



OMI Information No. 598 (English)

January-February 2020

**The Letter of the Superior General to the Congregation
on the 194th Anniversary of the Papal Approbation of the Constitutions & Rules**

February 17, 2020

L.J.C. et M.I.

Dear Brother Oblates and all who live inspired in the Oblate charism,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Each time I hear these words proclaimed or ponder them in prayer, I believe that we are anointed anew for the mission of Jesus. The Trinity is working within and among us: the Father, in an outpouring of love, fills us with the Spirit and sends us to partake in the Mission of the Word made flesh.

Today, we celebrate the Church's blessing upon the missionary vision of Eugene de Mazenod. Surprisingly, the Church's approval was granted quickly. Eugene de Mazenod knew, it was Divine Providence that guided him and that moved Pope Leo XII to grant pontifical approval of our Constitutions and Rules on February 17 1826. The Pope desired renewal of the Church, and hearing about the wonders of this band of missionaries in France, he sped up the process of approbation.

The missionary project of Eugene and companions, expressed in a passionate way in the "Preface", is written in our hearts. The Constitutions and Rules, approved in 1826, are an organized expression of this missionary vision. They help us be faithful to the apostolic fire that burned within him and that gave birth to a missionary charism to preach the Gospel to the poor and most abandoned.

In revisiting the apostolic zeal expressed in the "Preface", we see its prophetic relevance even today. The Church in our own times, in various ways and in diverse places around the world, has been devastated. We experience a Church which is discredited because of its own ministers' lack of virtue; a Church divided and polarized by ideologies; a Church whose faithful members very often are being persecuted for their faith; and in other places, a Church where Christians have ceased professing their faith; a Church weakened for lack of the Eucharist, lack of priests and difficult accessibility.

This reality cries out with urgency to us and touches our hearts as it did Eugene's. If there could be missionaries, filled with passion to bring the Gospel to the poor; missionaries inflamed with apostolic zeal; missionaries committed to a holy life of genuine love for others; missionaries who would share a life in common and collaborate together and with others for the Mission of God... Then, in a short time, there would be reason to hope that people would truly open their lives to God's Good News. Eugene's was a prophetic vision, with a profound pastoral hunger to minister to the people forgotten by the Church.

His motivational drive to evangelize the most abandoned was rooted in his personal experience, on one Good Friday, of the saving love of Jesus Christ and the joy of forgiveness.

This vision drives Oblate missionaries today. Like de Mazenod, we burn with the desire to bring the Good News of the Reign of God to those who are poor, forgotten, tossed away and

rejected. We know well the faces of the poor of our societies, the immigrants and refugees; the women, children and men who are commodities to be trafficked for exploitation of various kinds. In missions around the world, we work to combat the continued destruction of the environment, caused by economic exploitation.

Together with indigenous peoples, we defend their culture, lands and water, often in dangerous situations. With other people of good will, we welcome and support immigrants and refugees who are traversing the world. In the heart of the largest cities on earth, we are in the midst of the poor, facing daily violence for the defense of their rights, security, employment, health assistance. Committed to mission with youth, we accompany young people in their faith and in leadership roles, so that they take their place in the Church. Struggling in favor of life in the womb, we not only network to defend the sacred gift of life, we also provide the means for women to welcome their new life into the world with dignity and safety. Heeding the prayer of Jesus, we promote Christian unity through ecumenical efforts and we contribute to interreligious dialogue, both at very local and practical levels and at the table of theological reflection.

Around the globe, the Oblate family works together to provide education for the poorest; we are present on the street at night to offer friendship, a cup of coffee, a friendly word; we visit the home-bound, elderly poor, bringing them the sacrament of the sick and the Eucharist; we are found ministering to small communities of Catholics, often of tribal and indigenous communities in isolated areas, who would otherwise be forgotten. We are ministering with

young people and elderly who are physically and mentally challenged, hearing and sight impaired. In many places, missionaries go out to the bush for weeks, carrying on their backs supplies for ministry and personal care, facing malaria, heat exhaustion, snakes and other sicknesses. Missionaries extend the compassion of Christ to those who are incarcerated and in hospitals.

There is so much for which to be grateful as we contemplate the Spirit's work in drawing so many people to live the Oblate charism in many beautiful ways. We rejoice at the immense number of people are committed to the vision of Saint Eugene! I thank all of you, missionaries inspired by the charism of St. Eugene, for your generous commitment. We sing with Mary our gratitude that the Lord has used us as humble instruments to extend his mission. It is God who is to be praised.

Remembering Mary, it was at this time in 1826, that we received a new name, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, our passport to heaven! We give thanks to God for the beautiful name we bear.

The approval of the CC&RR is so significant, because this small booklet conveys the vision of the Founder, his passion for God and for the poor. It guides us and helps us be faithful to the charism poured out upon us by the Holy Spirit. I invite you to spend some time with both the "Preface" and the CC&RR in these days. Especially the first 44 Constitutions will inspire us with the charism of St. Eugene and challenge us.

Happy Feast Day!

Your brother Oblate in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Louis Lougen, OMI



General Administration

GENERAL HOUSE

Ready to have more autonomy in electricity

It was in 2013 that the Superior General in Council gave a clear mandate for the long-awaited major renovations of the General House of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Rome, Italy.

With that mandate, a committee was formed (delegated by the Superior General) to oversee the entire project. The committee was comprised of Fr. Paolo ARCHIATI, the Vicar General, Fr. Marc DESSAREAULT, the Treasurer General, Fr. Roberto SARTOR, the House Treasurer, Fr. Thomas KLOSTERKAMP, the then Superior of the General House, and Antonio Finiti, our engineer/architect. (At present, Fr. Mokone RATHOKOA, the new House Superior has taken the place of Fr. Thomas on the committee).

The committee recognised some parts of the project as top priorities, needing immediate attention. The boiler room, the drainage system around the foundation of the house, the crypt below the main chapel, the plaster on the outside walls, and the replacement of the old windows came under that category. Apart from them, renovations done to the main chapel (lighting and wiring), the central heating system (with five new boilers) and the rooftop are also worth mentioning.

This year the committee decided to concentrate on something they already had in mind for several years: the project of solar panels. A total of 332 German photovoltaic panels have already been fixed on the rooftop and they are expected to generate over 90 kilowatts.

Fr. Marc is of the view that the project would allow us to get our investment back in six or seven years. In general, it is said that any 'good' solar panel project should give you your initial investment back within the first 10 years. The final connection to the grid needed to activate the production of electricity got underway in mid-January.

"The electricity produced by the solar panels will be solely for the usage of the General House, and we will soon see its advantage with the reduction of our electricity bills" Fr. Marc added.

"During the summer we have an added advantage. The three heat pumps, which are active and produce the air-conditioning during the summer, will be sending the heat they produce to the boilers downstairs, and they in turn will help produce hot water for the House. In that sense, it will be a double recycling of electricity."

Being able to activate the solar panels and being able to be more autonomous regarding electricity is quite an achievement, taking into consideration all the hard work put in by the Treasurer General, the House Bursar and the team. Their seven years of tireless work is to be commended.

However, the renovation project of the General House is far from being over. There are a few more steps to be completed this year. The main dining hall, scheduled for next summer, is one of those. The sports field is also most likely to be converted to a multi-sport field.

