



OMI INFORMATION OMI INFORMACION OMI INFORMAZIONE OMI NACHRICHTEN OMI WIADOMOSCI OMI

OMI Information No. 605 (English)

January-February 2021

The Letter of Superior General to the Congregation on the Anniversary of the Papal Approval of the Constitutions and Rules – February 17, 2021

Pope Leo XII formally approved our Constitutions and Rules on February 17, 1826. To this day, revised and adapted over the past 195 years, they remain “a privileged means for each Oblate to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ” (C # 163). The Preface to the CCRR expresses the vision that burned in Eugene’s heart: motivated by his love for Christ, he called together others who would embrace a life of holiness, announcing Christ to the poor and working to rebuild the Church. The virtuous life of those preachers was essential to effective evangelization.

This year, February 17th falls on Ash Wednesday, and we will celebrate our feast day on Tuesday, February 16th. All over the world marked by the pandemic, we will gather as best we can to give thanks for the grace of our vocation. The COVID-19 virus has been an occasion to see the Oblate charism, with its great flexibility and focus on the urgent needs of the people, rising to the occasion to respond with unmeasured zeal. Oblates have found creative ways to minister spiritually, as well as assisting many people in their material needs.

With our collaborators and Associates, we have provided needed financial help for the unemployed and for essential needs such as rent, food, water, medicines, cleaning needs, gloves, masks, and even some lodging. Together with the Treasurer General’s office, the Office of Oblate Mission Sustainability and Global Oblate Fundraisers have assisted many Units in reaching out to the most vulnerable

sectors of society at this time. OMIWORLD.ORG has been publishing the many creative efforts that Oblates have developed to attend to the needs of the people we serve.

Along with the poor and with all humanity, we too have suffered the same routines and precariousness of life: wearing masks even within our residences, constantly washing our hands, restricting our movements and following social-distancing, adapting to isolation and quarantine; we too have contracted COVID-19, and a considerable number of our brothers and sisters who live the Oblate charism have died. We are adjusting to the situation which evolves day by day: we move ahead one step with the development of vaccines; then, uneven availability and confusion. New strains of the virus appear; more uncertainty. And on and on. We are blessed that a dimension of our charism is missionary flexibility and adaptability as we consider new approaches to our life and ministry.

The pandemic is helping us see more clearly what is essential in life. The Spirit speaks to us in the signs of the times of this pandemic and enriches our missionary lives.

- Our faith is deepened as we affirm God is right alongside us in this mess. We know that, with God, all things work together for the good of those who love Him. Nothing is outside of God’s creative ability to bring good from it. We believe this and we renew our oblation to live for the Reign of God.

- The pandemic has made us aware of our common vulnerability. No sector of humanity, no state, no global corporation controls the world. Armies do not regulate borders as the virus travels around the world. St. Eugene knew the wisdom and power of the cross. With courage and humility, we embrace our vulnerability and we gain wisdom and strength.

- The pandemic, with its isolation and distancing, has provided the opportunity to draw closer together. Both in religious traditions and secular life, we have discovered a new sense of solidarity and care for one another. The pandemic has reminded us that missionary life must be based on apostolic community accompanied by prayer and the vowed life. Already in 1816, when Fr. De Mazenod called together Fr. Tempier and his other companions, he was convinced of this.

- We have to ask ourselves whether we too are caught up in the conversation around 'returning to normal,' or the 'new normal,' etc. This ignores the reality that the majority of the people in the world have never experienced the concept of 'normal' being spoken of. The people we serve around the globe live without water, without the minimum of necessary food, without medical care, etc. The pandemic must open the eyes of the world to the great injustice that the majority of earth's people never have enjoyed a so-called 'normal' life.

- The pandemic has helped us become more aware that consumerism and materialism generate poverty and destroy the environment. These idols of society must be exchanged for a concern for the common good, expressed in caring for the poor and for our common home.

In the local community in which I am living at this time, six Oblate residents died during Advent. This was a journey through fear and anxiety, deep sorrow and pain. We recognized we were living

what the rest of humanity was going through with the pandemic. The greatest pain we felt came from being separated from our brother Oblates as they lay dying. The Superior, Fr. John Hanley, geared up in hospital gown, gloves, shoe coverings, mask and visor. He crossed borders to go into the corridor that was infested with the virus in order to anoint our brothers. He was a missionary within our community, risking his health to minister to the dying.

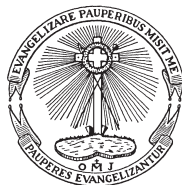
Many Oblates and our collaborators did the same around the world. Our gratitude goes out to all of you who left nothing undared for the Reign of God! Thank you!

One very practical note: the 2nd Oblate Lay Associations Congress (2 OLAC 21) has been rescheduled from July 2021 to a date in 2022 to ensure the maximum of participation for all who live the Oblate charism around the world. The change of date will also provide for better preparation and enhance the experience of the Congress as well as its outcome. Please expect to hear the exact date from the Committee very soon.

As we give thanks for the beauty of our vocation, I ask you to pray and work for vocations. Don't miss the opportunity to invite others to live the Oblate charism! We pray to Our Lady, Mary Immaculate, to deepen within us the capacity to invite and accompany vocations to Oblate life and to the many ways of life associated with the charism. During this special year dedicated to St. Joseph, we turn to his intercession as our secondary patron and as the patron of Oblate Brothers to be our intercessor in following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

Happy feast day!

