



## The Superior General's Letter for February 17th

Dear Brother Oblates,

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1854, the successor of St. Peter solemnly recognized the immaculate conception of Mary as part of our faith. St. Eugene was present at the event, surely recalling the joyful memory of what had happened some years earlier, on February 17, 1826. On that occasion, in Rome, our Congregation was given its name: “*Oblates of Mary Immaculate*”. But “this is a passport to heaven!” our Founder exclaimed in a letter to Fr. Tempier (December 22, 1825). The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception should add something special to our Oblate feasts this year.

Commenting on the new name, Eugene expressed amazement: “How have we not thought of it sooner?” (ib.) Indeed, in Aix, his hometown, the local church had harbored for a long time a strong devotion to the Immaculate Conception, and as early as 1321 their bishop, Petrus Aureolus had made a solemn declaration about this privilege of Mary, six centuries earlier than Blessed Pius IX. The Immaculate Conception – this title of Mary was very familiar to our Founder.

It might not be so familiar to the people of our day. What is the essential meaning of this name that Mary and the Oblate family hold in common? For me the easiest way to understand it is to see Mary's “being immaculate” as a *message about holiness*. We have initially received the gift of whole-ness already with our human nature, which was created in the likeness of God. We are an image of God, and even if this image has been damaged through grave fault and spoiled through shortcomings, God can still be recognized in it. This image gets restored through baptism but it remains vulnerable, and some stains need still to be removed and cleansed. Holiness in reality, actual and exemplary, is a state that most people achieve only later in their lives, maybe not even before death.

Mary is an exception! She came to complete holiness from the beginning of her existence: from her conception on. *The image of God shines spotless in her: it is immaculate*. She was offered this gift of complete purity because she had been chosen for her particular mission to be the mother of the Redeemer; never did she compromise it later on. Mary's perfect holiness is a great consolation for us. Our human brokenness can be overcome; God can shine in us too, as in a perfect image. Mary, the Immaculate, restores hope to humankind, an immense hope . . .

As Oblates, we are in a special way entrusted with Mary's charism of mirroring God, having received her purity and holiness even as our name. What could we do to honor her and our own name in this anniversary year?

I propose two things:

*First of all*, that we meditate more deeply on the gift of holiness, the one given to Mary, the one given to each of us personally and the one entrusted to us corporately as bearers of Mary's name. It comes to us as holiness with a feminine touch. It is a holiness given for a mission: to Mary for her unique mission, to us as servants of the poor.

*Secondly*, let us also find some exterior expression of our love for Mary. Some Marian shrines celebrate 2004 as the year of the Immaculate Conception. This year we could do something special to lead people to Mary, and with Mary, to Jesus. Let us also explicitly entrust all our plans, and especially the upcoming General Chapter, to Mary's maternal care.

Our Divine Savior made Mary the mother of John, the "beloved disciple". She is indeed the mother of all apostles, and ours, we who our Founder calls "apostolic men". My prayerful wish is that all of us be gifted with an increase of love for our mother, Mary Immaculate, as we celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, the day we received our name. This hallowed name has become the heritage of all Christians since December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1854.

February 17<sup>th</sup> 2004

Fraternally, in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Wilhelm Steckling, OMI  
Superior General

## General Statistics

as of 9 January 2003

as of 31 January 2004

Total	Fr.	B1.	B2.	Scol.		Total	Fr.	B1.	B2.	Scol.
45	38	7			<b>General Adm.</b>	43	37	6		
837	522	66	11	238	<b>Africa-Madagascar</b>	847	536	67	16	228
466	332	30	7	97	<b>Latin America</b>	461	326	30	4	101
615	442	26	5	142	<b>Asia-Oceania</b>	630	455	26	5	144
735	572	151	1	11	<b>Canada</b>	704	554	140	1	9
1356	1037	160	5	154	<b>Europe</b>	1320	1013	150	10	147
434	390	29		15	<b>United States</b>	427	387	29	1	10
<b>4488</b>	<b>3333</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4432</b>	<b>3308</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>639</b>
of whom 43 are bishops						of whom 45 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

	January 2003	January 2004	+ / -
Cardinal	1	1	
Archbishops	5	7	+ 2
Bishops	37	37	
Prefects Apostolic	2	2	
Priests	3288	3261	- 27
Brothers with perpetual vows	469	448	- 21
Brothers with temporary vows	29	37	+ 8
Scholastics with perpetual vows	127	62	- 65
Scholastics with temporary vows	530	577	+ 47
<b>Total number of Oblates</b>	<b>4488</b>	<b>4432</b>	<b>- 56</b>



