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SPIRITAN NEWS

December 1978

Number 18

CONGREGAZIONE DELLO SPIRITO SANTO - CLIVO DI CINNA, 195 - 00136 ROMA

SUMMARY

EVENT: Concerning the Beatification of Father LAVAL.
DOCUMENTATION: The Young African Churches
Come of Age.
NEWS: The Generalate Team - Appointments -
Spiritan Missionary Institute (North America) -
Book Reviews - Cabo Verde - Zambia -
Our Dead.

Event

AN EVENT POSTPONED: The Beatification of Fr LAVAL

Last February, the date for the Beatification of Father Laval was agreed upon. It was to have taken place on Mission Sunday, October 22 1978. Pope John Paul I had confirmed the date when he took office.

The world was shocked by the sudden and unexpected death of the new Pope, who had in so short a time won such world-wide affection. For us in particular, the tragedy was two-fold for it meant the postponement of the ceremony and the disappointment and inconvenience caused to 2000 pilgrim-friends of the Congregation and to the organisers and travel agencies concerned. Now, it is hoped the beatification will take place on one of the Sundays shortly after Easter, 1979, but this has yet to be officially confirmed.

The delay will at least give us an opportunity of making Father Laval better known before the event. Already, several books and pamphlets have appeared: there will no doubt be others for sale soon.

We have thought it useful therefore to avail of the space we had reserved for the Beatification to draw your attention to recently-published works on Father Laval of which we are aware and where they may be obtained.

IN ENGLISH

J. Fitzsimmons, *Jacques Désiré Laval, The "Saint" of Mauritius*, Bootle, Lancs, 1973, reprinted, 1978, 134 pages, £ 2,00 + 30 pence P & P, **A**¹.
M. O'Carroll, *Blessed Jacques-Désiré Laval, Apostle of Mauritius*, Dublin, 1978, 68 pages, 50 pence, **B**.
P. Bernier, *Père Laval*, (translated by O'Carroll, CSSp), Paris-Rome, 1978, 48 pages, 50 pence, **A-B-C-L-P**.
M. Campion, *Richer than Gold*, Spiritan Press, 1978, 30 pence + 15 pence P & P, **A**.

¹ The letters in bold type show in each instance the addresses at which the publication can be obtained (see Page 2.)



IN FRENCH

- J. Michel, *Le Père Jacques Laval, le "saint" de l'île Maurice*, Paris, Beauchesne, 1976, 476 p., 27 F., **D**.
P. Bernier, *Père Laval*, Paris-Rome, 1978, 48 p., 6 F., **E-J-K-L-M-N-P**.
J. Lécuyer, *Jacques Laval, extraits de sa correspondance*, Paris, Beauchesne, 1978, 122 p., 21 F., **G**.
R. Berthier, *Le Père Jacques Laval et le journal de la mission à l'île Maurice*, (bandes dessinées) (avec fiches de catéchèse et d'animation missionnaire pour éducateurs) Coll. Univers Media, Paris, 1978, 48 p., 18 F., **F**.
E. Francis, *Jacques Désiré Laval, l'apôtre de l'île Maurice, extrait de la brochure du Rev. Gerald Bowe*, (bandes dessinées), Sainte-Croix, Ile Maurice, 1978, 32 p., 3 F., **F-M**.
Y. Elégoët, *Calendrier 1979 Père Laval*, Alex, 1978, 8 p., ... F., **M**.
P. Bernier, *Au pays du Père Laval*, numéro spécial de la revue *Pentecôte sur le Monde*, n° 118, juillet-août 1976, Paris, 32 p., (épuisé).
J-C. Darrigaud, *Jacques Laval*, disque 33 t. / 30 cm., ou cassette, OVIDIS, coll. "Témoins de notre temps", env. 39 F., et 12 diapos en suppl., 30 F., (à paraître début 1979). **D-H**.
François Libermann, (mêmes auteur, éditeur, collection, prix et date de parution). **D-H**.
ACNAV (Association Catholique Nationale pour l'Audio-Visuel), montage audio-visuel sur le Père Laval, (à paraître en 1979), prix non fixé, s'adresser à **F**.

IN ITALIAN

- P. Bernier, *Giacomino Laval, medico, sacerdote, missionario d'avanguardia*, (traduzione italiana di Vincenzo Benassi), Roma, 1978, 62 p., 500 lire, **P**.

IN PORTUGUESE

- Congregação do Espiritu Santo, *Encontro*, (número especial consagrado ao Padre Tiago Laval, n° 95), Lisboa, 1978, 64 p., preço, dirigir-se a **R**.

