



OMI INFORMATION OMI INFORMACION OMI INFORMAZIONE OMI NACHRICHTEN OMI WIADOMOŚCI OMI

OMI Information No. 519 (English)

February 2012

With joy and thanksgiving **Father General's letter for February 17, 2012**

Happy Feast Day!

This year we celebrate 186 years since Pope Leo XII approved our Constitutions and Rules. We celebrate this grace with great joy, thanksgiving and a fraternal spirit among us. The Founder saw the Constitutions and Rules as uniting the Oblates in a society in which we would become holy missionaries and be dedicated to the salvation of God's poor. We see this expressed in the Preface to the CC&RR.

These two dimensions of our vocation strike me in the Preface. First of all, there is the strong expression of what burned in Eugene de Mazenod's missionary heart: the urgent need to evangelize, to preach the Gospel and reawaken the faith. He reached out in bold new ways to those who had lost the faith and had been neglected by the clergy of the time. This young missionary was busy reaching out to those not being touched by parish structures. He was aware of those who were being overlooked and whose faith was dying. He sought ways to speak to them in their language and to gather them. He met them on their own ground and took the Word to them. He longed to bring them into contact with the Church and to reawaken their faith so that they would come to know Jesus and become his disciples.

In the Chapter of 2010, the call made for us to Conversion in the area of Mission asked us if we are merely satisfied with what we are doing and whether we are simply caring for those who are already believers. We are invited to become uncomfortable and to question ourselves. Are we seeking to bring Jesus to those who are

missing out on his Good News and to work creatively with them? As missionaries, it is not our vocation to be content in doing good pastoral work for the people who come to us. Like Eugene, moved by love for Christ and the Church, we are called to notice people who don't get touched by the pastoral structures, those on the fringes and those who suffer in poverty in its many faces. We seek them out and communicate the Gospel in their language so that God's grace might draw them to his Son and to the Church.

The other dimension which strongly appears in the Preface is the holiness of the missionaries who will be preachers of the Good News. To accomplish the great mission before them, the missionaries must be true disciples of Jesus Christ and transformed by the Word they preach. The call to conversion is a commitment to give ourselves in an ongoing, disciplined way to the transforming process of God's grace. Over a lifelong journey, the Spirit will fashion us into truer images and likenesses of God. What does holiness mean for us today? How do we live the Founder's mandate: "They must strive to be saints"?

Our CC&RR guide us in an understanding of Oblate holiness, a lifelong journey into Jesus, the Savior. Prayer, individual and communal; a life founded on the sacraments and the Word of God; apostolic communal life; a relationship to Mary; living the fullness of our four vows; and qualities like generosity, joy, humility, forgiveness and hospitality are essential to our growth in holiness found in our CC&RR. Also part of Oblate holiness expressed in our CC&RR are compassion; solidarity with the

poor; hunger for justice; a capacity for dialog, mutual respect and responsibility; a simple life that respects the environment. We return to our OMI CC&RR to deepen this sense of holiness which is lived in relation to God, to our neighbor, to our very self and to creation. Do you have a copy readily accessible?

This February 17th let us ask for the grace to renew our missionary vision and our thirst for holiness. Together, let us give thanks for

the Congregation and celebrate this day by renewing our commitment as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. I invite us to take some time together to share “signs of life” that we see in the Congregation.

Your brother Oblate in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Father Louis Lougen, OMI
Superior General

General Administration

GENERAL STATISTICS - January 2012

JANUARY 2012						JANUARY 2011						
Total	Fr.	B1	B2	PD	Schol.		Total	Fr.	B1	B2	PD	Schol.
38	35	3	0	0	0	General Admin.	43	38	5	0	0	0
859	519	58	6	0	276	Africa-Madagascar	864	509	51	13	0	291
472	334	29	2	0	107	Latin America	455	340	27	2	0	86
749	521	24	9	0	195	Asia-Oceania	744	527	24	2	0	191
855	712	124	0	2	17	Canada-USA	880	735	125	0	2	18
1120	904	122	0	4	90	Europe	1125	914	119	2	4	86
4093	*3025	360	17	6	685	Total	4111	3063	351	19	6	672

*Of whom 42 are bishops 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 (31 December 2011)

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2011	January 2012	+ / -
Cardinal	1	1	
Archbishops	12	10	-2
Bishops	31	31	
Prefects Apostolic	1	0	-1
Priests	3016	2981	-35
Priests with temporary vows	2	2	
Brothers with perpetual vows	351	360	+9
Brothers who are permanent deacons	6	6	
Brothers with temporary vows	19	17	-2
Scholastics with perpetual vows	126	113	-13
Scholastics with temporary vows	546	572	+26
Total number of Oblates	4111	4093	-18

PERSONNEL BY UNIT**(as of 31 December 2011)**

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.	Bp.	Bp.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T	Deac.	Tot.
	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	3	0	0	0	0	0	38
Total:	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	3	0	0	0	0	0	38

