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Father General's letter for February 17, 2014

Gratitude to our Oblate Brothers

L.J.C. et M.I.

Dear Brother Oblates,

Blessings for a Happy Feast Day! This is a day of great thanksgiving for the grace of our vocation. Thank you for your missionary lives of generous service and dedication, lived in so many challenging ways and making known the Good News all over the world! I thank you for your life-giving oblation. I would like to recognize also the rich collaboration and mutual interaction between vowed Oblates and Associates inspired in the charism of St. Eugene around the globe.

On this special feast in the first year of our Oblate Triennium, dedicated to a new heart in Apostolic Community and to reflection around the vow of chastity, I would like to say a word on the vocation of Oblate Brothers. This topic also follows on my letter of December 8, 2013, regarding vocations. Last year the Central Government dedicated substantial time to study the vocation of Oblate Brothers. In seeking the renewal of our religious life, the Oblate Triennium calls us to recognize an essential dimension of our charism: the vocation of Oblate Brothers. It is not just 'really great' to have Brothers in the Congregation; they are necessary to who we are as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. If we do not have religious Brothers among us, the Congregation is not what it should be.

When the Church approached the Millennium, Pope John Paul II publically requested forgiveness of many different groups in the Church. I don't believe he asked forgiveness of religious Brothers. In this letter I, as Superior General, would like to ask forgiveness of our Oblate Brothers for the mistreatment, lack of respect, discrimination, and oppression of many kinds with which Oblate Brothers have been treated in the Congregation over decades. We priests, superiors and formators were often lacking in humanity and charity toward Oblate Brothers. We have sinned and I ask you to forgive us.

While there have been many advances made in how we live in common as Brothers and priests, and in our understanding of the vocation of Brothers, we still need a change of mentality. There exist misunderstandings and disrespectful ideas about Brothers in areas such as the discernment of Brothers' vocations; the formation and accompaniment of Brothers; the necessity of Brothers in the Congregation; the role of Brothers in a clerical congregation. I urge each of us to examine our lives and attitudes and to ask for the grace of conversion in growing to appreciate the person and mission of Oblate Brothers.

When the Union of Superiors General was preparing for our visit to Pope Francis at the end of November, 2013, one of the concerns we raised with him was that of religious Brothers. He lamented the lack of a real understanding of this vocation in the Church today. With us he is concerned about the rapid drop in the number of Brothers in the Church and the great loss this signifies. When it was announced that 2015 will be dedicated to Consecrated Life, he told us that during this year a special emphasis has to be given to the place of religious Brothers in the life of the Church.

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On this feast day I invite us all to consider a sign of conversion in relation to Oblate Brothers. We can begin by expressing our gratitude to the Brothers among us for their lives and their mission. In organizing its vocation ministry, each Unit might envision how it can encourage more vocations to the Oblate Brotherhood. Each Unit could see how it can implement the Congregation's formation program for Brothers so that no young Brother is ever left abandoned to an improvised formation program. Let us find ways to cherish the memory of Oblate Brothers who have gone to the Father's House. I would like each Oblate Unit to consider reclaiming the Solemnity of Saint Joseph each year as a special day to pray for, celebrate, and raise consciousness about, the vocation of Oblate Brothers. A simple sign of change would be to cease using "Oblate Fathers" to identify ourselves. A phrase such as "Missionary Oblates" or the like might be an alternative. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us in rediscovering, understanding and affirming the vocation of Oblate Brothers in our Congregation.

Happy Feast Day!

Your brother Oblate in Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Father Louis Lougen, OMI Rome, 17 February 2014

Holy See

VATICAN A new Oblate Cardinal!

During his weekly "Angelus" encounter with the faithful, on Sunday, January 12, 2014, Pope Francis announced the names of 19 new Cardinals for the Church. Among them is an Oblate of Mary Immaculate, Archbishop Orlando Beltran QUEVEDO, of Cotabato, Philippines. He will be inducted into the College of Cardinals during a consistory on February 22.

Born in 1939 in Laoag, Ilcos Norte, Philippines, he professed his first vows as an Oblate in Mission, Texas (USA) in 1957. He returned to the Philippines to study philosophy and then returned to the United States to study theology at Oblate College in Washington, D.C. where he was ordained a priest in 1964.

Much of his ministry, prior to being named a bishop, was in education and formation. Among other things, he was President of Notre Dame University in Cotabato (1970-76) and Superior of the Oblate Scholasticate in Quezon City (1979-80). In 1980, he was appointed Bishop of the Prelature of Kidapawan (made a diocese in 1983). In 1986, he became the Archbishop of Nueva Segovia where he served until 1998 when he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Cotabato.

In 1999-2003 he served as president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and was General Secretary of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. He was also a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (1991-2001) and the General Council for the Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops (1994-2000) in Rome.

General Administration

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT Fr. General's remarks about Cardinal-elect Quevedo

"By naming Archbishop Quevedo cardinal, Pope Francis is giving a signal to all of us: it is the recognition of a very committed missionary, a priest and bishop who leads by serving others, whose main concern is the Gospel and the poor and who has worked tirelessly to promote friendship between Christians and Muslims, to support their struggle to live together in respect and peace," stated Fr. Louis Lougen, OMI, Superior General of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the religious congregation to which Msgr. Quevedo, Archbishop of Cotabato, on the island of Mindanao, belongs.

Fr. Lougen explains: "Archbishop Quevedo is a man of the Church with many gifts and who has

always chosen to live simply and whose option as a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate has always been to be very close to the poor. He is a man of compassion, joy and generosity. Pope Francis is showing what kind of Church we are called to be by naming Archbishop Quevedo as cardinal". The Superior says he is convinced that for Quevedo, this honor at being designated a cardinal is not to be "a prince of the Church" but is a confirmation that the Church, and Archbishop Quevedo's own life, are "to be like Jesus, a servant who washed the disciples feet".