Fr. Louis Lougen, OMI
Superior General



GENERAL ADMISNITRATION

GENERAL CHAPTER**The Convocation Letter of the 37th General Chapter**

L.J.C. et M.I.

Rome, January 25, 2021

Dear Brother Oblates,

On this 205th anniversary of the foundation of our religious Family, I hereby convoke the XXXVII General Chapter. It will begin on September 14, 2022, the Feast of the Exaltation of Holy Cross, at the “Centro Ad Gentes” property of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) located at Nemi, Via dei Laghi bis, 52 (province of Rome).

As you know, the Chapter Commissioner, Father Thomas Ovalle, and two Commission members, Fathers Alberto Gnemmi and Constant Kienge Kienge were appointed on May 21, 2020. Fr. Arun William Rozario is the Commission secretary. The Commission held its first meeting in Rome from September 22 to 24, 2020. Due to the pandemic restrictions, the Commissioner could only participate via Skype.

After reading the Interchapter report, the Pre-Chapter Commission will help the Superior General and his Council to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to the whole Congregation, engaging it in a dialogue as requested by the Chapter Directory. The answers to this questionnaire will have to be processed at various levels (the local, the Unit and the Regional level) and sent to the Pre-Chapter Commission, which will craft a document to be submitted to the Superior General in Council. Once approved, this document will be sent out to all the Chapter members to be read, studied and reflected on before, and in preparation for, the Chapter. Such document will also help in determining the theme of the Chapter. Other resources to help us prepare for the General Chapter will be coming from the Pre-capitular Commission in the months ahead.

We begin a time of prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking for light to lead us in prepar-ing the 2022 General Chapter. I ask each Oblate and all our communities to strengthen the bonds of their unity and to start praying for the 2022 Chapter to be a time of grace for the Congregation and the whole Oblate family, a time of re-newal for our Oblate life and mission. Seeking concrete expressions of conversion in our lives, both personally and as communities, remains an important call from the Spirit for all of us.

We celebrated our last General Chapter on the very year of the bicentennial of our foundation as the Missionaries of Provence. We will celebrate our next General Chapter on the 200th anniversary of the beautiful experience of Eugene in front of Mary, when he felt one of his highest consolations, in a difficult circumstance of his life and of the life of the Society he had founded. We will then celebrate the Chapter in the same spirit, guided by God to a new life as a Congregation and we ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our bonds of unity as brother Oblates and to renew in our hearts the same passion of Saint Eugene for Jesus Christ our Savior, for the Church of our time, and for the poor of many faces in today’s world.

In the present difficult times, we ask Mary, who received Christ in order to share him with all the world, whose hope he is, to accompany us in this pilgrimage of grace toward the General Chapter of 2022. She is the model and guardian of our consecrated life; she knows our needs and assures us of God’s final victory over all evil. We ask her, our Mother for whom we have a tender love, to continue to smile upon our Congregation. May she help us to be open to the coming of the Spirit in new and surprising ways, far beyond what we can ask for or even imagine!

Your brother Oblate in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Father Louis Lougen, OMI
Superior General

STATISTICS 2021

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 2021

JANUARY 2021						JANUARY 2020						
Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.	Total		Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.	Total
37	1	0	0	0	38	Gen Admin.	34	2	0	0	0	36
581	50	3	0	271	905	Africa-Madag.	584	50	4	0	267	905
322	27	2	0	60	411	Latin America	332	27	1	0	55	415
592	24	10	2	214	842	Asia-Oceania	591	23	10	2	217	843
457	66	2	1	5	531	Canada-USA	484	71	0	2	8	565
674	81	6	3	46	810	Europe	719	89	8	3	48	867
*2663	249	23	6	596	3537	Total	*2744	262	23	7	595	3631

*Of whom 2 are cardinals, 7 are Archbishops, 36 are bishops, 1 is an Apostolic Prefect, 1 priest in temporal vows.

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 2021)

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2021	January 2020
Cardinals	2	2
Archbishops	7	8
Bishops	36	37
Prefect Apostolic	1	1
Priests	2616	2696
Priest with temporary vows	1	
Brothers with perpetual vows	249	262
Brothers who are permanent deacons	6	7
Brothers with temporary vows	23	23
Scholastics	596	595
Total number of Oblates	3537	3631

PERSONNEL BY UNIT
(As of January 2021)

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
	37	0	1	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
Cameroun	68	0	12	2	52	0	0	1	0	0	135
Southern Afr.	95	0	4	0	22	0	0	3	2	0	126
Congo	98	0	11	0	36	0	0	1	0	0	146
Kenya	12	0	2	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	25
Lesotho	73	0	10	0	14	0	0	2	1	1	101
Madagascar	49	0	2	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	87
Namibia	34	0	1	0	9	0	0	2	1	0	47
Nigeria	14	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	59
West Sahara	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Senegal	40	0	3	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	62
Zambia	42	0	3	1	17	0	0	2	0	0	65
Zimbabwe	14	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	23
Total	564	0	50	3	271	0	1	11	4	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	13	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20
Brazil	53	0	2	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	63
Colombia	12	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	17
Cruz del Sur	55	0	4	1	7	0	0	2	0	0	69
Cuba	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
French Guyana.	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Guatemala	15	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	22
Haiti	93	0	8	0	15	0	0	1	0	0	117
Mexico	33	0	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	47
Peru	13	0	2	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	21
Puerto Rico	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Venezuela	8	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	12
Total	316	0	27	2	60	0	0	6	0	0	411

