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February 2016

**Celebrating 200 years
of missionary service in the Church
1816-2016**

**CONGRATULATIONS FROM
POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE BICENTENARY**



From the Vatican, 5 November 2015

Dear Father Lougen,

The Holy Father was pleased to be informed of the bicentenary of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to be celebrated on 25 January 2016, and he sends prayerful good wishes to all of the priests and brothers of the Congregation.

His Holiness joins you in giving thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings bestowed upon the Institute these past two hundred years, and for the abundant fruits which your labours have borne. So that you may be ever more faithful to the charism of your founder, Saint Eugene de Mazenod, he encourages all of you to deepen your personal commitment to Jesus Christ, and to be men who always witness to the joy of the Gospel, “not only with words, but above all by lives transfigured by God’s presence” (Evangelii Gaudium, 259). In such a way, you will truly be co-workers with Christ and evangelize those who are most in need of his mercy and love.

Commending all of you to the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Pope Francis willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Pietro Cardinal Parolin
Secretary of State

The Reverend Louis Lougen, OMI
Superior General
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Via Aurelia, 290
00165 Roma

Letter of the Superior General to the Congregation for February 17, 2016

Dear brother Oblates,

Happy feast day! On this February 17th, we celebrate the 190th anniversary of the approbation of our Constitutions and Rules by Pope Leo XII in the context of our 200th anniversary of foundation. The Oblate Triennium this year focuses on the themes of mission and the vow of obedience. The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, is guiding us as we listen anew to the awesome call to participate in the mission of the Holy Trinity.

In this special jubilee year I would like to invite us to ponder the Oblate charism which is a great gift and to be deeply grateful for the grace of our vocation as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The Oblate charism, a gift of the Spirit for the entire Church, handed on to us by Eugene de Mazenod, is of vital importance for the Church and for the poor. I am convinced of the significance of our charism today and as we look to the future. On this feast day I would like to share some of my many reasons for gratitude to God for the charism we live. These are also the motives of my immense hope for the future of the Congregation.

I am immensely proud of Oblate priests and Brothers who are very close to the poor all around the world. Oblates are simple, humble, available, and accessible and speak the language of the people. This is something special, entirely unique to us and binds us in a special way to the poor. We have inherited this from Eugene himself and from our first missionaries.

Because we are so close to the poor and most abandoned, we live on the peripheries and this can be dangerous. We live in areas where the poor are abandoned and their fundamental rights often neglected or violated. We are present in places of great tension and conflict and where human lives are constantly in danger. I wish to express our gratitude to all our brother Oblates who persevere in mission in spite of the threat of violence and death. The entire Congregation lives in union of

prayer with you and your faithful people who carry out Christ's mission with fortitude and perseverance.

I give thanks for the vitality of our charism expressed in the way Oblates decry injustice, discrimination, violation of human rights, racism, tribalism, sexism and prejudice against the poor, tribal peoples, indigenous peoples, etc. Our Congregation is well known within the Church and outside it for our commitment to the priority of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

I invite us to contemplate anew our holy Oblates and to give thanks to God for these men who show us the path to holiness of life. Faithful to our charism, our Founder and Blessed Joseph Gerard show us the power of grace transforming them over a lifetime into saints who were strikingly human in their holiness. How grateful we are for our Oblate martyrs, Joseph Cebula, and the Oblate Martyrs of Pozuelo and of Laos who witness to radical oblation. It is marvelous to see how young people connect with our holy Oblates!

I am grateful to various Oblate Units and their Major Superiors who have heard the challenge of the Immense Hope Project and the "call to a deep personal and community conversion to Jesus Christ" as called for by the 2010 General Chapter. With great courage, these Units are renewing apostolic community life, mission to the poor and defining clear priorities in light of personnel, finances and the call of the Spirit!

A sign of our new life for which I am very grateful and is happening all over the world is in the new vocational outreach and awareness of our collective responsibility to invite young members to join us. This is a striking turn around over the last twenty years! Provinces that no longer had a conviction about our future and had stopped inviting young men to join us have questioned this decision and with renewed faith and hope are now working to promote vocation ministry with vision and prophetic courage.

Many young Oblates, deeply convinced of the relevance of the Oblate charism, have pushed to reinvigorate vocations ministry and I am grateful to them for their stamina! We can express our gratitude for the grace of our vocation by supporting the efforts to invite new members to join us. We can stop the trend of diminishment we have experienced over the past years and begin to stabilize our numbers and even grow. This would enable us to respond more adequately to the missionary needs of the Church.

We must recognize and be grateful for the Spirit leading us to embrace the new development, "Mission with Youth," which has a specifically Oblate approach. The Oblate Youth Encounters in connection with World Youth Days have promoted and deepened this dynamic connection between young people and the Oblate charism. It is the Spirit's work!

We also give thanks for the strong attachment to the Oblate charism by many lay people around the globe in a variety of unique and creative ways. This is a vibrant sign of the vitality of the Oblate charism and its ability to attract others. There is a mutually enriching relationship between lay people who live the Oblate charism and vowed Oblates in terms of mission, spirituality and various forms of community relationships.

I give thanks for our older Oblates who continue to live the missionary spirit. Wherever I go, Oblates who have reached a certain age or who endure an illness continue to be interested in the Congregation, concerned with its mission and still involved as much as they can in outreach to the poor and to the Church in need. The fraternal spirit, the charity, the faith and joy with which our elders continue to live their oblation is outstanding. You continue to be Oblate missionaries and you are a real source of grace for the Congregation. Thank you for persevering in your witness of self-giving! I ask our superiors to continue to ensure loving care for our older men, and may all of us frequently visit them and pray for them.

I am proud of so many Oblates whose lives are of service, and who humbly and silently give

themselves to God's poor, doing unimaginably good deeds for God's people. These are men of prayer, dedicated to apostolic community and living witnesses of the vows. These are the Oblates who make our Congregation such a wonderful family and who sanctify all of us by their holiness. Their names are not in the headlines or outstanding journals, but they are the faithful witnesses on the front lines of the mission.

In some Congregations there is a great difficulty to find members willing to accept the office of Major Superior. We are blessed with generous and willing men who rise up in complete availability to accept the call to leadership. What a wonderful family spirit we have!

I am grateful for the international Oblate community of Centre Eugene de Mazenod in Aix en Provence which has committed itself to a life of apostolic community and the ministry of charism animation. The Congregation is blessed with the General Service of Oblate Studies and a number of Oblates who work to animate the charism among us in other creative ways. As I recognize with gratitude their labors, I also am deeply grateful for each Oblate who serves the life and mission of the Congregation by their ministry in the General Administration in so many different ways, quietly and faithfully serving here at the General House and around the world. Thank you!

