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OBLATE YOUTH IN CONVERSATION WITH THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

The Superior General, Fr. Chicho, converses with Oblate Youth in Pozuelo. Here is the script of that conversation with the questions asked by the young people and Fr Chicho's answers.

Thank you: Dear young people and Oblates. First, I am grateful for this opportunity to address you before we set sail for Lisbon.

My Hope: The young people of our Mazenodian family play a crucial role in this moment of our history. I will repeat it many times in Lisbon when young people worldwide join us, but I want it to be clear from the beginning. I wish the young people would be at our pilgrimage's head. I want them to help us fulfil the dreams of the last General Chapter, which invites us to be "Pilgrims of Hope in Communion."

Pozuelo: Today, we find ourselves in Pozuelo, in the house of the young martyrs who, with their lives, bore witness to Jesus. The organizers of this meeting asked me to motivate you all to face the challenges of the mission with the youth.

I invite you to walk with the martyrs, befriend them, and make them your guides and companions on the journey. Ask them to intercede with their prayers before God so that we may receive divine help and, in this way, strengthen our friendship with Jesus and respond to his invitation to be sent on a mission. I want to talk to each of you and get closer to your hearts, but above all, I wish this moment to be an authentic encounter with Jesus and the Martyrs.

Some of you have asked me some questions that helped me prepare for today. I want to ask those of you who gave me questions to come forward so I may publicly respond to your questions. Thank you!

What do you like the most about being an Oblate, and since you have become superior General of a worldwide congregation, what task have you had to undertake that you never thought you would?

What I like the most about being an Oblate is that God has called me to undertake the same mission he gave to his son, Jesus. To preach in a community the Gospel to the poor. Firstly, I am grateful that Jesus has invited me to be his companion and deeply love him daily. CRR no. 2 invites us to recognise him daily and allow him to dwell within us. I love that Jesus teaches me daily how to live the Gospel, which has stayed with me since we began that first community in Aluche, Saint Leandro. "Live the Gospel!"

My friend Jesus has sent me to the poor, and I am happy when I am among the poor. For example, recently, I was in Bangladesh, where they washed my feet like never before... The poor have taught me how to love Jesus better. I rejoice that Jesus has called me to live in community with his commandment of love: Charity and Obedience—the founder's witness.

I became Superior General, already knowing what is expected of a Superior General because I had the opportunity to work closely with a couple of Superior Generals for 12 years.

However, I want to express all my gratitude to God for this great opportunity he has given me to live and, more specifically, to live this life joyfully. When I was elected, I told myself: Chicho, God is giving you a new mission. He trusts you and is giving you an opportunity for conversion. The only way to respond to this is to persevere in everything to be a saint. So therefore, I try to learn as much as I can from the Oblate saints so that I may see how they accomplished it.

We find ourselves in the house of the martyrs who are now saints. Did they do something special to deserve martyrdom? No, they continued to do what they did every day: Pray, show charity, celebrate the Eucharist, confession, etc. They lived joyfully while God slowly prepared them to become like him in offering up their lives: they, too, forgave their persecutors. I invite you all to be saints and to follow the Gospel, just like the martyrs. Let your daily lives breathe the love of Jesus, and let yourselves be transformed by him.

As you know, the number of Oblates is reducing in some of our communities in the Mediterranean Province. What can the young people do to animate and revitalise our communities?

That is an excellent question. I would prefer that you give me the answer. This is something you can reflect on in the coming days so that you can implement something when you get back home. What can young people do to animate our communities? What can they offer to the Oblate Family?

First, we need to come out of ourselves and stop thinking about what others can do for us and instead think about what we can do for others. Whenever I visit an Oblate community, I remember that old saying: "There is no poor person who has nothing to offer and no rich person who does not need something." In the words of Saint Francis, "Grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled than to console, to be loved more than to love."

I am reminded of something beautiful found in our CCRR: To persevere in our charism, we always need to consider how to make the life and apostolate of our brother in the community happier. That is to say; we have to make sure that the Other is a happy Oblate in his life and mission or that a young Oblate finds joy in his life and mission. I am convinced we can do this together.

I was reminded again of the Oblate Martyrs. During their moments of trial, they stuck with each other. When one wanted to abandon everything and escape, another would help him see the big picture if they carried out with it. Let us be encouraged by their example in offering themselves and mutually supporting each other during moments of trial and tribulation.

Why don't you all take a moment to reflect on the following: "How does God want me to help my brother become happier, more saintly, and a better missionary?" Should I pray more for him? Should I be a better example? Should I speak to him? Should I take more concrete action in his confrontation? Now in the coming days, try to put these things into practice. Try to do the same in your communities, groups, movements, etc.

How can we discern our mission with the Lay Oblates in our local communities? Spain has always sent missionaries. Missionaries were formed here and sent to every corner of the world. However, this is no longer the case in Spain or the rest of Europe, which is becoming increasingly secular daily. They are now mission territory. As young Oblates, how can we respond to the challenges of evangelizing our neighbourhoods so that in 30 years, we don't say to ourselves, "If only"?

As Father General, what are your main preoccupations and objectives? As the one responsible for a worldwide Congregation, what is your direction for the Missionary Oblates and the young oblates in the next 20 to 30 years?

Thanks again for these questions reflecting your love for the Mazenodian Family. On the one hand, I don't have any other direction than the one set forth by the last General Chapter, which asks us to be "Pilgrims of Hope in Communion." On the other hand, my desire for the Young Oblates is that they reflect that first community of Aix when Young People and Oblates walked together. That is to say; I invite you all to walk with us so that together we can be pilgrims of hope in communion.

If I had to describe it all with one word, I would say "Saints". I want that we all be saints. Saints that live in the community as missionaries close to the people. I do not know what will happen in the next 20 to 30 years, but as Pope Francis reminds us, "It is not up to us to see the end of our journey; we simply have to begin the process." I have some dreams, but I am convinced you young people will accomplish more than I could ever imagine.

It helps me to think again of the Martyrs of Pozuelo. They all wanted to go on a foreign mission. That was their dream. Physically they never went to foreign missions, but they did fulfil their dream in a way they probably never conceived. If their lives hadn't been cut short, they would have gone to foreign missions like many of their companions whom I knew. And let me tell you all that their companions who survived their witness became the driving force in the mission because they were fulfilling the dreams of their companions.

