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SPIRITAN NEWS

Aug.-Oct. 1987

No. 68

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

Portugal: 50th Anniversary of LIAM

The Province of Portugal marked the 50th anniversary of LIAM, its movement for missionary animation, with a pilgrimage to Fatima on 4-5 July, in which the Superior General, Fr. Pierre Haas, took part, along with 10,000 LIAM pilgrims. In a message to the Province, Fr. Haas said: "No other Province, as far as I know, would be able to gather such a crowd, motivated by zeal for the missions and in close collaboration with the Spiritans."

Foundation and development of LIAM

LIAM (*Liga Intensificadora da Acção Missionária*) was founded at Fatima on 13 May 1937 by three young Spiritans: 26-year-old Fr. Agostinho Lopes de Moura and two theological students, José Felício and Augusto Maio. Fr. Lopes de Moura later became Provincial (1949-53) and then Bishop of Portalegre-Castelo Branco (1953-78). In the past year he has been in failing health, after more than half a century of energetic promotion of the missions. Fr. Felício is also still active and celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination on 26 September. Both of them sent messages of greetings and encouragement to LIAM on its jubilee. The third of the founders, Fr. Maio, died in 1975. After serving as a missionary in Angola, he became one of the founders of the Spiritan Province in Spain and did much for missionary animation there. In its 50 years of existence, LIAM has had only four directors: Fr. (later Bishop) Moura (1937-53), Fr. Felício (1953-80), Fr. Veríssimo Teles (1980-85), and the present director, Fr. José de Castro Oliveira, a former missionary in Angola who was seriously injured in 1980, when the car he was travelling in was blown up by a mine.

It may seem surprising that this national missionary movement should be so closely associated with the Spiritans, but it must be remembered that the Portuguese Revolution of 1910 expelled all religious congregations and confiscated their property. The Spiritans returned in 1920 with the support of former pupils who were then well placed in the government, and until about 1940 were the only missionary congregation in Portugal. While other missionary congregations have since returned, the Spiritans are still probably the best known of them in the country, and this is also largely due to LIAM. In fact the original name of LIAM was LAMES (*Liga de Auxílio às Missões do Espírito Santo*)



The founders of LIAM: (from left) Fr. José Felício, Bishop Agostinho Lopes de Moura and Fr. Augusto Maio.

and it was only in 1942 that the more general name of LIAM was adopted.

Activities

The object of LIAM has always been missionary animation, support for the missions and the promotion of missionary vocations through groups that live and radiate a missionary spirit. Basic groups were formed throughout the country in parishes, schools, colleges, seminaries, hospitals etc. The movement later spread outside Portugal itself to the Azores, Angola, Cape Verde and Mozambique. It has mobilized thousands of followers and sympathizers (up to 300,000 at a time).

Among the methods used are prayer, celebrations, retreats, meetings for reflection and study, sessions for school teachers, pilgrimages, missionary exhibitions, the press, radio, television and cinema. In its first 30 years it produced more than 30 million copies of newspapers, magazines, pamphlets and books, as well as many short films and, in 1967, a full-length film, *Uma Vontade Maior* ('A Greater Will'), which was chosen in 1970 to represent Portugal at a film festival in Russia. The monthly missionary newspaper *Acção Missionária* was started in 1940. By 1947 it had reached a circulation of 50,000 copies and in 1964 57,000. Today its circulation is 31,000. The two-monthly magazine *Encontro* was started in 1962 and has a circulation of 8,000 today. As well as these, there is the annual publication of a calendar (120,000 copies), an almanach (90,000 copies) and a pocket diary (77,000 copies), all with missionary inspiration and information.

Over the years, LIAM has raised funds for many important building projects, including several churches in Angola. In the Portuguese province itself it raised funds for the large senior scholasticate at Carcavelos, accommodating 120 scholastics; for the new house at Silva, which was for many years the Novitiate; and for the LIAM administration and office building at Estrela, Lisbon, with its assembly hall and other meeting rooms. Other centres are at Benfica, Porto, Coimbra, Braga and Fundão. There are about 15 Spiritans directly involved in the work. LIAM has also sent aid of var-





Fr. Pierre Haas, Superior General (with booklet), and Fr. Manuel Durães Barbosa, Provincial, lead the pilgrims at Fatima.

ious kinds to the missions: money, equipment, vehicles, liturgical vestments etc. It has fostered vocations directly and has provided scholarships for the studies of seminarians. Bishop Abílio Ribas, C.S.Sp., of São Tomé and Príncipe has said: "I owe to LIAM all that I am — it was because of LIAM that my vocation was born, developed and came to fruition." In 1983 a special branch of LIAM for young people, *Jovens sem Fronteiras*, was started by Fr. Firmino Cachada, the present editor of *Acção Missionária*.

