



OMI Information

Newsletter of the Vice Province of Japan

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate



2000
Christmas

A Blessed Christmas and A New Year Filled With Blessings From the Lord

From the Members of the Vice Province of Japan/Korea



Christmas Eve Mass at Nakajimacho Parish, Kochi

BRINGING TO LIFE AN IMMENSE HOPE **Discerning Oblate Mission At the Dawn of the Third Millennium**

The General Council, in its letter dated October 18, has issued a two-page document entitled "Bringing to Life An Immense Hope. Discerning Oblate Mission At the Dawn of the Third Millennium" (pls. see appendix). *"We believe that the moment is right to take a deeper look at ourselves - where we are today; at the world where it is today; and see if 'we are in step with the reality of today's world and God's specific call too us through the charism.'"*

We are being called upon as a unit to join the whole congregation in this renewal process. The Provincial Council will start deliberating on the directives from the General Council and their implications on our next year's Congress. In the meantime, please familiarize yourself with the short document.

Christmas Messages

■ "The Slowness of God"

Exactly a year ago, the Superior General, Father Wilhelm STECKLING, graced us with his visit. During that visit, we were witnesses as two Filipino scholastics made their perpetual profession. Time flies! In his letter to the Vice Province after his visit Father General said and if I may quote:

Getting to know something of the reality in which you live, it becomes apparent that your mission is not an easy task. Fr. Jette spoke in an interview after his visit to Japan in 1976 about "les lenteurs de Dieu", the slowness of God. The way of His acting seems not to have changed. I must say that I admire your group of Oblates for your patience and joy in spite of this slowness of our Lord. In other aspects, the conditions in Japan

for the mission ad gentes are excellent: there is religious freedom, the Church enjoys a positive public image, and also, there are so many values in the culture of your country which point to the Gospel. As a result you feel called to continue on with the same patience in your reaching out to the non Christians, waiting for the hour of God.

During the season of Advent, when we prepare for Christmas, a familiar passage from Daniel keeps coming back: "O Lord, hear! O Lord, pardon! O Lord, be attentive and act without delay..." (Dan 9:19). There are times when we find God a bit "slow" and like Daniel, we pray "Come, Lord, do not delay."

When we were preparing to celebrate the 50th year of the Vice Province in 1998, I suggested a reflection process that should have brought us back to "Where we have been," affirmed us in "Where we are," and helped us see "Where we are going."

The Congress that we are planning to have in March 2001 will be a process that will be similar to the short preparation we had when we celebrated our 50th. We will try to trace the "fingerprints" of God in our works. We need the humility to accept our limitations and put our trust in the Lord. We might even find that God has been "slow" in this mission. Or, if we find God a bit slow, what is blocking God's plan from being fulfilled in our Vice Province, in our individual works and in our communities? Is it really that God is "slow" or we ourselves are the hindrances to the coming of His Kingdom in this part of His own creation?

The General Administration is calling on the entire congregation to start a process of reflection and evaluation entitled: "Immense Hope." This will be a process that will take about four years. Our congress next year should be a good introduction to this whole process.

Our Vice Province is also due for an evaluation as a unit since the category of "Vice Province" has ceased to exist. We have to start the reflection process on this. Will we remain as an individual unit or should we join other smaller units to fulfill the number required to make a Province? Or, should we be absorbed by a bigger unit? Even without asking, I think everyone wants that we continue to exist as an individual unit. There are criteria to be fulfilled for a unit to become a Province. Obviously, we do not have the number but is there so much weight being put on numbers? Should we not recognize the "slowness of God" on this side of the universal Church in the light of the thoughts of the famous Japanese catholic novelist, the late Endo Shusako, who said that the Japanese Church will always remain small in number? How do we bring to the awareness of the General Administration the realities of the mission in Japan which are in stark contrast to those of many parts of the Oblate world?

