



OMI Information No. 552 (English)

February 2015

Father General's letter to the Congregation for February 17, 2015

## The Year of Consecrated Life and our Constitutions and Rules

L.J.C. et M.I.

Dear Brother Oblates,

I wish all of you a happy Feast Day! On this date in 1826, Pope Leo XII approved our Constitutions and Rules. We are filled with joy and thanksgiving for the grace of our vocation as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. This year the Church has been convoked to celebrate a special “Year of Consecrated Life” throughout the world. This is another opportunity to appreciate the gift of our vocation as consecrated missionaries and to celebrate our charism as expressed in the Oblate Constitutions and Rules and lived by us today.

I asked everyone at the time of the 2013 Interchapter, and again I request that we all commit ourselves to return regularly to the OMI Constitutions and Rules for reflection and prayer. I invite each Oblate to discover the wealth of meaning contained in the simple and beautiful statements that express our way of life in such a positive way. We will be nourished spiritually and our missionary zeal will be enkindled over and over. In meditating on the various constitutions it is my hope that we will interiorize them and live them more faithfully. This will assist our readiness for the Spirit's work of ongoing formation in our lives, opening us to the grace of a profound personal and community conversion to Jesus Christ as called for by the 35<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of 2010.

Saint Eugene ended the 1825 manuscript of his Preface to the Constitutions and Rules with these words:

*“But it is not enough for them simply to be convinced of the sublime nature of the ministry to which they have been called. The example of the saints and reason itself make it amply clear that the success of such a holy undertaking as well as the maintenance of discipline in any society make certain rules of life absolutely necessary for unity of thought and action among the members. Such unity is a body's strength, keeping up its fervour and insuring that it lasts.*”

*“Wherefore, while pledging themselves to all the works of zeal which priestly charity can inspire – above all, to the work of the missions, which is the main reason for their union – these priests, joined together in a society, resolve to obey the following Constitutions and Rules; by living them they hope to obtain all the benefits they need for their own sanctification and for the salvation of souls.”*

Eugene saw this Code of Oblate Life as bringing us together in unity of thought and action for the sake of the mission. This unity was also needed to sustain the fervor of the missionary body so that it would persevere in its availability for the greatest missionary needs of the Church. Holding a common vision of life and mission as expressed in the Constitutions and Rules, and being committed to live this vision, would ensure that the Oblates continue as a robust group of apostles,

co-operators with the Savior at the service of preaching the Gospel to the poor. A healthy missionary body, bound together by this Rule of Life, would respond to the signs of the times and would not become stagnant or imprisoned by inertia in merely routine, personal or comfortable ministries. The Founder concluded this Preface to our Constitutions and Rules, resuming that they are a way to holiness for the missionaries themselves and a means for the salvation of God's people. Because of our Rule of Life, Oblates would always be available for the most remote and difficult missions, bringing the joy of salvation to the most abandoned people in the world.

In celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life, the Congregation of Religious has reminded us of the call made by Vatican II to all religious congregations that the Gospel is our first rule of life. The OMI Constitutions and Rules do not replace the Gospel, but specify how Oblates of Mary Immaculate are called to live the Gospel. We could see them as our own family gospel to which we are committed to live with zeal through our oblation. This Oblate Rule of Life expresses for us today the experience of Eugene de Mazenod and the charism the Spirit inspired him to incarnate in a religious missionary family. We believe that the current Constitutions and Rules are a true and faithful expression of how Oblates live the Gospel through their missionary vocation in today's reality. It is important for our renewal that we seriously study them, reflect on them, talk about them and pray with them.

In fact, our present Constitutions and Rules express this in C#163:

***“The Constitutions and Rules set out a privileged means for each Oblate to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. They are inspired by the charism lived by the Founder and his first companions; also, they have received the approval of the Church. Thus, they allow each Oblate to evaluate the quality of his response to his vocation and to become a saint.”***

We see here an important element, namely that this family gospel is an aid to help us evaluate the quality of our Oblate lives. By meditating on the Constitutions and Rules, we allow them to question us and to call us to change our way of thinking, so that we follow more faithfully in the footsteps of Jesus. Confronting our lives with this Code of Life should inspire us to live more fully and generously our commitment to the poor and most abandoned; to give ourselves more selflessly to our brother Oblates in apostolic community; to dedicate ourselves more deeply to a life of contemplative prayer and all the various aspects of living our faith; and to give ourselves to a more truly prophetic witness of each one of the vows.

C# 163 tells us that our Constitutions and Rules assist us on the way to becoming saints, a desire expressed also by the Founder at the end of the 1825 manuscript of the Preface. We recognize this holiness and sanctity in brother Oblates who have quietly witnessed a life of generous service to the poor. We know holiness in Oblates who live exemplary charity and patience toward their brothers in apostolic community, even when there might be difficult and challenging people. We have seen real sanctity in Oblates who have lived a beautiful witness to a life of prayer and, by their lives, have called us to pray. We have known the holiness of Oblates who are committed to a life of evangelical poverty with no self-glory. Holiness and sanctity for us are very much incarnated in the ordinariness of everyday life when this is lived with joy, goodness, transparency, self-giving and forgiveness.

