



OMI INFORMATION OMI INFORMACION OMI INFORMAZIONE OMI NACHRICHTEN OMI WIADOMOŚCI OMI

OMI Information No. 592 (English)

January - February 2019

Letter of the Superior General at the closure of the “Year of Oblate Vocations”

L.J.C. et M.I.

Dear Brother Oblates, and all our Brothers and Sisters who live the Oblate Charism,

We celebrate, on this feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, the 203rd anniversary of the foundation of our Congregation. We are concluding the Congregation-wide “Year of Oblate Vocations,” an initiative requested by the Congress of Mission with Youth and the Congress on Oblate Vocations, and endorsed by the members of the 2016 General Chapter. This Year of Oblate Vocations has raised the consciousness of the entire Congregation to our responsibility to believe in the future of the Congregation as an instrument of missionary evangelization in the Church. We are all called to pray and work for vocations of vowed Oblates who will live the charism of Saint Eugene de Mazenod.

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with three thoughts: gratitude, commitment and conversion. First of all, the entire Congregation is grateful to God for this Year of Oblate Vocations because it has been an opportunity to understand vocation ministry as much more than assigning an Oblate to recruit men for the Congregation’s mission. Vocation ministry is an integral part of a Unit’s life and mission and involves everyone, Oblates,

laity, other religious, etc. We are thankful for all those Units that have taken creative and courageous initiatives, even in the face of extreme difficulties, to renew the ministry of vocations. In many Units, Oblate Associates have contributed zealously to this effort. Thank you for your dedication and support!

We are also grateful that this Year of Oblate Vocations has helped us become aware of inviting young men and women to consider a commitment to one of the many forms of the Oblate charism lived by lay people in groups and parishes around the world, by men and women in secular institutes and religious Congregations, by clerics, as well as by consecrated virgins. All of us are committed to the accompaniment of young people in their eventual discernment of an Oblate vocation in its many expressions.

Secondly, as we conclude this Year of Oblate Vocations, the word commitment recalls our responsibility to propose to young people the Oblate life and mission, supporting them in their generosity, in their enthusiasm, and in their capacity to dream about serving the Mission of God. Making lifelong commitments about one’s future is often scary for young people today and, for this reason, we need to be proactive in taking the initiative to invite them to consider the Oblate charism, and then

to patiently walk with them. This commitment to the ministry of vocations by every Oblate is both an expression of our love for the poor who clamor for salvation and our conviction that the Oblate vocation plays an important role in the mission of the Church. We recall the message of Pope Francis to us on October 7, 2016, when he addressed the members of the General Chapter and spoke of our future and the need the Church has for our charism.

Thirdly, the Year of Oblate Vocations is a call to conversion by all who seek to live the Oblate charism. We must be signs of communal life, characterized by joy and happiness, prayer, and forgiveness, and a welcoming spirit, enriched through deep fraternal sharing. We must believe that it is the witness of genuine Gospel love lived by Oblates that will attract others to join in the mission. The ongoing conversion to holiness of life is necessary so that others will experience what Eugene de Mazenod wanted: charity among us and passion for the mission to the poor.

I invite us all to give thanks to God for this Year of Oblate Vocations; to commit ourselves

to be responsible for a vocational culture in our Units; and to hear anew Eugene de Mazenod's call to constant conversion to holiness. Perhaps this is more urgent today than in his own time. The Church has dire need for holy men and women, living their baptismal call as missionaries on the front lines, prophets at the side of those whom society excludes and counts as worthless.

The recent Synod of October 2018, Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment, was a marvelous confirmation of our Year of Oblate Vocations. The Synod calls the Church to be a community that listens, that accompanies, and that discerns vocation together with young people.

It is Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who always encourages us "to do whatever He tells you." May this good Mother help us continue to live out the grace we have received in this Year of Oblate Vocations.

Praised be Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate!

Father Louis Lougen, OMI
Rome, January 25 2019

Letter of the Superior General to the Congregation for the "Oblate Day" - February 17, 2019

The letter of Dear Brother Oblates, and all our Brothers and Sisters who live the Oblate charism, Happy feast day to all of you! We celebrate today the 193rd anniversary of the approval of our Constitutions and Rules by Pope Leo XII. As our Oblate tradition calls us to do, we give thanks for the grace of our vocation. This is a cause for gratitude and joy.

In several days, Pope Francis will be meeting with the Presidents of the National Conferences of Bishops to arrive at a common commitment and action in the face of our failure to deal

honestly and compassionately with the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, and the too frequent denial and cover-up of this terrible violence.

His "Letter to the People of God" on August 20, 2018, rings with a strong call to all of us: "The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way. While it is important and necessary on every journey of conversion to acknowledge the truth of what has happened, in itself this is not enough. Today we are challenged as

the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit. If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest and most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history” (Letter of Pope Francis to the People of God, August 20, 2018).

In 2010, and again in 2016, the highest authority of the Congregation, the General Chapter, called the Major Superiors of all the Units to greater accountability, transparency, and commitment, so that all our places of ministry and our residences would be certified as safe environments for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Every Unit must have a proactive policy, so that our parishes, schools, hostels, ministry sites and Oblate communities are vigilant in respecting and keeping safe those who come to us for ministry. Part of this policy must also be a procedure on what to do if there is a complaint made against an Oblate, an employee, or a volunteer at our ministry sites or houses. In every Unit, the appropriate administration must regularly review the practices, be familiar with them, and keep them up to date.

