



Under the Corsican sun

For once they were joined in a common celebration! For three days, the Oblates, the friends of the Convent, pilgrims, and the Confraternity of Father ALBINI celebrated Saint Eugene and Father Albin, the apostle of Corsica.

In Corsica, they traditionally commemorate Venerable Charles Dominique Albin on May 20, the date of his death at the Convent in Vico. While his stay in Corsica lasted for only three years, the memory of him remains alive, and for a long time, many Christians in Corsica consider him the “Apostle and the Saint of Corsica.” Some of them would like for the Church to declare him a saint, but the “miracles” of the Venerable Oblate, those last steps before he can be written into the liturgical calendar as a saint of the Church, are still lacking. Should one see in this a reluctance on the part of Father Albin, humble as he was, to see himself “elevated” to the altars? Should one see in it his self effacement before his superior and father, Eugene de Mazenod? To each his own theory and his own hopes! This year, there was nothing to prevent a link between the different celebrations and meetings for the tenth anniversary of the canonization of Eugene de Mazenod and the well attended celebration of Father Albin.

There was a relatively busy program of celebrations, processions, discussions and conferences to mark these three sunny days. From the continent came Bernard DULLIER, provincial of France, and Yves CHALVET, to gather with the friends of the Convent, the Oblates, and the Confraternity of Father Albin for these festive days. The different celebrations and meetings were well prepared. There was nothing lacking: enthusiasm, pilgrims, singing, enjoyment, and good food and drink (with the exception of the gasoline needed to get to the Convent, since

the gas stations were being blockaded for what they were calling “social demonstrations.”)

The festivities began on Friday, May 19, in the late afternoon with a long period of discussions with the Confraternity of Father Albin. Paule, a member of the Confraternity, had prepared a presentation on the life of Father Albin, placing him in the context of the Corsica of his own time. That was followed by a discussion among the participants; Bernard Dullier was able to offer clarifying comments. But actually, what is this confraternity that bears the name of our Venerable Oblate?

A Cunfraternita di u Padre Albin is a Catholic confraternity that gathers lay men and women of different ages and social backgrounds, for the most part coming from the small region of Deux Sorru. Founded by a small group of youth in 1996, today it has about 40 members. It is connected with the Convent of St. Francis in Vico and the Oblate community that lives there. *A Cunfraternita di u Padre Albin* has chosen as its principal goal to participate in and animate numerous religious celebrations in all of the parishes of the region and to organize ways to help and show solidarity for persons who are suffering misfortune and for the most disadvantaged. The confraternity also organizes times for reflection and prayer; its members seek to deepen their faith in the light of what they know of the life of Fr. Albin.

Afterwards, the laity and the Oblate community invited everyone to a procession and to benediction of the Blessed Sacrament to close the festivities.

Once again, St. Eugene and Venerable Albin conquered the hearts of the Christians of Corsica. Isn't

the real miracle the coming together of these two men so zealous for the Gospel? As for the beatification of Venerable Charles Dominique, many wish

it will happen and many wait for it. The Christians of Corsica know how to be convincing and patient!

Europe

GERMANY

The challenges of secularization

The provincial of Germany, Thomas KLOSTERKAMP, shares some ideas about secularization.

Studies in sociology point out that the Church is in touch with no more than three of the ten groups that, according to sociologists, make up the German population, namely: “those who are rooted in tradition,” “the conservatives,” and the “middle-middle class.” Even if they don’t go to church every Sunday, they look to the Church for their social involvement, for popular piety, for their Christian values, and for maintaining a family model based on the child.

Youth are barely touched by the Church, but they have not closed themselves off to a spiritual quest. What they ask of the Church is “access to an experience of limits and a sense of direction.” The Church should “help them solve their existential problems and give direction to their lives.”

Another discovery that ties to our charism as communicators of the Gospel shows that the different societal settings that encompass those who share a same world vision and make up different sub-cultures do not communicate with one another, so much so that many sectors of society have no mutual understanding. How then does one communicate the universality of the Good News? It will be more and more necessary, therefore, to offer a variety of approaches to the multiplicity of existing situations. It’s a major communication problem! (Province Bulletin, May 2006)

ITALY

Oblate named Consultor to Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life

Father Sante BISIGNANO of the Italian Province

has received from Pope Benedict XVI a five-year appointment as Consultor for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (formerly known as the Congregation for Religious). The appointment was signed by the Vatican’s Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, on May 6, and communicated to Fr. Sante by Franc Cardinal Rodé, Prefect of the Congregation.

Sante is presently a professor at Rome’s *Urbaniana* University, as well as at the *Teresianum*, the Pontifical Institute of Spirituality, and at the *Claretianum*, the Institute of Religious Life. He has published and teaches courses on the pedagogy of religious formation and the spirituality of religious life. He has also served as provincial of the Oblates’ Italian Province and as President of the Italian Conference of Major Superiors.

FRANCE

130 seminarians discover St. Eugene

Aix-en-Provence: “Struck, as if by a bolt of lightning, by the call of Jesus Christ.” It was in such terms that Fr. Bernard DULLIER, provincial of the Oblates, told about how Eugene de Mazenod discovered his vocation, on Good Friday 1807, in the Church of the Magdalene.

He was speaking to an attentive audience: 130 men, some of them very young, who had come from the seminaries of Nice, Toulon, and Venasque to spend a day with the future priests with whom they would be working after their ordination.