The Oblates have had to move their General house or headquarters (so to speak) from one place to another several times during our 200-year-old history, first from Aix-en-Provence to Marseille, then to Paris, Liège, and finally to Rome in 1905. Its first destination in Rome was a stone's throw from the Colosseum, in what is today Via Vittorino da Feltre. Finally, in 1950 it was moved to its present destination in Via Aurelia 290, a stone's throw from St. Peter's Basilica.

Once a point of discussion whether the Oblates should retain or sell the property, the OMI General House is now preparing herself to shelter many more Oblates in the generations to come.

STATISTICS 2020

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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 2020

JANUARY 2020						JANUARY 2019						
Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.	Total		Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.
34	2	0	0	0	36	Gen Admin.	38	36	2	0	0	0
584	50	4	0	267	905	Africa-Madag.	877	573	49	4	0	251
332	27	1	0	55	415	Latin America	418	329	25	2	0	62
591	23	10	2	217	843	Asia-Oceania	832	572	23	7	2	228
484	71	0	2	8	565	Canada-USA	593	508	74	0	2	9
719	89	8	3	48	867	Europe	900	747	92	7	3	51
*2744	262	23	7	595	3631	Total	3658	*2765	265	20	7	601

*Of whom 2 are cardinals, 8 are Archbishops, 37 are bishops, 1 is an Apostolic Prefect.

*In the above table, each Oblate is counted in the **Region** to which he belongs. For example, the Oblates in Zambia are counted only in Africa-Madagascar, although they are members of the United States Province. The scholastics in Rome are listed in their home Region. "B1." indicates perpetually professed Brothers, and "B2" the Brothers who are still in first formation. PD refers to an Oblate Brother who is a permanent deacon.*

SUMMARY (as of January 2020)

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2020	January 2019
Cardinals	2	2
Archbishops	8	8
Bishops	37	35
Prefect Apostolic	1	1
Priests	2696	2720
Brothers with perpetual vows	262	265
Brothers who are permanent deacons	7	7
Brothers with temporary vows	23	20
Scholastics	595	601
Total number of Oblates	3631	3658

PERSONNEL BY UNIT
(As of January 2020)

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.
Total	34	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36

AFRICA - MADAGASCAR

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card	Tot.
Angola	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
Botswana	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Cameroon	67	0	11	2	47	0	0	2	0	0	129
Southern Africa	99	0	3	0	20	0	0	3	2	0	127
Congo	100	0	12	0	38	0	0	1	0	0	151
Kenya	10	0	2	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	24
Lesotho	73	0	9	0	18	0	0	2	2	1	105
Madagascar	44	0	4	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	84
Namibia	34	0	1	0	8	0	0	2	1	0	46
Nigeria	19	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	58
Sahara	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Senegal	39	0	2	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	62
Zambia	41	0	3	1	18	0	0	2	0	0	65
Zimbabwe	15	0	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	27
Total	565	0	50	4	267	0	1	12	5	1	905

LATIN AMERICA

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card	Tot.
Baja California	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Bolivia	14	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	21
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	59	0	4	0	8	0	0	2	0	0	73
Cuba	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Guatemala	12	0	12	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	20
French Guyana	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Haiti	95	0	8	0	16	0	0	1	0	0	120
Mexico	35	0	1	0	11	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	326	0	27	1	55	0	0	6	0	0	415

ASIA - OCEANIA

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card	Tot.
Australia	36	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	38
Bangladesh	25	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	34
China	15	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
Colombo	106	0	5	0	27	2	0	1	0	0	141
India	101	0	1	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	140
Indonesia	33	0	0	6	17	0	0	0	0	0	56
Jaffna	87	0	2	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	117
Japan – Korea	16	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Korea	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	9
Pakistan	33	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	0	0	46
Philippines	78	0	9	0	10	0	0	1	0	1	99
Thailand	21	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	28
Turkmenistan	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vietnam	24	0	4	3	66	0	0	0	0	0	97
Total	584	0	23	10	217	2	0	6	0	1	843

CANADA - UNITED STATES

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
Assumption	49	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	53
Lacombe	123	0	21	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	151
N-D-du-Cap	101	0	32	0	1	2	0	4	0	0	141
United States	198	0	14	0	6	0	0	1	1	0	220
Total	471	0	71	0	8	2	0	10	3	0	565

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
Belgium/Netherlands	43	0	10	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	55
Byelorussia	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Central European	83	0	20	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	109
France	93	0	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	109
France & Benelux	30	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	31
Mediterranean	143	0	8	1	4	1	0	1	0	0	158
Poland	225	0	30	5	32	0	0	0	0	0	292
Romania	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ukraine	25	0	4	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	34
Total	716	0	89	8	48	3	0	3	0	0	867

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
TOTAL	2696	0	262	23	595	7	1	37	8	2	3631

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 2019)

ID no.	State	Last name	First name	Date	Unit
14924	Sc.	Boota	Qaisar	15/08/2018	Pakistan
14925	Sc.	Manzoor	Sajjad	15/08/2018	Pakistan
14926	Sc.	Sabar	Daniel	15/08/2018	Pakistan
14919	Sc.	Séide	Jean Collin	08/09/2018	Haiti
14920	Sc.	Goytía Godínez	Miguel Angel	08/12/2018	Guatemala
14923	Sc.	Adi Nugroho	Carolus	03/01/2019	Indonesia
14921	Sc.	Hamonangan	Petrus	03/01/2019	Indonesia
14922	Sc.	Soleman	Norbertus	03/01/2019	Indonesia
14927	Sc.	Kaewpuang	Anthony Wuttichai	05/01/2019	Thailand & Laos
14928	Sc.	Thongros	John the Baptist Thongchai	05/01/2019	Thailand & Laos
14918	Sc.	Lujan Paz	Luis Lorenzo	02/02/2019	Cruz del Sur
14929	Sc.	Vey	Patrick Lothar	29/04/2019	Central European
14930	Sc.	Areng	Lintu Alfred	01/05/2019	Bangladesh
14933	Sc.	Léon	Aldayir	01/05/2019	Haiti
14934	Sc.	Pierre	Jameson	01/05/2019	Haiti
14936	Sc.	Talasi	Francis Mokete	01/05/2019	Lesotho
14931	Sc.	Fernando	Sackrawarhige Prancis Janith	01/05/2019	Colombo
14932	Sc.	Ha Thai Ho	Pierre	01/05/2019	France-Vietnam
14935	Sc.	Sakala	Sidney	01/05/2019	Zambia
14937	Bro.	Francisco Caño	Domingo	02/05/2019	Guatemala
14939	Sc.	Haakakata	Nchimunya Bbuyumba	22/06/2019	Zambia
14940	Sc.	Kunda	Paul Bwalya	22/06/2019	Zambia
14941	Sc.	Phiri	Ackim	22/06/2019	Zambia
14942	Sc.	Sampa	Mukuka John	22/06/2019	Zambia
14938	Sc.	Hernández Reyes	Abraham	19/07/2019	Guatemala
14945	Sc.	Kyuli	Joseph Nzioka	09/08/2019	OMI Lacombe-Kenya
14943	Sc.	Bohloa	Paul Tumisang	09/08/2019	Lesotho
14944	Sc.	Kotsoane	Robert Moeketsi	09/08/2019	Lesotho
14946	Sc.	Mthembu	Sibahle Cornelius	09/08/2019	Southern Africa
14947	Sc.	Nadua	Joseph	15/08/2019	Philippines
14956	Sc.	Gami	Fidele	08/09/2019	Cameroun
14957	Sc.	Hamadou Deri	Daniel	08/09/2019	Cameroun
14960	Sc.	Vondou Hamane	Paul	08/09/2019	Cameroun
14953	Sc.	Bundu Mukwamambu	Mathieu Xavier	08/09/2019	Congo
14958	Sc.	Mahana Biwaka	Constantin	08/09/2019	Congo
14959	Sc.	Mukongo Munduku	Joseph	08/09/2019	Congo
14948	Sc.	Herinirina	Andry Mamy	08/09/2019	Madagascar
14949	Sc.	Mahafeno	Ueshiba Lordino	08/09/2019	Madagascar
14950	Sc.	Rakotoarisoa	Herinjaka Marcel Fabien	08/09/2019	Madagascar
14951	Sc.	Rakotonirina	José Marcellin	08/09/2019	Madagascar
14952	Sc.	Tsaramila	Dorlis	08/09/2019	Madagascar
14954	Sc.	Emekamihe	Arinze Casmir	08/09/2019	Nigeria
14961	Sc.	Depta	Piotr Pawel	08/09/2019	Poland
14962	Sc.	Stefaniszyn	Dawid Karol	08-09-19	Poland
14963	Sc.	Trzcielinski	Wojciech	08/09/2019	Poland
14964	Sc.	Wandzich	Jakub Dariusz	08-09-19	Poland
14955	Sc.	Faye	Benjamin	08/09/2019	Senegal

