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# SPIRITAN NEWS

May-July 1983

No. 47

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

## 450th Anniversary of the Diocese of Cape Verde

Apart from the early dioceses in North Africa, such as St. Augustine's diocese of Hippo, the oldest African diocese is that of Santiago de Cabo Verde, which was set up by Pope Clement VII on 31 Jan. 1533 and which at that time included not only the Cape Verde islands but also the African coast from the Gambia to Liberia.



Bishop Paulino Évora,  
C.S.Sp.

Spiritans have been working in the islands since 1941; when Mgr. Faustino Moreira dos Santos, C.S.Sp., was named Bishop. He was succeeded in 1956 by Bishop José Colaço, a non-Spiritans, but since 1975, the year of the islands' independence, the Bishop has been a local Spiritan, Mgr. Paulino do Livramento Évora. Working with him are 13 Spiritan priests and a Brother, along with Italian Capuchins, Portuguese Salesians and a few local diocesan priests. The Spiritans work mostly on the principal island of Santiago, but two of them are on the island of Maio, and the District Superior, Fr. José Fa-

gundes Pires, visits the island of Boa Vista.

The Cape Verde archipelago consists of nine islands, 450 kms. west of Dakar. They were discovered by Portuguese navigators in 1460, and the present population of 320,000 is of mixed Portuguese and African descent. There are also some 500,000 Cape Verdians who have had to emigrate in search of work, for the islands' economy is fragile because of persistent drought.

The observance of the 450th anniversary of the diocese began on 18 May last year, the anniversary of the letter in which King John III of Portugal asked the Pope to set up the diocese. The main celebrations were held from 23-31 Jan. and there was a closing function at Pentecost. Among those who took part in the functions in January were Cardinal Ribeiro of Lisbon; the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio from Dakar; Bishop Michael Cleary, C.S.Sp., from the Gambia; and Sister Hildegard Cordewener, Superior General of the Spiritan Sisters, of whom 12 work in Cape Verde.

As a conclusion to reflection that had begun at the level of the parishes, about 150 delegates (priests, sisters and laity) reflected for three days (25-27 Jan.) on some of the key issues of ecclesial life (family, youth, vocations, apostolic commitment). On 28 Jan., the Pro-Nuncio presided at a concelebrated Mass in the parish of Santa Catarina. On 29 Jan., the President of the Republic, Mr. Aristides Pereira, and other members of the government were among the 5,000 persons who assisted at the liturgy in the capital, Praia. (The government is Marxist but is not unfriendly towards the Church.) On Sunday 30 Jan., some 15,000 people went in procession for several kilometres to the old capital of Cidade Velha, where the liturgy was celebrated beside the ruins of the first cathedral. Later that evening the Cardinal of Lisbon



blessed the foundation stone of a new parish church in a suburb of Praia, which will serve as the new cathedral. On 28 and 29 Jan., there were also two lectures on the history of the Church in Cape Verde, by Fr. António Brásio, C.S.Sp., and by the Cape Verdian author Felix Monteiro.

The Spiritans in Cape Verde will be holding their District Chapter from 6-10 June, with the Superior General and Fr. Torres Neiva taking part.

### Justice and Peace

The publications of the different Provinces show continuing interest in the issues of Justice and Peace.

The March Newsletter of USA/E included an article by Fr. Gene Hillman on the injustices committed in the past and present against the Masai and other nomadic pastoral peoples by dividing them between different countries and taking away their best pasture lands.

The March 'Informations' of the Canadian Province carried an article by Fr. René Soler on the slave-labour conditions of the Haitian 'braceros', or sugarcane cutters in the Dominican Republic. 15,000 'braceros', it said, have been sold again in 1983 by the Haitian Government. The workers are paid about \$1.00 a day and live in appalling conditions. If they try to escape they are brought into line by the 'tontons-macoutes'. There are some 300,000 of these Haitian 'braceros' now in the Dominican Republic. A committee to support their cause has been started in Quebec.

