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## First perpetual vows in Korea

On February 2, a cold winter day in Seoul, South Korea, there was an experience of new life for the Oblates. Brother Anselmo RYU HI GU became the first native Korean to pronounce his perpetual vows in that country.

Monsignor Peter Lee Chong Woon, the Vicar for Religious of the Diocese of Suwon, was the principal concelebrant and preached the homily at Yuljeondong Parish. Also concelebrating were the Superior of the Korean Mission, Fr. Vincenzo BORDO, Fr. Varam ANTHONYSWAMY, Superior of the Oblate Seminary, and Fr. Jude PEIRISPULLE, Acting Superior of the General Delegation of Japan. Fr. Mauro CONCARDI, one of the founders of the Korean mission, and now working with the General Treasurer in Rome, was able to be there too.

After the Mass, Anselmo thanked all of those who had helped him arrive at this point in his journey.

Then, following a Korean custom, he bowed deeply, on his hands and knees, in gratitude to those who were present.

On February 17, Anselmo was in Japan to be ordained a deacon during the same ceremony that saw the ordination of Fr. Kenichi FURUKAWA to the priesthood.

What began as a beautiful experience for the Oblates in Korea had a rather somber moment as well. While the Oblates were away from the seminary residence for the celebration, a thief broke into the house and made off with any cash that he could find, not only in the rooms of guests, but also from the local Oblates.

After watching the police conduct their investigation and take fingerprints, the Oblates sat down for a rather gloomy evening meal until Fr. Jude stood up and created some laughter with a few magic tricks, a good reminder that joy was to be the predominant theme of the day.

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## VICAR GENERAL RETURNS TO ROME

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**After an absence of almost two months, Fr. Eugene KING, the Vicar General, came home to the General House on February 28.** In the first days of January, while in England for the funeral of his sister-in-law, Gene had suffered two heart attacks and temporary kidney failure. After weeks in the hospital in Bath, he convalesced at his niece's home until the doctors told him he could travel.

As always happens when one is away from the office, the work continues to pile up. Other members of the Central Government have been filling in for Gene during his absence. They will continue to do so as he moves slowly and steadily into a more normal rhythm of life and work. He has been taking very seriously his doctor's orders not to try to push the recovery process more quickly than nature intends.

With time and patience and God's help, he hopes to move well beyond the 30 minutes per day of exercise he now enjoys. In the meantime, he continues to rely on the prayers of his brother Oblates and greatly appreciates their messages of support over the past two months.

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## General Administration

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### GENERAL HOUSE

#### St. Peter gets a new head

Anyone who has ever taken a walk in the garden in front of the General House may remember a small fish pond next to a statue of St. Peter casting his net. At the base of the statue are the words from Luke's gospel, "*In verbo tuo laxabo rete.*" (At your word, I will let out the nets). The late Fr. Gatetano DRAGO, who was in charge of the layout of the new General House in the late 1940's, had installed St. Peter in that spot and there stood the "fisher of men" for several decades.

In the mid-90's, there were at least two attempts to steal the statue. The first time, the thieves attempted to cut off the head — they cut into the back of the neck to a certain depth but seemed to have given up for some reason (perhaps their operation was too noisy or perhaps some light in the General House went on). The statue remained in place, but the damage to the back of the neck was quite visible to one who looked closely. The second attempt was many

months later. This time the statue was tipped over and laid upon the ground. Since it is of solid stone, it must have been too heavy for the thieves to carry to the gate leading into Via Aurelia. Therefore, they wrapped the head in a blanket they found in the carpenter shop and using a mallet, they broke off Peter's head. The blanket and mallet were later found on the street nearby. And since then, the statue remained headless.

Not to be intimidated by the difficult, the local bur-sar, Fr. Clyde RAUSCH, took it upon himself to go to sculpture classes in 2006 so that he could remedy the "headless" situation in our garden. After months of study and practice, and with the help of excellent photographs that had been taken by then General Archivist, Fr. Alois KEDL, Clyde and his teacher designed a new head for Peter. Some who knew the "old Peter" regret that the "new look" does not include the determination on the face of the old statue. Nevertheless, Clyde's project is a success and a more serene looking fisherman is again guarding the front garden at 290 via Aurelia. (Information provided by Fr. Alois KEDL)

### GENERAL HOUSE: Not receiving visitors in August

*An important message from Don McMAHON, guestmaster of the General House. When making summer plans, please remember that the General House is closed to all visitors during the month of August each year. This decision was reached by the Council of the General House and approved by the General. We close the house in August to give our kitchen and laundry staff an opportunity to take their annual vacations. This also gives us time to check the rooms to attend to repairs and painting projects. Thank you for your understanding.*

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## Asia-Oceania

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### PHILIPPINES

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of death of Bishop Benjamin de Jesus

The Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo commemorated the 10th anniversary of the death of Bishop Benjamin DE JESUS with a Mass celebrated at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral on February 4. He was felled by an assassin's bullets in front of the cathe-

dral in Jolo, Sulu. About 1,200 people - community leaders, students, native Samals, Tausugs and Badjaos, as well as police and military officers - were in attendance. Children and young people laid flowers on the spot where he fell and at his burial place.

