



NEWSLETTER

OBLATE PROVINCE OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

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WHEN THERE IS LOVE IN OUR HOMES THERE IS JOY IN THE HEART

God has been so good to us. During the month of August, 19 Novices made their First Vows at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Bandarawela. 9 are for Colombo, 3 are for Jaffna and 7 are for Pakistan. While congratulating all the brothers, I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Jagath Anthony the Novice Master and Frs. Roshan Waas and Sameera Fonseka, the former and present assistants. I welcome the newly professed to the Oblate Family.

During the month of September, 6 Oblate deacons were ordained as priests. I thank the Formation staff at the Scholasticate headed by Fr. Andrias Fernando. I take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the yeoman service of all the formators from the juniorate up to the scholasticate. I recognize the services of the vocation directors, spiritual directors and the confessors as well. I welcome all the newly ordained to the Oblate Family.

Let us rejoice together. This year harvest has been very good.

Together with all those who made their vows and who were ordained priests we make a community, a home and a family. It is Oblate family.

A Community built on a solid foundation cannot be destroyed: (Lk. 6:48-49). Religious Community Life is a form of Family Life, though not based



De Mazenod House, 40, Farm Road, Mattakkuliya, Colombo 15.



+9411 252 1180 / +9411 252 7761



www.omicolombo.lk



secretaryomicolombo@gmail.com



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on blood relationship, but on a relationship rooted in Christ.

Thus, our communities need to be families, homes. Homes where we experience warmth, like-mindedness, comfort, friendliness, amiability, kindness, care, love, continual affirmation, deep mutual revelation, constant support etc. Home is not a hostel or a boarding place. It is not simply a place where the people live under one roof. A home is a place where people really feel at home; where we love and be loved, accept and are accepted, understand and are understood, forgive and are forgiven. It is a place where a person can feel at ease with everyone. It is a place where persons don't put on masks and they are accepted and understood as they are. It is a place we feel a sense of belonging.

Are our Oblate communities real homes? Real families? Do we really feel that we feel at home in our community? Are we accepted, understood, appreciated by others in a community? At the same time do we love, accept, understand others as they are in our community? Are the other members of our community happy with us or are they simply tolerate us? If we are not accepted, marginalized or cornered what are the reasons? Is it a fault of our own?

It is a time for us to search our own souls specially as we ponder over the General Chapter theme; Pilgrims of hope in communion.

What does it mean to us when we reflect on community or living in communion, specially for those who live in parishes alone. What does it mean to live in a community? What does it mean to share life together? Pray as a community? Sometimes we hide ourselves and find excuses in saying our community is our district. How often do we meet? Some of us can be very comfortable in one's own parishes for they have no difficulties of living a community with some of the so called "hard characters" we find in our Province.

Our Oblate communities must be truly homes. In a family or in a home we do not pick and choose people. No one has a choice in being born to a family. Nobody can reject a person in a family. But unfortunately, some of our members would like to pick and choose their community members. When asked by the Provincial superior whether to send someone to a community one might answer: Oh! not that one." "Give me the other one". "We cannot live with so and so". "I am ready to go to that community or I am ready to be the superior of that community provided the Provincial send "him" to another place." So, some members lay conditions on the Provincial. In a family, mother or father or brother or sister would not say so. Whether the person is good or bad, he is my family member. Whether he is lame or crippled he is my family member. Whether he is drunkard or an addict he is my brother. He is one of us. When will some

of us going to learn this lesson and make our communities and our Province real homes and families? Our communities (Homes) are where the members should notice when you are no longer there. Do our community members wait till we come home or are they happy that we are not there? Our community (home) is where our heart is.

I invite all of you, including myself as the Provincial and all the superiors to do our best to make our communities truly homes and our Province at large a REAL HOME.

"Home sweet Home. This is the place to find happiness. If one doesn't find it here, one doesn't find it anywhere"



Fr. Roshan J. L. Silva. omi

Fr. Roshan J. L. Silva OMI
Provincial Superior,
Oblate Province of Colombo,
Sri Lanka.

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF OBLATES FOR THE YEAR 2023

The Jubilees of fourteen Oblates of the Oblate Province of Colombo for the year 2023 was celebrated on 16 august 2023 at De Mazenod House, Mattakuliya.

