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# INFORMATION - DOCUMENTATION

## NEWS

November 1976

**Note:** From the very first appearance of I/D in November 1975, the General Council had decided that the "News" section should be poly-copied on the new offset machine here at the Generalate. Hence the new format with this issue. We realize that it is less attractive than before, but we'll try to make up for that by making it interesting in content.

We would like to mention each Province and District in the Congregation at least once each year. For that to be possible, we have to renew the request made last year: that every circumscription name a correspondent to communicate with the Information Office here news of general interest to the confreres.

At the request of the Holy See, we are leading off with a summary of the principal themes of Pope Paul VI's message for the World-Wide Day for Peace (January 1, 1977).

### "IF YOU WANT PEACE, DEFEND LIFE"

Do we really want peace? If so, the consequence is clear: it is necessary to defend, cure and promote life.

1) **Life must be defended:** Man's life, his psychological life, is threatened and with it so is peace. Life and peace have the same enemies. So it must be defended:

a) **against death:** there are three fundamental aggressions which bring about the death of millions. First, there is **war**. If war is another name for death, then life is another name for peace. Then, there is **abortion**: everything is connected in the problem of life. To refuse and kill life that is beginning brings the risk of denying and eliminating other adult life. The message points out that to refuse war and to desire abortion is a contradiction, but so also is to refuse abortion and advocate or promote war... Man cannot dispose at will of the right of life and death, otherwise we run the incalculable risk of chain extermination: death camps, genetic manipulations, sterilization, euthanasia, elimination of the incurable and the handicapped or the members of certain categories of race, ideology or religion. Finally, there is **hunger**: in addition to famine, the message speaks of malnutrition and lack of water.

b) **against everything that wounds life, diminishes it or dishonors it in man:** the Pope denounces with particular energy **torture** in all its forms, even when it is done under the pretext of defending justice and public order. Then he speaks about the **penal and prison system** in many countries (arbitrary trials, bodily torture, etc.), as well as about the conditions in **certain psychiatric hospitals** and all practices which aim at the psychical disintegration of the person concerned (e.g. brain washing). Nor can we forget the physical assaults upon freedom which are so frequent nowadays: kidnapping, taking of hostages, hijacking of planes...

2) **Life must be healed and improved:** respect for life goes beyond not attacking it. It demands that we fight disease, lengthen life-expectancy, improve hygiene, nutrition, housing... We must promote an improvement in the "quality of life" by means of a new scale of values and higher ideals than those of the selfish satisfactions of consumer society.

3) **By the light of faith:** revelation gives us some points of reference for use in this struggle for life and peace:

a) Life draws its sacred character from its origin (the trinitarian life of the "living God") and from its permanent source (the incarnate and risen Christ). The Master of life, the Lord, entrusts the "ministry of life" to the intelligence, love and voluntary self-control of man.

b) The sacred character of life does not contradict the evangelical counsel of "losing" and "giving" one's life, because this human life, created in the image of God's life, must be given to others, not kept for ourselves. To sacrifice one's life for one's neighbor is not, therefore, to take it away from God, but to restore sovereignty over it to him.

c) The Christian faith defends human life against its own negation, preserving it from idolatry and worship of the human body hedonism, selfish Malthusianism, "to be few in order to have more.

d) Finally, the reflection of faith and the experience of faith provide serious elements of a solution:

- \* between the objective moral law and the subjective conscience: whatever may be the personal progress towards mature judgment (only God can judge it), there are certain objective levels below which we cannot sink, and it is the task of the moral law to state what they are;

- \* between the immediate application of the Bible commandment "you shall not kill" and the slowness of collective conscience; e.g. with relation to the acceptance of war as a legitimate means of settling conflicts. The Christian notion of history and time helps the faithful believer to set his action in the line of a double faithfulness: to humility (of man the sinner) and to hope (of man risen again in Christ). Neither discouragement or despair nor impatience or presumption.

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### FROM THE GENERALATE:

#### Establishment of the Province of Eastern Nigeria

In response to the request of the District Chapter, the General Council has just established Eastern Nigeria as a Province, effective August 25, 1976. Father Philip Aguh will finish his Principal Superior's mandate as Provincial from now until January 5, 1977.