The renewed awareness of the importance to prepare Oblates for formation ministry and the willingness of Major Superiors to free men to be prepared is a great sign of the importance we are giving to formation. I am very grateful to all of our formators who accompany the young men who come to us.

A final thanksgiving I would like to mention is for our relationship to Mary Immaculate, Mother of Marcy. Her protection and guidance makes us the formidable missionaries we are. Her smile of blessing, given to Eugene de Mazenod on August 15, 1822, continues to favor us. We are blessed indeed!

There are many other reasons for rejoicing in the grace of our vocation. In our community celebrations for February 17th I would ask that we continue to name the blessings we have received as a Congregation and to express our thanks to God for our Oblate vocation. Whether this is at the dinner table, in the community room, or during prayer in the chapel, please create a favorable brotherly atmosphere in which everyone can express his gratitude for the grace of belonging

to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Happy feast day!

Your brother Oblate in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Father Louis Lougen, OMI

Superior General

Aix-en-Provence, January 25, 2016

General Administration

Homily of the Superior General on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate – Aix-en-Provence – January 25, 2016

With a sense of reverence and affection for the Missionaries of Provence, our first fathers, we commemorate our beginnings exactly two hundred years ago in this very place. We stand on the shoulders of these men: Fathers De Mazenod, Deblieu, Tempier, Mie and Icard who left their homes and gathered here, to form a community for the work of the missions.

of this little society before he died, he could never have imagined the thousands and thousands of men who would become members, the vastness of our mission and the outstanding work we have accomplished in the Church. It certainly was the impulse of the Spirit that enabled him to overcome his own personal hesitations so that he took the initiative to act and had the strength to face the subsequent challenges of working out all the details of the vision that burned within himself.

The beginning was small, tenuous and fragile. Many uncertainties strike us: would the Vicars General of the Archdiocese of Aix support this project; where a suitable residence might be found; how the project would be sustained financially; and especially, the question of personnel: who would be brought together, the qualities desired in those to be called and whether permission for the selected priests to join the new community would be granted. Oblate hearts are stirred whenever we recall how the community began on this date in 1816 in makeshift quarters and with a certain poverty that did not discourage these first missionaries, but even evoked good humor and happiness.

The project of community life for missionary work was the heart of our foundation as the Missionaries of Provence. De Mazenod and his companions intentionally chose to form a community committed to a strong spiritual life and were dedicated to study, contemplate, live and preach the Word of God. Their love for the Church, which was in a deplorable state, led them to find a suitable approach for rekindling the faith which had all but disappeared. This community would minister to the young people, prisoners and all those neglected by the ordinary structures of the parishes, especially the poor in rural areas.

Along with these tenuous beginnings we also identify the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit in the audacious vision and courage which so strongly impelled these priests to come together. Eugene writes that it seemed to be “an impulse from outside himself” that finally pushed him to go ahead with the project of a missionary community. He believed it was the hand of God. Although he witnessed an enormous expansion

We gather to joyfully praise and thank God for the subtle yet forceful movement of the Spirit in these beginnings and throughout our history. We give thanks for Eugene and his companions who caught the Spirit’s inspiration and went forth in the midst of so many ambiguities. Giving thanks is good and necessary, but much more is expected of us. We aren’t here simply to admire and celebrate the beginnings of our charism in

the way of life begun by the Missionaries of Provence; we are responsible for living it with faithfulness and vitality today. Our CC&RR exhort every Oblate to follow the Spirit so that we live “in creative fidelity to the legacy bequeathed by Saint Eugene de Mazenod”(C#168). We are accountable for how we live and care for the precious legacy we have received.

Some Oblates ask me: Do we have a future? Is our charism still useful in the Church? Have we finished the mission and done our job so that we may now rest in peace? I am convinced we do have a future as a Congregation. Our charism is not only useful, but needed in the Church. God’s mission continues and as long as there are the poor, we have work to do. Our charism gives us a special place in the Church because we are connected to the poor and we reveal God’s compassionate face to them.

Pope Francis has shown the Oblate charism in his gestures: washing the feet of prisoners; rejoicing with youth; listening to refugees; meeting fraternally and humbly with leaders of other religious traditions; standing with the unemployed; calling two synods to support family life; opening the Holy Door in the midst of a displaced people, impoverished by violence and terrorism in the Central African Republic; and embracing those most rejected by society.

Our celebration today, and in fact, the Oblate Triennium, is a commitment focused on our future as a missionary congregation in the Church. We have received a heritage from our first fathers who started a way of life in this house 200 years ago. The Founder’s Preface, our Constitutions and Rules and the documents from our General Chapters guide us in living the charism today in many different contexts around the globe. We must always return to these “Oblate Scriptures” in apostolic communities to evaluate, review and be challenged on our faithfulness to the charism for which we are responsible.

The Word of God on this feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul also gives us two fundamental insights so that we live in creative fidelity to the legacy we have received from the Missionaries of Provence.

First of all, our relationship to Jesus Christ has to be the motivation for our missionary lives. This is revealed in Paul’s encounter with Jesus and is the core of his missionary life: to know Jesus Christ. We know that for Eugene also, passion for Christ the Savior was his primary motivation and the cross was central to his mission.

Secondly, the Gospel reminds us that we have received a mandate to preach the Gospel. It is a reminder to us that mission comes from the Trinity and does not belong to us. We are sent as cooperators of the Savior, but we are not the saviors. God’s mission is taking place deep within the heart of the world through the Spirit’s creative action. We are called to contribute something, yes, and it is important that we do the best we can. Ultimately the mission of the Trinity does not depend on us and this fills us with humility, freedom and joy.

The 2010 General Chapter called us to a profound personal and community conversion to Jesus Christ. This call has been embraced by the Congregation and this is certainly a sign of our desire to be faithful to the heritage handed on to us by these men who formed a missionary community on January 25 1816. The Spirit is guiding us and we are responding to the Spirit’s call, sometimes very well and sometimes more slowly and with some resistance. I believe in God’s Word to us that “The Spirit at work among us will do infinitely more than we can hope for or imagine” (Eph. 3:20)! Let us make haste to respond with new hearts, new spirits and give ourselves for a new mission!

Happy anniversary to all of you!



INTERNATIONALEUGENE DE MAZENOD CENTRE

Bicentenary Mass in Aix-en-Provence.

“We are proud to have among the Aixois, St. Eugene de Mazenod; we are proud of the missionary work done by the Missionaries of Provence” - said Bishop Christophe Dufour, Bishop of Aix and Arles, during the Oblates' Bicentenary Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Aix.

