



Message of Fr. Provincial Superior...

The Lord calls us for various tasks and responsibilities, and he trusts us though we are weak human beings. What is important always is to say “yes” to the Lord who calls us.

As I begin my term of office as the Provincial Superior of the OMI Province of Colombo, I am thankful to the Lord who has kept His trust on me. I am thankful also to my brother Oblates for placing confidence in me. I believe that the relationships are always built on trust and confidence.

In my inaugural speech given on the 21st of May 2020 at De Mazenod House, Colombo 15, I have already spoken about my vision for the Province. The points I have elaborated in that long speech become priorities of my tenure as the Provincial.

If I am to give a summary of that speech:

- I would try to animate the members of the Province by many visits, one to one relationships, and regular accompaniments. In this regard, we have already established an animation team. Its members would go around the province, meeting each one of you personally. I emphasize very much on the need of a profound spirituality which is a result of our personal and living relationship with the Lord. I stress the need of quality time that one takes personally to be with the Lord, of the time the members of the community spend together before the Lord in prayer, of the devotion to the Holy Eucharist as well as the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, of periodic and regular confession and of the spiritual direction etc. Let these spiritual exercises help us to mature ourselves in our relationship with the Lord.
- Let us continue to see one another as one’s own brother, and never as an enemy or a threat. Let us learn to respect each other. Let us increase brotherliness by our genuine concern for each other. Let us get rid of group, clique, and club mentality.
- We have already formed a team to do the recruitment ministry, taking it as a priority. Let each one of us become more interested in promoting candidates to Oblate religious and priestly way of life. Let

us all pray for our candidates in the formation houses. I invite you to visit houses of formation to come to know the candidates and make known yourself to them. Speak to them about your mission and apostolate and perhaps share your personal life.

- According to the Constitution number 49, in the Province the formation ministry is a special responsibility of the Provincial. Hence, I shall visit all the formation houses regularly and when it is possible shall meet every student personally. We affirm the need to form and train good formators who are able to co-journey with the candidates.
- There must be certain disciplinary rules in the Province, and I trust that you all will cooperate with me to uphold and maintain those rules so that there will be order and discipline in the Province.
- I will try to visit all of you in your work-place and spend, if possible, couple of days with you. As I write this message, I have already begun my visitations, first visiting our elders and the sick members at Marian Grove, Kohuwala. I also visited the Juniorate at Kohuwala, and met the staff fathers. In the coming few weeks, I hope to visit Kuchchaveli mission, Kokkilai, Rajabima, and to meet the members of the Anuradhapura District, and Frs. Rex Kulas and Marcelliar at Madhu Shrine where they serve.
- We already had four days of Council meeting, and we have already initiated formulating statements of Vision–Mission for each Center and the plans for the future. We need your valuable ideas in this regard. We shall first draw up a vision- Mission Statement for the mission at Subaseth Gedara, Buttala, which is one of our main ministries. We shall call all the Oblates, served in this Center for a discussion and study. We shall hold our first meeting at the tomb of Fr. Michael Rodrigo OMI, at Subaseth Gedara. Likewise, for each of the centers we shall draw up a very clear Vision–Mission and a job description for every superior or director.

***“The Call of Jesus
Christ, heard within
the Church through
people’s need for
salvation, draws us
together as Oblates of
Mary Immaculate...”***

C.1

On the day of my installation itself someone inquired from me whether we intend to have a Provincial Congress. My response to him, now to you as well, is - what is more important at the moment is to implement the recommendations of the 2018 Congress, held at Tewatte, than to have congresses as a formality producing redundant documents and literature. Hence, for my administration the recommendations of the 2018 Congress become the working tool. The Congress of 2018 clustered the Oblate ministries, and the previous administration of the Province appointed a Councilor each to be in charge of a cluster. The council members of the present Administration have already shared the responsibilities (Portfolios) among themselves, and I have mandated them all full powers to work with you in each cluster. Respecting the recommendations of the Congress 2018, we shall have periodic

evaluations of each cluster and ministry in the light of the Vision–Mission Statement of each cluster.

It was recommended at the 2018 Congress to shift OHIL ministry to Polwatte Center, and we have begun working on that.

Again, as recommended by the Congress 2018, we have already decided to appoint a Vicar Provincial, and I have initiated discussions with possible candidates.

