



Two centuries ago
Superior General's Message for February 17th 2007
Missionary Meditation for February

Dear Brother Oblates, Associates and friends,

Last year on February 17th the Congregation was proudly looking back on 180 years of history as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The approval by Pope Leo XII had been preceded by 10 years of mission preaching and common life of a group of fervent missionaries, highly motivated to “spare no effort to extend the Saviour’s empire” (Preface to our Rule). This effectively expands our history as Oblates by ten more years. According to official records, 190 years is as far back as we can track our congregation.

Despite this, many Oblate priests and Brothers, and friends who have gathered around Saint Eugene, will celebrate a 200th Oblate anniversary this year. The reasoning behind this is that it was probably in 1807, on Good Friday of that year, that Saint Eugene had a special encounter with the Crucified One that changed his life. It essentially made him an Oblate. What we can celebrate in 2007 is not an anniversary of the Congregation, but rather an anniversary of our charism, the spiritual gift that makes us live - an anniversary of our Oblate spirituality.

It was the cross displayed on Good Friday that made young Eugene – 24 at that time – aware of his lifestyle apart from God. *“I had looked for happiness outside of God and outside him I found but affliction and chagrin”*, he writes a few years later (1814) during a retreat. In his emptiness he encounters someone who loves him without measure. His sins melt away amidst tears in the embrace of Christ, and this experience marks him for the rest of his life. *“Can I forget the bitter tears that the sight of*

the cross brought streaming from my eyes one Good Friday?” *“Blessed, a thousand times blessed, that he, this good Father, notwithstanding my unworthiness, lavished on me all the richness of his mercy.”* The experience did not stay just inside of him. *“Let me at least make up for lost time by redoubling my love for him.”* After a short time St. Eugene wanted to share the mercy he experienced with others. Such zeal for souls finally led to the birth of the Oblates.

The word “Oblates” means people ready to give themselves for the love of God. God’s Spirit has granted St. Eugene and his sons and daughters the zeal to get caught up by the mystery of the saving cross and to proclaim it to those most in need. Our spirituality is therefore centered on the salvation given us by Christ; it can be called “salvatorian”. With such a spiritual orientation our Congregation was approved in 1826.

Our recognition by the Church, which we celebrate each February 17th calls us to delve deeper into the mystery of salvation, to make it even more the center of our lives, as it was the center around which Eugene’s life revolved. How could we get deeper into this salvatorian spirituality of ours? Let me mention three ways.

- a) Someone inspired by St. Eugene will be not afraid of the cross. As true Oblates we will look openly into the face of the suffering and crucified Christ. This is done not so much by pictures and movies as by reading the Scriptures, experiencing Christ’s presence in the sacraments and looking into the face of the

- poorest of our brothers and sisters.
- b) The encounter with Christ in these ways will lead us to cry and weep about our sins, like Eugene did. True, we sometimes admit them, but too often we make light of it, when we should rather weep, mourn and feel desperate. To me this is not question of making myself feel guilty but about recognizing my contribution to other people's misery by action or omission. I need to accept myself as I am, with my great gifts and my big failures and to strive to follow Christ better.
 - c) A third step in such a salvatorian spirituality is mission. Anyone who has discovered that God saves, forgives and clothes us anew with festive garb, wants to share this joy and make others experience it for themselves. We become "co-redeemers" as St. Eugene put it.

sense it makes of our spirituality. It is because in Mary alone we can fully see what salvation is able to achieve in human persons.

Mary's complete holiness "*without spot or wrinkle or any such thing*" (Eph 5:27) tells us: yes, it is indeed possible to overcome failure and sin, misery and death. A Missionary Oblate or Associate, having met the Savior in similar ways as Eugene did on Good Friday, has no doubt that everything can change. Therefore such missionaries will aim not just at partial salvation but at holiness, for themselves and for others, especially the most abandoned. It is Mary Immaculate who shows us that fullness of salvation is possible.

Mary Immaculate makes our name complete: we are Oblates, offerings to God with Christ, and we are encouraged on our way by Mary's shining holiness. She will guide us and many others to an ever deeper encounter with the only One who can save, Christ crucified, the One whom St. Eugene met on a Good Friday, two centuries ago.

History did not give us the name of Salvatorians. On February 17th, 1826, the Oblates of St. Charles received as their new name the title of Oblates of Mary Immaculate. However, looking at this name from a salvatorian perspective we appreciate the profound

Wilhelm Steckling, OMI
Superior General

General Statistics

<u>JANUARY 2007</u>						<u>JANUARY 2006</u>				
Total	Fr.	B1	B2	Schol.		Total	Fr.	B1	B2	Schol.
41	33	8			General Admin.	40	33	7		
880	524	61	16	279	Africa-Madagascar	866	538	64	13	251
473	329	29	4	111	Latin America	464	325	29	3	107
679	476	24	4	175	Asia-Oceania	662	461	23	6	172
1029	861	148	2	18	Canada-United States	1056	885	151	1	19
1282	995	143	4	140	Europe	1290	1000	153	4	133
4384	3218	413	30	723	Total	4378	3242	427	27	682
of whom 43 are bishops						of whom 43 are bishops				

*In the above table each Oblate is counted in the **Region** to which he belongs. For example, the Oblates in Zambia are counted only in Africa-Madagascar, although they are members of the United States Province. The scholastics in Rome are listed in their home Region. "B1." indicates perpetually professed brothers, and "B2" the brothers who are still in first formation.*

