



OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

NATAL PROVINCE

THE MOTHER PROVINCE OF THE OBLATES IN AFRICA

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OMI NATAL *Update*

VOL 7 No 3 July-August 2010

Top News

OMI Africa Meetings

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OMI Africa Regional Meeting in Lusaka

2010 Africa Madagascar Regional Meeting - Lusaka, Zambia (17-19 May)



Oblate leaders from all over Africa met recently at Lusaka Zambia to review progress over the last two years and to plan for the Chapter. President of the Region Fr Macaire MANIMBA presented his report to the chapter which is a summary and analysis of all the reports of units in the continent. The most vital areas for mission were seen to be: formation; localisation of the church; youth ministry; human development and justice; and financial sustainability.

Principal questions for the chapter coming from the provincial reports were seen to be:

1. A missionary spirituality that inspires life joy daring and hope finding God in the poor
2. A more global policy for formation to ensure a better correct resource management of formators.
3. Creating financial sustainability in our units through effective global structures of solidarity
4. A better proactive response to matters of ministerial misconduct

In addition Chapter Commissioner Fr. David KALERT presented an overview of the programme of the chapter and the issues to be discussed there. Fr Seamus FINN presented the main points of the discussion on changes in governance to be discussed at the chapter

Fr Stuart BATE was elected as the proposed Africa member of the Chapter Steering Committee. Each region will propose one member for the committee and the chapter will decide on its final composition.

Finally the new leadership of the OMI Africa Madagascar Region was elected. Fr Cornelius NGOKA Provincial of Cameroon was elected President and Fr Linus NGENOMESHO of Namibia was elected as Vice President.

Good News about Oblate Mission

Natal sends Missionaries to Europe, Africa and Latin America



During 2010 the Natal Province will have given three missionaries to countries beyond our borders. Fr Claude LUKUBA recently received an obedience to the Province of Congo. Fr Paul HORROCKS is currently in a two year transition between Natal and the Anglo-Irish Province. Fr

Merlin INCE has received an obedience from the Superior General for the Mission of Colombia, a mission of the Province of Haiti, The obedience will take effect in January 2011.

At first sight, some may say that it is a pity that we have lost these three good men who were such great missionaries in our province. But a moment's reflection will help us to see that three missionary journeys to three different continents is a stamp of our own missionary maturity as we in Natal send missionaries *Ad Gentes*.

Indeed it is an essential part of our missionary journey as Pope John Paul II reminds us in *Redemptoris Missio* no. 33 when he says:

"there is a diversity of activities in the Church's one mission... First, there is the situation where the Church's missionary activity addresses: peoples, groups, and socio-cultural contexts in which Christ and his Gospel are not known. This is mission ad Gentes in the proper sense of the term. Secondly, there are Christian communities with adequate and solid ecclesial structures. In these communities the Church carries out her activity and pastoral care. Thirdly, there is an intermediate situation, particularly in countries with ancient Christian roots, and occasionally in the younger Churches as well, where entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel. In this case what is needed is a "new evangelization" or a "re-evangelization."

In fact the Natal Province has its own strong history of sending missionaries elsewhere. Already in 1934 Fr Claude LAWRENCE was sent from here as a missionary to Sri Lanka and worked there all his life. He is much revered there and was indeed instrumental in the establishment of the National Basilica.

(<http://tewattanationalbasilica.com/history.html>).

Other more recent Natal missionaries include Fr Zdenek CIZKOVSKY who re-founded the Czech OMI Mission after the fall of communism, Fr Bevel BRAMWELL who was sent to Tahiti, Fr Vaughn FAYLE who went to the USA and Fr John POOLE who also went to the Anglo Irish province. In addition, since 1983 this province has been involved in establishing the mission to

Zimbabwe and 10 Oblates from here have missioned or are currently missioning there. For the first 15 years the mission was shared with Transvaal province but since 1998 it is wholly confided to us.

We wish Merlin, Paul and Claude well as they are sent to new mission fields. We will have an official missionary sending of Fr Merlin at our Provincial Assembly meeting at the end of the year.