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	27	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	36
China	14	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
Colombo	107	0	5	0	31	2	0	1	0	0	146
India	98	0	1	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	128

ASIA-OCEANIA (cont)

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot
Indonesia	33	0	0	7	15	0	0	0	0	0	55
Jaffna	87	0	2	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	115
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	34	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	43
Philippines	79	0	8	0	12	0	0	2	0	1	102
Thailand	19	0	1	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	27
Turkmenistan	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vietnam	26	0	6	2	71	0	0	0	0	0	105
Total	585	0	24	10	214	2	0	6	0	1	842

CANADA-UNITED STATES

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot
Assumption	50	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	55
Lacombe	112	0	17	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	136
N.D.-du-Cap	96	0	32	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	133
United States	186	0	13	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	207
Total	444	0	66	2	5	1	0	10	3	0	531

EUROPE

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot
Anglo-Irish	60	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
Belg./Neth.	39	0	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	49
Bielorussia	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Centr. Eur.	75	0	18	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	100
France	83	0	12	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	98
Fran./Benelux	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Mediterranean	137	1	8	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	156
Poland	215	0	28	3	26	0	0	0	0	0	272
Roumania	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ukraine	26	0	3	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	35
Total	670	1	81	6	46	3	0	3	0	0	810
TOTAL	2616	1	249	23	596	6	1	36	7	2	3537

PERPETUAL VOWS

(Reported in 2020)

Obl. N°	Name	Date	Unit
14980	Sc. PETRUS Andreas.....	22.06.2019	Namibia
14986	Bro. SANHA Aful.....	16.11.2019	Senegal
15007	Sc. MOKHOFU Emmanuel Lebese.....	26.01.2020	Lesotho
14974	Sc. KULLA André Andreas	22.02	Cent. Eur. Prov.
14973	Sc. MULE Eugene Mwape	22.02	Zambia
14983	Sc. GIORDANO Giovanni	01.03	Mediterranea
14981	Sc. FAYE Joel Christian Niakhar.....	01.03	Senegal
14982	Sc. SENE Waly Jaraaf Joseph.....	01.03	Senegal
14985	Sc. NGUYEN VAN CAO Joseph	01.05	Vietnam
14984	Sc. ZYS Mateusz Jerzy	01.05	Poland
14987	Sc. TORRES RODRIGUEZ Daniel.....	23.05	Mexico
15004	Sc. RAETHAY Peter Narongrit	15.08	Thailand & Laos
15005	Sc. WONGWAI John Baptist Mongkol	15.08	Thailand & Laos
15025	Sc. YAUBA OUMAROU NIROU Gabriel....	05.09	Cameroun
15026	Sc. IORBEE Aondongu James Em.	05.09	Nigeria

Obl. N°	Name	Date	Unit
15039	Sc. NGUELE Minkos Anicet.....	06.09	Cameroun
15037	Sc. ABOGU Nnamezie GeorGENUS.....	06.09	Nigeria
15038	Sc. ANI Chikwado John Jonathan.....	06.09	Nigeria
15040	Sc. OMATTAH Stephen Ojonugwa.....	06.09	Nigeria
15041	Sc. UKAIGWE Chigozie Emmanuel.....	06.09	Nigeria
15020	Sc. KALAKI Joel.....	06.09	Congo
15021	Sc. KIMANI DIAMOUINI Dominique G.E.....	06.09	Congo
15024	Sc. NGWANGU MATANGO Jean-Baptiste.....	06.09	Congo
15048	Sc. NDECKY Julien.....	06.09	Senegal
15022	Sc. MADI Claude Marie.....	08.09	Cameroun
15023	Sc. MWALENYA ITIEME John.....	08.09	Congo
15046	Sc. ISIDORE Paul Danaul.....	08.09	Haiti
15047	Sc. ST-JOY Whislyn.....	08.09	Haiti
14990	Sc. KRÓL Mateusz.....	08.09	Poland
14991	Bro. KRUPA Adam David.....	08.09	Poland
14992	Sc. MAJCHERCZAK Damian.....	08.09	Poland
14993	Sc. ORGAN Maciej.....	08.09	Poland
14994	Sc. ORLOWSKI Lukasz.....	08.09	Poland
14995	Sc. SWIDERSKI Ernest.....	08.09	Poland
15008	Sc. LENGOASA Alex Ntjalireng.....	26.09	Lesotho
15009	Sc. MABITLE Simon Molefi.....	26.09	Lesotho
15006	Sc. MALITSE Francis.....	26.09	Lesotho
15010	Sc. MASUPHA Gerard Thapelo.....	26.09	Lesotho
15014	Sc. CHIUTANYI Edward Tineyi.....	26.09	Southern Africa
15011	Sc. CIBANE Cebelihle.....	26.09	Southern Africa
15015	Sc. GUMEDE Abedmigo Ziphozonke.....	26.09	Southern Africa
15017	Sc. JIYANE Caiphus Ndumiso.....	26.09	Southern Africa
15016	Sc. LIBANJE Edwin Sicelo.....	26.09	Southern Africa
15013	Sc. CHITAMBO Mberikwazvo Ian.....	26.09	Zimbabwe
15012	Sc. CHIYAKA Edmund.....	26.09	Zimbabwe
15018	Sc. KAPEYA Francis Conrad.....	26.09	Zambia
15019	Sc. MVULA Crescent Malizani.....	26.09	Zambia
14997	Sc. DANG QUOC TOAN Joseph.....	10.10	Vietnam
14998	Sc. LE DUC HOANG Pierre.....	10.10	Vietnam
14999	Sc. NGUYEN MINH HUNG André.....	10.10	Vietnam
14996	Bro. NGUYEN THANH VIET Pierre.....	10.10	Vietnam
15000	Sc. NGUYEN XUAN CUONG Joseph.....	10.10	Vietnam
15001	Sc. PHAM NGOC THACH Joseph.....	10.10	Vietnam
15002	Sc. VU MINH HIEU François-Xavier.....	10.10	Vietnam
15027	Sc. ANDRIANJAFY Tojoso Jean H.....	11.10	Madagascar
15028	Sc. HAUNDAPITI Max Hambabi.....	23.10	Namibia
15032	Sc. DIEDHIOU Jules Joseph.....	07.11	Senegal
15033	Sc. KALY Théotónio Santos.....	07.11	Senegal
15034	Sc. MALOU Kabia Parfait Berenger.....	07.11	Senegal
15035	Sc. MANGA Jean-Baptiste.....	07.11	Senegal
15036	Sc. NIAKH Clément Ndoiffène.....	07.11	Senegal
15030	Sc. PERERA Tharanga Namal.....	12.11	Colombo
15031	Sc. PHILIP George Sulonithan.....	12.11	Colombo
15042	Sc. ANTONYSAMY Antony David Raj.....	08.12	India
15043	Sc. NARBERT ANTONY Rathis Babin.....	08.12	India
15044	Sc. TIRKEY Nirmal Charles.....	08.12	India
15045	Sc. TIRKEY Sumit.....	08.12	India
15029	Sc. NAKAKUWA Eliaser.....	08.12	Namibia