SUMMARY

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2006	January 2007	+ / -
Cardinal	1	1	
Archbishops	10	10	
Bishops	32	32	
Prefects Apostolic	2	2	
Priests	3197	3173	- 24
Brothers with perpetual vows	427	413	- 14
Brothers with temporary vows	27	30	+ 3
Scholastics with perpetual vows	98	114	+ 16
Scholastics with temporary vows	584	609	+ 25
Total number of Oblates	4378	4384	+ 6

PERSONNEL BY UNIT LEVEL JANUARY 2007

The next table shows the number of Oblates according to the Unit to which they belong. For example, all the Oblates attached to the Zambia Delegation are listed there, even though they are juridically members of the United States Province, or may be temporarily living elsewhere. Some of the Zambian scholastics are in Cedara, others in the U.S. etc.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.
	0	0	0	0	0	33	8	0	0	0	0	41
Total:	0	0	0	0	0	33	8	0	0	0	0	41

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.
Angola	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	9
Cameroun	0	0	4	0	0	66	11	6	0	4	40	131
Central S. A.	0	0	2	0	0	42	2	0	0	1	7	54
Congo	0	0	1	0	0	77	13	2	0	6	36	135
Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	6	13
Lesotho	0	1	1	0	0	82	19	0	0	6	40	149
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	0	28	3	0	0	5	17	53
Namibia	0	1	2	0	0	27	6	3	0	0	7	46
Natal	0	1	1	0	0	53	2	0	0	4	10	71
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	2	0	2	16	28
Northern S. A.	0	1	1	0	0	50	1	0	0	0	6	59
Qwa-Qwa	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Sahara	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	25	1	1	0	2	8	37
Zambia	0	0	1	0	0	20	1	0	1	3	36	62
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	3	11	21
Total:	0	4	13	1	0	505	61	16	1	36	243	880

LATIN AMERICA

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.
Argentina-Chile	0	0	1	0	44	1	0	0	0	1	2	49
Baja California	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	21	9	0	0	0	2	2	34
Brazil	0	0	0	0	48	6	0	0	0	1	12	67
Brazil Central	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	14
Colombia	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	9
Cuba	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
French Guyana	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	6	16
Haiti	0	1	1	0	64	7	3	0	13	38	127	
Mexico	0	0	0	0	36	1	0	0	0	1	8	46
Paraguay	0	0	1	0	27	2	0	0	0	2	4	36
Peru	0	0	0	0	19	2	1	0	0	2	9	33
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Venezuela	0	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Total:	0	1	4	0	324	29	4	0	25	86	473	

ASIA-OCEANIA

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.
Australia	0	0	0	0	47	1	0	0	0	0	1	49
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	18	0	0	0	0	1	10	30
China	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	2	13
Colombo	0	0	1	0	112	13	0	0	0	6	27	159
India	0	0	0	0	45	0	3	0	0	1	26	75
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	8	43
Jaffna	0	0	0	0	68	0	0	0	0	0	39	107
Japan	0	0	0	0	22	1	0	0	0	1	0	24
Korea	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Pakistan	0	0	0	1	14	0	0	0	0	6	9	30
Philippines	0	1	1	0	74	8	1	0	0	1	27	113
Thailand	0	0	1	0	17	1	0	0	0	2	6	27
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total:	0	1	4	1	471	24	4	0	18	157	679	

CANADA-UNITED STATES

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.
Assumption	0	0	0	0	46	1	0	0	0	1	1	49
Lacombe	0	3	5	0	242	37	0	0	0	0	0	287
N.D.-du-Cap	0	0	4	0	201	83	1	0	0	0	1	290
United States	1	1	1	0	357	27	1	0	0	6	9	403
Total:	1	4	10	0	846	148	2	0	7	11	1029	

EUROPE

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.
Anglo-Irish	0	0	0	0	95	7	0	0	0	0	0	102
Austria/Czech	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	1	22
Belgium/Netherlands	0	0	0	0	111	21	0	0	0	0	0	132

Belorussia	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
France	0	0	0	0	176	29	0	0	1	17	223
France & Benelux	0	0	0	0	42	3	0	0	0	0	45
Germany	0	0	0	0	103	30	1	0	1	5	140
Italy	0	0	1	0	136	11	0	0	0	7	155
Lourdes	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Poland	0	0	0	0	222	30	3	0	23	63	341
Romania	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	11	16
Scandinavia	0	0	0	0	22	2	0	0	0	0	24
Spain	0	0	0	0	27	7	0	0	1	3	38
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	26	3	0	0	1	5	35
Total:	0	0	1	0	994	143	4	0	28	112	1282
Total:	1	10	32	2	3173	413	30	1	114	609	4384

Legenda: Card=Cardinal; Ar.Ep.=ArchBishop; Ep.=Bishop; Pr.Ap.=Prefect Apostolic; Fr.=Father; Br.=Brother; Br.T.=Brother with temp. vows; Fr.T.=Father without Oblation No.; Sc.P.=Scholastics with perp. vows; Sc.T.=Scholastics with temp. vows

PERPETUAL OBLATIONS 2006

(2005: 4 Scholastics and 1 Brother; 2006: 63 Scholastics and 3 Brothers)

