Volunteer Bureau to a place provided by the prefecture being fourth on the national suicide list are pressed to take some action.

Last April Kochi Prefecture opened a shelter for battered women but administered by a private group.

Aonami celebrated on the 8th of December its eighteenth birthday. On the fourth of December we had a group visiting Aonami. They came to Kochi on the invitation of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) to study social welfare. There were eight of them, they came from Ghana, Honduras, Afghanistan, Iran, Niue, Parao, Thai, Nepal. Last year we had nine visiting. They were so pleased that the people in charge decided to come again this year.

I wish Ange a quick recovery and wish all the blessings of the Christ-child for a Happy New Year.





No Christmas

Bradly ROZAIRO

For some, it is time to
shop for Christmas,
For some others it is
not safe to go out.

For some, it is time to
hear Christmas songs,
For some others it is
time to hear the sound
of heavy artillery.

For some, it is time to
decorate their house
for Christmas,
For some others it is
time to leave their
house.



For some, it is time to celebrate life,
For some others it is time to mourn over the death of
their loved ones.

Read what is in red. That is the present situation in my
home town Trincomalee.



保谷便り

Jack DEELY



皆さんお元気
ですか？

この写真は、
上智大学が9月
末に開いた「オー
ペンキャンパス」
で、私が受け持
った手話の講義
のときのスナッ
プです。(二重あ
ごが隠れて、若
々しく撮られて
いるので、気に入
っています！)
オープンキャン
パスとは、各大
学が自分の大学

を志望する中高生を対象にキャンパスを公開して、大学の説明や模擬授業を行う日です。手話は上智大学の目玉で、年二回行われるオープンキャンパスでは、必ず講師に駆り出されます。800名収容の講堂で、毎回立ち見が出るほどの盛況で、私は上智大学の広告塔として大きな(身体ほどではないけれど)役割を果たしています。自慢話はこのくらいにして・・・今年の春の会議のときだったか、9月の黙想会のときだったか・・・皆さんに話したように、上智大学は「他者に寄与する人間」を基本理念の一つとする人間育成に努めています。手話を学ぶことがその理念の実践にふさわしいのではないかと考えています。

では、よいクリスマスを迎えてください。年末に会うのを楽しみに。
ジャック

Greetings from Tokyo! Hope everyone is as well
as can be expected.

This snap of me was taken during my demonstration

of a Sign Language Class for Open Campus last September. And I kinda like how the photographer was able to hide my “double chin” and actually make me look a bit younger (smile)! At Open Campus, a university opens its gates/doors to junior-high and high school students to show the students what is being offered by having, among other things, teachers conduct “mock classes”. The sign language courses have been a real drawing card for Sophia and always fill the 800-capacity hall to overflowing, at both the summer and fall Open Campus Programs. So, I guess I do my share as a poster boy for Sophia. But, enough braggadocio! The truth is, as I mentioned at either our spring meeting or summer retreat, I think the courses go a long way in meeting the motto of the university; namely, helping/encouraging the student(s) to become “a person for others”.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Kochi on the 27th! In the meantime, Christmas blessings to you and the people you serve.



Youth

Tom MAHER

Recently, a retired English teacher, who was also a Principal of a junior high school, and who is now teaching Chinese to the prisoners in the Kochi prison, told me about this poem. He is in his 80's.

With the Japanese translation it may be too long to put in the News Letter but it is my Christmas Greeting to all: “STAY YOUNG.”

Youth

Samuel Ullman

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity of the appetite, for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of sixty more than a boy of twenty. Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, fear, self-distrust bows the heart and turns the spirit back to dust.

Whether sixty or sixteen, there is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder, the unfailing child-like appetite of what's next, and the joy of the game of living. In the center of your heart and my heart there is a wireless station; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage and power from men and from the Infinite, so long are you young.

When the aerials are down, and your spirit is covered with snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, then you are grown old, even at twenty, but as long as your aerials are up, to catch the waves of optimism, there is hope you may die young at eighty.

