

Duquesne University

Duquesne Scholarship Collection

Spiritan News

CSSP Newsletter and Spiritan News

5-1-1977

Information Documentation News Series, No. 6

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-news-en>

Repository Citation

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo. (1977). Information Documentation News Series, No. 6. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-news-en/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the CSSP Newsletter and Spiritan News at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritan News by an authorized administrator of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.

INFORMATION - DOCUMENTATION

New Series n° 6

May 1977

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

FROM THE GENERALATE...

Appointments:

South-West Brazil:	Principal Superior:	Fr Brian McLAUGHLIN	April 26
Bangui:	Principal Superior:	Fr André ROBERT (2nd term)	May 15
Yaoundé:	Principal Superior:	Fr Léon AMAN	August 5
Switzerland:	Provincial:	Fr Bernard MATHIS	Septemb. 1

International Meeting of Young Spiritans:

A preparatory meeting of 10 young confreres from Provinces in Europe took place in Louvain on April 14 and 15.

The location remains the same (Castrillo de la Vega), but the dates have been changed to August 1 to 15. This will allow for greater participation.

It is hoped that the Meeting will lead to a sharing of the hopes of the young for the Spiritan vocation today and an expression of those hopes to all the members. It should be a "Parable of Sharing": confreres from different cultures coming together to work with one another. It should be an experience of internationality and a step towards the formation of international and interracial teams, towards exchange of students. It will allow the aspirations of African, Latin American and other Spiritans to be recognized. "Briefly, we want to live through a Pentecost and pray the Holy Spirit to enlighten us".

Three themes have been proposed (others may be added):

1) **Mission Today:** What about Mission at home and Mission abroad? What are the priorities in the Provinces where vocations are scarce? What is our missionary life? our hopes? What do the people think among whom we work? How can we live as partners with the young Churches?

2) **Formation:** a comparison of the different types of formation; how do young and old manage to share our community life?

3) **Spiritans Life:** the reasons for being a Spiritan today; the place of Libermann in our life; the new ways of being a "Brother" or a "Consecrated Layman"; new types of witness in religious life; new forms of participation in the Congregation; Spiritans in their home country; how can we be missionaries there? our position vis-à-vis economical and social changes.

It is planned to divide the Meeting into three periods: the first (3 to 4 days) devoted to getting acquainted and sharing past experiences and the problems of each circumscription (this will lead to a finalizing of the list of themes). The second: the members will choose the themes which interest them most, will form "theme-groups"; for about a week, each "theme-group" will arrange its own program of activities and break up into smaller international groups of 7 or 8 to study the chosen theme. The third: all the small groups will come back together into their "theme-groups" and share what they have done and the conclusions they have reached. Finally, a general assembly will try to make a synthesis of all their work. This third period will last 3 or 4 days. It should be noted that the second period can be spent away from Castrillo de la Vega; e.g. on a pilgrimage.

A 4-man committee has been set up. It will meet in Louvain on June 17 and 18 to put things in final form, taking into account the reactions and suggestions received in the meantime.

The Generalate:

The General Councillors are all back home again and are holding their plenary meetings during the month of May.

I/D n° 10 on Vocations is being help up by a strike which has crippled the printers for several weeks.

We have had a good number of visitors recently: confreres passing through and spending a few days in Rome. We have just heard news of Angola from Father HOUKIJK who spent a month there on behalf of Caritas-Holland, and from Father H. VERDIJK, Director of Pontifical Mission Organizations in Angola. There is an encouraging sign in the fact that a few confreres have received visas to return.

Father Joseph BOUCHAUD is still receiving treatment at Pitié Hospital in Paris. He has our prayers and good wishes.