Concelebrating with Bishop Angelito LAMPON, the Apostolic Vicar of Jolo, were Archbishop Romulo Valles, newly installed Archbishop of Zamboanga,

Bishop Martin Jumoad of Basilan, Fr. Angel Calvo, CMF, President of Peace Advocates Zamboanga, Fr. Ramon Ma. BERNABE, Provincial of the Oblate Philippine Province, and several Oblate priests, mostly from Jolo and the Tawi-tawi islands.

At the program that followed the Mass, some of the guests gave testimonies on the late bishop. Hadja Jubaira Izquierdo, the mayor's mother, remembered Bishop Ben as a person who "always had a big smile for everybody, especially for the poor and the children of the poor, be they Muslim Tausugs, Christians, Samals or Badjaos." She added that "Padel Bin," as he was known to everyone, always had candies for the children. When they saw him, they would gather around him and sing "Baleleng" (a native song). He sang with them as gave them candy.

For his part, Archbishop Valles said, "The seed of martyrs and their memory in the community is for the Christian community the most clear sign that the proposal of the Gospel is alive in the world, the proposal of peace and justice for all through the pres-

ence of the Spirit of God, through the men and women who believe and make this seed flourish in the middle of evil forces around us." He encouraged the people to "keep his memory [alive] as a prophet and a martyr, a man of peace."

Bishop De Jesus was born on July 25, 1940, in Hulong Dagat, Malabon, Metro Manila and was the youngest of six brothers and sisters, two of whom became Carmelite nuns. He worked for peace and reconciliation through his simple lifestyle and intense prayer. Ten years after his death, his memory is still alive among the vicariate's people who started a movement to work for his beatification.

After the Mass, Fr. Romeo VILLANUEVA, the Vicariate's director of the Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation office, said that the gathering was meant "not to relive the violence and brutality of his death but to remember what he stood for in life - to remember him as a man of peace and a peace for us to emulate." (Randy F. PURCIA)

## Latin America

### HAITI

#### Between despair and hope

Do you know where paradise on earth is located? Do you know where on earth you can also experience hell? The two are found in the same country: Haiti. The "Pearl of the Antilles" has become a place of permanent chaos and nightmares. The European "discoverers" of the 15<sup>th</sup> century found there a population that was peaceful and naturally happy. The Europeans' thirst for monopolizing the natural resources of the place (spices, wood, and minerals) soon destroyed the native populace. These were replaced by workers plucked from Africa and reduced to slavery. One day, the slaves revolted and threw off the yoke of the French, but the exploitation of the weakest continued. The hellish circle of violence and injustice continued to this very day.

I just returned from two weeks in Haiti, my fourth trip there. I love the stubborn courage of these people who can still sing and dance on the heap of misery that crushes them. I saw miracles of creativity

and compassion in different guises: an orphanage for 600 children from three to sixteen years old, founded by a Franco-American Oblate; two l'Arche communities for multi-handicapped persons; two clinics and a home for the dying run by the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa; young trees carefully planted and watered during the long dry season in order to give hope to the peasants; mountainside chapels kept alive by catechists; a secondary school under construction, being financed in part by students at a secondary school in Toronto. And after a trip over roads that we would consider impassable here, I spent two wonderful hours with Jonas (13 years old) and his family, whom I've been supporting for three years through an international aid agency.

I skirted hell and I saw paradise. We have so much to learn from these men, these women, these children, who look to the Gospel for its salt and also, at times, for its bitter sugar, but also for its message of light for humanity. The South needs the North to help it develop its means to live. But even more, the North needs the South to help it find a reason to

live. (B.M. in *Bulletin de la paroisse Sainte Famille, Ottawa January 2007 – Sent by the JPIC Office, Province N.D.-du-Cap, March 2007*)

## URUGUAY

### Sowing seeds of Hope

By bus, by car and by ship, some 30 youth gathered in two small rural towns in Uruguay from January 14-21, to lead the third annual Youth Mission. The towns, Semillero and Estanzuela, do not have a resident priest; one comes every month or, at best, every two weeks, to celebrate Eucharist and visit families.

