

Superior General Visits Cameroon to mark 80th Anniversary of Oblate Mission

From June 23 to July 6, 2026, Father Chicho is making a pastoral visit to Cameroon to commemorate 80 years of Oblate presence and mission in the country.

A Time for Encounter and Celebration

This is a milestone occasion for the Province of Cameroon and the entire Congregation. Eighty years after the arrival of the first missionaries in 1946, this visit offers an opportunity to look back on the journey shared and express gratitude for the witness of so many Oblates who have dedicated their lives to proclaiming the Gospel in Cameroon and Chad.

During his stay, the Superior General will visit various Oblate communities, particularly in northern Cameroon, the historic cradle of the country's mission. He will also meet with members of the Oblate Charismatic Family, lay collaborators, and friends of the mission.

The visit coincides with the main Jubilee celebrations, scheduled for July 2–4, 2026. Among the most highly anticipated highlights is the priestly ordination of 13 young Oblates—an event that beautifully reflects the vitality

and future of the mission in this region of the world.

A Church That Continues to Bear Fruit

The Province of Cameroon remains a profound sign of hope for the Congregation. The steady growth of vocations, the robustness of their formation programs, and the Oblates' deep commitment to marginalized communities all point to a mission that continues to bear fruit and effectively meet the challenges of our time.

The presence of the Superior General is, above all, a gesture of closeness and ecclesial communion. His visit strengthens fraternal bonds, encourages the missionaries in their daily ministry, and reminds us that the Oblate mission remains dynamic wherever men and women respond generously to God's call. As the Church in Cameroon joyfully celebrates these 80 years of missionary presence, the entire Oblate Family joins in thanksgiving for their shared history and the journey that lies ahead.

Bonaventure IKYOHIA, OMI

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

New Secretary General

The Superior General in Council has appointed Father Thomas BANG as the new Secretary General of the Congregation.

A native of Cameroon, Fr. Thomas is a deeply respected Oblate known for his enthusiasm, dedication, and spirit of service. Since taking his first vows in 2004, he has built a distinguished academic and pastoral career. He holds both a Licentiate and a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University,

where he also specialized in the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.

Fr. Thomas brings a wealth of experience to this role. In addition to his parish ministry, he has served as a professor of Canon Law at various Catholic institutes in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. His leadership journey includes serving as a formator at the Yves-Plumey Scholasticate in Yaoundé and as a member of the Provincial Council of Cameroon. Currently, he serves the Congregation as the person responsible for Safeguarding

the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults.

In his new capacity, Fr. Thomas will assume significant administrative responsibilities, providing essential support to the entire congregation. Beyond his administrative duties, he will coordinate our global ministries, oversee communications, and ensure that the charism of St. Eugene de Mazenod continues to flourish in our daily operations. This appointment reaffirms our commitment to the unity, di-

versity, and inclusion that define our Oblate family.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Br. Noel GARCIA, who has resigned from office for health reasons, for his dedicated service as Secretary General since 2023. We pray that God may continue to bless him in his future ministry.

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FROM THE REGIONS

EUROPE

Rome: Two Oblate Archbishops to Receive the Pallium from Pope Leo XIV

During the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Pope Leo XIV will confer the Pallium on two Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

This ancient symbol of pastoral communion expresses the close bond of Archbishop Susai JESU in Canada and Archbishop Charlie M. INZON in the Philippines with the Successor of Peter as they continue their ministry in their local Churches.

Shepherds in Mission

During the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul at St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo XIV will confer the Pallium on two Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The two Oblate archbishops who received the Pallium this year are Archbishop Susai JESU of Keewatin-Le Pas, Canada, and Archbishop Charlie M. INZON of Cotabato, Philippines. Appointed in 2025, Archbishop JESU shepherds one of the largest and most remote dioceses in Canada. The Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas extends across northern Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut, where Oblates have accompanied Indigenous communities for generations. His ministry continues that missionary presence in

places where the Church remains a quiet but faithful companion in everyday life.

