



CHINA DELEGATION NEWSLETTER

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Vol. 4, No. 1, February 2019

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

May God fill your new year with happiness, health and love.

May you experience His presence as the bright as the sun above

and feel His blessings around you.

May the joy go with you through-out the coming year.

with prayer Oblates



2019 is the Year of the Pig (猪 Zhū) according to Chinese zodiac. It starting from February 5, 2019 and lasting to January 24, 2020. Pig is the twelve in the 12-year cycle of Chinese zodiac sign. The Years of the Pig include 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, and 2019.

According to the Chinese astrology, 2019 is a great year to make money, and a good year to invest! 2019 is going to be full of joy, a year of friendship and love for all the zodiac signs; an auspicious year because the Pig attracts success in all the spheres of life.

People born in the Year of the Pig are usually optimistic, gentle, organized, hard-working and very focused. Because they are full of excitement, sometimes they seem over-friendly.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT OBLATE MIGRANT CENTRE IN GUANGZHOU

On January 12, 2019 parents of Angel' s Love/ 乐福 Centre children were invited to our Centre to celebrate Chinese New Year. After welcoming all of them, staff of the Centre and volunteers were introduced. Children were asked for the meaning of the name of the Centre 乐福 [Lè fú]. Logo of the Centre, which was designed by one of our children was explained. Yoyo, who is responsible for organizing activities for children reported all what was happening during last year and explained what we are planning to do this year. Everyone, was invited to watch a short video of Christmas play performed by children and outing in the Guangzhou Zoo.

Parents and children were invited to play games together. It was wonderful to watch them to have fun and a lot of laughter together. Our celebration of Chinese New Year ended with very delicious lunch. It was wonderful time to have conversation with them, to listen their stories, difficulties and joys.

I believe that knowing them will help us to understand them more deeply, which will help us to serve them better. *Fr. Irek Dampc, OMI*



Mother and her two children, AL Centre, Guangzhou



Sharing lunch, AL Centre, Guangzhou

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN OBLATE COMMUNITIES

BEIJING/北京 - Last few years Christmas celebrations for children was held at our centre called *Five Loves and Two Fish*. However, this year the party took place in a hall outside of the Centre. Children from English class run by oblate company, parents and many volunteers of different nationalities were invited, all together around 200 people. The gathering was a wonderful opportunity to share the joy of Christmas and to express our gratitude to our volunteers for their excellent service. A sense of achievement and satisfaction was present not only among us Oblates, but also among all the people present who congratulated us for such wonderful celebration. We are grateful to God for so many amazing people, who help us to serve migrant families in Beijing. Merry Christmas!



Oblates with children, Beijing



Children singing, Beijing



Children enjoying cake, Guangzhou



Christmas meal with homeless, ND Parish, Hong Kong

HONG KONG/香港 *Christmas Giving to the Poor* activity was started in 2017 by the Oblate Youth Group. On December 28th 2018 the activity was held in Notre Dame Parish in Ma Tau Wei, Kowloon. Seventy homeless and poor people were accompanied by youth, Notre Dame parishioners and Oblates. During a meal there was time to listen their stories. After the meal raffle draws began followed by giving of Christmas presents, and singing of Christmas songs by Oblates, Oblate Youth, and some other volunteers.



Christmas meal with homeless, ND Parish, Hong Kong

GUANGZHOU/广州 - Christmas celebration at the Oblate centre called *Angel's Love/乐福* began with putting some decorations on walls and signing Christmas carols. After one of the young people explained the Christmas story, children exchanged gifts with each other. This year children from the Centre performed Christmas play instead of members of Oblate Youth Group. Memorising text and attending rehearsal was a challenge. However, it brought a lot of laughter and fun. It was beautiful to watch them play parts of innkeeper, angels and three wise men.

As each year there was also Christmas cake, so big that everyone got a piece or two with still some left over. It all ended with the excitement of welcoming Santa, who brought many gifts for the children.

After the fun time with children, Oblates, volunteers and young people stayed in the Centre for a meal and an exchange of Christmas gifts.



Oblates with children and youth, Guangzhou

LEARNING FROM A POOR MIGRANT FARMER IN THE PERIPHERY OF GUANGZHOU

What would you do if your spouse left you with 4 daughters to care for? A few years ago, without any warning his wife left him with their four daughters. Instead of despairing, he (Mr. Ye) decided to do just what a real father is supposed to do – to care for his 4 daughters. One of them is suffering from some mental illness and the little baby of the family is still studying in elementary school. In order to better provide for their needs, he decided to leave their remote village in the Province of Guangdong to the big city of Guangzhou. In the periphery of this huge city, he rented a little piece of land with a very poor one room shack that became their new home. Daily tilling of that small piece of land (see photo) and planting of vegetables for sale in the streets of the nearby town, provide for their daily needs even if it is a hand to mouth existence.

