



# M.A.M.I.

## Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

**In 2016, the 200th anniversary of the Oblates, Fr. Louis Lougen OMI, the Oblate Superior General, called Oblates to two congresses to meet in Aix-en-Provence – a Youth Congress and a Vocations Congress. As the Australian Oblates Vocations Coordinator I attended the Vocations Congress in Aix-en-Provence. Fr Christian Fini OMI attended the Youth Congress.**

The purpose of the Vocations Congress was to share where we are as a missionary family in the Church in terms of the purpose of inviting new members to be Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. However, in doing this it was also important that we renewed ourselves in the missionary spirit of St Eugene. It was empowering to gather in the chapel where the first Oblate community made their religious vows.

We walked the streets of Aix, which is very much a university city, sensing the passion Eugene had for helping young people. We met some of the young people who gather regularly in the Oblates' House to share life and celebrate their Faith. Five minutes walk was the prison where Eugene ministered to the inmates. We travelled to the village of Fuveau where the Oblates gave one of their early missions, preaching not in French but Provençal, the language of the people. It was particularly in the villages that people had been disconnected from the Church.

In Marseilles we celebrated Mass on St Eugene's tomb in the cathedral; walked the streets seeing the fishmongers working and the poorer areas of the city where the early Oblates ministered. The steep climb to the Basilica of Notre Dame

de la Garde was fortunately done by bus. This was a sacred place visited by Oblates leaving for the foreign missions. The statue of Mary on the top of the tower was the last sight the missionaries saw as they departed for the Americas, Africa and Sri Lanka. Most would never see their homeland again.

For Eugene and his early companions the MISSION was to minister to all people, from Aix-en-Provence to the WORLD whose poverty was expressed in many WAYS. The means was a COMMUNITY built on a FAITH in JESUS CHRIST. This mission continues today. We seek people who want to walk in the footsteps of the APOSTLES. Their model is Mary, the Mother of Jesus who offered herself (OBLATION) to do GOD'S WILL. The resounding words of the angel 'BE NOT AFRAID' are those of the OBLATES taking up the challenge 'LEAVE NOTHING UNDARED FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.'

Oblate Vocations Directors from most of the 67 countries where Oblates minister, gathered in the original House where St Eugene and his early companions first took their vows. The gathering was part of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Missionary Oblates of the Mary Immaculate.



# Director's Report

In early AUGUST the annual APPEAL letter was posted. It is just so humbling to experience your generosity in supporting our Oblate missionaries and their work through your prayers and financial support. We are also grateful for the assistance you give our men discerning a vocation for the Priesthood or Brotherhood as Oblates.

The MAMI newsletter tries to keep you in touch with the work and lives of our Oblate missionaries and the journey of those preparing for the Oblate Priesthood and Religious Life.



Accompanying this editorial is a photo of the MAMI team. Sandra Dwyer is in the centre. She is the lynch pin of MAMI; when you contact the MAMI office it is Sandra who picks up the phone. However, Sandra does far more than that. For me she is MAMI's guardian Angel who reminds me of the MAMI members and the relationship you have had with

Frs. Denis McCarthy, Harry Dyer and Christian Fini and in a special way she knows so many of our MAMI friends. In this she has built on the great work of Lorna Goodall.

Luisa Amati is on the right. While Luisa is currently on maternity leave she still helps promote our Partners in Mission (PIMs) when family duties permit. Luisa assists our PIMs in so many ways.

MAMI is part of our Oblate Family as is the wonderful team who volunteer their time here at the Provincial Office. Next time if I can gather the rest of the team for a photo I will introduce them to you.

As I read the full report of Fr Charlie Burrows, the way he and his Oblate community work with people about to be executed, it reminded me of the grace we all pray for and I hope experience whether as parents, priests or friends when we accompany others at the most challenging times in their lives. We Oblates hold our associates daily in our community prayer.