On that date he will be succeeded by Father Moses Orakwudo who was elected by the Chapter. For several years now, Eastern Nigeria has had all the necessary works of formation and so has fulfilled everything required by the **Constitutions** for a Province.

#### **Nominations:**

Father Manuel Santos Neves, Principal Superior of Cabo Verde (July 1, 1976); Father Georges-Henri Thibault, Provincial of France (July, 1976); Father Joseph Kolasny, Provincial of Poland (July 16, 1976); Father Remi Peeters, Provincial of Belgium (August 3, 1976); Father Karl Heinz Schader, Principal Superior of Alto Jura (August 29, 1976); Father Johannes Verberne, Principal Superior of Doumé (September 21, 1976); Father Ernest Rey, Principal Superior of Guyane (September 22, 1976); Father Enda Watters, Provincial of Ireland (October 6, 1976); Father Vincent O'Toole, Principal Superior of Makurdi (November 1, 1976); Father Albert Seichepine, Principal Superior of Puerto Rico (December 4, 1976).

(Within the Generalate): Father Pearse Moloney, Secretary-General (November 1, 1976); Father Jean Godard, Director of Information Service, effective in summer 1977 (Father Godard, former Vice-Provincial of France, is spending this year 1976-77 in Paris to prepare himself for his new duties. In the meantime, Father Henri Littner is in charge of Information, while continuing his duties in the Secretariate).

#### **Our Dead:**

July 17: Brother Trudo van Mierlo, Holland (84 years)  
August 8: Brother Arcade Talabardon, France (69 years)  
August 11: Father Emile Danguy, France (69 years)  
August 11: Father Edward Kearney, England (56 years)  
August 15: Father Victor Schneider, France (71 years)  
August 19: Brother Ephrem Kopp, France (81 years)  
August 25: Father James A. Mangan, U.S.A. East (69 years)  
Sept. 3: Father Gabriel Torrent, Switzerland (70 years)  
Sept. 14: Father Francis J. Cooney, U.S.A. East (76 years)  
Sept. 25: Father Heinrich Schümmer, Germany (80 years)  
October 1: Brother Victor Rebours, France (72 years)  
October 15: Father Joaquim Gomes, Portugal (56 years)  
October 23: Brother Remaklus Welsch, Germany (63 years)  
October 31: Father Patrick Kilgannon, Ireland (52 years)  
November 3: Brother Marc Feraille, Bangui (71 years)  
November 9: Father Michael Wasser, Trans-Canada (49 years)

#### **The Generalate Team:**

During the summer, the members of the General Council carried out the program of visits announced in the June issue of "News of the Congregation". We might add that Father Soucy accompanied Father General to the Chapter in Eastern

Nigeria. From September 16 until early October, Father Daly made a visit to Pakistan along with Father René You, Assistant-Provincial of France and an expert on Islamic matters. In Rome, the activities of the General Council continued normally during the summer with the members who were here. There were 13 regular meetings between July 1 and September 30.

By October 10, the complete Council was here for its plenary sessions. The principal objective was the follow-up of the Enlarged Council decisions. The Council members made their annual retreat together just outside Rome. The "animator" for the retreat was Father Christopher Burke, a specialist in Our Venerable Father.

Beginning November 15, the General Council has resumed its program of visits. The **Superior General** will go to Zaire, Madagascar and Reunion. **Father Gross** is already in Madagascar; from there he will go to Reunion. **Father Thielemeier** is in Zaire. **Father Daly** will attend the meeting of African Spiritans in Yaounde in early December, then go to Tanzania, and finally to Bangui for the meeting of the Principal Superiors of French-speaking Africa. In December **Father van Sonsbeek** will visit Tanzania and Ethiopia. **Father Torres-Neiva** will go to Angola, if possible. **Father Walsh** will attend the Chapter of the District of Makurdi in January. That is our program up to the month of February.