The Youth Mission is unique because it is organized and led by the youth themselves, with the help of some Oblates. This year, there were four Oblates, three from Uruguay and one from Argentina. The mission's scope is twofold: to touch the People of God to whom they are sent and to give to the youth a powerful experience of mission.

Family visits are a central part of the mission, a time for simple faith sharing. Some people refused to open their doors to the missionaries; others, even though belonging to a protestant sect, were hospitable and open to dialogue. Every family has its own story, with so many joys and sorrows: their children, their

work which gives them enough to barely survive, hope for a better future, homesickness for their European roots (Poland, Italy, Spain). Under a burning Uruguayan January sun, they knocked on all the doors by clapping their hands. No bell is required; a little applause and from behind the curtain comes the voice: "Just a moment; I'm coming."

There are special sessions with the children and the teenagers: moments for learning and moments to have fun together. At the request of the parish priest, six children were prepared for their First Confession and Communion.

At the end of each day, the young missionaries would come together for supper, prayer and an all important good night's rest so that they would have the energy to carry on their work the next day. As the mission continued, there were group meetings, Stations of the Cross (3 km long!), final Masses and the closing fiesta.

The theme of this year's mission was "Remain in my love and I will remain with you." The missionaries completed their task with the assurance that Jesus was surely with them and that in this little corner of Uruguay, hope is not lacking. (Antonio MESSERI)

## Africa-Madagascar

## CAMEROON

### Oblates in the face of conflict

The world media give ample coverage each day to some conflicts and wars; at the same time, they hardly mention others where there are people fleeing their homes and daily living in fear of violence. Genocide, displacement of large populations, gangs of bandits....these are a normal part of life for some people and the world seems to take no notice.

Fr. Thomas MBAYE, provincial of Cameroon-Chad, recently wrote to Father General about his visit to some of the places where Oblates continue to face the daily possibility of violence and the results of prolonged conflicts. There are still warring factions in the eastern part of Chad, where rebels linked to Sudan have attacked camps of refugees fleeing from Darfur.

The rebels seem to be bent on the same kind of "ethnic cleansing" that has happened in Sudan.

Last April, the city of N'Djamena in western Chad was attacked, but the fighting has moved farther and farther away from that city. Fr. Gonzague DALLE, superior of the Oblate community in N'Djamena, ministers to Christian families who have migrated from the south to take advantage of administrative services available in the north. There, they find themselves mixed with the Muslim population. In his regular travels, the Oblate encounters both government troops and rebels, but so far, he has not had any problems.

The Oblates from Cameroon also have a mission in Nigeria, a country where tensions are running high because of upcoming elections. While the situation

is relatively calm at this moment, no one knows what will happen during and after the elections. People are afraid of the future.

## **ANGOLA** **10 years with the prisoners**

When the Oblates from the Province of Congo assumed responsibility of Saint Andrew's Parish in the capital of Angola in April, 1997, the Archbishop of Luanda, Cardinal Alexandre do Nascimento, also asked them to take care of the spiritual needs of the prisoners at the central prison of Luanda, called the *Comarca*.

The current chaplain at the prison is Father Clément MULEWU MUNUMA. The missionaries have discovered that the needs of the prisoners are not only spiritual but also juridical. Often they do not know their rights under Angolan law and they cannot find lawyers to defend them. Therefore, Clément spends an hour each time he goes to the prison, simply teaching them the fundamentals of the legal process as found in the official documents of the country. He tries to make a connection between the legal and the moral issues as well. Occasionally the chaplain can find a lawyer who will follow a case through the legal process, but it is difficult to encounter someone who will do this "pro bono."

As far as the spiritual life is concerned, the chaplain uses the traditional means of preaching and catechesis, especially to bring the Christian prisoners to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and communion. There is emphasis on conversion and penitence, inviting them to leave behind their former way of life and place their trust in God's mercy.

Some of the ministry groups from the parishes of Saint Andrew and Our Lady of Nazareth bring food and other gifts to the prisoners, especially during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Through this prison ministry, the Oblates in Angola continue to live the charism of their Founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod. The Founder began his priestly ministry working with prisoners in Aix-en-Provence. In fact, it was while working with prisoners that he contracted an illness that almost took his life. The Oblate saint took seriously Isaiah's words that Jesus

quoted in the synagogue: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)

## **CONGO** **Oblate scholasticate celebrates a jubilee**

On February 17, the anniversary of the approbation of our Constitutions and Rules, the community of St. Eugene de Mazenod Scholasticate in Kintambo, Kinshasa, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It all began in 1977. Father Daniel LOOBUYCK, provincial of what was then called the Vice-Province of Zaïre, went to Rome for a meeting of all the Oblate provincials. He spoke of the promising future for Oblate vocations in the Congo, but they still needed a suitable place to welcome and train candidates.

