



February 17: to remind us of our identity

By Fr. Paolo Archiati, OMI, Vicar General

Every year in February, we celebrate the approval of our *Constitutions and Rules* by Pope Leo XII in 1826. During the jubilee year of our foundation, we referred several times to another Rule which is mentioned in the famous “*Request of authorization addressed to the Vicars General of Aix*”, written by Eugene on January 25, 1816.

In this letter that we may consider as our “foundational” text, Eugene and his first companions request from the Vicars General of Aix “*the authorization to come together at Aix in the old house of the Carmelites which one of them has acquired; and to live there in community under a Rule whose main points they now indicate to you.*”

Immediately after these words, Eugene underlines the two main ends of the Society that he is about to begin. Two ends, two objectives that we should never separate from one another. They are the goals that the Rule will help the members of the Society to achieve. At some moments of our history, and even today, we may tend to forget the second of these two “chief” aims. We are a missionary Congregation, as it is beautifully stated in Constitution 5. Mission is certainly one objective of our religious family, expressed by Saint Eugene in these words: “*to work for the salvation of one’s neighbour by dedicating itself to the ministry of preaching.*”

But our Society has two “chief” aims, not just one, and I think these two goals go together, both in our lives and in our mission. That is why the text continues: “*... its chief aim also includes providing its members with the means necessary to practice*

the virtues of religion to which they are so strongly attracted...”. If the first missionaries were not to find in this Society the possibility of living those “*virtues of religion*”, they would have gone to some other religious Order.

This is why Eugene is so explicit: “*If they have preferred to form a regular community of Missionaries, it is in an effort to be useful to the diocese, while at the same time working at their own sanctification, in conformity with their vocation.*”

Our Rule, whose approval we celebrate on February 17 every year, is at the service of both these goals. The Preface to the *Constitutions and Rules* is also very clear on this point, when it says that by living them, “*these priests... hope to obtain all the benefits they need for their own sanctification and for the salvation of souls*”.

The final number in our *Constitutions and Rules* (C 168), and certainly not the least, reminds us that, through our oblation, each Oblate “*...assumes responsibility for the common heritage of the Congregation, expressed in the Constitutions and Rules and our family tradition*”. We are exhorted to let ourselves be guided by our *Constitutions and Rules* “*in creative fidelity*” to the legacy that Saint Eugene, our Founder and Father, left us.

A reference to our Rules, even if in a more spiritual way, was made by Pope Francis when he met the members of the 36th General Chapter on October 7 last year. Among other things, he said: “*Following the example of the Founder,*

may charity among you be your first rule of life, the premise of every apostolic action; and may zeal for the salvation of souls be a natural consequence of this fraternal charity.”

This exhortation binds together the beginning and the end of Eugene’s life, his Rule and his Testament, his first and last Will. Our first “rule of life” is charity among ourselves. This is also the premise of every apostolic action. These words of the pope

help us not to forget that our religious family has two main goals that we must always keep united, because they are strictly interconnected and interdependent. From our desire and efforts towards holiness springs the effectiveness of our missionary life; from the challenges of our mission, faced and lived through our missionary zeal, springs our ongoing holiness, a gift for God, for our brothers within the community to which we belong, and for the people we serve.

General Administration

GENERAL SECRETARIAT Statistics 2017

and deaths which are received daily in Rome go to make up the annual report.

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

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 2017

JANUARY 2016							JANUARY 2017						
Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.		Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.	
41	38	3	0	0	0	General Admin.	41	38	3	0	0	0	
833	543	54	4	0	232	Africa-Madagascar	838	555	49	3	0	231	
450	350	24	3	0	73	Latin America	436	354	26	3	0	53	
801	580	27	0	2	192	Asia-Oceania	806	583	25	2	2	194	
691	591	90	1	2	7	Canada-USA	657	564	85	0	2	6	
960	788	98	4	4	66	Europe	931	773	96	3	3	56	
3776	*2890	296	12	8	570	Total	3709	*2867	284	11	7	540	

*Of whom 47 are bishops, 1 is an Apostolic Prefect and 1 is a priest 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 2017)

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2016	January 2017
Cardinals	1	2
Archbishops	8	8
Bishops	37	37
Prefect Apostolic	1	1
Priests	2841	2818
Priests with temporary vows	2	1
Brothers with perpetual vows	296	284
Brothers who are permanent deacons	8	7
Brothers with temporary vows	12	11
Scholastics with perpetual vows	97	68
Scholastics with temporary vows	473	472
Total number of Oblates	3776	3709

PERSONNEL BY UNIT

(As of 17 January 2017)