Our Jubilarians (August and September):

August 24:	Fr. Marcel COULIER	Belgium	50 years a priest
August 26:	Fr. Adrianus OLSTHOORN	Holland	60 years a priest
August 27:	Fr. Joseph A. DONAHUE	U.S. East	50 years a priest
August 27:	Fr. Alphonse J. FAVRE	U.S. West	50 years a priest
August 27:	Fr. James A. MARRON	U.S. East	50 years a priest
August 27:	Fr. John R. MARX	U.S. East	50 years a priest
August 27:	Fr. Francis J. SMITH	U.S. West	50 years a priest
August 27:	Fr. Jerome E. STEGMAN	U.S. East	50 years a priest
September 19:	Fr. Adrianus OLSTHOORN	Holland	65 years professed
September 23:	Fr. Bernardus de LANGE	Holland	60 years professed
September 23:	Fr. Henricus STRICK	Holland	60 years professed

Our Dead:

April 7:	Fr. Richard GRAF	Germany	(77 years old)
April 12:	Fr. Joseph BARRINGTON	England	(70 years old)
April 13:	Fr. Hermann F. FLYNN	U.S. West	(77 years old)
April 18:	Fr. Jean MOUQUET	France	(73 years old)
April 30:	Fr. Jean BERHAUT	Sénégal	(75 years old)
April 30:	Br. Berardus van ADRICHEM	Holland	(66 years old)
May 3:	Br. Alphonse-Marie BACH	France	(71 years old)
May 4:	Fr. Jean AIRIAU	Yaoundé	(64 years old)

Cooperation among Mission Aid Organizations: A Correction:

Since we published an article in February (pp. 4-5) based upon a press release from KNA, we had to ask for more exact information, and MIVA-Holland has just sent the following:

Only MIVA of Switzerland, Austria, United States and Holland took part in the meeting at Stradl-Paura in Austria. It was decided that MIVA in these countries would let MIVA-Holland know of any requests for vehicles they received. MIVA-Holland will check to see that there are no duplicate requests and will communicate their findings to the others, who will then make their own decisions. Each national MIVA retains its autonomy, even in the matter of allocations.

There is no coordination yet among the other mission aid organizations, even through it seems desirable and will probably come some day.

Finally, MIVA-Holland draws attention to the fact that it gives aid only to Dutch missionaries and to dioceses where Dutchmen work. Its resources do not permit it to go beyond those limits.

FROM THE PROVINCES...**BELGIUM: "Rejoicing in Hope"**

"Joyeux dans l'espérance" is the title of a quarterly leaflet (4 pages) which first appeared in April 1977. It is intended as a "Communications Bulletin for the families and friends of Spiritans", and will replace the 4 pages devoted to the Province in the Belgian edition of *Pentecôte sur le Monde*. The drop in Belgian subscribers made it too costly to keep up the Belgian edition. The remaining subscribers are asked to remain loyal to the magazine. However, the mission Belgian section will be made up for by this information bulletin with news of Belgian confreres throughout the world, news of activities at our houses in Belgium, etc. It is offered free of charge to all relatives and friends of Spiritans.

NORTH AMERICA: Meeting of Major Superiors

From February 20 to February 24, 1977 there was a meeting in Puerto Rico of the following: the Provincials of Canada, Trans-Canada, U.S. East, U.S. West, Trinidad and the Principal Superiors of Puerto Rico and Haiti. They met at the District House in Dorado.

The principal purpose of this exercise in Spiritan internationality was the discussion of plans to open an inter-province novitiate. Most of the necessary groundwork had been done during the past year by an international committee, so this meeting was able to reach a decision to open the novitiate in Ferndale on August 1, 1977. The direction will be in the hands of a 3-man team (Father Francis Meenan of U.S. East as Novice Master, and Father John Yates of U.S. West and Father Gerard Scott of Trans-Canada as his associates). The prospect for the first year is 3 novices from U.S. West and 3 (or possibly 4) from Trans-Canada. Interest has been expressed by Trinidad and Canada, but neither of these Provinces has candidates for this year. The Province of England is also investigating this, as well as other possibilities, for its novices.