Also appointed in 2025, Archbishop INZON serves the Archdiocese of Cotabato in the southern Philippines, a region marked by rich cultural diversity and a long journey toward peace. Oblates have ministered in Mindanao for decades, often in challenging circumstances. His episcopal ministry continues that tradition through dialogue, pastoral closeness, and a steadfast commitment to the people entrusted to his care.

Mgr. Charlie Malapitan INZON, O.M.I

His Excellency Monsignor Charlie Malapitan INZON, O.M.I., was born on 24 November 1965 in Castilla, Sorsogon. He studied philosophy at Notre Dame University, Cotabato City and theology at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City. He was awarded a master's degree in pastoral ministry and a doctorate in psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

After professing his perpetual vows in 1990 with the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, he was ordained a priest on 24 April 1993.

He has held the following offices: chaplain of Notre Dame of Jolo College, Jolo (1993-1995), mission in charge, Tawi-Tawi

(1995-1998), parish vicar of Santo Niño in Midsayap, Cotabato (1998-2000), director of the OMI College Seminary, Quezon City (2000-2006), director of the Peace and Research Center (2007-2009), dean of the Graduate School (2009-2010) and dean (2010-2014) at Notre Dame of Jolo College, Jolo, dean of Notre Dame of Jolo College, Jolo (2014-2018), provincial superior (2018-2020), and president of the OMI Asia-Oceania Regional Conference (2020).

He was appointed vicar apostolic of Jolo on 4 April 2020. Within the Episcopal Conference, he is president of the Episcopal Commission on Catholic Education.

Mgr. Archbishop Susai JESU, O.M.I.

His Excellency Monsignor Susai JESU, O.M.I., was born on May 17, 1971, in Pushpavanam, India. He studied Philosophy at the Pontifical Athenaeum Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram in Bangalore and Theology at the Khrist Premalaya Institute of Theology in Ashta. He later earned a Master's degree in Pastoral Counselling from Saint Paul University in Ottawa.

He made his perpetual profession in the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 2000 and was ordained a priest on July 27 of the same year. He has held the following pastoral assignments: Parochial Vicar in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh (2000–2002), Pastor in Surala Kappa, North India (2002–2005), Parochial Vicar in Kombadimadurai, Tamil Nadu (2005–2007), Pastor of St. Gertrude in Pelican Narrows and Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Sandy Bay (2009–2015), Pastor of Sacred Heart of the First Peoples in Edmonton (since 2017), Provincial Councillor (since 2019)

A Sign of Communion

The Pallium, woven from the wool of lambs blessed on the Feast of Saint Agnes, is a visible sign of communion with the Successor of Peter. It also reminds every metropolitan archbishop of his calling to shepherd the flock

with humility, fidelity, and generous service. Receiving the Pallium on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul places their ministry within the apostolic tradition the Church celebrates on this day.

As Archbishop JESU and Archbishop INZON receive this ancient sign of pastoral responsibility, the entire Oblate family accompanies them with gratitude and prayer, giving thanks for their witness and for the people they are called to serve.

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Rome: Strengthening Mission Sustainability

From June 24 to 26, 2026, the Global Oblate Fundraisers (GOF) are meeting in Rome to reflect on their mission and establish priorities for the years ahead.

Their ministry supports Oblate Units facing financial challenges and helps fund projects that serve the poor. Much of this work remains behind the scenes, yet its impact reaches communities throughout the Congregation.

The meeting begins with a recognition that the world has changed. In many countries, resources are becoming scarcer, donor support is decreasing, and fundraising offices often have less to share. This reality calls for greater discernment so that available resources can be directed where they are most needed.

Moving from Funding Projects to Building Capacity

One of the central themes of the gathering is the growing understanding that funding is not only about responding to immediate needs. It is also about helping Oblate Units become stronger, more sustainable, and better equipped for the future. Among the topics under discussion are professional formation in finance, administration, and leadership, the importance of conducting feasibility studies before projects begin, and the need to connect larger funding requests to a Unit's three-year strategic plan. Careful planning at the beginning of a project

can help ensure its long-term success and sustainability.

Listening to the Less Heard

The fundraisers also hope to give special attention to what they describe as the “less heard” Units, those that may find it more difficult to seek assistance even when their needs are significant. Ensuring that these voices are included remains an important part of the ministry. Participants will also reflect on how to communicate their work more effect-

ively. Behind every project and every grant is a story of missionary service, and these stories deserve to be shared more widely.