During the last General Chapter, I made a short intervention on behalf of the natives of countries that were not even represented but will also have to be heard, like China, Thailand, Korea, Japan, etc. It is said that English has become the language of the congregation and that we should

encourage our formandi to learn English or one of the major western languages. The countries in Asia that speak English or one of the western languages (just like the countries in the African continent) are those that have been colonized by western powers. Is it not true that countries that had resisted western powers are where christianity cannot boast of numbers and where the language of the Church is not western and where the seeming "slowness of God" can be felt? If God has been "slow" in the Japanese mission, is it His will or do we take the blame for it?

As we end the season of Advent and start the season of Christmas, let us reflect on the reality of God's seeming "slowness" in this part of the world and pray not limited by TIME, not bound by NUMBERS and in the LANGUAGE of one who patiently waits: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

May the feast of the Birth of Jesus give you Hope to welcome the dawn of another year that He and the Father, together with the Holy Spirit has given us.

Wency LAGUIDAO

P.S. 95% of the responses to the questionnaire was in exactly on time. Thank you very much for the show of cooperation.

■ MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

This will have to do for my Christmas Greetings as I will not be able to join you for the annual Christmas Party at Nakajimacho. As part of the receiving community, I feel bad about it, but I know you understand. Jude will do the work of two. Thanks Jude.

Right now at this stage in her life my mother needs careful attention. I will try to make her last years as comfortable as possible. The Provincial suggested to me last summer that I visit her a couple of times a year. Looking at my schedule as Provincial Treasurer, I find that July and December are the really only times I can get away and still fulfill my work in an adequate manner under less pressure. I can only do that because I can bring some of my work at home and use a laptop, and because of e-mail. So for the near future, I will be absent from Japan at those two times a year for about 40 days apiece. I beg your indulgence.

When this job of treasurer gets to me, I try to remind myself that I'm serving the community so that it and its members can more freely engage in Christ's apostolate. If I don't remind myself of this often, and I mean often, it can get depressing just looking at figures and meeting deadlines. At Christmastime I want to especially remind myself of the purpose of my ministry, because this season celebrates when it all began.

Please pray for me that I have the strength to fulfill that ministry always keeping in mind that this is my way to participate in all the OMI members' apostolate,

Ray BOURGOIN



■ From Yoshizuka

Merry Christmas!

The Holy Year 2000 is coming to an end. The following are some events of that year in Fukuoka.

1. On September 17 (Sunday) we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of Minami-Kasuya Church. Bishop Matsunaga celebrated a Solemn High Mass, during which he conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation to 12 persons. The Mass was attended by over 100 people. Afterwards we had a nice party in the garden.

2. On November 3 (Friday) the Fukuoka Diocese celebrated its Fukuoka Catholic Festival at Kurume Shinai Jogakuin (Women's College). About 4000 people attended the Festival. Parts of the program were: a symposium about "the Church from now on", a concert, a vocation meeting for the youth, and others. It was a very international festival:

During Mass there were prayers and readings in English, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog. I heard confessions from 11 AM to 2 PM and then concelebrated at Mass from 2:30 on. The Mass was celebrated on the playground.

3. At the end of September a Sister from Yoshizuka went to Pangasinan, north of Manila in the Philippines, to open a new Mission House, together with two Mexican Sisters.

4. On November 21 (Thursday) I attended the St. Sulpice Seminary Festival, with 3 of my parishioners. We had a chance to meet the new Bishop of Oita diocese, Bishop Miyahara.

In closing this little note I wish you all a Happy New Year, and I keep you in my prayers, counting also on yours.

2000年の聖年もあとわずかとなりました。この間のイベントとしては

1) 9月17日南粕屋教会で創立四十周年記念ミサと12名の堅信式が松永司教様によって行われた。約100名参加して盛大に、また、厳粛にミサと式典、パーティーが行われた。

2) 11月3日(金)久留米信愛女学院で福岡教区カトリックフェスティバルが行われた。約四千人が参加し吉塚からは60名が参加した。「これからの教会について」のシンポジウム、音楽会、青少年のために召命の集い等が行われた。前日までは大雨でしたが、当日は晴天となり国際色豊かな集会となった。ミサは日本語を軸に英語、韓国語、スペイン語、タガログ語で祈りや朗読が行われ、南米音楽の演奏もあった。私はというと、11時から2時まで告白を聞いた後、2時半からの野外ミサに参加したので、行事には参加できなかった。

