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**Letter of the Superior General
for the Celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
December 8, 2022**

LJC et MI

**WITH MARY, MISSIONARY PILGRIMS
OF HOPE IN COMMUNION**

Dear brother Oblates and all brothers and sisters of our charismatic family.

Today we greet Mary, “blessed among women”, as we contemplate the miracle of God's mercy in the mystery of her Immaculate Conception. We celebrate ourselves for having her as our mother and patron and we ask her to intercede for us as our mother.

In his talk during his audience to the capitulants of the 37th General Chapter, Pope Francis invited us to “take Mary as a traveling companion, so that she may always accompany you on your pilgrimage”. After recalling the episode of her “pilgrimage” to the home of Elizabeth, the pope told us: “May Mary also be for you an example in this, for your life and for your mission”. On this feast day, I want to get back on the road with Mary and with all our family, to gradually become such missionary pilgrims, sowers of hope in communion, as was the dream of our General Chapter.

The gospel text proposed by the pope tells of Mary's encounter with Elizabeth (Lk 1, 39-56). For many, this Gospel passage is an inspiring paradigm of the Church's missionary action. As for me, while participating in the life of the

Churches of North Africa, I have been able to attest to its fruitfulness. Called to bear, to announce and to share the mystery of salvation that dwells within us, we go out with haste to meet the “other”, placing ourselves at their service, as Mary did. It is a way that reveals Jesus' presence to us and invites us to leave in our wake the mark of hope and communion among us and with all of creation.

Walking, going out to meet the other and putting ourselves at their service, we discover our own identity. This is also how that portion of truth is revealed to us which the Spirit of God has sown in the other and that is offered to us as a gift. Walking with Jesus and with the other, always living communion as a gift and a task, we become pilgrim prophets, singing the praises of the Lord and announcing with our lives the new world and the new humanity that has already been born and that hopes to manifest itself in its fullness.

I would like to begin and continue a conversation with all the members of our shared family what contemplation of this Gospel passage brings us for our life and our mission. In the closing Eucharist of the General Chapter I was able to begin this dialogue. How nice it would be if, in our meetings during these holidays, we could dedicate some time to sharing the fruits of this contemplation. How nice if we could hear the echoes coming from all corners of our common home, from all our communities and institutions,

from all the expressions of our charismatic family. Let's be creative in putting on the common table what each one is discovering.

In these days, we will have in hand the Acts of the XXXVII General Chapter. We know that the acceptance of the chapter documents does not happen spontaneously; it is a grace that we have to learn to welcome. How do we do it? The chapter members strongly stated that all of them should be the first animators of this phase. It is evident that they are the privileged witnesses of everything that happened. Let's not be afraid of bothering them by asking them to share their experience! Let us listen to their stories; let us try to walk with them and ask for the grace to connect with their experience.

I believe that a good acceptance of the chapter document will occur when each and every member of our charismatic family becomes an animator of the post-chapter phase: animators because they have allowed themselves to be challenged by the Spirit; animators because they seek ways to put into practice creatively the proposed suggestions. All of us, then, are called to set out on the journey. Let us undertake this pilgrimage together and let us do it together with the poor, to renew ourselves in our vocation; to make our common home a livable home; to live as family the richness of our diversity, both cultural and within the various distinctive vocations which our charism embodies. Let us all walk as missionary pilgrims of hope in communion.

Will you allow me, in this phase of acceptance and post-chapter animation, to propose once again as a model what Mary experienced in the mystery of the "visitation"? She heard from the messenger some Good News that exceeded all expectations. Even without understanding everything, she confidently abandoned herself into the hands of God. While the Word was becoming flesh and her womanly body was changing to welcome him and nurture him in her womb, she set out in haste, overcoming the temptation of self-referentiality. Walking

with confidence, she let faith and hope grow in her heart, repeatedly remembering that "for God nothing is impossible". And in that pilgrim journey, Mary was a sacrament and an announcement of the presence of the Savior in our history. Putting herself at the service of Elizabeth, she received the gift of the confirmation of her own identity and later, the explosion of prophetic joy which became a hymn to a God who is both Holy and Merciful and who is bringing his creation to fullness and does so through the poor and the hungry, the simple and the humble.

Let us ask Mary to teach us to wholeheartedly welcome the grace of the last General Chapter. Let us walk with her, hand in hand, as Pope Francis proposes, putting ourselves at the service of the other and living the joy of being prophets of communion and hope. Let us grow in faith, hope and love as a charismatic family that wants to respond today to its vocation as missionaries to the poor by caring for our common home. I would like to invite you to accompany me with your prayer in the pilgrimage that I will undertake to embrace and show communion with our brothers in Ukraine. With them, I would also like to embrace all the members of our charismatic family who are on pilgrimage in difficult situations, in suffering, hit by all kinds of violent situations caused by injustices and human ambitions.

With Mary and with all our family saints and with those who have preceded us on this pilgrimage, let us walk the paths of service to the most abandoned, being sowers of hope and communion.

Happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Your pilgrim brother, in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, omi.
Superior General

204th Anniversary since the First Oblation in the Congregation

**Synodality is a time of pilgrimage,
hope, and communion.**

For several years, the General Committee of Oblate Brothers has been responsible for the animation of the anniversary of the 1st vows. The Oblate Brothers who participated in the General Chapter, worked on the reflection for this November 1st.

Introduction

November 1, 1818: an important date to speak and reflect on our consecrated life, a date that reminds us of the day when our Founder, St. Eugene, and his companion on the journey, Father Tempier, made and professed their first oblation. We need to remember and celebrate the anniversary of what happened in that memorable year of 1818, the first oblation; This anniversary should help us to deepen our missionary work in light of the current issues in the Church, such as synodality, and even more so in the context of the recent General Chapter: pilgrims of hope in communion.

Pope Francis has insisted in recent years on the importance of living in a spirit of encountering, listening, and involving all the people of God, that is to say, taking everyone into account. It is an invitation to journey and to be on a pilgrimage together as Church with the Holy Spirit as the protagonist.

We respond to this call after having experienced the General Chapter in Nemi, Italy. From September 14 to October 14, 2022, the theme was: Pilgrims of Hope in Communion. On the ecclesial level, this theme is fundamental. However, we must ask ourselves: How does this theme affect our Congregation? Can we also walk together?