"As Oblates of Mary Immaculate we are happy and proud," he continues, "and rejoice in his being recognized for his prophetic ministry as religious, missionary, priest and archbishop".

Fr. Lougen concludes with a hope for peace in Southern Philippines: "The process of peace depends on the efforts of everyone. It is my hope that this honor may bring attention to the importance of dialogue, respect and peace-building and may reinforce the commitment of all of us to this process." (Fides, 14 January 2014)

GENERAL HOUSE "Ai tempi nostri...!" (In our day...!)

"In our day...!" Often Brother Vito DI BIASE would lament the past as he faithfully carried out his duties at the General House. On January 10, 2014, he went to his eternal reward at the Oblate community in Santa Maria a Vico, Italy, where he had moved in 2012 after 60 years of service at the International Scholasticate (until 1959) and then at the General House. He had arrived for the first time at the community in Santa Maria a Vico to begin his Oblate formation in 1938. He ended his earthly journey in the same place, which happens to be the first Oblate community in the former Italian Province. He had pronounced his first vows in 1941, in the midst of an ugly war that caused him much personal distress.

Countless visitors at the General House will remember Brother Vito who preferred to speak only Italian, although it is suspected that he knew more French than he would admit. But in English, he could wish his fellow Oblates "Good appetite!" Fr. Fabio CIARDI, in his personal blog, sums up beautifully the personality of Brother Vito:

"Discipline! Silence! In the days of Father LABOURÉ...." It was Brother Vito's theme song, as he lamented the fact that in the house there was too much noise (some tiny disruption in the long, silent corridors!); that there was no longer the strictness of the beautiful days when Fr. Labouré was Superior General (in the 1930's!).

"Were those days really better?" I asked him when he came by my office to stop and chat. And he would answer immediately: "No, no, these days are better, even without the silence and the discipline. Now people love each other more."

He suffered in his days because there was the old mentality (not so much Christian but rather the legacy of feudal customs) of the rigid division between the Fathers and the Brothers.

Now old and sick, he spent his days praying the rosary and watering the flowers on the window sills. From the past, he kept the good traditions of punctuality, regular faithfulness to community prayer and a sense of sacrifice.

Yesterday when I went to see him at Santa Maria a Vico, in Caserta, where for a year he had retired in the infirmary, I was greeted with the usual smile in his eyes. He left us for Heaven 24 hours later. Like every Oblate, he presented himself at the gates of Heaven with this passport: "I am an Oblate of Mary Immaculate." Eugene said that that was enough to get in.

At his funeral at Santa Maria a Vico, in the presence of about 30 Oblates, the homilist was Fr. Gilberto PIÑÓN, Assistant General and former superior of the General House. He remarked: "Bro. Vito has already reached his final day. And we give thanks to God for the gifts received in the person of Bro. Vito: gifts of service and the witness of his religious life. Bro. Vito not only survived the Second World War but many other types of "wars" that he experienced in so many years spent in religious life: wars of fatigue in the humble service of a Brother, wars of illness.

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"Often he said: "I remember our old days...", remembering religious life before Vatican II as he continued his life of service, always remembering in his heart "those days", but accepting the

newness of consecrated life. It was not easy, but he leaves us with a very valuable testimony of Oblate perseverance."

GENERAL SECRETARIAT Statistics 2014

GENERAL STATISTICS – 1 January 2014

	JA	NUA	RY 20	14		JANUARY 2013						
Total	Fr	B 1	B2	PD	Schol.		Total	Fr	B 1	B2	PD	Schol.
40	36	4	0	0	0	General Admin.	38	34	4	0	0	0
837	536	62	1	0	238	Africa- Madagascar	856	531	61	5	0	259
472	347	29	2	0	94	Latin America	471	336	28	2	0	105
757	575	29	0	0	153	Asia- Oceania	763	553	26	2	0	182
776	652	110	0	2	12	Canada- USA	802	674	114	0	2	12
1013	834	114	0	4	61	Europe	1060	868	119	0	4	69
3895	*2980	348	3	6	558	Total	3990	*2996	352	9	6	627

^{*}Of whom 47 are bishops and 3 are priests in temporal vows

In the above table, each Oblate is counted in the **Region** to which he belongs. For example, the Oblates in Zambia are counted only in Africa-Madagascar, although they are members of the United States Province. The scholastics in Rome are listed in their home Region. "B1." indicates perpetually professed Brothers, and "B2" the Brothers who are still in first formation. PD refers to an Oblate Brother who is a permanent deacon.

SUMMARY (as of January 1, 2014)

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January	January	+/-
	2013	2014	
Cardinal	1	1	
Archbishops	11	11	
Bishops	31	35	+4
Prefects Apostolic	0	1	+1
Priests	2950	2929	-22
Priests with temporary vows	3	3	
Brothers with perpetual vows	352	348	-4
Brothers who are permanent deacons	6	6	
Brothers with temporary vows	9	3	-6
Scholastics with perpetual vows	139	100	-39
Scholastics with temporary vows	488	458	-30
Total number of Oblates	3990	3895	-95

PERSONNEL BY UNIT

(as of December 31, 2013)

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.A	r.Ep.	Ep.	Pr.A _l	o. Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T. I	Deac.	Tot.
Administration	0	0	0	0	36	4	0	0	0	0	0	40
Total	: 0	0	0	0	36	4	0	0	0	0	0	40

