

BORN
OMI

Bharath Oblate Regional News

Feb - March 2008

News Letter No. 4

OMI Delegation of India

Satchitananda

True Being True Consciousness Bliss



Oblate Ashram

For Inter-Religious Dialogue & Worship

Pilgrims with the Poor towards Fullness of Life

Congrats to the Oblate Restors and Preachers in the shrine



Oblates Organize Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage at V.C.Kurusady - 5000 people participate

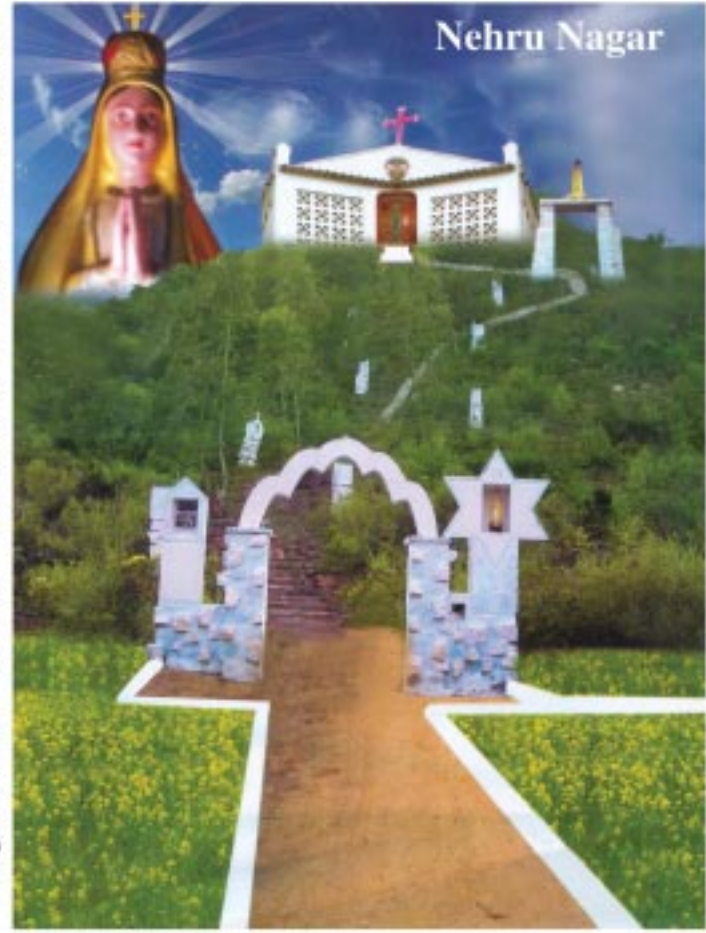


The CROSS of Jesus Christ is central to our mission. Like the apostle Paul, we "preach Christ and Him crucified"(1cor 2:2) "To live Christ Jesus crucified....."

- OMI CC RR. 4

Local News Papers about the Lenten Services at Dindugul

Congrats to the Oblate Restors and Preachers in the shrine



Oblates develop Hill Shrine in honour of Our Mother Mary, Ramanakkapet, A.P

Nehru Nagar

Wherever our ministry takes us, we will strive to instill genuine devotion to the Immaculate Virgin who pre-figures God's final victory over all evil. - OMI CC RR. 10

Comments, Suggestions and News will be gratefully received by the Editorial Board

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Printed at FSJ St. Joseph's Press, AGS Colony, Phase-III, St.Thomas Hospital Campus, Chennai-600 116.

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Superior's Message...

An Easter Oblate Missionary

We are no longer in a time of change but in a time of mutation! Rapid changes in every fiber of life is what characterizes the contemporary living! A missionary Oblate has lived these changes from the very inception of the Charism of the Holy Spirit in St Eugene de Mazenod. Rather an Oblate being a missionary is characterized by the ability to change, adapt and inculturate just like his "Guru" Master, missionary par excellence!

On 09 Jan 2008 Fr Jesus Reynaldo Albores Roda, OMI while praying in the chapel was dragged out and brutally murdered in Tabawan in Tawi-Tawi province of the Philippines! This mission has 30 Catholics amidst 30,000 Muslims in an island of Jolo Apostolic Vicariate under the care of Bishop Angelito Lampon OMI. Father had already offered 10 years of dedicated service to the poor children, women etc. He had resisted the militants call to keep away from caring and organizing the poor! The Oblate province had seen in him an inspiring spirit and single-minded commitment and wanted him to be the novice master or Scholasticate Superior. But God had appointed him to be his witness, martyr. An ordinary man with an extra ordinary example of courage and commitment where his life and death is life and light for many!

I say this not merely from hearing or reading about his death. I felt the passion from his sharing in 2005 when I shared the three day live-in of Oblates of his age group in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Shrine, Kidapawan, Philippines and later accompanied him to Jolo and Bongao mission. We shared a lot of things and learnt a lot about the role and function of the District Superior and Community in accompanying young Oblates in leadership service as he was himself the district Superior.

What would have been normally considered as punishment area Fr Ray turned it to be a sanctuary of sacrament, an encounter of God. He facilitated God-encounter not merely in his witnessing death but

by his radical choice and commitment to the marginalized poor in the fringes of the islands among the hostile Muslims! He not only followed the Jesus of Yesterday as witnessed in the Word of the Bible but had the courage to serve the poor, the Christ of today as proclaimed by the same Word! This is the mystery of Easter that an Oblate missionary needs to be afire with. Like the Good Friday experience of St Eugene to provide the foundational experience and fire to one's call and commitment.

Easter reminds us that what could have been a tragic death like that of a scorned public criminal turned out to be the Grace and redemption because God, "raised the fallen and lifted up the lowly". With Mary our Mother and Patroness we are Easter missionaries bearing in us the wounds of the cross as much as the life and liberation of the resurrection! Once we are possessed by the Easter Lord then where we are and how much we have becomes relative to what we are in Jesus and St Eugene and how much we are afire with love in witness and service. Peace and Joy in the experience of the liberative Lord of Life to all Oblates spending themselves in His compassionate Mission!

Rev Fr. Francis Nallappan OMI
Delegation Superior

Sensitive to the demands of our Congregation, as Oblates, our first priority in mission is to be attentive to those on the margins of society and to those for whom the church is most distant.

Superior General's Corner - 4

LETTER TO THE DELEGATION OF INDIA



Dear Fathers and Brothers,

That you are very welcoming to visitors is widely known and during my stay with you I experienced it myself again for a second time. I thank you so much for this and also for opening your hearts in the numerous conversations when we met as groups and individually, in your houses and during the retreat. While my stay with you was a fraternal visit and not a canonical visitation, the interaction has allowed me to get you to know better and consequently I now offer you a feedback on my impressions.

You will soon be celebrating 40 years of Oblate history in India and 25 years of presence in Andhra Pradesh, therefore 2008 will be a time to thank God who always accompanies us. This is also a time to be grateful for the pioneers and also your mother province of Colombo.

The reality of our mission grows as a result of the positive contributions each one makes, all of which are graces from God. They have come to bear fruit because we received them with an open heart. I found the following graces in you:

First of all there is a great love for people in your concern for nourishing faith and enabling integral growth. I have admired the spiritual richness of your old and your new missions. This love for people drives you to enter into new ministries, be it in the line of further closeness to the very poor or of deeper spiritual animation. I was happy to bless the new house of prayer at the Ashram and a new effort for the education of the young in Musunuru. Your desire to inculturate the Gospel in your country is very clear, and to do so not just in one or two but in several of the many cultures of India. Your move to Andhra Pradesh 25 years ago is a proof of this desire and so are your recent foundations in the area of Ambikapur.

Secondly, another important part of your mission effort goes into formation. It was impressive to meet, at the BOSOM gathering, a hundred young people in different stages of training. The more you invest in this field the more promising your future will be. I recognize how much effort and faithful presence it takes on the part of the formators to know and accompany each and every one of this great number of young people. Several of your candidates and Oblates in initial formation have given me this beautiful and simple witness of your attitude, saying that they feel loved. It is commendable that in the area of ongoing formation, the Young Oblate Union (YOU) aims at maintaining these fraternal relationships, in the midst of the hard challenges of missionary work.

Thirdly, it became evident to me that all this is only possible because it is grounded on that deep faith of yours which you have inherited from the apostolic roots of the Indian church and which also characterizes your community life. Vibrant communion in faith- in your families and home parishes first and then in your Oblate communities - is the heartbeat that gives life to all your missionary work. It is the greatest treasure your delegation possesses.

A fourth, general characteristic I observe is the present rapid pace of growth in your delegation: in the number of members, in your youth work, in the MAMI groups, in new missionary endeavors - everything is thriving. The charism of St. Eugene even expresses itself outside the OMI congregation in several other institutes belonging to our larger spiritual family. This is a time of spring and youthful energy, a time of making projects, seeking resources and of carefully planning the future.

Please keep on building on what is strong in you. May your hearts be always as open as Mary's to continue receiving these and other graces from God during this spring-time growth.

It is also important to be attentive to the challenges and to identify the urgent demands of the moment. What are they? Let me mention a few of them.

One is that, while the family grows, also respect for each other, for each other's attitudes and values must increase. The larger the group

becomes the less one can expect that all will be of the same opinion; there exist great differences in social backgrounds, sensitivities and schools of thought. The issue should not be that one group or the other wins but that all can live in harmony while tolerating and even celebrating their differences. While society does not give us an example of this, we are called to daily conversion to the Gospel at Jesus Christ and to give a Witness of Gospel fraternity to society;

The values of our faith express ourselves in the way we live our community life. Its animation becomes more demanding as time goes on and new members are incorporated. With the commitment of all and through the dedicated service of their house and district Superiors this immediate milieu of life will express the kind of fraternity Christ has given to us as heritage. Regular meetings, with faith sharing and prayer, recreation and common planning will gradually build up strong apostolic communities.