After watching a film about the seminary in Aix, they spent the morning hearing about Eugene de Mazenod. “He made his mark on this and the surrounding dioceses. It was he was managed to break the grip of Jansenism; he was also the dean of the French bishops for 14 years,” recalled Fr. Dullier, before relating in detail the energetic life of this man, son of the First President of the Court of Accounts

of the Parliament of Provence, forced into exile in Palermo during the time of the French Revolution.

In the afternoon, the group followed the footsteps of the bishop and a Mass was celebrated at the Oblate chapel.

ITALY

The most united family in the world

Once again this year, for the celebration of the feast of St. Eugene de Mazenod, there took place the "Cross to Cross" walk, now in its fourth edition. It was a six-kilometer trek between Gioia Tauro (RC) and Cannavà di Rizziconi where there are two Crosses commemorating the presence of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate at two parish missions, in 1913 at Cannavà and in 1914 at Gioia Tauro.

During the hike, we reflected on the most important moments in the life of St. Eugene. This year, we meditated in a special way on five aspects of the holiness of Eugene: the Poor, the Love of God, Community, the Eucharist, and Mary Immaculate.

Accompanied by Fr. Pasquale CASTRILLI, there were numerous young people from the youth movement "Costruire" (*To Build*) from different towns in the Plains of Gioia Tauro where, in recent years, the Oblates held some youth missions. There were also some adults.

Also this year, we had the joy of having with us the

large and beautiful replica of the Oblate cross that some of us had already seen during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the canonization of St. Eugene at Loreto in April 2006 and at the World Youth Days. It was also a pleasant surprise for us that this cross had come directly from Germany, in such a way as to fulfill the desire of St. Eugene that his Oblate family be "*the most united family in the world,*" in spite of the distances.

For this fourth edition of "Cross to Cross," the Oblate Superior General, Fr. Guillermo STECKLING, sent us a message in which, besides rejoicing with us on the occasion of this special celebration of the feast of St. Eugene, reminded us that the cross of WYD "*put us in touch with all the youth of the world,*" and that youth were important for Eugene. With our own lives, we must be witnesses of new relationships with Christ. He also recommended to our prayers the Congo, "*a country that needs peace, so that emerging from their poverty, the talents of the new generations might bear fruit.*"

As happened in the other editions of "Cross to Cross," this two-hour walk made it possible for us to experience the beauty of sharing our lives and, in a special way, the choice of a missionary charism, even by something as simple as chatting with our neighbor on the journey.

Upon arriving at Cannavà di Rizziconi, Fr. Pasquale blessed us, after once again praying to Mary Immaculate. (Adriana Rullo)

Asia-Oceania

AUSTRALIA

Mazenod College: 40 years serving youth in Western Australia

May 2006 saw the 40th anniversary of Mazenod College, Lesmurdie, WA. This is a significant milestone for the Australian Oblate Province, and for the priests, staff, parents and boys who have been involved with the College since its establishment was actively considered in the early 1960's.

Since that time, Mazenod has grown into one of the

most respected secondary schools in Western Australia. Not only has the College provided a first class academic education, but most importantly, it has done so in a solidly practical Catholic and Oblate family environment.

Located at Lesmurdie, in the foothills overlooking Perth, Mazenod's boarding facilities and strong pastoral care have been of great benefit to families in the extensive and often remote rural areas of Western Australia. Mazenod's former students are found not only in metropolitan Perth, but throughout the

State, from Albany to the Kimberley and beyond.

The tireless efforts of the Lesmurdie parish administrator at that time, Fr Denis MCCARTHY, the vision of the Provincial, Fr Bill CAGNEY, and the hard work of many volunteers helped Mazenod accept its first students on February 14, 1966.

The buildings were not finished when the first students arrived, and for the first few months, classes were held in a tin shed. Bishop McKeon opened and blessed the College on May 8, 1966. The first Rector was Fr Don HUGHES, assisted by Fr Ian MACKINTOSH.

Denis McCarthy tells of those early days: "Our first intake was not very high, numbering 33 students, in years 7 and 8. The conditions under which we opened were barely conducive to attracting more. The weather throughout February, March and April was very hot, even by West Australian standards. (...) We literally baked during those early months, and so did the boys, who often cried with distress during our time in the tin shed. We had much fun and many challenges during those first few months at Mazenod College."

The College population has grown from 33 students in 1966 to more than 600 in 2006, including 95 boarders from around the State. As numbers have grown, so have the facilities offered at the College. Development has continued with new buildings and facilities added regularly. (from MAMI Newsletter, May 2006)

PHILIPPINES

Bukas Palad Award for Fr. Jun Mercado

The Board of Trustees of the Ateneo de Manila University unanimously voted to confer upon Fr. Eliseo "Jun" MERCADO the Bukas Palad Award in memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, S.J., in recognition of Fr. Jun's substantial contribution to the promotion of peace and justice, particularly in the southern Philippines, and his commitment to the marginalized of society, especially Muslim Filipinos.

The Award also recognizes his role as a priest activist and administrator, and especially his peace mediation efforts in Mindanao. The announcement was

made by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., President of the Ateneo de Manila University, in a letter to the Oblate Provincial, Fr. Ramon BERNABE.