Celebration of the Jubilee

The main celebration to mark the 50th anniversary was a special pilgrimage to Fatima, on 4-5 July, which brought together 10,000 supporters of LIAM. An annual pilgrimage to Fatima is in fact a regular feature of LIAM's activities for the past seven years. The pilgrimage was presided over this year by Archbishop Franklin da Costa of Lubango, President of the Angolan Bishops' Conference, and also taking part were Bishop Pedro Marcos of Saurimo (Angola), Fr. Pierre Haas, Superior General, and the Provincial of Portugal, Fr. Manuel Durães Barbosa, with the President of LIAM and some 50 Spiritan priests. On the evening of Saturday, 4 July, there was a procession to the chapel of the apparitions, with Bishop Marcos as chief celebrant at a Mass at which Fr. Haas addressed the pilgrims. Later the rosary was recited, with a candlelight procession and a penitential service. On the Sunday, after the recitation of the rosary, Archbishop Franklin da Costa presided at a concelebrated Mass, with about 100 priests, on the steps in front of the basilica. In the afternoon, the Paul VI Pastoral Centre was packed for a variety session under the direction of Fr. Firmino Cachada. After a slide show on the history of LIAM, the gathering was addressed by the Superior General, the Provincial of Portugal, the present President of LIAM, Fr. Castro Oliveira, and two former Presidents, Frs. José Felício and Veríssimo Teles. Various items of music and dance followed.

The jubilee year has been observed with various other events. There was a second pilgrimage to Fatima, for young people going there on foot, from 1-6 August. A pilgrimage to the Holy Land was held from 19 July to 5 August. There were local celebrations in various parts of the country, including the Azores. A commemorative jubilee medal was struck and two books commissioned: a directory for missionary animation and a history of LIAM. A fund was launched for the construction of a church and school at the new mission of Caió in Guinea-Bissau (cf. below), and there were two events that concerned more specifically the Congregation: the ordination of four young priests for the Portuguese province and a meeting of European Spiritan missionary animators.

The four priests (Frs. Paula, Faria, Coutinho and Sabença) were ordained at Fraião, Braga, on 26 July by Archbishop Eurico Nogueira of Braga, who had been for five years Bishop of the then Diocese of Sá da Bandeira in Angola. His homily was full of praise for the Congregation, which he had known well both in Angola and in Braga.

The meeting of European Spiritan missionary animators was held earlier in the year, from 27-30 April, at the Provincial House in Lisbon. Taking part were four representatives from Portugal, two each from France, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Spain, and one each from Belgium and England. They shared their experiences of missionary animation in the different circumstances of each country, and decided to exchange more information and materials. A letter from the Superior General, Fr. Haas, congratulated the Province of Portugal on its initiative in organizing the first such meeting, and the participants expressed the hope that it would become a regular event, organized each year by a different Province.



European Spiritan missionary animators at Lisbon in April: Standing (from left): Frs. Cabellos, Torres Neiva, Burgraff, Tijssen, de Castro Oliveira (director of LIAM), van Moorsel, Courant, Breidenbach, McCann. Sitting: Frs. Durães Barbosa (Provincial), Thomas, Pochon, Gibis, Seixas, Rais, Cachada.

News Items

Acta of the Holy See

On 1 July the Prelature of Juruá, Brazil, became the **Diocese of Cruzeiro do Sul**, suffragan to the Archdiocese of Manaus. Bishop Heinrich Rüth, 74, continues as its Bishop, with Bishop Ludwig Herbst, 61, as Coadjutor. The official inauguration of the Diocese was held on 15 August, with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Carlo Furno, presiding at Mass in the cathedral. There are 14 Spiritan priests and two Brothers (most of them from the Province of Germany) working in the Diocese, with Fr. Friedrich Siegers as District Superior. German Spiritans have been working in the area since 1927, and the Prelature was set up in 1931. Its two Prelats before Bishop Rüth were Bishop Heinrich Ritter (1935-42) and Bishop Josef Hascher (1947-67). The population is about 160,000 and is widely scattered, with communications difficult and mainly by river.

