



Information No. 512 (English)

June 2011

Proud to continue following his inspiration...

Remarks of Father General, Louis LOUGEN, during the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the death of Saint Eugene de Mazenod, Cathedral of Marseille, 21 May 2011.

Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, Cardinal Bernard Panafieu, Archbishop Georges Pontier, Monsignors, Father Yves CHALVET DE RÉCY, dear brothers and sisters from the Archdiocese of Marseille and the Archdiocese of Aix and Arles, and all you members of the Mazenodian Family.

May God's charity reign among you, and may his zeal for the mission be with you!

I am very happy to be with you in this cathedral to celebrate the anniversary of the death of Saint Eugene de Mazenod. I am grateful for this marvelous celebration and for the warm welcome you have given me, as well as to all the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and to the members of the Mazenodian Family on this very special day.

For us Oblates, Saint Eugene was a man on fire with a great love for Jesus Christ, for the Church and for the poor. He shared these gifts with the people of Marseille for 37 years, as Vicar General and then as Bishop.

At the same time, he was the Superior General of the Missionary Oblates and he guided this growing Congregation from the bishop's house across the street.

It is from this same city that he sent us to preach the Gospel throughout the world. The statue of Saint Veronica wiping the face of Jesus, located in this cathedral, is a replica of the statue at the Shrine of Notre-Dame de la Garde, dedicated to all the

missionaries who left Marseille "to go and wipe the face of the suffering Jesus" throughout the world. We Oblates are proud to continue following his inspiration in nearly 70 countries, with more than 4,000 missionaries and numerous lay associates.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Saint Eugene lay dying here in Marseille. He blessed the Oblates who were with him and he encouraged them to live with charity toward each other and to have zeal for the mission. These are the words that you have written on his tomb. The day of his death, those who surrounded him began to recite one of his favorite prayers, the Salve Regina. At its last words, "O clement! O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary!" Bishop de Mazenod died.

This prayer has become very dear to all Oblates, and we have the tradition of reciting it every day. Each time that the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, sent abroad to mission countries, were leaving aboard their ships from the Port of Marseille, their last view of France was the statue of Our Lady on top of the Shrine of Notre-Dame de la Garde. Most of them knew that they would never return to France, and they would sing the Salve Regina to their Loving Mother. This was a strong expression of their missionary offering, of their devotion to Our Lady and of their union with Saint Eugene, at the moment of their leaving to give their life to the preaching of the Gospel to the most abandoned.

Let us rejoice at his memory by invoking with much love the Mother of Mercy, the Loving Mother, by singing the Salve Regina before going in procession to the tomb of Saint Eugene.

Thank you very much.

General Administration

OBLATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE Repeating the invitation of Father Fabre

In a letter written at Notre Dame de Montolivet and addressed to the entire Congregation on April 3, 1862, the recently elected first successor to the Founder, Father Joseph FABRE, announced the beginning of a new publication, *Missions of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate*.

In the May 2011 issue of *OMI Information*, a news article announced that an electronic version of this publication is now available on our website, www.omiworld.org.

As Father Fabre indicated in his letter announcing the birth of the new journal, the publication had as its primary purpose to fulfill a dream that St. Eugene cherished for a lifetime: to bring together at the center of the Congregation the testimony of the missionary work of the Oblates in order to communicate this to all the members throughout the world, so that everyone could be inspired and encouraged to move forward in spreading the Gospel.

Fr. Fabre wrote: *“To bring into effect the will of our loving Father, we need your help, all you who, under the banner of Mary Immaculate, fight so valiantly, with much happiness and success, the holy battles of the Lord. As you did for our revered Founder, you will tell us of your struggles, you will tell us of the triumphs of grace. Within our beloved France, in the midst of heresy, on the distant shores of error and paganism, God blesses our work; tell us about these blessings. We will receive your letters with deep gratitude. We will immediately communicate them to the whole family with fatherly excitement.*

“Indeed, it will not be the heart of an apostle, still on fire after fifty years of the hardest toil, with all the ardor of the early days of a priesthood marked at every step by the most brilliant triumphs, but it will always be a father's heart that will receive these communications. He believes that he can assure you that he will take them to heart and

appreciate them. Yes, my very dear Fathers and Brothers, in reading the accounts that our missionaries will send us, together we will thank God and our Immaculate Mother; together we will have an ever deeper love for the family in whose midst God fosters such beautiful devotion. Together, we will strive never to be outdone by our brothers in religious virtues, and those who are preparing for the struggle will be even more zealous in making themselves worthy to support God's plan and the honor of the Congregation to which they have the honor of belonging.”

