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Information No. 485 (English)

February 2009

## General Statistics

JANUARY 2009					JANUARY 2008					
Total	Fr.	B1	B2	Schol.		Total	Fr.	B1	B2	Schol.
37	32	5			General Admin.	40	34	6		
867	523	54	18	272	Africa-Madagascar	868	524	57	18	269
472	327	29	3	113	Latin America	471	338	30	3	100
706	497	26	2	181	Asia-Oceania	678	494	25	2	157
957	807	136	1	13	Canada-United States	992	832	140	2	18
1205	953	130	3	119	Europe	1251	979	137	4	131
4244	3139	380	27	698	Total	4300	3201	395	29	675

Of whom 42 are bishops

of whom 42 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 as of December 31, 2008

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2008	January 2009	+ / -
Cardinal	1	1	--
Archbishops	10	10	--
Bishops	31	31	--
Prefects Apostolic	2	2	--
Priests	3157	3095	-62
Brothers with perpetual vows	395	380	-15
Brothers with temporary vows	29	27	-2
Scholastics with perpetual vows	92	105	+13
Scholastics with temporary vows	583	593	+10
<b>Total number of Oblates</b>	<b>4300</b>	<b>4244</b>	<b>-56</b>

**PERSONNEL BY UNIT LEVEL****As of December 31, 2008**

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	32	5	0	0	0	0	37
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>

**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	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	10
Cameroun	0	0	4	0	0	66	10	9	0	2	33	124
Central S. A.	0	0	2	0	0	39	2	0	0	1	8	52
Congo	0	0	1	0	0	78	11	1	0	8	36	135
Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	5	11
Lesotho	0	1	1	0	0	77	18	0	0	5	36	138
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	0	31	3	0	0	1	14	49
Namibia	0	1	2	0	0	27	5	3	0	0	10	48
Natal	0	1	1	0	0	53	0	0	0	2	15	72
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	1	0	2	12	26
Northern S. A.	0	1	1	0	0	46	1	0	0	0	10	59
Qwa-Qwa	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Sahara	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	26	1	1	0	0	9	37
Zambia	0	0	1	0	0	21	1	1	0	2	47	73
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	3	9	21
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>867</b>

**LATIN AMERICA**

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.
Argentine-Chile	0	0	1	0	0	43	1	0	0	0	2	47
Baja California	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	2	8
Bolivie	0	0	0	0	0	19	9	0	0	2	5	35
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	50	5	0	0	0	11	66
Brazil Central	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	1	1	14
Colombie	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	1	2	11
Cuba	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	11	23
Guyane Française	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Haiti	0	1	1	0	0	71	8	2	0	8	37	128
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	30	1	0	0	1	11	43
Paraguay	0	0	1	0	0	26	2	0	0	1	9	39
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	17	2	1	0	3	3	26
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	12

Venezuela	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>472</b>

**ASIA-OCEANIA**

	Card.Ar.Ep.	Ep.Pr.Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.		
Australia	0	0	0	0	50	0	1	0	0	51	
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	20	0	0	0	2	7	30
China	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	1	12
Colombo	0	0	1	0	111	15	0	0	4	29	160
India	0	0	0	0	57	1	1	0	8	20	87
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	1	9	43
Jaffna	0	0	0	0	68	0	0	0	0	35	103
Japan	0	0	0	0	21	1	0	0	0	0	22
Korea	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	8
Pakistan	0	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	5	7	33
Philippines	0	1	1	0	71	8	0	0	1	28	110
Thailand	0	0	1	0	18	1	0	0	1	1	22
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	16	23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>706</b>

**CANADA-UNITED STATES**

	Card.Ar.Ep.	Ep.Pr.Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.		
Assumption	0	0	0	0	47	1	0	0	2	50	
Lacombe	0	3	4	0	218	33	0	0	0	1	259
Notre-Dame-du-	0	0	4	0	192	76	1	0	0	0	273
United States	1	1	1	0	336	26	0	0	0	10	375
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>957</b>

**EUROPE**

	Card.Ar.Ep.	Ep.Pr.Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Tot.		
Anglo-Irish	0	0	0	0	81	6	0	0	0	87	
Belgique et Pays	0	0	0	0	98	18	0	0	0	116	
Bielorussie	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	
Central European	0	0	0	0	117	28	1	0	0	7	153
Espagne	0	0	0	0	31	5	0	0	0	3	39
France	0	0	0	0	166	24	0	0	1	2	193
France et Benelux	0	0	0	0	39	2	0	0	0	0	41
Italie	0	0	1	0	136	11	0	0	1	6	155
Lourdes	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Pologne	0	0	0	0	242	33	1	0	27	61	364
Roumanie	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	3	8
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	25	3	0	0	6	2	36
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1205</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3095</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>4244</b>

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.=Scolastics with perp. vows; Sc.T.=Scolastics with temp. vows

