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Congregazione dello Spirito Santo  
Clivo di Cinna, 195,  
00136 ROMA

## INFORMATION - DOCUMENTATION

New Series, n° 3

February, 1977

### NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

#### FROM THE GENERALATE

##### The Generalate Team:

The General Council's program of visits continues. Father General spent the last half of January in Madagascar. He will be in Reunion from February 1 to February 6, then spend two weeks in Tanzania and return to Rome on or about February 24. At the end of March, he will bring to a close the visit to Auteuil made by Fathers Gross and Soucy during that month. Father Walsh will leave Rome in mid-February for Puerto Rico to take part in the meeting there of the Provincials of the United States (East and West), Canada, Trans-Canada and Trinidad, and the Principal Superiors of Puerto Rico and Haiti. Then he will visit Puerto Rico and Trinidad. Towards the end of February, Father Daly will return from the meeting of Principal Superiors of French-speaking Africa in Bangui. In mid-March, he will leave for the Chapter of the District of Guyana and will visit South-West Brazil in April. Father Torres-Neiva is in Cabo Verde and will go to Angola, if possible. We expect Father van Sonsbeek back from Tanzania soon.

##### The Generalate:

Father Matthew Farrelly, Procurator to the Holy See, has been on the sick list since the end of November due to overwork during the past months. He had to stay in bed until Christmas. Since then he has been improving, but he still has to be careful and to follow a very strict diet. For several more months he will have to restrict his activities to what is strictly necessary.

##### Meeting of Spiritan Studies Group:

The Spiritan Studies Group held its second meeting from December 31 to January 2 to give a report of their activities during the year and to set up the program for future work. Among other publications, they promise a new *Spiritual Directory*, completely different from the old one, and an up-dated edition of Father Koren's *The Spiritans*. The *Dictionnaire de Spiritualité* has just published an article by Father Sigrist on "Liebermann: Life, Works, and Spiritual Teaching". It will be reprinted as a 50-page pamphlet.

The *Spiritans Papers* will appear three times a year, in French and in English. All confreres are invited to collaborate, although the Group reserves to itself the right to judge from the texts submitted which shall be published. The next issue will come out in February. Since some books of Spiritan writings or those of Liebermann are no longer available, the Group invites communities which might have several copies to share them

with communities and young Provinces which have none. The Group can serve as a clearing-house for this. During the meeting, Father Brasio gave a report of three months work he has done in the archives of Propaganda. He found some things which have never been published. The Group's next meeting will be in Paris at about the beginning of January 1978.

#### Meeting of Young Spiritans:

This meeting will take place at Castillo de la Vego, the Novitiate of the Spanish Province, about 160 kilometers north of Madrid and 80 kilometers south of Burgos, on the Madrid-Burgos-San Sebastian Highway. The probable date will be July 10-25.

#### Our Dead:

December 13:	Father Joseph Elvenich, Bethlehem	(aged 70)
January 13:	Father Manoel Albuquerque, Central Brazil	(aged 69)
January 19:	Father Eugene Hamann, Yaoundé	(aged 67)
January 20:	Father Victor Kohler, Holland	(aged 67)

We note that Mgr Karl Bayer died at the Vatican on January 16. He was General Secretary of Caritas International from 1951 to 1970. Our Nigerian confreres will remember his efforts to soften the tragic consequences of the war which ravaged their land. Since 1970 he was Director of *Europäischer Hilfsfond* (Fund for European Aid), an organ of the Episcopal Conferences of Germany and Austria, with its headquarters in Vienna. It gives pastoral help to the countries of Eastern Europe. All the confreres, in Africa or elsewhere, who have benefitted from his fraternal help in so many ways, will want to pray for him.

In 1976 we recorded 58 deaths (as against 67 to 69 each of the preceding four years). Of these, 45 were Fathers and 13 Brothers. By Province of origin: France (23), Holland (8), Ireland (7), Germany (4), Portugal (4), U.S.A. East (4), England (3), Belgium (2), Switzerland (1), Trans-Canada (1). The average age was 67.