14966	Sc.	Nguyen Quang Binh	Simon	12/10/2019	France-Vietnam
14965	Sc.	Sung A Tinh	Joseph	12/10/2019	France-Vietnam
14967	Bro.	Tran Cong Phieu	Vincent	12/10/2019	France-Vietnam
169311U	Sc.	Yousaf	Sajjad	10/11/2019	Pakistan
14968	Sc.	Benat	Singer Canijude	08/12/2019	Jaffna
14970	Sc.	Jesurathnam	Jeevarathnam	08/12/2019	Jaffna
14969	Sc.	Santhiyapillai	Santhirathas	08/12/2019	Jaffna
14971	Sc.	Xavier	Justinrajah	08/12/2019	Jaffna

Obediences – 2019
(* indicates first Obedience)

Date	Title	Family name	First name	Unit of origin	Destination
16.01	Fr	SOOSAI MANICKAM	Joe Antony	India	Australia
18.01	Fr	VAN DE WALLE	Gerardo	Cruz del Sur	Belgium & Netherlands
18.01	Fr	JOHNSON	Susai Raj	India	Anglo-Irish
18.01	Sc*	DIGNOS	Ian	Philippines	Philippines
18.01	Sc*	ORNOPIA	Dennis	Philippines	Anglo-Irish
18.01	Sc*	RAKOTONDRAAIVO	Andre Emil	Poland- Madagascar	Poland-Madagascar
18.01	Sc*	RANDRIAMAMPINANINA	Jean Bruno	Poland-Madagascar	Poland-Madagascar
19.01	Sc*	MAKAU	Jeremea Nkaiseng	Southern Africa	Southern Africa
23.01	Sc*	BOOTA	Qaisar	Colombo-Pakistan	Colombo-Pakistan
23.01	Sc*	MANZOOR	Sajjad	Colombo- Pakistan	Colombo-Pakistan
12.02	Fr	MORASTIL	Irvin	Philippines	Anglo-Irish
18.02	Fr	MUSUMBI	Mbin'okie Jean Bosco	Cameroon	Congo
19.02	Fr	JAYANTHA	Meno Basti	Jaffna	Australia
19.02	Fr	EUSTACHE	Paul Vladimyr	Haiti	Australia-China
20.02	Fr*	JOHANNES	Vitalis Shimwetheleni	Namibia	Namibia
11.03	Fr*	JEAN CHARLES	Herby	Haiti	Haiti
11.03	Sc*	MLILO	Phumulani	S. Africa-Zimbabwe	S. Africa-Zimbabwe
11.03	Fr	PARUNANTHU	Vimalrajan	Jaffna	Anglo-Irish
18.03	Fr	SHANAKA	Shihan	Colombo	Mexico-Cuba
10.04	Sc*	ZHUVA	Thembo Samuel	S. Africa-Zimbabwe	S. Africa-Zimbabwe
10.04	Sc*	DIHAIR	Paul Udomsak	Philippines-Thailand & Laos	Philippines-Thailand & Laos
10.04	Sc*	KUBAI	Cosmas Kihinji	OMI Lacombe Kenya	OMI Lacombe - Kenya
10.04	Fr	JAROSZ	Tomasz	Poland	Assumption
24.04	Fr	NOWAK	Grzegorz	Poland	Assumption
24.04	Fr*	HAVLICH	Andriy	Mediterranean	Mediterranean
24.04	Sc*	ADAIKALASAMY	Vincent Fernandez	India	India
24.04	Fr*	AMALORPAVAM	Christopher	India	India
24.04	Fr*	JONADASS	John Britto	India	India
24.04	Fr*	KASPER	Mariya Suvarkkin	India	India
24.04	Sc*	VENANCIOUS	Sahaya Loyola Jeniston	India	India
24.04	Fr*	YESUDOSS	Andrews Antony	India	Congo-Angola
25.04	Fr*	GORRUMUTCHU	Joseph Thambi	India	Southern Africa

25.04	Fr*	GNANA MUTHU	Ruban	India	Congo-Angola
25.04	Fr*	GEORGE	Vishal	India	Southern Africa
25.04	Fr*	MARIA DASS	Antony Alexander	India	Colombo- Bangladesh
25.04	Fr*	RAYAPPAN	John Kennedy	India	Colombo - Bangladesh
25.04	Fr*	VINCENT	Antony Benedict	India	Philippines
25.04	Fr*	SILUVAI	Antony Vijilan	India	Philippines
02.05	Sc*	SAHAYATHASAN	James Surenthirarajah	Jaffna	Jaffna
02.05	Sc*	SANTHEOGU	Vincent Michael	Jaffna	Jaffna
02.05	Sc*	VETHANAYAGAM	Anucious	Jaffna	Jaffna
02.05	Fr	KATOBO SANGOLO	Patrick	Congo	Namibia
09.05	Fr*	VONDOU	Gerard	Cameroon	Cameroon
14.05	Sc*	DYRDA	Marcin	Poland	Poland
14.05	Sc*	KLOCEK	Cezary	Poland	Poland
24.05	Sc	ANTHONY	David Kumar	General House	India
30.05	Fr	SZABŁOWSKI	Krzysztof	Poland	N-D-du-Cap
30.05	Fr	WIECZOREK	Florian	Central European	Poland
04.06	Fr	AZRAK	Mario George	OMI Lacombe	Cruz del Sur
04.06	Sc*	AMIRTHANATHAR	Siyansthan Jenis	Jaffna	Jaffna
04.06	Fr*	SABAR	Daniel	Colombo-Pakistan	Australia
04.06	Fr	GHOURY	Kashif	Colombo-Pakistan	Australia
04.06	Sc*	ADI NUGROHO	Carolus	Indonesia	Indonesia
04.06	Sc*	HAMONANGAN SIDABALOK	Petrus	Indonesia	Indonesia
04.06	Sc*	SOLEMAN	Norbertus	Indonesia	Indonesia
04.06	Sc*	MASILO	Kaoli Francis	Lesotho	Lesotho
04.06	Sc*	QESA	Augustinus Sebenzile	Lesotho	Lesotho
25.06	Fr	RAMÍREZ MACHUCA	Antonio	Mexico	Mexico
25.06	Bro*	MUCHIRA	Zachary Mwenda	OMI Lacombe- Kenya	OMI Lacombe - Kenya
25.06	Sc*	HERNANDEZ MARTINEZ	Julio Edgar	Mexico	Mexico
25.06	Sc*	NAKAKUWA	Joseph	Namibia	Namibia
25.06	Bro*	BIEGAŃSKI	Pawel	Poland	Poland-Ukraine
25.06	Sc	MONSAVANE	Antoine	France	Philippines- Thailand & Laos
01.07	Fr	RATHOKOA	Mokone Joseph	Southern Africa	General House
01.08	Fr	KLOSTERKAMP	Thomas	General House	Central European
23.08	Sc*	BERRUTTI PEREYRA	Fernando Daniel	Cruz del Sur	Cruz del Sur
23.08	Bro*	FRANCISCO CANO	Domingo	Mexico-Guatemala	Mexico-Guatemala
23.08	Fr	HUGHES	Paul	Mexico-Guatemala	US Province
23.08	Fr	MALEMOHA	Martin Lebohng	Lesotho	Southern Africa
23.08	Fr	DEVANESAN	John Selvaraj	Colombo-Japan- Korea	India
08.09	Fr	ZIELENDIA	Krzysztof	Aix-en-Provence	France-Lourdes
09.09	Sc*	MANUEL LOPEZ	Eleazar	US Province	US Province
19.09	Fr	HONG	Seong Cheol Samuel	OMI Lacombe- Kenya	Colombo Japan- Korea
26.09	Fr	BERBOSO	Antero	Bolivia	Philippines
30.09	Fr*	FERNANDO	Assisi Sumith Devasiri	Colombo	Colombo