IN GERMAN

- J. T. Rath, *Jakob Laval, der Apostel von Mauritius*, Missionsverlag Knechtsteden, 1978, 192 p., DM 4, 50, **S**.

IN POLISH

- F. Mientki, *Blodogoslawiony Jakub Dezyderiusz Laval*, Roma, 1978, 96 p. fuori commercio, 400 lire, **L-T**.

ADDRESSES FOR ORDERS

- A** - Promotion Office, 6 Woodlands Road, BROMLEY, Kent BRI 2AF (England)
B - Promotion Office, Kimmage Manor, DUBLIN 12 (Ireland)
C - Promotion Office, 852 College Avenue, PITTSBURGH, Pa 15232 (U.S.A.)
D - Procure Missions, Serv. Librairie, 30 rue Lhomond, 75005 PARIS (France)
E - Pentecôte sur le Monde, 30 rue Lhomond, 75005 PARIS (France)
F - C.I.M., 30 rue Lhomond, 75005 PARIS (France)
G - Editions Beauchesne, 72 rue des Saints-Pères, 75007 PARIS (France)
H - OVIDIS, 14 rue Jean-Bapt. Potin, 92170 VANVES (France)
J - Provincial, 18 rue du Botzet, CH 1700 FRIBOURG (Suisse)
K - Provincial, Noormannenstraat 68, B 3000 LEUVEN (Belgique)
L - SPES, 9110 Avenue Papineau, MONTREAL (Qué) H2M 2C8 (Canada)
M - Presbytère Sainte-Croix, PORT-LOUIS, Ile Maurice, (Oc. Indien)
N - Pères Spiritains, B.P. 58, 97462 SAINT-DENIS, La Réunion, (Oc. Indien)
P - Bureau Père Laval, 195 Clivo di Cinna, I 00136 ROMA (Italia)
R - Encontro, Rua de Santo Amaro, à Estrela, 51, LISBOA 2 (Portugal)
S - Missionsverlag Knechtsteden, D - 4047 DORMAGEN 1 (Deutschland)
T - Misjonarze Ducha Sw, ul. Kujawska 117, 85-152 BYDGOSZCZ, (Polska)

Documentation.

THE YOUNG AFRICAN CHURCHES COME OF AGE

"The Pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature. For it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she takes her origin, in accordance with the decree of the Father... (2)

In the missionary activity of the Church various stages are sometimes found side by side... When these stages have been passed the Church's missionary activity does not cease. Rather, **there lies upon the particular Churches which are already set up the duty of continuing this activity and preaching the Gospel to those outside...** (6)

In order that this missionary zeal may flourish among their native members, it is very fitting **that the Young Churches should participate as soon as possible in the universal missionary work of the Church. Let them send their missionaries to proclaim the Gospel all over the world, even though they themselves are suffering from a shortage of clergy.** For, their communion with the Universal Church reaches a measure of perfection when they themselves take an active part in missionary zeal towards other nations. (20)" - AD GENTES.

"The Young Churches may be said to have come of age, not just when they have their own hierarchy, local clergy, religious and laity, but only when they begin to look outwards in order to share the Gospel message with other peoples.

We are all aware of the phenomenal growth of Christianity in Africa in the last hundred years. In that Continent to-day, there are a number of flourishing local Churches embracing 50 million Catholics, almost entirely led by a local hierarchy and served by local priests and religious.

"It is especially interesting to note **the growing awareness of the missionary dimension of the Church amongst the African Churches.** There is a parallel, and even stronger, movement among Protestants. Increasingly, Church communities are growing in the realisation that they themselves are missionary." (Fr Timmermanns, in an interview to PENTECOTE SUR LE MONDE, July/August, 1978.)

In order to illustrate this growing missionary concern, this coming of age, of the Young Churches, we set down below some information on missionary ventures which we have gathered at random and which are very incomplete. Undoubtedly, there are many other such interesting developments of which we are not aware. Should you know of any in your area we would appreciate your co-operation in completing our file or, rather, on keeping it up-to-date. We thank you in advance for this help.

● **THE MISSIONARY RELIGIOUS OF THE APOSTLES OF JESUS:** this is a religious Congregation of African Brothers and Priests, living and working together on an equal footing, as missionaries in Africa or elsewhere. It was founded in 1968 by an Italian priest, Fr Morengoni, a Verona Father, who is still Superior-General. He is assisted, since the General Chapter of 1977, by a wholly African body of General Councillors. It is the first Missionary Institute to originate in Africa. From Uganda where it began and where it has houses in three dioceses it has spread, by invitation of the hierarchy, to Moshi in Tanzania, and to Nairobi in Kenya, where there are three Communities. The young Congregation has 73 novices (2-year Novitiate) and 76 professed members (6 priests, 5 brothers and 65 students). They have 400 junior aspirants from Tanzania, Kenya, the Sudan, Burundi and Rwanda.