青春

サムエル・ウルマン

青春とは人生のある期間ではなく、心の持ちかたを言う。薔薇の面差し、紅の唇、しなやかな手足ではなく、たくましい意志、ゆたかな想像力、炎える情熱をさす。青春とは人生の深い泉の清新

さをいう。

青春とは臆病さを退ける勇氣、安きにつく気持を振り捨てる冒険心を意味する。ときには、20歳の青年よりも60歳の人に青春がある。年を重ねただけで人は老いない。理想を失うとき初めて老いる。

歳月は皮膚にしわを増すが、熱情を失えば心はしぼむ。苦悩・恐怖・失望により気力は地に這い精神は芥になる。

60歳であろうと16歳であろうと人の胸には、驚異に魅かれる心、おさな児のような未知への探求心、人生への興味の歓喜がある。君にも吾にも見えざる駆遣が心にある。人から神から美・希望・よろこび・勇氣・力の靈感を受ける限り君は若い。

靈感が絶え、精神が皮肉の雪におおわれ、悲歎の氷にとざされるとき、20歳であろうと人は老いる。頭を高く上げ希望の波をとらえる限り、80歳であろうと人は青春にして已む。(著者訳)



Christmas Message

John IWO

クリスマスおめでとうございます。

11月23日徳島教会創立100周年に参列して、内陣で静かにミサに参加している時、42年前、司祭叙階式で、この祭壇の前に平伏したことを思い出しました。鳴門で毎日地曜日ミサが捧げられるようになるまで、朝6時過ぎの汽車で徳島教会に通ったこと等、思い出しました。司祭になってからは高知、ブラジル、伊丹を経て、現在福岡市吉塚教会で働いています。

2006年も司祭として無事過ごしてきたことを感謝しています。そして2007年も神様の栄光と賛美のために、司祭職を果たしていくことができるようお祈りしながら、クリスマスと新年をお迎えしたいと思います。

新年おめでとうございます。



Jesus in each one of us

Nobuhiko YAGI



Christmas invites us to celebrate Jesus' coming to the earth. It also reminds us to feel the presence of Jesus in each one of us.

This year gave me a lot of opportunities to meet young people. I hope and pray that I may always be able to find Jesus in each one of them.

May Jesus who is in Angelo help and support him at this moment in his life.



ABOUT US

Koga Community — US (オブレート 5)

Us are five. Our age is 250

Us first saw the light of day in four different countries.

US is a colorful group; brown, tan, yellow and white.

US; thinks of itself as a community of 5.

The significant word is community. The 5 got involved because that is what is what we happened to be in the beginning. It does happened to be true that 5 is a good number. We are 5; ages 25, 32, 42, 70 and 81. 25 and 32 help 70 and 81, who at the same time share their wisdom and experience with 25 and 32. 44, as pastor, is the man in the middle and as superior, the man on the top.

US wants to continue to be a functioning, and living community at the same time involved and a sharing community. To assure that, this is possible the US OF THE FIVE GATHER ONCE A MONTH AFTER SUPPER, GIVING AND RECEIVING.

As one of US said the Christmas News letter should be a place for Christmas greetings and not lengthy articles. Us bring this to a close with Christmas greetings, reminding the reader that this is written at request of the 5 of US. MERRY CHRISTMAS.



Journey for Life into Asia

Jerry NOVOTNY

This year has been a busy one. Since retiring from Kochi National University three years ago, I founded a new organization called "Journey for Life into the Heart of Asia." Its purpose is to find donors who would sponsor travel expenses for speaking engagements to poorer countries in Asia. This year the organization has sponsored trips to Sri Lanka (twice), Indonesia, China (twice) and the Philippines (twice). The project involves traveling to villages and areas which are poor, in many cases, people who have little or no education. The trips average two to three weeks. The lectures center on "The Asian Family at Crossroads: Trends and Challenges." This is a series of talks touching upon the changes taking place within the Asian Family and related Life Issues such as abortion, euthanasia, contraceptives, population and life beginning at fertilization, etc.