**Fr John Sherman OMI**

## Vocations – Australia



**Bro Casmir Arul OMI** was ordained to the diaconate at St Patrick's Cathedral by Archbishop Hart.



**Bro Joshua Nash OMI** took his first vows as a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate at our Novitiate in Godfrey, Illinois, USA on 1st August 2016 and has return to St Mary's Oblate Seminary, 647 Burke Rd., Camberwell, Victoria. Bro will continue his studies for the priesthood at Catholic Theological College – a member college of the University of Divinity.



**Thuan Bui** having completed his pre novitiate experience in Mazenod College Victoria Oblate community, is now in the novitiate in Godfrey USA. See the group photo of the community. Thuan is third from the right.

We are hopeful that two or three men will commence their pre novitiate in 2016. If you know of anyone feeling called to the challenge of our missionary life please contact Fr John Sherman OMI at [jsherman@oblates.com.au](mailto:jsherman@oblates.com.au)



## – Delegation of China

**Oblates in formation discernment in the Delegation of China. It is really 'GOOD NEWS'.**

From left. Stebin – pre novice; Jay – novice; Fr Slawek OMI – Delegation Superior; Fr John OMI – in 1st vows; Bro. Dominic OMI – 1st vows; Simon – novice.



# Fr Stan Sun OMI

**Fr Stan Sun OMI passed to eternal life aged 94 years on 7th July 2016 in North District Hospital, Sheung Shui Hong Kong of Pneumonia.**

Fr Stan was born on May 20, 1922 in Hebei China. His Funeral Mass was held in the Oblate Notre Dame Parish on July 14, 2016. Fr Stan was buried in St Raphael's Catholic Cemetery (Cheung Sha Wan Kowloon) on the same day.



It is said that Fr Stan was in a group of seminarians who were on one of the last planes to leave Beijing before it was occupied by the Communist army. He continued his studies for the priesthood in the Philippines and was ordained as a diocesan priest on 8th June, 1952. After a few years he decided to apply to join the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and took his Perpetual Oblation as an Oblate on 1st March 1968, also in the Philippines. One would suspect that his dream was one day to return to China as a missionary. Soon after, he joined the Philippine mission to Hong Kong where he spent some 40 years.

When the Australian Province took over responsibility for the Hong Kong mission in 1990, Fr Stan was the Superior. When the mission was raised to the status of a Delegation, Fr Stan was also appointed Delegation Superior. He spent some 19 years in leadership. With the focus of the Delegation on Mainland

China, Fr Stan was able to fulfil his passion of assisting the Church in China. For many years he would quietly make visits to the Mainland visiting local clergy, many of whom were his classmates. Where possible he was also the conduit for bringing them financial aid from a number of church organisations.

For many years Fr Stan formed with Fr John Chai OMI, the Oblate Community living on the top floor of the Oblate Primary School. Here we would find him proudly helping to guide the growth of this outstanding school as Supervisor for 29 years. While one part of his missionary zeal was focused on the Mainland, indeed another was supporting the various Principals of the Oblate Primary School to ensure that it provided all that is best for the education of young people.

This zealous and quietly courageous missionary has gone to his ETERNAL REST.

# Fr Eric Alleaume OMI – 25 years a Priest



***In 1981, whilst at Mazenod, a vocation challenge from Fr John Hannah OMI coincided with the Oblates taking the risk of sending some of their younger men to Indonesia and Eric was attracted to the idea of being a missionary. Eventually he applied for and began the Novitiate in 1984 and was ordained on May 31, 1991.***

During his time at the seminary, his passion for pursuits technical and practical was very obvious. The skills developed in carpentry and computing then have served him and others well across 25 years. He has always sought to apply new technology in different ways to make the ministry more efficient. He loves making things even better.

Other characteristics that became obvious then and have run through his life are his hospitality, his competence, his loyalty to the Oblates, his sense of the vow of Obedience and his willingness to have a go even at stuff that is not his strength. His desire to be helpful is another outstanding trait. People never go away disappointed when they go to Eric with a problem.