AFRICA-MADAGASCAR

	Card.A	r.Ep.	Ep.	Pr.A _]	p. Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Angola	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Botswana	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Cameroun	0	0	4	0	62	14	0	0	7	37	0	124
Central S. A.	0	0	2	0	29	2	0	0	0	3	0	36
Congo	0	0	1	0	95	14	0	0	11	41	0	162
Kenya	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	1	2	0	11
Lesotho	0	2	3	0	72	14	0	0	4	30	0	125
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	39	4	0	0	3	24	0	70
Namibia	0	1	2	0	29	4	0	0	1	2	0	39
Natal	0	1	1	0	42	0	0	0	6	4	0	54
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	4	7	0	24
Northern S. A.	0	1	1	0	39	1	0	0	1	3	0	46
Sahara	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Senegal	0	0	0	0	30	3	0	0	4	7	0	44
Zambia	0	0	1	0	29	4	0	1	8	20	0	63
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	8	1	1	0	2	6	0	18
Total	: 0	5	15	1	514	62	1	1	52	186	0	837

LATIN AMERICA

	Card.	Ar.Ep.	Ep.	Pr.A _j	p. Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Argentina-Chile	0	0	1	0	37	1	0	0	1	0	0	40
Baja California	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	16	7	0	0	3	1	0	27
Brazil	0	0	0	0	51	3	0	0	1	5	0	60
Brazil Central	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Colombia	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	1	1	0	14
Cuba	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
French Guiana	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	14	1	0	0	2	13	0	30
Haiti	0	0	1	0	86	9	2	0	4	39	0	141
Mexico	0	0	0	0	34	2	0	0	4	9	0	49
Paraguay	0	0	1	0	27	2	0	1	0	4	0	35
Peru	0	0	0	0	18	3	0	0	1	3	0	25
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	13
Venezuela	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
Total:	0	0	3	0	343	29	2	1	17	77	0	472

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ASIA-OCEANIA

	Card.A	Ar.Ep.	Ep.	Pr.A	p. Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Australia	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	27	0	0	0	0	5	0	33
China	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	2	0	15
Colombo	0	0	1	0	111	12	0	0	3	18	0	145
India	0	0	0	0	82	1	0	0	0	19	0	102
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	32	1	0	0	1	5	0	39
Jaffna	0	0	0	0	88	2	0	0	0	24	0	114
Japan - Korea	0	0	0	0	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	24
Korea	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	0	9
Pakistan	0	1	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	15	0	42
Philippines	0	1	1	0	81	7	0	0	0	18	0	108
Thailand	0	0	1	0	15	1	0	0	0	4	0	21
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	14	4	0	0	11	26	0	55
Total	: 0	2	4	0	569	29	0	0	15	138	0	757

CANADA-UNITED STATES

	Card.Aı	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.Ap	. Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T. I	eac.	Tot.
Assumption	0	0	0	0	48	3	0	0	0	2	0	53
Lacombe	0	3	5	0	173	30	0	0	0	0	0	211
Notre-Dame-du	ı-Cap 0	0	3	0	154	58	0	0	0	0	2	217
United States	1	1	1	0	263	19	0	0	2	8	0	295
Total	: 1	4	9	0	638	110	0	0	2	10	2	776

EUROPE

(Card.A	\r.Ep.	Ep.	Pr.Ap	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Anglo-Irish	0	0	0	0	74	4	0	0	0	0	0	78
Belgium/Holland	0	0	0	0	67	11	0	0	0	0	3	81
Byelorussia	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Central European	n 0	0	0	0	102	27	0	1	0	3	0	133
France	0	0	0	0	123	20	0	0	0	0	0	143
France/Benelux	0	0	0	0	32	1	0	0	0	0	0	33
Lourdes	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mediterranean	0	0	2	0	158	11	0	0	0	6	1	178
Poland	0	0	0	0	234	36	0	0	12	38	0	320
Romania	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ukraine	0	0	2	0	27	4	0	0	2	0	0	35
Total:	0	0	4	0	829	114	0	1	14	47	4	1013
Total:	1	11	35	1	2929	348	3	3	100	458	6	3895

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

Perpetual Oblations – (reported in 2013)

No.	SURNAME	NAME	DATE	DIOC. OF ORIGIN	UNIT
14584	BORGELLAS	Consciant	08.12.2008	Les Cayes	Haiti
14616	DIOUF	Benoît	27.06.2010	Dakar	Senegal