There were other decisions which also indicate in a practical way that the international understanding was deep and genuine:

- institution of a study of common needs and resources in the area of on-going formation;
- in preparation for the 1977 Meeting of Young Spiritans, an arrangement for all the young confreres from these circumscriptions to spend a week together in Canada before proceeding to Spain for the meeting;
- a very practical position of solidarity of the other circumscriptions with Father Adrien in his work among the Haitian exiles;
- promise of close collaboration in information, in assisting in study of additional languages, as well as in working towards formation of international apostolic teams and experimentation in formation of lay missionaries and in new forms of participation in Spiritan life and work.

TRANS-CANADA AND TRINIDAD: 1977 Mission Institute:

Trinidad has been selected as the location for the fourth annual Spiritan Mission Institute. According to the Director, Father Dermot Doran, this choice was made because "too often missionaries, volunteers and development workers receive their orientation in the air-conditioned comfort of North American cities, including our own previous Institutes in Toronto. Once confronted with the realities of Mission and Third World life in their overseas assignments, North Americans experience a severe and disturbing cultural shock -- no matter how well prepared academically they are. In an effort to provide a more realistic preparation for overseas service, we have selected Trinidad as the location for the 1977 Spiritan Mission Institute because that country offers a microcosm of the world's diversified cultures and religions."

Trinidad is indeed such a microcosm. The population of slightly over a million is 43% African in origin, with 37% East Indian and the remainder made up of smaller groups of Europeans, Chinese, etc... There are few traces of the original American Indian peoples. About one third of the people are Catholic, one third Protestant and the rest Hindu or Muslim.

The Institute's four-week program will consist of a series of conferences, seminars and workshops, directed by a highly qualified international staff. There will be an opportunity to see first hand what is expected of missionaries, lay volunteers and development agents.

Visits will be made to development projects in the socio-economic sphere, as well as meetings with Muslim and Hindu communities and their religious leaders.

FROM THE DISTRICTS AND SMALL GROUPS...

Central Brazil: Rio de Janeiro Residence Closed:

On April 1, 1977, the Spiritans transferred the National Directorship of the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood in Brazil to the Xaverian Fathers. Father Paul van de Zandt C.S.Sp., had been the National Director since 1955. Now 74 years old, he has left the Holy Childhood residence to take a place as Chaplain to Sisters at Sete Lagoas in the State of Minas Gerais.

The house on Eliseu Visconti Street in Rio is therefore no longer a Spiritan residence. Many confreres were welcomed there, thanks to Father van de Zandt. For a long time, it was also the residence of the Principal Superior. As many Spiritans pass through Rio de Janeiro, it is hoped that there will soon be another house there to welcome them. It is possible that the Portuguese confreres will fulfill this need.

Bangladesh: "Concern" Volunteers at Work:

(We refer here to an organization which is independent of the Congregation, although founded by Spiritans and operated in collaboration with Spiritans and in which several confreres are active).

"Concern" is an Irish organization, founded by Father Raymond KENNEDY, C.S.Sp., during the Nigerian civil war under the name "African Concern".

Its purpose was to supply food to the starving people of Biafra. When the war ended, the word "Africa" was dropped from the title in order to give it a wider objective, enabling it to go anywhere in the world where there was need.

Thus in 1971 Father KENNEDY and Father Michael DOHENY, C.S.Sp. committed "Concern" to come to the aid of the 250,000 refugees from East Pakistan at Salt Lake Camp near Calcutta. At the beginning of 1972, "Concern" followed the refugees when they were able to return to their country, now independent under the name of Bangladesh.

At first it was thought that "Concern" would be required for about two years, but now, five years later, they are not only there but expanding. Today there are 62 "Concern" volunteers in Bangladesh, counting Father DOHENY and Father Aengus FINUNCANE, C.S.Sp. They are mostly Irish and Catholic, but there are also volunteers from England, the United States and elsewhere. The only requirement is a desire to work hard for no remuneration except maintenance.

The main thrust of the "Concern" program is in the medical, nutritional and health-care field, so qualified nurses form the largest group, but 12 of the volunteers are engaged in engineering work, 12 in handicraft education, 10 in normal education, and 3 in

agriculture. "Concern"'s office at n° 283 Road 26, Dhanmondi, Dacca-5, is a busy place now, with an accountant and a solicitor on the staff -- a far cry from the early days when there was one typewriter and a part-time secretary.

