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3-1-1977

Information Documentation News Series, No. 4

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

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Congregazione dello Spirito Santo. (1977). Information Documentation News Series, No. 4. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-news-en/4>

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CONGREGAZIONE DELLO SPIRITO SANTO
CLIVO DI CINNA, 195
00136 ROMA

INFORMATION - DOCUMENTATION

NEW SERIES n. 4

MARCH, 1977

NEWS

FOURTEENTH DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS (24 APRIL)

As he has done over the years, Pope Paul VI has addressed a message "to all our brethren and sons and daughters of the Catholic Church" inviting them to pray for vocations. Taking as his text the gospel of the third Sunday of Easter (the apparition of the risen Christ by the shores of lake Tiberias) the Pope appeals for faith and love and sacrifice.

Appeal for faith: John says to Peter: "*It is the Lord*". And Peter in the strength of his faith, jumps into the water to go to Him. - "*Yes, every true vocation springs from faith, lives by faith and perseveres with faith. This faith is felt and lived each day with simplicity and generosity of spirit, in trusting friendship with the Lord. Nobody follows a stranger; nobody offers his life for one whom he does not know. If there is a crisis of vocations is there not perhaps first of all a crisis of faith? What a sacred duty pastors, parents and christian teachers have to guide modern youth to the deep knowledge of Christ, to faith in him and to friendship with him.*"

Appeal for love: "Peter do you love me? - Yes, Lord, you know that I love you!" "*Every vocation is an act of love, of twofold love: the love of the Lord who calls and the love of the one who responds. Very great is the love that God gives in the case of a vocation to the priesthood, the diaconate, the religious life, the ideals of the secular institutes or the dedication to the missions. There should therefore be a specially great capacity of loving on the part of those who receive this privileged and demanding call.*" - The priest must do the work of Christ the Priest with great joy and genuine charity (Pontificale Romanum). Those who follow the religious life must leave all for the love of Christ (Perfectae caritatis, 5). Those who aspire to the life of a missionary must bear witness to the Lord even to the shedding of their blood (Ad Gentes, 24) . "*Therefore, foster love within yourselves. Learn to love the Lord more, to love his Church more. To love her just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her (Ep 5, 25). To love her in her inexpressible mystery, her visible structure and her present historical reality. Perhaps there is a crisis of love rather than a crisis of vocations.*"

Appeal for sacrifice: the Gospel of the day goes on to foretell Peter's future suffering and martyrdom. "*A vocation also means sacrifice. Sacrifice from the moment you begin your serious seeking, for even this demands you give up certain things. Sacrifice at the moment you make your decision, a decision conscious of the consequences of your vocation. Sacrifice during the long journey of the necessary preparation. And sacrifice for the rest of your lives, since the whole of your existence will be simply the consistent putting into practice*

of a God-given vocation that you accept and live freely and intimately. Does the crisis of vocations perhaps conceal a fear of making this sacrifice? The young must be guided to accept sacrifice freely and joyfully.

The Pope's message ends with a prayer for increase of faith; that the love of Christ may stir up God's call in the young, may move the hesitant and sustain the perseverance of those who have made their choice. That all may be strong and ready, like Christ in his sufferings, to do the Father's will and that they find strength in the Easter joy of the risen Christ. The Pope invites the whole Church to share his concern and to reflect earnestly on the value, the significance and the necessity of vocations in the Church and for the Church.

NOTE The World Day of Prayer for Vocations, normally fixed for the fourth Sunday of Easter, is being advanced by one week this year, presumably so as not to clash with the celebrations of May 1st.

FROM THE GENERALATE...

OUR FOUNDERS

Regretfully, we let the 150th anniversary of the baptism of the Venerable Father passed uncelebrated on December 24 last. - However, the anniversary of his death, (the 125th), was celebrated everywhere according to our tradition.

At the Generalate Father Amadeu MARTINS read a paper on Father Libermann's respect for the liberty of the individual. The community of the French Seminary joined us for this and for concelebrated Mass afterwards and the evening meal. Following recent tradition, we were invited afterwards to a little prayer service in the attic where the Venerable Father lived during his time in Rome.

