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## Father General's Missionary Meditation Haiti challenges us

In early July, I made my last visit as Father General to the Oblates in Haiti. The visit was not planned in advance, just as the earthquake of 12 January 2010 was not planned. As a missionary meditation, here is an excerpt from my letter to the province, dated on 12 July – just six months after the catastrophe.

“You have something important to say to the Congregation, especially on the occasion of a General Chapter whose chosen theme is conversion. During my four days in Haiti, what I was able to see and hear in Les Cayes, on the roads, downtown in the capital, at Sibert and at Blanchard, in visiting three bishops, etc., was of substance both very rich and profound. I share with you three messages which you give all of us by the way that you are living these difficult times for Haiti.

“First of all, you give us a message about detachment – it was one of you who used that word. With more than 200,000 dead in January and 1.5 million persons still in tents six months later, anything we could own or have lost becomes quite relative. A scholastic and many people close to you are among the dead. Several Oblates told me that they were very lucky to have survived. Many of those close to you are among those who are living in makeshift shelters and you yourselves know something about life under the tents.

“Secondly, I felt in Haiti a deep sense of the Church as a big family. Laity, clergy and religious – all are working together to serve those in need: programs of immediate assistance, child care in the schools, and planning for rebuilding the

churches, the schools and the formation centers. This spirit of unity is an important sign for the country at a time when the political infrastructure is still fragile; so many people need prophetic gestures and words from Church leaders who must make visible the presence of Christ among us. ‘Seeing the crowds, he had pity on them, for they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.’ (Mt 9:36)

“And finally, you enrich us by your witness to the power of faith which I felt to be so strong among you. ‘No one cursed God,’ Bishop Hubert Constant told me. Someone else remarked that through the catastrophe, many grew in their faith, this paschal faith which is our most important treasure. ‘The cross of Jesus is at the heart of our mission.’ (C 4) This cross alone is the key which opens the door to a new life.

“I saw your detachment, your sense of Church and the power of your faith, but what I share with you are only my impressions. You will have many other things to add. The Congregation seeks solidarity with you, but you then can help the Congregation which will soon be in Chapter, to really obtain this grace of a deeper personal and communal conversion. The five Haitians who will be in the room for our great assembly will be your spokespersons.”

Dear readers, with these reflections, I am now concluding a cycle of meditations, eleven times per year, beginning in 2002. I felt it was a special call to share with the Congregation and with our friends some part of the great things which God is doing through the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate everywhere in the world and

the invitations which the Holy Spirit still sends us. Thanks for reading them; let us continue on the paths of evangelization as contemplative missionaries.

“The missionary must be ‘a contemplative in action.’ He finds the answer to problems in the light of the divine word and in personal and communal prayer.”

“The missionary, if he is not a contemplative, cannot proclaim Christ in a credible way; he is a witness of the experience of God and must be able to say, like the Apostles: ‘What we have contemplated...., the Word of life...., that is what we proclaim.’ (1 Jn 1:1-3)” (John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio* 91)

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## General Administration

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### GENERAL CHAPTER

#### Superior General's report is on line

The *Oblate Constitutions and Rules*, in R 126a, states: *During the Chapter, the Superior General presents a report on the state of the Congregation and on its financial situation; the report is then examined by the Chapter.*

For the first time in Oblate history, this significant report of the Superior General, Fr. Wilhelm STECKLING, is available even before the Chapter, on the internet, for study by the whole Congregation and our Oblate friends and Associates. Father General hopes that this early airing of his report will give not only the capitulars but also the rest of the greater Oblate family some food for reflection, discussion and prayer in the days that lead up to the Chapter.

The 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter will begin at the Casa La Salle in Rome on the morning of September 8, 2010. There will be 89 capitulars -- ex officio members and elected or appointed delegates -- who will begin this month-long experience of fraternal sharing. Some of our Oblate Lay Associates will be present in the early days of the meeting. The Chapter is scheduled to close on October 8 after the capitulars will have fulfilled their duty of setting future directions for the Congregation and electing a new Superior General and General Council.

Oblate Communications Service will make every effort to keep the Oblate family aware of what is happening at the Chapter, especially through our website, [www.omiworld.org](http://www.omiworld.org). There will be frequent news bulletins posted on the site in the three official languages of the Congregation.

During the Chapter itself, “electronic communication” will be a common practice. Rather than giving each capitular a large dossier of printed documents, many of the chapter-related documents will be on a “memory key” or “flash drive” which the capitular will be able to plug into the USB port on his laptop or another computer. If he wants a particular document in printed form, he will be able to ask for it from the auxiliary personnel. The Chapter Commission sees this as a more realistic way of sharing information with the capitulars in this computer era and also as a way to practice good environmental stewardship.

### GENERAL CHAPTER

#### Government Committee finishes its work

On June 10, 2010, the committee mandated by the 34<sup>th</sup> General Chapter to review the government structures of the Congregation completed its task. The final proposals of the committee to the 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter are being translated and will be sent to the capitulars in early July.

According to their mandate found in “*Witnessing to Hope*,” the task of the committee was to “review the structures and functioning of government,” primarily at the levels of the General Chapter, the Central Government, the Regions and the various Units.

Beginning on September 12, 2005, the committee appointed by the Superior General in Council conducted various consultations, including capitulars from previous General Chapters, capitulars for the upcoming Chapter as well as the entire Congregation. The proposals went through many modifications as a result of these consultations. A member of the committee was also able to be present in every region for a meeting with provincials and elected delegates

to the upcoming Chapter, in order to explain the proposals, respond to questions and get a sense of what the capitulars are thinking.

