



M.A.M.I.



Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

RIP – Denis McCarthy



Denis McCarthy was born in Ashford, Co. Limerick on 10th August 1925 and was educated at the local National School and Presentation College, Cork. He entered the Oblate Novitiate at Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick where he pronounced his first vows on 12th September 1944 before moving to Belmont House, Dublin for philosophy studies, and then to Piltown House of Studies for Theology. He pronounced his Final Vows there on 15th September 1949.

Bishop Collier ordained Denis a priest in the college chapel at Piltown on 29th June 1950 before he received his appointment to minister in Australia. Fr O'Shea, the Irish Provincial, wrote to Fr T. Haugh, his Vicar in Australia, 'Fr Denis McCarthy was reputed to be the best all round man of his course. He can turn his hand to anything – teaching, preaching, a good man'.

Fr Denis arrived in Australia in August 1950 to assist Fr S. O'Dwyer, O.M.I. at the Oblate Juniorate in Geelong, Victoria. He was assistant priest at Moe, Victoria in 1951 for two years before beginning short placements on the Mission staff at Arncliffe (NSW – 1953), Penshurst (NSW – 1954), and Eagle Junction (Qld – 1956). In 1957 he was sent with Fr Tim Long, O.M.I. to take possession of the property given by Archbishop Duhig of Brisbane to the Oblates to build and staff Iona College which opened in 1958. Fr Denis as Bursar was mainly responsible for much of the physical clearing and building at the young college until

late 1960 when he returned briefly to Camberwell Mission House.

He received his Obedience in October 1961 for the recently built Lourdes Monastery in Lesmurdie where he assisted in the parish as well as assisting the Mission staff. It was during this time that he and Fr W. Cagney, the Provincial, became conscious of a number of sites set aside by the Government for educational purposes in the Lesmurdie area. With great audacity and persistence they approached the Government through local member of Parliament, Mr Ken Dunn, MLA, and eventually were granted the present Mazenod site on condition that building of a school would begin within 2 years. This happened mainly through the skill and physical work of Fr McCarthy, OMI.

In May 1966, Fr Denis became the Superior of the Oblate Mission House in Eagle Junction, Queensland until he was appointed Director of the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate, and moved to Camberwell where he lived for the next 37 years, being named as Superior of the community in January 1976 and again in January 1984.

Fr McCarthy's work as MAMI Director over the years is portrayed elsewhere. As Oblates and Oblate Associates we are immensely proud of that work which has enrolled thousands of people who support the Oblates spiritually and financially. Fr Denis' efforts will continue in the ministry of these associates.

Fr Denis died on 31st December 2014 and was buried in the Oblate plot at Springvale Cemetery after a Funeral Mass in St John Vianney's Church, Springvale North.

Fr Don Hughes OMI



MAMI in Australia

MAMI was established by Fr Michael O'Ryan OMI who was the Australian Oblate Provincial from 1953 to 1956. He appointed the late Fr Patrick McCarthy OMI to be the first Director of MAMI. At that time the Oblates had only five parishes in Australia: Fremantle, Beaconsfield in WA, Moe in Gippsland, Sefton in NSW and Sorrento in Victoria. Fr Patrick McCarthy OMI visited the parishes, appealing for membership and Fr Michael O'Ryan OMI received permission from Archbishop Prendiville in WA, Bishop Ryan in Sale and Archbishop Daniel Mannix of Melbourne to establish MAMI in their dioceses. Fr McCarthy introduced Life Membership certificates and subscriptions and within three or four years, recruited around 400 Life Members.

During the 1950's many men followed Fr Patrick McCarthy as Director of MAMI in the Province - Fr Michael Clarke OMI, Fr Henry McFall OMI, Fr James Carroll OMI and Fr Joe O'Shaughnessy OMI. There was a period when Fr Ned Ryan OMI, Provincial, appointed a Director in each capital city of the states where the Oblates mission; namely Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Fr Michael Clarke OMI organized viewings of films about the missions at the Provincial House in Camberwell, Melbourne, and started the quarterly Magazine, *Immaculate*, which was sent to all MAMI members.