The 2018 Congress has recommended opening a school in a rural area, and we must be thankful and grateful to the previous Administration for actualizing that recommendation by opening the De Mazenod College at Rajabima, Anuradhapura, for the very poor and marginalized children. The school has initially begun with 37 students, and at the moment there are 96 students of whom majority are Buddhists. Fr. Dileepa Jayamaha is the Principal of the college and Fr. Shane Winston De Rosairo is the deputy principal and the dean of

studies. Fr. Winston concentrates on teacher training activities too. Since the Rajabima center is not spacious enough for the increasing number of children, thanks to the previous Administration, we own a land adjoining the Anuradhapura-Kurunagala Road for the construction of a school building. It would be one of the priorities of the present Administration, and we intend to work on it. We sincerely thank the Rajabima Oblate community for their hard work.

The recommendations of the 2018 Congress bestow a great responsibility on me as the Provincial Superior towards the Delegations belonging to our Province. As recommended by the Congress, frequent visits to Delegations, done by the Provincial or by his delegate are a must. I have already started to correspond with every member of each delegation, and thus I try to communicate with them to keep contact. There is the need to send new members to the Delegations too.

Summing up my first letter to you, may I invite you dear brother Oblates to continue to love and respect one another. Let us consider the other as our own brother. Let us maintain mutual support and be close to those who are weak and those who go through crises in life. Let us work together and work hard to create a better Province, better delegation for the future members as well.

May our Blessed Mother continue to intercede on our behalf before the Lord! May our saintly Founder continue to inspire us with his living charism! May God bless you.

***“They must straight to
be saints. They must
walk courageously
along the same paths
trodden by so many
before them: Apostolic
Labourers for the
Gospel...”***

Preface

The Installation of the New Provincial Administration



The official celebration of the Solemnity of St. Eugene de Mazenod, coincided this year, with the installation of the new Provincial Administration of the Province of Colombo. The celebrations commenced with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert M. Andradi OMI, Bishop of Anuradhapura. During the Eucharist Very Rev. Fr. Roshan Silva OMI the new Provincial Superior was installed after the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity made before the Oblates gathered.

The former Provincial Superior, Very Rev. Fr. Irwin Morais OMI, together with the new Provincial Council members, viz. Frs. Dilan Perera, Jagath Anthony, Christy Silva, Roshan Fernando and Shivantha Waas concelebrated. Due to the restrictions made by the government with regard to gatherings, only the members of the former and new Provincial Administrations were invited and the Mazenod House community and a few representatives from the St. Vincent's Home community participated.

Congrats! New Provincial Superior for Jaffna

The members of the Province of Colombo, Sri Lanka, extend their hearty Congratulations to Very Rev. Fr. Eugene Benedict OMI, the newly appointed Provincial Superior of the Province of Jaffna.



Proceeds from the Provincial in Council

A. *Information has been issued regarding the formation of various committees and the appointment of personnel to assist the work of administration. Accordingly:*

- **Members of the Formation Committee:**

1. Recruitment Director
2. Juniorate Rector
3. A Representative from the Juniorate
4. Novice Master
5. Scholasticate Superior
6. A Representative from the Scholasticate
7. A Representative of Jaffna Formation Committee
8. One Representing Missions and Seminaries - Fr. SarathPerera OMI
9. Councillor In-charge of Formation - Fr. Jagath Anthony OMI

- **Team of the On-Going Formation:**

1. Councillor In-charge of On-Going Formation - Fr. Jagath Anthony OMI
2. Fr. Eric Wasalathanthri OMI
3. Fr. Emmanuel Fernando OMI

- **Members of the Finance Committee:**

1. Provincial Treasurer
2. Fr. Dilan Perera OMI (Councillor)
3. Fr. Rohan Silva OMI
4. Father In-charge of the Estates
5. Fr. Anton Niroshan OMI
6. Fr. Dileepa Jayamaha OMI
7. A Lay-Expert

- **Animation Team of the Province:**

1. Fr. Roshan Silva OMI
2. Fr. Dilan Perera OMI
3. Fr. Andreas Fernando OMI
4. Fr. Nilushan Fernando OMI

- **Recruitment Team:**

1. Recruitment Director - Fr. Roshan Fernando OMI
2. Fr. Randil Fernando OMI
3. Fr. Sameera Foneseka OMI
4. Bro. Anton Fernandopulle OMI
5. Fr. Assisi Fernando OMI