Looking towards the future of our Congregation, the Committee came up with some main assumptions or directions: strengthening provinces; making regions more operational; having efficacious Chapters; having a well-functioning Central Government. The proposed changes try to spell out these four main assumptions.

Some of the proposed changes in the *Constitutions and Rules* have to do with the composition of the Central Government, in an effort to make a more explicit distinction between the functions of government and those of administration, and in order to give more flexibility and clarity to the relationship between the Central Government and the Regions and Units. There are also changes proposed concerning the frequency of General Chapters and, consequently, the length of the mandate of the Central Government. A specific mandate of the 34<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was to study the possibility of delegating some governmental authority to regional conferences; this too is included in the proposals. There are also proposed changes in the selection of delegates to the General Chapter, in order to assure the right to vote to all Oblates in perpetual vows and to assure a proportionate representation of Oblate priests and Brothers at the Chapter. There is also a proposal concerning the ideal size of a province.

The committee was made up of Frs. Ryszard SZMYDKI, Filadelfo ESTRELLA, Victor SANTOYO, Séamus FINN and Jean-Marie BULUMUNA (who resigned from the committee in early 2009). In 2008, Fr. Paolo ARCHIATI joined the committee as the liaison of the Central Government. Fr. James ALLEN has served as the committee's secretary.

Of great assistance to the committee were its Canon Law consultants, Fr. Frank MORRISEY and the Procurator General, Fr. Roberto SARTOR.

## **ASSOCIATION FOR OBLATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

### **Historical Dictionary Volume 2 in English**

The second volume of *Historical Dictionary of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate* has just been printed. It's a volume of 670 pages with 384 titled articles: 108 about houses and various other things; 245 about Oblates; and 31 about non-Oblates, especially bishops with whom the Founder and the Oblates had a connection. More than half of these Oblates (151) worked in Canada and the United States; 34 in Sri Lanka; 14 in South Africa; and about 50 in England and Ireland where many priests and Brothers stayed before being sent to other Oblate mission countries, all in British colonies.

Thirty authors, especially Oblates, contributed toward the publication of the volume in which there are many photographs, geographical maps and, at the end of the volume, an index of articles in volumes I and II.

These two volumes and the collection *Écrits oblats* (30 volumes) form an impressive body which permits Oblates of today and of the future to have a deeper knowledge of the life of the Founder and the history of the Congregation over its first fifty years of existence.

The cost of Volume II is 35 Euros plus airmail postage.

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## **Canada-United States**

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### **OMI LACOMBE**

#### **A Polish Oblate among the Inuit**

Greg OSZUST is a shy man whose face bursts into a smile as you begin to speak with him and

inquire about his life and ministry. He was born in the southeastern part of Poland, ordained a priest in 1995 and arrived in Canada in 1997. He spent his first eight months learning languages in Saskatoon and August 1998 saw him on an

airplane destined for Chesterfield Inlet.

Chesterfield Inlet is an Inuit community of three hundred people; only four elders have difficulty with the English language. The younger generation prefers to use English in their daily conversation. Greg admits that he has difficulty learning languages but is able to do the liturgical services in Inuktitut. He can read the language using the Roman alphabet. There are some difficulties with the language of the Scriptures. Some of the Biblical concepts and words are foreign to the Inuit understanding and language.

One of the first differences that Greg noticed when he arrived in the North was the attitude he found in the stores. In the South attention is focused on attending to the customer. In the North people are busy with each other and will get around to serving you, sooner or later. This is where the learning curve proved to be very steep. Within the Inuit culture things will get done but you have to allow for a lot more time and effort before the job is completed. Arriving with a European background, Greg recalls how much the people have taught him to slow down.

Ministry in the High Arctic is impossible to measure in numbers alone. Greg adds from his experience. "It is not the numbers; it is to be with the people." In communities where there are only two hundred or maybe three hundred people, a small Sunday congregation does not indicate a weak faith life. Anyone who might expect huge numbers will certainly be disappointed. "If you were to judge only by numbers you could not justify our being in the North." The majority of the pastoral work is to live with the people. "Most of my time is in counseling and giving direction.

Greg's ministry is one of presence, not of high activity. "My time every day goes by very fast. I visit the people and they talk to me." "I need more time than I have." From time to time, Greg is called upon to fly from Chesterfield Inlet to another mission to conduct a funeral.

Life in the North has influenced him greatly, "I have slowed down a lot." Since he is the kind of man who sets out on a project and does not

want to stop until the project is completed, the northern experience has provided a different slant on his life.

"The people of the North are very honest. They will tell you right away how they feel. You might be offended because they are so straightforward. They do not have the diplomacy of southern culture. The younger generations are being influenced by the larger Canadian culture and will not say anything but the elders will speak the truth straight away."

The vast distances do not limit Oblate community. "At least once a month, we are in contact through the phone or on Skype. We feel connected to each other. We do have much to share in common." Since the year 2000 the eight Oblates of the High Arctic have been meeting in Ottawa. This has strengthened community life. (Submitted by Nestor GREGOIRE, in [www.omilacombe.ca](http://www.omilacombe.ca))

## **ASSUMPTION**

### **Polish Primate lays cornerstone**

On Sunday, June 13, many parishioners of St. Eugene de Mazenod Mission in Brampton, along with hundreds of others from various parishes in Toronto and Mississauga, gathered to celebrate the installation of the cornerstone in the new church. The liturgy was presided over by Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland. Also in attendance were Archbishop Thomas Collins, Provincial Fr. Janusz BLAZEJAK, Fr. Adam FILAS, Fr. Andrzej SOWA, Fr. Marian GIL, Fr. Jan WADOLOWSKI, Fr. Wojciech BLACH, and Fr. Pawel RATAJCZAK.