As martyrs, they became faithful missionaries because the true missionary was a saint, and now they are going to every nation and period. How many have invoked them from places they never imagined, remembering their examples and asking for their intercession? We must do the same. We must dream high but let ourselves be surprised by God, who will fulfil our dreams his way.

At what moment did it dawn on you that God had this new vocation for you, and how did you receive it?

It helps to put the election of a Superior General in the same perspective as Mary's yes[...] It is like being another Mary to fulfil God's plan and like Mary following Jesus to the cross to be later a mother to the entire Church and every man and woman.

It is essential to live the days of WYD in Lisbon with this same audacity because even the Pope has proposed Mary as our model to be young people in the Church. After all, that was the motif in the background of Mary's visiting her cousin Elizabeth, which I encourage you to meditate on often.

Mary walks next to us. Better yet, she takes us by the hand and walks with us just like she did with the Martyrs. How many times did they hold a rosary and pray it? Mary comforted and protected them all the way. Just like Mary accompanied the Martyrs, she accompanies us and invites us to live with the sureness of our vocation and mission in the Church.

Thank you, and may God bless you all with St. Eugene's cross!

*Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO, OMI
Superior General,*

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fr. General to meet Oblate Youth in Lisbon

It's nearly World Youth Day again! And Fr. Chicho, our Superior General, will also be there! And he is so looking forward to being at the Oblate Youth Meeting in Lisbon.

In the recent past, whenever there was a World Youth Day, Oblate Youth would usually gather a week before the actual World Youth Day activities. Local Oblates would organize and host such a gathering; as we saw in Poland, Brazil, Spain, and Australia, these are special days of encounter as Oblate Youth, where we get to share, deepen and experience the Oblate charism.

Unfortunately, this year, because we have no Oblate missionaries in Portugal, it became challenging to organize such a gathering. However, as the European Commission for the

Mission with Youth and Vocations (CPJVE), we could not allow this moment to pass by. Still, after many difficulties, we secured a venue to be together as Oblate Youth with Our Superior General.

We, with this invite and encourage you to participate in the Oblate Youth Meeting during World Youth Day in Lisbon. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet, share, and enjoy. It will undoubtedly help us experience the Oblate charism and our international spirit uniquely!

We are looking forward to seeing you all there in great numbers!

Fr. Patryk OSDANIK, OMI (President of CPJVE)

De Mazenod Experience in French

The first post-COVID De Mazenod Experience (DMX) in French was held in Aix-en-Provence from April 18 to June 16, 2023.

Oblates gathered in Aix-en-Provence from different nationalities working at home and abroad: for example, Cameroun, Haiti, Brazil, Madagascar, Vietnam, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, along with Congo Brazzaville.

The De Mazenod Experience (DMX) is one of the General Administration's services entrusted for its animation to the Oblate International Community of Aix. It is a time of spiritual renewal, lived in Aix, the 'Holy Land' of the Oblates.

It aims primarily at enabling participants to look back over their experience of the Oblate charism in the everyday life of their mission and ministry. They do so in an atmosphere of

prayer, reflection, and fraternal sharing.

The DMX is, above all, an "Experience" rather than a course. Participants are invited to experience the Oblate charism instead of studying it. The Experience takes place in Aix, in the house where it all began. The participants make pilgrimages to the sites of historic Oblate interest, walking in the footsteps and breathing the same air as our Founder and his first companions.

The DMX is one of the recommended ongoing formation programs for the Oblates. Its program responds to the call of article no.47 of our Constitutions and Rules, which states that "Formation is a process which aims at the integral growth of a person and lasts a lifetime... It involves us in an ever-renewed conversion to the Gospel."

Bro. Jean-Marie DIAKANOU, OMI

Superior General to Oblate Youth: “SEE YOU IN LISBON!”

The Superior General, Fr. Chicho, releases a message to the OMI Youth participating at the World Youth Day, to be held in Lisbon on August 1-6, 2023.

“I am also on my way and looking forward to meeting you all!”

In his short message sent to the OMI Youth participating at the WYD, the Superior General announces his excitement about meeting the young people in Lisbon during the Oblate encounter, which will take place on August 1 at Parque de Jogos. “I am also on my way and looking forward to meeting you all!” says Fr. Chicho.

“Thank you for your availability and your generosity!”

The Superior General further expresses his gratitude and offers words of encouragement to all Oblates accompanying the Youth to Lisbon; “I extend my sincere gratitude to all Oblates who are journeying with our young people during these days. Thank you for your availability and your generosity!”

“I kindly invite the entire Oblate family to accompany us with prayers.”

Concluding his message, the Superior General appeals to the whole Oblate family to pray for our young pilgrims as he entrusts them to our Blessed Mother and St. Eugene. “I kindly invite the entire Oblate family to accompany us with prayers.”

Here’s the Superior General’s message:

Dear young people and Oblates.

WYD Lisbon is about to begin, and many have started their journey to make our dream come true. I am also on my way and looking forward to meeting you all. Thank you for making this dream come true! I extend my sincere gratitude to all Oblates journeying with our young people these days.

Thank you for your availability and your generosity! I kindly invite the entire Oblate family to accompany us with prayers. I ask our Immaculate Mother, St. Eugene and all our Blessed Oblates to protect us on this pilgrimage of hope in communion.

See you in Lisbon! God bless you all.

The Superior General arrived in Pozuelo on Thursday morning, where he will spend the next few days with some 270 young people from various Oblate communities in Italy and Spain, and then together, they will set off for Lisbon. This gathering is a sign for our congregation that the charism is still alive and continues to conquer the hearts of so many young people with the desire that some feel called to follow Christ through our charism.

We accompany our Superior General and all WYD pilgrims with our prayers.

OMIWORLD

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

Fr. Marcellus Nwaohuocha, OMI: Update and Gratitude

The superior of the Oblate mission in Nigeria has sent a message in which he updates the Oblate family on the condition of Fr. Marcellus OMI. At the same time, he offers

his heartfelt gratitude for the support and prayers. He also appeals for more prayers for the Church and its mission in Nigeria.

The message reads as follows:

*KIDNAPPED OBLATE IN NIGERIA
MISSION: REPORT AND APPRECIATION*

Fr. Marcellus NWAOHUOCHA, OMI, has been discharged from the hospital after receiving intensive healthcare.

