



Vol.#56-Winter 2021

S S P X

District of Asia



*Featuring the Land
of the Rising sun...*


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Dear Friends & Benefactors

WITHIN these pages of the APOSTLE magazine, you will find a few articles and pictures to remind you of the ongoing struggle for the salvation of souls in these far eastern lands. Human nature is human nature, and this does not change with the longitude or latitude of souls on this earth. Therefore, the lives of our priests, brothers and sisters continue nearly the same as in every other country on God's earth. The circumstances may vary for each of us, but the end goal is the same = to know, love and serve God who is unchanging and perfectly one.

In this issue, you will find the good news of our newly established house in Japan - "Stella Matutina Priory" in Tokyo. It has long been the dream of good Catholic souls in Japan and they have been working and praying for this day to come. On January 13th (the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord) the monumental task officially began for our two confreres on these islands which, for the most part, have not yet known Our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask you all to pray and support them in whatever way you are able.

You will also notice an unusual article in this issue of the magazine. We give a short summary of the unique life of a Japanese soldier during World War Two. Lieutenant Onoda's incredible dedication to his duty and his love of country are simply "mind-boggling" to most of us. Although it was merely a natural virtue, we can imagine how wonderful it would have been if he had had the Catholic faith and practiced these virtues on the supernatural level.

We can understand what a great Catholic country it would be if the Japanese people would convert to serve with such dedication their heavenly general, the King of Kings! Of course, there is also the "tongue-in-cheek" comparison to another Onoda who served for nearly 30 years in the Philippines as well. This 2nd Onoda used different weapons and served a much higher ruler!

We continue to ask for your prayers and sacrifices that God send us more vocations from each chapel and each country. As we read in the Gospel of St Mathew, "And seeing the multitudes, He had compassion on them: because they were distressed and lying like sheep that have no shepherd. Then He saith to His disciples, The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9)

We remember you all at the Altar of Sacrifice each day during the Holy Mass in these unusual times.



Rev. Fr. Patrick Summers, SSPX
District Superior, Asia

CATHOLICISM IN JAPAN



ST. Francis Xavier first landed in Kago-shima in 1549, before moving to Hirado in the northwest of what is now Nagasaki Prefecture. Though the missionary stayed in Hirado for four months, he is said to have won more converts in just 20 days of preaching than he did in a whole year in Kago-shima.

In October 1550 he set off for Kyoto, via Yamaguchi, seeking an audience with the emperor to request permission to preach Christianity throughout Japan. On discovering the emperor was a powerless figurehead, a disillusioned Xavier returned to Yamaguchi, where he converted more than 500 Japanese in the next six months until March 1551. In September, he moved to Bungo (now Oita) where the local lord welcomed him, and became Catholic: Don Francisco Otomo.

Having spent a total of two years and three months in Japan preaching Christianity, he realized the influence Chinese culture had on Japan, he decided to move on to China to see the emperor. He arrived on Shangchuan Island in September 1552, but was ultimately unable to reach the mainland, dying on December 3 of physical and mental exhaustion. He was just 46 years old.

IN 1596, twenty-six people (foreign missionaries and Japanese Christians) were captured in Kyoto and sent to Nagasaki. They were all crucified on the hill of Nishizaka. Christianity had to go into hiding without priests for the next two hundred and fifty years.



Tenshudo Temple, Nagasaki

堂主天崎長

AT the end of the 19th century, a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between France and Japan was concluded, and French people came to live in Nagasaki. They desired to have a Catholic church so that Oura Cathedral was built in 1864 and consecrated in 1865. A month after the ceremony, fifteen “Hidden Christians” entered Oura Cathedral. They approached Father Petitjean who was praying inside and whispered, “Our heart (faith) to all of us, who are here, is the same as yours.” In spite of the severe persecution and with no missionaries around, Christianity had survived in Japan...

TEA AND TEMPURA



YOSHIRO Tanaka, also known as Senno Rikyu (1522-1591) was a Master of the Japanese Tea Ceremony (called "Sado 茶道" in Japanese), and is recognized as having perfected the art. Rikyu

was born and educated in Sakai, near Osaka, which was then as now an important international commercial city. Saint Francis Xavier visited this cosmopolitan autonomous city in 1550. In 1564, Ryokei Hibiya, a wealthy merchant and Master of the Tea Ceremony, converted to the Catholic faith and took the Christian name of Diego. Rikyu's house was located just near Diego's. There is no record that Rikyu was Catholic, however his wife and daughter are known to have converted to the faith. Five of the seven of Rikyu's most important disciples were Catholic, especially Blessed Iustus Takayama.