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	38	3	0	0	0	41
Total:	0	0	0	0	38	3	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	12	0	0	1	0	0	13
Botswana	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	2	11
Cameroon	0	0	3	0	67	12	0	0	6	28	116
Central S. Africa	0	0	1	0	24	1	0	0	2	1	29
Congo	0	0	1	0	96	12	0	0	7	29	145
Kenya	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	4	14
Lesotho	1	2	2	0	74	10	0	0	4	23	116
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	40	3	2	0	5	28	78
Namibia	0	1	2	0	32	2	0	0	0	8	45
Natal	0	1	1	0	45	0	0	0	0	9	56
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	2	24	39
Northern S. Africa.	0	1	1	0	31	1	0	0	0	2	36
Sahara	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Senegal	0	0	0	0	36	2	1	0	1	17	57
Zambia	0	0	2	0	35	3	0	0	5	13	58
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	0	1	10	23
Total:	1	5	13	1	534	49	3	1	33	198	838

LATIN AMERICA

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Argentina-Chile	0	0	0	0	33	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	36
Baja California	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	18	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	27
Brazil	0	0	1	0	57	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	63
Colombia	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	15
Cuba	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
French Guyana	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	16	0	1	0	2	4	0	0	23
Haiti	0	0	1	0	93	7	2	0	3	21	0	0	127
Mexico	0	0	0	0	37	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	46
Paraguay	0	0	2	0	28	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	33
Peru	0	0	1	0	12	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	18
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	12	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	14
Venezuela	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10
Total:	0	0	6	0	348	26	3	0	10	43	0	0	436

ASIA-OCEANIA

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Australia	0	0	1	0	39	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	41
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	26	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	36
China	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	19
Colombo	0	0	1	0	110	8	0	0	0	24	2	0	145
India	0	0	0	0	87	1	0	0	2	38	0	0	128
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	32	0	2	0	1	11	0	0	46
Jaffna	0	0	0	0	92	2	0	0	1	25	0	0	120
Japan - Korea	0	0	0	0	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Korea	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	8
Pakistan	0	0	1	0	28	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	39
Philippines	1	0	1	0	79	9	0	0	1	12	0	0	103
Thailand	0	0	1	0	19	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	26
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	20	3	0	0	4	45	0	0	72
Total:	1	0	6	0	576	25	2	0	11	183	2	0	806

CANADA-UNITED STATES

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Assumption	0	0	0	0	47	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Lacombe	0	2	5	0	152	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	183
Notre-Dame-du-Cap	0	0	3	0	125	41	0	0	0	0	2	0	171
United States	0	1	1	0	228	17	0	0	0	6	0	0	253
Total:	0	3	9	0	552	85	0	0	0	6	2	0	657

EUROPE

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Anglo-Irish	0	0	0	0	69	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	73
Belgium/Holland	0	0	0	0	59	11	0	0	0	0	2	0	72
Byelorussia	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Central European	0	0	0	0	90	23	0	0	1	4	0	0	118
France	0	0	0	0	103	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	117

	Card.	Ar.Ep.	Ep.	Pr.Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
France & Benelux	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Lourdes	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mediterranean	0	0	1	0	149	9	1	0	2	4	1	167
Poland	0	0	0	0	235	32	2	0	11	33	0	313
Romania	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ukraine	0	0	2	0	27	3	0	0	0	1	0	33
Total:	0	0	3	0	770	96	3	0	14	42	3	931
Total:	2	8	37	1	2818	284	11	1	68	472	7	3709

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

Perpetual Oblations – (*reported in 2016*)

Number	Family Name	Name	Date	Dioc. of Origin	Unit
14761	ZANDONDA	Isaac Randal	16/01/2010	Masvingo	Zimbabwe
14782	HERU SETYO SUHARTONO	Robertus	21/05/2013	Yogyakarta	Indonesia
14762	DEURNOUDJI	Omdel Etienne	21/06/2015	Pala	Cameroon
14772	MANDAVA	Lucky	31/07/2015	Bulawayo	Zimbabwe
14748	MIRANDADUARTE	Derlis Gualberto	01/08/2015	Villarrica	Paraguay
14752	AMANCIO	Rey Emmanuel	15/08/2015	Cotabato	Philippines
14753	BARRETTO	Alvin Vicente	15/08/2015	Cotabato	Philippines
14754	BELEY	Mark Yoniz Capili	15/08/2015	Sta Rosa, N. Ecija	Philippines
14755	ONDOY	Stephen Calungsod	15/08/2015	San Isidro	Philippines
08302	MENGER	Mathias	13/11/2015	San Antonio	United States
14745	HALOHO	Alya Denny	24/01/2016	Yogyakarta	Indonesia
14746	MARYANTO	Paulinus	24/01/2016	Yogyakarta	Indonesia
14744	ARUL RAJ	Casmir	26/01/2016	Chennai	India
14747	PAPI	Jacopo	03/04/2016	Frascati	Mediterranean
14750	MEC	Karel Frantisek	01/05/2016	Prague	Central European.
14751	KIM OK KI	Simeon	01/05/2016	Seoul	Japan-Korea
14749	CHE PAAU	Antonio	01/05/2016	Las Margaritas	Paraguay
14757	KASSI	Hermann	30/07/2016	Obala	Cameroon
14758	MAKAU	Jeremea Nkaiseng	30/07/2016	Bioemfontein	Central S. Africa.
14759	MWANSA	Godfrey	30/07/2016	Monze	Zambia
14760	PHIRI	Veliano Bright	30/07/2016	Mansa	Zambia
14774	DE FARIAS	Antonio Kleber	07/08/2016	São Paulo	Brazil
14775	DE SANTANA	Sergio	07/08/2016	São Paulo	Brazil
14776	SIMSANG	Sobuj	12/08/2016	Dhaka	Bangladesh
14756	HERNANDEZ	Carlos Catalino	13/08/2016	Chimaltenango	Guatemala
14773	SARTORIO FRAGA	Alberto Fredy	14/08/2016	Montevideo	Uruguay
14763	DJEBARDE	Gérald	08/09/2016	Moundou	Cameroon
14764	EZETI TIZI	Dieudonné	08/09/2016	Garoua	Cameroon

