



OMI INFORMATION OMI INFORMACION OMI INFORMAZIONE OMI NACHRICHTEN OMI WIADOMOŚCI OMI

OMI Information No. 611 (English)

January-February 2022

The Letter of Superior General to the Congregation on the Anniversary of the Papal Approval of the Constitutions and Rules February 17, 2022

L.J.C. et M.I.

Dear Brother Oblates, and all our Sisters and Brothers committed to living the Oblate Charism,

We celebrate with great joy and gratitude the 196th anniversary of the papal approbation of our Constitutions and Rules as the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate! May we share in the profound conviction of Eugene de Mazenod that this approval was the work of divine Providence. St. Eugene insisted on this in a letter to the Oblates in France on February 18, 1826. In the same letter, filled with the recognition of God's intervention on our behalf, he recognized: "Somewhat puny as we are, being weak and few in number, we nonetheless have an existence in the Church no less than that of the most celebrated bodies, the most holy societies." It was with eyes of deep faith, that Eugene saw and believed the Gospel paradox: God chose what appeared to be weak and insignificant for the vast mission of evangelizing the poor.

We commemorate this anniversary in the context of the ongoing pandemic which afflicts the world, especially the poor, and which is causing much anxiety, frustration and marginalization. This situation demands flexibility to accept and adapt to changes in our lifestyle and ministries imposed by conditions beyond our control. We witness increasing division in many societies and in the Church. The abuse scandal in the Church continues to reverberate in the media. Massive migration, fed by religious persecution, war, economic

injustice and climate change plague the world. In this context, we recognize the need to cultivate the capacity for patience, interiority, personal discipline, and creativity. The crisis calls us to conversion, and challenges us to be firmly rooted in God and in community.

In this uncertain scenario, we are preparing for our 37th General Chapter which will, hopefully, take place here in Italy, in September. The Chapter Commissioner, Fr. Tom Ovalle, arrived here in Rome at the end of January and is overseeing the preparations along with the Pre-capitular Commission. Materials for animation will soon be available for the Congregation. As you already know, the theme of the Chapter is: PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN COMMUNION. This is a bold statement, given the context in which we are living. Each noun in this phrase opens up many significant images, biblical and ecclesial, as well as stories and wisdom from folk culture. The theme will provide us with many points of departure for faith sharing and animation as we prepare for the Chapter.

My brothers and sisters, please make the preparation for the 37th General Chapter a significant dimension of your Unit's life in the coming months. The General Chapter is the highest authority in the Congregation and a privileged time of community reflection and conversion. Please use the Chapter Prayer, the logo and animation materials to stir up interest and commitment to accompany the preparations for the Chapter. In all your gatherings, be they at the local community level, the district or the

Unit level, make time for prayer and reflection on the Chapter theme; tell stories of pilgrimages, of hope and of communion. Share about issues of mission and consecrated life.

Like the synodal process that Pope Francis is calling the Church to practice, the Chapter is a time of community discernment to hear the call of the Lord today, reading the signs of the times. Invite and listen to the input of lay collaborators, young Oblates in formation, and the Oblate Youth groups involved in the mission with youth. Take time to hear the wisdom and perspective of our elders. What are these various groups saying to us? Where are they pointing us to go as missionaries? With what challenges do they present us? In this climate of listening, the Chapter members will make missionary choices regarding evangelization with and of the poor today, for the future of the Congregation.

This year, we celebrate the 196th anniversary of the approval of the CCRR. We are just four years away from our 200th anniversary as a pontifical congregation in the Church. Let us begin to prepare ourselves for this anniversary by taking up our CCRR and confronting our lives with the commitment we have made to follow this rule of life. Our mission will only bear abundant good fruit for the Kingdom if we faithfully live out and deepen our commitment to the evangelical counsels, to living in faith, and to apostolic community. In the 1825 manuscript of his Preface, St. Eugene wrote:

“But it is not enough for them simply to be convinced of the sublime nature of the ministry to which they have been called. The example of the saints and reason itself make it amply clear that the success of such a holy undertaking as well as the maintenance of discipline in any society make certain rules of life absolutely necessary for unity of thought and action among the members. Such unity is a body’s strength, keeping up its fervour and insuring that it lasts.

Wherefore, while pledging themselves to all the works of zeal which priestly charity can inspire - above all, to the work of the missions, which is the main reason for their union - these priests, joined together in a society, resolve to obey the following Constitutions and Rules; by living them they hope to obtain all the benefits they need for their own sanctification and for the salvation of souls.”

Our fidelity to the Constitutions and Rules guarantees the fruitfulness of our missionary lives. We pray for one another, that we will be faithful in living this precious charism, a gift from the heart of St. Eugene who passionately loved Christ Jesus, the Church, and the poor. I am sure the Blessed Virgin Mary smiles on us, assisting us in our conversion to live our missionary charism with greater integrity.

Happy feast day to all of you.

Father Louis Lougen, OMI
Superior General

STATISTICS 2021

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 2022

JANUARY 2022							JANUARY 2021						
Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.	Total		Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.	
36	2	0	0	0	38	Gen Admin.	38	37	1	0	0	0	
595	44	3	0	266	908	Africa-Madag.	905	581	50	3	0	271	
327	27	1	0	57	412	Latin America	411	322	27	2	0	60	
597	24	10	2	215	848	Asia-Oceania	842	592	24	10	2	214	
437	59	0	0	4	500	Canada-USA	531	457	66	2	1	5	
656	78	5	3	45	787	Europe	810	674	81	6	3	46	
*2648	234	19	5	595	3493	Total	3537	2744	262	23	7	595	

**Of whom 1 is cardinal, 7 are Archbishops, 36 are bishops, 2 are Apostolic Prefects.*

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 2022)

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2022	January 2021
Cardinals	1	2
Archbishops	7	7
Bishops	36	36
Prefect Apostolic	2	1
Priests	2602	2617
Brothers with perpetual vows	234	249
Brothers who are permanent deacons	5	6
Brothers with temporary vows	19	23
Scholastics	587	596
Total number of Oblates	3493	3537

PERSONNEL BY UNIT
(As of January 2022)

The next table shows the number of Oblates according to the Unit to which they belong. For example, all the Oblates attached to the Senegal Delegation are listed there, even though they are juridically members of the Mediterranean Province or may be temporarily living elsewhere. Some of the Senegalese scholastics are in Cameroon, others in Congo. etc.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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