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

	Card.	Ar.	Bp.	Bp.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T	Deac.	Tot.
Angola	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Cameroun	0	0	4	0	0	0	59	15	2	0	6	39	0	125
Central S. A.	0	0	2	0	0	0	33	3	0	0	3	8	0	49
Congo	0	0	1	0	0	0	97	13	1	0	11	43	0	166
Kenya	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	4	0	10
Lesotho	0	2	2	0	0	0	79	13	1	0	4	25	0	126
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	4	0	0	1	19	0	63
Namibia	0	1	2	0	0	0	25	5	0	0	3	6	0	42
Natal	0	1	1	0	0	0	46	0	0	0	4	7	0	59
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	3	13	0	27
Northern S. A.	0	1	1	0	0	0	40	1	0	0	1	7	0	51
Sahara	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	1	0	0	0	12	0	41
Zambia	0	0	1	0	0	0	21	2	1	0	4	36	0	65
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	3	13	0	23
Total:	0	5	14	0	0	0	500	58	6	0	44	232	0	859

LATIN AMERICA

	Card.	Ar.	Bp.	Bp.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T	Deac.	Tot.
Argentina-Chile	0	0	1	0	0	0	38	1	0	0	0	2	0	42
Baja California	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	8	0	0	2	7	0	34
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	4	0	0	2	3	0	61
Brazil Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	1	2	0	15
Cuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
French Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	11	0	23
Haiti	0	0	1	0	0	0	71	9	2	0	6	44	0	133
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	1	0	0	1	9	0	42
Paraguay	0	0	1	0	0	0	26	1	0	0	2	8	0	38
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	2	0	0	1	3	0	27
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Venezuela	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
Total:	0	0	3	0	0	0	331	29	2	0	16	91	0	472

ASIA-OCEANIA

	Card.	Ar.	Bp.	Bp.	Pr.Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T	Deac.	Tot.
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	46	0	1	0	0	1	0	48
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	1	6	0	33
China	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	13
Colombo	0	0	1	0	110	13	0	1	5	28	0	0	158
India	0	0	0	0	61	1	1	0	5	33	0	0	101
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	30	0	1	0	3	6	0	0	40
Jaffna	0	0	0	0	77	1	6	0	0	28	0	0	112
Japan - Korea	0	0	0	0	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Korea	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	9
Pakistan	0	0	1	0	23	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	37
Philippines	0	1	1	0	78	7	0	0	5	27	0	0	119
Thailand	0	0	1	0	18	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	22
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	9	20	0	0	34
Total:	0	1	4	0	515	24	9	1	34	161	0	0	749

CANADA-UNITED STATES

	Card.	Ar.	Bp.	Bp.	Pr.Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T	Deac.	Tot.
Assumption	0	0	0	0	0	45	3	0	0	0	4	0	52
Lacombe	0	3	4	0	196	33	0	0	0	0	1	0	237
Notre-Dame-du-Cap	0	0	3	0	168	67	0	0	0	0	0	2	240
United States	1	1	1	0	290	21	0	0	3	9	0	0	326
Total:	1	4	8	0	699	124	0	0	3	14	2	0	855

EUROPE

	Card.	Ar.	Bp.	Bp.	Pr.Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T	Deac.	Tot.
Anglo-Irish	0	0	0	0	0	79	5	0	0	0	0	0	84
Belgium/Holland	0	0	0	0	0	80	12	0	0	0	0	3	95
Byelorussia	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
Central European	0	0	0	0	0	112	29	0	1	1	5	0	148
France	0	0	0	0	0	143	22	0	0	1	1	0	167
France/Benelux	0	0	0	0	0	39	1	0	0	0	0	0	40
Italy	0	0	1	0	0	121	9	0	0	0	9	1	141
Lourdes	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	246	37	0	0	12	53	0	348
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	6
Spain	0	0	1	0	0	33	4	0	0	0	2	0	40
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	29	3	0	0	0	2	0	34
Total:	0	0	2	0	0	901	122	0	1	16	74	4	1120
Total:	1	10	31	0	0	2981	360	17	2	113	572	6	4093

Legenda: Card=Cardinal; Ar.Bp.=Archbishop; Bp.=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 2011

No.	Surname	Name	Date	Dioc. of Origin	Unit
14396	MAJOLA	Bonga Thamsanga	08.01	Eshowe	N.So.Africa
14397	NKADIMENG	ThabangIsrael	08.01	Johannesburg	N.So.Africa