All of us gathered around the altar of Jesus Christ as a community of Polish Canadians to lift our voices in song to give thanks to God on this hallowed ground for the wondrous things that He has done, and continues to accomplish among us. That which was deemed only a dream by human accounting, an impossible task, became a reality, unfolding before our very eyes. We witnessed this event, the historic ceremony of the placing in of the cornerstone.

In his homily, Cardinal Glemp recalled the

Church's role in human life. He said "It's not enough to only be a valid citizen who pays taxes and does not break the law. We are also committed to doing good, which comes from the love of God and man". He continued by saying: "Be encouraged to cultivate the faith and traditions of our fathers, so as to preserve the most precious spiritual values in the environment of a new homeland". He also reminded us that, "The Universal Church has expressed joy that the gospel of Christ is still reaching man".

The ceremony was attended by state dignitaries, including the Polish ambassador to Canada, Zenon Kosiniak-Kamysz, Lisa Raitt, a representative of the Prime Minister of Canada, as well as the mayors of Brampton and Mississauga. There were also many representatives of the Polish community in Canada. Besides the church, designed by Stanislaw Szaflarskie, Polonia is expected to create a business and cultural center.

The laying of the cornerstone and the following celebration coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of both Fr. Adam Filas, builder of the new parish and church, and Fr. Andrzej Sowa - pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Mississauga. (*Assumption Province News and Views*, June 2010)

## **OMI LACOMBE**

### **Working toward reconciliation**

On May 19, 2010, in Vancouver, Oblates of the British Columbia-Yukon District listened in rapt silence to a hope filled message from Justice Murray Sinclair. Justice Sinclair, chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, expressed his desire to come and speak to the Oblates. It was a pivotal talk that has already opened many doors in the process of reconciliation and healing.

As chairperson, along with commissioners Marie Wilson and Wilton Littlechild, he seeks to listen to and articulate the whole story of the experience of the residential schools in Canada. The emphasis is on hearing the complete story: the good and the bad, the painful and the blessings. The Commission seeks to listen to the stories (the history as it was experienced and lived) of those who today identify themselves as the survivors

of the residential schools and those who staffed and worked in these schools. What has been the impact of the school experience on the local communities and in the lives of individuals?

In the early 1990s, a decision of the Supreme Court ruled that the Government and the churches could be held responsible for the damages that the experience of the residential school had caused. By the year 2002 there were 30,000 lawsuits filed against the Government and the churches. The courts declared that these thousands of lawsuits could be grouped under a class-action settlement, which meant that these lawsuits would go under a one-claimant suit. The Government took the leadership and settled with the survivors, setting aside almost two billion dollars for this settlement. The churches would contribute 20 to 24% of the settlement.

What we found uplifting was the stress that Justice Sinclair put on the Commission's obligation to tell the complete story of the residential schools. It cannot be a one-sided story. Justice Sinclair stressed that if the Oblates do not tell their story then the truth is incomplete and the story is not whole. Everyone must be heard. He stressed, "There is a complete story. Your story has not been told. As long as you remain silent our story will not be told."

Justice Sinclair stressed that telling the truth is about honesty and accuracy. Two people may see the same traffic accident but describe what they witnessed from two very different perspectives. Each is telling the truth. Often the conflict of interpretation comes down to the fact that the schools were not able to do what they set out to do. The Commission is there to listen to people speak the truth based on their own perceptions – the truth as they believe it happened.

The goal of reconciliation has many different meanings and includes different processes. The challenge for the commission is to try to determine what it is that we talk about when we move toward reconciliation. The goal of reconciliation is to establish respectful relationships. There will be opposite points of interpretation about what actually happened. A

healthy sign of respect is to be able to agree to disagree on a particular point or course of action. This moving forward includes everyone.

A very significant part of the process is to begin to imagine what can and will happen through the awakening of reconciliation. When anyone shares his/her story there is always a legacy that comes with it. We have had an education system that has brought us to the point of being able to recognize the suffering and harm done through abuse, lost of culture and language, destruction of the connection with one's family life, and sexual

abuse. It will take another educational system, (i.e., educational experience) to bring us out of this destructive situation. The schools took the children out of their home and communities and did not challenge them to succeed in the larger society. This entire process of listening and embracing the stories of all the people involved challenges everyone to imagine a new future. Our painful past must not become a new prison out of which we refuse to move. New doors are opening for all concerned. *(Submitted by Nestor GREGOIRE in [www.omilacombe.ca](http://www.omilacombe.ca); abridged by OMI Information)*

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## Latin America

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### HAITI

#### Update on the situation of the Oblates in Haiti

More than four months after the earthquake of January 12, 2010, if I consider the circumstances from our Oblate perspective, I can say that we are in control of the situation, thanks to the sense of responsibility and the involvement of all of our confreres, together with the generous support received from all the other provinces, missions and delegations of the Congregation, as well as the support of several organizations of Oblate benefactors and of individual benefactors.