At the beginning of Mass Fr. Louis LOUGEN, Superior General of the Oblates, read the ‘Supplique’, a request for authorization of the community of the Missionaries of Provence, addressed to the Vicars General of Aix. This document, which was written by St. Eugene de Mazenod and his First Companions, signed on January 25, 1816, constitutes an important foundational act of the Missionary Oblates. It marked the beginning of the missionary work which is now 200 years old!

The flute and the drum, specific features of Provençal music, accompanied some moments of this celebration of Thanksgiving. During the prayers of the faithful, one prayer was said in Provençal, the language of the local people at the time of St. Eugene.

During communion, a poem, inspired by St. Eugene's sermon during Lent of 1813 in the Church of the Madeleine in Aix-en-Provence, was beautifully sung. The celebration ended with a play, on the call of the first Missionaries of Provence, prepared by the youth group associated with the Oblate community in Aix.

The cocktail and fraternal gathering after Mass, which was attended by several hundred people, marked the closing of the celebrations. (Krzysztof ZIELENDĄ)

GENERAL SERVICE FOR OBLATE STUDIES

A year with St. Eugene and his Oblates

In honor of the Oblate Triennium Celebration, a new blog featuring a short, daily text from the life and times of St. Eugene de Mazenod and the Oblates began on January 25 and runs through January 25, 2017. These daily reflections (**for now, in English only**) are prepared by Fr. Fabio

CIARDI and are available to be delivered to your inbox every day for a year.

To sign up, simply go to <https://omi200.wordpress.com/> and you will be taken to the new blog "OMI200". In the lower, right-hand side of your screen, you will see the word, FOLLOW, simply click on it, enter your email address and you will receive a confirmation email, just click on CONFIRM and you will receive each new reflection for a year. (You may also un-subscribe at any time.)

Here is Fr. Ciardi's description of the daily reflections:

The bicentennial year of the foundation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate is a very good occasion to revisit our origins and to find in them the inexhaustible inspiration to live today the charism given by God to Saint Eugene de Mazenod.

The present material wants to be a help for this journey. It offers a thought for meditation for each day of the year, beginning January 25, 2016 to January 25, 2017.

The criteria for the choice of the texts are the following:

- Events linked to the life of St. Eugene and the foundation of the Congregation.
- Recollection of the *dies natalis* of the Oblate Blessed, Servants of God, martyrs and missionaries who left a significant mark in the history of the Congregation.
- Aspects of the Oblate charism and spirituality.
- The celebration of the feast days and liturgical seasons, as well of the saints who have a particular link to the life of the Congregation.

There are only 365 days in the year (366 in 2016), too few for a complete presentation of the rich patrimony that our brothers have left us from our origins until today. This is only a little sample that might encourage us to look at our vocation and to help us to pursue with ever new freshness the journey begun 200 years ago.

With gratitude to those who have gone before us, who intercede for us and who wait for us at the final destination.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT Statistics 2016

Introduction: The source for Oblate statistics is the database of members in the General Secretariat at the General House, updated and adjusted with reports which come in from the various Oblate provinces, delegations and missions. The records of first vows, final vows, ordinations, departures and deaths which are received daily in Rome go to make up the annual report.

For various reasons, these records sometimes do not arrive at the Secretariat in a timely fashion. The numbers included in this publication, especially related to scholastics, vows, ordinations and departures, reflect not only the statistics of the year that has just passed, but also of some previous years.

GENERAL STATISTICS –January 2016

| JANUARY 2015 | | | | | | JANUARY 2016 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----|----|----|-------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-----|----|----|-------|
| Total | Fr | B1 | B2 | PD | Scho. | | Total | Fr | B1 | B2 | PD | Scho. |
| 36 | 33 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | General Admin. | 41 | 38 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 831 | 547 | 57 | 5 | 0 | 222 | Africa-Madagascar | 833 | 543 | 54 | 4 | 0 | 232 |
| 450 | 353 | 24 | 3 | 0 | 70 | Latin America | 450 | 350 | 24 | 3 | 0 | 73 |
| 771 | 580 | 26 | 2 | 2 | 161 | Asia-Oceania | 801 | 580 | 27 | 0 | 2 | 192 |
| 718 | 608 | 99 | 1 | 2 | 8 | Canada-USA | 691 | 591 | 90 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 986 | 815 | 103 | 2 | 4 | 63 | Europe | 960 | 788 | 98 | 4 | 4 | 66 |
| 3792 | *2935 | 312 | 13 | 8 | 524 | Total | 3776 | *2890 | 296 | 12 | 8 | 570 |

*Of whom 46 are bishops, 1 is an Apostolic Prefect and 2 are priests in temporal vows

*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. PD refers to an Oblate Brother who is a permanent deacon.*

SUMMARY (as of January 2016)

| MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE | January 2015 | January 2016 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Cardinals | 2 | 1 |
| Archbishops | 9 | 8 |
| Bishops | 38 | 37 |
| Prefect Apostolic | 1 | 1 |
| Priests | 2884 | 2841 |
| Priests with temporary vows | 1 | 2 |
| Brothers with perpetual vows | 312 | 296 |
| Brothers who are permanent deacons | 8 | 8 |
| Brothers with temporary vows | 13 | 12 |
| Scholastics with perpetual vows | 97 | 97 |
| Scholastics with temporary vows | 427 | 473 |
| Total number of Oblates | 3792 | 3776 |

PERSONNEL BY UNIT
(as of 15 January 2016)

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. | Deac. | Tot. |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 |

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

| | Card. | Ar. | Ep. | Ep. | Pr. | Ap. | Fr. | Br. | Br.T | Fr.T | Sc.P. | Sc.T. | Deac. | Tot. |
|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Angola | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Botswana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| Cameroun | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 67 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 127 |
| Central S. A. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Congo | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 95 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 149 |
| Kenya | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Lesotho | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 73 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 |
| Madagascar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 76 |
| Namibia | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 31 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| Natal | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| Nigeria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Northern S. A. | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| Sahara | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Senegal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 54 |
| Zambia | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 |
| Zimbabwe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| Total: | 0 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 522 | 54 | 4 | 1 | 42 | 190 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 833 |

LATIN AMERICA

| | Card. | Ar. | Ep. | Ep. | Pr. | Ap. | Fr. | Br. | Br.T | Fr.T | Sc.P. | Sc.T. | Deac. | Tot. |
|-----------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Argentina-Chile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| Baja California | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Bolivia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Brazil | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 56 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 |
| Colombia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Cuba | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| French Guyana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Guatemala | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Haiti | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 92 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 129 |
| Mexico | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| Paraguay | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| Peru | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

| | Card. | Ar. | Ep. | Ep. | Pr. | Ap. | Fr. | Br. | Br.T | Fr.T | Sc.P. | Sc.T. | Deac. | Tot. |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-------|------|
| Puerto Rico | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Uruguay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| Venezuela | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 345 | 24 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 56 | 0 | 450 | | |

