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SPIRITAN NEWS

July-August 1980

No. 30

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

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INFORMATION ON THE GENERAL CHAPTER

During the four weeks of the General Chapter the Information Service sent out a newsletter each week to the different circumscriptions. (Only one copy was sent to each, the task of reproducing it for the local communities being left to the authorities on the spot.) This issue of **SPIRITAN NEWS** and the following special issue on the Chapter will only partially cover the information already sent out in those newsletters.

EVENT/DOCUMENTATION: THE NEW GENERAL COUNCIL

For a Congregation of 3,800 members, a General Chapter, held every six years, is always an important event.

The Chapter of July 1980 set out to be a CELEBRATION of our Spiritan life, "in its diversity and unity". It turned out to be so, as the capitulants were happy to acknowledge. In spite of natural differences of background and approach, there was a basic unity that was seen most clearly perhaps in the virtually unanimous re-election of the Superior General, the delegates showing in this way their approval not only of Fr. TIMMERMANS but of the direction that he and his Team had given the Congregation.

A Chapter has two main tasks: to give guidelines for the coming six years, and to elect a new General Council.

At one time Councillors were supposed to be chosen "ex antiquioribus sodalibus" (Latin Rule, no. 10), but times have changed. The 1938 General Council, elected for 12 years, had an average age of 59; the 1980 Council, elected for 6 years, has an average age of only 46.

Without changing any of the norms for General Assistants laid down by preceding Chapters, the Chapter made the following points before electing the new Assistants:

- The General Assistants represent the entire Congregation and not a particular territory.
- The General Assistants should not be chosen exclusively for reasons of nationality, even though internationality must be preserved in the make-up of the Council.
- Because team-work is the manner of government, once the Superior General has been elected he should have some say in the choice of his Assistants.
- Proposed criteria for membership of the General Council: complementary competences answering the needs of the Congregation at the present time; to be able to work as a team; to be able to listen and capable of animation. (1)

After the election of the Superior General on Sat. 26 July, the six General Assistants were elected

(1) 'Definitive' text voted on 25 July 1980, but subject to stylistic modification by the Text Committee.



Before ...



During the election ...



After ...

on Tues. 29 July – the seventh, the General Bursar, being left to the General Council for appointment (cf. CDD 303 and GA 118).

After a straw vote, the only one to attain the necessary two-thirds majority on the first ballot was Fr. Vincent EZEONYIA, the 39-year-old Provincial of Nigeria. *"This is an important result,"* commented Fr. TIMMERMANS, *"and I am happy that the first General Assistant elected by the Chapter should be an African."* It was in fact a concrete expression of the Chapter's attitude to the young Provinces and Foundations of the Southern Hemisphere.

On the second ballot, in the afternoon, the five other Assistants got the necessary absolute majority.

Three were from the previous Administration: Frs. Joseph GROSS, John DALY and Adelio TORRES NEIVA; and two were new members: Frs. Bruno TRÄCHTLER and Norman BEVAN. As Fr. BEVAN was not a capitulant, he had to be contacted by telephone for his consent.

Leaving aside the General Bursar, who is always named later, the 1980 Council, like that of 1974, has five members under the age of 50, and its average age is 46 (compared with 47 in 1974). The Superior General, who in 1974 was the youngest (39), is now in the middle of the age-group – the three former members being older and the three new members younger.

'CURRICULUM VITAE' OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL



Fr. Frans TIMMERMANS
Superior General. Dutch.

Born 27 Feb. 1935 at Princenhage (Holland).
Professed 8 Sept. 1954 at Gennep.
Ordained 20 Sept. 1959 at Gemert.
1960-61: Studies at the Missionary School of Catholic Action and Social Action, Lille (France).
1961-68: Curate, then parish priest at Mobaye, Diocese of Bangassou (Centrafrique).
1968-74: Principal Superior of Bangui (Central African Republic).
1974-80: Superior General, re-elected 26 July 1980 for six years.

Fr. Joseph GROSS
First Assistant. French.

Born 30 March 1929 at Herrlisheim (France).
Professed 8 Sept. 1949 at Cellule.
Ordained 12 July 1956 in Rome.
1957-59: Licentiate in Sacred Scripture, Rome.
1959-63: Professor of Theology, Chevilly.
1963-65: Professor of Theology at Libermann Seminary, Brazzaville (Congo).
1965-73: Rector of Libermann Seminary, Brazzaville (Congo).
1973-74: Principal Superior of the Congo.
1974-80: First Assistant, re-elected 29 July 1980.