Obediences 2020

Date	Name	Origin	Destination
21.02	Sch KALUTHARA KORALALAGE Don Shalinda.....	Colombo	Colombo
24.02	Sch DEURNOUDDI Omdel	Cameroon.....	Cruz del Sur
24.02	Sch VAILAM OUN Gibert	Cameroon.....	Cameroon
24.02	Bro. TRAN CONG PHIEU Vincent	Vietnam.....	Vietnam
24.02	Bro. TAVODZERA Mathias	Zimbabwe	Southern Afr.
24.02	Sch PETRUS Andreas.....	Namibia	Namibia
24.02	Sch TALASI Andreas.....	Lesotho	Mexico
24.02	Sch GOYTÍA GODÍNEZ Miguel	Mexico	Mexico
24.02	Fr DUDEK Piotr	OMI Lacombe.....	Assumption
24.02	Fr SEBAMALAINATHAN Peter	Jaffna.....	Mediterranean
24.02	Fr MICELI Paolo	Thailand-Laos	Mediterranean
24.02	Fr ZYILHOUBÉ Jean-Georges	Cameroon.....	France
26.02	Fr CORRIVEAU Real	Haiti	United States
13.04	Sch MALCZEWSKI Piotr	Poland	Poland
21.04	Sch KOSLIK Bartosz.....	Poland	Poland
21.04	Sch OSINSKI Piotr	Poland	Poland
21.04	Sch RADLAK Piotr	Poland	Poland
21.04	Sch HALEMBA Zbigniew.....	Poland	Assumption
24.04	Fr VERBERCKT Marc	Bolivia	Belg.-Neth.
01.06	Sch SANTHIYAPILLAI Santhirathas	Jaffna.....	Jaffna
01.06	Sch BENAT Singer	Jaffna.....	Jaffna
01.06	Sch JESURATHNAM Jeevarathnam.....	Jaffna.....	Jaffna
01.06	Sch XAVIER Justinrajah.....	Jaffna.....	Mexico
01.06	Fr SUKARI MWARI Jean-Philippe.....	Congo.....	Cameroon
01.06	Sch MTHEMBU Sibahle	Southern Afr.	Southern Afr.
07.06	Sch HERNÁNDEZ REYES Abraham.....	Guatemala	Guatemala
22.06	Fr SZWARC Daniel	OMI Lacombe.....	Assumption
22.06	Bro. JANCA Krzysztof	OMI Lacombe.....	Assumption
26.06	Fr AKPAN Joseph.....	Cameroon.....	Cameroon
26.06	Sch OGBUZUO Chijike	Cameroon.....	Cameroon
26.06	Sch TIMTIM Hermann	Cameroon.....	Cameroon
26.06	Fr OBIEJE Basil	Cameroon.....	Congo
26.06	Fr BET-WOSSE HOKNA Abel	Cameroon.....	Mexico
26.06	Fr EKO Nkoa	Cameroon.....	France
27.06	Fr DJEBARDE Gerald.....	Cameroon.....	France
16.07	Fr SABAR Daniel	Australia.....	Pakistan
18.07	Sch KUNDA Paul	Zambia	Zambia
18.07	Sch HAAKAKATA Nchimunya	Zambia	Zambia
18.07	Sch MUBANGA Abraham	Zambia	Senegal
18.07	Sch SAMPA Mukuka	Zambia	Peru
18.07	Sch SAKALA Sidney	Zambia	Namibia
20.07	Bro. KRUPA Adam	France-Benelux.....	Poland
21.07	Fr BERARD Wedner	Haiti	N.D.-du-Cap
11.08	Sch YOUSAF Sajjad.....	Pakistan.....	Pakistan
11.08	Sch RAKOTONIAINA Joseph	Madagascar	Madagascar
11.08	Sch RANDRIAMIHAJA Théophileo	Madagascar	Madagascar
11.08	Sch RATOVOAONA Andry	Madagascar	Madagascar
11.08	Sch RAZANABARY Félicien	Madagascar	Madagascar
11.08	Sch RAZOKY Hissène.....	Madagascar	Madagascar
24.08	Fr BRADY Michael	Brazil	Anglo-Irish
08.09	Sch DOAN GIAI BINH Jean.....	Vietnam.....	Vietnam