My brothers, this is a day for recognizing what a great gift the Spirit has given us through the charism we have received through St. Eugene de Mazenod! The Church has blessed our way of life and we continue as a Congregation to do important missionary work preaching the Gospel of salvation to the poor and most abandoned. We rejoice today and give thanks for the grace of our vocation expressed in our Constitutions and Rules. Let us reflect upon them regularly and discover anew their richness so that we interiorize them more deeply and live them with greater coherence. It is never too late! Our unity in living the Oblate Constitutions and Rules, the faithful expression of

the Oblate charism, will give strength to the Congregation and make us more effective missionaries to the poor in today's reality.

I would like to close this letter with C# 168, a wonderful conclusion to our family gospel:

***“Each Oblate through his oblation assumes responsibility for the common heritage of the Congregation, expressed in the Constitutions and Rules and our family tradition. He is exhorted to let himself be guided by these norms in creative fidelity to the legacy bequeathed by St. Eugene de Mazenod.”***

Our future as a life-filled Congregation depends on the decision of each Oblate to live the fullness of our oblation. Let us decide in favour of life for our Congregation by committing ourselves to live united by these Constitutions and Rules. We are sure that if we seek to live this family gospel in our missionary lives, always discerning in apostolic community and with our Superiors, we will live with creative fidelity the charism received from St. Eugene. Please continue to pray that we will be open to the grace of a profound personal and community conversion to Jesus Christ and that the General Chapter of 2016 will be a strong experience of the Holy Spirit.

We are confident that Mary Immaculate is among us as she was in the Cenacle, praying for her Son's disciples, so that we have the inner freedom to be impelled by the Spirit's breath of new life among us.

Happy Feast Day!

Louis Lougen, OMI

Rome, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, January 25, 2015

---

## General Administration

---

### JPIC GENERAL SERVICE Congress on Pastoral Care of Migrants

From 17-21 November 2014, the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome was a hive of activities as it hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress for the Pastoral Care of Migrants. The Congress which is held every five years had as its theme: *“Cooperation and Development in the Pastoral Care of Migrants.”* The Congress gathered more than 300 participants from around the world and among them was Father Kennedy KATONGO, Director for the OMI JPIC General Service in Rome.

Welcoming the participants was Antonio Maria Cardinal Veglio, President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant people. During the five day meeting, there were informative talks, presentations on the migrant situation in various parts of the world, and round-table debates.

The fifth and final day included an audience

with the Pope Francis. During the audience Pope Francis expressed gratitude to all people that are dedicated to the work of helping migrants. The Holy Father continued by saying that *“The final Document from your last meeting five years ago affirmed that ‘migration is... an invitation to imagine a different future, which seeks the development of the whole human race; this includes then every human being with his or her spiritual and cultural potential and contribution to a more equitable world marked by global solidarity and by full respect for human dignity and life.’”* The Holy Father remarked that, *“Today, notwithstanding new developments and the emergence of situations which are at times painful and even tragic, migration is still an aspiration of hope.”*

He stated that *“pastoral workers play an important role through initiating dialogue, welcoming and assisting with legal issues, mediating with the local population. In the countries of origin, on the other hand, the*

closeness of pastoral workers to the families and children of migrant parents can lessen the negative repercussions of the parents' absence.”

world today. We ask ourselves, where do we fit in and what is our prophetic role in safeguarding the rights of migrants? (Kennedy Katongo)

As Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, we cannot remain indifferent to the events in our

To read the Holy Father's full address, visit <http://goo.gl/nXOkns>.

## GENERAL SECRETARIAT

### Statistics 2015

**Introduction:** The source for Oblate statistics is the database of members in the General Secretariat at the General House, updated and adjusted with reports which come in from the various Oblate provinces, delegations and missions. The records of first vows, final vows, ordinations, departures and deaths which are received daily in Rome go to make up the annual report.

For various reasons, these records sometimes do not arrive at the Secretariat in a timely fashion. The numbers included in this publication, especially related to scholastics, vows, ordinations and departures, reflect not only the statistics of the year that has just passed, but also of some previous years, even back to 2005.

### GENERAL STATISTICS –January 2015

JANUARY 2014							JANUARY 2015						
Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.		Total	Fr	B1	B2	PD	Schol.	
38	34	4	0	0	0	<b>General Admin.</b>	36	33	3	0	0	0	
856	531	61	5	0	259	<b>Africa-Madagascar</b>	831	547	57	5	0	222	
471	336	28	2	0	105	<b>Latin America</b>	450	353	24	3	0	70	
763	553	26	2	0	182	<b>Asia-Oceania</b>	771	580	26	2	2	161	
802	674	114	0	2	12	<b>Canada-USA</b>	718	608	99	1	2	8	
1060	868	119	0	4	69	<b>Europe</b>	986	815	103	2	4	63	
3990	2996	352	9	6	627	<b>Total</b>	3792	*2935	312	13	8	524	

\*Of whom 49 are bishops, 1 is an Apostolic Prefect and 1 is a priest in temporal vows

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

### SUMMARY (as of January 2015)

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE	January 2014	January 2015
<b>Cardinals</b>	1	2
<b>Archbishops</b>	10	9
<b>Bishops</b>	36	38
<b>Prefects Apostolic</b>	1	1

<b>Priests</b>	2929	<b>2884</b>
<b>Priests with temporary vows</b>	3	<b>1</b>
<b>Brothers with perpetual vows</b>	348*	<b>312</b>
<b>Brothers who are permanent deacons</b>	6	<b>8</b>
<b>Brothers with temporary vows</b>	3*	<b>13</b>
<b>Scholastics with perpetual vows</b>	100	<b>97</b>
<b>Scholastics with temporary vows</b>	458	<b>427</b>
<b>Total number of Oblates</b>	3895	<b>3792</b>

\* The number of Brothers in temporary vows reported in 2013 was incorrect.

