



# CHINA DELEGATION NEWSLETTER

无玷圣母献主会

*Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*

Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2020

**HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!**

*May God be with you through  
the NEW YEAR  
and fill your life with  
HOPE, LOVE and JOY.*

*May the days ahead,  
hold many BLESSINGS  
for you and your family.*

*with prayer Oblates*



2020 is the Year of the Rat according to Chinese zodiac. The Year is starting from January 25<sup>th</sup> and lasting to 2021 February 11<sup>th</sup>. Rat is the first in the 12-year cycle of Chinese zodiac. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which animals arrived to his party. The Rat tricked the Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived at the finish line, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox, becoming first.

In Chinese culture, rats were seen as a sign of wealth and surplus. Because of their reproduction rate, married couples also prayed to them for children.

People born in the Rat year are likable by all. They are sensitive to other's emotions but are stubborn with their own opinion. Their personality is kind, but due to weak communication skills, their words may seem impolite and rude.

Recent years of the Rat are: 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT OBLATE MIGRANT CENTRE IN GUANGZHOU

On January 11, children and parents of Angel's Love/ 乐福 Oblate Centre for migrants were invited to celebrate Chinese New Year. After welcoming all of them, staff of the Centre and volunteers were introduced. Yoyo, who is responsible for organizing activities for children reported all what was happening during the 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 activities run during summer camp.

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 great opportunity to chat with parents, and to listen their stories, difficulties and joys.

Knowing them certainly will help us to understand them more deeply, and serve them better.

*Fr. Irek Dampc, OMI*



Children from Angel's Love Centre, Guangzhou



Parents and children enjoying lunch, Guangzhou



## MINISTRY WITH THE MIGRANTS IN HONG KONG

Fr. Jun Jacobe, OMI for last ten years has been serving migrants and working as a prison chaplain in Hong Kong. This is his sharing.

My current interest in working with the Migrant workers dated back to my theological studies in Rome in 1980. Aside from doing catechetical apostolate in the Oblate Parish preparing young people for Confirmation, I was also involved with the Filipino Migrant workers teaching them liturgical songs and assisting at Mass. When I was going back to the Philippines for my Diaconal Ordination, I passed by Hong Kong which was then still part of the Oblate Philippine Province and visited the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Filipino Migrants. An RGS Sister who was the Directress gave me an orientation of the ministry servicing 230,000 mostly domestic helpers. Receiving them at the Centre on their day off and giving them various lectures about the Catholic faith, celebration of the Eucharist and topics related to their work. This created a mark in my heart so that after I was ordained a priest in 1984, I wrote to Fr. General for my first Obedience to return to Hong Kong and do this ministry.

It was only in 2010 that the Provincial of the Philippine Province granted my request to work “on loan for 3 years” with the Delegation of China to the Migrants in Hong Kong while doing Parish Ministry for the English-Speaking Community such as St. Jerome Parish and St. Alfred Parish. After 3 years, I wrote to the Delegation Superior of China and the Provincial of Australia to accept my intention to be part of the Delegation of China Mission which was approved.

Currently my work with the Migrants consists of the following:

- 1) Spiritual Director at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Filipino Migrants. I celebrate Mass on weekdays, Confession, give spiritual talks, recollection and baptism on a case to case basis, Counseling and blessings of houses/offices, stores by request. I am also available to fill in for mass whenever the priest assigned is not available.
- 2) Spiritual Director of the Pope’s Prayer Network known as the Apostleship of Prayer for the English-Speaking Community in Hong Kong. The purpose of this group is to assist the Pope in praying for the monthly intention of the Pope each month throughout the year. I meet with the Lay Council Officers and 7 Centre Officers spread out in various Parishes in Hong Kong. The highlight of their activities consist of the Annual World Anniversary Gathering of both Chinese and English Speaking AP’s of Hong Kong, usually first Sunday of December; the Feast of the Sacred Heart and the Feast of Christ the King. Monthly meetings are held in the different Centres.



Fr. Jun Jacobe, OMI visiting Stanley Prison, Hong Kong



Fr. Jun Jacobe, OMI

3) Prison Chaplaincy. I am one of the Chaplain assigned by the Diocese of Hong Kong for Lo Wu Correctional (Women) and Stanley Correctional (Men). I conduct monthly visit to the Filipinos and inmates assigned to me by the Welfare Officer of both institutions. A consultation room is assigned to me and I listen to various stories shared by each inmate. When possible, I communicate with their families in the Philippines to brief them of the situation of their family member or relative inside the correctional institution. I also join the Philippine Consulate in their Annual Christmas visit of these two institutions.



Fr. Jun Jacobe, OMI with the Filipino Migrant workers, Hong Kong

4) Parish Invitations and Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong. Because of the shortage of priests to celebrate Mass especially on Sunday when the majority of Filipino workers have their day off, I also help at St. Joseph Church (Central), St. Teresa Church (Prince Edward), Holy Rosary Church (Pok Fu Lam), Mother of Good Counsel (San Po Kong) and Mass Centre at Holy Spirit (Ho Man Tin) and St. Jude (Yuen Long). Annually, I get invited to conduct Lenten and Advent Recollections for various groups in the parishes. During the summer, I serve as substitute priest for the Catholic Centre Chapel in Central while the priest assigned is on summer vacation.

