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## Celebrating 200 years of missionary service in the Church 1816-2016

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### Oblates from Latin America share their faith experience on justice, peace and the integrity of creation

by Fr. Miguel Pipolo, omi

The OMI 1982 *Constitutions and Rules* made a point to introduce the ministry of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation as a main preoccupation of its members. It is good to remember this as we go through the third year of the Oblate Triennium. This ministry cannot be absent from our missionary activity. I hope that sharing our experience in Latin America will help other Oblates in their desire to serve the poor wherever we are.

The economic and social policies in the long Latin American colonial period in Latin America were meant to keep the poor people under the rule of the governing class. Economic and social tragedies were not lacking. These policies affected in depth the poor and the most abandoned in the region. Unspeakable torture and deaths have occurred everywhere, but especially in the countries of Central America and Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, the so-called “southern cone” of high material wealth. And this happened in a supposedly Catholic continent.

The Oblates working in Latin America shared the lot of the poor; its pastoral work suffered a turn-about of 360 degrees following the II Vatican Council. The Church was with the poor, even if some bishops were not interested in speaking out in their favor. Many bishops were exemplary shepherds, like Bishop Helder Camara of Recife, Brazil. No suffering was lacking.

Oblates in Bolivia, Chile, Brazil and Argentina shared the lot of imprisoned Christians. A large number of religious men and women were persecuted by military regimes at the service of foreign capital. Moved by Gospel values some of them decided to join “guerrilla movements” so common in the continent in the 70’s and 80’s.

Important aspects of the Oblate charism motivated the Oblates in those difficult times: the love of Jesus Christ, the love of the poor and the love of the Church, “that glorious inheritance purchased by Christ the Saviour at the cost of his own blood”. Committed to Jesus and to the Church, Oblate missionaries preached the Gospel values in the language of the poor. Such was the Oblate missionary novelty: being close to the poor. The socio-economic conditions of the lower and working classes were inhumane and the Oblates shared their lot. We have learned this from Saint Eugene’s famous sermon at the Magdalene Church in Aix-en-Provence. The Founder was a witness of all those inhumane conditions of the poor. The current world conditions are not different from those.

The Oblates today are present in 14 countries in Latin America. St. Eugene used to say that the Congregation was small, but it would be great if it were holy and faithful to its charism and to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If one asks Oblates

whether justice and peace ministry is central to their evangelization, they will have no doubts. They will say that without justice and peace, the Oblate charism is not being lived as St. Eugene established it.

In the Amazon region, Oblates care for the native peoples who have left their villages and are now living in the big city of Manaus. The poor are searching for better living conditions in the big city which is the scene of an ecological tragedy. The Amazon region is a recurring theme in whatever meeting or seminar where the environment is discussed. The governments of both Brazil and Peru have discussed the possibility of a railway starting in western Brazil and heading towards the Pacific Ocean, cutting across native people's forest areas; many of these native people have hardly any contact with the white man.

In Peru the Oblates work in the Napo River valley, building Christian Basic Communities, and are facing serious problems related to mining and exploration of the environment's riches.

The Oblates in Bolivia are supporting the silver mine workers in defense of their rights. They also are very involved in contributing to the promotion of cultures and traditions of the Andean peoples.

The Oblates in Paraguay are dedicating themselves to the Guarani people and their centuries old traditions.

Chile suffered a traumatic experience due to a "coup d'état" that assassinated President Allende and hundreds of other innocent people as the military tried to implement economic and political policies amidst a bloody dictatorship. Many Oblates were forced to leave the country. The same happened in several Latin American countries.

Throughout the continent Oblates contributed to an evangelical understanding of devotional traditions built over the colonial years. The Oblates did not forget to engage themselves in the adventure of bettering the socio-economic conditions of the poor they served. In some countries they have built professional schools seeking to better the people's qualifications in different professions.

The Oblates understand that Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation are a pastoral ministry that permeates all other ministries in which they are involved. A word used for this is "transversal"; in other words, Oblate ministry fails if it does not touch upon the material conditions under which the poor and the most abandoned struggle. In large urban centers of the continent, the Oblates are contributing to the integral liberation of the people to whom they are sent. They try to help the community leadership to understand that justice and peace issues are an integral part of the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. This is not always easy, for previous Christian formation was quite "spiritual". Faith and social commitment did not always walk together across the continent.

Oblates have contributed to establish "Human Rights Defense Centers" on the continent, as something fundamental in missionary ministry. St. Eugene taught Oblates to be parochial mission preachers, aiming at bringing the listeners to act as human beings first, then as Christians, to finally to become saints. Such has been the goal of the Oblates in this continent where one strives to be faithful to the charism of the Congregation. This requires constant revision of objectives and strategies in order to root Jesus' Kingdom values in the lives of people and society where economic and social inequalities abound. These at times seem to be insurmountable in spite of much effort and good intentions.

It must be mentioned that the Oblates have made many efforts in training young people who are thinking of joining Oblate Life. The houses of formation are always located on the outskirts of large cities so that young Oblates would have a clear idea regarding what social class they are preparing themselves to serve as Missionary Oblates. They have the challenge of transmitting in simple words what they have learned so that people may have access to the richness of the Gospel message and its understanding. Oblates are always evaluating their pastoral experiences and adapting themselves to the ever changeable conditions of the times. This is no easy task.