14605	ROJAS MENDOZA	German	08.09.2011	Girardot	Haiti/Colombia
14606	BANG	Thomas	06.10.2012	Douala	Cameroun
14607	CHIAKA	Donatus	06.10.2012	Aba	Nigeria
14608	NWAOHUOCHA	Marcellus	06.10.2012	Okigwe	Nigeria
14609	YUNDULA AZIZ	Idal	06.10.2012	Brazzaville	Cameroun
14578	LIBE	Leonard	03,12,2012	Maseru	Lesotho
14579	MATSOSO	Bernard	03.12.2012	Qacha's Nek	Lesotho
14568	MUSILIZO	Pius	01.01.2013	Lusaka	Zambia
14573	OTAZU	Alvarenga	27.01.2013	Alto Parana	Paraguay
14571	KALEBWE	Faustino	28.01.2013	kasama	Zambia
14572	LITIYA	George	28.01.2013	Mongu	Zambia
14574	CHIMHOWA	Ernest	18.02.2013	Bulawayo	Zimbabwe
14575	MHLANGA	John	18,02,2013	Bulawayo	Zimbabwe
14576	DLADLA	Bongani	18.02.2013	Johannesburg	NPSouth Africa
14577	SILVA CASTILLO	Cesar	16.02.2013	Cd. Guzman	Mexico
14617	NOVA DELGADO	Giovanny	09.03.2013	San Cristobal	Venezuela
14580	ALI NNAEMEKA	Cornelius	11.05.2013	Nsukka	Nigeria
14581	FELIX	Walter	11,05,2013	Les Cayes	Haiti
14582	FERNANDO	Warnakulasuriya	11,05,2013	Colombo	Sri Lanka
14583	GLABAS	Grzegorz Piotr	11,05,2013	Opole	Poland
14597	SOKI	Pascal	15.06.2013	Kinshasa	Congo
14614	MAKUNKA	Bright	19.07.2013	Zambia	Zambia
14615	MWALA	Cornhill	19.07.2013	Mongu	Zambia
14590	DLAMINI	Michael	09.08.2013	Durban	Natal
14591	MKHIZE		09.08.2013	Durban	Natal
14610	BADJI	Bongumusa Simon	11,08,2013	Ziguinchor	Senegal
14611	FAYE	Pascal	11,08,2013	Kaolack	Senegal
14612	FAYE	Paul	11,08,2013	Dakar	Senegal
14613	MANDIKA	Paul	11,08,2013	Kolda	
14594	KANDE	Honoré	15.08.2013	Kananga	Senegal
14595	KIMBUNGU		15.08.2013	Kananga Kikwit	Congo
		Theophile Gabriel	15.08.2013	Kinshasa	Congo
14596	MATAKUMBA		25.08.2013	Kinsnasa Kikwit	Congo
14598	MBIKI	Dieudonne	31.08.2013		Congo Zambia
14585	CHOTA	Terence		Ndola	
14586	ESQUEDA	Jesus	31.08.2013	Guadalajara	United States
14587	URIBE	David	31.08.2013	Lubbock	United States
14588	PIERRE	Johnny	08.09.2013	Jérémie	Haiti
14589	SANDERE	Jean Vingt-Trois	08.09.2013	Les Cayes	Haiti
14599	HETMAN	Adam	08.09.2013	Poznan	Poland
14600	KROL	Marcin	08.09.2013	Siedlce	Poland
14601	LOIN	Ryszard	08.09.2013	Lodz	Poland
14602	SAWICKI	Bogdan	08.09.2013	Charkowsko-Zaporozska	Poland
14603	WRZOS	Krzysztof	08.09.2013	Bydgoszcz	Poland
14592	TĂNG KIM LONG	Gérard	14.09.2013	Da Lat	Vietnam
14593	VŨ DUY TÂN	Nicôlas	14.09.2013	Long Xuyen	Vietnam
14604	KUMARA	Anton	10.10.2013	Colombo	Sri Lanka
14618	ACOSTA GONZÁLEZ	Cristóbal	22.12.2013	Villarrica	Paraguay

Obediences - 2013 Asterisk (*) = First obedience

Date	Title	Surname	Name	Origin	Destination
30.01.	Fr.	JEYASINGHAM	Albert	Mediterranean	Jaffna
02.05.	Fr.	HONG *	Jangwon	Japan-Korea	Japan-Korea
02.05.	Sc.	BERTIS *	Michael	Philippines	Philippines

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02.05.	Sc.	DELFIN *	Marjeo	Philippines	Philippines
05.02.	Sc.	PACATE *	Danilo	Philippines	Philippines
05.02.	Sc.	PAGENTE *	Mark	Philippines	Philippines
02.05.	Fr.	FRANCIS	Davidraj	Australia	Australia
02.05.	Fr.	BODÉNÈS	Pierre-Marie	Cameroun	France
02.05.	Fr.	LIEKENS	Ernesto	Mexico	
12.02.		IBWIDI *	David		Belgium
	Sc. Sc.	MALENGILA *		Congo	Congo
12.02. 12.02.			Christian	Congo	Congo
	Sc.	MBWILANSE *	Jean-Baptiste	Congo	Congo
12.02.	Fr.	KANDENGE SHIKONGO *	Simon-Petrus	Namibia	Namibia
12.02.	Fr.	MBANJWA *	Cyprian	Natal	Natal
12.02.	Fr.	SIKORA	Jozef	Assumption	Assumption
12.02.	Fr.	NEKONDO *	Rufus Mashumba	Namibia	Namibia
12.02.	Fr.	ROZARIO *	Rupak	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
12.02.	Sc.	DIATANG *	Mirabeau	Cameroun	Cameroun
14.02.	Fr.	FINNEY *	Jacob	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
14.02.	Sc.	PITA *	Selbourne	Lesotho	Lesotho
14.02.	Sc.	LIBE *	Leonard	Lesotho	Lesotho
15.02.	Fr.	HAUSIKU *	Timotheus	Namibia	Namibia
12.02.	Fr.	GENICO	Edmond	Haiti	Belgium
26.02.	Sc.	GASPAR M. *	Juan	United States	United States
26.02.	Fr.	LYNDE	Michel	Thailand	France
26.02.	Fr.	KRZESIK	Tomasz	Poland	Assumption
26.02.	Fr.	MARIYANAYAGAM	Rayappu	Lesotho	Colombo
27.02.	Fr.	RIVAROLA BENITEZ	Marcos	Uruguay	Paraguay
01.03.	Sc.	ANDRÉ *	Wilson E.	Haiti	Haiti
27.03.	Fr.	MEHNGA *	Nazir	Pakistan	Pakistan
13.05.	Fr.	BONNEAU	Normand	United States	Lacombe
05.05.	Fr.	CALDERONE *	Giuseppe	Italy	Mediterranean
05.05.	Fr.	DEIVANAYAGAM	Arokia	India	Lacombe
06.05.	Sc.	MURIUNGI *	Stephen	Kenya	Kenya
06.05.	Bro.	OTAZŮ *	Alvarenga	Paraguay	Peru
13.05.	Sc.	STAWICKI *	Slawomir	Poland	Poland
13.05.	Sc.	SZLACHETA *	Pawel	Poland	Poland
13.05.	Sc.	MACKIEWICZ *	Sylwester	Poland	Poland
13.05.	Sc.	OCHLAK *	Dominik	Poland	Poland
13.05.	Sc.	OMIECINSKI *	Dawid	Poland	Ukraine
16.05.	Sc.	JANULEWICZ *	Daniel	Assumption	Assumption
16.05.	Sc.	PLUVIOSE *	Wespler	Haiti	Haiti
20.05.	Sc.	BANG *	Thomas	Cameroun	Cameroun
20.05.	Sc.	CHIAKA *	Donatus	Nigeria	Nigeria
20.05.	Bro.	DEUZOUMBE KADA 1*	Maurice	Cameroun	Cameroun
20.05.	Fr.	JACOBE	Rodolfo	Philippines	China
26.05.	Sc.	MacPHEE	David	OMI Lacombe	OMI Lacombe
27.05.	Fr.	O'DONNELL	William	United States	General House
27.05.	Fr.	ZAMPA	Saverio	Aix Comm.	Mediterranean
27.05.	Fr.	NISIEWICZ	Roman	Poland	Poland
28.05.	Sc.	ANTHONIPILLAI	Thevavasantharasa	Jaffna	Jaffna
28.05.	Sc.	ARULAPPU	Vimalanathana	Jaffna	Jaffna
28.05.	Sc.	JAMES	Alphonse	Jaffna	Jaffna
28.05.	Sc.	JESURAJAH	Gerald	Jaffna	Jaffna
28.05.	Sc.	VELAUTHAM	Anton	Jaffna	Jaffna
12.06.	Bro.	LITIYA *	George	Zambia	Zambia
12.06.	Sc.	MUSABA *	Michael	Zambia	Zambia
12.06.	Sc.	DOS SANTOS MEDEIROS	Fernando *	Brazil	Brazil
12.06.	Sc.	NGARTOLNAN *	Nicolas	Cameroun	Cameroun