14398	POSHOLI	NathanaelK.	08.01	Maseru	Lesotho
14399	SERWIN	Marcin	08.01	Tarnow	Assumption
14400	TSATSELAM	Gerard	08.01	Buea	Cameroun
14401	TSHUMA	Ndodana	08.01	Gokwe	Zimbabwe
14402	MAGAMBO	JosephKirusa	23.01	Meru	Kenya
14403	RIMBERIA	GideonKinoti	23.01	Meru	Kenya
14404	FLEITASLOPEZ	JuanRafael	18.01	Concepcion	Paraguay
14405	CHANDAMUTALE	Richard	22.01	Kasama	Zambia
14406	MANDONA	GeorgeChilifolo	22.01	Kasama	Zambia
14407	MBULO	Theodore	22.01	Monzi	Zambia
14408	SHEEHAMA	Albertus	17.02	Windhoek	Namibia
14409	CHAMAN	Amanat	18.09*	Karachi	Pakistan
14410	PATRAS	Akmal	18.09*	Karachi	Pakistan
14411	MALANGWA	AlainMukanya	15.08*		Congo
14412	NANKWAYA	Thierry	15.08*		Congo
14413	PALOMO	PoncianoPanes	23.12*	CotabatoCity	Philippines
14414	SINGCO	AngelJr.	23.12*	CotabatoCity	Philippines
14415	MBANJWA	CyprianSibonelo	14.02	Durban	Natal
14416	PATRAS	Samuel	04.06	Faisalabad	France
14417	WAHYUNUGROHO	Aloysius	21.05	Semarang	Indonesia
14418	THAINguyenDinh	Pierre	21.05	Vinh	France/Vietnam
14419	WATTEROTH	Jens	13.02	Freiburg	Cent. European
14420	ALVES	Edicarlos	26.08	Asuncion	Brazil
14421	URIAS	Patrick	26.08	Asuncion	Brazil
14422	COOK	Raymond	03.09	Hartford	U.S. Province
14423	MUSONDA	Sydney	03.09	Mansa	Zambia
14424	HONG	PeterJanWon	04.09	Suwon	Colombo
14425	FRANCIS	Joy-Amal	11.09	Kottar	India
14426	UZORCHIBUZO	ChrysogonusE.	11.09.	Okigwe	Cameroun
14427	MULENGA	EmmanuelB.	24,09	Lusaka	Zambia
14428	DEUZOUMBE	DouniaBernard	15.08*	Moundou	Cameroun
14429	DEUZOUMBE	KadaMaurice	15.08*	Pala	Cameroun
14430	EKANGA	Augustin	15.08*	Doume-Abong'Mbang	Cameroun
14431	HAMAN	Abraham	15.08*	Garoua	Cameroun
14432	HINGBO	Edmond	15.08*	Garoua	Cameroun
14433	ORAZA	Alfred	15.08*		Nigeria
14434	KALACZYNSKI	Krzysztof	08.09	Bydgoszez	Poland
14435	PETELCZYC	Adam	08.09	Katowice	Poland
14436	KRYSTYANC	Rafal	08.09	Poznan	Poland
14437	MACKIENWICZ	SylwesterAndrzej	08.09	Elblag	Poland
14438	OCHLAK	Dominic	08.09	Elblag	Poland
14439	SZLACHETA	Pawel	08.09	Warsaw	Poland
14440	SZURA	Tomasz	08.09	Szczecin-Kamien	Poland
14441	WDOWCZYK	TadeuszPiotr	08.09	Pelplin	Poland
14442	DEROSAYRO	Shane	06.10	Colombo	Colombo
14443	HEWAFONSEKAGE	SameeraDamith	06.10	Colombo	Colombo
14444	WAAS	RoshanJanapriya	06.10	Colombo	Colombo
14445	KABEYA	Delphin	14.08	Congo	Congo
14446	KIKALULU	JuniorJean-Gilbert	14.08	Congo	Congo
14447	LUNTADILA	Jean-Pierre	14.08	Congo	Congo
14448	MAFU	IyanaAntoine	14.08	Congo	Congo
14449	UMBA-UMBA	Edouard	14.08	Congo	Congo
14450	ABAD	Ronald	08.12	CotabatoCity	Philippines
14451	BERTIS	MichaelMatt	08.12	Palo	Philippines
14452	DELFIN	MarjeoL.	08.12	Marbel	Philippines
14453	PACATE	DaniloSalig	08.12	Kidapawan	Philippines

14454	IIPINGE	BonaventureA.	08.12	Windhoek	Namibia
14455	CALDERON	Giuseppe	08.12	Oppido	Italy
14456	PAKKIYANATHAN	Jesuthasan	08.12	Jaffna	Jaffna
14457	RAVEL	AnthonySebastian	08.12	Mannar	Jaffna
14458	SEBASTIAN	Reginald	08.12	Mannar	Jaffna
14459	SHINNIAH	PatrickLeo	08.12	Jaffna	Jaffna
14460	SILUVAIRAJAH	ArulSutharson	08.12	Jaffna	Jaffna
14461	YACOP	RobinsonSathees	08.12	Jaffna	Jaffna
14462	JESURAJ	SebastiaArputharaj	17.12	Sivagangai	India
14463	JOSEPH	NatarajanNirmal	17.12	Madras-Mylapore	India
14464	SANTIAGU	Nicolas	17.12	Sivagangai	India
14465	SOOSAI	ArockiaDoss	17.12	Pondicherry	India
14466	SOOSAI	Manickam	17.12	Sivagangai	India
14467	SUSAI	Martin	17.12	Pondicherry	India

*Perpetual vows made in 2010.