Decisions of the General Council

The General Council

- on 23 June, confirmed the election of Fr. Alphonse LAGOGUÉ as District Superior of **Martinique** for a second three-year term, beginning on 30 July;
- on 25 June, confirmed the election of Fr. Gregor LUTZ as Provincial Superior of **Germany** for a three-year term beginning on 25 June;
- on 26 June, appointed Fr. Tadeusz MICHALSKI as Provincial Superior of **Poland** for a three-year term beginning on 1 July;
- on 8 July, confirmed the election of Fr. Victor CABEZAS

as Provincial Superior of **Spain** for a second three-year term, beginning on 8 July;

● on 10 August, confirmed the election of Fr. Alexander EKECHUKWU as Provincial Superior of **Nigeria** for a three-year term, as from 29 July;

● on 17 August, confirmed the election of Fr. Rhéaume SAINT-LOUIS as Provincial Superior of **Canada** for a three-year term, as from 14 August;

● on 8 Sept., appointed Fr. Jean-François COQUEREL as Superior of the **Paraguay** Group for a three-year term beginning on 1 December 1987.

First Appointments

The General Council has made the following First Appointments:

From the **Central African Foundation**:

Fr. Marcel NTSIKA to **Yaoundé** and Fr. Grégoire MANTECK to the **Congo**.

From **Angola**:

Frs. Nababé SAKULENGA and Alexandre TCHIKAMBI to **Angola**.

From **Puerto Rico**:

Frs. Carlos LOZADA ROMÁN, Alvaro QUIÑONES ZUÑIGA, Ivan SERRANO RIVERA, and Br. José RAMÍREZ SANTIAGO, to **Brazil South**.

From **Poland**:

Fr. Kazimierz POTULSKI to **Senegal**; Fr. Bogdan SWOINSKI to **Southern Africa**; Fr. Miroslaw ZABROCKI to **Algeria**; Fr. Slawomir ZASTEPOWSKI to **Poland** (for one year).

The General Council has also changed the First Appointment of Fr. Aloysius NDEMA of the EAF from Zambia to the EAF house of philosophy.

Generalate

Fr. John Flavin, of the Province of Ireland, arrived at the Generalate on 8 September to begin a three-year term as General Secretary. Since January, Fr. Vincent O'Grady, Archivist at the Generalate, had been acting as General Secretary. Fr. Flavin, 50, worked in Sierra Leone from 1965 to 1971, and since then has taught at Templeogue College, Dublin. Another new member of the Generalate staff is Brother Methodius Clijsters, of the Province of Holland, who replaces Brother Clemens Tekstra. Br. Methodius, 49, has worked since 1964 in the District of Bangui, where he specialized in making shoes and prostheses for the handicapped. Br. Clemens has returned to Holland after three years at the Generalate. Before that he had worked, as carpenter and builder, for 29 years in Africa: in the Congo, Bangui and Gabon.

Guinea-Bissau: A second mission opened

The first Spiritan mission in Guinea-Bissau was opened at Bajob, among the Manjaks, in 1979 with the arrival of two French confreres: Frs. Pierre Buis and René des Déserts (cf. *Spiritan News*, No. 31). They were joined at the beginning of 1980 by the recently ordained Fr. José Costa of Portugal and a Portuguese scholastic. In 1982 Fr. Costa was recalled for formation work in Portugal, but in November 1986 he returned to Guinea-Bissau with another young Portuguese Spiritan, Fr. João David. In the meantime, in 1985, Fr. Michel Gerlier replaced Fr. des Déserts. At the beginning of 1987 the team opened a second mission at Caió, about 60 kms. south of Bajob. As part of its activities for its 50th anniversary, LIAM (cf. main article) has undertaken to finance the building of a church and school for this new mission.



The Guinea-Bissau team: (from left) Frs. Costa, Buis, David and Gerlier.

The Diocese of Bissau (formerly the Prefecture Apostolic of Guinea-Bissau) was set up in 1977, under Bishop Settimio Ferrazzetta, O.F.M. Of a population of nearly a million, only 6% are Catholic, with some 35% Muslim and 58% Animist. The Manjaks, among whom our confreres work, are one of the ten tribes of the country and have hardly been influenced by Islam. They are a very mobile people, many of them working abroad in Senegal and France. In the seven years since the mission of Bajob was started, more than 500 young people have been prepared for baptism, and Catholics now number over a thousand. Twenty villages have been catechized and ten chapels opened. A dispensary has also been opened and the mission has cooperated in the digging of a dozen wells for drinking water. One of the Portuguese confreres ordained on 26 July, Fr. Manuel de Sá Paula, has been appointed to Guinea-Bissau and will be joining the team next year.