Why has "Concern" not only remained but also developed so much? "The answer", says Father DOHENY, "is because we were true to our principle of action: "respond to felt needs". Some of the "Concern" initiatives have had an influence more far-reaching than their initiators themselves could have anticipated. Two that occur to me immediately are: the Food-for Work program of 1974 and the Handicrafts and Women's Work Programs. The former has influenced the enormous nation-wide Government-sponsored program involving over one million people; the latter has not only led to the development of a small but thriving industry but has also helped to restore dignity and the promise of a better way of life to thousands of deprived women".

MEXICO: Pujal Mission:

(We reprint here an appeal directed principally to the United States confreres by Father John YATES who has been called back to his Province to become part of the Interprovincial Novitiate Team. cf. p. 3).

"Leaving Mexico will not be easy, but then time usually takes care of such things. What hurts more is that Pujal will have no padre. Six years of work by three Holy Ghost Fathers has brought Pujal from a chapel-of-ease with Mass only on Tuesday to a parish center with twelve out-mission chapels, half of them built during our time here. Far from being fully developed, our work is only beginning here. A woman said to me the other day, "You have only half Christianized us, why are you leaving?"

I feel that there is someone in the West or East with a workable knowledge of Spanish who would love it here as I have. What is there to do? Say two Masses on Sunday and make your own schedule during the week. Before our time, Mass in these chapels was a once-a-year event. Also, all the chapels can be reached by car -- no mountain climbing! Three confreres are within thirty minutes by car and two more within an hour.

No phones or TV -- gracias a Dios -- but we do have electricity, hot water and in less than ten minutes golf, tennis and swimming for those who want them. Why not try it for six months to a year? Hurry, offer ends when first man signs up".

PARAGUAY: Lima Mission:

Lima, a little town hidden away in the Paraguayan hinterland, is the center of a mission confided originally to the Trinidadian Province of the Spiritans and now to an international group of the Order. The mission territory extends over an area of 5.000 sq. kms., with a population of 80.000 scattered in small towns of two or three thousand people or smaller villages of two or three hundred. There are no paved roads whatever, and most of the travelling must be done on motorbike or horseback across forests and open grazing lands, using only a few beaten tracks.

The people, apart from a few ranchers and shopkeepers, are all peasant farmers but the men, in the off-season, fell logs in the forests. They are extremely poor, with a per capita income of about \$ 100 per year. However, they do not go hungry because every family has a plot of land. Nevertheless, their diet is an unbalanced one.

Educational and medical facilities are at a minimum and there is a great need for people trained in these skills. In this enormous area, there are only two doctors serving the people, one of them a Spanish missionary sister. As can be expected, many people die from lack of adequate medicines or treatment. Ninety-nine per cent of the people are Catholic, or profess to be Catholic even though they may never have been baptized. Our mission did not have a resident priest for 100 years until the Spiritans arrived.

The first Spiritans took up residence ten years ago in Lima and completed what we now call the first stage of work; i.e. the improvement of the people's material condition. Clinics were opened and staffed with VICS personnel from Canada, cooperatives started and a college built, among other community development projects. Most of all; we have gained the confidence of the people and with it their desire to have the Church's presence among them.

The second stage of the Mission now is a serious attempt at the formation of basic Christian communities. We hope to bring to our people an awareness of the real meaning of Christianity and to live with them in an ever deepening manner the mysteries of our Faith.

GUYANA: District Chapter:

The District of Guyana held its Chapter from March 29 to 31. Almost all the confreres of the District were present, as well as Father John DALY, General Assistant, who had been visiting there since March 15. The meeting was the second session of the Chapter, the first having been held from April to early May 1976.

There were three principal topics: Spiritan community life; solidarity in the apostolic community; solidarity with the Church, the People of God. For each subject, three criteria were used: spiritual, material and apostolic.

N.B. The next Newsletter will appear at the end of June. Father GALIEGUE, who works so devotedly at the printing, will be on vacation from mid-May to mid-June.