We have benefited and we continue to benefit from Divine Providence through the solidarity of our confreres and friends. In Port-au-Prince, our situation is developing slowly. The scholastics have set out again for the parishes in the provinces, after having been brought together in the month of April in Port-au-Prince to finish the academic program of the first semester at Lilavois, on the same site as the diocesan Major Seminary, shared by the Bishops' Conference and the Scalabrini Missionaries. They slept in tents in the courtyard of the philosophy house at Blanchard. Presently, we are beginning the work of preparing the philosophy house and the former novitiate at Blanchard to receive all the scholastics as of next September.

We do not yet know whether the scholasticate at Turgeau can be rebuilt on the same spot. In the meantime, we are in contact with a company for

tearing down the building and securing the land. As for the provincial house which was seriously damaged, the engineer we have contacted for an evaluation keeps us waiting for the results. The guest house, which also served for the administration and which collapsed, is being torn down. We are at the stage of clearing away the debris, but we are looking at changing companies because we are not satisfied with the group that is currently doing the work.

As a former member of the provincial house, Fr. Jean Pierre LOUBEAU is the only established resident at Port-au-Prince, taking care of the devastated faithful of the parish of Fond'Oies, on the road to Jacmel. Those responsible for Blanchard (Frs. Joseph BONARD and Wilson EXANTUS) and of Sibert (Frs. Jean François PRINTEMPS and Mario FANFAN) live in Plaine, at the northern exit from Port-au-Prince, a zone less devastated by the earthquake, but as much affected by its consequences as the rest of the country. Frs. Albert CATOR, Maxime EUGÈNE and I go back and forth regularly between P-au-P and Les Cayes because of the work that needs to be done. The three of us now live in the lovely little house which we rented in Les Cayes to lodge the administration. It could be enlarged, but we have to wait until the owner decides to sell it. All of our confreres whom we have consulted want us to buy it since it is well located in the city, not far from the procure of Gabions. Frs. Price DORISMOND and

Joseph DAUDIER are still at Mazenod...well received, well situated but less busy.

For the rebuilding, we want to wait for the government to give some guidance. But that is slow in coming. From time to time, we see some religious communities or other public institutions going to their own specialists to help them get organized, even temporarily. Perhaps we should do the same thing.

Where the situation is truly critical, it's for the people who are still in the streets, in tents, left to the capriciousness of the weather. We are in the rainy season. In the evening, it rains and sometimes with strong winds. During the daytime, the heat is terrible and makes the tents uninhabitable. Add to that the reticence of most of the victims to move to temporary shelter and the better organized camps, but more distant from the center of Port-au-Prince. Most of the evacuation camps are located in the courtyards of schools and sometimes in the courtyards of government buildings or in public squares. One can well imagine the social and political implications of this situation...

Up to now, the people are living this state of affairs with courage and hope, and the Church is there to accompany them. The politicians should do the same: they need to put aside for the moment their disagreements and put themselves truly at the service of this wounded populace. Let us pray that this change of heart will facilitate the rebuilding of Haiti.

So there it is, a quick look at the developing situation. I will continue to keep you updated. Joined in prayer. (Gasner JOINT, omi, Provincial)

## **ARGENTINA**

### **75 years of missionary presence**

On July 7, 2010, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate celebrated 75 years of missionary presence in Argentina.

Their first missions were the present neighborhoods of Parque Avellaneda, Lugano and Mataderos in the city of Buenos Aires. From that symbolic gateway for the Oblates,

our missionary activity in service to the pilgrim Church in Argentina began.

After taking on townships in Buenos Aires Córdoba, Santa Fe and Mendoza, the missionaries set out for every corner of the country for the purpose of preaching parish missions. Joining with traveling teams from other congregations, they reached out in all directions of the country, trying to reach the most abandoned.

With the passing of the years, new challenges arose: suburban neighborhoods, rural parishes, shrines, hospitals and prisons...

Every year when we get to the Gospel passage that invites us to pray to the master of the harvest to send workers into his harvest, we look at the road we have traveled, giving thanks to Jesus the Savior for having given so many Oblates who already are at rest in the Father's House. We also give thanks for the generous new youth who join us, consecrating their lives to the mission, and... why not?...we also thank the many lay faithful! Excited about the charism of St. Eugene, our Founder, they identify with the Oblate lifestyle and share in various tasks as signs of God's Kingdom.

Desirous of continuing to collaborate with the diocesan Churches which have called us to give them a hand, we invite all to join us in giving thanks on this anniversary so that we might return to our missionary projects and continue to work with the most abandoned. (Antonio MARIANGELI, Vicar Provincial)

## **PARAGUAY**

### **The Oblate Family is growing**

On May 31, the anniversary of the founding of the Association of Lay Oblates ("LAOMI") en Paraguay (1996), there was a celebration of thanksgiving by the Associates and the whole Oblate Family. Three lay women made their first promises; nine young Associates renewed their promises; Doña Braulia made her perpetual promise.

With her, there are nine Lay Associates who have already committed themselves for life. With a total of 21 members (plus 3 "collaborating

members”), LAOMI has established itself in this humble barrio “Puerto Pabla” in Lambaré, where the group had its origins, thanks to the Oblate presence, when in 1989 they started the second Latin American novitiate in Paraguay (presently, there is a novitiate there with six novices of five different nationalities).

There to receive the promises was Fr. Miguel FRITZ, provincial of Paraguay. Presiding at the Mass in the courtyard of the “Mauricio Lefebvre” novitiate was Fr. Pedro BRITZ, mentor of the LAOMI (and the novice master). He centered his homily on the person of Jesus Christ whom we preach as the Crucified One. He highlighted His missionary commitment, saying that it is also now the time for an Oblate priest or Brother to come forth from this community. From the community there were many participants, together with some Oblates and representatives from MAMI which maintains a very warm relationship with the LAOMI. (Miguel Fritz)

## **VENEZUELA**

### **Farewell to Casigua el Cubo**

Last June 5, the Oblates officially said farewell to the community of Casigua el Cubo, where they have worked for almost 20 years. The parish will be turned over to diocesan clergy in the month of August.

