



M.A.M.I.



Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

Firm In Faith

On the 5th August 51 young people from five states of Australia representing Oblate Colleges, Parishes and Oblate Youth Australia all met for the first time in the birth place of the Oblates, Aix-en-Provence, France. In a truly symbolic gesture, after months of preparation, fundraising, saving and anticipation we came together to begin our pilgrimage to World Youth Day Madrid with the celebration of the Eucharist.

There were many highlights during the trip from Aix-en-Provence as we travelled to Lourdes, while in Spain we visited Avila, Malaga for the Oblate International Encounter to the main event of World Youth Day in Madrid and concluded with a visit to Rome. Each of us came on the WYD pilgrimage for different reasons with our hopes and dreams but all of us came to explore our faith further through the WYD theme "Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith" (cf. Col 2:7)

The best insight into our pilgrimage is to hear from some of the pilgrims themselves.

"Wow, what a start to the pilgrimage it has been! From the beauty of the French cities to the wonderful history of the Oblate community seen in Aix-en-Provence, the experience in France has been nothing short of amazing. After enduring an exhausting 22 hours in transit from Melbourne to Dubai and then Dubai to Nice, the Oblate community of Australia wearily set off on their spiritual journey. On our first day in France, we checked into our hotel in Aix-en-Provence, celebrated Mass, ate dinner and went off to bed, leaving no time for any sightseeing due to our late arrival. Recharged, and re-energised, the group went on a tour of Aix-en-Provence, the birthplace of Eugene de Mazenod, the next day. The tour was led by a local guide and Fr Frank Santucci, an Oblate priest in Aix-en-Provence. Their knowledge and passion about the town provided a wonderful insight into the circumstances in and around the great life of our founding father, Eugene de Mazenod. We also visited the town of Marseille. There, we were able to relive the ministry of Eugene de Mazenod, aided by Frank's colourful descriptions and his interesting and



at times humorous, anecdotes. The scenery and history of Aix-en-Provence and Marseille was truly awe inspiring. We also visited the original Oblate house in Aix-en-Provence where I was able to experience the Oblate spirit, through their openness to us and their charity towards the community in general. In the last couple of days, I came to know the true Oblate spirit that Eugene de Mazenod brought to the world."

Tony Pham, Mazenod College, Vic

"A highlight for me was visiting the tomb of St Eugene de Mazenod. To kneel at the tomb of a man whose life has given meaning to mine, was truly incredible. I will never forget the time spent with my hands placed on the tomb feeling physically connected to a man whom I have felt spiritually connected to for a very long time.

Another special moment was, being afforded the privilege to very briefly hold the cross of St Eugene de Mazenod. In Malaga, I represented my group as one of the young people asked to respond to Fr. General's address. Prior to the address as people were arriving, I was fortunate to speak with Fr. Louis about his experiences. In my short conversation with Fr. Louis I asked him if the cross he was wearing, happened to be Eugene's cross. He said that it was and allowed me to hold it briefly to venerate it...another very special moment.

During World Youth Day I enjoyed gathering with the other Australian pilgrims at the Aussie gathering. We had 3000 pilgrims present, an incredible achievement given that we had to travel so far. It was fantastic to see so many young people, gathering with their bishops, to celebrate the presence of young people in the Australian Church. We had a great time together."

Kim Brady, Nation Co-ordinator of Oblate Youth Australia, NSW

OYA Update



The National Oblate Youth Encounter, to be held on 11-15 January 2012 in Healesville, Victoria, seeks to bring together young people from parishes, colleges and other ministries from around the country to celebrate their common faith and identity. This year's theme is "Made in the Image and Likeness of God". To register or find out more about these exciting experience, visit www.oblateyouth.com or call the Oblate Youth Office on (03) 9795 5077.

Director's Update

In early October, while paying for a full tank of petrol, I was left stunned. No, it wasn't that I was paying an all time high price for a full tank by colluding fuel companies. It was the fact that, on the counter beside the credit card machine, I discovered a row of chocolate Santas strategically placed for me to succumb to spontaneous purchasing.