In 1958, Fr James Carroll OMI was appointed Director of MAMI. He was very successful in promoting the monthly magazine, *Immaculate*, which reached a circulation of 20,000 in the early 60s and was in circulation for a total of 12 years. Fr James Carroll was in turn followed by Fr Tom Brady OMI who was succeeded by Fr Robert McGregor OMI in 1968. Fr Robert McGregor combined his work as Parish Priest of Sefton with the Directorship of MAMI and continued his annual raffles and fundraising functions. Fr Robert McGregor's efforts proved instrumental in funding the building of St. Mary's Seminary, which opened in Melbourne in 1963.

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Director's Update



It is with a sense of sadness that I write my last Director's update for the Newsletter, as I take up a new appointment to Mazenod College Victoria as Rector.

After all of the joy and excitement of Bishop Mark's appointment, the sacrifice which was demanded of the Oblates became a stark reality and the Provincial and Council met to make a very clear decision regarding our commitment to serve our three colleges now and in the future.

At the end of the meeting Fr. John Sherman OMI was appointed as Director of MAMI and I was appointed as Rector of Mazenod College. I take up the appointment at the end of term one to ensure a smooth transition for MAMI.

As a young Oblate I never imagined being asked to be Director of MAMI and I took on the role with a great sense of excitement and a little uncertainty, as I was not totally aware of what it all entailed. It has proven to be an amazing 5 years which I have thoroughly enjoyed and which has helped me to grow as an Oblate. It has been a privilege working with Sandra Dwyer and

the PIM coordinators Lesley Eksteen and Luisa Amati.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to see first-hand the miracle of work in the lives of thousands of people throughout Asia. Indeed it all started to unravel during my last trip visiting the Indonesian Province. It was great to see some of the amazing work being done by the Oblates from Jakarta to Borneo. Fathers Peter Stoll and Charlie Burrows are both keeping well and were gracious hosts. The highlight of the trip was a visit to East and West Borneo with Fr Damianos the Provincial Bursar, visiting places like Tarakan and Malinau, North Kalimantan/Borneo, Balikpapan and Penajam, East Kalimantan/ Borneo, Sintang, Dangkan and Sepauk, West Kalimantan/ Borneo. The Oblates in Kalimantan/Borneo are working in challenging situations: an example of this is the Sepauk parish, with 89 outstations, most being accessible only by bike.

I will miss appeals and seeing you as I moved through the province every two years. Thank you for your amazing support and generosity over the last 5 years, your prayers and contributions have helped make a difference in the lives of many people seeing the Gospels lived out before them.

I wish Fr. John Sherman OMI all the best and I ask you to pray for me as I take on the new appointment with the same sense of excitement and uncertainty.

God Bless
Fr Christian Fini OMI
MAMI Director

I wanted to instill in my Congregation? You will be a bishop; I wish it".

Eugene himself had accepted to become a bishop in 1832 in order to be in a position to safeguard the existence and the mission of the small Oblate Congregation. Love for Jesus Christ, love for the Church, and love for the poor which were essential qualities of all Oblates, now became the essential characteristic qualities of Oblate bishops. Just before becoming Bishop of Marseille, he had made this resolution – which was to characterize all his episcopacy:

"Here I am in fact pastor and chief pastor of a diocese which, whatever one says of it, is not inhabited by saints. It was given me, I would not have chosen it. However, I must attach myself to this people as a father to his children. My existence, my life, all my being must be consecrated to it, I must have no thought but for its good, no fears other than I have not done enough for its welfare and sanctification, no other concern than that which must include all its spiritual interests and even in a certain way its temporal welfare. I must in a word consume myself for it, be ready to sacrifice my leisure, my desire, rest, life itself for it." Words and example that every Oblate bishop can take to heart.

So, an Oblate who becomes a bishop is not lost to the Congregation but always remains a missionary Oblate ready to consume himself for Jesus Christ, the Church and the poor.

Fr Frank Santucci OMI

New Director

'God is a God of surprises'. With Fr Christian's appointment as Rector of Mazenod College in Victoria, I have been appointed the Director of our Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate – MAMI. It is a surprise but also a privilege.