3) 9月末に吉塚三位一体聖体修道女会のSr.今田様が二人のメキシコ会員と共にフィリピン北部の信宣教地開設のために

派遣された。暑さと蚊に悩まされているようです。

4) 11月21(水)サンスルピス大神学院祭に参加。大分の宮原新司教に会うことができた。吉塚から三人の信者が参加し、御馳走をいただきました。

新年を迎えるに当たって、私たち老年組は人生のゴールに向かって歩いていきたいと思います。というのがふさわしいようですね。

John IWO

■ From Awa-ikeda

A Blessed Christmas and a Happy Beginning Year of the 21st Century.

I became somewhat hesitant writing again after reading in the previous issue of our Newsletter that I had ended up in a drying simulator (whatever that is) when taking my "advanced age driver's instruction", and was "hit" by a tile at the actual driving practice. But trusting that I will be spared all untoward experiences I set myself to writing again. And no feint!

The hot Summer has not been conducive to strenuous effort. But the change of the weather has been rather abrupt. And the rain we missed here in the Summer has "blessed" us over abundantly since then. Luckily not at the rate of surrounding areas where people had to deal with floods and landslides.

The small number of people that constitute our Japanese parish community is getting quite advanced in age (like their pastor), and some driving mishaps have scared some of them off the road. That and the cost of

coming by train over a long distance, together with the difficulty of walking at that age has prevented some of them of coming as often as they would have liked to. One, who is over 90, is in hospital; another one, who is much younger, suffers of a disease for which the doctors have found no cure yet. His head is twisted aside, which makes it very painful for him to look straight ahead. That prevents him from assisting at Mass, because of the extended time. His wife drives him to the church once a month for a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament and to receive Holy Communion.

Another one who is blind comes when one of her children is home and can come with her.

The newest of our parishioners, whom I baptized on Pentecost Day in 1999, comes almost every Sunday. When she does not come here she is usually at another church - nearby or farther away. A couple of Philippine ladies who live within the town of Ikeda are quite regular, too.

The other Philippine housewives living within the parish boundaries have a Philippine priest come in on the second Sunday of every month to say Mass for them in the afternoon. In their own national language (Tagalog) it is a great help for them. But the great



distance (some over 60 km), and their living on the mountains make it sometimes not possible to come. So, it is very difficult beforehand to say how many will be present, and the attendance varies widely. Of course, a party is always an enticer, and on such occasions the number of attendants may run over thirty (involving parking problems!)

I close by wishing all of you again a Christmas with enough blessings to carry you through the whole New Year.

Jan VAN HOYDONCK

■ The many songs of Christmas day

"Sing joyfully to the Lord...break into song, sing praise" says the Psalmist. It's Christmas time. During this season, hymns and carols fill the air with joy and gladness. But not everyone will have a song of happiness in his or her heart.

Today, when we look around us at home, at church, at any gatherings we may attend, what "songs" do we hear? Some may have an angry, wild rap song in their hearts. Some may have problems brought on by relationship difficulties. Some may still mourn in their hearts due to a recent death. When I hear the many songs of different people, I begin to think as to how can these people celebrate a meaningful Christmas?

Jesus came to give new life, especially to those who suffer due to one reason or other. May His birth bring joy, happiness and new life to the poor and suffering. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us not forget to remember those who are not in a position to celebrate this great event.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2001.

Bradly ROZAIRO

■ Holiday Greetings from Kochi

Another year has passed, another year older and one year closer to retirement. I always feared becoming sixty, but it has come and gone and the year has turned out to be one of my best years of my life as an individual and as an Oblate.

Lifeissues in general such as abortion, euthanasia, bioethics, RU-486, etc. has gotten worse than better over the past year. One unborn child being killed every 3 seconds worldwide. Then on the other hand, we see a greater involvement by the "silent majority." Japan Pro-Life has also made its small contribution. Our video the "Silent Scream" was shown in June and again in October on national TV. Both programs were one hour long with relatively heated discussions. The only condition the Video Company laid down for granting permission to show video was that Japan Pro-Life name be shown as sponsoring the video. This was done and the response was excellent. Especially after the second showing, many calls came in from all over Japan, mostly from doctors and educators; we've had to order over a hundred videos since the second showing.