Fr. Emmanuel Fernando, OMI and Fr. Herman Paul Fernando, OMI, mark 65 and 60 years in the religious life respectively. Fr. Alexander Costa, OMI, and Fr. Angelo Martyn, OMI, celebrate 60 and 50 years in the priesthood. Fr. Jude Angelo Amirthanayagam, OMI, Fr. Lylie Jayanth Fernando, OMI, Fr. Ruwan Prasanna Perera, OMI, and Fr. Thyagan Fonseka, OMI celebrate 25 years of priesthood, while Fr. Don Asanga Viraj, OMI, Fr. Anton Niroshan Fernando, OMI, Fr. Joseph Roshan Fernando, OMI, Fr. Suranga Indrajith Gunasekara, OMI, Fr. Don Dileepa Jayamaha, OMI, and Fr. Ajith Ruwan Perera, OMI celebrate 25 years of religious life.

Jubilee Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Very Revd. Fr. Roshan J. L. Silva, OMI, the Provincial Superior of the Oblate Province of Colombo. Revd Fr. Christy Silva, OMI, the Parish priest of St. Joseph's Church, Medawachchiya delivered the homily.



FIRST RELIGIOS PROFESSION - 2023 AT 'SIDUPIYANILA', SACRED HEART NOVITIATE, BANDARAWELA



Nineteen young men joined the Oblate way of life as they professed vows for the first time on 22 August 2023.

- ✂ Bro. Avishka Niluminda Peiris OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Dinelka Lakshan Lodric OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Ishantha Dilhana Fernando OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Thomas Abishek Joy OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Jude Shehan Maduwantha Fernando OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Dinumika Mazenod Fernando OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Rasindu Nethkalum Philip Pulle OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Ruwan Stephan Fernando OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Ferdinand Shan Fernando OMI (Oblate Province of Colombo)
- ✂ Bro. Jebamalai Marian Bosco OMI (Oblate Province of Jaffna)
- ✂ Bro. Stephen Rasathurai Raxon OMI (Oblate Province of Jaffna)
- ✂ Bro. Karunakaran Wilson OMI (Oblate Province of Jaffna)
- ✂ Bro. Ashbeel Zulfiqar OMI (Oblate Delegation of Pakistan)
- ✂ Bro. Joel Yousaf OMI (Oblate Delegation of Pakistan)
- ✂ Bro. Kashif Khalid OMI (Oblate Delegation of Pakistan)
- ✂ Bro. Adeel Qasir OMI (Oblate Delegation of Pakistan)
- ✂ Bro. Suleman Yousaf OMI (Oblate Delegation of Pakistan)
- ✂ Bro. Taqeer Masih OMI (Oblate Delegation of Pakistan)
- ✂ Bro. Fahid Wamis OMI (Oblate Delegation of Pakistan)

Very Revd Fr. Roshan J. L. Silva OMI, Provincial Superior of the Oblate Province of Colombo presided over the Eucharistic Celebration while Very Revd Fr. Paul Jeyanthan Pachchek OMI, Provincial Superior of the Oblate Province of Jaffna and Rev Fr. Jagath Anthony OMI, the Novice Master concelebrated. We congratulate all the newly professed and thank Revd Fr. Jagath Anthony, the Novice Master and Frs. Roshan Waas and Sameera Fonseka, the assistants for the hard work put in to form these aspirants.

SACERDOTAL ORDINATION - 2023 AT THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, COLOMBO 10



Six Oblates from the Oblate Province of Colombo were Ordained to Priesthood on 09 September 2023 by Rt. Revd Dr. Norbert Andradi OMI, Bishop of Anuradhapura. The Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Colombo 10, was filled with Oblates, family members, friends and a large number of the faithful who had come to witness this momentous event.

On September 10, 2023, the Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebrations were organized as follows:

- ✦ Rev. Fr. Alanka Oshitha Bandara, OMI at St. Mary's Church, Mattakkuliya at 8.30 am
- ✦ Rev. Fr. Nirosh Rangana Perera, OMI at St. Michael's Church, Ambilipitiya at 9.00 am
- ✦ Rev. Fr. Amila Perera, OMI at St. Anthony's Church, Weliweriya at 8.00 am
- ✦ Rev. Fr. Asiri Frank William, OMI at St. Xaviour's Church, Halpe at 8.30 am
- ✦ Rev. Fr. Deshan Prabodhana Peiris, OMI at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wijayakatupotha at 9.00 am
- ✦ Revd. Fr. Samith Sandaruwan, OMI at St. Anthony's Church, Kepungoda at 8.30 am