We must reflect as Oblates of Mary Immaculate on this anniversary of the first oblation of our first fathers. It teaches us how indispensable it is to learn to walk together as Oblates, for we are missionaries, and as Church, which is herself

a pilgrim in the world and the very life of the people, walking towards the Risen Christ, and this in all the mission places where we live our charism: parishes, schools, care centers, etc.

Pope Francis consecrates the sixth chapter of his Apostolic Exhortation, "Christus visit," on the importance of the roots. In Panama, he told us, "I have exhorted you to "embrace your roots because it is from the roots that come to the strength that will make you grow, flourish, and bear fruit." (CV 186)

Synodality

As Oblates of Mary Immaculate, when we speak of synodality, we mean to recognize the plurality within our communities and that we are part of a whole. And proof of this was what we lived from September to October in the General Chapter because we lived synodality sharing our desires and concerns, with an attitude of listening and discernment, of participation and communion in the hope that moves us to continue forward on the path, uninstalling ourselves from our comfort, trying to take into account all the proposals and needs that exist in our units and regions: the work with the lay Oblates, with the young people, with the houses of formation, care of the common home (JPIC), the poor in their many faces and the Oblate brothers; where we all feel and know that we are part of the Church, for this reason, we can say that the Oblates are called to be builders of encounter, communion, and synodality.

Pilgrims

For more than 200 years, we have walked and pilgrimaged as missionaries in many countries, accompanying the People of God to make a journey of faith, hope, and love with them. And on this anniversary of oblation, we can make this pilgrimage journey remembering the time we have been in each country, remembering the traces we have left, bringing them to our present, to relive and reflect from the heart, which is the sacred place where we can contemplate and meditate on how wonderful our consecrated life is. "Listen to that inner voice that invites us

to leave our present place and make a journey towards God" (Retreat of the General Chapter, September 28). Throughout these years of pilgrimage, we can also recognize that we follow and are seeking God because we go out on a journey with others to help them find God. In other words, "living itself is a pilgrimage." As Oblates, we try to deepen the idea of pilgrimage, the path we have traveled throughout our history, and our consecrated life. Rereading our Oblate history reminds us of our first encounter and our first Love. And it is a moment of grace to be able to celebrate these 204 years of the first oblation, so with gratitude, we hope that God continues to inspire us always to be pilgrims in the world, bringing words of life, especially to the most challenging places, among the poor and abandoned.

In the Gospels, we can find how the same "Jesus went through all the surrounding villages teaching." (Mk 6:6) and inviting others to be part of the pilgrimage, for example, the group of twelve, whom he then sends (Mk 6:7-13). Since we profess our vows, we are also sent as pilgrims to all missions. And on this pilgrimage, God calls us and chooses us to spread the Good News of salvation to the whole world, especially those who have lost hope.

Hope

This hope is necessary to continue to advance in our pilgrimage with God. The hope we have as Oblates is that the good news of salvation will reach everywhere, to those difficult places. For this, it is good to remember the first moments when St. Eugene sent missionaries out of Provence to spread the news of the Kingdom of Heaven. As Jesus says: "Go into all the world" (Mt 28:19). As missionaries, we have a purpose, a path, and a destiny to reach: to live our charism and our spirituality with hope.

"This same Christian hope tells us that death is not the end. For we are the people of the Passover, of the Resurrection" (General Chapter Retreat September 28). Jesus tells his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You place your trust in God. Trust also in me. In my father's house, there are many dwelling places. If there

were not, would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself so that where I am, you may also be." (Jn.14;1-3). Here we understand that we are pilgrims of hope since our faith is not based on human arguments but on Christ. In this way, trusting in his presence, our hearts rejoice in what he has promised us, and so we transmit this hope, which we seek to witness to all God's people.

As Oblates, we are servants of hope; we gratefully welcome the life and missionary work with whom we work by living the evangelical councils and, above all, through the experience of charity, as our Founder asked in his last testament.

Communion

We are called to be one, working in communion as a team, helping each other, and leaving behind all pretensions of individualism and self-sufficiency. Therefore, we can clearly say that we are not five divided regions but a single Congregation that manifests the Kingdom of God.

Throughout our history, we have tried to live in communion, to live charity among ourselves; from our own experience of faith and community, we share the different moments of fraternal life. We draw close to one another, share life, joys, and sufferings, and remain united in prayer, where we create a bond of fraternity, communion, and communication. For consecrated life is always a grace that keeps us in communion despite our differences. God gathers us in this community as diverse people with the same faith. And this communion that we share finds its deepest roots in love and the unity of the Holy Trinity: "Love leads us to communion with God, and we are convinced that we cannot have communion with God if we are not in communion with our neighbor." (Retreat General Chapter September 28).

Communion is not only the encounter with the other or with those with whom we live and share, but it is an encounter with others, nature, the poor, and the abandoned. It is a communion that calls us to live with a big heart, open to

dialogue, solidarity, respect, and a continuous process of listening and commitment to society.

Conclusion

Therefore, we conclude that to live this process of synodality, that is, of being pilgrims in hope and communion, we must consider the qualities that we demand of our new Superior General. As consecrated Oblates who have the qualities of men of faith, prayer, and deep love of the Church, we are not afraid to embrace the experience of interculturality. We can read the signs of the times, we are passionate about the mission, and we embrace not an individualistic mission but a team mission founded on the charism of St. Eugene, who walks alongside the laity, who is enthusiastic, kind, simple, and close to them.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The De Mazenod Experience resumes in Aix!

After a long wait of two and a half years, after five cancelled sessions due to pandemic lockdown and its consequences, we have finally resumed the De Mazenod Experience! The oblate community at the foundation house welcomed eight missionaries from the Latin American and the Caribbean region, from the Paraguay sector of the CRUZ DEL SUR Province, from the Province of BRAZIL, from the BOLPER Delegation and from the Mission of CUBA. The animation team consisted of Edward TERREROS (Bolper), José Manuel CICUÉNDEZ (Venezuela) and Hipólito OLEA (International Community of Aix).

The experience was enriched by the participation of other Oblates, such as Jean Marie DIAKANOU who helped us to discover the city of Aix, Benoit DOSQUETS with the theme of Oblate Brothers, and Bernard DULIER who helped us to deepen some aspects of Bishop De Mazenod, Bishop of Marseille.