The project so far has met with much success. The lectures average 2-3 hours and the audiences from 40 to 200 people. In the Philippines, 800 attended a three-day conference this past October. In Hong Kong I spoke to 200 Philippine Migrant Workers. At present, there are around 450 who are working there.

The main highlight was the last China trip. I was able to speak to young people groups at seven underground Churches, a number of pre-marriage groups, three evenings to 150 minor seminarians, 7 lectures to the 4th year theologians at the largest Major Seminary in China plus a number of talks to a Diocesan Convent of Sisters numbering 79, who were founded after the Cultural Revolution 18 years ago. The traditional Chinese Catholics have a very deep Faith and a strong determination to make China the #1 Catholic country in Asia. Christ is very much the center of their lives. And they love to study the Bible. There is a general feeling among the people and publicly by the government itself that the cultural revolution was a failure and did much harm to the country. Many recall the persecutions that took place between 1966 and 1988.

In addition to oil painting, I have started a new hobby - Mandarin Chinese. Having turned 66 last March and heading for 67, it is definitely a challenge. What enters the mind one day seems to evaporate the next. If the opportunity should arise, I definitely want to say more than "Ni Hao" next time.

My health is holding up very well. I' m still on medication for cancer. It is contained but not cured. However, I have no complaints and accept each day as something very special in my life. Being a Bohemian, there is always that strong desire to survive and reach out into the unknown.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be assured of a special place in my Christmas Mass and thoughts, in a special way I pray for Ange and those Oblates who are suffering in our Japanese mission.

God Bless



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



Our Christmas Party

27th DEC 2006(Wed) 4:30pm
Nakajima-cho Rectory

Perpetual Vows Ceremony

Eduardo Santos

4th FEB 2007(Sun) 9:30am
Catholic Toyohashi Church

Ryu Hi Gu Anselmo

2nd FEB 2007(Fri) 2:00pm
Yuljeondong parish Church, Suwon

ORDINATION - Priesthood & Diaconate

17th FEB 2007(Sat) 10:30am, Catholic Itami Church

Priesthood : Ken-ichi Furukawa, Diaconate : Ryu Hi Gu Anselmo

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007

SUWON, KOREA (HOUSE OF FORMATION)



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*"And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins."*

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

Have a blessed Christmas...

Hello dear everyone!

Greetings to you all from the Oblate house of Formation. We hope this Christmas greetings will find you all in good shape.

As we're in receipt of many mails from Ange, Jerry saying that many members of our unit (Japan-Korea-General Delegation) are being treated for their sickness, we wish to pray this Christmas – when God comes down in human form, that He might take away our sickness and make us strong collaborators in the salvific work.

Sometimes, during the hectic grind of the Christmas season, it's easy to lose sight of what really matters. Christmas is so much more than crowded malls, credit card bills, and wrapping paper, as we're aware of. It is a time for prayer and personal renewal. It is a time to clear our minds and cleanse our soul in preparation for the Lord's birth (and our re-birth too!). Most of all, it is an opportunity to develop a better understanding of Jesus' love and celebrate his life, death, and Resurrection.

Christmas is for many people the most joyous time of year, a special opportunity for celebration, sharing, and family gatherings. More importantly, however, Christmas is the celebration of his Incarnation, the union of true God and true man in the Christ Child.

The story of the Incarnation of the Son of God -- Isaiah who foretold his coming; John the Baptizer who prepared the way for him when at last he came; St. Joseph who accepted the responsibility for his safety, well-being and upbringing; and Mary, his mother, who remained steadfast in faith to the very end – might inspire all of us to celebrate a meaningful Christmas.

Wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2007.

Peace & joy

From the Oblate house of formation

(Frs.Varam, James & Maurizio

Brs.Anselmo, Pio & Shitol

Novice - Peter

Pre-novices – Michael, Simeon, Samuel & Andrea)