The recent document from the Synod on Youth, discernment and vocation, places the theme of sexual abuse in a wider perspective. “Abuse exists in various forms: abuse of power, abuse of conscience, sexual or financial abuse. Clearly, the ways of exercising authority that make all this possible have to be eradicated and the irresponsibility and lack of transparency with which so many cases have been handled have to be challenged. The desire to dominate, the lack of dialogue and transparency, forms of double life, spiritual emptiness, as well as psychological weaknesses, are the ground on which corruption thrives. (From the “Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment”, # 30). We recognize that clericalism is an extremely destructive form

of this abusive power.

The Central Government will have a professional in the field of abuse prevention working with us in the upcoming April/May plenary session. We need to grow in our awareness of the reality of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, and to learn how to foster a greater commitment on the part of the entire Congregation to create safe environments. In July, at the Interchapter gathering, there will also be an entire day devoted to this question, to help the entire leadership of the Congregation understand, and become committed to responding to, the critical question of safeguarding minors and vulnerable adults in all our houses and wherever we minister.

While this theme may not be a happy one to entertain on our feast day, I believe it is at the heart of conversion and the call to become saints to which Eugene de Mazenod called us in his Preface of 1825. He was a minister of mercy whose heart was impassioned for the dignity of the poor and vulnerable. He would demand that we strive our very utmost to do the best to create safe environments for all those who come to us.

Jesus welcomed the children and touched them, blessing them with such love and freedom (Mk 10:16). May this beautiful and tender attitude between pastoral ministers and children be healed and protected by our integrity and responsible behavior. We pray to Mary Immaculate to assist us in taking on “...the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit” (Letter of Pope Francis).

Happy feast day!

Your brother Oblate in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Louis Lougen OMI
Superior General

General Administration

GENERAL SECRETARIAT Statistics 2019

Introduction: The source for Oblate statistics is the database of members in the General Secretariat at the General House, updated and adjusted with reports which come in from the various Oblate provinces, delegations and missions. The records of first vows, final vows, ordinations, departures and deaths which are received daily in Rome go to make up the annual report.

For various reasons, these records sometimes do not arrive at the Secretariat in a timely fashion. The numbers included in this publication, especially related to scholastics, vows, ordinations and departures, reflect not only the statistics of the year that has just passed, but also of some previous years.

GENERAL STATISTICS –January 2019

JANUARY 2018

JANUARY 2019

Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.		Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.
38	35	3	0	0	0	General Admin.	38	36	2	0	0	0
843	559	48	3	0	233	Africa-Madagascar	877	573	49	4	0	251
437	345	26	3	0	64	Latin America	418	329	25	2	0	62
812	578	23	5	2	204	Asia-Oceania	832	572	23	7	2	228
622	534	79	0	2	7	Canada-USA	593	508	74	0	2	9
914	761	92	4	3	54	Europe	900	747	92	7	3	51
3666	*2812	271	14	7	562	Total	3658	*2765	265	20	7	601

PERSONNEL BY UNIT (As of 24 January 2019)

The next table shows the number of Oblates according to the **Unit** to which they belong. For example, all the Oblates attached to the Zambia Delegation are listed there, even though they are juridically members of the United States Province or may be temporarily living elsewhere. Some of the Zambian scholastics are in Cedara, others in the U.S. etc.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card	Tot.
36	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38

AFRICA - MADAGASCAR

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
Angola	14	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	16
Botswana	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	11
Cameroon	63	0	11	2	43	0	0	2	0	0	121
Congo	98	0	12	0	34	0	0	1	0	0	145
Kenya	10	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	16
Lesotho	76	0	9	0	20	0	0	2	2	1	110
Madagascar	42	0	4	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	78

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Namibia	31	0	1	0	10	0	0	2	1	0	45
Nigeria	17	0	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	52
Sahara	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Senegal	40	0	2	1	18	0	0	0	0	0	61
Southern Africa	103	0	3	0	24	0	0	2	2	0	134
Zambia	40	0	3	1	15	0	0	2	0	0	61
Zimbabwe	10	0	3	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	24
Total	555	0	49	4	251	0	1	11	5	1	877

LATIN AMERICA

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
Baja California	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Bolivia	15	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	22
Brazil	56	0	2	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	65
Colombia	13	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	16
Cruz del Sur	60	0	4	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	71
Cuba	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Guatemala	15	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	21
French Guyana	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Haiti	87	0	8	0	25	0	0	1	0	0	121
Mexico	32	0	2	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	47
Peru	13	0	2	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	20
Puerto Rico	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Venezuela	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	10
Total	323	0	25	2	62	0	0	6	0	0	418