The journey of the Oblates on the Latin American Continent went through several

contradictory experiences and has encountered also several attractive ideologies. These shaped and transformed Oblates way of being and acting. The contribution of impoverished people was vital to them in their challenge to contributing

and improving the living conditions of the poor. In view of the calls of past General Chapters, Oblates have emphasized the role of the laity in the Oblate ministry regarding Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

## Holy See

### VATICAN

#### Oblate named bishop in Zambia

Vatican City, 18 June 2016 – The Holy Father appointed Fr. Valentine KALUMBA, O.M.I., as bishop of Livingstone, Zambia (area 58,200 km<sup>2</sup>; population 428,890; Catholics 91,711; priests 32; religious 92).

The bishop-elect was born in Mufulira, Zambia in 1967; he made his religious vows in 2002 and was ordained a priest in 2005. He has served in a number of pastoral roles, including assistant bursar and parish vicar, parish priest, director of the Oblate Radio Liseli in Mongu, and bursar of the Centre of Philosophical Formation in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. He is currently vicar superior of the Delegation of Oblates in Zambia and pastor of St. Theresa's parish, Kabwe, Zambia. He succeeds Bishop Raymond Mpezele, whose resignation from the pastoral care of the same diocese upon reaching the age limit was accepted by the Holy Father. ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))

The Livingstone Diocese was originally a part of the Zambesi Mission and then of the Prefecture Apostolic of Broken Hill (Kabwe). The Irish Capuchins arrived in 1931 and took responsibility for this area. A flourishing Christianity developed mainly by establishing schools and by pastoral work. A great support both in education and in pastoral work also came from the Holy Cross Sisters who joined the Capuchins in 1936.

In 1936, Livingstone became a Prefecture Apostolic and in 1950, a Vicariate Apostolic and then a diocese. Bishop Valentine becomes the third bishop of the diocese which lost territory at the founding of the diocese of Mongu in 1997. The current bishop of Mongu is Oblate Bishop Evans CHINYEMBA, former General Councillor, who, in 2011, succeeded the late Oblate Bishop Paul DUFFY.

Within the Livingstone diocese, the Oblates are in charge of St. Leopold Parish in Shangombo.

## 36<sup>th</sup> General Chapter

### PRECAPITULAR COMMISSION

#### Moving toward September

By way of *Skype*, the Precapitular Commission held an electronic meeting on May 27, 2016, to continue preparations for the 36<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. Frs. Claudio BERTUCCIO, Martin WOLF, Emmanuel YOUNGTEN and William O'DONNELL (secretary) discussed the status of preparations for the Chapter, preparations that have taken a step forward with the arrival of the Commissioner, Fr. Claudio, in Rome for the time remaining prior to the September 14 opening of this important gathering of Oblates.

The Commissioner reported on his recent meeting with the Central Government, pointing

out the approval by them of the proposed overall calendar, the first week plan and the outline of the procedures for the discussion of the theme.

There was also discussion of the status of the venue (the Christian Brothers' "Casa LaSalle") and the number of rooms available. It has been decided to move the closing of the chapter to the late afternoon of October 11 rather than the morning of October 12.

Other practical questions were also discussed. If necessary, further meetings of the Commission will also use *Skype*.

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## General Administration

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### GENERAL HOUSE

#### 75 years of dedicated service

Brother Giuseppe D’ORAZIO is no stranger to anyone who has lived in or visited the Oblate General House in Rome within the last 60 years. There is possibly no other living Oblate who has lived in one community for so long. That is not the only reason to celebrate with this veteran Oblate. On 12 June this year, he completed 75 years of religious life. A celebration was held in the General House with the participation of the Via Aurelia community, Bro. Giuseppe’s relatives and well-wishers on 19 June.

The Superior General, Fr. Louis LOUGEN presided at the Holy Eucharist; the Vicar General, Fr. Paolo ARCHIATI adorned it with an interesting homily, emphasizing Bro. Giuseppe’s humble and yet dedicated service, always accompanied by his genuine smile. During

the Mass the 96-year-old Brother renewed his commitment to God yet again, by professing his vows before the chief shepherd of the Congregation. After the Eucharist, all gathered in the refectory for a festive meal. Bro. Giuseppe was all smiles when he cut the anniversary cake as those gathered around him sang the famous ‘*tanti auguri*’.

Born in on 24 February 1920 in Gazzi, Italy, Bro. Giuseppe made his first profession on 12 June 1941, and 6 years later, he dedicated himself as an Oblate for life. Ever since the General House moved to the present location, he has been a faithful member of the community there. Over the years, he has rendered his services in many different capacities. Even after his retirement, he would faithfully take care of the postage of the house. Oblate Communications wishes him long life with good health. *Ad multos annos!*

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## Latin America

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### HAITI

#### A “Lazarus” event

*Fr. Alfred CHARPENTIER is the Director of Foyer St. Etienne, in Les Cayes, Haiti. He tells of a wonderful experience he recently witnessed.*

During the 4<sup>th</sup> week Easter, in mid-April of this year (2016), all was going well and happily at the Foyer St. Etienne for the elderly poor in Les Cayes, Haiti. We had a full house of residents (at least we thought we did), 23 men and 17 women. We were still in our Easter mood after all the celebrations and events of the season: Christ is risen!

On Friday afternoon, as I was coming back from a routine visit of the Foyer, a delegation from a nearby parish was waiting for me at the mission house: the parish priest, Fr. Adam, and 3 members of his parish of Arniquet. I could never have imagined what they were to share with me today.