**PERSONNEL BY UNIT**  
(as of 20 January 2015)

The next table shows the number of Oblates according to the Unit to which they belong. For example, all the Oblates attached to the Zambia Delegation are listed there, even though they are juridically members of the United States Province, or may be temporarily living elsewhere. Some of the Zambian scholastics are in Cedara, others in the U.S. etc.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
	0	0	0	0	0	33	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>

**AFRICA-MADAGASCAR**

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Angola	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	12
Cameroun	0	0	3	0	69	12	1	0	3	32	0	120	0	0	120
Central S. A.	0	0	2	0	26	1	1	0	2	2	0	34	0	0	34
Congo	0	0	1	0	96	13	0	0	10	30	0	150	0	0	150
Kenya	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	3	0	15	0	0	15
Lesotho	0	2	3	0	72	14	0	0	2	32	0	125	0	0	125
Madagascar	0	0	0	0	39	3	2	0	3	25	0	72	0	0	72
Namibia	0	1	2	0	29	3	0	0	3	10	0	48	0	0	48
Natal	0	1	1	0	45	0	0	0	2	3	0	52	0	0	52
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	5	8	0	21	0	0	21
Northern S. A.	0	1	1	0	35	1	0	0	1	1	0	40	0	0	40
Sahara	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Senegal	0	0	0	0	35	3	1	0	0	13	0	52	0	0	52
Zambia	0	0	1	0	30	4	0	0	6	17	0	58	0	0	58
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	2	6	0	19	0	0	19
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>831</b>

**LATIN AMERICA**

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Argentine-Chile	0	0	1	0	36	1	0	0	1	0	0	39	0	0	39
Baja California	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	9
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	18	7	0	0	3	0	0	28	0	0	28
Brazil	0	0	1	0	49	3	0	0	1	2	0	56	0	0	56
Brazil Central	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	12
Colombia	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	14

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Cuba	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	3	10	0	27
French Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Haiti	0	0	1	0	90	8	1	0	5	26	0	0	0	131
Mexico	0	0	0	0	36	1	1	0	3	8	0	0	0	49
Paraguay	0	0	2	0	25	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	31
Peru	0	0	0	0	16	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	22
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	13
Venezuela	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>450</b>

**ASIA-OCEANIA**

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Australia	0	0	1	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	34
China	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	13
Colombo	0	0	1	0	110	10	0	0	2	19	2	0	0	144
India	0	0	0	0	89	1	0	0	6	22	0	0	0	118
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	42
Jaffna	0	0	0	0	91	1	1	0	5	18	0	0	0	116
Japan - Korea	0	0	0	0	22	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Korea	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	8
Pakistan	0	0	1	0	27	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	41
Philippines	1	0	1	0	80	9	0	0	3	16	0	0	0	110
Thailand	0	0	1	0	17	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	23
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	14	3	1	0	6	28	0	0	0	52
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>771</b>

**CANADA-UNITED STATES**

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Assumption	0	0	0	0	49	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	54
Lacombe	0	3	5	0	159	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	196
Notre-Dame-du-Cap	0	0	3	0	139	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	193
United States	1	1	1	0	247	18	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	275
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>718</b>

**EUROPE**

	Card.	Ar.	Ep.	Ep.	Pr.	Ap.	Fr.	Br.	Br.T	Fr.T	Sc.P.	Sc.T.	Deac.	Tot.
Anglo-Irish	0	0	0	0	75	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79
Belgium/Holland	0	0	0	0	64	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	79
Byelorussia	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Central European	0	0	0	0	101	27	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	135
France	0	0	0	0	119	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136
France et Benelux	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Lourdes	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mediterranean	0	0	1	0	156	8	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	174
Poland	0	0	0	0	223	32	2	0	11	33	0	0	0	301
Romania	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Ukraine	0	0	2	0	28	3	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	38
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>986</b>