Date	Name	Origin	Destination
08.09	Sch TRAN THANH TUAN Jean-Baptiste	Vietnam.....	Vietnam
08.09	Fr RAVELOMAMPISANDRAIBE Alfred.....	Madagascar	N.D.-du-Cap
10.09	Fr TSATSELAM Gérard.....	Cameroon.....	N.D.-du-Cap
10.09	Sch KYULI Joseph	Kenya.....	Kenya
14.09	Sch FERNANDO Sackrawarthige.....	Colombo	Centr. Euro. Prov.
17.09	Sch SOYSA Adrian.....	Jaffna.....	France
02.10	Bro. KLOS Lukasz.....	Poland	Centr. Euro. Prov.
02.10	Sch THONGROS John the Baptist	Thailand-Laos	Thailand-Laos
07.10	Sch MAHAFENO Ueshiba.....	Madagascar	Cameroon
07.10	Bro. NGUYEN THANH VIET Pierre	Vietnam.....	Vietnam
07.10	Sch BOHLOA Paul	Lesotho	Lesotho
07.10	Sch KOTSOANE Robert	Lesotho	Lesotho
07.10	Fr WOLF Martin.....	Centr. Euro. Prov.....	General House
07.10	Fr KHATHALI Callistus.....	Int. Roman Schol. ...	Southern Afr.
15.10	Fr CZOP Cyprian	Poland	United States
20.10	Fr HICKL Roberto	Mexico	United States
05.11	Fr WIJEWICKRAMA Angelo	Colombo	Australia
01.12	Fr IGBOZURIKE CHIDURUO Alexius	Cameroon.....	Int. Roman Schol.
12.12	Sch KULLA André	Centr. Euro. Prov.....	Centr. Euro. Prov.
14.12	Fr BUNDU MUKWAMAMBU Mathieu	Congo.....	Congo
14.12	Fr IBANGA YINDULA Lievin	Congo.....	Congo
14.12	Fr KAPINGA DIANYISHAYI Charles.....	Congo.....	Congo
14.12	Fr KIKWETE MILANDU Benjamin	Congo.....	Congo
14.12	Fr NGOYI Hervé	Congo.....	Congo
16.12	Fr JASMIN Jean-Hérick	Colombia	General House

**Oblates in First Formation
(Reported as of January 2021)**

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
2020	598	24	96	71	55
2019	598	23	103	50	55
2018	601	20	106	69	42
2017	562	14	94	60	46
2016	540	11	90	46	65

Deaths and Departures - 2020

Deaths in 2020: 121 (3 Bishops, 104 Priests, 7 Brothers, 1 Perm. Deacon)

2019: 87 2018: 92 2017: 91 2016: 96 2015: 94

Departures reported in 2020: 65 (21 priests, 37 scholastics, 7 Brothers)

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)

2020

Secularization (2 priests)
 Laicization (5 priests)
 Dismissal from the Congregation (11 priests)
 Expiration of Temporary Vows (32 scholastics, 2 Brothers)
 Ipso Facto Dismissal (3 priests, 1 scholastic)
 Dispensation from Temporary Vows (2 scholastics, 1 Brother)
 Dispensation from Perpetual Vows (2 scholastics, 4 Brothers)

 ASIA-OCEANIA

HONG KONG**OMI Priest feeds the poor living under the bridge**

Fr. Rockmoore Saniel, OMI

The Coronavirus pandemic has never spared even the poor on the streets of Hong Kong. Now, poor and abandoned families are growing in number through the ill effects of Covid19.

In To Kwa Wan, Kowloon, Hong Kong, near the Church of Notre Dame, a parish run by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, many poor people have been regularly receiving food aid from the parish.

Led by Fr. Mark Anthony SERNA, OMI, together with the young people of the parish, visits are made to the streets under the bridge of To Kwa Wan to look for poor people and distribute food supplies, mostly to the old and homeless.

Fr. Serna is from Libungan, North Cotabato, in the Philippines. After his ordination he received his first obedience from the OMI Superior General to the Delegation of China. Ordained in 2011, he is now in his 9th year as a missionary priest in Hong Kong. At present, he is also one of the councilors in the China Delegation.

The main objective of the program is to give flesh to the Oblate Charism to be with the poor, especially the most abandoned, and to encourage more young people to have a sense of love and mission towards the poor. The program started

18 years ago with Fr. Slawomir KALISZ, OMI, the former parish priest of the Notre Dame parish and now the delegation Superior in China. It began as a regular visitation to the poor families of the parish that turned into a program of 'feeding the hungry'.

