

Fall 2016

## Editor's Introduction (English)

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# Introduction

The current *Spiritans Horizons* opens with the second and final instalment of **Francis Xavier Malinowski**, C.S.Sp. on “*The Holy Spirit in the Writings of Libermann*.” Father Libermann’s rejection of rigid systems, especially of prayer, is well known. He insisted that the Holy Spirit guides each one in a prayer suited to one’s condition, hence prayer is none other than “a peaceful and simple repose before God.” **Joseph Hirtz**, C.S.Sp., “*Praying with Father Libermann*,” outlines in a very clear and simple manner the co-founder’s doctrine and practice of prayer, including practical union. In *Spiritans Horizons* 10 (2015), the Center for Spiritan Studies announced the publication of *Libermann’s Provisional Rule of 1840*. **François Nicolas**, C.S.Sp. gives a hands-on commentary on the essential teachings of the Provisional Rule. Paul V. Kollman, *The Evangelization of Slaves and Catholic Origins in Eastern Africa*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2005 ignited a debate when he charged that Spiritan missionaries at Bagamoyo evangelized the slaves as slaves. **Johannes Henschel**, C.S.Sp., “*The First Spiritan Mission Method in Bagamoyo: Liberation of Slaves*,” counters with two questions: why did the Spiritan missionaries liberate slaves? And did they force the liberated to become Christians? Two Spiritan Brothers, **Matthieu Boulanger**, C.S.Sp. and **Marc Tyrant**, C.S.Sp., “*‘You are all Brothers’ (Matt 23:8): Spiritan Brothers*,” reflect on the Brother’s charism in the interplay of charisms in the Spiritan family of priests, Brothers and Lay Associates. They do this by way of an incisive commentary on the recent Vatican document on the Religious Brother (see also the Review below). Continuing the quest for Spiritans for Today, **Brian McLaughlin**, C.S.Sp., “*The Journey of a Non-Hero’s Hero? John Doyle, C.S.Sp.*,” in a very touching way details the spirituality, mission perspectives, and leadership goals of this “Wounded Healer” and Spiritan missionary to Nigeria, Brazil, and Germany.

Three articles sound out Pope Francis’ Encyclical, *Laudato Si’* On Care for Our Common Home. Professor **Gerard Magill**, “*Laudato Si’: A Commentary*,” succinctly relates it to Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the Catholic tradition of Natural Law. We received permission to republish **Norman Habel**, “*Guiding Ecojustice Principles*,” which illustrates how Scripture can and should now be read with ecological lens if “ecological conversion” is to receive due support from the word

of God. **Brian O'Toole**, C.S.Sp. "*The Spiritan Option for the Poor and the Care of Creation*," shows in effect how advocating for the integrity of creation is a new name of Spiritan mission with the poor in today's world.

Under Education, **Luke Nnamdi Mbefo**, C.S.Sp. continues the saga of New Spiritan Universities with a description of "*Marian University College, Bagamoyo*," an achievement that caps centuries of Spiritan pioneering of education in East Africa. Duquesne's Dr. **Matthew Kostek**, "*Spiritan Pedagogy and Cura Personalis in a Large Lecture Hall*," carries forward the recent discussions of Spiritan Pedagogy among faculty and staff at Duquesne by illustrating how attentiveness to the Spirit can be practiced with effect in a large class.

The sole lived experience is offered by **Bernard Kelly**, C.S.Sp., "*If You Only Knew what God is Offering*," a reflection on Jesus' meeting with the woman of Samaria, John 4.

**James Chukwuma Okoye**, C.S.Sp. summarizes three recent Vatican documents touching Spiritan spheres of mission and life: "*Educating to Intercultural Dialogue in Catholic Schools*," October 2013 from the Congregation for Catholic Education, "*Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church*," October 2015, by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and "*A Reflection on the Theological Questions pertaining to Catholic-Jewish Relations on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate, no. 4*," December 10, 2015, by the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

Two Book Reviews by **James Chukwuma Okoye**, C.S.Sp. bring the number to a close: Daniel P. Scheid, *The Cosmic Common Good: Religious Grounds for Ecological Ethics*. Oxford University Press, 2016 and *Gravissimum Educationis. Golden Opportunities in American Catholic Education 50 Years after Vatican II*. Edited by Gerald M. Cattaro and Charles J. Russo. New York and London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.