AFRICA - MADAGASCAR

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card	Tot.
Angola	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
Botswana	9	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Cameroon	69	0	10	1	50	0	0	1	0	0	131
Southern Africa	95	0	5	0	23	0	0	3	2	0	128
Congo	99	0	10	0	40	0	0	1	0	0	150
Ghana	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kenya	12	0	2	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	25
Lesotho	75	0	6	0	9	0	0	2	1	0	93
Madagascar	51	0	2	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	95
Namibia	37	0	1	1	8	0	0	2	1	0	50
Nigeria	11	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	65
Western Sahara	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Senegal	46	0	3	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	60
Zambia	45	0	2	0	10	0	0	2	0	0	59
Zimbabwe	14	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	21
Total	579	0	44	3	266	0	1	11	4	0	908

LATIN AMERICA

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card	Tot.
Baja California	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Bolivia	10	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	17
Brazil	54	0	2	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	63
Colombia	13	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	16
Cruz del Sur	56	0	4	1	7	0	0	2	0	0	70
Cuba	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Guatemala	13	0	2	0	5	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	36	0	1	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	51
Peru	12	0	2	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	21
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Venezuela	8	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	12
Total	321	0	27	1	57	0	0	6	0	0	412

ASIA - OCEANIA

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card	Tot.
Australia	35	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	37
Bangladesh	29	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	35

China	13	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	18
Colombo	107	0	5	0	29	2	0	1	0	0	144
India	101	0	1	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	126
Indonesia	32	0	0	7	19	0	0	0	0	0	58
Jaffna	88	0	2	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	115
Japan – Korea	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Korea	6	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	11
Pakistan	33	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	42
Philippines	78	0	9	0	15	0	0	2	0	1	103
Thailand	19	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	26
Turkmenistan	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vietnam	30	0	7	2	75	0	0	0	0	0	114
Total	589	0	24	10	215	2	1	6	0	1	848

CANADA - UNITED STATES

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
Assumption	51	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	55
Lacombe	109	0	16	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	132
N-D-du-Cap	84	0	26	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	114
United States	180	0	14	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	199
Total	424	0	59	0	4	0	0	10	3	0	500

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
Belgium/Netherlands	36	0	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	46
Byelorussia	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Central European	72	0	16	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	93
France	76	0	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	88
France & Benelux	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Mediterranean	137	1	8	1	10	1	0	1	0	0	159
Poland	209	0	28	2	25	0	0	0	0	0	264
Romania	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ukraine	29	0	3	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	38
Total	652	1	78	5	45	3	0	3	0	0	787

	Fr.	Fr.T	Br.	Br.T	Sc.	Dea.	Pr.Ap.	Ep.	ArEp.	Card.	Tot.
TOTAL	2601	1	234	19	587	5	2	36	7	1	3493

Legenda: *Fr.*=Father; *Fr.T.*=Father with temp. vows; *Br.*=Brother; *Br.T.*=Brother with temp. vows; *Sc.*=Scholastic; *P.Dea.*=Perm. Deacon; *Pr.Ap.*=Prefect Apostolic; *Ep.*=Bishop; *ArEp.*=Archbishop; *Card.*=Cardinal.

Perpetual Oblations – (reported in 2021)

Id OMI	Title	Last name	First name	Perp. Vows	Unit
15049	Sc.	De Simone Lima	Jhordan	25-01-21	Brazil
15078	Bro.	Meloncourt	Jean Emmanuel	16-02-21	Haiti
15062	Sc.	Mondol	Herat Thanda	16-02-21	Bangladesh
15079	Sc.	Montez	Steven Victor	16-02-21	US Province
15080	Sc.	Nong	Zane Fani	16-02-21	Lesotho-Botswana
15055	Sc.	Branda	Danilo	27-02-21	Mediterranea
15056	Sc.	Arsarathnam	Danistan	14-04-21	Jaffna
15057	Sc.	Croos	John Jenybert	14-04-21	Jaffna
15059	Sc.	Jesuthasan	Amirtharaj	14-04-21	Jaffna
15061	Sc.	Morris	Volantine	14-04-21	Jaffna
15058	Sc.	Nijanthan	Piragash	14-04-21	Jaffna
15060	Sc.	Sebamalai	Royston	14-04-21	Jaffna
15094	Sc.	Mabitle	Thomas Reitumetse	01-05-21	Lesotho
15065	Sc.	Nguyen Tan Vuong	Joseph-Martin	21-05-21	France-Vietnam
15103	Sc.	Coc Jolomna	Rony	28-05-21	Guatemala
15104	Sc.	Rakotoarisoa	Lucien	08-06-21	Madagascar
15105	Sc.	Ahit	Adrian Salutillo	24-06-21	Philippines
15106	Sc.	Gumban	Elmer	24-06-21	Philippines
15063	Sc.	Espinola	Gomez Victor David	14-07-21	Cruz del Sur
15066	Sc.	Miranda da Silva	Jefferson	01-08-21	Brazil
15067	Sc.	Teixeira de Carvalho	Rivaldo	01-08-21	Brazil
15068	Sc.	Matekane	Denicias Ntseli	14-08-21	Lesotho
15069	Sc.	Rantlo Elias	Lehlohonolo	14-08-21	Lesotho
15107	Sc.	Beyene Beyene	Raphaël	15-08-21	Cameroun
15108	Sc.	Ngueche	Hugues	15-08-21	Cameroun
15064	Sc.	Nguyen Thai Duy	Joseph	15-08-21	France-Vietnam
15083	Sc.	Kisku	Sujan John	25-08-21	Bangladesh
15084	Sc.	Pantra	Johnastine John	25-08-21	Bangladesh
15070	Sc.	Alugodhi	Antonius	28-08-21	Namibia
15081	Sc.	Gaja Tyoyila	Solomon	28-08-21	Cameroun
15071	Sc.	Johya	Phelix Oliver	28-08-21	Lacombe-Kenya
15072	Sc.	Laskam	Justin Bienvenu	28-08-21	Cameroun
15073	Sc.	Mtshali	Muzikayise	28-08-21	Southern Africa
15074	Sc.	Mzizi	Thamsanqa Petrus	28-08-21	Southern Africa
15075	Sc.	Njovane	Zukisane Mhle	28-08-21	Southern Africa
15076	Sc.	Tobindi Logsi	Honoré	28-08-21	Cameroun
15077	Sc.	Zimora	Phillip Anesu	28-08-21	Southern Africa
15109	Sc.	Abuul	Aondoaseer Peter	08-09-21	Cameroun
15110	Sc.	Apouvi	Jean Baptiste	08-09-21	Senegal
15111	Sc.	Baranowski	Jedrzej Karol	08-09-21	Poland
15112	Sc.	Chmiel	Karol Wojciech	08-09-21	Poland
15113	Bro.	Fijalek	Krzysztof	08-09-21	Poland
15082	Sc.	Fung	Dominic King Ho	08-09-21	China
15114	Sc.	Jonczak	Adam Stanislaw	08-09-21	Poland
15115	Sc.	Mar	Léon	08-09-21	Senegal
15116	Sc.	Ogbu Onah	Felix	08-09-21	Cameroun
15117	Sc.	Wayang	Colbert	08-09-21	Cameroun
15090	Sc.	Emenike	Joseph Sopuruchukwu	11-09-21	Cameroun
15091	Sc.	Inaway Kwatsah	Dieudonné	11-09-21	Cameroun
15086	Sc.	Kalenga Tshiepela	Joseph	11-09-21	Congo