Fr. John DALY
Second Assistant. Irish.

Born 1 Jan. 1924 at Drogheda (Ireland).
Professed 8 Sept. 1942 at Kilshane.
Ordained 20 July 1952 at Fribourg (Switzerland).
1954-55: Teaching at junior scholasticate, Ihiala (Nigeria).
1956-58: Professor at Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu (Nigeria).
1959-63: Principal of secondary school at Alor (Nigeria).
1964-65: Director of Philosophy Scholasticate at Awomama (Nigeria).
'Peritus' at Second Vatican Council (third and fourth sessions).
1965-70: Rector of Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu (Nigeria).
1971-74: Teaching at Government school at Chipepo (Zambia).
1974-80: General Assistant, re-elected 29 July 1980.



Fr. Adelio TORRES NEIVA
General Assistant. Portuguese.

Born 1 Jan. 1932 at San Paio de Antas (Portugal).
Professed 8 Sept. 1950 at Viana.
Ordained 19 Feb. 1956 at Lisbon.
1956-57: Teaching at Viana.
1957-62: Studies in History at the University of Coimbra.
1962-74: Missionary Animation with L.I.A.M., then superior in Lisbon.
1974-80: General Assistant, re-elected 29 July 1980.





Fr. Vincent EZEONYIA
General Assistant. Nigerian.

Born 5 April 1941 at Ukeh (Nigeria).
Professed 12 Feb. 1962 at Awomama.
Ordained 3 Aug. 1968 at Ukeh.
1968-71: Parish priest at Egbema (Nigeria).
1971-74: B.A. in Classics at Maynooth (Ireland).
1974-77: M.A. in Classics at Fordham University (U.S.A.).
1977-80: Chaplain at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, then national chaplain for all the Nigerian universities.
1980 : Provincial of Nigeria-East. Elected General Assistant 29 July 1980.



Fr. Bruno TRÄCHTLER
General Assistant. German.

Born 22 March 1939 at Murg (Germany).
Professed 12 April 1961 at Heimbach.
Ordained 19 May 1966 at Knechtsteden.
1968-69: Chaplain at Blumenau (Brazil South).
1970-77: Principal of College of Salette (Brazil South).
1977-78: Missionary Animation and diocesan correspondent for 'Missio', Cologne.
1978-80: Principal Superior of Brazil South.
Elected General Assistant 29 July 1980.



Fr. Norman E. BEVAN
General Assistant. American.

Born 6 July 1937 in Buffalo (U.S.A.).
Professed 22 Aug. 1958 at Ridgefield.
Ordained 22 Sept. 1963 at Ferndale.
1964-70: Doctorate in Moral Theology, Rome.
1970 : Professor of Moral Theology at Duquesne University (U.S.A.).
1971-73: Professor of Moral Theology at Kipalapala (Tanzania).
1973-80: Professor at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago (U.S.A.).
Director and Bursar of Spiritan House of Theology, Chicago.
Elected General Assistant 29 July 1980.



Fr. TIMMERMANS

BEFORE SAYING 'YES'

Accepting one's election or re-election is always a serious moment, in which one weighs the responsibilities in advance. These photos, taken just before the 'yes', speak for themselves.



Fr. EZEONYIA



Fr. TRÄCHTLER

NEWS

Generalate Team

The new Generalate Team will be meeting in Rome from 10 Sept. They will do their annual retreat at Assisi from 21 to 28 Sept. One of the first matters to be decided will be the appointment of a General Bursar, who will rank as one of the Assistants.

Decisions of the General Council

20 May:

- Opening of an international Spiritan novitiate for North America at Farnham (Province of **Canada**).

27 May:

- Prolongation of Fr. Heliodoro MACHADO's term as Provincial of **Spain** to 31 Dec. 1980.
- Opening of a novitiate for the West African Foundation at Bwiam (District of **Gambia**).

6 June and 30 July:

- Confirmation of the election of Fr. Joseph WOLLENSCHNEIDER as Principal Superior of the **Congo**, to take effect from 20 Oct. 1980.