**PERPETUAL OBLATIONS 2008****(2006: 1 Scholastic; 2007: 2 Scholastics; 2008: 69 Scholastics and 1 Brother)**

<b>Obl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Prov. of Origin</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Diocese of Origin</b>
14194	MAKHEBESELA William	Lesotho	06.01	Maseru
14195	KAJINGULU Auguste	Congo	06.01	Mbujimayi
14196	WILCZEK Norbert	Cent.European	06.01	Essen
14197	MATSAU Patrick	Lesotho	06.01	Mohale's Hoek
14198	BOURDEAU Jean-Luc	Haiti	06.01	Les Cayes
14199	DAVID John Thomas	India	06.01	Madras-Mylapore
14200	SILUVAI Bruno	India	09.01	Pondicherry
14201	PENUMALA Joseph	India	09.01	Eluru
14202	JACOB Antonysamy	India	09.01	Pondicherry
14203	ABISHEGAM Harry	India	09.01	Madras-Mylapore
14204	MOSES Solomon	India	09.01	Dindugal
14205	KULANDAI RAJ Sagaya Raj	India	09.01	Mysore
14206	LUGARA Francesco	Italy	19.01	Reggio Calabria-Bova
14207	WIYONO Agustinus	Indonesia	22.07.2007	Purwokerto
14208	MUDZUDZA Pamidzai	Zimbabwe	26.01	Bulawayo
14209	MURMU Paulus	Bangladesh	04.01	Rajshahi
14210	COSTA Soroj	Bangladesh	04.01	Dhaka
14211	ROZARIO Ripon	Bangladesh	04.01	Dhaka
14212	MUÑOZ MEDINA David	Spain	02.09.2006	Jaén
14213	IGBOZURIKE Alexius	Cameroon	17.02	Orlu
14214	VITAL Paulin	Haiti	17.02	Les Cayes
14215	SILVA Ajantha	Colombo	09.04	Colombo
14216	JAYAWARDENA Shanil	Colombo	09.04	Colombo
14217	NGUYEN Huu Tai	Vietnam	11.05	Ha Noi
14218	NGUYEN Duc Duy	Vietnam	11.05	Thanh-Pho Ho Chi Minh
14219	NGUYEN Van Loc	Vietnam	11.05	Yuan Loc
14220	NGUYEN Van Hoan	Vietnam	11.05	Ha Noi
14221	SWARTZ Ewen	Natal	02.03	Oudsthoorn
14222	KESEUR Paulo	Thailand	12.07	Chiang Mai
14223	CARRASCO Roberto	Peru	06.08	Lima
14224	NERING Krzysztof	Poland	08.09	Torun
14225	DABKOWSKI Rafal (Bro.)	Poland	08.09	Warszawa-Praga
14226	URBANSKI Mariusz	Poland	08.09	Warszawa
14227	BOROWICZ Piotr	Poland	08.09	Siedlce
14228	BIEDNIAK Daniel	Poland	08.09	Zielona Góra-Gorzów
14229	ZAJAK Lukasz	Poland	08.09	Siedlce
14230	WOLNIK Krzysztof	Poland	08.09	Poznan
14231	ZACHARCZENKO Siergiej	Ukraine	08.09	Kijow-Zytomierz
14232	JAROSZ Tomasz	Poland	08.09	Zielona Góra-Gorzów
14233	WROBLEWSKI Piotr	Poland	08.09	Radom
14234	PIASECKI Mariusz	Poland	08.09	Siedlce
14235	BUCHOLC Karol	Poland	08.09	Pelplin
14236	RIAZ Dominic	Pakistan	22.08	Faisalabad
14237	EXUPEAR Basharat	Pakistan	22.08	Lahore
14238	SALEEM Abid	Pakistan	22.08	Faisalabad

14239	JAMES KHAN Gasper	Pakistan	22.08	Lahore
14240	COC CHÉ Santiago	Guatemala	12.12	Guatemala
14241	HERNÁNDEZ Guillermo	Guatemala	08.12	Quiche
14242	ONDAP Bernard	Philippines	03.04	Malaybalay
14243	RAKOTOARISOA Jean	Madagascar	15.08	Miarinarivo
14244	MIKWA Don-Bosco	Congo	15.08	Idiofa
14245	KATOBO SANGOL Patrick	Congo	15.08	Idiofa
14246	MATONGO Freddy	Congo	15.08	Kenge
14247	TCHOUTSEMA Anicet	Cameroun	15.08	Pala
14248	CHUKWU Christopher	Nigeria	15.08	Umuahia
14249	CHERFILS Marc	Haiti	08.09	Cap-Haitien
14250	GUERRIER Guy	Haiti	08.09	Les Cayes
14251	SERMEIL Natanaël	Haiti	08.09	Les Cayes
14252	MOROSE Gary	Haiti	08.09	Les Cayes
14253	SHRINATH Don Joseph	Colombo	09.11	Colombo
14254	PERERA Wani Arachchige	Colombo	09.11	Colombo
14255	HAAS Bernhard	Cent.European.	30.11	Mainz
14256	BASADA Gaudencio	Philippines	29.12	Borongan
14257	MORASTIL Irvin	Philippines	29.12	Cotabato
14258	PURCIA Randy	Philippines	29.12	Nueva Caceres
14259	KANG'OMBE Joseph	Zambia	28.12	Lusaka
14260	KATONGO Kennedy	Zambia	28.12	Lusaka
14261	KABOMBO Nicholas	Zambia	28.12	Mongu
14262	PONCE DIAZ José	United States	15.09.2007	Aguascalientes
14272	TOLENTINO Roberto	Mexico	15.08.2007	Netzahualcoyoti
14273	AMALRAJ Amirthanathar	Jaffna	17.12.	Jaffna
14274	JAYANTHA Meno	Jaffna	17.12.	Mannar
14275	VICTOR Jhon	Haiti	08.12.	Les Cayes
14276	RAMIREZ MACHUCA Antonio	Mexico	08.08	Tepic