15087	Sc.	Kingenge	Deogratias	11-09-21	Congo
15088	Sc.	Mutombo	Jeremie	11-09-21	Congo
15089	Sc.	Nkuku Ntumba	Aimé	11-09-21	Congo
15092	Sc.	Odimegwu	Odira Francis	11-09-21	Congo
15093	Sc.	Wang-Nouwe	Paul	11-09-21	Cameroun
15118	Sc.	Rakotoharivelo	Georges Rémi	12-09-21	Madagascar
15085	Sc.	Peter	Robinson Mehtab Gill	15-09-21	Pakistan
15095	Sc.	Le Van Dung	François-Xavier	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15096	Sc.	Ngo Huu Nghi	Matthieu	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15097	Sc.	Nguyen Hong Phuc	Antoine	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15098	Sc.	Nguyen Thanh Hung	François-Xavier	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15099	Sc.	Nguyen Van Hieu	Joseph	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15100	Sc.	Nguyen Van Nhan	Thomas	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15101	Bro.	Than Van Long	Dominique	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15102	Sc.	Tran Hoa Hien	Luc	20-11-21	France-Vietnam
15119	Sc.	Ha Thanh Luan	Jean Baptiste	28-11-21	France-Vietnam
15120	Sc.	Nash	Joshua	28-11-21	Australia
15121	Sc.	Rios Salhuana	Gerson Javier	03-12-21	Peru
15122	Sc.	Amal Raj	Prem Gladin	08-12-21	India
15123	Sc.	Arockiasamy	Antony Muthu Albert	08-12-21	India
15124	Sc.	Arulanantham	Paul Raj	08-12-21	India
15125	Sc.	Irudaya Dhason Maria	Aron Dhas	08-12-21	India
15126	Sc.	Kurapati	Rajasekhar	08-12-21	India
15127	Sc.	Lourdusamy	L. Johnson	08-12-21	India
15128	Sc.	Maria Selvam	Santhosh	08-12-21	India
15129	Sc.	Sahaya Raj	Sasi Renaldo	08-12-21	India
15130	Sc.	Thiru Selvam	Maria Sebastin Infant Raj	08-12-21	India
15131	Sc.	Tirkey	David Rosan	08-12-21	India
15132	Sc.	Tulimelli	Naveen	08-12-21	India
15133	Sc.	Fernando	Lahiru Lakshan	12-12-21	Colombo
15134	Sc.	Fernando	Sameera Priyadharshana	12-12-21	Colombo

Brothers = 3 Scholastics = 78

Obediences – 2021
(* indicates first Obedience)

Date	Title	Family name	First name	Unit of origin	Destination
11-01	Fr.*	Pascal	Gilbert	Haiti	Haiti/Colombia
11-01	Fr.*	Vey	Patrick Lothar	Central European	Central European
15-02	Fr.*	Gami	Fidèle	Cameroon	Cameroon
22-02	Fr.*	Albert	Arul Claret	India	India
22-02	Fr.*	Devasagayam	Anthony Vithus	India	India
22-02	Fr.*	Raja	James Fernandes	India	India
22-02	Fr.*	Rajamanikkam	Britto	India	India
22-02	Fr.*	Sesu	Immanuel	India	India
19-03	Bro.	Diakanou	Jean-Marie	Cameroon	Aix-En-Provence
25-03	Fr.	Villa	Roberto	Mediterranean	General House
29-03	Sc.*	Cibane	Cebelihle	OMI SA	OMI SA
29-03	Sc.*	Chiutanyi	Edward	OMI SA	OMI SA
29-03	Sc.	Gumede	Abedmigo Ziphozonke	OMI SA	OMI SA
29-03	Sc.*	Libanje	Edwin Sicelo	OMI SA	OMI SA

29-03	Sc.*	Jiyane	Caiphus Ndumiso	OMI SA	OMI SA/ Zimbabwe
01-04	Fr.	Arokiasamy	Gregory	India	Int. Roman Scholasticate
07-04	Bro.*	Meloncourt	Jean Emmanuel	USA	USA
08-04	Fr.	Iollo	Giancarlo	Mediterranean	Australia
08-04	Fr.	O'shea	Thomas	Brazil	Anglo-Irish
25-04	Bro.	Janca	Krzysztof	Assumption	Poland
24-05	Sc.*	Stefaniszyn	Dawid Karol	Poland	Poland
24-05	Sc.*	Trzcielinski	Wojciech	Poland	Poland
24-05	Sc.*	Wandzich	Jakub Dariusz	Poland	Poland
24-05	Sc.*	Depta	Piotr Pawel	Poland	Central European
28-05	Sc.*	Diedhiou	Jules Joseph	Mediterranean/ Senegal	Mediterranean/ Senegal
28-05	Sc.*	Faye	Joël Christian	Mediterranean/ Senegal	Mediterranean/ Senegal
28-05	Sc.*	Malou	Bérenger Kabia Parfait	Mediterranean/ Senegal	Mediterranean/ Senegal
28-05	Sc.*	Manga	Jean Baptiste	Mediterranean/ Senegal	India
28-05	Sc.*	Ndecky	Julien	Mediterranean/ Senegal Senegal	Southern Africa
28-05	Sc.*	Niakh	Clément Ndoffène	Mediterranean/ Senegal	Southern Africa
28-05	Sc.*	Kaly	Santosh	Mediterranean/	Colombo - Bangladesh
28-05	Sc.*	Sene	Joseph	Mediterranean/	Jaffna
28-05	Sc.*	Nadua	Joseph	Philippines	Philippines
14-06	Fr.	Mulele	Onkiel Augustin	Congo	Brazil
14-06	Fr.	Harding	Nicholas	Peru	USA
15-06	Sc.*	Antonymsamy	Antony David Raj	India	India
15-06	Sc.*	Narbert Antony	Rathis Babin	India	India
15-06	Sc.*	Tirkey	Nirmal Charles	India	India
15-06	Sc.*	Tirkey	Sumit	India	India
26-06	Fr.	Popielewski	Wojciech	Int. Roman Scholasticate	Poland
26-06	Fr.	Sartor	Roberto	General House	Mediterranean
07-07	Bro.*	Fijałek	Krzysztof	Poland	Poland
17-07	Sc.*	Rakotonirina	José Marcellin	Poland/Madagascar	Poland/
17-07	Sc.*	Tsaramila	Dorlis	Poland/Madagascar	Poland/
17-07	Sc.*	Herinirina	Andry Mamy	Poland/Madagascar	Central European
17-07	Sc.*	Rakotoarisoa	Herinjaka Marcel Fabien	Poland-Madagascar	Australia
02-08	Sc.*	Branda	Danilo	Mediterranean	Mediterranean
15-08	Fr.	Lemoncelli	Henry	General House	United States
16-08	Fr.	Legaré	Louis	OMI Lacombe	N-D-Du-Cap
16-08	Fr.	Iheanacho	George	Cameroon	N-D-Du-Cap
20-08	Sc.*	Philip	George Sulonithan	Colombo	Colombo
20-08	Sc.*	Perera	Tharanga Namal	Colombo	Japan/Korea
14-09	Sc.*	Kapeya	Francis Conrad	USA/Zambia	USA/Zambia
14-09	Sc.*	Mule	Eugene Mwape	USA/Zambia	USA/Zambia
14-09	Sc.*	Mvula	Crescent	USA/Zambia	USA/Zambia
14-09	Sc.*	Phiri	Ackim	USA/Zambia	USA/Zambia