This project sparked the interest of Father William WOESTMAN, Provincial of the Central Province of the United States; he promised to help. And help was not long in arriving. In 1980, construction began, under the direction of Father René VERMEIRE, with the help of a handy construction worker, the scholastic on regency, Brother Jean-Pierre BWALWEL.

This construction made possible the opening of the first year of the scholasticate and, at the same time, the Saint Eugene de Mazenod Theologate, on October 18, 1982. The first community began with Father Daniel Loobuyck as superior and Fathers René BECHET, René VERMEIRE, Hubert LAGACÉ and Marius BOBICHON as formators. The next year, Father Nino BUCCA joined the team, and in 1984, Father Paolo ARCHIATI arrived. Fathers Lagacé and Bobichon returned to their own countries, Canada and France, in 1984 and 1985. Fathers Benoît KABONGO and Luigino DA ROS replaced them in 1985; Jean-Pierre Bwalwel came in 1987. In that same year, Father Giovanni SANTOLINI replaced Fr. Bucca. He would die 10 years later in a motorcycle accident. His tomb is located on the grounds of the scholasticate, as a sign of his life given for this ministry.

It was not easy at the beginning. In fact, things were rather down-to-earth. The first year theologians took their classes from the Christian Brothers, our neighbors, surrounded by the infernal noise of construction machinery. The philosophers went to the Saint Augustine Major Seminary and to St. Peter Canisius in Kimwenza. By the second year, the theologate would be up and running at the scholasticate itself. The young Oblates would share their lives with young men from other congregations, particularly the Xaverians.

It took four years (1986) to harvest the first fruits of this endeavor: four new Oblate priests, the first priestly ordinations in the community. Afterwards, ordinations continued and the membership of the province grew: in 1984 – 46 Oblates; in 1985 – 52; in 1986 – 54; in 1987 – 56.

In 1985, Father Daniel Loobuyck finished his term and Father Benoît KABONGO succeeded him. In that same year, the machinery lay silent; the construction was finished. The community began its normal rhythm of life. The following year, Father Marcello ZAGO, Superior General, officially inaugurated the scholasticate and His Excellency, Bishop Louis MBWOL, blessed the chapel and the community.

With the changes that have occurred in the past few years, there have arisen new challenges: internationality, an opening to other cultures, and financial issues. Therefore, the major superiors of the French-speaking sub-region of Africa decided to restructure our formation programs. A project to regroup the scholastics into a consolidated formation house was begun. In January 2005, it was decided that the Kitambo scholasticate would become a consolidated formation house for the theologians of the

French-speaking sub-region of Africa.

The Kintambo scholasticate no longer belongs to the Oblate Province of the Congo, but to the French-speaking sub-region. Management of the scholasticate is in the hands of the major superiors of the Provinces of Cameroon-Chad-Nigeria and the Congo, as well as of the delegations of Senegal and Madagascar. These superiors also name the formators.

In this 2006-07 school year, there are 47 Oblates in the community: 35 scholastics, 1 brother, 4 formators, and 7 in residence. There are seven nationalities represented: Congolese from Brazzaville; Cameroneses; Nigerian; Senegalese; Chadian; Italian; and Congolese from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In his remarks to those invited to the celebration, Father Cyrille ATITUNG, the current superior, said: “By its diversity, this community is meant to be a learning center for knowing Christ and the world to which these future shepherds will be sent. Therefore, it is a place to learn more about oneself and about others who are living this same Oblate brotherhood. Its mission is to form missionaries capable of being at home in all circumstances and everywhere in the world. The community must become a great center of missionary life, international in its scope. We would like to strengthen our relationships with all the congregations that send us their students and maintain great openness of spirit. It’s time to move forward. This scholasticate is already a school, but there is still a lot of work to do to achieve an even higher level of response to the challenges of our changing society. Those young persons who still want to attempt this missionary adventure must be rooted in the Gospel.”

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## Europe

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### FRANCE

#### **Lyon: a meeting with protection from above**

From February 12-14, about 60 Oblates from the Province of France came together to focus on the mission in France, to get to know one another better, to discuss priorities, and to try to understand and plan for the changes that are taking place in

Oblate Europe. All of this took place with protection from above in the person of Our Lady of Fourvière, whose basilica, a focal point for the faithful of Lyon, stands a few meters away from the Oblates’ meeting place.