Originally called the Father Manuel Peypoch, S.J. Award, it was named after a humble Jesuit priest who came to the Philippines in 1907 and taught literature at the Ateneo for 17 years. In 1987, it was renamed "Bukas Palad Award in memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, S.J." to recapture the Ignatian spirit of generosity and unconditional, dedicated service in Christ's kingdom. It is intended for clergy and religious men and women in the Philippines who dedicate their lives to God and to the Church and who work unselfishly for the good of their neighbor.

Jun will be the third Oblate to receive this award. The previous Oblate recipients were Bishop Gerard MONGEAU, in 1980, and Bishop Benjamin DE JESUS, awarded posthumously in 1997. The award will be conferred upon Jun on July 25, 2006, together with the other recipients of the Ateneo de Manila University's traditional awards.

For the past four years, Jun has served as the Director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation service at the General House in Rome. He finished that mandate in June and will return to his home province after a sabbatical.

INDONESIA

A program in "Oblatology"

A member of the formation team in Indonesia, John O'DOHERTY, tells of a program being planned and implemented that will help novices and scholastics delve more deeply into our Oblate history and experience. They call it "Oblatology."

The team of formators in Indonesia asked suggestions from the novices and scholastics about what they themselves would like to see in such a program. Based on these suggestions, the formators designed a program that is in the first stages of implementation.

The strength of the process was that the program basically came from the students themselves. The program begins with the first year novices and continues through the final year of formation. In this way

there is continuity and with no doubling-up.

The common task on all levels is the reading and discussion of materials that come from the General Administration in *OMI Information, Documentation and Communiqué*. Because English is not the first language for the indigenous Indonesian Oblates, the reading of these bulletins needs to be done together to help with the language problem and to establish a tradition for life.

For more details about the program, contact the formation team in Indonesia at this e-mail address: stomiind@indosat.net.id.

AUSTRALIA

Preparing to witness to the world

The celebration of World Youth Day in Sydney presents the Australian Church with a once in a life time opportunity to grow in faith, to welcome the universal church, and to proclaim the Good News: in essence to live the challenge of Pentecost. The Australian Province of the Oblates also see this as a chance to further share their charism with the young people of the Province and animate them to take the lead as we prepare to welcome the OMI world to the International Oblate Youth Encounter (IOYE) in July 2008.

St Eugene de Mazenod once noted that “all missionaries share a little in the miracle of Pentecost.” His words resounded on Pentecost this year in Melbourne, Australia, with the Spirit almost tangibly present as the Australian Province officially

launched the International Oblate Youth Encounter. In a church bursting at the seams, Oblates, young people, and staff and senior students from Mazenod College, gathered together to witness the official beginning of the IOYE journey.

At the official launch, the IOYE Committee and the ten young people who will head the development of different portfolios leading up to the event were commissioned by the Australian Provincial, Fr Vincent RYAN. In the assembly were many more young people who had traveled from all over Australia to be a part of the launch.

The lighting of the official IOYE candle by Fr Ryan was met with the herald of trumpets as the choir burst into song, singing the IOYE theme song for the first time. This song and the IOYE logo both powerfully reflect the IOYE theme, “Witness to the World,” which was inspired by the official WYD theme, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8)

As Australian Oblates we are inspired by the energy and enthusiasm with which our young people have responded to the call to lead this international event. We ask you to support their efforts through your prayers. We hope that the IOYE will indeed be an opportunity for us as a world-wide Oblate family to “witness to the world.”

Information about the IOYE is available at www.oblates.com.au and will be sent to all Oblate Provinces and units in the near future. (Christian FINI)

Canada-United States

LACOMBE

Friends of St. Eugene de Mazenod

On Sunday, May 21st – feast of Saint Eugene de Mazenod, fifty-two people from local parishes in Labrador West were installed as the first ever group known as the Friends of St. Eugene de Mazenod at a ceremony in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Labrador City. Labrador City’s Bishop Douglas CROSBY was in Rome at the time for his “ad limina” visit with Pope Benedict XVI.

This group has been faithful and dedicated to the formation process which has afforded them the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of St. Eugene de Mazenod and the gift of his vision and charism to the Church. The Friends will continue to study and reflect on this mission and ministry of the Oblates throughout the year. They have also committed themselves to applying the gifts and graces of the OMI charism in their own particular ministries.

According to Tony O'DELL, the rector of the Cathedral, the initiative was undertaken following discussions at an OMI Lacombe Council meeting. He said, "We talked about how many people – even in our own parishes – really don't know who the Oblates are. We wanted some way to introduce people to what we are all about, the charism of the founder. We discussed this concern amongst our Oblate community in the parish and decided to do something about it." To explain their vision and intent, we quote from a letter that went out to those who had expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Friends of St. Eugene.

"The vision that we have for this group, Friends of Saint Eugene, is not so much about taking on a new ministry, or adding countless new meetings to an already busy lifestyle; rather it is about reflecting on why and how we do the ministry we do. Further to that, we will seek to create opportunities to reflect on how in our daily lives, from the time we wake up in the morning till we close our eyes at night, we are called to service, to recognize the very real, active presence of God in ourselves, our family, our friends, our community, our country and our world. This group, 'Friends of St. Eugene' will invite us to embrace in a real, active and sincere way our baptismal anointing as a son or daughter of Jesus Christ – because by our baptism we hold within ourselves 'the priesthood of the faithful'. We are all anointed priest, prophet and king. How then can we hold and share in the charism of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate?"