- **In Charge of the Oblate Brothers:**

Fr. Provincial Superior

- **Oblates Under 3 years of Ordination:**

Fr. Provincial Superior

- **Clusters In-charge:**

1. Education – Fr. Dilan Perera OMI
 - a) Oblate Institute of Higher Learning (OIHL)
 - b) Mazenod English Institute (MEI)
 - c) Schools
 - d) University chaplaincy
 - e) De Mazenod Scholarship Fund
2. JPIC/ Inter-religious Dialogue – Fr. Roshan Silva OMI
 - a) Suba Seth Gedara, Buttala
 - b) Centre for Society and Religion (CSR)
 - c) Rajabima Oblate Centre
 - d) Tissa Balasuriya Daham Ketha
3. Ministry of the Word – Fr. Christy Silva OMI
 - a) House of Preachers at Nazareth, Wennappuwa
 - b) Bhakthi Prabodanaya (Monthly Family Magazine)
 - c) Parishes
4. Caring and Healing – Fr. Roshan Fernando OMI
 - a) Hospital Chaplaincy
 - b) Sahana Medura (Centre for Counselling and Rehabilitation)
 - c) Marian Grove (Home for Retired Oblates)
 - d) Counselling
 - e) Oblate Missions
5. Youth and Children – Fr. Shivantha Wass OMI
 - a) Lama Kriyakari Veerayo (La.Kri.Vi. – Children’s Apostolate)
 - b) Mazenod Youth
 - c) St. Vincent’s Home (SVH)
 - d) Young Eugene Zonal Encounter (Ministry to Free Trade Zone employees)
6. Formation – Fr. Jagath Anthony OMI
 - e) Recruitment
 - f) Houses of formation
 - g) Ongoing formation

B. Transfers:

1. Fr. Subash Fernando OMI – Superior and Manager at St. Vincent’s Home, Maggona
2. Fr. Newman Muthuthamby OMI – Parish Priest at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church, Kuchcheweeli
3. Fr. Sampath Perera OMI – Juniorate Staff, Kohuwala
4. Fr. Maximus Fernando OMI – Superior at De Mazenod House
5. Fr. Marcelliar Anthony OMI – Spiritual Director, Juniorate
6. We are in the process of appointing a New Provincial Bursar

C. Next meeting of the AORC - will be held in Sri Lanka at St. Vincent’s Home, Maggona

Caring the Distressed & Needy during Covid-19 Pandemic

Oblates ministering at different parts of the island have extended their generous support distributing various essential items to the poor and those who have become helpless due to pandemic restrictions enforced in the country. Here are, just a few images of such generous events:



Days to Remember:

Birthdays in June

Fr. Justin Silva	01
Fr. A. Chryshantha Fernando	01
Fr. Chamika Sadarshan	04
Fr. V. Gunanayegam	05
Fr. Asanga Viraj	07
Fr. Philip Asanka	10
Fr. Sarath Perera	23
Fr. Ajith Wellington	24
Fr. Gamini Silva	24
Fr. Nilushan Fernando	28
Fr. Christy Nirmalajan	28
Fr. Sampath Perera	30

Death Anniversaries in June

Fr. Theophile Prosper	[1921]	02
Arch Bishop Pierre Marque	[1937]	04
Fr. Isidore Cozeret	[1925]	06
Fr. Filix Aubert	[1950]	06
Fr. Julien Pierre Marie	[0952]	06
Fr. Joseph E. Georgesz	[1961]	09
Bro. Don Marcelline	[1999]	16
Fr. Joseph Lebreton	[1993]	17
Fr. F. Tabart	[1938]	18
Fr. Mathieu Lafarge	[1909]	21
Fr. Martin Quere	[2014]	23
Fr. Ernest Henry Julien	[1929]	24
Fr. Joseph Perera	[2006]	24
Bishop T. Andre Melizan	[1905]	27
Fr. Emile Vogel	[1932]	27
Fr. Henri Hueber	[1975]	27
Fr. Jean Baptiste Chauvel	[1914]	30