<b>Mexico</b>	0	0	0	0	45	1	0	0	0	11	<b>57</b>
Guatemala Del.	(0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	3	12)
<b>Paraguay</b>	0	0	1	0	25	3	0	0	0	5	<b>34</b>
<i>Other Delegations and Missions</i>											
Baja California (USA)	(0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	7)
Brazil Central (Anglo-I.)	(0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	14)
Peru (St. Peter's)	(0	0	0	0	20	2	1	0	1	7	31)
Puerto Rico (St. Peter's)	(0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4)
Uruguay (Italy)	(0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	1	18)
Venezuela (Spain)	(0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	9)
*(Mexico/Haiti co-host)	** (Haiti/France co-host)										
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>374</b>

**◆ Asia-Oceania Region ◆**

<b>Australia</b>	0	0	0	0	62	2	0	0	0	2	<b>66</b>
China Delegation	(0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	10)
<b>Colombo</b>	0	0	2	1	166	13	5	6	5	68	<b>266</b>
Bangladesh Del.	(0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	1	15	29)
India Del.	(0	0	0	0	28	1	4	6	0	22	61)
Pakistan Del.	(0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	9	20)
<b>Indonesia</b>	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	5	<b>44</b>
<b>Jaffna</b>	0	0	0	0	57	0	0	0	0	36	<b>93</b>
<b>Japan</b>	0	0	0	0	28	1	0	0	0	2	<b>31</b>
Korea Mission	(0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	7)
<b>Philippines</b>	0	1	1	0	70	8	0	1	2	14	<b>97</b>
<b>Thailand</b>	0	0	1	0	17	2	0	0	1	9	<b>30</b>
<i>Other Delegations and Missions</i>											
Tahiti (U.S.A.)	(0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1)
Turkmenistan (Poland)	(0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>627</b>

**◆ Canadian Region ◆**

<b>Assumption</b>	0	0	0	0	42	1	0	0	0	3	<b>46</b>
<b>Grandin</b>	0	0	1	0	49	9	0	0	0	0	<b>59</b>
<b>Lacombe</b>	0	1	1	0	77	8	0	0	0	6	<b>93</b>
<b>Manitoba</b>	0	1	1	0	48	11	0	0	0	0	<b>61</b>
Hudson Bay Del.	(0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	6)
<b>N.D.-du-Rosaire</b>	0	0	0	0	97	24	1	0	0	0	<b>122</b>
<b>Saint Joseph</b>	0	0	5	0	136	74	0	0	0	0	<b>215</b>
<b>Saint Mary's</b>	0	0	0	0	13	2	0	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
<b>Saint Paul's</b>	0	0	1	0	42	6	0	0	0	0	<b>49</b>
<b>Saint Peter's</b>	0	0	1	0	65	9	1	0	1	7	<b>84</b>
Peru (St. Peter's)	(0	0	0	0	20	2	1	0	1	7	31)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>744</b>

<b>◆ European Region ◆</b>											
<b>Anglo-Irish</b>	0	0	0	0	112	11	0	0	0	1	<b>124</b>
Brazil Central	(0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	14)
<b>Austria &amp; Czech Rep.</b>	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	2	<b>24</b>
<b>Belgium South</b>	0	0	0	0	38	9	1	0	0	0	<b>48</b>
<b>Germany</b>	0	0	1	0	114	32	1	1	1	5	<b>155</b>
<b>France</b>	0	0	0	0	186	29	0	0	0	7	<b>222</b>
French Guiana	(0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4)
<b>Holland-Flanders</b>	0	0	0	0	87	12	1	0	0	0	<b>100</b>
<b>Italy</b>	0	0	1	0	182	15	1	0	0	23	<b>222</b>
Romania	(0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	6	10)
Senegal	(0	0	0	0	23	2	1	0	0	7	33)
Uruguay	(0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	1	18)
<b>Poland</b>	0	0	0	0	296	37	9	0	24	111	<b>477</b>
Belarus Mission	(0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5)
France et Benelux	(0	0	0	0	44	3	0	0	0	0	47)
Madagascar Del.	(0	0	0	0	28	2	2	0	0	23	55)
Turkmenistan M.	(0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2)
Ukraine Delegation	(0	0	0	0	19	2	0	0	2	5	28)
<b>Scandinavia</b>	0	0	0	0	24	2	0	0	0	1	<b>27</b>
<b>Spain</b>	0	0	1	1	45	7	0	0	0	4	<b>58</b>
Venezuela	(0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	9)
W. Sahara	(0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3)
<b>Lourdes (Regional Del.)</b>	(0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1457</b>