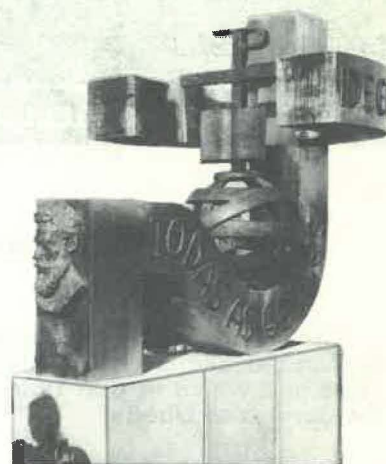
## Monument to former Provincial of Portugal

Fr. José Gonçalves de Araújo, who was for six years Provincial of Portugal and who died in Madrid on 26 Dec. 1979 at the early age of 47, has been honoured at his birthplace — Avintes, near Porto — with a monument that was unveiled at a solemn ceremony on 26 Dec., the third anniversary of his death.

Born in 1932 and ordained in 1956, Fr. Araújo completed a licentiate in theology at the Gregorian University before going to Angola in 1957. He taught at Huambo for five years, until he was recalled to help with the establishment of the Congregation in Spain. From 1963 to 1970 he worked in missionary animation there and was editor of *Pentecostés Misionero*. From 1970-76 he was Provincial of Portugal at a particularly troubled period which called for all his skill as a conciliator. For the last three years of his life, tragically cut short by cancer, he was again in Spain, devoting his many gifts to the service of the young Province.

The monument to his memory was put up by the people of Avintes and stands in the square in front of the parish church. It takes the form of a bust at the base of a semi-reclining cross with its arms embracing the globe.

More than 2,000 friends of Fr. Araújo, many of them from Spain, attended the con-celebrated Mass for its dedication, at which the homily was given by the Portuguese Provincial, Fr. Durães Barbosa. The Provincial of Spain, Fr. Ramos Seixas, was one of the speakers who paid tribute at his grave, and the mayor, the parish priest and one of Fr. Araújo's brothers spoke after the monument was unveiled by his sister, Dona Teresa de Araújo.



## News Items

### Acta of the Holy See

The Holy See announced on 12 April the division of the **Diocese of Doumé (Cameroon)** into the two Dioceses of Doumé-Abong-Mbang and Bertoua. Bishop Lambert van HEYGEN, C.S.Sp., who was Bishop of Doumé, now becomes Bishop of Bertoua, and Fr. Pierre TCHOUANGA, S.C.J., Bishop of Doumé-Abong-Mbang. The Diocese of Bertoua will have two-thirds of the former area, and of its 280,000 inhabitants only 17% are Catholic, while 35% of the 144,000 inhabitants of Doumé-Abong-Mbang are Catholic. The episcopal seat of this latter Diocese will be the town of Abong-Mbang.

### Decisions of the General Council

The General Council

- on 16 March, confirmed the re-election of Fr. Bernard MATHIS as Provincial of **Switzerland** for a third three-year term beginning on 1 Sept. 1983;
- on 16 March, appointed Fr. Cothraí GOGAN as novice Master of the **East African Foundation** for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1983;
- on 13 April, appointed Fr. Theodorus KOENEN as Principal Superior of the District of **Bangui** for a three-year term beginning on 15 May 1983;
- on 18 April, appointed Fr. Bernard DUCHÊNE as Provincial of **Angola** for a three-year term beginning on 1 May 1983;
- on 22 April, confirmed the election of Fr. John B. DOYLE as Principal Superior of the District of **Brazil South-West** for a second three-year term beginning on 26 April 1983;
- on 20 May, appointed Fr. Daniel HENRY as Principal Superior of the District of **Yaoundé** for a three-year term beginning on 5 Aug. 1983;
- on 25 May, appointed Fr. Daniel MACHA as Superior of the **East African Foundation** for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1983.