These good Samaritans were very concerned about an elderly man in his seventies who, they

said, had recently been dumped on the village square, near the church and cemetery, late one night, and, surprisingly, had managed to drag himself into the cemetery and was now living between two burial vaults covered by palm branches. People were watching over him, sometimes bringing him food and drink, etc., but did not know what to do with him, until someone mentioned the Foyer St Etienne for the elderly poor in Les Cayes, the only Foyer in the area that handled these cases. I had to tell them that our place was full to capacity, but that we would try to squeeze him in anyway as soon as possible; at least they did not get “no” for an answer.

Then the rainy season started with regular intervals of showers and downpours. That was for me a very concrete sign from above: do something fast! On Monday, April 25, we sent our scout, Yvenel, to check on the cemetery resident, with a camera to take pictures.

After seeing the pictures and hearing the report of our drenched scout, we called the parish and



told Fr. Adam that a place at the Foyer was waiting for their Lazarus. They could bring him in early the next day. It was easy to convince two residents of the men's wing to squeeze in Lazarus after hearing the reason why. Precil (blind and infirm) and Alphonse (unable to walk) both agreed to have a third resident living with them. After all, both had been rescued from the streets years before in a similar way. And so, our Lazarus finally arrived on a rainy Tuesday, in a volunteered pickup truck, accompanied by total strangers (including a priest), all good Samaritans.

Our Lazarus was introduced to us as Nicolas Ajeun (in French *Ajeun* means *fasting*). He was wheeled in, weak and distraught, unable to walk and very hungry and cold. In the few weeks he has been under our care, his memory is back, he eats like a horse, and is now able to get around a few times a day for therapy with his walker. The doctors say that he is in relatively good health now. Soon he should be able to get around on his own if he makes the daily efforts. Nicolas is a regular now in our sitting room crowd and is getting to know his fellow residents. All we know about him so far is that he is originally from an Oblate parish on the southern coast, Les Anglais. He moved to a place called La Ferme, a few miles away from where we found him; he has 5 children (nowhere to be seen) and at one time he was a field worker for hire.

At our recent Pentecost celebration and party (we try to have as many parties and celebrations as possible to break the routine and to have fun together) he began to smile again. Yes, he is risen from his Lazarus tomb! Someday we might find out why him?...why us? In this Holy Year of Mercy, the Lord calls upon everyone, even the poorest of the poor, to be merciful towards one another.

## **BAJA CALIFORNIA MISSION**

### **Feeding bodies and souls**

*Fr. Stanislaw ZOWADA has recently been appointed pastor of this huge parish in the La Morita section of the city of Tijuana, Mexico, just south of the United States border.. Born in Poland, Father Stan has been part of the US province since his ordination in 2000. Fr. Jesse*

*ESQUEDA is a young Oblate (ordained in 2014) whose dream was to serve the poorest of the poor. He gets to realize that dream in the La Morita. Fr. Jesse served as a youth minister in an Oblate parish in California before joining the Congregation. In the Friends Helping Friends newsletter, they speak about their work which they share with several other Oblates.*

Our parish serves an area of around 200,000 people and includes fifteen chapels. Each chapel has many ministries, including a religious education program and a youth group. In our parish there are over 260 catechists and hundreds of children and youth who participate in these programs. We have to drive to all of these chapels for Masses, holy hours, confessions, Bible study sessions and other parish meetings. Two of these chapels can only be reached through the use of a 4x4 truck, due to the horrible dirt roads.

About two years ago a family (mom, nine siblings and fourteen grandchildren) left their home state of Sinaloa because their father, the primary provider, had been murdered and the rest of the family members were threatened. They left their home, family business and everything they owned and moved to Tijuana. Five of the siblings are deaf; thus, it is almost impossible for them to find employment to support themselves and their children. One of the family members recently died of cancer and the oldest brother is currently fighting leukemia. This family is living in dire poverty and enormous emotional pain. Situations such as this are common within our community. Many families leave their home state due to violence or poverty. They come to this border city seeking a better life. Our parish provides health service, food assistance and spiritual support for the many families who migrate to this city.

We are blessed with great youth programs. Currently over two hundred and fifty teens and young adults are part of our youth ministry. The heart of our youth ministry is the weekend retreats. These weekend retreats provide a transformative experience for our youth. After the retreats, the youth receive formation, mentorship and leadership training. They are then empowered so that they can be positive

role models in the community. Many of them left a life of gangs and drugs and are now actively serving their communities. A good number of our young adults are now college students with a bright future ahead.

Giovanni, for example, joined a gang at a very young age. After 10 of his friends were killed due to gang violence, he decided to turn his life around. Two years ago he attended our weekend youth retreat. That retreat transformed his life. He is now very active in our youth ministry and plans to enter the seminary to become a priest. Please pray for him!

## PERU

### Transformation in jail

*Brother Blaise MACQUARRIE is a Canadian who has worked for many years in Chincha Alta, Peru. Here, he tells of his prison ministry.*

Our local bishop heard of our active visits to the jail and showed much interest in this new apostolate of ours. He asked for priest volunteers from the seven parishes here in our area. Bishop Hector is young and likes the idea of helping inmates with basic needs and seeing to the welfare of their souls. So some priests volunteered to go to the jail and celebrate Holy Mass and to hear tons of confessions, confessions that would make your hair stand on end. Fr. Jesui, an Oblate priest, told me he heard more confessions in three hours than he had heard in the parish in two months. Now lay women and men are going with Fr. Jesui every Thursday to help in the evangelization and are meeting with great success.

Marcos, Walter, Paulino and I go to the jails on Fridays. There is a real connection between the priest and laypeople that go to the jail to celebrate mass and with us who go there with basic items the inmates need. One group prays for the needs of the inmates, both spiritual and material, and we help meet those needs.