<b>◆ United States Region ◆</b>											
<b>United States</b>	1	1	2	0	405	31	1	1	4	34	<b>480</b>
Baja California	(0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	7)
Tahiti	(0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1)
Zambia	(0	0	1	0	14	1	0	1	3	25	45)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>480</b>

**TOTAL Oblates: 1 7 37 2 3249 448 37 12 62 577 4432**

### **Perpetual Oblations 2003**

(62 scholastics and 5 brothers)

<b>Obl. N°</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Dioc. of Origin</b>
13874	Anthonymsamy Irudayaraj	Sri Lanka/India	28.10.01	Kombakonam
13875	Gonzalez José Candido	Mexico	08.12.02	Ciudad Guzman
13876	Doolalila Nibabel Noël	Cameroon	05.01.03	Garoua
13877	Kiku James Danladi	Cameroon/Nigeria	05.01	Jos
13878	Palomar John Jeneval	Philippines	05.01	Kidapawan
13879	Almonor Eugène Roy	Haiti	05.01	Cayes
13880	Mwangala Raymond M.	US Prov./Zambia	05.01	Monze
13881	Abbasari Kishore K.	Sri Lanka/India	09.01	Vitaya Wada
13882	Siluvai Adimai Vincent	Sri Lanka/India	09.01	Kottar

13883	Arumainathan Antonyraj	Sri Lanka/India	09.01	Pondicherry
13884	Joseph Amirtharaj	Sri Lanka/India	09.01	Thanjavur
13885	Francis Davidraj	Sri Lanka/India	09.01	Madras
13886	Hatutale Joseph Mwahafa	Namibia	24.01	Ondjiva
13887	Mosemedi Lukas Ikanyeng	Namibia	24.01	Windhoek
13888	Lefatle Emmanuel Thato	Lesotho	25.01	Mohale's Hoek
13889	Tampane C. Ramotinyane	Lesotho	25.01	Qacha's Nek
13890	Skhosana Mandla	Northern Prov. of S.A.	17.02	Johannesburg
13891	Dube Siyabonga Christopher	Natal	17.02	Durban
13892	Jean-Louis Joseph	Haiti	22.02	Fort-Liberté
13893	Baccam N. Alexandre	France	24.05	Vientiane
13894	Saliba Renaud	France	24.05	Strasbourg
13895	Boston Elmer	Philippines	29.06	Marbel
13896	Sebamalai Peter R.	Jaffna	18.07	Jaffna
13897	de Abreu Lindomar (Bro.)	Brazil	27.07	Paulo Afonso
13898	Vyhnalek Tomáš	Austria-Czech Rep.	27.07	Brno
13899	Raza Pervez	Sri Lanka/Pakistan	23.08	Faisalabad
13900	García Martínez Félix	Mexico	05.09	Tehuantepec
13901	Nani Raymond Pierre	Cameroon	07.09	Maroua-Mokolo
13902	Nkengue J-M Claude	Cameroon	07.09	Obala
13903	Koye Expedit	Cameroon	07.09	Pala
13904	Bouba Todou Alexis	Cameroon	07.09	Garoua
13905	Bewa Paulin	Cameroon	07.09	Pala
13906	Nnabuife Cornelius	Cameroon/Nigeria	07.09	Orlu
13907	Ndukulu M-O. Gerard	Congo	07.09	Idiofa
13908	Mazile Quesnel	Haiti	07.09	Les Cayes
13909	Fanor Pascal	Haiti	07.09	Les Cayes
13910	Lauricien Alfred	Haiti	07.09	Fort-Liberté
13911	Przywecki Slawomir(Bro.)	Poland	08.09	Poznan
13912	Pietronski Jacek	Poland	08.09	Opole
13913	Loska Grzegorz (Bro.)	Poland	08.09	Katowice
13914	Szabat Ryszard (Bro.)	Poland	08.09	Zamosi-Luboczow
13915	Stronczewski Artur	Poland	08.09	Lublin
13916	Sadowski Pawel	Poland	08.09	Kalisz
13917	Osowski Piotr	Poland	08.09	Wroclaw
13918	Furman Piotr	Poland	08.09	Siedlce
13919	Lacki Marcin	Poland	08.09	Katowice
13920	Sypion Tomasz	Poland	08.09	Gdansk
13921	Kopyto Damian	Poland	08.09	Gliwice
13922	Kurzydło Wojciech	Poland	08.09	Tarnow
13923	Baranski Boguslaw	Poland	08.09	Katowice
13924	Motyka Marcin	Poland	08.09	Radom
13925	Munini Mazwa Bienvenu	Congo	08.09	Idiofa
13926	Jesuratnam Jude B.	Jaffna	19.09	Jaffna
13927	Francis Ranjit Roosvault	Jaffna	19.09	Mannar
13928	Emmanuel Godfrey Joel	Jaffna	19.09	Jaffna
13929	Groenen Gerardus (Bro.)	Holland-Flanders	28.09	s'Hertogenbosch
13930	Fernando A. Niroshan	Sri Lanka	16.10	Colombo
13931	Viraj Don Asanga	Sri Lanka	16.10	Colombo

