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Haiti: 75 years of Oblate presence

More than 60 Oblates concelebrated Mass on May 19, with Cardinal Chibly Langlois, Bishop of Les Cayes, presiding, to honor 75 years since the Oblates began ministry in Haiti. Another 30 diocesan priests also attended as well as 25 Oblate Associates. Oblate provincial, Fr. Ellince MARTYR, shared a brief history of Oblate presence on this island country in the Caribbean.

The evening before, the provincial presided at a ceremony honoring Oblate missionaries from the United States who have spent their lives of ministry in Haiti. The former Northern U.S. Province first sent Oblates to Haiti in 1943 at the request of the then Bishop of Les Cayes, on the southern tip of the island.

Oblates presently staff 24 parishes in several dioceses; they have established several primary and secondary schools, a pre-novitiate, novitiate and scholasticate.

A group of Oblate Associates, some 35 in number, have been instrumental in helping Oblates in their ministry, helping them learn the Creole language and the culture and background of the Haitian people.

The provincial gave awards to Oblates from the U.S., Frs. Joe CORRIVEAU and Fred CHARPENTIER, who together total 103 years of ministry in Haiti!

Cardinal Langolis thanked the Oblates for their many years of “generous, faithful service” and said that when the Oblates first arrived in January 1943, during World War II, priests in Les Cayes and southern Haiti were few. There was a debilitating sense of hopelessness in the Church and in society. The poor had been largely neglected by the few remaining clergy and were deprived of any government assistance.

The Oblates sent many Brothers and priests, he went on to say, and they built and staffed schools to provide quality education so the youth especially could find jobs and better themselves with an education. They built parishes among the poor and housed street kids who would otherwise likely have been killed or certainly uncared for.

“Through their schools, the Oblates found vocations to their way of life and they have been a wonderful, necessary blessing,” he said. “May they be here for many years to come!”

Today 110 Oblates minister in Haiti and they have established two missions: Colombia and French Guiana.

They continue to be blessed with vocations with 25 men currently in various levels of first forma

tion. The ministry in Haiti has been financially supported by the United States Province, Notre Dame du Cap Province in Canada and the Central European Province, as well as other Oblate organizations and Catholic relief efforts and associations throughout the world.

That support has been a special blessing after the frequent hurricanes that have ravaged this poverty-stricken country. Their contributions to this Caribbean island were acknowledged and affirmed by the Haitian provincial as well, both at the Anniversary Mass and at the award ceremonies the evening before. (By Fr. Lou STUDER in OMI USA, July 2018)

General Administration

ASSOCIATION OF OBLATE INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING 11th meeting of executive group in Cedara

The 11th annual meeting of the AOIHL executive group took place at St. Joseph's Theological Institute in Cedara, South Africa, from May 28-June 1, 2018. It was the second meeting of the group held at Cedara, the first meeting being held there in 2011. The meeting participants included the presidents or leadership representatives of all the Oblate Institutes of Higher Learning: Ron ROLHEISER, Scott Woodward and Rene Espinosa -- Oblate School of Theology (USA); John Renken -- Saint Paul University (Canada); Francis ZABALA -- Notre Dame University (Philippines); Anaclet DUPAR -- Institut Saint Eugene (DRC Congo); Wojciech KLUJ -- Odra Scholasticate/Faculty of Missiology (Poland); Rayappan AROKIASAMY -- De Mazenod Institute of Philosophy (India); and Ewen SWARTZ, Nhlanhla John MHLANGA and Joseph PHIRI St. Joseph's Theological Institute (South Africa). Warren BROWN, General Councilor for Canada-US, serves as the group's coordinator and was also present.

The meetings were held at St. Joseph's and at a Conference Venue near Cedara. Among the various topics discussed, the first theme was an update of the programs being developed by Fr. Francis SANTUCCI as the Kusenberger Chair of Oblate Studies in San Antonio. All the institutes were invited by Frank to recruit participants for the program as he continues to develop more materials for the Master of Arts degree in Spirituality and for the Certificate.

There was also a presentation given via Skype by Ms. Graciela Etchart of the Oblate Office on Mission Sustainability, on "Building Capacity for the Financial Sustainability of Oblate Units" which generated some good discussions on future planning and financial education.

The representatives of the various institutes also met individually during the week in one-on-one meetings to discuss present collaborative efforts and to develop plans for future collaboration. The final day of the meeting, on Friday June 1st, included a visit to St. Joseph's facilities and an Academic Assembly for presentations and discussions with members of the staff.

On Friday afternoon, the annual lecture on behalf of the Kusenberger Chair of Oblate Studies was held in the Fr. Paul Decock Auditorium at St. Joseph's and featured an address given by Fr. Ron Rolheiser entitled: "The Oblate Charism Today: Its Essence, Modesty, Vitality, Struggles, and its Urgency".

There were also talks given by Frs. Paul DECOCK and Joseph Phiri related to the Oblate charism and St. Joseph's Institute. The Kusenberger Lecture program included musical interludes of beautiful choral pieces sung by the Oblate Scholastic Choir and the Drakondale Girls Choir School. Around 80 participants were present at the lecture program which was broadcast via internet. Mr. Bob Kusenberger, benefactor and honorary Oblate, also was present along with representatives of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio: Bill MORELL, Sr. Jane Ann Slater, CDP, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gittinger. (Warren Brown)

Africa-Madagascar

CONGO**Bishop Ambongo returns to the Saint Eugene de Mazenod Institute**

“What you are doing today will determine what you will be tomorrow. Woe to him who does not take the present seriously.” The Coadjutor Archbishop of Kinshasa, Fridolin Ambongo, gave this advice to the students of the Saint Eugene de Mazenod Institute on Saturday, June 23, in the homily of the Mass he presided over for the closing of the academic year 2017-2018. The Mass was concelebrated in the chapel of the St. Eugene de Mazenod Scholasticate by Bishop Louis MBWOL, Bishop emeritus of Idiofa; Father Joseph NTUMBA, Provincial Superior of the Missionary Oblates; and about twenty other priests, including superiors and former students from various congregations that are partners of the Institute.

It was the occasion for a son of the family to return to the fold, his alma mater, after the years of commitment in his adult life. At the St. Eugene de Mazenod Theologate, from 1984 to 1988, the young Capuchin seminarian, Ambongo Besungu, received his first theological training for priestly ordination. From 1995 to 2005, he was a professor of moral theology until his appointment as bishop of Bokungu-Ikela. Here he is today, coadjutor archbishop of Kinshasa, having been archbishop of Mbandaka-Bikoro.