### Oblates in First Formation

(as of 31 December 2008)

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
<b>2008</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>*74</b>	<b>**64</b>
<b>2007</b>	675	29	115	55	69
<b>2006</b>	723	30	156	71	50
<b>2005</b>	682	27	121	50	63
<b>2004</b>	671	28	129	66	63
<b>2003</b>	643	36	132	67	63
<b>2002</b>	657	29	130	78	76
<b>2001</b>	622	34	112	68	59
<b>2000</b>	638	41	114	60	59

\*2006: 1 Scholastic; 2007: 3 Scholastics; 2008: 69 Scholastics and 1 Brother

\*\*62 in 2008; 2 in 2007

**OBEDIENCES 2008***Asterisk (\*) = First obedience*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Origin</b>	<b>Destination</b>
15.02	BALTHAZARD Joseph Fr.	Haiti	Belgium/Netherlands
	BULA Marek Fr.	Poland	Central European Prov.
	CACERES TAPIA* Mauricio Sc.	Argentina-Chile	Argentina-Chile
	DANIEL* Nadeem Sc.	Pakistan	Pakistan
	DIAS* Kelum Sc.	Colombo	Colombo
	SMALL Andrew Fr.	Anglo-Irish	U.S.A.
	ROZARIO Arun Fr.	Bangladesh	Gen. Administration
	MÖLLMANN* Stephan Sc.	Central European Prov.	Central European Prov.
	JAYAWARDENE* Hiran Sc.	Colombo	Colombo
	JAYAMAHA MUDALIGE* Don Jude Sc	Colombo	Colombo
	JESURATNAM Jude Fr.	Jaffna	Philippines
	JOSEPH Theogenes Fr.	Gen. Administration	Philippines
	MIRONIUK* Marcin Sc.	Poland	Assumption
	PAYABO* Simon Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
21.02	CONFUCIOUS* Augustine Sc.	Jaffna	Jaffna
	METRE Tende-Tende Fr.	Congo	Paraguay
	NOORDERMEER Martin Fr.	Haiti	Belgium/Netherlands
	GUERCINI Vincenzo Fr.	Assumption	Italy
27.02	KABIKA* Francis Sc.	Zambia	Mexico (eff. 17.02.2010)
	LEPAGE* Rémi Sc.	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
20.03	DOUGLAS Sholto Fr.	Kenya	Australia
24.03	RAJAPAKSE Rabindra Bro..	Gen. Administration	Colombo
26.03	CAROLAN Edward Fr.	Gen. Administration	Anglo-Irish
10.04	IMBIRA* Wenceslas Sc.	Madagascar	Madagascar
	RATELOLAHY* Marco Fr.	Madagascar	Madagascar
11.05	MARRONE* Carmine Sc.	Italy	Italy
	CARLEO* Claudio Sc.	Italy	Italy
13.05	HARR Richard Fr.	Japan	U.S.A.
	VAN HOYDONCK Jan Fr.	Japan	Belgium/Netherlands
	SANTANA DELGADO* Hugo Sc.	Colombia	Colombia
	IRUDAYA RAJ* Joseph Sc.	India	Spain (eff. 08.12.2009)
	THOMAS* Albert Sc.	India	India
	SILUVAI* Bruno Sc.	India	India
	PENUMALA* Joseph Sc.	India	India
	MOSES* Solomon Sc.	India	India
	KUPPALA* Lawrence Bro.	India	India
	KULANDAI RAJ* Sagaya Raj Sc.	India	India
	JOHN CHARLES* Maria Sc.	India	India
	DEIVANAYAGAM* Arokia Sc.	India	India
	CHODAGIRI* John Sc.	India	India
	CHAPALE* John Sc.	India	India
	ARUL DHANASINGH Andrews Sc.	India	India
	ANTONYSAM Y* Jacob Sc.	India	India
	ABISHEGAM* Harry Sc.	India	India
	NGUYEN HUU THAI* Joseph Sc.	France	France
	NGUYEN DUC DUY* Dominique Sc.	France	France