12.06	Sc.	MATSOSO *	Damand	Lagatha	Lagatha
12.06. 12.06.	Sc. Fr.	MEINDL	Bernard Karl	Lesotho	Lesotho
08.07.	Sc.	VU VAN NGUYEN *	Joseph	Czech Republic France/Vietnam	Central European Vietnam
21.06.	Fr.	ZIELENDA	Krzysztof	Pologne	Aix Community
21.06.	Fr.	ASODO	Henricus	Indonesia	Aix Community Aix Community
21.06.	Fr.	CZOP	Cyprian	Thailand	Poland
22.06.	Sc.	ARUL MARIA NATHAN *	Kanickai	India	India
22.06.	Sc.	DURAI RAJ *	Arockia Alban	India	India
22.06.	Sc.	KAYUNI *	Lazarous	Zambia	Zambia
22.06.	Sc.	LAZER *	Sahaya	India	India
22.06.	Sc.	LOORTHU *	Arul	India	India
22.06.	Sc.	RAJENDRAN *	Salamon	India	India
22.06.	Sc.	SELVARAJ *	John	India	India
22.06.	Sc.	XAVIER AROKIASAMY *	Deko Jesus	India	India
01.07.	Sc.	NWAOHUOCHA *	Marcellus	Cameroun	Cameroun
01.07.	Sc.	ARPUTHENAYAGAM *	Valah	India	India
05.07.	Sc.	MONDESIR *	Karly	Haiti	Haiti
03.07.	Fr.	NANAYAKKARA*	Asanga	Colombo	Colombo
04.07.	Bro.	LOIN *	Ryszard	Poland	Poland
08.07.	Fr.	JAYAWARDENA	Shanil	Colombo	General House
08.07.	Fr.	LUCAS	Oscar	Philippines	General House
08.07.	Sc.	DÔ CAO ĐAT *	Vincent	Vietnam	Vietnam
08.07.	Sc.	HUETE *	Carlos	Mediterranean	Mediterranean
08.07.	Sc.	NGUYEN *	Van Loc Dominique	Vietnam	Vietnam
08.07.	Fr.	DEVANESAN *	John	India	Japan-Korea
08.07.	Fr.	SAVARIMUTHU *	Stephen	India	Japan-Korea
09.09.	Sc.	ROJAS *	Teodoro	Bolivia	Bolivia
11.09.	Bro.	TANG *	Kim Long	Vietnam	Vietnam
11.09.	Sc.	KIKALULU *	Junior	Congo	Congo
11.09.	Sc.	LUNTADILA *	Jean-Pierre	Congo	Congo
11.09.	Sc.	MAFU *	Iyana	Congo	Congo
11.09.	Sc.	FAYE *	Edmond	Senegal	Senegal
13.09.	Sc.	NOVA DELGADO *	Giovanny	Venezuela	Venezuela
24.09.	Fr.	DUHAMEL	Jean	Brazil	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
24.09.	Fr.	KLOSTERKAMP	Thomas	Central European	General House
01.10.	Fr.	RAUSCH	Clyde	General House	United States
01.10.	Sc.	YUNDULA AZIZ *	Idal	Cameroun	Cameroun
11.10.	Fr.	JOSEPH	Theogenes	Philippines	Jaffna
08.11.	Sc.	HERU SETYO SUHARTONO*	Robertus	Indonesia	Indonesia
08.11.	Sc.	ORTEGA MARTINEZ *	Hector	Uruguay	Uruguay
14.11.	Fr.	JAYAWARDENA	Hiran	Colombo	Japan-Korea
14.11.	Fr.	NIRMALARAJAN	Pakinathan	Colombo	Japan-Korea
14.11.	Fr.	ROBINSON	Robert	Colombo	Japan-Korea
14.11.	Fr.	ALDI	Eric	General House	Australia
14.11.	Fr.	ALIN	Philippe	Cameroun	France
19.11.	Bro.	MBIKI *	Dieudonne	Congo	Congo
22.11.	Sc.	ABAD *	Ronald	Philippines	Philippines Natal
25.11.	Sc.	SHOBA *	Thabani	Natal	Natal
03.12.	Sc.	HONG *	Seong Cheol	Korea Colombo	Kenya Intl. Schol. Rome
31.12.	Fr.	SAPARAMADU	Jude	COMMINO	mu. Schol. Kome

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Oblates in First Formation - 2013 (Reported as of January 2014)

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
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
2008	698	27	89	74	64
2007	675	29	115	55	69

^{*}Please note that these numbers include Oblates who either professed vows or were ordained in previous years but the <u>fact had not been reported</u> to the General Secretariat before January 2014.