“You are a son and a father”, the rector of the Institute, Father Analet DUPAR, reminded him. He gave the archbishop a photo representing him as bishop in the courtyard of St. Eugene de Mazenod Theologate.

Bishop Ambongo, who was elected Dean of Students in 1986, said he came out of gratitude and to pay homage to his teachers. He shared some convictions with his younger brothers. He said he remembered his essay about the prophet “Amos, the subversive.” The student has learned to love justice in society. “What you are doing today will determine what you will be tomorrow.”

While he is still observing, seeing and listening before becoming Archbishop of Kinshasa, Bishop Ambongo congratulated the faculty and the entire institution for the integral formation of the future pastors of the country. He thanked the provincial superior of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Fr. Joseph Ntumba, Grand Chancellor of the Institute of Saint Eugene de Mazenod, for the participation of the Oblates in this work of the Church. He particularly offered congratulations for the opening of new courses of formation in computer science, economics and business administration, which give more opportunities for lay people to benefit from the formation provided by an ecclesiastical institution. (<http://www.isemomi.org>)

CONGO**A man who was not afraid to dare**

Fr. Daniel LOOBUYCK, former superior of the Congo, died on May 19 in his native Belgium. On May 26, in the chapel of the Oblate Scholasticate at Kinshasa, the current provincial of the Congo, Father Joseph NTUMBA, presided at the Mass for the repose of the soul of the first superior of the Saint Eugene de Mazenod scholasticate.

Father Baudouin MUBESALA, former provincial superior and former assistant general, delivered the homily. Here are excerpts:

“Father Daniel Loobuyck was an Oblate with an exceptional career. When he had finished his studies at Gijzegem and then at Nijmegen, with Piet Weijs, he came to the Congo without delay. After serving in the bush of Koshibanda, Musenge-Bawongo and Kipuku, he was appointed provincial. In the early years, he found it difficult to leave Koshibanda for the provincial house in Ifwanzondo.

“Provincial for three successive terms, he had the courage to trust the Congolese youth by reopening the Ifwanzondo novitiate in 1977, after he had admitted Theophile Moke, in 1975, Jean-Pierre BWALWEL and his friend François-

Xavier Ngaydam, the following year, who made their novitiate with the Scheut Fathers in Mbudi.

“In his eighth year as provincial, he left his job as provincial to prepare himself in Canada to become superior of the Kitambo scholasticate, which was about to open. On his return, for a year, he was appointed superior of Home Asuma, in Righini, before joining the scholasticate in Kitambo which began with him in 1982-1983. That same academic year, the Eugene de Mazenod Theologate began with five students. Daniel would, at the same time, assume the role of superior of the scholasticate and rector of the theologate.

“Then, he assumed the task of Provincial Treasurer before returning to Belgium where he would again be provincial for three years.

“It was an exceptional life for an exceptional man. What God has given him, he has been able to give back to his brothers and sisters, and especially to the Oblates of this Province. Abundantly generous, Loobuyck touched the hearts of many, all generations included.

“He was daring in several areas, but three struggles have especially touched the spirit of the young Oblates ... These three struggles were first of all, the reopening of the novitiate in 1977, after the war of Mulele in 1964. I do not say that his compatriots did not believe in young people, but I will not hesitate to say that they saw no chance of renewal. Since it was necessary to dare, he dared.

“The second struggle was that of the opening of the scholasticate in Kitambo. At the request of the late Cardinal Joseph-Albert Malula, Archbishop of Kinshasa, who wanted the Oblates to have another parish in Kinshasa besides Saint Eloi, Daniel Loobuyck would be the parish priest of Saint Felix, Camp Mombele. He was a fighter.

“The third was the opening of the Eugene de Mazenod theologate, with five students. It needed to be done. And he did it. Father Guy Homery, founder of the Divine Providence of Crehen, said: ‘First begin, my son; Providence will come to help you’, and Daniel believed that. History has proven him right.

“It’s enough to believe, to dare and to be strong. Daniel believed firmly in man, especially in Congolese youth. He has given a lot for this Province, and this Province of Congo is grateful to him. In celebrating this Eucharist in his memory, the Province would like to have him as an intercessor. May his soul rest in peace with the One whom he has served.” <http://www.oblatcongo.org>

KENYA

Workshop for formators

From July 5th to 14th, a training workshop for formators from the Africa and Madagascar region was held at Roussel House, Nairobi, KENYA. For nine days, 19 Oblates (including two translators) listened, reflected and shared on several topics namely: interculturality, Oblate Charism, discernment, accompaniment, evaluation, the roles of formators and formandi, listening skills, regency experience, values, emotional needs and group dynamics.

Following the last General Chapter call which was focused on Formation for mission and interculturality, the first moment of this workshop was on the challenges of interculturality, animated by Bro. John NHLANHLAN and Fr. Jean Pierre FETSHI. Both highlighted the necessity for us to become aware of interculturality as an intentional process of conversion and reciprocity. Going deep into our cultural experiences, making our cultural diversity an opportunity, an asset to community life, requires radical change and the future of our religious family depends on it. It is therefore up to the formators to know how to help young people in formation become aware of interculturality as a life-giving experience.

The second moment of this workshop was the intervention of Fr. Fabio CIARDI. For three days, he helped us go back to the sources of our Charism. He focused our attention on methods that could be used today to talk about our charism and our spirituality to youth and to our formandi. He presented the charism of our religious family as a living tree that has seeds and roots. His talk was a call to return to the sources, to the root of our religious family to rediscover the spirit of our

Founder, the flame that burned in the heart of our Founder and his first companions. It is this flame that we must transmit to young oblates today.

On the fifth day, the workshop focused on discernment, accompaniment and evaluation; it was animated by Sr. Elizabeth Okpalaenwe of the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. Through practical examples, she helped us understand how discernment is central to our daily lives.

After a morning on news from the General Formation Committee, the afternoon of the sixth day was a time of exchange between the members of the Regional Formation Committee; a time to revisit the Garoua meeting that took place in Cameroon at the end of June and beginning of July 2017. We also discussed issues such as regency experience and preparation for perpetual vows.

Fr. Fidèle MUNKIELE spoke about the role of the formator and the formandi. Through practical

questions, he helped us to share about the challenges of formation in our context. P. Mokone RATHOKOA meanwhile spoke to us about listening, values, emotional needs and group dynamics.

The workshop ended with the intervention of Fr. Guillaume MUTHUNDA, General Counselor for Africa and Madagascar. Going through several topics, he emphasized the mission of the formator. He must be the guardian, protector, witness and communicator of the Oblate charism and spirituality. His role is to train young Oblates who are virtuous, honest, apostolic men, willing to cross borders, disciplined, zealous and who accept to live the constant renewal through evangelical values such as humility, community life, interculturality, proximity to the poor.