Part of the session coincided with the 37th General Chapter. We joined the whole congregation in praying for the good work of our brother capitulants. We received the

Pilgrims of hope in communion. May this anniversary be a time of grace, renewal, communion, and above all, a time to journey with the people of God. A time of intense prayer that is at the heart of every mission.

Questions for personal or group reflections:

- *What excites you most about life as a consecrated Oblate of Mary Immaculate?*
- *What challenges have you encountered living your pilgrimage of hope and communion within our Congregation?*
- *What are the barriers that impede the processes of synodality in our communities?*

news of the election of the Superior General and the members of the General Council with joy and gratitude.

After the 15-day retreat we had the visit of Fr. Alberto RUIZ from the Mediterranean Province, who shared with us the experience of the chapter. Towards the end of this experience, we were joined by the Superior General, who also encouraged us from what he experienced at the end of the chapter and in the mission of Western Sahara. Following on from the chapter, he also shared with us his vision of the congregation's challenges. In those last days we were also accompanied by the Founder's Crucifix. This was a beautiful opportunity for each one of us to personally close this time of grace in a very special way.

At the Oblate community in Aix, we are working to make the De Mazenod Experience a more meaningful space so that many Oblates may benefit from this time of grace, may they be able to pause and rediscover our historical roots. And so, with a renewed heart in our holy land, those Oblate pilgrims who have lived the experience can return full of joy and hope to live communion by giving themselves anew in their local communities and in the mission entrusted to them.

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

LESOTHO**Zambian Oblate Works to Ensure Fair Elections in Lesotho**

Zambian Oblate Fr. Barnabas Simatende, OMI, also Chairperson for the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia was recently interviewed by Lesotho National Television. Fr. Barnabas and the MISA team were in Lesotho to ensure protection of the media and improved working conditions for journalists during Lesotho's 2022 national elections held on October 7.

Fr. Barnabas is part of the OMI Delegation of Zambia, which is sponsored by the OMI US Province. He currently serves on the Delegation Council and is a priest at a local parish in the Livingstone diocese of Zambia.

The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) advocates for media freedom and freedom of expression in southern Africa. MISA programs have grown and now have a global outreach especially through its media violations monitoring program.

ASIA-OCEANIA

CHINA**First Hong Kong-born Oblate ordained to priesthood**

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HONG KONG (SE): Father Dominic Fung King-ho of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate was ordained a priest by Bishop Stephen Chow Sau Yan, sj, on December 3 at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Caine Road. He is the first Oblate priest to have been born and raised in Hong Kong since the congregation came to Hong Kong in 1966.

Bishop Chow, completing the first year of his episcopacy, expressed his happiness at the ordination of Father Fung, whom he first ordained a deacon year ago. Joseph Cardinal Zen Ze-kiun, the former Bishop of Hong Kong; Father Christian Fini, Provincial Superior of the Oblates of the Australian Province; Father Slawomir Kalisz, Delegation Superior and over 20 Oblates and other priests concelebrated the liturgy.

The liturgy began with Father Kalisz recommending Deacon Fung to the bishop for the order of priesthood. The bishop then explained the priestly duties to the elect. Fung professed before the congregation to be committed to his duties to follow Jesus Christ, shepherd the flock, proclaim the gospel, and be obedient to his bishop and superiors. Bishop Chow and the concelebrating clergy prayed for the elect through the imposition of hands after the choir led the congregation in singing the litany of the saints.

Father Kalisz; the vicar general, Father Paul Kam Po-wai; and the elect's parents, Fung Chi-hei and Chan Yam-ngor; assisted him in vesting with the priestly stole and chasuble. As the newly ordained knelt before the bishop in priestly vestments, Bishop Chow anointed his palms with holy Chrism, consecrating them to serve the people by administering the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The parents brought the chalice and the ciborium to the bishop, who offered them to the newly ordained, reminding him to conform his life to the mystery of the Lord's Cross.

The bishop and the clergy at the altar welcomed Father Fung into the priesthood of Jesus Christ with a fraternal kiss, which they all shared before he joined his parents for an emotional embrace.

An appointment letter for Father Fung, written on August 22 by the former superior general of the Oblates, Father Louis Logan, was then read out by Father Fini while Father Kalisz read its Chinese translation.

Father Fini thanked Bishop Chow for supporting the Oblates in the diocese and congratulated Father Kalisz for having a new priest after years of encouraging vocations and the formation of young people, following the spirit of their founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod. He also congratulated Father Fung on answering God's call. "Love the people of God, and allow the poor as the compass to your journey as a

priest. With those two things, you will never go wrong,” was his advice to the newly ordained, encouraging him to be dedicated to community life and the mission of evangelising the poor.

Father Kalisz said it was a special day as the first Oblate priest born and raised in Hong Kong was ordained that day. He thanked Father Fini for his presence. As the parish priest of St. Alfred’s Church, Tai Wai, he announced that Father Fung would be assigned to serve there and thanked him for his contributions. He encouraged Father Fung to be close to the poor, respect their values and wishes, and look for new ways to convey God’s words into their hearts.

Father Fung was overcome with emotion as he expressed gratitude to God and the people who stood by him during his vocation journey. He found it hard to believe that God showered him this great blessing to be his priest. He acknowledged that he could not have responded to the vocation alone without assistance from many others. He especially thanked the Oblate brothers for their acceptance and fraternal love, family and friends for their support, spiritual directors for their good examples and the formators in the Philippines and Hong Kong.

He had special words of gratitude for Cardinal Zen for showing him how to love the least by his example. He said he would never forget the cardinal’s care and concern when he got swollen feet after hiking with him and other young people during a formation camp. He was touched beyond words when the then-bishop of Hong Kong brought him hot water and medicine for his feet after dinner. He also thanked Father Kam for encouraging him to do small acts with love during the camp.

He thanked his parents, who taught him to be sensitive to the needs of others and be generous to others. “My anointed hands belong to God and every one of you. Let me serve you all, and this is my mission. Let’s accept this grace together and serve the Church in our own positions. I am not afraid of showing my weaknesses as in weaknesses we can see the power of God,” he said.

The father of the newly ordained said he was grateful for the priestly vocation of his son and his formation in the congregation. As Father Fung is

his only child, he felt a bit reluctant when his son shared his decision to discern his vocation. But after some consideration, he thought he should let him choose the path he loves.