Those who feel called to be a member of the "Friends of St. Eugene" are people who desire to deepen their understanding and knowledge of St Eugene de Mazenod. This group will seek to uncover nuggets of inspiration and wisdom wrapped within the founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the charism which flows forth, specifically, as articulated in the mission statement of OMI Lacombe Canada Province."

In an isolated town in northern Labrador, there is Good News happening. Our charism, our history, our ministry, our future excite lay people – and they want in!

UNITED STATES

Former Oblate co-worker elected to important office

Karen Hurley of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the new president-general of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, becoming the first U.S. woman to hold that office in the group's 96-year history. Mrs. Hurley worked many years with the Oblates as pastoral associate at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Harrisburg. The Oblates served the parish from 1970 to 1995.

She began her four-year term during the organization's general assembly in Arlington, Virginia, which concluded June 7. She succeeded Maria Eugenia Diaz de Pfennich of Mexico.

In a telephone interview with Catholic News Service June 12, Hurley said she considers her election "quite an affirmation for all the women in the U.S. who have worked so hard," as well as an "affirmation of the gifts we bring."

LACOMBE

Crossing Borders: Choosing Life

Winnepeg was the site Convocation of Oblates of the OMI Lacombe Province on June 5-9, 2006. Some 160 Oblates gathered with Lay Associates to celebrate Oblate community and to look toward the future of the new province.

The provincial, André BOYER, in his welcoming remarks, reminded the assembly that it is already three years since OMI Lacombe Canada was born as a province. It was an historic moment for the Oblates of Canada and with this, the first convocation as a new entity, they continued to make history with the gathering of 160 Oblates – the largest gathering in the history of the new province

He further stated that the theme of the Convocation, *Crossing Borders, Choosing Life*, comes from a letter to the Congregation by the Superior General, Fr. Wilhelm STECKLING after the last General Chapter. In his letter, Fr. General remarked, "Insofar as an ethos of border crossing inspires our missionary praxis, our religious renewal and our for-

mation during the coming years, it will unleash new energies among us. In such an ethos, each unit's contribution will be seen by all the others as a particular gift for the good of the whole Congregation; all of us together could give an abiding witness to the world around us." Picking up on this, André challenged the Oblates in three key areas: we must be motivated by love; we must be indiscriminate; we must be transformational. With hearts filled with the love of Christ, we reach out to people of all cultures, languages, values and races, with the intention of helping them to become transformed into true disciples of Jesus.

In his own remarks to the assembly, the Superior General spoke about the mission as that which keeps us alive. The Congregation is now in sixty-seven countries; newer provinces are already sending out missionaries. He expressed his satisfaction at seeing how well lay associates were represented at the Convocation – our greater involvement with them having been a focus of the past Chapter. Our mission grows out of community and Fr. Steckling pointed to a renewed emphasis on community life within the Congregation; however, at the same time he gave us a very pointed challenge, "...but many are still living alone even when it is not necessary." Making an option for community implies creating community friendly structures, openness to lay associates and the empowerment of local leadership. Fr. Steckling made a special point of emphasizing the value of Oblate Brothers and the special contribution they make to the Congregation as a religious family. He concluded his remarks with a number of requests of the members of OMI Lacombe: remain faithful to the mission to indigenous people; try new ways of being missionary to the indigenous, to the poor, and to secularity; continue building community life and team ministry; find new labourers (vocations).

As the Convocation continued, there were sessions that focused on such topics as: Mission and Ministry; Community Life; Leadership/Responsibility/Accountability; and Involvement with Lay People. Participants were asked to consider this question: "Where do you see this vision being realized in your lived experience, in the life of your cluster and your Local Community, in the life of the Province?"

The final day of the Convocation was dedicated to a prayerful discernment of possible candidates for the Leadership Team of the Province since the first term of the present Team is coming to a close. Names were surfaced and a straw ballot was taken. In the course of this process, the assembly was asked to reflect on this question: "What is the Spirit calling me to? What is the Spirit calling the local community to? What is the Spirit calling OMI Lacombe Canada to?" (*Submitted by Harley MAPES, OMI*)

UNITED STATES New Ministries Seminar

At a time when there are fewer Oblates available than in the prosperous 1970's and 80's, the United States Province is attempting, nevertheless, to show the daring spirit of the Founder in branching out to new ministries, even though personnel is limited.

From May 1st to the 4th, the province had a New Ministries Seminar to discern and come to recommendations for the Provincial Council regarding new ministries. This encounter was the fruit of a province-wide dialogue initiated in April of 2005 as a response to what the provincial, Louis LOUGEN, was hearing from the members of the province.

There were 42 participants present at the meeting held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL. From the outset, it was clear that the only way to come to a successful outcome of the meeting would be through prayerful discernment. Ron YOUNG, a professor at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, set the tone for the meeting with a talk on discernment and the various spirits that influence us.

At the start of the encounter, there were 22 new ministries that had been suggested over the preceding months by groups of Oblates and by individuals. The task of the New Ministries Seminar was to come to a better understanding of those projects, to discuss them and to reach consensus.

The three projects which had the greatest level of agreement were:

- An apostolic community developing non-parochial border ministry in collaboration with the

province of Mexico, a project that includes outreach to youth, north and south of the border.