We can go anywhere in this huge jail, speak with the inmates and see for ourselves their specific needs. Once knowing these needs, we take action. For example, we visited four workshops: a carpenter shop with machinery but no wood; a

clothes shop with eight machines but no cloth; a shoe shop with a modern machine but no leather; and a craft shop that is also lacking material. We can't meet all their needs, but we can try to do something.

Roberto and Elena Rior are our link to the inmates. Chatting with this pair of good souls, we devised a project to buy shoe models, leather, glue, etc. Because they know Lima and where to make good buys, I gave them money to make the purchases. With products in hand, my team headed to jail on our regular Friday to offer them to the inmates. The inmates' reaction is so heart-warming ... big hugs followed by "thank you for remembering us."

We move on to the clothes workshop. We ask what cloth material is required. So that evening Roberto and Elena came to our house and we made up another project list. Recently we gave kits to 40 inmates to make purses for women. These have turned out great because Roberto and Elena sell the purses at a nearby parish after mass. The money collected goes back to buying more material.

We are now looking at the carpenter shop and soon they will have wood to make tables and chairs.

This brings us to 27 inmates, mostly elderly who are in jail for life and not looked upon with any love or respect. We learned from other inmates that this group lacks toilet paper, toothpaste, tooth brushes and soap. Why? Because they are sexual violators. I said to my team, "Let's demonstrate love for this group." So another great couple, Marcos and Teresa, went and bought 27 toiletry kits. Off we went to the jail. The reaction from the inmates was immediate. They came to us with hugs and tears in their weak eyes that said everything that words can't. We are all God's children, we are sisters and brothers.

What next? In the jail of 1,400 mouths, they buy 6,000 buns per day. This modern jail has no bakery. So, chatting with Roberto and Elena about this situation, I asked if we could set up a bakery in the jail. They came up with a few good ideas, and now there is a scent of bread in the air. (*Oblate Spirit*, June 2016)

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## Canada-United States

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### **NOTRE-DAME-DU-CAP Closing of Maison Deschâtelets**

In 1885, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate built Saint Joseph Scholasticate in the eastern part of Ottawa. It was a huge building along the Rideau River, its façade looked out upon Main Street. The scholasticate was home to hundreds of young Oblates who were studying philosophy and theology while preparing for missionary life throughout the world. In 1971, the scholasticate moved from the site and the building was named “Edifice Deschâtelets” in honor of Father Leo Deschâtelets, former superior of the house who was elected Superior General of the Missionary Oblates in Rome. “Edifice Deschâtelets” offered lodging for priests, religious men and women and laity who were studying at Saint Paul University. The Deschâtelets Archives had been located there since 1920 but they were moved to Richelieu (QC) in 2014.

In recent years, the building became too large for the needs of its community because of the decreasing numbers. Therefore, the Oblates sold the property to a firm that will develop it into different types of housing.

Last May 19, more than 170 persons answered an invitation to live a moment of thanksgiving and fraternity while remembering the life and mission of this house. The Liturgy of the Word, presided by the Provincial, Fr. Luc TARDIF, was a time for listening to some texts from Sacred

Scripture and then to a historical presentation by Pierre HURTUBISE. There were also some symbolic gestures to illustrate the many groups who have lived there or visited the site.

Present were several bishops, some members of the Lacombe Province and a large representation of some of the communities of Sisters who worked in the house, among others: the Little Sisters of the Holy Family and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, our neighbors. Oblate associates of the region were also represented, as well as the employees and some representative from the Universities of Saint Paul and Ottawa.

Our confrere, Paul ARSENAULT, led the singing, accompanied by Martin Brossard from the Shrine of Notre-Dame-du-Cap. During the meal, there was an atmosphere of a homecoming and the joy of coming together with so many memories. To foster this atmosphere, a group of confreres offered some songs from La Blanche, the former summer camp. One of the former Oblates who had been invited made this remark at the end of the gathering: “I came here with a heavy heart and in low spirits, but I leave now filled with a huge sense of gratitude.”

This closure is certainly a moment of profound sadness but the last word is still hope because life will win out, but in a different way. A huge thank you to all those who made this celebration not only possible but memorable. (INFO OMI, 1 June 2016)

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## Asia-Oceania

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### **COLOMBO, SRI LANKA Inauguration of De Mazenod Scholarship Foundation**

Eugene De Mazenod, from the day of his ordination, had a special dedication towards children and youth. He felt that the children and youth would be the future of the Church and society. He therefore started a youth group, a very strong and powerful group living and working together like a community of disciples. Since the arrival of the first missionaries

in Sri Lanka, the members of the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate have been involved in a wide range of activities. Among the many activities, ministry to children and youth has always been a priority. The special concern of St. Eugene for children and youth inspired the Oblates to start schools such as St. Joseph’s, St. Peter’s, De Mazenod, St. Mary’s and Holy Cross colleges in the Archdiocese of Colombo, and St. Patrick’s, St. Henry’s and St. Anthony’s colleges in the Diocese of Jaffna. Moreover, some institutes, such as Aquinas

University College, Colombo, are the still leading Catholic schools and educational institutes in the island but which are now under the aegis of the dioceses. Oblates also started organizations like Lak-ri-vi children's movement; St. Vincent's Home, Maggona for orphans and rehabilitation of delinquents; De Mazenod English Institute of Negombo.

This same noble inspiration St. Eugene had for children and the youth has been continued by the present day Oblates in the Colombo Province, guided and animated by Fr. Dennis IDDAMALGODA,. He, together with Oblates and a few lay people, has initiated a "De Mazenod Scholarship Foundation".