15.05	PIETRONSKI* Jacek Sc.	Poland	Poland
	JUCHNIEWICZ* Andrzej Sc.	Bielorussia	Bielorussia
	NYREK* Pawel Sc.	Poland	Assumption
	ZYNDA* Kamil Sc.	Poland	Ukraine
	KUBALSKI* Wieslaw Sc.	Poland	Ukraine
	WOZNY* Tomasz Sc.	Poland	Poland
	SZWARC* Marcin Sc.	Poland	Poland
	RURANSKI* Grzegorz Sc.	Poland	Poland
	NAPIERALA* Janusz Sc.	Poland	Poland
	MACHELSKI* Krzysztof Sc.	Poland	Poland
	KEDZIA* Jaroslaw Sc.	Poland	Poland
	HADRICH* Michal Sc.	Poland	Poland
	GOMULAK* Pawel Sc.	Poland	Poland
06.06	ILONDO IPAKA* Odilon Sc.	Congo	Congo
	KINZE MILENDE* Gaby Sc.	Congo	Congo
29.06	CHEN* Andrew Sc.	Australia	Australia
	SIMATENDE* Barnabas Sc.	Zambia	Zambia
	KWASNIEWSKI* Antoni Fr.	Cameroon	Poland
	MUKIRAMFI* Thomas Sc.	Congo	Congo
02.07	DABKOWSKI* Rafal Bro.	Poland	Poland
20.08	OSEKWUTE UDOKA* Peter Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
	ZYLHOUBÉ* Jean-Georges Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
	OBI* Gabriel Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
	OBIKARA* Chika Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
	GANAVA BIZAMA* Frédéric Sc.	Cameroon	Cameroon
	JAYAWARDENA* Shanil Sc.	Colombo	Colombo
10.10	FERRARA Nicola Fr.	Gen. Administration	Italy
17.11	THÉVENET Joseph Fr.	Cameroon	France
	SCHOEBERLE John Fr.	Poland	U.S.A.
	MAHONEY John Fr.	Japan	U.S.A.
	WIYONO* Agustinus Sc.	Indonesia	Indonesia
	SILVA* Ajantha Sc.	Colombo	Colombo
	KAPUNAN* Ross Sc.	Philippines	Philippines
	PAOANE* Joseph Sc.	Lesotho	Lesotho
	BERENG* Lebohang Sc.	Lesotho	Lesotho
21.11	KABONGO Ben-Awis Fr.	Congo	France
	TOLENTINO MÉRIDA Roberto Sc.	Mexico	Mexico
	CLENAGHAN Gerard Fr.	U.S.A.	Anglo-Irish
10.12	LE STRAT Gerardo Fr.	Guatemala	OMI Lacombe
	LORENC Mariusz Bro.	Cameroon	France
13.12	DZIEDZIC Marek Fr.	Poland	Central European Prov.
19.12	OLIVA Hugo Fr.	Peru	Cuba
22.12	COSTA* Soroj Sc.	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
	MURMU* Paulus Sc.	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
	ROZARIO* Ripon Sc.	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
	WENZE ESAS* Jean-Marie Sc.	Congo	Congo

## Deaths and Departures

### Deaths in 2008: 91 (77 Priests, 13 Brothers, 1 Scholastic)

2007: 113   2006: 92   2005:94   2004: 113   2003:102   2002:121   2001:101   2000:121

**Departures reported in**      **2008: 75**    **(16 priests, 54 scholastics, 5 Brothers)**  
    **2007: 85**    (19 priests, 64 scholastics, 2 Brothers)  
    **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)

\*\* Of these totals, some departures took place in previous years but were either not reported until 2008 or did not become canonically permanent until 2008.

#### **2008:**

- 47 scholastics and 2 Brothers did not renew their temporary vows.
- 1 scholastic and 1 Brother were granted a dispensation from temporary vows by the Superior General.
- 4 scholastics and 2 Brothers were dispensed by the Holy See from perpetual vows.
- 1 scholastic and 4 priests were dismissed from the Congregation.
- 1 scholastic and 8 priests were laicized.
- 4 priests were definitively incardinated into a diocese.

## 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter – 2010

### **CHAPTER COMMISSION** **Animating the Oblate family**

The commission appointed to plan for the next General Chapter met in Rome on January 26-30, 2009. A primary focus of their deliberations was the creation of a process for animating not only the capitulants of the 2010 Chapter, but also the greater Oblate family (Oblates and their lay associates).