As the meeting concludes, the Global Oblate Fundraisers hope to renew their common commitment to serving the Congregation’s mission among the poor by promoting transparency, responsible stewardship, and the long-term vitality of Oblate Units around the world.

Rafal CHILIMONIUK, OMI

L A T I N A M E R I C A

Venezuela: Earthquake Deepens Humanitarian Crisis

Oblates serving in Venezuela have reported that their communities are safe following the powerful earthquake that struck the country.

As rescue efforts continue in the hardest-hit regions, Oblates remain close to the communities they serve, where collapsed buildings, overwhelmed hospitals, and widespread displacement have worsened an already fragile humanitarian situation.

Spared by Distance

“Our Oblates are well,” Father Javier ÁLVAREZ, Superior of the Oblate Mission in Venezuela, wrote in his first report after the earthquake. “We are far from the epicenter and have not experienced any difficulties.” While the Oblate communities were spared, the disaster caused widespread devastation elsewhere. One of the hardest-hit areas is La Guaira, where the Oblates have served in recent years. People close to the Oblates have not reported any deaths, but the physical destruction is extensive, with numerous buildings reduced to rubble. Rescue teams continue working through damaged neighborhoods as authorities try to determine the full scale of the tragedy. Nearly 200 deaths have been confirmed. That number is expected to rise as emergency crews

reach isolated communities and continue searching collapsed buildings.

A Deepening Crisis

For many survivors, the days ahead may prove more difficult than the earthquake itself. Venezuela’s healthcare system was already under severe strain before the disaster. Hospitals now face the task of treating hundreds of injured people despite critical shortages of medicines, medical supplies, and essential equipment. The earthquake has also left thousands of families without shelter. With homes destroyed or declared unsafe, many are seeking temporary refuge while they wait for assistance. For a country already enduring years of economic hardship, the disaster has added another painful burden. The destruction has also reached communities of consecrated life. In Caracas, the convent of the Capuchin Tertiary Sisters was completely destroyed. Although the sisters escaped without injury, their uninhabitable home reflects the reality now facing countless families across the affected region.

Walking With the People

As communities begin the long work of recovery, the Oblates continue to accompany those affected by the earthquake. They ask the Oblate Family to remember the people of Venezuela in prayer, especially those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods, and

the emergency workers bringing relief to the hardest-hit communities.

Photos@Caritas Venezuela

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CANADA AND UNITED STATES

From Rome to New York: Fr. Jean-Hérick JASMIN Joins VIVAT International's Advocacy Team

Fr. Jean-Hérick JASMIN, OMI, has been appointed to the international team of VIVAT International at its New York office.

After serving as Director of the OMI JPIC General Service in Rome he will help advance the organization's advocacy mission at the United Nations.

A New Mission for Justice and Peace

Jean-Hérick JASMIN, OMI,

An Oblate missionary from Haiti, Fr. Jasmin will begin a three-year mandate on January 15, 2027. The appointment was made by Sr. Maria Angelika Altenhofen, SSpS, President of VIVAT International, with the consent of the Board of Trustees. In her announcement, Sr. Maria Angelika expressed her gratitude for his willingness to take on this new responsibility: "I remain grateful to you, Fr. Jean-Hérick, for your availability to render this service to VIVAT International." She also entrusted his new mission to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, praying that he receive the wisdom and

strength needed for the responsibilities entrusted to him.

Continuing the Oblate Commitment

Inspired by Gospel values, VIVAT International promotes human dignity, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. Through its advocacy at the United Nations, the organization brings the voices and concerns of people living in situations of poverty and vulnerability to the international community, working alongside many religious congregations committed to the same mission.

Fr. Jasmin's appointment continues the long-standing commitment of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to bring the voices of the poor to international forums. His experience in Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) will now serve the wider VIVAT network in its work for a more just and peaceful world. As Fr. Jasmin prepares for this new mission, the Oblate Family accompanies him with its prayers, asking God's blessing upon his ministry in service of life, justice, and the Gospel at the heart of the global community.

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