**Congregation Total: 2 9 38 1 2884 312 13 1 97 427 8 3792**

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

**Perpetual Oblations – (reported in 2014)**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Dioc. Of Origin</u>	<u>Unit</u>
14632	JOSEPH	Jean	13.09.08	Fort-Liberté	Haiti
14679	SAINTILBERT	Leosthène	08.09.09	Fort-Liberté	Haiti
14637	MILIMO	Humphrey	15.08.10	Monze	Zambia
14627	VERA	Oscar	15.01.12	Caacupe	Paraguay
14645	R. SOMBOLOLAYUK	Agustinus	21.05.13	Makasar	Indonesia
14619	AUGOSTINE	Velankanni	07.12.13	Chingleput	India
14620	CHINNAPPAN	Solomon	07.12.13	Pondicherry-Cudd.	India
14621	JOHN PETER	James	07.12.13	Dindigul	India
14622	SIRIPURAM	Joseph	07.12.13	Srikakulam, A.P.	India
14633	AROCKIARAJ	Rajesh	07.12.13	Thanjavur	India
14644	PAPPU	Anthony Peter	07.12.13	Vellore	India
14646	MARK	Antony	07.12.13	Vellore	India
14623	CROOS	Addikkalam	08.12.13	Mannar	Jaffna
14624	CROOS	Sornam	08.12.13	Mannar	Jaffna
14625	MARIATHASAN	Deloshan	08.12.13	Jaffna	Jaffna
14626	THEVASAHAYAM	Jesupalan	08.12.13	Jaffna	Jaffna
14618	ACOSTA GONZÁLEZ	Cristóbal	22.12.13	Villarrica	Paraguay
14640	TEMBO	Michael	25.01.14	Lusaka	Zambia
14628	EUSTACHE	Paul	17.02.14	Port-Au-Prince	Haiti
14629	GAMA	Nzimeni	17.02.14	Klerksdorp	Central S.A.
14630	MPHANA	Simon	17.02.14	Klerksdorp	Central S.A.
14631	LETSOELA	Julius	17.02.14	Lesotho	Lesotho
14636	MOTHIBA	Thabo	17.02.14	Johannesburg	North S. Africa
14634	CHIPEMBERE	Themba	17.02.14	Hwange	Natal
14635	MWENDA	Joachim	22.02.14	Gweru	Zimbabwe
14638	POLELLO	Luca	01.03.14	Vigevano	Mediterranean
14639	RIZZARO	Gianluca	01.03.14	Scalea	Mediterranean
14641	ANTHONY	Anton Xavier	01.05.14	Mannar	Jaffna
14693	GHOURY	Kashif	01.05.14	Multan	Pakistan
14694	RAZA	Wagas	01.05.14	Quetta	Pakistan
14643	PATRICK	Paul	01.05.14	Toronto	Assumption
14642	KEETHAPONGALAN	Bede	01.05.14	Jaffna	Jaffna
14657	DE SOUZA VALADAO	Manoel	03.08.14	Paulo Afonso	Brazil
14666	ZAPATA ZURITA	Gary	10.08.14	Potosi	Bolivia
14648	MALLO	Jaime	15.08.14	Cotabato	Philippines
14649	PANIZALES	Monimar	15.08.14	Capiz	Philippines
14650	TORRES	Ronnie	15.08.14	Marbel	Philippines
14652	KINANGENI	Betuel	15.08.14	Kisantu	Congo
14653	NTONI	Noel	15.08.14	Idiofa	Congo
14654	NZIR	Sebastien	15.08.14	Idiofa	Congo
14655	POLOTO	Jean	15.08.14	Kikwit	Congo
14656	TOTOKANI	Jean-Baptiste	15.08.14	Kikwit	Congo
14675	KOYE	Joachim	15.08.14	Pala	Cameroun
14676	NYIOR	Pius	15.08.14	Jos	Nigeria
14677	LIPALATA	Benny	15.08.14	Livingstone	Cameroun
14678	KIDARI	Pascal	15.08.14	Garoua	Cameroun

14658	DE MORAES GOMES	Jose	17.08.14	Braganca-Para	Brazil
14647	DIANA	Angelo	19.08.14	Malaybalay	Philippines
14651	RICABAR	Rusel	19.08.14	Cotabato	Philippines
14663	LOPEZ-ORTIZ	Feliciano	30.08.14	Puerto-Escondido	United States
14664	ROSSIGNOL	Jason	30.08.14	Portland. Me	United States
14659	DEGAZON	Ferey	08.09.14	Les Cayes	Haiti
14660	GERMEIL	Clausel	08.09.14	Les Cayes	Haiti
14661	JEAN-CHARLES	Herby	08.09.14	Les Cayes	Haiti
14662	PIERRE	Serdier	08.09.14	Les Cayes	Haiti
14665	SHEN	Paul	08.09.14	Beijing	China
14667	DRZEWICZAK	Maciej	08.09.14	Siedlce	Poland
14668	GRABOWSKI	Dawid	08.09.14	Torun	Poland
14669	JEZAK	Daniel	08.09.14	Elblag	Poland
14670	OSADNIK	Patryk	08.09.14	Gliwice	Poland
14671	LITVINOV	Anton	08.09.14	Turkmenistan	Poland
14672	PAWLOWSKI	Mateusz	08.09.14	Elblag	Poland
14673	PRANDZIOCH	Karol	08.09.14	Gliwice	Poland
14674	WALCZAK	Grzegorz	21.09.14	Gniezno}	Poland
14680	WIJEKON	Philip Asanka	30.10.14	Colombo	Colombo
14681	LUCAS	Regini Jude	12.11.14	Jaffna	Jaffna
14682	MANUELPILLAI	Patrick	12.11.14	Mannar	Jaffna
14683	SEEMANPILLAI	Alstan	12.11.14	Mannar	Jaffna
14684	AMUDHAN JAMES	Paul	15.11.14	Poonamallee	India
14685	AROCKIASAMY	Satheesh	15.11.14	Poonamallee	India
14686	BERCHMANS	Jerman	15.11.14	Poonamallee	India
14687	DHIVIYANATHAN	Yesuraj	15.11.14	Poonamallee	India
14688	IRUTHAYARAJ	John	15.11.14	Poonamallee	India
14689	KOMARABATHINI	Rajesh	15.11.14	Poonamallee	India
14689	KOMARABATHINI	Rajesh	15.11.14	Krammam	India
14690	XAYAVONG	Peter Syyane	22.11.14	Vientiane	Thailand
14691	HAUSIKO	Johannes	08.12.14	Rundu	Namibia
14692	NAMBONI	Ignatius	08.12.14	Windhoek	Namibia
14695	CASTILLO	Lucio	13.12.14	Zacatecas	United States