In my previous ministries and currently as Coordinator of Vocations I have experienced the importance of the prayers and financial support given to our missions and the education of our students for the priesthood by MAMI.

Initially MAMI focused on our Java mission. Today while continuing our support for the Indonesian mission, in the spirit of St Eugene who challenged us 'to leave nothing undared for the Kingdom of God', the Australian members of MAMI reach out in support of Oblates working among the poorest in China, Vietnam, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Zimbabwe and indeed to any of the sixty five countries where Oblates are working.

In the early days of the OMI a bishop from Canada came to Rome seeking missionaries to work particularly in the frozen north. A cardinal sent him to Marseille to meet Bishop de Mazenod who, he was told, had a missionary heart as big as the world. I look forward to meeting the members of MAMI who I have discovered have real missionary hearts.

De Mazenod Family Fundraising Mass & Dinner – South Australia

Saturday 11th April 2015
Mass: 5.30pm at St David's,
Vizard Road Tea Tree Gully
Dinner: 7pm – 11.30pm Clovercrest
Hotel, 450 Montague Rd Modbury North

Tickets \$60 per person
Tables of ten
Smorgasbord Dinner
Indonesian Band
Dance floor available
Drinks at Bar Prices

Bookings close 6th April
Bookings and payment can be made online or at either parish office

Guest Speaker: Fr Christian Fini OMI (Following the dinner Fr Fini will complete his term as Director of MAMI. Fr will sum up his time as Director and also share some photos of his recent visit to the Oblate Missions.)

Funds raised will go to the China Mission. Accommodation: For those travelling from outside Adelaide the venue has nine hotel units on site. Bookings and enquires can be made on **(08) 8264 5266** or **accommodation@clovercresthôtel.com.au**

De Mazenod Raffle: Tickets \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5, First Prize \$1000, Second Prize \$500 and Third Prize \$100. Tickets on sale in your parish late February.



Mazenod Reflection

An Oblate Bishop: always a missionary ready to consume himself for Jesus Christ, the Church and the poor

When an Oblate is appointed bishop, the gut reaction of other Oblates usually is one of dismay because the Congregation has "lost a good man." During Eugene de Mazenod's lifetime, six Oblates became bishops. Reacting to the announcement that one of them, Fr Guigues, was to be appointed a bishop in Canada, Eugene reacted in 1846. "At first this news plunged me into great bewilderment. If I saw on the one hand the advantage for the Church in Canada, I could not on the other overlook the grave disadvantages that could result for our Congregation and evidently this second consideration should prevail over the first because our first duty is to maintain our Congregation in a state of capability for the accomplishment of the mission the Church has given to her."

Yet, he came to realize that the two vocations were not mutually exclusive. When Fr. Tache was nominated bishop in Canada and indicated that he rather wanted to remain being an Oblate and not become a bishop, Eugene replied: "No one is more a bishop than I am, and rest assured that no one is more an Oblate than I am. Am I ignorant, then, of the spirit that

ORDINATIONS

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI



The Australian Province has had its first Oblate appointed as a Bishop. Bishop Mark Edwards OMI was ordained as auxiliary bishop of Melbourne on Dec 17th, 2014 at St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne. Bishop Mark Edwards, who was the Rector at Iona College Brisbane, received an invitation not long before his ordination from Australia's former apostolic nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher. Shortly into their discussion, Archbishop Gallagher announced that the Holy Father had appointed him as auxiliary bishop for Melbourne.

Bishop Edwards was installed alongside Bishop Terence Curtin, of Greythorn, Melbourne. Archbishop Denis Hart was the principal consecrator of the Mass, along with co-consecrators Nuncio Archbishop Paul Gallagher and Archbishop of Brisbane Mark Coleridge. Present at the Mass were many priests and religious, as well as civic leaders, leaders from other religions, representatives of the various parishes and agencies that make up the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and of course the friends and family of Bishop Edwards.

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI was born in Indonesia in 1959 and was "a global citizen" for several years before settling with his family in Melbourne.