14765	VONDOU	Gérard	08/09/2016	Garoua	Cameroun
14781	LAJOIE	Adley	08/09/2016	Mazenod	Haiti
14766	BIEGANSKI	Pawel	08/09/2016	Pelplin	Poland
14767	GAWLICZEK	Blazej Mateusz	08/09/2016	Katowice	Poland
14768	KLOS	Lukasz	08/09/2016	Zielonogorsko-Gorzowska	Poland
14769	KOTLARSKI	Adrian Wojciech	08/09/2016	poznanska	Poland
14771	ZWIERZYCHOWSKI	Dominik M.	08/09/2016	Poznan	Poland
14770	WICHLACZ	Hubert	11/09/2016	Gniezno	Poland
14777	INDIBI	Didier	25/09/2016	Kinshasa	Congo
14780	KAMBINYAM	Jerry Jeremie	25/09/2016	Kinshasa	Congo
14779	KIKWETE MILANDU	Benjamin	25/09/2016	Kinshasa	Congo
14778	NGOY MPIANA	Serge	25/09/2016	Kinshasa	Congo
14784	BUI CONG DUNG	Joseph	29/10/2016	Phan Thiet	Vietnam
14785	NGUYỄN VĂN HỘP	Jean-Baptiste	29/10/2016	Phan Thiet	Vietnam
14786	TRẦN NGỌC TUẤN	Antoine	29/10/2016	Phan Thiet	Vietnam
14787	TRẦN THANH TUẤN	Jean-Baptiste	29/10/2016	Phan Thiet	Vietnam
14783	DIODATI	Antonio	26/11/2016	Caserta	Mediterranean
14788	DOMBEK	Piotr	15/10/2016	Plasy	Central European

Obediences – 2016
(* indicates first Obedience)

Date	Title	Surname	Name	Origin	Destination
12/01	Sch.*	DE SUOUZA VALADAO	Manoel	Brazil	Brazil
12/01	Sch.*	DIKANY	Jules	Cameroon	Cameroon
12/01	Fr.*	PIERRE	Jonel	Haiti	Haiti
12/01	Fr.	GALI BENJAMIN	John Bosco	India	Assumption CA
12/01	Fr.*	IIPINGE	Bonaventure	Namibia	Namibia
12/01	Sch.*	XAYAVONG	Sayyane	Thailand - Laos	Thailand - Laos
28/01	Fr.	ALUTHWATTE	Joseph	Argentina - Chile	United States
29/01	Fr.	TASAR	Lepi Nene	Congo	Venezuela
29/01	Fr.	CHODAGIRI	Davidraj	India	Australia
01/02	Fr.*	AMUDHAN JAMES	Paul	India	India
01/02	Fr.*	DHIVYANATHAN	Yesuraj	India	India
01/02	Fr.*	IRUTHAYARAJ	John	India	India
07/02	Fr.	SELVARAJ	Pauldass	India	United States
10/02	Sch.*	HAUSIKU	Johannes	Namibia	Namibia
11/02	Fr.	KOSCINSKI	Kazimierz	Cameroon	Poland
11/02	Fr.	HARDING	Nicholas J.	United States	Peru
06/03	Fr.	ANTONYSAMY	Peter	India	United States
06/03	Fr.	MARIASOOSAI	Lawrence	India	United States
04/04	Fr.	DURAND	Andre	Cameroon	France
04/04	Bro.	GIVELET	Herve	Cameroon	France
04/04	Fr.	MARTIN	Raoul	Cameroon	France
04/04	Sch.*	ZIEGLER	Daniel	United States	United States