Obl. No.	Name	Prov. of Origin	Date	Diocese of Origin
14063	MERILAN Laudy	Haiti	06 Jan. 2006	Les Cayes
14064	FETSHI Jean-Pierre	Congo	06 Jan. 2006	Luiza
14065	DAGAVOUNANSOU Edouard	Cameroun	06 Jan. 2006	Yagoua
14066	MAJDANSKI Pawel	Poland	06 Jan. 2006	Sandomierska
14067	KNOTT Andrew	Natal	06 Jan. 2006	Durban
14068	NABWENJE Charles	Natal	22 Jan. 2006	Harare
14069	MADONDO Jeffrey	Natal	22 Jan. 2006	Bulawayo
14070	KHOALE Patrick	Lesotho	25 Jan. 2006	Maseru
14071	RUIZ GONZALEZ Alberto	Spain	11 Mar. 2006	Madrid
14072	JIMENEZ GAVIRIA Jose	Haiti	11 Feb. 2006	Cartagena
14073	SANTANA DELGADO Hugo	Haiti	11 Feb. 2006	Bogota
14074	SELVADURAI Praven	Jaffna	16 Feb. 2006	Jaffna
14075	FERNANDO Santhiyogu	Jaffna	16 Feb. 2006	Mannar
14076	JOHN SAMINATHAR Renee	Jaffna	16 Feb. 2006	Jaffna
14077	MARIATHAS Anthony	Jaffna	16 Feb. 2006	Jaffna
14078	PERINPANAYAGAM Benignus	Jaffna	16 Feb. 2006	Jaffna
14079	PARUNANTHU Vimalrajan	Jaffna	16 Feb. 2006	Mannar
14080	ALFRED Vijakamalan	Jaffna	16 Feb. 2006	Jaffna
14081	NAZIR Maqsood	Colombo	16 Feb. 2006	Faisalabad
14082	MEYIWA Nkukuleko	Natal	20 Feb. 2006	Durban
14083	MNCWABE Mthokozisi	Natal	20 Feb. 2006	Eshowe
14084	CANO GARCIA Agustin	Mex/Guat	08 Dec. 2005 *	Quiche
14085	LOUIS Edin	Haiti	08 Sept. 2005 *	Cap-Hâitin
14086	JOSEPH Adley	Haiti	08 Sept. 2005 *	Les Cayes
14087	MOROSE MITTIADO Hebert	Haiti	08 Sept. 2005 *	Les Cayes

Obl. No.	Name	Prov. of Origin	Date	Diocese of Origin
14088	LUBIN Louis	Haiti	08 Sept. 2005 *	Les Cayes
14089	POLI Daniele	Italie	07 May. 2006	Brescia
14090	RATAJCZAK Pawel	Assumption	01 June. 2006	Biatystok
14091	MUTALE Nebby	U.S.A/Zambia	29 Jan. 2006	Ndola
14092	VRI Paul	Cameroun	12 Feb. 2006	Pala
14093	BENNAKHONE Inthirath	Thailand	02 Jul. 2006	Vientiane
14094	BOUZI Quilin	U S Province	02 Sept. 2006	Port-au-Prince
14095	GOMEZ Francisco	U S Province	02 Sept. 2006	Mexico
14096	GARCIA Porfirio	U S Province	02 Sept. 2006	Vera Cruz
14097	AYALA Juan, Jr.	U S Province	02 Sept. 2006	Chicago
14098	VELAZQUEZ Osvaldo	U S Province	02 Sept. 2006	San Juan de los Lagos
14099	SAINTILMA Louitional	Haiti	08 Sept. 2006	Fort Liberté
14100	BHATTI Attaullah	Colom./Pak.	25 Aug. 2006	Hyderabad
14101	ALAM Ashaq	Colom./Pak.	25 Aug. 2006	Lahore
14102	PAULUS Khan	Colom./Pak.	25 Aug. 2006	Faisalabad
14103	PAUL Emmanuel	Colom./Pak.	25 Aug. 2006	Quetta
14104	GILL Asad	Colom./Pak.	25 Aug. 2006	Faisalabad
14105	SRIKHON Mark	Thailand	11 Feb. 2006	Tharae-Nongsaeng
14106	IMBIRA Wenceslas	Pol./Madag.	13 Aug. 2006	Antsiranana
14107	NAPIERA ŁA Janusz	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Poznan
14108	WOJDOWSKI Mariusz	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Poznan
14109	ZYNDA Kamil	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Pelplin
14110	JUCHNIEWICZ Andrzej	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Grodno
14111	WOZNY Tomasz	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Zielona Gora-Gorzow
14112	NYREK Pawel	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Pelplin
14113	RURANSKI Grzegorz	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Gliwice
14114	HADRICH Michal	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Gniezno
14115	SZWARC Marcin	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Zielona Gora-Gorzow
14116	MARECKI Grzegorz	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Siedlice
14117	MACHELSKI Krzysztof	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Katowice
14118	WNEK Andrzej	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Katowice
14119	KEDZIA Jaroslaw	Poland	08 Sept. 2006	Lublin
14120	FERNANDOPULLE Anton	Colombo	30 Sept. 2006	Colombo
14121	JAYAMAHA Don Jude	Colombo	24 Sept. 2006	Colombo
14122	DIAS Kelum	Colombo	24 Sept. 2006	Colombo
14123	JAYAWARDENE Hiran	Colombo	24 Sept. 2006	Colombo
14124	FIGUEREDO NETO João	Brazil	24 Sept. 2006	Natal
14125	KHOZA Elphas	Natal/Zimb.	01 Dec. 2006	Bulawayo
14126	ACOSTA OVELAR Guido	Paraguay	28 Oct. 2006	Caacupé
14127	PAYABO Simon	Cameroun	13 Aug. 2006	Pala
14128	OSEKWUTE Udoka Peter	Cameroun	13 Aug. 2006	Essele-Uku
14129	GANAVA Bizama Frédéric	Cameroun	13 Aug. 2006	Maroua-Mokolo
14130	ZYLHOUBÉ Jean-Georges	Cameroun	13 Aug. 2006	Maroua-Mokolo
14131	OBI Gabriel	Cam./Nigeria	13 Aug. 2006	Ahiara
14132	EKPO John	Cam./Nigeria	13 Aug. 2006	Ogoja
14133	OBIKARA Chika	Cam./Nigeria	13 Aug. 2006	Owerri