The General Administration's *Oblate Communications Service* is this century's response for continuing the dream of St. Eugene and Father Fabre. The editor of our news bulletin, *OMI Information*, continues to look for and wait for news items that will inform and motivate our greater Oblate Family to carry on the work of St. Eugene and our Oblate ancestors. But the adage many of us learned in philosophy class still holds true: *“Nemo dat quod non habet.”* (*No one gives what he does not have.*)

We invite our members to share the good news of their missionary service, especially news that is of general interest or will stimulate fresh approaches to mission. If possible, we would like to receive the information in French, English or Spanish. But with the help of computerized translators, we can sometimes work with such languages as Polish, German and Portuguese. (*Feast of St. Eugene, : Fr. Nino BUCCA, webmaster of www.omiworld.org, and Fr. James ALLEN, editor of OMI Information*)



Canada-United States

NOTRE-DAME-DU-CAP

Anecdotes and Fioretti

Fr. Yvon BEAUDOIN has recently published a book about the Founder: *Anecdotes and Fioretti about Saint Eugene de Mazenod*. These anecdotes show us a saint who, in the course of his long life, joked about his enthusiasm and his faux pas; who organized a serenade for an elderly lady; who lamented his own boredom; who could laugh at the distractions of others and could admit his own; who was not afraid to show his emotions.

For those who have already been fascinated by this man, as well as for those who are just getting to know him, reading this book is an invitation to be unafraid of getting one's hands dirty in one's journey to God, while living a totally human life.

This publication and its distribution have been made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the Region of Canada-United States and of the Province of Italy. Published and distributed in French, English and Italian, it is being made available to the whole Congregation. Besides offering us this new resource for knowing and listening to the Founder, Fr. Beaudoin makes it possible for us to continue our deep reflection on the Oblate charism. The missionary challenges of today invite us to constantly study our roots in order to better respond to these calls with daring and creativity.

The book contains 10 beautiful illustrations by Barbara Calcei, an Italian artist.

The 85 year old Fr. Beaudoin spent 60 years at the Oblate General House in Rome, meticulously and diligently studying St. Eugene and the history of the Congregation. This book is his final "Roman opus," but he continues to work at the Deschâtelets Archives in Ottawa.

In order to obtain this book, send an e-mail to Fr. Yvon Beaudoin: baudoin8306@yahoo.ca for the English and French versions. For the Italian version, please contact: editrice.missionari.omi@omi.it.

UNITED STATES

Working for the blind

The International Association of Audio Information Services, at its annual conference, has officially recognized the work of Oblate Fr. Boniface "Boni" WITTENBRINK. He was given the C. Stanley Potter Emeritus Award for lifetime achievement in audio information. This award is usually given to audio information professionals who have a record of excellence and influence, nationally and worldwide.

In October of 1971, a member of the Lions Club in Belleville, Illinois, approached the manager of the Oblates' radio station located at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows concerning the possibility of establishing a radio reading service for site-impaired persons on a sub-channel of WMRV. The Shrine's founder, Fr. Edwin GUILD, and the Shrine Director, Fr. William WOESTMAN, approached Fr. Wittenbrink and asked if he would organize this project. His response was this: *"I don't know anything about radio except how to turn one on and change the batteries and I sure don't know anything about blind people except they can't see. But if you think I can help, I'll do it."*

On March 1, 1973, WMRV's "Talking Book" was on the air. Volunteers read the daily newspapers and other printed material to blind or sight-impaired persons in the Belleville and St. Louis areas. Besides the support of the Oblates for this service, Fr. "Boni" traveled far and wide to raise funds for the day to day operation of the service and to purchase special radios which are given free of charge to those who need them.

He also began to travel throughout the United States to give advice to others who wished to start similar services: Washington, New York, Chicago and many small towns. The ten reading services in the State of Illinois credit Fr. "Boni" for having a significant impact on their foundation. He also advised founders of this service in Canada and in the Philippines.

He worked with C. Stanley Potter and other founders to start what is now the International Association of Audio Information Services. He was the group's first secretary and Belleville was the site of the first national conference.

Eventually, "WMRY Talking Book" became "Radio Information Service." RIS received the National Radio Award in 1974. Mention of this prestigious award was placed in the United States Congressional Record on May 13 of that year.

The service founded by Fr. "Boni" is now called "Mind's Eye." When he retired, he continued working on behalf of people with loss of vision. He was a strong supporter of the American Foundation for the Blind, Retinitis Pigmentosa International and many others. Today, Fr. "Boni" is 96 and has developed vision problems himself. He lives at Dammert Geriatric Center on the grounds of our Lady of the Snows Shrine.

ASSUMPTION

Blessed John Paul II and St. Eugene de Mazenod

On the 8th of May the "Totus Tuus" gala concert in honour of Blessed John Paul II and Saint Eugene de Mazenod took place at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall. The concert was organized by Catholic Youth Studio. It was the only concert in Canada commemorating the beatification of the

Servant of God John Paul II, which took place in Rome on Divine Mercy Sunday.