30.09	Fr*	NAMAL WARNAKULASURIA	Charuka Hashan Fernando	Colombo	Colombo
10.10	Fr*	BALEMO BADJOKO	Fiston César Eugene	Congo	Congo
10.10	Fr*	SANGO PINDALI	Paulo	Congo-Angola	Congo
10.10	Fr*	DORVAL	Jean Landry	Haiti	Haiti
10.10	Fr*	DUMESLE	Stéfane	Haiti	Haiti
10.10	Fr*	JUSTE	Jonel	Haiti	Haiti
10.10	Fr*	SAINT-JUSTE	James	Haiti	Haiti
10.10	Fr*	SEIDE	Jean Collin	Haiti	Haiti
10.10	Fr*	YACINTHE	Védely	Haiti	Haiti
21.10	Fr*	KAMBANDA	Petrus	Namibia	Namibia
21.10	Fr	MAKUNKA	Bright Musa	OMI Lacombe- Kenya	US-Zambia
30.10	Fr*	DJORWE	Pascal	Cameroon	Cameroon
30.10	Fr*	ONYEMA	Christian Michael Chigozie	Cameroon	Cameroon
30.10	Fr*	UJU	Ugochukwu Mark	Cameroon	Cameroon
05.11	Sc*	LUJAN PAZ	Luis Lorenzo	Cruz del Sur	Cruz del Sur
12.12	Sc*	ARENG	Lintu Alfred	Colombo- Bangladesh	Cruz del Sur
12.12	Sc*	ANANIAS	Jacobus Ndakumwako	Namibia	Namibia

Oblates in First Formation
(Reported as of January 2020)

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
2019	598	23	103	50	55
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

Deaths and Departures - 2019

Deaths **reported** in 2019: **87 (0 Bishops, 80 Priests, 7 Brothers)**

2018: 92 2017: 91 2016: 96 2015: 94 2014: 108

Departures **reported** in 2019: **93 (29 priests, 63 scholastics, 1 Brother)**

2018: 33 (14 priests, 18 scholastics, 1 Brother)

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)

2019:

Secularization (5 priests)

Laicization (11 priests)

Dismissal from the Congregation (5 priests)

Expiration of Temporary Vows (59 scholastics)

Ipsa Facto Dismissal (8 priests)

Dispensation from Temporary Vows (4 Scholastics)

Dispensation from Perpetual Vows (1 Brother)

GENERAL HOUSE**Ready to have more autonomy in electricity**

It was in 2013 that the Superior General in Council gave a clear mandate for the long-awaited major renovations of the General House of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Rome, Italy.

With that mandate, a committee was formed (delegated by the Superior General) to oversee the entire project. The committee was comprised of Fr. Paolo ARCHIATI, the Vicar General, Fr. Marc DESSAREAULT, the Treasurer General, Fr. Roberto SARTOR, the House Treasurer, Fr. Thomas KLOSTERKAMP, the then Superior of the General House, and Antonio Finiti, our engineer/architect. (At present, Fr. Mokone RATHOKOA, the new House Superior has taken the place of Fr. Thomas on the committee).

The committee recognised some parts of the project as top priorities, needing immediate attention. The boiler room, the drainage system around the foundation of the house, the crypt below the main chapel, the plaster on the outside walls, and the replacement of the old windows came under that category. Apart from them, renovations done to the main chapel (lighting and wiring), the central heating system (with five new boilers) and the rooftop are also worth mentioning.

This year the committee decided to concentrate on something they already had in mind for several years: the project of solar panels. A total of 332 German photovoltaic panels have already been fixed on the rooftop and they are expected to generate over 90 kilowatts.

Fr. Marc is of the view that the project would allow us to get our investment back in six or seven years. In general, it is said that any 'good' solar panel project should give you your initial investment back within the first 10 years. The final connection to the grid needed to activate the production of

electricity got underway in mid-January.

"The electricity produced by the solar panels will be solely for the usage of the General House, and we will soon see its advantage with the reduction of our electricity bills" Fr. Marc added.

"During the summer we have an added advantage. The three heat pumps, which are active and produce the air-conditioning during the summer, will be sending the heat they produce to the boilers downstairs, and they in turn will help produce hot water for the House. In that sense, it will be a double recycling of electricity."

Being able to activate the solar panels and being able to be more autonomous regarding electricity is quite an achievement, taking into consideration all the hard work put in by the Treasurer General, the House Bursar and the team. Their seven years of tireless work is to be commended.

However, the renovation project of the General House is far from being over. There are a few more steps to be completed this year. The main dining hall, scheduled for next summer, is one of those. The sports field is also most likely to be converted to a multi-sport field.

The Oblates have had to move their General house or headquarters (so to speak) from one place to another several times during our 200-year-old history, first from Aix-en-Provence to Marseille, then to Paris, Liège, and finally to Rome in 1905. Its first destination in Rome was a stone's throw from the Colosseum, in what is today Via Vittorino da Feltre. Finally, in 1950 it was moved to its present destination in Via Aurelia 290, a stone's throw from St. Peter's Basilica.

Once a point of discussion whether the Oblates should retain or sell the property, the OMI General House is now preparing herself to shelter many more Oblates in the generations to come.

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

KENYA**A new beginning and a new era in Nakuru Diocese**

Over the years, the Oblate Mission in Kenya has grown both in number and in resources.

Until recently, we have been operating with 3 parishes (St. Stephen's, Kionyo; St. Paul's Kisaju and St. Eugene's Irinda), but starting from November 2019, we have added another parish in Nakuru Diocese in Kenya.