#### **The Community at Clivo di Cinna:**

September 1 was the tenth anniversary of the founding of the community. Of the "Founding Fathers", only three are still in Rome: Fathers **Avery**, **Besnier** and **Farrelly**. There are about forty former members. Two of them, Fathers **Vogel** and **Delaire**, are in Campo Verano awaiting the final Resurrection. Just now, the community numbers twenty-five (20 Fathers and 5 Brothers).

The English Province asked for the return of our Secretary-General, **Father Gandy**, to take up the duties of First Assistant in the Province. The General Council, in the name of solidarity, granted the request, even though regretting the loss of a zealous and devoted collaborator. **Father Amadeus Martins** came in October to be Secretary to the Spiritan Studies Group. **Brothers Clement** and **Longino** both went to the hospital for surgery; we are happy to report that both are feeling better. **Brother Clement** will leave before long for Cameroun where he is to be chauffeur to Archbishop Zoa of Yaoundé. The Dutch Province has lent us two Brothers for three months of work painting the rooms in the house.

We are always happy to welcome confreres who stop here. We have had many such visits this year. We regard it as our duty and our pleasure to meet them at the airport or the station. Confreres should be aware, however, that a letter posted eight days before their expected arrival risks not getting here in time. When you write, it is better to address the letter to Father Superior, rather than to Father X or Y, because they might be away. Even if you have written, it is preferable to send a telegram notifying us of the day and hour of your arrival, together with the flight number if you are coming by plane. The telegraph address is simply: "Spiritus, Roma". With rare exceptions, telegrams arrive the same day,

or the next day at the latest.

#### **A Few Statistics:**

**Professions in 1976:** France: 2; Ireland: 7; Portugal: 3; Spain: 2; Switzerland: 1; Poland: 7; U.S.A. East: 4; U.S.A. West: 6; Canada: 1; Brazil: 2; Trans-Canada: 1; Eastern Nigeria: 5. Thus, a total of 41 newly professed (the same as in 1975). There will be additional professions in Angola and in East Africa.

**First Appointments:** France: 4; Portugal: 3; Switzerland: 2; U.S.A. East: 4; U.S.A. West: 2; Canada: 3; Trinidad: 1; Eastern Nigeria: 6; East Africa: 1. Thus, a total of 30 (as against 29 in 1975).

On November 15, 1976, the Congregation had 4,027 members, of whom 227 were professed scholastics (as against 238 last year).

#### **Spiritan Papers:**

The first number of **Spiritan Papers** is now at the printer's and will be sent to you soon. We are printing the same number as for the **General Bulletin**; one copy per community. All correspondence should be addressed to Father Amadeu Martins.

#### **Biographies of Father Laval:**

Three publications about Father Laval appeared this summer:

Michel, Joseph, C.S.Sp.: **Le Père Jacques Laval**, Paris: Editions Beauchesne, Collection: "Figures d'hier et d'aujourd'hui", 476 pp., 24 French francs. This is a particularly well-documented work, supplying much inedited material. It will be useful to all who are interested in the great missionary heroes of the past century. It brings out the climate of the times and the countless difficulties Father Laval had to contend with.

Bowe, Gerald, C.S.Sp.: **Venerable Father Laval**, Port-Louis, 36 pages. This is a popular-type pamphlet, written by the Vice-Postulator of the Cause, giving an overview of some aspects of the life, spirit and work of Father Laval.

"Au pays du Père Laval", special issue of **Pentecôte sur le Monde**, July-August, 1976. A remarkable study, showing how Father Laval was, and still is, a intimate part of the history of Mauritius. There is a biography, drawn in broad lines but with constant reference to the present, because "for the Mauritians, Father Laval is not a man of the past. He remains always present and shares all their troubles." The illustrations are exceptionally good. This study will be issued as a pamphlet.

#### **FROM THE PROVINCES:**

**Belgium:** The Kongolo Memorial:

We have just celebrated its tenth anniversary. Here is some information about it:

- Those who visit Gentina: First of all, there is the anonymous crowd, tens of thousands per year, tourists, the curious, pilgrims who come in buses or private cars. We welcome them to the Memorial and show them the audio-visual display about Kongolo and the mission exhibits. Then there are the retreatants boys and girls from 15 to 20 years old, who come for a 2 or 3 day retreat in a missionary atmosphere. We cannot meet all the requests we receive. Finally, there are those who come for weekends, renewal sessions, retreats for sisters, etc.