Secondly, Dr. John Billings and his staff have promised that within a year, they will

translate the entire Billings Method Website into Japanese. They said that they would sponsor the project if I would introduce them to a good translator. I asked my good friend Fr. Nariai from Kagoshima Diocese and he was delighted. He feels that he and his staff can get it done sooner. I checked out the website and the amount of material is tremendous. I wish Fr. Nariai much luck in this new adventure. I'm especially happy that this will be available to all Japanese and it won't cost them money to access or download the material. We ask for your prayers. Together with Fr. Nariai, we have managed to translate and publish Janet Smith's *Humanae Vitae* into Japanese and it has the imprimatur from the bishop of Kagoshima. Fr. Nariai is the founder and president of Japan *Humanae Vitae* Institute.

Third, we opened a new office at Nakajima Cho Parish. A big thanks to Fr. Jude for his help and assistance in obtaining one room in the building next to the priest house. This office is set up primarily to handle the workload for our new Japanese lifeissues website which should be opening in March, the first target date. About six people are involved in this project: translating, rechecking and marking-up each article makes up the bulk of the present workload. After Christmas, I should be able to start constructing the website itself.

Finally three months ago we were able to open a new international website called <lifeissues.net>. Extending from the Pro Life work here in Japan, I was especially surprised to see the Oblate support from all parts of the world. The feedback is good and many of the messages have been posted on the Message board. As of today the site has only been up for a couple of months and it seems to be growing and expanding by itself. Between 4000-5000 people hit the site daily, and statistics are available at anytime for what articles were read or what word searched for, what countries accessed and what browsers used, etc, etc. For anyone interested, give me three hours and I'd be delighted to give you a complete run-down.

My fear of turning 60 has passed and in a couple of months I'll be turning 61. What promptings of the Holy Spirit will appear over the next horizon is what's going to keep me young, but that's what being Oblate is all about I guess.

I wish you all a Blessed and Holy Christmas filled with the beauty and dignity of life itself, Jesus Christ.

Jerry NOVOTNY

■ From the novitiate

Merry Christmas

Aki community seems to be happy now. No fighting. No bullying. So I am having a good day. Honestly speaking, I worry about what is coming up next: going back to Nanzan University. But I know that I have become stronger than before going to Australia. I will try to do my best.

I want to tell you about my life here in Aki. I feel God's presence in nature and in my relationships with others. I have come to appreciate nature since I



came to Aki, it is so beautiful. When I walk around the area, I see how beautiful the seasons are. There are cherry blossoms, morning glory, falling leaves and so on, depending on the season. There are many beautiful small flowers in Aki. The sunset in Aki is beautiful, too. I would stop and appreciate it whenever I have the chance.

It is only now that I learned how to appreciate nature since I did not have the time to appreciate it when I was busy studying. I did not even notice the change in seasons until I came to AKi. Here, I feel the coolness and warmth of nature.

Aki parish is a good community. It is beautiful as the nature in Aki. I hope it grows in number in the near future. The children at the Hakuaien Orphanage have brought me closer to God. I am learning how to spend my time in meditation. I hope I am doing it correctly. I want to learn how to spend my time well.

Thank you for your help during the novitiate.

May God bless you throughout the coming year.

Ken-ichi FURUKAWA

■ From the novitiate

I have spent ten months at the novitiate which is in the Aki parish. The Aki parishioners are few, but they form a nice little family. This year, I have made friends with them. The best thing is that I can remember all the parishioners' name. Usually I'm not good at remembering people's names.

I'm spending my time here in a calm frame of mind. I'm very fortunate that I will prepare for this Christmas. I hope you'll spend a good Christmas and new year.

Akio HORIUCHI

■ From Hoya

Hope this finds everyone in good health! I've heard that Tom has been hospitalized and I hope by the time this reaches the presses or the editor's desk that Tom will have fully recovered.

