

**Spring Meeting  
Acts of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter  
Chapter & implementation**

**April 19, 2023, Day 2 Morning Session**

Fr. Roshan opened the session with a prayer to Mother Mary by quoting CC and RR 10.

A short re-cap of the previous session was given. Yesterday's morning and afternoon sessions focused on the theme of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter which is *Pilgrim of Hope in Communion*.

**Mandates and recommendations of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Chapter**  
Develop a plan of action

Fr. Roshan challenged all of us on "How do we live our Vows, (*poverty, chastity and obedience*) in our context (*Japan-Korea*)".

There is a clear mandate on the ongoing formation of the Oblates especially with the CC and RR .

We have to go back to the CC and RR. The founder was very enthusiastic when the rules were approved by Rome. With the same enthusiasm of the founder (EDM) we are called to renew again our life according to the CC and RR.

Fr. Roshan shared that for the next three years of his term as the provincial of OMI- Colombo Province, he would take up again the CC and RR as the reference point for its plans and programs.

Fr. Roshan commented that in his visits and dialogue with other Oblates in the province he felt that there is a lack of OMI spirituality with the Oblates.

Thus, he challenged all of us to ask ourselves, "Where am I with regard my Oblate life?"

Fr. Roshan commented that some Oblates are like "parasites". They don't give to the province what they received as donations, salary. However, they would just ask everything from the province.

Fr. Roshan stressed that we might not be able to implement everything written in the document of the General Chapter, but we are challenged and encouraged to follow and implement the mandate by going back to our roots which is the CC and RR.

***Oblate brotherhood***

We are incomplete without the presence of the

brothers.

Priests and brothers serve as the two lungs of the congregation who work together.

Our vocation promotion should not only be limited to the vocation for the priesthood but also to the vocation for the brotherhood.

One concrete mandate was to be sensitive with the language we use. Always be inclusive in addressing the Oblates.

The representation of the brothers in the unit, region, and General Administration is highly recommended. Oblate brothers are called to take part of the administration of the congregation and not only in doing practical services.

Give the brothers the same wholistic formation like the priests in order to prepare them to take roles in the pastoral and the administration of the unit.

A congress for the Oblate brothers is also mandated.

***Oblate Institute of Higher Learning***

Fr. Roshan did not dwell on this mandate.

***Protection of Minor and Vulnerable Adults***

Fr. Roshan shared that in the Sri Lankan culture people still have so much respect for the clergy and religious that there are still no cases being brought out against the clergy and religious. However, he stressed that every mission needs to have a policy for the Safeguarding and Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults.

Both Japan and Korea missions have a policy for the protection of minor and vulnerable adults.

In the policy, somebody must be appointed to oversee and coordinate in Safeguarding and Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults.

***Laudato Si***

Fr. Roshan did not dwell so much on this mandate.

***Finance***

The General Administration encourages the succession planning for treasurers. If needed a professional training for them must be included in the curriculum in the first formation.

Spirit of sharing within the region is very important. Fr. Roshan expressed his gratitude to the delegation of Japan-Korea for sharing its resources.

***Lay Associates***

There were 7 lay representatives from each region

who attended the General Chapter.

Establish of a new General Service or an Office for laity in sharing the Oblate charism.

#### April 19, 2023, Day 2 Afternoon session

Evaluation of Japan and Korea being attached to OMI-Colombo Province

OMI Japan-Korea has been of OMI-Colombo Province since 2010.

Since then every time that we have a gathering as a delegation one or two Oblate from Colombo would join our gathering to serve as representatives from the mother Province.

#### **Fr. Jun Ikeda**

Fr. Ikeda a short history of the delegation and the reason why he chose the province of Colombo to serve as the mother province of OMI Japan-Korea.

#### **Fr. Wency**

With the declining number of the members there is a need to merge with other smaller units. This holds true not only to the OMI Japan-Korea but also with other congregations in the world.

Fr. Wency shared the willingness of OMI-Colombo province to welcome us to be part of their province.

#### **Fr. Maurizio**

Based on our CC and RR, we need to be under a province. We are like an “adopted child” since we are not born out of the province.

There is a difficulty of not knowing each other that much. Concrete example is we don’t know who to vote as the provincial since we don’t know anybody in the mother province.

With the technology we have now, we could get to know each other well.

#### **Fr. Iru**

Fr. Iru posted a question “As a provincial of OMI-Colombo Province who takes care of the delegation of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Japan-Korea, isn’t it too burdensome to you?”

#### **Fr. Roshan**

There are conditions which need to be met in order to be a province. Though OMI Japan-Korea is

financially stable but still it lacks the number of personnel to be promoted to be a province.

As a mother province have you done justice to the delegation under your take?

Fr. Roshan appointed a vicar-provincial to help him in animating the mother province, Colombo and the other delegations.

He wished to have a *pastoral visit* to the delegations but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions it was not possible.

Fr. Roshan plans to *help in the delegation in the animation aspect* of the mission.

Fr. Roshan also shared the importance of *sharing of personnel*. The last one sent to Japan from Colombo province was Fr. Hiran. Fr. Taranga is set to come to Japan to be part of OMI Japan- Korea delegation.

He vows that he would do his best to give justice to the delegation given to its care.

#### **Fr. Jude**

He hopes that AORC would continue to help in sharing the personnel and other resources within the region.

#### **Fr. Bradly**

He talked with Fr. Ajith (Bangladesh) and Fr. Charlie (Philippines) about the possibility of sending scholastics to have an exposure here in Japan.

For what purpose we ask for new personnel?

#### **Fr. Jude**

The possibility of theology? Please come and see. Scholastics are invited to have a “*come and see experience*”.

#### **Fr. Hiran**

He was sent to Japan after his 2 years of missionary experience in Sri Lanka. He came to experience the mission in Japan and got an obedience after 2 years here in Japan.

#### **Fr. Shitol**

He was sent to Korea for an exposure. He was advised to continue his studies in Bangladesh because of language barrier.

#### **Fr. Roshan**

Restructuring is given to the mandate of the General administration.

There is already an amalgamation of units that took place in the congregation because of the necessity.

Fr. Roshan feels that Japan is really a mission place where we Oblates must continue to minister.

***Fr. Ikeda***

Shared his experience as one of the first seminarians assigned to Japan to study Theology and experience mission here in Japan.

***Fr. Shitol***

Fr. Shitol express his opinion on stressing the missionary spirit among our formandi.

***Fr. Roshan***

What effort do we exert in our vocation promotion? How long will we depend from other province, delegation to send us missionaries?

***Fr. Wency***

As a delegation of Colombo Province, are we just using the province to survive?

Fr. Wency got involved with kindergarten ministry to respond to needs of the delegation.

AD Hoc Committee

75 Years of Oblate Presence in Japan

***Young Oblates***

The participation of the Young Oblates in the chapter was very visible.

There was a mandate that a congress for young Oblates to be held in the regional level.

***Initial Formation***

There is a mandate to centralize the novitiate and post-novitiate formation to ensure the missionary and intercultural formation of the candidates.

***Restructuring***

There is a mandate in line with CC and RR 135 that gives the General Superior the authority to exercise his authority to draft a restructure plan for the entire congregation.

Things to consider: Number of units, regions, councilors.

The work is done through a synodal process.