Obediences 2011

Asterisk (*) = First obedience

Date	Title	Surname	Name	Origin	Destination
10.01	Fr.	KING	Eugene	Gen. Admin.	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
07.03	Fr.	PHOOFOLO *	Charles	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	TSITA *	Clement	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	MATSOSO *	Charles	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	LEKHOOA *	Phillip	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	BOATILE *	Sydney	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	KHAKHANE *	Augustinus	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	PAMA *	Aloysius	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	MASERU *	John	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Sc.	MUTUMBULWA *	Alweendo	Lesotho	Namibia
	Sc.	MASIH *	Khan	Lesotho	Pakistan
	Sc.	ALMEIDA *	Ricardo de	Lesotho	Brazil
	Fr.	De ASSIS da SILVA*	Francisco	Lesotho	Brazil
	Fr.	HEON	Charles	Haiti	U.S. Province
	Fr.	MILLAN	Casimir	Cameroun	France
	Fr.	VANDENBROECK	Louis	Cameroun	Belgium/Holland
	Fr.	D'HOORE	Herman	Central Prov. S.A.	Belgium/Holland
	Fr.	DAMIANUS	Yohanes	Pakistan	Indonesia
	Fr.	KATONGO *	Kenedy	Zambia	Zambia
	Fr.	KHATALA *	Paul	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	SHAI *	Josias	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	KATASE *	Paul	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Fr.	PHAKOE *	Clement	Lesotho	Lesotho
	Bro.	MBULO *	Theodore	Zambia	Zambia
	Bro.	MANDONA *	George	Zambia	Zambia
	Fr.	TSOAMOTSE *	Peter	Lesotho	Lesotho
11.03	Bro.	MAGAMBO *	Joseph	Kenya	Kenya
	Fr.	STECKLING	Wilhelm	Gen. Admin.	Paraguay
	Fr.	KHAESER *	Paul		Thailand
14.03	Fr.	BHALRAI *	Virendra	India	India
21.03	Fr.	BARATTO	Virgilio	Assumption	OMI Lacombe
22.03	Fr.	BASADA *	Gaudencio	Philippines	Philippines
25.03	Fr.	WLAZLY *	Jan	Poland	Poland
	Sc.	ONDAP *	Bernard	Philippines	Japan-Korea
	Fr.	CHILIMONIUK *	Rafal	Poland	Turkmenistan
	Fr.	BOROWICZ *	Piotr	Poland	Poland

25.03	Bro.	WIESENMULLER	Gerhard	Namibia	Central European
25.03	Fr.	KOSLIK *	Krzystof	Poland	Poland / Madagascar
01.04	Sc.	CHAMAN *	Amanat	Pakistan	Pakistan
	Sc.	PATRAS *	Akmal	Pakistan	Pakistan
06.04	Bro.	MENDIS	Kamal	Gen. Admin.	Colombo
11.04	Fr.	HUGHES	Paul	U.S. Province	Guatemala
11.04	Fr.	LITANDA BUNGULU	Faustin	Congo	Kenya
26.04	Fr.	MAZILE	Loudeger	Gen. Admin.	Haiti
02.03	Sc.	GARCIA GENEZ *	Marcos M.	Paraguay	Paraguay
02.03	Fr.	NDLOVU *	Phumulani	Natal	Natal
02.05	Fr.	ANDRIAMANANTENA *	Riri Leonce	Madagascar	Madagascar
02.05	Fr.	RAKOTOARISOA *	Solohanitra	Madagascar	Madagascar
02.05	Fr.	RASAMOELINA *	Rivotina	Madagascar	Madagascar
02.05	Fr.	RANDRIANJAFIMAHENINA *	Nicolas	Madagascar	Madagascar
02.05	Fr.	RASOLONJATOVO *	Jean Rostand	Madagascar	Madagascar
09.05	Fr.	MUSIL	Roman	Haiti	Central European Prov.
18.05	Fr.	MONTERO INFANTES *	Javier	Spain	Spain
18.05	Fr.	NTJAMBA *	Peter	Namibia	Namibia
18.05	Fr.	JESUTHASAN *	Lebourn	Jaffna	Jaffna (after 2 yrs. China)
18.05	Fr.	MICHAEL COONGHE *	Jegan	Jaffna	Jaffna
18.05	Fr.	PAUL *	Mathew	Jaffna	Jaffna
18.05	Fr.	SANTHIAPILLAI *	Philip	Jaffna	Jaffna
18.05	Fr.	THEVARASA *	Jeno	Jaffna	Jaffna
19.05	Fr.	SWAT	Marek	Pakistan	Poland
19.05	Sc.	PATRAS *	Samuel	France	France
30.05	Bro.	CRUZ PENA *	Lucino	U.S. Province	U.S. Province
30.05	Fr.	HARDING *	Nicholas	U.S. Province	U.S. Province
30.05	Fr.	MERILAN *	Webert	U.S. Province	U.S. Province
14.06	Fr.	DIAGNE*	Dominique	Senegal	Senegal
14.06	Bro.	DIOUF *	Benoit Made	Senegal	Senegal
14.06	Fr.	MANE*	Daniel	Senegal	Senegal
17.06.	Fr.	LOUIS	Emile	Cameroun	France
17.06	Fr.	DIOP *	Jacques	Senegal	Senegal
17.06	Fr.	DUNG-DUNG*	Simon Joseph	India	India
17.06	Fr.	DUMAIS	Marcel	Gen. Admin.	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
17.06	Fr.	DALLE	Gonzague	Cameroun	France
	Fr.	PAUL	Antonine	Gen. Admin.	Gen. Administration
12.07	Fr.	WEIGUE *	Nerondoh	Cameroun	Cameroun
08.07	Fr.	ROSSOUW *	Sebastian	N.So.Africa	N.So.Africa
08.07	Fr.	FLEITAS LOPEZ *	Juan	Paraguay	Paraguay
12.07	Fr.	EKANGA *	Augustin	Cameroun	Cameroun
12.07	Fr.	AGUIRRE ZAPATA *	Leonardo	Peru	Peru
12.07	Fr.	LOPEZ PAREDES *	Elio Dennis	Peru	Peru
	Sc.	PETELCZYC	Adam	Poland	Poland
	Sc.	RUVALCABA *	Palos	Mexico	Mexico
	Sc.	KALACZYNSKI *	Krzystof	Poland	Poland
06.09	Fr.	JAZGIER	Marek	Poland	Gen. Admin.
13.09	Fr.	DHARMARATHANE *	Udara Lakpriya	Colombo	Colombo
	Fr.	PALOMO *	Ponciano	Philippines	Philippines
	Fr.	SANIEL*	Rockmoore	Philippines	Philippines
	Fr.	SINGCO *	Angel	Philippines	Philippines
	Fr.	VENERACION *	Raul	Philippines	Philippines
	Sc..	SUSSANTO*	Antonius	Indonesia	Indonesia
	Fr.	WARNAKULASURIYA *	Jesu Ramesh	Colombo	Colombo
16.09	Fr.	CATANUS *	Ben	Philippines	Thailand-Laos
18.10	Fr.	MAJOLA *	Bonga	N.So.Africa	N. So. Africa