15-09	Sc.*	Montez	Steven Victor	USA	USA
15-09	Sc.*	Haundapiti	Max Hambabi	Namibia	Namibia
15-09	Sc.*	Nakakuwa	Eliaser	Namibia	Namibia
15-09	Sc.*	Machesetsa	Justice Thato	Lesotho	Lesotho
15-09	Sc.*	Manatha	Ephraim Rorisang	Lesotho	Lesotho
15-09	Sc.*	Mphachane	John Masakale	Lesotho	Lesotho
15-09	Sc.*	Kimani Diamouini	Dominique Guénolé Ehrard	Congo	Congo
15-09	Sc.*	Mahana Biwaka	Constantin	Congo	Congo
15-09	Sc.*	Mukongo Munduku	Joseph	Congo	Congo
15-09	Sc.*	Ngwangu Matango	Jean-Baptiste	Congo	Congo
15-09	Sc.*	Mwalenya Itieme	John	Congo	Lesotho/
15-09	Sc.*	Arsarathnam	Danistan	Jaffna	Jaffna
15-09	Sc.*	Croos	Don Bosco John Jenybert	Jaffna	Jaffna
15-09	Sc.*	Jesuthasan	Amirtharaj	Jaffna	Jaffna
15-09	Sc.*	Nijanthan	Piragash	Jaffna	Jaffna
15-09	Sc.*	Jesuthasan	Amirtharaj	Jaffna	Jaffna
15-09	Sc.*	Morris	Volantine	Jaffna	Brazil
01-10	Fr.	Nwaneri	Hyacinth	Cameroon	Mission of Ghana
01-10	Fr.	Mané	Daniel Aliou	Mediterranean/ Senegal	Mission of Ghana
01-10	Bro.	Dabkowski	Rafal	Poland	Mission of Ghana
07-10	Fr.	Wieczorek	Florian	Poland	Central European
08-10	Fr.	Olea Tinoco	Hipólito	Mexico	Aix-en-Provence
08-10	Fr.	Lachowski	Andrzej	Poland-France/ Benelux	Aix-en-Provence
25-10	Fr.	Zajac	Lukasz	OMI Lacombe	Assumption
09-11	Fr.	Qesa	Augustinus Sebenzile	Lesotho	General House
12-11	Fr.	Indibi	Didier	Congo	Australia
12-11	Sc.*	Chitambo	Mberikwazvo Ian	OMI Southern Africa/Zimbabwe	OMI SA / Zimbabwe
12-11	Sc.*	Chiyaka	Edmund	OMI Southern Africa/Zimbabwe	OMI SA / Zimbabwe
12-11	Sc.*	Tshabalala	Andrew Priviledge	OMI Southern Africa/Zimbabwe	OMI SA/
15-11	Sc.*	Kisku	Sujan John	Colombo/ Bangladesh	Colombo/
15-11	Sc.*	Mondol	Herat Thanda	Colombo/ Bangladesh	Colombo/
15-11	Sc.*	Pantra	Jonastine John	Colombo/ Bangladesh	Central European
15-11	Sc.*	Kaewpuang	Anthony Wuttichai	Philippines/Thailand	Philippines/
15-11	Sc.*	Raethay	Peter Narongrit	Philippines/Thailand	Philippines/
15-11	Sc.*	Wongwai	John Baptist Mongkol	Philippines/Thailand	Philippines/
20-11	Bro.*	Than Van Long	Dominique	France/Vietnam	France/Vietnam
30-11	Sc.*	Chau Hoang Anh Phuong	Joseph	France/Vietnam	France/Vietnam
30-11	Sc.*	Nguyen Van Hop	Jean-Baptiste	France/Vietnam	France/Vietnam
30-11	Sc.*	Pham Quang Trung	Paul	France/Vietnam	France/Vietnam
30-11	Sc.*	Vo Van Vinh	François-Xavier	France/Vietnam	France/Vietnam
27-12	Fr.	Majola	Bonga Thamsanqa	Aix-en-Provence	General House
31-12	Sc.*	Espinola Gómez	Víctor David	Cruze del Sur	Cruz del Sur

Oblates in First Formation 2021
(Reported as of January 2022)

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
2021	587	19	85	81	70
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 - 2021

Deaths reported in 2021: 93 (2 Bishops, 74 Priests, 1 Perm. Deacons, 16 Brothers)

2020: 87 2019: 87 2018: 92 2017: 91 2016: 96 2015: 94

Departures reported in 2021: 50 (15 priests, 33 scholastics, 2 Brothers)

Expiration of Temporary Vows (30 Scholastics)

Dispensation from Perpetual Vows (3 Scholastics)

Dispensation from Perpetual Vows (2 Brothers)

Dismissal from the Congregation (5 Priests)

Secularization (3 Priests)

Ipsa Facto Dismissal (2 Priests)

Laicization Completed (5 Priests)



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Calendar of Masses for MAMI members 2022

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

It was on the occasion of the publication of the 1947 Administrative Circular Letter that the first “calendar” of Masses to be celebrated by Oblates was established. There we read:

‘Since the Congregation has committed itself to have Mass celebrated each day for the living

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

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

January/Janvier/Enero

01-10 France
11-20 Vietnam
21-25 Anglo-Irish
26-31 Ukraine

February/Février/Febrero

01-10 France-Benelux
11-20 Belgium-Netherlands, Suriname
21-28 Central European Province