This brief encounter with the chocolate kind triggered some reflections. Surely Christmas isn't that close- it has to be months away and wow commercialism at its best. So I have to admit it feels a little strange talking about Christmas already but, as you know, this will be the last of our newsletters before Christmas.

2011 has been marked by a number of revolutions and uprising throughout the world. Many protests commenced peacefully but sadly acts of violence on both sides of the line were never far away.

It is hard to believe that one of the greatest revolutions and uprisings of hope and love took place in the world through a little baby.

At the time the people of Israel were powerless, terrorised by the Romans. Many expected the Messiah, the anointed one of God, to come as a great leader to free them from their powerlessness. What the people of Israel were looking for is what we fantasise about in the movies – a Hollywood super hero that would arrive with great power and blow away all that is bad. Yet, to everyone's surprise, God came into the

world in the most unexpected way and sought to establish the Kingdom of God, a reign of peace, hope and love. The God who is born into this world at Christmas is not the God of power, of violence or of terrorism but the God of helplessness and vulnerability.

A stroke of divine genius, from a omniscient and omnipotent God. Have you ever really stood back and watched what happens when adults are placed in the presence of a child who is simply powerless and vulnerable. All attention is focused on the child, everyone is looking out for the child and the very presence of the child changes the dynamic of the room and all this occurs through the presence of the child, he or she can simply do nothing.

The power of presence is displayed in an extraordinary way when God chose to come into the world, to be present amongst us through vulnerability and powerlessness, the power of a baby rather than the power of the strong man. Ultimately that power, helplessness and vulnerability is the greatest power of all because it, and it alone, can change and move hardened hearts. It is impossible to soften hearts by overpowering.

As Christmas looms in the not too distant future it is good to recall the real meaning of Christmas, a peaceful revolution of love and hope in the hearts of all people. May your families be blessed with the peace, hope and love that Christ brings to our world when he chose to come as a beautiful, vulnerable and powerless baby.

I would like to thank you for your most generous and kind support of MAMI throughout 2011. Many people less fortunate than ourselves have been touched by your love and are given a glimpse of hope thanks to your generous support of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate.

God bless
Fr Christian Fini OMI



Oblate Martyrs of Spain Canonised

On Saturday 17th December 22 Oblate Martyrs will be canonised for the price they paid for standing firm in their faith.

The three-year period from 1936 until 1939 was a time of bloody martyrdom for the Church in Spain. Within this general climate of hatred and anti-religious fanaticism, one may justly place the martyrdom of 22 Oblates: priests, brothers and scholastics from Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid). The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate had established themselves in the Estación neighbourhood of Pozuelo in 1929. They served as chaplains in three communities of sisters. They also provided pastoral service in the surrounding parishes: confessions and preaching, especially during Lent and Holy Week. Oblate scholastics taught catechism in four neighbouring parishes and the Oblate choir sang at liturgical celebrations. This religious activity began to worry the revolutionary committees (socialists, communists and the radical labour unions) in the Estación neighbourhood. They were greatly worried that the "friars" (as they called them) were the driving force behind religious activity in Pozuelo and the surrounding area. It irritated them that the religious went around the streets in cassocks with the Oblate cross very visible.

To understand the emotions of all of them, here is the testimony of one of the survivors, Fr. Felipe DIEZ, for many years a missionary in Argentina, who died recently:

"When we were 'enjoying' the moment that we were going to be killed (at gunpoint, arms up, facing the wall, crammed into a small compartment), we wanted to say a prayer but we could not manage it; nevertheless, what did come forth spontaneously were our feelings of love for God, affection for our brothers and forgiveness toward those who were going to kill us, as well as seeking pardon for our sins and weaknesses."

Please pray for the Oblates in Spain on this special occasion.

Mazenod Reflection

"YOUNG PEOPLE, TRANSFORM MY OBLATES!"

Saint Eugene must have been smiling joyfully as he looked at the 1300 young people belonging to his family at the Oblate youth gathering in Malaga this year. It would have reminded him of how, nearly two hundred years ago, when the cloister and the Oblate house in Aix en Provence was filled with nearly three hundred young persons two days per week. He remembered them laughing, playing games, praying and learning together. This was no motley group of young guys who came together only to have fun and be entertained. Eugene was proud of this group because he considered them a "specialist group" – in the sense of being a body of young men who aimed to make a difference in Aix en Provence.