- To welcome them, we have a team of animators who take care of the retreats, and even of many material services; the restaurant which can take care of 160 persons at a time.

- Our latest project is the Rest House: one wing of the building being entirely renovated where our older confreres will be able to pass their days in well-deserved peace.

- The future: twenty years ago, Gentina was little known. Today the Memorial and the retreats attract crowds. For the long-term future, we face a personnel problem.

#### **United States East**

Father William Crowley, who was Director of Information at the Generalate in 1975-76, has been named Associate Chaplain at Duquesne University and Provincial Director of Information and Public Relations.

#### **United States West:**

A house of studies for Black vocations has been opened in Lafayette, Louisiana, under the direction of Father Albert McKnight, assisted by Father Thomas Miller. They started with three students, but two more are expected. The house is not beautiful, but will serve the purpose. The boys attend classes in a local school. Since it is a new venture, some parents were hesitant. A year's experience ought to give more confidence and a larger enrollment.

#### **United States (both Provinces):**

On the occasion of the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, the two Provinces collaborated jointly in a mission exhibit, thus fulfilling a wish of the Superior General that they bring out more the missionary and international aspects of the Congregation. Pamphlets were distributed (fortunately, they had foreseen the need of materials in Spanish for visitors from Puerto Rico and Latin America) and information supplied which for many was the first contact with the Congregation. Five young men who express interest in the religious life have contacted us, and remain in correspondence with us. We hope to hear from others after they have time to read the pamphlets we gave them.

#### **France:**

The Toronto Mission Institute attracted 43 participants, 3 of them from the United States and 1 from the Province of Canada. This institute is the only one of its kind in English-speaking Canada. The courses take place for 4 weeks every July.

24 lay missionaries of VICS (Volunteer International Christian Service) have left for their assignments after their retreat and orientation course. Their destinations are: 4 to Paraguay; 3 to Yeman; 2 to Kenya; 1 to Ghana; 1 to Sierra Leone; 2 to Gambia; 2 to Ethiopia; 1 to the Bahamas; 1 to Nigeria; 2 to Jamaica; 2 to Papua New Guinea; 1 to Japan; 1 to Honduras; 1 to Samoa. VICS is an ecumenical organization founded in 1971, directed by Spiritans, for supplying professional and technical help to developing countries.

#### FROM THE DISTRICT:

##### Auteuil:

Father Brottier's Anniversary: Daniel Brottier was born on September 7, 1976 at Ferté-Saint-Cyr in the Diocese of Blois. In 1923 he was made Director of the Orphanage of Auteuil. When he took charge, there were 170 boys there; when he died, on February 28, 1936, there were 1.400. Today there are 3.000 boys of 28 nationalities in 22 different houses. One house is in Martinique, and another one opened last year in Reunion. For the past three years the General Director has been a layman, Mr. Gosselin. He is assisted by Father Gabriel David and another layman. There are 54 Fathers and Brothers engaged in the work. Only one of them is under 45 years of age, and the confreres wonder how we shall be able to remain faithful to the spirit of Father Brottier in this "work for the service of the under-privileged which fully justifies our presence in it." (Provincial Chapter of France, 1976)

Last August 22, the centenary of Father Brottier's birth was celebrated in his home town. Members of his family were present, in particular his 99-year old sister-in-law, who had been his co-worker since 1912. The Bishop of Blois presided at the Mass, while Father Chuteau, a grand-nephew of Father Brottier, gave the homily. There were many civil officials and military representatives, as well as the General Director of Auteuil and Father Thibault, the Provincial of France.

Auteuil itself has just celebrated the centenary on the occasion of the annual triduum in honor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus. Father Joseph Gross, Assistant General, represented the Superior General who was still in Nigeria. During the three days, Father Balthasar, Principal Superior of Auteuil, gave homilies comparing Theresa of the Child Jesus with Daniel Brottier with respect to the way both of them said "Yes" to life, "Yes" to God, and "Yes" to their fellow men.