09/04	Sch.*	KALALUKA	Hector	Zambia	Zambia
09/04	Sch.*	KUNDA	Reagan	Zambia	Zambia
12/04	Sch.*	ANTHONY	Anton Xavier	Jaffna	Jaffna
26/04	Fr.	MALU	Basile	Anglo Irish	Argentina Chile
26/04	Fr.	MUNIA	Marc	Anglo Irish	Argentina Chile
26/04	Fr.	SOWRIAPPAN	Loorthusamy	India	Mexico
26/04	Fr.	PACHCHEK	Paul	Jaffna	Poland
04/05	Sch.*	DRZEWICZAK	Maciej M	Poland	Poland
04/05	Sch.*	GRABWOSKI	Dawid	Poland	Poland
04/05	Sch.*	JEZAK	Daniel J.	Poland	Poland
04/05	Sch.*	LITVINOV	Anton	Poland	Ukraine
04/05	Sch.*	OSADNIK	Patryk D.	Poland	Poland
04/05	Sch.*	PAWLOWSKI	Mateusz P.	Poland	Poland
04/05	Sch.*	PRANDZIOCH	Karol	Poland	Poland
04/05	Sch.*	SZURA	Tomasz	Poland	Poland
17/05	Sch.*	BELEY	Mark	Philippines	China
17/05	Sch.*	KANDE	Honore	Congo	Congo
17/05	Sch.*	KIMBUNGU	Theophile	Congo	Congo
17/05	Sch.*	KINAGENI	Betuel	Congo	Congo
17/05	Sch.*	NTONI	Noel	Congo	Congo
17/05	Sch.*	NZIR	Sebastien	Congo	Congo
17/05	Sch.*	POLOTO	Jean	Congo	Congo
17/05	Sch.*	TOTOKANI	Jean-Baptiste	Congo	Congo
17/05	Fr.*	POLELO	Luca	Mediterranean	Mediterranean
17/05	Fr.*	RIZZARO	Gianluca	Mediterranean	Mediterranean
17/05	Fr.*	SCAGLIA	Alessandro	Mediterranean	Mediterranean
17/05	Sch.*	AMANCIO	Rey	Philippines	China
17/05	Sch.*	BARRETTO	Alvin	Philippines	Philippines
31/05	Fr.	MENGER	Mathias	United States	United States
17/06	Fr.	McMAHON	Donald James	General Admin.	United States
05/07	Bro.	DE MORAES GOMES	José Diemeson	Brazil	Brazil
05/07	Bro.	KLOS	Lukasz Mateusz	Poland	Poland
05/07	Bro.	WICHLACZ	Hubert	Poland	Poland
06/07	Fr.*	KIDARI	Pascal	Cameroon	Cameroon
18/07	Sch.*	SENADEERA	Gihan	Colombo	Colombo
18/07	Sch.*	THANDALGE	Chamika	Colombo	Colombo
18/07	Fr.*	BHARATH	Nayagan Raji	India	India
18/07	Fr.*	JOHNSON	Susaj Raj	India	India
18/07	Bro.	HERNÁNDEZ	Carlos Catarino	Mexico	Mexico
19/07	Sch.*	PÉREZ ESCALANTE	Dario	Guatemala	Guatemala
22/08	Fr.*	PRAKASH RAO	Bejjam	India	India
22/08	Sch.*	MAQABE	Juliosu Moeketsi	Lesotho	Lesotho
22/08	Fr.	NKUNYANE	Puseletso Ananias	Lesotho	Nigeria
22/08	Sch.*	NTONE	Rethabile	Lesotho	Lesotho
22/08	Sch.*	RAMAQELE	George Rakotsoane	Lesotho	Nigeria
22/08	Fr.	PAUCAR	Heinner	Peru	OMI Lacombe
22/08	Fr.	SCHROEDER	Mauricio	Peru	OMI Lacombe

26/08	Fr.	ROY	Joseph Aloysius	Colombo	Jaffna
31/08	Fr.	RAKOTRONDRVELO	Alphonse	Madagascar	General House
05/09	Fr.	MARTINEZ VEGA	Joaquin	General Admin.	Mediterranean
08/09	Fr.	ILOMBUN	Constant Asemion	Congo	OMI Lacombe
08/09	Sch.*	NÚÑEZ YÉPEZ	Eduardo	Mexico	Anglo-Irish
08/09	Sch.*	AYALA	Aurelio	Paraguay	Zimbabwe
12/10	Fr.	O'DONNELL	William	General Admin.	United States
14/10	Fr.	ROSTKOWSKI	Marek	General Admin.	Poland
19/10	Fr.	DZIEDZIC	Marek	Sweden	Poland
25/10	Sch.*	KHAWAR MEHBOOB	Khadim Joseph	Colombo	Pakistan
25/10	Sch.*	SARTORIO FRAGA	Alberto Fredy	Mediterranean	Uruguay
05/12	Fr.*	ALEX	A. Don Joseph	Colombo	Anglo-Irish
14/12	Fr.	ELOSES SING-A-NTAL	Egide	Congo	Paraguay
21/12	Fr.	ARCHBOLD	John	Anglo Irish	Australia
21/12	Sch.*	ISA	Vincent	Cameroon	Brazil
21/12	Sch.*	NYIOR	Pius	Cameroon	Cameroon
21/12	Fr.*	AROCKIASAMY	Satheesh	India	India
21/12	Sch.*	HALOHO	Alya	Indonesia	Indonesia
21/12	Sch.*	MARYANTO	Paulinus	Indonesia	Indonesia
21/12	Sch.*	TSITA	Mahapela	Lesotho	Lesotho
22/12	Fr.	JEYACHANDRAN	James	Korea	Australia
28/12	Fr.	JAROSZ	Tomasz	Guatemala	Poland
30/12	Sch.*	ANDRIAMONJISOA	Jean Arthur	Madagascar	Madagascar
30/12	Sch.*	BEARIVOZAFY	Sergino	Madagascar	Madagascar
30/12	Sch.*	RAFENOMANANTSOA	Jacquot	Madagascar	Madagascar
30/12	Sch.*	RAJAONARISON	Yann	Madagascar	Madagascar
30/12	Sch.*	CHIMESE	Abraham	Zambia	Zambia
31/12	Sch.*	RANDRIANASOLO	Joseph	Madagascar	Madagascar