Deaths and Departures - 2013

Deaths in 2013: 95 (83 Priests, 11 Brothers, 1 scholastic)

2012: **103** 2011: **108** 2010: **92** 2009: **110** 2008: **91** 2007: **113**

Departures reported in 2013: 116 (19 priests, 91 scholastics, 6 Brothers)*

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

2011: 47 (16 priests, 31 scholastics)

2010: 51 (12 priests, 39 scholastics)

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

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

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

*some departures reported in 2013 are from 2001-2012.

2013:

- -80 scholastics did not renew their temporary vows.
- -9 scholastics were dispensed from temporary vows.
- -1 scholastic was definitively excluded from perpetual vows.
- -4 Brothers did not renew their temporary vows.
- -1 Brother was dispensed from temporary vows.
- -4 priests were dismissed "ipso jure" from the Congregation.
- -1 Brother was dismissed "ipso jure" from the Congregation.
- -4 priests were dismissed from the Congregation.
- -7 priests were laicized.
- -1 scholastic/deacon was laicized.
- -4 priests were definitively incardinated into a diocese.

Africa-Madagascar

MADAGASCAR Something new in formation

For the very first time in the Africa-Madagascar Region, the two sub-regional formation committees met to deliberate on the state of formation in the Region.

The meeting, which was long scheduled be held earlier, had witnessed several postponements for a number of unavoidable reasons. The month of December was finally agreed upon for the all-important meeting which brought together members from both the Francophone

sub-region and the Anglophone sub-region: the co-host, Fr. Alphonse RAKOTONDROVELA, from the Delegation of Madagascar and the chairperson of the Formation Committee of the Francophone sub-region; Fr. Vincent UKOMA, Novice Master (Province of Cameroon); Fr. Joseph NDONG, Director of the prenovitiate and rector of the St. Augustine Institute of Philosophy and Theology (Delegation of Senegal); Fr. Faustin LITANDA, Director, prenovitiate in the Mission of Kenya and chairperson of the Formation Committee of the Anglophone sub-region; Fr. Paul SHOBANE, Psychologist and assessor, Province of Lesotho; Fr. Mbheki NGCOBO, Director of the prenovitiate, Province of Natal; and Fr. Emmanuel YOUNGTEN TEMSWANG, the AMR Executive Secretary who was there to moderate, translate and guide deliberations according to the expectations of the Regional Executive.

The meeting was held in the Administrative House of the Delegation of Madagascar in Antananarivo. The two-day meeting covered the general statistics of our various houses of formation and the general situation of formation in the Region. The committees are attempting to help the Executive of the Region organize an objective and purpose-driven Regional Conference next year in Nairobi, which will focus mainly on formation. They diagnosed the problems the Region is facing, with all their ramifications; particular emphasis was put on the challenges of collaboration and communication. The goal of all this is to promote a greater regional integration: exchange of personnel (formators) between our houses of formation; and an expanded exchange program for our scholastics in the Region. The committees also considered the possibility of a harmonized formation plan/program in order to ensure continuity in formation wherever an Oblate scholastic happens to be sent for studies or regency.

The meeting took place in a very fraternal atmosphere. All of the participants, most of whom met for the first time, learned a lot from the shared experiences. They stated that it was time well-spent, because it permitted each one to return home with first-hand information about the situations faced by other Units and the methods

they use to tackle challenges. It also helped them to know the ideas other Oblates have on formation. It was a very fruitful meeting, at the end of which, concrete solutions were proposed for the Major Superiors of the Region for implementation. (Fr. Emmanuel Youngten Temswang)

CAMEROON Challenges and joys

Fr. Raymond Pierre NANI has been leading the Province of Cameroon for two years now. Passing through France, he took the occasion to thank the French Oblates for the missionary work they have accomplished and which helped the Gospel to take root in African soil. Here are some excerpts from a conversation with Brother Bertrand EVELIN for "Omi-France."

Bertrand: What are some pastoral challenges in Cameroon?

Raymond Pierre: The big challenge now is what I call "chameleon" Christians, split between being Christians and following the traditional religion, in a sort of syncretism. That is a challenge! Today, most people have received the Good News. But do they show it? The Year of Faith was an opportunity to ask the question: am I happy to be a Christian? Will I show it by my actions, by my whole life? That is it, as far as Christian life is concerned.

As far as structures are concerned, the parishes are "African," in the hands of Oblates or African diocesan priests. The problem is in taking responsibility! There are difficulties, but the people are generous and they are helping us.

Finally, there is a challenge with Pentecostal or evangelical churches. Many churches are starting up and, under the pressure of illness and unemployment, many Catholics are tempted to go there. One of the responses that the Catholic Church is trying to give is what are called the basic ecclesial communities where people can meet more frequently than the simple Sunday gathering, to get to know one another, to share, to communicate, to be of service to one another.

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Bertrand: What are some beautiful expressions of Christianity in Cameroon? What expression of beauty does becoming Christian produce in the lives of the people?