A third challenge has to do with Internationality. It might be helpful if you could welcome regular visits of senior Oblates from outside India to share with you their knowledge and experience of the charism of the Founder and of Oblate challenges for our times. If you make specific requests to your mother Province or to the Congregation, this should be possible. Given your numbers, you will also gradually be called to mission Work abroad. I felt your openness for this and I hope your formation programs prepare people who are also able to work abroad. It will be good to investigate, what areas of the formation of candidates, could be worked on more closely with the mother Province and the Congregation.

Another demand is that your growth in numbers must go hand in hand with creating appropriate structures and providing means that correspond to a growing Unit. Besides the communities, other important elements are; portfolios and committees, written policies and directories, all with the aim of better serving the mission and community. Appropriate advisory boards for planning and finances will lead to increased professionalism and move you on from the more family-like structure of a delegation to that of a province, which

functions more like a larger town or a city. It is important that you discern and reflect carefully, with the help of professionals, before venturing into projects. Material means also need to be provided. In this, an ever increasing portion of your income must be generated within the country and shared among all. Careful planning of all these structures and means is now a necessity and can be followed within the framework of the Immense Hope process.

Finally, let us recognize that a number of Oblates have gone through many efforts and even hardships to reach this present, very encouraging moment of your history. We owe them our gratitude. Some even might have been hurt in the process. Healing is always needed as our history becomes longer. I encourage you to please take the time to visit each other, to show your mutual love on every occasion and to aim of reconciliation where needed. Reconciliation focuses not only on resolution of problems but on building trust in our relationships. In the future, the strength of your group as missionaries will lie above all in the unity of minds and hearts as Saint Eugene would say; such unity constitutes a clear sign of true spiritual life: “spiritual” always refers to our life in God’s Holy Spirit of love.

May Saint Eugene, our founder, and Mary Immaculate, whom we Oblates consider to be our mother in a special way, lead us forward on our journey towards the second coming of Christ.

With fraternal greetings

Fr. Wilhelm Steckling, OMI
Superior General
Rome, February 17, 2008



NEWS FROM THE OBLATE DISTRICT UNITS

1. ST. EUGENE DISTRICT COMMUNITY

A) *ST. JOSEPH BHAVAN*

January `08

30 – we were happy to receive Oblate Frs. Chrysantha, Colombo, Jaffna and Dhilip from Bangladesh who came for their International Fathima Seminar held in Chennai.

February

4 – welcome to Fr. Alban Rajasingham OMI, Jaffna Province. We wish you a happy stay and visit to the Ceylon refugees in Tamilnadu

14 – we thank and bid farewell to Fr. Hilarian Vedanayagam OMI for his generosity and availability for the work at Aanmodaya Ashram for the past three months with us.

17 – Oblate Feast of the 182nd Anniversary of the Approbation of Rules and Constitutions. We thank St. Eugene District, Chennai for organizing the district gathering for prayer and agape.

26 – Delegation Council Meet...

March

1 – Fr. Francis Nallappan OMI, Delegation Superior leaves early morning for all Major Superiors' Training in Rome. We wish him a fruitful and memorable experience and happy stay.

- wishes and prayers to Frs. Subhas OMI, Dudly OMI and Lal OMI of Colombo Province. We thank you for your friendship and short stay in India. We wish you a good ministry in your life.

4 – welcome back to dear friend Mathew OMI. We were happy to welcome Mathew OMI after his preaching ministry from Sri Lanka.

31 – we accorded a hearty welcome to Rev Fr. Federico P. Labaglay, OMI – General Councilor for Asia Oceania. His short visit for a week (31st March to 6th April) was really encouraging and experiential especially for the Oblates in North India. As an Oblate Family in India, we extend our gratitude and prayers for his generous visit and encouragement.

April

6 – we wish a prayerful and joyous SILVER JUBILEE of the Sacerdotal Ordination of our beloved Fathers, namely, Ambrose, Pragasam and Pathinathan. We were also privileged to have one of the silver jubilarians Fr. Pathinathan OMI in the presence of Rev Fr. Labaglay, OMI along with St. Eugene District. We thank our district members and also Frs. Varghese and Peter Sakra for their presence with us.

St. Joseph Bhavan Community
St. Thomas Mount



B) *PREACHING MINISTRY IN SRI LANKA*

Heartening Experience

Greetings to all the BORN readers from Mathew OMI, St. Joseph Bhavan, Chennai. With great joy and happiness I wish to share my preaching-experiences I had in Sri Lanka. I went to Sri Lanka on 7th of December 2007 and came back on 4th of March 2008. Upon my arrival over there, the first experience was to witness to a suffering cousin of the priest who was abducted, tortured and killed for daring to stand up to authority for medical help for his parishioners.

Secondly, due to security constrains the little children are locked up within their homes without freedom to play in the sunshine, on sea shore and in streets... You may wonder why I should share this particular situation as I arrived in Sri Lanka. In India, I have read, heard and seen on papers and news but witnessing to the uncertain living-reality of the people due to ethnic war situation in Sri Lanka was a bit shocking experience to me who has gone from an independent atmosphere of the land, India. Feeling pity rather than compassion is what we often feel and automatically express.

But after having witnessed the pathetic situation of the ordinary civilians in Sri Lanka, a question that keeps hunting me is that, why can't I be a voice for them and try to alleviate their aches and pains... and a deep urge in me to help them came to my rescue was to re-found a new method of preaching in their own experiences of uncertainties and regular military attacks. In the first week of my stay I was just counting the days to come back to India

latter on when I involved with the people I loved to be there to participate in their sufferings and wished to break the Word of God more effectively with deeply and short lived experience.

Till New Year 2008 I stayed in Vauniya, the OMI preaching community and learned the methods of mission preaching from our Fathers and went out for preaching. Due to war situation I could not proceed my ministry there. Then I went to Palaiyoothu an Oblate parish in Trincomalle with Fr. Andrias. I thank him for giving me ample opportunities to go on preaching apostolate with varied experiences.

“There is nothing impossible with God” (Lk 1:37) and so we must pray for the people of Sri Lanka. Though its my first visit and first experience in that land, the experience is something more cherishable for two reasons, first, evangelically it was pioneered by the Oblates and secondly, even amidst uncertain situations, displacements and constant residential-shift, the people have inspired me by their deep faith and love for God. Sometimes, the petty problems we face may disappear if we understand and pray for the peaceful condition of the land. Since, Sri Lanka has a long history and tradition of the Oblate presence, it was a memorable experience to live with them with much sense of international-Oblateness.

To conclude my sharing... it was a rare opportunity to live in a land where our Founder himself had sent Oblates for evangelization and out of my experience I was really energized with the encouragement of the Oblates and with thirst I have now begun to explore the Word of God more effectively according to the context of the people not theoretically but witnessing life-style. As oblates we ought to take this ministry very seriously and must give extra care and importance to this apostolate in our region.

I thank God for giving me this golden opportunity to go to Srilanka. I thank Fr. Nallappan and all his councilors for arranging this programme. I gratefully remember Frs. Celement, the Provincial, Paul Nachathiram and in a special way Fr. Andrias for his care, hospitality and guidance. Now it is time to bear fruit from what I have learned and experienced. For “There is nothing impossible with God” (Lk 1:37).

Fr. Mathew Jayaraj OMI
St. Joseph Bhavan, Chennai

2. AMALA ANNAI DISTRICT

A) *GNANALAYAM – DE MAZENOD JUNIORATE*

Visits

- Rev. Fr. Ignatius Thomas, the Parish priest of Manali New Town Infant Jesus Shrine brought his parish youth for one day seminar on 3rd Feb 2008. Fr. Joe,omi was the resource person of the day.
- Rev. Frs. Francis Nallappan,omi, Pathinathan,omi, and Dilip Sarkar,omi were the Chief-Guests for the concluding function of the English Camp and the farewell function organized for the Korean students on the 3rd Feb 2008.
- Fr. Jack, an Oblate priest from United States, was with us for a week to take some classes for our boys. We thank him for his availability.
- On Feb 28th Frs. Subash,omi, Dudley,omi and Lee,omi from Sri Lanka paid a short visit to us in spite of their tiresome journey to many parts of India.
- Fr. Alex,omi, the Councilor in-charge of formation, came to Gnanalayam for two days stay on 29th Feb. He addressed the students and met the staff. We thank him for his visit and availability.
- One of the Pioneer of the Oblate Mission in India, namely Fr. Emmanuel,omi came on 13th March to spend a week with us. His simple, quiet and prayerful presence edified us both, the staff and students.
- Rev. Fr. Frederic Labaglay,omi, the General councilor in-charge of Asia- Oceania region was with us on 5th March as he was invited as the Chief-Guest for the Annual Day function.

Farewell

- The Korean Students who were with us for about a month, were given farewell on the 3rd of February.
- Bro. Solomon, the Regent who was taking care of our farm, Place Garden, was given farewell by our Community as he was very helpful to the Fathers and the Brothers in the community.

Celebration

- On 19th Feb the Fathers belonging to Amala Annai District came to Gnanalayam for the celebration of Feb 17th Feast, namely, the

Approbation of our Congregation and its Constitutions and Rules. There was a solemn mass followed by a festive meal.

- On 19th March we celebrated the birthday of our Rector, Fr. Chinnappan,omi. Besides the Oblates from Amala Annai District, there were also other Fathers and Sisters from the neighboring communities.
- We had our Annual Sports Day on the 30th of March and our Annual Picnic to Chennai City on the 31st of March. They were indeed both interesting and memorable days for our boys.
- The Annual day Celebration at Gnanalayam every year is something memorable for the members of Gnanalayam Community as well as for its good neighbors. This year we were privileged to have Rev. Fr. Labaglay,OMI as the Chief-Guest and Fr. Francis Nallappan,omi, as the Guest of honour. There were about 100 people both religious and Lay to witness the event. The students not only entertained the audience with their Cultural programmes but also they demonstrated their talents in Musical instruments and Yoga-asanas. We are grateful to Fr. Labaglay,omi for his Kind presence with us.