Recall that Fr. Marcellus was kidnapped from his parish rectory in Bomo Plateau State, Nigeria, by unknown gunmen on Saturday, June 17th, 2023. The miscreants horrendously gunned down the parish watchman, Mr. Jacob Adandi (may he rest in peace), and mercilessly beat Fr. Marcellus before taking him to an unknown location. He was held in bondage in a bush, enduring heavy rain and starvation for three days. Fr. Marcellus was left half-dead until his liberation on Tuesday, June 20th, 2023.

My dear brothers, I must emphasize that our brother's survival can only be attributed to divine intervention. While the assailants were brutally assaulting him, they openly declared their intention to kill him. The severe and multiple cuts on his head witness this horrifying ordeal.

With great joy and gratitude, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your prayers and support. I am deeply thankful to Fr. General, Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO, OMI, for his fatherly care. He has constantly communicated and accompanied us during these challenging moments in our Nigerian mission. I also sincerely thank Fr. KAPENA, the

General Councillor for Africa-Madagascar, for his brotherly concern. My warm appreciation goes to Fr. Ferdinand OWONO-NDIH, our Provincial Superior, for his unwavering support. I also express immense gratitude to the Nigeria Council [Frs. Chukwu Christopher and Uzor Chrys], all the oblates, those working in Nigeria, particularly Frs. Anigbogu Francis, Nguele Anicet, Fr. Obi Gabriel, and Sch. Nyanga, for their various roles and generous support. My immense gratitude to the entire Oblate family and friends; your prayers, concern, and support deeply touched us.

Lastly, I invite you to continue praying for and supporting us in our mission in Nigeria. The attacks on Christians have been truly disheartening in recent times. Since 2009, 52,250 Christians have been killed in Nigeria due to their faith by Islamist extremists. As of April 18th, 2023, La Croix reported that a thousand Christians had been killed in Nigeria in the first 100 days of this year.

In this country, we, the Oblates, strive to live out our Oblate Charism in the face of insecurity and multifaceted challenges stemming from fundamentalism and socio-political and religious crises. Let us remain united in prayer, as Christ's mission must continue, and our fraternal solidarity as pilgrims of hope in communion remains our guiding principle.

*P. Peter-Claver Osinachi ANUCHA, OMI
(Superior Misión oblata Nigeria)*

**LESOTHO
Consecration of Lesotho to the Blessed Virgin Mary**

His Grace, Archbishop Gerard TLALI LEROTHOLI, OMI, will preside over a Eucharistic celebration during which Lesotho and the entire Basotho nation will be re-consecrated to the Blessed Mother.

This event will occur on Saturday, 8th July 2023, at St. Louis Roman Catholic Church in Matsieng, Lesotho. The 1st consecration of Lesotho was a response to a request made by the Founder of the Basotho nation, King

Moshoeshoe I. It took place in 1865 on the occasion of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Bishop Jean Francois Allard, OMI, led the consecration ceremony, then the Vicar Apostolic of the Vicariate of Natal, Republic of South Africa.

The re-consecration event coincides with two grand celebrations for the Basotho nation. First, it marks the 60th birthday jubilee of the reigning Basotho king, King Letsie III. Secondly, it marks the celebration of the King's Silver Jubilee, 25 years on the throne as the king of the Basotho nation.

During the re-consecration ceremony, it is envisioned that the Bishop of Maseru, His Grace, Archbishop LEROTHOLI, OMI, will then invoke special blessings over His Majesty, King Letsie III, and the Royal family and the entire Basotho nation.

Then there will be the recitation of 1000 Hail Marys followed by a brief narration of the history of the 1st consecration, which took place in 1865 and led by 1st Oblate Missionaries in Lesotho.

BOTSWANA

MAMI member visits the General House

Ms. Magdeline Setsetse is a member of the Missionary Associates of Mary Immaculate (MAMI) in Botswana.

She recently visited Rome where she participated at the General Assembly for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul representing Botswana in her capacity as National President of SVDP. In this article she beautifully shares with us her experience of hospitality and gratitude to the General House community.

A VISIT TO OBLATES' GENERAL HOUSE – ROME

It was on 18th June 2023 when I concluded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul General Assembly and Election of the 17th President General, representing Botswana as the National President. As a member of Missionary Associates of Mary Immaculate (MAMI), I felt it appropriate to visit the Oblates General House before returning back home.

The welcoming and hospitality I received from my Oblate Brothers was overwhelming. They treated me like a Queen, indeed I felt like a queen that week. The other exceptional experience was the sense of Community in the house. All my brothers pray together, celebrate the Holy Eucharist together and eat together. This is done collectively without seniority, race or position. It was humbling to be amongst so many men of God and sharing their routine and

In his diary Fr. Joseph Gérard, OMI recalls this historical event, “In the evening, we had a beautiful procession in honor of the most Holy Virgin. We read a consecration of the nation, of the person of King Moshoeshoe, of his subjects, etc., to the Blessed Virgin. This made everyone happy.” (February 1868. Diary of Father Gerard at Roma Mission, pg.72).

Khotso, Pula, Nala – peace, rain, and abundance.

Fr. Lekhotla Constantinus NTHETE, OMI

Spirituality with so much ease.

I have always been attracted to the Charism of St Eugene de Mazenod, evangelizing the poor and the marginalized but never experienced the diversity of our Oblate Brothers from different parts of the world staying together as a family. Indeed, the Mazenodian family is a unique and lifestyle project.

A tour of their magnificent house covers all that the OMI Founders had in mind when they started the Mission. The Chapel, as big as some of our local churches, with a beautiful Statue of our Mother Mary and our Patroness. Another highlight was the Archives and Record Keeping Studio. In this special place, the first hand written letters by St Eugene to the Pope then, are still safely kept. The amount of record keeping from all over the world is amazing. I bet, had I requested to see records for when Oblates started in Botswana, they would have pulled them out easily. Keep up this history Oblates, it means a lot about your vocation.

Allow me to single out my host, Rev. Fr Kapena Shimbome, OMI, General Councilor for Africa/Madagascar. I don't know how to express my gratitude and appreciation for his selfless hosting. He dedicated his whole time that week to take me and show me most of the holy places in Rome. I have been to Rome before on a Pilgrimage, but this time it was exceptional. We had all the time to pray and understand the history behind the magnificent Basilicas that we visited.