Oblates in First Formation - 2016
(*Reported* as of January 2017)

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
2016	540	11	90	46	65
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 2017.

Deaths and Departures - 2016

Deaths *reported* in 2016: **96 (2 Bishops, 77 Priests, 13 Brothers, 1 Deacon, 1 Scholastic)**
 2015: **94** 2014: **108** 2013: **95** 2012: **103** 2011: **108**

Departures *reported* in 2016: **72 (17 priests, 54 scholastics, 1 Brother)**

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)

2016:

- 50 scholastics did not renew their temporary vows.
- 3 scholastics were dispensed from temporary vows.
- 1 scholastic was dismissed from the Congregation
- 1 Brother was dispensed from perpetual vows
- 1 priest was dismissed from the Congregation.
- 13 priests were laicized
- 3 priests were definitively incardinated into a diocese.

GENERAL HOUSE

Inauguration of a Chair of Oblate Studies

The Kusenberger Chair of Oblate Studies, the first endowed teaching chair dedicated to spreading knowledge of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate charism, was officially inaugurated on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017, at the Oblate General House in Rome. Oblates and all others who are interested will now have an opportunity to specialize on the history, charism and the spirituality of the Congregation.

The Oblate School of Theology (OST) in San Antonio, Texas, will initiate this new venture and Fr. Frank SANTUCCI, Professor at OST will be the first holder of the chair. The establishment of the teaching chair was made possible by a generous gift to the School by Deacon Robert and Ruth Kusenberger, both honorary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and longtime friends of the Oblates.

The Kusenbergers attended the inauguration along with Fr. David KALERT, Vice President for Administration at OST; Fr. William MORELL, past president of OST; Fr. Henricus ASODO,

representing the Aix community and several other invited guests from the United States.

Fr. Warren BROWN, General Councillor for the United States and Canada, spoke briefly on the significance of the chair's establishment. Then there were three short talks by Frs. Fabio CIARDI, the Director of the General Service of Oblate Studies; Fr. Paolo ARCHIATI, Vicar General; and Fr. Cornelius NGOKA, Assistant General. They spoke on the Oblate charism today.

Fr. Sanctucci explained the reasons why the Chair of Oblate Studies was established, its vision and its mission. He remembered with gratitude Fr. Fabio Ciardi for pushing the idea forward for several years. Fr. Kalert then made the formal declaration of the erection of the Chair of Oblate Studies.

Fr. Louis LOUGEN, General Superior of the Oblates, expressed thanks to the Kusenbergers for their generous contribution, to Fr. Warren Brown for organizing the event and to OST for the initiative. Finally the Kusenbergers too expressed their gratitude to the Oblates for being a part and parcel of their life.

On Sunday, Fr. Santucci gave a short conference on the charism as St. Eugene de Mazenod envisioned it in the first half of the 19th century.

Fr. Morell presided the Holy Mass marking the conclusion of the Bicentennial of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Africa-Madagascar

CAMEROON

In the steps of our elders

The 11th Provincial assembly held from 05th to 08th January 2017 in the city of Maroua, situated in the extreme north of Cameroon, was convened by the Provincial superior Fr. Edouard DAGAVOUNANSOU.

The place chosen was not insignificant; it was all about going to the so-called danger zone to express our solidarity with these people devastated by the onslaught of the devious terrorist sect Boko Haram.

This part of Cameroon, subject to insecurity due to abductions and the kamikaze attacks of the above-mentioned group, finds itself stigmatized by the fact that all European expatriates no longer have the right to remain there, a decision taken by their different governments and embassies. Now among these Europeans are some missionaries who would love to stay with these people as a testimony of their solidarity at this very time.

Conscious of the risk and trusting in God, about a hundred Oblate missionaries gathered in this place with the desire to once again give joy and hope to these people.

It should be stated that the resilience of these people keeps them busy with their occupations, in choosing to live and not letting themselves die of fear.

Independently of the above-mentioned context, the assembly was a graced time for the province to remember its 70 years (1946-2016), and to recall some of the remarkable figures such as Bishop Yves PLUMEY whom we commemorated on this occasion of the 25 years since his tragic death (1991-2016).