Competitions

- On 9th Feb our Students participated in the Essay Competition. On the same day our students participated in the half a day seminar on Ecology organized by Fr. Lawrence,SDB at Sagayathottam.
- On 27th Feb there was Singing Competition and on 19th March there was a Drama Competition. The three Houses namely, St. Eugene, Bl. Gerald and Bl. Cebula participated in the competitions quite actively.

Spiritual Activity

- On 25th Feb Fr. Yesuraj,omi guided our one-day monthly recollection.
- As a preparation for Easter our students observed half a day “mauna” – silence and made their Confession.

St. Eugene Academy

- We had our 8th Meeting of St. Eugene Academy on 29th Feb. Rev. Fr. Arockia Samy, SDB, the Rector of Don Bosco Community at Pannur, and Fr. Alex,omi were the Chief-Guests of the day’s

programme. The SMA Sisters at Sagayathottam with their candidates participated in the Academy. The topic of the day was “Valentine Day”.

- On 17th March we had our 9th meeting of St. Eugene Academy. Rev. Sr. Anne from Seva Missionary Congregation was the Chief-Guest of the day. The DMI Sisters from Perambakkam also took part in the Academy. The topic of the day was “Women’s Day”.

Exams

- On 6th March our Students had their Model Entrance Exam and on 8th the Entrance Exam to Pre-Philosophy. Fr. Maria Rajan,omi was there to conduct the Entrance Exam.
- From 24th to 29th March our Students had their Annual Exams.

Thanks to all the well wishers for your prayers and support!

Gnanalayam Community
De Mazenod Juniorate

Fr. PEDDING at Gnanalayam



Dear Fr. Labaglay, OMI, General Councilor for Asia Oceania.

*We the Indian Oblates extend our gratitude and prayers
for your generous visit and encouragement*



B)

Sat-Chit-Ananda temple

True Being-Pure Consciousness-Bliss

(Center for Indian Spirituality, Interreligious Dialogue & Inculturation)

Blessed and opened by **Most Rev Fr. Wilhelm Steckling, OMI**, Superior General of the Oblates on 30th December 2007

A dream of the Aanmodaya Ashram for Today- come true!

PART - I

Introduction

The “Dream” of the Oblates of India, of Aanmodaya Ashram in particular and those especially the Christian, frequenting the Ashram, to have a TEMPLE where the Sacramental Presence of the Lord could be had saw the light of Day on 30th December 2007, when the Superior General of the Oblates Most Reverend Father Wilhelm Steckling, OMI, blessed open the Temple, christened **SACCIDANANDA** (Sat-Chit-Ananda) Temple of Aanmodaya Ashram in the presence of many Oblates, including of our Delegation Superior Fr. Francis Nallappan OMI, many priests and Sisters and many of our well – wishers and friends.

Backdrop-Setting

The 30th December 2007 was certainly a red-letter day in the annals of Aanmodaya Ashram. The temple was a long felt need of all. Though the original plan of Aanmodaya Ashram as laid out in 1990/91 had as its Center the Temple, due to various factors the Temple was not constructed at the beginning. The chief factor was the high cost of constructing the Temple. Besides at the beginning, we were not sure what would be the response of the people to our nascent Ashram. At the time when Aanmodaya

The highest religion is to rise to Universal Brotherhood; aye to consider all creatures your equals.

-Sri. Guru Granth Sahib

Ashram was blessed open on 17th February 1992, we had a well constructed, beautiful “DHYANA MANDAPAM” (= Meditation Hall). It is we and the people coming to the Ashram regularly gathered for the **DHYANAM** – the life-spring of every Ashram, and for “Tri-sandhya” – the three principal hours of worship which regulate the life of the Ashram. This was the nucleus of the Ashram. It was here we daily celebrated the Eucharist, with Jesus the Christ, our Sat Guru Yogic Asana (Posture) is the presiding Deity.

Temple for the Blessed Sacrament & the Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore

This is an “open space” every person could walk in and have “COMMUNION WITH THE DIVINE” without be or hindrance all the twenty four hours of the day. However Sacred a Space, this could be, we have to come to grapple with the material reality around. The Liturgical Laws of the Church did not permit “Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament” in this place. So we in the Ashram continued to suffer pangs of pain whenever Christians visiting the Ashram expressed their desire to pray before the “Holy Sacrament”. The day 31st August 1994 our Late Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore (now Chennai-Mailai) His Grace Arul Das James DD., visited our Ashram is still etched in our memory. And during his stay with us, he spent a few hours in our Ashram. After spending sometime with us taking tea, he wanted to recite the “Lectio Divina” before the “Blessed Sacrament” as was his wont. He expressed for a separate place for the Blessed Sacrament. The Archbishop used to remind us that we should build the Temple soon.

Response of the Major Seminaries / Priests / Religious / Laity – towards an urge for Divine Experience through Indian Spirituality, Interreligious Dialogue and Inculturation.

As missionaries, inculturation does concern the Oblates. “I would be pleased to see you going out and surveying your territory a little. Missionary bishops do not fix themselves in one residence never to leave it. You should build up relations with your Kaffirs to whom you have essentially been sent.” (St. Eugene, Letter of May 30, 1857 in Oblate Writings I, vol. 4, no. 26, p. 207), The 1986 Chapter also expressed itself in this way: To “establish Christian communities rooted in the local culture” (C. 7), Oblates have to be “very close to the people with whom they work” (C. 8). In communion with them and with an attitude of profound respect, we shall discover new aspects of the inexhaustible riches of God in the hearts of the people, in their history and religions. “We shall let our lives be enriched...” and thus we shall hear “in new ways the Gospel that we proclaim” (R 8) [R 8a in CCR 2000] (Missionaries in Today’s World, no. 55.).

Respect and honour all human beings irrespective of their religion, colour, race, sex, language, status, property, birth, profession or job and so on.

-Quran

Peoples' response to our Ashram Ministry was increasing day by day, practically all the Major Seminaries of Tamil Nadu and from other states too were sending their students of Theology to our Ashram for Ashram Experience; so too the religious Congregations were sending their Sisters and Brothers as part of their preparation for First and Final Vows. Quite a number of people from abroad, mostly Christians were coming to our Ashram. Our Ashram is slowly emerging as the Center for the Study of Indian Spirituality, interreligious dialogue and inculturation.

Fr. Lucian Schmitt, OMI, a Happy memory and a viability for the Temple

Now the urgency for a Temple to house the Blessed Sacrament was deeply felt. The question was how to mobilize the finances needed for the project. Late Fr. Lucian Schmitt, OMI, of a Happy memory, who as Provincial of our SriLanka Province played a big role in building up of our Oblate Delegation of India in its earlier years (Fr. Schmitt became provincial just about six months after his predecessor, Late Fr. Anthony Fernando OMI, of Happy memory, had taken a bold decision of sending the Oblates to India.). At the time of the beginning of our Ashram Ministry, Fr. Schmitt OMI was a great inspiration and encouragement. He never failed to visit our Ashram whenever he visited India and continued to encourage us through his many letters. He was in MISSIO Aachen, Germany, then and later in our Oblate house in Aachen.

Having traveled to many "MISSION COUNTRIES" and visited many places and seen the various ministries, he considered our Ashram ministry as something very unique and should be given high priority. When Fr. Schmitt heard that we are thinking of constructing a suitable temple that will give expression to the ideals of our Ashram, especially **Inculturation and Inter-Faith Dialogue**, he lost no time in informing the people who could help us.

Our Gratitude to Rev Frs. Josef Mathuni OMI and Aloy Terleisner OMI (Representing Oblate Province, Germany)

In the month of December 2005 two of our great benefactors of India who were visiting our Indian Delegation to make a first kind assessment of our needs, visited our Ashram. Rev Fr. Josef Mathuni OMI, of Austria and Rev Fr. Aloy Terleisner OMI, the Mission Economist of our Oblate Province of Germany. Both of them heard about the need of a Blessed Sacrament Temple in our Ashram and by mid March 2006, they showed green signal with the recommendation of Fr. Schmitt for financial contribution towards the construction of the temple. Adding to this, the Indian Delegation, friends and well-wishers of our Ashram donated according to their means.

With prayers, on 29th April 2006 – the Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena – the great Christian Mystic, we had the "**POOMI PUJA**"- the "ground breaking" ceremony for the construction of the temple. Fr. Hilarian Vethanayagam OMI, the Architect of the Temple blessed the foundation and we had an inculturated

prayer service facilitated by the Guru of the Ashram Swami Joseph Samarakone OMI, and attended by a few people, including the Oblates of the neighborhood communities. We also had Fr. Anthony Jayamanne OMI, Six OMI Deacons and local architect Mr. S.A.David.

It is with deep gratitude and joy, and songs of thanksgiving welling up in our hearts that we place on record the great contribution of Fr. Josef Mathuni OMI and the benefactors associated with him as well as Fr. Aloy Terleisner OMI and all our friends, benefactors without whose generosity, SACCIDANANDA Temple of Aanmodaya Ashram would have not seen the light of day.

Compliments to the draftsmen

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Fr. Hilarian Vethanayagam, OMI, the chief architect, and Mr. Paulraj, the Engineer – the nephew of the first Guru of Aanmodaya Ashram, Late Swami Amalraj Jesudass, OMI, - who meticulously did the structural engineering with selfless service generously with the Architect Mr. David, who though in his eighties helped us by painstakingly supervising every details of the construction. We also thank Mr. Vijaya Kumar a friend of the Ashram and also all the workers especially the masons, carpenters and artisans.