	Fr.	CASTRO NADUA *	Jefferson	Philippines	Philippines
	Fr.	SACIL *	Jurabelle	Philippines	Philippines
	Fr.	WATTEROTH	Jens	Central European	Central European
20.10	Fr.	MUSUMBI	Jean-Bosco	CONGO	Cameroun
	Fr.	BOSEK	Mariusz	Poland	Poland
21.11	Fr.	SHEEHAMA *	Albertus	Namibia	Namibia
22.11	Fr.	SERNA *	Mark Anthony	Philippines	China
26.11	Fr.	LOPEZ	Ricardo	Australia/China	U.S. Province
	Fr.	KANG'OMBE *	Joseph	Zambia	Zambia
	Fr.	NKADIMENG*	Thabang	N.So.Africa	N.So.Africa
07.12	Fr.	LABAGLAY	Federico	Gen. Admin.	Philippines
09.12	Fr.	JANKOWICZ	Stanislaw	Poland	Poland
09.12	Fr.	COUGHLIN	Thomas	Gen. Admin.	U.S. Province

Oblates in First Formation

(reported as of January 2012)

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
2011	685	17	*132	*72	*74
2010	672	19	82	47	32
2009	632	28	104	76	46
2008	698	27	89	74	64
2007	675	29	115	55	69
2006	723	30	156	71	50
2005	682	27	121	50	63
2004	671	28	129	66	63
2003	643	36	132	67	63
2002	657	29	130	78	76
2001	622	34	112	68	59

*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 2012.

Deaths and Departures

Deaths in **2011: 108** (2 Bishops, 92 Priests, 14 Brothers)

2010: **92** 2009: **110** 2008: **91** 2007: **113** 2006: **92** 2005: **94** 2004: **113** 2003: **102**

Departures **reported** in **2011: 47** (16 priests, 31 scholastics)

2010: 51 (12 priests, 39 scholastics)

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

2008: 75 (16 priests, 54 scholastics, 5 Brothers)

2007: 85 (19 priests, 64 scholastics, 2 Brothers)

2006: 67 (8 priests, 56 scholastics, 3 Brothers)

2011:

-31 scholastics did not renew their temporary vows.

-6 priests were dismissed from the Congregation.

-5 priests were laicized.

-3 priests were incardinated into dioceses.

-2 priests transferred to other religious families.

Europe

ANGLO-IRISH PROVINCE

Under the Oblate banner in Lourdes

Every year almost 1000 people travel to Lourdes, under the Oblate banner, in response to Mary's invitation to St. Bernadette that we should come in procession. Gerald Bennett, who took part in this year's pilgrimage, shares his experience.

Not for the first time in all the years of coming to Lourdes, the rain was pelting down on our arrival in Lourdes this year. As Oblates, we make our pilgrimage to the Shrine in September on the same dates each year, irrespective of the day of the week. Being later in the season, rain is a risk and so this was our start this year.

Every year, we do the same pilgrimage exercises: Mass at the Grotto, the Stations of the Cross, the Mass of the Anointing, participation in the Blessed Sacrament procession and the Marian Torchlight procession, so you'd be forgiven for thinking that it must all be so routine, all the very same. But it is not, and that is one of the mysteries of Lourdes. What makes it all so different each year? For me, the answer is clear. It is the 'special guests' whom we have the privilege to bring there and to care for over five days each year. The deep desire of so many people to come to this Grotto in the south of France and to spend time there in prayer to Our Lady, and to bathe in the waters is something that is so very hard to describe. The late Fr Willie MCGONIGLE, who was, in his later years, Spiritual Director to the special guests, used to say about Lourdes at least once each year during the early morning Mass for the workers, that "for those who have not been, no words are possible; for those who have, no words are necessary." What a wonderfully wise way to sum up the experience that so many of us have when we come here. People come here to confide in Our Lady, our Mother, knowing that she has a listening ear, and for the sick, and especially the sick, Our Lady has a most special listening ear.