Everyone is invited to consider the time between September 8, 2009 and September 8, 2010 as CHAPTER TIME, a time for more frequent prayer, study and exchange, personally and in community. Materials for prayerful personal and communal reflection and discussion are being prepared by the commission. They will be sent to the Units in early summer. Their focus is threefold: Personal conversion; Conversion in community; Conversion of our mission in the world. Some of the work is meant to be done individually. Some of it will best be done in smaller community groups and even in Unit assemblies.

The commission is grateful to all the Oblates who participated in the first round of consultation about a theme for the 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter.

Syntheses of the responses will be available (only in the language in which they were written) on the congregational web site. There will also be a report on the web site of the study made by the commission of these syntheses (in French, English and Spanish). From time to time, remember to click on the chapter logo on the left side of the home page of the web site to see if there are new items to read.

Names of most of the elected delegates and alternates for the Chapter have been officially received in Rome. The capitulants will begin to receive communications from the commission around the middle of February 2009.

The commission has also received the names of most of the elected delegates for the Chapter, as well as their elected alternates.

The Chapter Commissioner is Fr. David KALERT (USA). Other members are Frs. Omar FRIEDRICH (Argentina-Chile) and Thomas MBAYE (Cameroon). Assistant General, Fr. Oswald FIRTH, is delegate of Fr. General in relation to the committee. Anyone who wishes to contact the Chapter Commission may write to: [chapter35@omigen.org](mailto:chapter35@omigen.org).



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## Africa-Madagascar

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**CONGO****A different sort of Christmas in Kinshasa**

*(One of the COMI's who works in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, writes of the sort of Christmas they spent in the Congo capital. The COMI are a Secular Institute, the "Oblate Cooperators of Mary Immaculate," founded in Italy by Fr. Gaetano LIUZZO in 1951.)*

Our Christmas here in Kinshasa was rather simple...as usual. Some of the newspapers wrote in large headlines: "A different sort of Christmas in Kinshasa." The heart leapt with hope of something new that would deal with the essentials, but it was immediately brought down to earth by the small print that explains that "different sort:" the economic crisis will not spare anyone!

Of course, you cannot deny a phenomenon that is worldwide, but when you witness an increase in poverty and a worsening of certain situations that do damage to the most fundamental human rights, it is inevitable to look further: at the problems of justice and social sin, old news, but always to the point.

For the poor, the crisis is normal. Mama Espe, the woman who helps us around the house, often adopts a personal line of attack: she takes her tea late so that at noon, she says that she is not hungry. Then she can take home a bit of the fish and vegetables to fix supper for her four children, saving her wages. And the situation is even worse for those who do not have a job.

The euro goes up and the Europeans go to the United States for vacations and to shop for bargains. The dollar goes up and those who receive a salary in that currency can face their family expenses with a bit of serenity; the Congolese franc loses value and the amount of food decreases. That is how the economic crisis

works for those who are already poor: yesterday a fish for a whole family, today maybe half or even less. Not to mention other limitations, even more serious, that totally change the way one looks at certain things.

Our Siloé center continues being of service; we had problems in recent months because the government requested that there be a new level of salaries, an increase of almost 50%. Only the health centers tied to the diocese respected that request. The cost of the services we offer stays the same, but the medications we buy have become more expensive. At the end of the month, we had to do a bit of stretching to meet our obligations. But we did it. Now we are trying to find a way to put into action a new plan: setting up a little store for the sale of corn. This would serve a double purpose; it would allow the patients to buy it at a lower price and at the same time, bring in some cash to help us pay wages. Time will tell whether it will work or not.

The children we support in their studies are moving right along. There are very few who do not succeed in school. The direct contact with the teachers, when possible, assures that there is better follow-up. Of course, helping with studies means going into the families and learning of situations that at times are quite dramatic; relationships become more demanding, beyond the material help that we can offer.

With all this, I wish you could hear the people sing, the surprising joy that burst forth on Christmas night, the smile of the poor that are able to put themselves into the Lord's hands, with the "thanks" that comes from their hearts. It is this experience of the gift we receive from them that helps us to stay here, even when the road is difficult. (Antonietta Mongiò, Comi)

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## Asia-Oceania

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**SRI LANKA****Seeking a strategy for peace-building**

De Mazenod House in Colombo was the site of a workshop on December 11-12, 2008, entitled: "A strategy for peace-building in conflict-ridden Sri

Lanka, through religious, cultural and political intervention."

Fr. Oswald FIRTH, Assistant General, and Fr. Jeevendra PAUL, Oblate Development Director, worked with Fr. Rohan SILVA, director of the

Oblate's Centre for Society and Religion in organizing the meeting. Among the participants were Oblates from both the North and the South of Sri Lanka, together with the provincials of the Colombo and Jaffna provinces.

Fr. Oswald said that the idea of this initiative for peace building came from *Misereor* of Germany when some of its officials met with him and Fr. Jeevendra in Rome, in July 2008.