Notre Dame parish became the first Oblate parish in Hong Kong on May 30, 1992, when Cardinal John B. Wu Cheng Chung, bishop of Hong Kong, raised it to that status and appointed Fr. John WOTHERSPOON, OMI, as parish priest. Since then, the Oblates have always been in touch with the most abandoned in the area.

For several months now, every Friday, poor people living under the bridge of To Kwa Wan gather to receive food supplies. Started from about 55 individuals, now there are about 160 people who receive help from the parish.

Due to the pandemic, as many people lost their jobs, most of them eventually became homeless. Some old people who live under the bridge are those who were left alone by their children and families due to the bad economic situation, with no support for their basic needs.

Fr. Serna and the OMI community in Hong Kong continues to promote this program with the help of some generous individuals and benefactors.

They remain confident that, in their simple effort to provide basic needs to the needy, they are making a big difference in the lives of many poor people living in the outskirts of Hong Kong.

VIETNAM

Dialogue of Life: First-hand Experience of a Vietnamese Scholastic in Sri Lanka

*Oblate Scholastic Deacon Joseph Phuong, OMI
- Reporting from Sri Lanka*

This year's Têt (Lunar New Year Festival) was very special for me. Through the Vietnamese embassy in Sri Lanka, I learned that the Vietnamese living here often organise a common celebration of the Têt in Colombo or Kandy. This year, there were only about 20 people who gathered together in Kandy to prepare their own Festival. I asked permission to join them, and I did meet this Vietnamese group, mostly Buddhist monks and nuns, and some workers; I was the only Christian.

The ancient city of Kandy has features very similar to the Hoan Kiem Lake and Western Lake in Hanoi; but the smooth pace of life feels more like Hue city ... I was touched, overwhelmed with emotion: in this distant country, I was catching sight of my homeland!

First, we visited several places around Kandy, among them were the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic of the Buddha, the International Buddhist University and the famous elephant orphanage. Then it was time to prepare for the Lunar New Year.

Right away we started busying ourselves making apricot trees, cutting branches with peach blossoms, or banana leaves, chopping bamboo... for the decorations. Sticky rice, beans, melon seeds, candied fruits had been sent from Vietnam. We made banh chung, banh tet cakes. What a sight, banh chung wrapped in banana leaves!

That night we sat around the bonfire, happily telling stories about our lives, our work in this country. Most of the Buddhist monks and nuns had come here to study Buddhism; one had even come to teach at the SIBA Campus (Sri Lanka International Buddhist Academy), the largest

international Buddhist centre. Several others worked for a Japanese construction company; whereas I had come here to study theology, and to have a pastoral experience as an Oblate.

I told them about my experience in Sri Lanka; how happy I am to live in the mountains, to be in direct contact with people's daily work, and visiting the poor in their homes – dialogue of life. Everyone was surprised, especially the monks and nuns. They said that whatever they know and feel about this country is what they learn at school, or through the narratives of the local monks or of some persons they befriend; meanwhile, I was able to reach deep into reality, and understand more thoroughly about the lives and living conditions of families. I just smiled and said that this is our Oblate spirituality: we reach out to the poor in remote areas, to help them recognise the loving face of God, the Most High.

I felt truly happy: my sharing allowed them to understand that their gaze and grasp stops at the theoretical and administrative aspects, while my perception is a combination of practice and lived experience. As an Oblate I felt very proud to face and converse with Buddhist monks and nuns, as well as the professor of the SIBA Campus. I felt honoured for always having the Lord with me; and that everything I said was based on the first-hand knowledge I gained being with the people. My sincere sharing brought me closer to everyone in the group. Being there together, we helped one another to grasp each other's thinking, and to better understand the people of Sri Lanka. Further, almost everyone who came to Colombo to study Buddhism or to work had a one-sided view of the Tamil people, but by sharing my experience with the Tamils, I could help them adjust their prejudiced views.

I thank God, and the members of the formation committee who gave me the opportunity to study and minister abroad. This gives me an ample opportunity to expand my knowledge, and see things from a positive perspective.

PAKSITAN**Golden Jubilee celebration of the presence of the Oblates in Pakistan kicks off**

To mark the Golden Jubilee of the presence of the Oblates in Pakistan, a short community program was held at the Oblate Scholasticate, Karachi on February 14, 2021. The first group of Oblate missionaries came to Pakistan exactly 50 years ago, on February 14, 1971 from Sri Lanka.

Frs. Vernon DERRICK and Gulshan BARKAT in the speeches touched on some important aspects of the history of the Oblate Mission in Pakistan while the Scholastics with their singing made the event joyful.

A similar event was also held at the Oblate Juniorate in Multan where Fr. Pervez RAZA with the Juniorists marked the occasion with a beautiful celebration.

In the coming days, every Oblate serving in Pakistan will celebrate the golden jubilee in their own communities as the main programme of the Delegation is postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Let us thank all the missionaries from Canada, Poland, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Bangladesh with special reference to Sri Lanka who laboured, toiled and offered their very selves for evangelization of the people of God in Pakistan.

EUROPE**MEDITERRANEAN PROVINCE****COMI celebrates 70 years of being 'Oblate'.**

Antonietta Mongiò, COMI

The Secular Institute of the "Missionary Oblate Cooperators of the Immaculate Conception", widely known as COMI in Italian (Cooperatrici Oblate Missionarie dell'Immacolata), celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. They held their Annual Formation Conference on 20 and 21 February, under the title "1951- 2021: 70 Years and Beyond - Our History of Passion and Prophecy for the World".