To Be Religious Today is to Be Interreligious - The Plan of the Temple

Architect Rev Fr. Hilarian Vethanayagam OMI, Jaffna Province drafted the beautiful architectural plan of the Temple. The plan is based on Dravidian Temple architecture characterised by its "Ornamental Pillars". The Temple is built in such a way that it faces the East, so that the first rays of the Risen Son falls on the Entrance of the Temple. The Ornamental Pillars inside the Temple are adorned with symbols of all the world Religions so that any person walking into the temple would be struck by the basic ethos of our Ashram: **to be religious today is to be Interreligious.**

(continues

Swami Joseph Samarakone OMI

Director
Aanmodaya Ashram
Center for Indian Spirituality-Interreligious Dialogue
Kancheepuram



Beloved, let us love one another : for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

-The Bible

3. BL JOSEPH GERARD DISTRICT COMMUNITY

A) *KOMBADIMADURAI – AN APPRAISAL OF LIFE IN THE MISSION*

Pastoral life and liturgical celebrations

Between the last issue of BORN and this issue we had very intensive season of celebrating the mystery of our Christian faith namely Incarnation of our Lord Jesus and His resurrection. We planned out our liturgy in such a way that together with the main station, the sub-station parishioners also participate in it meaningfully. We had Rev. Fr. Joe, OMI with us to help for Christmas. There were two scholastics (now deacons) namely Bro. Sahayaraj and Bro. Antonisamy who came to our parish to help in organizing the liturgy and choirs. We thank Rev. Fr. Jeeva, OMI who sent them to Kombadimadurai at our request. We do also appreciate the brothers for their active involvement and fraternal companionship. They brought cheers and joy among the people and children as Santa Claus.

The liturgy committee of our parish decided in their meeting to take up three levels of preparation to celebrate Easter in each of our sub-stations (Azhimadurai, Vani, Valakanni, North Andakudi). The first level is to go to each sub-station and introduce to them the importance of Lent- the need to repent and return to God who is loving and forgiving, with His infinite Goodness and Compassion. It was instructed to them that the perfect means of repentance are undoubtedly PRAYER, FASTING and HELPING THE POOR. The second level is to initiate and make available the sacrament of reconciliation. And the third level is to organize one-day retreat in kombadimadurai on March 9, 2008, animated by Rev. Fr. Rajamanickam, the parish priest of Manamadurai. The retreat for the children was organized on the previous day animated by Rev. Fr. Basker, the assistant parish priest of Paramakudi. All these plans were carried out well. Although there was heavy rain especially during the holy week, majority of people devotedly participated in the services.

Education ministry

Although we have opened the new school, we have not shifted our students to the new school, because still we need to construct toilets for the students. We hope that from next academic year onwards the classes will be held in the new school. The performances of the students are gradually increasing towards satisfaction. Most of our attention and care is directed toward the

10th students who are appearing for the public exams this year in March. There are 57 students in 10th in this batch. In order to facilitate them to study well we are organizing evening and early morning studies. It means they study from 6.00pm to 9.30pm with a short break for supper, and then from 4.15am to 6.00am. They stay for the night in the school itself. The teachers are committed to bring good results this year. Let us wait and see!

Economic life

The winning horse does not know why it runs the race. It runs because of the whip and pain. Life is a race; if you are in pain then clearly God wants you to win, not by pain and whip but by faith.

People of Kombadimadurai region are primarily farmers. For last three years they did not get profit for their labour, rather they did not even get what they invested. There was heavy loss this year on account of untimely heavy rain. Their crops namely rice, chilli and cotton were destroyed by rain. Since farming leaves them in loss on and off, many of them have gone to Malaysia and Singapore. Some of them who are educated and well-off they shift their residential to neighboring towns and cities- Ilayangudi, Paramakudi, Trichy and Madurai. Many of our men folk have gone to Thanjore region to do their age-old task of toddy

making. Therefore, the people who are left in our villages are old ones, women and children who study in our school. It is quite difficult for us to organize as the responses we get from the people are unpredictable.

Therefore we hope in the RISEN LORD for His bountiful blessings and continual presence during this season of life of the faithful in the mission.

Frs. Ambrose OMI & Gregory OMI
Kombadimadurai

B) *V.C. KURUSADY - TOWARDS FAITH FORMATION* - Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage

Blessing of the Renovated Church at V.C.Kurusay

On 6th February, 2008, after the Ash Wednesday liturgy at 9.30 am, Msgr. K.S. Arockiasamy and Rev. Fr. Joseph Selvaraj, the Procurator blessed and initiated the renovation work. Within a short span of two weeks of strenuous work, the church was renovated and was blessed opened on 24th February, 2008, by our Bishop Most Rev.Dr. Antony Pappusamy, D.D. It was a great

moment of joy and happiness for all of us. We thank our Bishop for his encouraging presence and support.

Women Empowerment Programme

Today the Catholic Church not only proclaims the Mission of Christ, but it also tries to empower the flock that is entrusted to its care, in order to lead a happy and vibrant life and thus proclaim its faith in the Lord. Rev. Fr. Cyril Joseph OMI, the Parish Priest of V.C.Kurusady, Dindigul has taken a courageous step to Empower the Women of this parish through the Basic Christian Community. Our Bishop Most.Rev.Dr.Antony Pappusamy, D.D. was given warm welcome to chair its meeting on 24th February, 2008, at 11 o'clock, after the blessing of the renovated Church at Kurusady. The secretary of the women's group read out its aim and objectives to the Bishop. The Bishop while appreciating the clear vision of this movement asked the group to co-operate with the pastors of the Parish, in order to come up well economically, in many spheres according to the available resources in life and thus avoid unnecessary debt, which may burden our life. Rev.Fr.Ignaci, the secretary to the Bishop and Cluney Sisters were also present for this meeting. Teacher Mrs.Rajathi, appreciated and thanked the Bishop for his fatherly support and encouragement and thus the meeting came to an end at 11.45 am.

Marriage Rectification

On 23rd Feb, 2008, half a day of Seminar was conducted for those who were willing for the rectification of their marriages in the Church. Rev.Sr.Edmond of Cluny and Rev.Fr.Ramesh

OMI, the Assistant Parish Priest, prepared them on the Sacrament of Marriage and thus helped them to be responsible couples towards the church and society. There were 8 couples, who participated in this half a day seminar. During the solemn Eucharistic celebration their marriages were blessed rectified.

T T P for the empowerment of the economically backward women

On 2nd March, 2008 after the Sunday liturgy, at 10.30am Rev. Fr. Msgr. K.S. Arockiasamy of Dindigul, blessed and inaugurated the Tailoring Institute (i.e., TTP- Tailoring Training Programme) at V.C.Kurusady. It is taken as a step to empower the woman of the Parish especially those who are economically backward. As each one is a co-creator of this universe, let us join hands and enable one another to be a responsible co-creator.

Nearly 5000 people participate in the Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage at V.C.Kurusady – organized by the Oblates

On 9th March 2008, the Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage was held at V.C.Kurusady. Rev.Fr. Joe OMI, St. Eugene Preaching Band Community, Chennai, led the people in prayer and contemplation. There were more than 5000 people, who participated in this diocesan Lenten pilgrimage. Rev. Fr. Joe OMI with his thought provoking reflections and charismatic prayer service, kept the people active and in an atmosphere of prayer and contemplation. To create an atmosphere for prayer and meditation, Rev. Fr. Cyril OMI, the Parish Priest along with the entire parish community looked into each details, so as to make the day comfortable for the pilgrims and thus for prayer and meditation. Rev.Dr.Antony Pappusamy, D.D., the Bishop of Dindigul celebrated the solemn concelebrated mass along with the Vicar General and the priests of the diocese. Many Religious Sisters also participated in this day of prayer and meditation. We also sincerely thank all the priests of the diocese who extended their fullest support for its success.

Then the parish priest invited all the volunteers of the day and provided them a high tea. It was followed by a small evaluation of the day. All in one accord said that the day's Programme was good and beneficial for all those who attended this year Lenten pilgrimage. The preacher also kept the entire crowd in the atmosphere of prayer and contemplation. The Pilgrims also generally felt that this year, the arrangement was good and conducive for prayer and meditation. The parishioners also expressed that this year they were more involved in each activities of the day than being mere pilgrims. The parishioners also thanked the parish priest for his effort to arrange this day with a grand success. Finally, the parish priest thanked all those who were helpful in the success of this Lenten Programme.

Blessing of the Extended Presbytery at V.C.Kurusady

On 26th March, 2008 Rt. Rev.Dr.Antony Pappusamy, D.D., blessed and opened the extended Presbytery at V.C. Kurusady. Vicar General, Procurator, Vicar Forane, Frs. Martin OMI &.Mariatajan, OMI and a few other vicariate priests, the religious sisters of Cluny, village head men and the women empowerment group were present for the blessing. The Bishop appreciated the Pastors and the parishioners for all their initiatives in the parish.

Frs. Cyril Joseph OMI & Ramesh OMI
Dindigul

4. BL. JOSEPH CEBULA DISTRICT COMMUNITY

A) *JEEVAN JYOTHI SEMINARY – ST. EUGENE JUNIORATE*

Season of Easter & Academic Competitions

From January to March, being the last semester of the year, the thrust was given towards the study. And accordingly we had a series of tests and examinations for our students. The teaching staffs, consisting of Frs. Peter Sakra and Amirtharaj wanted to make sure that the students learn at least to communicate and understand the basics of English Grammar. Naturally, the students were busy studying hard and revising the previous portions of English Grammar and the time was utilized to the maximum. In the midst of all these hectic mental activities there came a time and the reason for little relaxation. February 17th : A day of thanksgiving to God and our Founder.