Rikyu's style of the tea ceremony contains many Catholic elements. For instance, the entrance to the Tea Room is so small and low that everybody, even the Shogun, must take off his sword, and kneel down to enter, as we read in the Gospel: "Enter ye in at the narrow gate. (Mt 7:13)" Another example is spirit of "Ichi-go Ichi-e (一期一会)". This motto encourages the host to serve tea to his or her guests with their whole heart as if it were the only occasion. In the sacristy, even today, we can read this reminder for the priest who is going to celebrate his Mass: "Oh Priest, offer this Mass as your only Mass, as your first Mass and as your last Mass." The tearoom itself must have a garden with a washbasin (tsukubai) at the entrance for visitors to purify themselves by the washing of their hands and rinsing of their mouths (just like holy water at the entrance of a Catholic Church).

Inside the garden, lanterns must stand near the steppingstones upon which only one person at a time can walk. This is an image of a personal journey to Heaven, purified by baptismal water, illuminated by Christ,

the light of the world. Rikyu started to wear a cloth (fukusa) around his waist, to serve his guests as if he were imitating Our Lord at the Last Supper. With such strong Christian influences in the tea ceremony, some modern authors suspect that his pseudonym Senno Rikyu, may in fact be adapted from "San Ruka," or Saint Luke in Japanese. However, Fr Luis Flois, a Portuguese Jesuit eyewitness, wrote in his "Historia de Iapam" (History of Japan) that Rikyu was a pagan but an intimate friend of Blessed Iustus Takayama. Thus, we can say with great confidence, that the tea ceremony was greatly influenced by Catholic spirituality. Catholic nobles practiced the art as a part of the expression of their faith in such a way that during the Lenten period, they gave up even all their tea, as a sacrifice offered to God almighty.



IT is a little-known fact that the famous and delicious Japanese Tempura is not actually a purely Japanese-origin food. Most likely Tem-

pura came to Japan in 16th century with Portuguesia recipe "peixinhos da horta" (battered and fried fish). Morisada Manko, the Encyclopedia on Edo cultures (ca. 1867) defines "tempura" as a battered and deep-fried seafood in the Edo (Tokyo) area, whereas battered and deep-fried vegetables are known as "agemono". This style of cooking probably took the name "tempura" from "Quatuor Tempora" (Ember Days), as the early missionaries in Japan ate vegetables with battered and deep-fried fish, abstaining from meat. However, some say that it may have come from another Portuguese word "tempêro" meaning "seasoning or taste". While oil was expensive in the 16th century, in the 17th century production of oil increased and tempura became a popular food. Despite the fact that the Catholic faith was forbidden in Japan for spiritual nourishment, tempura became well accepted and loved and is today a very common style of cooking in Japan.

LIEUTENANT ONODA

The Thirty-Year War in the Philippines



HIROO Onoda was a Japanese Army Special Intelligence Squadron man, an elite commando who in 1944 was sent to Lubang island in the Philippines to conduct guerrilla warfare and to gather military intelligence.

Onoda's orders also stated that under no circumstances was he to surrender or take his own life. Within a short time of the landing, all but Onoda and three other soldiers had either died or surrendered. Toward the end of 1945, leaflets were dropped by air with a surrender order printed on them from General Tomoyuki Yamashita of the Fourteenth Area Army. To the men who had been in hiding for over six months, this leaf-

let was the only evidence they had that the war was over. Onoda's group studied the leaflet closely to determine whether it was genuine, and decided it was not.

One of the four soldiers walked away from the others in September 1949 and surrendered to Philippine forces. In 1952, letters and family pictures were dropped from an aircraft urging them to surrender, but the three soldiers concluded that this was a trick. One Japanese soldier was killed in May 1954 by a shot fired by a search party looking for the men; another one by local police on October 1972. Onoda was now alone.