The community of Pire, in France, held an interesting celebration of the Venerable Father's anniversary at the parish church of Claude Poullart des Places from 1685 - Saint-Germain in Rennes. It was a happy thought to join our two founders in a single celebration and to invite the friends of the Congregation to the concelebrated Mass.

Speaking of Claude Poullart des Places, it is not too early to remind ourselves that we are approaching his tricentenary. May 22 next will be the third centenary of his parents' wedding, and February 26, 1979, that of his own birth.

Returning to the Venerable Libermann, the city of Sao Paulo in Brazil now has a street called after him. The City Council decided on this at the suggestion of a parish councillor from Itaberaba, where our German confreres of the South Brazil District are working, in recognition of the services of the Spiritans to the country.

It would be interesting to know if there are other places besides Saverne and Sao Paulo which have a Father Libermann Street.

THE GENERALATE

By the beginning of March the whole Generalate Team, with the exception of Fathers WALSH and TORRES NEIVA, was back in Rome for a fortnight. Father THIELEMEIER, who spent the whole of last Summer in Rome, will soon be off to combine a short holiday with parish ministry. Father TIMMERMANS, with his co-Superiors General, is busy preparing for the Synod of Bishops.

Father Joseph BOUCHAUD has been ill for some time. A bout of bronchitis and 'flu which he found hard to shake off affected his heart so his doctor sent him to hospital on February 28. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Father Matthew FARRELLY is making a good recovery and is gradually taking up his work again as Procurator General.

OUR JUBILARIANS

April 24:	Fr Franz KREUTZKAMPF	Germany	50 years of priesthood
April 24 :	Fr Josef RATH	Germany	50 years of priesthood
April 25 :	Fr Patrick HEWITT	Ireland	60 years of profession
May 4:	Bro. Benoît STARCK	France	50 years of profession
May 29:	Bishop J.-B. FAURET	France	30 years a Bishop

OUR DEAD

- January 20: Bro. Messias MARQUES, Portugal (aged 63)
January 23: Fr Edward F. WILSON, U.S.A. East (aged 76)
January 28: Fr John F. O'GRADY, U.S.A. East (aged 48)
January 31: Fr Francis MARRINAN, Ireland (aged 69)
February 2: Fr Jean MANDAVID, France (aged 72)
February 2: Bro. Justino dos Santos BARROCA, Portugal (aged 74)
February 6: Fr Angelino GUIMARAES, Portugal (aged 73)
February 6: Bro. David PINTO, Portugal (aged 62)
February 10: Fr Jean LE DUC, France (aged 83)
February 14: Bro. Fidelis SABELIS, Hollande (aged 63)
February 19: Fr Joseph VOGEL, France (aged 89)
February 21: Fr Joseph WURTZ, France (aged 81)

In view of the tardiness of our postal services, would it be possible for Provincials and District Superiors to inform us of those who have died by telegramme as was the custom in the past?

FROM THE PROVINCES...

GERMANY: "Mortuarium" of the Province

Father Josef Theodor RATH, the historian of the German Province, has just published a "Mortuarium" of the Province (Knechtsteden, 1976, IV + 322 + 22 pages). This is a collection of 725 death notices from 1855 to 1975, not only of the German confreres but also of others whose formation took place in Germany. We congratulate Father RATH on this patient work of fraternal piety to preserve the memory of our predecessors from oblivion. Could not a similar work be undertaken in our other Provinces, for example by some of our retired confreres? We hope too that Father Rath will soon have ready his third and fourth volumes of the History of the Congregation (1852 to our present times).

I R E L A N D : Summer School in Spirituality (July 1977)

In July Kimmage will host two one-week sessions on Spirituality, directed by Father Adrian van KAAM, C.S.Sp., Director of the Institute of Man, Centre for the Study of Spirituality, Duquesne University, in collaboration with Dr Susan MUTO, Assistant Director, and Professor Charles MAES, lecturer in the Centre.

The first week of the Course (4 to 8 July inclusive) is intended for those in charge of religious communities (men and women), spiritual directors, formation personnel, seminary directors and all who are engaged in the spiritual animation of both laity and clergy.