At the end, all the participants expressed their joy for this initiative and each formator returns to his mission reinvigorated in his missionary enthusiasm, and better equipped to accomplish his mission more faithfully. (Alexius IGBOZURIKE)

Asia-Oceania

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA The rebirth of '*Social Justice*'

The relaunch of the once popular Sri Lankan journal *Social Justice*, took place at the Oblate Centre for Society and Religion (CSR), Colombo on July 4, 2018. It was held with the participation of Fr. Irwin MORAIS, the Provincial of the Colombo Province, Fr. Rohan SILVA, Chairman of CSR, Fr. Ashok STEPHEN, the Executive Director of CSR and many other dignitaries. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Studies at the Open University of Sri Lanka, delivered the keynote speech.

The Journal, founded by late Fr. Peter PILLAI in 1937, was the first of its kind, which dedicated itself totally to discussing the issues of social justice faced by the poor at that time. It played a pioneering role in fighting for the just wages for workers, establishment of the Employee's Provident Fund (EPF), the Paddy Land Bill, the National Housing Programme and pension for senior citizens. As a result, the Journal

immediately established close links with the social movements, political changes, social upheavals and various socio-cultural awakenings of this country. Fr. Pillai found an effective channel in the Journal to educate people on matters which directly affected their lives.

After the demise of Fr. Peter Pillai, Fr. Tissa BALASURIYA very courageously took over the continuity of the publication of the Journal in 1987. He innovatively combined theological, social, and political issues alongside the concerns and the affairs of people. The Centre for Society and Religion (CSR) published it monthly for many years until 2002.

After a long period of silence for nearly 15 years, *Social Justice* is back with a new outlook for the same objectives outlined by its founding pioneers. Fr. Ashok Stephen stated that the CSR hopes to publish it quarterly, and each periodic Journal will attempt to initiate a discourse on a thematic format providing a wider focus on a 'holistic' approach.

PHILIPPINES

Always in danger of death

On May 26, 2018, Oblate Bishop Angelito LAMPON, Vicar Apostolic of Jolo, ordained to the priesthood three young Oblates: Fathers Harold LAGNAODA, Roy PACIENTE, and Anthony SOTOMIL. Bishop Angelito, whose predecessor was murdered, knows well that to be a Catholic bishop, priest or religious in his area means danger and could even mean martyrdom. In his ordination homily, he reminded the young priests of this fact.

He emphasized the missionary character of the Oblates, which is serving the most abandoned without regard for comfort and endangerment to life, especially in the Vicariate of Jolo. He went on to describe the mission areas largely populated by Islam devotees and extremists, wherein three Oblates gave up their lives as missionaries: Bishop Ben DE JESUS (=1997) who was felled by eight bullets of an assailant; Fr. Benjamin INOCENCIO (=2000) who succumbed to a bullet which pierced his skull and neck; and Fr. Reynaldo RODA (2008) who was forcibly taken from the chapel of Notre Dame of Tabawan while he was praying, only to be beaten, then killed with knives and bullets.

Even one of the ordinandi, Fr. Harold Lagnaoda, who had his missionary exposure in Bongao, suffered an inner ear concussion when the speedboat which he was riding together with Fr. Federico LABAGLAY and seven others on the way to the neighboring island overturned and trapped them under a heavy sea vessel. However, such harrowing conditions are part of being an Oblate – of being ready and willing to lay down one's life in danger of death. They prayerfully rely on God's grace and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The oblation of serving the most abandoned remains foremost in the hearts of Oblates. Thus, the words of the late Fr. Maurice HEMANN still reverberate in the mind of Bishop Lampon: "Wherever you are assigned, as long as you love God and the people, you will always find something good to do. Don't worry!" For even in the remotest islands of Tawi-Tawi like Cagayan

de Mapun, where one can feel marooned as travel by boat is indefinite and the number of Christians is so few, the Oblates continue to serve the islanders who are the poorest of the poor, for the love of God and his people. (OMI Philippines Newsletter, June 2018)

THAILAND

The smile of Life

(In his missionary blog, Fr. Domenico RODIGHIERO tells about the ministry of one of his fellow Oblates, Fr. June Ongart KHAESER. Here are excerpts. [see www.rodighierodomenico.org])

"When I meet a handicapped person who smiles, I open my heart because I feel that life is stronger than pain, resignation and a sense of defeat." These are the words of Father June Ongart during an informal but very stimulating conversation. ...

This Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate has a predilection for the poor and always manages to establish with them a relationship of trust and respect. His way of serving these brothers and sisters is not at all paternalistic; on the contrary, disadvantaged people see in him a brother, one of the family who takes care of them and they do not find his way of serving them strange.

Fr. June's field of action is large. He is the pastor of a parish in the center of Petchabun, Our Lady of Lourdes, but this commitment does not seem enough for him. He helps the nuns of a big school in that city, Saint Joseph School; but even this work, he considers almost a pastime. His interest is for the poor, for the weakest and the "periphery", as Pope Francis calls it. ... "For me," he says, "poverty, discomfort is a great lesson. I always wonder how a handicapped, poor, abandoned person can be happy and when I sit next to them, when I listen to them, I discover their world, a world of suffering, certainly, but also a world of struggle against hopelessness and despair that makes them strong and able to win the battle over depression. The smile I see on their lips tells me that life is stronger than pain, that life makes sense even when the evidence

seems to deny it. Their stories are a great lesson for me to help me have an experience of faith; I see God at work in their pain.”

Father June travels all day. Often he comes home late at night or he goes out after dinner because someone calls him and asks for help. His life has no rules except the rules of the poor and this makes it - he says - lively and full of surprises.

Father June is a Pakayo, a tribe of Northern Thailand. Usually, he does not speak much, but during the conversation he comes alive. He almost raises his voice and it seems that the people he talks about are there, in front of him, with all their problems and their needs and he feels that he must do something, that he must do it right away, that he cannot let more time pass because they have already waited long enough.

“When I meet the poor, the handicapped, maybe HIV-positive children, I tell myself it’s not right, it’s not their fault. I tell myself that they have done nothing wrong to deserve not being able to walk, to have to live with a disease that they did not look for and I feel like I have to do something. But then I am reassured because I see that my attention, my care for them changes them. When I see a smile on their lips, when I perceive a new hope being born in their lives, when I realize that they themselves begin to help those who are like them, then I realize that love really does miracles and I learn that basically, not only they, but each one of us, needs love, attention, recognition. I have received this love and because of this, I feel that my life has a meaning. What I want to do is to give love so that even the lives of those who are desperate might regain dignity and meaning.”