The highlight of the many places that we visited was the visit to Assisi. I have never felt so blessed and anointed by being in a place where great men and woman of God grew up and walked in the streets that they used in their time. Saint Francis of Assisi, one of the venerated religious figures of the Catholic Church and one of the Patron Saints for Italy.

Saint Clare of Assisi, the founder for Order of Poor Ladies, currently known as Poor Clares. My first encounter with the Sisters of Poor Clares was in Namibia in 2004. I couldn't understand how young and old Reverend Sisters walked bare footed, sat on the floor without mats with so much humility. I have been to the root of their Religious vocation, now it is clearer.

I always make a turn at their Convent at Brakwater, Windhoek whenever I visit Namibia.

I wish I had all the English words to express my appreciation for the hospitality I got from my Oblate Brothers. You are a God chosen Community. I am proud to be a Lay Associate Member of this family. We keep praying for more young men to discern and answer the Vocation to join Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK YOU MY OBLATE BROTHERS.

Ms. Magdeline Setsetse (MAMI)

ASIA - OCEANIA

HONG KONG

Hong Kong Oblates first in-person retreat post COVID

After nearly three years of living through a pandemic, 12 Oblates from Hong Kong, mainland China, and Australia gathered for their first in-person retreat since the pandemic, preached by Fr. Marco Ortiz OMI.

Perhaps the only phrase most people remember from Qohelet is his infamous and often misquoted refrain, "vanity of vanities, everything is vanity." However, Qohelet also says, "Eat, drink, and find enjoyment." This refrain was the theme chosen for the annual retreat of the OMI Hong Kong delegation.

After nearly three years of living through a pandemic, 12 Oblates from Hong Kong, mainland China, and Australia gathered for their first in-person retreat since the pandemic. The entire delegation, with their provincial Fr.

Christian Fini OMI and the retreat master Fr. Marco Ortiz, OMI, gathered from 7 – 12 May 2023, in a retreat center run by the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres for a time of prayer, reflection, and fraternity.

The Oblates of the delegation are involved in various ministries, from Parishes to teaching and working with the homeless and those affected by addiction. Although the common language is English, all of them have some level of Cantonese Chinese.

The interculturality reality of the Congregation is reflected in the delegation, they represent 7 nationalities. Amongst them were two young native Oblates representing the two lungs of our congregation: brothers and priests. As they detached from their daily ministries, Qohelet's words served as a reminder that despite life's struggles, hardships, and challenges, we need to remember that everything is a gift from God.

The retreat centered upon Qohelet's tripartite refrain "Eat, Drink, and enjoy" and the joys of religious life. As a way of entering into the spirit of the theme, the delegation journeyed with two unlikely companions from the 1970s dark comedy "Harold and Maude." On the one hand, Harold, obsessed with death, is looking for life. And on the other hand, Maude, obsessed with life, is looking forward to death.

Harold and Maude journey together finding meaning and joy in all that life gives. This is the message of Qohelet, and the key to religious

life, finding joy in the ordinary of everything.

Eating, drinking, and enjoying is not a pass to act carelessly instead, it is a call to the basics of human existence. The joys of religious life are not found in the extraordinary but in the ordinary. As the Psalmist reminds us, "How very good and pleasant when brothers live together in true unity" (Psalm 133:1).

Fr. Marco ORTIZ, OMI

BANGLADESH

The Superior General in Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Oblate family welcomes the successor of St. Eugene de Mazenod, Fr. Chicho, on the occasion of their 50 years of missionary evangelizing presence and service to the Church in Bangladesh.

The Oblate Delegation of Bangladesh inaugurated their Golden Jubilee year of the Oblate presence in the country on July 29, 2022, in Lokhipur Parish. The first Oblates arrived in the country on July 29, 1973. Oblates are currently serving in four dioceses in Bangladesh: the Archdiocese of Dhaka, the Archdiocese of Chattagram, the Diocese of Sylhet and the Diocese of Rajshahi.

On his arrival, in Dhaka, on Wednesday, July 5, the Superior General was warmly and joyfully welcomed by Frs. Ajit Costa OMI (Delegation Superior), Pius Pohdueng OMI, and Rupak Rozario, OMI.

Over the past few days, he has dedicated most of his time to visiting Oblate missions and meeting with Oblates and the Mazenodian family in Bangladesh. The Superior General has prioritized listening to individual Oblates, affirming them, and appreciating who they are and what they do. This visit has allowed the Superior General to know and appreciate this Delegation.

In his reflections, he has continuously invited the Oblates and the lay associates "to center their life, vocation, and mission on Jesus Christ and be a blessing to others." Using the words of our founder, he has called on the Oblate charismatic family in Bangladesh to "strive to be fully human, authentic Christians who burn with desire for sanctity."

In one of his homilies during Mass, Fr. Chicho exhorted all present, saying, "Let our lives be a thanksgiving to God. As members of the Oblate family, we all share the same charism of St. Eugene." Addressing the MAMI members, he told them, "You teach us the charism. We learn from you about our charism. Be our collaborators. Let us together witness our missionary vocation."

Venerating and being blessed by the Founder's Oblate Cross has been the highlight and a moment of great consolation for those who have been able to meet the Superior General in Bangladesh.

The words of our Constitution number 8 have taken on more profound meaning and are at the heart of the Superior General as he continues his pilgrimage of gratitude in Bangladesh. "We will always be close to the people with whom we work, considering their values and aspirations. To seek out new ways for the Word of God to reach their hearts often calls for daring; to present Gospel demands in all clarity should never intimidate us.

Awareness of our own shortcomings humbles us, yet God's power makes us confident as we strive to bring all people – especially the poor – to full consciousness of their dignity as human beings and as sons and daughters of God.”

The closing ceremony of the Jubilee Year will take place on July 21, 2023, at De Mazenod Church in Dhaka. After which, the Superior General will return to Rome. We accompany Fr. Chicho and the Delegation of Bangladesh with our prayers.

OMIWORLD

COLOMBO

New Oblate venture in the field of education

The Oblates of Colombo Province in Sri Lanka dedicate themselves to evangelizing the poor through quality education, irrespective of their ethnicity or creed, so that they can be protagonists of a better life with hope for tomorrow.