Nakuru Diocese is situated in the western part of Kenya in the region of Rift Valley. It has within it 4 counties: Nakuru county, Baringo county, Kericho county and Pokot county. This is our first presence in Nakuru Diocese. Saint Joseph the worker/Larmudiac Catholic Parish exists since 1989, served by many priests in the past. Now, it is the time for us, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The Parish has nine sub-stations, four are bordering Mau-Forest and five others are in the villages. The people living near Mau-Forest run the risk of being evicted anytime by the government in order of protecting the forest. The place where the parish is located suffered the post-election violence clash of 2007-2008. Many people relocated, trying to save their lives. The remaining of the burnt houses would tell you how bad things were at that time.

LESOTHO

Oblate bishop appointed to a Pontifical Council

Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Gerard Tlali LEROTHOLI, OMI, Archbishop of Maseru, Lesotho, as a member of the Vatican-based Pontifical Council for Culture.

Archbishop Gerard entered the Oblate novitiate in Quthing, Lesotho, in 1975. He studied philosophy at St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Roma, Lesotho and theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. He earned his Licentiate in Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute. He made his perpetual vows in 1981 and was ordained a priest in 1982. On 30 June, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI named him Archbishop of Maseru. He received his episcopal

MADAGASCAR

My work in a dispensary

Sara Suchowiak

As a volunteer of the Redemptoris Missio Humanitarian Aid Foundation, from August to October, 2019, I worked in a dispensary located in the Oblate mission in Befasy. The dream of volunteering in Madagascar was born in me when I was little girl. At my parish of St. Augustin in Czapury (Poland), an Oblate arrived who gave witness to his work on the "Big Red Island", and

The displacement has also been a cause for the reduction of the number of Christians in the area.

Most of the people in Nakuru today, are farmers with low income. Unfortunately, the Catholic population in Nakuru is very few since has got so many Christian denominations. We are taking time to learn the mentality of the people since we are still new in the parish and the diocese. The people are welcoming and lovely. The bishop is very supportive and trust us as true missionaries. He expects Oblates to be a sign of love to the people and witnesses of the gospel. The Diocesan clergy also seems to be with Oblate presence in the diocese. As Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, we hope to make our presence a unique one to the faithful in the Diocese of Nakuru.

consecration on 12 September from his predecessor, Archbishop Bernard MOHLALISI, OMI.

The Pontifical Council for Culture is a Dicastery of the Roman Curia charged with fostering the relationship of the Catholic Church with different cultures. Pope John Paul II founded it on 20 May, 1982, with the aim of establishing dialogue between the Church and the cultures of our time, so that they could open themselves up to the Christian faith. On 25 March, 1993, Pope John Paul II united the Pontifical Council for Culture to the Pontifical Council for Dialogue with Non-believers to establish a single organism. Finally, on 30 July, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI united it to the Council of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Goods of the Church. All of this is now represented by the name Pontifical Council for Culture.

thus sowed the seed of missionary work in my heart. I never thought that, after many years, I would be able to cooperate with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Madagascar.

The idea of building a dispensary in the poor town of Mandabe was born many years ago in the mind of the volunteer Jacek Jarosz (now vice-president of the Redemptoris Missio Humanitarian Aid Foundation). He understood even then that there was still much to be done in the field of medicine in Madagascar, particularly in the bush villages. The people here are deprived

of all medical care, often for several months of the year. When the water level in the rivers rises, it is impossible to evacuate even the most seriously ill. The children and the elderly suffer the most. We knew we could not help everyone, but we couldn't just sit back and do nothing either. In collaboration with the Oblate missionaries, the Redemptoris Missio Humanitarian Aid Foundation decided to set up a clinic in Befasy, a small village less than one hundred kilometres from Mandabe. Many people of goodwill helped us as well. The Polish *Caritas* and the Polish Africa Foundation also joined the project.

When we reached the village for the first time, a huge crowd of people welcomed us! At the border of the village, we got out of the cars and joined the singing procession. There was real joy among those gathered. I was extremely moved by their joy. Certainly, that was one of the best days in my life.

It was impossible not to notice the good relationship between Fr. Marek OCHLAK and his parishioners. The effects of his work in such a short period are huge. For two years, the church,

OMI SOUTHERN AFRICA

Belgian Missionary Oblate killed in alleged robbery attempt

The Oblates of the Province of OMISA are devastated at the death of Fr Jozef (Jef) HOLLANDERS. Fr Jef seems to have been strangled to death in a robbery at the parish in Bodibe, near Mahikeng in the North West Province on Sunday night, 12 January. A parishioner discovered his body on Monday afternoon. His hands were tied behind his back.

Fr. Jef was born in Belgium on 4 March 1937. He took his first vows as an Oblate on 8 September 1958 and was ordained a priest on 26 December 1963. He arrived in South Africa on 31 January 1965.

For 55 years, he has been a dedicated and faithful missionary in the Tswana-speaking area, now the North West Province of South Africa. There is much evidence of how close he was to the people and the success of his pioneering pastoral ministry over the years. He enjoyed starting new Christian communities, which became parishes

the school, the dispensary, among others... and construction of the gym has begun.

Today, patients from all over the region come to the dispensary. Although it is not a long period of time since the official opening, we have already helped a lot of people. During the first few months of work, we have had nearly 400 patients! Fisaora Clement Serge, a nurse that we employ at the centre, treats the children and adults with dangerous malaria, gastrointestinal parasites, and many other troublesome diseases. She also treats wounds after injuries or burns, which are not lacking here. Unfortunately, we come across many other situations that are still beyond our capacity at the dispensary. Therefore, our plan for the future is to expand the dispensary and welcome the types of patients that we are not able to help at present. Soon, another nurse will join the team to take care of the sick.

I would like to thank the Oblates of Mary Immaculate for guiding me, helping me and allowing me to be a part of their missionary activity. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Marek and his parishioners whom I had the pleasure to get to know in this beautiful country.

or sub-stations of parishes in what has now become the Diocese of Klerksdorp.

Archbishop Victor Phalana, Bishop of Klerksdorp believes the robbers were misinformed: "Everyone knows he had no money. He served a poor community. He used every penny he ever owned for his people. He gave away everything he had".

He lived a simple life and was a very practical man. Even at the age of 82, he was enthusiastic about the new missionary vision of the OMISA Province as he demonstrated at the recent workshop for Local Superiors – Fr. Jef was the Superior of the Potchefstroom OMI District. The Province of OMISA extends its condolences to his family in Belgium.

The Provincial Fr. Neil FRANK and Bro. Rex HARRISON joined the Oblates in Potchefstroom for a Mass at which we shared our memories of our brother. We were reminded that Jesus died at the hands of others and imagined that Fr Jef, too, would have said, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do". Our hearts are sore indeed!

Asia-Oceania

AUSTRALIA**Bushfires & drought severely impacting parts of Australia**

Fr Harry Dyer OMI

Parts of Australia, especially in the States of Victoria and New South Wales, are suffering a horrendous toll due to bushfires and drought with some small towns being wiped off the map.

The present fires we are experiencing are staggering for their duration, size and impact. The Oblate parish of Eagle Vale on the edge of Sydney is around an hour's drive from one ferocious fire that caused considerable loss of property to their south west, and yet another to their north west burnt thousands of hectares of the famed Blue Mountains.

The East Gippsland, Victoria, fires have been burning since mid-November with approximately 350 houses and businesses destroyed, close to a billion native animals and livestock killed and more than 1.4 million hectares burnt out in Victoria, whilst nationally the figure is close to 8 million hectares. The Gippsland fires are taking their toll on the local communities as they are summer holiday destinations. Like scenes from the Second World War Dunkirk evacuation holiday makers and local people were forced to take refuge on beaches and in the ocean to escape the fires and

some were then evacuated by Australian Navy ships to Melbourne. The bushfires are on top of a four-year drought with farming families and their cattle struggling to survive.