One might ask, “Why only 60 Oblates?” That is because, at the invitation of the Provincial of France,

Bernard DULLIER, and his council, only Oblates less than 65 years old and community superiors were invited. With no intention of ignoring the rest of the province, which next year will hold its assembly, the younger members of the province had plenty to do during their three days together: dialoging, discussing, meeting, listening, debating – it was a busy time. The purpose of the gathering was to formulate some proposals for the upcoming assembly, prepare for the future, confirm priorities, continue missionary daring, and reinforce links with other Units in Europe. Three days may not seem like many, but a lot was accomplished.

There to help the process along was “Chicho,” Fr. Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO, General Councillor for Europe, as well as Fr. Frank SANTUCCI from the International de Mazenod Center. It was an opportunity to repeat again and again the importance of giving new life to our communities, to communicate better, to join other Units in putting together missionary projects that take into account the immense hope which is already a reality in the Region of Europe. Chicho suggested some basic directions: discovering better who we are and then being open to move and to adapt. Fr. Frank Santucci, with a rousing presentation, made it clear that before one can “DO,” one needed to “BE.” Quite a challenge! Recalling the missionary boldness of Eugene de Mazenod, Frank told again of the Founder’s great desire to teach people about the Savior, to keep his Oblate family united, and to follow fearlessly in the footsteps of the Apostles. In conclusion, he said: *“Your community is rich. You have an incredible patrimony and history to share with the Oblates.”*

This will undoubtedly bear fruit! And if, by chance, the fruit takes a while to appear, at least we will have sown some seeds together... (Yves CHALVET DE RÉCY)

## SPAIN

### Retreat for lay Oblates

On the weekend of January 19-21, there was a good-sized group of laity in Pozuelo for a retreat for lay Oblates. In all, there were 75 lay Oblates present: an impressive number.

The Mission Preaching Team was in charge of lead-

ing the retreat whose theme was the Church in light of the Preface to the Constitutions and Rules. The first talk was by Brother Santi SORIA. Starting with the description by Saint Eugene of the Church of his day in the first part of the Preface, he invited us to reflect on the actual situation of the Church and of our own particular Christian communities. Later, the laity had the opportunity to share in small groups their own opinion about today’s Church. After the small groups and a bit of rest, there was an hour and a half for personal prayer and reflection.

In the afternoon, Father Rafael MARTÍN led a reflection on how Christ calls us, by means of the needs of the Church, just as St. Eugene had experienced. After this meditation, there was another hour of personal reflection on the theme: “Lord, to what are you calling me in your Church?” To help us with this task, he invited us to reread the letter that St. Eugene wrote to Fr. Tempier, asking him to join the new group of missionaries.

After another coffee break, we went to the Church for the celebration of Eucharist. Here there was a very special focus. In the sanctuary, there was a large poster with the drawing of a sad-looking Church. During the homily, parts of the drawing were removed to reveal beneath the image of a young Church, with face and heart, feet and hands, holding a bottle of “Three in One” spray representing the Holy Trinity anointing the Christian community.

In the evening, the Preaching Team decided to share with the group two of their recent experiences with those who wished to hear about them: the mission in Honduras and the mission in San Pablo de Buceite (Cádiz).

The next day, Sunday, after lauds and breakfast, Father Juan Carlos DELGADO took up the task once again with a meditation on the response which, according to the Preface, St. Eugene gave to two important questions: “What did Our Lord Jesus Christ do? And what should those do who wish to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ?”

After a period of personal prayer, we all came together in the Emmaus Chapel to take part in the Eucharistic celebration with the people of Pozuelo. After lunch, everyone left for home. During the en-

tire retreat, the Oblate Sisters, with the help of some young girls who had volunteered, held a similar retreat adapted for children. (*Nosotros*, March 2007)

## **POLAND**

### **A strong Oblate preaching tradition**

In 2006, the Oblates in Poland preached 67 parish missions; they animated 520 different retreats and gave 1283 occasional sermons. These are the figures from the personal audit of the Polish Province for 2006.

What is behind these numbers? The parish mission is an eight-day event, conducted by a team of two Oblates who preach an average of 40 sermons and homilies and spend many hours with individual confessions. The retreats (a parish retreat lasts for 3-4 days; a retreat for religious lasts 5 days) are normally animated by one Oblate, with an average of 20 homilies and sermons. Occasional sermons are the preached for special circumstances, e.g., a parish saint's feast, Mission Sunday, Marian feasts, etc.