It was a simple and friendly celebration, presided by Bishop Ramiro DÍAZ, bishop of the Vicariate and the first Oblate pastor of Casigua. The superior of the mission, Fr. José Manuel CINCUÉNDEZ, said a few words suitable for the occasion:

“They say that farewells are always sad, and all the more after almost 20 years of Oblate presence among you. The Missionary Oblates in Venezuela began to work in Casigua in December of 1990, shortly after their arrival in this beautiful country.

“We recall the three first Oblate missionaries to arrive: Fr. Ramiro Díaz, Fr. Octaviano VEGA and Fr. Francisco Javier PUERTA, who began

to move around the whole parish, first hitching a ride, then in old cars, on motorcycles, and finally in more modern cars. Of those first three Oblates, Monsignor Ramiro was named bishop of the Vicariate in 1997, to the great joy of the whole community of Casigua...

“There have been 11 Oblates from three different countries (Italy, Congo and Spain) who have worked in this parish. They built the churches of Cruce and Campo Rosario; they remodeled those of Sardinata and Carmelo, and they built parish halls in Sardinata and here in Casigua. But, above all, they tried to be close to this people: sharing the Word of God, teaching the children and youth the catechism, celebrating the Eucharist, confessing, listening to those who were in difficulty, helping those in need, visiting the sick, burying the dead. As our rule of life tells us, the Oblates must always be close to the people.

“Twenty years make for a long time, even for mistakes, misunderstandings and errors which we may have committed and for which we must also ask forgiveness today in this celebration.

“But we are, as you all know, missionaries. Our vocation is to travel the highways in order to proclaim the gospel, to go to other countries, to build up the Church. After 20 years, it is time to leave this community in which we have lived and learned. We do it too with the sorrow that we do not have enough Oblates in Venezuela to take care of all the commitments that we have.

“What has been sown stays here, the seeds of the gospel, so that they might bear fruit. The love we have shared stays too and it will never disappear, nor the memory of the friendship of all of us who have worked here.

“We are also leaving behind a relic of our founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod, in the altar of this parish church, a memorial of a saint who had a heart as big as the world and who sent his Missionary Oblates to all the continents. It’s a little piece of him, together with our heart, that stays forever here in Casigua el Cubo.”



**PARAGUAY****Olegario Dominguez: Exemplum vitae**

*Exemplum Vitae* (Example of Life) is the title of the honor which the Catholic University of Our Lady of the Assumption in the capital of Paraguay bestowed upon Father Olegario DOMÍNGUEZ.

During the celebrations related to its centennial, various praiseworthy professors were honored who had helped to develop the University, as the current rector stated.

It was a great honor for the Oblates of Paraguay, for among the honorees was the dean of the province, who, at the age of 90, continues to conduct classes and correct theses in the Institute of Theology of this University.

For the solemn ceremony of June 4, 2010, several Oblate confreres of Fr. Olegario accompanied him, among whom the provincial, Fr. Miguel FRITZ and several of his scholastic students.

**Africa-Madagascar****ZAMBIA****Radio Liseli as light of truth**

Mongu Diocese Bishop Paul DUFFY has urged the Roman Catholic Church-run Oblate Radio Liseli never to veer from its special responsibility of radiating the light of truth to the people of Western Province.

And Western Province minister Sikwibele Mwapela has acknowledged that it is only a well-informed community that makes good decisions.

During celebrations to mark five years of Oblate Radio Liseli's existence, held at Mongu's Ngulu Hotel on June 26, Bishop Duffy said the radio station was a part and parcel of the uplifting of the people of the Province to a more informed, educated citizenry.

"Yours is a special responsibility of radiating the light of truth. Don't ever veer from that obligation. Yours is not a job. It's a true vocation of sharing faith with others by your service to upholding Christian values in all phases of our being. You are God's instrument," Bishop Duffy said. "During these past five years, our people have benefited so much from the wide scope of programming aired. The Good News of the Gospel with its practical application to daily living is much appreciated by so many listeners."

Bishop Duffy, who has just returned from Kaoma's Mangango Constituency, said when visiting the Province's remote villages, it was gratifying to hear Oblate Radio Liseli being tuned in.

"The people tell me 'we now feel connected. We are able to know what's going on, especially in our own part of the country. We no longer feel so isolated'," said Bishop Duffy. "Oblate Radio Liseli is a true light for the people of the Western Province."

And Mwapela said it was common knowledge that the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) signal could not reach the Province's rural areas and as such, community radio stations became significant. Mwapela said community radio stations took communication closer to the people and made them part of the decision-making process.

"Because it is only a well-informed community that makes good decisions," Mwapela said. "When Oblate Radio Liseli started airing different programmes in 2005, the community, including some government departments and non-governmental organisations, were reluctant to give out information but as time went by, people began to appreciate Oblate Radio Liseli's vision and mission."

Mwapela said Oblate Radio Liseli had played a vital role in the province's development prospects over the last half decade.

However, Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) Zambia delegation superior Fr Evans CHINYEMBA asked the government to listen to appeals by the radio station to expand its coverage area in the Province.