In the first part, the audience was entertained by light classical and popular music performed by Jan Lisiecki, Kinga Mitrowska, Christopher Dallo, Kornel Wolak and Quartetto Gelato. In the second half of the concert, the audience reflected on the deep themes presented by the "Divine Mercy Oratorio" performed by Zbigniew Malkowicz, Marek Balata, and other soloists from Poland.

At the beginning of the second part of the concert, three new songs about St. Eugene de Mazenod were performed; the music commemorated the 150th anniversary of his death. During the performance of the "Divine Mercy Oratorio" an English translation of the texts was provided as well as photographs from the life of Blessed John Paul II.

The concert was very well received. Honored guests in attendance were the auxiliary bishop of Toronto, William McGrattan, Bishop Douglas CROSBY of Hamilton, Fr. Janusz BLAZEJAK, the Provincial Superior of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and Mr. Marek Ciesielczuk, the Consul-General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto. The performers and musicians received a standing ovation which expressed the joy of having Pope John Paul II proclaimed Blessed. (*Janusz BLAZEJAK*)

Europe

SPAIN

Fr. Acacio Valbuena: 1922-2011

On May 4, Fr. Acacio VALBUENA, the retired Apostolic Prefect for Western Sahara, died. His missionary service was as broad and diverse as his life. He worked in Argentina; he was a provincial, a novice master and an Apostolic Prefect.

On February 25, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI had accepted his resignation from the pastoral care of the Apostolic Prefecture of Western Sahara, submitted because of his age.

Acacio Valbuena had governed this Apostolic

Prefecture since July 10, 1994. Born in the town of Horcadas - León on May 8, 1922, he was ordained a priest on March 17, 1945.

He was a hard worker, dedicated and generous, outgoing and realistic. A great Oblate has left us. His funeral Mass was celebrated at Diego de León on May 6. Afterwards, his body was taken to Pozuelo de Alarcón. (Nosotros OMI)

FRANCE

The Church of Marseille celebrates St. Eugene

On Saturday, May 21, Marseille celebrated the 150th anniversary of the death of Saint Eugene de

Mazenod, its bishop from 1837 until 1861, and the Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

During the day, some 120 pilgrims walked the footsteps of St. Eugene to Saint-Ferréol, to the Old Gate, to the Calvary of the Accoules, to the neighborhood of the Panier and to Notre-Dame de la Garde. Afterwards, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated in the cathedral by the Archbishop of Marseille, George Pontier, surrounded by Cardinals Roger Etchegaray and Bernard Panafieu and by Fr. Louis LOUGEN, Superior General of the Missionary Oblates.

A procession and a prayer at the tomb of the saint closed the celebration, after the singing of the *Salve Regina* and the presentation of a small statue of St. Eugene to Archbishop Pontier.

**Homily of Archbishop Georges Pontier
in the Cathedral
Saturday, 21 May 2011, 150th anniversary of
the death of St. Eugene de Mazenod**

When, on Good Friday 1807, at the age of 25, Eugene de Mazenod set out to take part in the liturgy, he had no idea that he was going to experience the most decisive moment of his life. The Cross of Jesus was held up for the veneration of the faithful. He had never looked at it with the eyes of his heart. He had never considered nor realized that the One who was nailed upon it was waiting for him, arms wide open. *“How could I forget the bitter tears that the sight of the Cross caused to flow from my eyes one Good Friday? Ah! They came from the heart. Nothing could stop their flow.”* Overwhelmed by the infinite love of the One who had died for him and for his brethren, he opened himself up to a strong, personal and unique relationship with Christ. He realized that he was loved by God to an unimaginable degree, and that the same was true for all humanity, and that his life could not continue unless he responded to that love! He had gone in to fulfill a religious duty; he came out a friend of Christ forever!

That was the point of departure for his journey to sainthood, or at least the point of departure of his

conversion, of his change of life, of his journey toward priestly ministry.

This evening, we hear Eugene de Mazenod tell us, with St. Paul: *“When I came among you, I did not come to announce the mystery of God with lofty human language nor with wisdom. While among you, I wanted to know nothing other than Jesus Christ, the Crucified Messiah.”*

Let us too leave aside our spiritual routine. Let us contemplate Christ on the cross. Let us allow ourselves to be touched by the depth of God’s love for us. Let us understand that the superficiality of our lives or of our faith can only lead us to bitterness and deception. Let us be taught by Christ, by the wisdom of the cross, by the power of a life devoted to others, by the infinite love of God for each one of us and for all humanity.