ASIA - OCEANIA

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
Australia	36	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	39
Bangladesh	26	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	0	0	36
China	15	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	19
Colombo	104	0	5	0	28	2	0	1	0	0	140
India	92	0	1	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	143
Indonesia	31	0	0	6	15	0	0	0	0	0	52
Jaffna	89	0	2	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	120
Japan – Korea	16	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Korea	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
Pakistan	30	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	0	0	43
Philippines	75	0	9	0	15	0	0	1	0	1	101
Thailand	19	0	1	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	27
Turkmenistan	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vietnam	24	0	4	0	57	0	0	0	0	0	85
Total	565	0	23	7	228	2	0	6	0	1	832

CANADA - UNITED STATES

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
Assumption	48	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	52
Lacombe	125	0	22	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	154
N-D-du-Cap	109	0	34	0	1	2	0	4	0	0	150
United States	213	0	15	0	7	0	0	1	1	0	237
Total	495	0	74	0	9	2	0	10	3	0	593

EUROPE

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
Anglo-Irish	67	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
Belg./N ^l ands	48	0	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	61
Byelorussia	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Central European	86	0	22	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	114
France	98	0	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	114
France & Benelux	29	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	30
Mediterranean	147	0	8	1	5	1	0	1	0	0	163
Poland	235	0	31	5	36	0	0	0	0	0	307
Romania	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ukraine	28	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	34
Total	744	0	92	7	51	3	0	3	0	0	900
TOTAL	2718	0	265	20	601	7	1	36	8	2	3658

Legenda: Fr.=Father; Fr.T.=Father without Oblate No.; Br.=Brother; Br.T.=Brother with temp. vows; Sc.=Scholastics; Dea.=Perm. Deacon; Pr.Ap.=Prefect Apostolic; Ep.=Bishop; ArEp.=Archbishop; Card.=Cardinal. **Perpetual Oblations – (reported in 2018)**

No.	Surname	Name	Date	Unit
14849	MUSUKUMA	Morgan Mpundu	14.10.17	Zambia
14915	JULIEN	Liva	24.12.17	Haiti
14848	HAVLICH	Andriy	21.01.18	Mediterranean
14847	BET-WOSSE HOKNA	Abel	03.02	Cameroun
14855	KALUTHARAKORALALAGE	Don Shalinda Jude L.	18.02	Colombo
14853	YACINTHE	Védely	01.05	Haiti
14851	MASILO	Koali Francis	01.05	Lesotho
14852	QESA	Augustinus Sebenzile	01.05	Lesotho
14850	MALCZEWSKI	Piotr	01.05	Poland
14854	ZHUVA	Samuel Tembo	01.05	Zimbabwe
14856	NGO THANH TUNG	Joseph	19.05	Vietnam
14857	ANDRIAMAMPIONONA	Solonirina Nomenjanahary	20.05	Madagascar
14899	AMALORPAVAM	Christopher	21.05	India
14900	GEORGE	Vishal	21.05	India
14901	GNANA MUTHU	Ruban	21.05	India
14902	GORRUMUTCHU	Joseph Thambi	21.05	India
14903	JONADASS	John Britto	21.05	India
14904	KASPAR	Mariya Suvarkkin	21.05	India
14905	MARIA DASS	Antony Alexander	21.05	India
14907	RAYAPPAN	John Kennedy	21.05	India
14908	SILUVAI	Antony Vijilan	21.05	India
14909	VENANCIOUS	Sahaya Loyola Jeniston	21.05	India
14906	VINCENT	Antony Benedict	21.05	India
14910	YESUDOSS	Andrews Antony	21.05	India
14858	VAILAM OUIN	Gilbert	02.06	Cameroun

14897	HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ	Julio Edgar	02.06	Mexico
14859	AKPAN	Joseph Ifiok Francis	02.06	Nigeria
14860	ANANIAS	Jacobus Ndakumwako	14.07	Namibia
14862	KAMBANDA	Petrus	14.07	Namibia
14861	NAKAKUWA	Joseph	14.07	Namibia
14885	MUBANGA	Abraham Chibamba	09.08	Zambia
14882	ADAIKALASAMY	Vincent Fernandez	01.09	India
14863	KUBAI	Cosmas Kithinji	01.09	Kenya
14884	MANUEL LÓPEZ	Eleazar	01.09	USA
14883	BANDA	Charles Robby	01.09	Zambia
14913	DORVAL	Jean Landry	08.09	Haiti
14914	DUMESLE	Stéfane	08.09	Haiti
14916	JUSTE	Jonel	08.09.	Haiti
14917	SAINT-JUSTE	James	08.09.	Haiti
14878	HALEMBA	Zbigniew Jan	08.09	Poland
14879	KOSLIK	Bartosz Michal	08.09	Poland
14880	OSINSKI	Piotr Marcin	08.09	Poland
14881	RADLAK	Piotr	08.09	Poland
14864	DJORWE	Pascal	09.09	Cameroun
14866	TIMTIM	Hermann	09.09	Cameroun
14868	ATINA LONGELI	Deogratias	09.09	Congo
14871	IBANGA YINDULA	Lievin	09.09	Congo
14870	KAPINGA DIANYISHAYI	Charles	09.09	Congo
14872	RAKOTONIAINA	Joseph Christian	09.09	Madagascar
14873	RANDRIAMIHAJA	Théophile	09.09	Madagascar
14874	RASOLONJATOVO	Eric	09.09	Madagascar
14875	RATOVOSAONA	Andry Jean Aurélien	09.09	Madagascar
14876	RAZANABARY	Felicien Jean	09.09	Madagascar
14877	RAZOKY	Hissène	09.09	Madagascar
14865	OGBUZUO	Chijike Bartholomew	09.09	Nigeria
14867	UJU	Ugochukwu Mark	09.09	Nigeria
14869	NGOYI	Hervé	09.09	Vietnam
14889	CHAU HOANG ANH PHUONG	Joseph	06.10	Vietnam
14893	DAO DUC MINH	Jean-Baptiste	06.10	Vietnam
14886	DOAN GIAI BINH	Jean	06.10	Vietnam
14891	HO CHI NHAN	Joseph	06.10	Vietnam
14890	HOANG VAN SAC	François-Xavier	06.10	Vietnam
14892	LE VAN DAO	Joseph	06.10	Vietnam
14888	PHAM QUANG TRUNG	Paul	06.10	Vietnam
14887	VO VAN VINH	François-Xavier	06.10	Vietnam
14895	FERNANDO	Assisi Sumith Devasiri	18.10	Colombo
14896	NAMAL WARNAKULASURIA	Charuka Hashan Fernando	18.10	Colombo
14894	MLILO	Phumulani	26.10	Zimbabwe
14898	BERRUTTI PEREYRA	Fernando Daniel	04.11	Cruz del Sur
14911	SANTHEOGU	Vincent Michael	08.12	Jaffna
14912	VETHANAYAGAM	Anucious	08.12	Jaffna