He received an education at Mazenod College, and inspired by the Oblates and the charism instilled by its founder, St Eugene de Mazenod, joined St Mary's Seminary in 1980. As a priest, he taught at Mazenod College Victoria and Iona College before teaching at the seminary for 12 years. He was appointed Rector of Iona College in 2010 and served there until his appointment as bishop.

In his homily, Archbishop Hart reminded the congregation that, "our brothers Terence Curtin and Mark Edwards come forward as agents of renewing the world. Every bishop has the mission to be a teacher, a priest and a pastor. Our newest bishops will walk confidently alongside people as they provide them with a compassionate heart. They will seek to bring Christ's truth and light to the world as they provide a harbinger of hope and a reminder to the world that God is near."

The Oblate community thanks Bishop Mark Edwards OMI for his unwavering service to the Australian Oblate community and wishes him well for this new chapter in his life and that of the Australian church.



Peter Casamento @ Casamento Photography

Message of Thanks – Bishop Mark Edwards



I am grateful to the many Oblate supporters who have encouraged and congratulated me and held me in their prayers. I am deeply grateful for this, though I am not sure that congratulations are quite the right response as I see this as an invitation from Our Lord to serve rather than as a promotion. This call is an honour for the Oblates and for all those who have supported and formed me; it is a recognition of the faith, work and zeal of the Oblates and our ministries. Though in one sense I am 'lost' to the Oblates – I am no longer available for work in Oblate ministries – it is for the good of the Church and what could be better?

On my coat of arms, the lion represents St Mark, my patron saint. He holds a cross, the insignia of the Oblates and emblazoned with its initials, in a fashion that echoes the coat of arms of Iona College where I have worked for many years. The gold fleur-de-lys is a resonance of Mazenod College's arms representing the parishes that support it and from which I came, as well as the stars of the Southern Cross. Behind the shield is an episcopal cross and they are ensigned by the green galero (hat) with six tassels on either side which are the traditional identifying insignia of a bishop. The motto 'Learn who you are in the eyes of God' is an appeal from St Eugene de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates– originally to the labourers and poor of Aix-en-Provence and now to Australia – to experience that we are the precious and beloved children of God.

As well as being auxiliary bishop of Melbourne, I have been appointed Bishop of Garba in ancient Numidia of which the ruins at Ain-Garb in modern Algeria are some of the few remaining evidences. The Diocese of Garba is a titular and not a residential See.

The arms were designed by Fr. Guy Selvester, Mr. Richard d'Apice and Mr Sandy Turnbull of the Australian Heraldry Society.

Being a missionary has always been at the heart of my vocation and I ask you, our supporters, to pray that this bishop, your brother, may be an effective, compassionate missionary. I pray for you and send you my love as your Oblate brother.

Bishop Steckling



On 21 December, the San Blas Cathedral of Ciudad del Este was too small for the large crowd of faithful who had come to witness the episcopal ordination of their new Shepherd, Bishop Guillermo



STECKLING, former Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Presiding at the ordination was the President of the Episcopal Conference of Paraguay, Mons. Claudio Giménez, Bishop of Caacupé.



To replace a bishop removed from office for various reasons, the Holy Father turned to a veteran missionary who had spent 18 years in Paraguay before being called to the General Administration of the Oblates, first as Assistant General (1992–1998) and then as Superior General (1998–2010). It will be Bishop Guillermo's task to seek to unite the faithful and the clergy again, after the contentious exit of his predecessor.

Prior to his ordination, Bishop Guillermo called a press conference to speak about the ordination ceremony. He indicated that he had only recently arrived in that part of Paraguay and that he needed to take a tour of all of the parishes. He said that he was consulting other bishops about some of the sensitive issues facing the diocese, such as improving the seminary which has 80 candidates.

The new bishop said he is used to traveling. "My custom is to travel as a missionary. I want to go to all the parishes and chapels. From my youth, I have been used to going on foot, on motorcycle and on horseback, sleeping wherever I go as part of a missionary congregation."