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF OBLATE MISSIONARY AND EVANGELIZING PRESENCE IN BANGLADESH BY REV. FR. AJIT VICTOR COSTA, OMI, DELEGATION SUPERIOR OF BANGLADESH



With a grateful heart, glorifying and praising God, the Missionary Oblates of Bangladesh celebrated their 50 years of Missionary and Evangelizing Presence in Bangladesh since the first Oblates arrived in the country on July 29, 1973. The Oblate Delegation of Bangladesh inaugurated their Golden Jubilee year of the Oblate presence in the country on July 29, 2022, in Lokhipur Parish, Moulovibazar. Oblates currently serve at eight parishes in four dioceses in Bangladesh: the Archdiocese of Dhaka, the Archdiocese of Chattagram, the Diocese of Sylhet, and the Diocese of Rajshahi.

PREPARATION OF GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION:

For an integral preparation in marking the Oblates Foundation in Bangladesh, Delegation prepared and followed a yearlong plan. The plan focused on Ad-Intra and Ad-Extra dimensions, based on the Jubilee Theme, "Pilgrims of Hope in Communion".

Ad-Intra: as a Delegation community, we had our yearlong programmes, animated by resource persons:

- ✠ Jubilee - 50 Years of Oblates' Presence and Evangelization in Bangladesh: Most Rev. Bejoy N.D'Cruze, OMI
- ✠ 37 General Chapter, MAMI, Lay Congress and Governance and Finance: Frs. Ajit Costa, Rocky Costa, Subash Gomes and Mr. Sebastian Rozario
- ✠ July 29, 2022: Inauguration of Oblate Jubilee Year: Most Rev. Gervas Rozario
- ✠ Oblate Charism: Frs. Subash Costa, Rocky Costa and Dominic Rozario
- ✠ Spiritual Discernment and growth: Fr. Srijon

- ✠ Apostolic Relationship with the Ordinaries and Religious: Most Rev. Subrata Hawlader, CSC
- ✠ Community Renewal and Reconciliation: Fr. Chrishantha Jayalath
- ✠ Look to the future with the eyes of Crucified Christ: Fr. Francis Nallappan
- ✠ Leadership-conflict management-resilience and life style: Fr. Christian Fini
- ✠ Community Reconciliation: Fr. Dominic Rozario
- ✠ Community Animation: Fr. Chicho, OMI, Superior General

Finally a day was consecrated for penance in loving memory of deceased pioneer Oblates. A Requiem Mass and an alms-giving was organized.

Ad-Extra: each Community and mission, was given a Jubilee Cross (a replica of Oblate Cross) for veneration, spiritual animation and faith renewal. This Jubilee Cross was taken house to house and village to village where in all Oblate Parishes, including two Oblate formation houses. Many faithful testified of spiritual healing and benefits through veneration of Jubilee Cross.

Each Oblate community also participated in various charitable activities as part of our solidarity with the poor.

Every Oblate Parish decided to celebrate with the people as a sign of our closeness with the people. Some parishes, also erected Jubilee Crosses with the generous support of parishioners.



FINAL JUBILEE CELEBRATION: JULY 21, 2023:

The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Archbishop Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, the Archbishop of Dhaka, in the presence of Very Rev. Fr. Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, OMI, Superior General and Very Rev Fr. Roshan J. L. Silva, OMI, the Provincial. The event was graced by Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, Most Rev. Subrato L. Howlader, CSC, the Archbishop of Chattagram, Most Rev. Gervas Rozario, Bishop of Rajshahi, the Oblate Provincials from, India, and the Philippines, and fifty-five local and foreign priests. More than one thousand people from the Oblate parishes joined the celebration

ALWAYS CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE:

Archbishop of Dhaka and President of CBCB (Catholic Bishops Conference of Bangladesh), Most Rev. Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, thanked and appreciated Oblates for their closeness to the people, especially the indigenous, internal migrants and tea-estate people, the most underprivileged and the periphery ones in society. "Oblates can celebrate their foundation with gratitude that has been accomplished over 50 years: formation of local clergy, laying the foundation of Sylhet Diocese, promotion of education, evangelizing God's people, nourishing their faith, formation of local leaders, JPIC ministry, upliftment of the living conditions of people, building communities, inter religious dialogue and ecumenism, and spreading their presence in four dioceses" he stated.