He shared that they are dedicated to serving as parishioners of St. Lawrence Parish, Cheung Sha Wan. Until now, Father Fung’s mother often helps clean the parish up. He also said the Oblates regarded his family as one of them and often invited them to their activities.

Father Fung, who is 35-years-old, served as an altar server when he was young. He started to pursue his vocation in secondary school and attended several vocation camps. He later joined the Oblate youth group in 2006. He also participated in small vocation groups in the diocese to strengthen his prayer life and discern his vocation.

He worked at the Oblate Primary School for six years after graduating from secondary school and was attracted by the spirit of the congregation. His formation as a novice and subsequent training in philosophy and theology took place in the Philippines after joining the Oblates in 2014. He made his first vow in 2016 and returned to Hong Kong in 2018 after completing his training. He made his perpetual vows in September last year and was ordained a deacon in December 2021.

Apart from serving at St. Alfred’s, where he was assigned, he has also been helping at the Oblate Store in To Kwa Wan, which was set up last year to support the congregation’s ministry for the poor by distributing food packets to low-income families.

Father Fung celebrated his first Mass at 10:30am at St. Alfred’s Church on December 4.

A number of young people from Hong Kong have responded to their vocations in recent years and joined the Oblates. One will make his perpetual vow as an Oblate brother next year, while two more seminarians are receiving training in the Philippines.

Father Kalisz said the Oblates will keep encouraging young people to respond to their vocations with good examples, cultivating a sense of belonging to the Church and serving the poor.

COLOMBO

The Touch of the Jubilee of Simplicity

By Fr. James Jayasinghe, OMI

At times, more than mega events, simple and modest events can draw the interest of the general public. They touch their hearts and become an unforgettable memory of the past, while the highly organised events might simply remain in historical records.

When it was decided by the OMI Provincial Administrations of Colombo and Jaffna to withdraw from going ahead with the widely planned 175th jubilee activities of the Oblate presence in Sri Lanka at Our Lady of Lanka Basilica in Tewatte, things had gone too far beyond the point of no return according to some of us. The Jubilee Committees of both OMI Provinces have worked hard in collaboration to make the occasion of the Jubilee celebration, fixed for 01st December 2022, glamorous.

When a few Oblates directly expressed their counter views to having a grandeur event, it was also not difficult to read the sensitivity and the mind of the silent majority. Being with the ordinary people, they too have felt the ongoing adverse effects of the economic bankruptcy of the country, of the political and social instability resulting from the rising level of corruption, and of the loss of law and order threatening civilized living. The context, therefore, was not at all conducive to go ahead with the proposed jubilee celebration, though substantial amounts of resources and energy had already been spent for preliminaries. Lying beneath such a huge celebration, as rightly understood by the OMI Provincial administrations, were a counter witness to being with the poor and powerless, a betrayal of religious integrity, and a victimization of those who honour the contribution of the Oblates to the local church and the country.

Replacing that envisaged big occasion, a simple celebration was held on December 01st at De Mazenod Provincial House, Colombo, which went on very well in achieving all the esteemed objectives set for that previously planned event. The number of Oblates, belonging to

both Oblate Provinces, who turned up for their active participation in the simple ceremony was over one hundred. It was an amazing unity to see at these troubled times of the country. The collectively expressed Oblate family spirit was witnessed by all those present at the occasion. There was joy with the determined focus to get inspired and renewed by the glories of the past. There was the mutual sharing of the newly-emerged, ongoing challenges of Oblate ministries to seek guidance and moral support of one another. There was the realization of the new poor in the powerlessness of the silent majority who starve, who have lost their jobs, and whose children are denied of decent education and upbringing. Evangelizing the poor with haste was seen as a sacred and mandatory duty. There was also the public pledge to continue the powerful Oblate tradition of dwelling in the maternal care of the Blessed Mother, Mary.

The features of pomp and glory were absent at the celebration of the Eucharist, which was presided at by our own brother Oblate, Most Rev. Dr. Norbert M. Andradi, OMI, the Bishop of the Diocese of Anuradhapura. His immediate concelebrants at the altar were Very Rev. Fr. Henricus Asodo, OMI, the 2nd Assistant General, who unexpectedly joined with us in the midst of his busy schedule, the two Provincial Superiors, Frs. Roshan Silva, OMI, and Eugene Benedict OMI, and Fr. Pius Pohdueng, OMI, from the OMI Delegation of Bangladesh. At the end of the celebration, the closure of the 175th Jubilee Year was announced, and it detailed clearly the work which had been accomplished during the Jubilee Year in spite of the unforeseen obstacles which emerged from the situations of covid-19 and economic and political upheavals.

The simple meal shared at lunch, foregoing of the festivity, as a mark of Oblate missionary consciousness or an attempt to integrate 'Oblate Heart' with the poor was much appreciated. Some of us even went on to say that what we demonstrated on that day was full of prophetic and witnessing value. At the end of the day, one may say, 'Our stance of simplicity has brought us everything we need. What more do we need from an extravagant Jubilee celebration?'

CANADA-UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES
150th death anniversary of a great Oblate Missionary - Fr. Pierre Yves Kéralum, OMI (1817–1872)

Written by Robert Ellsberg, from the "Blessed Among Us" feature in the November 2022 issue of Give Us This Day www.giveusthisday.org (Collegetown, MN: Liturgical Press, 2022). Used with permission.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This November is the 150th anniversary of the disappearance and death of Fr. Pierre (Pedrito) Keralum OMI in the dense brushland of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. He was a pioneer Catholic missionary and church architect in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.)

Pierre Yves Kéralum, who was born in the Brittany region of France, trained as a skilled carpenter before answering a call to the priesthood at the age of thirty. After deciding to enter the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, he was ordained in 1852 and immediately assigned to the order's mission in Texas.

His first assignment was to Galveston, where he helped establish a Catholic seminary-college. Kéralum was skilled not only in carpentry but

in masonry and design, and he played a key role in building churches throughout Texas, including the Gothic-revival cathedrals in Brownsville and Laredo. He also joined other Oblates as circuit-riding missionaries, tending to Catholics on far-distant ranches and pueblos. The priests, who traveled by horseback, were known as the "Cavalry of Christ."