March/Mars/Marzo

01-12 Poland, Scandinavia, Turkmenistan
13-25 Mediterranean, Western Sahara
26-31 Bielorrussia

April/Avril/Abril

01-05 Romania
06-15 United States, Baja California
16-25 Lacombe
26-30 Kenya

May/Mai/Mayo

01-10 Assumption
11-20 Notre Dame du Cap
21-31 Haiti, French Guyana

June/Juin/Junio

01-05 Colombia
06-10 Guatemala
11-15 Bolivia
16-20 Peru
21-30 Mexico, Cuba

July/Juillet/Julio

1-15 Cruz del Sur
16-31 Brazil

August/Août/ Agosto

01-05 Venezuela
06-10 Nigeria
11-15 Ghana
16-25 Cameroon, Chad
26-31 Senegal, Guinea-Bissau

September/Septembre/Septiembre

01-10 Zambia
11-15 Congo
16-20 Angola
21-30 Namibia

October/Octobre/Octubre

01-05 Southern Africa
06-10 Zimbabwe
11-20 Lesotho
21-25 Botswana
26-31 Madagascar

November/Novembre/Noviembre

01-05 Pakistan
06-10 India
11-15 Bangladesh
16-20 Thailand, Laos
21-25 China
26-30 Japan, Korea

December/Décembre/Diciembre

01-06 Colombo
07-12 Jaffna
13-18 Indonesia
19-24 Australia
25-31 Philippines

GENERAL POSTULATION**Two new Oblate paintings at the General House***Fr. Diego Saez Martín, OMI*

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the beginnings of our Congregation, on January 25, 2022, the General House was embellished with two pictures of arguably the two most well-known Oblate giants in history: St. Eugene de Mazenod and Bl. Joseph Gerard.

They are located in the vestibule in front of the main staircase, a strategic place, since it connects the chapel with the corridor leading to the community hall and the International Roman Scholasticate and, on the other side, to the Refectory of the community and the entrance. In short, they are in the heart of the house.

The paintings are impressive for their large dimensions, about 130x165 cm and are signed ("G. D."), which made it necessary to place them on a wall large enough to be able to contemplate their beauty, for they are of great artistic quality. They were donated to the General Postulation by the Oblate community in Cagliari (Sardinia), although they were originally made for the church in Maddaloni, Italy, which the Oblates left some years ago. This was the moment when they were transferred by the Oblates to the one in Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy).

According to the research made by the Postulation, the author is Gennaro Dinacci,

from Naples, who perfected his technical and artistic training with the study of the great masters of painting during the years he worked at the National Museum of Capodimonte and at the Royal Palace of Caserta and as a restorer of works of art with the Superintendencies of Naples, Caserta and Salerno. He currently has a workshop-laboratory in the province of Fondi-Sperlonga.

The history of these paintings is linked to Fr. Ottorino Casarotto, who was parish priest of Maddaloni for 18 years. Dinacci had already restored some canvases in the church. The relationship with Fr. Ottorino led him to a profound spiritual change and, in gratitude, he expressed the desire to do something for the church. Ottorino suggested that he painted a large painting of Merciful Love, still present today in the church of Maddaloni.

At that time, Dinacci went through a dramatic series of surgeries that brought him to the brink of death. Ottorino, who went to give him the last sacraments, told the Lord in prayer that if his painter died there would no longer be such a painting in his honor.

The Lord's Providence was good enough for him to recover and so Dinacci was able to paint the picture. As a result of this relationship between the Oblates and the painter, these two paintings were born, which today belongs to the General Postulation and can be enjoyed by all visitors to the General House.

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

GHANA**A good start in Abenoxoe***By Bro. Rafał Dąbkowski OMI*

On Sunday afternoon, November 28, 2021, we set our feet on the land of Ghana for the first time. We will probably remember this flight from Rome via Lisbon for the rest of our lives - it is a great step towards a new Oblate mission in the African Continent. After nearly two months of preparation in Rome, Lourdes and Aix, our pioneering team begins a new

work in this West African country, which has a population of over 30 million.

Abenoxoe means "place to live"

Ghana, colonized by Great Britain, regained its independence only 64 years ago. The most famous Ghanaian is perhaps Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General.

It is here, on the largest artificial lake in the world - Lake Wolta, and on the main river of this country, also Wolta, in a small village aptly named Abenoxoe (translation from the local

language Ewe is: "place to live") we will serve the local Catholic community and look after one of the few Marian shrines in this country - Our Lady of the Grotto - Our Lady of Lourdes. It is truly an Oblate mission, among the poorest, for whom shelter is made of small houses, often covered with clay with a tin roof that protects it, especially in the rainy season. It is a mission that certainly falls within our Marian charism, a place where numerous pilgrims of Ghanaians and tourists visit. It is a mission truly at the end of the world, because the nearby chapels can only be reached by boats. It is a mission in the spirit of our Founder, because it is open to the request of the local bishop, who sees the need for a new Marian congregation in the diocese.

A good start is half the battle

The mission in Ghana is the first Oblate mission opened in the new millennium and the first in the third century of the Congregation's existence. The COVID-19 pandemic did not allow the opening of this mission earlier, and already in 2019 the diocese of Ho was visited by members of the General Administration at the invitation of the local bishop, and then decided to open a new mission - reporting directly to Father General.

The new community consists of three Oblates from three nationalities (Nigeria, Poland, Senegal). From October 1, we officially belong to the community of the General Administration. We had a great time of preparation before starting this new work, in Rome, Lourdes, Aix and Ghana itself. Conferences, lectures, meetings, experienced retreats, and finally the experience and stay in the place of future ministry made it possible to prepare well for work in Dolna Volta, in the eastern part of Ghana.

In our General House we were able to take part in sessions on interculturalism, internationality, building a new community, and the history of missions. Together we had a retreat in Lourdes and also visited the community in our motherhouse in Aix. In Ghana, at the invitation of the bishop of the Ho diocese, Emmanuel Fianu SVD, we were able to observe the work in many parishes. What is most beautiful was taking part in the indulgence of the Sanctuary where we would be future custodians. This experience strengthened our awareness of the decision we made, as well as of the great needs of the Church in Africa.

CONGO

A training session for formators on the protection of minors and vulnerable persons

Recently, the Province of Congo organized a session for formators on the protection of minors and vulnerable persons. Fr. Joseph NTUMBA, the Provincial Superior of Congo, opened the training session in the large hall of the St. Eugene de Mazenod Scholasticate in Kinshasa. It was led by two Oblates from the General House in Rome who are also members of the General committee of the protection of minors and vulnerable persons: Fr. Constant KIENGE-KIENGE, Oblate procurator to the Holy See, and Fr. Thomas BANG.