The second week (11 to 15 July incl.) is intended for a more general audience, priests, religious, laity (especially teachers) who are interested in a spirituality which is meaningful in today's world.

Cost of the Course: £ 45 per week (for non residents) - £ 55 (for residents).

For Registration and further information, apply to: Rev. Jerry CREEDON, C.S.Sp., Kimmage Manor, Dublin 12.

P O R T U G A L : Towards a Portuguese District in Brazil

About twenty of our confreres formerly in Angola have settled in Brazil and have formed two groups, one in the State of Rio de Janeiro and the other in the State of Sao Paulo. Meanwhile they remain under the Provincial of Portugal. With the agreement of the Generalate and after consultation of the confreres he has nominated Father Francisco Fernandes CORREIA as Superior and Provincial Delegate.

F R O M T H E D I S T R I C T S ...

R O M E: The French Seminary

In spite of its being our oldest community after Rue Lhomond, the French Seminary is too little known in the Congregation. So we are grateful to the Rector, Father SAVOIE, for this account of its history and present activities.

When the Séminaire Français opened its doors on October 2, 1858, it was the culmination of much deliberation and effort. For long, both religious and priests in France had contemplated the setting up in Rome of a centre of priestly formation. One might mention the Superior of the Oratory in 1642, the Abbé Imbert in 1794, Père d'Alzon, the future founder of the Assumptionists in 1834, the Abbé de Bonnechose in 1838, the religious of the Holy Cross and Père de Geslin de Kerloson... But nothing permanent came of their hopes...

Around 1850, under the impulse of Father Libermann, the old Séminaire du Saint-Esprit had recovered its original pristine vigour, and through the Ecclesiastical Conferences founded by Libermann, it had quite an influence among a prominent section of the clergy of Paris (the Abbés de Ségur, Ratisbonne, Desgenettes, Dom Pitra, etc...). Out of these Conférences Saint-Jean of Libermann grew the idea of a French Seminary in Rome.

The bishops of France warmly welcomed the idea, as did Pius IX himself. So, one year after Libermann's death, in February 1853, Father de Lanurien was sent to Rome to begin the foundation and on October 2, 1853, the Seminary opened with twelve students. In 1856 there were 51, in 1866, 63; in 1883, 96; in 1905, 118 and in 1928, 201. Since then the numbers have gone down following the general pattern of seminaries in France. But still today with sixty students, it remains one of the largest seminaries of France, even considering the amalgamation of seminaries which has taken place there.

This brief history illustrates the authentic spiritual character of the foundation and its fidelity to the mission of the Congregation, even in the heyday of missionary expansion in Africa. Recent times have been difficult for seminaries; but continuing to enjoy the confidence of the French Episcopate and profiting from its situation in Rome, the Séminaire has found its modern role, and in the post-Vatican II world has been a less disturbed place than many other seminaries .

Today the Séminaire fulfils the role of a unique ecclesiastical forum. Students come from all over France and from other countries besides. Many have already finished University and are preparing for specialised posts. It receives priests experienced in the ministry who have decided to pursue further studies, seminarians on short courses in Rome and groups of priests come for renewal and up-dating. Bishops are frequent visitors and use the facilities of the place for their business with the Holy See. Contact is kept with past pupils through the "ECHOS de Santa Chiara", and many of them stay there when they come to Rome. Through the Chaplaincy to the Lycée Français, contact is maintained with many families in Rome.

An ecclesiastical meeting place, a house of study and formation, a centre of hospitality in the huge city, the life of the Séminaire Français goes on after 125 years in rhythm with the life of the Church.

A N G O L A : Two new Archbishops

Following a Decree of February 3, 1977, which created two new ecclesiastical Provinces, the dioceses of Angola are now grouped as follows:

1) **The ecclesiastical Province of Luanda** with the dioceses of Malanje, Carmona Sao Salvador (Uice), Novo Redondo (Ngunza) and Henrique de Carvalho (Saurimo) as suffragan.

2) **The ecclesiastical Province of Huambo** (formerly Nova Lisboa) with the dioceses of Benguela, Silva Porto (Bié) and Luso (Luena) as suffragan.