The OIHL is an institute of higher learning promoting humanitarian values, knowledge and skills to serve humanity in a creative way thereby responding to contemporary needs in the Sri Lankan church and in the secular society.

The origin of the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning dates back to 2016, when the late Rev. Dr. Oswald Firth OMI established it, focusing on national reconciliation and peacebuilding in post-war Sri Lanka. It is situated in the Western province of Minuwangoda, Sri Lanka. The fundamental dream was to develop the institute into a fully furnished higher education institute that would cater to the academic needs of the poor and middle-income earners. Committed to the purpose of “being the heart of innovative learning to serve humanity,” especially to those at the margins of society.

Immersion in religious and spiritual formation
The Oblate Institute of Higher Learning aims at excellence in studies, character formation, as well as human and spiritual growth for

each student. It also serves to form religious men and women on Sri Lankan soil. Not only Catholic students but also Buddhist students have enrolled themselves in our institute to pursue their studies. A course on spirituality and a diploma in formation for renewal in our curriculum offer precious opportunities for the Oblates and the religious of other congregations here to immerse themselves in religious studies and spiritual formation.

The Oblate Institute of Higher Learning has designed several courses, such as diplomas in psychological counseling, teacher formation, English for entrepreneurs, courses on computer study, bookkeeping, and accounts, and English for post-ordinary-level students and post-advanced level students, maintaining the time demands of the local context. It enables us as the Oblates to uplift the needy to be better off in society.

We dedicate ourselves following in the footprints of our blessed founder, St. Eugene De Mazenod, to evangelize and strengthen the poor irrespective of their ethnicity or creed so that they can be protagonists of a better life with hope for tomorrow.

Fr. Charuka Namal, OMI

AORC Webinar on Safeguarding and the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

On Thursday, the 13th of July, the AORC (Asia Oceania Regional Conference) had its first webinar on the subject of Safeguarding and the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Twenty-five participants heard a presentation by Mrs. Megan VARDANEGA, who the Australian Province employed as Safeguarding Coordinator. She explained the processes, development, and implementation of policies within the Australian context, which have helped the Province navigate the various National requirements.

Fr. Sakubita LIKE, OMI, the Procurator General, followed with a presentation explaining the need for the world, following the initiatives

of Pope Francis, to engage and actively adopt policies that will allow us to create a culture of 'Protection' within our local ministries. Using Canon Law, he was able to help us understand that what we are now seeking to achieve has always been enshrined in law and is a basic right of justice for all.

Fr. LIKE emphasized three key areas to be addressed by each Unit:

1. Good policies and procedures to be implemented well;
2. Capacity building for Oblates in the Unit;
3. Reporting mechanisms in place.

The discussion that followed demonstrated that the region is prepared to work towards the creation of policies that will form all Oblates, be they in First Formation or ministry, to understand and apply this extraordinary 'good' that needs to be adopted.

Fr. Eric ALLEAUME, OMI

BANGLADESH Celebrating 50 Years of Oblate Presence in Bangladesh

On Wednesday, 19 July 2023, Oblates in Bangladesh, Frs Ajit, Dilip, and Rocky, held a Live online conversation in the presence of the Superior General, Fr. Chicho.

The local Oblates took time to passionately share their gratitude with the whole Oblate family on the occasion of the 50 years of Oblate presence in their country and to share their experience of God's grace, which has accompanied them for the past 50 years.

The Oblate Delegation of Bangladesh inaugurated their Golden Jubilee year of the Oblate presence in the country on July 29, 2022, in Lokhipur Parish. The first Oblates

arrived in the country on July 29, 1973.

Oblates currently serve in four dioceses in Bangladesh: the Archdiocese of Dhaka, the Archdiocese of Chattagram, the Diocese of Sylhet, and the Diocese of Rajshahi.

In his message to the members of the Delegation, the Superior General invited them, in the words of Pope Francis, "to look at the past with gratitude, the present with passion, and to embrace the future with hope."

Fr. Tony Ortiz, OMI hosted the online conversation; he allowed each guest to voice their gratitude for the good achieved over the past 50 years, their passion for the present, and their hopes for the future.

OMIWORLD

BANGLADESH**“In the name of God, let us be saints!”**

The Superior General, Fr. Chicho, recently visited the Oblate Delegation of Bangladesh to celebrate 50 Years of Oblate presence in Bangladesh. Here is the message delivered by the Superior General at the closing ceremony of the Jubilee Year, on Friday, July 21, 2023 at De Mazenod Church in Dhaka.

Superior General's Message to the Delegation of Bangladesh:

Dear brothers and sisters of the different religious Congregations. Dear laity and my dearest Oblates and members of our charismatic family in Bangladesh.

It is with joy that I join in the jubilee celebration of the Oblate presence and with me our entire Congregation. Celebrating 50 years of presence in Bangladesh is both a cause for rejoicing for us and a challenge to continue to develop that seed planted by the first pioneer Oblate missionaries which has now grown into a flourishing tree. As Pope Francis proposed once ago, I would now like to invite all of you to look at our past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.

Looking at the past with gratitude:

Looking at the past with gratitude: remembering the history of the pioneers, the first steps of the mission, its development, in short, its history, leads us to give thanks to God for all His works and to recognize what God has done in us Oblates for the good of the poorest to whom we serve and for the good of the Church in Bangladesh. Surely not everything has been good and holy because of our weakness or inadequacy and for that we must humbly ask forgiveness. This makes God's work all the more evident and beautiful when we contemplate all the good that has been done for the Church, for the poor, the life of holiness and missionary zeal of those who have gone before us and the vocations that have strongly incarnated the Oblate charism in Bangladesh. With Mary, we give thanks to God and sing Magnificat !

Living the present with passion:

Living the present with passion is an invitation to live our Oblate vocation with enthusiasm. Let us live with passion our love for Jesus, Mary, the Church, the poor. Let us live with passion in community our religious vows by which we commit ourselves to live evangelically. Let us live our mission with passion and let us allow ourselves to be evangelized by the poorest. Let us live with passion our charism, as pilgrims of hope in communion, in a Synodal Church here in Bangladesh.