USA East

Fr. Donald Nesti resigned as President of Duquesne University on 15 August, after seven years during which he achieved a great deal for the advancement of the university, putting it on a sound financial footing and also giving it a greater opening to the problems of the Third World, with the foundation of the Institute for World Concerns. There has also been a change in the Duquesne University Corporation. Instead of a permanent group of Spiritans composing it as before, the Corporation will now be the Provincial and his Council, with other members named by them for the duration of the Provincial Administration.

Haiti

The May-July issue of *Spiritan News* last year had a front-page story entitled 'Return to Haiti', with an optimistic assessment of the situation for Spiritans there, after the ending, in February, of 29 years of the Duvaliers' dictatorship. The Congregation had been forced to leave Haiti in 1969, and the 17-year exile was now over. The new government had lifted the ban and the Congregation was invited by the Bishops' Conference to return. Hopes were high for the formation of a democratic government through free elections, but these hopes have not yet been realized and the way to democracy is proving difficult. The interim government of General Henri Namphy is moving only slowly towards elections and there have been fears of a prolongation of authoritarian rule. The 'Tontons Macoutes' of the Duvalier period are re-emerging, with the backing of large landowners and other vested interests.

There were widespread strikes in the country during July this year, and on 23 July, at the village of Jean-Rabel, more than a hundred people were killed by Tontons Macoutes during an assembly of agricultural workers. The small Spiritan team are among those pressing for democratic and human rights, and as such are a target for intimidation. On Sunday 23 August, a service in the Spiritan parish of Pont Sondé, 100 kms. north of Port-au-Prince, was broken up by gunfire around the church when a popular Salesian preacher, Fr.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, began to address the people. The religious present headed back to Port-au-Prince in a convoy of five cars which was attacked on the way with stones and sticks. The District Superior, Fr. Antoine Adrien, was injured, along with a Spiritan scholastic, Axel Martial, and a Haitian Spiritan associate, Fr. William Smarth. They were hospitalized the following day, but were soon back at work. The driver of one of the cars was a Canadian scholastic, Joseph Burg, who was doing summer ministry in Haiti. The Superior General has sent a telegram of concern to President Namphy and also to the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz (because of U.S. backing for the Haitian government).

The Spiritans are at two locations in Haiti: Frs. Max Dominique (Haitian) and Jeff Duaimé (USA/E) at Pont Sondé, and Frs. Adrien (Haitian), Emile Jacquot and René Soler (France), with Fr. Smarth, in Port-au-Prince. There are two Haitian professed scholastics: Axel Martial and Joseph Philippe. The Spiritans' address is: B.P. 15016, Pétionville, Haiti.

East African Foundation

The EAF had its largest ordination group on 30 May, when nine of its members were ordained to the priesthood at Ngarenaro, Arusha, by Bishop Msarikie of Moshi, assisted by Bishop Durning, C.S.Sp., of Arusha. Over 60 priests concelebrated in the parish church, which was packed for the occasion. Two choirs — one from Arusha and the other from Nairobi — provided the music. With the ordination of the second Ugandan priest of the Foundation at Kabale, Uganda, on 5 July, the number of ordinations this year has been ten. Seven novices were professed at Magamba on 16 July, and 14 new novices have taken their place. Nineteen new students have begun their philosophical studies at Njiru, Arusha.

Oceania

The Spiritans in Australia have sent their first novice, Paul Leyden, to the international novitiate at Farnham, Canada. He had done his pre-novitiate training at Corpus Christi Theological College, Melbourne. (The Farnham novitiate this year has five novices from USA/E, one from Canada, one from England and one from Australia.) The Congregation has now purchased its own pre-novitiate house at 107 Waverley Road, Chadstone, Victoria, not far from our parish at Ringwood, near Melbourne. These developments have been due in part to the efforts of Fr. Gerry Scott, former novice master at Farnham, who was lent to Australia from Trans-Canada for vocations work. They have also been helped by the enthusiasm of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Spirit, which has been growing in the three Spiritan parishes in Australia (one in Melbourne and two in Brisbane). Vocations work has also been going ahead in Aitape, Papua New Guinea, where six Spiritans from Trans-Canada staff four parishes. Nineteen young men met at Spiritan House, Aitape, for a vocation weekend retreat in March this year, and four of these are ready to start a formation program. The team here have been encouraged by the fact that the three first Spiritan missionaries from the Indian Ocean Foundation have been appointed to Papua New Guinea and will be arriving in January 1988.