And so, year in, and year out, the deep wish to go to Lourdes and spend time at the Grotto is fulfilled when we land at Lourdes airport. Despite

the tiredness that will often accompany the arrival into Lourdes, one can see in the eyes and hear in the conversation of our guests, the excitement that very soon, they will be within metres of the Grotto and in the town selected by Our Lady and where she appeared to St Bernadette. The days go by quickly. The sun peeks out on the second day and after that, beautiful days. The pilgrimage itself does not have to be penitential in nature; it is intended to be fun, to give our guests the opportunity to meet and talk (and reminisce, as so often happens). For many of our guests, living at home may be a lonely existence so during these days in Lourdes, we want our guests to know that we care; that while we cannot change the lonely days that may be their life at home, for those days with us, they are the centre of attention; that they are loved.

As volunteers, we have a lot to do. Getting to Lourdes is a huge logistical challenge; making sure everything runs smoothly takes a huge amount of planning, cooperation and working together by every one of the volunteers. For some, it will be their first time; for others, it has been too long to remember. But we work together, with one purpose – to be of service. All too soon, it is time to head back for the airport once again. Where have the days gone? As we make the return journey to the airport, the anticipation of being home is obvious with our guests, but so are the wistful glances as we leave Lourdes for another year. Yes, maybe a tear or two in some eyes – and not just those of the guests! (Gerard Bennett in *Oblate Connections*, December 2011)

CENTRAL EUROPEAN PROVINCE

Fr. Josef Metzler, OMI: 1921-2012

On January 12, 2012, Fr. Josef METZLER, Prefect-emeritus of the Secret Vatican Archives, died in Hünfeld, Germany. He was in his 72nd year of oblation and his 63rd year of priesthood.

In a website describing a book published in 1994 in his honor, *Ecclesiae Memoria*, these words describe the special ministry Fr. Metzler exercised for many years:

“Being a missionary in today's Church can take on many diverse forms and activities. One of these is patiently and competently gathering, classifying, evaluating, making available, and exploiting documents and data that illustrate the evangelizing fields and zeal of frontline missionaries who have planted the Lord's church among the peoples of this world. Father Josef Metzler, O.M.I., presently prefect of the Vatican Secret Archives, is such a discreet and specialized missionary...” (<http://www.thefreelibrary.com>)

Ecclesiae Memoria, was edited by Fr. Metzler's Oblate confrere and then librarian at the Urbaniana University in Rome, Fr. Willi HENKEL.

Fr. Metzler was in charge of the Missionary Archives of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (Propaganda Fide) from 1966 to 1984. That year, he was appointed Prefect of the Vatican Secret Archives, a post he held until his retirement in 1996. Over the years, he was co-editor of the *Bibliotheca Missionum* and of the *Bibliographia Missionaria* and he wrote many scholarly works on the history of the missions. Noteworthy among his writings are two volumes on the Synods of local churches in Asia: *Die Synoden in China, Japan und Korea (1570-1931)*; *Die Synoden in Indochina (1625-1934)* and the three volume work *Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide Memoria Rerum* of which he was editor.

ITALY

Remembering a companion

Fr. Nino BUCCA, the Director of Oblate Communications Service and the webmaster of www.omiworld.org wrote a brief note of homage for one of his scholasticate companions who died recently at a very young age.

Father Angiolino DI LIZIA is the second of my scholasticate companions to depart for the community in heaven, after Father Giovanni SANTOLINI. He died at the age of 58, during the night of January 18-19, after a long battle with leukemia.

The first memories that come to mind involve a couple of months we spent together in Lourdes

in far-off 1978 and some of our crazy attempts to put together some sentences in French; his passionate love for the Milan soccer team; and his impatience when confronted with fans of other teams.

As often happens for many of us, our apostolic life separates us for a long time. I met him again as parish pastor in a suburb, working with the poor and even constructing the church. Then I met him once more as I read his licentiate thesis when I had to write an article on our community in Marino which, in the 70's and 80's was bringing new energy to the Italian Province. His writings give a clear idea of how well he knew that experience: “The Youth Center of Marino is not a place for cultivating Oblate vocations; it is not a more open kind of seminary, but it is a place where a religious community offers to youth the possibility of having a community and gospel-centered experience in freedom and in participation, helping them in their search for and in the confirmation of their life project [...] As the basis of the Marino experience, there are two fundamental realities: the discovery of one's brother as a member of the Body of Christ, called to a common following of the Master, and the mutual love which the presence of the Lord engenders [...]” Then we saw each other again, some years ago, in his final assignment, the community of Palermo in Sicily. Each time, I had the impression of a person who was growing ever more mature, ever more rooted in God.

During his illness, his parishioners were the image of their pastor: with affection and gratitude, together with the Oblate community, they helped him 24 hours a day. Since Christmas night of 2011, the day of his last Mass, until the end, the parish community stayed his course, trying to advance all of the programs developed by the pastor and the Pastoral Council.

At about 23:30 on January 18, a neighboring pastor joined the Oblates and some of the faithful who were present with Angiolino on his death bed. He too wanted to pray the “Our Father” and then, the “Hail Mary.” Right after the words, “pray for us now and at the hour of our death,” he gently breathed his last.