3) **The ecclesiastical Province of Lubango** (formerly Sa da Bandeira) with the dioceses of Serpa Pinto (Menongue) and Pereira da Eça (Ngiva) as suffragan.

Mgr de Nascimento, bishop of Malanje, becomes the new archbishop of Lubango and Mgr Franklin da Costa is transferred from Henrique de Carvalho to become Archbishop of Huambo.

All our confreres of the District of Huambo have come together in the city of Huambo because of the insecurity of life in the countryside. - However one has to be wary of the maliciously slanted and inaccurate news about the country at the moment. For example, it was announced recently that a certain Father Carlos had been assassinated in Omumpanda. There was indeed a Father Carlos of that name - Charles MITTELBERGER who was mentioned in our last issue - but he died of natural causes

in Chiulo. - It was announced too that the bishop of Benguela was harassed by Cuban soldiers during Christmas midnight Mass. In fact the Mass went off without incident in the packed cathedral.

SIERRA LEONE: Renewal Days

During December 1976 retreats and renewal days for the missionaries were held at three centres throughout Sierra Leone - Freetown, Bo and Makeni - by Fr Brian HEARNE, C.S.Sp., of the Gaba Pastoral Institute, Eldoret, Kenya, at the invitation of the major superiors of the religious orders in Sierra Leone: Holy Ghost Congregation, Xaverian Fathers (diocese of Makeni), Holy Rosary Sisters and St Joseph of Cluny Sisters. Members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters also attended.

The major topics of the renewal days were: Localization of the Church. - The Church as a Sign. - The Church as a Communion. - Pré and Post Vatican II Ecclesiology. - Building Christian Communities. - Ecumenism. - The Sacraments Today.

The following points were highlighted in the talks and discussions:

- 1) the need for the missionaries to listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through the people we evangelize;
- 2) the need to be conversant with the relevant documents of Vatican II and since;
- 3) the need for united pastoral planning and activity.

Archbishop Brosnahan of Freetown and Bo attended all the sessions in Bo.

The District is very grateful to Father HEARNE for the time and trouble he took to cross the continent and conduct three sessions.

(Fr Peter NEWMAN, C.S.Sp., Principal Superior of Sierra Leone)

MEETING OF THE PRINCIPAL SUPERIORS OF FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

This meeting was held at Bangui (E.R.C.) from 23 to 26 February 1977. We confine ourselves to just one point in the deliberations: the Holy Ghost Foundation of French-speaking Africa.

The Foundation will begin in September 1977, with 5 novices, in the neighbourhood of Yaoundé, either in a rented house or in a specially prepared mission. A novice-master has to be found with the necessary experience, knowledge of Africa and combining a true spirit of the Congregation with a deep personal spiritual life. He will be assisted by a Cameroonian Father. So as not to lose contact with the ministry, some pastoral work, under the direction of the novice master, will be found for the novices.

Noviciate will be made after the first stage of seminary studies. The Foundation covers all the expenses of aspirants not covered by the allocations of St-Peter-the-Apostle. Aspirants to the Brotherhood will also be admitted as well as candidates for other ministries, but a minimum educational background will be insisted on.

After the novitiate the second stage of studies will be done at Séminaire Libermann at Brazzaville, while living in a house apart.

Once professed the novices will belong neither to their District of origin, not to the French Province, but to the Foundation for which the Superiors of Yaoundé, Doumé and Brazzaville will have joint responsibility, in line with the present satisfactory arrangement for the East African Foundation.

The Districts will contribute to the financing of the Foundation, though not in such a measure as will appear they control it. The Motherhouse and the Provinces will help, especially at the beginning, and other organisations will be approached, the Nunciature, Missio...

Father Jean VERBERNE, the Principal Superior of Doumé, has been asked to go to Tanzania to study the working and financing of the East African Foundation.

P A R A G U A U : New Personnel

Brother Rosario RUIZ MORENO, of the Spanish Province left for Paraguay at the beginning of February, and Father Serge REDUREAU, of the French Province, will be going soon. Thus the Spiritan group in the country rises to six, counting the two Trinidadian Fathers, HARRIS and WAYOW, Father VACHERAND and a French scholastic. - It is possible that further reinforcements from Canada will be forthcoming.