On 20 February 1974, Onoda met a Japanese man who was looking for him. But Onoda still refused to surrender, saying that he was waiting for orders from a superior officer. The Japanese government located Onoda's commanding officer, Major Yoshimi Taniguchi, who had long surrendered. Taniguchi went to Lubang Island, and on 9 March 1974, issued Onoda the following orders:



- In accordance with the Imperial command, the Fourteenth Area Army has ceased all combat activity.
- In accordance with military Headquarters Command No. A-2003, the Special Squadron of Staff's Headquarters is relieved of all military duties.
- Units and individuals under the command of Special Squadron are to cease military activities and operations immediately and place themselves under the command of the nearest superior officer. When no officer can be found, they are to communicate with the American or Philippine forces and follow their directives.

Onoda was thus properly relieved of duty, and he surrendered. He turned over his sword, a functioning Arisaka Type 99 rifle, 500 rounds of ammunition and several hand grenades, as well as the dagger his mother had given him in 1944 to kill himself with if he was captured. Although he had killed people and engaged in shootouts with the local police in the Philippines, the circumstances (namely, that he believed that the war was still ongoing) were taken into consideration, where Onoda received a pardon from President Ferdinand Marcos.

After 30 years spent on duty in the Philippines, Lieutenant Onoda returned to his homeland. The Japanese government offered him a large sum of money in back pay, which he refused. In the 1980's he established the Onoda Nature School in Japan with a goal to educate children about the value of life. He passed away in Tokyo on January 16th, 2014.

FR. THOMAS ONODA'S

With Frs. Couture,
Santi & Wailliez,
Bethany House, 1998.



Ordination in
Écône Switzer-
land, 1993.



Signing of
Consecration
Certificate
of OLVC,
October
2017.



Catechism Class
with Young
Fr. Onoda,
Tokyo, 1998.



Fetching boys for
Catechism class,
Kabignayan,
1993.



Fr. Onoda
with his
successor,
Feb. 2020.



Consecration of
OLVC, Manila,
March 1997.



Medical Mission,
Manila, 1998.



Priestly Jubilee
of the 3 Priors
of the Philippines,
2017.



The Famous
THREE Points of
Father Onoda.



27 YEARS IN THE PHILIPPINES

FR. Onoda was sent to the Philippines, right after his ordination in June 1993. Back then, the Society was operating in Kabignayan, in a rather poor area of Quezon City, Manila. Father would personally fetch the children for catechism class and also visit the families in the neighbourhood. Father witnessed the building and consecration of the new church (Our Lady of Victories Church) in New Manila, and the marvellous growth of the Society since. While assigned in the Philippines, he unceasingly flew to Japan at least once every month-and also to Korea-to evangelize the faithful thirsting for the true Mass and the sound Catholic doctrine. Fr. Onoda also participated in multiple pilgrimages to Rome, Lourdes, Fatima and Akita, and the faithful have kept cherish memories of his delicate attention for all.



Akita Pilgrimage with Frs. Couture and Daniels.



With Bishop Manat, Turin, 2000.

ASIAN EXPANSION

DURING his superiorship, Father Couture extended the borders of the District of Asia to New Zealand and even to some of the Pacific islands. This was not enough; under Father Summers' rule, the Asian District goes global! Due to the current travel restrictions some priests of the District of Asia are stranded abroad. Prevented from reaching their places of assignment, they are currently working in their host country thus extending the District activities to new territories like the USA, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and even Africa.

♣Africa

The Japanese borders being closed, Father Etienne Demornex was unable to join his new assignment in Tokyo (until after Christmas). Stranded in France, he was



offered to participate in some exorcisms, a first-time experience for him.

During a break, he received a phone call from Father Ginoux in South Africa who was desperately looking for a priest to go Reunion Island for All Saints' Day. Divine Providence opened the way and everything fell into place nicely as Father Demornex was able to purchase a cheap air ticket, get his covid-19 test results on time, and fly off just the day before the second lockdown started.

Father Demornex sent us the following description of his most enchanting African stay: "The weather in Reunion Island was exceptionally pleasant for this season, sunny and cool; the jacarandas and flamboyant trees, orchids and bougainvillea were all blooming; the faithful were very kind to me during all my stay. Work is not lacking in this Island and quite diversified: Confessions, Masses (around 200 faithful on Sundays), sermons

almost every day; conferences, catechism for children (most willingly joined by adults who enjoy listening to the lesson!), formation of catechists, blessing of houses, bringing Holy Communion to the sick, explaining the crisis in the Church to new faithful, blessing a lot of sacramentals, preparing people to the Sacraments (First Communion and marriage), exorcisms and prayers of deliverance on those troubled by the devil, practices for altar servers, listening and counselling those in moral or spiritual difficulties..."