He had written: "What is left in life is an ever deeper and an ever more mature union with God which refocuses you so as to live every moment within the humanity of today, as persons who are in the world, but not of the world. It is a personal relationship with God wherein He is everything in our life and we are nothing, but He fills us with his Love so that we can be His living Presence among the people with whom we come into contact [...] I have tried never to break unity with the brethren, but to bend myself so that this unity might not come up short among us [...] In my ministry, I have experienced that what counts is not so much activity but being a living presence of Jesus, because it is He who touches hearts and we are only instruments in His hands."

ITALY

Scholasticate dedicated to the Oblate Spanish Martyrs

On January 14, during the celebration of Eucharist presided by Father General, the house and the community of the scholasticate in Vermicino were dedicated to the Oblate Spanish Martyrs.

The idea, which took shape a few weeks after the beatification of the martyrs of Pozuelo, had grown ever since the day on which the beatification was announced. The appropriateness and the inspiration came from another Oblate scholasticate, namely that of Pozuelo, which as a community offered their utmost witness to Christ Jesus, together with their Father Provincial (Francisco Esteban Lacal) who remained with all the members, scholastics and formators, as a real older brother, as well as a layman (Candido Castan).

In the context of the unification of the provinces of Italy and Spain, which in some ways has already been anticipated in Vermicino, where Italian and Spanish Oblate students have been living together for many years, this gesture seemed natural and not just fitting.

The title chosen, "Oblate Martyrs," is also meant to symbolize the bonds of the community with all the other confreres in various parts of the world, those many who have offered their lives for the mission. For the members of the scholasticate community, all of our martyred confreres are true models of life and oblation.

In the Superior General's homily, he said: "There is no doubt about the fact that we are missionaries and we are invited to proclaim the Gospel to the poor. But we are also servants and friends of Jesus, and the mission is His. It is essential and indispensable that we become passionate about God. I believe it is necessary that God takes hold of us and seduces us and takes over our very being so that we can belong to Him. This passion will be the motivation for our growing as mature persons from the human point of view, but also as missionaries who sacrifice their lives and who make of them an oblation for God, for the Gospel and for the Church. That was what motivated the Oblate martyrs."

From now on, living in a community that bears their name will be a source of renewed motivation for our commitment to formation. (Scholastic Gianluca RIZZARO)

Asia-Oceania

PHILIPPINES

Using videos to speak up for the poor

Since 1988, the United States Embassy in the Philippines has organized an even to honor outstanding Filipinos in the fields of journalism and public service. On December 6, 2011, Oblate Fr. Eduardo "Ponpon" VASQUEZ was the recipient of the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Fellowship for Professional Development for his work in journalism.

In his address to those attending the award presentation in Manila, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Philippines, made these comments about Fr. Ponpon:

"Since 2003, Father Ponpon Vasquez has been serving bravely, as priest and media man, in Maguindanao Province, where we all know conflict exists. In 2006, he founded i-Watch, a media outfit under the Oblate Communications Philippines. i-Watch produces documentaries

that draw attention to the detrimental effects of armed conflict on innocent civilians.

“For all his good work, Father Ponpon has even received death threats from some parties, which has forced his congregation to ask him to go on hiatus for his personal safety. But despite the dangers he faces, he maintains that what motivates him is simple: that his documentaries give the poor a voice—that they allow the poor to be recognized in society.”

With his media efforts, Fr. Ponpon wants to empower the indigenous peoples as they strive for electoral reforms, and help them to preserve their culture through audio recording of tribal music and dances and filming the lives of their neglected far-flung communities.

A video of the award presentation may be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEg0uRE69kI&feature=related>

Latin America

URUGUAY

The Saint Eugene scout troop

The Saint Eugene scout troop belongs to the parish of San Rafael del Cerro in Montevideo, Uruguay, and it tries to live the Oblate charism.

Its story began in 2010 when Fr. Stefano CARTABIA, the pastor, had the idea of starting a scout troop in the parish; he passed on the idea to the parish council which some time later approved it.

Then we began the work of forming future leaders by the one in charge of the troop who was already a scout. On May 26, we had the first activity with boys from the barrio and others from Casabó.

It began with only one scout rank and a total of four leaders; at the end of the year, there were only two, but the group grew. They joined other leaders already trained by a friendly group from “Colon-Montevideo.”

Today, the group is one year and seven months old. Presently, the group has three ranks: cubs (8-10 years old), scouts (11-13 years old), and pioneers (14-16 years old). There are a total of 26 children and teenagers and 7 leaders.

The leaders are not from the barrio; we come from different places: Colon, Sayago, Camino Maldonado and Pando. Therefore, one of our goals is to get leaders from the site because that’s the only way the group will have a future.

We ask you to pray for us and our scout group so that it continues to grow and succeeds in living the Oblate charism. (Gonzalo Bachino, Group leader)

BOLIVIA

Broadcasting from the mountains

Fr. Roberto DURETTE has been working for many years in radio ministry in the high elevations of Bolivia. In his New Year’s greetings, he brings his friends up to date:

As for what is going on in my life, I am still living a good part of it on the Altiplano (4,000 meters altitude = 13,000 ft.) in the famous tin mines. Once in awhile I travel to Cochabamba to recharge my batteries, that is, take in a bit more oxygen to give my repaired heart a rest. Cochabamba is about 8,000 ft. altitude. The climate is gorgeous with plenty of sun.