Then the Provincial and his council took stock of the state of affairs by presenting the concrete

situation of the province, notably on the basis of the objectives they had set for themselves at the beginning of their mandate. First of all, it was a question of the revitalization of community life. The observation in this area is that there have been considerable advances in reducing the number of Oblates living alone and in seeing to the quality of life of the brethren. The second objective aimed at ensuring a first and ongoing formation of quality was evaluated by considering the efforts at specialization and the revitalization of formation houses.

Formation for the mission was also a subject that aroused much interest in terms of important contributions and suggestions. Every Oblate, no matter where he may be, must consider himself as an important participant in formation for the mission.

The third objective concerning finances allowed us to evaluate all the dynamics put in place in order to increase local revenue and transparency in financial management. Here, starting with our realities, the conclusion is that there are still some challenges that call for a real joining of efforts.

The fourth objective was to assess the present state of missionary commitment to diversify and extend our missionary presence while giving importance to pastoral care with youth and the involvement of the laity in our missionary commitment. Here, we highlight the enthusiastic reception of the invitation to bravely cross borders so as to effectively be a Church that goes out.

In the midst of this assembly as a province, we had a memorable moment of reconciliation with ourselves, with our past and with each other. This reconciliation was led by Fr. François CARPENTIER.

The active presence of our lay associates was a grace for more communion and awareness of their more and more visible place at our sides from this point forward. (Fr. Ferdinand OWONO NDIH)

Latin America

MEXICO**Fr. Santiago Lyons, OMI: 1935-2017**

Fr. Santiago LYONS died in Mexico City on 22 January 2017. Originally from the United States, he worked for many years in Mexico and in Guatemala. He was absolutely passionate about bringing lay men and women into the greater Mazenodian family; he worked hard at their formation and at accompanying them in living out the charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod.

But Fr. Santiago will also be remembered as the Oblate who was instrumental in bringing to light the miracle that led to the canonization of St. Eugene de Mazenod.

When one of his parishioners in Mexico was sent home to die of cancer, Fr. Santiago rallied his parishioners to begin a novena, asking Blessed Eugene de Mazenod to intercede for Jesús Hernández Serrano, the dying parishioner. Mr. Hernandez woke up one morning of the novena with no more pain. He had indeed been cured.

Fr. Eugene CAÑAS, at the time Assistant General, heard about it. He encouraged Fr. Santiago to gather all of the documentation needed in order

to present it to the General Postulator for further study. After a visit to Mexico, Fr. Marcello ZAGO brought the documentation back to Rome. Since it was in Spanish, he asked Fr. Cañas to translate it and to give it to the General Postulator, Fr. James FITZPATRICK, who would present it to the Congregation for Causes. It was then passed on to the Archdiocese of Mexico City's tribunal to investigate and authenticate. Once the Mexican tribunal had finished and found an authentic miracle, the case went back to the Roman Congregation for Causes to be presented to the Pope for the canonization of our Founder.

On 3 December 1995, Mr. Hernández was present in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome when Pope St. John Paul II declared Eugene de Mazenod to be a saint!

In a video of the canonization one can see Mr. Hernandez carrying a relic of the Founder to be presented to the Holy Father. Carrying candles to put next to the relic are Mr. Hernández' wife and a very happy and proud Fr. Santiago Lyons. (<http://tiny.cc/54ltiy>)

If Fr. Santiago had not had such a devotion to the Founder, perhaps the canonization would not have happened when it did.

Asia-Oceania

LAOS**Bishop Jean Khamsé Vithavong, OMI,
Vicar Apostolic emeritus of Vientiane, Laos**

Vatican Bulletin, 2 February 2017: The Holy Father Francis has accepted the resignation from the pastoral governance of the Vicariate Apostolic of Vientiane (Laos), presented by Bishop Jean KHAMSE VITHAVONG, O.M.I.

Jean Khamsé was born on 18 October 1942 at Kongsadok, the oldest Christian village in northern Laos, established in 1888. About 1955, he began his secondary studies at the Collège de Mazenod in Paksane. Since he was a good student, in 1959 he was sent to the juniorate in Pontmain, France. In 1963, he was a novice at La Bross-Montceaux. After his first vows in

September 1964, he did his philosophy studies at the scholasticate of Solignac.

In 1966-68, he was back in Laos for a pastoral internship; his superiors decided that he would continue his studies in the Philippines. After a year of English, he studied theology at the Ateneo de Manila, run by the Jesuits (1969-73). He made his perpetual profession in 1971. After a period as a deacon in Laos, he was ordained a priest in his village of Kengsadok on 25 January 1975. But soon after, there would be the definitive departure of the Oblate bishops who were replaced in 1975 by Bishop Thomas Nantha. By December of the same year, the communist authorities were firmly established. That would be the case for the entire priestly life of Jean Khamsé.