Obediences 2006*Asterisk (*) = First obedience*

Date	Name	Origin	Destination
16 Jan. 2006	DYBALA Damian Fr.	Italy/Uruguay	Poland
16 Jan. 2006	MILANOWSKI Janusz Fr.	Cameroon	Poland
16 Jan. 2006	*SINCÈRE Paul Sc.	Haiti	Haiti
16 Jan. 2006	*PRINTEMPS Jean Sc.	Haiti	Haiti
16 Jan. 2006	*MÉSIDOR Jean Sc.	Haiti	Haiti
16 Jan. 2006	*LOUIS Edin Bro.	Haiti	Haiti
16 Jan. 2006	*FOUQUET Wilson Sc.	Haiti	Haiti
16 Jan. 2006	*DOMINIQUE Joli-Coeur Sc.	Haiti	Haiti
16 Jan. 2006	*BÉLIARD Yvon Sc.	Haiti	Haiti
16 Jan. 2006	*MANIACKI-MABIALA François Sc.	France	France
03 Feb. 2006	BISSETT Anthony Fr.	Gen. Admin.	Anglo-Irish
03 Feb. 2006	*CHAMBERS James Sc.	U.S. Province	U.S./Zambia
03 Feb. 2006	*COSTA Rocky Fr.	Col./Bangladesh	Col./Bangladesh
03 Feb. 2006	*ROZARIO Dominic Fr.	Col./Bangladesh	Col./Bangladesh
03 Feb. 2006	*KALING Bernard Fr.	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
03 Feb. 2006	OKOŁOWSKI Marek Fr.	Cameroon	Pol/Del. Polonaise
03 Feb. 2006	SKICKI Grzegorz Fr.	Cameroon	France
10 Mar. 2006	*ORUÉ Jose Sc.	Paraguay	Paraguay
22 Mar. 2006	MARTINEZ de PISON Ramon Fr.	Lacombe	ND-du-Cap
04 Apr. 2006	*JAMROZY Krzysztof Sc.	Poland	Poland
04 Apr. 2006	*MALAJKA Dariusz Sc.	Poland	Poland
04 Apr. 2006	*URBAN Jan Sc.	Poland	Poland
04 Apr. 2006	*ZIETKOWSKI Krzysztof Sc.	Poland	Poland
04 Apr. 2006	*PLONKA Slawomir Sc.	Poland	Poland
04 Apr. 2006	*KOMAN Piotr Sc.	Poland	Poland/Madagascar
04 Apr. 2006	*MOTHAI Peter Fr.	Central Prov. S.A.	Central Prov. S.A.
04 Apr. 2006	*NDONG Joseph Fr.	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
04 Apr. 2006	TORRES Jose Fr.	Mexico	U.S. Prov.
04 Apr. 2006	HOLSEN Norbert Fr.	Cameroon	France
04 Apr. 2006	COLIN René Fr.	Indonesia	France
04 Apr. 2006	WITTE Bernardo Msgr.	Germany	Argentina-Chile
04 Apr. 2006	BOIS Joseph Fr.	Gen. Admin.	France
04 Apr. 2006	DESSOLIN Dominique Bro.	France	Gen. Admin.
05 Apr. 2006	POLA-PHUATI Blaise Sc.	Congo	Congo
17 Apr. 2006	BERTRAIS Yves Fr.	Thailand	France
21 Apr. 2006	MICELI Paolo Fr.	Italy	Thailand
31 May.2006	JESUNESAN Philipiah Fr.	Lacombe	Jaffna
31 May.2006	*ANDREWS Joseph Sc.	Colombo/India	Colombo/India
31 May.2006	*SITHOLE Sithabiso Sc.	Natal	Natal
31 May.2006	JASTRZEBSKI Andrzej Fr.	Poland	Gen. Admin.
31 May.2006	ALLEAUME Eric Fr.	Australia	Gen. Admin.
31 May.2006	*NOWAK Piotr Sc.	Assumption	Assumption
31 May.2006	IOLLO Giancarlo Fr.	Italy	ND-du-Cap
31 May.2006	*FIORI Danilo Fr.	Italy	Italy/Senegal
31 May.2006	*FEY Dirk Fr.	Allemagne	Germany
31 May.2006	*NDUKULU MONGI-ULING Gér. Sc.	Congo	Congo