Visiting them regularly has taught me many a lesson. In spite of their poverty, the father and daughters are very hospitable and always welcome us with a big smile. There are always some fruits to eat and some drinks to share from their meagre table. Never would a word of complaint cross the father's lips. His only wish is not to be rich and leave this hard life behind, but to continue to enjoy good health and have enough courage and strength to continue his work, and to see



Ye Family new home

his daughters have a better life, especially his youngest daughter succeed in her studies. When we cross the path of the daughter selling their fresh vegetables on the streets, we always return home with some fresh vegetables given to us from a very generous heart and with a broad smile.

As an Oblate I have been sent to evangelize the poor and I am the one being evangelized by the poor. *Fr Luc Young, OMI*

A LETTER FROM SANTA CLAUS

Usually children are writing letters to Santa Claus, but the letter is from him to us. It has become now almost a tradition now, that at the end of each year we Oblates in Beijing celebrate Christmas with our children from the company and the migrant village, along with some parents, volunteers and close friends.

This year due to the good number of people attending (around 200) we did rent a big conference hall at the nearby hotel, across the village. I was chosen to be Santa Claus, because I had already a white beard and a good stomach, so it was enough to wear a costume and of course the red hat.

While waiting for my turn to come on the stage to greet people and distribute gifts, I could not refrain from admiring the goodness of all the people present there. It was like a family gathering where all the members are coming together: children with their parents, local and foreign volunteers, teachers and people from other charitable organizations. Each group participated with songs, dance or performance; an exchange of gifts and the conviction that we ourselves are a gift for the other.

In the spirit of the "5 loaves and 2 fish" story each one of us can share from the little we have and in doing so "ordinary miracles" continue to take place. From Santa Claus of this year. *Fr. Giovanni Zevola, OMI*



Fr. G. Zevola, OMI as Santa

BERNARD YEUNG ACCEPTED TO PRE-NOVITIATE

On 27th of December 2018 in Notre Dame Chapel, during short liturgy and in the presence of most of the Oblates from China Delegation, Bernard Yeung was accepted to pre-novitiate. Bernard is from Hong Kong and he belongs to Oblate Youth Hong Kong Group. He is very active in distributing food to homeless in Kowloon District, which take place every Friday evening.

Part of his pre-novitiate formation program is to study a Philosophy and Theology course in the Holy Spirit Seminary in Hong Kong.



(L-R) Fr. J. Jacobe, OMI B. Yeung and Fr. S. Kalisz, OMI

NEWS FROM FR. DAVID ULLRICH, OMI

Greetings! With the mixed feelings that are usually part of big transitions, I left China in July and started my trek back to the U.S. I spent two wonderful --but cold-- weeks visiting our brother Oblates in Melbourne. I arrived in San Antonio in August. I visited friends and family and then moved in to the newly constructed Mario Borzaga Formation Residence, the OMI formation house for the United States Province.

I understand that some of you have been wondering how I am and what I am doing. Thanks be to God I am still enjoying good health and am able to engage in three main types of ministry. My primary responsibility is serving on the U.S. province formation team. At the time of this writing there are 13 scholastics. They all attend theology classes at Oblate School of Theology right across the street from where we live. Our students are very international, coming from ten different countries. The focus of this ministry, as the Oblate Rule reminds us, is to accompany them in becoming disciples of Jesus until they are mature religious, capable of carrying on the Oblate mission. (C&R 50)

We are surrounded by a sea of pastoral needs. The San Antonio archdiocese, as most other dioceses, has many parishes and few priests. So, I and the other Oblates on the formation team are regularly called upon for masses and confessions on weekdays as well as weekends. Sometimes things get demanding. Last month I celebrated four masses in a row in one of our Oblate parishes on the U.S.-Mexico border. A few weeks later back in San Antonio I had three in a row. As often as not, the request is for Spanish. But the people, mostly poor, give me energy to meet up to the challenge. With all the dioceses in the state of Texas set to announce on the same day the list of clergy abuse allegations from forty years back, a sensitive pastoral presence is more necessary than ever.

What I find especially gratifying is my developing involvement among prison inmates. There are thirty-four prisons, detention centres, jails – whatever one wants to call a place of incarceration – in the immediate San Antonio area. Through a combination of circumstances, I started visiting several of these over the past months. I have gone through the training required for approved entry. Three years ago, Oblate School of Theology started an innovative program of basic faith formation inside one of the larger state prisons. It is a certified two-year

course requiring inmates to attend the weekly classes, do prescribed readings and write simple papers. I am privileged to have been asked to be the OST on-site coordinator of the weekly program. One thing leads to another, and now I have also been asked to teach the module on the Bible. There are 30 eager inmates participating. We had to limit the number to that number. Interviewing them, one can easily feel their eagerness to learn and to begin a new life. Of course, it reminds me of St. Eugene and his own ministry with prisoners.

Though I am quite occupied with a variety of activities, China, the Oblate China delegation and all our friends and valued associates are never, never far from mind! *Fr. David Ullrich, OMI*



Fr. David (1L standing) with his community



Fr. David after celebrating Eucharist