ASIA-OCEANIA

| | Card. | Ar. | Ep. | Ep. | Pr. | Ap. | Fr. | Br. | Br.T | Fr.T | Sc.P. | Sc.T. | Deac. | Tot. |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|-------|------|
| Australia | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| Bangladesh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| China | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Colombo | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 111 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 32 | 2 | 158 | | |
| India | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 93 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 123 | | |
| Indonesia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 43 | | |
| Jaffna | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 88 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 23 | 0 | 118 | | |
| Japan - Korea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | | |
| Korea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | | |
| Pakistan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 42 | | |
| Philippines | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 79 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 107 | | |
| Thailand | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 26 | | |
| Turkmenistan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | |
| Vietnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 35 | 0 | 62 | | |
| Total: | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 572 | 27 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 170 | 2 | 801 | | |

CANADA-UNITED STATES

| | Card. | Ar. | Ep. | Ep. | Pr. | Ap. | Fr. | Br. | Br.T | Fr.T | Sc.P. | Sc.T. | Deac. | Tot. |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-------|------|
| Assumption | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 51 | | |
| Lacombe | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 160 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 193 | | |
| N.D.-du-Cap | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 127 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 177 | | |
| United States | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 244 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 270 | | |
| Total: | 0 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 579 | 90 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 691 | | |

EUROPE

| | Card. | Ar. | Ep. | Ep. | Pr. | Ap. | Fr. | Br. | Br.T | Fr.T | Sc.P. | Sc.T. | Deac. | Tot. |
|------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|-------|------|
| Anglo-Irish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 79 | | |
| Belgium/Holland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 76 | | |
| Byelorussia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | |
| Central European | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 97 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 128 | | |
| France | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 112 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 127 | | |
| France & Benelux | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | | |
| Lourdes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Mediterranean | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 149 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 168 | | |
| Poland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 228 | 30 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 38 | 0 | 313 | | |
| Romania | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | |
| Ukraine | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 26 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 32 | | |
| Total: | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 785 | 98 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 51 | 4 | 960 | | |
| Total: | 1 | 8 | 37 | 1 | 2841 | 296 | 12 | 2 | 97 | 473 | 8 | 3776 | | |

Key: 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; Deac= Perm. Deac.

Perpetual Oblations – (reported in 2015)

| Number | Family Name | Name | Date | Dioc. of Origin | Unit |
|--------|--------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| 14697 | SARR | Marcel | 28.02 | Dakar | Senegal |
| 14696 | CHIMESE | Abraham | 23.01 | Ndola | Zambia |
| 14698 | SCAGLIA | Alessandro | 28.02 | Ivrea | Mediterranean |
| 14699 | GARDINER | Rusty | 22.07.2014 | Keewatin- Le Pas | Lacombe |
| 14700 | NUÑEZ YÉPEZ | Eduardo | 10.04 | México | Mexico |
| 14701 | AYALA | Aurelio | 01.05 | Villarica | Paraguay |
| 14702 | DIKANY | Jules | 01.05 | Maroua-Mokolo | Cameroun |
| 14703 | DUVERSEAU | Jean | 01.05 | Les Cayes | Haiti |
| 14704 | KALALUKA | Hector | 01.05 | Livingstone | Zambia |
| 14705 | KUNDA | Reagan | 01.05 | Ndola | Zambia |
| 14706 | NIYONKURU | Léon | 01.05 | Windhoek | Namibia |
| 14707 | RAFENOMANANTSOA | Mamilalaina | 01.05 | Fianarantsoa | Madagascar |
| 14708 | MAQABE | Julius | 01.05 | Maseru | Lesotho |
| 14709 | NKUNYANE | Puseletso | 01.05 | Mohale's Hoek | Lesotho |
| 14710 | NTONE | Rethabile | 01.05 | Maseru | Lesotho |
| 14711 | RAMAQELE | George | 01.05 | Maseru | Lesotho |
| 14712 | THIBINYANE | Moabi | 01.05 | Mohale's Hoek | Lesotho |
| 14713 | TSITA | Mahapela | 01.05 | Maseru | Lesotho |
| 14714 | ZIEGLER | Daniel | 05.09 | Boston | United States |
| 14715 | DUDEK | Karol | 08.09 | Kielecka | Poland |
| 14716 | GRABKA | Robert | 08.09 | Sandomierz | Poland |
| 14717 | KONIECZNY | Jaroslav | 08.09 | Pazemyska | Poland |
| 14718 | LEMEKH | Pavel | 08.09 | Minsk- Mohilev | Byelorussia |
| 14719 | PILARCZYK | Pawel | 08.09 | Plock | Poland |
| 14720 | TRAN DUY DAI | Joseph | 21.05 | Bui Chu | Vietnam |
| 14721 | NGUYEN THINH VUONG | Vincent | 21.05 | Xuan Loc | Vietnam |
| 14722 | LAJOIE | Rosembert | 08.09 | Les Cayes | Haiti |
| 14723 | VALCOURT | Eric | 08.09 | Les Cayes | Haiti |
| 14724 | SAMEDY | Louiseau | 08.09 | Les Cayes | Haiti |
| 14725 | ANDRIAMAMONJISOA | Jean Arthur | 08.09 | Antsirabe | Madagascar |
| 14726 | BEARIVOZAFY | Gildas | 08.09 | Ambanja | Madagascar |
| 14727 | RAJAONARISON | Yann | 08.09 | Port-Bergé | Madagascar |
| 14728 | RANDRIANASOLO | Joseph | 08.09 | Miarinarivo | Madagascar |
| 14729 | MPIA BELENDIA | Claude | 08.09 | Inongo | Congo |
| 14730 | NGAMABWINI | Steve | 08.09 | Kikwit | Congo |
| 14731 | NGONGA | Faustin | 08.09 | Idiofa | Congo |
| 14732 | GOSSAMBAYE | Christian | 08.09 | Ndjaména | Cameroun |
| 14733 | BACHEKA DJONLAÏ | Thaddée | 08.09 | Yagoua | Cameroun |
| 14734 | ISA | Vincent | 08.09 | Jos | Nigeria |
| 14735 | DAO XUAN HA | Louis | 22.10 | Hue | Vietnam |
| 14736 | SENADEERA | Gihan | 11.10 | Chilaw | Colombo |
| 14737 | THANDALGE | Chamika | 11.10 | Chilaw | Colombo |
| 14738 | KHAWAR MEHBOOB | Khadim | 06.11 | Lahore | Pakistan |
| 14739 | PRAKASH RAO | Bejjam | 19.11 | Guntur | India |
| 14740 | JOHNSON | Susai Raj | 19.11 | Vellore | India |
| 14741 | BHARATH | Nayagan | 19.11 | Dharmapuri | India |
| 14742 | PIERRE | Jonel | 08.09.2010 | Les Cayes | Haiti |
| 14743 | THERISPUSPAN | Jenistan | 08.12 | Jaffna | Jaffna |

