



OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

NATAL PROVINCE

THE MOTHER PROVINCE OF THE OBLATES IN AFRICA

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Top News

**“2010 and Beyond”: Assembly 2010 November 23-24:
Provincial Visitation and Consultation for New Provincial
General Chapter 2010
Diaconate Ordination of Phumlani Ndlovu OMI**

Good News about Oblate Mission

Provincial Assembly 2010

Our 2010 Provincial Assembly will take place on 23-24 November at Albini Hall, Congella. Proceedings will begin at 8.30 on the 23rd and finish at 5.30 on 24th November. The theme is “2010 and beyond”

The agenda includes the following:

1. Provincial’s Report 2008-2010
2. Review of Province 2008-2010
3. Review of Zimbabwe Mission
4. The Way Forward 2011-2014
5. Consultation process for new Provincial
6. Current issues:
 - Medical care
 - Missionary Development programme
 - Youth for Life Programme

Good News about Oblate Mission

Provincial Visitation

The new Councillor for Africa Madagascar, Fr. Evans CHINYEMBA OMI will conduct a visitation of the Province as part of the consultation process for new leadership in 2011.

He will conduct interviews for Oblates in Sabon House and the Durban and Inchanga districts on 16th and 17th November at Provincial House.

He will conduct interviews for Oblates in the Kwa Zulu Natal Midlands at Estcourt on Thursday 18th November. He will conduct interviews for Oblates in the Pietermaritzburg area at Cleland on Friday 19th November.

He will conduct interviews for Oblates at Cedara and Hilton over the weekend 20th to 21st November. This will include Natal and Zimbabwean Scholastics. He will interview the Zimbabwean Oblate Priests during Monday 22nd November at Sabon House in Durban. Please reserve your interview time with the Provincial’s Administrative assistant Bridgette Khawula.

Good News about Oblate Mission General Chapter 35: a conversion event

A few moments before he asked the capitulars of the 35th General Chapter for a vote to officially close Chapter, the newly elected Superior General, Fr. Louis LOUGEN read to the assembly Oblate Constitution 125, the same passage which his predecessor, Fr. Wilhelm STECKLING, had read 30 days previously: “The General Chapter is the highest authority within the Congregation. It meets regularly to strengthen the bonds of unity and to express the members’ participation in the life and mission of the Congregation.



“United around Christ, the Oblate family shares the lived experience of its communities as well as

the challenges and hopes of its ministry. The Chapter is a privileged time of community reflection and conversion. Together, in union with the Church, we discern God's will in the urgent needs of our times and thank the Lord for the work of salvation which he accomplishes through us."

"We have accomplished what this constitution called us to do," said Fr. Lougen. But then he quoted a song from the 1970's: "We've only just begun." While the Chapter was an exhilarating and challenging experience for the participants, the real work began only with the final "Praised be Jesus Christ" on 7 October 2010.

Before the end of the Mass, each of the capitulars and auxiliary personnel came forward to receive from a small replica of the Oblate mission cross.

During the week of October 11-15, the outgoing Central Government met with the newly elected Central Government to plan the transition that will become final with the installation ceremony on January 6, 2011.

When asked by the outgoing Superior General if he is ready to accept this office, he responded: "Yes I am ready, with fear and trembling and the support of my brothers and the help of God." Elected on the first ballot, Fr. Lougen will lead more than 4,000 Oblates working in 66 countries worldwide.

Father Lougen is the current Provincial Superior of the United States Province. Born in Buffalo, New York, USA in 1952, he met the Oblates as a student at Bishop Neumann High School in Buffalo, and entered the juniorate in Newburgh, New York, in 1970. He made his first profession at the novitiate in Godfrey, Illinois, in 1973 and continued his first formation at Oblate College in Washington, D.C., obtaining a Baccalaureate in Philosophy and a Master's in Theology. He made perpetual vows in Newburgh in 1976.