What emerged from the discussions was that this initiative should seek to consolidate what is already being done, identify what is actually possible and explore opportunities available. It comes at a time when the war syndrome is deeply embedded in the minds of the majority of the Sri Lankan people, based on the notion that the Government is winning the war, despite the fact that over 200,000 civilians in the North are sandwiched between Government forces and the Liberation Tigers (LTTE).

The international community, on the other hand, is also not too keen on censuring the Government. Moreover, the voice of the peace lobby and the NGOs/INGOs operating in the country have also been weakened. Against this background, what possible strategies are possible? Lobbying the parties to the conflict to stop the war will have no effect as both sides are determined to pursue war. Engaging independent Tamil political leaders in a political dialogue is also not possible as most of them have been assassinated in the course of the twenty-five year long war.

It would be more useful to look beyond the war to a 'new beginning' - a new founding - and a process of re-building and restoration based on (1) religious, cultural and human values, foundational ideas and non-negotiable values; (2) Creating a framework with required constitutional guarantees for internal self-determination as stated in the Oslo Agreement of 2002.

Invited to the workshop was a group of committed persons who will be the 'core-core group'. A core group with representatives of key stakeholders will be established. The proposed strategy is to encourage these persons (e.g. bishops, heads of religious orders, moderate Buddhist monks, journalists and so on) to promote certain values and actions within their respective constituencies, for the building of a new Sri Lanka. This workshop discussed the relevance and viability of this strategy.

The workshop participants agreed upon their primary future challenges (in order of preference):

1. Working on the parameters of a political solution;
2. Reaching out to the Buddhist community and their key leaders;
3. Expanding the peace constituencies within Churches, religious orders, schools, etc.;
4. Waking up the civil society;
5. Bridging the divide;
6. Dealing with poverty and development in an inclusive manner;
7. Truth-telling at this point in time.

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## Europe

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### GREENLAND

#### Oblates leave after 50 years

*Father General received the following letter from Bishop Czeslaw Kozon of Copenhagen, Denmark, to thank the Oblates for their 50 years of service on that usually frozen island. Oblates from the former Central Province in the United States first went there in 1958.*

Dear Father Steckling,

I have recently returned from a successful and enjoyable visit to our parish in Greenland, where on Sunday, January 4, I officially turned

the responsibility of the parish and mission in Greenland over to The Institute of the Incarnate Word. Now that this is in place, I release the Oblates of Mary Immaculate from their responsibility for the parish and mission in Greenland as stated in the agreement of April 13, 1958 between your Congregation and my predecessor, Bishop Theodor Suhr

The ceremony of January 4 was simultaneously a joyous and sad event. Joyous because a new parish priest of the Institute of the Incarnate Word was installed as a sign of prospect for the future, sad because an era has come to an end. The almost 50 years of Oblate presence and

ministry have been an important part of modern Catholic history of the Country and of the history of the Diocese. The event on Sunday 4 was also a testimony of sorrow and appreciation expressed by the small community that has been so attached to the Oblates. I would also personally take this occasion to express my own deepest gratitude and appreciation for the Oblates and their dedication to the building up of the Church in Greenland. They have done very well, and I am happy that they are still present in the Diocese.

At the same time I express my acceptance of the deepest gratitude for the gift of the house and church in Nuuk, which the Oblates have graciously given to the Diocese. With every good wish for your ministry and health

## UKRAINE

### Russian version of a comic book about St. Eugene

Juan Manuel Cicuéndez was born in the Spanish village of "La Puebla de Almoradiel" in Toledo. He did his primary studies in his home village, moved to the town of "Tarancon" in Cuenca to commence his secondary education and from there, to a boarding school run by the Marist Brothers in Toledo. He moved to Madrid when he was 16 to pursue technical studies but mathematics wasn't his forte... He wanted to design comic books. Indeed, he published his first comic at the age of 17 in the late 1950's. He also became the father of an Oblate: Fr. José Manuel CICUÉNDEZ is the Superior of the Oblate Mission of Venezuela

In 2005, he published a comic book about St. Eugene of Mazenod's life titled: **Eugenio de Mazenod "Corazón de fuego"** (*EdM – Heart of Fire*). It has been translated into other languages, but the most recent edition is in Russian!

During their novitiate in Spain, two Ukrainian Oblate Sisters translated it into Russian (Sisters Yuliya Venglovskaya, OMI, and Sister Maria Savina, OMI, along with Valentina Pirogova). Fr. Jacek PYL and one of his parishioners in Ukraine, Mrs. Valentina Postnikova, made necessary corrections. Then the Roman Catholic Media Center in Kiev, under the direction of Oblate Fr. Pavlo VYSHKOVSKY, printed it.

The comic will be marketed in Ukraine, in our

Oblate parishes and other parishes when Oblates preach retreats and special sermons. It will also be used in retreats for candidates for the pre-novitiate, among the altar boys and in retreats for Oblate Youth. Copies will also be made available in the Oblate Missions in Belarus and in Turkmenistan. (Radoslaw ZMITROWICZ, Delegation Superior)

## FRANCE

### Provincial Council: a hostage of bad weather at Aix-en-Provence

The Provincial Council of France met from January 5-7, 2009, at the house in Aix-en-Provence.

