

SCHEDULE: OMI Japan-Korea Spring Meeting

Dates: April 17 ~ 20, 2023

Place: Catholic Umeda Church, Osaka

Theme: Acts of the 37th General Chapter & implementation

Facilitator: Fr. Roshan Silva OMI, Provincial Superior

Schedule:

April 17 (Mon) Arrival in Osaka in the evening after supper

April 18 (Tue)

7:30 AM Breakfast
 9:00 Morning prayer & Mass:
 HONSHU-TOKUSHIMA DISTRICT
 10:15 Introduction and Welcome
 10:30 Talk 1 (Colombo time 7:00 am)
 11:30 Questions/clarifications/sharing
 12:00 Lunch
 2:30 PM Tea/Coffee break
 3:00 Talk 2 (Colombo time 11:30 am)
 4:00 Break
 4:30 Questions/clarifications/sharing
 5:00 Eucharist: KOCHI DISTRICT
 6:00 Social dining

April 19 (Wed)

7:30 AM Breakfast
 9:00 Morning prayer & Mass: KOREA MISSION
 10:00 Tea/coffee break
 10:30 Talk 3 (Colombo time 7:00 am)
 11:30 Questions/clarification/sharing
 12:00 Lunch
 2:30 PM Tea/coffee break
 3:00 Evaluation session: JK attached to Colombo
 (Colombo time 11:30 am)
 4:00 Break
 4:30 OMI Japan 75 years & OMI Korea – updates
 5:30 Evening prayer: FUKUOKA DISTRICT
 6:00 Social dining

April 20 (Thu)

7:30 AM Breakfast
9:00 Morning prayer: DELEGATION COUNCIL
9:15 Re-cap of past two days
10:15 Tea/coffee break
10:30 Business meeting, announcements etc.
11:30 Mass
12:00 Lunch

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PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN COMMUNION
37th General Chapter 2022

SUMMARY: SPRING MEETING REPORT

We had Fr. Roshan, the Provincial of Colombo as our animator for the meeting. He was doing it on Zoom due to a visa delay.

Fr. Roshan shared his personal experience of the General Chapter, being for him the first time with 79 capitulars from 70 countries.

The theme of the Chapter: **PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN COMMUNION**

This theme should give a specific **IDENTITY** to our mission in Japan and Korea.

We are pilgrims, people who bring hope, and we journey not alone but together with the people that are entrusted to us.

The dimension of being a pilgrim requires us to travel with only what is essential and to leave what we don't need. That means for us to live our CALL TO LIFE OF POVERTY.

In this pilgrimage, we are called to CONVERSION OF HEART, IN THE LIGHT OF HOPE AND OF COMMUNION.

Fr. Roshan emphasized the three words of the theme.

PILGRIMS:

We are not the ones who started this pilgrimage, but it is JESUS. This pilgrimage has a history, there is our tradition and our FOUNDER who is in front of us in this journey. That is why it is essential for us as pilgrims to connect with JESUS AND THE FOUNDER. Here it was underlined the importance of our CC.&RR., which is our BOOK OF LIFE. As a decision from the General Chapter one year will be dedicated to the study of the CC.&RR.

That book of life reminds us that our IDENTITY IS TO BE EVANGELIZERS, and we have to be careful to maintain that identity because could be distorted by many things.

The C.7 was here mentioned to remind us that as PRIESTS and BROTHERS, we are evangelizers, and there is a COMPLEMENTARY RESPONSIBILITY in the work of evangelizing in the congregation. In this regard, the role of the BROTHER AND ALSO THE TERMINOLOGY USED WAS CHANGED.

Another change also was done to the terminology of RESIDENCE, which disappeared from our CC.& RR. Every Oblate should be connected to a community with a superior.

Also, as a pilgrim, there is a responsibility of each for his own ongoing formation.

HOPE

Hope is essential to carry on our mission. The world we live in is a broken world and it is important to reflect and study the world we live in in order to find out how we can offer hope.

The Oblates have to be MEN OF HOPE.

There are two outstanding issues of hope in these times.

1. A CALL FOR THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME (the earth)

2. GROWING IN INTERDEPENDENCE AND COMMUNION.

1. The encyclical LAUDATO SI is the referring document for that issue work for Justice and Peace was emphasized and 4 areas in which the Oblates work was indicated: a) Indigenous people, b) Migrants, c) Young people, d) Urban city. In those areas, there were mistakes in the way the mission was conducted sometimes, but the attention to the cry of the poor is very important.
2. In this issue, we are called to work with the lay people, to trust the others. The Oblates are encouraged to see that EVERY MISSION IN THE CONGREGATION IS MY MISSION. It is a change of mentality and it is important and also it is connected with the call for RESTRUCTURING in the congregation. RESTRUCTURING for the sake of the mission and for MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY, through sharing resources (human, financial, facilities etc.). It was stressed to instill this mentality in the first formation.

COMMUNION

The journey is as a community, which means together. It is challenging but WE CAN BE A SING F HOPE ONLY IF WE DO THE MISSION IN COMMUNION. This should be a sign for the others. We have not only to ask if I am happy with the community but also if the community is happy with me. All the challenges of diversity, and culture should not be barriers. When we talk about communion is not referred just to the Oblates but also to the lay people with whom we have to share our mission, charism and life.

There were some reactions about the word RESTRUCTURING

- not a very positive word in Japan...means something has to be thrown out?
- No restructuring just for survival...
- Fr. Roshan was stressing that first of all is a call to a change in the lifestyle and in the formation style inside the units.

After this Fr. Roshan presented the mandates and recommendations of the General Chapter. He also presumed that we already have read the Chapter document.

1. ONGOING FORMATION- the spiritual life of the oblates and the call to go back to the CC.&RR.
2. OBLATE BROTHERHOOD- priests and brothers are the two lungs of the Congregation. We have to promote the vocation to both and share responsibility together, be careful in the terminology and also give the proper formation to both for any role inside the congregation.
3. PROTECTION OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS- each unit should have a policy and also in particular pastoral work we are doing.
4. LAUDATO SI- not much about that
5. FINANCES- stress on preparing the future treasures and give professional training if needed.
6. LAY ASSOCIATES- the presence of the lay people in the chapter was very important and there was a suggestion to establish a General Office for laity in Rome.
7. YOUNG OBLATES-the chapter was very young and there is a need to have a congress for the young Oblates at the Region level.
8. INITIAL FORMATION- a mandate to centralize the novitiate and post-novitiate formation to ensure intercultural formation for the candidates.
9. RESTRUCTURING- C. 135 gives the General full authority over the members of the congregation.

It has to be considered the number of units, regions, provinces, and delegations and has to be done in a synodal process.

After the session with Fr. Roshan, we had an evaluation and shared about being attached to the Province of Colombo since 2010...

Different opinions were expressed.

Fr. Roshan answered with his plan

- A) pastoral visits to the units
- B) animation of the unit through people and programs
- C) sharing personnel.

One longer sharing was about the possibility of sending scholastics to study theology in Korea or in Japan. Some people shared their experiences.

Finally, we had the presentation of the program for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Oblate mission in Japan.

Osaka, April 20, 2023
Reported by
Maurizio and Bernard



OMI JAPAN-KOREA SPRING MEETING
CATHOLIC OSAKA UMEDA CHURCH