The total comes to over 14 thousand homilies and sermons in one year. With the blessing of many vocations in recent years, the Oblates have been able to continue an important Oblate tradition. Currently, there are 43 Oblates in full-time mission preaching ministry and about 40 others who preach part-time. (Ryszard SZMYDKI)

## **AUSTRIA**

### **MIVA celebrates 80 years of missionary support**

Father Paul SCHULTE is a legendary figure in more than one country and on more than one continent. March 22 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an organization which he founded in Cologne, Germany, in 1927, and which continues today to serve the needs of missionaries: MIVA. The original MIVA was called the **Missions-Verkehrs-Arbeitsgemeinschaft** (Mission Transportation Association). An English version of MIVA is the **Missionary International Vehicular Association**.

Father Schulte is famous, not only because of MIVA, but also because of his creativity and his zeal for the missions. He served as a missionary in South Africa

and in Germany. He was the "Flying Priest over the Arctic" in Canada. It is he who introduced, in several places, the devotion to the Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Snows. This devotion would eventually attract hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to a shrine of the same name in Belleville, Illinois, USA. Paul Schulte ended his earthly days in Swakopmund, Namibia, in 1975 and is buried beside his boyhood friend, Father Otto FUHRMANN.

Father Schulte and Father Fuhrmann were best of friends from their secondary school days. After the First World War, during which Fr. Schulte was a pilot in the Air Force, the two friends studied together at the scholasticate in Hünfeld and were ordained together in 1922. As a first obedience, Otto went to Namibia and Paul, to South Africa.

But Otto Fuhrmann's life was cut short, already in 1925, by pneumonia complicated by malaria. It had taken the local people five days to bring him to the infirmary of a Protestant Finnish mission where he died. His missionary friend was stunned by this event: "We have cars and planes, but my good friend must die because he has no vehicle. Weren't planes and cars also invented to spread God's kingdom?"

This led Paul Schulte to found MIVA, precisely for the purpose of providing vehicles for missionaries, especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America. There are branches of MIVA in several countries to this day: Austria, Switzerland, Holland, England, South Korea, Slovenia, Poland, Australia, and the United States.

As an example of the work that it accomplishes, Survive-MIVA, the branch in Great Britain, in 2006 provided 32 vehicles for community health purposes, 62 motorbikes/mopeds, 33 bicycles, 2 motor boats, and 3 rickshaws at a cost of over £429,000. These gifts of transportation went to missionaries working in India, Brazil, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Tanzania,

The Provincial of the German Province, Father Thomas KLOSTERKAMP, and the director of Austria's MAMI, Father Josef MATHUNI, will speak at MIVA Austria's celebration of the anniversary on



March 22 at Stadl-Paura. MIVA Austria will also celebrate the anniversary with a pilgrimage to Maria Taferl on October 21.

## ITALY

### 6<sup>th</sup> edition of “Mondi Riemersi” (Cultures Rediscovered)

For the sixth year in succession, the Oblates have organized a special learning experience, especially for school students in the area of Frascati near Rome. “Mondi Riemersi” (Cultures Rediscovered) focuses each year on one of the countries of the world where Oblates carry on the work of evangelization. This year, from March 6-9, the chosen country was Romania.

For some months prior to the event, students in area schools had studied the geography and culture of Romania. During their visits to the exhibition, they had the opportunity to experience Romanian culture. Besides presentations of poetry, theater, music and dance, there were typical Romanian foods available and a special display of icons painted on glass.

The exhibition, which is also supported by the town governments in the vicinity, was open to the general public. Among the visitors, besides the local mayor, was the Bishop of Frascati, the Oblate General Councillor for Europe, Fr. Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO, and several ambassadors, not only of Romania to Italy and to the Holy See, but also from other countries that had been the focus of the event in previous years: Senegal, Uruguay, South Korea, Cameroon and Thailand. One of the Oblate missionaries formerly in Romania, Father Giuseppe RUBINO, was on hand to meet visitors and to answer questions about this country where Oblates have been since 2000.

Currently, there are five scholastics from Romania living at the scholasticate of the Italian province in Frascati and two are in Romania.

## ITALY

### Scholasticate: a vacation after the exams

With five Romanian scholastics, one from Spain, two from Senegal, one from the Czech Republic, plus six from Italy (two are out of the country on re-

gency), the scholasticate of the Province of Italy is an international scholasticate. After their exams in February, keeping with a fine tradition, almost the entire community left for a little relaxation, but above all, to get a closer look at the Oblate mission. This year, it was the turn of Palermo in Sicily. Lifting anchor on a ship from Naples, the scholastics could not help but remember the many confreres who had left from that same city for the far off missions, especially those who went to Laos.

The stay in Palermo had some exceptional moments of contact with the Oblate family, with their activities and their strong love of Eugene, who himself had lived in Palermo during significant years of his exile. But what are the ministries of the Oblates in Palermo?