#### Our Jubilarians:

Anniversaries for the month of March. (We beg the confreres to excuse us if we forget anyone in this feature, which we hope to continue regularly):

March 12:	Father Jean Hirlemann, France, 50 yrs of priesthood
March 15:	Brother Patritius Willemsen, Holland, 50 years of profession
March 15:	Brother Samuel Dorssers, Holland, 50 years of profession
March 25:	Bishop Auguste Grimault, France, 50 years a Bishop (94 years old on March 31, Bishop Grimault is the oldest member of the Congregation.)
March 25:	Brother John-Berchmanns Cassley, Ireland, 50 years of profession

## FROM THE PROVINCES

### GERMANY: Solidarity

The German Province is unable to show solidarity in terms of its personnel, because of the relatively advanced age of its members. However, it is making a great effort to show its financial solidarity with Districts and young Provinces. In 1976, the resources placed at the disposition of the Generalate by the Province and the communities of Germany is slightly higher than the total sum coming from all the other Provinces and Districts. Of course, most of the Provinces help "their" Districts directly. But Germany does not neglect this direct aid either. Thus, each community has adopted a project in the Districts of South Brazil and Alto Juruá. The financing of these projects must not be a burden upon the local budget (only the help sent to projects of the Generalate are listed in the budget), but each community has to find ways of obtaining the necessary funds by stimulating the interest of friends and benefactors.

### ENGLAND: Work in Scotland and Province Meeting

Among the 111 members of the English Province, about 20 are of Scottish origin. Formerly, the community of Castlehead did propaganda work in Scotland. Since 1956, the Province has had a residence near Glasgow: first at Uddingston and now at Carfin. The idea of the founders of these houses was to have a propaganda center and ultimately the nucleus of a future Vice-Province of Scotland. The English Provincial Chapter (July 20 - August 4, 1976) decided to intensify the activity of this community and make it above all a center of missionary animation and vocation recruitment and, when it becomes possible, a hostel for students. The decision was to increase the personnel. The confreres agreed, and the District of Makurdi gave up some of its members so that the projects for the development of the Province could be realized.

The Provincial Council met at Carfin November 18 to 20. It set up three phases for the follow-up of the Chapter decisions:

- 1) make the property a vocation center with a permanent mission exhibit; 2) make the necessary renovations to make it possible to hold one-day or week-end retreats, meetings of groups, conferences, seminars; 3) set up a hostel for aspirants who are finishing their secondary education. At present, there are two Fathers and one Brother in the community and one Father studying at the University of Glasgow.

The Provincial Chapter also provided for an annual meeting of all the members of the Province, with the main objective of animation and spiritual renewal, as well as the evaluation of work in progress. The 1977 meeting will be from April 12 to 15. As a preparation for it, there will be two regional meetings during February: one in the North (St. Helens), the other in the South (New Barnet). They will study the missionary message of the Venerable Father. The first issue of *Spiritan Papers* will serve as a basic text for discussion.

### **SPAIN: General Meeting of the Province**

This general meeting has just been held from January 3-5, 1977 in the Scholasticate of San Cugat near Barcelona. Just about all the members of the Province were present. The Superior General and Father Torres-Neiva came also. The purpose was to report on the condition of the Province.

The first day was devoted to a study of the Spiritan charism as found in Poullart des Places and Libermann. A report was given on a study begun last October by the scholastics of San Cugat on Libermann, his influence and relevance in our lives and in our missionary work and in the life of the Province. 35 questionnaires were sent out; 25 replies were received. It was a very good questionnaire. We are sorry not to have the space here to reprint it or to give a summary of the answers. Suffice it to say that there is a great desire to know Libermann better, regret at not being able to read him in the original language and the wish for a Spanish edition of his life and writings.

On the second day, the houses of formation reported on their condition, their problems and their hopes. The San Cugat Scholasticate is international, as there are Portuguese Scholastics there. Great insistence was placed upon our commitment to the poorest and upon the serious need of a formation which really prepares missionaries who are ready for a variety of works.

On the third day, each community gave an evaluation of its work.

This meeting was fruitful, thanks to the openness with which it dealt with all questions, even the most difficult. Some of the recommendations: a deepening of the Spiritan charism by study of the founders and the history of the Congregation; the need to state clearly the common task both for the missions and for missionary animation in Spain itself; the importance of a solid formation in all respects; the need for fraternal unity among us.