The vision of "De Mazenod Scholarship Foundation" is "*to empower the underprivileged children and youth through education*". In view of realizing this vision, the Foundation intends to fund eligible students with no financial means to complete their university education; to inculcate in children and youth the values that enable them to transcend religious, social, ethnic and cultural barriers; to enhance the life situation of children and youth to enjoy their self-worth and to be open and available to serve the Sri Lankan society at large; to animate them through awareness programmes to appreciate and respect human values and their own human dignity; to conduct leadership training programmes to help children and youth to acquire necessary skills to equip them as future leaders of the country; to remain sensitive to people in general, and to the poor and the needy in particular.

The De Mazenod Scholarship Foundation was launched on the Saturday 21 May 2016, the day when the Oblates of the Colombo Province Sri Lanka celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation, on the feast of the feast day of St. Eugene de Mazenod. This ceremony was held at the Fatima Church shrine and parish, Colombo. Fr. Rohan SILVA, the Provincial of Colombo Province, gave away scholarships for 12 worthy university students. It was one way of sharing the joy of the Oblates for the numerous blessings they had received from God for the past 169 years since the Oblate

foundation in Sri Lanka. The De Mazenod Scholarship Foundation will be a new sign of missionary activity in Sri Lanka, re-reading and re-energizing the founder's initial inspiration, *Evangelizare pauperibus misit me, pauperes evangelizantur*. (Fr. Ajith WELLINGTON)

## **JAPAN**

### **Pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Founder**

To celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding, Oblates of the Japan Delegation, Frs. Jude PEIRISPULLE and Hiran JAYAWARDANE, organized a pilgrimage to journey in the footsteps of St. Eugene de Mazenod. Mrs. Inoue, who was a product of the Oblate 'formation' when she was in France, coordinated the full pilgrimage program. The group consisted of 29 pilgrims and it lasted from 16 - 28 May 2016.

The pilgrims started their journey in Rome. They visited the General House where the Superior General, Fr. Louis LOUGEN, gave them a hearty welcome and showed them around the house, focusing especially on significant mementos of St. Eugene.

There was also the opportunity to visit many historic sites in Rome, including a catacomb. They had a close view of Pope Francis during a general audience in St. Peter's Square. From Rome, they went to learn more about Sts. Francis and Clare in Assisi. Then there was the long bus drive to Aix-en-Provence in France.

A member of the international community at the Foundation House in Aix, Fr. Henricus ASODO, was a gracious tour guide, showing them the places important in the life of the Founder and of the first Oblates. They celebrated the Eucharist at the tomb of the Founder in the Cathedral of Marseille.

A visit to Lourdes was also a "dream-come-true" for the pilgrims. During a Eucharist where the Oblates concelebrated, the bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, Mons. Nicholas Brouwet, made special mention of the pilgrims from Japan.

Although this pilgrimage was organized to commemorate the 200 years since the foundation



of the Oblate Congregation, for some members it was the first time traveling outside of Japan. They had many things to learn and enjoyed a memorable experience of belonging to the Oblate family at large.

## VIETNAM

### The first Oblate parish in the country

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate have been assigned their first parish in Vietnam, marking a watershed in their development and integration in the communist state.

Bishop Vincent Nguyen Van Ban of Ban Me Thuot officially appointed Oblate Father Dominic NGUYEN VAN LOC as the priest in charge of Phuoc Tin parish in southern Binh Phuoc province. The parish has an estimated 1,300 Catholics.

“This is the first time we have officially been assigned to a parish since our Congregation arrived in the country 15 years ago,” Father Loc told *ucanews.com* at his installation as parish priest May 27. “This event shows our pastoral work and commitment are appreciated by the local Church,” he said.

Father Loc joined the Congregation after some Vietnamese-French priests came to promote vocations. They have recruited 72 members working with ethnic minority groups and migrant workers in remote areas.

The OMI is one of tens of foreign orders that have tried to established communities in Vietnam since the communist country started opening up to the outside world 30 years ago. The government has only approved a few, including the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. ([www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com))

## Europe

### BELARUS

#### Spiritual pilgrimage for the bicentenary

In view of having a spiritual renewal during the year of the Oblate bicentenary, the Oblates of the Mission of Belarus had 12 days of spiritual pilgrimage to Rome and Aix-en-Provence. Out of the six Oblates serving in Belarus five of them (Jerzy KOTOWSKI, Andrzej JUCHNIEWICZ, Piotr BIELEWICZ, Szymon FORAJTER, Dmotrij ZANIAMONSKI) could make this journey.

First they visited Rome and participated in the Jubilee for Priests in the Year of Mercy. During the days of that special papal retreat, they were hosted at the General House, where they also had a fruitful meeting with Fr. Louis LOUGEN, the Superior General. The group celebrated a Holy Mass in the chapel of the heart of our Founder, together with Fr. General. After that they also renewed their vows, touching the very altar before which the Founder and Fr. Tempier made their vow of obedience as Oblates. Then, following the Oblate tradition, they sang the Salve Regina before the statue of the Oblate Madonna. Fr. General then blessed all of them with the Cross of St. Eugene de Mazenod.