It is in this ceaselessly renewed contemplation that Eugene de Mazenod will place his apostolic zeal, his concern for those who are the little ones, the marginalized. We know that he will never stop organizing parish missions for which he will gather around himself missionaries who will one day become the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. His shepherd’s heart will focus on the most abandoned: domestic servants, peasants, those condemned to death, victims of cholera. He will preach to them in Provençal so that they can understand in their own language that God loves them so much that his dearly beloved Son shed his blood for them too, especially for them. The attention he paid to these little ones will shock those of his own social milieu, just as it still shocks today, especially when concern for them rankles the so-called social balance. His commitment was not political. It was spiritual, in order to live after the manner of his dearly beloved Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, who had come to seek out the suffering and lost sheep.

His motto as a bishop was *“Pauperes evangelizantur”*, “The good news is being proclaimed to the poor.”

Let us also draw from our contemplation of Christ’s love for all people the zeal needed to

proclaim to all their dignity as children of God, and especially to those for whom the material conditions of life could make them doubt: the refugees, the imprisoned, the jobless, the underpaid, the sick, and so many youth who are almost discarded into the trap of easy money. How can we touch each one, how can we see them as Christ sees them? How can we recognize in their faces the features of the suffering Christ? How can we commit ourselves for them and with them?

It was also in this contemplation of the heart of Christ, pierced on the cross for the salvation of the world, that Eugene de Mazenod could hear the call of the far-off missions and would send the first Oblates of Mary Immaculate to Canada, then to Sri Lanka, to South Africa and to the United States. He always took the broad view.

Today's realities are different. Continuous migration and the breaking down of progress make our own countries the place for first evangelization and of interreligious dialogue. Nor do we forget for a minute the concern for sharing between Churches. Today, four diocesan priests have been sent on mission elsewhere.

During his time as bishop, the population of the diocese doubled. He responded to these changes by creating new parishes and by fostering a missionary spirit among his clergy. He had the wonderful idea of building the present basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde and of starting the construction of our cathedral consecrated to Our Lady of the Assumption. His devotion to the Virgin Mary was deep. The Congregation which he founded has been placed under the protection of Mary Immaculate. Mary...he meditated on her at the foot of the cross as she brought to completion her "yes" at the Annunciation. He saw her assenting to the trials of her Son as she joined her "yes" to His "yes" to the Will of the Father. Eugene de Mazenod would live, united to Christ and the Virgin of Calvary, the trials that he would undergo during his life and ministry. And they did not go lacking!

May Saint Eugene de Mazenod accompany us today! May he intercede for us! May he keep our hearts turned toward the heart of Christ who

made of His own life a gift in order to save us from a life that is meaningless, hopeless and inhuman! Learning from him, may we be filled with apostolic zeal for making known to all their dignity as beloved children of God! May our communities be fraternal, open, rooted in the Word of God and the celebration of the sacraments! May they overflow with love and attention to the poor and the unfortunate! May they take care that the Good News be proclaimed to the poor!

May the Virgin Mary, Notre-Dame de la Garde, Mary who stood next to her Son even at the foot of the cross, may she encourage our hope by her faithful, motherly and loving presence! May her beloved Son fill our hearts! May we always have the desire to live in Him, for Him and like Him!

Amen.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN PROVINCE

Death of former General Treasurer

On May 13, 2011, the former General Treasurer, Fr. Alfons KEUTER, went to his eternal rest in Hünfeld, Germany, at the age of 72. He had been a professed Oblate for 52 years.

He was appointed General Treasurer in 1988 by the Superior General of the time, Fr. Marcello ZAGO, and his Council. He served the Congregation in that role until 2001.

Fr. Keuter's expertise as an accountant extended beyond the ordinary administration of the Congregation's finances to activities like organizing training sessions for Provincial Treasurers and creating projects like the O.I.P. and the Capital Sharing Fund. The latter have led to greater sharing in the Congregation and helped local Oblate units to manage better their financial resources. He traveled to all corners of the Congregation to help the various treasurers in various ways, especially with new forms of reporting that make possible a consolidated financial report for the entire Congregation. At the General House, he managed a five-year renovation project which included the replacement of the electric and hydraulic

systems, the creation of new office space, private baths and repainting of the entire interior.

After his tenure as General Treasurer, he went back to Germany. In the Central European Province, he served as Director of the Retreat Center in Hünfeld. There too he managed a huge project for the renovation of the house. At the same time he was the first national director for the OMI Associates. In 2010 he moved to the Oblate house in Aachen. From there he preached a number of retreats for religious sisters. Since his return to Germany, the General Administration asked him, on several occasions, to go to various Oblate Units in order to provide financial advice. His last trip was to the Congo in January 2011.