### Obediences - 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Destination</u>
05.01	Fr.	SAINTILBERT	Leostene	Haiti	Colombia
14.01	Fr.	BÜNING	Sebastian	Central European	Central European
14.01	Sch..	ALI	Nnaemeka	Cameroun	Cameroun
14.01	Fr.	MILIMO	Humphrey	Zambia	Zambia
15.01	Fr.	JEREZ SAZO	Edgar	Guatemala	Guatemala
22.01	Sch..	ANANUA	Dionisius	Kenya	Kenya
25.01	Sch..	UZOR CHIBUZO	Chrysogonus	Nigeria	Nigeria
25.01	Fr.	SHALONGO	Johannes	Namibia	Namibia
10.03	Sch..	AROCKIARAJ	Rajesh	India	India
10.03	Fr.	MANDIKA	Paul	Senegal	Senegal
10.03	Fr.	FAYE	Paul	Senegal	Senegal
10.03	Fr.	CYTRYCKI	Bartlomiej	Poland	Central European
10.03	Fr.	POSHOLI	Nathanael	Lesotho	Lesotho
11.03	Fr.	FRANCIS	Bbiyan	India	India
11.03	Fr.	AROCKIAM	James Michael	India	India
11.03	Fr.	JOSEPH	Maria Savariant	India	India
11.03	Fr.	PULAPAKA	John	India	India
11.03	Fr.	FRANCIS	Joy	India	India



11.03	Fr.	VISUVASAM	Arokia	India	India
11.03	Fr.	JESURAJ	Sebastia	India	India
11.03	Fr.	ALPHONSE	Peter	India	India
11.03	Fr.	GNANAMUTHU	Sebastian	India	India
11.03	Fr.	SANTIAGU	Nicholas	India	India
11.03	Fr.	SOOSAI	Arockia	India	India
11.03	Fr.	SUSAI MANICKAM	Joe	India	India
11.03	Fr.	SUSAI	Martin	India	India
11.03	Fr.	THAMMISSETTI	Shantha	India	India
11.03	Fr.	KUJUR	Rajesh	India	India
27.03	Fr.	DANGO	Somor	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
28.03	Fr.	CORDOVA	Miguel	Peru	Bolivia
28.03	Sch..	DLAMINI	Sibusiso	Natal	Natal
28.03	Sch..	URIBE	David	United States	United States
28.03	Fr.	BADJI	Simon	Senegal	Senegal
28.03	Fr.	FAYE	Pascal	Senegal	Senegal
28.03	Sch..	ESQUEDA	Jesus	United States	United States
28.03	Bro.	ROSSIGNOL	Jason	United States	United States
31.03	Fr.	AZRAK	Mario	Kenya	General House
02.04	Fr.	ADAMCZUK	Marek	Central European	France-Benelux
16.04	Fr.	SZMYDKI	Ryszard	Poland	General House
19.04	Fr.	NYAMI	Bukoko	Congo	Congo
19.04	Sch..	CROOS	Addikkalam	Jaffna	Jaffna
19.04	Sch..	CROOS	Surnam	Jaffna	Jaffna
19.04	Sch..	KOSCIANEK	Przemyslaw	Poland	France
19.04	Sch..	KRYSTYANC	Rafal	Poland	Poland
19.04	Sch..	GALI	Tomasz	Poland	Poland
19.04	Sch..	PAWLUS	Grzegorz	Poland	Poland
19.04	Sch..	PRAUZNER-BEHCICKI	Piotr	Poland	Poland
19.04	Sch..	GLABAS	Grzegorz	Poland	Mediterranean
19.04	Sch..	WDOWCZYK	Tadeusz	Poland	Central European
05.05	Fr.	CORIJN	Daniel	General House	Belgium-Netherlands
06.05	Sch.	MODJI	Jean de Dieu	Congo	Congo
06.05	Sch.	MUNIA	Marc	Congo	Anglo Irish
06.05	Sch.	MUSHILA MUTEBA	Florent	Congo	Congo
06.05	Sch.	MALU	Tshimbumba	Congo	Anglo Irish
06.05	Sch.	NATAKA TONTON	Herve	Congo	Congo
06.05	Sch.	KABEYA	Delphin	Congo	Congo
08.05	Fr.	BRANDI	Mario	Cameroun	Gen Admin IRS
17.05	Fr.	BUCCA	Nino	Gen House Com	Mediterranean
17.05	Fr.	CONLAN	Gerard	Australia	Lacombe
20.05	Fr.	MAJOLA	Bonga	North, S. Africa	Aix
21.05	Sch.	OYEGOKE	John	Cameroun	Cameroun
29.05	Fr.	KATONGO	Kennedy	Zambia	Gen Admin
29.05	Fr.	LUCAS	Oscar	G H Community	Philippines
30.05	Sch.	MWENDA	Bruce	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
03.06	Fr.	PAUL	Jeevendra	General House	Jaffna
03.06	Sch.	TEBENE	Patizere	Cameroun	Cameroun
10.06	Fr.	PISAREK	Marek	Belarus	OMI Lacombe
13.06	Fr.	HALLÉE	Roger	Colombia	United States
25.06	Sch.	THEVASHAYAM	Jesupalan	Jaffna	Jaffna
25.06	Sch.	MARIATHASAN	Deloshan	Jaffna	Jaffna
26.06	Sch.	SOMBOLAYUK	Reynold	Indonesia	Indonesia
26.06	Bro.	WALCZAK	Grzegorz	Poland	Poland
03.07	Fr.	JOSEPH NATARANJAN	Nirmal	India	India