Raymond Pierre: For many Cameroonians, being a Christian is, first of all, knowing Jesus. And despite our weaknesses and limitations, that brings joy for living: one can see beyond this life with great hope. This is seen when a Christian dies. The Christians come together, they pray, they sing, they dance, they entrust the dead to God. We immediately see the difference with the traditional religion where death is experienced more as a drama. When someone dies, people throw themselves down; they say they're gone, it's over; there is distress; there are tears; sometimes they hurt themselves! That means that they are terrified. That's the first thing. Outsiders tell us: "You Christians, when we see how you handle your grief, it shows that there is an afterlife because there is joy!"

Secondly, there are the large Sunday gatherings. When you see people who go to church on Sunday, all cleaned up, leaving everything behind, on time, with parents who bring their children, the whole family, just to hear the Word of God and, after the Mass, who still have time to stay and share because it is the Lord's day, this is something very positive! People come together and show their joy at belonging to the Church.

The same for the sick: most cannot go to the hospital. So there are prayers in the families. We pray for whoever is ill, for whoever is suffering. We know that our plea is in the hands of God, the God of that Jesus Christ who showed us that we can intercede for our brother who suffers. In many families, that too shows the joy of belonging to the Church.

And today, when there are births in a family, the parents present their children for baptism. And for baptism, you know, it's party time! It is a joy for the whole family, for the neighbors. They also invite even the non-Christians because our child has become a child of God: he is entering into the Christian community. So here we see that it's not a show: this is joy; this is a new life that the child is receiving, and we celebrate it!

These are some examples that show nevertheless that the proclamation of the Word of God bears fruit in our lives by the way we live.

CHAD

Always many concerns

Excerpts from the annual circular letter of Brother Hervé GIVELET who works with AIDS victims and prisoners in Chad.

It's been a year since I sent you a circular letter; forgive me. This was a rather difficult year and I wondered if I could cope.

But let's talk about our women who have AIDS. I almost lost Acheta in October; she lost weight and had diarrhea. She could no longer tolerate her medications, and yet it was the second time that our doctor, Jossi, a Dutch woman, had changed her treatment for the same reason. Doctor Jossi told me: "We will change it a third time but this is the last option. We have only three kinds of drugs; but if this doesn't work, it's over for her." Now she was very weak and we took her to the hospital for infusions. After resting for 7 days without taking medication, she started on her last chance. I gave her plenty of food: fish, beans, boiled millet porridge with milk, fresh vegetables, and it seems to be working: she has gained weight and regained her strength, having tolerated her third medication. Jossi does not want to make any comments for a month, but I have hope.

And our poor Denise: to tell all her adventures would take too long, a seemingly insoluble problem. She broke a water pump; she set fire to a hut (the owner beat her till she was spitting blood but it's going better now); at the market, she overturned the produce of her neighbor and it became unsaleable, etc. All because of her seizures that happen without warning: she is rejected by everyone, even by her uncle who had taken her into his property where I had built her a hut. He chased her out two months later; I was only able to recover the tin roof and the door and I rebuilt her a hut 300 metres from the bishop's house where she feels safer and will do her business from home. Hopefully this time it will succeed!

I will close talking about the prison, which causes me a lot less hassle and money than my work with people with AIDS, the disabled and the poor in general.

I must first talk about my adventure with the escaped prisoner. Escapes are commonplace in the prison of Pala. Mine is an AIDS patient who, in addition spits and urinates blood. Jossi our doctor does not want to treat him without seeing him and she refuses to go to the prison. The warden asks me to drive him to our Centre because I know the place. My mistake was not to demand a guard, but sick as he was and especially, as it was in his interest to be treated, I try to drive him to "Cédiam" (our Diocesan Centre for AIDS), but while I am looking for Jossi, he escapes. The poor man was quickly spotted, followed and captured by the warden and an armed guard, eight days later. It is my nurse, Delysse, who will try to treat him in prison when he returns from N'Djamena.

My work at the prison is now mostly spiritual since we received help from the European Union. It is true that the nurse is conspicuous by his absence; fortunately Delysse will do his job. The condition of prisoners is much improved, but there is always the problem of overcrowding: there are currently 147; the record is 150. When I arrived in 2005 and for many years there were forty, the normal figure. For prayer on Sunday, I am alone except for Sister Marguerite who kindly assists me, a most appreciated help. I also like doing catechesis because I can interact with some of them more in depth. Otherwise, I mostly link with their families, either by calling or by going to see the family if they are in Pala. I continue to buy them cigarettes, pants and shirts but that does not go very far.

I cannot close without wishing you a Happy New Year; may it be for you a source of joy and self-knowledge that often makes us grow.

Asia-Oceania

COLOMBO Revitalizing the Congregation

The Oblates of Colombo Province inaugurated the Oblate Triennium on 23 December 2013 in preparation for the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation in 2016, with a concelebrated Eucharistic at the Provincial House, Mattakkuliya, Colombo, with Fr. Rohan SILVA, the Provincial Superior, presiding.

Introducing the theme and the meaning of the Oblate Triennium at the beginning of the celebration, Fr. Christy SILVA said that the 3-year period is a time for the Oblates to prepare also for the 36th General Chapter in 2016, especially so as to revitalize the Oblate life and vision.

Quoting Fr. Louis LOUGEN, the Oblate Superior General, Fr. Christy underlined three main areas for the revitalization of the Oblate Congregation: a transformative response to the signs of the times; the members taking ownership of the foundational charism; and the members undergoing personal and communitarian

conversion to Jesus Christ through a profound renewal of faith and prayer life.

Fr. Clement WAIDYASEKARA, the General Councillor for Asia-Oceania, in his homily, said that the main aim of the Oblate Triennium is to "fan the flame" of Oblate life and mission. It is a time to thank God for the gift of the Congregation, to renew our lives and vision and recommit ourselves to the call and vision that inspired St. Eugene de Mazenod to form the Congregation in 1816.