NURTURING THE SEED OF MISSIONARY ZEAL:

Tributes by Superior General, Provincials, Cardinal and Bishops and Delegation Superior: Fr. Ajit Victor Costa, followed by the Eucharistic

Celebration. Their messages resonated with deep gratitude to God for His immense grace that touched many lives of the people whom Oblates have been serving. In his message, the Superior General reminded the Oblates of the words of the Holy Father Pope Francis, "to look at the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and embrace the future with hope." He also invited the Oblates and the people of the Oblate charismatic family, to "further grow the seed of missionary zeal planted by the first pioneer Oblate missionaries and extend the Kingdom of God and be saints for the good of the Church and the poor." Fr. Chicho,



OMI, Superior General invited his conferrers and laity, too, to strive to be saints as St. Eugene desired.

NEW MISSION:

To mark the Golden Jubilee of the Oblate presence in Bangladesh, the Oblates officially took up a new parish, St. Eugene's Catholic Church, Lokhonpur,



REACHING OUT TO THE SCATTERED AT POTHANEGAMA

BY REVD FR. EMMANUEL FERNANDO OMI

The small church - building dedicated to St. Eugene de Mazenod at Pothanegama in the diocese of Anuradhapura (which comprises the North Central Province of Sri Lanka, geographically the largest Province in Sri Lanka) is situated on the Puttalam-Anuradhapura main road, and is right at the point of entrance to the sacred city of Anuradhapura. At the time of building this church structure, it was the only one, in Sri Lanka, dedicated to St. Eugene de Mazenod, the Founder of the Religious Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI). This church-building can be considered as a symbol of the tremendous dedicated service rendered to the Catholics by the Oblates and by the diocesan presbyters.

Fr. Henry Goonewardena OMI (later the bishop of Anuradhapura) had bought this property from Mr. Justin Fernando, a Tile factory owner from Negombo and Mr. Galhena had settled down there.

Before Mr. Galhena and his family came to settle down in this property, Eucharistic celebrations by priests (Oblates and diocesan) from St. Joseph's Cathedral, Anuradhapura, had taken place in the homes of the Catholics. For example while the



Catholics of Korakegahawewa used to assemble for the Eucharist near the house of Mr. H.T.A. Alexander and the Catholics of Pothanegama assembled in the house of Mr. Gregoris. Later, Eucharistic celebrations had taken place in the small house where Mr. Galhena and his family were living. But such a Catholic religious practice had caused resentment among the Buddhist, led by a Buddhist monk. The atmosphere changed when the late Brother Victor Wilfred

OMI had come to reside in that building. Brother Victor resided for many years in that building, using it as a mission-station, under the instruction of the Bishop Henry Goonewardena, OMI, the late bishop of the diocese of Anuradhapura.

BR. VICTOR WILFRED OMI, A PATHFINDER

With much zeal under trying circumstances Br. Victor Wilfred OMI had begun to go round with much zeal under trying circumstances discovering the Catholics who were scattered at Pothanegama and in the neighbouring villages. His apostolic zeal had made him visit also the Buddhist monk, who had resented the sight of a church-building at Pothanegama, when he (the monk) was hospitalized. Brother Victor's compassionate visit had brought about attitudinal change in the monk and the Catholics began assembling for worship in the old structure where Br. Victor was residing. Bishop Henry Goonewardena OMI built a small chapel there. Today the small church- building at Pothanegama, has become a beautiful symbol of an emerging Catholic community.

Going down the memory lane, the elders still remember with much love and affection Brother Victor Wilfred OMI, who with



his simple life-style, had trekked with his walking stick and umbrella, through the narrow paths of Pothanegama and the neighbouring villages, thereby paving the way for creating a lively Catholic community at Pothanegama, with a place for worship.

THE FEAST OF ST. EUGENE DE MAZENOD

For the first time the feast of St. Eugene de Mazenod had been celebrated on June 21, 1978, presided over by late Rev. Fr Reginald de Silva OMI, the then Vicar General of the diocese of Anuradhapura. Though many Oblate and diocesan presbyters who had been parish priests of St. Joseph's Cathedral had occasionally celebrated the Eucharist in that small church-building, proper pastoral care had not taken place due to difficulties relating to the distance and to the fact that the Catholic families were living in the jungles of Pothanegama and Korakegahawewa. Only a few Catholics had travelled

sometimes to take part in the Eucharistic celebration in the Cathedral.