### **FRANCE: Study of Foreign Languages**

In November 1977 the Provincial Council studied ways of carrying out the Enlarged Council's decision about bilinguism. First priority was given to the study of English and Portuguese, but those who have undertaken the study of other languages, such as German and Spanish, are to be encouraged also. For those in formation, study and practice of a living foreign language is obligatory. The Provincial team and the Regional Superiors will collect information about the facilities in Paris and in other parts of the country for this study and will communicate it to the confreres. As of now, the Provincial Council offers 10 confreres the chance to spend next summer studying English (5 in England, 5 in Ireland). The Provincial Team will select the candidates in terms of what they have done up to now by way of study of the language. The possibility of going to Portugal is also offered to those who have begun to study Portuguese. Finally, the Provincial Council encourages all those who are interested to go as chaplains or leaders of groups of young French people who spend some time in England.

## EUROPE: Cooperation among Mission Aid Organizations

During a meeting held at Stadl-Paura in Austria, the MIVA (Missionary International Vehicular Association), as well as other mission aid organizations decided to collaborate more closely. From now on, all requests for help coming to any of these organisations will be brought together in Holland for coordination. Depending upon the nature of each request, it will then be given to the appropriate organization. This will have certain advantages and will help to avoid loss of time. At the same time, it will allow for detection of multiple applications: it does happen that bishops and missionaries write to several organizations for the same project "just to make sure..."

According to the January 1977 issue of *Spinet* (Bulletin of the Dutch Spiritans), requests for vehicles for the current year should have reached MIVA by the end of January.

## FROM THE DISRICTS

### AFRICAN SPIRITANS: Meeting

The second Panafrican Conference of Spiritans was held in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from December 3 to 8 1976. (The first took place in Nigeria in March 1974). Represented were Nigeria, Tanzania, Cameroun, Central African Empire, Senegal, Congo and Madagascar. No delegates were able to come from Angola, Gabon, Zaire or Sierra Leone. Father Daly represented the Generalate and read a letter of encouragement from the Superior General and Council. Father Jacques Michel, Principal Superior of Yaoundé, was also in attendance.

The meeting began with a report on the condition of the African Spiritans, country by country. The English-speaking Spiritans seem to be doing well, but the French-speaking ones are few in number and scattered in several countries.

The principal subject was the indigenization of African Spiritans. These confreres want to be themselves, not with a view to separating themselves from the other confreres nor of being in opposition to them, but to live their Christian and Spiritan life as realities incarnated in authentic African values, and not as imported products imposed from without. This incarnation of the Congregation in Africa is only one aspect of the Church's incarnation in different cultures. All Spiritans have a duty to collaborate in this, but the African Spiritans have a particular vocation vis-à-vis the Congregation and the local Churches. At the same time, they are the expression of the missionary vocation of the local Churches of origin. They count upon the full fraternal cooperation of the Generalate, the Provinces, and all Spiritans, especially those working in Africa.

The Conference recognized the urgent necessity of houses of formation, particularly in French-speaking countries. This point will certainly be studied by the Conference of Major Superiors of French-speaking African countries at their meeting in Bangui. Father Louis Makong was elected General Secretary of the Panafrican Conference for a two-year period. (Address: B.P. 99, Bassa, Douala, Cameroun.)

### **EAST AFRICA: Apostolate to Nomadic Peoples**

In East Africa there is a relatively large number of nomadic peoples. AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in East Africa, whose headquarters is in Nairobi and which insures liaison and collaboration between the Episcopal Conferences of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia) decided at its July, 1976 meeting to set up a special office for the apostolate to nomads. Interest in the nomads did not begin with this meeting. We need only recall the work among the Masai done by our confreres in Tanzania, which was rewarded by the ordination of the first member of that tribe to the priesthood in June 1976.