Date	Name	Origin	Destination ³¹
May.2006	NKWAYAYA Norbert Fr.	Congo	Mexico
31 May.2006	*VRI Paul Bro.	Cameroon	Cameroon
31 May.2006	*REMJEMO Christophe Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
31 May.2006	*EKO NKOA Charles Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
01 June.2006	*UWAEZUOKE Michael Sc.	Cameroon	Namibia
03 June.2006	*AROKIASAMY Rayappan Sc.	Colombo/India	Colombo/India
20 June.2006	*SUVIKKIN Kaspar Sc.	Colombo/India	Colombo/India
20 June.2006	*SALAKUNDALA Basil Sc.	Colombo/India	Colombo/India
20 June.2006	*PRAGASAM Yesuraj Sc.	Colombo/India	Colombo/India
20 June.2006	*LENADIMAI Benendict Sc.	Colombo/India	Colombo/India
31 July. 2006	*ALFRED Vijayakamalan Fr.	Jaffna	Jaffna
31 July. 2006	*FERNANDO Santhiyogu Sc .	Jaffna	Jaffna
31 July. 2006	*PERINPANAYAGAM Benignus Fr.	Jaffna	Jaffna
31 July. 2006	*PARUNANTHU Vimalrajan Sc.	Jaffna	Jaffna
31 July. 2006	*JOHN SAMINATHAR René Fr.	Jaffna	Jaffna
31 July. 2006	*MARIADAS Anthony Sc.	Jaffna	Jaffna
31 July. 2006	*SELVADURAI Praveen Fr.	Jaffna	Jaffna
02 Aug. 2006	CUEFF François Fr.	Lacombe	France
02 Aug. 2006	DALVERNY Marcel Fr.	Cameroon	France
02 Aug. 2006	JOSEPH Durai Arul Fr.	Australia/China	Colombo/India
02 Aug. 2006	LEGARÉ Louis Fr.	Lacombe	Australia/China
02 Aug. 2006	MARINAYAGAM Rayappu Fr.	Colombo	Lesotho
02 Aug. 2006	*NDLOVU Bafana Sc.	Natal	Natal
03 Aug. 2006	HURTUBISE Paul Fr.	Lesotho	ND-du-Cap
29 Aug. 2006	RATNASEKERA Leopold Fr.	Gen. Admin.	Colombo
29 Aug. 2006	*FERNANDO Joseph Fr.	Colombo	Colombo
29 Aug. 2006	REGINATO Pietro Fr.	Assumption	Italy
29 Aug. 2006	*ALTAMIRANO Peter Fr.	Lacombe	Lacombe
29 Aug. 2006	*WOJDOWSKI Mariusz Sc.	Poland	Poland
02 Sept.2006	*LITANDA BUNGULU Faustin Sc.	Congo	Congo
06 Oct. 2006	BARTOLOTTA Alfonso Fr.	Italy/Senegal	France
06 Oct. 2006	*NDENE André Fr.	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
06 Oct. 2006	*SENE Victor Fr.	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
06 Oct. 2006	*SENE André Fr.	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
06 Oct. 2006	*ZORILLA Julio Fr.	Argentina-Chile	Argentina-Chile
06 Oct. 2006	*ROMERO Alain Sc.	Bolivia	Bolivia
06 Oct. 2006	CHRÉTIEN Louis-Marie Fr.	Haiti	Haiti
06 Oct. 2006	*SALIBA Renaud Bro.	France	France
06 Oct. 2006	*BACCAM Nheum Bro.	France	France
06 Oct. 2006	*DAGAVOUNANSOU Edouard Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
06 Oct. 2006	*BASSEME Etienne Bro.	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
25 Oct. 2006	PROSDOCIMO Camilo Fr.	Lacombe	Italy
14 Nov. 2006	NOSOWICZ Jacek Fr.	Assumption	Assumption
14 Nov. 2006	OLSZEWSKI Miroslaw Fr.	Assumption	Assumption
14 Nov. 2006	BEAUDET Jean-Paul Bro.	Gen. Admin.	ND-du-Cap
30 Nov. 2006	VERMEERSCH Ignace Fr.	Cameroon	France
02 Dec. 2006	*RUIZ GONZALEZ Alberto Sc.	Spain	Spain
08 Dec. 2006	KARCIARZ Wladyslaw Fr.	Assumption	Lacombe

Oblates in First Formation
(as of 31 December 2006)

Year	Novices★	Scholastics	Bros. in Formation	First vows	Perpetual vows	Ordinations
2006	XXX	723	30	156*	71**	50***
2005	116	682	27	121	50	63
2004	138	671	28	129	66	63
2003	154	643	36	132	67	63
2002	159	657	29	130	78	76
2001	159	622	34	112	68	59
2000	130	638	41	114	60	59
1998	161	587	47	163	73	46
1996	131	560	42	141	56	69

*Includes 21 who made first vows in 2005

**5 who made perpetual vows in 2005

***6 who were ordained in 2005

Totals for 2006 include 5 Brothers who made first vows and 3 who made perpetual vows in 2006; 4 who made first vows and 1 who made perpetual vows in 2005.

★The number of novices is inaccurate in some years because some units did not send their report.