Puerto Rico: First missionaries

At the end of June, Cardinal Luis Aponte of San Juan celebrated a televised outdoor Mass at the Spiritan house in Dorado to send off the first missionaries of the Puerto Rican Foundation in the name of the Church in Puerto Rico. The four young missionaries — Frs. Carlos Lozada, Alvaro Quiñones, Ivan Serrano and Br. José Ramírez — will be working in the District of Brazil South. Cardinal Aponte paid tribute to the Spiritans, saying that although they were the last missionaries to arrive in Puerto Rico, they were the first to send out a mission team, making Puerto Rico a mission-sending Church.

Death of General Archivist

Fr. Bernard Noël, who had been the Congregation's General Archivist for the past 30 years, died on 11 August after a heart operation, at the age of 70. The funeral was held at Chevilly two days later, with a presentation of Fr. Noël's life by Fr. Paul Coulon and a homily by Fr. Joseph Heidmann. Fr. Noël was born in Dieppe on 30 October 1916 and grew up in Cherbourg. At the age of 16 he entered the Congregation's secondary school at Cellule, and four years later went to Orly for his novitiate. He did his philosophy at Mortain (1937-39) and then served in the army at the beginning of the War. After demobilization, he continued his studies and was ordained at Chevilly on 29 June 1943. His first appointment was to Haiti, where he taught at Saint Martial's College from 1945 to 1950. He then had to return to Europe because of tuberculosis, and an operation at Montana left him with practically only one lung. As he could no longer return to the missions, he was appointed to the General Secretariat at Rue Lhomond in 1951, becoming General Archivist in 1957. In his 30 years as Archivist, he did an immense work in classifying and making available the mass of documents concerning the history of many of the young Churches in Africa and elsewhere. He moved the General Archives to more spacious quarters at Chevilly in 1981. Though much of his work concerned documents, Fr. Noël always maintained an active priestly ministry, especially with youth groups, the sick and, more recently, the charismatic movement.



Fr. Bernard Noël.

Jubilarians

50 Years of Profession:

8 Dec. : Brs. Seraphin KROTT (Germany), Félix LOOP (Switzerland) and Octavien SALBER (France).

50 Years of Priesthood:

18 Dec. : Fr. Woutherus ENGBERS (Holland).

Our Dead

2 June : Fr. Hubertus EGELMEERS (Holland), 72.
 9 June : Fr. Francisco Nogueira ROCHA (Portugal), 75.
 13 June : Fr. Peter DEVINS (England), 72.
 21 June : Fr. Alphonse MULLER (France), 65.
 25 June : Fr. Adrianus FRANSOO (Holland), 80.
 25 June : Fr. Henri DRÉANO (France), 73.
 30 June : Fr. Daniel BARNABÉ (Canada), 82.
 1 July : Fr. Petrus MAAS (Holland), 67.
 3 July : Br. Fidentius HIEP (Holland), 74.
 7 July : Fr. Pierre BOUVET (France), 68.
 16 July : Fr. Émile LAURENT (France), 80.
 25 July : Br. Marius SPEHNER (France), 72.
 29 July : Fr. Camillus KANE (Kenya), 34.
 7 Aug. : Fr. Peter McGOVERN (Mauritius), 79.
 11 Aug. : Fr. Bernard NOËL (Gen. Admin.), 70.
 18 Aug. : Fr. Wilhelm CORNIELJE (Holland), 81.
 1 Sept. : Fr. Manuel Soares MOUTINHO (Portugal), 77.
 2 Sept. : Fr. James COLLERY (Irish/Long Island), 66.
 12 Sept. : Br. Engelbert JOSEPHS (Germany), 72.
 16 Sept. : Fr. Stanley I. OTTO (USA/E), 66.
 17 Sept. : Br. Ulrich MARTIN (Germany), 81.
 17 Sept. : Fr. Léon AMAN (Yaoundé), 60.