13932	Fernando Joseph Roshan	Sri Lanka	16.10	Colombo
13933	Jayamaha Dileepa S.	Sri Lanka	16.10	Colombo
13934	Möllmann Stephan	Germany	01.11	Münster
13935	Fey Dirk	Germany	01.11	Trier
13936	Randriamahefa Arsène	Poland/Madagascar	16.11	Antsirabe
13937	Ratovonirina François S.	Poland/Madagascar	16.11	Mahajanga
13938	Rabemanantsoa Jean P.	Poland/Madagascar	16.11	Antsirabe
13939	Diouf Stanislass	Italy/Senegal	06.12	Kaolack
13940	Thiaw Marcel	Italy/Senegal	06.12	Thiès

### Obediences 2003

*Asterisk (\*) = First Obediences*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Origin</b>	<b>Destination</b>
28.01	Saint-Arnaud Yvon (Fr.)	Grandin	St-Joseph
02.02	Clabaut Armand (Fr.)	Philippines	France
03.02	*Da Silva Heleno (Sc. Fr.)	U.S. Prov./Recife	Del. of Recife
03.02	Horrocks Paul (Fr.)	Transvaal/Zimbabwe	Natal/Zimbabwe
03.02	Clotier Paul-Eugène (Fr.)	Manitoba	N.D.-du-Rosaire
03.02	Wirth Hermes (Fr.)	Namibia	Germany
25.02	Meichel Jean-Pierre (Fr.)	Indonesia	France
13.03	Darveau Adrien (Fr.)	Manitoba	N.D.-du-Rosaire
13.03	De Oliveira Antonio Genivaldo (Fr.)	France/Belem	Japan
13.03	Goulard Jean (Fr.)	Cameroon	France
13.03	Roy Aloysius (Fr.)	Grandin	Sri Lanka/Pakistan
30.03	Schmitt Erhard (Fr.)	Central Prov. of S A	Germany
01.04	Miceli Paolo (Fr.)	Thailand	Italy
01.05	Berube Charles (Fr.)	Haiti	St-Joseph
01.05	Bolduc Richard (Fr.)	Haiti	U.S. Province
07.05	Guckian Michael (Fr.)	Philippines	Anglo-Irish
07.05	Leleu Jean (Fr.)	Cameroon	France
10.05	Archbp. Buti Tlhagale	Central Prov. S A	Northern Prov. S A
13.05	Delabie Daniel (Fr.)	Congo	Belgium North
19.05	Dumais Marcel (Fr.)	N.D.-du-Rosaire	St-Joseph
23.05	*Loska Grzegorz (Bro.)	Poland	Poland
23.05	*Przywecki Slawomir (Bro.)	Poland	Poland
23.05	*Szabat Ryzsard (Bro.)	Poland	Poland
23.05	*Bednarski Piotr (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
23.05	*Bula Marek (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
23.05	*Dybala Damien (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
23.05	*Jurewicz Krzysztof (Sc.)	Poland	Poland
23.05	*Bosek Mariusz (Sc.)	Poland	Italy/Uruguay
23.05	*Jaworski Adam (Sc.)	Poland	Poland/Belarus
23.05	*Petelski Pawel (Sc.)	Poland	Poland/Madagascar
23.05	*Stasiak Sebastian (Sc.)	Poland	Scandinavia
23.05	*Telinski Aleksander (Sc.)	Poland	Poland/Ukraine
24.05	*Messeri Antonio (Sc. Fr.)	Italy	Italy/Uruguay
24.05	*Batere Gabriel (Sc. Fr.)	Lesotho	Lesotho
24.05	*Amirthanathar Clement I. (Sc.)	Jaffna	Jaffna