Obediences – 2018
 (* indicates first Obedience)

Date	Title	Family name	First name	Origin	Destination
05.01	Sc.*	COSTA	Pinto	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
05.01	Sc.*	DE SANTANA	Sergio	Brazil	Brazil
05.01	Fr.	ULLRICH	David	China	USA
09.01	Fr.*	GOMES	Subash	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
17.01	Fr.	ALI NNAEMEKA	Cornelius	Cameroon	N.D.-du-Cap
22.01	Fr.	WIJEKOON	Philip	Colombo	Peru
22.01	Fr.	WAIDYASEKARA	Clement	Colombo	General Admin.
25.01	Fr.	RABEMANANTSOA	Jean	China	Madagascar
29.01	Fr.	TROCINSKI	Krzysztof	Cameroon	Poland
06.02	Fr.	JASTRZEBSKI	Andrzej	Poland	N.D.-du-Cap
10.02	Fr.*	DOMBEK	Petr	Central European	Central European
19.02	Fr.*	PIERRE	Serdier	Haiti	Haiti
19.02	Fr.*	BACHEKA DJONLAI	Thaddee	Cameroon	Cameroon
19.02	Fr.*	EZETI TIZI	Dieudonne	Cameroon	Cameroon
19.02	Fr.*	KASSI	Hermann	Cameroon	Cameroon
19.02	Fr.*	NDIAYE	Joseph	Senegal	Senegal
19.02	Fr.*	SADIO	Joseph	Senegal	Senegal
19.02	Fr.*	SARR	Marcel	Senegal	Senegal
19.02	Fr.*	DE FARIAS	Antonio	Brazil	Brazil
02.04	Fr.*	DEGAZON	Ferey	Haiti	Haiti
02.04	Fr.*	JEAN-LOUIS	Germeus	Haiti	Haiti
02.04	Fr.*	LAJOIE	Adley	Haiti	Haiti
02.04	Fr.*	LAJOIE	Rosembert	Haiti	Haiti
02.04	Fr.*	SAMEDY	Louiseau	Haiti	Haiti
02.04	Sc.*	NZOLO	Nqobile	Southern Africa	Southern Africa
06.04	Sc.*	PATRICIO SILVA	Victor	USA	USA
06.04	Fr.	DE ASSIS SANTOS	Eduardo	Japan Korea	Brazil
11.04	Fr.	PFEIFER	Teodoro	Mexico	USA
18.04	Fr.	KULANTHAIARULSAMY	John Sebastian	India	Australia
18.04	Fr.	MCGRATH	Patrick	Brazil	Anglo-Irish
18.04	Fr.	MOTEAPHALA	Emile	Lesotho	Southern Africa
19.04	Fr.	KOSCINSKI	Thomasz	Poland	Assumption
30.04	Sc.*	DOROSH	Vadym	Ukraine	Ukraine
30.04	Sc.*	GAWLICZEK	Blazej	Poland	Ukraine
30.04	Sc.*	KOTLARSKI	Adrian	Poland	Poland
30.04	Sc.*	ZWIERZYCHOWSKI	Dominik	Poland	Anglo-Irish
01.05	Fr.*	DIODATI	Antonio	Mediterranean	Mediterranean
01.05	Sc.*	MWAMBA	Elvis	Zambia	Zambia
01.05	Sc.*	MWANSA	Godfrey	Zambia	Zambia
01.05	Sc.*	NYAMBA	Felix	Zambia	Zambia
01.05	Sc.*	PHIRI	Bright Veliano	Zambia	Zambia
01.05	Sc.*	ZULU	Mathews	Zambia	Zambia