(Source: omiworld.org)

RIP Fr Vincent De Paul Siebert OMI

After 56 years of priesthood, Fr Paul was called to his eternal rest in Brisbane in November 2014. Paul was born in Adelaide on 22nd December 1931 into a very involved Catholic family and attended primary school in Kingswood, graduating to the Christian Brothers' College, Wakefield St, Adelaide. Although the Oblates were not established in South Australia in those days they regularly travelled there from Victoria to give missions and retreats. On those occasions the Oblates were always met and housed by the Siebert family. As a result of this Fr Paul's father was appointed an honorary Oblate and was presented with the Oblate Cross by Fr Leo Deschatelets, Superior General in Adelaide in January 1961.



On completion of his secondary education, Paul entered the Oblate Novitiate at Sorrento, Victoria in 1951. After taking his First Vows, Fr Paul was chosen to undertake his priestly studies at the Oblate International Scholasticate and the Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained a priest in the parish of Roviano, outside of Rome, in the presence of his parents on 13th July 1958.

Fr Paul's first years as a priest were spent in parish duties. He was briefly at Sorrento, Victoria, and then for five years at Fremantle and Beaconsfield parishes in West Australia where he was conspicuous for his visitation of homes and especially for his care of the sick – a motor bike was his mode of transport. In 1965, Fr Paul found himself on the staff of Iona College, Brisbane where he taught Religion and Science. His tenacity and sense of humour helped him counter the foibles and tricks of the student body. After six years he joined the staff of Mazenod College, Melbourne.

In 1973 Fr Paul joined the Oblate Community at Hurstville, N.S.W and later was Director of that community for six years. During those years he was successfully occupied in giving Missions and Retreats as well as community building. Fr Paul's ministry was always noted for its depth of scriptural scholarship and its strong adherence to the Church's teaching. He continued this work during his years at Eagle Junction (1980 – 84) before returning to his home state of South Australia, becoming Parish Priest of Dernancourt.

Perhaps his greatest challenge came when he volunteered to work in the Oblate Mission of Tahiti, serving there from 1990 – 2001. His knowledge of the French language helped him considerably as seminary lecturer and later as parish priest of a large parish. He was also Leader of the Oblate delegation for six years.

On return from Tahiti, Fr Paul was appointed to the staff of Iona College, Brisbane. The pace of life changed but those who knew Fr Paul realised he would be always active in priestly ministry. He assisted in the spiritual life of the College, especially in the lower grades, and also remained active in the Charismatic movement as well as helping with Convent Masses and the neocatechumenate.

Fr Paul Siebert died on 14th November 2014. His funeral Mass was at Iona College before burial at Nudgee Cemetery.

Fr Don Hughes OMI

Sandra Hazel

When Fr Tom Shortall OMI first envisaged the mission which was to become Rosies, little did he know that the Wynnum girl who sold raffle tickets to raise money for Iona College and did make-up for the school's Passion Play would become an intrinsic part of Rosies' history.



Although Sandra went to school at Mt Carmel Convent at Wynnum, her connection with Iona College and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate was deep and enduring. Two of her younger brothers attended Iona from its opening in 1958, and her own children continued the tradition with Sandra's eldest son enrolling in 1974 – the same year Fr Tom Shortall OMI founded the first Rosies outreach in Victoria.

As an adult, Sandra volunteered her time at Iona in Religious Education classes, college camps, student liturgies, and wrote and compiled a formal Religious Education program. Eventually she became the College's Religious Education Coordinator and later Dean of Faith.

When the Oblates first considered an outreach to school leavers on the Gold

Coast, it was to Sandra they came for counsel; and in 1987 – the year her youngest son finished school at Iona – Sandra was present with young school leavers in Surfers Paradise as part of Rosies' inaugural Schoolies Week outreach team.

Sandra went on to coordinate and train Rosies volunteers; and every year, she and Fr Peter Daly OMI would spend two weeks leading the full time team at Dhalanbah. When it came time to build a second branch in Brisbane, she opened her home to Rosies, and team meetings were held at the Hazel house.

In recognition of her dedication to the Oblate charism and her pursuit of social justice, Sandra was invested as an Honorary Oblate in 2012 by Fr Harry Dyer OMI on behalf of the Superior General, Fr Louis Lougen OMI.