The purpose of AMECEA's office for the nomads is to gather centrally all information about what is being done for them in East Africa and to communicate the experiences, methods and successes with a view to helping all who are working in this form of the apostolate. There is to be a meeting of all concerned in 1977, shortly after Easter, to study specific problems, especially the difficulties and the prospects for evangelization of the nomads, ways of presenting the Gospel more effectively, the preservation of the integral Christian message in its incarnation in their life-style and mentalities...

The Documentation Service of AMECEA has just started a new publication: *Apostolate to Nomads* (AMECEA, P.O. Box 21.400, Nairobi, Kenya).

### **ANGOLA: Sorrows and Joys**

In 1976 Angola lost two of its most valiant missionaries, Fathers Charles Estermann and Charles Mittelberger, both from the District of Lubango (Sa da Bandeira). Together they represent 100 years of devoted work for the Church and people of Angola.

Father Estermann, born in 1895, worked in Angola from 1924 until his death on June 21, 1976. After 8 years in the missions of Mupa and Omupanda, he was Principal Superior of Cunene 1932-1942, then Principal Superior of Nova Lisboa until 1951. He was also Director of the mission of Sa da Bandeira 1935-1956, and then Vicar-General of Sa da Bandeira for several years. For the past 10 years, he was Assistant at Munhino. Father Estermann was an exemplary missionary and an internationally recognized ethnologist, publishing numerous articles in learned reviews, as well as a 3-volume work *Etnografia*, written in Portuguese and translated into English and French. The *General Bulletin* for January-March 1973 published an article by him: "How I Became an Ethnologist". The Episcopal Conference of Angola, at a meeting following his death, paid him a splendid tribute.

Father Charles Mittelberger, born in 1896, died December 23, 1976. He arrived in Angola in 1928. He knew only two missions: Omupanda (1928-1967), Mongua (1967-1974), and then Omupanda again. His first Superior at Omupanda was Father Estermann, who for 4 years initiated him into missionary life and also into ethnography. He did not publish many articles, but he made a collection of interesting notes and placed them at Father Estermann's disposition (cf. article listed above). In 1975, he was appointed Vicar General of the new Diocese of Ondyiva (Pereira da Eq). Taken ill, he went to Chiulo in June 1976 to get health care. On Mission Sunday, October 24, 1976 the

Bishop of Lubango and the Apostolic Administrator of Ondyiva presented him with the medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" during a concelebrated Mass with a great number of confreres, secular priests and the faithful in attendance. He died two months later.

On Sunday, November 28, 1976 the Church of Huambo (Nova Lisboa ) celebrated the profession of the first three Angolan Spiritans to be formed in the country. The Bishop of Huambo concelebrated the Mass with several confreres and other priests. A large number of sisters and faithful attended.

On December 7, 1976 Father Gouveia, C.S.Sp., as well as a Benedictine Father, were released at Luanda. Father Gouveia had been in prison since August 6, 1976.

The Legion of Mary in Angola held its National Congress in Malanje. There cannot be sufficient praise given to their apostolic zeal and tireless activity.

#### **BETHLEHEM: Appointment of a new Bishop**

By a decree of December 9, 1976, Father Hubert Bucher of the Diocese of Regensburg was appointed Bishop of Bethlehem.

The episcopal see had been vacant since July 5, 1975 when Bishop Peter Kelleter, C.S.Sp. retired because of bad health. The new Bishop was born in Regensburg (Germany) in 1931. Ordained in 1956, he went to the Diocese of Aliwai (South Africa) as a Fidei Donum priest. He worked there until 1968. Returning to Europe for health reasons, he continued his studies at Regensburg, Rome (Doctorate in Missiology) and Oxford (Diploma in Social Anthropology). Then he went back to South Africa and became National Chaplain of the youth movement CHIRO. In 1973 he published a book: **Apostolate to Youth in South Africa: a Challenge for the Church**, which is recognized as one of the best guides for apostolic youth work. Our confreres in Bethlehem must be happy to have as Bishop a man of such experience and apostolic zeal.

