

ST. BENEDICT MONASTERY
No.10, Lane 34, Xuefu Road
Danshui Town, TAIPEI County 25163
T A I W A N (ROC)

28, May 2008

MY DEAR FRIENDS
"BETWEEN THE FOUR OCEANS",

Blasio 신부님 72)

from the beautiful spring season here in Germany my best greetings and thanks for your mail. Excuse please my delay in answering your Email. My PC was blocked with spam-mail and in addition to that I was hospitalised and did not have access to my PC. Now one after the other:

ROME/ SAN PAOLO flm. I left on February 17th with the car, which was sent by our Archabbot Jeremias. I had a nice Sunday for this farewell of the Holy City. These three years were a blessing for me, even they looked so very different than my expectations before going there. I am sure St.Paul is not feeling sad and disappointed that I left. He definitely wants me in direct mission-work, not as custodes at his tomb.

One week after my arrival in my home-monastery Muensterschwarzach/Germany I was operated in one of the best hospitals of my home-town Wuerzburg. Since more than 10 years I suffered because of arthrities of my two knees. Already 10 days after the SURGERY I was transferred to a rehabilitation-center for four weeks of recuperation. Both hospitals with their personal were excellent.- In the abbey I continue my treatment by a physiotherapist and learn little by little to walk without sticks.

The FEAST OF THE HEART OF JESUS on June 1st is a red-letter-day in our abbey. All the JUBILEES of priestly ordination, profession and emission to the mission are celebrated twice, that is once in the first and then in the second part of the year. This year my batch is looking back on 50 years of our priestly ordination. We were originally six monks for priesthood. And all were sent to the missions: four to Tanzania and two to S.Korea. After some years one in Africa quit priesthood and returned to Germany for marriage. After years an other former Africa-missionary changed to an other abbey, where he is serving lots of pilgrims, in the famous monastery of Andechs. In these days the African two confreres are returning, one former missionary of Korea became a chaplain with Benedictine nuns in the neighborhood. And the last one is me with a new mission. A pity that you can not participate at the celebration as well as in our joy. May I ask for your assistance with your prayers?! Usually such "Golden Jubilarians" have their golden celebration at their home parishes, but not with me. Two weeks later I will depart for my next and most probably last mission.

On June 16th I will leave for TAIWAN. That happened this way: last year in February I got from a mother-superior of a Benedictine convent in Taipei an Email asking whether I could not spend the last years of my life with them. They are hunting every saturday/sun-day for a priest, who celebrates their sunday mass. The language can be only English -not Chinese. I contacted our Archabbot, in order to find out that he knows already about the need and request of Sr.superior Austin Chang OSB. He only reminded me of my (old) age.

But I did not feel such old, even my knees were aching already for years. And immediately I replied by Email with YES. This "yes" has a history: in my youth I never thought of becoming a priest, but when I read a mission journal, where the need of tens of thousand Christians for a priest was mentioned, I felt deep within me a CALL to become a priest in a mission country. Finally I ended up in my home-abbey and the different stages of my mission-life: S.Korea, Japan, Philippines and for shorter period of time in India and three times in Mainland-China. That was my answer: "ADSUM= here I am....".

Even I visited the calling community of ten Benedictine Sisters for two days, I still do not know what awaits me in Taipei, Danshui-town, at St.Benedict Monastery. One thing is consoling me: that I do not need Chinese for my activities. You will hear more in the future.

One other thing should be mentioned: on July 13th our foundation in the Philippines, ST.BENEDICT MONASTERY / DIGOS is celebrating its silver jubilee, it was founded 25 years ago. I was invited and will try my best to be one of the celebrants. I know many supported us at least with their prayers all these years. God may reward you. Just now writing these lines two Filipino Brothers from Digos practice at their computer. They are representatives of Digos here in my home-abbey by learning the skill as carpenter and of butcher, in order to enrich the monastery in Digos in the future.

So much for today until you hear again from Taiwan. Let us continue to pray for one another.
Fraternally yours

+ 오도 아바스 프러
ODO HAAS OSB, abb.em. 2

그 경중의 은 기가 와 쟁이
자 기년 신봉은 프러 고 신이요.

그리 아프로도

서로를 위해 기도 하시다.