##### Angola:

The Holy Ghost Seminary community at Huambo (Nova Lisboa) includes three distinct groups: the novices, the upper-class students and the junior seminarians.



A new community has just been opened in the Diocese of Montpellier. In addition to serving a parish, its purpose is to establish a House of Prayer which will also be a center of training for lay people. There are three Spiritans--Fathers Michel Picard, René Pillot and Henri Guilbaud--together with two Sisters of St. Charles of Angers. Address: Presbytère, 34760 Boujan-sur-Libron.

Since its foundation, the center for renewal at Mortain has conducted five sessions. Present at these were 201 participants--104 French Spiritans, 26 non-French Spiritans, 16 non-Spiritans, and 55 Sisters. During these three years, rue Lhomond has played host to 69 Spiritans (54 of them French) for year-long renewal programs in Paris. 28 French and about 10 non-French Spiritans have participated in 6 ten-week sessions at the Dominican Center in Arbresle.

#### Poland:

Father Thielemeier has just spent ten days in Poland to take part in the Provincial Chapter. He reports that the recent efforts for the re-birth of the Province are bearing fruit. 7 novices made first profession on September 26; another will be professed before Christmas. Thus, Poland holds the record for 1976 for professions in the Congregation, and its number of members goes up from 29 to 37. The Chapter dealt with our Spiritan vocation, the Spiritan community and the formation of young members.

#### Trans-Canada:

The first newly-professed member of the young Province has just made his Consecration to the Apostolate after completing his novitiate in the United States. Five other young men who have expressed interest in joining us are continuing their studies in Canada.

Negotiations are going on with the Province of Portugal for the appointment here of Spiritans returning from Angola. Several bishops have indicated their interest and are willing to give them work in their dioceses. We also wish we could get a Polish Father to conduct retreats and missions in the Polish communities in Canada. Cooperation between the two Canadian Provinces is growing even stronger: Father Bernard Kelly, a specialist in Venerable Libermann, spent the summer holidays giving retreats--2 in the District of Kabba, 1 for the Nigerian confreres, and 1 in Quebec for the Province of Canada. In addition, Father Garry McCarthy has just left for the District of Kabba. The bonds uniting us to Ireland are still strong: several Irish confreres are spending time in the Province to engage in studies, and, during the holidays, 14 Irish and 1 Dutch confrere came to Canada to do summer ministry in the Dioceses of Hamilton, Toronto and London.

Father Michael Pascall of the Province of Trinidad is continuing his apostolate among the West Indian people in Toronto. CARI-TO (Caribbean Toronto Catholic Secretariate) is a center for spiritual and cultural activity and is growing in importance.

In spite of the difficulties and uncertainties of the times, the novitiate opened on November 23, 1975, with five novices and it has been functioning normally. There are still three novices who are to make their profession and apostolic consecration in November. Two of them have already done three years of theology and the third has finished philosophy. The shortage of personnel has made it necessary to employ them as part-time teachers in the junior seminary.

The upper division of the secondary school is made up of 10 students in first year and three in philosophy. They have a Father as Director and attend classes at the Diocesan Seminary of Christ the King. It is thought advisable for those who will finish this year to begin theology directly in order to give them more time to reflect upon their vocation before going to the novitiate.

The junior seminary has 65 students spread over 5 years. We hope that there will be some solid vocations among them. The classes are conducted by three Fathers, three Brothers, and by the Novices part-time. Two other Fathers also come to give classes.

The three groups form distinct communities, each with its own living quarters, refectory and recreation facilities. The celebration of the Eucharist is in common, except that once a week each group has its own celebration more adapted to the age and degree of maturity of its members.

#### **Puerto Rico:**

The house for Puerto Rican aspirants, which was mentioned in nº 7 of I/D, opened in mid-August under the direction of Father John Sakovich, with 5 young men, all in philosophy, who attend classes at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce.