01.05	Sc.*	MUSUKUMA	Morgan Mpundu	Zambia	Peru
01.05	Sc.*	MBADI NYEK NTEP	Luc-Raymond	Cameroon	Cameroon
01.05	Sc.*	SA'ANGOUNI	Simplice	Cameroon	Cameroon
03.05	Fr.	NOLAN	John	Southern Africa	Anglo-Irish
07.05	Sc.*	SHEELEKENI	Josef	Namibia	Namibia
07.05	Sc.*	LAGNAODA	Harold	Philippines	Philippines
07.05	Sc.*	SOTOMIL	Peter	Philippines	Philippines
07.05	Sc.*	PACIENTE	Roy	Philippines	China
08.05	Fr.	DILLON	Ciaran	USA	Anglo-Irish
08.05	Fr.	ANDRIAMAMPIONONA	Solonirina	Madagascar	Madagascar
16.05	Fr.	DOUGLAS	Sholto	Australia	Zimbabwe
16.05	Fr.	PHAROE	Itumeleng	Lesotho	Southern Africa
18.05	Fr.	MCLAUGHLIN	Peter	Indonesia	Australia
22.06	Sc.*	DIENG	Hyacinthe	Senegal	Senegal
22.06	Sc.*	GUEYE	Jean	Senegal	Senegal
22.06	Sc.*	SENE	Pierre	Senegal	Senegal
22.06	Sc.*	SAMBOU	Louis	Senegal	Senegal
22.06	Sc.*	FAYE	Jean Pierre	Senegal	Kenya
22.06	Sc.*	MIRANDA ATOCHE	Samuel	Peru	Peru
22.06	Bro	VANDENBRANDEN	Hugo	Bolivia	Belgium&Netherlands
22.06	Fr.	BABOU	Geroges	Cameroon	France
22.06	Fr.	ORAZA	Alfred	Cameroon	France
23.06	Fr.	SAPARAMADU	Jude	General Admin.	Colombo
25.06	Fr.*	MOAHLOLI	Mokhalinyane	Southern Africa	Southern Africa
26.06	Fr.	FRIAS HERNANDEZ	Benedicto	Mexico	General Admin.
28.07	Fr.	TREMBLAY	Juan-Maria	Cruz del Sur	N.D.-du-Cap
02.09	Sc.*	NGUYEN VANHOAN	Joseph	Vietnam	Vietnam
13.09	Fr.	PITSO	Pascalis	N.D.-du-Cap	Lesotho
13.09	Fr.	LWELE	Jean-Pierre	Congo	Namibia
21.09	Fr.	MATSAU	Mabooe	N.D.-du-Cap	Lesotho
24.09	Fr.	HAHN	Francis	Japan-Korea	Southern Africa
01.10	Sc.*	DJEBARDE	Gerald	Cameroon	Cameroon
04.10	Fr.	CLOUTIER	Gerard	Haiti	N.D.-du-Cap
28.11	Sc.*	INDIBI	Didier	Congo	Congo
28.11	Sc.*	KAMBINYAM	Jerry	Congo	Congo
28.11	Sc.*	KIABILUALANDANA	John Bosco	Congo	Congo
28.11	Sc.*	MPIA BELENDIA	Claude	Congo	Congo
28.11	Sc.*	NGAMABWINI	Steve	Congo	Congo
28.11	Sc.*	NGONGA	Faustin	Congo	Congo
28.11	Sc.*	NGOY MPIANA	Steve	Congo	Congo
30.11	Sc.*	BÙI CÔNG DŨNG	Joseph	Vietnam	Vietnam
30.11	Sc.*	ĐÀO XUÂN HÀ	Louis	Vietnam	Vietnam
30.11	Sc.*	TRẦN DUY ĐẠI	Joseph	Vietnam	Vietnam
30.11	Sc.*	TRẦN NGỌC TUẤN	Antoine	Vietnam	Vietnam

Oblates in First Formation - 2018
(Reported as of January 2019)

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
2018	601	20	106	69	42
2017	562	14	94	60	46
2016	540	11	90	46	65
2015	570	12	107	49	50
2014	524	13	129	79	55
2013	558	3	101	49	76
2012	627	9	87	100	84
2011	685	17	132	72	74

Deaths and Departures - 2018

Deaths reported in 2018: **92 (1 Bishop, 81 Priests, 10 Brothers)**
2017: **91** 2016: **96** 2015: **94** 2014: **108** 2013: **95**

Departures reported in 2018: **33 (14 priests, 1 Brother, 18 scholastics)**

2017: **44** (19 priests, 23 scholastics, 2 Brothers)
2016: **72** (17 priests, 54 scholastics, 1 Brother)
2015: **43** (18 priests, 21 scholastics, 4 Brothers)
2014: **131** (19 priests, 105 scholastics, 7 Brothers)
2013: **116** (19 priests, 91 scholastics, 6 Brothers)

2018:

- 15 scholastics did not renew their temporary vows.
- 1 scholastic was dispensed from temporary vows.
- 1 Brother did not renew his temporary vows.
- 2 scholastics were dismissed from the Congregation.
- 5 priests were dismissed from the Congregation.
- 6 priests were laicized.
- 3 priests were definitively incardinated into a diocese.