### Visits

Of the Visits by the Generalate Team announced in our issue of Nov.-Dec., that of Fr. General and Fr. Torres Neiva

to Cabo Verde in April did not take place, nor did Fr. General visit England in April. The following is the program of Visits and absences from the Generalate until the end of October:

- Fr. General** : 1-5 May (Abidjan), 1-3 June (Germany), 6-12 June (Cabo Verde), 15 June-13 July (Brazil), 21 July-21 Aug. (Vacation), 1-7 Sept. (England).
- Fr. Gross** : 15-30 June (France), 1-31 July (Vacation), 1-30 Aug. (Indian Ocean/Congo), 1-10 Sept. (Congo).
- Fr. Torres Neiva**: 27 May-13 June (Cabo Verde), 1-10 July (Spain), 15-31 July (Portugal), 1-31 Aug. (Vacation).
- Fr. Trächtler** : 28 May-7 July (Germany), 1-31 Aug. (Vacation), 1-20 Sept. (Poland).
- Fr. Bevan** : 1-31 Aug. (Vacation), 5-15 Sept. (USA).
- Fr. De Boer** : 1-30 June (Germany), 1-15 July (Brazil), 1-31 Aug. (Vacation).
- Fr. Watters** : 1-31 July (Vacation), 1-31 Aug. (France).

During the month of August, current business will be handled by **Fr. Ezeonyia**, who will be the only member of the Team at the Generalate.

### First appointments

The General Council has made first appointments to the following circumscriptions:

ANGOLA	Jean-Etienne WOZNIAK (France)
GABON	Paulin NGUEMA (C.A.F.) Thomas NGUEMA (C.A.F.) Peter CONATY (Ireland)
GAMBIA	Donal MURRAY (Ireland)
KONGOLO	Andrew MWIKO (E.A.F.) Joseph TENGA (E.A.F.)
MAKURDI (Yola)	Eamon MULCAHY (England)
NIGERIA EAST	David OKENYI (Nigeria East) Sylvester IGBOANYIKA (Nigeria East)
SENEGAL	René PREVOT (France)
SIERRA LEONE	Eamon BREHONY (Ireland) Thomas MYLOD (Ireland) John MWENGA (E.A.F.)
UGANDA	Ernest EZEUGU (Nigeria East)
ZAMBIA	Christopher MBOGU (Nigeria East) Clement TEMBA (E.A.F.)
PAKISTAN	Francis NAUGHTON (Ireland)
BRAZIL S.W.	Patrick CULLY (Ireland) Jeremiah KIRWIN (Ireland)

MEXICO Wayne EPPERLEY (USA/W)  
 PARAGUAY Jean-François COQUEREL (France)  
 USA/W Michael WHITE (USA/W)  
*Further Studies* Pius ONYANGO (E.A.F.)

All the above are either already ordained or due for ordination in the near future. It may be noted that, of the 24 appointments, 11 are from the Young Provinces or Foundations — another sign of their growing importance.

### Meeting on Congregation's finances

From 1-4 March, four of the Provincial Bursars met at the Generalate with the General Bursar, Fr. Joseph De Boer, to discuss the Congregation's finances. They were Frs. François Bazin (France), Abel Moreira Dias (Portugal), Hermann-Josef Reetz (Germany) and William Podobinsky (USA/E). They brought to the discussion not only their experience as bursars but also the different approaches of their cultural backgrounds, and the four days of morning and afternoon sessions proved fruitful in ideas which will be taken up later by the General Council in dialogue with the Major Superiors.

The meeting concentrated on the question of solidarity in the Congregation, especially with regard to the needs of the young Foundations. The finances of the General Administration itself were also touched on. As Fr. De Boer pointed out at last year's Enlarged General Council, the inflation of the past few years has put a strain on its finances, so that it can no longer function solely on the income from invested capital. A few years ago the General Administration had been able to dispense with the 'personal contribution' from the circumscriptions, but some form of contribution will probably have to be re-established.