Instilling the spirit of the Founder on the feast of the Congregation:

Our candidates hail from some of the remotest and most backward villages who neither know the significance of this day nor have any knowledge of our founder and the congregation. And therefore, we felt that it is proper and fitting on such occasion to enlighten on these young minds something about our founder and congregation. Thus, having these in mind we decided that this day be celebrated in a grand manner. The preparation began well ahead of time, and the persons in charge of food, decorations, games etc. were asked to get ready for the feast. The day began with a solemn Mass during which the significance of the day was explained and highlighted especially the hard times the founder had before the approbation of the Rules and the Constitutions. This was followed by a Volley ball match and lunch. In the evening, in honour of St. Eugene De Mazenod and the congregation the students were allowed to watch an educational movie.

Holy week and Easter celebrations: The Maundy Thursday was celebrated at Bilha in our minor seminary itself. In the homily the celebrant Rev. Fr. Peter Sakra dwelt on the theme ‘Service’ and exhorted the young seminarians that the true way to greatness is through service. After the sermon, in keeping with the words of Jesus, “ *If I then your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet you also ought to wash one another’s feet*” the celebrant asked the brothers to wash each other’s feet.

Good Friday service at Sacred heart Church at Bilaspur

The whole community went to the main parish to participate in the ceremony. A long procession was taken out in the heart of the city and our brothers took active part in the function. And for Easter celebration too we went to the main parish and took part in the liturgy. There was a large gathering of faithful who actively took part in the vigil Mass.

Visit of Rev. Fr. Federico Labaglay OMI

In this last semester we had some extra curricular activities within the framework of the formation, besides elocution contest we also had Biblical themes enacted and the winning groups were given prizes. The final examinations were conducted during the holy week itself since our boys were anxiously waiting to go home for their summer vacations. We were fortunate enough to have Rev. Fr. Federico Labaglay for the concluding ceremony of our academic year. After thanksgiving Mass at 19hours the curtain came to a close and the students left for their summer vacation after the supper. We extend our hearty thanks to Rev. Fr. Federico Labaglay OMI, General Councilor for Asia-Oceania Region for his long travel and stay with us. His stay and sharing was really mutually enriching and supportive. We extend our prayers for his fruitful ministry.

Jeevan Jyothi Juniorate Community
Billah

ATTENTION!

BORN (*Bharathi Oblate Regional News*) is a bi-monthly newsletter of the OMI Delegation in India. It facilitates connectivity and creates synergy for mutual and spiritual enrichment so as to give effective evangelical response to current concerns of our society especially in all our Oblate missions and ministries.

BORN has assumed artistic and fashionable impression as per need of the changing time. We are exploring and progressing rapidly on different projections of **BORN** with reflections on social issues. This is the fourth issue, surging forward with new adventures.

N.B.: articles for the next issue should reach on or before 25th May 2008.

S.D. AROKIARAJ OMI
Secretary
St. Joseph Bhavan, Chennai

5. FR. FERNAND JETTE' DISTRICT COMMUNITY

A) MINUTES OF FR. FERNAND JETTÉ DISTRICT MEET- 21.01.2008

We began our gathering in the presence of the Lord at 9.30 am at Arpanalayam on 21st January and Arpanalayam brothers lead us in Prayer and adoration. After an hour of prayer we had tea break and began our community sharing with a hymn to the Holy Spirit then Deccan Joseph Thambi read the reading from the Book written by Fr. Jette followed by the Prayer by Fr. F. David. Fr. Joseph read out the minutes of the last meeting after which Fr. Varghese proposed the adoption of the minutes and deacon. Thambi seconded it.

Fr. Francis the president welcomed the gathering especially he welcomed Thambi to Fr. Jette's community and wished him for his ministry in Andhra. He also thanked the members for everything that they do for the community. Especially he thanked the members for their effective participation during the visit of Fr. General. He reminded the members to be on time for all the gatherings.

In our gathering we mainly discussed about the Jubilee celebration in Musunuru which may be celebrated on 7th of May. To make this Celebration more Meaningful we planned to celebrate and organize the sacraments along which we decided to include the Vows of the Novices and the Jubilarians' Mass on 7th of May. Fr. Francis shared with members about the programme of his community.

Fr. Varghese shared about the Vocation camp. Fr. Simon shared with us about the shifting of the school from Chekkapalli to Ramanakkapet which is on steady progress. He also explained us about the Sisters' camp and the feast they celebrated in three villages. He shared about the renovation of the Nahurunagram church and explained about the insurance in detail. Finally we decided to have our next gathering in Buttayagudem on 3rd of March and concluded our meeting with a prayer and meals.

Fr. P.I. Joseph OMI
Jette District Secretary

B. ST. JOSEPH NOVITIATE, A.P

Visit of the Most Rev Fr Wilhelm Steckling OMI, Superior General

On 31st December'07, mourning Fr. General arrived at our novitiate house and we had Eucharistic celebration after the Fernand Jette' district meeting with Fr. General. In the evening the novices had the elocution competition on the OMI Preface, first sermon of St. Eugene, the first letter of St. Eugene, constitutions, oblate quotations and the history of Andra mission. The General appreciated our performance. He also blessed the new **St. Eugene English Medium School** which will start in the coming academic year.

Exposure Programme

On 2nd January'08 the novices left for their ashram experience to Prema Seva Ashram, Nirmalagiri and we thank Fr. Jesudass, the Director for providing the place and after a week of experience, we went to Godhavari Mary Madha Shrine, run by Fr. Elias for the village experience. It was good for the novices to enjoy God's presence in their silence and living with the people and praying for them.

District Meeting

On 21st January Jette district meeting was held at Arpanalayam.

On 12th February, We celebrated the

birthday of Fr. Francis Xavier OMI, novice master and Frs. Joseph, John David, Ramesh, Simon and Bro. Kuppala renewed their vows.

Classes on the Bible

Thanks to Fr. Ramesh for his classes (from 12th to 17th) on the Bible. Special thanks to him for giving us a way how to read the Bible to understand it better.

Classes on Spirituality

Thanks to Fr. Alex OMI, for his classes (from 19th to 24th) on spirituality, especially on Oblate Spirituality.

Welcome to Jack OMI

On 27th February the novitiate community extended a hearty welcome to Fr. Jack OMI. He took classes on St. Eugene and Mary for the Novices in his short stay with the novitiate community. His classes enriched the novices to look into their vocation in relation to Mother Mary. The novices appreciate and learn from him the sense of simplicity and punctuality and sense of international belongingness. We thank him for his availability and motivation regarding the specific charism of our congregation.

Holy Week

We had a meaningful Holy Week celebrations organized by Fr. Jack

with the novices. On Holy Thursday, each of us washed the other's feet which brought out a sense of caring, loving and servant hood for the other. We also had a meaningful Way of the Cross on Good Friday on the theme, "Journey with Jesus through the crisis of Community" and the Easter Message was "to experience and live the heaven here and now".

Ignatian Retreat

The novices had their one to one personal Ignatian Retreat with the Novice Master from 26th -31st of

March '08. Each novice had a separate time table spending five hours before the Blessed Sacrament everyday. This special experience has enabled each other to be open to the Spirit of the Lord and draw His strength. It also has helped them to reflect on their own vocation from childhood and thus strengthen each one's vocation with the experiences of one's own family background in the presence of the Lord. The Novitiate Community wishes all the BORN readers a joyful and happy Easter.

Novitiate Community
Arpanalayam, A.P

C. ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MUSUNURU, A.P

Youth Zonal Meet

We had second Zonal meeting on 20th of January between three of the villages near by, namely, Musunuru (St. Joseph youth movement), Chintalavalli (mother Theresa moment) and Mukkulapadu. We gathered at 11:30 am near the Mango Garden Chapel for the Prayer service which was organized by catechist Benergi then there was welcoming ceremony and a talk by Fr. Joseph OMI, where he explained about spiritual values, social values and personal values. Catechist Benergi also explained about moral life and certain tips for better living. Bro. Lawrence OMI and Fr. F. David OMI organized few Party games. After our fellowship Fr. Joseph celebrated the Holy Eucharist and there was dance competition organized for boys and solo singing competition for the girls after which Fr. Varghese OMI, the Parish Priest addressed them briefly and we had group Photos then we dispersed with a prayer and a word of thanks.

*I am of the opinion
that my life belongs
to the community,
and as long as I live
it is my privilege to
do for it whatever
I can.*

- George Bernard Shaw

Sports for Night school Children

"The question for each man to settle is not what he would do if he had means, time, influence and educational advantages; the question is what he will do with the things he has. The moment a young man ceases to dream or to bemoan his lack of opportunities and resolutely looks his conditions in the face, and resolves to change them, he lays the cornerstone of a solid and honorable success".

- Hamilton Wright Mabie

On 16th of Feb we organized sports for the night school children. There were children from seven villages of our parish where we have employed teachers to teach the children in the evening. We began the day with the hoisting of the National flag by Fr. Varghese and there was March Fast competition around 2 o'clock which was judged by Fr. Ramesh OMI, the Chief Guest of the day, Fr. Varghese and Bro. Lawrence. After this we had many other sports competition. After the sports we had Eucharistic Celebration which was presided by Fr. Varghese, this Eucharist was specially offered for the Holy innocent children and offertory was given to diocese for the Holy innocent children's Fund. We also organized one hour of cultural programme by the children of each village and Fr. Ramesh the chief guest distributed the prizes for the winners. Our

children were boosted and encouraged with presence of our Frs. Alex OMI, Francis OMI, F. David OMI, Ramesh OMI and Bro. Lawrence OMI. Finally we dispersed with a prayer and dinner.