MAMI
Calendar of Masses for MAMI members

Fr. Peter Stoll, OMI, the Assistant General for Asia-Oceania and the liaison for lay associations, has sent us the Calendar of Masses to be celebrated for the intention of MAMI members throughout the Congregation.

"It was on the occasion of the publication of the 1947 Administrative Circular Letter that the first "calendar" of Masses to be celebrated by Oblates was established. There we read: 'Since the Congregation has committed itself to have Mass celebrated each day

for the living and deceased members of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate, it was decided that the responsibility for this was to be shared among the different provincial directors... each provincial director will be obliged sub gravi to celebrate or to have celebrated a certain number of Masses according to the dates determined...'

From that time on, several editions of this timetable have been published in order to keep pace with the development of the Congregation. It is a living example of the continuous prayer of the Missionary Oblates for members of the MAMI, a prayer which, in a way, circles the globe." **OMI**

Asia-Oceania

PHILIPPINE PROVINCE

Pope Francis appoints Oblate priest to head Jolo vicariate

COTABATO CITY – Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Romeo Sanieel of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) as Apostolic Administrator of the Vicariate of Jolo, replacing Bishop Angelito Lampon, OMI who was earlier appointed to become archbishop of the archdiocese of Cotabato.

Fr. Sanieel will be installed as administrator of Jolo vicariate on January 30. Bishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio of the Philippines, said in a communiqué to Bishop Lampon that Fr. Sanieel, currently president of Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC), was appointed by Pope Francis on December 16, 2018.

“I humbly accepted this appointment,” Fr. Sanieel said in a phone interview.

“I thank the Holy Father through Monsignor Caccia, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, for the trust given to me to continue the good work that the Oblates have started here in the vicariate,” Fr. Sanieel said.

Fr. Sanieel will lead the vicariate as officer in charge until a new bishop shall be named by Pope Francis. As administrator, Fr. Sanieel said he will push for the OMI missions of building bridges among Jolo vicariate’s diverse cultures and faith.

“The OMIs built Notre Dame schools that helped bridge the gap between Muslims and Christians because not only did the schools stress respect for the Muslim religion and culture, they had also provided affordable education to Muslim Filipinos, settlers and indigenous people,” he said.

“I will continue promoting social development through housing, livelihood, cooperatives, and health care projects which to this date contribute to peaceful coexistence between Muslim and Christian communities,” Fr. Sanieel said.

Europe

POLAND

Moving towards the jubilee – the year of Our Lady of Kodeń

The Oblates of Poland will celebrate 100 years of their presence in the country in 2020. It refers to the establishment of the first oblate community in Krotoszyn, which began under the jurisdiction of the then General Administration. In view of that, the Polish Province had already begun a preparatory triennium last year. The first year, which was called ‘the year of the Relics of the Holy Cross’ has been already concluded giving way to the second year named after Our Lady of Kodeń.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Kodeń is the main Marian shrine in the diocese of Siedlce, the east of Poland. The Oblates are responsible for this holy place from 1927. Annually, over 200,000 pilgrims visit the sanctuary.

Two copies of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Kodeń are already in circulation and they will be taken to each oblate community, house and parish belonging to the Province before the end of 2019. It is an opportunity to renew our commitment to God - to go out and do whatever He wants us to do, like Mary our Mother and Patroness. In other words, it is about discovering the paths of His Holy Will.

There is another reason for joy during this year of preparation. A new oblate community is now being formed in the diocese of Opole, responding to the request of its Bishop Mgr. Andrzej Czaja, for new evangelization. Saint John Paul II, the one who proclaimed Saint Eugene his personal patron of new evangelization, (*M. Zago, Letter of Father General at the end of the year of de Mazonod, OMI Information 345 (1996), p. 1*) will

be the patron of this new community.

There are nearly 500 oblates working in Poland and about 100 Polish oblates are working in other units of our Congregation.

MEDITERRANEAN PROVINCE

Alessandro Staccioli OMI, bishop for 50 years

The oblate bishop Alessandro STACCIOLI, together with his oblate brethren, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his episcopate in San Giorgio Canavese, 7 and 8 December 2018. For some years now, the bishop has been a member of the Oblate Community there, once the seat of the Italian Scholasticate, now a retirement home and a place of prayer, service and fruitful memory. The Oblates have been living in San Giorgio Canavese since 1913. From 1926 to 1974, about 400 young people prepared themselves here for priestly and missionary life.

Fr. Angelo PELIS, a missionary in Laos from 1964 to 1975, invites us to relive the event.

Fr. Alessandro Staccioli, at the age of 37, was consecrated Bishop on December 8, 1968. He succeeded in the leadership of the Apostolic Vicariate of Luang Prabang (Laos), after Mons. Leonello Berti OMI, who tragically died in an airplane accident on February 24, 1968. Bishop Berti was just over 42 years old and only 5 years of episcopal service.

The Oblate Community in San Giorgio Canavese has given a thoughtful welcome to confreres and friends. We thank in particular the Constant Fathers BARON, Superior, and Mario AMADEO, Bursar, who together with the Missionary Group of AMMI (Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate) prepared the beautiful feast.