Fr Eric's first appointment was to Iona in Brisbane *from 1991 to 1998* and then at Mazenod WA *until 2004*. Fr Eric's presentation of faith in the classroom tried to engage the students' daily life. He helped students to make the Gospel real.

Engaging students who often found normal classroom work uninteresting was a passion of Fr Alleaume's. He reached out to and connected with those who might otherwise have been on the fringe of the school community. Woodwork, photography, computers and anything else technical were potential bridges for them.

In 2005, Fr Eric spent three months in Aix-en-Provence in Southern France on an Oblate renewal course. Upon his return to Australia, Fr Alleaume spent a year working at St David's Parish in Tea Tree Gully. However, in one of God's little surprises, the Superior General called him to Rome to be his personal secretary.

The General and his administration saw Fr Eric's talents – organisation, hospitality, languages, and his practical and technical skills. As secretary to two Superior Generals, he served the Congregation for seven years and gave our Province credibility. We might be only small but, through him, we made an important contribution.

Since January 2014, Fr Alleaume has been back in parish ministry at St David's, Tea Tree Gully, and is loving it.

Fr Eric has grown in his understanding of and deepened his commitment to the Oblate way of life over the years and lives out what that involves. He is more and more a man of faith and perseverance and of trust in that this is what God wants of him. Thank you, Fr Eric for all that you are for us and *ad multos annos*.

**Bishop Mark Edwards OMI**

# Do these men ever stop helping others????

Fr Charlie Burrows sent MAMI an account of the Oblate Community's involvement in accompanying the recent people to be executed on NUSAKAMBANGAN ISLAND. This island is where executions normally take place in Indonesia. It is in the Oblate parish of Cilacap. If any of those to be executed are Catholics, eventually after considerable negotiation the government authorities normally allow a Priest to be present.

Oblates Fr Charlie and Fr Vincent were permitted to minister to three Catholics to be executed. There were 14 to be executed 8 of whom were Nigerians. Fr Charlie mentioned that the Nigerians were very angry because they felt they were being discriminated against because they were black.



This person was executed 28th April 2015.

On the night when the executions were to take place the moment to move the prisoners to the place of execution kept being delayed. There seemed to be negotiations taking place 'somewhere'. About midnight four prisoners were handed over to the police while the remainder were given a reprieve. The reprieve included the Catholics.

Fr Charlie spoke of the traumatic effect of the whole experience for the families of those executed, and those given a reprieve. Back on the mainland the prosecutor's office told Fr.Charlie "You talk too much" to which he replied "Many people would agree with you there - but as long as the death

penalty exists I will keep talking". But at appropriate times.

Note: Fr Charlie's whole experience is too long to be printed in MAMI but is available by emailing the MAMI office.

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.



## Christmas Card project?

Fr Charlie is appealing for assistance with a project that will provide help to around 200 poor families while also protecting of the environment. The tree planting project claims each tree planted will eat up to 5 tons of carbon dioxide and produce enough oxygen for 5 people each day.

Corn and rice will be planted near the saplings. 30% will be fruit trees and 70% native plants. This project will take place on the prison island.

We are thinking of making this one of our Christmas card projects.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a Cheque/Money Order made payable to MAMI for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

or direct my:  Mastercard  Visa  
 the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Once off  Monthly

Card number \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

CCV number \_\_\_\_\_ (final 3 digits printed on card back)

Card holder's name (as appears on the card) \_\_\_\_\_

Card holder's signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

I require a tax deductible receipt.  
 I would like further information on making a bequest in my will.

Comments/intention: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **MAMI Office**  
**PO Box 384**  
**Camberwell Vic 3124**



# Zimbabwe – Borehole Project

## Oblate Institute of Higher Learning



A project for drought relief and clean water supply was successfully completed in Bhomela in Lupane rural area. This was an effort to assist the prevention of malnutrition of children and the mitigation of the risk of water – borne diseases. The project will directly benefit a number of people in the Bhomela district under St. Luke’s mission and the Catholic community who have undertaken to maintain the borehole and develop livelihood gardens for nutrition therapy.