- An apostolic community to reflect on, do research on and develop a missionary response to secularity.
- An apostolic community to do inter-parochial Hispanic ministry in South Carolina.

These missionary projects will now go to the provincial council at their June meeting to consider how to proceed. Any new project will probably entail the difficult decision of leaving other established ministries, turning them over to diocesan clergy and others, so that the Oblates might focus on today's needs.

The last day of the meeting focused on the question of personnel. Who is willing to be called by the Province and sent to a new mission? A great generosity of spirit was felt as many individual Oblates offered themselves to be summoned by the Province for the new missions.

UNITED NATIONS

UNO Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Séamus FINN (USA) and Daniel LEBLANC (Peru) participated at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on May 15-26, in New York. They were there as Oblate representatives as well as under the auspices of *Vivat International* (a recognized NGO), of which the Oblates are associates. Sanjeeb Drong, Nerola Tysong and others from Bangladesh who collaborate with the Oblates, as well as Miguel Angel Medrano and others from Peru also participated.

On the closing day of its Fifth Session, members of the forum made strong recommendations and drew world attention on issues that remain critical for the survival and development with identity of 370 million indigenous peoples worldwide.

The UN Permanent Forum tabled a demand for the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the two week meeting ended.

The Permanent Forum strongly recommended the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the General Assembly during its sixty-first session in September 2006. "The Forum is convinced that the Declaration will be an instrument of great value to advance the rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples and would represent a major achievement for the Second Decade," said Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum.

Other problems discussed were HIV/AIDS; indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation; and the governmental role in the Second Decade for Indigenous Peoples.

The two weeks high level meeting attracted over 1200 indigenous peoples' representatives, NGOs and academics, senior representatives of more than 55 Member States, some 31 UN system agencies and other inter-governmental organizations. The annual session provides a platform for indigenous peoples to voice their demands and dialogue with governments and the UN system about their concerns.

For the first time in the Forum's history, a half-day segment of the meeting was dedicated to one specific region - Africa. Attention was drawn to the continuing challenges faced by African indigenous peoples. The Forum made a number of recommendations regarding health, capacity-building, education and related issues.

The spread of HIV/AIDS and its impact on indigenous peoples was also a priority during the meeting. The Permanent Forum urged UNAIDS and other global partners to develop resources and ensure access to treatment and prevention of the epidemic in indigenous communities.

Latin America

PERU

Concerns on the banks of the Napo River

Fr. Miguel CORDOVA shares his concerns af-

ter a missionary experience on the banks of the Napo River, in an area on the border of Peru with Ecuador and Colombia.

On April 12, I began my pastoral visitation of the mission post at Tacsha Curaray on the banks of the Napo River, together with a team from the Institute of Lay Missionaries.

The themes developed for this visit focused on “Family and Community,” topics which allowed me to explore family values, the very foundations of a just and equitable society and community.

I thank God for the wonderful participation of the people and their active response during those days that we worked in the communities. On May 21, I finished my commitment to this project and returned to Lima, but within my heart, I bore many concerns.

For one thing, the beauty of our Peruvian Amazon is being rapidly destroyed by human hands, with the complete knowledge of the authorities who are obliged to safeguard the ecological balance. At night, as we slept in our boat on the shore of the river, I witnessed the way that they take the wood, tying it together like floating rafts. The local people acknowledge that the big buyers use smalltime loggers, groups of peasants with a minimum capital of five thousand soles (about 1500 \$US), who then sell the wood to the big buyers in the city of Iquitos.

In this way, the peasants make themselves accomplices to the stripping of the forests, and the real buyers of the wood don't show their face. The working conditions are very dangerous since there are neither safety measures nor life insurance. In the deforested areas, there is no plan for replanting trees, much less an intention to do so. This problem leads to another: ownership of the land; the communities have no documents at all. Many of them are surprised by the loggers who, from one day to the next, appear with all the documents as if they were the owners of the area to be exploited.

Another concern of mine is education. I noticed that classes do not begin on the day set by the national government. This time they began a month after the scheduled date. When they finally began, there were many interruptions because of various civic activities. It's sad that when one examines the notebooks of the children, they barely come up to first grade work.

The communication media present another prob-

lem to be solved. Except for radios, communication technology is unknown. It's amazing to speak of “post-modernity” when modernity has yet to arrive in these places. The only access to them is by water. Consequently, the cost of living is very steep. Commercial interchange and agricultural development are very difficult. Oral and written communication media are practically non-existent; the only thing you can listen to with great difficulty is the local FM station, “Voice of the Forest,” and on the AM dial, we are bombarded with the strong signals from Ecuador, Colombia, and Brazil.

URUGUAY

A healing visit

Carminé MARRONE, a scholastic from Italy, tells of how he learned to see the face of Jesus in the suffering of others during his regency in Uruguay.

It would be impossible to bring you up-to-date about everything, so I decided simply to tell you about my experience with the parish mission (at Rivera, on the border with Brazil). In a preceding mission, I had come to understand the importance of family visits. For many, in fact, it is the only contact with the mission. So I came to realize that this visit was more than just an appointment: this family visit was an explicit proclamation of Jesus Christ.