"THE "QUASI PARISH" OF PATHANEGAMA

Fr. Dudley Saparamadu OMI, who had been at Rajabima Oblate Centre, Jayanthi Mawatha, Anuradhapura since 2005 and had been helping the presbyters at St. Joseph's Cathedral by celebrating the Eucharist on Sundays at Pothanegama, had appealed to Bishop Norbert Andradi OMI, the bishop of Anuradhapura, to make the Catholics residing at Pothanegama, Korakegahawewa and Vilachiya into a new parish and appoint an Oblate as the new parish priest. But the missionary and the pastoral care of the Catholics living only in Pothanegama and Korakegahawewa were entrusted to the Oblates on March 30, 2008 by Bishop Norbert Andradi OMI, making the scattered Catholics into a "quasi Parish", and appointing Rev. Fr. Dudley Saparamadu OMI as its pastor.

Fr Dudley told me that he began his pastoral ministry on the following Sunday with only four Catholics (one lady and three men) for the Eucharistic celebration.

Fr. Dudley Saparamadu, while continuing to celebrate the Eucharist in the small chapel at Pothanegama, had begun visiting the 'scattered children of God' (the Catholic families) living in the elephant-infested villages of Pothanegama and Korakegahawewa and had rectified marriages, baptized children, giving copies of the Holy Bible to the Catholic families, celebrating the Eucharist in the homes on week days, organizing catechism classes for children, promoting education of children, organized a Mutual Help Society with a donation of Rs 100,000/= received from a benefactor, thereby facilitating through these activities the emergence of a dynamic Catholic community. He had also provided accommodation at Rajabima Oblate Centre to families (Catholics and non-Catholics) affected by floods.

The Oblates (e.g Frs Shivantha Wass, Jagath Anthony, Danushka Fernando, Dileepa Jayamaha, Savindhu Senarathne and Shane Winston De Rosayro) who succeeded Fr. Dudley Saparamadu over the years as people-oriented pastoral animators of the Catholic families of the above-mentioned villages, have also continued the mission of preaching to the poor with many faces, as preachers

of the Word of God, celebrating also 'cottage' Mass, taking the statue of Our Lady and reciting the Rosary in the homes during the month of May and October, promoting education of children, teaching new skills and reaching out to the people, both Catholics and people of other Faiths and trying also to respond to people's felt needs (physical, human and spiritual) in a spirit of solidarity. Only during the Covid-19 pandemic, 'cottage Masses and the recitation of the Rosary in the parish zones could not be held.

Fr. Savindhu Senarathne had begun giving a facelift to the church-building and the physical environment and it was continued by Frs Danushka Fernando and Shane W. De Rosayro. Fr. Jagath Anthony concentrated very much on people-oriented apostolates begun by his predecessors. Fr. Shivantha Waas reached out to the young men and women forming a 'youth circle' and began music classes for a group of young boys and girls and trained also a few to play the harmonium. Their services during the liturgical service are much appreciated. Fr. Dileepa Jayamaha was instrumental in obtaining financial assistance from benefactors of Mazenod College, Lesmurdi, Australia, to provide domestic water purifiers (filters) to 60 families at Pothanegama irrespective of race and religion, including Ven. Vijitha Thero of Potanegama, a good friend of the Catholic families and of the Oblates.



Being inspired by our Saintly Founder and treading on the footprints of the forerunners, the Oblates are committed to make the people to act like good human beings, secondly as good Christians and finally as Saintly persons.

The city of Anuradhapura has a predominant Buddhist religious and social culture. Nevertheless, the Catholic community of the "quasi parish" of Pothanegama lives in harmony in this environment, maintaining good rapport with the Buddhists and the Buddhist monks.

There are 65 registered Catholic families in the Quasi-Parish of Pothanegama, and about 60 children attend the Sunday school. At the moment Fr. Shane Winston De Rosayro OMI is engaged in conducting also weekly English classes and La-Kri-Vi apostolate for the children in the church premises on Saturdays.

Fr. Shane Winston De Rosayro OMI, the present Pastoral Animator of the Catholics belonging to the "quasi parish" of Pothanegama continues the multifaceted missionary and pastoral services:

- ✕ Personal contacts and communication with people of all Faiths
- ✕ Responding to physical, human and spiritual needs e.g. hunger, sicknesses, lack of proper shelter etc)
- ✕ Promoting education of children (Schools, colleges, College of education, Universities)
- ✕ Visiting the sick in the hospital and celebration of Eucharist for the Catholic prisoners
- ✕ Organising and conducting Catechism classes after the Eucharistic celebration on Sundays.
- ✕ Liturgy meeting on Tuesdays
- ✕ Promoting La.kri.vi. – Children's apostolate at Pothanegama and in the diocese
- ✕ Building a 'youth circle'
- ✕ Animating a Mutual Aid Association
- ✕ Paying special attention to the poor, the sick, and the elderly.