Fr. Kéralum was particularly beloved for his kindness, generosity toward the poor, and ardent faith. Msgr. Jean Odin, the first bishop of Texas, remarked to the Oblate superior: "The first time I met your Fr. Kéralum, I took a liking to him: he is so good, so candid and above all so respectful, that one cannot help but love him with a singular affection." That estimation was widely shared. The Mexican people called him "el Santo Padre Pedrito."

As he grew older, Fr. Kéralum's health and eyesight faltered. On November 12, 1872, he set out from a ranch. His riderless horse returned, but he was never seen again. Ten years later his remains were found in the wilderness.

"We must lead men to act like human beings, first of all, and then like Christians, and, finally, we must help them to become saints." —St. Eugene de Mazenod, in the 1825 Manuscript of the Rule of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

EUROPE

CENTRAL EUROPEAN PROVINCE
The European Mission Conference

The European Mission Conference (CEM) met at Nikolauskloster in Germany (Central European Province) for its annual session after two years of pandemic and no meetings.

Present were: Mariusz Bosek (Poland); Jagath Premanath Gunapala (Norway); Jean-Georges Zyilhoubé (France); Martin Moran (Anglo-Ireland); Athanasius Wedon-Jones (Germany); Pasquale Castrilli (Italy); Alberto Gnemmi, General Councillor for Europe; Vincent Gruber,

CIE provincial delegate to the CEM. Apologies were received from: Roman Tyczynski (Luxembourg); Serhiy Zakrachenko (Ukraine); Maciej DRZEWICZAK (JPIC).

Vincent Gruber recalled the history of the CEM and its aims in order to put the current situation into context. The President, Pasquale Castrilli, invited each member to introduce himself, given the arrival of two new members.

The priorities and orientations resulting from the joint CIE and General Council session of April 2022 in Florence were highlighted. Namely:

Strengthen and develop the place of the laity in the Oblate mission; Encourage and establish international intercultural communities; Meeting the challenges of secularization.

It was recalled the strengths and weaknesses of the Europe Region that were presented to the General Chapter in Nemi. Alberto Gnemmi, General Councillor also presented the follow-up to the theme "Pilgrims of Hope in Communion".

Pilgrims

In the light of *Evangelii Gaudium*, which invites us to revisit our Constitutions and Rules that we will celebrate in 2026 and which lead us to look at who we are. In particular, in response to the "Rescriptum ex audientia" of Pope Francis, dated May 18, 2022, Oblate Brothers are now eligible for all positions of responsibility in the Congregation.

Of hope

In the light of *Laudato Si'*, which moves us forward in the questions of the "Common House" of which JPIC is the concrete expression of our commitments to and with the poorest. The testimonies of the capitulants from Sri Lanka, Haiti and Ukraine were eloquent. Oblates risk their lives so that the poor may be served, fed and supported. This invites us to support young people and vocations and first formation. Restructuring must be done in view of the mission.

UKRAINE

Oblates continue to stay close to the suffering people

Fr. Witalij Podolan, O.M.I., the Delegation Superior of Ukraine, wrote the following letter explaining the current situation in the country.

Dear Brothers!

We wish to express our eternal gratitude for your support of our ministry in Ukraine to-day. Unfortunately, the war between truth and lies has been going on for over 6 months in our lands. People suffer and die in this war. Many people were forced to leave their homes and workplace, often escaping only with documents, even without things or food. Many of these people have found

In communion

Starting from *Fratelli Tutti*. It is necessary to develop a communion among ourselves / with God / with creation / with all humanity / with other confessions and those without religion. This obliges us to go further and to implement the proposals of the Oblate Lay Associates following their world gathering at the end of May and the presence of representatives at the General Chapter on Saturday, September 15.

Pasquale Castrilli, president of CEM, recalled the project of a CEM meeting for oblates in shrines and pilgrimages, initially planned for 2019 in Lourdes and already budgeted by CIE. The CEM members decided to reschedule this project in Lourdes and worked on its development and the call for speakers. It will be held from Tuesday 21 November to Thursday 23 November 2023 inclusive. By inviting one or two representatives from Oblate places, the participants could be around thirty. Provincials are invited, as well as members of the CEM, to contact the Oblates concerned to reserve these dates and participate.

The CEM participants were very happy to meet in a fraternal, caring and productive atmosphere. They plan to respond to the issues formulated at the joint session and at the General Chapter in an upcoming programming.

refuge in our churches and monasteries. Some have already returned to their homes to rebuild them and ask us to buy building materials such as windows, roof coverings, brick for rebuilding walls, and others.

Many people have lost their jobs and have no means of subsistence, so they come to our monasteries for food, personal hygiene, and clothes. In our religious house in Obukhiv, we cook food, which we later serve on the spot, and deliver meals to Kyiv, where it is distributed in various parts of the city.

In our other monastery, in Tyvriv, we provide guest rooms for refugees. Since February, several hundred people have found shelter. About 50 people are still forced to live there because they

cannot return to their towns and homes, which are located in the areas occupied by the Russian army. The families living in our house in Tyvriv do not have a job and no money to protect themselves, therefore they are fully dependent on us.

We spend quite a lot of money on the maintenance of refugees. Still, these people are currently unable to rent a flat or feed themselves, as many workplaces are closed or destroyed. We can continue to help such people thanks to your generosity.

Unfortunately, the war against Ukraine is still ongoing, and we do not know when it will

end. More and more people will continue to lose their flats, livelihoods, or even health, as was the case a few days ago, when a rocket fell near our monastery in Obukhiv, which not only destroyed neighboring buildings but also caused one person to lose a leg.

Thank you once again for your solidarity, financial support, and especially for your prayers, and we continue to ask for your prayers and assistance. May the good God reward you all a hundred times and protect all of you in peace.

With respect and prayers, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate from Ukraine.

UKRAINE

Superior General visits Ukraine

The Superior General of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Fr. Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO, visited the Delegation of Ukraine from the 3rd to the 9th of December 2022.

Accompanied by the Provincial of Poland, Fr. Paweł ZAJĄC, and the superior of the Ukraine Delegation, Fr. Vitaly PODOLYANA, he visited many Oblate communities and parishes in Ukraine. In each Oblate community he participated in the Eucharist, listened to the Oblates in fraternal meetings, and expressed his fullest support in this difficult situation, where people undergo immense pain and suffering.