Fr Chinyemba said it was inspiring that what had

started just as a mere item on the agenda was now an institution that reached out to people in their quest for God, news and development.

Oblate Radio Liseli director Fr Freeborn KIBOMBWE said the realisation of the dream of Radio Liseli had not been without its trials and difficulties but that the vision, passion and courage had left nothing unchallenged in realising the noble purpose.

Several Mongu residents attended the anniversary celebration and awards were given to deserving radio staff and members of the community, including the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE). (Mwala Kalaluka in The Post on line: [www.postzambia.com](http://www.postzambia.com), 1 July 2010)

## NATAL

### **Sending missionaries beyond borders**

During 2010, the Natal Province will have given three missionaries to countries beyond our borders. Fr. Claude LUKUBA recently received an obedience to the Province of Congo. Fr. Paul HORROCKS is currently in a two year transition between Natal and the Anglo-Irish Province. Fr. Merlin INCE has received an obedience from the Superior General for the Mission of Colombia, a mission of the Province of Haiti. The obedience will take effect in January 2011.

At first sight, some may say that it is a pity that we have lost these three good men who were such great missionaries in our province. But a moment's reflection will help us to see that three missionary journeys to three different continents is a stamp of our own missionary maturity as we in Natal send missionaries *Ad Gentes*.

Indeed it is an essential part of our missionary journey as Pope John Paul II reminds us in *Redemptoris Missio* no. 33, when he says: "there

*is a diversity of activities in the Church's one mission... First, there is the situation where the Church's missionary activity addresses: peoples, groups, and socio-cultural contexts in which Christ and his Gospel are not known. This is mission ad Gentes in the proper sense of the term. Secondly, there are Christian communities with adequate and solid ecclesial structures. In these communities the Church carries out her activity and pastoral care. Thirdly, there is an intermediate situation, particularly in countries with ancient Christian roots, and occasionally in the younger Churches as well, where entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel. In this case what is needed is a 'new evangelization' or a 'reevangelization'."*

In fact, the Natal Province has its own strong history of sending missionaries elsewhere. Already in 1934, Fr. Claude LAWRENCE was sent from here as a missionary to Sri Lanka and worked there all his life. He is much revered there and was indeed instrumental in the establishment of the National Basilica. (<http://tewattanationalbasilica.com/history.html>).

Other more recent Natal missionaries include Fr. Zdenek CIZKOVSKY who re-founded the Czech OMI Mission after the fall of communism, Fr. Bevel BRAMWELL who was sent to Tahiti, Fr. Vaughn FAYLE who went to the USA and Fr. John POOLE who also went to the Anglo Irish province. In addition, since 1983 this province has been involved in establishing the mission to Zimbabwe and 10 Oblates from here have missioned or are currently missioning there. For the first 15 years the mission was shared with Transvaal province but since 1998 it is wholly confided to us. (*OMI Natal Update*, July-August 2010)

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## Asia-Oceania

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### **KOREA**

#### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the mission**

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

Oblate presence in Korea, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Osvaldo Padilla, presided at a Mass and preached the following homily:

I wish to thank Fr. James JEYACHANDRAN (Mission Superior) and the OMI community for inviting me to be with you today, as we thank God for the blessings of 20 years of apostolic work in Korea. I have personal sentiments of brotherhood with the OMI community.

As you know, I have had close contacts of work and friendship with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Sri Lanka – where I was for 4 years Secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature and from 1995-1999, Nuncio. It was there that I have come to know of your works of evangelization, and thanks to the missionary zeal of the OMI, the Church in Sri Lanka has progressed and continues to grow even today.

I have come to know Thomas Cardinal COORAY, then Archbishop of Colombo, and I admired his humility, pastoral zeal and devotion and loyalty to the Holy See. I also knew the late Archbishop Marcello ZAGO – and his love for the missions. Also the then Bishop of Jaffna, Emilianus PILLAI, - know for his wisdom and holiness – and many other Oblate priests in the course of the years. I know you have the same spirit of all those famous missionaries in Sri Lanka – and I know that in Korea, you are showing the same zeal and love for the Church. Congratulations on your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary here in Korea. May God continue to bless your work with the many spiritual consolations that only a missionary can have for the good of the Kingdom.

Today is also the feast of your founder, Saint Eugene de Mazenod. Maybe your works can identify you with him and his life. We know he was of a migrant family himself, having to flee France because of the political and economic crisis at his time. He and his family witnessed loss of their material possessions and lived a hard life – and had to work hard in Italy to gain a decent living. Returning to France, after he worked with zeal and total dedication for the poor and the abandoned, and as Bishop and Superior General, he sought for himself and his members the perfection that can come only from identifying himself with Christ in the person of the poor. Eugene insisted on deep spiritual

formation and a close community life. He was a man who loved Christ with passion and was always ready to take on any apostolate if he saw it answering the needs of the Church. The "glory of God, the good of the Church and the sanctification of souls" were impelling forces for him.

Today's gospel from St. Luke is practically the Magna Carta of the ideals of Eugene de Mazenod and summarizes the apostolate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate: "The Lord has anointed us to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."

Like our Lord, we try to realize the words of Isaiah in our missionary endeavors. Our mission is evangelization of the poor in a globalized world. I therefore unite myself spiritually with you in Korea - as you work to feed the homeless, give shelter to abandoned children, give material and spiritual consolation to the migrant workers, attend to the sick, and at the same time strengthen yourself with the spirituality that unites us to Christ – for whatever we do to one of these – we do them to Christ. The face of Christ is made manifest in these works.