● **THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL MISSIONARY SEMINARY:** this was established by the Episcopal Conference of Nigeria, representing 29 dioceses, each of which will eventually send 2 students to the Seminary. The opening took place on October 3, 1977. The aim is to ensure a regular recruitment of priests for deprived areas of the country or elsewhere in the world and to reinforce co-operation at national and international level.

"This awakening to the Mission demands of us a new form of service. We have to welcome Africans into the Congregation in order to help the local Churches to live this missionary vocation. We can offer them a cadre, a tradition, the experience of an international community, means, all of them, to living the Mission in Africa, as in Europe..."

We want to introduce this new dimension into the Congregation, so that it become inter-racial, much more fully universal! (Fr TIMMERMANS, in an interview with "Pentecôte Sur le Monde.")

● **BURUNDI MISSION TO CHAD:** since 1971, Sisters of the Bere Terziya Congregation have been working as missionaries in Southern Chad, at the request of the Bishop of Moundou. This vast diocese is largely Islam-dominated and the Bishop wanted the witness of consecrated womanhood in this society. At present, there are 5 Sisters from Burundi working in Chad and 14 Chadian Sisters have already been trained by the Bere Terziya Congregation in Burundi.

● **MISSIONARY CONGREGATIONS FOUNDED IN EUROPE** are also experiencing an increase in vocations from the Young Churches. The Divine Word Fathers with over 1000 aspirants draw 71% of them from the Third World. From Lesotho, two Sisters and one Oblate Father (O.M.I.), all Africans, have been sent to the Diocese of Bethlehem, in South Africa. It is also the intention to send more Canadian Oblates to Lesotho to allow local priests to go to other countries as missionaries. The Spiritan Province of Eastern Nigeria has promised to send a professor to the Senior Regional Seminary Emile Biayenda at Brazzaville (Congo). The Spiritan Foundation of East Africa has taken a very definite missionary orientation. For more than two years young, Tanzanian priests of the Foundation receive their First Obedience for Zambia, 2000 miles from their homeland. There are four of them working there at the time of writing.

"When asked in Africa, at the present time, how we see the future of the Congregation in that Continent, we reply that several new Provinces are growing out of our Foundations there. These will provide local-born missionaries for Africa and the Universal Church, and will incarnate the charism of Libermann in their own way." (Fr TIMMERMANS, addressing the E.G.C. May, 1978.)

NEWS

The Generalate Team.

The Generalate Team made their Annual Retreat together from October 29 to November 5. They are present in Rome again from November 6 to 30.

Fathers SONSBEEK and SOUCY will visit the Province of Holland from December 1 to 31. On December 15, they will be joined by FATHER GENERAL. Father WALSH will join them on December 27.

Fathers GROSS, DALY and THIELEMEIER will visit the Province of France from December 1 to 27. FATHER GENERAL will join them after January 7 and Father WALSH about January 23.

Appointment of Superior.

In the meeting of the General Council of October 26, Father Richard JEHLE was appointed Principal Superior of Bethlehem.

Spiritans Mission Institute meets in Trinidad.

The Spiritans Mission Institute was founded by the Spiritans in Canada to increase contemporary awareness of The Mission in North America by a study both theoretical and practical of Christian approaches to current social and economic problems and of Christian co-operation with those of other religions in these matters.

This year's Session was held in Trinidad from July 5 to 27. There were 43 participants: priests and lay-people of various ages and professions. Trinidad was chosen because it offered opportunity in a relatively small area to get a first-hand experience of the economic, social and political problems of a developing country with one of the most varied groups of people, ethnically and religion-wise, in the whole world.

The success of this meeting may be estimated by the appreciations of those who took part. In

summary, they said: it increased their awareness of our common humanity, of their own prejudices and the need to be more open to the cultural riches of the Third World, and the problem of being one of a minority group. They also found it an excellent and revealing exercise in living in a community with those of different ages, experiences and states of life and of sharing ideas, work and leisure. It was finally an opportunity to glorify the Creator for the beauties of creation and for the various ways in which He allowed men to find and approach Him.

May this candle of awareness give light to the candle of action to bring light into the darkness of our world.

Books reviewed.