Elders' Meet – a joyful encounter

On 19th of Feb we gathered all the parish elders from 16 villages. 85 elders participated in the meeting. We began our meet at 11 am with a prayer service organized by Fr. Varghese and the Catechist. Fr. Prasad from Chatrai parish was invited as a chief guest of the day, he specially organized the day with his own creativity. He gave lot of practical ideas and points to be a good leader and how they need to cooperate with the priest for the betterment of the parish. He also celebrated the Eucharist for them then we departed for noon fellowship. In the afternoon Fr. Varghese and Fr. Joseph sat with the elders for the special planning for the betterment of the parish. After this discussion both the fathers met each of the village elders personally and discussed about the problems and needs of the particular village.

Reconciliation ceremony

We organized prayer service in all 40 days of the Lenten season. We went to each village with the catechist to intensively prepare the faithful during

the lent. Every day evening priest and catechists took their turns to preach the word of God and make the faithful to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation in order to celebrate the Easter joy in a worthy manner.

Fasting and Prayer

We organized fasting and prayer on four Fridays of the lent in four the villages; Katrenipadu Gudem, Ellapuram, Chintalavalli and Musunuru. All the Fridays we began the day with Rosary, Way of the Cross, Benediction, preaching the Word of God, Sacrament of reconciliation and finally we ended the day with Holy Eucharist. Good number of the Faithful participated in this service with real attitude of reconciliation and spent the time with reverence and Fasting.

Day of Recollection for the Catechist

Fr. K.J. Antony helped the Catechist on 13th of March to spend the day in recollection. They began the day with prayer at 10.30 am followed by special talk by Fr. Antony the Golden Jubilarian. Catechist spent time in silence and participated in the sacrament of reconciliation and ended their recollection with Eucharistic meal and meeting.

Deekshadharulu (special Lenten observant)

There were 54 members who specially observed the Lenten fasting and prayer. We gathered them in Arpanalayam on 8th of March for special prayer service. Fr. Varghese gave them special message explaining about their way of life which they had to live on these days. There was benediction and sacrament of reconciliation organized by Fr. Varghese. Finally we ended with Eucharistic Meal and fellowship meal.

Frs. C.T. Varghese OMI & P.I. Joseph OMI
Musunuru, A.P

D) OBLATES DEVELOP HILL SHRINE IN HONOUR OF OUR MOTHER MARY – RAMANAKKAPET, A.P

Nehru Nagar is a remote village and small chapel on the top of a hill, sub-station in our Ramanakkapet in this village, in the year 1988. Parish, without any road transport system. Slowly it has been attracting many devotees of our Mother Mary to this system. One of the former Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Orlando, PIME, a hill in spite of lack of transport system, missionary from Italy, built one

People have to travel about five kilometers to reach to the nearest road, to have access to some transport system. Fr Orlando built a narrow footsteps (250 steps) to reach the shrine on this hill top.

As this shrine receives thousands of pilgrims in the Lenten season, we felt the need to widen the footsteps.

Shrama Dhan (Free Labour):

Faithful from all the 18 substations were mobilized to venture into this Holy Work, rendering their *Shrama Dhan* (Free Labour), to widen these footsteps and thus help the pilgrims to have access to this hill shrine in a smooth way. In a miraculous way we were able to complete this task within four days. Practically every day about 140 people came up to offer their free labor, without minding the scorching sun. The hostel children of our Parish and the Sisters and hostel children of Holy Family Convent too rendered their share in this Holy Endeavour. All our Catechists too rendered their best to make this dream a reality. I should sincerely thank Fr. Basil for his effort, to make this dream a reality.

A three-day feast at this Hill Shrine - Punniya Shethram— was celebrated in the month of March.

On 13th March *Deeksha Bakthulu* [Devoties who have taken up the

Lenton Vows of Fasting, Prayer and *Daanam* (Sacrificial Offering / Service)] were given one day of Recollection, Renewal of Faith and Reconciliation service, in the atmosphere of Prayer and Fasting.

On 14th it was a day of Prayer for all the Faithful from all our surroundings parishes. At Five O'Clock in the eveing, Bishop of Vijayawada offered Eucharistic Celebration, naming this shrine as a *Punniya Shethram* (Holy Pilgrimage center). About 7000 faithful visited this shrine on this one day alone. Most of them came there walking 5 and more kilometers to reach this shrine. Others came with the help of Tractors / and other means of transport vehicles. Many of them stayed overnight and took part in the early morning Eucharistic Adoration and followed by Holy Mass. The pilgrims offered their Vows by **climbing the hill on their Knees**, and reflecting on the themes of the Stations of the Cross.

I appreciate the co-operation of our Catechists, Holy Family Sisters and the Oblates and Novices in our Andhra Oblate District.

Frs. Ouseph Simon Vadakoot,
OMI & Basil
St. Thomas Church,
Ramanakkapet, A.P

6. FR. MARZELLO ZAGO DISTRICT COMMUNITY

A) MINUTES OF THE ZAGO DISTRICT COMMUNITY

JOY OF THE ZAGO DISTRICT – 3RD MEET

Greetings from the Zago district community. The third meet of the Zago district community was a memorial gathering which we cherish in our hearts. The reason was the presence of Superior General Rev. Fr. Wilhelm Steckling with us. We had our sitting with him in the noon. The presence of Fr. General was thought provoking. We began the meet with a small prayer. He wished that we share our experiences from our individual communities viz, the Nivedanam formation house and Bangarapet mission community. Fr. Simeon OMI, the district community superior and the Rector, shared about our life at Nivedanam and he expounded how we are running the house with mutual trust and cooperation. Then Fr. Pragasam OMI, the councilor for mission and the parish priest of Banagarapet shared about his local community. Thereafter each of the members of the Zago district community had its turn to share and express their experiences with the joy of being together. At the end of the Meet, the Superior General appreciated our open sharing wishing us God's blessings for our future ministry.

Cherish - togetherness

We had the fourth district gathering on 3rd of March 2008. We had a joy

of being grown in number. Deacons Solomon and Sagayaraj were the centre of attention in the meet. We began our meet at 10.00am with a small prayer beautifully conducted by the district superior. He arrested our attention to be focused on God by simple but inspiring words of prayer. It was a joyful day for the Zago community because the new members were attending the meet for the first time. We also had the birth day celebration of Fr. Mariarajan the same day. Both of our deacons shared their fresh experiences from their ministry places.

It was interesting to note that both of them had different kinds of experiences. They also shared in the meeting their hopes and aspirations and were very positive about their lives in the new ministry places. Then Fr. Simeon spoke of the interrelatedness and connectedness we enjoy right now as persons belonging to one district community and the congregation at large. Thereafter Fr. Thiyagu gave us few information about his stamp collections and his plan of releasing the CD Programme on the title Bible in Stamps. After that Frs. Bala and Mari took their floor to continue to speak on the inter connectedness and brotherly love that we enjoy in the community.

Fr. Simeon Sebastian OMI
Zago District, Bangalore

B) NIVEDANAM – OMI PHILOSOPHATE

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

We the Nivedanam community very grandly celebrated the feast of our Patroness on the 8th of Dec2007. A solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Periannan the Rector of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary. We began the ceremony at 6.00pm and followed by a colorful Programme given by our brothers which was followed by a festive meal. About 150 religious fathers, brothers and sisters from neighboring communities and far away communities joined us in our joy and happiness. All the friends and guests were very happy and appreciated our community for our prayerful and creative liturgy and the cultural Programme as well.

BOSOM 2007- Missionary Journey Renewed in the Spirit of St. Eugene – held in the presence of our Superior General Rev Fr. Wilhelm Steckling OMI.

Bharath Oblate Students on Meet (BOSOM) for the year 2007 from 28th to 30th December was held in Nivedanam, Bangalore. Theme of the BOSOM was Missionary Journey Renewed in the Spirit of St. Eugene.

BOSOM 2007 had the following crew members, namely, Fr. Alexander, the animator, guide and host Fr. Simeon, Bro. Valan, president and Bro. Joseph, secretary and treasurer was Bro. Benjamin. On 28th the Nivedanam community was very happy to welcome the Brothers from various communities. It helped all of us to inculcate the spirit of Eugene as well to build up a better relationship and closer fellowship with the Oblate family members. Fr. Superior General inaugurated the BOSOM'07 Meet in the evening. On 29th the activities were well arranged and took off on time.

Thus spoke the Speakers...

The speakers were Fr. Jack OMI and our Superior General. Fr. Jack spoke on the theme **“Eugene’s vision re-lived in Missions”**. Fr. General spoke on the theme **Renewing the Oblate Formation in Multifaceted Context**. On 30th December, the Regents were given the opportunity to share all their earn and live experience with the community. In the sharing of regents they were given more power and spirit to work for god and also they gave an idea about how we are living in the society and the reality of the world. At the end of the Meet there was a sense of satisfaction for all the members both the fathers and brothers for each ones contribution. Everyone appreciated the Nivedanaites for their wonderful arrangement and cultural

programmes. Hats off to the Nivedanaites both staff and students and all the committee members.

EBT - St. Eugene Basketball Trophy 2007 – 08 - sportsmanship

This academic year, we the Nivedanam community were very happy to have successfully conducted the trophy from 13th of Nov. to 4th of Dec. 2007. It was an initiative taken by our Rector Fr. Simeon OMI and supported by the staff. The aim of this trophy is to build up a better relationship with neighboring and various communities and to inculcate the spirit of sportsmanship in all the students. This year there were nine teams participating in the trophy. CST and OMI. A team entered the final match. Both the teams played extremely well but the CST won the trophy. The cup was handed over to the captain of the CST team by our rector Fr.Simeon on the day of our feast.