Fr. Antonio SANTORO is the founder and director of the *Cana Oasis*, where various laity work for the family, dedicating themselves, in spite of an assortment of trial and difficulties, to work with engaged couples, married couples, and divorced and remarried couples.

Fr. Victor JEYASINGHAM takes care of immigrants from Sri Lanka. From them, the scholastics heard an extraordinary testimony. “Having disembarked in Italy, we felt lost, but seeing so many churches, we felt at home.”

Fr. Angiolino DI LIZIA works full-time in the parish. Perhaps it’s an example of ministry more “traditional” than the others, but it was still interesting for our young men who are “eager to be in touch with our charism: that desire to go into the whole world and announce Jesus the Savior.”

In the city of Marsala, more than 100 km west of Palermo, Fr. Antonio CANNATÀ is in charge of the FARO Solidarity Center for the treatment of the drug addicted: “Here someone can finally learn for himself that he is neither the giant of his own dreams nor the dwarf of his fears, but a person who has something to offer to the whole of society.” (From “The Human Project” of FARO) “Those boys gave us a great gift,” said Luca FABBRI. “They showed us how we can hurt ourselves, but also that we can leave behind our fear of the giants and dwarves to once again be precious pearls.”

And then there were the laity from MAMI and from the Youth Movement “Costruire” (To build), who took us on a visit of Palermo in the footsteps of Eugene, showing us the riches of this great city so dear to our Founder: the shrine of Saint Rosalie, the cathedral of Palermo, the cathedral of Monreale, the Astronomical Observatory, the Royal Palace, the Ballarò Market, our first house in Palermo, and

the Villa of the Countess of Cannizzaro.

And lest we forget our origins, the Sicilian days of the scholastics could not conclude without a visit to the families of Fr. Adriano TITONE, the superior, and Fr. Giuseppe RUBINIO, member of the formation team: the finest way to end these family days, in family.

## Canada-United States

### OMI LACOMBE

#### Oblate Honored at Canada Winter Games

Cross-country ski icon, Father Jean-Marie MOUCHET, using a new set of bright yellow skis, was cheered on by his admirers at a ceremony honoring him for his contribution to the sport. A very modest man, he had to be cajoled into attending the ceremony. He was there to open the final races in the 1,200-metre sprints and the noise from the crowd was deafening. Nearly every spectator was madly clanging a cowbell in support.

“It’s wonderful, bringing all those people around and getting them to participate . . . it’s the people of the North, of Old Crow and Whitehorse that produced me; it was not the other way around” said Fr. Mouchet, while standing before the crowd of friends and former students.

In 1955, while living in Inuvik, Fr. Mouchet founded the Territorial Experimental Ski Testing (TEST) program. The program soon grew and expanded to other northern communities. Many young First Nations athletes participated in the program, with impressive results. Martha Benjamin from Old Crow won the Canadian championship in 1963. Sharon and Shirley Firth from Inuvik competed in four consecutive Winter Olympic Games. Fr. Mouchet not only taught skiing, he taught youth in Northern Canada the value of challenging themselves and the benefits of determination in order to reach their potential.

His contribution to sport has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. He was inducted into the Yukon Sport Hall of Fame in 1980 and re-

ceived the Yukon Commissioner’s Award in 1981. The French Government awarded him the Chevalier de l’Ordre National de Mérite in 1987, and he received the Order of Canada in 1993.

Born in France in 1917, at 89 years of age, Fr. Mouchet still logs 20 kilometers a day on the cross-country trails near his home. He is currently working to implement a fitness program in Iskut, BC. (*Jim BLEACKLEY*)

### UNITED STATES

#### First National Gathering of Oblate Associates

The Retreat House of Christ the King, Belleville, IL, welcomed about 80 people for the first National Gathering of Oblate Associates, September 7-10, 2006.

The National Committee for Oblate Associates: Ken Amerson, Fr. José ARONG, Fr. Warren BROWN, Marilyn Lawrence, Fr. Tom OVALLE, Alva Peña, Jack Weck and National Director, Geri Furmanek had invited several Associates from each of the Oblate groups in the USA and three groups from Mexico to the event. Associates came from California; Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. There were also former Oblate seminarians from Iowa, Illinois and Texas, and Associates from Mexico (Mexicali, Tijuana and Mexico City).

Thanks to simultaneous translation, Spanish speaking participants were able to listen in their own language.

There was much to do and to see in the brief time together. Will Shaw from Oblate Media appeared in the guise of St. Eugene and made the Founder

“present” to the participants. The provincial, Fr. Louis LOUGEN welcomed the guests in the name of the province. Each day, the liturgies were bilingual. There was also a visit to the Oblate novitiate in Godfrey, IL, and a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows.