Fr. Clement further underlined the need to drink from the same spirit that nourished St. Eugene's missionary drive; his transforming personal encounter with Jesus Christ, the Saviour; his conviction that the poor have innate dignity as sons and daughters of God; his sensitive heart for reaching out to the forgotten by the ministers of the Church; his passion for the Word of God and the preaching of the Good News; vowed life and community living in charity as a way to holiness; his closeness and approachability to the poor, especially to the youth and to the prisoners; his

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collaboration with the lay faithful; his integration of contemplative life and intense missionary activity; his audacity to leave nothing undared for extending the reign of Jesus Christ and to live solely for the glory of God, with tender love for Mother of Mercy. (Fr. Emmanuel FERNANDO)

THAILAND Letting my heart speak

Excerpts from the annual Christmas letter of Brother Bernard WIRTH, a missionary in Thailand for more than 40 years.

Oh, during this year, nothing extraordinary... What is special without a doubt are the hundreds of thousands of people in the streets of Bangkok, today among others... That explains why I am free today, since the streets of Bangkok are paralyzed by the protesters and I am stuck at home...

And that brings me to my work at the college. Often they ask me: "Why do you teach at the university? You should go full time at the prison..." It is true that my mission is to assure a presence among the most disadvantaged... but I am convinced that a presence among the young people, who have reached a point where they are taking control of their own lives, is also worthwhile... I don't give them long speeches about God, but I help them think, so as to come out of their little middle-class world to discover something else...

My work with prisoners has not changed: I become their friend; I listen to them; I hear their concerns and tribulations, either directly or through other volunteers, and I pass them on to the police and authorities to initiate improvements, solutions... It is at this level that the most difficulties crop up for these political refugees, locked up as criminals; the physically handicapped, rejected by all countries; or the Hmong families driven from their country and imprisoned for more than two years with no hope of release; or the mentally deranged persons without proper care; or these children locked up with adults... and I could continue the list that grows regularly, but even if our actions fail, every

visit is a little ray of sunshine for an inmate...

Now it's been over 15 years that I visit the Detention Center. I have grown old, just like at the college. This brings some advantages, some new contacts, but also some new responsibilities... In fact, everything that happens at the Detention Center is only the tip of the iceberg of the terrible situation of migrants in this country... The Burmese, Laotians and Cambodians are the most numerous -- we are talking about two million Burmese... Their living and working conditions are inhuman... Theoretically they can acquire residence permits and work, but many companies prefer them to remain illegal; they are cheap labor, pitifully exploitable...and access to care and the education of children are often denied them... They have no rights... After following a few cases, I am now more involved in these situations of people deprived of everything... And the associations, the pagodas, the temples and the churches are quickly overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problems...

That in a few lines is a look at what I am living, an outlook a little darker than what I had foreseen... In fact, it is in letting my heart speak that all these concerns I carry are brought to the surface, but I should add that I have also met some great people, people who have nothing, but who share the little they have; and then there are my brothers and sisters, my colleagues, the volunteers at the Centre, people totally dedicated; it is thanks to them and to all of you my friends that I continue my mission and I jump into a new year, in good form, despite minor aches, smiling and serene in my relationships, and finally, confident in adversity!

Anniversaries for March 2014							
65 Years of	religious life						
1949.03.19	09206	Bro. Gustave April	Notre-Dame-du-Cap				
1949.03.19	09204	Bro. Bernard Durand	Notre-Dame-du-Cap				
1949.03.19	09203	Bro. Alexandre Gagnon	Notre-Dame-du-Cap				
60 Years of	60 Years of religious life						
1954.03.16	09647	Fr. James FitzPatrick	Australia				
1954.03.16	09811	Fr. John Hannah	Australia				
50 Years of religious life							
1964.03.19	11819	Bro. Thomas Cavanaugh	Lacombe				
1964.03.19	11820	Bro. Jean Sauvé	Notre-Dame-du-Cap				
1964.03.26	11825	Bro. Paolo Menegotto	Belgium/Holland				
50 Years of	priesthood						
1964.03.01	10678	Fr. Albert Buchet	Belgium/Holland				
1964.03.08	10293	Fr. Georges Thill	Belgium/Holland				
1964.03.15	10441	Fr. Ludger Ademmer	Central European Prov.				
1964.03.15	10591	Fr. Jürgen Jagelki	Central European Prov.				
1964.03.15	10590	Fr. Norberto Schlechter	Paraguay				
1964.03.19	10775	Fr. Gabriel Crugnola	Cameroon				
1964.03.19	10664	Fr. Louis Haag	France				
1964.03.19	10780	Fr. Joseph Thévenet	France				

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Prayers for our deceased

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Name	Prov./Del.	Born	Died at	Date
Fr. Louis Van den Eynde	Belgium/Holland	03/02/1921	Geel	01/01/2014
Fr. Jean Leleu	France	08/06/1928	Lyon	04/01/2014
Fr. Gerard Bolduc	United States	23/05/1941	St. Louis	07/01/2014
Bro. Vito Di Biase	General Administration	01/05/1924	Santa Maria a Vico	10/01/2014
Fr. Noël Savina	France	13/11/1921	Pontmain	14/01/2014
Fr. André Vincelette	OMI Lacombe	30/11/1957	St. Albert	14/01/2014
Fr. Pierre Bodénès	France	02/04/1923	St Jacques en Guiclan	19/01/2014
Fr. Joseph Navaratnam	Philippines	18/06/1927	Quezon City	19/01/2014
Fr. Leopold Engel	OMI Lacombe	05/09/1913	Saskatoon	22/01/2014

"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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