Obediences – 2015

| Date | Title | Surname | Name | Origin | Destination |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 13.01 | Sch. | MAKUNKA | Bright | Zambia | Kenya |
| 14.01 | Sch. | HERRERA | Humberto | Mexico | Mexico |
| 15.01 | Sch. | MOTHIBA | Thabo | S. Africa, Northern | S. Africa, Northern |
| 16.01 | Sch. | MWALA | Cornhill | Zambia | Paraguay |
| 23.01 | Sch. | ANDRIANARISOA | Olivier | Madagascar | Madagascar |
| 23.01 | Sch. | ANDRIAMIHAJA | Cristophe | Madagascar | Madagascar |
| 23.01 | Sch. | RATOLONJANAHARY | Georges | Madagascar | Madagascar |
| 25.02 | Sch. | LUCAS | Regini | Jaffna | Jaffna |
| 25.02 | Sch. | MANUELPIILLAI | Patrick | Jaffna | Jaffna |
| 25.02 | Sch. | SEEMANPIILLAI | Alston | Jaffna | Jaffna |
| 25.02 | Sch. | CHIMHOWA | Ernest | Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe |
| 25.02 | Sch. | CHIPEMBERE | Themba | Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe |
| 04.03 | Bro. | MHLANGA | John | Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe |
| 04.03 | Sch. | MALLO | Jaime | Philippines | Philippines |
| 06.03 | Sch. | TORRES | Ronnie | Philippines | Thailand-Laos |
| 06.03 | Fr. | ZEVOLA | Giovanni | Korea | China |
| 19.03 | Fr. | TAILLEZ | Daniel | United States | France |
| 29.03 | Fr. | RAKOTOARISOA | Johnny | Madagascar | China |
| 29.03 | Sch. | TCHOUTSEMA ZEOU | Anicet | Cameroon | Cameroon |
| 29.03 | Sch. | CASTILLO ESCOMILLA | Lucio | United States | United States |
| 19.04 | Sch. | SILVA CASTILLO | Cesar | Mexico | Mexico |
| 19.04 | Sch. | LOPEZ ORTIZ | Feliciano | United States | United States |
| 19.04 | Bro. | GARDINER | Rusty | OMI Lacombe | OMI Lacombe |
| 01.05 | Sch. | IORKYA'A | Godwin | Cameroon | Cameroon |
| 01.05 | Sch. | KOYE | Joachim | Cameroon | Cameroon |
| 03.05 | Sch. | XIAOLONG | Paul | China | China |
| 04.05 | Sch. | DIAZ MARQUEZ | Miguel | Argentina-Chile | Argentina-Chile |
| 04.05 | Sch. | KROL | Marcin | Poland | Poland |
| 04.05 | Sch. | WRZOS | Krzysztof | Poland | Poland |
| 04.05 | Sch. | SAWICKI | Bogdan | Ukraine | Ukraine |
| 04.05 | Sch. | OSUJI CHIGOZIE | John | Nigeria | Cameroon |
| 04.05 | Sch. | PATRICK | Paul | Assumption | Assumption |
| 29.05 | Fr. | KOWOL | Eugeniusz | Cameroon | Poland |
| 31.05 | Sch. | MUSILIZO | Pius | Zambia | Zambia |
| 04.06 | Fr. | SOOSAIPILLAI | Alren | Jaffna | Poland |
| 29.06 | Fr. | POPIELEWSKI | Wojciech | Poland | Int'l Schol. Rome |
| 29.06 | Sch. | LETSOELA | Julius | Lesotho | Lesotho |
| 29.06 | Sch. | FERNANDO | Dhunushka | Colombo | Colombo |
| 29.06 | Sch. | WIJEKOON | Philip | Colombo | Peru |
| 29.06 | Fr. | BARBOSA | Joao | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 29.06 | Fr. | BRADY | Michael | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 29.06 | Fr. | COLGAN | Bernard | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 29.06 | Fr. | DE LUCENA SOARES | Francisco | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 29.06 | Fr. | FELIX DA SILVA | Lindomar | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 29.06 | Fr. | GOMES | Armando | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 29.06 | Fr. | McCARTHY | Daniel | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 29.06 | Fr. | MURPHY | Patrick | Brazil Central | Brazil |

| Date | Title | Surname | Name | Origin | Destination |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 29.06 | Fr. | O'SHEA | Thomas | Brazil Central | Brazil |
| 06.07 | Sch. | MATKUMBA | Gabriel | Congo | Congo |
| 11.08 | Fr. | KIENGE-KIENGE | Constant | Congo | General House |
| 12.08 | Sch. | SOKI | Pascal | Congo | Congo |
| 12.08 | Sch. | ZAPATA ZURITA | Gary | Bolivia | Bolivia |
| 16.08 | Sch. | CHAJON OVALLE | Federico | Guatemala | Guatemala |
| 21.09 | Fr. | ANTHONY | David | India | General House |
| 21.09 | Fr. | FOLEY | Peter | Natal | General House |
| 21.09 | Fr. | KHATHALI | Callistus | Natal | Int'l Schol. Rome |
| 23.09 | Fr. | SAVARIPILLAI | Edmund | Jaffna | Scandinavia |
| 07.10 | Sch. | GOSSAMBAYE | Christian | Cameroon | Cameroon |
| 12.10 | Bro. | VANDENEDE | Leo | Congo | Belgium-Netherlands |
| 09.11 | Fr. | PELLETIER | Jean-Rene | Bolivia | Notre Dame du Cap |
| 29.11 | Fr. | VALERE | Yves | Haiti | Haiti |
| 29.11 | Sch. | PANIZALES | Monimar | Philippines | Philippines |
| 29.11 | Sch. | FLORES NAVA | Juan | Mexico | Mexico |
| 30.11 | Fr. | LAWRENCE SELLATHURAI | Renald | Jaffna | Pakistan |
| 30.11 | Fr. | JAYA RAJ | Mathewraj | India | Australia |
| 30.11 | Sch. | NAMBONDI | Ignatius | Namibia | Namibia |
| 30.11 | Bro. | NGUYEN THINH VUONG | Vincent | Vietnam | Vietnam |
| 30.11 | Sch. | PHAM HUUN CHI | Pierre | Vietnam | Vietnam |
| 30.11 | Sch. | NGUYEN HUU THAI | Joseph | Vietnam | Vietnam |
| 30.11 | Sch. | VU DUY TAN | Nicolas | Vietnam | Vietnam |
| 30.11 | Sch. | NGUYEN QUOC VONG | Jean-Baptiste | Vietnam | Vietnam |
| 03.12 | Sch. | MANDAVA | Lucky | Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe |
| 09.12 | Sch. | NIYONKURU | Leon | Namibia | Namibia |

Oblates in First Formation - 2015
(*Reported as of January 2016*)

| Year | Scholastics | Bros. In Temp. vows | First Vows | Perpetual Vows | Ordinations |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 2015 | 570 | 12 | 107 | 49 | 50 |
| 2014 | 524 | 13 | 129 | 79 | 55 |
| 2013 | 558 | 3 | 101 | 49 | 76 |
| 2012 | 627 | 9 | 87 | 100* | 84 |
| 2011 | 685 | 17 | 132 | 72 | 74 |
| 2010 | 672 | 19 | 82 | 47 | 32 |
| 2009 | 632 | 28 | 104 | 76 | 46 |

*Please note that these numbers include Oblates who either professed vows or were ordained in previous years but the ***fact had not been reported*** to the General Secretariat before January 2016.