The Youth Association was Eugene's response to the situation of so many young people who were confused and aimless after the French Revolution. He sadly recognized that at school and in French society, they were being "trained to recognize no other god than Napoleon." How he would have

liked to gather every single young person in Aix to remedy their situation and teach them lasting Gospel values. Realistically this was impossible, so he started the Youth Congregation formed of young men who were capable of being deeply transformed by these Gospel values. Then it would be they who would make a difference to the youth of Aix. They were meant to be yeast in the "dough" of the young people of Aix who were their school companions, sports team members, neighbours etc. Through their example, their advice and their friendship they reached out to their peers and helped them to discover that there was a God, whose friendship and words could make a vast difference in their lives.

Forming and maintaining a big group of lively young people taught Eugene how to create, inspire and keep the spirit alive in a group of people. No wonder that when he started his Missionary Oblates in 1816, he was to have a success that continues two hundred years later. The youth had formed him well! It is no surprise that the first

four novices to join the Missionaries were members of Eugene's youth association! The youth had done such a good job of convincing him of their value, that he insisted that every Oblate house should have a ministry to young people. The skills they taught him were put into practice in Marseille when he became Bishop of the second largest city of France. They had trained him so well that he had a special ability for finding the young people who were the most abandoned in Marseille: those working long hours in the factories and at the harbour, those who had fallen into crime, the dirty chimney-sweepers, the scholars, the orphans, and those who did not have the opportunity for schooling.

Indeed, "the child is father of the man" and these young people rightly did a fantastic job of forming the man who dedicated so much of his love, time and attention to their welfare in Aix en Provence. No wonder he was smiling in Malaga this year. And if they listened carefully, they would have heard him telling all those enthusiastic young people to carry on transforming the lives of those Oblates who work with them – just as he had allowed the youth of Aix to transform him.

Fr Frank Santucci OMI

Fr Anthony Colbert OMI 50th Anniversary 16-12-1961



It is with great joy that we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Priesthood of Fr Tony Colbert on the 16th December. Fifty years of priestly ministry is a wonderful milestone; and in those 50 years, Fr Tony has been a model of a dedicated, conscientious and kind hearted priest. But first, a little history of the great man.

Anthony Joseph Colbert was born in Nedlands, Perth in 1937. He attended Loreto Convent primary school in Nedlands, CBC Perth and our own Oblate Juniorate in Geelong to complete his secondary education. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at Sorrento in 1954, where he came under the guidance of the famous Fr Joe O'Shaughnessy. In 1955, Fr Tony was our first Australian student to be sent to the Oblate Seminary in Cedara, South Africa for his studies. In 1961 he completed his studies and returned to Australia for his priestly ordination.

Fr Tony was ordained on the 16th December, 1961 in St Patrick's Church, Fremantle. An excellent description of the ceremony was given by Fr Denis McCarthy, when writing on the occasion of Tony's 40th Priestly anniversary.

"The ceremony is remembered for two special features – dignity and elegance. The dignity was supplied by the ordaining prelate – the late Archbishop Goody whose every word, gesture and manner optimised those of an English aristocratic gentleman. The elegance was provided by the female members of the Colbert family whose attire and colourful hats attracted attention throughout the day."

The following gives the dates and places of Fr Tony's appointments for the last 50 years.

Iona College, QLD 1962-1963; Hillcrest parish, SA 1963-1964; Fremantle parish, WA 1965-1966; Sefton parish, NSW 1967-1970; Massey Parish, Auckland NZ as Parish Priest 1971-1976; Moe parish, Vic 1976-1981; Sorrento, Vic as Parish Priest 1982-1984. Dermacourt, Moe and Eagle Vale as an assistant 1984-1993 and Fremantle as Hospital Chaplain from 1994 to the present day.