## August 2016 two PIMs leave for the Missions

**Jayden Watson**, a recent past student from Mazenod College, Western Australia, will be leaving for China staying until early next year and **Charles McPhee** will be departing for Hong Kong until the end of the year.

We pray God’s blessing on these men and look forward to their safe return. Please keep them in your prayers.



We are always on the look out for volunteers to help support our missions. If you or anyone you know may be interested please send an email to [pims@oblates.com.au](mailto:pims@oblates.com.au)

Following an appeal to our Australian Province and especially to MAMI made by Fr Oswald Firth OMI for funds for the *Oblate Institute of Higher Learning*, which was mentioned in the AUGUST APPEAL LETTER we now have further clarification. The appeal is to help run over three years a ‘Diploma Course in National Reconciliation and Peace Building’.

To quote Fr Oswald

‘Sri Lanka has experienced a deadly war for thirty long years and it is time for a sustainable peace and profound reconciliation that would defeat latent racism, religious bias and incessant violence and pave the way for human development. The Oblates are the only recognized organization offering a comprehensive course in peace building and national reconciliation’.

The amount required over three years is challenging but reasonable. It is hoped that we can really contribute to this initiative for peace.



Maree Graham with her students. Maree has now returned to Fremantle WA from China. Look out for Marie’s story in our next edition.

# Celebrating 200th

In celebrating the 200th anniversary of our foundation, Oblates were invited by Fr Louis Lougen, the Oblate Superior General to experience some form of personal renewal. One such experience suggested was to volunteer for a time to help a needy mission. It must be remembered that where ever an Oblate is ministering it is classified as MISSION, be it overseas or at home in parish, college or chaplaincy ministries. The diocese of Geraldton in Western Australia with its vast distances and few Priests, is indeed a 'needy mission'.

## Fr Ian Mackintosh

**OMI** parish priest of Dernancourt in South Australia volunteered to look after the parishes of Newman, Tom Price and Paraburdoo. Comments in Fr. Ian's recent report included 'being attacked by bush flies'; alternating in two week slots between Newman and Tom Price; the long distances and the heat! What stood out in his much longer account was the wonderful people he met in each of the communities and very especially the real missionary work of Sisters Betty and Margaret, Sisters of St Joseph who work with the local communities in the missionary spirit of St Mary MacKillop.



Fr Ian with Sister Margaret  
- a 'cuppa' at a roadside stop.

## Fr Nadeem Daniel OMI

from Pakistan was born 2nd January 1979 to a Catholic family with three brothers and three sisters. Both mother and father still living.

Ordained 29th March 2008. Served three years as assistant Parish Priest and four years as Parish Priest. Worked also as diocesan Director of Sunday School Commission and Biblical Commission for four years. Joined the Oblates in Australia 7th July 2016.



## Fr Peter Daly OMI Provincial

of the Australian Province /Delegation of China will be attending the General Chapter in Rome from 14th Sept – 12th October 2016.

Also attending will be

## Fr Slawomir Kalisz OMI

Superior of our China Delegation who is attending as the elected delegate of the Australian Province/ China Delegation and the Indonesian Province.

The purpose of the General Chapter, which is the supreme governing body of our religious family, is to set the missionary goals of the Oblates for the next six years. It will also elect the next Superior General and the General Council for that period. Please keep our General Council in your prayers.



## Fr David Shelton's

health is still very much of concern. Please remember him in your prayers.



## Fr John Sebastian Ramesh OMI

has been appointed Parish Priest of Fremantle and Rector of the Basilica of St Patrick.



## Fr. Andrew Chen OMI

has taken over as Provincial Treasurer. Fr Andrew is also assisting MAMI with his Information Technology skills.



## Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

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