A more significant visit among them all was to Chernihiv, a city that withstood a siege of almost 6 weeks. Accompanied by Fr. Petro VRUBLEVSKY, Fr. Chicho had the opportunity to see with his own eyes the destruction caused by shelling and battles with the aggressor. The Oblates remained in the city despite the continuous shelling, and their monastery became a place of refuge for the local population. In the underground, they ate together, slept, prayed, and celebrated the Eucharist together. During the community meeting, the Superior General took time to listen to the testimony of the missionaries. He also visited Chernihiv parishioners who shared with him their dreadful memories.

Among other visits, Fr. Chicho met the Oblates who serve in the parish of St. Nicholas in Kyiv

and participated in the Holy Eucharist on the feast of St. Nicholas. Despite the bomb alerts, many parishioners came to the church to thank God for His protection and to express gratitude to the Oblate missionaries for their uninterrupted presence during the Russian aggression.

In his address to the faithful, Father General said:

I am proud of the work of my Oblate confreres in Ukraine, that they stayed with the people in such difficult times, that they are with you and close to you. When I was elected Superior General of our Congregation, flying from the Western Sahara to the General Chapter since I was not a participant in the Chapter, I immediately wanted to visit my fellow Oblates in Ukraine and their places of ministry in a country afflicted by the wounds of war.

In their thanks, one of the parishioners said the following:

We are grateful to the Polish Province for constantly sending missionaries to Ukraine and to our parish, where work is very difficult because the church has not yet been returned [to the Catholics] by the Ukrainian government. We ask you to continue to remember us, that people in Ukraine need God, they need Oblate missionaries.

The liturgy was broadcast both on the Catholic television channel EWTN Ukraine, which is run by the Missionary Oblates, and the local radio station Radio Maryja.

On the day of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, Fr. Chicho was with the community in Tyvri, where the Eucharist was presided over by the Oblate Bishop, Radoslav ZMITROVICH.

During his visit, the Superior General took time to meet with the displaced from different regions. He also did not forget to speak over

the phone with some fellow Oblates from the occupied territories, as there was no possibility of visiting them.

The Oblate missionaries in Ukraine were full of appreciation for the new leader of the Congregation for choosing the Ukraine as the place of his first pastoral visit, and expressing solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine.

OBLATE MISSION WITH YOUTH Called to discern God's call

Fr. Eduardo Núñez-Yepes OMI

The Oblate European Commission for Youth and Vocations held its annual autumn meeting from 3-9 November at the house of spirituality Santa Maria dell'Acero Valettri, Rome. Youth representatives from the Oblate units of Europe were present at the meeting, along with the Oblatas and the OMMIs.

This annual meeting is always an opportunity to share what we do in each Oblate unit in our mission with young people, it is also a good time to share life, history, prayer and strong moments of encounter with God.

The meeting was marked by the joy and enthusiasm of the young people, each one was able to present the reality of their country and the work they do with young people.

We also worked on the theme of Discernment and how we can help young people in their different contexts to discern God's call in their lives. Sister Inmaculada, from the Oblatas gave

us a masterly presentation on the theme of discernment and gave us many tools to work on this theme in our units. After our reflection on discernment, a working group has been set up to work on a common vision or guidelines of action on the theme of vocational discernment based on the Oblate charism, which will help the Oblate units in Europe in their mission with young people. Sister Inmaculada, together with young members of the commission, will be in charge of drawing up this document.

During our meeting, we also had the opportunity to visit the community of Marino. The Oblates welcomed us with great joy and as true brothers. They shared with us the story of Marino and their intention to offer young people an experience of community where the values of the Gospel can be lived. Together we celebrated the diversity of our cultures through traditional food from each of our countries. It was certainly a special moment!

We are now preparing with enthusiasm to be able to animate the WYD in each of our units.

The next autumn meeting will be held on 26-31 October 2023 in Nikolaskloster, Germany.

LATIN AMERICA

CUBA 25 years of the Oblate presence.

In December 2022, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate celebrated 25 years of their missionary presence in Cuba.

To incarnate ourselves in the people and the Church of Cuba - this was the first objective of the first missionary group that arrived on the island on 15 December 1997.

The Oblates were invited to found their mission in Cuba as early as the 70's of the last century, but for various reasons, it was not until 1995, at the Intercapitular meeting, that the Major Superiors accepted the commitment, entrusting the Province of Haiti to take on this new mission. On the advice of the Cuban bishops, the Mexican province also joined in this responsibility.

The mission of Cuba was officially promulgated by the Provincial Superior of Mexico, Fr.

Vicente Louwagie OMI, on 26 July 1997 at a Eucharistic celebration in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Thus began the new Oblate adventure in Cuba. The missionary group was composed of 6 Oblates: 4 priests and 2 scholastics. Gilberto Piñón, superior of the new mission (Mexico), Fr. Pablo Fuentes (Argentina), Fr. Adrián Difícil (Haiti), Fr. Daniel Díaz (Mexico), two Haitian scholastics Claudio Gilbert and Ocelin Civil. After their arrival, the Oblates participated in an inculturation workshop for all the foreign agents who had entered Cuba that year, organized by Bishop Emilio Aranguren Echeverría, bishop of Cienfuegos at that time. We thank Bishop Emilio for welcoming and accompanying the Oblates on their arrival in Cuba.

Although today there is no longer an Oblate presence in these places, it is worth mentioning the three missions where the Oblates began in Cuba: Parish of San José, Abreus, Cienfuegos (Diocese of Cienfuegos); Parish of San José, Martí, Matanzas (Diocese of Matanzas); Parish of San José, Yaguajay, Sancti Spiritus (Diocese of Santa Clara).

The beginning of 1998 was filled with joy and hope because of the visit of Pope St. John Paul II in Cuba, there was a large return of the faithful to the churches and mission houses and the number of recipients of the Sacraments increased.

In August 1999, the Oblates decided to leave the mission in Cienfuegos and begin a new commitment in the Archdiocese of Havana, in the parish of San Isidro, Managua. This change allowed us to accompany Brother Jesús Ernesto, who decided to stay in Cuba and continue his theological studies at the National Seminary of San Carlos. In 2003 he was ordained deacon in the parish of San Isidro de Managua by the Cardinal of Havana Jaime Ortega and later ordained priest in Mexico.