SILVER JUBILEE AND THE ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, KOKILAI



The silver Jubilee of the Catholic Community at Kokilai and the Annual Feast of St. Anne's Church, Kokilai was celebrated on 26 & 27 August 2023. The novenas in preparation for the feast, presided over by Revd. Fr. Kelum Dias, OMI and Revd. Fr. Assisi Devasiri, OMI. Revd Fr. Niushan Fernando, OMI, presided over both Vespers on 26 August and the following day Festive Holy Eucharist. After the Holy Eucharist the Kokilai Lagoon and the sea surrounding the area was blessed. We appreciate the dedicated service of Revd. Fr. Jesu Ramesh, OMI, the Parish Priest of Kokilai.



OBLETE PREACHERS CONDUCTING TWO GRAND MISSIONS



Oblate Preachers at 'Nazareth' community has conducted two Grand Missions in the month of July: from 11 to 23 July 2023 at St. Roche's Church, Hettirippuwa with 220 families & from 12 to 23 July 2023 at St. Anthony's Church, Palasola with 225 families. Nazareth Community thanks the Oblate family for their continued prayers on their behalf.



ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SALAPAYARU



Annual Feast of St. Mary's Church, Salapayaruru in the parish of Kuchchaweli was celebrated on 01 & 02 July 2023.

PERPETUAL VOWS PREPARATION AORC SESSION



A programme for the brothers preparing for Perpetual Vows in the region of Asia-Oceania was organized at St. Vincent's Home, Maggona, Sri Lanka. Ten Scholastics from different Provinces and Delegations took part (Pakistan 3, Hong Kong 2, Jaffna 2, Australia 1, Sri Lanka 1 & Indonesia 1) The programme was from the 17 July to 12 August 2023. Fr. Rasaiah, S.J. spoke on the following themes; Consecrated life in the 21st century, Discernment for daily living, Discipleship for Asia. Fr. Gerard de Rozairo, OMI., guided them through the OMI Constitutions and Rules, Salient characteristics of our Founder, Jesus Spirituality and Pauline theology. Fr. Gerard also found time to speak to each one of them individually and this was very much meaningful. In the final week a retreat was conducted by Fr. Roshan Silva, OMI our Provincial. The entire programme was very much appreciated and a proposal for its repetition for future groups was strongly emphasized as the internationality of the Congregations emerged. Visits to different places of interest added colour to the programme.



TRAINING SESSIONS ON MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



The long awaited sessions on the above topic was held from the 18 to 21 September, 2023. 45 Scholastics and 04 formators from both Jaffna and Colombo Provinces took part in the above sessions. The following themes were studied: Sustainable Development in the context of Laudato Sí, Principles of Organizational Management, Financial Sustainability, Budgeting, Basic Accounting, Transparency and Accountability, Civil Law for citizens. This Programme was designed by International Office for Oblate Mission Sustainability (OOMS). We thank Graciela Etchart, the director of this office for her continual support and Fr. Anton Grecian, OMI who found several instructors for this programme. We had several instructors; Fr. Anton Gracien, OMI., Fr. James Jeyasinghe, OMI., Mr. Gunawardhana, Mr. Suranjith, Mr. Kumara, Miss. Pahanya Uduweriya, Mr. Chamara Premathilake & Mr. Tissa. This team of instructors understanding our composition, made extra efforts to enlighten us on the basics of the above mentioned topics.



ENGLISH DAY AT MAZENOD COLLEGE, ANURADHAPURA



The School English Day held on 26 July 2023 at St. Joseph's Church Auditorium, Anuradhapura, was a vibrant and memorable event. Students showcased their talents through engaging in drama performances and soul-stirring songs, leaving the audience enthralled throughout. The chief guest for the occasion was Mr. Shiroman Joison, the Vice Principal of Gateway College, Nugegoda, who graced the event with his inspiring presence. His words of wisdom encouraged and motivated the participants to reach for new heights in their language skills. During the event, the participants' hard work and dedication at various competitions were recognized, and they were rewarded with valuable prizes, fostering a sense of accomplishment and encouragement for their future endeavors. The School English Day truly served as a platform for nurturing creativity and promoting the love for the English language among students.