At the opening, Father Constant emphasized on the importance and the timeliness of this topic to be studied in the Church today. He underlined the task assumed by the Congregation of the

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the particular concern of the Superior General, Fr. Louis LOUGEN.

Sr. Marie Lembo was another resource person and she spoke from Rome by videoconference. She has a doctorate in clinical psychology and is an Assistant General of the Congregation of St. Catherine of Alexandria and a professor at the Gregorian University in Rome.

The twenty or so participants have been chosen to continue the formation process in their communities. They were Oblates or lay people, coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo or Angola.

According to Frs. Constant and Thomas, it is mainly a question of equipping them to work for prevention rather than to "hunt down" the culprits after the damage has already been done.

CONGO**In the footsteps of Father Santolini***Fr. Pasquale Castrilli OMI*

Recently, for ten intense days, a delegation of five people visited the places where Fr. Giovanni SANTOLINI, the Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate from Genoa (Italy), lived from 1987 until the day of his tragic death on Palm Sunday, 23rd March 1997 in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Even after 25 years, he is still known for his daring attitude, standing for justice and the selfless service done for the poorest of the poor in Congo.

Father Santolini's testimony emerged in more than fifty interviews collected. From Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, (O.F.M. Cap) of Kinshasa to Mgr. Ettore Balestrero, the Apostolic Nuncio; from the OMI missionaries to the members of the Focolare Movement and the religious Sisters. They all testified to Fr. Giovanni's virtues, his generosity, to the fact

that he fully immersed himself in the service of building 'bridges of communion' in a very difficult context in Kinshasa. The multimedia material collected will be used to prepare two videos and a photographic exhibition.

Father Santolini was committed to teaching and training the younger generations of missionaries, but he also had numerous contacts with Congolese society. The first biography written by Fr Fabio Ciardi, OMI is being prepared. The book will be presented in Genoa during the Missionary Week that will take place from 20 to 27 March 2022. A committee, composed of Oblates and relatives of Fr. Santolini, is working in collaboration with the pastoral offices of the diocese of Genoa, to define the programme of the event. During the missionary week there will be visits to schools, thematic focuses in some vicariates and parishes, a prayer vigil animated by young people, an evening to present the figure of Fr. Santolini to the city, and the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Mgr. Marco Tasca, (O.F.M. Conv), Archbishop of Genoa.

OMI SOUTHERN AFRICA**Denis Hurley Centre remembers founder with weekend of events**

Editor's note: Even after 18 years of his death, Archbishop Denis Hurley, OMI stands out as a towering figure in the Church in South Africa. As Archbishop of Durban for 45 years, he was known in South Africa and internationally as a courageous proponent of justice and peace, and a strong opponent of apartheid. So much so, he was dubbed by opponents 'the scourge of Apartheid'. He was also loved for his inner strength, warmth, humility, generosity and spirituality. As a forward thinking churchman, Bishop Hurley was a champion of the ecclesiastical and liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council which he attended in the 1960s. The Denis Hurley Centre which was opened in 2015, offers food, showers, medical help and education to Durban's inner city homeless.

Originally published on www.bereamail.co.za Durban's Denis Hurley Centre hosted its annual Hurley weekend on Saturday, February 12 and Sunday, February 13 to honour their founder, Archbishop Denis Hurley who passed away on February 13, 2004.

Director of the Denis Hurley Centre, Raymond Perrier, said seven candles were lit, during the Annual Stakeholder Meeting, to honour the seven pillars of the organisation: donation; faith community; NGOs and schools; corporate and media; government; volunteers and staff, and recipients.

There was also a panel discussion for the community to participate in.

"There was a special focus on Archbishop Tutu this year, with a panel discussion among young people looking at the legacies of the two great leaders," said Perrier.

The Barry Wood Awards were presented for outstanding service by Fr Sabelo Mkhize, administrator of Emmanuel Cathedral, and Fr Joseph Money, OMI.

"Bishop Barry Wood, OMI is a great friend of the Dennis Hurley Centre. Right up until his death almost five years ago, Barry's life was committed to service; so we set up an award in his honour to recognize people who like him have an abundance of community spirit," said Perrier.

ASIA-OCEANIA

LAOS**A new church dedicated to the first Laotian martyr catechist of the Hmong ethnic group**

The small Catholic community in Laos rejoices at the opening of a new church dedicated to the first Laotian martyr of the Hmong ethnic group. In the village of Ban Nam Gnam, district of Thulakhom, in the province of Vientiane, the inauguration of the first church dedicated to Blessed Paul Thoj Xyooj, a young catechist killed with Fr. Mario Borzaga, OMI in 1960.

Both were beatified in Vientiane on 11 December 2016 with 15 other martyrs. As reported by Fr. Angelo PELIS, Missionary of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who spent years of mission in the small Southeast Asian country, the rite of inauguration and consecration of the new church was presided over by Cardinal Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhankhoun, Apostolic Vicar in Vientiane.

The new building of worship marks a further step forward for the small Church of Laos, which lives in a country with a Communist political nature. On April 29, 2018, the Catholic community welcomed four new priests, in a

solemn Eucharist celebrated in the Cathedral of St. Louis, in Takhek, in central Laos.

A crucial event for the life of the local Church was the one celebrated on 11 December 2016, when Filipino Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, OMI, Pope Francis' special envoy to Vientiane, proclaimed the beatification of 17 new martyrs, including missionaries and lay Laotians. The martyrs had been recognized by Pope Francis in 2015, in two distinct causes of beatification: the first is that of the Italian Oblate Mario Borzaga and the catechist Paolo Thoj Xyooj, after whom the new church is named; the second concerns ThaoTien, the first Laotian priest, and 14 companions.

Christianity is a minority religion in Laos, a predominantly Buddhist nation. Three churches are recognized in the country: the Evangelical Church of Laos, the Adventist Church, and the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics are about 60 thousand (1% of the population out of 6 million inhabitants), many of whom are ethnic Vietnamese, concentrated in large urban centers and the surrounding areas along the Mekong River, in the central and southern regions of the country, few they are from local ethnic minorities.

SRI LANKA**Celebrating the 175 years of Oblate Presence on the Island**

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Sri Lanka have proclaimed a Jubilee Year in commemoration of the 175 years of Oblate presence in the country. Over a hundred Oblates from both Provinces, Jaffna and Colombo, gathered at De Mazenod Chapel, Columbuthurai, Jaffna, and celebrated the Holy Eucharist together in thanksgiving to God, on the 14th of February, 2022.

Bishops of the dioceses of Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mannar, Vicar Generals, Episcopal Vicars, Provincials of other Congregations, Priests, Religious, and many lay faithful graced the occasion.

Under the theme “Let us write a new page of Gospel with Mazenodian creativity and commitment”, the Oblates of both the provinces have organized various activities to be held throughout the Jubilee Year.