Annual Day 2008

The Nivedanam community happily celebrated the Annual Day and the Palm Sunday together on the 16th of March. We began our procession from the Basketball ground at 6.45 am and followed by the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr.Simeon OMI. We had the cultural event at 6.30 pm. The brothers came out with their skills of singing, dancing, acting and speaking. It was a wonderful Programme after which we had a fellowship meal. There were about 75 lay members from our brother's ministry places and teachers and friends as well. They were extremely happy to witness our brothers' performances.

Frs. Simeon OMI, Bala OMI & Maria Rajan OMI
Nivedanam, Bangalore

I N B O X corner

A) TOMY OMI, CANADA

Greetings from Tomy OMI, Indian Oblate studying in Canada. It's indeed a pleasure to meet the readers of BORN, the newsletter of Indian Oblates. I wish all of you a happy Easter. I thank the BORN Editorial Board for giving me opportunity to get connected and share my experiences in brief with all the BORN readers. My success and failure both in pastoral as well as formation ministry challenged me with a simple question: "What shall I do to make ministry more effective?" After seven years of my active ministry, upon my request Fr.Pathinathan OMI, the then Superior of the Delegation of India granted me permission for higher studies.



I did my studies in Pastoral Management at Jana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Pune, India. The subjects in the curriculum were Christian Understanding of Person and Society, Principles and Concepts in Management, Special Issues in Management, Self Understanding and Interpersonal Skills, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, Information System and Computer Applications, Research and Data Management, Development Management and Social Action, Human Resource Management Practical and Field Study and Scientific Dissertation.

This course was introduced first time in view of training clergy and religious in the area of management since they need to deal with persons, things and money. It was an innovative idea on the part of the Indian church and it is now bearing fruit. While doing my studies about management, I thought that I better equip myself in counseling skills from which I myself have benefited following the traumatic experience of the death of my beloved mother and younger brother. Besides contributing to my own healing, it may be an additional help in my ministry. I learned the need to take care of persons with whom I live and work and the importance of healthy emotional bond with people.

In order to be better informed about counseling, I sought permission from the Delegation Administration to which they responded readily and

"Strength lies in differences, not in similarities"
-Stephen Covey

positively by permitting me to work towards the Post Graduate Diploma through the Counseling Training programme at Anugraha, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. This Institute is recognized by the Canadian association of Pastoral Practice and Education and affiliated to the Madurai Institute of Social Sciences.

I extend my special thanks to you, Rev.Fr. Clement WaidyaSekar OMI Provincial of Sri Lanka, Rev. Fr. Francis Nallappan OMI, the Delegation Superior and his team of Counselors, Fr. Terlisner OMI who provides scholarship for my studies in Canada. I also thank Mr. Ajit Varghese who was making all the arrangements by providing timely insights through telephone calls and emails regarding studies and accommodation. I also thank Rev. Fr. Arokiaraj OMI, Fr. David Kumar OMI, Fr. Susai OMI, Fr. Immanuel OMI and St. Paul's and Novitiate community for their support and encouragement.

I also render my heart felt appreciation to Rev. Fr. Janusz Blazejak, OMI the provincial of Assumption province and to Fr. Jan Wadolowski OMI, Pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. May God bless you all.

With the prayer and blessing of Most Rev. Dr. Neethinathan, Bishop of Chingleput, I started my journey from our Delegation Office, Chennai on 16th November 2007 to Canada. I am staying at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Toronto which was entrusted to Oblates on June 29, 1935. St. Stanislaus church is located in the downtown core of the City of Toronto, just 1.5 km. west of Toronto City Hall. It borders on Dundas street on the north, Queen street on the south, Bathurst street on the west, and Spadina avenue on the east. These streets are all major arterial roads in the city of Toronto.

Fr. Jan Wadolowski, OMI, the Parish Priest is from the village called Targonie-Krytuly; district Bialystok / Lomza, north/east of Poland. He has been here in this parish since 2005. He has been a missionary in Madagascar from 1980-1990. He is a good person endowed with a high sense of human dignity and respect. He is a man of prayer. I celebrate Sunday liturgy and preach in English. I have learned a few polish words and am trying to learn the new language. The parish is mainly for the polish community and a generous sprinkling of multi-cultural members within the parish.

At present I am doing my course as an audit student at the Toronto Institute of pastoral Counseling Education (TIPE) which is affiliated with the Toronto School of Theology. In the next academic year I shall acquire a registered

student status and begin my studies at Regis College for Th. M. I need to do four courses at Regis College in two years. This will be equivalent to M. TH in India. I go for class on Mondays to TIPE and do counseling in two different institutes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I also attend an English class on Wednesdays with Sr. Mary Joseph of the Canadian branch of the Felician Sisters. I call her my spiritual mother. So dear friends and all well wishers, with sincere sense of love and gratitude with prayers I wish God's showers of blessings upon all of you. May He journey with you always!

Thanking you,

<p>Address St. Stanislaus Church 12 Denison Avenue, Toronto, ON M 5T 2M4 CANADA Tel: (416) 504-4643; Fax: (416) 504-565 Email: tomykalloor@yahoo.co.uk</p>
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With love
Fr. Tomy Thomas OMI
 Toronto, Canada

B) FR. IRU – A MISSIONARY-VOICE FROM JAPAN

Dear Oblate Brethren in India!

Greetings of joy and peace from the Risen Lord! Happy Easter!

A couple of days ago I came to a new mission. This is situated in an Island at the Southern part of Japan. We are five in the community. That is: three Oblates (Frs.two and a Bro.), a Diocesan Priest and a Salesian Priest. It is a team. We live as a community and work together. I am in the team working in the Church

as well as in the Kindergarten as a Vice- Principle.

It is a difficult mission. In the beginning the Oblates challenged and took over the mission. Now also it is a challenging mission. Since we don't have enough priests in the Diocese the Bishop is trying to build a team in each mission. I am happy to contact you through BORN. May the Risen Lord continue to bless you!

Thanking you for your prayerful support,

Fr. A. Irudayaraj, OMI
 Japan

<p>Catholic Church 2-1-33 Takajo-machi, Kochi City, 780-0862 JAPAN</p>	<p>Tel : 0081-88-872-3658 Fax : 0081-88-872-3653 Mobile : 0081-90-4212-9334 e-mail : iru.raj@gmail.com</p>
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C. MY NOVITIATE EXPERIENCE – BANDARAWELA, SRILANKA

From : <omimana@yahoo.com> to <indiaomi@vsnl.net >

I thank God and the Oblate Congregation for initiating me to the Oblate way of life at the Oblate Novitiate in Sri Lanka. I began my life at the Novitiate with one week of retreat directed by Fr. Suranga Indrajit Gunsekara OMI. I was initiated into the Novitiate program by Fr. Emmanuel Fernando OMI, the Novice Master on July 4th 2007. I prepared myself spiritually to make use of this year in order to deepen and strengthen my vocation, to grow in spiritual life and to meet the demands of the Oblate Congregation.

I enjoy every moment of my life here with my formatters and with my companions Samuel Hong (Korea), Asif Shahzad, Nasir Mehnga, Tariq Bashir, Waqas Raza (Pakistan), Anton Nimesh, Anton Charles, Nishan Sameera and Philip Bandara (Colombo Province). I have been learning about their socio-cultural and religious values of other novices.. Our multi-cultural experience improves the richness and the quality of our community life and promotes openness to internationality.

Twice a month we go to Parish Church at Bandarawela town to conduct Sunday Liturgy. In our community liturgical celebrations we also sing in our native languages. We come together to pray according to our Units (Province & Delegation) on Sunday evening. Bro. Samuel and I pray together on such occasions. However, on certain Sundays we join other Units.

Many Oblate Fathers from different parts of the world visited our Novitiate Community and shared their missionary experiences, their joys and struggles. Their sharing inspired me in my commitment to the Oblate Missionary Life. I am very grateful to our Indian Delegation for its continual assistance and guidance. The visit of Fr. Francis Nallappan OMI, our Delegation Superior and his Councillor Fr. Pragasam Paniadimai OMI in October 2007 and the recent visit of Fr. Matthew Raj OMI, made me feel more happy and encouraged.

Every month we have the Day of Recollection. The Days of Recollection are conducted by the Oblate Fathers. Oblate Spiritual Directors come to guide us every month. Once a month we go out to places of interest. Outside lecturers come to conduct sessions on special topics. We also had some classes on Enneagram with the Holy Family Novices conducted by our Novice Master. With the Holy Family Novices and the Marist Novices we reflected together on what we can do in the present situation in Sri Lanka.

The beauty of the country and the atmosphere around the Novitiate, have enriched my stay here. I wish you all a joyful Easter Season on behalf of my Novitiate community. God bless you!

Berno Rajesh
Sacred Heart Novitiate, OMI
Bandarawela, Sri Lanka

d. Dear Editor ...✉

Thanks for the greetings and the newsletter; Best wishes for your ministry of service through BORN and greetings to all...

From : Steckling, OMI
wsteckling@gmail.com> to
indiaomi@vsnl.net>

e. Dear Editor...✉

Thank you, Father for BORN. All the best. BORN gives us good information.

From : Paolo Archiati
<archiati@omigen.org> to
<sdarokiaraj@yahoo.com>

f. Dear Fr. Nallan...✉

Many thanks for your wishes and prayers on my re-appointment. Thanks for the BORN and congrats!. Its informative and inspiring.

I appreciate the way you try to bring the Oblates together. All the best.

From : Cletmet <predil2@eureka.lk> to
<nallanomi@vsnl.net>

g. Dear Editor ...✉

Thank you for BORN - Always interesting to read the happy happenings in OMI-India.