After his ordination to the priesthood in Washington in 1979, he worked in parish and formation ministry in Brazil, serving successively as pastor of several parishes, pre-novitiate director and novice master. Upon returning to the United States in 1996, he served as assistant director of the pre-novitiate and pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Buffalo.

He became novice master in Godfrey, Illinois, in 2002 and was named provincial in 2005.

At a prayer service after the canonical election, Fr. Lougen made his Profession of Faith in the presence of those who had elected him. Father Steckling then gave him a precious relic passed on from one Superior General to another, the Oblate cross of St. Eugene de Mazenod. Then the capitulars came forward one by one to promise obedience to their newly elected Superior General.

In compliance with a new rule approved by the 35th General Chapter, the newly-elected Superior General and Council, in consultation with the current Superior General and Council, will decide the appropriate date for the installation, which will take place no later than three months after the end of the chapter.

New General Government



Elected to the role of Vicar General was the current Second Assistant General, Fr. Paolo ARCHIATI. Born in Brescia, Italy, in 1951, the newly elected Vicar General professed his first vows in 1971 and perpetual vows in 1978. Shortly after his ordination in 1978, he was assigned to the staff of the International Scholasticate in Rome. While serving as formator, he began specialized studies that led to a doctorate in Patristic Theology in 1983.

From 1984 until 1991, he was on the staff of the Oblate scholasticate in Kinshasa, Congo. Returning to Italy, he was a formator at the Italian scholasticate from 1991-96; he became superior of that scholasticate in 1996 and served in that capacity until being named superior of the International Scholasticate in Rome in 2000. At the General Chapter of 2004, he was elected Second Assistant General.

Later in the morning, the capitulars elected as First Assistant General Fr. Cornelius NGOKA, currently the Provincial of Cameroun.

Born in Ihiteowerri, Imo State, Nigeria in 1969, he professed his first vows in 1993. He completed his philosophy in Yaoundé, Cameroun, and theology in Rome, making his perpetual vows in 2000. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2001, after which he studied Biblical Theology in Yaoundé. After his ordination, he became the socius at the novitiate (2001-2003). Later, while continuing his studies, he served as formator at the scholasticate in Yaoundé (2003-2004) and at the International Scholasticate in Rome (2004-2007). In 2007, he obtained a licentiate in Sacred Scriptures at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome.

In December of 2007, he was named Provincial Superior of Cameroun. The Province of Cameroun includes the Oblates in Chad and the Mission of Nigeria. He speaks Igbo, English, French, Italian, German and Spanish.

Fr. Gilberto PIÑÓN was elected in the afternoon as Second Assistant General. He is currently the superior of the General House.

He was born in Villa Gonzalez Ortega, Zacatecas, Mexico, in 1943. After attending the Oblate Juniorate in San Antonio, Texas, he entered the novitiate of the Southern Province of the USA where he professed his vows in 1965. He professed his final vows at the International Scholasticate in Rome in 1968 and was ordained there in 1971.

During much of his priestly life, he worked in indigenous, rural parishes. He was also the coordinator of a diocesan youth ministry program and a catechetical program for indigenous people. He has served in formation as a vocation director and prenovitiate director. In 1984, he was the novice master at the novitiate in Paraguay. Twice he was elected by his brothers to serve as provincial superior of Mexico, first at the inauguration of the Mexican Vice-Province (1986-91) and again in 2004-07, this time as provincial of the Province of Mexico. He helped to found the Oblate Mission in Cuba where he worked from 1997 until 2003. In 2007, he was called to Rome to serve as superior of the Oblate General House. He speaks Spanish, English, Italian and French.

In the afternoon, the capitulars voted for the General Councillors.