The citizens of Aix-en-Provence woke up on Wednesday to a snow-covered morning, but they had no idea of the chaos that was in store for them: no cars on the streets, the buses ground to a halt, students sent home from school. Perhaps you will say: "Isn't that normal for Southern France?" The panorama was splendid; some of the people put on their skis on the Cours Mirabeau and trees were bent over with the weight of the snow.

The Council carried on its work without imagining that Aix and Marseille were paralyzed. There were no trains between Aix and Marseille; trees covered the road; drivers could not move or they abandoned their cars on the highways; more than 500 persons were forced to spend the night in gymnasiums.

One would have thought that, by Thursday morning, things could move again. But that was not the case. The highways were still cut off and the TGV train station was inaccessible.

Finally, at around 10 a.m., the first train Aix-Marseille could move and at 3 p.m., the provincial of France took one of the first taxis to the TGV train station where he could set out for Paris.

It had been 20 years since Provence experienced such a snow storm. The political authorities did what they could: "every means was used" or "we cannot invest in equipment that is used only from time to time" said some of the public officials.

But one cannot count all the examples of solidarity; people in the same boat actually spoke to one

another. We maintain that on January 7 and 8, 2009, bad weather paralyzed Provence, but the common experience created a bit more of kindness. (Benoît DOSQUET, [www.oblatfrance.com](http://www.oblatfrance.com))

### **CEM: EUROPEAN MISSION COMMISSION**

#### **To give new life to the Oblate Mission in Europe**

The Central Government has asked the provincials of the Oblate provinces in Europe to address the question of revitalizing and restructuring the Oblate Mission in the Region. At their recent meeting in Romania, the Interprovincial Conference for Europe (CIE) gave a mandate to the regional mission committee (CEM) to explore ways in which the various Units of Europe could be of support to one another in giving new life to the Oblate Mission.

The members of CEM are Brian DE BURCA (Secretary from the Anglo-Irish Province),

Marcin SZAFORS (Poland), Felix REHBOCK (President from the Central European Province), William FITZPATRICK (Provincial of the Anglo-Irish Province and CIE representative), and Natalino FAVERO (Italy).

The Oblate Lay Associates have been invited to choose a representative to serve with the CEM. The General Councillor for Europe, Fr. Luis Ignacio ROIS, also attends some of the meetings.

At their meeting in Vermicino, Italy, on January 30-February 1, the CEM decided to begin a process of conversation and conversion among the various Units in Europe over the next three years.

By meeting once a year, the CEM members will hear and learn from one another and together find ways to understand more clearly the mission itself and God's call in Oblate missionary work today. They will also study possibilities for effective collaboration among the Units and for discovering new ways to be missionaries.

## **Canada-United States**

### **ASSUMPTION**

#### **Catholic Youth Studio: 15 years old**

The 15th anniversary of Catholic Youth Studio-KSM was celebrated with a special Mass on January 4, 2009, at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Mississauga. Leading the celebratory Mass was the founder of KSM, Fr. Marian GIL.

KSM was conceived following World Youth Day 1993 in Denver based on an invitation by Pope John Paul II to the youth of the world, that they spread the Gospel through modern forms of mass media. At that time, youth who had returned from Denver decided to organize an evangelical retreat. Later, however, these same youth would use the radio to share personal testimonies of their relationship to Christ. Having met God in their own lives, they desired to share their joy with others.

Poles number some 200,000 in the Greater Toronto Area. To minister to this population, KSM produces a daily radio program in Polish. From 2001-2005 it also produced an English radio program, Catholic Radio Toronto - this later became a 24-hour webcast that continues to this day. The

ministry also produces a bi-monthly magazine titled *Rodzina* (Family) since 1997. Fr. Marian notes that this magazine offers a counter-cultural response to the modern-day attacks on marriage and the family - trends that Canada has seen take place with considerable fervour in recent times. (*Assumption News and Views*, February 2009)

### **NOTRE-DAME-DU-CAP**

#### **Centre St-Pierre, already 35 years!**

In the presence of 200 persons, the Centre St-Pierre (Quebec) celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on January 28. The celebration had two moments: a remembrance of the brief history of the Centre and a panel, led by Gerald Larose, on the Community for a Quebec without Poverty.

