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## Asian District Pilgrimages for Vocations

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*“Mary we crown thee with blossoms today...” The noble pilgrims of Japan pray for priestly vocations under the benevolent eye of Fr. Thomas de Marie Onoda.*

### JAPAN

*The 4th Annual Akita Pilgrimage  
of the Society of St Pius X,  
1st-5th May 2010*

### AVE MARIA!

By the grace of God, we had our fourth pilgrimage to Akita, in Northern Japan, from 1st to 5th May, in the holy month of Our Lady. It was offered especially to ask for many holy Catholic priestly and religious vocations. Upon the special request of our District Superior Reverend Father Couture we stormed Heaven with the special intention to beg Our Lady of Akita "to give us holy Catholic vocations".

Yes, the Society of Saint Pius X desires, together with Our Lord and Our Lady of Akita, chosen souls, souls consecrated to God, victim souls, who make

reparation for sins by suffering with the spirit of poverty for sinners and ungrateful men in order to pacify the ire of the Heavenly Father.

This modern world is full of people everywhere who seek only and solely their own pleasure, their own rights and their own profit. This tendency is translated into the refusal of suffering, the flight from one's duties, and even hatred of sacrifice. They follow the flattering public opinion with human respect; join the voice of blasphemies, mockeries and indifference towards the Truth, God, Jesus Christ as well as towards the Catholic Church. They are happily amusing themselves eating and drinking as mere consumers. Many people of this world offend the Lord by their sins because sin offends the Divine Majesty first. The Divine Justice demands reparation of sins.

The only pleasing sacrifice to God for the reparation of sins is the sacrifice of the Cross of Our Lord and its re-actualization in Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

We made this pilgrimage also to console Our Lord, to pacify the ire of the Heavenly Father, to atone and to suffer for sinners and ungrateful men. We made a program of reparation during the pilgrimage.

Not only did we have the Traditional Holy Sacrifice of the Mass twice every day but also for the first time in Akita a Holy Hour and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (It is very rare for the Japanese Traditionalists to have this due to the lack of facilities, lack of chapel with tabernacle, etc.)

We walked from our hotel to the Convent where the statue of Our Lady is kept, while saying rosaries, singing hymns and chants in honor of the Immaculate Virgin. The beautiful words of these traditional hymns which we sang at the feet of the miraculous statue, hymns which express our Faith so clearly were having a deep effect on all the pilgrims. Many were singing with tears in their eyes.

At the end of the pilgrimage, as usual, we renewed the consecration of Japan to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A total of 47 pilgrims attended in full or in part our pilgrimage this year – a increase of nearly 100% on last year - coming from all over Japan and even from abroad: two Koreans, three Filipinas, one American, one Canadian, one from Australia.

A Japanese pilgrim from Perth had previously complained of missing every year the beautiful cherry blossoms in spring when she came to Japan. But this year, by a curious weather, “all the flow-

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ers” of Akita came forth at once on 1<sup>st</sup> May. And in spite of several days of strong wind afterwards, the flowers did not go off! This pilgrim immediately thought of the snow Saint Therese of Child Jesus prayed for when she took the religious habit.

Since this Pilgrimage, we are now training three new adult catechumens.

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!*

*Our Lady of Akita, pray for us!*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!*

*Saint Joseph, pray for us!*

*Saint Francis Xavier, pray for us!*

*Holy Martyrs of Japan, pray for us!*

Fr. Thomas de Marie Onoda

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### PHILIPPINES

*Bohol, 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010*

#### THE HARVEST IS GREAT BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW

Two hundred and seventy pilgrims convened on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 to offer much-needed sacrifices for religious vocations by walking the 63 kilometres from Tagbilaran to Carmen for three days in sunshine and rain, praying rosaries, singing hymns, and meditating.

The pilgrims came from different SSPX Philippine missions in Manila, Leyte, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Bohol, Surigao, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Marbel and General Santos City. There were even two pilgrims from France. All pilgrims came responding to the call to pray for religious vocations. The theme of the pilgrimage was: “The harvest is great but the labourers are few”. Four priests came to

offer Masses and hear Confessions every day. Every night one priest would give a conference about vocations, in keeping with the intention of the pilgrimage. There were 2 Filipino priests, Rev. Fr. Albert Ghela and Rev. Fr. Aurelito Cacho; and there were two non-Filipino priests: Rev. Fr. Francis Chazal and Rev. Fr. Coenraad Daniels.

To keep the pilgrims’ spirits up, there were contests each night. On the first night was a catechism quiz, each Mass Centre represented by 3 pilgrims of different ages. On the second and third night there were contests on Filipino Folk Songs and Marian Songs. The largest delegation came from Leyte with 64 pilgrims. The most lively and most organized was the delegation from General Santos City.

Barriers were broken down and friendships developed as pilgrims from different delegations encouraged each other to keep praying and sacrificing for the sanctification of priests and the increase in religious vocations for the salva-

tion of souls. After the pilgrimage, 5 young men entered St. Bernard Novitiate to try their religious vocations.

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### SSPX ASIA PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

*17<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010*

The occasion of this pilgrimage of the Asian District to Italy was the short exhibition of the Holy Shroud between 10<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, in Turin, North Italy. From the necessity to land in Milan and to leave from Milan a whole tour of Italy’s famous shrines was organised. For many of the 47 pilgrims originating from eight different countries, it was the first contact with the old Catholic world—full of saints of every century and condition, filled with the history of the Church, with Rome; It was truly the heart of Christianity.

The general intention of our pilgrimage was the Crusade for Vocations of the District of Asia. May the Master of the harvest hear our prayers!



*Br. Johnathan and Fr. Francis Chazal (with the hat and beard) surrounded by some of the pious pilgrims of the Philippines.*