These appointments tell us that Fr Tony has worked in all five States and also in New Zealand. He has touched the lives of thousands with his priestly ministry and gentle manner. Indeed before anything else – Fr Tony is a thorough gentleman. He is courteous, kind, gentle and respectful to all people he ministers too and meets in his everyday life. Nothing is ever too much trouble for him. His generosity is quite extraordinary. Even with difficult people, Fr Tony has endless patience and tolerance. He rarely has a bad word against anyone and invariably sees and appreciates the best in others.

We see evidence of Fr Tony's kindness and compassion in his ministry to the sick as Hospital Chaplain. And no matter what time that hospital mobile rings, Fr Tony answers it brightly and expectantly even at 3am! His big, warm and loving heart brings comfort and healing to those sick he reaches out to, as he has so generously done for the past 17 years as Fremantle Hospital Chaplain.

As a member of the Oblate Community, Tony is most affable and great company. His lively conversation and knowledge of current affairs is amazing. Not to mention his extraordinary memory, and knowledge of history. Tony has also kept up with his French, ignoring those who say he speaks it like "a Spanish cow"!

To survive as a priest today requires stamina, determination, resilience and great fortitude. Tony has all these qualities, but to round them off one needs a good sense of humour, and he certainly possesses a wonderful sense of humour. One would almost say a wicked sense of humour and mischievous laugh, seeing fun, laughter and joy in most unlikely ways and circumstances.

But also to survive as a good priest, one must be prayerful and Tony is a prayerful man who is close to God and God's people. The Eucharist, Office and daily reflective prayer and spiritual reading are part of Tony's day and week.

On 16th December, we congratulate this good and kindly man of God on the occasion of 50 years serving the Lord as a faith filled priest and Oblate. May God grant Fr Tony many more fulfilling years in his memorable ministry. We simply thank God for the true gift and treasure he has been to so many fellow Oblates and God's people everywhere. Thank you Fr Tony Colbert, and indeed, may God continue to bless you.

Fr Tony Maher OMI

Humble beginnings, big ambitions...

Our current micro-financing program grew from a food-and-nutrition program for children aged less than five years of age along with pregnant and breast-feeding mothers. The premise was that when the food aid stopped, they would have money from the micro-finance project to buy food and provisions. It had a very positive effect on the children and mothers.

The first program was called IGA – Income Generating Activities – a very good program but considered 'illegal' and was subsequently converted into a 'people's bank' or others joined what we called a 'co-operative' which we named KSW – Women's Self-Help Group. More than 10 years ago, an American company, CRS, gave us Rp 15,000,000 (US\$20,000) as did another company, Mercy Corp. Since then, we have given out loans equivalent to US\$3.18 million and have funds of more than US\$450,000.

There are more than 2,500 women participating in the program at present. The program helps a group of women to get together, study the basics on how co-operatives work, book keeping and how to start saving small sums of money together. Typically, the loans they apply for are five times the amount they have saved – in extraordinary situations, the ratio can be bigger.

The loan is taken out by the group and it is the group who decide the individual amounts to be given to each person, as well as what the interest rate should be and it is the responsibility of the whole group to repay the loan. They can then decide on what type of income-generating activity would be most appropriate for each member and the different amounts of money needed for each of these particular endeavours. The group also support each other by buying the goods sold by fellow members.



The program pays an interest rate of 1% to the members for their funds and asks for 2% repayments on the money loaned. Members get an annual dividend on their transactions. After each cycle, the loans are increased – usually starting at US\$60 multiplied by the number of members in the group. The group must agree to meet monthly and there is a fine imposed on members if they do not attend.

A strong sense of community is built up over time and 'struggling' members are helped along. Until now, all interest from our Non Government Organisation (NGO) is put back into the fund and therefore increases the amount of funds available.



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Old Collegians New Initiative in Vietnam

Education remains a key to unlocking the golden door of economic development and prosperity in Vietnam. With a population of 86 million and 94% literacy levels amongst the highest in the developing world, many Vietnamese students still lack the financial resources and social support networks to further their studies beyond secondary school. Access to university education and vocational training provides an opportunity for the young leaders in Vietnam to realise their potential.



Minh Truong and Br Hien with a scholarship recipient.