From Rome, I set out with Fr. Luigi SION and Bro. Donato CIANCIULLO, the close companions of Bishop Staccioli. Another former missionary to Laos, Fr. Palmiro DELALIO, joined us from Aosta. Fr. Umberto NESPOLO, now a guest of this Residence for the Elderly, was for some years responsible for the Mission entrusted to Blessed Martyr Mario Borzaga, and to Fr. Natalino SARTOR and Antonio ZANONI,

who died in Laos in 1966 and 1972 respectively.

In the afternoon of December 7, there was a round-table discussion. Paolo Damosso, director and writer, author of the book and video "*Romanzo d'Amore*" on Bl. Mario Borzaga, was the coordinator. He first gave the floor to Fr. Gennaro ROSATO, the provincial of the Mediterranean Province, who expressed his greetings and best wishes to Msgr. Staccioli and all those present. He invited all "to continue to look at the past with gratitude...to live the present with passion...to embrace the future with hope".

Speaking of those present, a special guest made us a pleasant surprise in the hall of the Oratory: Msgr. Luigi Bettazzi, 95 years old, Bishop Emeritus of Ivrea and former International President of *Pax Christi*. He is the only Italian bishop present at the Second Vatican Council, living today. Bishop Bettazzi, known throughout the world for his pastoral and social initiatives, wanted to confirm the friendship that binds him to Bishop Staccioli. Between exchanges of jokes and memories, particularly interesting was the mention of Bettazzi's two visits to the Oblates of Laos, in the '70s, and later to those of Uruguay. Lucia Borzaga, the sister of Blessed Borzaga also participated in the feast. She had not seen San Giorgio Canavese since February 24, 1957, the day of his brother Mario's priestly ordination!

The occasion allowed us to retrace the life of our bishop, in Italy, in Laos, and in the long missionary service, after the expulsion of all the missionaries in 1975. Fr. Sion recalled with his usual humor moments of their journey to Laos on board the ship "Victoria", which sailed from Naples on October 31, 1957. Brother Donato recalled the drama of the destruction of the NamTha School in 1961.

On December 8, the solemn Eucharistic celebration, enlivened by the parish choir, took place in the Church of the Mary Immaculate. About twenty priests, both Oblates and diocesan concelebrated at the Mass. Many people who had been friends of the jubilarian and the Oblates, were happy to meet and recognize each other. "Do you remember me?" was the refrain of the song of friendship and of a bond that was never interrupted!

Even the official lunch allowed us to live a nice family moment, enlivened by the guitar and "alpine" songs, a tribute by the members of the Association "Friends of Father Mario".

1968 - 2018... 50 years of grace, blessed by Mary Immaculate, that Bishop Alessandro lived, faithful to his motto, Luke 22.27: "I am among you as one who serves".

POLAND

Oblate presence at COP 24 in Katowice

COP24 is the informal name for the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meeting took place from December 3 to 14, 2018, in Katowice, Poland. Negotiators from 196 countries and the European Union worked for two weeks on the Katowice Climate Package, implementing the Paris Agreement. The negotiations discussed how nations can collectively limit global warming, find out about the latest technologies available to reduce the harmful impact of human activity on the planet, and stay connected to those who are

making a difference, every day, across the globe.

The summit in Katowice also had a spiritual face. The Archdiocese of Katowice, cooperating with the Polish Ecumenical Council, prepared several dozen meetings and events, including: prayers, masses, pilgrimages, and discussion panels. One of the participants was Fr. Mariusz BOSEK from the Polish Province. He actively took part in the lecture of Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission and the one responsible for a long-term climate strategy for regions with a carbon potential because of mining.

Fr. Bosek, sharing his views, said, "The role of the Faith-based communities for climate justice is very important in this era of climate change and global warming. This is a meeting of different religious movements and ecological non-governmental organizations. The changes for a better world cannot be made real without our cooperation with God the Creator."

"The personal motto, which accompanied me during the meetings, is from Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si: 'To hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'*", he further said.

Latina America

MEXICO

Unveiling of a sculpture in honor of +Fr. Francis Theodore Pfeifer, OMI (1932-2018)

On December 11, 2018, the Oblates in Mexico paid homage to the great missionary Fr. Francis Theodore PFEIFER, leaving his memory in a bust that was unveiled in the atrium of the parish of San Pedro Mártir Quiechapa, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Bishop Miguel Pfeifer OMI, presided at the Mass in honor of the Our Lady of Guadalupe where he gave an account of the missionary life of his brother. After the procession, there was a simple homage from the community to Fr. Francis. Present were some Oblates and his sister Judith, as well as hundreds of parishioners and friends of the Oblates. We were sure that he was smiling from heaven for this beautiful gesture of affection of ours, as we paid tribute to him as "father, friend

and brother".

Born in the Rio Grande Valley, Alamo, Texas, Father Francis arrived in Mexico in 1963 to begin his missionary life in Mexico. He served in the parish of San Pedro Huamelula, La Magdalena Tequisistlán and San Pedro Mártir Quiechapa in the diocese of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca.