The second leg of the pilgrimage was a visit to Marseille and Aix-en-Provence to be in touch with the spirit of the Founder. In the founding house they spent a few days in prayer while visiting the main places of Oblate spirituality in the two cities. At the end of the pilgrimage all of them witnessed within themselves a rekindling of Oblate spirit. A special thanks to the General House community in Rome and the community at De Mazenod International Centre (CIEM) in Aix for their generosity and hospitality. (Andrzej Juchniewicz)

### FRANCE

#### Death of a former Assistant General

Fr. Jacques DHERBOMEZ died in Lyon on June 15, 2016, after many years of illness. He served as Assistant General from 1966 until 1972, when Fr. Léo DESCHÂTELETS was Superior General. Born at Harcourt in 1925, he pronounced his first vows in 1946; he was ordained a priest in his home village in 1949.

His first obedience was to the former Province of Northern France (France-Nord); he became part of the parish mission preaching team

at Notre-Dame de Sion. He was one of the principal movers in the transformation of this type of ministry.

In 1960, he was appointed provincial of France-Nord where he served until 1966 when, during the General Chapter, he was elected Assistant General. He was assigned to supervise the three provinces of France, the two in Belgium, as well as the Polish vice-province. In his care were also mission territories such as Mackenzie and Hudson Bay, Cameroon-Chad and Congo. Therefore, he had many memorable visits and trips: "What struck me was that the missionaries were focused on human development and especially that of women. All this through education and dignity."

Upon his return to France in 1972, he was named superior of the scholasticate at Solignac and he also worked for several years as a parish priest. In 2003, as he concluded 18 years of service in a parish in Mons-en-Baroeul, a suburb of Lille, the *Voix du Nord* had an article about him where the journalist stated: "The people remember him fondly, for he had the delicate courtesy, after the ceremonies, to visit newly-weds and grieving families. With the gentle regard that characterizes him, he knows how to put everyone at ease and it seems easy to confide in him, as he exudes warmth, understanding and tolerance." ([www.oblatfrance.com](http://www.oblatfrance.com))

## GERMANY

### Ecumenism with lights

"Kronach in Lights" is one of Germany's most beautiful and popular light festivals. For the ninth time, the Bavarian town held the festival from 29 April until 8 May 2016 in the historic old part of town. The Oblates at the parish of St. John the Baptist joined the event with special light-centered events on the "Night of Churches." Also participating were other churches and the old synagogue.

The Kronach festival attracts many artistic uses of lights to illuminate buildings and trees. Visitors may also enjoy music and food in the town squares.

At the Oblate parish, visitors were invited to experience the special lighting on the interior of the church and to ponder the story of an image of the Christ called the "Holy Face of Manoppello," presented in a video. The "Holy Face" or "Volto Santo" is venerated by some as a true image of Jesus, possibly imprinted on the veil of Veronica. The veil has been located in Manoppello, Italy, since the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The video (in German) can be seen on YouTube: <http://y2u.be/MPBSshqih5Q>.

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## Africa-Madagascar

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### LESOTHO

#### Celebrating the bicentenary

The Lesotho Oblate Province celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Oblate Congregation on the 30<sup>th</sup> April on the grounds of Mazenod Parish. A very large crowd was in attendance, including many friends and benefactors. This feast was all about our holy Founder, Eugene de Mazenod and his vision. ... In the very humble beginnings in 1816, Father de Mazenod wrote that there was a spirit of joy and excitement.

This is what Lesotho Oblates and all Oblates celebrated, that very "spirit of joy and excitement" of the first small group of priests.

The excitement, even under such hardships as those pioneers endured, is an inspiration for us Oblates today. It keeps us going on our journey in pursuit of "a new spirit and a new heart". Wherever we are, we keep reminding ourselves that we are "men set apart" for the work of Christ and his Church.

The feast was attended by five bishops of Lesotho (all Oblates), religious men and women of different religious congregations and Principal Chief of Matsieng, the younger brother to King Letsie III, among others.

In his homily on that occasion, Archbishop Gerard Tlali LEROTHOLI, President of the

Lesotho Bishops' conference, reminded us that De Mazenod's main goal was holiness, a goal he pursued all his life. The archbishop further reminded us that the Oblate motto has to be maintained intact: "*Evangelizare pauperibus misit me*". He said the Oblates need to recommit themselves principally to evangelizing the poor as per their constitution. "The motto says *evangelizare*, not *scandalizzare*," the archbishop said.

Speeches after the Eucharistic celebration were given by representatives of: the faithful,

the clergy, the Conference of Major Religious Superiors and the Principal chief and the Provincial Superior, Fr. Anthony Lisema MATSOSO. "We give thanks to God for blessing our efforts and that of many Oblates who came to our country long time ago," he said.

The celebration was a happy and a joyful occasion and also a challenge to us as Oblates to renew ourselves in the spirit of our vocation. (Fr. Tseko Benedict MAKARA in MAOBLATA A LESOTHO, June 2016)

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### Anniversaries for August 2016

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#### 75 Years of religious life

02.08.1941	07315	Fr. Roger Gauthier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02.08.1941	07316	Fr. Lionel Goulet	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

#### 70 Years of religious life

02.08.1946	08176	Fr. Guy Boulanger	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02.08.1946	08172	Fr. François Buteau	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
02.08.1946	08177	Fr. Garcia Lussier	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1946	08150	Fr. Tommaso Campagnuolo	Mediterranean
15.08.1946	08183	Fr. Paul Hurtubise	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1946	08192	Fr. Anthony Schmidt	Lacombe

#### 65 Years of religious life

15.08.1951	09092	Fr. Guido Blanchette	Argentina-Chile
15.08.1951	09057	Fr. Andrew Chalkey	United States
15.08.1951	09688	Fr. Charles Cox	Belgium/Holland
15.08.1951	09056	Fr. Fernando Gargantini	Mediterranean
15.08.1951	09284	Fr. Maurice Joly	Lacombe
15.08.1951	09090	Fr. Gérard Laprise	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1951	09096	Fr. Roland Leclair	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1951	09091	Fr. Arthur Massé	Lacombe
15.08.1951	09391	Fr. Luigi Russo	Mediterranean
15.08.1951	09064	Fr. James Taylor	United States
22.08.1951	09692	Bro. Valmond Leclerc	United States