The Mazenod Old Collegians' Association ("MOCA") was established in September 2010 to build upon and nurture interactions between Old Boys, the College and the wider Mazenod College community in Victoria. One of MOCA's long planned initiatives was to establish ties with the OMI Vietnam Mission through a scholarship program.

MOCA approached MAMI to work in partnership with this project and the MAMI Director and the Provincial and council have been very supportive of this new initiative.

The presence of the Oblate Mission in Vietnam was accepted officially by the public authorities for the Province of Binh D'ong on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City (economic capital of Vietnam), and have recently been declared as a Catholic charity. They currently run an orphanage and support 30 children between the ages 7 to 15. This group of children consists of 10 actual orphans and over 20 specially selected children from poor families in the highlands of Vietnam. Children with family are allowed to visit their family during school holidays or special occasions. Had they not been housed in the orphanage they would most likely miss schooling and be working from an early age to support their family.

The newly-established scholarship program currently supports 10 of the brightest students from the orphanage and covers all their educational essentials. These expenses are approximately AUD\$124 per annum and cover tuition fees, study material, school uniform, daily nutrition and health care.

The uniqueness of the program is that it endeavors to educate students on the importance of being socially responsible citizens. As a result, the program requires students to spend time each week volunteering in the community for a cause or purpose. The student is at liberty to choose the activity as long as it is beneficial to the community or within the orphanage.

The objective of the scholarship program is to close this educational gap that prevents these children in their care from reaching their potential of further university study or to learn a trade. Also it is important to assist the children in their early adulthood to gain independence because they must leave the orphanage once they complete their high school education. One provision of the program will look at financially supporting the children with career aspirations by paying either university fees, apprenticeship, certification and/or training costs.

Brother Hiên OMI, who is the new manager, sees great potential to expand the orphanage as requests for receiving additional children are ongoing. At this stage MOCA is financially supporting this initiative with the support of MAMI through administration but if you would like to help this project to grow next time you make a donation to MAMI specify that you would like the money to go to the orphanage in Vietnam.

**Mr Minh Truong,
MOCA Committee Member**



Minh Truong with a scholarship recipient



The Nazarene

The ABC program Compass recently aired *The Nazarene*, an independently-produced film for RTÉ's *Would You Believe* series, based on life and work of Fr Charlie Burrows OMI, an Oblate priest who has built up a vast business empire in Cilacap, one of the remotest parts of Indonesia. MAMI has been supporting Charlie for many years. The short film is a wonderful opportunity to see the construction, road-building, quarrying, banking and educational enterprises he runs today that are valued at tens of millions of dollars, and yet Charlie remains as true to his vow of poverty and his Catholic spirituality as he was four decades ago when he first left the seminary.

If you would like a copy of the DVD please make a \$25 donation to cover the cost of the DVD and Postage. We are hoping that the shipment of DVDs will arrive before Christmas but no promises.

If you wish to make a donation to MAMI apart from the Annual August appeal, your gift is always happily received. To assist our administration and avoid confusion you may like to use this donation slip. Thank you for kind and generous support.

Name _____
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Purchase Tool Boxes at \$15 \$ _____

Purchase Panda Bears at \$20 \$ _____

Purchase Goats at \$35 \$ _____



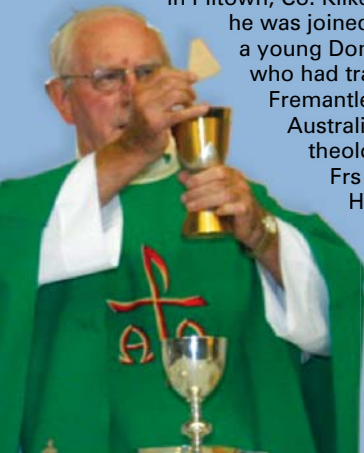
RIP

Fr John Dunlea OMI, who worked in Oblate parishes around Australia since 1958 and has been both the parish priest and, more recently the assistant priest, at the Oblate parish of St Kieran's in Moe, Victoria, for the past 15 years, died peacefully in Narracan Gardens Aged Care Facility, Moe on Monday September 26, 2011.