Embracing the future with hope:

To embrace the future with hope is to make an act of trust in God who will not cease to send his grace, as long as we are faithful to the charism we have received. The company of our Oblate saints and blessed Oblates who have gone before us are a source of hope for us and their intercession helps us to be more daring to walk in creating fraternity with all men and women of our humanity, with all believers of different religions and taking care of the most vulnerable and of all the creation. We must try everything, our founder would say, to extend the Kingdom of Christ and the saints show us the way. With St Eugene de Mazenod I dare to say to my Oblate brothers and the lay people member of our charismatic family: In the name of God, let us be saints for the good of the Church and for the good of the poor. May Mary Immaculate, our Mother and Patroness, accompany us on this pilgrimage of hope in communion. Thank you and God bless you all.

*Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO, OMI
Superior General*

Australia**Oblate Youth: From Holy Land to Holy Land**

As pilgrims of Hope in communion, the Oblate Youth of Australia began their journey to WYD in Lisbon with a pilgrimage to Israel to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and culminating in a pilgrimage to Aix-en-Provence “the Oblate Holy Land.”

For eight days, they have journeyed with Sacred Scripture visiting the Holy Land. The Oblate Youth set out to discover the “5th gospel” in order to live in a unique way the love of Jesus Christ, which impassioned St. Eugene de Mazenod.

St. Eugene’s first homily after his ordination as on Christmas 1811. The Oblate Youth began

their pilgrimage remembering St. Eugene’s words to his mother when he entered the seminary in 1808, where he describes his love for the nativity of Jesus. Their pilgrimage in Jesus’ Holy Land will end with the celebration of the Eucharist commemorating Jesus’ sending his disciples to all the ends of the world and, as such, entering more deeply into the Oblate charism of being sent to evangelise.

Accompanying the Forty-Eight young pilgrims is the Bishop of Wagga Diocese, Rev. Mark Edwards, OMI and Frs Christian Fini, OMI, Provincial Superior of the Australian Province, Connell Perry, from the Diocese of Wagga, Josh Nash OMI, and Tony Ortiz, OMI.

Tony ORTIZ, OMI

CANADA - US**Oblate reappointed Secretary General of the (POPF)**

Fr. Tadeusz NOWAK, OMI, was reappointed Secretary General of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith (POPF).

Fr. Tadeusz (Fr. Ted) is a Polish-Canadian Oblate, originally from the Assumption Province, a member of the General House community, and has been working at the Vatican since 2010. He has served as Secretary General of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of Faith (POPF) for over 5 ½ years.

His duties in this portfolio are varied, but he is chiefly responsible for the equitable distribution of the funds collected on Mission Sunday and by other local initiatives of the National Directors. These funds are destined for subsidies to Young/New Churches in Africa, Asia, and most of Oceania (except Australia).

As Secretary, Fr. Ted has many other duties, including overseeing the office of the General Secretariat. We congratulate Fr. Ted and wish him all the best as he begins his new mandate.

OMIWORLD

Tijuana: Over 200 Oblate youth participated in SEARCH 19

Recently over 200 youth and young adults participated in SEARCH 19. SEARCH is a retreat that ministers to young people and has yielded many great conversions over the last 10 years.

The retreat features power speakers, creative interactions, and healing activities and often culminates with the attendees discovering they have a real purpose in their lives.

Fr. Jesse OMI, who started SEARCH and continues to lead it, often tells young people that, “what God wants for you is so much better than what you want for yourself.”

He explains that they need to listen to God, think of others, and get out of their comfort zone. Retreatants are given the chance to go to confession and communion after they have listened to testimonials about changed lives and the importance of the God-centered life.

This retreat was led by Mildred Juarez, a graduate of the Oblate's scholarship program, where she got her psychology degree. Mildred relays that one attendee told her that she had felt lonely her whole life and had been searching for God. This retreat made her realize that God is with her and has always been with her.

Mildred also says having psychology services available in a spiritual setting is helpful to attendees that struggle with wounds, suicidal thoughts, or other issues that they just have never had an outlet to speak about. Many attendees discover that they are surrounded by people going through or having been through the same things they are dealing with, and that helps them open up during the retreat.

Near the end of the retreat, attendees are given the chance to share their testimony and often, through tears, offer apologies and ask their families and others for forgiveness. They go on to commit to helping others in the same way they have been helped. Retreatants often stay connected with the church by helping with future SEARCH retreats and getting involved in other ministries at the church.

Many of the services offered through the parish, including the scholarship program, psychology sessions, medical services, food distribution, roof replacement, and various educational classes, were either started by or are now continued by young people who went to one of the 19 previous SEARCH retreats since 2012.

OMIWORLD

EUROPE

POZUELO

Oblate Youth to celebrate the charism before WYD

The youth ministry of the Mediterranean Province wanted to prepare together in participation for WYD 2023, which will take place in Lisbon, by organizing a gathering in the days leading up to the WYD in our Oblate community in Pozuelo (Madrid).

Some 270 young people from various Oblate communities in Italy and Spain will meet from July 28 to 31 in Pozuelo de Alarcón, and then together, they will set off for Lisbon with the hopes that their encounter with the Pope may renew their vocation as young Oblates in the mission and with the desire to continue proclaiming to all young people that Christ is our life.

The response from young people exceeded all expectations, so we are grateful and enthusiastic. The preparatory committee spent months thinking about all the details of this meeting, which is intended to be festive and family oriented. The presence of Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, Fr.

Gennaro Rosato, provincial, and other members of the congregation and province leadership fills us with joy. It makes us feel part of this great charismatic family.

This meeting is a sign for our congregation that the charism is still alive and continues to conquer the hearts of so many young people with the desire that some feel called to follow Christ from our charism. We will be accompanied during these days by the examples of the Oblate martyrs of Spain and the Virgin Mary, who "rose and left without delay," as this year's WYD motto reminds us. Both will help us strengthen our missionary zeal and teach us how to reach out to the poorest and most abandoned of our world.

Three intense days of prayer, sharing, formation, visits to Madrid and Paracuellos del Jarama, parties, fun, and encounters will strengthen our bonds so that we can continue to walk together as young people of the Mediterranean province as pilgrims of hope in communion.

Javier MONTERO INFANTES, OMI

POZUELO**Oblate Martyrs speak to young people**

From July 28 to 31, Oblate Youth of the Mediterranean Province have been enjoying their particular “pre-WYD”, a meeting before the WYD that will take place in Lisbon. Belén gives us the highlights of the first day of their gathering.