#### 60 Years of religious life

02.08.1956	10158	Fr. Real Corriveau	Haiti
02.08.1956	10160	Fr. Wilfred Harvey	United States
02.08.1956	10163	Fr. Jean Clarence Saint-Cyr	United States
15.08.1956	10122	Fr. Vincenzo Abbatinali	Mediterranean
15.08.1956	10217	Fr. Francesco Arrigo	Mediterranean
15.08.1956	10184	Fr. Marcel Dumais	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1956	10214	Fr. Stefano Ferrara	Mediterranean
15.08.1956	10191	Fr. Gerald Guillet	Lacombe

15.08.1956	10183	Fr. Francis Morrissey	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1956	10187	Fr. Denis Paquin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1956	10188	Fr. Carroll Parker	Poland
15.08.1956	10167	Fr. Paul-Eugène Plouffe	Lacombe
15.08.1956	10178	Fr. Alphonse Roy	Lacombe
15.08.1956	10190	Fr. William Thompson	Lacombe

**50 Years of religious life**

15.08.1966	11821	Fr. Guy Guénard	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
15.08.1966	11887	Fr. Ronald Meyer	United States
15.08.1966	11796	Fr. Jan Rademaker	Lacombe

**25 Years of religious life**

01.08.1991	13344	Fr. Dwight Hoeberechts	United States
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**25 Years of priesthood**

01.08.1991	12870	Fr. Ekang-Onok Augustin Anem	Congo
01.08.1991	13024	Fr. Adélarde Ongwans Mapinda	Congo
01.08.1991	12871	Fr. Jean-Claude Ngoma Ndewes	Mexico
03.08.1991	13056	Fr. Piyatissa D.Welikadaarachchi	Colombo
31.08.1991	12854	Fr. Henry Carlos	Philippines

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**Anniversaries for September 2016**


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**75 Years of religious life**

08.09.1941	07348	Fr. Patrick Healy	United States
08.09.1941	07344	Fr. Alexander Shahun	Lacombe

**75 Years of priesthood**

20.09.1941	06335	Fr. Boniface Wittenbrink	United States
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**70 Years of religious life**

08.09.1946	08204	Fr. Joseph Balthazard	Belgium/Holland
08.09.1946	08942	Bro. Oscar Delanghe	Lacombe
08.09.1946	08247	Fr. Francis Kavanagh	Lacombe
08.09.1946	08196	Fr. William McSweeney	United States
08.09.1946	08219	Fr. Oscar Pauwels	Lacombe
15.09.1946	08423	Fr. François Demeaux	France
29.09.1946	08394	Fr. Anthony Carroll	Anglo-Irish
29.09.1946	08240	Fr. Michel Frémaux	France
29.09.1946	08296	Fr. Lucien Le Calvé	France
29.09.1946	08393	Fr. Peter McCluskey	Anglo-Irish

**65 Years of religious life**

08.09.1951	09147	Fr. Szczepan Brzezina	Poland
08.09.1951	09158	Fr. Louis-Marie Chrétien	France
08.09.1951	09449	Fr. Michel Courvoisier	France
08.09.1951	09141	Fr. Paul Duda	Central European
08.09.1951	09112	Bishop Adam Exner	Lacombe



08.09.1951	09634	Fr. Gabriel Gérard	Belgium/Holland
08.09.1951	09215	Fr. Józef Kuc	Poland
08.09.1951	09803	Fr. Robert Loison	France
08.09.1951	09114	Fr. Lawrence Mac Lennan	Lacombe
08.09.1951	09130	Fr. Jerry Talarski	Assumption
08.09.1951	09115	Fr. Hilarion Vethanayagam	Jaffna
29.09.1951	09164	Fr. Paschal Dillon	Anglo-Irish
29.09.1951	09165	Fr. Kevin O'Conor	Anglo-Irish

**65 Years of priesthood**

15.09.1951	07879	Fr. Henri Beaudoin	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
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**60 Years of religious life**

08.09.1956	10774	Fr. François Carpentier	Cameroon
08.09.1956	10775	Fr. Gabriel Crugnola	Cameroon
08.09.1956	10203	Fr. James Flavin	United States
08.09.1956	10206	Fr. Inno Gijsberts	Belgium/Holland
08.09.1956	10212	Fr. John Greene	Lacombe
08.09.1956	10664	Fr. Louis Haag	France
08.09.1956	10213	Fr. Stanislaw Heller	Poland
08.09.1956	10482	Bishop Eugeniusz Juretzko	Cameroon
08.09.1956	10771	Fr. Jean Lamy	Cameroon
08.09.1956	10208	Fr. Ernesto Liekens	Belgium/Holland
08.09.1956	10197	Fr. Donald MacDonald	Lacombe
08.09.1956	10204	Fr. Esteban Perek	Argentina-Chile
08.09.1956	10198	Fr. Bernard Pinet	Lacombe
08.09.1956	10772	Fr. Jean-Claude Romain	France
08.09.1956	10778	Fr. Joseph Sergent	France
08.09.1956	10769	Fr. Lucien Vivant	France
08.09.1956	10211	Bishop Gerald Wiesner	Lacombe
26.09.1956	10219	Fr. Neil Macaulay	Peru
29.09.1956	10228	Fr. Eugene Clerkin	Anglo-Irish
29.09.1956	10788	Bro. Francis Flanagan	Anglo-Irish
29.09.1956	10973	Bro. Nicandro Macera	Mediterranean
29.09.1956	10227	Fr. John Nolan	Central S. A.