These present fires are approximately 4 hours east of the nearest Oblate parish which is our Parishes in Partnership of Moe/Newborough. Fr Harry Dyer OMI, Parish Priest and volunteer Police Chaplain, has visited the local emergency relief centre and hospital to be of assistance where needed.

At the initiative of an Oblate parishioner, Christmas cards were produced of varying cash amounts (\$40 for hay - \$20 to supply drinking water - \$10 for essential living items) to assist the drought relief. Parishioners were encouraged to buy a card and send it to their families and friends instead of Christmas presents. At short notice over \$3,000.00 was raised through this effort. In response to this local parish initiative the Australian Oblate Province and MAMI are also generously contributing to these needs.

There has been an enormous outpouring of support in a variety of forms from Australians and from overseas. The Australian Province would like to thank the Congregation for their prayers and messages of support that we have received. We are desperately praying for good soaking rain to quench the fires, to bring life to our fields and fill our dams with fresh water.

BANGLADESH**Happy Return of Healing Hands to De Mazenod compound**

De Mazenod Church, Nayanagar (Baridhara), Dhaka, to a certain extent, can be identified as multi-faceted compound! Four units at this compound shine forth its uniqueness and beauty: De Mazenod Scholasticate, De Mazenod Church, St. Eugene's School, and De Mazenod Health Centre.

Bearing the names, these units have been witnessing the Charism of Mazenod, "Evangelizing to the new faces of the poor." Oblates came to Bangladesh in 1973. Since then, they have been

tirelessly engaged in evangelizing mission among indigenous people, tea-estate people and internal-migrants in four dioceses in Bangladesh.

In 1980, Oblates, bought a tiny piece of land at Nayanagar, in the midst of squatters. It was a humbling and a daring venture. Land was very low, even the surroundings. Almost every rainy season, inhabitants would suffer enormously from flood. Fortunately, De Mazenod compound was partly a bit high. Several times, during massive flood, the compound was used as shelter for the flood victims. All walks of people, irrespective of being Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists, were accommodated. When even that became insufficient, the flood victims were

allowed to use the Church and verandas of the Scholasticate and OMI Fathers' Residence.

Seeing the miserable health conditions of children, mothers and the poorest of the poor at squatters, almost all are internal-migrants to Dhaka City, Oblate Fathers invited the Sisters of Mother Teresa (MC), for health service. Once a week, two sisters would come from Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon, and provide health care service at De Mazenod compound. After several years of their service, Prado Sisters, a missionary congregation from France, rented a house, close by De Mazenod Church and continued the health service many years. After their departure, Blue Sisters, came and continued the health service from a rented house. Since then, they have been continuing this noble ministry until now.

CHINA

Oblates determined to continue their mission in spite of the coronavirus outbreak

Fr. Giovanni Zevola, OMI

This Chinese New Year has started in a not very good way. Within a few days, we have seen a drastic change of mood from festive to worried.

Until just a few days before the new year (January 25), most Chinese, as they usually do before the festive season, were busy with travelling to their hometowns, shopping, preparing for the big day and ready to have "a break". It was also the same for us, with very few activities taking place here in Beijing. We had just finished the activities at the migrant center and the Mazenod inter-cultural company. Therefore, Johnny (Fr. Johnny RAKOTOARISOA) and I were just as willing to "slow down" our usual rhythm. Fr. Rey AMANCIO in the meantime went back to his family in the Philippines for a well-deserved vacation.

And then the "year of the rat" brought a bitter surprise, as we started to hear news about the coronavirus outbreak! Literally, in no time, the city went into "pause mode": travels suspended, no organizing of gatherings, shops practically closed and people requested to remain at home and wear masks at all times.

In 2013, after 32 years of struggle, the Oblates were able to settle down the land issue of De Mazenod Church and soon began constructing four concrete buildings or complexes. Good-hearted mission partners of Oblates shared their sacrificial and generous gifts for these constructions. Previously, De Mazenod Church, Scholasticate and the Oblate House were made of brick-soling-cum-tin-roof. Blue sisters had to stop their health care service during the construction of complexes. From 2019, they have resumed their health care service. Twice a month, Saturday, Sr. Emilia, Sr. Rita and Sr. Agnes avail themselves at the Health Centre. Once again the children, the poorest of the poor and the underprivileged, get the healing touch from sisters!

Certainly, those precautions helped preventing a faster spread of the coronavirus. However, the fact that this happened during the New Year vacation meant that people had mixed reactions. Some were unhappy as they missed a great festival while some others were over-worried, especially on the social (like WeChat) with all kind of news where it was difficult to distinguish between truth and rumor. However, the majority of the people seem to be very calm remaining in their houses or moving around their compounds doing exercise.

Since January 24, the Diocese of Beijing has suspended all Masses in churches or chapels, and will inform us when it is possible to resume normal church activities.

As for the two of us, we are determined to stay calm and continue our daily chores: Morning Prayer and Mass (just the two of us) and taking turns to prepare our meals, with hardly any visitors coming our way. At the moment, it is difficult to say how things will evolve. We do try to keep a positive outlook while observing what is happening around us.

We thank you for your concern and support. Let us pray that the Lord will continue to bless and protect China and its people.

PHILIPPINES

Gathering of the Oblate Brothers in the Region

The Oblate Brothers of the Asia-Oceania Region gathered for the very first time for a fraternal encounter at the Oblate Missionary Centre (OMC), Quezon City, Philippines, in November 2019. Among the 31 Oblate Brothers in the Asia-Oceania Region, 22 participated in the event. They came from various Oblate Units: Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Jaffna, Colombo, Japan, and China.

There was also one special participant, Fr. Antonius WIDIATMOKO, as the representative of the Asia-Oceania Formators' Conference (AOFK), underlining the significant and important role of ongoing formation for Brothers. At the inauguration of the gathering, Fr. Charlie INZON, the Provincial of the OMI Province of the Philippines, presided over the Eucharistic

celebration, while Fr. Antonius WIDIATMOKO, Scholasticate Superior of the Indonesian Province, concelebrated. After the Eucharistic celebration, the Oblate brothers introduced themselves and their current assignment to the other participants present.

The focus of the conference was to encourage the Brothers to be prophetic as Oblates and to be good examples of Religious life while they live among their brother priests. Their identity and mission in the Congregation as well as in the Church was highlighted during the following session. They also discussed how they could adapt themselves to the global developments by improving their various skills, which are needed to spread the Gospel.

The dominant atmosphere of this meeting was Oblate fraternity, joy, and enthusiasm. After a successful meeting, the Brothers returned to their own Units, hoping to have more such encounters in the future.

VIETNAM

The second oblate youth day of the Vietnam mission

“Go and Do” (Lk 10,37) was the theme of the second Oblate Youth Day of the Vietnam Mission (VOYD) this year. It was a two-day event held at Mazenod scholasticate by the Vietnamese Oblates on 7th and 8th of December. VOYD took place during the celebration of the feast of Mary Immaculate, patron of the Oblates. VOYD was been initiated by Fr. Emmanuel Tran Quang Khuong, Vietnamese Mission Superior, in 2018.

For two days, around 350 young people, who came from different areas, cultures and religions of the whole of Vietnam, took part. They were gathered and called to spend these days with one another and with God according to the Oblates' spirituality. Together, they learned how to listen and how to live out the Gospel through different outdoor activities, camping, and the Sacraments. Even though December is a special period for Vietnamese students, a time for examinations, the number of participants in VOYD was great.