An Oblate cross, which had previously belonged to Fr Tom Shortall OMI, was bestowed on Sandra, entrusting a precious part of Rosies' history to her hands... 'As the mother of 5 children, and as the mother of our Rosies family here in Queensland, Sandra embodied the Oblate spirit in a very tangible way...we cannot begin to measure her contribution to Rosies.'

Sandra Hazel passed away on November 10, 2014. The funeral was celebrated at the Iona College Chapel by Fr Kevin Davine OMI, who gave the homily, and 10 concelebrating Oblates.

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.

Name _____
 Address _____
 State _____ Postcode _____
 Phone _____
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 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 ____ / ____
 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



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MAMI in Australia

Fr William Cagney OMI negotiated our first Australian foreign mission in 1970 and Indonesia was the country chosen. In November 1971, Fr John Hannah OMI (Provincial) carried out this decision by sending four Australian Oblates to Indonesia - Frs Kevin Casey, Pat Moroney, David Shelton and Pat Slattery. He realised that opening a mission in a third world country required an enormous amount of spiritual and financial support and that MAMI would be an integral source of this. Fr John Hannah OMI (Provincial) appointed Fr Denis McCarthy OMI as MAMI Director in January 1971, a position he would hold for the next 35 years.

The founding of our Indonesian Mission gave MAMI a real boost. Life Membership, Annual Membership and Register of the Dead certificates were commissioned and membership flourished.

Fr Denis McCarthy OMI continued the great foundations laid by former MAMI Directors by promoting and increasing the membership through raising funds from annual donations and subscriptions. Rather than depend on raffles and promoters as a fundraising means, he concentrated on appealing in parishes for an increase in memberships. He made appeals in Oblate parishes every two years and also made appeals in over 200 diocesan parishes where the parish priests were supportive of helping our Oblate missions. Fr Denis McCarthy established the current *MAMI News Bulletin* that was published six times a year for 17 years and quarterly during the last 18 years. By the mid 1980's, membership of MAMI reached 16,500 families. Of course the work of MAMI is not achieved by Oblates alone but with the dedicated help of secretaries, Mrs. Lorna Goddall who was with MAMI for 27 years and now Mrs. Sandra Dwyer.

The Province of Indonesia and many other countries in the Asian Region owe a debt of gratitude to Fr Denis McCarthy OMI for his tireless work, prophetic vision and eloquent preaching for the Missions.



Oblate China Immersion – Update Luisa

Welcome to the New Year. 2014 was a successful year for the Partners in Mission (PIM) Program. Some old faces returning to the Program and new faces coming into the Oblate family.

Maureen and Tony Brown returned home in December 2014. Once again they volunteered their time to the HK Mission. This was their third year in a row. Together they have a wealth of experience and are highly respected for their work and commitment to the HK mission.

In January 2015 we welcomed home Bev Watkinson who has taught English in Beijing for two years at our DeMazenod Cultural Exchange school. I have no doubt that Bev has left behind a legacy in the hearts and minds of those she has taught and worked with.

Also returning home from our China Mission was Sean Hyatt. Sean volunteered his time under the Partners in Mission program. After completing University he decided to take a year off and dedicate his time to the China Mission.

Val Stephens also completed the Summer Program in HK. Val spent four weeks during the summer working with and inspiring the young students in the program. We thank Bev, Sean and Val for their hard work, energy and passion.

New to the Oblate family in 2014 was Keiron Long and Joseph Mula. Both men also participated in the HK summer program alongside Val. On behalf of all those associated with our overseas missions I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers for their time and commitment. Through their committed work we are able to continue our good work in our overseas missions and help those in need.

In February 2015, Mairead Johnson and Joseph Mula will be departing for China to commit their time and talents to the Mission. Please keep them in your prayers. We have vacancies for the 2015 HK Mission: teaching English to different groups of young people in primary school and secondary school.

If you are interested in this opportunity or know of someone who is, please contact Luisa Amati on pim@oblates.com.au or (03) 9805 8824 for further information.