Little by little, the country was closed off from the outside, making communications impossible, except for rare travelers who acted as intermediaries. On 19 November 1982, the Holy See named Jean the coadjutor of Bishop Nantha. The Nuncio, Renato Martino, arrived all of a sudden on 15 January 1983, but in Laos, no news of the appointment had leaked out. On 16 January, Jean was quickly ordained a bishop in the presence of a few people. He was 41 years old. When the OMI Superior General offered him help, he asked for a bishop's cassock and a bike.

Bishop Nantha died on 7 April 1984. Jean Khamsé succeeded him as Vicar Apostolic of Vientiane. He was also (until 1999) the Apostolic Administrator of Louang Prabang where the sole priest, Fr. Tito Banchong, had been in prison since 1977. In the rest of the country, his brother bishop, Msgr. Khamphanh, was also in prison as well as some priests, among whom Fr. Louis-Marie Ling, a future bishop. There was a rare consolation: the very discreet visit to Laos of Fr. Marcello ZAGO, future Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

With the perestroïka of the Soviet Union and the first measures of liberalization in Vietnam (1986), Laos timidly began to open up to the exterior world. Jean Khamsé, who had experienced the worst, would remain very suspicious to the very end. Nevertheless, by the mid-1990's (Laos joined ASEAN in 1997), visits by other Oblates

became possible and brought real support to the bishop. Some religious women were also able to come from the outside, notably the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who arrived from the Philippines in 1995.

During the Jubilee of the year 2000, in which the bishops of Laos were unable to participate, some 15 martyrs of Laos would be named among the "Witnesses of the Faith of the 20th Century." That was the beginning of a long journey that would culminate in their beatification in Vientiane on 11 December 2016. That would be the last great event in the episcopate of Jean Khamsé.

In the meantime, three cerebral strokes had affected the general condition of Bishop Khamsé and had made it more difficult for him to administer his vicariate and his relations with the civil administration. It was a frail bishop who offered to the Pope, at the age of 74, his resignation ahead of time. From the beginning, he had great pastoral concern and constant anguish: the near impossibility of communicating with the Vicariate of Louang Prabang, of which he was in charge until 1999, and with the northern provinces of Vientiane. Among other things, the region of Sam Neua, the land of Blessed Joseph Tien, remains totally closed to all Christian presence.

On 2 February 2017, the Pope allowed Jean Khamsé to take a well-deserved retirement. (Fr. Roland JACQUES)

Europe

SPAIN

Fr. Joaquín Martínez Vega, OMI: 1934-2017

From 2006 until 2014, Fr. Joaquín MARTÍNEZ served as the Postulator General of the Congregation, while at the same time serving on the formation staff of the International Scholasticate in Rome. Fr. Joaquín died on 4 February 2017 in his native Spain.

During his years as Postulator General, he had the great joy of bringing to a happy conclusion the Cause for the beatification of the Oblate Martyrs of Spain, a Cause that he had worked on even before moving to Rome. The ceremony

of beatification took place in Madrid on 17 December 2011.

Born in Spain in 1934, he pronounced his first vows as an Oblate in 1954 and then went to the International Scholasticate in Rome for philosophy and theology. Ordained in 1960, he exercised various ministries before coming back to Rome: Master of Novices, Provincial of Spain, and missionary work in Sahara, Romania, and Venezuela.

A devoted "blogger," he posted news about the Oblate causes for beatification and about the International Roman Scholasticate. In one of his last entries in the IRS blog, he wrote: "Yes,

maybe this is the ‘penultimate’ message I write on this IRS Blog. It is directed especially to the members of my dear community of the IRS, in diaspora. But not just them... As you well know, I am in Madrid following a chemotherapy treatment and this will continue for a while. Will I go back to Rome? Will I stay in Spain? Will the final stage of my life be Campo Verano [*ed. Roman cemetery*] or the Oblate tomb of Pozuelo? I do not know and I do not worry about it either. I only ask the Lord to preserve my inner peace and keep me in the joy of accepting this ‘willingly’, as the Saints say about unforeseen events. I made perpetual oblation many years ago and I ask for the grace of living the fourth vow “ad mortem usque” (until death). Pray for me, asking only for that: perseverance. I want to thank you all for your fraternal charity that encouraged me to live the Oblate ideal of community: "Cor unum et anima una"..."

MEDITERRANEAN PROVINCE

The sister of a Blessed Oblate

The Mediterranean Province, on its website, published recently an interview with Lucia Borzaga, the sister of Blessed Mario BORZAGA, one of the recently beatified Martyrs of Laos. Here are excerpts from that interview with Blessed Mario's "little sister."

For 56 years, more than double the age of Mario when, at the end of April 1960, he left for a village in Laos from which he would never return, Lucia Borzaga, the sister of Fr. Mario, waited with patience and perseverance those many years for the official recognition by the entire Church of the martyrdom of her brother. A professed member of the secular institute of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (OMMI), always smiling and available, she never stops telling and giving witness everywhere about the experience of Fr. Mario, including the suffering and hopes of his family. Five years younger than Mario, they had a strong relationship which continued even after her brother left home at the age of 15 to enter the seminary and this did not change even 10 years later when he left as a missionary for Laos. She was a little more than 20 years old when they lost contact with him, and today she is a wonderful lady who has finally had the joy of being present

when Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of her brother. We asked her to tell us of her feelings and reactions.