These young Oblates had so much fun, motivation and encouragement as well. Furthermore, the presence of the foreign Oblate priest, the Fr. Rozairo Bradly J., Superior of the Delegation of JAPAN – KOREA, made the Oblates' spirituality became unbounded and united during this event. “Go and Do” was the main subject of the second VOYD. It was drawn from the parable of the good Samaritan (Lk 10,25-37). Through it, Vietnamese Oblates tried to direct the young participants to be examples of mercy, as Jesus was. In fact, nowadays the Vietnamese Church needs people who can give the witness of mercy. It really lacks “good Samaritans”. And the Vietnamese Oblates shared this worry with the local churches during Oblate youth day.

The VOYD finally wound up in joy and hope, but it was only the thin end of the wedge for Vietnamese Oblates. Actually, the VOYD is not only a meeting - place of youths but also a learning occasion for young Oblates. And Vietnamese Oblates are trying to recommend their own spiritualities to native people through their constant efforts.

Europe

FRANCE**Le doyen des évêques oblats est décédé**

Mgr Georges-Hilaire DUPONT, doyen des évêques oblats, est décédé paisiblement à Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët (France), le 29 janvier 2020. Missionnaire au Tchad pendant de longues années, Mgr Dupont a vécu exactement 100 ans, étant né le 16 Novembre 1919, à Virey, France.

Au moment de sa mort, il était le vice-doyen des Oblats, et dans la liste des évêques du monde, il occupait le septième rang. Il détenait aussi un record rare, celui de faire partie des quelques Pères conciliaires à avoir participé au Concile Vatican II.

Attiré par la vocation missionnaire, le jeune Georges-Hilaire rejoint les Oblats en 1937 et a été ordonné prêtre en 1943. A son retour d'Autriche, après le service obligatoire, pendant la guerre, il fait partie de l'équipe pionnière des Missionnaires Oblats, dirigée par le P. Yves PLUMEY, envoyée

en 1946 au nord Cameroun et au Mayo Kebbi, Tchad, une région où aucun missionnaire n'avait séjourné auparavant.

Par conséquent, il a commencé la mission à partir de zéro, avec la seule intention d'évangéliser les pauvres. Il a non seulement pris soin des besoins spirituels des habitants, mais a également travaillé dur pour élever leur niveau de vie, en particulier en termes d'éducation et de soins de santé.

Il est devenu le premier évêque de Pala, au Tchad, diocèse nouvellement créé, en 1964, et il a ainsi pu participer à la troisième et à la quatrième session du Concile Vatican II.

Après avoir servi ce pays d'Afrique centrale pendant 29 ans, il démissionne de ses fonctions d'évêque de Pala et retourne en France en 1975. Il y poursuit sa mission au service de l'Eglise, en des régions comme la Seine-Maritime et le Vaucluse, en tant que simple «*prêtre de campagne*».

MEDITERRANEAN PROVINCE**A diocesan priest becomes an Honorary Oblate!**

The Year of Oblate Vocations (December 8, 2017 to January 25, 2019) brought with it many graces to our Province. The reflection on the beauty of the Oblate charism and the effort to grow in a more widespread vocational culture, made us become more aware, among other things, of how much the charism of St. Eugene also has been a gift for many diocesan priests who live, at different levels, our missionary spirituality.

In line with this awareness, on January 6 of this year at the community of Marino, the Superior General, Fr. Louis LOUGEN, conferred the title of "Honorary Oblate" on Fr. Costantino Salvioni, a priest of the diocese of Frascati, Italy.

Don Costantino (as he is usually called) was born in the province of Bergamo (northern Italy) in 1948 and was ordained a priest on May 31, 1975 in Frascati. He was sent as parochial vicar to the parish of Vermicino, where our Scholasticate is located. It was there that he met the Oblates. The closeness and the friendship

built up in those years allowed Don Costantino to appreciate the beauty of Eugene's charism and the ability of the Oblates to be close to the people, especially to the young ones.

When he became parish priest in another parish, he did not hesitate to call the Oblates to help him in his parish's pastoral work. For many years, he was the one who welcomed our new deacons to practise preaching and administering the sacraments, and gradually, the Oblates became the youth animators in his parish.

Over the years, this collaboration has become a true fraternity that helped both him and us to grow in our personal relationship with God and to build the Kingdom together.

Fr. Constantine grew in his love for the foreign missions too, thanks to the visits of the Oblates who returned from mission countries and always stopped in to celebrate Mass and meet the community. Almost every "mission market", "charity fishing" and missionary raffle done in his parish went to finance the missionary projects of the Foreign Missions Procurator of the Province.

Over the years, Fr. Costantino has built a

beautiful and deep friendships with many Oblates. Some members of the formation team jokingly appointed Fr. Costantino as an additional "formator of the Scholasticate", given his recurrent willingness, which continues even today, to allow young Oblates to do pastoral activities with him in his parish.

In recent years, he has participated several times with us Oblates in the week of spiritual exercises of the Province.

A special grace that the Lord enabled Don

UKRAINE

A special Christmas Eve dinner for the homeless

Brother Sebastian JANKOWSKI, is known to almost everyone in Kiev, most certainly to those whose life is crushed, who lost their homes and had to live on the streets, under the bridges, or at the railway stations. For the sixth consecutive year, Brother Sebastian, together with *Caritas*, organized a festive dinner for the homeless and needy in Kiev, on Christmas Eve according to the Julian calendar - January 6.

More than 200 persons enjoyed the supper. Apart from the many volunteers and people of good will, there were also two other special participants at the event: Mgr. Witalij Krzywicki – bishop of the local diocese, and Fr. Pawel WYSZKOWSKI, superior of the Delegation of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Ukraine and Russia.

"Today, out of our own free choice, we sat together at the same dinner table, but people living in difficult conditions of life cannot 'choose' with whom they can have dinner... Who is my neighbour today? All of you who are sitting next to me, with whom I can share not only this bread, but also my love... On this feast day, in a special way, we feel a certain warmth, which is impossible to measure; a warmth we can only carry with us. If you received it, take it to the others you meet", said Bishop Witalij during his address.

"Today many people could come to this special dinner, thanks to the service of Brother Sebastian, who, together with some volunteers, twice a week, in six points in the city, distributes meals, medicine, and clothes", he further stated.

Costantino to witness was the birth of an Oblate vocation in his parish of Cocciano, that of Fr. Jacopo PAPI, OMI. Fr. Jacopo recalls Fr. Costantino's first reaction to the news of his decision to start a vocational journey with the Oblates:

"It was very moving for me, when I told him that I would enter the Oblate Youth Centre in Marino. I still remember that he hugged me strongly, told me that he was very happy, and that I could always count on his prayers. He gave me a breviary and told me that in prayer I would understand the will of the Lord".

"It is very nice to be with you. Where else I could pass the time so nicely? I have no one in my family, I have no friends, I'm an orphan. Brother Sebastian is a very good man", said Siergiej, one of the homeless persons. "Thanks to this meeting with Brother Sebastian I have found God, now I'm a changed man", he added.

Among the volunteers there were also rich people. They came in simple clothes, together with their children, and served at the tables.

"Every year, I get the opportunity to share with others the joy of the birth of Christ. I wish that those who celebrate Christmas in some other fashion could also come and experience the real joy" – said Aleksander, one of the volunteers. A choir sang Christmas songs in the hall, and the crowd enjoyed it like children.