Born in County Cork, Ireland on August 22, 1932, John Dunlea entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle, Limerick in 1952 and later studied at the Oblate Seminary in Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, where

he was joined in 1954 by a young Don Hughes OMI who had travelled from Fremantle, Western Australia to begin theological studies.

Frs Dunlea and Hughes were among six Oblates ordained in the Seminary Chapel at Piltown on September 15, 1957.



All had been granted special permission to be ordained at the beginning of their fourth year of studies.

In quite a coincidence, Fr John's first appointment was to Fr Don Hughes' home parish of St Patrick's in Fremantle, Western Australia where Fr Dunlea had a cousin, Fr John Coakley OMI, working as an assistant priest in that parish.

After four years at Fremantle, Fr John was appointed Parish Priest of Pickering Brook and Karragullen in Western Australia, an honour for such a recently-ordained priest. His responsibilities even extended to driving the school bus. In 1965, Fr John took up his appointment at St Kieran's in Moe as Parish Priest. During his six years there he oversaw the construction of a new church. On moving to South Australia in 1972, Fr John's community skills were put to work as the first parish priest in the newly-created parish of St David's in Tea Tree Gully, where there was a new church, a small parish house but no school. With his quiet determination he achieved the building of a parish primary school. Today the parish has three schools, a Catholic secondary college and a new parish house.

In 1979, Fr John returned to Fremantle for a two-year stay, followed by appointments to Lesmurdie in the Hills area of Perth. He stayed there until 1987 when he was again called upon to form a new community, this time in the new parish of St Eugene in Burpengary, Brisbane. He successfully drew people together from three distinct regions to form a vibrant new community.



Priest, Fr Bernie O'Brien, as assistant priest at St Kieran's since 2009.

Fr John returned to Lesmurdie briefly in 1995 as Administrator before being appointed to St Kieran's in Moe as Parish Priest, a position he held until 2008 when, after celebrating his Golden Jubilee the year before, Fr John returned to Ireland for a sabbatical year. He had been working alongside current Parish

Only two of Fr John's fellow classmates remain – Fr Tony Quinlan OMI who is working as a parish priest in Edinburgh, Scotland and Fr Don Hughes OMI who is working at Mazenod College in Lesmurdie, Western Australia.

Reflecting on Fr John's life during a tribute to his 50 years as a priest, Fr Don Hughes said "Our Church in Australia and the Oblate congregation owes much to the priestly fidelity of Fr John Dunlea OMI. He has left his strong but quiet mark on many parishes across the Australian continent. His entire priestly ministry has been spent in parish life."

Fr. Don Hughes OMI

RIP

Patrick O'Reilly OMI was born in Co. Monaghan, Ireland in 1932. He was educated locally and in England where he worked briefly before entering the Oblate Novitiate in Ireland in 1954. He undertook his priestly studies in the Oblate Seminary in Ireland where he was ordained on the 25th September, 1960. At the conclusion of his studies Fr. Pat was appointed to the Australian Oblate Province where he has spent his entire priestly ministry.

Fr. Pat spent the first 14 years as a successful preacher of Missions and Retreats – three years in Victoria and 11 years in Queensland. He quickly adapted to the difficult task as a missionary, moving from parish to parish, or convent to convent. The missionary faces new people, new quarters and new demands regularly. Fr. Pat met those changing conditions with great equanimity. His success can be gauged by the number of parishes and religious communities who called upon him. His youth and youthful appearance complemented his talents as a preacher and enhanced his appeal. During his years in Brisbane at Eagle Junction he was the leader of the community for six years from 1971-1975.



Fr. Pat was appointed Parish Priest of Sefton in New South Wales in 1976 and later Parish Priest of Moe and Rosebud in Victoria and the Parish of Lesmurdie in Western Australia. He was then appointed as Parish Priest of St. David's Parish in Tea Tree Gully, South Australia.

In all these parish appointments Fr. Pat showed untiring efforts in parish visitation. He was known for his kindness and experience with the Sacrament of Reconciliation along with his well-prepared and well-delivered homilies.