Dear Fathers, the Church appreciates your willingness and concern to answer the Lord's call wherever you are sent and to put yourselves at the service of the local Churches, despite your limited means and small number here in Korea. I am sure that your missionary zeal will bear many fruits for the glory of God.

God bless you always. I give to all the blessings of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.

### **CHINA** **Another Oblate home for the "most abandoned"**

The delegation council agreed to fund the full cost for a fifth China Little Flower group-home.

This will serve as a family environment for five to six physically-challenged abandoned children,

offering basic education for the children, salaries for the “foster parents”, etc.

Currently China Little Flower has an intensive care unit for 25 abandoned infants and has four group

homes (foster homes) for 24 handicapped orphans. With the addition of the fifth home, the number of older children being served will reach approximately thirty. Foster parents are currently being interviewed and the new home will open in August of 2010.

## Europe

### SPAIN

#### WYD 2011: reserve your place

On July 1, 2010, registration opened for World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid. As you know, we Oblates will have our Oblate Encounter in the diocese of Malaga from August 11-15, 2011. At this time, in order to reserve our places, they are asking me, as the one responsible in Spain for the Oblate group, that I furnish the names of the individual Oblates responsible for each country, as well as an estimate of the number of youth who will come, in order to reserve our places which are limited.

Therefore, I am asking that they send me by e-mail ([omimadrid2011@gmail.com](mailto:omimadrid2011@gmail.com)) their response as soon as possible. Afterwards, there will be time, until March 1, 2011, to finalize their registration.

Those who are interested in pre-registering already as an Oblate group should get in contact with Fr. Ismael GARCÍA at the above mentioned e-mail address.

The remaining information will be personally sent to the persons responsible in each country.

## Anniversaries for September 2010

### 75 Years of religious life

1935.09.08	06212	Fr. Marian Mróz	Poland
1935.09.08	06190	Fr. Mieczyslaw Niepieklo	Poland
1935.09.08	06198	Fr. Alfons Rzezniczek	Poland
1935.09.08	06211	Fr. Kazimierz Szymurski	Poland

### 70 Years of religious life

1940.09.08	07149	Fr. Edmundo Leising	Brazil
1940.09.15	07356	Fr. Joseph Smith	Northern S. A.

### 65 Years of religious life

1945.09.08	08022	Fr. Jacques Keyzer	Belgium/Holland
1945.09.08	08033	Fr. William McHugh	United States
1945.09.29	08049	Fr. John Murphy	Anglo-Irish
1945.09.29	08047	Fr. Dennis O'Connell	Anglo-Irish
1945.09.29	08048	Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan	Anglo-Irish

### 60 Years of religious life

1950.09.08	08901	Fr. Charles Beausoleil	United States
1950.09.08	08890	Fr. Thomas Bilodeau	Lacombe
1950.09.08	08888	Fr. Thomas Brown	Brazil
1950.09.08	08895	Fr. Arthur Craig	United States
1950.09.08	08919	Fr. Marek Czyzycki	Assumption
1950.09.08	08913	Fr. Yves Desmet	Belgium/Holland

1950.09.08	08912	Fr. Herman D'hoore	Central S. A.
1950.09.08	08908	Fr. Pierre Fourman	Belgium/Holland
1950.09.08	08924	Fr. Leonard Glowacki	Poland
1950.09.08	08918	Fr. Alfred Hubenig	Lacombe
1950.09.08	08877	Fr. Guy Jalbert	N.D.-du-Cap
1950.09.08	08916	Fr. Christie Joachimpillai	Lacombe
1950.09.08	08922	Fr. Alfons Kupka	Poland
1950.09.08	08920	Fr. Antoni Kurek	Poland
1950.09.08	08896	Fr. Daniel Lafrance	Lacombe
1950.09.08	08900	Fr. Joachim Lizon	Poland
1950.09.08	08911	Fr. John Mazur	Assumption
1950.09.08	09075	Fr. Claude Paquet	N.D.-du-Cap
1950.09.08	08933	Fr. Jean Remy	France
1950.09.08	08904	Fr. Frans Samyn	Central S. A.
1950.09.08	08898	Fr. Willy Staes	Belgium/Holland
1950.09.08	08915	Fr. Kazimierz Switala	Poland
1950.09.14	08928	Fr. Edward Smalec	Poland
1950.09.15	08934	Fr. Jean Lambert	France
1950.09.15	09154	Fr. Arsène Perbost	France
1950.09.15	09212	Fr. Marcel Rouyer	France
1950.09.29	08940	Fr. Mario Andreotti	Italy
1950.09.29	08938	Fr. Edward Carolan	Anglo-Irish
1950.09.29	08941	Fr. Nicholas Forde	Anglo-Irish
1950.09.29	08939	Fr. Richard O'Donovan	Anglo-Irish
1950.09.29	09049	Fr. David Power	United States

**60 Years of priesthood**

1950.09.29	08022	Fr. Jacques Keyzer	Belgium/Holland
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**50 Years of religious life**