### France

The Feb. 2nd conference at Rue Lhomond was given this year by Fr. Michael Cahill, of the Province of Ireland, who has been doing research in Paris on the background to Fr. Libermann's Commentary on St. John's Gospel. In the course of his study Fr. Cahill found that the rabbi at the Rue Vauquelin synagogue had a copy of the Mishnah that had belonged to Fr. Libermann's father. This volume has now been acquired by the Province of France.

From 25 April to 7 May, Fr. Alphonse Gilbert and Br. Jean-Pierre Delsarte animated a session for older confreres from various communities at La Croix Valmer.

Frs. Raymond Zimmermann and Patrick Cascaro have gone to Varanasi (Benares) in India to study Hindi and Hindu culture with a view to work among the Indians in Mauritius.

### Ireland

The Irish relief and development organization 'Concern' has 99 young volunteers in the field at present, in Bangladesh, Thailand, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Yemen and El Salvador. A Spiritan, Fr. Raymond Kennedy, was one of the main founders of 'Concern', and Spiritans are still involved in it: Fr. Aengus Finucane as Chief Executive and Frs. Michael Doherty and Jack Finucane in the field.

### Portugal

On 12 March, the Provincial of Portugal, Fr. Manuel Durães Barbosa, opened a new community at Benfica, Lisbon, for missionary animation in the southern part of Portugal. It is staffed by Fr. José Lapa (director), Fr. Firmino de Sá Cachada (bursar) and Br. Joaquim dos Santos Custódio. Fr. Sá Cachada is also editor of the Province's monthly magazine *Encontro* (circ. 8,000) and monthly newspaper *Ação Missionária* (circ. 32,000), both of which play a large part in national missionary animation. Cardinal António Ribeiro, Patriarch of Lisbon, visited the offices of these publications on 23 Jan., when he concelebrated Mass with the community at the Provincial House in Lisbon and had lunch with them afterwards. He expressed his gratitude for all the Province was doing to promote a missionary spirit in the country.

### Switzerland

The Swiss Province held its Enlarged Council at Le Bouveret from 12-14 March, with the election of the Provincial as the main point on the agenda. Eighteen delegates from the Province and the missions took part, and the Generalate was represented by Fr. Torres Neiva. Fr. Bernard Mathis was re-elected for a third term as Provincial. The meeting provided an opportunity for fraternal sharing, and several themes concerning Spiritan life were discussed.

### Poland

Three Spiritans were ordained to the priesthood on 2 Feb. in the Holy Ghost parish church at Bydgoszcz by Bishop Jan Michalski, Coadjutor of Cardinal Giemp: Frs. Edward Jabłoński, Edward Pondel and Jan Popa. On the same day 8 novices received the habit to start their novitiate.

### Spain

The former scholasticate building at San Cugat, Barcelona, has been sold and a new house for formation was bought in Madrid in February. Three Spiritans were ordained to the diaconate on 13 March in Madrid by Bishop Campmany, National Director of the Pontifical Mission-Aid Societies.

### West African Regional Meeting

The Major Superiors of West Africa met at Spiritan House, Bo, Sierra Leone, from 25-27 Jan. Those present were: Frs. F. Timmermans (Superior General), J. Daviet (Senegal), P. Kearins (Sierra Leone), J. Moriarty (Ghana), J. Okoye (Nigeria East), R. Saint-Louis (Kwara-Benue), V. Griffin (Makurdi) and P. Newman (WAF). The main topic discussed was the West African Foundation (WAF), and it was proposed that Fr. John Hogan be Director of it in place of Fr. Newman, who had been appointed to the Irish Provincial Council. This was later ratified by the General Council, and the Executive Council of the WAF will consist of Frs. Hogan, H. Fagan (Gambia) and J. Daviet. The 10 philosophers of the WAF are at Isien in Nigeria, and discussion arose as to the siting of a theologate. The decision would depend on the siting of the novitiate, which may be moved from the Gambia after 1985. The Major Superiors are to meet again in Rome in October to go more fully into the matter. A pre-novitiate will open in Kumasi, Ghana, in September this year, and Kwara-Benue and Makurdi also plan to open a joint pre-novitiate.