24.05	*Arokiyanathar Bagus C. (Sc.)	Jaffna	Jaffna
24.05	*Gunapala Jagath P. (Sc.)	Jaffna	Scandinavia (Jaffna)
24.05	*Michael Sebamalai P. (Sc.)	Jaffna	Scandinavia (Jaffna)
24.05	*Thotsaphon Narinrak (Sc.)	Thailand	Thailand
24.05	*Viana Jose de Paulo (Sc.)	France/Belem	France/Belem
24.05	*Vasques Eduardo C. (Sc.)	Philippines	Philippines
24.05	*Virador Jay G. (Sc.)	Philippines	Philippines
24.05	*Solís A. Miguel Angel (Sc.)	Spain	Spain
24.05	*Butor Walter J. (Sc.)	US Province	US Province
24.05	*Closner Jonathan (Sc.)	US Province	US Province
24.05	*Lukuba Falanka Claude (Sc.)	Congo	Natal/Zimbabwe
24.05	*Okokono Mvumbi Jean-Marie (Sc.)	Congo	Congo
24.05	*Mulongi Tito Emmanuel (Sc.)	Congo	Congo
24.05	*Ndandula Onkan Jean-Bedel (Sc.)	Congo	Congo
24.05	*Guzaba Mungela Robert (Sc.)	Congo	Congo
24.05	*Conlan Gerard Reuben (Sc.)	Australia	Australia
24.05	*Negreiros Matta Justo (Sc.)	St. Peter's/Peru	St. Peter's/Peru
02.06	*Renaud Daniel (Sc.)	St-Joseph	St-Joseph
02.06	*Montessano Francesco (Sc. Fr.)	Italy	Italy
02.06	Rojek Marek (Fr.)	Cameroon	Poland/Fr.-Benelux
04.06	Ricaille René (Fr.)	Congo	Belgium South
20.06	*Weewee Doris (Sc. Fr.)	Holland-Flanders	Holland-Flanders
16.07	*Soria Garcia Santiago (Bro.)	Spain	Spain
16.07	Taché Alexandre (Fr.)	General Adm.	St-Joseph
22.07	*Sekula Mpundu Godfrey (Sc. Fr.)	US Prov./Zambia	US Prov./Zambia
22.07	*Diouf François Mbagnick (Sc. Fr.)	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
22.07	*Huaman Alberto (Sc. Fr.)	St. Peter's/Peru	St. Peter's/Peru
22.07	*Stang Kurt (Bro.)	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
28.07	Nsangumpamba Adelin (Fr.)	Congo	Italy/Senegal
15.09	Iaderosa Agostino (Fr.)	Argentina-Chile	Italy/Uruguay
18.09	*Silva Moura Arlindo (Sc Fr.)	Brazil	Brazil
18.09	*Laudenorio Roy (Sc.)	Grandin	Grandin
18.09	*Palomar John Jeneval (Sc.)	Philippines	Philippines
18.09	Richmond Christopher (Fr.)	Northern S. A.	Natal
22.09	Czop Cyprian (Fr.)	Poland	Thailand
22.09	Wolniak Zygmunt (Bro.)	Poland	Gen. House
01.10	Bishop Nxumalo Jabulani	Gen. Admin.	Natal
07.10	*Fernando W. Lal Pushpadewa (Sc.)	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
07.10	*Silva Nalaka Chandima (Sc.)	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
07.10	*Ndour Georges Pascal (Sc. Fr.)	Italy/Senegal	Italy/Senegal
07.10	Gilles Christian (Fr.)	Thailand	France
07.10	Bulumba Kambambi Roger (Fr.)	Congo	Paraguay
08.10	Yambeng Jean-Pierre (Fr.)	Congo	N.D.-du-Rosaire
13.10	*Avila Alonzo Sergio (Sc.)	Mexico	Mexico/Guatemala
02.11	*Mateus Jose Mwamenange (Sc)	Namibia	Namibia
02.11	*Widiatmoko Antonius (Sc.)	Indonesia	Indonesia
01.12	*Abbasari Kishore Kumar (Sc. Fr.)	Sri Lanka/India	India
01.12	*Arumainathan Antonyraj (Sc. Fr.)	Sri Lanka/India	India
01.12	*Francis Davidraj (Sc. Fr.)	Sri Lanka/India	India