No more questions are needed now. Fr. June tells of his experiences with enthusiasm and conviction. It is precisely the little events that give substance to what is already deeply rooted in his heart. “One day I had prepared the funeral of an abandoned woman whom I had heard about and whom I had gone to visit, because I thought she would die at any moment. I told myself it was better not to be unprepared. But then, seeing that someone was taking care of her, seeing that her life was not so insignificant and useless, she

began to recover. The depression left her and now she has her own little house and she smiles again. This woman is for me a ‘living’ example of how attention to the other works miracles and I believe that my missionary duty is precisely this: to tell the poor that God loves them and thinks of them and that they are neither useless nor insignificant”.

TURKMENISTAN

Welcoming important visitors

On May 30 – June 3, the Oblate` community in Turkmenistan welcomed a number of important visitors. Frs. Andrzej MADEJ and Rafał CHILIMONIUK hosted the Apostolic Nuncio to Turkey, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, Archbishop Paul Russell; the General Councilors for Europe and Asia -- Frs. Antoni BOCHM and Peter STOLL; and the Provincial of the Polish Province, Father Paweł ZAJĄC. The community in Ashgabat owes its existence thanks to the cooperation of the Oblate provinces of Poland and the United States.

There were many opportunities to talk about the history and current status of the mission, about the needs of the parishioners and the situation of the Church in Central Asia. The local Catholics welcomed the guests with great kindness. Among other things, two evening meetings were organized during which many words of gratitude were expressed for the Oblates’ 21-year presence in Turkmenistan; hope was expressed that this presence will be enhanced.

The Sunday celebration of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ was the high point of the visit. The Apostolic Nuncio presided at the liturgy, including the traditional Eucharistic procession to four altars erected in the courtyard of the Nunciature.

After the liturgy everyone took part in a concert prepared by young and older talented. There were also a traditional *pilaw* (rice with lamb) and Turkmen dances.

There was further discussion about the situation of the Mission and its possible development

when Archbishop Russell, Father Madej (the Mission Superior) and Father Zajac were received by the Turkmen Minister of Foreign Affairs, Raşit Meredov. The Minister spoke many kind words about the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as well as words of appreciation for the presence of the Apostolic Nunciature in Ashgabat and the work of the Missionary Oblates. The meeting gave all participants a lot of hope for the further development of the Catholic community in Turkmenistan.

AUSTRALIA

“Sowing the seeds...”

(The two scholastics of the Province of Australia, along with a prenovice, spent their holidays traveling around the province to promote the Oblate vocation during this “Year of Oblate Vocations”. Here are some excerpts of their travel journal...)

Over the 6-week study break, the St Mary’s students have been travelling around to our Oblate communities promoting vocations as a part of the Year of Oblate Vocations. Scholastics Brothers Joshua NASH and Duc Thuan BUI, together with prenovice Chris Villanueva, left Melbourne on the 16th June for a country-wide tour of Oblate schools and parishes with one goal in mind: vocations. With this year being the Year of Oblate Vocations, the seminary students wished to do something special to promote the Oblate vocation and to encourage young men to discern such a vocation. So, it was decided to try and get to all Oblate communities around Australia throughout the year to be present, to share our stories, to witness to our faith and our calling and to promote the Oblate way of life. It is important for the students to get to the communities outside Victoria, so that young people and the many other people with whom we work get to see that there is a great new life in the Oblate congregation and there is a future for the Oblates and the religious life.

We started our travels in the West, with nine days spent in Fremantle. We spoke at all the masses the first weekend we were there and then rotated the following week, so that each mass time got to

hear from at least two different guys. We would use the Gospel of the day to give a short reflection on our vocation after communion, and then be around after mass to meet and greet people. As it is in many places, there aren’t many young men attending mass at Fremantle. There are a few however, and it was good to have a chance to speak with them, be a witness to them and provide them with our contact details. The other important part of it was to speak to the regular parishioners and to allow them to see that it is important to pray and support vocations in their own communities and the wider Oblate family.

From Perth we headed over to Adelaide for two weeks. ... we spoke to the students of the various schools and we sought out other opportunities to engage young practicing Catholics wherever they be. We visited St David’s Parish School, St Pius X Primary School, Gleeson College, St Paul’s College and Blackfriars Priory School.

We noticed very quickly with the work in the schools that talking about vocations is very hard when the students don’t even have faith and very little knowledge or connection with Catholicism. We worked out quite quickly that primary school students will just ask as many questions as they can, and we loved that. With high school students they won’t ask any; if we present for the whole class on our order, our charism, our vocations, then they won’t pay much attention. If we come in, sit beside them, engage with them with what they are doing in class and help them, then they will notice. They will notice how we care, how we pay attention to them and how we are unashamed to witness to our faith. This, we realised, is a much better “presentation” of the Oblate vocation. We feel we did some amazing work with the students in Adelaide and it made us understand how lucky our Oblate schools are and the importance of our dedication to Catholic education in this country.

We feel it has been an amazing trip, opening many new doors in terms of vocations, but also in terms of mission and ministry. It has been wonderful to spend time with our brother Oblates and we thank all the men who have welcomed us to their communities and worked with us in

this mission trip. We reflect constantly on the parable of the sower, which coincidentally was the Gospel for the first Sunday of our trip. "It is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how." We have gone far and wide in this trip, scattering seeds all over the place. We do not know how they will grow, for that we place our trust in God. Continue to pray for vocations every day; do not be afraid of speaking openly about vocations in your communities and especially to the young men you meet. In this Year of Oblate Vocations let us be proud to be Oblates and to share the joy and generosity of our vocation. (Joshua Nash)

JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

Installation of statue of Bishop Semeria

The 14th of July was a remarkable day in the historical annals of the Diocese of Jaffna, as it remembered with gratitude the services of the first Oblate Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Jaffna, Bishop John Stephen SEMERIA, as this year marks the 150th year of his heavenly birth.

The day was made significant with two major events, namely the unveiling of a huge, beautiful statue of Bishop Semeria at the Cathedral and a memorial lecture the bishop.

The installation of the statue began with a prayer conducted by the diocesan seminarians. The statue of the bishop was blessed and unveiled by Very Rev. Fr. P. J. Jebaratnam, the Vicar

General of the diocese of Jaffna, together with the Oblate provincials of the Provinces of Jaffna and Colombo, Frs. Edwin VASANTHARAJAH and Irwin MORAES, and the provincial of the Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux. There was a good number of people: Oblate Lay Associates, seminarians, Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux, priests of the diocese of Jaffna and other religious.

