



OMI Japan - Korea Newsletter



November, 2008

Oblates of Mary Immaculate

<http://www.omijapankorea.net>, <http://www.oblates.or.kr>

MONTH OF NOVEMBER PRAYERS OFFERED FOR THE DEAD...

From the beginning, Christians have prayed for the dead and have undertaken works of penance on their behalf. There is scriptural basis for this intercessory prayer for the sins of others and for the dead in the Old Testament. Job's sacrifices purified his sons (Job 1:5); and Judas Maccabeus "made atonement for the dead that they be delivered from their sin" (II Macc 12:46).

The tradition in the Church of having Masses said for the dead began in the earliest times. The pre-Christian Roman religion, which held that some form of life continued after death, gave votive offerings to the gods for the dead at three specified times: the third, seventh and thirtieth day after death. This practice of praying for the departed on these same days was adopted / inculturated by the early Christians and continued in the Church for nearly 2000 years: the Church offered Masses for the deceased persons on the third, seventh and thirtieth day after death.

Beginning in the year 998, all souls, the "faithful departed" were officially remembered in the Church's prayers on the evening of November 1, and with Requiem Masses, Masses for the dead, on November 2. All Souls Day is now a feast of the universal Church.

We pray for the faithful departed, those who have been baptized, but who need to be completely purified of all stain of sin before they come into full union with God in Heaven.

And following this custom, we Oblates also allot a day of prayer for our deceased brothers, all the Oblates are invited to offer one Mass for the departed Oblate brethren on November 3; as the constitutions state, "We will keep alive the memory of our deceased and not fail to pray for them, faithfully offering the suffrages prescribed on their behalf (CC.43).

In Korea, the faithful and families spend the whole month of November, praying for their dead members of their families, friends. They chant psalms with a peculiar tune, so much so that brings to your mind all the dead and their memories. When they pray at homes, they place the deceased persons' photos on the altars. Likewise, in Churches, when they have vigils for the deceased, they place the parish priest's photo at the altars and in religious communities the superior's photo. Whatever is done, it is the fact that we remember our deceased with gratitude and love and set aside this month....

Faternally yours in St.Eugene & the Immaculate Mother,
Fr.Varam, OMI
(for the communication team)

NATIONAL

JAPAN

Interrogations should be taped, victim says...

An innocent man investigated for election violations says all criminal interrogations should be videotaped and recorded.

"Ordinary citizens will not be able to determine (whether a defendant is guilty or not) if they do not follow the interrogation process visually," Sachio Kawabata, 63, told a Tokyo symposium Saturday on the lay judge system that will take effect next May.

Kawabata was interrogated over the 2003 Kagoshima prefectural assembly election, and a police officer used a closed-door questioning technique on him known as "fumiji."

KOREA

Lee, Bush, Aso to hold summit in Peru...

Leaders of South Korea, the United States and Japan held a summit in Peru recently to address the global financial crisis and North Korea's nuclear programs.

The three-way meeting between Lee, President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Taro Aso was held on the sidelines of the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Lima, Brazil, November 2008.

The meeting was the first time in two and a half years that the three countries have held such a summit. In November 2006, Lee's predecessor, Roh Moo-hyun, held a three-way summit with Bush and then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, also on the sidelines of the APEC forum summit.

The cooperative measures to fight the financial crisis, denuclearization of North Korea and some regional diplomatic issues were among the key agenda items of the tripartite meeting.

CHURCH

JAPAN

Jerry

188 Japanese martyrs to be beatified in Nagasaki

Four priests and 184 lay faithful, including children, who suffered martyrdom in a wave of persecution that began in 1603, were beatified in Nagasaki last week, November 2008. The persecution, which ended in 1873, claimed the lives of some 30,000 Christians. Cardinal Peter Seiichi Shirayanagi, the retired archbishop of Tokyo, presided at the ceremony, which took place under the spot where an American atomic bomb exploded in 1945.