♣USA

Father John Hattrup went back to Spokane, USA, in March 2020 from India. A vacation that should have lasted for a month turned out to be much longer. After a most enjoyable time at home, Father Hattrup is now residing in our priory in Post Falls, Idaho,

helping the priests with Masses, Confessions, sick calls, etc. He preached for the Rosary March



that took place in Coeur d'Alene on 3 October. As Father reported, it was supposed to be a "March," but due to the restrictions on public gatherings, they could only pray the Rosary "standing in place" along Lake Coeur d'Alene, which is normally the endpoint of the March. As there is no sign of his situation being unblocked any time soon, we await the decision of Divine Providence before Fr. Hattrup can rejoin us in Asia.

♣Spain

Father Jean-Michel Gomis was assigned to our priory in Singapore, but since he cannot fly there yet, he is currently exercising some apostolate in Spain. Here is the message he sent us:

"Almost two months ago our Superiors asked me to go and help our confreres in the priory of Madrid.

DURING THE PANDEMIC

This apostolate included the following tasks: being chaplain to the "Siervas de Jesús Sacerdote", a contemplative community of sisters dedicated especially to prayer for priests; serving the brand new school of the Dominican Mothers of Brignoles in Madrid; apostolic trips to different parts of the country (Málaga, Granada, Córdoba, Sevilla, Salamanca, Barcelona...) to administer the sacraments to our small local communities; and visiting some of the great sanctuaries of the country, in particular Guadalupe.



♣France, Italy and Switzerland

As for Father Loschi, he left Sri Lanka on 2 July to participate in the Solemn High Mass of a newly ordained priest from his parish in Annecy, France, who was given permission by the local bishop to celebrate it in the Visitation Basilica. After a month's holiday, he should have gone back to Sri Lanka but in mid-July the Srilankan Government changed its policy and closed the country's airports making it impossible to return. During his temporary exile in Europe, he helped the priests of the priory in Grenoble with Sunday Masses. Then, he had the opportunity to go to Italy for two weeks in September where he was offered to give an update on the apostolate in Asia to the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Vigne. The same talk was given afterwards to the faithful in Geneva, Switzerland, at the occasion of a Sunday apostolate. Back in France, he is now assisting a school near Versailles with teaching English in replacement for a sick teacher, waiting for the green light to fly back to Asia.



♣Austria

Father Rainer Becher who was expected to join the Asian District last August has meanwhile done some ministry in Croatia. He is still residing in our priory in Jaidhof, Austria, waiting for the travel restrictions to be lifted and to be allowed to fly to his next destination.

♣Rest of Asia

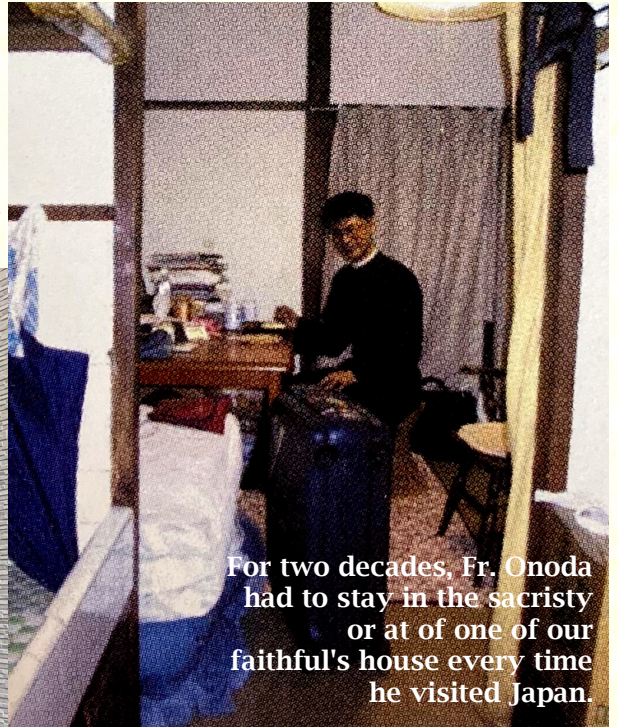
In Asia, all the priests are stranded in the country where they are currently residing. Father Benoit Wailliez, Father Coenraad Daniels, Father Timothy Pfeiffer and Father Peter Fortin had plans to go abroad and visit their relatives during their annual leave. They could technically leave the Philippines, but their temporary visa would not allow them to come back to their apostolate field. Learning from the unfortunate experience of their confreres stranded in Europe and in the US, they have preferred just to stay in the country. Father Eisenring left the Philippines to visit his dying mother and is now stranded in Switzerland. Father Nelson and Brother Isidore are stranded in Sri Lanka and cannot reach the places of their new assignment.