Meeting and getting to know each other
Friday evening was the day of gathering and getting to know other young people living the same faith a few kilometres away. After the welcome and dinner, we enjoyed an evening of Spanish and Italian songs and dances.

The main focus of Saturday was the Oblate martyrs of Pozuelo. After morning prayer, we highlighted their sacrifice for Christ, recalling the importance of giving one’s life for love wherever God wants. The grain that dies bears fruit, and we are called to be fruitful seeds.

POZUELO**Oblate Youth deepening the charism**

On Sunday, July 30, 2023, the Oblate Youth of the Mediterranean Province, still in Pozuelo preparing for WYD in Lisbon, had a morning full of small workshops to deepen their understanding of the charism. Marcos gives us the highlights of their last day in Pozuelo.

We broke out into small groups, and for an hour and a half, we discussed six major themes: vocations, the care for our common home, the community, youth for youth, evangelization and the poor, and the question of who are the young Oblates.

Afterward, we gathered with the rest of the community in front of the monument to our martyrs and celebrated the Holy Eucharist presided by none other than Fr. Chicho, our Superior General.

After breakfast, where Spaniards and Italians could share food and conversation, we set off for Paracuellos del Jarama. We were warmly welcomed in the cemetery where the martyrs were buried. We are grateful for being able to visit the place where they gave testimony of their faith, love of Christ, and forgiveness of the militiamen, which today serves as an example for us to live as Christians in our daily lives.

At the cemetery, we prayed the Stations of the Cross, following the steps taken by the martyrs on November 1936. We meditated on the Gospel passages and the Preface of the Constitutions and Rules of the Oblates. Then we celebrated the Eucharist in two languages but with a common language: the love of God who gives himself in his body and blood.

Belén Cazorla

Belén Cazorla is a teacher, a young woman from the parish of Aluche, and a coordinator of young Oblates.

In his beautiful homily, he stressed three main points based on the readings of the XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time:

- 1) We must recognize that the hidden treasure and the precious pearl Jesus mentions in the Gospel is Himself and to see how, when one discovers it, one leaves everything to place it at the center of one’s life, just like the Martyrs did.
- 2) We must always ask the Lord, like Solomon, for a docile heart and the gift of discernment of good and evil.
- 3) As Christians, we should not forget, as St. Paul tells us, that for those whom God loves, everything works for good because we are called by baptism to be the image of Jesus for each other.

After this beautiful family meeting, we had a free afternoon for whoever wanted to visit Madrid. Our meeting ended in the evening, with

our hearts already looking towards Lisbon, with a moment of celebration. We are now ready for what awaits us next week!

We will set out for the Portuguese capital, keeping in our hearts those words that echoed

in the recent Oblate General Chapter, which Fr. Chicho passionately reminds us: “We are pilgrims of hope in communion.”

Marcos Vilariño

LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

Retreat in preparation for Perpetual Vows

Young Oblates from the Interprovincial Conference of Latin America (CIAL) have gathered in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia for a 30-day retreat in preparation for their Perpetual Vows.

The Interprovincial Conference of Latin America (CIAL), of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, every two years organizes a retreat in preparation for Perpetual Vows. The last two were in Recife, Brazil, in 2016 and 2018; the next one was to be in Lima, Peru, in 2020, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic it was suspended. This year, 2023, it is being held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

Participating for the Oblate Province of Mexico are scholastics Cristian Quirino and Jacobo Garcia; for the Oblate Province of Brazil, Herbensson Luis Nascimento; for the General Bolper Delegation, Walter Quispe (Perú); for the Cruz del Sur Province, Paraguayan scholastics Eduardo Barrias, Diosnel Dominguez, Nelson Penayo and Brother Nelson Villar.

The Oblate team accompanying the retreat is made up of Br. Diemenson Gomes (Brazil) who works at the Novitiate in Guatemala; Fr. Domingo DiMeo (Italy) working in Venezuela; Fr. Wladimir Rojas (Chile) from the Oblate Province Cruz del Sur; Fr. Patrick Urias from the Oblate Province of Brazil, and yours truly, Fr. Víctor Santoyo (Perú) from the General Delegation of Bolper.

From June 30 to July 30, 2023, the first week is a time for getting to know each other and for the dynamics of group integration. Each one shares his autobiography and how he felt the call to be an Oblate. Also, the history of their Oblate unit and what kind of missions they have. The participants are given some themes to remind them of Oblate values and have the opportunity to share the biography of a model Oblate they have known. On the way of a pilgrimage we visited the Shrine of the Virgin of Cotoca, celebrated the Eucharist and got to know the center of the city. One night we had the Eucharist in the Parish of St. Martin de Porres – Oblate Mission in Santa Cruz – and then, as a way of experiencing life together, we had a cultural evening with music and Bolivian dances by the different groups and parish communities, followed by a sharing of typical snacks of this city.

The following three weeks are for the silent retreat, each day the scholastics receive two topics as a conference, which will help them in the four moments of prayer that they will do personally throughout each day, and once a day they have an interview with their spiritual companion. In the morning, in the chapel, each one in silence prays lauds before breakfast. At 8:30 a.m. they have their first conference. At noon the whole community has half an hour to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament, which we Oblates call “Oraison”. This is followed by lunch. In the afternoon at 2:30 p.m. they

have the second conference; at 6:00 p.m. is the Eucharist and then dinner. Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois, OMI, our Superior General, will join us and the young Oblates will have an opportunity to dialogue with him and ask him some questions.

Please entrust to your prayers each of these young Oblates who are preparing for their Perpetual Vows, and also for the Oblate Team that accompanies them. We thank the Oblate Community of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Frs. Guillermo Siles, Jesús Fuertes and Lucas Casaert, for the welcome and hospitality, and

An Oblate recalls his retreat in preparation for perpetual vows

OMIWORLD published an article about a retreat for perpetual vows in Bolivia organised by CIAL. Hipólito Olea shares with us how the article helped him to remember with gratitude his retreat in preparation for perpetual oblation 20 years ago.

We are finishing the summer session for scholastics in Aix, with scholastics from Vermicino, San Antonio, Obra and the International Scholasticate, coming from Namibia, Zambia, Cameroon, Chad, Pakistan, Jaffna, Indonesia, Ukraine, Germany, Poland, United States, Colombia and Paraguay. It was inevitable for me to think back to when I, twenty years ago, experienced the retreat in preparation for final vows.