Not much to report from Hoya except that the university keeps me on my toes. As for the Ongoing Formation Committee, I will have to do something to resuscitate it. It hasn't died; it's just been in a deep slumber! Let me know if there is anything that you want the Committee to do for you, ok? Whether it's part of the Committee's role or not, I don't know, but --- I am in the process of having some human-interest stories translated into Japanese. Someday I hope to share them with anyone who is interested in them. They can be worked into homilies or talks; in fact, I've used them in Retreat Talks. But more about them later.

I'm doing fine, thank God. In fact, I have only two major concerns at the moment: 1) nothing to write about for the Newsletter; and 2) whether or not I'll be able to submit a half-decent response to the QUESTIONNAIRE!

Here's a Christmas Greeting from Irish Folklore to all of you:

We're all related to Jesus on His mother's side!

See you in Kochi, with the help of God.

皆さんお元気ですか？

ニューズ・レターを書いている途中ですが、トムが入院していることを聞き、この便りを編集者のデスクに届ける頃には元気になっていればいいかと祈っています。

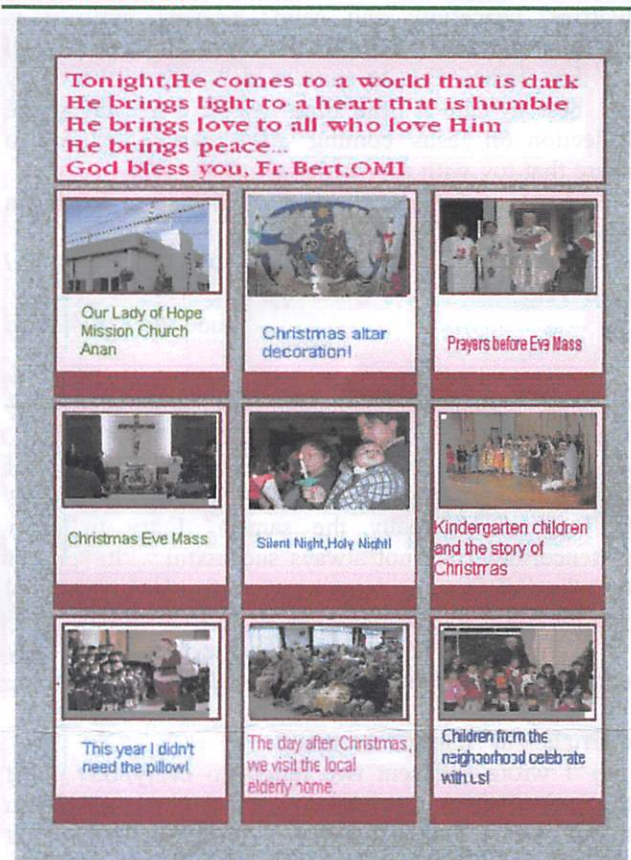
さて、皆さんはもうお忘れだと思いますが、Ongoing Formation Committee (養成委員会)は死んでいませんよ。この二年間、休眠状態ですが、細々と生きています。巷の人情味ある記事を集めて訳してもらったりしていますから、いつかリストアップして公表したいと思いますので、興味のある方はご覧ください。

私は、相変わらず元気でがんばっています。が、ニューズ・レターに載せるような話題がなくて困っています。その上、いま、頭の大部分を占めているのは Questionnaire のことです。ちゃんと締め切りに間に合うように、自分の意見がまとまるか心配です。

Merry Christmas!!!

Jack DEELY

■ From Anan



Tonight, He comes to a world that is dark.
He brings light to a heart that is humble.
He brings love to all who love Him.
He brings peace. God bless you

Bertram SILVER

■ GETTING READY

Two months have passed since I came back from my vacation. The time has passed so quickly.

I begin to ask why? The answer is: busy, busy, involved in various activities. I didn't even realize that

I am going to celebrate the 7th Christmas here in Japan.

As Advent has started I was preaching on the theme "get ready" get ready for Christmas. There are so many things coming up when Christmas comes. With all the work I am trying to get this thing done before the closing date. But that is not the end, one after the other comes, when Christmas comes closer. I am sure this is common to many of us, getting ready with Christmas cards, New Year greetings' (nengajo's), sermons, articles, etc. Always thinking: I have to do that, I have to do this, busy busy....