Arrival of the Oblates

The Catholics in Sri Lanka, during their persecution under the Dutch, lived for 30 years without the presence of Catholic priests, until the arrival of St. Joseph Vaz in 1687 from India. Although the Catholics gained religious freedom after the arrival of the British in 1802, they could not readily expect many Catholic priests from India or from Europe. Such a situation compelled the Italian Oratorian Bishop Orazio Bettacchini, the new Vicar Apostolic of Jaffna, to go to Europe in 1845 in search of missionaries to serve the Catholics in the Vicariate of Jaffna.

Having failed to obtain help from the Congregation of Propaganda Fide in Rome, Bishop Bettacchini went to France. During his time in France, he met Bishop Berteaud of Tulle who told him to approach Bishop Eugene de Mazenod, the Founder of a new Congregation of priests, in Marseille, France, and who had a heart as big as St. Paul's, and tell him that it is a matter of saving the poor souls. Bishop Bettacchini did go to meet Bishop de Mazenod and his entreaty was in these words:

"Monsignor, I assure you that it is a matter concerning poor souls, very poor, the most abandoned, the most unfortunate on earth. Have pity on them and give them some missionaries. If your Oblates do not come, they will perish. In the name of Maty Immaculate save them!"

Bishop de Mazenod readily responded to that urgent missionary request, and sent four Oblates, led by Fr. Stephen SEMERIA. They arrived in Sri Lanka on 28 November 1847 and began their missionary labours beginning in Jaffna.

It is recorded that "Accompanied by three of his 'confreres', Frs. Joseph Alexandre CIAMIN, and Louis Marie KEATING, and the Lay Brother Gaspare DE STEPHANIS, and with Mgr. Bettacchini as the head of the missionary caravan, Fr. Semeria embarked at Marseilles on the 21st of October, 1847. Another three weeks were spent crossing the Indian Ocean and, on the 28th of November, 1847. The party disembarked at Galle, Sri Lanka, which, was, at the time, the port of call for vessels. Mgr. Bettacchini left Colombo on the 2nd of February, 1848, taking along with him his Oblate missionaries to Jaffna". (Phillips Jesuthasan, Gleanings from the Oblate mission field in Ceylon).

VIETNAM

Missionary Oblates serve ethnic groups in Vietnam

Missionary Oblate priests and volunteers are offering weekly breakfasts to patients at a public general hospital in Son La province's Muong La district in the deprived northwest region of Vietnam.

Wishes from the Superior General

Fr. Louis LOUGEN, the OMI Superior General sent his wishes and blessings on the occasion of the inauguration of the Jubilee Year. In his letter to the Oblates in Sri Lanka he recalled the words of St Eugene, written in 1847:

"What a field of labour is opening up before us ... in the most beautiful country of the world ... I foresee that one day this great island will become an endowment which our Congregation will sanctify entirely."

Fr. Lougen also wrote: "On your invitation for the 175th Jubilee Year, you have a theme inspired in the words of Pope Francis to the members of the 36th General Chapter in 2016: ...[M]ay the Lord allow you to write new pages that are as evangelically fruitful as those of your brothers who, over the past 200 years, have borne witness, sometimes even with blood, to that great love for Christ and for the Church. You have expressed the desire that you want to write new pages of evangelization with the creativity and commitment of St. Eugene."

"In light of the theme that you have chosen for this year, I pray the Lord to bless you with a three-fold grace: The grace of conversion, the grace of Mazenodian creativity, and the grace to be the most united family on earth" he further stated.

Journey with the Lord

At the end of the Holy Eucharist everybody joined in praying the Jubilee Prayer. Fr. Eugene BENEDICT, Provincial of Jaffna Province, and Fr. Roshan SILVA, Provincial of Colombo Province, were aptly supported by the Oblates and associates of both the Provinces to bring the day's proceedings to a successful completion.

"The program aims at providing nutritious meals for poor patients, especially ethnic Dao, Hmong, Muong and Thai villagers who lack food around the year, as a way to help them recover soon," said Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) Father Joseph BUI CONG DUNG.

He said parish priests and local volunteers have been preparing and serving chao, a traditional breakfast

dish of rice cooked with meat, fish and vegetables, to 200-400 patients since last September.

“Our food is small but a source of emotional support for patients we serve,” the 47-year-old priest added.

The volunteers are from the OMI Charity Group founded by the Oblates and the costs of the program are covered by benefactors.

The food-for-patients program was launched in 2019 and Father Dung said they have offered breakfasts at eight state-run hospitals in the five provinces of Dien Bien, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Phu Tho and Son La.

“We plan to serve chao at other hospitals in the future so that more and more patients will be fed,” the priest said.

Father Dung, who provides pastoral care for Ben Den Subparish in Lao Cai province, said local Oblates also pay part of the medical fees of seriously ill patients and build houses for those suffering from mental and physical disorders, orphans and elderly people without relatives. They are provided with a monthly allowance of 300,000 dong (US\$13) each.

Joseph Pham Van Duong, a group member based in Tan Uyen sub-parish in Lai Chau province, said he had offered instant noodles and eggs to a local hospital to feed Covid-19 patients quarantined in the hospital.

He said most patients are Hmong and Thai villagers who work in the hilly tracts and lack

food throughout the year. They have little access to education and health care. Their children have no warm clothes in cold weather and eat rice with water from the brooks.

The man, who works at building sites for a living, said there are seven Catholic communities in the district but none of them have a chapel. Local Catholics gather at his house to attend Masses celebrated by priests from Lai Chau Parish.

Priests are required to get government permits before paying pastoral visits to five Hmong villages. Father Dung, who was ordained in 2018, said local Oblates also launched a Tet food program for hundreds of families who were made jobless by the contagion. Families are given eggs, instant noodles, rice, milk, fish sauce, salt and confectionery to help them survive.

“We try our best to offer food to as many people as possible so that they have something to celebrate the Tet festival and look forward to a better life in the new year,” he said.

Mary Nguyen Thi Huyen, a benefactor from Thai Ha Parish in Hanoi, said she called on other people to make generous donations to “bring joy and warmth of the Tet to our beloved brothers and sisters who are in dire need of food to overcome the hard times.”

Huyen, who has worked with the local Oblates for years, said the charity group serves as a bridge between benefactors and local disadvantaged people. She has been learning about the customs, cultures and difficulties faced by ethnic groups since joining the group.

EUROPE

POLAND

The Calendar of the Three Religions published again

For the fifth time, representatives of three religions in the city of Poznań in Poland created a common calendar for the year 2022. The Missionary Oblates played a key role in actualizing this project. “Christians, Jews and

Muslims Together” is a publication unique in the scale of the country, the aim of which is to get to know each other better between people of different faiths and cultures. A presentation of the calendar took place at the Provincial House of the Missionaries Oblates in Poznań.