General Councillor for the Region of Latin America is Father Miguel FRITZ, currently the provincial of Paraguay. He was born in Hannover, Germany in 1955. He professed his first vows as an Oblate in 1975 and was ordained a priest in 1981. For the first years of his priestly ministry, he served in Germany. But in 1985, he received an obedience to Paraguay where he worked primarily in parishes. Much of his ministry was in service to the indigenous people of the Chaco region. From 1988 until 2007, he was also the Vicar General of the Apostolic Vicariate of Pilcomayo. Since 2007, he has been the provincial of Paraguay. He is fluent in Spanish, German and English.

General Councillor for the Region of Asia-Oceania is Father Clement WAIDYASEKARA, currently the provincial of Colombo, Sri Lanka. In 1946, Fr. Clement was born in Talangama, Colombo, Sri Lanka. He professed his first vows as an Oblate in 1967 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1977. After a few years in parish ministry, he became a formator of young Oblates, a role which he has filled for many years. He interrupted his ministry of formation to pursue doctoral studies in Rome from 1983-86. He was superior of the scholasticate when he was named provincial of the Colombo Province of Sri Lanka in 2005. He speaks English, Italian and Sinhala.

General Councillor for the Region of Canada-United States is Father Warren BROWN, professor of Canon Law at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, USA. Born in Fort Worth, Texas USA, in 1955, Fr. Warren made his first profession of vows in 1978. After his ordination in 1982, he spent ten years in parish ministry. He has a doctorate in Canon Law from St. Paul University in Ottawa and has served on the Marriage Tribunal of several dioceses. He has also been active in the ministry of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. Since 1995, he has taught Canon Law at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas and he is also the Vice-President of that institution. He serves as chairman of the Association of Oblate Institutes of Higher Studies mandated by the Chapter of 2004. He speaks English and Spanish.

General Councillor for the Region of Europe is Father Luis Ignacio ROIS ALONSO, the current General Councillor for Europe. Fr. Chicho has

been elected to a second term as General Councillor for Europe. Born in Madrid, Spain, in 1963, he professed first vows in 1982 and was ordained a priest in 1988. Before being elected General Councillor in 2004, he served in a number of capacities in his native Spain. He was the provincial coordinator for youth ministry and vocations (1988-1992). He also served in parish ministry (1988-1996) and was superior of the Malaga community and Provincial Councillor (1994). From 1996 to 2000, he was superior of the Scholasticate at Pozuelo. He served as the provincial of the Spanish Province from 2000 until his election to the Central Government.

The General Councillor for the Region of Africa-Madagascar is Fr. Evans CHINYEMBA Superior of the Delegation of Zambia). Elected today, September 30, as the General Councillor for the Region of Africa-Madagascar, Fr. Evans Chinyemba was born in 1967 in Lukulu, Western Province, Zambia. His first profession of vows was in 1994. After attending the International Scholasticate in Rome, he was ordained in 2000. Prior to being named superior of the Delegation of Zambia in 2009, he worked in parish ministry for a few years. Most of his ministry has been in formation, serving as Formation Director of the delegation and as director of the pre-novitiate program in Lusaka. Besides speaking several Zambian languages, he speaks English and Italian.

Source: OMI Communications Rome 14 Oct 2010

Good News about Oblates

Phumlani Ndlovu to be Ordained Deacon

Bro. Phumlani NDLOVU will be ordained Deacon by Bishop Barry WOOD at St Josephs Cedara on Monday 22 November at 10.00 am. He recently returned to the Province from Germany after completing a Masters degree in Theology at the Pallotine University in Vallender Germany. Welcome back!

Good News about Oblate Mission

Straw Vote for New Provincial

During September a discussion and straw vote for the new Provincial was held in the communities of the province. Ballots were sealed and sent to the Provincial House for opening and counting. This was done by a team of two tellers and two auditors under the Chairmanship of the provincial. Three points were given for a first choice, two points for a second choice and one point for a third choice.