Here at Nakajimacho-Kochi people come one after the other asking what to do for the decorations, how to make the crib, how to arrange the liturgy, how many masses and what time they are and so on. Sometime you don't have the answers to all these questions. But on the other hand I am happy that people are around and they want to do something. All these things show that we have to get ready. But is that what it means to get ready? All the time I think, why can't I spend this Christmas without all these worries, peacefully and calm? I don't think it is possible in a place like this. I don't know when I will get that chance. But, in spite of all this work I will try my best to take a little time to spend in prayer and reflection on Jesus' coming. Also take some time to share that joy with my brethren.

Looking forward to see you all here in Kochi on the 26th, at the Christmas party.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year

Jude PEIRISPULLE

■ From Kochi

Dear Everybody

I enjoy my students at the Kochi University. I hope they enjoy my French. Going to the Tosa Girls College is not really the same. I try to show patience, but I am not always successful. In spite of that the College asked me to come for the new school year in April 2001.

We always hear and say that everybody is busy during the advent time. I suppose I am an exception.

Although for the month of December, I have six marriages in "our" photo studio.

I wrote and sent two letters to everybody. At the end of the second letter I wrote to some of you that I wasn't going to write a third one. I might change my mind ...

May you and your work be a grace for many people.

Xavier Yoshikazu TOSA

■ From Naruto

The time has come to pull out the Christmas discs and begin to savor the spirit of Christmas. At present I am listening to "A Celtic Christmas". The music is sad and melancholy, and yet gives a rather peaceful feeling. Which is a very important part of Christmas. "In the night... dark... stillness the Holy One comes a--- Child. Radiant Light break

forth with beams of Love and Peace for the Earth".

The time has also come to send in my contribution to the Christmas edition of the Newsletter. The big news in my life is that I have had my aged cataracts removed. I can now see like a young man. Which, by the way, is how I feel. (That is most of the time.) There are other parts that are in need replacement but then perhaps they are the gifts that help me to live in peace with Christ.

May the Peace of Christ be in all of us so that we may bring His peace to others. Merry Christmas!

John Kenney MAHONEY

■ From Aki

A VERY MERRY AND A MUCH BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EACH AND EVERYONE. ALSO HERE'S HOPING AND WISHING FOR A "BUMPER" NEW YEAR TOO. (That "bumper" is usually connected with a crop in Nebraska lingo.)

Aki remains, perhaps, the quietest mission we have, but it has real potential. At Christmas, our third adult baptism will bless us, and there are an adult and 2 children waiting in the rears.

The one year Novitiate is winding down. I'm very proud of our two candidates.

Dick HARR

■ From Tokushima

The deadline for getting this in was yesterday so I'll just take my chance and presume on Bro. Yagi's good will.

I'm so late and far behind on everything! Christmas cards, New Year's cards, and visiting the parish sick. Probably due to the 7 weeks in the States, but not just that alone. Had a great time but even there didn't get to see so many that I had wanted to. I came back to find that the 20 year old word processor that had done the brunt of the finances and office work in the parish had finally gone the way of all "things", that the heater in the meeting room doesn't work either, and that the place in, general, is starting to show signs of age and is in need of some repairs and new equipment.

Then too, during the past year we lost four of our old timers, including Mrs. Inagaki, Kamada, and Tamura (a favorite of Len Robatille's) and Mr. Mihara our financial advisor. This has left a great psychological loss, even though most of them have been pretty inactive these past few years. During this Holy Year I had tried to promote it as a time of standing back, to look at what we are and what we were doing, with the purpose of then trying to make the necessary changes for the future. I therefore called off most classes, the Bazaar, and cut down the parish paper to one publication at Christmas. I offered A common celebration of penance every first Monday in the morning and evening to help us enter into a spirit of repentance. We had adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, every Thursday morning and evening for an hour; we had a 2 month catechetical program during Pentecost, we made a pilgrimage to Tsuwano, instead of having the family camp in the summer, and

had a charity concert on the Bazaar day, all in view of trying to make some time and space to listen to the voice of the Lord in what He's saying to is in the Word, and in and through the events of our daily life and the world we live in. We had an "opening" of the gate ceremony at the beginning of the Holy Year, an old Easter vigil candle was reformed into the holy year candle and it was lite through the whole year except during Lent-Easter season, and we'll have a closing ceremony on the 7th of Jan. that will include symbols from all the Holy Events that we did through the year.