The memorial lecture on Bishop Semeria took place at the nearby hall immediately after the installation of the statue. It began with prayer and a cultural welcome dance performed by members of MAMI. It was followed by the lighting of the traditional lamp and the garlanding of the picture of Bishop Semeria by Father Moraes. The Oblate Provincials and the Provincial of the Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux addressed the gathering on the contribution of Bishop Semeria to the Church of Sri Lanka.

The climax was the memorial lecture on the "Challenges Bishop Semeria encountered." The lecture was delivered by Prof. Rev. Dr. S.V.B Mangalarajah, Jaffna diocesan priest, senior lecturer at the Jaffna diocesan major seminary, who is a well-known historian in the country. He spoke of the challenges that the bishop faced with his predecessor, Bishop Orazio Betachini, the first Apostolic Vicar of the Vicariate and with the Oratorian Missionaries who came from Goa, India, and looked after these lands for a long period of time before the Oblates. He spoke of Bishop Semeria's capabilities as an administrator and how he met the challenges and situations of his day. The day's-programme came to end with the Oblate anthem. (Fr. A. X. AMALRAJ)

Canada-United States

NOTRE-DAME-DU-CAP, CANADA

Regional meeting of young Oblates

From May 28 to 31, 2018, 20 young Oblates from every Province in the Canada-United States Region gathered at Madonna House to reflect on the future of our Oblate Region. With Father General, Louis LOUGEN and 4 representatives of CROCUS: Fathers Luc TARDIF, Ken THORSON, Louis STUDER and

Pawel RATAJCZAK, we focused on the theme "With the young Oblates, discerning the future of our missionary presence in the region".

During these three intense days, we experienced a moment of interculturality and Oblate fraternity. We set for ourselves the challenge of considering what the face of our Region might be in the future.

Through our sharing, we had fruitful exchanges

on our respective missions and we examined the possibilities of missionary collaboration that can be realized at the regional level. Then we challenged ourselves to dream and think as of now in terms of the Region.

On Wednesday evening, we met at the Chalet

(at Champlain) to celebrate Oblate fraternity with some confreres from the community of Trois-Rivières. And our meeting ended with a very beautiful Mass celebrated with the First Nations in the Shrine of Notre Dame-du-Cap. (Ali NNAEMEKA in Info OMI 15 June 2018)

Europe

UKRAINE

Meeting of the Interprovincial Conference of Europe (CIE)

The Interprovincial Conference of Europe of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate met on June 18-23 at the Blessed Joseph Gerard retreat house in Obukhiv.

Attending the meeting were major superiors (provincials and the superiors of delegations and missions) from European countries where Oblates work: France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Poland, Ireland, England, Romania and Belarus. Also present were the General Councilor for Europe, Fr. Antoni BOCHM and the chairs of various commissions: mission, finance, youth and vocations, justice and peace.

At the beginning, the president of the Conference, Fr. Raymond WARREN, thanked the superior of the Oblate Delegation in Ukraine, Fr. Pavlo VYSHKOVSKYI, for the invitation and the organization of the meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality. "We are here to be with you at a difficult time for Ukraine; our presence is an assurance that we in Europe are united with Ukraine," said Fr. Warren.

The members of the Conference discussed important issues of the European Region and the restructuring of the Region. In addition to the reports of the commissions, there was also a presentation by the Delegation of Ukraine. Some members of the Delegation presented the history and development of the Oblate presence since their arrival in Ukraine 28 years ago to set up parishes. The current problems were also presented, among them the situation in the

eastern part of the country where there has been war for four years.

At the end of the meeting, a new president for the Conference was elected. Warm words of thanks were offered to Fr. Warren who has been president for four years. The newly elected president is Fr. Paweł ZAJĄC, provincial of Poland; his vice-president is Fr. Vincent GRUBER, provincial of France. The next assembly will take place in France in October 2019. (Pavlo Vyshkovskiy)

MEDITERRANEAN – SPAIN

A meaningful reunion

To speak of youth, vocational and family ministry in the recent history of the Oblates in Spain is to talk about Life Groups and Communities.

Without exaggeration, thousands of young people (in the past) have been part of these Groups and Communities, especially in Madrid, in the parish of San Leandro, where they began in the 70's, but also in Pozuelo, Oviedo, Jaén and Málaga. They also got to the United States.

On June 2 and 3, a meaningful reunion of those who, at some point in their lives, were part of these groups took place in Pozuelo de Alarcón.

It was a time, in the words of Fr. Alfredo FERNÁNDEZ (founder of these groups) to come together again after so many years and to thank God for all that was good and holy. Thus, the weekend was spent with images and testimonies that called to mind the past and offered a challenge for living in the present. There was a gathering in a large room to listen to each other; there were smaller groups for

sharing something more intimate; moments of prayer and celebration of the Eucharist ... and many conversations in the corridors and at table.

In short, it was a reunion of people with a lifestyle

that has always sought to put Jesus Christ at the center and to find the way, in the life of each one, of being apostles of the Lord. (<http://nosotrosomi.blogspot.com>)

Latin America

VENEZUELA

Venezuela, the Missionary Oblates: “An unending disaster”

(On 13 July 2018, the website “Vatican Insider” (<http://www.lastampa.it/vaticaninsider/ita>) published in Italian this article by Luciano Zanardini about the situation the Oblates in Venezuela have been facing for several years.)

“The situation in Venezuela is a disaster. Having the highest inflation in the world, after four consecutive years, is making the minimum monthly wage of the Venezuelans the lowest in the world: less than a dollar a month! There is no economy that can survive this situation. There is widespread discouragement in society and there is a desire to move to other countries”. Father José Manuel CICUÉNDEZ, a Spaniard, arrived in Venezuela in 1999 when Hugo Chavez came to power. Therefore, he has lived through several periods, including the latest, the most dramatic. “The government, supported by the military, has full control of power in the country: executive, judicial and legislative. President Maduro has absolute powers and may dictate the law without consulting the legislative assembly. On the other hand, the opposition is divided and weakened: many of its leaders are imprisoned. There is no alternative plan. The most painful thing is that, despite all the power, the government is not able to find solutions to the problems of the nation: inflation to the stars, lack of food and medicine, violence and impunity, corruption... Its only obsession is to remain in power ».

