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SPIRITAN NEWS

March - April 1994

N° 101

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

Editorial

Theory and practice

The Pope has recently signed a "motu proprio" setting up a Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences. This research institute, intended to serve the Church at its highest level, will comprise forty experts in economics, politics, legal and social sciences, representing a broad spectrum of countries, cultures and religions. They will include academics as well as practitioners in the field of economics.

The Church, which during the Middle Ages condemned money lending at an interest, in this way expresses a new awareness of the need to reflect before meddling in economics. Professor Arture Utz notes on this point, "Historians have shown this long ago: the Church opposed interest loans during the Middle Ages in order to combat financial speculation and to encourage productive investments. The Church has never opposed the idea that money should generate money; but she set one condition: money must be a real means of investment in the economy. It must be productive, but human labour must be involved."

Since the downfall of centralised Marxist economies, the differences between various economic tendencies have become less significant. The downfall of an opposing system (Marxism) left little room for alternatives. However, many questions remain unanswered: the persisting North-South problems; rich countries against poor countries; poverty in and around big cities; unemployment.

The question which we all need to face - and which this group of experts must address - is how best to respond. "Market economics has proved to be reasonably successful in producing goods and satisfying many human desires. However, its effectiveness is far from perfect. It is sometimes in conflict with the demands of distributive justice." Thus Malinvaut concludes, "the choice of an economic system must be based on a pragmatic compromise." There is often a feeling of helplessness in dealing with the overall situation; experts and practicing economists listen to speeches in Church committees and commissions (as does our Congregation), shake their heads and say, "This is all very interesting and very caring, but what do you expect us to do?"

Our Congregation is in the same boat as the rest of the world. With the exception of unemployment, we have similar problems. The reasons which underlie our differences and our difficulties go very deep. They will not be resolved with simplistic arguments, however generous and well-intentioned these may be. We too have to live in the context of a permanent and pragmatic compromise, held together by the bond of SOLIDARITY.

Father Abel Moreira DIAS, General Bursar

The First Chapter of the Indian Ocean Foundation

Despite a violent cyclone, the first Chapter of the Indian Ocean Foundation met in Mauritius from February 7-17, 1994; the General Council was represented by Fr Bernard Kelly and Fr Sergio Castriani.



Participants: Left to right Frs G.Guillemot, P. Roplin, R. Billy, H. Arthe, G. Vuitenez, B. Reniers, S. Castriani, JC Jacquard, Th. Rey, A. Sunnasse, M. Soyer, J. Gregoire, JN Pierre, F. Tam-Tsi, First Row: P.W. Rabe, JC Joseph, A. Perrier.

The Foundation began in the 1980s following the Beatification of Fr Laval. The first Novitiate opened in Reunion. Today the IOF has seven professed members, four from Mauritius and three from Madagascar. Other confreres who belong to the Foundation were sent as formators. Among them is Fr Bernard Reniers who, at this Chapter, was once again elected Superior.

The Chapter discussed the Foundation's missionary work, community life, formation, finances and communication. The IOF continues to be faithful to its original option for "mission elsewhere", and in particular in Asia and in the Asian world. This is a particularly interesting outlook because out-reach to Asia continues to be a recurrent question within the Congregation as a whole. Several confreres are stationed in international communities in Papua-New Guinea and Pakistan. Others are needed within their local Churches for formation or special studies.

At the moment there are about fifteen postulants: three young men are in the first cycle of formation in Reunion; four are at the novitiate in Mauritius; two in the second cycle in Madagascar.