Deaths and Departures - 2015

Deaths in **2015: 94 (1 Cardinal, 2 Bishops, 72 Priests, 19 Brothers)**

2014: **108** 2013: **95** 2012:103 2011:108 2010: **92**

Departures ***reported*** in 2015: **43 (18 priests, 21 scholastics, 4 Brothers)**

2014: 131 (19 priests, 105 scholastics, 7 Brothers)

2013: 116 (19 priests, 91 scholastics, 6 Brothers)

2012: 74 (22 priests, 49 scholastics, 3 Brothers)

2011: 47 (16 priests, 31 scholastics)

2010: 51 (12 priests, 39 scholastics)

2009: 49 (11 priests, 35 scholastics, 3 Brothers)

2015:

- 14 scholastics did not renew their temporary vows.
- 3 scholastics were dispensed from temporary vows.
- 2 scholastics were dispensed from perpetual vows
- 1 scholastic was dismissed from the Congregation
- 1 scholastic was laicized
- 1 Brother did not renew their temporary vows.
- 1 Brother was dispensed from perpetual vows
- 1 Brother was dispensed from temporary vows
- 1 Brother was dismissed from the Congregation
- 1 priest did not renew temporary vows
- 3 priests were dismissed “ipso jure” from the Congregation.
- 2 priests were dismissed from the Congregation.
- 6 priests were laicized
- 6 priests were definitively incardinated into a diocese.

Asia-Oceania

PHILIPPINES

To be a bishop in the crosshairs

On February 17, 2016, Bishop Angelito R. LAMPON will mark his 18th year as Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo. He served as Provincial Superior in 1988 but his second term was cut short in 1992 when he was elected General Councillor for the Asia-Oceania Region.

Towards the end of his first term as General Councillor, on February 4, 1997, Bishop Benjamin DE JESUS, the Bishop of Jolo was gunned down. The vacuum that he left as a simple, peace loving Oblate resounded among the laity, both Christians and non-Christians, in the Vicariate.

When Fr. Angelito returned to Rome in November 1997 from a meeting in San Antonio, Texas, the Superior General, Fr. Marcello ZAGO told him, “Lito, the Vatican has been looking for you for two weeks!” Fr. Lito went to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples the next day. After a cordial greeting, Archbishop Joseph Uhac, Secretary of the Congregation, told him: “The Holy Father has appointed you as Bishop of Jolo, do you accept it?” His immediate reply was, “No, if they killed Bishop Ben de Jesus who was a good man, they will also kill me, if not in two weeks maybe in two years.” Archbishop Uhac’s reply was very candid “Yes, I understand. This is a call to martyrdom.” But he added, “Please hurry up with your decision. With ailing health, the Pope only ordains bishops in Rome on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.”

After several days of anguished discernment, on December 6, Fr. Lito accepted the Holy Father's appointment. The announcement was made over Vatican Radio and Radio Veritas on December 8, the feast of the Oblate Patroness, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. He believed that, "God's plan is always the best."

The bishop describes the mission in the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo (AVJ): The AVJ is like a big parish. We have a Cathedral and the rest are chapels. It is not difficult to run administratively. I have no problems with my priests – fifteen Oblates and two diocesans. They are my source of joy. They live a simple lifestyle. They are zealous and committed to their mission. Transportation and distances are part of the difficulty. It takes at least 4 to 5 hours from Jolo to the nearest island of Siasi. Then 8 to 10 hours to Bongao. Cagayan de Mapun is the farthest parish. In good weather, the trip takes 24 hours in open sea aboard a wooden "lantsa;" In bad weather, 48 hours or an eternity. In the past 17 years, Bishop Lito recalled, three vessels sank and disappeared. Going in and going out of Mapun, one always risks one's life.

Mobility is the primary challenge faced by missionaries because of security. We are heavily guarded by the military and this creates a vestige of counter witness. However, after the murder of Bishop Ben, Fr. Benjie INOCENCIO (†2000) and Fr. Rey RODA (†2008) and several of our Lay Leaders, we are forced to have military security. Home visitation is not easy to do anymore. We still bring Holy Communion to about 30 sick and elderly parishioners every First Friday of the month but always with two Marine escorts and the bishop as the driver.

Interreligious Dialogue is a big challenge. We have many Muslim friends, especially those who studied at our Notre Dame Schools or are beneficiaries of our housing projects but there are certain radical groups who are anti-Christian. Once, while driving home from a 5:00 p.m. Mass from Asturias Chapel, two men in their mid-30's stopped and spat on the ground before me. But this is not really new to me. In my 17 years as bishop of Jolo, a hand grenade was thrown into the Cathedral of Jolo seven times. There were some structural damage but, there were no casualties. The protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patroness of the Cathedral remains with us.

The quality of life of each Oblate affects people and the Church as a whole. We live a simple life. We do not have luxurious cars. In the islands of Tawi-tawi, we paddle our own canoe and take motorized public boats. Our schedule is dictated by the high or low tides. We try to serve the poorest of the poor. The patrimony of the Vicariate is the patrimony of the poor.

To cap it all, the bishop added: "Accipe Oblationem Meam" (Accept Lord my offering) is my episcopal motto - Oblate, oblation, offering. To be a missionary then means to be present where life is most threatened. Courage in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi does not mean an absence of fear but rather a conviction that there is SOMETHING more important at stake than our individual fear; and that "SOMETHING" is the Mission of Jesus Christ and His Church. (Abridged from *OMI Philippines*, December 2015)

Africa-Madagascar

NATAL Centenary of birth of Archbishop Denis Hurley, OMI

Provident and wise Creator, As your mighty plan unfurled, You made us to share your labour, In the building of the world... With these words – written by Archbishop Hurley himself to the tune of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' – the centenary

celebrations for this great Oblate and renowned Son of Africa came to a resounding end. Denis HURLEY – for 45 years Archbishop of Durban and the 'scourge of Apartheid' – was born on 9 November 1915 and so it was fitting to mark 100 years since his birth with a whole weekend of events. And his heritage as an Oblate – Hurley was a member of the OMI's for over 70 years – was a key element in the celebrations.