Good News about Oblate Mission AOIHL meets in Poland



The Association of Oblate Institutes of Higher Learning met for five days in May at the Oblate Scholasticate in Obra (Poland). Present were Jaroslaw ROZANSKI (Poland), Warren BROWN (USA), Baudouin MUBESALA (Congo), Chantal Beauvais (Canada), and Stuart BATE (Natal). Eugene KING (Vicar General) and Andrzej JAZSTREBSKI represented the General Administration.

AOIHL brings together the OMI Higher Education Institutes in the congregation to discuss matters of Oblate mission and Higher education. Currently the member institutions of the association are Notre Dame University, Cotabato Philippines; Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio USA; St. Eugene de Mazenod Institute, Kinshasa Congo; St Paul University Ottawa; St. Joseph's Theological Institute, Cedara and Oblate Scholasticate Obra.

The Association wishes to promote the importance of the ministry of education in the mission of the Church and in the charism of the Oblate Congregation. St. Eugene sought to promote the education of the Church's ministers

for the growth and benefit of the entire church and its mission. The association meets to ensure that this ministry continues to serve the Oblate Congregation and the needs of the local churches where we are called to serve. It fosters excellence in academic education and promotes the integration of intellectual formation in the total missionary formation process.

It also promotes communication among our institutions, including exchanging professional publications and newsletters. It also serves as an exchange of profiles among ourselves in order to better coordinate personnel, mission statements, programs, activities and challenges.

During the week, the group reflected on what characterizes the work of Oblates in theological and philosophical studies and in university level administration. It looked for ways to promote exchanges of professors and students, technological interfacing and coordination in the development of human resources and of libraries.

It will also look for ways to increase collaboration among our Institutes, especially in the area of Mission Studies, and will focus on questions of spirituality, ethics, globalization, social justice and peace, respect for the integrity of creation, inculturation, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.

Good News about Oblates

Pamidzai Mudzudza OMI Ordained Priest



Pamidzai MUDZUDZA was ordained Priest on 17 July 2010 at St Patricks Catholic Church Bulawayo by Most Rev. Alex Thomas SVD Archbishop of Bulawayo. We give thanks for the fifth Zimbabwean Oblate Priest

and we wish him Gods Blessing as he begins his missionary journey. Fr. Mudzudza will be sent to Mazenod House as assistant to Fr Charles NABWENJE at the Prenovitiate. Fr Zaba MBANJWA represented the Province at the ordination.

Good News about Oblate Mission

Father Mbanjwa appointed Director of Ongoing Formation

Fr Zaba MBANJWA has been appointed Director of Ongoing formation for the Natal Province for a

period of three years. The Director of Ongoing Formation “is responsible for planning seminars and study-days to assist the members of the province in further formation. He is also responsible for periodic reflection with the young priests and brothers during their first five years in the ministry” (Provincial Directory no. 108). The qualities sought in the Director of ongoing formation include an understanding of human nature; an affirmative nature; pastoral experience and experience of ongoing formation. He is a member of the ongoing formation committee of the sub-region and he co-operates in the programmes of the sub-region.

The Constitutions and Rules remind us that ongoing formation encompasses all aspects of our development. It renews and develops our spiritual life and its inner resources and favours our growth in emotional and affective maturity. It increases our pastoral skills. It enables us to be critically aware of the integration of our life and mission at all stages of our development. Ongoing formation is extensive in scope and varied in method. Besides personal prayer and reflection, it includes methodical study, periodic community exchange and discussions, special renewal or study sessions. It may also entail specialized studies or academic work toward a degree.

For some time this ministry has been placed within the mandate of the Missionary Support Group. Fr. Mbanjwa will continue to be a member of this group since the discussions there will be of great help in determining the priorities for this ministry.

We thank Fr Zaba for his generosity in accepting this appointment.

Good News about Oblate Mission

JPIC in Natal and Zimbabwe

JPIC-OMI is an Oblate organisation concerned with promotion of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation according to Catholic Social Teaching. The Oblate JPIC office in Rome is linked to JPIC Promoters worldwide, sharing information, offering resources and assisting with animation and formation. Assisted by VIVAT International in New York and Geneva, it advocates on a number of global justice and peace issues.

The ministry of Justice, Peace and Human Promotion has operated throughout the history of the Natal Province. This was particularly the case during the struggle against Apartheid when Oblates were imprisoned, harassed and undermined by the South African regime.