In his last three months, Alfons suffered from an “unknown” sickness, a bacterial tropical infection he may have contracted as much as 15 years ago. It affected his brain and caused a stroke and epilepsy. He was hospitalized for the last three months. After Easter he fell into a coma. He spent the last week of his life in the Oblate nursing home in Hünfeld.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN PROVINCE **Interprovincial Conference meets at Hünfeld**

On May 24-29, there was a meeting of the European Interprovincial Conference (CIE) at Hünfeld, Germany. All of the European Provincials, Superiors of Delegations and Missions were present. Assistant General, Fr. Gilberto PIÑÓN as well as the General Councillor for Europe, Fr. Luis Ignacio ROIS were also present. Fr. Adriano TITONE served as facilitator of the meeting and Fr. Fabio CIARDI was the animator.

During the meeting, the major superiors reflected upon the call of the last Chapter to conversion in order to revitalize the Oblate mission on the European continent. Decisions concerning different initiatives were taken, above all concerning Oblate formation and youth ministry.

Fr. Thomas KLOSTERKAMP finished his mandate as the president of the European region. Fr. Yves CHALVET DE RÉCY, provincial of

France, was elected as the new president; his councilors are Fr. Ryszard SZMYDKI, provincial of Poland, and Fr. Georges VERVUST, provincial of Belgium-Holland. The new secretary of the region is Fr. Angelo CAPUANO from Italy.

Even though the number of Oblates in Europe is diminishing, the outcome of the meeting was a sign of hope for the future. The assembly unanimously named these priorities: greater involvement in formation (first as well as ongoing) and in youth ministry. It was emphasized also that, besides the issues of Oblate ministry and management of material goods, much more important are personal contacts within the European reality, especially those at the inter-provincial level. (*Wojciech KLUJ, outgoing European Secretary*)

POLAND

Spring event in Kokotek

The last spring event in Kokotek (Youth Formation Centre – Polish Province) offered a whole kaleidoscope of activities, attractions and... whims of the weather! The 14th Oblate Youth Convention together with a parish picnic was organized by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Youth Association, NINIWA. More than 1,000 persons assembled in the Niniwa Formation Centre (including about 200 young people from all over Poland).

From the April 30 to May 3, spiritual retreat days focused on the theme of a quotation of Blessed John Paul II: “To preach the Gospel from the roof tops”. On Sunday, the beatification ceremony put special emphasis on the pope’s words of encouragement to young people so that they would not be afraid to be witnesses of God. The holy Mass concelebrated by more than ten priests was an important point in the Monday schedule. Bishop Jan Wiczorek presided at the Mass and prayed for Fr. Ludwik Konieczny, the founder of the centre in Kokotek and the head of the parish for 36 years, who celebrated his 80th birthday.

As an additional attraction, there were concerts by two groups: “30 i 40 na 70” [30 and 40 per

70] and “Trąbki Jerycha” [Jericho Trumpets]. Moreover, the play “Kaleidoscope” was staged by a youth group from Iława. The weather was also changing like a kaleidoscope! The sunshine, rain, frost at night, snow on Tuesday! Fortunately,

the proper precautions had been made and the outdoor events were held without any problems. In the convention 13 oblates participated, including the Provincial, Fr. Ryszard SZMYDKI. (Fr. Błażej MIELCAREK)

Latin America

MEXICO

Ministry with migrants

During the month of April, Fr. Héctor LUJÁN took part in a program that is run by Fr. Pedro Pantoja, “Bethlehem, the migrant’s inn” (“Belén, casa posada del migrante”), located in Saltillo, Coahuila.

The first phase of the experience was to get to know the work and the personnel in charge of this ministry. The latter have specialized in various areas: psychological care; legal issues; communication, etc. The ministry of “Bethlehem, the migrant’s inn” is supported by young people from Jesuit universities (Jesuit volunteer program). They team up with youths from Germany who commit themselves for a year of pastoral service. The ministry with migrant people includes much team work and is part of a national and international network.

The second phase consisted in regular dialogue with migrant persons who come to the house asking for help. The migrants come from Central America and Southern Mexico. In these dialogues, they tell of the painful experiences of their journey; they highlight the attacks of organized crime: kidnapping, extortion, mistreatment or rape.

In their personal sharing, they speak of their trip in “the wild beast.” They were moved onto the roofs of the trains or into smelly boxcars; in addition, they suffered hunger, thirst and fatigue from the long trip. These memories remain fixed within them because of the blows to their bodies as they got on the train and the horrible images of the fall or the death of their companions. Here, I could appreciate the desire that each person has to be heard and enlivened in the faith process.

The third phase was the experience of Holy Week with the local community and the house of migrants. The liturgical activities had a hopeful approach and an invitation to recognize the Risen One in our lives. It was touching to have present the mother of a young Honduran boy who has been unjustly imprisoned. Another aspect of Holy Week was the insecurity in which these people live; there have been 20 kidnappings and disappearances. The meditations and the acts of popular piety were framed by these experiences that plague this part of the country. This pastoral reality implies a challenge to express the life of faith through the liturgy or the sacraments and thus walk with our people in faithfulness to our ministry.