The Centenary of the Catholic Church in the Central African Republic

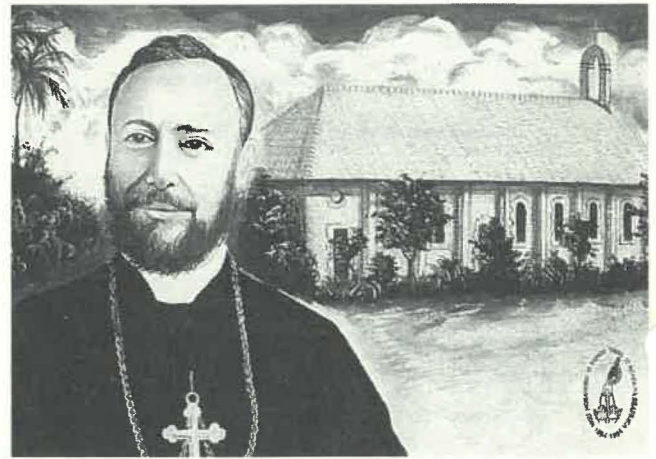
One hundred years of Spiritan presence

From 6 January 1994 to 6 January 1995, the Church in the Central African Republic celebrates the centenary of the evangelisation of the country, initiated by the Spiritans. Important celebrations and events will take place throughout the six dioceses of the country. This article traces the history of this Spiritan missionary project.

The Arrival of the Spiritans

The missionary effort arrived in what was then Ubangui Chari (and today is the Central African Republic) in the 19th century. The Gospel News came from the south, brought by the first Holy Ghost Fathers from Libreville in 1844, from Cabinda in 1873, from Loango in the Congo in 1881, and then through the foundations of Fr Augouard.

In 1880, Fr Philippe-Prosper Augouard, who had been in the Congo since 1877, was appointed "Apostolic Vicar of Ubangui", with residence in Brazzaville. In 1894, he decided to occupy the northern part of his Vicariate, and founded two stations: St Paul des Rapides, in Bangui (the farthest point which could be reached by steamboat, and the point of departure towards the north and the east), and The Holy Family, in Uadda. The first missionary teams included Fr Rémy, founder of the mission, Fr Sallaz, and Br Germain who arrived in Bangui on 13 May 1894. They built a residence, a chapel, a boarding school, workshops, brick kilns, pottery kilns and lime kilns; they planted vegetables, started plantations and raised cattle.



Mgr Augouard at Saint Paul des Rapides - 1894

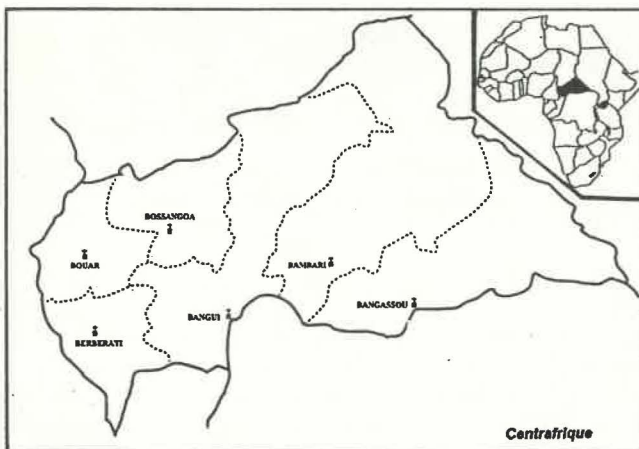
The Prefecture Apostolic

In 1909, Mgr Augouard's Vicariate finally became the Prefecture Apostolic of Ubangui-Chari. Its development was slow and suffered setbacks. The Fathers complained of a lack of personnel and of material resources. Several unsuccessful attempts to establish a foundation were followed by the efforts to start St Joseph's Mission, Bambari (about 500 km north-east of Bangui) which was to play a significant role after the 1914 - 1918 war. After Mgr Augouard's death, in 1921, Lobaye reverted to the Ubangui church. In 1925, the Mission of St Jeanne d'Arc was established there. Meanwhile, a mission was founded in Berberati (west of Bangui) and remained attached to Brazzaville until 1929.

The Vicariate Apostolic

The arrival of the new Prefect Apostolic, Mgr Marcel Grandin, early in 1929, marked the beginning of a period of great expansion for Ubangui mission. Mgr Grandin closed down some missions but opened new ones in the far corners of the territory. At St Paul des Rapides (a few miles from the centre of Bangui), he refurbished old buildings and, in 1929, established the Spiritan Sisters, a school for catechists and instructors, another for postulant brothers, and a minor seminary.