The Church has repeatedly tried to foster dialogue between the government and the opposition, but it did not work. She continues to look for solutions to the real problems. She continually asks for justice and peace and tries to educate people about these values. Father

Cicuéndez, a parish priest in the city of Catia la Mar, 34 km from the capital, is a teacher in the seminary and is responsible for the diocesan formation of the laity. The parish of the Oblates embraces a population of 60 thousand inhabitants. In addition to Father José, there is his compatriot Monsignor Ramiro DIAZ, bishop emeritus of the Apostolic Vicariate of Machiques, and the Congolese, Father Nene TASAR. The missionaries run a parish center for education and work training for children and adolescents. According to their charism, they try to “walk with the people and stay close to the poor”. From 2015 to today, they have formed 16 basic ecclesial communities, but the dream is to have even more. Another priority is undoubtedly kerygmatic catechesis. In the last two years, lay ministries have been formed and established: for evangelization, for liturgy, for social ministry, for catechesis and for youth ministry. “It is a service that makes the Church grow”.

What can the Venezuelan Church do and how is it doing?

“The Venezuelan Church suffers, like the whole country, the serious social, economic and political crisis. We cannot be aloof from this reality. Many lay people, especially the young, emigrate. The situation is very painful because we lose active members in the communities. The crisis prevents us from having resources for normal pastoral activities; many priests have great economic difficulties. Sometimes political tensions have been reflected within the community itself: some laity and priests, always fewer and fewer, support the government and others are against it. These divisions weaken the Church. However, despite many adversities, the Church represents a sign of hope and credibility for society. She continues to announce Jesus in a very painful moment. In our diocese of La Guaira, there is a process of renewal of the pastoral plan “.

Is there still room for God?

“When so many things fail, when people go hungry, when there are no medicines and hospitals do not have the means to take care of the sick, when there is no hope for change, when families break up because of emigration, the people approach us... Many people come to us, seeking comfort, hope and words of encouragement. There is a lot of room for God in our society and in our people in Venezuela. In this sense, there is always more room for God “.

What is the main difficulty you encounter?

“The main difficulty is in the shortages: basic food, personal hygiene products, medicines, spare parts for vehicles... Inflation makes many products unattainable with our money. In the same way, there is the great threat of insecurity and violence: robberies are very frequent. We have been robbed several times in the house, in the parish and in the car. We would need humanitarian aid: medicines and food. The national government prevents us from importing this aid and refuses to recognize the terrible situation we are experiencing. We need everyone’s prayers for our country”.

Are there any current projects happening?

“We have set in motion several projects with the diocesan Caritas and with the one in the parish. One of these is a food center in the poorest area of the parish: three days a week we distribute a meal to 90 children and the elderly. The second project is the distribution of medicines that we receive thanks to small donations from abroad. And the third is a parish close closet. Maybe they are small actions to deal with difficulties, but it is still the action of a community “.

BRAZIL**Oblates receive an award**

Fr. Ednaldo T. DA SILVA, animator of the Northeast District of the Oblate Province of Brazil, was recently asked to speak on behalf of the Oblates when the missionaries were presented by the City of Vitória de Santo Antão the Mariana Amália Commendation for the services they render to the city, especially the evangelization of the most abandoned. What follows are excerpts from his talk.

“We are grateful for the honor and esteem that we receive from the elected representatives of all the inhabitants of this glorious land, in honoring us with this Commendation that bears the name of the Heroine Mariana Amália. During the war [ed. note: 1865] due to the need to increase the ranks of the allied army, the imperial government created the group called Voluntários da Pátria. In Vitoria, a commission was created to receive the enrollments. Among the brave volunteers was the young Mariana Amália, descendant of an illustrious family, known for its social and political involvement, joined the battalion as a nurse. Her gesture led many others enlist in forming the 5th battalion of volunteers in the province. Offering herself as a volunteer, Mariana Amália gave of herself to lessen the pains of the wounded warriors, serving them as a nurse in the hospitals and on the battlefield.

“Like Mariana Amália, our founder, Saint Eugene de Mazenod, was also of an illustrious family. His father was a President of the Court of Finances of France in the early eighteenth century. Having so many other possible choices, seeing the situation of poverty and the de-Christianization of France in post-Revolution France, he to join a group of friends to preach parish missions. Among his ministries were work with youth and with prisoners, the most abandoned of that society.

“The example of Mariana Amália remains contemporary and prophetic for the Church, as Pope Francis has pointed out in urging that the Church be like a field hospital, open to welcome the wounded of our society. This is what we seek to do in our parish, not a bureaucratic ministry, but one of reaching out to the people to whom the Lord of the harvest sends us to announce the Good News of the Gospel in the geographical and existential peripheries.

“As sons of Eugene, we arrived in this city in 2000. The parish of Our Lady Aparecida and St. John the Baptist was born. At that time, we were also given the mission of administering the parish of St. Joseph in Jussaral. As our charism commands, we lived in apostolic communities and worked alongside the people of God in those years. The new parish was formed from

the parishes of Nossa Senhora do Livramento and Santo Antônio, and gradually we created our identity, respecting each community with its characteristics, identity and gifts. As we walked in the light of the Holy Spirit and the teachings of our Founder, another parish arose from ours, the parish of St. Vincent.

“Today we are living faith communities that make up the Parish of Our Lady Aparecida. We are the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate who, with great joy, walk with the urban and rural communities of our parish, forming a parish “community of communities”, according to Document 100 of the Bishops’ Conference of Brazil.

“The church of Our Lady Aparecida that we are building represents the faith, the effort, the unity and the hope of us Oblates and the community that God has sent us. Like the Mother House in Aparecida that was born of the hands of fishermen and brings together their dreams and hopes, our church here in Vitória is taking shape: a holy place where each brick represents a bit of each of our parishioners and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who have passed by here. Each one in his own way, in putting his gifts at service, has left a little bit of himself.

“Together, as a religious family, we are making Eugene de Mazenod present, led by our charism: “He has sent me to evangelize the poor; the poor are being evangelized.” In a simple and committed way, we foster a creative fidelity in order to discover and act together with the new faces of the poor in our society. ...”

CRUZ DEL SUR

First Assembly of the new Province

A few months after the “birth” of this new province (in February 2018), the provincial Jorge ALBERGATI and his councilors invited all the members for a first meeting in Buenos Aires where the headquarters are also located. Almost 2/3 attended this meeting of the 4 sectors: more than half of the 45 participants arrived from Paraguay, among them the 2 bishops: Lucio ALFERT and Guillermo STECKLING; the others were from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

The house -- a convent of nuns -- was old, but the atmosphere was new: the newness of being an Oblate family! Some of the faces were also new to many: a few were meeting for the first time; while others were meeting again after some years.

From those in their twenties to octogenarians -- all took part in the amusing dynamics of the beginning -- but of course, also in the work to be done.

The first part was dedicated to getting to know each other and getting to know the different sectors, for which each country had prepared a presentation.

The central themes of the second part were community, mission with youth and formation. The counselors had prepared a good introduction, based on the document of the General Chapter and other Oblate texts. In addition, testimonies from the 4 sectors were shared. And then we worked in mixed groups on related questions and we shared the results in a plenary session.