Oblate Orientations was a document of Southern African Oblate Leaders in 1976 who spelt out a vision for Oblate Mission in solidarity “with all those people in the country who are struggling for total liberation” They called for all Oblates to be “fully acquainted with important documents on social justice and...evaluate their missionary work and attitudes in the light of these documents”.

In 1994 South Africa was liberated from the injustice and oppression of Apartheid marking a definite end point for the whole continent in the struggle against racism and colonialism. In an address to the Organisation of African Unity Heads of State in June 1994, then President Nelson Mandela said:

The titanic effort that has brought liberation to South Africa, and ensured the total liberation of Africa, constitutes an act of redemption for the black people of the world. It is a gift of emancipation also to those who, because they were white, imposed on themselves the heavy burden of assuming the mantle of rulers of all humanity. It says to all who will listen and understand that, by ending the apartheid barbarity that was the offspring of European colonisation, Africa has, once more, contributed to the advance of human civilisation and further expanded the frontiers of liberty everywhere.

From this point the struggle for Justice, Peace and Human Promotion takes on a different dynamic with a new focus. Central to this is an emphasis on the reconstruction and development of all areas of human life in Africa. These include family life, community life, economic and social structures as well as the promotion of African cultural expressions of human life.

The New Partnership for African Development set up by the African Union in 2001 was the political, economic and social expression of this truth.

Scripturally we can speak of a change from the time of the prophets Jeremiah and Amos to the

time of Ezra and Nehemiah and the reconstruction of Israel.

The struggle against injustice and oppression continues but it is done within the context of societies that are nominally free and democratic and with whom we can collaborate to promote life and the fullness of human life.

A particular focus for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of creation must occur on the cultural level. This is an advocacy for the values of African cultural expressions of humanity and development. It goes together with a struggle against Western cultural approaches which seek to perpetuate negative stereotypes about the continent and its people.

This “Afro Pessimism” is particularly prevalent in the Western media. Probably the most notorious example of this was the May 19th 2000 edition of Britain’s respected *Economist* magazine which referred to Africa as “the Hopeless Continent”.

A similar approach was found in the cynical, patronising and mostly inaccurate reporting before the recent football World Cup found in much of the Western media. Citing crime, violence and social chaos as being a distinct threat to visitors, many were dissuaded from coming. FIFA General Secretary, Jerome Valcke, cited media in England and Germany, as being behind a wave of negative publicity ahead of the World Cup in South Africa. In the event the event was one of the joyful, lively and peaceful. The FIFA president gave South Africa 9 out of 10 for organising a successful World Cup in which several records were achieved.

It is our hope that JPIC ministry will reflect this new reality particularly as it operates within Africa. Our ministry in Natal will focus principally on human development and promotion but within that it will advocate for justice and liberation on all levels. In Natal and Zimbabwe JPIC will operate through the Missionary Development programme established in January. In Zimbabwe Fr. Elphas Khoza will collaborate with JPIC in Zambia to develop some common endeavours.

Good News about Oblate Mission

Progress at Ngome Shrine

Fr Weldschidt reported that upon arrival at Our Lady Tabernacle of the Most High Shrine, Ngome, just over two months ago, a building has been slightly altered to provide a space for the Oblate community. Office equipment and furniture have also been acquired. In addition a vehicle has been donated to the Shrine by a couple who came on pilgrimage on the first weekend there! We give thanks to God for their generosity.

Only a limited number of pilgrims can be accommodated at a time and plans for expansion will be set in place soon. A civil engineer has been tasked to assist us with this. Funds will be sourced through the three existing websites run, at no cost to the Shrine, by lay people associated with the Shrine, and a blog site setup by the Oblates there.

At present the Shrine functions according to the needs of the groups that come there. There are three different types of groups of pilgrims who visit the Shrine. Groups of 70 or less can be formally accommodated on site. Very large day-night groups, often numbering hundreds, usually arrive on Saturday late afternoon and remain in prayer throughout the night to depart after Mass on Sunday morning. Finally there are smaller groups of day visitors who do not sleep over. Pilgrims hail mainly from countries in Southern Africa.

In future a structured spiritual rhythm will be developed for every day of the week. Pilgrims wanting to visit the Shrine will be expected to fit into this rhythm, as is done in other Shrines in the world.