Deaths and Departures

Deaths in 2006 : 92 (78 Priests, 14 Brothers)

2005:**94** 2004:**113** 2003:**102** 2002:**121** 2001:**101** 2000:**121** 1999:**116** 1998:**115**

Departures reported in

2006: 67** (8 priests, 56 scholastics, 3 brothers)
2005: 60 (8 priests, 48 scholastics, 4 brothers)
2004 : 52 (3 priests, 48 scholastics, 1 brother)
2003 : 89 (15 priests, 69 scholastics, 5 brothers)
2002 : 75 (14 priests, 59 scholastics, 2 brothers)
2001 : 84 (20 priests, 59 scholastics, 5 brothers)

** 18 scholastics did not renew temporary vows in 2004 and 2005; 2 priests were dismissed in 2005, but these were not reported until 2006.

In 2006:

-34 scholastics did not renew their temporary vows.

-3 scholastics and 1 brother were granted a dispensation from temporary vows by the Superior General.

-1 scholastic was dispensed from perpetual vows by the Holy See.

-1 priest and 1 brother were dismissed from the Congregation.

-2 priests were laicized.

-3 priests and 1 Brother (a deacon) were definitively incardinated into a diocese.

The Holy See granted the following dispensations:

2 laicizations with dispensation from celibacy

4 transfers to the diocesan clergy (3 priests and 1 Brother)

1 dispensation from perpetual vows (scholastic)

Europe

SPAIN**125 years of Oblate presence in Spain**

Last December 8, the feast of our Mother and Patron, the Missionary Oblates of the Province of Spain celebrated the beginning of a year dedicated to the observance of the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the first Oblates in Spain and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Province.

On November 19, 1882, the first Oblates came to Spain from France to serve as chaplains to the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux. One of them was Father Joseph FABRE, the second Superior General and successor of St. Eugene de Mazenod, considered the founder of what would later become the Province of Spain. He sowed the mustard seed.

Until 1939, new Spanish Oblates, with the exception of those working in local formation houses, were destined for the foreign missions: Sri Lanka, Texas, Uruguay, Mexico, Argentina...

Fifty years after the arrival of the first Oblates, on December 8, 1932, the mustard seed had grown and the works in Spain were established as a Vice-Province. The first provincial was the Servant of God, Fr. Francisco ESTEBAN.

A few years later, Fr. Esteban would be the first of the group of Oblate martyrs who professed their faith with the sacrifice of their lives during the religious persecution that broke out at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Thus, the recently established Vice-Province of Spain lived through the most heroic and saddest period in its history: the martyrdom of 22 of them.

Since 1939, the Oblates spread out in Spain. They founded schools (colegios) in Hernani (Guipúzcoa), Laguna de Duero (Valladolid), Badajoz, Aguilar de la Frontera (Córdoba) and Málaga. They accepted parishes in Teverga and Oviedo (Asturias), Negurigane (Bilbao), Diego de León and Aluche (Madrid), Badajoz, Jaén, Málaga and Seville.

Faithful to their missionary spirit, they continue their

presence in their original foreign missions; they have also sent missionaries to Canada, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, California... They keep the light of Christ burning in Western Sahara, in the midst of the African desert.

Faithful to the charism of Saint Eugene, the Oblates founded a mission band in Cuenca and they spread the gospel through the media. They help young people grow in their faith and help them prepare for marriage; they work in poor neighborhoods and in the world of the laborer to bring some Christian hope.

In the 1980's, there was a burst of new vocations: young men coming from our parishes wanted to follow in the steps of Saint Eugene as missionaries to the poor. The new vocations led to refocusing of missionary options with new zeal and new methods:

- The founding of the mission of Venezuela (1991); the sending of new missionaries to the missions in Sahara, Argentina, Uruguay, and Ukraine.
- The preaching of parish missions.
- Rural ministry in Cadiz and Valladolid.
- Parish ministry where Oblates continue cultivating a Marian and missionary spirit: Diego de León, Aluche, and Málaga.
- Partnership at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes (France) as an extraordinary form of fostering Marian devotion.

The Lord has blessed the Oblates in Spain with other great gifts: the extension of the Oblate charism to a new congregation of women religious, the Misioneras Oblatas de María Inmaculada, and the opening of our life and mission to lay Oblates. (Fernando DE LA PAZ)

SPAIN**In England, a young Spanish woman discovers Oblate hospitality**

Esther Melgarejo, a member of the Lay Oblates in Spain, describes a beautiful experience she had with the Oblates in England.

Hello everyone. I am Esther from Málaga and I would simply like to say a few words of thanks to

all the Oblates and all the laity who consider themselves Oblates, because this Christmas was very special for me.

On account of my job, I am located in England for three months, and because of the bureaucracy, my new husband (since September) could not come to spend Christmas with me. While I was faced with the depressing idea of spending Christmas alone in my room, God gave me a gift through the Oblates. God (and Chicho [Fr. Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO]) introduced me to some Oblates here in England.

Because of their kindness and the wonderful way they treated me, I could not but feel at home with them, and I felt lucky to be part of a worldwide "family." They invited me to spend Christmas with them and I stayed in their house for almost three

days since I live in another city. I don't know if you can imagine how close one can feel to strangers when what brings them together is God alone. I am so grateful, not only to Fr. Leo PHILOMIN, Fr. John STAAK, Fr. Ken THORSON, and Brother Noel GARCIA, but to all the Oblates, including the laity who work with them, because I felt welcomed by them too in this country so new to me.