Working with the Migrants is a challenging ministry. But I am happy that my previous ministries in the Philippines (School Administration and Formation) prepared me for this work. I thank the Delegation of China for allowing me to do this ministry as our response to the OMI Chapter recommendations. *Fr. Jun Jacobe, OMI*



## LIVING IN CHINA - A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

In the past months the Oblate community in Beijing was enriched by the presence of two young volunteers from abroad: Luke Chow from Hong Kong (vocational discernment) and Justino Kim, a young scholastic from Korea. Below Justino is sharing his experience of living in China and Luke tells us about Christmas in Beijing.

Living in China was an amazing and life changing experience, which totally turn around my point of view of China. I, like most Koreans, had strong prejudice against China and its culture. However, after living for a while in the country, my negative thoughts which was so strong even to the point of dislike had totally changed. Let me share with you of some of the reasons of such dramatic change of heart.

First of all, I thought China was dirty and a messy place. The image of China I had before arriving was so negative, imaging trash and crimes all over the place. To my surprise after arrival I noticed clean and well-organized streets.

Secondly, people I met were so kind, generous and ready to offer help anytime I was in need. I didn't feel like I was in a foreign country. They were always asking me if I need



Fr. Johnny OMI (1L) Bro. Justino Kim (2L) and Korean volunteers, Beijing

## CHRISTMAS IN OUR HEARTS - NATIVITY CELEBRATION IN BEIJING

Christmas celebration for children, volunteers and friends from Five Loaves and Two Fish Centre was held on 14<sup>th</sup> of December. More than two hundred people joined festivity to celebrate the birth of Christ. The theme of the gathering was CHRISTMAS IN OUR HEARTS. Children from the Centre assisted by volunteers for couple of months were preparing Nativity Play. And what performance it was! In beautiful and captivating way, they staged the story of nativity of Jesus.

There was a time of the party, which was filled with special kind of excitement as a raffle competition was run. Funds raised from it are for to support our Learning Centre 仁育苑. The goal was not only to raise funds, but to emphasize the importance of helping others. We were thrilled to learn that children and parents, who are beneficiary of the Centre were very much involved.

It was so moving to watch children exchanging gifts and giving Christmas candles to teachers and volunteers to thank them for they care and dedication. Witnessing it reminded me what is Christmas is all about. It is about Jesus born in our hearts – Christmas in our hearts. Merry Christmas! *Luke Chow*



Bro. Justino Kim, Beijing

something, and offering assistance even when I didn't ask for it. Truly, I cannot forget constant kindness and warmness of the people I met.

Finally, I learned so much from our Oblate community in Beijing. Before going to China, I was aware that it is very difficult for religious people to minister in China. But after witnessing with my own eyes what they have to face and experience, I was so impressed. It had a massive impact on my faith which I have to confess was weakening at that particular time. Despite great difficulties, oblates and other religious try to deal with it with wisdom and continue to give witness to their faith.

I am really grateful to God for protecting our community in Beijing and oblates who are having difficulties and making every effort in persevering to keep spreading the Christian faith not in just mere words, but in action.

I visited various places and met so many people. I really thank God who granted me this opportunity of meeting our Oblate community in Beijing. Everyone was so kind and open-hearted toward me, who is still very new in the oblate way of life and oblate world in general. I really hope to have an opportunity to visit them again and to stay with such caring and generous people who helped me to have such a beautiful experience, which I will never forget in my entire life. *Bro. Justin Kim*



Luke Chow with children, Beijing



Oblates with children and volunteers, Beijing



## RECENTLY ORDAINED PRIEST GATHERING IN HONG KONG

From November 7 to 10, four young oblates gathered in Hong Kong for annual ongoing formation gathering. Oblate priests: Paul Shen, Rey Amancio, Vladimyr Eustache and Roy Paciente attended the gathering. Fr. Daniel Szewc, OMI rector of St. Mary's Oblate Seminary travelled all the way from Melbourne to accompany young oblates. Fr Daniel focused in his input on different missions and the Spirit of Eugene de Mazenod. The group also had the opportunity to visit Oblate schools, parishes, Hong Kong city and Macau.



(L-R) Vladimyr Eustache, Paul Shen, Daniel Szewc, Rey Amancio, and Roy Paciente, Hong Kong

## HABIT TAKING CEREMONY

On December 3, 2019 Bernard Yeung from Hong Kong was one of six novices who received the oblate habit. Superior of China Delegation Fr. Sławek Kalisz, OMI attended the Habit Taking Ceremony in the Oblate Novitiate, Tamontaka, Philippines. Let us continue to pray for brother Bernard.



Fr. S. Kalisz, OMI with Bro. Bernard



Fr. William Meng, OMI with Po Yan Oblate Primary School students on study tour in Japan



(L-R) Yoyo, I. Dampc OMI, R. Paciente, OMI and L. Young OMI repainting Angel's Love Centre/乐福, Guangzhou



Fr. Vladimyr Eustache, OMI taking exam in Cantonese



Fr. Ronnie Gicalao, OMI presenting his talk at the seminar in Manila, Philippines



Fr. Roy Paciente, OMI with Oblate Youth China



China Delegation Scholastics: (L-R) Stebin Thomas, Simon Chu and Dominic Fung, Manila



Oblate Youth China group celebrating Chinese New Year, Guangzhou



Christmas dinner for homeless in Notre Dame Parish, Hong Kong