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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Anima Una* is inspired by a number of things. Over the last number of years the Congregation has listened to and reflected on those among us who are Religious Brothers, as well as those who are closely associated with our work as Lay Spiritans. Although the vast majority of Spiritans, throughout our three hundred year history, have exercised their Spiritan calling as ordained priests, we needed to affirm the centrality of the lives and ministry of Spiritan Brothers and Lay Spiritans to the calling we have in common. Together we belong to the wider Spiritan family, and we all share in different ways in the same Spiritan heritage, being nourished by the same Spiritan spirituality, and giving expression to the inspiration of our Founders through a charism which moves us to serve the mission of God in the Church with ever deeper commitment and drive.

However, during the Church's Year of Priests (2009-2010), we thought that there was need to reflect on the role of Spiritans in ordained ministry, and on how they exercise this ministry in the Congregation. There is also need for us to reflect on how the ministry of Spiritan priests is articulated in our communities and our life-style. We need to reflect on how our religious-missionary calling in the tradition of des Places and Libermann, should have any bearing on how ordained Spiritans minister. At a time when there is much deep examination taking place on the way some priests in different parts of the world failed to live up to their calling, and of how the Church could begin to respond in a more humble and authentic way

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to the Gospel task that it has, it might also be a good time for Spiritan priests to reflect deeply and seriously on how they live and minister alongside other members of the Spiritan family. There is also need to see how Spiritans, in their pastoral ministry in parishes and communities, live and exercise their ordained priesthood.