As is typical of the Oblates, we got together on Christmas to dine with the poor, with those who were alone, with those who have nothing on this earth. Thus, we formed a community with persons from places as different as India, Afghanistan, France, the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Ireland, England, Sri Lanka, Spain...all together like a big family, a family with neither nationality nor common language. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this could happen for all Christians? (*NOSOTROS*, January 2007)

Latin America

URUGUAY

Tobogán: a good tradition

Tobogán is a children's game but also a slum (a *favela* in Brazil, a *población* in Chile, a *villamiseria* in Argentina). But this is a rather special slum, since it is divided into two parts by an open canal, and surrounded by the Tróccoli Stadium of Montevideo Hill and the access roads for highways 5 and 1.

Last year, Father Stefano CARTABIA began visiting the families there to prepare for baptisms and to play with the children. The Tobogán community had grown so much that they needed a place for meetings, for games, for catechesis, and for celebration. But where?

The houses are shacks, too small and with too many children. They needed a chapel. The dream was shared; they got organized; they made it happen. Many came forward with ideas, with material, with labor and with encouragement.

Finally, on December 10, they were able to see their dream realized in the presence of Bishop Martín Pérez, the Auxiliary Bishop of Montevideo,

who blessed the chapel, anointed the altar, and, above all, strengthened the faith of the community that already has adult and youth groups, catechism classes, as well as a good relationship with the neighborhood and concern for the poorest citizens.

The name chosen for the chapel is the Smiling Virgin; for in a neighborhood with so many problems, the chapel is a sign of God's love and of an attitude of openness and of hope. Furthermore, Father Stefano wanted to recall the "nod of approval" given by Mary to Saint Eugene on August 15, 1822, when in the midst of so many problems, he felt that the Virgin was lending her support to his missionary endeavors and the founding of the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Bishop Martín emphasized the importance of the life and witness of the community. "What is important is not the walls, but life." In his kind and simple way, he demonstrated the loving presence of the Church and her great interest in the lives of the poor.

The Chapel of the Smiling Virgin is an Oblate tradition and a beautiful custom: to promote the *presence* of the Church in the midst of the poorest. The first missions of Saint Eugene were preached among the

poorest people of Provence in Southern France. When the Oblates arrived in their various places on the five continents, for almost 150 years, an infinity of “*presences*” was established.

With the mushrooming of slums in Uruguay, the Oblates have tried to promote this *presence*, and also chapels, sometimes hidden amidst shacks and alleys. To name a few of them: Santa Mónica, Montegrande, Playa Penino, Sofima, Villa Olímpica, San Fernando, Delta in Ciudad del Plata (formerly

called Rincón de la Bolsa – San José); others are in the rural areas: Los Furtados, Clara, Pampa, Peralta (south of Tacuarembó) and others at Montevideo Hill: Casabó, La Paloma, Maracaná, Co. Tra. Vi., and now Tobogán. If you want to get there by yourself, it’s hard to find the way, but if you ask the neighbors or the children, they will tell you: go right, behind the Tróccoli Stadium, and a little farther on, make a slight turn to the right, another to the left and there you will find our Chapel of the Smiling Virgin.

Canada-United States

UNITED STATES

Former Oblate Lay Missionary elected Governor of Colorado

Twenty years after Oblate lay missionaries Bill and Jeannie Ritter moved into a three-room bat and mosquito infested apartment in Zambia, they are ready to move into the Governor’s Mansion in Denver, Colorado.

Bill, who was elected Colorado’s Governor in the general election of November, 2006, attended the St. Anthony’s Oblate Juniorate in San Antonio, Texas, in the early 70’s. Perhaps that’s where the seed of missionary life was planted. It is certainly where he met Fr. Ron WALKER, then a professor at St. Anthony’s. Fr. Ron’s later invitation would change Bill’s life.

For Jeannie, maybe the Zambian missionary seed was planted when she took a leave from her job as an airline stewardess to join the Peace Corps in Tunisia. She didn’t get to know Fr. Ron until she returned to the States to marry Bill. Fr. Ron performed their wedding, but he did more than that to change their lives.

Bill and Jeannie and their first child, Augie, were living the life of a successful young family in Denver, when Fr. Walker called to tell them he had volunteered for the new Oblate mission in Zambia. His call was more than informational. It was invitational. In 1987, Bill and Jeannie’s missionary vocation was in bloom. That summer, with baby Augie in tow, they took over directorship of the Mongu Nutrition Center in the Western Province of Zambia. They were the first

married couple to join the Oblate Lay Missionary program in what was then the US Southern Province.

The young missionary couple was interviewed in 1987 by “The Marriage Partnership” magazine. One of the questions asked them was: what is it you hope to offer the people of Zambia, other than supplying food? Bill answered, “Maybe nothing different from what we’d be able to offer our neighbors in Denver — that we live the gospel.” Jeannie’s response was about friendship: “Everyone is attracted to people who have the peace you get from living what you believe in.”

Missionary seeds are seeds of service. This is true of so many religious as well as lay missionaries. So, it is no surprise that after their three years of Oblate service in Zambia, the Ritters, now with four children, looked for ways to live the values they had demonstrated there. Whether in the District Attorney’s office in Denver or on the shady streets around their home, they found ways to nourish their missionary vocation of service. In January, they will carry their Zambian missionary experience and missionary convictions into a new life of service. As they become the first family of Colorado, they also become the first Oblate missionaries (lay or otherwise) to reach such a level of public service. Other than its size and dependable electricity, maybe their new home in Denver will not be so different from their home in Mongu.