Known by the indigenous population of Quiechapa as "El Padre Chico", he experienced firsthand what Pope Pius XI said of the Oblates in 1938: "They are specialists in difficult missions." Francis, as a missionary was more than a priest: he attended childbirths, built a clinic and provided medical service to the mountain communities in Quiechapa; he traveled to many villages to bring the sacraments to the people, helping them in every way he could. He was a mechanic, a carpenter and above all a great father

to the people.

But he also defended the indigenous people against the drug cartel during his stay; he even became the target of an attack on March 8, 1987, when 12 bullets penetrated his truck on the way to Oaxaca, escaping unharmed from this attack. That dangerous moment made this simple, humble missionary even more determined, leading him to a profound decision: That of being the good shepherd! “The coward flees when he sees the wolf coming, but the good shepherd stays, defends his flock” (Jn 10:11). *Padre Chico* decided to remain with his flock. After many years of presence in the parish of San Pedro Mártir Quiéchapa and later more than ten years in the parish of Cristo Salvador y Señor in Mexico City, he was already a little tired and sick, returning to Texas where he received the Lord's call in April 2018.

Rest in Peace, *Padre Chico*...

BAJA CALIFORNIA MISSION

Catholic missionaries provide relief to migrants in Mexico

With close to 6,000 Central Americans now in Tijuana, Mexico, the wider community organizes to provide basic necessities and a long-term plan.

People living around Tijuana, Mexico are grappling with an unprecedented influx of migrants. The number of Central American migrants now at the shelter is estimated at 6,000. Fr Jesse Esqueda, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate (OMI) from the US Province, heads the Oblate Mission near La Morita, just outside of Tijuana. In an interview with Vatican News, he explains the particular services the Oblates and the wider community are providing.

For three weeks, the Oblates have been offering basic necessities to a group of 18 of the migrants at their Youth Centre. “We have provided shelter,

meals, clothing, lawyers—so they can look at each of them if they have a case for asylum or even seeking residency in Mexico—and then jobs”, Fr Esqueda said. On Tuesday, the Oblates found four places for rent. “We thought it was better for them to be a bit more independent”, the priest said. They have also found them jobs so that they can pay for their rent. “We are still providing them with food and any other type of needs that they have”, he said.

Fr Esqueda said that Catholic Charities is organizing the collection of supplies for the camp providing shelter for the rest of the close to 6,000 Central American migrants. Many people in the Tijuana area are dropping off blankets, water and food there.

“However, with 5,000 people it’s difficult for a lot of them to stand in line for hours to get food. So, many people on their own are actually cooking a meal and then they go and they open up their car and from their car they distribute food. We’ve done that. We prepared a hundred meals the other day and we took that. So people lined up and we give them a warm plate of food.”

Fr Esqueda described the overall situation as “uncomfortable”. Over 5,000 people need “showers, bathrooms, food”, he said. “That’s going to be a problem.” Right now everyone’s energy is focusing on providing for the “emergency situation” which might become “more long term”, Fr Esqueda explained. Some are beginning to plan for the long-term situation, including providing the children with education.

The Oblates are already beginning to provide English and other classes for children at their clinic. Having already found lodging and jobs for the group they are working with more closely, Fr Esqueda is hopeful that they will be able to share with other groups what they have found works well — “or perhaps do that with another group”.

Anniversaries for February 2019

70th Anniversaries of Ordinations

17/02/1949	07724	Fr. Guéguen, Jean	France
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65th Anniversaries of Vows

27/02/1954	09690	Fr. Bugler, Kevin	Southern Africa
27/02/1954	09644	Fr. Towell, James	Southern Africa

65th Anniversaries of Ordinations

21/02/1954	08792	Fr. Morel, Patrice	France
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60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

15/02/1959	09393	Fr. Di Benedetto, Antonio	Mediterranean
15/02/1959	09394	Fr. Lopardo, Romualdo	Mediterranean

50th Anniversaries of Vows

11/02/1969	12078	Fr. Barnard, Terrence	Southern Africa
11/02/1969	12024	Fr. Connolly, Brian	Southern Africa

25th Anniversaries of Vows

05/02/1994	13607	Msgr. Chinyemba, Evans Chinyama	Zambia
05/02/1994	13622	Fr. Chiso, Patrick Kabika	Zambia
05/02/1994	13626	Fr. Kibombwe, Freeborn Isaac	Zambia
05/02/1994	13541	Bro. Mwakacheya, Maximillian	Zambia
05/02/1994	13550	Fr. Ngcobo, Mbheki Anthony	Natal
05/02/1994	13611	Fr. Shimbomeh, Erastus Kapena	Namibia

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

05/02/1994	13208	Fr. Costa, Ajit Victor	Bangladesh
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Prayers for our Deceased

No. 01 - 06

Name	Prov./Del.	Age	Died at	Date
Bro. Johnson, William	USA	71	Belleville	27/01/2019
Fr. Maddalena, Lino	Poland	87	Cuorné	18/01/2019
Fr. Rubeaux, Francisco	Brazil	79	Sao Paolo	08/01/2019
Fr. Joye, Wilfried	Southern Africa	79	Brugge	07/01/2019
Fr. Nunes, Sérgio Cordeiro	Brazil	53	São Paulo	01/01/2019
Fr. Buteau, François	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	96	Richelieu	01/01/2019

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