St Pius X Shares the Love

A Recount written by St Pius X Year 5 students

Primary students fulfil St Pius' duty to the disadvantaged. On Thursday 21st August 2014, the St Pius X School Community Windsor Gardens, South Australia, held a Social Justice Day.

The school community gathers annually to raise money for The China Little Flower Orphanage. This orphanage reaches out to abandoned children, with the assistance of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate China. It is managed by volunteers, who use their time and special gifts to help these children. The orphanage currently helps at least 150 children by providing care for abandoned children, medical care for the severely disabled, hospice care, foster homes, special care for infants and finance for special causes. This year the school raised \$2040. These funds will be allocated to the special causes fund to help needy families with the cost of surgery.

The Year 5 students commenced the proceedings by singing a beautiful song called 'I Am the Earth'. This was followed with a special Mass celebrated in the Eugene De Mazenod Hall, in honour of

St Pius X, whose feast day falls on this day. Mass was celebrated by Father John our Parish Priest. The theme of the mass was 'My Precious World', which has been the school theme this year.

Each year on this day, an award is presented to someone who has provided outstanding service to the St Pius X Community. This year, Mrs Nancy McDonald, a past staff member and school volunteer, was awarded the annual St Pius X Volunteer award for her forty years of service to the school community, as a parent, long serving staff member and volunteer.

Following mass, each class began to set up a variety of stalls and activity stations, dotted around the school. These included the selling of items such as cupcakes, jellies, soft drinks, popcorn and lolly bags. The activity stations ranged from an obstacle course, pin knock-down bowling and a soccer shoot out, to name a few. Students had the opportunity to show their skills and have fun. These events could not have been completed without the help and assistance of the parent community.

Later in the day, some classes returned to their classrooms to create educational materials to send over to the children in the orphanage. Other classes were involved in discussions about why the school community supports this cause.

We could not have asked for a more perfect event and were blessed with warm, spring weather. It was truly a glorious day with a festive atmosphere and enjoyed by all.

New Delegation Superior of the China Mission

On the 22nd January, the Superior General approved Fr. Slawek Kalisz OMI as the new Delegation Leader of the China Delegation. Acknowledging the outstanding service which Fr David Ulrich OMI has given to the China Delegation over the past NINE YEARS it was now time to appoint a successor in his place. We thank Fr David for his work, energy and passion with which he led and promoted the delegation throughout the Congregation. As he plans for his sabbatical our prayers of gratitude go with him.



Frs Leo Mifsud, Slawek Kalisz and David Ulrich

Deacon Paul Shen OMI



Paul Shen was born in Mainland China and was in a diocesan seminary when he first heard about the Oblates of Mary Immaculate from a fellow seminarian in 2008.

He felt attracted to the Oblates and began 9 months of postulancy with the OMI in the mainland. He later went to Manila for further English studies and began novitiate in 2010 in Cotabato. In May of 2011 he made his first vows. The following year he went to Hong Kong to complete his theological studies at Holy Spirit Seminary. On the 8th of September 2014, Br. Paul made Perpetual Oblation at St. Alfred's Parish in Sha Tin, where he has spent the past year in pastoral internship.

On the 16th of November 2014 Br. Paul was ordained as Deacon by Cardinal John Tong of Hong Kong at the same St. Alfred's Church. The Church was filled with the regular crowd made up of parishioners and the Filipino migrant workers. After the ordination the parish put on a lunch which was enjoyed by all. Deacon Paul will spend three months in Australia from January 2015 to familiarize himself with some of the aspects of our Province before returning to China to be ordained a Priest next year.

Final Vows



On the 22nd of October 2014 members of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate of the Australian Province gathered at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Sunshine, to support and witness the Perpetual Oblation of Br. Sayyane Xayavong OMI, of the Thai-Lao Delegation.

Oblates joined the celebration, together with the parishioners as well as Laotian friends of the Oblates. The Perpetual Profession was made more meaningful with the Celebration of the Solemnity

of the Kingship of Jesus as King of the Universe. The main presider for the Eucharist was Fr. Leo Mifsud, OMI, Provincial of the Australian Province. The Homilist was Fr. Gerry de los Reyes, OMI, Delegation Superior of the Thai-Lao Delegation who, likewise, accepted the vows of Br. Sayyane. The Tongan Choral Group led the community in the singing with their superb angelic voices.