In the final part, there were discussions and agreements on several specific points: the when and the where of assemblies and retreats; ongoing formation; and other practical issues.

The whole meeting took place in a very fraternal and cheerful atmosphere. One day we had the visit of 2 consecrated laywomen from COMI, Verónica and Isabel, both Uruguayans who have begun to form a community in Buenos Aires.

Of course, there were the moments of prayer, oraison and Mass each day. It concluded with the closing Mass during which Víctor ESPÍNOLA renewed his vows -- one of the 3 scholastics who were able to participate (two others were on retreat in preparation for their perpetual vows). We left there saying: “until next year - in Paraguay!” (Miguel FRITZ)

Anniversaries -- September 2018

80 Years of religious life

08/09/1938 6797 Bishop Georges-Hilaire Dupont Cameroun

75 Years of religious life

08/09/1943 07724 Fr. Jean Guéguen France
 08/09/1943 07773 Fr. Paul Michalak France
 15/09/1943 07740 Fr. John Patterson Southern Africa

70 Years of religious life

08/09/1948 09175 Fr. Julien Belin Notre-Dame-du-Cap
 08/09/1948 08573 Fr. Aloysius Kedl Lacombe
 08/09/1948 08792 Fr. Patrice Morel France
 08/09/1948 08567 Fr. Adolf Volk Namibia
 29/09/1948 08580 Fr. Ciaran Dillon Anglo-Irish

65 Years of religious life

08/09/1953 09570 Fr. Jan Chmist Poland
 08/09/1953 09575 Fr. Stanislaw Cyganiak Poland
 08/09/1953 09868 Fr. Jules Daussaint Belgium/Holland
 08/09/1953 09864 Fr. Daniel Delabie Belgium/Holland
 08/09/1953 09943 Fr. Teodor Famula Poland
 08/09/1953 09574 Fr. Alfons Glanc Poland
 08/09/1953 09546 Fr. André Grimonpont France
 08/09/1953 09555 Fr. William Hallahan United States
 08/09/1953 09722 Fr. Wacław Hryniewicz Poland
 08/09/1953 09807 Fr. Vincent Igoa France
 08/09/1953 09567 Fr. Casimir Krystkowiak Assumption
 08/09/1953 09589 Fr. Jozef Kuroczycki Poland
 08/09/1953 09946 Fr. Jozef Majewski Poland
 08/09/1953 09616 Fr. Julien Mansion France
 08/09/1953 09559 Fr. David O'Brien Brazil
 08/09/1953 09543 Fr. Paul-Emile Poulin Notre-Dame-du-Cap
 08/09/1953 09939 Fr. Joannès Rivoire France
 08/09/1953 09951 Fr. Stanislaw Skorczynski Poland
 08/09/1953 09712 Fr. Antoni Skwierawski Poland
 08/09/1953 09948 Fr. Alojzy Sojka Poland
 08/09/1953 09588 Fr. Henryk Stempel Poland
 08/09/1953 09563 Fr. Albert Ulrich Lacombe
 08/09/1953 10125 Fr. Leon Witek Poland
 15/09/1953 10650 Bro. Almas Gagné Notre-Dame-du-Cap
 17/09/1953 09591 Fr. Eugene Prendiville United States
 29/09/1953 09809 Fr. Herbert Bromley Anglo-Irish
 29/09/1953 09600 Fr. Sean Coleman Southern Africa
 29/09/1953 09808 Fr. Peter Paul Daly Anglo-Irish
 29/09/1953 09606 Fr. Cornelius Conor Murphy Anglo-Irish
 29/09/1953 09599 Fr. Joseph O'Melia Anglo-Irish

65 Years of priesthood

29/09/1953	08326	Fr. Gilles LeBlanc	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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60 Years of religious life

07/09/1958	10677	Fr. Donaat Bohe	Southern Africa
08/09/1958	10678	Fr. Albert Buchet	Belgium/Holland
08/09/1958	10559	Fr. Ronald Dechant	Lacombe
08/09/1958	10536	Fr. Joao Drexel	Brazil
08/09/1958	10555	Fr. John Hogan	United States
08/09/1958	10548	Fr. Jef Hollanders	Southern Africa
08/09/1958	10541	Fr. Leonard Inui	Colombo
08/09/1958	11003	Fr. Gabriel Jadaud	France
08/09/1958	10567	Fr. Albert Lalonde	Lacombe
08/09/1958	10538	Fr. Gilbert Mason	Lacombe
08/09/1958	11004	Fr. Bernard Noyer	France
08/09/1958	10540	Fr. Juan-René Pelletier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
08/09/1958	10543	Fr. William Sheehan	United States
08/09/1958	10557	Fr. Gerard van den Beuken	Belgium/Holland
08/09/1958	10560	Fr. Alfons Van Loenhout	Belgium/Holland
08/09/1958	10556	Fr. Harry Winter	United States
08/09/1958	10539	Fr. Soichiro Michael Yamasaki	Colombo
15/09/198	10572	Fr. Guglielmo Crespan	Mediterranean
15/09/1958	10570	Fr. Salvatore Lavorgna	Mediterranean
15/09/1958	10568	Fr. Mario Lombardi	Mediterranean
15/09/1958	10571	Fr. Pietro Reginato	Mediterranean
15/09/1958	10574	Fr. Vincenzo Sgambato	Mediterranean
29/09/1958	10580	Fr. Joseph Daly	Anglo-Irish
29/09/1958	10577	Fr. Brian De Burca	Anglo-Irish
29/09/1958	10585	Fr. Patrick Dwyer	Australia
29/09/1958	10584	Fr. Ignatius Fidgeon	Southern Africa

60 Years of priesthood

06/09/1958	09731	Fr. Pierre Pépin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
08/09/1958	09484	Fr. Charles Hurkes	United States
08/09/1958	09485	Fr. Thomas Killeen	United States
08/09/1958	09487	Fr. George Kuryvial	United States
08/09/1958	09499	Fr. Noël LeBrun	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
08/09/1958	09591	Fr. Eugene Prendiville	United States
15/09/1958	09513	Fr. Gilmond Boucher	United States
15/09/1958	09934	Fr. Price Dorismond	Haiti
21/09/1958	09399	Fr. John Archbold	Australia
21/09/1958	09809	Fr. Herbert Bromley	Anglo-Irish
21/09/1958	09382	Fr. Paul Byrne	Anglo-Irish
21/09/1958	09600	Fr. Sean Coleman	Southern Africa
21/09/1958	09808	Fr. Peter Paul Daly	Anglo-Irish
21/09/1958	09606	Fr. Cornelius Conor Murphy	Anglo-Irish
21/09/1958	09599	Fr. Joseph O'Melia	Anglo-Irish
29/09/1958	09567	Fr. Casimir Krystkowiak	Assumption
29/09/1958	09568	Fr. Sylvester Lewans	Lacombe
29/09/1958	09563	Fr. Albert Ulrich	Lacombe