As “his sister,” how did you experience the beatification of Mario?

A particularly happy day was 5 May 2015. The Decree of Beatification signed by Pope Francis was the climax of a long and painful journey. How could we forget the passing of months and years waiting for some news: Fr. Mario and Xyooj, his faithful catechist, disappeared in the high mountains of Laos, their bodies never found. The waiting of their mothers, in tears and in prayer, hoping against hope for their return. Long years of suffering. How can I forget the martyrdom of my family? My mother's tears and the silent grief of my father, waiting for their missing son, constantly and generously offered for the Laotian church, without hatred or resentment, ever and always attentive to its needs as if Mario was in the mission. Never more than in this period has the Church been watered by the blood of the martyrs, but let us not forget that besides the martyrdom of blood, there is the martyrdom of their families: the tears of the mothers, the wives, the many orphaned children. The martyrdom of blood blossoms in the Church next to this silent martyrdom.

Can you tell us some personal stories of when you were children?

Hand in hand. For three years, Mario came to get me at the exit of the nursery school. I saw him as my liberator – after such a long day – and hand in hand, we went home. Even later, when I was in first grade and Mario in fifth grade, we came and went, always hand in hand. That hand of his helped me get to the top of the mountain or held me up on our return when my feet stumbled from fatigue. And it was always that way. Even when we were grown and he was wearing the cassock. Laughing, our papa told us: “What will the people say seeing a priest hand in hand with a young lady?” We played together a lot. One of these games was to say Mass under the kitchen table that was transformed into an igloo by a table cover. He celebrated devoutly on a little stool that still exists in the house: he with

his accessories, and I knelt with mother's veil on my head and a prayer book. Even then, he dreamed of going into the frozen lands of Siberia and perhaps ... this is why he chose the Oblates, the specialists of difficult missions at the North

Pole.(Interview by Angelica Ciccone, taken from Missioni OMI 1-2/2017 (See more at: <http://www.omimed.eu/2017/02/08/mio-fratello-santo-senza-aureola/#sthash.nM2dxSvG.dpuf>)

Anniversaries for March 2017

75 Years of religious life

1942.03.19	07950	Bro. Robert Bergeron	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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70 Years of religious life

1947.03.02	08805	Bro. Thomas Cruise	United States
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65 Years of priesthood

1952.03.02	08168	Fr. Ernesto del Blanco	Mediterranean
1952.03.02	08305	Fr. Germán Fernández	Argentina-Chile

60 Years of religious life

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

50 Years of priesthood

1967.03.11	11144	Fr. Marinus Nijsten	Belgium/Holland
1967.03.11	11137	Fr. Ad van der Meijden	Belgium/Holland
1967.03.18	11162	Fr. Marcello Sgarbossa	Mediterranean
1967.03.27	10883	Fr. Ronald LaFramboise	United States

25 Years of priesthood

1992.03.21	13000	Fr. Innocent Mojaho Phangoa	Lesotho
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Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 3-15

Name	Prov./Del.	Born	Died at	Date
Fr. Alfred Schellmann	Central European	11/06/1935	Hünfeld	18/01/2017
Bro. Gérard Tremblay	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	29/07/1929	Richelieu	20/01/2017
Fr. Santiago Lyons	Mexico	16/10/1935	Ciudad de México	22/01/2017
Fr. Carroll Parker	Poland	26/01/2017	Herlev	26/01/2017
Fr. Robert Kelly	OMI Lacombe	15/05/1929	St. Albert	31/01/2017
Fr. Bernard Lavoine	France	22/05/1927	Pontmain	01/02/2017
Fr. Edmond Turenne	OMI Lacombe	04/03/1919	Winnipeg	02/02/2017
Fr. Joaquín Martínez	Mediterranean	21/02/1934	Madrid	04/02/2017
Bro. Manfred Pietsch	Namibia	01/02/1939	Windhoek	05/02/2017
Fr. Stefano Ferrara	Mediterranean	14/05/1936	Santa Maria a Vico	06/02/2017
Bro. Gilles Lemire	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	09/11/1926	Richelieu	10/02/2017
Fr. Christian Gilles	France	06/05/1927	Pontmain	11/02/2017
Fr. Ludger Ademmer	Central European	21/01/1936	Koblenz	11/02/2017

“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)

OMI INFORMATION is an unofficial publication
of the General Administration of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
via Aurelia 290, I 00165 Roma, Italy
Fax: (39) 06 39 37 53 22 E-mail: information@omigen.org
<http://www.omeworld.org>
Editor: James Allen; Webmaster: Shanil Jayawardena
Printing & circulation: Shanil Jayawardena