03.07	Sch.	PAPPU	Anthony	India	India
03.07	Sch.	JOHN PETER	James	India	India
03.07	Sch.	SIRIPURAM	Joseph	India	India
03.07	Sch.	CHINNAPAN	Solomon	India	India
03.07	Sch.	AUGUSTINE	Velankanni	India	Uruguay
03.07	Sch.	MARK	Antony	India	Uruguay
07.08	Sch.	KALEBWE	Faustino	Zambia	Zambia
07.08	Sch.	MUMBA	Chola	Zambia	Zambia
07.08	Sch.	PHIRI	Christopher	Zambia	Zambia
12.09	Fr.	CAMPBELL	Cornelius	Australia	Anglo-Irish
12.09	P.	LUCIANO de la CRUZ	Eduardo	Mexico	Bolivia
12.09	Sch..	SHANAKA	Shihan	Colombo	Colombo
12.09	Bro.	RICOBAR	Rusel	Philippines	Philippines
12.09	Bro.	DIANA	Angelo	Philippines	Philippines
12.09	Sch..	RAZA	Waqas	Pakistan	Pakistan
12.09	Sch..	NGUYEN	Dominique	Vietnam	Vietnam
12.09	Sch..	KUMARA	Anton	Colombo	Colombo
12.09	Sch..	HONAG QUOC OAI	Joseph	Vietnam	Vietnam
12.09	Sch..	GHOURY	Kashif	Pakistan	Pakistan
12.09	Fr.	EUSTACHE	Paul	Haiti	Haiti
12.09	Sch..	HUONG	Philippe	Vietnam	Vietnam
25.09	Sch..	CHOTA	Terence	Zambia	Zambia
25.09	Sch..	NGUYEN	Pierre	Vietnam	Vietnam
25.09	Fr.	LACHOWSKI	Amdresz	Cameroun	France-Benelux
25.09	Sch..	HUNG	Antoine	Vietnam	Vietnam
25.09	Fr.	FELIX	Walter	Haiti	Haiti
04.10	Sch..	ACOSTA GONZALEZ	Cristóbal	Paraguay	Paraguay
07.10	Sch..	SANDÉRE	Jean	Haiti	Haiti
08.10	Sch..	PIERRE	Johnny	Haiti	Paraguay
10.10	Fr.	DAVAGOUNANSOU	Edouard	Int. Roman Scho.	Cameroun
17.11	Fr.	LABELLE	Joseph	Aix	United States
17.11	Sch..	MKHIZE	Thadeus	Natal	Natal
17.11	Fr.	GAMA	Wilmar	Brazil	Cuba
17.11	Fr.	JAHAE	Raymond	Notre-Dame du Cap	Belgium-Netherlands
21.11	Fr.	PHAM	Tuan	Assumption	United States
23.11	Fr.	SELVADURAJ	Praveen	Jaffna	Kenya
04.12	Fr.	ECKLBAUER	Gunther	Pakistan	Central European
16.12	Fr.	AZRAK	Mario	General House	Kenya

### Oblates in First Formation - 2014

*(Reported as of January 2015)*

Year	Scholastics	Bros. In Temp. vows	First Vows	Perpetual Vows	Ordinations
2014	524	13	129	79	55
2013	558	3	101	49	76
2012	627	9	87	100	84
2011	685	17	132	72	74
2010	672	19	82	47	32
2009	632	28	104	76	46
2008	698	27	89	74	64

\*Please note that these numbers include Oblates who either professed vows or were ordained in previous years but the ***fact had not been reported*** to the General Secretariat before January 2015.

## Deaths and Departures - 2014

Deaths in **2014**: 107 (92 Priests, 15 Brothers)

2013: **95** 2012: 103 2011: 108 2010: **92** 2009: **110** 2008: **91**

Departures *reported* in 2014: **131 (19 priests, 105 scholastics, 7 Brothers)**

2013: 116 (19 priests, 91 scholastics, 6 Brothers)

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

2011: 47 (16 priests, 31 scholastics)

2010: 51 (12 priests, 39 scholastics)

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

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

### 2014:

-99 scholastics did not renew their temporary vows.

-5 scholastics were dispensed from temporary vows.

-6 Brothers did not renew their temporary vows.

-1 Brother was dispensed from perpetual vows

-2 priests were dismissed "ipso jure" from the Congregation.

-5 priests were dismissed from the Congregation.

-8 priests were laicized.

-1 scholastic deacon was laicized

-4 priests were definitively incardinated into a diocese.

## Canada-United States

### UNITED STATES

#### Medical Update Regarding Cardinal George

On December 31, 2014, the Archdiocese of Chicago issued this bulletin:

Cardinal George has been dropped from the clinical trial group that was being given an antibody drug in order to contain or reduce cancer. Recent scans showed that this experimental drug has not been effective in his case, but the physicians and others who are overseeing this trial assured him that the information that they had gathered during his course of treatment will be of benefit to others.

The Cardinal will meet with his physicians at Loyola University Hospital in January in order to discuss how best to address some of the side effects of his cancer, which so far has not spread to any vital organs. He is at peace, but he counts on everyone's prayers that he might be of service to the Lord and His Church in the time left to him.

Cardinal George would like to thank all those who have been praying for him, and asks them

to continue to do so. You and those you love are remembered in his prayers as well. Cardinal George wishes you a blessed New Year.