The Straw Votes for the new Oblate Provincial of Natal held in September were counted on Thursday 28th October 2009. The Scrutineers were Fr Donovan Wheatley and Fr Charles Rensburg and the tellers were Melenie Govender and Sigrid Nieder. There were 65 valid votes. The following are the results of those who received more than 5 points. 3 points were given for a first choice, 2 points for second choice and 1 point for third choice.

Fr V Mazibuko	88	(24.6.4)
Fr Z Mbanjwa	78	(19.9.3)
Fr Z Ngubane	37	(4.8.9)
Fr W Weldschidt	28	(4.4.8)
Fr M Mchunu	23	(2.6.5)
Fr M Foley	18	(3.3.3)
Fr V Phenyane	18	(1.3.9)
Fr S David	17	(0.7.3)
Fr C Khathali	15	(0.5.5)
Fr S Kunene	9	(1.2.2)
Fr T Zondi	9	(2.1.1)

Fr Evans Chinyemba will interview the prospective candidates as part of his visitation from 15- 24 November.

The formal consultation will be held during the Assembly on 24th November and the decision will be made by the Superior General in Council next year.

Thank you for your participation and may we continue to pray for guidance and discernment during this time.

Good News about Oblate Mission

De Mazenod Experience 2011

Next year the de Mazenod Experience will be held in English from 5 September 2011 to 25 November 2011 at the International De Mazenod Centre in Aix-en Province France.

The de Mazenod Experience is a special three-month period which provides each participant with an opportunity to re-examine his spiritual journey in the light of what the various places in Provence have to offer. These are the surroundings and the places which witnessed the conversion of our Founder and the beginnings of our missionary and apostolic religious family.

The de Mazenod Experience is a time during which participants and animators together,

mutually enriched by the various journeys we have travelled, are attentive to our heritage in the life of St. Eugene, of our first Fathers and the charism received. We also examine our present as found in the life of the Unit from which each participant comes, the life of the Congregation and the life of the Church. Then we look within our own being, becoming and future. This is an examination of our experience of Christ and our journey with and towards our brothers. It is a journey of service in the building up of his Church at the heart of humanity today.

Those who are interested in participating in this experience should contact the Provincial or the Director of Ongoing formation Fr Zaba MBANJWA.

Good News about Oblates **150th anniversary of death of** **St Eugene de Mazenod**

2011 marks the start of a number of years in which we commemorate several anniversaries connected with our Oblate history.

-May 2011 is the 150th anniversary of the death of the Founder.

-December 2011 is the 200th anniversary of Eugene's ordination

-March 2013 is the 200th anniversary of the sermons at the Madeleine to the poor.

-April 2013 is the 200th anniversary of the foundation of his youth congregation

-April 2014 is the 200th anniversary of his falling ill with typhus because of his prison ministry.

-2 October 2015 is the 200th anniversary of the buying of the Carmelite convent – the date Eugene considered as the beginning of the Missionaries of Provence.

-25 January 2016 is the 200th anniversary of the beginning of community life.

-November 2018 is the 200th anniversary of our becoming religious

Press release from the **International de Mazenod Centre**

The Archdioceses of Aix-Arles and Marseille; the Province of France and the community of Aix en Provence are collaborating in the organization of three events during 2011 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of St Eugene de Mazenod.

5-6 March 2011:

Symposium on the theme of the transmission of faith according to St Eugene de Mazenod.

Since 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Eugene, the symposium aims to explore the context of his time and to show how preaching and the transmission of the faith are related to the founding vision of the Missionaries of Provence. It will explore how his ministry as Bishop, St. Eugene promoted the accessibility of the experience of God and the transmission of the faith to the people of his time.

The symposium will take place from Saturday 5th at 9.30 am to Sunday at 16.00 at Aix en Provence. There will be then be a conference open to the general public on Saturday 5th at 1700

21 May 2011

■ A day of pilgrimage in Marseille with a Solemn Mass at the Cathedral

May and Summer 2011

■ Oratorio on the life of Saint Eugene and the Oblate charism today

A performance that can be performed in the cloister during summer or in different churches.