NOTRE-DAME-DU-CAP Exodus celebrates its founder

On December 21, 2006, the board members, the employees and the beneficiaries of the Exodus Treat-

ment Center (*Maison de réhabilitation l'Exode*) took part in a Christmas supper and the unveiling of a picture by Danièle Miny to emphasize their esteem for the center's founder, André DUMONT. Thanks to the support of the Sisters of Providence, the Oblates and many other benefactors, after 16 years, Exodus can no longer count all the men and

women who have been able to take control of their lives and rid themselves of their dependence on alcohol and drugs. It has been good news for all of those who have reclaimed their dignity and who weep with pride as they receive their "diploma" after a year and ten years of total sobriety. (INFO OMI, January 2007)

Asia-Oceania

THAILAND

Christmas, a metaphor for mission

The recent feast of Christmas reminded Fr. Domenico RODIGHIERO, an Italian Oblate on mission in Thailand, that to be a missionary is an experience of Jesus, who leaves his home and sets out on a journey. Like Jesus, the missionary lives the discomfort of being a stranger everywhere, but he also experiences the freedom to enter into the life of so many people as a brother, trying to share the joys and the sorrows of those whom he meets.

In the past year, his mission was to go to several villages in Thailand to meet numerous children and youth. "It was a tiring experience," says the Domenico, "but fascinating. In the schools, the teachers, whether Catholic or Buddhist, always welcomed us with a smile, turning the students over to us without a problem. And the children were happy to spend a couple hours in an activity more enjoyable than mathematics and the Thai language."

For this missionary, seeing the joy and the carefree spirit of the youngsters was a unique experience: "It's as if the whole world were a playground where everyone has a role and is happy with the space that he is given. Arguments are settled easily to give way to joy and fun. Other persons are indispensable partners; otherwise one is isolated, and where there is no relationship, there is no fun."

Fr. Rodighiero also visited the families of these children several times, and there the environment changes completely: "In the morning, everyone is off to school in a uniform that is usually clean and proper, even though mended here and there, while at home they are dressed very simply: some old rags – cleanliness optional. When they come home, many

of them go into the fields to help their parents or they take care of the cattle. Their homes are very simple: four walls and a ramshackle roof, a little cement for a floor and a little outdoor kitchen. What does not change, however, is the smile on the lips; their life seems to be one big game."

The Oblates in Thailand try to help the children that they meet and those who live with them to keep that smile on their lips, even when life does not fulfill all of its promises. Some children study in the mission schools, thanks to contributions from benefactors, thus affording them new opportunities. Furthermore, in Oblate parishes, they find an environment that puts them at ease and in simple rapport with their friends: with them they can walk in the light of the gospel. This experience will be for them an important moment in their lives, especially when, as adults, they will find themselves studying or working in Bangkok, where everything is possible and where traditional values lose their guiding role.

On Sundays, Fr. Rodighiero spends the day with a community of Filipinos and foreigners in a parish in Bangkok: "I leave home rather early and, with public transportation, I travel about 80 kilometers to go to St. John's to celebrate Mass for about 200 persons. I am sort of the *pastor* without that official title, of course, in an international community. I enjoy being with these people who, like me, share the challenge of living outside of their own country; we believe there is something that binds us together that goes beyond culture and place of origin."



Anniversaries for March 2007

65 Years of Religious Life

1942.03.19	07950	Bro. Robert Bergeron	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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60 Years of Religious Life

1947.03.02	08805	Bro. Thomas Cruise	United States
1947.03.19	08807	Bro. Edmond Galameau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1947.03.25	08282	Fr. Georg Geiger	Namibia

60 Years of Priesthood

1947.03.01	07427	Fr. Jean Michal	Haiti
1947.03.01	07445	Fr. Lucien Schmitt	Germany
1947.03.01	07428	Fr. Edouard Zilliox	France
1947.03.22	07369	Fr. Tomás Domínguez	Spain
1947.03.25	07324	Fr. Roland Houle	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

50 Years of Religious Life

1957.03.19	10836	Bro. Albert Bernard	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1957.03.19	10835	Bro. Walter De Mong	Lacombe
1957.03.30	10428	Fr. Pierre Buekens	Belgium/Netherlands

50 Years of Priesthood

1957.03.16	08941	Fr. Nicholas Forde	Anglo-Irish
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25 Years of Religious Life

1982.03.16	12652	Fr. Hugo Chóquez	Peru
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Suffrages for our Deceased

2006: No. 89-92

2007: No. 1- 5

NAME	PROVINCE	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. Thomas Barry	Northern S. Africa	14/03/1929	Pretoria	14/12/2006
Fr. Jean Amourous	OMI Lacombe	20/04/1925	St. Albert	18/12/2006
Fr. Claudio Falardeau	Bolivia	23/12/1926	Cochabamba	25/12/2006
Fr. Waldemar Reschny	OMI Lacombe	28/03/1928	Saskatoon	26/12/2006
Fr. Stanislaus Fernandopulle	Colombo	24/03/1918	Kohuwela	05/01/2007
Fr. Henri Farinelle	Belgium/Netherlands	14/11/1922	Tournai	12/01/2007
Fr. Alcide Cossette	OMI Lacombe	20/02/1905	Manitoba	12/01/2007
Bro. Vicente Magaña	Spain	07/10/1921	Pozuelo	17/01/2007
Fr. Germain Turcotte	OMI Lacombe	23/01/1915	Saskatoon	18/01/2007

“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)