11 July:

- Appointment of Fr. Bernard MATHIS as Provincial of **Switzerland** for a second term, from 1 Sept. 1980.
- Appointment of Fr. Pierre LAURENT as Principal Superior of **Madagascar**, from 18 Jan. 1981.
- Appointment of Fr. Léon AMAN as Principal Superior of **Yaoundé** for a second term, from 5 Aug. 1980.

22 July:

- Appointment of Fr. Bernard BONGO as Provincial of **Angola** for a second term, from 22 July 1980.

24 July:

- Appointment of Fr. Christopher PROMIS as Executive Officer of the **East African Foundation** for a three-year term starting on 25 May 1980.
- Prolongation of Fr. Iede DE LANGE's term as Superior of the Principal Community of **Ethiopia** (USA East/Nederland) to 31 Dec. 1980.

30 July:

- Reopening of the **Central African Foundation's** novitiate at Akono (District of Yaoundé), with Fr. René CHARRIER as Novice Master.

Change of Address

As from 15 Aug. 1980, the address of the **Belgian Provincialate** is: Congregatie van de H. Geest, Provincialelaat, Overstraat 71, 3008 VELTEM-BEISEM. Tel.: 016/48.01.45.

Jubilarians

60 Years of Profession:

- 1 Nov.: Fr. Corentin LARNICOL (France), Br. Egbertus HABES (Holland).

60 Years of Priesthood:

- 18 Dec.: Fr. Francis GRIFFIN (Ireland).

50 Years of Profession:

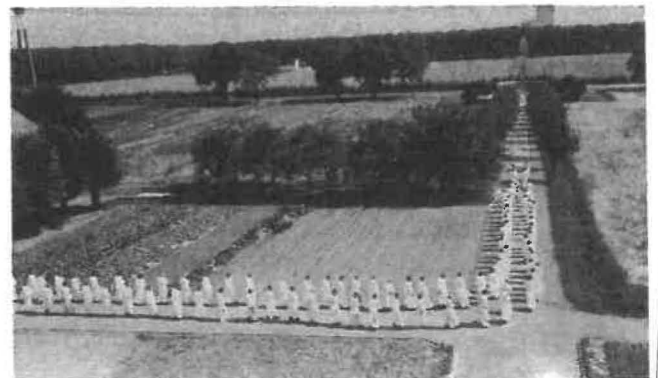
- 8 Dec.: Brothers Josef ITTA and Solanus JANSEN (Germany).

25 Years a Bishop:

- 20 Nov.: Mgr. Gérard DE MILLEVILLE (Brazil).

Our Dead

- 16 Apr. : Fr. Robert PINCHON (Martinique), 66.
 17 Apr. : Fr. John M. LUNDERGAN (USA East), 96.
 22 Apr. : Br. Céleste POIRÉ (France), 84.
 24 Apr. : Fr. Manuel de Jesus RAPOSO (Portugal), 87.
 29 Apr. : Br. Bernhard PRESTEL (Germany), 68.
 13 May : Fr. John LITTLE (Ireland), 49.
 15 May : Fr. Louis ESSWEIN (France), 88.
 16 May : Fr. Auguste LEDOGAR (France), 82.
 18 May : Fr. Henricus DE VRIES (Holland), 75.
 1 June : Fr. Josef RIETH (Germany), 80.
 10 June : Br. Guy DOSSMANN (Gabon), 46.
 13 June : Fr. Charles HOLLER (France), 72.
 18 June : Mgr. Auguste GRIMAUULT (France), 97.
 25 June : Fr. Joseph A. LAURITIS (USA East), 71.
 27 June : Mgr. Moisés ALVES DE PINHO (Portugal), 96.
 2 July : Fr. Henri VAN KEMENADE (Belgium), 71.
 10 July : Fr. Antonius VAN BOMMEL (Holland), 59.
 16 July : Fr. Wilhelm KRUMM (Southern Africa), 59.
 20 July : Fr. Joseph LE MOAL (France), 66.
 23 July : Fr. Joseph WHITE (Ghana), 56.
 23 July : Fr. Johannes MOLAGER (Gabon), 79.
 4 Aug. : Br. Francisco SILVA PINTO (Portugal), 96.
 15 Aug. : Fr. George C. REARDON (USA West), 66.
 16 Aug. : Fr. Louis COSTE (France), 76.
 18 Aug. : Br. Alfred GRENADA (France), 74.
 18 Aug. : Fr. James CRONIN (Ireland), 66.



The funeral of Fr. MOLAGER, who died at Chevilly during the Chapter.