In the first house that I visited, I was welcomed by a man of about 60. We sat there talking for a while, and then he began to tell me his own sad story: his wife, Elida, was in bed, paralyzed and unable to speak for the past 15 years. They have 9 children, but he is the one taking care of her. I was struck by the serenity and the faith of this man. When I got up to leave, he asked me if I would like to meet his wife. She was an evangelical Christian, but, he told me, she would really enjoy a visit. So a few seconds later, there I was, in the bedroom in front of this woman, disfigured by pain and incapable of communicating with words. I was left speechless. Then I began to feel within myself a great strength and I introduced myself. I told her about the mission and I asked her if I could read for her a passage from the Gospel. She grasped my hand and nodded “Yes.” By chance I opened the book to the beautiful passage where Jesus speaks with a

non-Jewish woman whose faith obtains from Jesus a healing miracle. Elida and her husband began to weep. And I too could not hold back my tears. We prayed the Our Father together and I left with my heart full of joy.

The following morning, they called for me. Elida, for the first time in a long time, had slept all night and seemed happy. They asked if I would go again to pray with them. And so began a beautiful relationship. Every morning, before the other visits, I would go to Elida. I would tell her news about the mission and give her some intentions to pray for. Then we would read together another passage from the Gospel and we would pray. Her face seemed to light up more and more, and day after day, she seemed to improve. I asked her if she would like to make the mission with us and she told me she would love to do so. From her bed, she

did more than all of us together!

I told the rest of the group about her and the others wanted to meet her. So one afternoon, we all went to visit her. As her gift to us, she got up and dressed and waited for us, seated on the divan. I introduced everyone to her and they all told her about themselves. I sat next to her holding her hand and she began to cry: they were tears of joy!

Jesus heals in many ways and I really believe that he did something beautiful for Elida and her family during those days of the mission. But above all, I believe he did something for me. Every time I visited her, I left the house with great peace in my heart. Without words, this woman was able to pass on to me the richness of her own faith and she showed me the face of Jesus on the cross.

Africa-Madagascar

CONGO

Noble words don't help

Our faithful correspondent is Antonietta Mongiò, a member of COMI (Cooperatrici Oblate Missionarie dell'Immacolata), a Secular Institute founded more than 50 years ago through the inspiration of Father Gaetano LIUZZO (died 2003), an Italian Oblate. Here the latest news she sends from the capital of Congo.

The situation in Kinshasa is, as usual, a bit ambiguous. There is some movement in view of the elections that have been scheduled for July 30 (but this date appears to be somewhat doubtful). Although the electoral campaign has yet to begin, there are already big speeches and protest demonstrations: at times it's difficult to understand who is demonstrating and what they are demonstrating about, but what is obvious in every case is the sense of edginess, of underlying violence, of chaos, and of manipulation. At this time, promises are being made and even gifts are being given (a few tee shirts or a packet of food, all the while forgetting the most urgent needs related to the rights of the people). A few streets are being repaired, but there is also so much suspicion on the part of the poor and so much

incompetence and disinformation. There are questions everywhere. Will the elections take place? Will they be free? Will the losers accept the victory of the others? The most optimistic predictions would have one believe that, in any case, there will be disorder because there is too much tension. One must truly confide this country to the Lord of Peace, in the conviction that those who hope in Him won't be disappointed. And it is this that helps us continue our own little projects.

Presently, there are three areas where we are working:

1. *The support of our students* (nursery school, primary and secondary), and also some university students. The school year is coming to an end for everyone with positive results, thanks to those who have supported us from afar.

2. *The dispensary with the maternity facility.* We have moved the Siloé Center to a building on the other side of the zone, a bit distant from the prison, to avoid the disturbances that come from the soldiers. We had to work a bit to turn the house into a dispensary; we added some beds to the maternity section, and we replaced some sanitation equipment

that had deteriorated. But our desire for the immediate future is to be able to buy some land to construct a dispensary-maternity facility better suited to the kinds of procedures that we do.

3. Care for malnourished children. In April, we began cautiously with 20 children whose number rose to 40 in the course of a month. We had to stop accepting new ones because we don't have the money. The diocese gave us soy, corn, oil, and dried peas for almost a month. Then we tried to continue on our own, but I don't know if we'll be able to continue beyond August. In fact, we give the children a warm soup on Monday, Wednesdays, and

Fridays and we give them a ration of corn and peas for the whole week.

Besides these more organized activities, there are the daily odds and ends: efforts to give not only a little economic help, but especially to try to give some hope and a bit of a positive slant on the future.

In the mission, noble words do not help; everything depends on the work of hands and hearts. It is necessary to love and then love some more, with a love that hurts at times and is difficult. It is the gospel brought to life that builds the foundation for our actions.

Anniversaries for September-October 2006

75 Years of Religious Life

1931.08.02	05145	Fr. John Boser	Lacombe
1931.08.02	05143	Msgr. Albert Sanschagrin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1931.08.15	05112	Fr. Julio Rodríguez	Argentina-Chile
1931.08.15	05102	Fr. Alfred Rozynek	Poland