On the occasion of Perpetual Oblation, Br. Sayyane received the Oblate Cross. That Oblate Cross is a constant reminder of the love of the Saviour who wishes to draw all hearts to himself and sends all Oblates out as his co-workers. He also received the Oblate Constitution and Rules Book and a medallion of Mary, the mother and Patroness of the Congregation.

Rosies Vic Golf Day

On Friday April 10, the 4th Annual St John Vianney's Parish Golf Club is hosting the annual Rosies Charity Golf Day. An opportunity to unite the De Mazenod Family, bringing together people from Oblate Parishes, Rosies, Oblate Youth Australia, Mazenod College and supporters together for a wonderful day of golf, plenty of fun and supporting

a worthy cause adding to a special fund to support the running of our new Rosies van. The golf day will be held at Amstel (Ranfurlie) Cranbourne Golf Course, rated number 60 in Australia. Everyone is welcome to join in, male or female, handicapped or non-handicapped. At this stage put the date in your diary, call Rosies (9795 5077) to register your interest or visit www.oblates.com.au for more information.

Things to Pray For

Please pray for Fr George Ryan OMI who will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee on 11th April.

2015 APPOINTMENTS

Fr John Sherman OMI as MAMI Director and Vice-Rector of Mazenod, Victoria
 Fr Michael Twigg OMI as Rector Iona College, Queensland.
 Fr John David Chodagiri OMI as Chaplain to Iona College, Queensland
 Fr Christian Fini OMI as Rector Mazenod, Victoria



Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate

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Rosies – Schoolies

SCHOOLIES WEEK 2014:
'WE SHALL BEGIN BY TELLING YOU WHO YOU ARE'

On Ash Wednesday of 1813, St Eugene de Mazenod spoke these words to a congregation in Aix: 'We shall begin by telling you who you are.'

Two centuries later, Rosies Youth Mission volunteers carry this message of compassion and dignity to thousands of teenagers celebrating on Queensland's Gold Coast each November.

Schoolies Week is an annual tradition in tourist regions of Australia, where young people holiday together to celebrate the end of their formal schooling.

Around 25,000 young people register for the event on the Gold Coast, where Rosies volunteers help young people

to access water and first aid, and support them to celebrate in a safe alcohol and drug free zone on the beach. Rosies also provides crisis counselling, offering compassionate support to young people who have experienced assault or suicidal thoughts.

Although young people may feel excited and relieved at finishing school, they may also feel a sense of loss, anxiety or uncertainty without the nearby support of their parents and family – and while many take care to celebrate safely with their friends, social expectations often lead to young people experimenting with alcohol or drugs, or pushing their limits emotionally and physically.

'Schoolies' are often portrayed in the media as irresponsible and out of control, and a disruptive influence on their environment. The idea of helping young people who are making poor choices or behaving in socially unacceptable ways is a challenging notion to some: why help people who don't deserve it?

For the schoolies who come to Rosies for help, the volunteers are a friendly, welcoming presence to young people in need. For the volunteers, the experience is more than an opportunity to serve, but also a chance to build Oblate community together.



Volunteers are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds – youth workers, counsellors, first aiders, and parents and grandparents who offer the wisdom of experience. Rosies Youth Mission in Queensland welcomes volunteers from sister organisation Rosies Oblate Youth Mission from Victoria, bringing the Oblate charism to life in ways which reach far beyond the experience of seven nights together.

'We must lead people to act like humans, first of all.'

By extending compassionate assistance to young people in vulnerable moments, Rosies invites them to share in our Oblate community – bringing to life St Eugene's love for young people, with hope for their future.

OYA

The National Oblate Youth Encounter was another great success with 67 young people participating from every part of the Australian Province. It was wonderful to welcome young people from NSW, SA, WA, QLD and VIC but also a young person from Oblate Youth Hong Kong and Br Paul Shen OMI representing mainland China.



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