"That is an experience which is very difficult to describe in words. It is necessary to feel it, to live it. When people who are living in the streets see about twenty volunteers working for *them* the whole evening, when they see and hear a good choir is singing for *them*, and that a bishop is singing with *them*... That joy you must see with your own eyes", said Brother Sebastian at the end of the celebration.

There was also a surprise for him. The homeless persons had decided to give him a gift for all the services he renders to them. Fr. Pawel Wyszowski, the Delegation Superior, expressed his gratitude to Bro. Sebastian for his seven years of dedicated service with the homeless, which expresses the deepest meaning of our Oblate charism.

Latina America

PARAGUAY**The Former Superior General calls us to commit to an Integral Ecology.**

*Mons. Guillermo Steckling OMI
Bishop of Ciudad del Este (Paraguay)*

The relevance of the Amazon Synod is impressive if we apply it to us here in Paraguay. Here, too, we urgently need the “integral ecology” that is proposed to us. What is it? The final document of the Synod offers the following explanation: Integral ecology has its foundation in the fact that “everything in the world is connected” (LS 16). For this reason, ecology and social justice are intrinsically united (cf. LS 137). (Final Document of the Amazon Synod n.66). This point was already one of the main points of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* and now a whole synod has taken it as its theme: "The Amazon: new paths for the Church for an integral ecology". Here in Paraguay we realize that we are called to a new conversion to the Lord. God speaks to us louder and louder each time, through water, plants, animals, the climate, and He calls us out loudly through the excluded and forgotten people.

Since everything is closely interrelated, and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an *integral ecology*, one that clearly respects its human and social dimensions.

Certainly, the Amazon is thousands of miles away from Paraguay. No doubt even here, further

south, the forests burn and the climate changes. And the jungle already has largely disappeared. To this day, it continues to decrease at a rate, at times, of a thousand hectares a day! There is little room left for family farming, and the people of the countryside seek refuge in the big cities. Every day we come across more and more "urban natives", many of whom walk aimlessly. Subtropical nature is beautiful and enchanting! Even more so are the people who live in direct contact with it, for example, the natives and farmers. The ecological conversion we need must embrace everything in its entirety: nature, men, women, and children, and make us once again trust in the provident gaze of the Creator. Why so much effort to earn money? We really need an integral ecology.

Another point of concern around the recent synod are the campaigns of groups, very present in social networks, who were committed to discrediting this assembly and, at the same time, the Church and the Pope who promoted it. They presume to see heresies everywhere and proclaim that the church must remain traditional. But is not the Bible with its prophets and poets, social doctrine, the courage of missionaries in the most remote areas who risk their lives, and the church in search of ever new horizons, “traditional”? In spite all of that, let us move forward with a firm and constant step. We find ourselves in good company on this synodal journey that we are already making, and which has yet to result in the Pope's concluding exhortation. The saints of America walk with us, the Virgin Mary, and the One who makes all things new" (Rev 21:5).

Anniversaries - March 2020**70th Anniversaries of Vows**

19/03/1950	09426	Bro. Henri Gagnon	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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70th Anniversaries of Ordinations

25/03/1950	07812	Fr. Fortunato Alonso	Mediterranea
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65th Anniversaries of Vows

16/03/1955	09870	Fr. Anthony Colbert	Australia
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65th Anniversaries of Ordinations

26/03/1955	08647	Fr. Santiago Díez-Fontecha	Mediterranea
26/03/1955	08648	Fr. Camilo González	Mediterranea
26/03/1955	08649	Fr. Luis Valbuena	United States

60th Anniversaries of Vows

19/03/1960	11386	Bro. Mauricio Zuyco	Philippines
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50th Anniversaries of Ordinations

14/03/1970	11482	Fr. Kurt Fleischmann	Central European Province
14/03/1970	11356	Fr. Günther Klier	Central European Province
14/03/1970	11807	Fr. Wladyslaw Laskowski	Pologne
26/03/1970	11587	Fr. Mario Biffi	Mediterranea
26/03/1970	11588	Fr. Armando Favero	Mediterranea

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

18/03/1995	12089	Fr. Adolfo Lemmens	Bolivie
18/03/1995	13285	Fr. Flores César Taipe	Peru

Anniversaries - April 2020**75th Anniversaries of Ordinations**

18/04/1945	07413	Fr. Léon Saison	France
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60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

10/04/1960	09891	Fr. Wilhelm Deutmeyer	Central European Province
10/04/1960	09886	Fr. Volker Grunwald	Central European Province
17/04/1960	09825	Fr. Gerard Kenny	Anglo-Irish

50th Anniversaries of Ordinations

04/04/1970	11590	Fr. Mario Gazzola	Cruz del Sur
05/04/1970	11481	Fr. Engelbert Ferihumer	Central European Province
06/04/1970	11517	Fr. John Edward Joseph	Colombo
06/04/1970	11523	Fr. Luis Sabarre	Cruz del Sur

25th Anniversaries of Vows

30/04/1995	13604	Fr. James Devasagayam	India
30/04/1995	13605	Fr. Chinnappan Mariasusai	India

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

01/04/1995	13148	Fr. Emmanuel Mabhelandile Njezula	Lesotho
22/04/1995	13291	Fr. Alberto Gnemmi	Mediterranea
29/04/1995	13266	Fr. Cedric Mduduzi Mchunu	Southern Africa

Prayers for our Deceased

No. 01-20

Title	Prov./Del	Age	Date	Place of death
Fr. Szczepan Brzezina	Poland	87	04/01/2020	Wroclaw
Fr. Guus Koolen	Belgium & Holland	81	04/01/2020	Heerlen
Fr. Cornelius Scanlan	U.S.A	90	07/01/2020	San Antonio
Fr. Andrzej Grzesiak	Poland	81	11/01/2020	Poznan
Fr. Stanislaw Skorczynski	France & Benelux	82	11/01/2020	Nice
Fr. Jef Hollanders	Southern Africa	82	12/01/2020	Bodibe
Fr. Paulin Van Eeghem	Belgium & Holland	92	13/01/2020	Waregem
Fr. Harry Schuckenbrock	U.S.A	86	18/01/2020	San Antonio
Fr. Esteban Perek	Cruz del Sur	84	19/01/2020	Santiago de Chile
Fr. Ciaran Dillon	Anglo-Irish	90	20/01/2020	Dublin
Fr. Albert Danker	Southern Africa	90	28/01/2020	Durban
Msgr. Georges-Hilaire Dupont	Cameroon	100	29/01/2020	Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët
Fr. Yvon Beaudoin	N.D.du Cap	93	01/02/2020	Richelieu
Bro. Adélarde Gervais	Lacombe	87	02/02/2020	Winnipeg
Fr. John Curran	U.S.A	70	06/02/2020	Tewksbury
Fr. Mokhalinyane Sixtus Moahloli	Southern Africa	37	11/02/2020	Johannesburg
Fr. Henry Rebeiro	Bangladesh	71	14/02/2020	Dhaka
Fr. Noël Leca	France	94	15/02/2020	Menton
Bro. Stanislaus Racich	Lacombe	90	19/02/2020	Vancouver
Bro. Mieczyslaw Pawlowski	Poland	83	20/02/2020	Lubliniec

“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)

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via Aurelia 290, I 00165 Roma, Italy
Fax: (39) 06 39 37 53 22 E-mail: information@omigen.org
<http://www.omiworld.org>
Editor: Shanil Jayawardena