70 Years of Religious Life

1936.08.15	06344	Fr. Giuseppe Affinita	Italy
1936.08.15	06928	Bro. Jules Auclair	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1936.08.15	06390	Fr. Charles Borgers	United States
1936.08.15	06860	Fr. Aloïse Lichtenauer	France
1936.08.15	06339	Fr. Antonio Sgambati	Italy
1936.08.15	06335	Fr. Boniface Wittenbrink	United States
1936.08.19	06392	Fr. Leonard Stocker	Lacombe
1936.09.08	06405	Fr. Anatole Baillargeon	United States
1936.09.08	06409	Fr. Francis Hennessy	Saint Peter's
1936.09.08	06480	Fr. Wiktor Maria Mendrella	Poland
1936.09.08	06438	Fr. William O'Donovan	Anglo-Irish
1936.09.08	07985	Bro. Stanislaw Pien	Poland
1936.09.08	06417	Fr. Joseph Ryan	United States
1936.09.15	07011	Bro. Francis Thornton	Australia
1936.09.20	06441	Fr. Jean-Marie Lizé	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

65 Years of Religious Life

1941.08.02	07318	Fr. Jacques Croteau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.02	07315	Fr. Roger Gauthier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.02	07316	Fr. Lionel Goulet	Argentina-Chile
1941.08.02	07324	Fr. Roland Houle	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.02	07314	Fr. Joseph Vaillancourt	Haiti
1941.08.15	07375	Fr. Antonio Coletta	Italy
1941.08.15	07369	Fr. Tomás Domínguez	Spain

1941.08.15	07278	Fr. Francis Ebner	Grandin
1941.08.15	07820	Bro. Marcel Ethier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.15	07329	Fr. Jean Girouard	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.15	07327	Fr. Yvon Saint-Arnaud	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.09.08	07335	Fr. Matthew Casey	United States
1941.09.08	07336	Fr. Stanislaus Fernandopulle	Colombo
1941.09.08	07348	Fr. Patrick Healy	United States
1941.09.08	07334	Fr. Gerard McCormick	United States
1941.09.08	07427	Fr. Jean Michal	Haiti
1941.09.08	07343	Fr. Russell Nickerson	United States
1941.09.08	07344	Fr. Alexander Shahun	Lacombe
1941.09.15	07362	Fr. Gerard Clenaghan	United States
1941.09.15	07372	Fr. John C. Daly	Anglo-Irish
1941.09.28	07365	Fr. Edward Ballesty	Anglo-Irish
1941.09.29	07897	Bro. Anselme Lambert	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.09.29	07398	Fr. Pierre Veyrat	Saint Paul's
1941.10.11	07377	Fr. Jean Loiseau	Belgique et Pays Bas

65 Years of Priesthood

1941.09.20	06335	Fr. Boniface Wittenbrink	United States
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60 Years of Religious Life

1946.09.08	08208	Fr. Francis Bagan	United States
1946.09.08	08202	Fr. Stanislaus T. Balasuriya	Colombo
1946.09.08	08204	Fr. Joseph Balthazard	Haiti
1946.09.08	08224	Fr. Pietro Bignami	Lacombe
1946.09.08	08942	Bro. Oscar Delanghe	Lacombe
1946.09.08	08119	Fr. Jacques Dherbomez	France
1946.09.08	08310	Fr. René Fumoleau	Grandin
1946.09.08	08319	Fr. Robert Guinchard	France
1946.09.08	08215	Fr. Richard Harr	Japan
1946.09.08	08247	Fr. Francis Kavanagh	Lacombe
1946.09.08	08203	Fr. Francis Kulas	Jaffna
1946.09.08	08214	Fr. Roger Lievens	Belgium/Netherlands
1946.09.08	08212	Fr. Luc Lombart	Belgium/Netherlands
1946.09.08	08195	Fr. Pavilupillai Mariampillai	Jaffna
1946.09.08	08196	Fr. William McSweeney	United States
1946.09.08	08226	Fr. Joseph Meeùs	Lacombe
1946.09.08	08205	Fr. Valentin Nelissen	Belgium/Netherlands
1946.09.08	08221	Fr. Francis Ouellette	United States
1946.09.08	08219	Fr. Oscar Pauwels	Saint Paul's
1946.09.08	08216	Fr. Leo Wetzell	United States
1946.09.15	08423	Fr. François Demeaux	France
1946.09.29	08242	Fr. Cyril Canning	Philippines
1946.09.29	08394	Fr. Anthony Carroll	Anglo-Irish
1946.09.29	08243	Fr. Michael Clarke	Australia
1946.09.29	08240	Fr. Michel Frémaux	France
1946.09.29	07909	Fr. Jean Haberstroh	Thailand
1946.09.29	08239	Fr. Edmond Houssais	France
1946.09.29	08296	Fr. Lucien Le Calvé	France
1946.09.29	08393	Fr. Peter McCluskey	Northern S. A.
1946.10.10	08248	Fr. James Halpin	Anglo-Irish
1946.10.11	08770	Bro. Pasquale Valiante	Italy

60 Years of Priesthood

1946.09.01	07491	Fr. Jacques Rinfret	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.09.21	07314	Fr. Joseph Vaillancourt	Haiti
1946.09.29	07129	Fr. Roger Guindon	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.10.06	07649	Fr. Yves Bertrais	France
1946.10.06	07648	Fr. Rogatien Papion	Lacombe