### Bangui

The District held its first-ever Chapter from 7-10 Dec., with most of the 78 Spiritans in Centrafrica taking part along with the District Superior, Fr. Yves Gautier, and Fr. Joseph Gross, who represented the Generalate Team. Four main themes were discussed, and short texts were drawn up on them: the local Church; society and development; Spiritan community; and the Spiritan in Centrafrica, today and tomorrow. About a quarter of the country's population of three million is now Catholic, with Protestants accounting for another quarter. Muslims are about 10%, but their presence is getting stronger with financial backing from Arab States. The Church is vital and influential, with good involvement on the part of the laity. Spiritans have been very much involved in building up the local Church, and the Pastoral Centre in Bangui plays an important part in the training of lay leaders.

### Kilimanjaro

A house has been bought in Arusha to serve as a Spiritan District House, as distinct from the East African Foundation.

Uganda has not traditionally been an area of Spiritan activity, but the District of Kilimanjaro has now accepted the parish of Mulago in Kampala. The pastor will be Fr. George Crocenzi. One of the young members of the East African Foundation, Fr. John Mwenga, has been named to Uganda as his first appointment. There are two Ugandan novices at the E.A.F. novitiate in Tanzania this year.

## Gabon

The five Bishops of Gabon (Archbishop Anguilé of Libreville, Bishop Makouaka of Franceville, Bishop Obamba of Mouila, Bishop Mvé of Oyem and the former Bishop of Oyem, Mgr. Ndong) were at the Generalate in February for their 'ad limina' visit to the Holy Father, with whom they had an audience on 19 Feb. About half of Gabon's population of nearly a million is Catholic. Apart from the five Bishops, there are 18 local Gabonese priests and 12 major seminarists. Spiritans working in the four dioceses number 67 (59 Fathers and 8 Brothers). The new cathedral of Oyem was consecrated by the Papal Pro-Nuncio on 12 Dec. last. Four of the five Bishops joined the Spiritans in a concelebrated Mass in Libreville, presided over by Archbishop Anguilé, for the Feast of Feb. 2nd.

## Cameroon

A commission has already been set up to prepare for the centenary, in 1990, of the Church in Cameroon. The Congregation has been asked to produce for the occasion a volume on the history of its work in the country, and the General Archivist, Fr. Bernard Noël, would like all former missionaries in Cameroon to send him copies of any documents, records or photos that might be of interest, or to write in about any special memories they may have of their work there. Material should be sent to him at the General Archives, 12 Rue du Père Mazurié, 94550 CHEVILLY, France.

## Senegal

The District has decided to make a special effort at evangelization in the Kédougou area, in the south-east of the country near the border with Guinea, as there is first evangelization to be done here among people who are showing themselves receptive to the gospel. Animation this year throughout the District is focussing on 'community life and apostolate'. On 19 March, a Senegalese Manjak, Mr. Clement Gomis, was ordained to the diaconate in France, and he is due to enter the Spiritan novitiate later this year. (It is among the Manjaks that a Spiritan team is working in Guinea-Bissau.)

## Malawi

Irish Spiritans have been working in Malawi since 1971, when, at the request of Archbishop Chiona, a group of eleven who had had to leave Nigeria after the Biafra war, took up work in the Archdiocese of Blantyre. Six of them are still at work there: Fr. David O'Connor (group superior) at Ndirande, Frs. Seamus Foley, Bernard Cullen and James Devine at Thunga, Fr. James Murphy at Njuli, and Fr. Richard Thornton at the Limbe cathedral (he was also until recently teaching at the minor seminary). Since 1973, four Spiritans, sponsored by the Diocese of Calgary in Canada, have also worked in Malawi, in the Diocese of Chikwawa — their present representative there being Fr. Loughlin Flanagan at the mission of Njale. And further north, at Mtendare parish in the Diocese of Dedza, is Fr. Conor Kennedy, also of Trans-Canada and sponsored by the Diocese of Edmonton. The group has not figured much in *Spiritans News* but their readaptation to missionary service in a different part of Africa from their original mission will remain as an inspiration to many.