♣Japan

Special mention should be made of Japan as his forced isolation allowed Father Onoda to develop providentially the apostolate in his own country and prepare the (delayed) opening of the Tokyo Priory. Stranded in Japan since March, Father now offers three Masses in Tokyo and another Mass in Osaka every Sunday. Since August, the number of faithful attending Mass has increased to more than a hundred every Sunday. On 3 November, Father Onoda organised a Mass in Nagoya where 47 people attended although the local bishop published a negative notice beforehand. The opening of a new Mass location in that city is under consideration. Father Onoda also spent time teaching how to say the Traditional Latin Mass to a diocesan priest.

STELLA MATUTINA PRIORY

THE new priory of Tokyo opened officially on January 13, Commemoration of the Baptism of Our Lord, under the patronage of Stella Matutina ("Morning Star"), which announces the rising Sun of Justice. The two resident priests in Japan see in this providential date the hope of the baptism of Japan as a nation.



For two decades, Fr. Onoda had to stay in the sacristy or at of one of our faithful's house every time he visited Japan.



Enjoying the outside view of the new priory with Fr. Demornex.



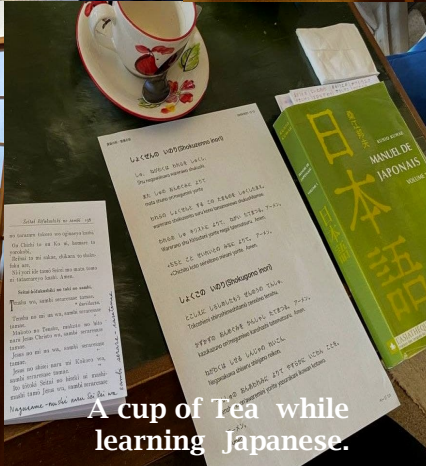
Takes a lot of dedication to learn new language but thanks to Mr. Tutor, Fr. is able follow. *Arigatou!*



Simple dining room for our two Missionary priests, *Itadakimasu!*



So many Souls to pray for in this very neat and simple chapel.



A cup of Tea while learning Japanese.



Sealing a contract with a big smile.

NEWS FROM INDIA

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

SINCE the accession to power, the National Hindu Party has increased its hostility against the Christianity. It is no news to our readers. Nothing seems to stop them from assaulting the Mystical body of Christ directly or indirectly. We, the Society of St. Pius, have been one of its recent victims. The year of 2020 has been a difficult time in the annals of our history on this subcontinent.



In the first few months of last year, the quantity of priests working here in India was tragically reduced because of legal and travel problems. Additionally, the Covid-Panic which overtook the world nearly crippled our entire apostolate.

Then, we found another cross to bear when the renewal of our school's registration was denied. We have tried our best to get approval for next five years, but, unfortunately, we were unable to secure the permission to run the school. Therefore, Veritas Academy has been temporarily closed. We are currently working on other options and plans to re-open under a different name and location.

It does bring tears to our eyes to see what is happening. But we must not give up. We cannot and we will not. The legal entity of the school may be taken away unjustly. But we still have nearly 100 innocent souls with us. The responsibility to form them as saints still remains and has even increased. We are planning to provide them with the temporary solution of catechism classes several times a week after they finish their classes in the local schools.

It may tax our already exhausted priests and sisters, but then, what is at stake is more precious and worth more than our lives. But it needs even more. It needs your support. It is why I am here humbly requesting your spiritual support. You have always been a great support and now I ask for more prayers. Please keep this intention in your prayers. Storm the heaven with your prayers.

Please continue your financial support for this noble cause. You may send your donations in favor of "Mission-India (School)". *(See on Page 12)*

The present times may look bleak but the future does not. Relying on your prayers, we will continue to educate our children with or without a school. As St Paul wrote to the Thessalonians (2 Thess 2:16)

"Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God and our Father, who hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation, and good hope in grace, Exhort your hearts, and confirm you in every good work and word."

God bless,
Fr. Therasian Babu Xavier

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