KOREA

50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Catholic Catechetical Institute

The Catholic Catechetical Institute celebrated the 50th anniversary of its establishment at Hyehwadong Catholic Church on October 20, 2008.

Along with the Most Rev. Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, Auxiliary Bishop and General Vicar of Seoul, the Most Rev. Basil Cho Kyu-man, Auxiliary Bishop of Seoul, and Rev. Thaddeus Lee Gi-rak, Director of the Catholic Catechetical Institute, about 500 people participated in the commemoration Mass.

Presiding over the Mass, Bishop Yeom said, "As an ecclesial institute for the formation of

lay leaders, the Catholic Catechetical Institute has always searched for the truth of the Gospel for all the difficult surroundings. Nowadays, we have to ask ourselves if there is a true evangelization in our society, even if we have witnessed a remarkable quantitative growth of the Church in Korea. I hope we can change the whole society with the spirit of the missionary."

Rev. Lee said, "As a seedbed of God's Word, we have made an abundant harvest with our sacrifice, service and love, as much as a seed come to fruition through the devoted endeavor of a farmer. I have come to realize that everything depends on God and our efforts, as I looked back the half a century history of the Catholic Catechetical Institute."

Besides, with the theme 'Past, Present and Future of the Catholic Catechetical Institute,' a 'Symposium for the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Catholic Catechetical Institute' was also held in the afternoon.

OBLATES

JAPAN:

Palomo

World Youth Day in Japan (one of my unforgettable).....

August 14-17 marked the World Youth day in Japan. On this event, let me share with you my memorable experience with the Japanese youth and with some religious priests and sisters.

In one of my OMI community meetings in Koga, two months before the Youth gathering, Fr. Jude, OMI, who is also involved in the youth ministry and with the approval of the council and formators told me to join with him for the World Youth Day here in Japan. I could not hid my feeling but great happiness after hearing because it will be my first time to go and see Tokyo where the meeting is to be held. Looking back in the Philippines, I only heard Tokyo among the many places here in Japan. I surely knew that Tokyo is really different compared to any places here in the Philippines. In fact as days and weeks passed by, I could not believe but sometimes smile. However something bothered me... Language! I am not that really good and fluent to understand and speak the language. What if... there will be sharing of ideas?... there will be talks?... somebody asks me? How could I understand them? How would I mingle and talk with them? These questions led me to reflect and said my "yes" no matter how difficult or unsure what be my condition. I knew it would be tough but I simply TRUST the ONE from above the HE will not abandon me.

The first day of the event includes the schedule of departure and arrival of participants from their respective places. Youth from Fukuoka prefecture to where I belong met at Hakata station. On our way to Tokyo I took the chance to talk with some of the youth whom I met already during our previous gathering. I realized that some of them were at the age of early 20s, same as my nephews and nieces (I felt so old... huh!) and mostly were already working. Along the way, I also enjoyed looking at the nice sceneries of Japan. With wonderful highways, green mountains and while enjoying riding in shinkansen (bullet train) passing through hundreds of tunnels (only in Japan). We reached Nagoya then took another train and finally arrived to a certain place where I thought it was Tokyo (huh!). I learned then that we could not reach Tokyo but only stopped in a place (sorry, I forgot the name of the place) near going to Mt. Fuji. I wondered why the place has no many big buildings (ha! ha! ha! no feeling of disappointment!). We took a bus going to our final destination, Salesian

Sisters' convent where the gathering will be held. There were already many youth participants accommodating for the new arrivals and some preparing for the program.

Before the program I felt it will really be grandeur especially after knowing and seeing good number of youth participants all over Japan, religious sisters, brothers, priests and especially bishops. Moreover, I was more surprised after knowing and meeting Filipina sisters and other foreigners. God is really full of providence. He sent some people at least somebody I could talk and asked to if I find the language difficult to understand.

The program officially started around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The session hall was filled with participants and some were still on their way to come. I talked to some I already met before. I spoke Japanese as much I could not matter how I rumbled the words (am sorry for murdering the language). Some said, "My Japanese language is good", but I did not know how true it was. Anyway, they just gave affirmation (huh!).