THREE-DAY RESIDENTIAL NATIONAL SEMINAR OF SLUCSM AT ST. ANNE'S SHRINE - THALAWILA



On 14 July 2023, the SLUCSM officially initiated the most awaited three-day residential National Seminar with the involvement and gathering of participants from all over the country representing the Catholic students' community, united together as a family at St. Anne's National Shrine - Thalawila, with the motive of strengthening the bonds that they already share as a Catholic Student community and to build and cherish new bonds and interactions based on companionship. Rt. Revd Dr. Raymond Wickramasinghe joined them on this remarkable event and celebrated the holy mass in the shrine seeking blessings of God Almighty. As per the sessions, Mr. Priyantha conducted a very informative session on how university students should indulge and deepen the attachments they share pertaining to Christian faith and values. It was pleasing to see the students who were enthusiastically involved in the group dynamics that were presented to them. Another interactive session was conducted by Mrs. Shiranthi on covenant marriage centering on God, and on how a married couple, as believers of Christian faith in eternal union before God, proceed with a lifelong commitment to accept love, respect, make sacrifices to grow together and be there for each other even in the worst of times, as promised before God. SLUCSM appreciates all the benefactors who have attended to 250 students' welfare and meals for three days.

PROVINCIAL VISITS THE DELEGATION OF BANGLADESH



Very Revd Fr. Provincial was in Bangladesh from 20 July to 28 July 2023, to attend the 50th Jubilee Celebration of Oblate Presence in Bangladesh and to visit the Oblates in the Delegation of Bangladesh. He was accompanied Rev. Frs. Angelo Martyn OMI and Dilan Perera OMI. During the visit, the Oblate Province of Colombo entered into a contract with Most Reverend Dr. Gervas Rozario, Bishop of Rajshahi, to take over the Lokhonpur Parish and the landed property belonging to this Church in perpetuity.

THE DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT IS ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR OBLATE VOCATIONS.



The office of the Oblate Recruitment Director hosted a number of events to promote Oblate vocations. Additionally, he supported his efforts by displaying a few exhibits at different occasions. From August 11 to 13, 2023, a vocation camp was held at St. Joseph's Juniorate, Kohuwala. We applaud Revd. Fr. Sarath Perera, OMI, our Recruitment Director for his diligent work.

THE HOUSE FEAST ST. VINCENT'S HOME, MAGGONA



145th Annual house feast of St. Vincent's Home, Maggona was celebrated on 30 September & 01 October, 2023. Very Revd. Fr. James Jayasinghe, OMI presided over the Vespere Service while the newly ordained priests, Revd Fr. Alanka Bandara, OMI, Revd Fr. Franc Willium OMI and Revd Fr. Deshan Prabodhana OMI presided over the Festive High Mass.



TWO OBLATES FROM COLOMBO ATTEND DE MAZENOD EXPERIENCE 2023



Revd. Frs Dudley Saparamadu OMI & Alex Rodrigopulle OMI are in Aix-en-Provence, France for the De Mazenod Experience. The De Mazenod Experience is a renewal program, open to all Oblates who have spent several years in missionary life. It aims, especially, at enabling the participants to look back over their experience of the Oblate charism in the everyday life of their mission and ministry. They do so in an atmosphere of prayer, reflection and fraternal sharing. We wish them a very fruitful stay.



NOTIFICATIONS OF FIRST OBEDIENCE - 2023

REVD. FR. DAMIAN ALANKA OSHITHA BANDARA, OMI

To the Oblate Province of Colombo - Preacher, 'Nazareth' House of Oblate Preachers, Wennappuwa

REVD. FR. NIROSH RANGANA PERERA, OMI

To the Oblate Province of Colombo - Missionary to the Delegation of Bangladesh. Till he goes he will be a Community Member, ST. Vincent's Home, Maggona

REVD. FR. AMILA SANDARUWAN PERERA, OMI

To the Oblate Province of Colombo - Assistant Parish Priest - Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Maradana

REVD. FR. ASIRI FRANK ANTONIO WILLIAM, OMI

To the Oblate Province of Colombo - Bursar cum Community Member, Suba Seth Gedara, Buttala

REVD. FR. DESHAN PROBODANA PEIRIS, OMI

To the Oblate Province of Colombo - Chaplain - National hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10.