**60 Years of priesthood**

09.09.1956	09096	Fr. Roland Leclair	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
16.09.1956	08982	Fr. Austin Cooper	Australia
16.09.1956	09164	Fr. Paschal Dillon	Anglo-Irish
16.09.1956	08939	Fr. Richard O'Donovan	Anglo-Irish
21.09.1956	09064	Fr. James Taylor	United States

**50 Years of religious life**

08.09.1966	12070	Fr. André Boyer	Lacombe
08.09.1966	11777	Fr. James Fiori	Lacombe
08.09.1966	11786	Fr. Kazimierz Kozicki	Assumption
08.09.1966	11783	Fr. Armand Le Gal	Lacombe
08.09.1966	11888	Fr. Wieslaw Lyko	Poland
08.09.1966	11863	Fr. Hugh James MacDonald	Lacombe

08.09.1966	11781	Fr. William Mason	United States
08.09.1966	11776	Fr. William O'Donnell	General Administration
08.09.1966	11787	Fr. Zdzislaw Popowicz	Poland
08.09.1966	11782	Fr. Anthony Rigoli	United States
08.09.1966	11906	Fr. Ronald Rolheiser	Lacombe
08.09.1966	11780	Fr. Richard Sudlik	United States
08.09.1966	11950	Deac. Raf Vandevelde	Belgium/Holland
15.09.1966	11788	Fr. Mario Brandi	General Administration
15.09.1966	11792	Fr. Giuseppe Cellucci	Mediterranean
15.09.1966	11790	Fr. Luigi Da Ros	Mediterranean
15.09.1966	11944	Fr. Louis Jolly	France
15.09.1966	11932	Fr. Thamniyom Pierre Pricha	Philippines
15.09.1966	11789	Fr. Luigi Vitulano	Mediterranean
15.09.1966	11923	Bro. Bernard Wirth	Philippines
29.09.1966	11794	Fr. Charles Deeney	Anglo-Irish
29.09.1966	11961	Fr. Michael O'Connor	Anglo-Irish

**50 Years of priesthood**

17.09.1966	11132	Fr. Wim Joosten	Belgium/Holland
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**25 Years of religious life**

01.09.1991	13350	Fr. Jacques Nguyen Van Thom	France
01.09.1991	13484	Fr. Lucain Somé	France
07.09.1991	13495	Fr. Kapiten Didier Mupaya	Congo
08.09.1991	13529	Fr. Dieusait Charles	Haiti
08.09.1991	13435	Bro. Zdzislaw Ciesla	Poland
08.09.1991	13412	Fr. Piotr Dudek	Lacombe
08.09.1991	13493	Fr. Mutombo Jean-Marcel Gatshuya	Congo
08.09.1991	13407	Fr. Tomasz Koscinski	Poland
08.09.1991	13458	Fr. Alphonse Luxama	Haiti
08.09.1991	13491	Fr. Nzoro Crispin Mayuyu	Congo
08.09.1991	13568	Fr. Mukwasa Hervé Muyo	United States
08.09.1991	13490	Fr. Lutu Jean-Noël Muzengi	Congo
08.09.1991	13632	Fr. Loanda Prosper Ndjoli	Congo
08.09.1991	13406	Fr. Romuald Opielka	Poland
08.09.1991	13525	Fr. Adrien Pierre	Haiti
08.09.1991	13408	Fr. Mariusz Piwowarczyk	Central European
08.09.1991	13527	Fr. Jean-François Printemps	Haiti
08.09.1991	13442	Fr. Prasanna Randolph Rodrigo	Colombo
08.09.1991	13410	Fr. Wieslaw Safian	Poland
08.09.1991	13409	Fr. Marek Swat	Poland
08.09.1991	13411	Fr. Józef Wcislo	Poland
23.09.1991	13478	Fr. Joseph Bouré Damba	Mediterranean
29.09.1991	13510	Fr. Andrew Small	United States

### Suffrages for our Deceased

No. 40-52

Name	Prov./Del.	Born	Died at	Date
Fr. Yves Schaller	France	19/12/1932	Hoerd	02/02/2016
Fr. Marcel Dalverny	France	19/12/1925	Marseille	03/06/2016
Bro. Robert Raymond	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	15/01/1918	Richelieu	03/06/2016
Fr. Clarence Lavigne	OMI Lacombe	04/06/1927	Edmonton	04/06/2016
Bro. Hugo Van den Broeck	Belgium/Holland	03/04/1927	Waregem	11/06/2016
Fr. François Demeaux	France	27/02/1926	Marseille	11/06/2016
Fr. Jacques Dherbomez	France	04/07/1925	Lyon	15/06/2016
Fr. Paul Ouelette	United States	04/09/1941	Lowell	22/06/2016
Fr. Lucien Richard	United States	20/12/1931	Tewksbury	06/07/2016
Fr. Stanislaus Sun	China	17/06/1922	Hong Kong	07/07/2016
Fr. Patrick Maselwane	Northern, S. Africa	13/09/1963	Johannesburg	08/07/2016
Bro. Martin Tlali	Lesotho	02/11/1955	Maseru	12/07/2016
Bro. Camille Prud'homme	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	28/05/1931	Richelieu	12/07/2016

*“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.*

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