Archbishop Hurley stands out as a towering figure – literally, he was 6’3” – in the Church in South Africa and 11 years after his death he continues to be an influential force. This is partly because of his pioneering role in fighting for justice and being a voice for the voiceless, in his time, in the Struggle against Apartheid. Pope Francis recognised this in a personal message sent for the Centenary. His current challenge to us all to be a Church for the Poor is one that Hurley epitomised in his own life and ministry, both at the political level, campaigning for those suffering injustice, but also at the personal and pastoral level. As a bishop and in his retirement years, he always had time for the most marginalised.

That is why the enduring gift to him for his 100th birthday was the official opening of the Denis Hurley Centre, a welcoming place in the heart of Durban where the unemployed, homeless, refugees, drug users and the sick find practical help and support. The nearly £2 million needed to build the centre came in part from collections through the Denis Hurley Association in the UK and the Oblate Parish at Sacred Heart Church, Quex Road, London. Their contribution, and that of many other overseas and South African donors, was acknowledged by Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, current Archbishop of Durban, during the opening blessing. Also recognised was the significant contribution by the Irish Government (the Ambassador was present) and by the South African government (the Premier of the Province, the Mayor of the City and a senior cabinet minister all had a role in the centenary celebrations) The Hurley Centenary was not just for Catholics but for the whole of South African society and this was evidenced by the extensive coverage in the Durban papers (3 front page stories!), a feature on the national nightly TV news, and the many articles reflecting on what Hurley meant for South Africa today. If pride can be allowed, all Catholics and especially the Oblate family, had a reason to feel proud of the association with Hurley.

The weekend began with a lecture given by Monsignor Paul Nadal, Hurley’s Vicar General. He reflected especially on the years after the Second Vatican Council at which Hurley had

himself been an influential figure. Mgr. Nadal – a keen cyclist, walker and runner who in his 70’s and 80’s has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the Denis Hurley Centre – pointed out that Hurley was not just a visionary but a strategist who made sure the vision of the Council was implemented in practice. The key role of lay people in building and running the Denis Hurley Centre is evidence that this continues today. Hurley’s commitment to ecumenism and to interfaith relations was recognised in a book launch and a workshop led in part by theologians from St. Joseph’s in Cedara, the Oblate scholasticate near Durban. The fact that Christian and Muslim volunteers are working side by side at the Centre to feed the homeless was seen as an example to the world of how faith can bring people together rather than setting them in conflict with one another. Cedara was also present in force when 30 Oblate students from across Africa joined the Provincial, Fr Vusi MAZIBUKO, and Oblate young and old at a special Mass at the Cathedral. Bishop Barry WOOD, the auxiliary bishop of Durban, presided at another of the Masses and other bishops, Anglican and Methodist bishops, and heads of male and female religious congregations all played a role in various events. At the official opening all the religious leaders – Christian and non-Christian – stood together to give a silent blessing to the staff and volunteers who work at the Denis Hurley Centre.

The events culminated in a grand orchestral concert with a 50-strong orchestra, choirs of 80 singers, Tibetan and Zulu drummers, and renowned local soloists in a programme that brought together music from the world’s major religions. Hearing the Muslim call to prayer inside the Cathedral or the haunting oboe melody from the movie, ‘The Mission’, touched the hearts of all present. In honour of the Oblate devotion to Our Lady, a special violin and harp arrangement of ‘Ave Maria’ was also featured. The final word on the centenary should go to Fr John PATTERSON who at 92 is a near contemporary of Hurley. With tears in his eyes, he said that Hurley’s life was all about love and helping other people to love; he felt the Centenary had helped us to do just that. (Raymond Perrier in Oblate Connections, December 2015)

Canada-United States

OMI LACOMBE, CANADA Justice for Catholic schools

Oblate Constitution and Rules (9a) state that Oblates are called to “Action on behalf of Justice, Peace and integrity of creation”. A few Oblates have taken this to heart when justice toward Catholic education was the issue.

Maillardville is an area in the lower mainland of British Columbia, settled by the French, with its first parish founded in 1913 by Fr. Edmond MAILLARD (†1966). By 1951, two French parishes served the Francophone community, and their schools were bursting with a total of 850 students. At that time, the government did not offer any funding for Catholic education, and with most parishioners hailing from Québec where funding was provided, the issue became one of injustice.

The Oblates gathered the school parents on April 2, 1951, and in a shocking and courageous move, informed the parents that they were shutting the doors of the schools in protest of the lack of funding. Parents would have to enroll their children in public schools. The “strike”, led by Fr. Joseph Fouquette and assisted by Pat Power, (brother of an Oblate, Fr. Miles POWER [†1982]) lasted a full year before the schools reopened in September of 1952. “For the first time in the history of the Province, the school question was effectively raised and things will never be the same”, stated Power.

While it took 26 more years before Catholic

schools received funding from the Government, some progress was made at the time with allowing the school properties to be exempt from taxes and children to receive free textbooks. It took a strong will, many prayers, and strong support of the people to successfully open this case of justice for children in Catholic schools.

On a little lighter note, Fr. Chris PULCHNY faced a different injustice, again relating to Catholic schools. After first guaranteeing public funding for Catholic schools in 1870, the Manitoba government legislated that funding back to only Public Schools twenty years later. Religious exercises were allowed in schools but no financial support. That being the case, one day in the dead of winter, Fr. Chris received a notice from the city of Winnipeg stating that he would have to separate the church garbage from the school garbage. The city would not pick up the garbage from the school. By the time March rolled around, the pile in the back of the school was intolerable. Fr. Chris called the city to make a complaint, and said that if the garbage were not picked up by Monday morning, he would have it in the middle of the street and call the *Winnipeg Free Press* to take pictures. It hit the front page of the paper. They took the city to court on discrimination charges and won. Several years later, in 1990, the Manitoba schools question was finally settled, with funding restored to the Catholic Schools.

Justice and closeness to the people are two parts of the charism of Eugene which have a history in the life of the Oblates. (By Chuck Luttrell, Oblate Associate, www.omilacombe.ca)

Latin America

PARAGUAY Youth celebrate the 90 years of Oblate presence

Fr. Cristóbal ACOSTA tells of a beautiful celebration that took place in St. Eugene de Mazenod parish in the town of Tenente 1° Manuel Irala Fernández, on November 6-8:

the 20th Oblate Youth Congress, together with the celebration of 90 years of Oblate presence in Paraguay.