During this anniversary year the centre will be very happy to welcome you to Aix should you wish to come to visit the places of foundation, or organize a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Eugene; or pray at his tomb or in the places connected with the beginning of our Congregation. Please let us know at cimaix@yahoo.fr and we will do our best to help you to plan your visit and to assure its success.

Challenges for Mission

Death of Fr. MATHUNI

On 19th September Fr. Joseph Mathuni OMI died in Austria in a serious traffic accident on the way to a pilgrimage centre of Maria Taferl. Father Mathuni is an Oblate who dedicated his life to helping Oblates in Mission territories especially in

Africa and Asia to get material resources for their missionary activity.



He was born was born in 1921 and for most of his life was Director of the Marian Mission Work (MMW) and a big supporter of the mission. He has helped may

Oblates in South Africa with resources for their missionary activity. On Friday 01 October 2010 at 13.00 the requiem mass was held in the Basilica Maria Taferl. After that, the funeral held at the cemetery in Maria Taferl. May God reward him for what he has done. Bro Phumlani NDLOVU attended the service. A memorial Mass was also held during the Chapter.

Good News about Oblates

Fr Paul Decock Receives an Award

Fr Paul DECOCK OMI has received an award from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in recognition of outstanding research outputs. Paul's research productivity in 2008 has placed him amongst the Top 30 researchers of the University in 2008. A brief article will be devoted to each of the 30 in the forthcoming University report on Research Output, Congratulations, Paul!

Thanks to one of our friends.

TM Allin, our pharmacist which has serviced us so faithfully of the many years, is closing down in December 2010. Mr Hare, the owner, is in his 80's. Fr Duncan McKenzie wrote a letter of thanks on behalf of the Sabon House community.

We in the province would like to thank him for his courteous and helpful service in providing medication for Oblates over many years.

FR PETER FOLEY OMI, PROVINCIAL TREASURER

DATES TO GIVE THANKS

OCTOBER

Date	Name	Occasion
01	M Foley	Ordination
01	C Nabwenje	Birthday
03	H Niemann	Birthday
08	M Ceruti	Birthday
08	J Madondo	Birthday
16	JB Mpuni	Birthday
19	N Mhlanga (Sc)	Birthday
19	ZL Ngubane	Ordination
21	E Khoza	Birthday
22	I Zandonda	Birthday
25	S Dlamini	Birthday
27	L Memela	Birthday
29	V Phenyane	Birthday

NOVEMBER

Date	Name	Occasion
06	S Kunene	Birthday

11	JL Nzaji	Birthday
14	N Nkosi	Birthday
20	P Horrocks	Birthday
23	M Mncwabe	Birthday
25	B Ndlovu	Birthday

DECEMBER

Date	Name	Occasion
02	M Ince	Birthday
06	G Purves	Birthday
06	C Khathali	Birthday
08	A Danker	Birthday
08	J Ngubane	Ordination
08	D Mackenzie	Ordination
08	G Michelson	Ordination
08	B Duffey	Ordination
09	T Zondi	Birthday
10	A Danker	Ordination
10	D Butt	Ordination
10	W Weldschidt	Birthday
16	M Gumede	Ordination
16	L Memela	Ordination
18	A Moss	Birthday
20	D Corijn	Ordination
21	P Decock	Ordination
29	P Decock	Birthday

Provincial's Diary

October 2010

27th Oblate Development Programmes, Durban
30th Reception of Vows Cedara

November 2010

10-11 Provincial Council
15-22 Visitation General Councillor
22 Diaconate Ordination Cedara
23-24 Provincial Assembly

December 2010

3 Triduum St Francis Xavier
8 Patronal Feast
12 60th Anniversary Fr J. NGUBANE Inchanga

Errors and omissions contact the Administrative Assistant
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OMI NATAL Update

Newsletter of the Natal Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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