### UNITED STATES

#### Remembering an Oblate teacher

A recent headline in the Buffalo, New York, diocesan paper stated that there would be a new title for the annual education fund-raising event, "Gala 22:6". Most people would look at that and not think twice. But for those who attended Bishop Fallon High School, and learned Latin and/or Religion under the tutelage of Fr. Robert COLFER, the link was clear, even if the reference is a bit obscure.

For, no matter what offense you might have done, either you or one of your classmates would hear his famous words: "Write this: 'A young man, according to his way, even when he is old, will not depart from it'", the words of the Book of Proverbs, chapter 22, verse 6, now the slogan for the diocesan fund-raiser of 2015.

Fr. Colfer appreciated these words, often quoted

by Fr. Charles BARRY, provincial of the US Eastern Province in the 1940s, for whom Fr. Colfer served as secretary in the early years of his priesthood. They became important words for him to use in reminding his students that what they were learning as high school students would influence their lives for many years to come.

One look at the Holy Angels Collegiate--Bishop Fallon Alumni Association in Buffalo shows the lesson was well learned. Every year, they raise funds to aid Catholic education in the city of Buffalo, helping to pass on what was learned at the hands of the many Oblates who taught them.

Fr. Colfer's words spread beyond the Buffalo area. When Pope Benedict visited Washington, DC, he was scheduled to pass by the Oblate residence where I was living. Crowds came from all over to catch a glimpse of him. While waiting for his arrival, a group of 20-year-old men came by, saw the sign for the Oblates and asked if I knew Fr. Colfer. When I said I did, they began to recite Proverbs 22:6, which they had heard from him while he was teaching in Florida. Many men learned Christ's way when they were young and keep it while they grow old, thanks to Fr. Robert Colfer. (William O'Donnell)

---

## Africa-Madagascar

---

### CHAD

#### So many afflictions

*At Christmastime, Brother Hervé GIVELET wrote to his friends and family about his ministry in Pala.*

It did not take me long (after my return) to meet my AIDS patients with their problems, but my concern was not about solving their problems for them, but about supporting them so that they can become independent, for I know that one day I will leave Pala and no longer return.

So far, my efforts have been in vain: illness and thefts. Denise had her lock broken with a hammer and they took everything: mattresses, kitchen utensils, clothes, money, the table that she used to sell her products, all the products, etc...., nothing left in the hut but the bed. Later, it was the turn of Josephine; this time, unable to break the lock, they broke down the door. For her and her children, there remained to them only what they had on their backs. Yet Josephine's business was off to a good start. Furthermore, thefts are increasing in neighborhoods. The cause: lack of work for young people, poverty.

But there are also accidents. Nestor and his wife, a couple with AIDS, have lost not only all their goods (food, clothes and money), but their home, along with the radios, typewriters, etc. of their customers, for Nestor is a repairman of all

sorts of things. While Nestor was working in the field, there was the wedding of the daughter of the neighboring Muslim. They made a fire right next to the house of Nestor with its straw roof: it's easy to guess the rest. Will they pay? Nothing has been resolved.

As for the problem of poverty, the Boko Haram wanted to take care of that in Cameroon; so 3000 young people have received 300 euros each and all the paraphernalia of the perfect terrorist: Kalashnikovs, knives, ammunition, and together with that, conversion to Islam. For the youth, this is not a problem, provided they have a good monthly salary and plenty to do, even if it involves killing. Fortunately, it is still quiet here; it is said that Chad does not interest them. But the killings still continue in Nigeria and northern Cameroon.

### NATAL

#### Inchanga Catholic Mission celebrates 90 years

On 22 November 2014, the Catholic Mission of St. Therese of the Child Jesus at Inchanga celebrated its 90 years in an overflowing church. The Mission was formally given to the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1924. Oblate Father Albert HANON was the Mission's first parish priest. Before the foundation of the Mission at Inchanga, the Trappist Fathers cared for souls at Monteseel along the old main road. The need for water and other basics forced them

to buy a farm at Inchanga because the Mission could not survive without them. In his homily on the day of the celebration, Archbishop Jabulani NXUMALO of Bloemfontein stated that all the missions and parishes around Inchanga today were direct shoots of the Mission at Inchanga, especially Umndeni Oyingcwele in Hammersdale, Intshongweni pilgrimage centre and Bethlehem.

St. Theresa, Inchanga, has produced 10 priests, the first of whom was the late Fr. John NGUBANE and the tenth being Fr. Phumlani C. NDLOVU, currently working in the Diocese of Keimoes-Upington. Several religious women came from the Mission and several young men from

there are currently in formation. In his homily, Archbishop Jabulani said, "Inchanga is a fruitful Mission. The fruits are there to be seen. You see them. I see them. We see them. This is a result of hard missionary work in and around Inchanga." The archbishop too was parish priest at Inchanga and left Inchanga with the gift of the new church with glass windows looking out on a superb view of the valley of a thousand hills. The old original church still stands and is used for parish meetings and events of various sorts.

The current parish priest, Fr. Jean Lambert Nzaji KALALA, assisted by Fr. Mthokozisi MNCWABE, continues the legacy of their fellow Oblates.