#### **ETHIOPIA: Ecumenical Collaboration**

Our Irish Group there feels that they must become more and more involved working with the Orthodox Church, and notes that already some progress has been made in Gamu Goffa, and in Addis Ababa. In Gamu Goffa, contact with the Orthodox Church is good in all three mission stations. At Chencha, Father Owen Lambert has helped the Orthodox with repairs to their church, and also the group has had dialogue with the head-priest of the Orthodox Church with regard to a possible catechetical program. At Arba Minch, the Catholic mission has helped financially with the building of the new Orthodox Church dedicated to the "Savior of the World", by means of a grant of Eth. \$ 3.700 which is secured for this purpose with the help of the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio. On the occasion of the opening of the Church, the Catholic mission presented a gold ciborium for use in the church, and at the ceremony all the staff of the Catholic mission, Fathers and Sisters, were honored guests.



## CONGO: Missionary Priorities, Internationality, Solidarity

Excerpts from minutes of the District Council's September 1976 meeting:

**Priorities:** Setting up an itinerant team for the formation of community leaders in the Diocese of Owanda (Fort-Rousset), establishment of a local team for on-going formation, with at least one parish priest as a member; pastoral work among young people in the big cities; formation of lay people in the Diocese of Brazzaville.

**Internationality:** Priority for setting up an international team (predominantly African) in the Libermann Major Seminary in Brazzaville. If the Seminary remains in the hands of the Congregation, we would like to have two Nigerian professors and to direct the formation of some French-speaking African Spiritans towards this work. As to Junior Seminaries, there is no question of our taking them over again; we could work in them, but only as a team, preferably international. There ought to be a team, international if possible, associated with the pastoral work of the missions in the Abala section (southern part of the Diocese of Fort-Rousset).

**Solidarity:** To answer the call of the Enlarged Council, the District Council: *"proposes a tithing; i.e. an agreed-upon percentage of gifts and revenues received by each Spiritan to be contributed towards a specific project through District channels. 10% is thought to be reasonable."* The Council notes that in 1976 the District went beyond this percentage and *"it would be ready to make a gift towards the Francophone African Foundation if this is agreed upon in the months to come."*

## WEST INDIES - GUYANA: Meeting of Principal Superiors

The Principal Superiors of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Guyana held their annual meeting at Bellevue/Fort-de-France (Martinique) from November 22 to 26, 1976. The principal themes were:

**Mission Priorities of the Enlarged Council:** it is hard for these Districts to respond because of the small number of men and because of their age. But, we must be none the less interested in the Congregation's priorities and must learn about them, make them known to the members, support them by our prayers and by our financial support, and work at recruitment of Spiritan missionary vocations.

**Local Church's Priorities:** Confreres will always be ready to respond to missionary projects of the local Church; e.g. by giving up less urgent ministries which could be handed over to lay people or sisters.

**Internationality:** The presence of confreres from Switzerland, Canada, Holland, Belgium and Poland in the midst of the French majority encourages us to develop our internationality.

**Solidarity:** Confreres who are in a relatively good financial situation are invited to remember the conditions of poverty and need in which some Spiritans work (Angola, Madagascar, etc.). We note that in 1976 the three Districts contributed the equivalent of 14.8% of the total which all the Provinces and Districts sent to the Generalate.

**Renewal:** It was noted that renewal programs of a year do more good than the short ones of 2 1/2 months, at least for the older confreres. Of course, this creates replacement problems.

**Collaboration with Sisters in Pastoral Work:** (catechetics, animation, etc.). This

poses problems, notable the failure to understand feminine psychology and refusal to share authority.

**Role of Principal Superior:** He is both the animator of the Spiritans and the link between the Congregation and local Church which the Spiritans serve. The local Church must respect our own specific character...

**Subjects for 1977 meeting:** How to fulfill our missionary vocation in our situation; an inventory of missionary situations and means for dealing with them; stimulation of missionary responsibility in clergy and laity; our religious life inasmuch as a community of prayer.

**CRITERIA FOR CHOICE OF ARTICLES:**

1) the circumscriptions not mentioned in I/D - Newsletter since October 1975; 2) directives of the Enlarged Council: priorities, internationality, solidarity, bilinguism; 3) reports from important meetings; 4) pastoral problems; e.g. nomads, ecumenism, etc...

**N.B.** The Generalate requests that, in correspondence with us:

1) you type/write/print your full name clearly (in addition to your personal style of signature); 2) you give the date of writing.