My stay in the house of migrants has raised my awareness of what is needed in this ministry to migrant people. The migrants are trying to achieve a better life and, conscious of the dangers and risks, set out to get something their country of origin or our Mexican society does not give them.

This ministry with migrant people makes me think of our Founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod who experienced this during his childhood; he wanted to be heard and supported in his needs. His contact with Italian culture, away from his own and at an early age, gave him people who were full of faith and who encouraged and supported him. Therefore, through our own Oblate charism, I feel encouraged by this experience.



Asia-Oceania

TURKMENISTAN**First priestly ordination**

Father Andrzej MADEJ has been Superior of the Mission "sui juris" of Turkmenistan since 1997 when Oblates from Poland were asked to minister to Catholics in that country. On 19 May, he sent the following e-mail to the Superior General:

Praised be Jesus Christ! I greet you cordially in Christ and Mary Immaculate from Turkmenistan.

I would like to share with you the good news that on 21 May, 2011, our Deacon Rafal CHILIMONIUK will be ordained a priest in the chapel of our mission in Ashgabat.

He will receive the Sacrament of Priesthood from the hands of Archbishop Antonio Lucibello, the Apostolic Nuncio in Turkey and Turkmenistan. The archbishop's line of apostolic succession includes the Bishop of Marseille, Saint Eugene de Mazenod.

Let us rejoice together! We are happy to be one with you, dear Fr. General, on the day of the 150th anniversary of the birth to heaven of our Holy Founder.

The newly ordained Father Rafal was born in 1983. He pronounced his first vows in 2004.

CHINA**Celebrating Saint Eugene**

The superior of the China Delegation, Fr. David ULLRICH, reports that the 150th anniversary of the Founder's death was the occasion of a joyous celebration in Hong Kong on May 15. The local Ordinary, Bishop John Tong, presided at a Mass that was preceded by an hour-long program presented by the teachers and students of the three schools run by the Oblates.

In his homily, Bishop Tong spoke of three "miracles" achieved by the Oblates: "their evangelizing fire, the promotion of vocations, and their care for foreigners." He encouraged the missionaries to walk in the footsteps of the Founder through an ever better collaboration between the Congregation and the diocese of Hong Kong.

The Oblates came to Hong Kong in 1966. Since then, they have worked with the poor, the imprisoned, the marginalized and in the field of education.

Africa-Madagascar

CONGO**Saint Eugene and the mission in Africa**

The Founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Saint Eugene de Mazenod, former bishop of Marseille, France, died 150 years ago on May 21. On Saturday, May 21, 2011, Msgr. Santiago de Wits, councilor of the apostolic nunciature in Kinshasa, presided at a Mass for this thrice-gold jubilee, in the chapel of the Saint Eugene de Mazenod Scholasticate in Kinshasa-Kintambo.

Msgr. De Wits noted that the charism of Eugene de Mazenod has borne much fruit; he was referring to the many participants at the Mass who are students at the institute which bears the

name of the Oblate Founder. Coming from 30 male and female Congregations and from every part of the country, men and women religious and some lay persons study theology and missiology in the institute founded 29 years ago.

The St. Eugene de Mazenod Institute, affiliated with the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, provides the ordinary cycle of studies for future priests, but also a licentiate program in missiology and a doctrine program designed for women religious and non-clerical male religious. Foreign missionaries coming for the first time to the Democratic Republic of Congo can get an initiation into the culture, the philosophy, the theology and, of course, western and Congolese

languages. A computer center introduces whoever is interested to the digital culture. And the program of conferences of the “Cardinal Malula Chair” since 1994 has been offering to everyone the opportunity to reflect on problems of the faith in relation to the African and Congolese culture. (Fr. Jean-Baptiste MALENGE, OMI, Correspondant de Radio Vatican)

ZAMBIA

Ordination of Bishop Evans Chinyemba, OMI

Hundreds of people from all across the country as well as from other countries witnessed the colorful ordination ceremony of Bishop Evans Chinyama CHINYEMBA at the Cathedral of Lourdes in Mongu on 28 May, 2011. The principal consecrating bishop was His Eminence, Medardo Joseph Cardinal Mazombwe, the archbishop-emeritus of Lusaka.

Bishops from other Zambian dioceses were present to encourage and give brotherly support to the newly ordained bishop.

Also present to offer their prayers and fraternal

support was the Oblate General Councillor for Africa- Madagascar Region, Fr. Emmanuel MOSOEU, and Fr. William MORELL, the acting provincial of the United States Province. Oblate priests from South Africa, Zimbabwe and the USA were also at the ceremony.

Parishioners from all the Oblate missions in Zambia came to offer their joy and support to Bishop Chinyemba.