The Youth day in Japan is one of the best events I attended. Surely, the four-day programs were fabulous. Everybody could feel (like I) how magnificent the energy with in this gathering. I felt like everybody did not get tired no matter how hectic or rigid the schedules were and no matter how far they walked under the heat of the sun. And there were still energies to some who had sleepless nights just to prepare for the next day activity. In addition, the programs were really systematic. The facilitators were really good. The programs were filled with catechism given by the bishops. Prayers given by youth participants from different dioceses, sharing, mass, eating, walking, and singing especially break songs that almost everybody liked it. I felt that we are in one and big family during the whole event. It was worth noting that nobody dominates the whole event. In fact, almost everybody was equal regardless of the color, race, country, position and even the bishops were simply walking and joining the youth and priests during the sharing.

Furthermore, my apprehension that language blocks the relationship was not true. I realized that as long as you try your best to mingle and make friends, people will not hesitate to mingle and share. As long as you try to love, people will love you. There was no boundary, no alienation but are the same and equal. In fact there were so many touching moments that I was really moved and really appreciated the Japanese people.

Lastly, to my dear Oblate brothers, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. My experience of attending the youth gathering led me to be closer and more loving and a better person.

To all the facilitators, I salute and really appreciated all the efforts they have had done that made the whole event very successful.

I hope this event will continue and many priests, sisters and especially bishops will support.

May God continue to bless all our endeavors to continue evangelizing and glorifying His Kingdom.

Gen

My dear Oblate brothers,

All I can say now is thanks for everything. My Father had his last days before entered the hospital at the oblate house in Belem. He was thankful for every Oblate he had chance to meet in his life.

Xavier

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reminding me the next OMI newsletter. But there isn't so much to tell every month. I will do my best for the Christmas letter.

Bill Maher

Psalm 55:22

My favorite is the very last line. After watching the TV coverage tonight, I really needed to hear this. Love you all and know that no matter what happens He is in ultimate control and He has a plan for our country. It may not be the way we want it to go but it is still His plan. He will take care of all of His children. –Kelly

Psalm 55:22 --- you really need to read this. Even if you have read it before.' Friends are God's way of taking care of us.' This was written by a Metro Denver Hospice Physician:

I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd. , and the car started to choke and splutter and die – I barely managed to coast, cursing, into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the 'quickie mart' building, and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a Gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay.

When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel.

At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95.

I asked her if she was okay and if she needed help, and she just kept saying 'don't want my kids to see me crying,' so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, 'And you were praying?' That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person and said, 'He heard you, and He sent me.'

I took out my card and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fueling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought 2 big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car, who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little.

She told me her name, and that she lived in Kansas City. Her boyfriend left 2 months ago and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent Jan 1, and finally in desperation had finally called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about 5 years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there.

So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas, but not that they were going to live there.

I gave her my gloves, a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, 'So, are you like an angel or something?' This definitely made me cry. I said, 'Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people.'

It was so incredible to be a part of someone else's miracle. And of course, you guessed it, when I got in my car it started right away and got me home with no problem. I'll put it in the shop tomorrow to check, but I suspect the mechanic won't find anything wrong.

Sometimes the angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings...

Psalms 55:22 'Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain you. He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.'

Here is the prayer:

'Father, I ask you to bless my children, grandchildren, friends, relatives and email buddies reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask you to minister to their spirit this very moment. Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self doubt, release a renewed confidence through your grace, In Jesus' precious name. Amen.'

KOREA

Fr.James Jayachandran, OMI, was installed as the superior of the Mission of Korea on 17th November, 2008, by the outgoing mission superior Fr.Vincenzo Bordo. The installation took place during a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr.Vincenzo, in Suwon, Oblate seminary. After the installation, in his acceptance address, Fr.James, recalling the words of America's president-elect Barrack Obama, '**it is not I who won, but you won**', he called all the Oblates for a concerted effort to build up the mission. Also thanked the community for choosing him. He also didn't fail to thank the outgoing superior for his tireless service to the mission for the last 6 years.