1960.09.08	10957	Fr. Lucas Casaert	Bolivia
1960.09.08	10952	Fr. Gerard Delbeke	Congo
1960.09.08	11430	Bro. Glenn Doughty	Lacombe
1960.09.08	11339	Fr. Paul Emaer	France
1960.09.08	11429	Bro. Mono-Viara Constantin Etshime	Congo
1960.09.08	11712	Fr. Jean-Pierre Hours	France
1960.09.08	10944	Fr. John Iwo	Colombo
1960.09.08	10958	Fr. George Knab	United States
1960.09.08	10953	Fr. Roberto Mayer	Brazil
1960.09.08	11091	Fr. Raymond Prybis	United States
1960.09.08	11271	Fr. Philippe Thierry	France
1960.09.08	11092	Fr. Gerardo Van de Walle	Argentina-Chile
1960.09.08	11095	Fr. Georges Vervust	Belgium/Holland
1960.09.15	10768	Fr. Palmiro Delalio	Italy
1960.09.15	11018	Fr. Paolo Pesenti	Italy
1960.09.15	10968	Fr. Giovanni Santopietro	Italy
1960.09.15	10967	Fr. Giancarlo Todesco	Italy
1960.09.29	10977	Fr. Edward Quinn	Anglo-Irish

**50 Years of priesthood**

1960.09.04	10037	Fr. Igino Ingriselli	Italy
1960.09.08	09670	Fr. Patrick Thompson	United States
1960.09.15	10005	Fr. Joseph Daudier	Haiti
1960.09.15	09982	Fr. Roberto Durette	Bolivia
1960.09.15	09977	Fr. Robert Levesque	United States
1960.09.15	09980	Fr. Donald Lozier	United States
1960.09.17	10151	Fr. Laval Tremblay	N.D.-du-Cap
1960.09.21	10025	Fr. Rudolph Nowakowski	Assumption
1960.09.21	10030	Fr. Ronald Zimmer	Lacombe
1960.09.24	10041	Fr. Jean-Marie Collière	France
1960.09.24	09973	Fr. Maurice Lesage	N.D.-du-Cap
1960.09.24	10221	Fr. André Ripoché	France
1960.09.25	09824	Fr. Edward Barrett	Anglo-Irish
1960.09.25	10042	Fr. Patrick O'Reilly	Australia
1960.09.25	10048	Fr. Patrick Sheridan	Anglo-Irish

**25 Years of religious life**

1985.09.08	12894	Fr. Adrien Difficile	Haiti
1985.09.08	13021	Fr. Esaba Lin Kiekie	Congo
1985.09.08	13028	Bro. Daniel Kloch	Poland
1985.09.08	12960	Fr. Wojciech Kluj	Poland
1985.09.08	12957	Fr. Eugeniusz Kowol	Cameroun
1985.09.08	13027	Bro. Adam Makarewicz	Poland
1985.09.08	12895	Fr. Ellince Martyr	Haiti
1985.09.08	12958	Fr. Waldemar Meyka	Poland
1985.09.08	12955	Fr. Wladyslaw Poddebniak	CentralEuropean
1985.09.08	12959	Fr. Janusz Snarski	Poland
1985.09.09	12962	Fr. Stanislaw Kazek	Poland
1985.09.09	12965	Fr. Jaroslaw Szotkiewicz	Poland
1985.09.14	12909	Fr. Vincent Gruber	France
1985.09.14	12989	Fr. Alexandre Sisténich	Belgium/Holland
1985.09.24	13009	Fr. Michael Coughlan	Anglo-Irish
1985.09.24	13230	Bro. Michael Moore	Anglo-Irish
1985.09.28	12905	Fr. Martin Benning	CentralEuropean
1985.09.28	12985	Fr. Helmut Haagen	CentralEuropean
1985.09.29	13064	Fr. Fabio Bastoni	Italy
1985.09.29	12996	Fr. Claudio Bertuccio	Thailand
1985.09.29	13065	Fr. Pasquale Castrilli	Italy
1985.09.29	13063	Fr. Domenico Di Meo	Italy
1985.09.29	13062	Fr. Maurizio Giorgianni	Colombo
1985.09.29	12915	Fr. Gennaro Rosato	Italy

**25 Years of priesthood**

1985.09.14	12632	Fr. Nicola Ventriglia	Italy
1985.09.22	12583	Fr. Matthews Mokiti	Lesotho
1985.09.28	12582	Fr. Isidore Mathibeli	Lesotho

**Suffrages for our Deceased**

No. 45-58

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PROV./Del.</b>	<b>BORN</b>	<b>DIED AT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Fr. Leo Gauvin	United States	06/03/1924	San Antonio	08/06/2010
Fr. Joseph Guilbaud	OMI Lacombe	13/03/1915	Whitehorse	21/06/2010
Fr. Egbert Stang	OMI Lacombe	24/02/1927	Saskatoon	28/06/2010
Fr. Louis Mariën	Belgium/Holland	04/11/1915	Barvaux-sur-Ourthe	28/06/2010
Fr. Pietro Maria Bonometti	Indonesia	05/02/1935	Balipapan City	03/07/2010
Fr. Pietro Bignami	OMI Lacombe	22/10/1926	Winnipeg	05/07/2010
Fr. André Courjal	France	30/11/1919	Lyon	06/07/2010
Fr. Tadeusz Hajduk	Poland	20/08/1930	Poznan	08/07/2010
Fr. Robert McGregor	Australia	29/06/1929	Melbourne	10/07/2010
Fr. Pablo Fernández	Spain	20/03/1920	Madrid	12/07/2010
Bro. Lawrence Thantsi	Lesotho	09/05/1959	Maseru	13/07/2010
Bro. Jean-Paul Cormier	Lacombe	11/05/1940	St. Boniface	14/07/2010
Fr. Robert Venquier	Belgium/Holland	15/08/1922	Tournai	30/07/2010
Fr. Wim Cartens	Belgium/Holland	30/01/1929	Nijmegen	31/07/2010

*“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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