But whether people actually took the time to think and reflect about where we at and what we've been doing and about how we can change or improve, or what we should be doing to prepare for the future, I don't know. I can't say I was happy with the attendance at most of these events, but on the other had they were not a complete failure either. The numbers are going down Sundays, due to age and health problems, and there are lots of new people coming daily to study and seek out help, but they find it hard to break into the group and drift away more often than not. Of the 80 or 90 we get on Sunday a god 15 to 20 are not baptized. What next year will bring, I'm not sure. I have hopes and the people here are truly loyal to the church, the Oblates and the faith they have received as well as to the men who have served them over the years. The children don't come like they should and their knowledge of their faith is really nonexistent but how do you over come this, I'm still searching? It's really been a good year, full of peace and much grace, we've lost some precious people, and gain some new, I hope that we can build on the graces and the time we've had to reflect this year and have a great new start toward a new century and millennium that will foster the advent of His Coming to complete His work. Prayers for your works and Apostolates. Am very in awe of Jerry Novotany's work on the Internet, and Len Inui's travels for the sake of children. I pray that the Mystery of the Incarnation that began some 2,000 years ago will be renewed in you and in you apostolate, and am looking forward to seeing you all in Kochi, the Provincial cooks a mean turkey!

In Christ Mary;

Fran HAHN

■ From Koga

Merry Christmas

Since I'll be seeing you all on the 26th of Dec. at Kochi I was thinking of skipping this time too but I've missed several issues of the News Letter and I at least want to thank Nobuhiko for the great job he's doing. I hope all have a Christmas filled with blessings and good health. Tom is presently in the hospital with a bad lower leg problem and I ruined my knee at tennis. It seems to be better today so I'm planning on going again tomorrow and try my luck. I play with a group of younger priests and two older than I, so I enjoy it but the knee seems to be getting weak.

I wrote in my Christmas letter home that

the Japanese have a saying that anything you do is usually hard for the first three years. "Ishi no ue ni san nen". But even though I'm in my fourth year here it's been a taxing millennium year. I wonder when the Lords going to bring this parish together. We have so many great possibilities but it's hard to get them focused on the same mark. We seem to have all these good things going on but seem to focus on the bad things instead, at lease some times. We just finished a Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Council meeting, maybe that's why I'm talking this way.

Anyway if we do all that we plan to do for Christmas and New Year's we should be blessed abundantly and have a good New Year. And that's what I wish for all of you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bill MAHER

■ From Korea

Merry Christmas!

It is Christmas once again. A time to remember all of you, all of us! Here life is fine. Anselmo and Paolo have finished respectively their second and third year of theology and are now getting ready to depart for Australia. They will spend two years down under. The first year will see them fully immersed in language school, while the second year will see them totally absorbed to hear God's voice: the holiness of the days in the Novitiate!

In the mean time we pray daily and intensively, and ask the Lord to send us new young boys. Please pray with us for this.

Christmas! We hope that the exterior part of Christmas will not suffocate the Baby Jesus that is coming to us. Merry Christmas indeed.

From Anyang: Maurizio, Mauro, Paolo and Anselmo
Mauro CONCARDI

■ From the novitiate

Here in Aki, the natural environment is great and it is a quiet place. The Pacific Ocean is 200 meters away as the crow flies. From my bedroom I can see the ocean between the houses. At night, at times I can hear it when the waves are strong. I really thank that it is an ideal place for a novitiate.

The novitiate has been already 10 months old and just 2 months are left. Akio and Ken-ichi are doing fine and have entered novitiate life wholeheartedly. They are working on this precious road a day at a time. I also join them in cycling, sports, hiking, study and prayer. So my days are really full. At the beginning I envisioned that the year would be difficult but I find many graces along the way. I am quite thankful that I can walk with them during this novitiate period. In this wonderful weather and calm environment I can feel fully God's graces. I can also feel strongly that God is forming me as well as the 2 novices. Henceforth I want to walk with them the same path that Christ walk and I don't forget to care for the 2 novices who are given to me by God.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas and hapiness for

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all the coming year.