REVD. FR. DON SAMITH SANDARUWAN, OMI

To the Oblate Province of Colombo - Missionary to the Delegation of Japan. Till he goes he will be a Preacher, 'Nazareth' House of Oblate Preachers, Wennappuwa

NOTIFICATIONS OF OBLATE TRANSFERS – SEPTEMBER 2023

- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Britto Aloysious, OMI** - Community Member, ST. Vincent's Home, Maggona
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Gerard Rozairo, OMI** - Community Member, Fatima Church, Maradana.
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Lakshman Chryshantha Fernando, OMI** - The local collaborator of his Excellency Archbishop Brian Udaigwe, Apostolic Nuncio to Sri Lanka
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Don Francis James Jayasinghe, OMI** - Director, Mazenod English Institute, Katuwapitiya
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Don Shanil Dinuka Jayawardena, OMI** - Director of Oblate youth ministry, Youth Centre, Maggona
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Pakianathan Christy Nirmalarajan, OMI** - Bursar, Youth Centre, Maggona
- ✠ **Revd. Bro. Felix Kamal Mendis, OMI** - Bursar, De Mazenod House, Colombo 15
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Don Shalinda Jude Lakmal, OMI** - Bursar, ST. Vincent's Home, Maggona
- ✠ **Revd. Bro. Anton Nishantha Fernandopulle, OMI** - Assistant Procurator, Diocese of Badulla
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Philip Anselm Jagath Anthony, OMI** - Parish Priest, Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Maradana
- ✠ **Revd. Fr. Don Christopher Dudley Saparamadu, OMI** - Novice Master, 'Sidupiyanila' Sacred Heart Novitiate, Bandarawela



CONGRATULATIONS



REVD. BROTHER NOBUHIKO
DOMINIC YAGI OMI

It is with great joy we announce you that Revd. Brother Nobuhiko Dominic Yagi OMI has been appointed as the Superior of the Oblate Delegation of Japan - Korea for a first Term of three years by the General Administration. It is for the first time a Oblate brother is appointed as a superior of an Oblate Delegation and Revd. Brother Nobuhiko Dominic Yagi OMI becomes the first Japanese Oblate to hold this responsibility. The Members of the Delegation Council are as follows:

1. Fr. Jude Canisius Peirisulle OMI - 1st Councillor
2. Fr. Bernard Ondap OMI - 2nd Councillor.
- B. Fr. Stephen Rosario Savarimuthu OMI - 3rd Councillor
4. Fr. Vincetrzo Bordo OMI - Superior of Korea

They were installed on 04 October 2023 at Kochi, Japan. May God Bless them all.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

- ✠ Miss Jemily Perera, a beloved niece of Rev. Fr. Dilan Perera, OMI was called to eternal rest on 01 October 2023.
- ✠ Dr. Nelson Dayananda Welikadaarachchi, the beloved eldest brother of Revd Fr. Dunstan Welikadaarachchi was called to eternal rest on 07 October 2023.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

- ✠ Revd. Frs Dudley Saparamadu OMI & Alex Rodrigopulle OMI left in the month of August for Aix-en-Provence, France for the De Mazenod Experience.
- ✠ Revd. Fr. Bradley Rozairo, OMI, the foregoing Superior of the Delgation of Japan, was in Sri Lanka in the months of August and September for his vacation.
- ✠ Revd Fr. Jack Lau, OMI, from USA, was in Sri Lanka in the month of September to attend the Sacerdotal Ordination. He has been the Assisting Novice Master of Revd Fr. Amila Perera, OMI.
- ✠ Revd. Fr. Suranga Indrajith, OMI, who pursue his higher studies in USA was in Sri Lanka in the month of August for a brief vacation.
- ✠ Revd. Fr. Clement Waidyasekara, OMI, has returned to the Mothers Province after his long standing service to the Oblate General Administration in Rome.
- ✠ Revd. Fr. Shanil Jayawardene, OMI, has returned to the Mothers Province after his long standing service to the Oblate General Administration in Rome.
- ✠ Revd. Fr. Shihan Shanaka, OMI, a Missionary to Cuba, is in Sri Lanka for his vacation.
- ✠ Revd. Fr. Ashok Stephan, OMI is in Sri Lanka for his vacation.

EVENTS AHEAD

THIRD OBLATE ANNUAL RETREAT 2023

12 November to 18 November 2023

At St. Vincent's Home, Maggona.