In the year 2000, the Oblate Congress that was held in Mexico, allowed for an evaluation of the mission on the island. The Oblates of Cuba determined as their greatest challenge: How to be a Missionary Oblate in the present day context in Cuba?

This question expresses the quest of the missionaries to find their place in the Cuban Church and to maintain the necessary personnel for the mission. The years that followed brought great difficulties in this area. We had several Oblates who for a time supported the mission, but for various reasons (health, personal situation, difficulties in living and doing pastoral work, etc.) they returned to their provinces.

In November 2003, the Oblate Congress of the province of Mexico was held where Fr. Gilberto Piñón was elected provincial, and so he had to leave the mission in January 2004. With this election, Fr. Adrián was appointed as the new superior of the mission.

The year 2005 brought us an invitation for a new mission in the diocese of Pinar del Rio. The Oblates re-established themselves in the community of Los Palacios, where they continue to carry out their mission to this day.

The following year, it was decided to leave the Matanzas mission. Also in 2006, the Superior of the mission, Father Adrián, decided to return to his province of Haiti. Father Daniel was appointed the new Superior. That same year, the province of Haiti ended, for the time being, its participation in the Cuban mission due to the lack of available personnel, and the Province of Mexico took over the administration of the mission.

These changes, though difficult and demanding, helped us to confirm our commitment to the Cuban mission, for in 2007 we celebrated ten years since the arrival of the Oblates in Cuba.

In 2011, Father Alberto took over the responsibility for the mission. At the end of March 2012 Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Cuba, we rallied from all over the island to the celebrations which marked another milestone in the Cuban Church; a wider participation in the life of the communities.

It was also a year of other changes, with the presence of Fr. Provincial and the Councilor for Latin America, Fr. Miguel Fritz, it was decided to return to Havana and conclude the mission in Yaguajay, which was one of the first to be undertaken in Cuba. A new mission was accepted in the province of Mayabeque. In August, Father Loorthusami from India and Deacon Isidro

from Mexico, arrived to join the mission. For a very short time we had the presence of Father Florencio Robles (Mexico) and in 2013 Father Gerardo Lestrat from Canada.

The following year, 2014, new missionaries were incorporated to maintain the mission in Cuba. Fathers Roger Halle (USA), who 25 years ago, as provincial of Haiti, accepted to open the new mission on the island, and Wilmar Gama (Brazil) arrived. In March 2015, we saw the arrival of Brother Darío Pérez (Guatemala) who, in a short time, was ordained deacon here in Cuba. Ulises Silva (Mexico) was recently ordained priest in San Antonio Texas.

The year 2015 brought us the visit of Pope Francis to encourage our faith and also the proposal of Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino to take on three parishes in the area of the Eastern beaches in Havana Capital.

In 2016 Fr. Wilmar Gama was appointed Superior of the mission in Cuba. Father General Luis Lougen visited us in 2017. After visiting the communities we serve we had a meeting on: discernment of the mission, the question of personnel, the houses, the laity and the challenges in Cuba. His 5-day visit left us gratified and hopeful. It is the year in which we gratefully celebrated the 20th anniversary of the arrival of the Oblates in Cuba.

In May 2018, the second meeting of the country's lay associates was held in Peñalver, Havana, with a large number of people from different parishes with an Oblate presence.

After several years, Father Gilberto returned to the mission to accompany the community of Los Palacios. The Havana community moved to Cojímar in 2019. From this place, the communities of East Havana continue to be served. The same year also saw the arrival of the first Oblate from Sri Lanka, Father Shihan Shanaka. In 2020, Father Gilberto left the mission and also Father Alberto, who, after almost 17 years in the mission in Cuba, received his new obedience for the formation house in Guatemala. In March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic reached Cuba, forcing us to close our churches and pastoral centres and to stay at home. In

Cojímar, Father Wilmar was accompanied by two prenovices from Brazil: Jassiel and Cleber. Roger and Shihan in Los Palacios were accompanied by the scholastic Rony from Guatemala for their missionary regency.

Father Nicholas Harding from the United States arrived in 2021 to support the mission for one year.

In the following year 2022, Father Tomasz Szafranski from Poland received his new obedience for the mission in Cuba, and after a few months he was appointed Superior of the mission. At the end of October another Pole, Fr. Ireneusz Dampc, came to work in the Cuban mission after several years in China.

This year allows us, little by little, to attend more to our communities and to open up pastoral spaces. Two scholastics, Gabriel and Doroteo, accompanied us during the summer, and also with us, in his year of missionary regency, is the scholastic Jacobo from Mexico. The young Sri Lankan priest Justin is also now in Cuba and is expecting to obtain visa to go to Mexico.

To Incarnate ourselves in the people and the Church of Cuba. What was assumed 25 years ago, as the most important objective by the pioneers of the mission in Cuba, continues to be so for the missionaries who serve in this island. Today, those of us in the Cuban mission feel the importance of continuing this missionary adventure that our brothers started 25 years ago. We are grateful to each one of them who have left their footprints and have given us directions to continue sowing the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of the people of this beautiful island. We thank so many people, believers and non-believers, who have accompanied us throughout these 25 years, who have welcomed us and helped us to get rooted in Cuba. We thank the Cuban Church: the bishops, our brother diocesan priests, the religious and all the People of God for helping and accompanying us during these years. Thank you!

My thanks to the fathers: Gilberto Piñón, Daniel Díaz and Alberto Montiel for their historical accounts that allowed me to write this article.

PARAGUAY**Fr. Miguel FRITZ, O.M.I. as Apostolic Administrator of Pilcomayo**

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has accepted the resignation of His Excellency Mons. Lucio ALFERT, O.M.I. from the pastoral government of the Apostolic Vicariate of Pilcomayo and, at the same time, has appointed Father Miguel FRITZ, O.M.I. as Apostolic Administrator sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis (i.e. at the discretion of the Holy See) of the same Vicariate.

The news was published on Friday 18 November 2022, at 12:00 Rome time, in the edition of L'Osservatore Romano (Bulletin of the Holy See).

From the headquarters of the Vicariate, the announcement was made by Bishop Alfert in the presence of Fr. Fritz and some representatives of the clergy, religious and faithful. Afterwards, in the Cathedral of Mariscal Estigarribia, the Eucharistic celebration for the installation of the Apostolic Administrator took place.