Fr. Pat has also left material legacies in all the parishes in which he served – some new buildings, some extended, some renovated. All these buildings bear the neatness and care which mark his own personality.

In recent years Fr. Pat has not enjoyed good health and eventually he moved to John Hannah Hostel, which is in the Oblate parish of St John Vianney's, Springvale North, Victoria. It was here that his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood was celebrated with his fellow Oblates and local community in 2010. Fr. Pat died here on Sunday 9th October, 2011.

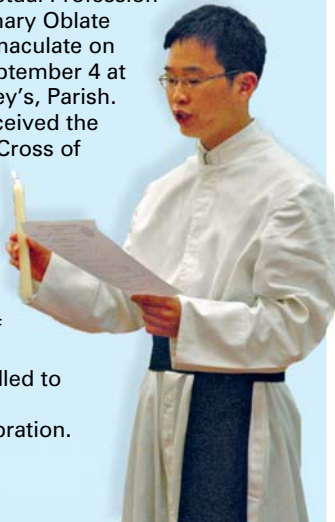
We thank God for the life and priestly ministry of Fr. Pat. In a special way we thank God for the strength he gave Fr. Pat to bear with the sufferings of his final years. He was a wonderful example to us.

Fr. Don Hughes OMI



Congratulations to Br. Peter Hong OMI

on his Perpetual Profession as a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate on Sunday, September 4 at John Vianney's, Parish. Br. Peter received the Missionary Cross of Fr. Xavier Josef Delporte OMI a missionary to Korea. Members of Br. Peter's family travelled to Australia for the celebration.



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Humble beginnings, big ambitions...

Approximately 80% of the available funds are owned by the NGO and 20% by the members.

While a 2% interest rate per month may seem high by Western standards, a person buying and selling chickens for a living may buy the chickens in the village and pay US\$15 for five chickens. He could cycle into the town and sell them at the market for a total of US\$20. If they do this for 25 days a month, they can earn around US\$75 which is equivalent to the wage a factory worker or a farm labourer would make where the average wage is around US\$3.00 per day. This equates to more than a 500% profit over the month.



We are at a stage now where we see how the program can help poorer children to pay school fees and costs by taking 1% of our funds per month from the program to pay their school expenses. We run 26 schools on a shoe string budget and students pay US\$10 per month. For each US\$120, we can educate a child for a year. We want to make this a student loan that can be paid back when they get a job. At present we place many students in jobs. However, some 16,000 students drop out of school every year after completing Junior High School because of a lack of funding.

The program can handle an increase of US\$17,000 which will enable existing loans to be increased, opportunities for more very poor women to participate and send up to 80 children to school every year for well into the future.

Fr Charlie Burrows OMI

ANOTHER OBLATE SCHOOL IN HONG KONG



As of September 1, the delegation has four schools in the Oblate school network with the recent addition of Po Yan Oblate Primary School. After faithfully serving in the school for 46 years, the Missionary sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, requested the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to assume the role of sponsoring body for Po Yan School. The sisters have dedicated many years toward creating an environment conducive to good education and formation in the Catholic Christian tradition. The Oblates' decision to accept the responsibility of the school, in spite of our limited personnel, is based on our concern to continue the sisters' effort to make Catholic education available to the poor and minorities in the Kowloon city area of Hong Kong. Fr. William Meng, OMI, has generously agreed to be the new supervisor and is shown here with Sr. Rosa Smets, ICM, his predecessor of over 40 years.



Important Information

- **MAMI Office** will be closed during the Christmas/New Year period from 21st Dec to the 16th Jan.
- **A big thank you** to John Garratt Publishing for the donation of 4 pallets of book for the missions. We are currently sorting them out and will be sending books to Hong Kong, Beijing and the seminaries in Indonesia, Vietnam, India and Philippines.

New Websites

On the Friday 4th August the Australia Province launched two new websites www.oblates.com.au or www.oblateyouth.com.

Things to Pray for

- Provincial Council in December
- Vocations to the Oblates
- Oblate Province in Spain
- Year 12 students Graduating
- National Oblate Youth Encounter



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