It began on November 6 with the welcoming of the more than 350 youth coming from various parts of the country, along with 16 Oblate and diocesan priests to celebrate this great event.

I must also mention the faithful presence of the Lay Associates who always support us and collaborate with us in our missionary work. On this day, we had adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. After adoration, we had the official opening of the event with music and dancing organized by the youth of the parish, following words of welcome from the parish administrator, Fr. Cristóbal Acosta. Afterwards, there was a presentation of a “history tour” with pictures of the Chaco taken from the province archives, explained and prepared by Fr. Marcos GARCIA. The day finally came to a close with the presentation of the goal of the Congress and the celebration of the 90 years of Oblate presence in Paraguay.

On Saturday, after Holy Mass, Fr. Marcos Garcia introduced the topic and theme to be used in this congress under the motto: “90 years – dedicated to the service of the mission in the Chaco.”

The first presentation was given by Bishop Guillermo STECKLING on the theme of Consecrated Life, to introduce the witness of the different expressions of Consecrated Life: missionary experience in the Chaco - as shown by the different Congregations working in the Apostolic Vicariate of Pilcomayo (VAP). First Bishop Lucio ALFERT, a religious who devotes his missionary life in the VAP, shared his testimony with the young people. Other Congregations as well told of their missionary experiences (Holy Family, the Blue Nuns, Franciscan Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny,

diocesan priests, a consecrated lay woman, and others). To close this beautiful morning reflection, there was group work to answer the question: What drew you to the mission of the Oblates in the Chaco? Did you ever think of being a religious? Has anyone invited you? The answers were shared in the plenary session.

On Saturday afternoon, we had a touching pilgrimage to the cemetery located six kilometers from the parish, to visit the tomb of the great missionary, Fr. Roger BULAMBA (†2014), a missionary who greatly loved the people of the Chaco, a real spiritual father who came to be a friend of all the Chaqueños.

In the evening, we enjoyed an artistic festival where the youth showed their best talents in song, dance, poetry and many other ways. Despite the weariness from the program and activities of the day, the youth wanted to continue dancing, singing and praising God with the music group Cristo Rey. How lovely to see the young people living in very festive and youthful atmosphere. This was the deepest sharing and getting to know one another of the Congress.

On Sunday, November 8, as a finishing touch, we had the emotional Eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving in the parish church of St. Eugene de Mazenod. We are grateful to all the youth and the faithful who came to share and celebrate together this Oblate feast. It is the best way to give thanks to God together for the gifts received and by the grace of participating in His missionary work. (in *Comunicaciones*, Navidad 2015)

Anniversaries - March 2016

70 Years of religious life

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1946.03.19 | 08613 | Bro. Luc Fortin | Notre-Dame-du-Cap |
| 1946.03.25 | 08124 | Fr. Jean-Paul Vantroys | Lacombe |

70 Years of priesthood

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------------------|----------|
| 1946.03.10 | 06869 | Fr. Olegario Domínguez | Paraguay |
|------------|-------|------------------------|----------|

65 Years of religious life

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1951.03.16 | 08982 | Fr. Austin Cooper | Australia |
|------------|-------|-------------------|-----------|

65 Years of priesthood

| | | | |
|------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1951.03.24 | 07854 | Fr. Alexandre Taché | Notre-Dame-du-Cap |
|------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|

60 Years of religious life

| | | | |
|------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1956.03.07 | 10084 | Fr. Vincent McGillicuddy | Australia |
| 1956.03.07 | 10089 | Fr. Bernard O'Brien | Australia |
| 1956.03.19 | 10616 | Bro. Jacques-G. Saumure | Notre-Dame-du-Cap |

60 Years of priesthood

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1956.03.11 | 08924 | Fr. Leonard Glowacki | Poland |
| 1956.03.17 | 08961 | Fr. Rafael Alvarez | Mediterranean |
| 1956.03.17 | 09253 | Fr. Benoît Garceau | Notre-Dame-du-Cap |
| 1956.03.17 | 08948 | Fr. Aladino Garmón | Mediterranean |
| 1956.03.17 | 08667 | Fr. André Jodoin | Notre-Dame-du-Cap |
| 1956.03.17 | 09396 | Bishop Alessandro Staccioli | Mediterranean |
| 1956.03.25 | 08992 | Fr. Othmar Grüber | Paraguay |

50 Years of religious life

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1966.03.01 | 11815 | Fr. William Ousley | Australia |
| 1966.03.01 | 11816 | Fr. John Wotherspoon | Australia |
| 1966.03.19 | 11978 | Bro. Olof Asblom | Poland |
| 1966.03.19 | 12026 | Fr. Gilbert Bertrand | Lacombe |
| 1966.03.19 | 11990 | Fr. Julien Campagnat | Notre-Dame-du-Cap |
| 1966.03.19 | 11979 | Bro. Francis Crepel | Belgium/Holland |
| 1966.03.19 | 12084 | Bro. Robert Desjardins | Notre-Dame-du-Cap |

50 Years of priesthood

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1966.03.19 | 10506 | Fr. Raymond Bourgoïn | Colombo |
| 1966.03.19 | 11179 | Fr. Gonzague Dalle | France |
| 1966.03.19 | 11018 | Fr. Paolo Pesenti | Mediterranean |
| 1966.03.26 | 10871 | Fr. José-Antonio Antón-Pacho | Mediterranean |

25 Years of religious life

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1991.03.30 | 13383 | Fr. Martin Wolf | Central European |
|------------|-------|-----------------|------------------|

25 Years of priesthood

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1991.03.02 | 12925 | Fr. Vusimuzi Henry Mazibuko | S. Africa, Northern |
|------------|-------|-----------------------------|---------------------|

Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 1-9

| Name | Prov./Del. | Born | Died at | Date |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Fr. Karl Ege | S. Africa, Central | 29/10/1933 | Taung | 06/01/2016 |
| Fr. Roland Christ | Cameroon | 06/12/1935 | Ngaoundéré | 07/01/2016 |
| Fr. Marcel Pierre | Cameroon | 27/03/1936 | Garoua | 11/01/2016 |
| Fr. George B. Ryan | Australia | 01/10/1941 | Dublin | 15/01/2016 |
| Fr. Frank Wagner | United States | 08/02/1932 | Arleta | 17/01/2016 |
| Fr. John Sokolski | United States | 08/08/1929 | San Antonio | 24/01/2016 |
| Fr. Josef Otto | Central European | 26/05/1935 | Fulda | 25/01/2016 |
| Fr. Bernhard Gabele | Central European | 19/10/1926 | Hünfeld | 27/01/2016 |
| Bro. Gilbert Pullenayagam | Colombo | 26/04/1932 | Colombo | 28/01/2016 |

“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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