50 Years of Religious Life

1956.09.08	10774	Fr. François Carpentier	Cameroon
1956.09.08	10775	Fr. Gabriel Crugnola	Cameroon
1956.09.08	10194	Fr. Ben de Vries	Belgium/Netherlands
1956.09.08	10203	Fr. James Flavin	United States
1956.09.08	10206	Fr. Inno Gijssberts	Belgium/Netherlands
1956.09.08	10212	Fr. John Greene	Lacombe
1956.09.08	10664	Fr. Louis Haag	France
1956.09.08	10213	Fr. Stanislaw Heller	Poland
1956.09.08	10482	Msgr. Eugeniusz Juretzko	Cameroon
1956.09.08	10771	Fr. Jean Lamy	Cameroon
1956.09.08	10208	Fr. Ernesto Liekens	Mexico
1956.09.08	10197	Fr. Donald MacDonald	Lacombe
1956.09.08	10662	Fr. Jean-Pierre Meichel	France
1956.09.08	10204	Fr. Esteban Perek	Argentina-Chile
1956.09.08	10198	Fr. Bernard Pinet	Manitoba
1956.09.08	10772	Fr. Jean-Claude Romain	France
1956.09.08	10778	Fr. Joseph Sergent	Cameroon
1956.09.08	10769	Fr. Lucien Vivant	France
1956.09.08	10211	Msgr. Gerald Wiesner	Lacombe
1956.09.26	10219	Fr. Neil Macaulay	Peru
1956.09.29	10228	Fr. Eugene Clerkin	Anglo-Irish
1956.09.29	10788	Bro. Francis Flanagan	Anglo-Irish
1956.09.29	10973	Bro. Nicandro Macera	Italy
1956.09.29	10227	Fr. John Nolan	Central S. A.
1956.10.15	10980	Bro. Christian Dislaire	France
1956.10.15	10781	Fr. Xavier Mandron	France
1956.10.15	10780	Fr. Joseph Thévenet	Cameroon

50 Years of Priesthood

1956.09.08	08822	Fr. Ricardo Junius	Mexico
1956.09.09	09096	Fr. Roland Leclair	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1956.09.15	09134	Fr. Martin McMahon	United States
1956.09.16	08982	Fr. Austin Cooper	Australia
1956.09.16	09164	Fr. Paschal Dillon	Anglo-Irish
1956.09.16	09160	Fr. Christopher Dunne	Anglo-Irish
1956.09.16	08939	Fr. Richard O'Donovan	Anglo-Irish
1956.09.21	09064	Fr. James Taylor	United States
1956.09.23	08981	Fr. Robert McGregor	Australia
1956.10.07	09443	Fr. Jean Leleu	France
1956.10.14	09034	Fr. José Gago	United States
1956.10.14	09033	Fr. Felipe Matias	United States

25 Years of Religious Life

1981.09.08	12789	Bro. Mwenapu Armand Bula-Bula	Congo
1981.09.08	12787	Bro. Mbibi Claude Bulankese	Congo
1981.09.08	12758	Fr. Okim Valère Eko	Congo

1981.09.08	12713	Fr. Tomasz Ewertowski	Poland
1981.09.08	12903	Fr. Marius Nimal Fernando	Colombo
1981.09.08	12674	Fr. Leon Kler	Lacombe
1981.09.08	12676	Fr. Kazimierz Koscinski	Cameroon
1981.09.08	12673	Fr. Leszek Kwiatkowski	Lacombe
1981.09.08	12873	Fr. Piotr Lepich	Cameroon
1981.09.08	12837	Bro. Ndwer Placide Luna	Congo
1981.09.08	12719	Fr. Kabambi Joachim Manianga	Cameroon
1981.09.08	12718	Fr. Lebon Odon Mudiasubu	Congo
1981.09.08	12788	Fr. Labo-Nkomol Patrice Mukwanga	Cameroon
1981.09.08	12940	Fr. M'Onzil Rogatine Munzubu	Congo
1981.09.08	12681	Fr. Leon Niescior	Poland
1981.09.08	12720	Fr. Iyul Habel Nsolo	Congo
1981.09.08	12767	Bro. Rabindra Francis Rajapakse	General Administration
1981.09.08	12677	Fr. Jaroslaw Rozanski	Poland
1981.09.08	12671	Fr. Edward Ruszel	Poland
1981.09.08	12680	Fr. Tomasz Sajdak	Poland
1981.09.08	12661	Fr. Maria Sebastian Santhiapillai	Jaffna
1981.09.08	12678	Fr. Andrzej Serwaczak	Poland
1981.09.08	12662	Fr. Linus Adrian Soysa	Jaffna
1981.09.15	12691	Fr. Antonio Feltracco	Italy
1981.09.15	12692	Fr. Giuseppe Sorrentino	Italy
1981.09.15	12693	Fr. Adriano Titone	Italy

25 Years of Priesthood

1981.09.04	12324	Fr. Patrick Vincent David	Jaffna
1981.09.04	12304	Fr. Robert Laroche	Lacombe
1981.09.12	12437	Fr. Richard Kulwicz	United States
1981.09.26	12333	Fr. Alfredo Feretti	Italy

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Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 46-48

<i>NAME</i>	<i>PROVINCE</i>	<i>BIRTH</i>	<i>DIED AT</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Fr. Alfred Mock	Germany	17/05/1908	Hünfeld	19/06/2006
Bro. Emilio Girola	Italy	21/04/1930	San Giorgio Canavese	21/06/2006
Fr. Joseph Perera	Colombo	27/12/1936	Colombo	24/06/2006

“We will keep alive the memory of our deceased and not fail to pray for them, faithfully offering the suffrages prescribed on their behalf.” (const. 43)