Brief, informative and sometimes quite entertaining presentations included: *Living a Life that Matters* (a video of Oblate and Associate interviews on the Oblate Associate program); Fr. Santiago Lyons and Bro. Bill Johnson sharing their Oblate stories; a power-point presentation by the Mexico City Associates; Fr. Arong’s presentations on his vocation story and his Oblate experience of

beginning Associate groups; Fr. Bill O’Donnell presented an overview of the province’s Child Protection Policy. There was also time for small group sharing, prayer, reflection and socializing.

Typical comments at the end of the event: “It was a sharing of ideas without competition over who was doing what. We were valued for being Associates by living the Oblate values, rather than by doing. And yet, it makes us more energized to do more to assist the Oblates in bringing the Good News to more people.” “This was a memorable time to spiritually journey with other Associates and vowed Oblates. It was an enriching way of understanding the charism of St. Eugene.” (Geri Furmanek)

## Anniversaries for May 2007

### 70 Anniversary of Priesthood

1937.05.23	05367	Fr. Louis-Marie Parent	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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### 65 Anniversary of Priesthood

1942.05.28	06344	Fr. Giuseppe Affinita	Italy
1942.05.28	06417	Fr. Joseph Ryan	United States
1942.05.28	06339	Fr. Antonio Sgambati	Italy
1942.05.31	06198	Fr. Alfons Rzezniczek	Poland

### 60 Anniversary of Religious Profession

1947.05.21	08818	Bro. Pierre Babilotte	France
1947.05.31	08300	Fr. Jerome Burnet	United States
1947.05.31	08298	Fr. John McGrath	United States
1947.05.31	08299	Fr. Agustin Petru	Mexico

### 60 Anniversary of Priesthood

1947.05.31	07318	Fr. Jacques Croteau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1947.05.31	07315	Fr. Roger Gauthier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1947.05.31	07316	Fr. Lionel Goulet	Argentina-Chile
1947.05.31	07505	Fr. Ephrem Pelletier	Lacombe

### 50 Anniversary of Religious Profession

1957.05.01	10842	Bro. Yvon Boulianne	Lacombe
1957.05.01	10260	Fr. Herbert Krumscheid	Namibia
1957.05.01	10257	Fr. Franz-Josef Michels	Namibia
1957.05.01	10843	Fr. Martin O’Keeffe	Anglo-Irish
1957.05.01	10259	Fr. Paul Peter	Germany
1957.05.01	10262	Fr. Nicolás Weidner	Paraguay
1957.05.21	10995	Bro. Erich Brähler	Germany
1957.05.31	10263	Fr. Jose Ante	Philippines
1957.05.31	10264	Msgr. Orlando Quevedo	Philippines

**50 Anniversary of Priesthood**

1957.05.30	09267	Fr. David Kraus	United States
1957.05.30	09262	Fr. James Lantsberger	United States
1957.05.30	09272	Fr. Thomas Maher	Japan
1957.05.30	09268	Fr. Gerald McGovern	United States
1957.05.30	09346	Fr. Sherman Wall	United States

**25 Anniversary of Religious Profession**

1982.05.21	12715	Fr. Gregorius Basir Karimanto	Indonesia
1982.05.31	12849	Fr. Cyril Joseph Augustine	Colombo

**25 Anniversary of Priesthood**

1982.05.06	12482	Fr. Richard Beaudette	Lacombe
1982.05.29	12445	Fr. Kevin Collins	United States
1982.05.29	12426	Fr. Roman Tomanek	Poland

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## Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 15-24

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PROV/Del.</b>	<b>BORN</b>	<b>DIED AT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Fr. Gaby Soete	Belgium-Netherlands	23/09/1943	Mechelen	14/02/2007
Fr. Paul-Émile Charland	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	12/02/1926	Ottawa	19/02/2007
Fr. Gennaro Pacelli	Italy	02/12/1927	Rome	19/02/2007
Fr. Markus Boli Witin	Indonesia	23/06/1960	Sintang	19/02/2007
Bro. Francis Thornton	Australia	23/11/1911	Perth	21/02/2007
Fr. Olivier Renaud	United States	05/04/1924	Tewksbury	21/02/2007
Fr. Jean-Claude Vanghou	Madagascar	15/02/1968	Antananrivo	26/02/2007
Fr. Arthur Krimmel	Germany	06/06/1918	Hünfeld	01/03/2007
Bro. Jacques Bastien	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	29/11/1932	Richelieu	01/03/2007
Fr. John Boser	OMI Lacombe	26/09/1911	Saskatoon	02/03/2007

*“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)*