Who are COMI?

The Institute was born in Florence on 22 August 1951, thanks to the prophetic intuition of an Italian Oblate, Fr Gaetano LIUZZO. With his missionary zeal and passionate love for the Church and the Congregation, Fr. Liuzzo faithfully transmitted the charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod to a group of young women who asked to "be like the Oblates". With the first "oblates sisters", consecrated women living in the world, the oblate charism thus took on a lay and feminine face.

After the diocesan approval, on 21 November 2001 the Institute obtained the pontifical approval of the new Constitutions.

The charism of evangelization leads the members of the Institute to proclaim Christ everywhere, through witness, work and profession lived as a 'mission', the missionary animation of the people of God and the world of youth, and missionary action ad gentes in various ways. COMI members, besides living alone or in families, can live in small groups to make the dimension of fraternity and family spirit more visible. The typically Marian spirituality leads the COMI to model themselves on Mary in order to be in the world "new Mary of Nazareth" and to relive her mission.

The COMI's mission ad gentes has taken place in the past in Chad, in collaboration with the Oblates, and subsequently in Senegal, Haiti and Panama. The Institute currently has members in Uruguay (Montevideo), Argentina (Buenos Aires) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), as well as in Italy. The specific service in these countries is varied: human promotion, health care for the poorest and most marginalized, and collaboration with the Oblates in their projects of new evangelization, youth work, and popular missions.

The Institute also associates with itself lay people (men and women, married and unmarried) who wish to share its spirituality and mission, called "Auxiliaries". In 1973, the COMI gave rise to a non-governmental organization (NGO), an

international Christian voluntary organization, called "Cooperation for a Developing World - COMI", which is legally autonomous in relation to the Institute, but closely linked to its spirituality, and which currently carries out development projects in Senegal, Uruguay and Chile.

A jubilee year

2021 is a year of particular importance for the COMI because of two circumstances: the 70th anniversary of the birth of the Institute and the 20th anniversary of its pontifical approval.

In order to live this double anniversary, a missionary animation itinerary has been planned, confronting the challenges that today's society and the particular times we live in present to us every day and which we are called to accept. A journey in stages, a "Journey among the new emergencies", which is being carried out with the contribution of various members of the Oblate Family and which is involving families, young people, professionals with various skills, in the different areas where the COMI are present, in Italy and abroad. The culmination of this journey will be the Missionary Congress will be held in Rome, from 19 to 21 November 2021.

The Conference

For the first time, the COMI experienced an international conference online. However, not meeting physically did not detract from

CENTRAL EUROPEAN PROVINCE

Provincial Assembly in the time of COVID-19

On February 2 and 3, 2021, we had the pleasure to experience a first in our province. Since a meeting in Hünfeld was not possible due to the pandemic situation, our Provincial Assembly this year took place online.

The fact that such an online meeting has its advantages was shown above all by the number of participants, which was higher than usual. About 60 participants (Oblates, Oblatas and associates from Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic) were present via zoom, and about 30 followed the meeting on You Tube.

On Tuesday morning, Fr. Felix REHBOCK, the Provincial Superior, gave an overview of the state of the province and the current challenges and new beginnings within the framework of

the intensity of communion and active and responsible participation. During the Conference, Fr. Fabio CIARDI, central assistant of the Institute, presented his booklet entitled "Oblate Sisters - Documents of the Origins (1950-1953)". In it he illustrates the documents relating to the foundation of the COMI, which are kept in the Oblate General Archives. They include the correspondence that Fr Liuzzo had with the OMI Superior General of the time, Fr Léo DESCHÂTELETS, and with Fr Drago, Director General of the AMMI (Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate).

The time of the conference was entirely centred on the testimonies of those who had lived through some fundamental stages in the history of the Institute: the development of the Institute, the mission ad gentes, and the pontifical approval. The return to the origins thus became an opportunity to recall and rekindle the spirit that had animated Fr Liuzzo and the first COMI, to rediscover the presence of Mary in today's world.

The concluding speech by the President General, Ileana Chinnici, was the launching pad towards the future, towards new perspectives and horizons of the mission which the Holy Spirit is already preparing and which recall the prophetic relevance of the COMI vocation in today's world.

we jointly developed "Vision 2024". There was also some time for exchange and discussion. On Wednesday, the morning hours and a part of the afternoon were dedicated to the theme "Interculturality in our Province". We heard a presentation on this by Fr. Peter Narh, SVD, who is a proven expert in this field. Earlier in the morning, we had already met online some of our "international confreres" who will be coming to our Province in the coming months.

Another part of the Wednesday afternoon was reserved for reports from the many commissions and teams of our province: Vocation ministry, Mission with Youth, Lay Associates, Oblate Studies and Social Media Evangelization.

In spite of all the limitations, it was a successful meeting that strengthened the bonds of our Oblate family.

FRANCE**150th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Pontmain**

On Sunday, January 17, 2020, in Pontmain, France, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to four children. It happened in the context of the war between France and Prussia, when many of the young men from the village of Pontmain were involved in the battle and their families had no news about them. The Prussian army was already very close to Pontmain. The parish priest, along with the people of the village, was praying every day for their safe return and for the end of the war. January 17, 1871, in the late afternoon, a Beautiful Lady appeared to the children and said to them: My children: Pray. God, in short time, will hear you. Your

prayer touches my Son. And in short time, the war ended and the young men of the village returned to their homes safe and sound.