“Poznań is an open city, where there is room for everyone, regardless of socio-political views,

nationality or religion” said Jędrzej SolarSKI, Deputy Mayor of Poznań. “The inhabitants of the capital of Greater Poland support each other in particular in times of a pandemic. We can see this solidarity especially at the beginning of winter. I hope that the calendar will be - as in previous years - an impulse to better understand the cultural and religious diversity of the inhabitants of Poznań, as well as a reminder of the values that unite us” he added.

“Christians, Jews, Muslims together” is the result of a series of meetings between Youssef Chadid, imam of the local Muslim community, representative of the Jewish community in Poznań, and Fr. Marcin Wrzos, OMI. It is a unique publication, the purpose of which is to show the diversity and possibilities of peaceful life of followers of different religions side by side.

“In Poznań, a dialogue between Abrahamic religions has been going on for years. Every year, it gets expanded in small steps, even with the help of other Christian denominations. We are also supported by the teachings of Pope Francis”, emphasized Fr. Marcin Wrzos, co-founder and coordinator of the project.

This year's calendar has been called "Building Peace. Five years together". The slogan refers to the number of editions and at the same time announces the leitmotif of the publication.

“Peace is not only a state that signifies the absence of war between states or peoples, not only a state

that excludes conflicts and the use of violence, but also a state that signifies the possibility of different people living side by side. It is a state of internal harmony”. These are words of the creators written in the introduction of the calendar.

In addition to the Gregorian calendar, we also find in it a Muslim calendar, dated from the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Medina, and a Jewish one, counted from the beginning of the world. The publication contains the most important holidays of the three religions, lists the days of prayer - Sunday, Sabbath, assembly day - and the names of each month. In the part concerning Christians, there are holidays not only for Catholics, but also for Orthodox Christians, and Protestants. There are also distinguished dates of Polish national holidays and other important days, like Children's Day, Mother's Day or Father's Day.

The calendar is richly illustrated. The individual cards contain photos related to Poznań, explanations of the traditions, rites and prayers of each religion. This year, the calendar also has an introduction in English, making it available to a wider audience.

“I am grateful to the city authorities for cultivating the idea of multiculturalism and religious values that contribute to our society”, said Alicja Bromberger-Kobus, president of the Jewish Community in Poznań. “I wish you all the pleasure of using the unique Calendar of the Three Religions”, he added.



ANNIVERSARIES - JANUARY 2022

60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

26/01/1962	10009	Msgr. Louis Mbwôl-Mpasi	Congo
------------	-------	-------------------------	-------

25th Anniversaries of Vows

06/01/1997	13888	Fr. Emmanuel Thato Lefatle	Lesotho
06/01/1997	13889	Fr. Clement Ramotinyane Tampane	Lesotho
19/01/1997	13695	Fr. Antonio Genivaldo Cordeiro de Oliveira	Brazil
19/01/1997	13733	Msgr. Alberto Huamán Camayo	Peru

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

11/01/1997	13419	Fr. Varghese Cheruparamban	India
13/01/1997	13420	Fr. Tomy Thomas Kalloor	India

ANNIVERSARIES - FEBRUARY 2022

70th Anniversaries of Vows

17/02/1952	09861	Bro. Antoine Dominique	Haiti
------------	-------	------------------------	-------

70th Anniversaries of Ordinations

17/02/1952	08150	Fr. Tommaso Campagnuolo	Mediterranea
17/02/1952	08255	Fr. Georges Laudin	France
24/02/1952	08219	Fr. Oscar Pauwels	Lacombe

65th Anniversaries of Vows

02/02/1957	10824	Bro. Jerome Prazma	Lacombe
17/02/1957	10245	Fr. Roberto de Valicourt	Brazil

60th Anniversaries of Vows

17/02/1962	11372	Fr. Brian Duffey	Southern Africa
------------	-------	------------------	-----------------

50th Anniversaries of Vows

17/02/1972	12376	Msgr. Joseph Shikongo	Namibia
------------	-------	-----------------------	---------

25th Anniversaries of Vows

29/02/1996	13816	Fr. Sergio Avila	Mexico
29/02/1996	13691	Bro. Carlos María Barreto	Cruz del Sur
29/02/1996	13797	Fr. Ernesto J. Mendez	Mexico
29/02/1996	13653	Bro. Oscar A. Roca	Bolivie
03/02/1997	13743	Fr. Merlin Keith Ince	Haiti
03/02/1997	13744	Fr. Andries Taelo Kimane	Southern Africa
03/02/1997	13770	Fr. Mpundu Godfrey Sekula	United States

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

09/02/1997	13243	Fr. Tende-Tende Chrysostome Metre	Cruz del Sur
------------	-------	-----------------------------------	--------------

Suffrages for our Deceased (January-February 2022)

No. 01-14

NAME	PROV/DEL	DATE	DIED AT	BORN
Fr. Günther Klier	Central European	06/02/2022	Hünfeld	30/10/1941
Fr. Leo Dummer	United States	04/02/2022	San Antonio	07/09/1932
Fr. Anthony Schmidt	OMI Lacombe	01/02/2022	Saskatoon	12/07/1928
Fr. Sylvester Lewans	OMI Lacombe	26/01/2022	Saskatoon	31/12/1933
Fr. Price Dorismond	Haiti	23/01/2022	Camp-Perrin	11/08/1930
Fr. Cesar Ulises Silva Castillo	Mexico	22/01/2022	Mexico City	16/01/1983
Fr. Fernand Dufour	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	21/01/2022	Richelieu	14/12/1934
Fr. Gilles LeBlanc	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	20/01/2022	Richelieu	05/09/1927
Fr. James FitzPatrick	Australia	19/01/2022	Melbourne	07/02/1935
Fr. Anthony Chrysantha Fernando Colombo		17/01/2022	Gampaha	01/06/1957
Bro. James Lucas	United States	16/01/2022	Lowell	22/04/1932
Fr. Patrick Healy	United States	12/01/2022	Cambridge, MA	01/06/1921
Fr. Alexander Mariasavari	India	10/01/2022	Bengaluru	06/06/1960
Fr. M. Jean-Baptiste Mbwilanse	Congo	02/01/2022	Idiofa	05/05/1961

“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)

OMI INFORMATION is an unofficial publication
of the General Administration of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
via Aurelia 290, I 00165 Roma, Italy

Fax: (39) 06 39 37 53 22 E-mail: information@omigen.org

www.omiworld.org

Editor & Webmaster: Shanil Jayawardena

Circulation: Shanil Jayawardena