Fr. Miguel Fritz has served in the OMI General Administration as the General Councilor for Latin America from 2010 to 2016.

The Apostolic Nuncio conveyed to Mons. Lucio Alfert the gratitude of the Holy Father and also his personal thanks for his long and generous service in this Vicariate and, at the same time, hopes that Father Miguel Fritz will be able to carry out his pastoral work as Apostolic Administrator with success.

Curriculum vitae of Fr Miguel FRITZ, OMI

- Born on: 10/05/1955 in Hannover - Germany
Religious Formation and Profession:

- Novitiate: 11/10/1974, Gelsenkirchen, Germany

- First Profession: 02/11/1975, Mainz, OMI Province of Germany

- Studies in philosophy and theology: Gutenberg University, Mainz - Germany (Diploma in Theology and Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology)

- Final profession: 01/11/1980, Mainz, Germany

- Religious Congregation: Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.)

Ordination:

- Ordained deacon: 02/11/1980, Mainz, Germany

- Ordained priest: 28/05/1981, Mainz, Germany

Ministerial Services:

- 1981-1984: Parish priest, Gelsenkirchen, Germany

- 1985-1987: Parochial Vicar, Colonia Independencia, Villarrica - Paraguay

- 1987-1988: Oblate formation house in Lambaré, Asuncion

- 1988-1994: Vicar of Santa Maria Parish, Mariscal Estigarribia - Paraguay

- 1994-1995: Sabbatical year

- 1995-2006: Delegate Vicar of the Apostolic Vicariate of Plicomayo and Parish Priest of Santa María Parish, Mariscal Estigarribia - Paraguay

- 2007-2010: Superior of the Province of Paraguay

- 2010-2016: Member of the General Council, Casa Generalizia, Rome - Italy

- 2016-2022: Vicar Delegate of the Apostolic Vicariate of Plicomayo and Parish Priest of the Parish San Leonardo, Fischat - Paraguay.



ANNIVERSARIES - DECEMBER 2022

65th Anniversaries of Ordinations

21/12/1957	09449	Fr. Michel Courvoisier	France
21/12/1957	09035	Fr. Léo Laberge	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

60th Anniversaries of Vows

08/12/1962	11707	Bro. Michel Babin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

22/12/1962	10143	Fr. John Castro	United States
22/12/1962	10144	Fr. Ruben Elizondo	Mexico
22/12/1962	10305	Fr. Jean-Guy Lavoie	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
22/12/1962	10304	Fr. Rodrigo Marcoux	Mexico
22/12/1962	10145	Fr. Gerard Weber	United States

50th Anniversaries of Ordinations

08/12/1972	11875	Fr. Kenneth Hannon	United States
24/12/1972	11500	Fr. Raúl Castro	Cruz del Sur
27/12/1972	11977	Fr. Angelo Daddio	Mediterranean
30/12/1972	11709	Fr. Ignatius Selialia	Lesotho

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

06/12/1997	13459	Fr. Callistus Dominic Khathali	Southern Africa
06/12/1997	13395	Fr. Mokone Joseph Rathokoa	General Administration
11/12/1997	13483	Fr. Lawrence Mariasosai	United States
14/12/1997	13458	Fr. Alphonse Luxama	Haiti
14/12/1997	13450	Fr. Antoine Saint-Hilaire	Haiti
14/12/1997	13383	Fr. Martin Wolf	General Administration
21/12/1997	13461	Fr. Publio Anibal Cazuriaga	Cruz del Sur
27/12/1997	13478	Fr. Joseph Bouré Damba	Mediterranean

ANNIVERSARIES - JANUARY 2023

65th Anniversaries of Vows

06/01/1958	10410	Fr. Antony Lisema Matsoso	Lesotho
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65th Anniversaries of Ordinations

02/01/1958	08858	Fr. Joseph Bouvet	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
19/01/1958	09036	Fr. Fermin del Blanco	Mediterranean

60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

20/01/1963	10320	Fr. Roger Hallée	United States
20/01/1963	10318	Fr. John Louis Henault	Haiti

25th Anniversaries of Vows

06/01/1998	13954	Fr. Peter Khahliso Mothai	Southern Africa
17/01/1998	13771	Fr. José Roberto Araújo da Silva	Brazil
17/01/1998	13755	Fr. Cardoso Pereira de Sousa	Brazil
17/01/1998	13806	Fr. José de Paulo Viana	Brazil
25/01/1998	13804	Fr. Manuel Jesús Fuertes Astocondor	Peru

Suffrages for our Deceased - November-December 2022

No. 82-94

NAME	DATE	DIED AT	BORN	PROV/DEL
Fr. Anton Thevaraj Fredric	05/11/2022	Colombo	25/05/1966	Jaffna
Fr. Jacob Thiruchelvam	06/11/2022	Jaffna	29/07/1943	Colombo
Fr. John Archbold	17/11/2022	Perth	09/10/1933	Australia
Bro. Johannes Mohlalisi	18/11/2022	Maseru	03/01/1932	Lesotho
Bro. Henri Bisson	23/11/2022	Winnipeg	15/11/1930	Lacombe
Fr. José De Fruyt	24/11/2022	Waregem	04/02/1941	Belgium & Netherlands
Fr. John Rozmyslowski	04/12/2022	Toronto	20/06/1939	Assumption
Bro. Hugo Vandenbranden	12/12/2022	Waregem	10/07/1940	Belgium & Netherlands
Fr. Francis Kavanagh	20/12/2022	Ottawa	04/02/1927	Lacombe
Fr. Francis Demers	24/12/2022	Tewksbury	06/09/1928	United States
Fr. Fortunato Alonso	26/12/2022	Madrid	02/02/1925	Mediterranean
Fr. Anthony Jayamanne	30/12/2022	Colombo	05/10/1943	Colombo

“They are before God, bearing the sign, the kind of character proper to our Institute, the vows common to all its members, the firm habit of the same virtues.

We are linked to them by the bonds of a special charity.

They are still our brothers and we are theirs.

They now live in our mother-house, our main residence.

The prayers and the love they retain for us will one day draw us to them and we shall live in our place of rest together with them.”

(Letter of Founder to Fr. Courtès, 22 July 1828)



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