The apparition was recognized one year later on February 2, 1872. Practically from the beginning, the Oblates were present in Pontmain, because, already in 1872, Oblates were invited to take care of the growing number of pilgrims and to build the church, which was consecrated in 1900 and made a minor basilica in 1905. Even now, Oblates continue to serve the pilgrims coming to pray at the shrine. One of the visionaries later became an Oblate. The celebration of the anniversary was planned as a very solemn event and was supposed to last the whole year. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused that to be greatly curtailed. Solemn Mass in the shrine on Sunday 17, 2021 at 10.30 AM will be celebrated by Cardinal Parolin.

ANNIVERSARIES - MARCH 2021

75th Anniversaries of Vows

19/03/1946	08613	Bro. Luc Fortin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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75th Anniversaries of Ordinations

10/03/1946	06869	Fr. Olegario Domínguez	Cruz del Sur
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70th Anniversaries of Vows

16/03/1951	08982	Fr. Austin Cooper	Australia
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65th Anniversaries of Vows

07/03/1956	10084	Fr. Vincent McGillicuddy	Australia
19/03/1956	10616	Bro. Jacques-G. Saumure	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

65th Anniversaries of Ordinations

11/03/1956	08924	Fr. Leonard Glowacki	Pologne
17/03/1956	08948	Fr. Aladino Garmón	Mediterranea
17/03/1956	08667	Fr. André Jodoin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
17/03/1956	09396	Msgr. Alessandro Staccioli	Mediterranea

60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

18/03/1961	10108	Fr. Alejandro Villafañe	Cruz del Sur
19/03/1961	10033	Fr. Jerzy Kalinowski	Cameroun
19/03/1961	10098	Fr. Rainer Rack	Central European Province
19/03/1961	09948	Fr. Alojzy Sojka	Pologne
19/03/1961	09895	Fr. Franz-Josef Stendebach	Central European Province

50th Anniversaries of Ordinations

20/03/1971	11631	Fr. Berthold Heller	Namibia
24/03/1971	11418	Fr. David Ullrich	United States

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

23/03/1996	13215	Fr. Louis Thabiso Mohlalisi	Lesotho
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Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 1 - 29

NAME	PROV/DEL	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Bro. Peterosi Mokeki	Lesotho	01/02/1935	Maseru	27/02/2021
Fr. Horst Gasparik	Central European	07/02/1941	Hünfeld	21/02/2021
Fr. Ian Mackintosh	Australia	07/11/1939	Melbourne	19/02/2021
Fr. Francis Ntoane	Lesotho	03/03/1939	Mazenod	18/02/2021
Fr. Gilles Comeau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	15/11/1928	Richelieu	17/02/2021
Bro. Afonso Flavien Ifabandwa	R.D. Congo	01/01/1949	Kinshasa	16/02/2021
Fr. Czeslaw Motak	Poland	28/01/1954	Poznan	16/02/2021
Fr. Johannes Effern	Lacombe	25/11/1930	Hünfeld	11/02/2021
Bro. Wilfrid Ramakatsa	Lesotho	12/05/1941	Mazenod	09/02/2021
Fr. Alexandre Taché	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	13/06/1926	Richelieu	07/02/2021
Fr. Ronald Cairns	OMI Southern Africa	03/10/1946	Johannesburg	06/02/2021
Msgr. Pierre-Antoine Paulo	Haiti	23/03/1944	Arcahaie	04/02/2021
Fr. Jozef Majewski	Poland	21/11/1935	Lubliniec	03/02/2021
Fr. Marian Nowak	Poland	08/12/1955	Kedzierzyn-Kozle	01/02/2021
Fr. Galeb Mokarzel	United States	03/02/1931	San Antonio	30/01/2021
Fr. Soichiro Michael Yamasaki	Japan-Korea	24/12/1934	Osaka	26/01/2021
Fr. Jean Didier Zanadrafara	Madagascar	24/05/1963	Tamatave	25/01/2021
Fr. Gabriel Tlaba	Lesotho	11/04/1948	Mazenod	20/01/2021
Fr. John Franko	United States	28/09/1937	San Antonio	18/01/2021
Fr. Tom Mogorogi Segami	OMI Southern Africa	16/07/1966	Johannesburg	17/01/2021
Fr. Bernard O'Brien	Australia	12/12/1937	Melbourne	16/01/2021
Fr. Michael Seeiso Sekoati	Lesotho	11/05/1956	Mazenod	15/01/2021
Bro. Louis Gendre	Lacombe	26/06/1933	S. Alber	13/01/2021
Fr. Luc Athimon	France	20/05/1936	Lyon	10/01/2021
Fr. M'Onzil Rogatien Munzubu	R. D. Congo	01/01/1960	Kinshasa	09/01/2021
Fr. Adolfo Lemmens	Bolivia	05/06/1944	Cochabamba	08/01/2021
Fr. Michel Frémaux	France	31/07/1925	Lyon	06/01/2021
Fr. Urban Figge	United States	24/12/1931	Belleville	03/01/2021
Bro. Ledie Lucien Ladiamene	R. D. Congo	02/12/1956	Kinshasa	02/01/2021

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