50 Years of religious life

08/09/1968	11955	Fr. Stephen Conserva	United States
08/09/1968	12521	Fr. Garry LaBoucane	Lacombe
08/09/1968	11959	Fr. Edward McSheffrey	Lacombe
08/09/1968	12075	Fr. Ronald Rissling	Lacombe
08/09/1968	12076	Fr. Antoni Sowa	Poland
08/09/1968	11953	Fr. Eugene J. Tremblay	United States
29/09/1968	12016	Fr. William Fitzpatrick	Anglo-Irish
29/09/1968	11963	Fr. Patrick McGrath	Anglo-Irish

50 Years of priesthood

07/09/1968	11290	Fr. Raymond Lebrun	United States
07/09/1968	11259	Fr. Vicente Louwagie	Mexico
07/09/1968	11422	Fr. Allen Maes	United States
07/09/1968	11254	Fr. Clyde Rausch	United States
07/09/1968	11265	Fr. Norman Volk	United States
07/09/1968	11260	Fr. Paul Wilhelm	United States
14/09/1968	11298	Fr. Terence Conway	Lacombe
15/09/1968	11441	Fr. Herman Hostens	Belgium/Holland
28/09/1968	11054	Fr. Merl Mendis	Colombo

25 Years of religious life

08/09/1993	13520	Fr. Jude Angelo Amirthanayagam	Colombo
08/09/1993	13489	Fr. Francis Anigbogu	Cameroon
08/09/1993	13522	Fr. Eugene Benedict	Jaffna
08/09/1993	13538	Fr. Antoni Bochm	Gen. Administration
08/09/1993	13642	Fr. Joseph Charles	Haiti
08/09/1993	13712	Fr. Arkadiusz Cichla	Poland
08/09/1993	13630	Fr. Théophile Doulaneni	Cameroon
08/09/1993	13592	Fr. Leslie Sujith Fernando	Colombo
08/09/1993	13579	Fr. George Iheanacho	Cameroon
08/09/1993	13502	Fr. Andrzej Jastrzebski	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
08/09/1993	13503	Fr. Slawomir Kosicki	Cameroon
08/09/1993	13500	Fr. Tomasz Krzesik	Assumption
08/09/1993	13664	Bro. Benedict Kurera	Colombo
08/09/1993	13633	Fr. Mikwa Jean-Pierre Lwele	Namibia
08/09/1993	13578	Fr. Ruhanga Didace Mahuku	Congo
08/09/1993	13640	Bro. Jean-Marcus Ménilus	Haiti
08/09/1993	13635	Fr. Owab Guy-Julien Muluku	Congo
08/09/1993	13760	Fr. Onkan Jean-Bedel Ndandula	Congo
08/09/1993	13671	Fr. Cornelius Ngoka	Gen. Administration
08/09/1993	13577	Fr. Isongolo Adelin Nsangumpamba	Mediterranean
08/09/1993	13629	Fr. Hyacinth Nwaneri	Cameroon
08/09/1993	13530	Fr. Jaroslaw Pachocki	Lacombe
08/09/1993	13553	Fr. Soosaiappu Anthony Poncian	Jaffna
08/09/1993	13521	Fr. Anpurasa Sebamalai	Jaffna
08/09/1993	13505	Fr. Josef Sikora	Assumption
08/09/1993	13580	Bro. Tomasz Stopka	Poland
08/09/1993	13447	Fr. Simon Tlali Thoo	Lesotho
08/09/1993	13641	Fr. Jean Valbrun	Haiti

08/09/1993	13497	Fr. Leszek Walendzik	Poland
08/09/1993	13507	Fr. Pawel Wyszowski	Poland
11/09/1993	13449	Fr. Raymond Jahae	Belgium/Holland
24/09/1993	13511	Fr. John McFadden	Anglo-Irish
24/09/1993	13623	Fr. Lorcan O'Reilly	Anglo-Irish
28/09/1993	13523	Fr. Wenceslaus Gnanamuthu	Jaffna
29/09/1993	13600	Fr. Stefano Cartabia	Mediterranean
29/09/1993	13552	Fr. Pier Francesco Purpura	Mediterranean

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Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 38-53

Name	Prov./Del.	Age	Died at	Date
Fr. Thom van Zanten	Belgium/Netherlands	77	Rees (Germany)	04/06/2018
Bro. Gérard Ruel	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	88	Richelieu (Canada)	04/06/2018
Fr. Stanislaw Bijak	Assumption	67	Toronto (Canada)	06/06/2018
Bro. Raymond Des Chênes	OMI Lacombe	91	Saint Boniface (Canada)	20/06/2018
Fr. John Dourley	OMI Lacombe	82	Ottawa (Canada)	22/06/2018
Fr. Willy Staes	Belgium/Holland	89	Leuven (Belgium)	24/06/2018
Fr. Louis-Marie Verrette	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	66	Quebec (Canada)	26/06/2018
Bro. Guy Côté	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	85	Richelieu (Canada)	03/07/2018
Fr. Richard Pommier	Philippines	78	Manila (Philippines)	05/07/2018
Fr. Józef Chlebek	Poland	75	Kedzierzyn-Kozle (Poland)	10/07/2018
Fr. Phumlani Charles Ndlovu	Southern Africa	35	Kamieskroon (R.S.A.)	12/07/2018
Fr. James Jordan	OMI Lacombe	72	Vancouver (Canada)	13/07/2018
Bro. Louis Andreas	OMI Lacombe	70	Edmonton (Canada)	19/07/2018
Fr. Frans Samyn	Southern Africa	88	Pretoria (R.S.A.)	21/07/2018
Fr. Hendrik Deceuninck	Belgium/Netherlands	77	Waregem (Belgium)	24/07/2018
Fr. Antonio Ciccone	Mediterranean	78	Santa Maria a Vico (Italy)	29/07/2018

“They are before God, bearing the sign, the kind of character proper to our Institute, the vows common to all its members, the firm habit of the same virtues. We are linked to them by the bonds of a special charity. They are still our brothers and we are theirs. They now live in our mother-house, our main residence. The prayers and the love they retain for us will one day draw us to them and we shall live in our place of rest together with them.” (Letter of Founder to Fr. Courtès, 22 July 1828)