In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi, Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, urged the newly ordained bishop to emulate his predecessor, Bishop Paul DUFFY, by being faithful to his legacy. He further told him never to be ashamed of the Gospel and to always speak clearly and loudly on behalf of the people he has been called to serve.

He asked the faithful of Mongu Diocese to collaborate and support Bishop Chinyemba in his ministry. “Receive Bishop Chinyemba as your teacher, shepherd and brother”, said Archbishop Girasoli. (www.omizambia.org)

Anniversaries for July 2011

70 Years of religious life

1941.07.01	07807	Bro. Jean Kanzler	France
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70 Years of priesthood

1941.07.06	06286	Fr. Arsène Caby	France
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65 Years of religious life

1946.07.16	08165	Fr. Aurélien Giguère	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.07.16	08166	Fr. André Houle	United States
1946.07.16	08163	Fr. Jean Morin	United States
1946.07.16	08139	Fr. Laurent Roy	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.07.25	08168	Fr. Ernesto del Blanco	Spain
1946.07.25	08305	Fr. Germán Fernández	Argentina-Chile
1946.07.25	08170	Fr. José María Garmón	Argentina-Chile

65 Years of priesthood

1946.07.06	07400	Fr. Pierre Rigaud	Lacombe
1946.07.07	07377	Fr. Jean Loiseau	Belgium/Holland
1946.07.14	07513	Fr. Floor de Grauw	Belgium/Holland
1946.07.14	07613	Fr. Jean Maboge	Belgium/Holland

60 Years of religious life

1951.07.02	09027	Fr. Nestor Factora	Philippines
1951.07.02	09025	Fr. Prospero Gacis	Philippines
1951.07.26	09283	Fr. Serge Allard	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.07.26	09039	Fr. Amador de Lucas	Spain
1951.07.26	09036	Fr. Fermin del Blanco	Spain
1951.07.26	09034	Fr. José Gago	United States
1951.07.26	09035	Fr. Léo Laberge	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.07.26	09040	Fr. Otilio Largo	Spain
1951.07.26	09033	Fr. Felipe Matias	United States
1951.07.26	09077	Fr. Raimundo Poulin	Argentina-Chile
1951.07.26	09082	Fr. Claude Saint-Laurent	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

60 Years of priesthood

1951.07.01	08262	Fr. Lucien Brencklé	France
1951.07.01	08396	Fr. Jean Col	France
1951.07.01	08357	Fr. Jan Van Hoydonck	Belgium/Holland
1951.07.08	08204	Fr. Joseph Balthazard	Belgium/Holland
1951.07.08	08239	Fr. Edmond Houssais	France
1951.07.08	08139	Fr. Laurent Roy	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.07.15	08048	Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan	Anglo-Irish
1951.07.29	08163	Fr. Jean Morin	United States

50 Years of religious life

1961.07.02	11527	Fr. André Koumans	Belgium/Holland
1961.07.25	11070	Fr. Miguel Pellón	Argentina-Chile

50 Years of priesthood

1961.07.02	10070	Fr. Albert Cimon	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.07.02	10375	Fr. François Cueff	France
1961.07.02	10376	Fr. Bernard Dauguet	France
1961.07.02	10245	Fr. Roberto de Valicourt	Brazil
1961.07.07	10194	Fr. Ben de Vries	Belgium/Holland
1961.07.08	10206	Fr. Inno Gijsberts	Belgium/Holland
1961.07.09	10208	Fr. Ernesto Liekens	Mexico
1961.07.12	09959	Fr. Walter Jüptner	Namibia
1961.07.12	10327	Fr. Claude Mayer	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.07.12	09988	Fr. Louis Ponniah	Jaffna
1961.07.12	09960	Fr. Richard Sheehan	United States

25 Years of religious life

1986.07.21	13159	Fr. Paokuma Nikolaus Ola	Indonesia
1986.07.21	13227	Fr. Dominikus Pareta	Indonesia
1986.07.21	12951	Fr. Widjaja Nicolas Setija	Indonesia
1986.07.21	12950	Fr. Fransiskus Xaverius Sudirman	Indonesia
1986.07.21	13160	Fr. Vicentius de P. Wathun Kaya	Indonesia

25 Years of priesthood

1986.07.03	12683	Fr. Henry-Claude Jean-Philippe	Haiti
1986.07.14	12697	Fr. Armando López	Mexico

Anniversaries for August 2011

75 Years of religious life

1936.08.15	06344	Fr. Giuseppe Affinita	Italy
1936.08.15	06335	Fr. Boniface Wittenbrink	United States

70 Years of religious life

1941.08.02	07318	Fr. Jacques Croteau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.02	07315	Fr. Roger Gauthier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.02	07316	Fr. Lionel Goulet	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.02	07324	Fr. Roland Houle	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1941.08.02	07314	Fr. Joseph Vaillancourt	Haiti
1941.08.15	07369	Fr. Tomás Domínguez	Spain
1941.08.15	07278	Fr. Francis Ebner	Lacombe
1941.08.15	07329	Fr. Jean Girouard	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