## French Guiana

From 25 Feb. to 4 March, Bishop François Morvan, C.S.Sp., and the Diocese of Cayenne were the hosts of the annual meeting of the Antilles Bishops' Conference. The Conference groups 17 Dioceses in the four Provinces of

Kingston, Fort-de-France, Castries and Port-of-Spain. This was the first time that the three French-speaking dioceses took part as full members and not as observers. On the afternoon of Sunday 27 Feb., the assembled Bishops joined the clergy of Cayenne in a solemn concelebrated Mass in the cathedral of Saint Saviour, which this year is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

## Funding for Projects

Confreres looking for funds for projects might find it worthwhile to order a copy of the book *Agencies for Project Assistance* by Frs. Pierre Aubin and George Cotter — a directory of 238 international organizations that provide aid to Church-sponsored projects in the Third World. It also gives tips on how to present your project to the agencies. It may be ordered from: Mission Project Service, 204 West 97th Street, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025, U.S.A. The price is \$45 if payment is enclosed with the order — otherwise there is an extra \$2.50 charge for postage.

## Jubilarians

### 70 Years of Profession:

- 8 Sept. : Br. Agostinho ALVES DA TRINDADE (Angola).  
28 Sept. : Fr. Daniel MURPHY (Ireland).

### 60 Years of Profession:

- 17 Sept. : Bishop Gustave BOUVE and Fr. Marcel DEVOL-DERE (Belgium), Fr. Marc DUVAL, Pierre GRENIER, Henri GRIMAUX and Alfred MARTIN (France), Fr. Thomas FINAN (England), Frs. Antonius ROOJAKKERS and Johannes van de ZANDT (Holland) and Fr. Alain STRULLU (Guadeloupe).  
23 Sept. : Fr. André BRITSCHU (France).  
7 Oct. : Fr. James COLEMAN (Ireland).

### 60 Years of Priesthood:

- 28 Oct. : Frs. Edward BERIAULT (USA/W), Joseph SUTTER (France) and Pierre VANDERLEYDEN (Belgium).

### 50 Years of Profession:

- 8 Sept. : Brs. Mateus FERNANDES, Estanislau SOUSA, Filipe VILELA (Portugal) and Christian WENCKER (Switzerland).  
9 Sept. : Brs. Donat GROSDMANGE (France) and Jean-Pierre MARCHAL (Belgium).

### 50 Years of Priesthood:

- 14 Sept. : Frs. Joseph L. DUFFY, Edward J. RECKTENWALD and Francis P. SMITH (USA/E), Fr. Joseph P. MURPHY (USA/W).  
1 Oct. : Frs. Alphonse GEMMERLE, François NOTER and Isidore PERRAUD (France), Frs. Henri HAEGY (Mauritius), Raoul HOARAU (Reunion) and Pierre SCHAEFFER (Senegal).  
8 Oct. : Fr. José PEREIRA DE OLIVEIRA (Portugal).

## Our Dead

- 8 Apr. : Fr. Karl ZOHREN (Germany), 70..  
10 Apr. : Fr. Eugene L. LAVERY (USA/W), 75.  
15 Apr. : Br. Eugenius MASTBROEK (Bangui), 57.  
15 Apr. : Fr. David HEELAN (Ireland), 87.  
28 Apr. : Fr. Jean-Baptiste DELAWARDE (France), 82.  
6 May : Fr. Leo PERDER (Germany), 74.  
9 May : Br. Egbertus HABES (Holland), 81.  
9 May : Fr. António CARDOSO (Portugal), 67.  
14 May : Fr. Josef LÖHMANN (Germany), 71.  
22 May : Fr. Léon PETER (Madagascar), 75.  
23 May : Fr. Cosme LAGUERRE (France), 81.  
27 May : Fr. Henricus van de BERG (Holland), 62.