Fr Meyiwa, who has been tasked with Youth Ministry at the Shrine, is presently developing a 2-day youth programme which could be run over a weekend or during the week. This will first be tested with young people from the Diocese of Eshowe. We plan to have our first large scale Youth Pilgrimage on 4-7 July 2011.

A School is situated directly adjacent to the Shrine. It is a Government school on Church property. We hope to develop the Catholic ethos in this school. A *Codex Historicus* is being developed at the Shrine.

Ngome moves to Durban District

The Oblates ministering at the Shrine of Ngome will become part of the Durban District. After a few weeks experiment it has become clear that this is more practical than belonging to the Pietermaritzburg district. The change was approved by the Provincial in Council in June.

Annual Retreats 2010

Our Annual Retreats this year will comprise a choice of having a directed retreat at the Bluff or a Preached retreat at Redacres. This year the dates are as follows:

10-15 October: BLUFF

3 directors: one priest, one brother, one religious sister

17-22 October: REDACRES

Preacher: Fr Christopher Neville OFM

Both retreats begin with Supper at 6.30 on the Sunday evening and end with lunch on Friday.

To book your place:

1. E-mail admin@omi.org.za
2. Call Bridgette at the Provincial Office (031-2059321) between 8.30 and 4 Mon- Friday.
3. Fax your details to Fax 031-206-0270

Name:.....

Retreat Chosen

.....
(Write in Bluff or Redacres)

Your contact details:

.....

Challenges for Mission

Budgets for Oblate Houses and Works

A reminder that the deadline for the presentation of 2011 Budgets to the Provincial treasurer is August 9th (See Provincial calendar available at <http://www.omi.org.za/natal/calendar2010.doc>)

Budgets will be approved at the Provincial Council meeting on 11-12 August. The early date is a result of the Chapter in September this year

Good News about Oblate Mission

Collections increase in 2009

After a dip in collections during 2008, contributions from Oblate parishes rose sharply in 2009. Whilst the Easter collection was only 4% up, Christmas collections rose by an encouraging 41%. The increases are in part due to the economic recovery during 2009 but also to the efforts of most Oblates to encourage parishioners to support the congregation in its mission.

Letters of thanks have been sent to all Oblate parishes that provided income for the Province in 2009. Parish priests of those parishes for which collections are missing are asked to contact the Provincial Treasurer to resolve the matter.

This income goes entirely to our formation expenses for the training of Oblate Priests. It is our largest expense. In 2009 the first formation expenses of the province was over R2.5 million. These costs are for the running of our three formation houses: the scholasticate at Cedara, the Prenovitiate at Cleland and the Prenovitiate in Bulawayo as well as student fees at St Josephs Theological Institute. These three collections provided a total of R400000 or about 16% of the formation expenses. We encourage Oblates to work for greater financial support for the formation of priests particularly in Easter and Christmas collections.

PARISH	Easter Collections		
	2007	2008	2009
ASSUMPTION	7,842	8,763	6,254
BERGVILLE	1,003	550	993
BLUFF	11,383	8,426	9,441
CAMPERDOWN	1,153		876
CEDARA	3,757	4,252	4,829
KWAMADLALA	450	821	
ESTCOURT	1,500	2,100	2,000
MPUMALANGA	1,500	2,900	4,144
IMBUBU	2,981	4,812	2,668
INCHANGA			700
MACHIBISA	2,501	1,378	3,100
MEREBANK	904		
MONTCLAIR	4,806	2,798	6,404
MOOI RIVER	1,300	780	1,200
NTSHONGWENI	2,155		1,350
NTUZUMA	3,050	1,100	
ST MARY PMB	13,053	7,604	10,365
SABON HOUSE	2,233	440	465
SYDENHAM	15,241	10,794	14,556
VIRGINIA	32,129	28,652	36,311
WENTWORTH	14,788	18,230	10,890
WESTVILLE	7,000	7,100	
TOTAL	R 130,729	R 111,500	R 116,546
% Increase	29%	-15%	4%