---

## Latin America

---

### BAJA CALIFORNIA MISSION

#### A day in the life of a missionary

*Fr. Nicholas HARDING recounts some of the day-to-day events in a poor mission on the Mexican-United States border.*

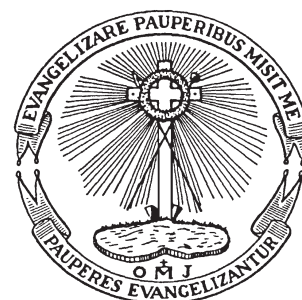
In one day, recently this is what happened to me as pastor of our San Eugenio parish, in La Morita B.C. I had a funeral for a two year old boy who died in a home accident. His mother, a single parent, left her three boys alone at home and they climbed on the stove which toppled over. Here there is little or no day care. Normally in Mexico the extended family is strong, but apart from the general crisis of the family, in the border area, many come from the interior of Mexico and are disconnected from their traditional way of life.

On the same day, I also had a funeral for a 35 year old woman who died of leukemia (could it be the great number of young persons with cancer here has to do with pesticides and chemicals from the factories?) One of the other priests had a funeral mass for a 38 year old man whose cause of death was meningitis (the quality of health care, and access to it, is not comparable to what is available right across the border in San Diego, California, where most young people would not die from meningitis). Later in the day, a pregnant thirteen year old girl was presented to me for a blessing.

This November we had 38 houses burn down in one colonia. The fire spread rapidly but the firefighters arrived almost an hour after being called. The colonia is on a hill with dirt roads and there are no fire hydrants; the fire trucks have to carry water tanks. Also, last spring, due to the drought, many houses burned. One man was seriously injured when a propane tank blew up. In July, several more shack residences burned down.

We always provide emergency help: food, blankets, clothes, etc. Additionally, we try to get them material to rebuild their homes. Occasionally we are able to mobilize a group from the USA to help reconstruct.

At the other extreme, we received much needed rain in December, but too much at one time! Many houses at the foot of the hills received a river of mud at about 5a.m. Thankfully no one was injured.



---

**Anniversaries for March 2015**


---

**75 years of religious life**

1940.03.19	07754	Bro. Charles Thirion	France
------------	-------	----------------------	--------

**65 years of religious life**

1950.03.19	09426	Bro. Henri Gagnon	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
------------	-------	-------------------	-------------------

**65 years of priesthood**

1950.03.25	07812	Fr. Fortunato Alonso	Mediterranean
------------	-------	----------------------	---------------

**60 years of religious life**

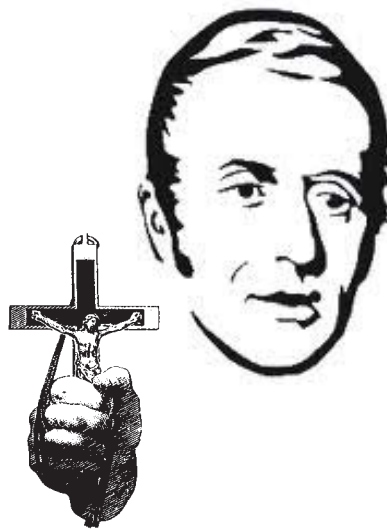
1955.03.16	09870	Fr. Anthony Colbert	Australia
1955.03.19	10424	Bro. Camille Prud'homme	Notre-Dame-du-Cap

**60 years of priesthood**

1955.03.26	08647	Fr. Santiago Díez-Fontecha	Mediterranean
1955.03.26	08648	Fr. Camilo González	Mediterranean
1955.03.26	08649	Fr. Luis Valbuena	United States

**50 years of religious life**

1965.03.01	11615	Fr. Stanislaus Sun	Australia
1965.03.19	11917	Bro. Raymond Bourdages	Notre-Dame-du-Cap
1965.03.19	11931	Bro. Rodrigo Buensalida	Philippines
1965.03.19	11941	Fr. Oliver Rich	Lacombe
1965.03.19	11930	Bro. Emilio Uingsod	Philippines



## Suffrages for our Deceased

**2014 --- No. 105-107**

Name	Prov./Del.	Born	Died at	Date
Fr. Peter Sachta	Del. France/Benelux	29/06/1935	Frankfurt	15/12/2014
Fr. Jan Severins	Belgium/Holland	10/09/1927	Waregem	31/12/2014
Fr. Denis McCarthy	Australia	10/08/1925	Springvale	31/12/2014

**2015 --- No. 1-10**

Name	Prov./Del.	Born	Died at	Date
Fr. Domenico Vitantonio	Mediterranean	24/01/1926	Pescara	01/01/2015
Bro. John Heysel	OMI Lacombe	10/09/1929	Vancouver	05/01/2015
Bro. André Dagenais	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	11/04/1937	Ottawa	05/01/2015
Bishop Joseph Djida	Cameroun	08/04/1945	N'Gaoundéré	05/01/2015
Fr. Georges Pizet	France	20/06/1922	Lyon	09/01/2015
Fr. Jean Laperrière	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	04/06/1916	Richelieu	09/01/2015
Bro. Clément Charest	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	01/04/1929	Richelieu	15/01/2015
Bro. Paul Travers	France	02/09/1939	Pontmain	18/01/2015
Fr. Claude Saint-Laurent	Notre-Dame-du-Cap	04/04/1931	Richelieu	19/01/2015
Bro. Arthur Van Hecke	OMI Lacombe	23/09/1922	St. Albert	21/01/2015

*“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)*

OMI INFORMATION is an unofficial publication  
of the General Administration of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
via Aurelia 290, I 00165 Roma, Italy  
Fax: (39) 06 39 37 53 22 E-mail: [information@omigen.org](mailto:information@omigen.org)  
<http://www.omiworld.org>  
Editor: James Allen; Webmaster: Shanil Jayawardena  
Printing & circulation: Shanil Jayawardena