#### **Paraguay:**

A few months ago, Father Michel Vacherand of the French Province, formerly a missionary in Martinique, came to Paraguay to join the two Trinidadian confreres, Father Harris and Wayou, who have been alone here for the past year. A young French scholastic has just volunteered to come out for two years. Here we give the first impressions of Father Vacherand as reported in *Spiritan Newsletter*, nº 3, from Paraguay:

"Asuncion, the Capital, is a lovely little city where one can see many beautiful homes and gardens, but, on leaving the city, the landscape changes completely. The streets are no longer paved and houses are few and far between. Mostly, they are poor, made of mud or of inadequately placed planks, or of bamboo and red mud. There are large tracts of dense forest and huge extensions of savannah lands where great herds of cattle graze.

"The most surprising thing for the European, however, is to find at the same time and in the same country cultures which are so very different. One finds the European or American brand with all that it stands for, good and bad; the

campesinos, very poor and with archaic methods of working; and finally some natives most of whom are still in the stone age. Our mission is among the second group; i.e the very poor campesinos. These people are very different from the inhabitants of the city. They are a purer mixture of the Guarani Indian with the European. They speak Guarani, though most of them understand Spanish. They are very poor and, more than anything else, abandoned.

"I have just lived for two months among them, in two different parts of the mission. The first month I spent with two Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, who join the care of the sick with the evangelization of the poor. The second month I spent with a Paraguayan priest. Together on the same motorcycle we went each night to visit the different communities, across forests and open fields, to gather the people together and with them reflect on the word of God, taking their very life as our starting point. At times we baptized and celebrated marriages.

"We must give these communities the first impulse and then encourage them to hold these reunions of prayer at least every Sunday. The priests are few, but every authentic Christian must take on his responsibility of being an apostle."

#### **Tanzania:**

The Holy Ghost Eastern African Foundation had its first ordination on June 24, when Father Paul Chuwa was ordained by Bishop Joseph Kilisara, former Bishop of Moshi. Two other Holy Ghost scholastics were ordained deacons. To emphasize the missionary nature of the foundation, Father Chuwa has been appointed to Zambia and the two deacons will go there too once they are ordained priests.

In 1962, five Tanzanian Spiritans suggested to the Mother House that it should set up a Province in East Africa, but it was only in 1972 that the foundation was made, following a meeting between Father Lecuyer and the three Principal Superiors of Kilimanjaro, Bagamoyo and Kenya. A novitiate was opened in January 1973 at Usa River with 6 novices. Today the foundation has 2 priests (Father Monteiro was already a priest when he entered the Congregation), 7 scholastics in theology at Kipalapala, 9 novices, 7 in philosophy at Kibosho Seminary, and 11 doing a preparatory year before going into philosophy.

As well as the Usa River house, a house will be opened for Spiritan scholastics near the Nairobi major seminary on a plot of land donated by Cardinal Otunga.

Still in Tanzania, the Diocese of Arusha marked an important event in its history in June with the ordination of the first 3 priests from the diocese since its constitution in 1963. Among them was the first priest from the Masai tribe, whose evangelization was begun in 1956. The first two missionaries to this tribe were Father Eugene Hillman and Father Denis Durning (now the Bishop of Arusha).

Ten years ago there were only 6.000 Catholics in the Arusha Diocese; now there are 32.000, out of a population of 425.000. There are 23 senior seminarians, of whom 6 are Masai. A priest of the Arusha tribe, ordained 15 years ago, is now

parish priest in Arusha.

Two Spanish confreres, Fathers Aniceto Montero and Jose Aguilar, have arrived in Arusha to take up a mission which had been abandoned for 6 years.

#### **Yaoundé:**

On May 31, 1976, Father Athanase Bala, C.S.Sp. was named Coadjutor-Bishop with right of succession to Bishop André Loucher, C.S.Sp. of Bafia. His episcopal ordination was on September 26 in Bafia. Archbishop Zoa of Yaoundé presided, assisted by a dozen other bishops. The Generalate was represented by Father van Sonsbeek, who had just visited the District of Doumé, and by Father Gilbert, who had been giving retreats in Cameroun during the summer.

Bishop Bala was born in 1927 and ordained priest in 1955. He was a professor in the junior seminary at Akono, then parish priest at Oweng. From 1969 to 1973, he was National Chaplain to the Young Christian Farm Groups. Since 1973, he was parish priest at Essos in Yaoundé Diocese and responsible for the recruitment of African vocations.