PARISH	PIOUS LISTS		
	2007	2008	2009
ASSUMPTION	3,600	4,007	8,933
BERGVILLE	800	700	1,020
BLUFF	4,461	5,325	6,662
CAMPERDOWN	1,356	720	2,227
CEDARA	2,763		
KWAMADLALA	50		
ESTCOURT	4,700	5,000	6,000
MPUMALANGA	4,700	2,500	7,240
IMBUBU	10,600	5,500	10,550
MBAVA	246		
INCHANGA	3,050	470	2,500
MACHIBISA	4,500	3,000	6,500
MATIKWE	1,500		
MONTCLAIR	9,059	7,114	9,847
MOOI RIVER	2,080	1,500	1,500
NTSHONGWENI	2,005	1,397	1,680
NTUZUMA	7,797	2,680	
ST LOUIS	690		
ST MARYS PMB	2,680	12,758	14,706
SABON HOUSE	500	780	560
SYDENHAM	8,540	9,660	10,955
VIRGINIA	13,890	7,500	15,000
WENTWORTH	6,868	10,565	16,207
WESTVILLE	7,566		
TOTAL	R 104,001	R 81,176	R 122,087
% Increase	14%	-22%	50%

PARISH	Christmas Collections		
	2007	2008	2009
ASSUMPTION	9,717	4,575	11,338
BERGVILLE	500		659
BLUFF	10,958	14,642	14,587
CAMPERDOWN	254		
CEDARA	9,764	4,812	5,073
KWAMADLALA	366		
ESTCOURT	1,800	1,800	
MPUMALANGA	1,800	2,520	
IMBUBU	8,535	1,884	846
INCHANGA			800
MACHIBISA	2,501	1,000	
MEREBANK	1,912		2,230
MONTCLAIR	10,447	4,292	6,593
MOOI RIVER		1,200	1,500
NTSHONGWENI	757		700
NTUZUMA	171	3,000	6,000
ST LOUIS	1,205		
ST MARY PMB	8,265	11,639	15,827
SABON HOUSE		210	370
SYDENHAM	26,545	13,873	13,662
VIRGINIA	38,543	30,010	42,012
WENTWORTH	28,223	17,710	37,100
WESTVILLE	14,000		
TOTAL	R 176,263	R 113,166	R 159,296
% Increase	26%	-36%	41%

Provincial's Diary

July 2010

7th Mission Development Committee meeting Durban

15 Assembly CANCELLED

12-16 Vacation

August 2010

3 SJTI Board of Members

3-5 IPC Albini Hall

9th August Council of Superiors

11-12 Provincial Council

26-5 September Visiting Natal Oblates in Europe

September 2010

Sep 6- October 8 General Chapter ROME

SEPTEMBER

Date	Name	Occasion
02	Archbishop J Nxumalo	Ordination (Priesthood)
06	Mbeki Ngcobo	Birthday
08	D Corjin	First Vows
08	P Decock	First Vows
08	C Lukuba	First Vows
11	F Duffy	Birthday
12	E Swartz	Birthday
18	V Phenyane	Ordination
19	P Foley	Birthday
21	S Coleman	Ordination
22	J Patterson	First Vows
25	B P Ndlovu	Birthday
26	S Coleman	Birthday
29	S Coleman	First Vows
25	S Sithole	Ordination

Dates to Give Thanks

DATES TO GIVE THANKS

JULY

Date	Name	Occasion
02	J Money	Ordination
06	A Knott	Birthday
14	Bishop B Wood	Ordination (Priesthood)
20	C Lukuba	Ordination
22	N Meyiwa	Birthday
24	M Mchunu	Birthday
25	R Boyd	Birthday
28	C Richmond	Birthday
30	A Moss	Ordination
30	D Wheatley	Ordination

AUGUST

Date	Name	Occasion
01	JL Nzaji	Ordination
01	JB Mpuni	Ordination
07	D Mackenzie	Birthday
11	N Tshuma (Schol)	Birthday
13	Mxolisi Ngcobo	Ordination
15	S David	Birthday
15	JL Nzaji	First Vows
16	D Butt	Birthday
21	N Frank	Birthday / Ordination
23	J Ngubane	Birthday
24	S Bate	Birthday
25	Archbishop J Nxumalo	Episcopal Ordination
31	B Duffey	Birthday

Errors and omissions contact the Administrative Assistant
(admin@omi.org.za)

OMI NATAL Update

Newsletter of the Natal Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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www.omi.org.za/natal/news.htm

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