Nobuhiko YAGI

FORMATION MEETING IN SRI LANKA

The Vice Province was well-represented at the meeting of formators organized by the General Formation Committee and the Asia-Oceania Formation Committee held in Sri Lanka last Nov. 20-28. Nobuhiko YAGI and Leo KAWAGUCHI from Japan and Mauro CONCARDI from Korea attended. Wency LAGUIDAO also attended in his capacity as President of the AORC. Frs. Baudouin MUBESALA, Assistant General and Fr. Loudeger MAZILE, General Councillor for Latin America represented the General Administration together with Fr. Philippiiah JESUNESAN, Regional Councillor for Asia-Oceania region. Fr. Jesunesan also visited the Mission of Korea in early November.

Twenty one formators from eleven units in the Asia-Oceania region attended the meeting along with the organizers, facilitators, resource persons and observers. The participants tackled timely topics in formation such as Internationality and the possibility of a common scholasticate in the region; Theology that is indigenous to the region, Psycho-spiritual training for formators, etc. The meeting is held once every two years.

KOREAN ASPIRANTS TO AUSTRALIA

The Province of Australia is openly welcoming the two Korean aspirants who will start their pre-novitiate at the Saint Mary's Seminary in Mulgrave, Australia from February 2001.

RYU Hi Gu (better known as Anselmo) is 31 years old and will complete two years of aspirancy. He is a university graduate, major in business management and has worked before he joined the Oblates. He comes from a catholic family and was baptized when he was 7. He has a sister who is a religious.

LEE Ki Yong (better known as Paolo) is 23 yrs old, comes from a catholic family and was baptized when he was 7. He finished highschool and joined the Oblates as an aspirant in 1995.

Both of them finished military service, a requirement for every Korean male. We wish the two of them Good Luck! Incidentally, Mauro CONCARDI, Superior of the formation house in Korea is hoping to fill up the rooms when the two aspirants leave, with fresh candidates.

SAYING GOODBYE TO A FORMER SUPERIOR GENERAL

The Vice Province joins the entire Oblate world in mourning the death of Father Fernand JETTE, OMI, Superior General from 1974 to 1986. We remember him as the one who took over from Fr. Hanley. He led the congregation through very difficult times. We will remember him through his writings which will keep his memory alive. OMI Information (Rome) Nov. issue is a fitting tribute to the man of God and a true son of De Mazenod.

WELCOME!

Fr. Mark EDWARDS, master of pre-novices, St. Mary's Seminary, Province of Australia. He is here to visit two of his former pre-novices, Akio HORIUCHI and Kenichi FURUKAWA.

CONGRATULATIONS!

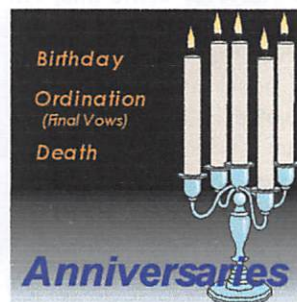
To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rozairo of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, parents of Bradly ROZAIRO who are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their marriage in January. Bradly will be home for the golden occasion. The couple has three children: a daughter who is married, a Franciscan nun and an Oblate priest.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

DON'T MISS this year's Christmas Party at Nakajimacho on December 26 (a guest cook from the Philippines will prepare dinner). The novices has prepared a simple liturgy to start the celebration at 5PM, followed by Gaudeamus then Dinner at about 6PM. Games will follow dinner.

PRAYERS

For the repose of the soul of the late Ms. Catalina CHONO Yoshiko, aunt of Mike YAMASAKI and benefactor of the Oblates. She died last Nov. 21 after a lingering illness. The funeral was held in Akaoka Church where she was a parishioner. She was 85.



■ 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	1 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	2 1978	Charles MC BENNETT
March	12 1979	Len ROBITAILLE