Please note my new email address: glavallee@resdespins.ca. With prayerful best wishes and kindest regards

Fr. Guy Lavallee OMI
Tache Community
Lacombe-Canada Province

From : Guy Lavallee
<glavallee@resdespins.ca> to
<sdarokiaraj@yahoo.com>



“Strong lives are motivated by dynamic purposes”

- Kenneth Hildebrand



“Success demands singleness of purpose”

- Vincent Lombardi

THE WORD AND TRICKS OF THE DEVILS

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON OF EASTER

We know from the revealed word, that the Enemy of human being has seven schemes, tricks or designs. And he uses these in the most subtle ways “we are not ignorant of this designs” (2 cor.2:11). Now let us briefly analyze what our ignorance are and the designs of the Evil forces. To have a weak understanding of sin is a part of our weak humanity of being a sinner. We sin because we are sinners; not by sinning that we become sinners.

The Holy spirit alone can convict and convince the world – how wrong it is about sin (Jn.16:8). Sin is not outside but inside us. Sin makes us less aware of spiritual realities. If we want to know about sin, don’t ask a sinner, but go to the Saviour of sinners (Mt.1:21) and he can tell us about the stark realities of sin. Don’t ask the defeated soldier about the fierceness of a battle, but ask the victorious ones.

It was told that immediately after the defeat of the enemy in the war in heaven, and the dragon and his angels lost their place in heaven, and they were thrown down to the earth.(Rev.12:7-9), they had a long meeting in which Lucifer chaired the function. The meeting lasted for many hours with a very specific agenda: “How to go down and deceive the human race.” Mr. Lucifer invited all his angels to bring forth some concrete designs and strategies. He promised them a very good prize for the best schemes. And so the discussion began.

At the corner of the place of their assembly, a long hand was raised up. A little devil told Mr. Lucifer in a subdued voice as if no one else should hear; “ Sir, I have a good suggestion” “What is that? Let us hear” answered Mr. Lucifer calling the attention of everyone. “I will go down to the earth and tell every man and woman that there **is no such thing as sin**” It is a made up story of saints and martyrs. To commit a sin, one must be totally free, conscious and willing. I will make them ignorant of sin and impossibility of sinning. Immediately a great applause was heard, “Hurrah, it will work” the rest of the assembly responded.

“Transgression speaks to the wicked; there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated” (Ps.36:1-2)

As soon as the thunderous clap was over, another short as raised in the hall- a short devil stood up and called everyone’s attention. “Sir, I have a very

practical design to deceive the foolish seeds of Adam” “Let us all listen to our friend” said Mr. Lucifer. “Sir, I shall go down and tell the entire bodily human race that **there is no God**; nobody can see him and so cannot believe in him” All were happy about the fresh suggestion. “You will definitely succeed to get more than half of the humanity” remarked one his close friend. “*The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’ Ps.14:1. ‘For all men who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature.’ (Wis.13:1)*

The new atheism is not the denial of the existence of God but ignoring Him in life. He is not given a chance in our lives. As individual nation and race can have a collective ignorance of God. “Lives without God and without hope in this world” (Eph.2:12) are very pitiable (Mt12:39).

A third fat devil stood up and roared in the meeting. “Sir, look at me! I will go down to the earth and tell the human race to imitate me- to become of my size. Eat and drink and enjoy as much as you can.” Immediately there was pin-drop silence among the

angels of Lucifer. One of them whispered to the next one sitting nearby: “Surely fourty percent of the material minded world can be destroyed by this design.”

The new names of the god of the present century are “**Consumerism**” “**Materialism**” and “**greed**” St. Paul already warned this danger. “*I tell you with tears that there are many who live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things*”(Phil:18) Often times, those souls think in their minds “Let us eat, drink and get drunk, for the Master will delay a lot”. (Lk 12:45; 1Cor 15: 32).

The temptation of the Son of man is the same one for the sons of men: “To live by bread (material things) alone” (Mt 4:4). Many in the developed and developing countries are succumbed to this very same test.

A forth demon who appeared to be quite lean and slim spoke up: “Sir, I have still better strategy to trap the human race”. “Let us all try to hear him”, said Mr. Lucifer to the entire assembly. “I will go down to the cleverest of the human beings to **take it easy. the hour of salvation. There is plenty of time... and so postpone everything to tomorrow**”. Many in the meeting, expressed the view that this plan is much better than all the others.(Lk 12:19) “*Do not delay to turn to the lord, nor postpone it from day to day*”(Sir.5:7)

When St. Paul perceived this test of the devils working among the community

of believers in Corinth, he warned them: *“Behold NOW is the day of salvation; now is the acceptable time”* (2Cor.6:2) In today’s church, the devil had succeeded in convincing many, to postpone the time of reconciliation, listening to the words of life, to read the Bible, to attend a renewal retreat etc.. The Good News brought to you today (Lk2:10) must be responded now, and not tomorrow. Because that tomorrow will never come.

While all the devils were engaged in hectic discussion, a pale and smiling one shouted at the top his voice: “sir, I have much subtle plan than all the other ones. It is impossible for human beings nowadays not to sin, I will convince them that if they commit sin nothing will happen to them; instead, they will be wiser, cleverer, and progressive in lives”. “Bravo!” the others shouted and responded. “It is quite pragmatic”.

“A serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall. If a serpent bites before it is charmed, there is no advantage in a charmer” (Eccl.10:8,11). The ancient Serpent has succeeded in his plan to give a venomous snake in the hands of many Christians and telling that it will not bite them. The sin will never bite you. Since it is very attractive to commit sin, it will not bite you.

“Who will pity a snake charmer bitten by a serpent, or any who go near will beasts?” (Sir.12:14).

“No one will pity a man who associates with a sinner and becomes involved in his sins?” (Sir.12:14”).

“Flee from sin as from a snake; for if you approach sin, it will bite you... it will destroy the souls of men”(Sir. 21:2-3).

Secondly the idea that it is impossible for human beings to remain sinless is strongly refuted by St. John in his first letter: *“No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. He who commits sin is of the devil. No one born of God commits sin; for God’s seed abides in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God”*(1Jn.3:6-9).

A fifth devil from the middle of the assembly raised his left hand and shouted “Sir, I have a beautiful design. I shall tell the children of Adam not to repent after the act of sinning. Complacency would be a good policy”. Immediately another one (sixth devil) reported: That is not enough; we should tell them to continue sinning for God will easily forgive.”

In today’s church, complacency and presumption easily work among the intelligent ones. The absence of sorrow for sin is a dangerous trend among

the Catholics especially in the sacrament of reconciliation. St. Paul rectified the wrong mentality of the Romans: *“Are we continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means”* (Rom.6:1-2)

St. Peter further highlighted that “God did not spare the angels when they sinned” (2Pet.3f).

When the meeting was about to conclude, a little devil (the seventh one) came forward to the assembly and told to everyone: “My strategy may work better. I shall tell the human race to hide all the sins and not to acknowledge and confess them”. It sounded wise to all of them and so they appreciated the suggestions with a thunderous clap.

“When I declared not my sin, my body wasted away... I acknowledge my sin to thee and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord; then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin”. (Ps.32:3-5).

Conclusion

These seven tricks designed in Hell were leaked out and made known to all God’s elect by the Spirit which searches everything (1Cor.2:10f).The Word searches and pierces every created realities and everything remain as naked before Him (Heb.4:12f). Fore-warned is fore-armed. Our battle is not against flesh and blood; but against the powers, principalities, authorities and rulers of this present Dark Age. The Church has to be equipped with the spiritual weapons for both the defensive and offensive warfare.

Collections By
Fr. Peter Sakra, OMI
Rector, St. Eugene Juniorate, Billah



Birthdays, Feast Days & Anniversaries

April

- 06 - 25th year of Sacerdotal Ordination of Frs. Ambrose, Pragasam & Pathinathan
- 09 - birthday of Bro. James Micheal - Pune
- 11 - birthday of Fr. G. Bosco
- 18 - first vows of Frs. Amalraj, Susai, Gnanapragasam and Peter Sakra
- 19 - birthday of Fr. S. Vincent
- 20 - birthday of Fr. Albert
- 23 - feastday of Fr. C.T.Varghese
- 25 - birthday of Bro. John Thomas
- 30 - first vows of Frs. James, Chinnapparaj and M. Chinnappan

May

- 02 - birthday of Fr. P.I. Joseph
- 03 - birthday of Bro. Simon Dung Dung
- 06 - ordination of Fr. David Kumar
- 07 - first vows of Frs. Varghese, Tomy and S.Chinnappan
- 12 - ordination of Frs. Joe, Peter and Paul
 - birthday of Bro. Sebastian
- 15 - birthday of Fr. Anthonyraj
 - birthday of Bro. Valan
- 16 - birthday of fr. Vijay
- 17 - birthday of Fr. Susai
 - first vows of Bros. James Micheal, Virendra, Bbiyan, Joy Amal, Simon, and Valan
- 18 - birthday of Bro. Anil Kuruvekar
- 21 - first vows of Frs. Francis Nallappan, Alexander & Simeon Andrew, Mathew, Dewaji, Davidraj, Mariarajan, Vijay, Albert, Joseph, Peterrajan, Harry, Thambi, Sagayaraj, John Thomas, Anthonysamy, Baptist, Salamon, and Bros. Sebastian, Rajesh, Anil, Shanthakumar, Arokiasamy, Benjamine
 - final oblation of Frs. Varghese, Tomy and S.Chinnappan
- 27 - birthday of Fr. Maria Selvam
- 28 - birthday of Fr. C.T.Varghese
- 29 - first vows of Frs. Rayappan, Benedict, Yesuraj, Basil, Maria Selvam & Bro. Mari Arokiam
- 31 - first vows of Frs. Arulraj, Gerard, Ambrose, Joe, Pragasam, Pathinathan, Simon, Cyril
 - final oblation of Fr. Thiyagaraj

"A useless life is an early death." - Goethe