65 Years of religious life

1946.08.02	08176	Fr. Guy Boulanger	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.08.02	08172	Fr. François Buteau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.08.02	08177	Fr. Garcia Lussier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.08.15	08146	Fr. Robert Allie	United States
1946.08.15	08150	Fr. Tommaso Campagnuolo	Italy
1946.08.15	08149	Fr. James Datko	United States
1946.08.15	08188	Fr. John Doetzel	Lacombe
1946.08.15	08183	Fr. Paul Hurtubise	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.08.15	08823	Bro. Jules Loranger	Lacombe
1946.08.15	08185	Fr. Santiago Monast	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1946.08.15	08192	Fr. Anthony Schmidt	Lacombe

60 Years of religious life

1951.08.08	09803	Fr. Robert Loison	France
1951.08.15	09092	Fr. Guido Blanchette	Argentina-Chile
1951.08.15	09057	Fr. Andrew Chalkey	United States
1951.08.15	09688	Fr. Charles Cox	Belgium/Holland
1951.08.15	09685	Bro. John Delaney	Anglo-Irish
1951.08.15	09687	Bro. Majella Demers	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.08.15	09056	Fr. Fernando Gargantini	Italy
1951.08.15	09284	Fr. Maurice Joly	Lacombe
1951.08.15	09093	Fr. Gervais Labbé	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.08.15	09090	Fr. Gérard Laprise	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.08.15	09096	Fr. Roland Leclair	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.08.15	09091	Fr. Arthur Massé	Lacombe
1951.08.15	09089	Fr. Claude Morency	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.08.15	09060	Fr. Vincent Ott	United States
1951.08.15	09097	Fr. Jean-Claude Pelletier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1951.08.15	09391	Fr. Luigi Russo	Italy
1951.08.15	09064	Fr. James Taylor	United States
1951.08.22	09692	Bro. Valmond Leclerc	United States

60 Years of priesthood

1951.08.17	08203	Fr. Francis Kulas	Jaffna
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50 Years of religious life

1961.08.02	11107	Bishop Vincent Cadieux	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.08.02	11113	Fr. André Cyr	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.08.02	11108	Fr. Julien De Lafontaine	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.08.02	11079	Fr. Théodore Dumont	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.08.02	11530	Bro. Réjean Gadouas	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.08.02	11117	Fr. Jean-Claude Gilbert	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1961.08.15	11122	Fr. Michael Bradley	Poland
1961.08.15	11124	Fr. John Collet	United States
1961.08.15	11125	Fr. Guy Lavallée	Lacombe
1961.08.15	11128	Fr. Jerome Novotny	Colombo
1961.08.15	11127	Fr. Richard Pommier	Philippines
1961.08.15	11650	Bro. Wilfrid Ramakatsa	Lesotho
1961.08.15	11129	Archbishop Roger Schwietz	United States

25 Years of religious life

1986.08.08	13131	Fr. George V. Perera	Colombo
1986.08.15	13149	Fr. Kalom Cyrille Atitung	Congo
1986.08.15	13019	Fr. Rocky H. Grimard	Assumption
1986.08.15	13100	Fr. Kandol Achille Nunakumy	Congo
1986.08.15	13099	Fr. Kalala Jean-Lambert Nzaji	Natal
1986.08.17	13010	Fr. Marc Dessureault	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1986.08.17	12946	Fr. Gilles Guimond	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

25 Years of priesthood

1986.08.15	12655	Fr. Vincent Le Phu Hai	France
1986.08.16	12587	Fr. Mark S. Edwards	Australia
1986.08.16	12645	Fr. Louis Manyeli	Lesotho
1986.08.17	12550	Fr. Enak Léon Iwele	Congo
1986.08.17	12511	Fr. Jean Bosco Musumbi	General Administration
1986.08.17	12551	Fr. Mick Ngundu	Congo

Prayers for our deceased

No. 36-43

NAME	PROV./Del.	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. William Martin	United States	22/04/1934	Tewksbury	09/05/2011
Fr. Marcel Keller	France	08/12/1919	Lyon	10/05/2011
Fr. Lawrence Antus	United States	04/07/1930	St. Paul	24/05/2011
Bro. Claude Langlois	Lesotho	15/06/1925	Maseru	25/05/2011
Fr. Michael Moorosi	Lesotho	08/05/1958	Bethlehem	26/05/2011
Fr. Gerard Lodi	Northern Prov. South Africa	05/08/1936	Johannesburg	30/05/2011
Fr. Jacques Gervais	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	04/07/1914	Richelieu	31/05/2011
Fr. David Khoaeane	Lesotho	01/01/2011	Quthing	04/06/2011

“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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