01.12	*Joseph Durai Arul A. (Sc. Fr.)	Sri Lanka/India	Australia/China
01.12	*Siluvai Adimai Vincent (Sc. Fr.)	Sri Lanka/India	Australia/China
01.12	*Asodo Henricus (Sc.)	Indonesia	Indonesia
01.12	*Sattu Agustinus (Sc.)	Indonesia	Indonesia
01.12	*Doolalila Noël (Sc.)	Cameroon	Cameroon
01.12	*Stollewerk Volker (Sc. Fr.)	Germany	Germany
01.12	Jajesniak Janusz (Fr.)	Poland	Assumption
01.12	Mac Anally Patrick (Fr.)	Indonesia	Australia
31.12	Berikani Zenon (Fr.)	Congo	Paraguay

### Oblates in First Formation

(as of Dec. 31, 2003)

Year	Novices	Scholastics	Brothers in formation	First vows	Perpetual vows	Ordinations
<b>2003</b>	154	643	36	132	67	63
<b>2002</b>	159	657	29	130	78	76
<b>2001</b>	159	622	34	112	68	59
<b>2000</b>	130	638	41	114	60	59
<b>1998</b>	161	587	47	163	73	46
<b>1996</b>	131	560	42	141	56	69
<b>1994</b>	131	546	38	122	66	59
<b>1992</b>	174	515	55	116	70	71

*Totals for 2003 include 10 Brother novices, 8 Brothers who made first vows and 5 Brothers who made perpetual oblation.*

### Deaths and Departures

**Deaths in 2003 : 102** (82 priests, 20 brothers)

2002 : **121** 2001 : **101** 2000 : **121** 1999 : **116** 1998 : **115** 1997 : **118** 1996 : **111** 1995 : **123**

**Departures in 2003 : 89** (15 priests, 69 scholastics, 5 brothers)

**2002 : 75** (14 priests, 59 scholastics, 2 brothers)

**2001 : 84** (20 priests, 59 scholastics, 5 brothers)

- 63 scholastics and 3 brothers did not renew their temporary vows.
- 1 scholastic was granted a dispensation from perpetual vows.
- 5 scholastics were granted a dispensation from temporary vows by the Superior General.

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## Africa-Madagascar

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### NATAL

#### **Archbishop Denis Hurley dies suddenly**

The former Archbishop of Durban, South Africa died suddenly February 13th of a massive stroke. He was 89 years old.

Denis Eugene Hurley was born at Cape Town, South Africa, on November 9, 1915 into a family of Irish origin. He made first vows in Cahermoyle, Ireland in 1933 and was ordained a priest in Rome in 1939. Upon returning to South Africa, he was appointed to Durban's cathedral parish where he learned Zulu. In January 1944 – when he was only 28 years old – he became the first superior of the Oblate scholasticate founded at Pietermaritzburg. He was 31 years and one month of age when Pius XII appointed him Vicar Apostolic of Natal in December 1946. He was the world's youngest Catholic bishop. The Apostolic Vicariate of Natal became the archdiocese of Durban in 1951 and Hurley was its first archbishop, until his mandatory resignation for reasons of age (75) in 1992.

At the time of his retirement in 1992 he was the

world's longest serving Catholic bishop (45 years), having led the Catholic Church in Durban throughout almost all the years of apartheid. His courageous stand as archbishop and president of the Episcopal Conference against this unjust system resulted in his being brought before the courts; nearly two years of proceedings came to a close with his acquittal in February 1985. For his courageous opposition to that policy and his sterling contribution to freedom and justice, the governments of Italy and South Africa have honored him. By decree of the President of Italy he was made a Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic in 1997 and received the Order of Merit First Class from President Nelson Mandela in 1999.

At the request of his successor in Durban, Archbishop Wilfrid Napier, he accepted to be pastor of the cathedral parish in Durban, a charge he fulfilled until recently. He had just returned to South Africa from a meeting in Rome sponsored by the Saint Egidio Community when the Lord called this "faithful servant" home.