I am still involved with the Pio XII radio stations that the Oblates founded many years ago in 1959 (53 years). We have started our small network linking the radio that we have in Siglo XX (tin mine) with those in Cochabamba and Oruro, known as Red Pio XII (Pio XII network). We are working on a new experience. We have installed small FM stations in two Indian villages in our region (one of the poorest of the country) that will serve to promote participation in and social control of the development of their municipalities.

We also take part in a national network called ERBOL, which Radio XII helped found in 1967.

This network is comprised of more than 100 stations throughout Bolivia and we produce each day news bulletins, cultural programs in Spanish, Quechua, Aymara and Guarani languages. The latter are the main languages spoken by the majority of the indigenous peoples of Bolivia. Radio Pio XII has been a pioneer in fighting for better working conditions for the tin miners and the promotion of the human rights of the indigenous peoples. And for that, the station in the past has suffered many military interventions and closures.

As you probably know Bolivia is the first country in Latin America to elect an indigenous president. There are many changes that are

going on in the country. For the first time in over 500 years one can see indigenous people going in and out of the presidential palace in La Paz. This is very symbolic and promising. A new constitution has been approved in which the rights of the indigenous peoples have been recognized for the first time. Bolivia is over 60% indigenous but has been ruled by the white minority since its independence in 1825. That same minority resists the changes. Like any political process, there are bright and somber moments. But all in all, Bolivia is marching towards a more just society. And people say that we (Radio Pio XII) have made a small but important contribution to this political process. (Gus' News Notes, January 2012)

Africa-Madagascar

CAMEROON

Christmas in the prison

On December 21, 2011, we had the third edition of the "Ceremony of the Christmas tree" at the Central Prison in Garoua. It is project begun in 2009 by the "Program of Christian preachers" at the prison. Over the past year, Fr. Thierry SIMO (provincial secretary in the Cameroon) has been in charge of leading this program as chaplain in the Garoua prison. So, on December 21, Archbishop Antoine Ntalou of Garoua was present, as in previous years, to celebrate this Eucharist. While emphasizing his delight at being there in this place so in need of human warmth, he recalled that it is not a place to stay forever, for "no one is made for prison." On this

occasion, which was interspersed by cultural activities, the program offered a hearty meal to the 1300 residents of the prison.

Ministry in prisons is something dear to the Oblates. We recall that from the beginning of his priestly ministry, Saint Eugene de Mazenod went into the prisons of Aix to manifest the presence of Christ to those who are dear to Him (Matt. 25:36). Today, this presence is felt in a startling way in a changing society, both nationally and internationally. Through this commitment, we rekindle our fundamental choice to be where our dear humanity is so sorely lacking, so that our "preferential option for the poor with their many faces" might still be up front. (Fr. Thierry Simo)

Anniversaries for March 2012

70 years of religious life

1942.03.19	07950	Bro. Robert Bergeron	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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65 years of religious life

1947.03.02	08805	Bro. Thomas Cruise	United States
1947.03.19	08807	Bro. Edmond Galarneau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

65 years of priesthood

1947.03.01	07427	Fr. Jean Michal	France
1947.03.22	07369	Fr. Tomás Domínguez	Spain

60 years of religious life

1952.03.16	09217	Fr. Vincent de Paul Siebert	Australia
1952.03.19	09871	Bro. Mathieu Bellefleur	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

60 years of priesthood

1952.03.02	08168	Fr. Ernesto del Blanco	Spain
1952.03.02	08305	Fr. Germán Fernández	Argentina-Chile
1952.03.02	08170	Fr. José María Garmón	Argentina-Chile

50 years of religious life

1962.03.19	11622	Bro. Blaise MacQuarrie	Peru
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50 years of priesthood

1962.03.18	10213	Fr. Stanislaw Heller	Poland
1962.03.18	10132	Fr. Franciszek Kaczmarek	Poland
1962.03.18	10134	Fr. Kazimierz Rychlik	Poland
1962.03.18	10125	Fr. Leon Witek	Poland

25 years of religious life

1987.03.21	13092	Fr. Athanasius von Wedon	Assumption
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Prayers for our deceased

No. 1-8

NAME	PROV./Del.	BORN	DIED AT	DATE
Fr. John Davis	OMI Lacombe	08/05/1929	Stittsville	07/01/2012
Fr. Gervais Labbé	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	13/04/1930	Richelieu	07/01/2012
Fr. Josef Metzler	Central European	07/02/1921	Hünfeld	12/01/2012
Bro. Alexander Sampson	OMI Lacombe	09/01/1916	St. Albert	15/01/2012
Fr. Angiolino Di Lizia	Italy	09/12/1953	Palermo	18/01/2012
Fr. Fernand Moyse	Colombo	14/02/1919	Colombo	27/01/2012
Fr. Noel Peters	Natal	22/03/1938	Durban	28/01/2012
Fr. Fernand Estève	France	25/06/1919	Lyon	29/01/2012

“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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