Charles, The Children's Bishop, by Rev. John Hourigan, C.S.Sp., National Director of the Holy Childhood, Ireland (46 pages. Publisher and price not given. Apply to Holy Childhood Office, Rathmines Road, Dublin.) This is an attractively produced and engaging account of the life of Bishop Charles de Forbin Janson, founder of the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood, suitably illustrated. Intended to make children more aware of the Mission of the Church, it will appeal to the young of heart whatever their age.

Missionary Spirituality of Bishop Shanahan, by Father Tony Geoghegan, C.S.Sp (26 pages. Printed by The Three Candles, Ltd, Dublin: no price given.): a brief but interesting and enlightening theological synthesis of the spirituality of possibly Ireland's greatest missionary figure in this century. The synthesis is drawn from two volumes of letters of Bishop Shanahan collected by Sister Brigid Ryan and the memoirs of Sister Philomena Fox, both members of the Holy Rosary Sisters founded by Bishop Shanahan for the service of the missions.

Cabo Verde Islands.

Formerly an overseas province of Portugal, the Cabo Verde Islands, situated some 300 miles off the coast of West Africa, became an independent Republic in 1975. Ninety-six per cent of the 280,000 population are Catholic. The Bishop, a Spiritan, is assisted by 13 diocesan priests and forty religious, 15 of whom are Spiritans: the others are Salesians and Capuchins.

For the past ten years this group of 9 islands has suffered severely from drought, in common with the other countries of the Sahel. Unlike them however the harvest returns have been almost non-existent and discouraged with their losing battle with a hostile climate, many inhabitants have emigrated.

For a long time these islands were the poor relations amongst the countries of the Sahel where international aid was concerned. Fortunately, the authorities of the new State have won wide approval abroad for their realism, determination and sense of responsibility. The tragic state of the Archipelago, the courage of the people and the

favourable appreciation of the government of President Periera have moved some industrial countries to take action. Several schemes have already been realised, for example, the conservation of water that was being lost to the ocean at the rate of 900 cubic metres a day, land reclamation and irrigation systems.

Each of the countries giving aid has adopted its own area: the French are in S. Nicolau, the Dutch in S. Antao, The Americans in Santiago, the Swiss in Boa-Vista. A spirit of friendly emulation exists among them which encourages the people, who themselves are actively involved in the projects. They are paid not in cash but in kind. This is in harmony with Government policy which, out of respect for the dignity of the person and as an exercise in civic awareness, refuses to give out free food to the unemployed. Thousands have thereby been encouraged to work and find pride in being involved in building-up their country. Unfortunately, the harvest for 1977/78 has not been good because rain came too late and was below normal and unevenly distributed. Predatory insects also did much harm to the crops.

Twice lucky: Zambian Incident.

The parish of Seskeke in the diocese of Livingstone is situated on the Zambesi River in the southern part of Zambia. It is served by two Holy Ghost Fathers from the East African Foundation: Frs Paul Chuwa and Daniel Macha, missionaries from Tanzania 2000 miles away.

On August 23, 1978, South African troops crossed the frontier in pursuit of SWAPO guerillas. They attacked Seskeke and Katina Molino, where an estimated 19 were killed and several severely wounded.

Father J. Henschel, a visiting Spiritan from Germany, was returning at the time from a visit to Serenga with Fr Chuwa. Arrested and questioned at gun-point, they would almost certainly have been shot had not the Commander, who spoke German, ordered their release.

Shaken by their ordeal, they resumed their journey to Seskeke. To get there they had to cross the lines, this time of the SWAPO guerillas, who also arrested them. Thinking Fr Henschel was a South African, they wanted to shoot him but Providence again intervened: the guerilla Commander recognised Fr Chuwa and released them both. They crossed the Zambesi by canoe at 7 P.M. with escaping villagers. Next day, back at Seskeke, they found the whole town abandoned and learnt that Fr Daniel and two Sisters had evacuated the sick and wounded to Miranda and Livingstone. At 7 p.m. that evening they too left Seskeke.

Jubilarians.

An apology: we apologise to Father John M. Lundergan (U.S.A./East) for a printer's error concerning his Jubilee. We renew to him our good wishes not for 50 but for 65 years of priesthood.

Our Dead.

- Oct. 5. : Brother Willibaldus MEUSS (Belgique), aged 68 years.
- 13. : Father Daniel Rosa JUNQUEIRA (Portugal), aged 41 years.
- 13. : Father Marian CHOJNACKI (Poland), aged 69 years.
- 14. : Father Pierre HUYGUES- DESPOINTES (Martinique), aged 53 years.
- 21. : Father Thomas CURTIN (Trinidad), aged 60 years.