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## Europe

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### POLAND

#### **A Provincial reflects on his term**

On January 25, Fr. Pawel LATUSEK finished his mandate as Provincial and yielded the office to his successor Fr. Teodor JOCHEM. After six years spent at the head of the Province of Poland, the largest of the Congregation, Fr. Latusek addressed a letter to the Province "to throw a glance on the way traversed, to announce some facts and to share some observations and reflections."

He starts by pointing out some statistical data. During the 6 years of his mandate, 75 Oblates – without counting Madagascar – made perpetual vows, 56 were ordained priests; there were 51 obediences *ad extra*; 4 Oblates transferred to the

clergy diocesan, 19 returned to the Father's house and 12 left. Father Latusek underlines the great number of obediences given for posts outside the Province, a beautiful sign of missionary generosity.

Missionary work continued with intensity. In Ukraine five new establishments were made. Bielorussia became a mission; Oblates now serve there at the sanctuary of Szumilin in the diocese of Witebsk. Turkmenistan also became a mission. Polish Oblates, working with immigrants in France and the Benelux countries became a delegation of the Polish Province. To the traditional work of the parochial missions and parishes various prison, hospital and military chaplainries were added. "Our missionary presence far from being

marginal is always important and sometimes essential... Living in a time of unemployment, we should appreciate much better what a great grace work is... especially when it is a question of being co-operators of the Saviour....”

After having thanked his collaborators and all the Oblates – the thanks occupy a good third of its letter – the outgoing Provincial finished by speak-

ing about his own experience, which was not always easy: “I had to accustom myself to living with all these tensions, and I did not succeed at first!” And now it seems, the professor of philosophy which he is, will go to take up again his courses at the Obra scholasticate... a work which will seem to him light after these years of service in the vast horizons of a Province which extends well beyond its borders.

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## Asia-Oceania

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### INDIA

#### DMIs go to Tanzania

The Society of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate recently opened four missions in Tanzania, East Africa. In February they will begin two Polytechnic Colleges and an Engineering College. These will be the first of their kind in the country.

Fr. J. E. ArulRaj, OMI and Sr. Josephine founded the Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) in 1984 to work in the most difficult and demanding missions of the world. The purpose and charism of the society is to preach the Values of the Kingdom to the poor and abandoned. Now in their twentieth year of existence, the DMI have 45 communities in India with 610 sisters working in 20 dioceses in 5 states.

Through a variety of programs the DMIs help poor women to become self-sufficient. Some 3,000 women have benefited from these programs. They also provide childcare and health programs through primary education, and other educational programs aimed to wean children away from child labor. More than 20,000 children are being educated in the DMI missions. At the level of higher education they have an Engineering College which ranks 21<sup>st</sup> among the 240 colleges of that kind. They also have an Arts and Science College which has graduate and post graduate programs such as Computer, Information Technology, Biochemistry, etc. They will bring this experience to the new projects in Tanzania.

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## United States

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#### US-JPIC – Fr. Finn at the 3iG meeting

At the invitation of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Fr. Seamus FINN took part in the recent meeting of the International Interfaith Investment Group (3iG), at the Halki monastery on a small island just off the coast of Istanbul in late October. The island of Heybiliada (Halki) is a sacred island for Orthodox Christians. The meeting was attended by representatives of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faiths, as well as by representatives of investment and development funds.

Secular observers included the World Bank, Citigroup, Rabobank and several major foundations from the United States and Europe. This three year project was initiated and financed by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation in an effort to explore the common principles and teachings of the world’s religions about creation and the ethical imperatives that ought to guide the human behaviour including the impact of those activities on the earth’s future which is shared by all God’s people.

The “Green Patriarch”, as he has been called, has issued a number of joint statements with John Paul II on these issues in recent years and he has been instrumental in coordinating the involvement of people of different faiths in the cleanup of the Danube River and the Black Sea. The 3iG group has had a number of consultations with the World Bank and with the private sector in an effort to develop a blueprint that may be helpful to all faiths that chose to respond to this challenge. Advisory agencies such as Innovest, WWF International, and economic think-tank bodies such as

Medley Global Advisors have also offered their assistance and support to representatives of the faiths.