In the course of the evening, there were several references to the important role of the Oblates in the founding of the Centre St-Pierre. A lovely brochure, entitled *Une histoire de cœur depuis 35 ans* (*A story from the heart for 35 years*), speaks of "the Oblates as a religious community working to foster the people of St. Peter the Apostle

parish for 160 years, primarily by founding the *Young Catholic Workers*, by offering services to the “gay” community, and by founding the Centre

St-Pierre.” (*Germain RANGER dans INFO OMI, 1 février 2009*)

## Latin America

### BRAZIL

#### Oblates at World Social Forum 2009

More than thirty Oblates joined with thousands of other participants at the ninth edition of the World Social Forum in Belem, Brazil from January 27<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>. They came from the following countries; Zambia, Congo, Czech Republic, Sri Lanka Haiti, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia French Guyana, and the General Services JPIC office. A number of the participants took part earlier in an assembly sponsored by the World Forum on Theology and Liberation around the theme “Water, Earth, Theology - towards another possible world”.

The WSF was particularly focused on the importance of the Amazon and its peoples to the ecological future of the planet, the rich heritage of those living in the Amazon territory as well as the tremendous biodiversity that it offers to the world. The active presence of numerous groups of indigenous peoples was in evidence throughout the forum as they shared their diverse and expressive music, rituals and crafts.

The International Council of the WSF, composed by 130 entities, chose the Pan Amazon to host the WSF 2009 in recognition of the strategic role that the region has for all mankind. The region is one of the last areas of the planet still relatively preserved in a geographical area of immeasurable value for their biodiversity and that adds a wide and diverse range of social movements, labor unions, associations, cooperatives and civil society organizations fighting for an Amazon sustainable.

Large numbers of young people were in evidence at the forum as were many local, regional and international NGO’s. Hosted at two of the cities large universities, the forum featured presentations and panels, films and a wide range of cultural

presentations. Numerous booths presented information, resources and campaigns about the Amazon and other struggles and challenges that people are facing. Numerous offsite events were hosted by government institutions, private associations and organizations and religious congregations.

Besides the many forum events that the Oblates took part in, they also took advantage of numerous opportunities to visit with each other, pray together and celebrate the Eucharist. Two pressing concerns for the congregation from Sri Lanka and the Congo were presented and discussed as well as the efforts of GS JPIC to respond to them.

A meeting was convened by VIVAT International during the forum where more that forty representatives from the member congregations took time to greet each other, share impressions of the forum and strategize on improving cooperation and collaboration. This event offered a living image of the extensive reach and potential of VIVAT in advocacy with and for the poor, human rights, sustainable development and the integrity of creation. (Seamus FINN)



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## Anniversaries for March 2009

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**75 Years of religious life**

1934.03.19	06486	Bro. Mathias Turcotte	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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**70 Years of Priesthood**

1939.03.04	06268	Fr. Robert Haramburu	France
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**65 Years of religious life**

1944.03.19	08279	Fr. Roch Trudel	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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**60 Years of religious life**

1949.03.19	09206	Bro. Gustave April	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1949.03.19	09204	Bro. Bernard Durand	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1949.03.19	09203	Bro. Alexandre Gagnon	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

**60 Years of Priesthood**

1949.03.24	07660	Fr. Pierre Babin	France
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**50 Years of religious life**

1959.03.07	10608	Fr. Ian Mackintosh	Australia
1959.03.07	10607	Fr. Peter John McLaughlin	Indonesia
1959.03.07	10606	Fr. John Sherman	Australia
1959.03.19	11198	Bro. Roland Beaupré	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1959.03.19	11197	Bro. Joseph-Elide Francoeur	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1959.03.25	11199	Bro. Szczepan Pogodala	Poland

**50 Years of Priesthood**

1959.03.14	09466	Bishop Ramiro Díaz	Spain
1959.03.22	09805	Fr. Charles Cathelin	France
1959.03.22	10008	Fr. André Durand	Cameroon
1959.03.22	09806	Fr. Joseph Fenart	France
1959.03.22	09846	Fr. Jean M. Philippe	France
1959.03.30	09575	Fr. Stanislaw Cyganiak	Poland
1959.03.30	09580	Fr. Tadeusz Frankow	Poland
1959.03.30	09574	Fr. Alfons Glanc	Poland
1959.03.30	09573	Fr. Stefan Kruk	Poland
1959.03.30	09589	Fr. Jozef Kuroczycki	Poland
1959.03.30	09588	Fr. Henryk Stempel	Poland

## Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 5-8

NAME	PROV./Del.	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. P. Stanislaus Fernando	Colombo	13/11/1933	Kohuwela	30/01/2009
Fr. Wim van Kempen	Belgium/Netherlands	01/22/1924	Nimègues	05/02/2009
Fr. John Schoeberle	United States	17/12/1929	Belleville	07/02/2009
Fr. Darrell Rupiper	United States	07/03/1937	Des Moines	09/02/2009

*“They are before God, bearing the sign, the kind of character proper to our Institute, the vows common to all its members, the firm habit of the same virtues. We are linked to them by the bonds of a special charity. They are still our brothers and we are theirs. They now live in our mother-house, our main residence. The prayers and the love they retain for us will one day draw us to them and we shall live in our place of rest together with them.” (Letter of Founder to Fr. Courtès, 22 July 1828)*

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