A few days ago I read in OMIWORLD about the preparation retreat for final vows organised by CIAL. When I saw the photo accompanying the article, I immediately recognised “Villa Marista” in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. And so I remembered that in 2003 I had experienced the retreat in preparation for perpetual vows in the same place. The retreat has been a Latin American tradition for more than 20 years.

all the collaboration in the logistical part for a month. We also thank Fr. Jorge Albergati, General Councillor for Latin America, Fr. Roberto Carrasco, Superior of the Bolper General Delegation, and two of the councillors, Frs. Elio López and Eduardo Luciano.

Fr. Victor SANTOYO, OMI

We were the first group to make the retreat in Bolivia, and it was a very beautiful experience. The animation team was made up of three Oblates from Paraguay – Leo GUILMETTE (American), Pedro BRITTEZ (Paraguayan) and Olegario DOMÍNGUEZ (Spanish), a Frenchman from Brazil (Francisco RUBEAU), and a Canadian from Bolivia (Juan René PELLETIER).

Among the scholastics who were at this retreat, I believe the ones who professed perpetual oblation were: Pedro Paulo SANTOS and Gerardus GROENEN from Brazil; from Cruz del César ROJAS (Paraguay sector) and the Argentinian Sergio SERRANO, now Provincial. From Mexico Félix GARCÍA, now superior of the delegation of Guatemala and myself.

Let us continue to share the fire of the Spirit that animated St. Eugene to live the consecrated life as religious in missionary communities. May God bless the participants and the animation teams of these experiences and retreats.

Originally from the Province of Mexico, Hipólito OLEA TINOCO is now a member of the International Community of Missionary Oblates in Aix-en-Provence.

Hipólito OLEA TINOCO, OMI

ANNIVERSARIES FOR AUGUST 2023

75th Anniversaries of Vows

02/08/1948	08523	Fr. Armand Carignan	Philippines
02/08/1948	08518	Fr. Jacques Drolet	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

70th Anniversaries of Vows

15/08/1953	09619	Fr. Mario Amadeo	Mediterranea
15/08/1953	10116	Bro. Peter Buchkremer	Central European
15/08/1953	09798	Fr. Martino Ferraro	Mediterranea
15/08/1953	09493	Fr. Sante Gazzola	Mediterranea
15/08/1953	09484	Fr. Charles Hurkes	United States
15/08/1953	09530	Fr. Pierre Hurtubise	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1953	09529	Fr. Jean-Paul Isabelle	Lacombe
15/08/1953	09485	Fr. Thomas Killeen	United States
15/08/1953	09531	Fr. Guy Levac	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

65th Anniversaries of Vows

02/08/1958	10506	Fr. Raymond (Jun) Bourgoïn (Ikeda)	Colombo
02/08/1958	10502	Fr. André Laroche	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1958	10495	Fr. Paulo Medeiros	Brazil
02/08/1958	10496	Fr. Paul Nourie	United States
02/08/1958	10670	Fr. Gilles Patry	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1958	10500	Fr. Gilbert Patry	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02/08/1958	10673	Fr. Normand Provencher	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1958	10525	Fr. Isaoe Blanchette	Lacombe
15/08/1958	11077	Bro. Daniel Bozek	United States
15/08/1958	10470	Fr. Emmanuel Fernando	Colombo
15/08/1958	10529	Fr. David Kalert	United States

65th Anniversaries of Ordinations

31/08/1958	09504	Msgr. Denis Croteau	Lacombe
31/08/1958	09529	Fr. Jean-Paul Isabelle	Lacombe

60th Anniversaries of Vows

15/08/1963	11425	Fr. Ronald Harrer	United States
15/08/1963	11755	Bro. Emile Lortie	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1963	11426	Fr. Dale Schlitt	United States

60th Anniversaries of Ordinations

11/08/1963	10270	Fr. Argimiro Aláez	Cruz del Sur
11/08/1963	10401	Fr. Saturnino Lajo	United States

50th Anniversaries of Vows

04/08/1973	12199	Fr. Normand Brûlé	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15/08/1973	12297	Fr. William Antone	United States
15/08/1973	12447	Bro. Craig Bonham	United States
15/08/1973	12213	Fr. Scott Hill	United States
15/08/1973	12203	Fr. Louis Lougen	United States

50th Anniversaries of Ordinations

11/08/1973	11966	Fr. Aloys Terliesner	Central European
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25th Anniversaries of Vows

01/08/1998	13767	Fr. Walter J. Butor	United States
01/08/1998	13768	Fr. Salvador Gonzalez	United States
01/08/1998	13793	Fr. Tuan Ngoc Pham	United States
24/08/1998	13893	Fr. Nheun Alexandre Baccam	France
24/08/1998	13964	Fr. Olivier Peyrat	France
24/08/1998	13894	Fr. Renaud Saliba	France

25th Anniversaries of Ordinations

02/08/1998	13433	Fr. Joseph Ntumba Maboyi	Congo
07/08/1998	13520	Fr. Jude Angelo Amirthanayagam	Colombo
07/08/1998	13516	Fr. Lylie Jayanth Fernando	Colombo
07/08/1998	13519	Fr. Thyagan Emmanuel Fonseka	Colombo
07/08/1998	13517	Fr. Ruwan Prasanna Perera	Colombo
08/08/1998	13480	Fr. Josè Ariel Martínez Morales	Mexico
15/08/1998	13489	Fr. Francis Anigbogu	Cameroun

Suffrages for our Deceased - July 2023

No. 42-44

NAME	DATE	DIED AT	BORN	PROV/DEL
Fr. Austin COOPER	02/07/2023	Melbourne	14/01/1931	Australia
Fr. Klaus GAJOWSKI	18/07/2023	Hünfeld	18/03/1962	Europa Centra
Fr. Gerard KENNY	30/07/2023	Dublin	27/02/1936	Anglo-Irish

“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 the Founder to Fr. Courtès, 22 July 1828)

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Via Aurelia 290, 00165 Roma, Italy
Fax: (39) 06 39 37 53 22 E-mail: information@omigen.org
www.omiworld.org
Editor & Webmaster: Bonga Majola