THANK YOU FR.VINCENZO FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE!

AND WE ASSURE OUR PRAYERFUL SUPPORT TO FR.JAMES FOR HIS LEADERSHIP! HEARTY CONGRATUALTIONS!

Fr.Vincenzo was awarded the Baekgang Social Welfare Prize, last 7th November , a reward offered annually to the best social volunteer who had been selected solely across the nation by Baekgang Welfare Foundation(a Buddhist Social Welfare Foundation), a well-known social welfare corporation. As premium, he received 30 million won, which is to be a great help to be added to construction fund of Anna house.

Fr.Vincenzo, Many thanks for your great service! And hearty congratulations from the Oblates!

Fr. Alberto (Bobby) and Br. Noel are here in Korea from September 2008. They completed

their first level at the language school. They are given to the Japan-Korea General delegation for a period of one year. With this basics in the Korean language, Fr.Bobby is assigned to Suwon community, to work with Fr.Maurizio, with the immigrants. And Br.Noel is assigned to work with Fr.Vincenzo in Anna's house, while living in Seoul community.

Br.Noel and Fr.Alberto, good luck and keep on trying!

Fr.Alberto (Bobby) puts it like this: the two months of studying the language is just the beginning of a long or even a lifetime journey of learning the Korean language.

Fr.Emil Moraes (delegation superior of Bangladesh) writes...

We are just back to Dhaka after two graceful days in Rajshahi, Chanpukur mission where Paulus Murmu, a tribal, was ordained a Priest in a very meaningful Liturgy and with colorful traditional songs and dances from the tribal communities of Paulus. To make the celebration complete the presence of Paulus' sponsor mother and her daughter from Japan added a double joy. They really enjoyed participating in the celebration both in the church and in the home. They were emotionally moved to tears.

Now, I am writing to you in connection to your earlier request for one scholastic during the regency period. Well, at the beginning of January, 2009 one scholastic is due to go on regency year. We can send him to Korea, if you agree. His name is Johnny Fenny, a Bengali by race, very good boy, but rather introverts, does not talk much, good in English but not a musician. We think that his stay with an international community and work among the Koreans may help him to open up a little. He can learn Korean language like Shitol. We also hope that two Oblates from Bangladesh may be of a help to one another in the ministry in Korea. So that they do not feel too lonely.

You may talk with your administration and start the ball rolling to arrange for his visa. I am also sending a copy of this letter to the mission superior.

Informations from Fr. Jude

★ Gen's father was finally operated. But after the operation, while he was taking to the ICU room, he had a heart attack. Don't know the situation after that. Hope he will be recovered soon. Please continue to pray for him. Gen has an air ticket to come back to Japan on Monday.(Nov.18, 2008)

- I got the news saying that Gen's father died last night. Please pray for him and his family. His father rest in peace (Nov.19, 2008).

★ As it is mentioned in our provincial council report, I will be going to see Angelo, Dick and John Mahoney. I will leave Japan on the 26th of this month and hope to be back on December 6th. Hope Gen will be back by then and he will be holding the position while I am away. If he is not back by then, Fr.Ray will be in charge of everything.

★ Christmas Party is on the 29th of December.

★ James Jeyachandran was appointed superior of the Korean Mission; Anselmo and Maurizio as councilors, were installed by Vincenzo, in their community gathering. Congratulations!

I am sending 2 types of materials, which I have posted to you all. This is on our 35th General chapter. Please find the attachments.

★ On appointing the delegate and an alternate to participate to the general chapter from our unit, which is going to be in 2010. You are supposed to send the ballot papers by Dec 15th (return envelop is already enclosed). Election committee members are John Iwo, Kenichi Furukawa and me, will open the secret ballots after Dec 15th. I am also attaching the name list.

★ A questionnaire and other materials (3material papers) which you can answer through Internet to Rome directly or by post. You are free to choose the way you want to do.

If you have any questions on this please let me know.



THANK YOU!