In the months ahead the 3iG group will be inviting groups from the differing religious traditions at local regional and international level to consider a more formal participation in this inter-faith collaborative effort which offers a very tangible opportunity for bridging the differences and often ancient animosities which have divided peoples.

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## General Administration

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### OMI-JPIC and the World Social Forum 4 – Mumbai, India

An estimated 85,000 to 100,000 people participated in this great gathering of NGOs and peoples’ movements. There were 13 Oblates present among them. The delegation, which was organized by Fr. Eliseo MERCADO of the Rome JPIC office, included delegates from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Bolivia and Brazil.

The World Social Forum (WSF) was initiated as a response to the World Economic Forum, an annual meeting held in Switzerland where government and corporate leaders meet to discuss and endorse free market policies and promote corporate globalization models. The WSF is not an organization or an institution but a PLATFORM of different organizations. It brings together people from all walks of life, all colors and creeds, who seek to formulate a blueprint for building ANOTHER WORLD – a plural, just, responsible and shared world which accords equal dignity and rights to all the citizens of the earth.

The WSF 4 at Mumbai was a loud and resounding NO to the evil effects of neo-liberal globalization and its processes that are creating a small global “over-class” and a vast, increasingly vulnerable “under-class” in every country. One Oblate participant commented, “WSF was an experience of not only working “for” the poor but also standing side by side with the poor for a different world.”

### “Personnel O.M.I.” online

Yes, the entire 306 pages of the *Personnel O.M.I.*, usually published every six years by the General Administration, is now available on our web site OMIWORLD, in the reserved area. The file is in PDF format. You may consult it online, or with a right click on your mouse you may download it to your computer. The Adobe Reader permits you to search for people or places. The data is updated regularly. Only you can help us do that by informing the General Secretariat of changes of residence, telephone and other data.

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## Anniversaries for March 2004

### 70<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Vows

1934.03.19      06486      Bro. Mathias Turcotte      Saint-Joseph

### 65<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Vows

1939.03.19      08121      Bro. Alojzy Kubiacyk      Poland

1939.03.20      07423      Bro. Adrien Desjardins      Saint-Joseph

1939.03.25      06896      Fr. Willem Bauhaus      Holland-Flanders

1939.03.25      07641      Fr. Heinrich Stracke      Germany

### 65<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Ordinations

1939.03.04      06268      Fr. Robert Haramburu      France

### 60<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Vows

1944.03.19      08279      Fr. Roch Trudel      N.D.-du-Rosaire

### 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Vows

1954.03.16      09647      Fr. James FitzPatrick      Australia

1954.03.16      09811      Fr. John Hannah      Australia

### 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Ordinations

1954.03.28      08572      Fr. Alojzy Lesz      Poland

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### Suffrages for our Deceased

(No. 8-23)

Name	Province	Date of Birth	Place of death	Date of death
Fr. John Boyce	Northern S.A.	09/03/1923	Portnablagh	26/01/2004
Bro. Léon Dollé	Holland-Flanders	03/12/1908	Brussels	29/01/2004
Bro. Emile Le Guen	France	05/12/1926	Pontmain	31/01/2004
Fr. Francis Campbell	USA	06/08/1914	Tewksbury	02/02/2004
Fr. Marian Rejkowicz	Poland	14/05/1936	Berck	05/02/2004
Fr. Emilien Carrier	N.D.Rosaire	15/11/1921	Trois Rivières	06/02/2004
Bro. Cyprien Soucy	Saint Paul's	02/03/1922	Whitehorse	08/02/2004
Fr. Gérard Charbonneau	St. Joseph	16/09/1932	Hull	09/02/2004
Fr. Alfons Leys	Holland-Flanders	16/02/1926	Waregem	09/02/2004
Bro. Louis Lepage	St. Joseph	15/05/1917	Richelieu	11/02/2004
Fr. Kevin McNanara	Saint Peter's	13/01/1921	Ottawa	11/02/2004
Archbishop Denis Hurley	Natal	09/11/1915	Durban	13/02/2004
Fr. Gilbert Truchon	Lesotho	02/01/1925	Plateau d'Assy	15/02/2004
Fr. John Mole	St. Joseph	10/02/1911	Ottawa	15/02/2004
Fr. Raymond Quesnel	USA	20/02/1915	Rochester	16/02/2004
Bro. Willie Nadon	St. Joseph	18/03/1916	St-Jean-sur-Richelieu	18/02/2004

*“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)*