In 1937, as a result of its growth and development, the Prefecture became a Vicariate Apostolic. Mgr Grandin was ordained bishop in France. In 1938 he inaugurated his cathedral and ordained his first priest, Fr Barthélémy Boganda. Before too long, his Vicariate became too big for the human resources available to him. He welcomed the French Capuchins of Toulouse, who had been expelled from Ethiopia; to them he entrusted the more densely populated areas of his



Methods of evangelisation

Their first apostolate, the only one that seemed possible at the time, was the purchase of slaves, whom they settled in "freedom villages." However, before too long, village chiefs entrusted free children to their care and this led to the establishment of boarding schools. The missionaries focused primarily on manual labour. They trained apprentices and clerks, instructors and supervisors and, of course, catechists. These workers and employees gradually spread to the whole country and formed a class of "évolués" who were of great service to the mission and to the country as a whole. Before long, the missionaries made contact with neighbouring villages, sent catechists and established out-stations.

Vicariate: Berberati, Bozum and Doba. In 1940, the region became the Prefecture Apostolic of Berberati. This diocese was later divided into four.

A time of growth and development

On 4 August 1947, Mgr Grandin died in a car accident and was succeeded by Mgr Cucherousset, a missionary of the local church, who was consecrated in Bangui on 25 July 1948. The new Bishop launched a vast programme, building primary and secondary schools funded by Unesco. New congregations of Sisters were established. Mgr Cucherousset gave a new emphasis to Catholic Action and to youth movements. He died in 1970. "Fidei Donum" priests brought new blood to the church in Ubangui.

The newly formed Central African Republic, born on 1 December 1958, gained independence in 1960. Barthélémy Boganda, Father of the Nation, unfortunately died a few months later in an airplane crash.

At the time, the church in Central Africa had over 5 million baptised faithful; there were 50,000 catechumens in the six dioceses. There were two Central African bishops, one of whom, Mgr Joachim N'Dayen, is today Archbishop of Bangui. The bishops of Bambari, Mgr Michael Maitre, and of Bangassou, Mgr Antoine Maanicus, are Spiritans.



Celebration of the Centenary in Bangui

There are about one hundred Central African priests in the country. After one hundred years of uninterrupted presence in the country, the Congregation still has about fifty confreres in the District of Bangui.

There are twelve Central African nationals in Spiritan formation within the Central African Foundation, three of whom are professed.

Based on "Présentation historique: L'Eglise Catholique a 100 ans", by Fr Ghislain de Banville C.S.Sp.

News Items

Decisions of the General Council

- on 9 February, confirmed the election of Fr Anton M. DICK as Superior of the Province of **Trinidad** for a second mandate of three years, with effect from February 2, 1994;
- on February 9, confirmed the election of Fr Antonius van LANKVELD as Superior of the District of **Brasil Central** for a third mandate of three years, with effect from January 21, 1994;
- on February 9, confirmed the election of Fr Sean MULLIN as Superior of the District of **Sierra Leone**, for a mandate of three years, with effect from February 1, 1994;
- on March 2, confirmed the election of Fr Bernard RENIERS as Superior of the **Indian Ocean Foundation** for a third mandate, with effect from February 15, 1994;
- on March 9, named Fr Gerard VIEIRA Superior of the District of **Senegal** for a second mandate of three years, with effect from June 1, 1994;
- on March 11, confirmed the election of Fr Donal MURRAY as Superior of the District of **Gambia** for a mandate of three years, with effect from June 15, 1994.
- on March 24, confirmed the election of Fr Ghislain DUCHESNE, as Superior of the District of Kogi, for a mandate of three years, with effect from June 15, 1994.
- on April 1, named Fr Albert PERRIER to the **General Administration** as **Secretary for Formation**, for a mandate of three years, with effect from June 1, 1994.
- on April 6, named Fr Etienne LEFEVRE as Superior of the District of **Gabon**, with effect from September 15, 1994.

- on March 30, made the following **first appointments**:
 Paul Antwi Boasiako (WAF) **Gambia**
 Patrick Adjei (WAF) **Sierra Leone**

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Michael Conteh (WAF) | Sierra Leone |
| Peter Folleh (WAF) | Gambia |
| Joseph Alexander Osei (WAF) | Makurdi |
| Andrew Soley (WAF) | Makurdi |
| Leonard Ahanotu (Nigeria) | Papua-New Guinea |
| David Atuanya (Nigeria) | Papua-New Guinea |
| Emmanuel Ikubolaje (Nigeria) | Nigeria |
| Jude Nnorom (Nigeria) | South Africa |
| Camillus Nwachukwu (Nigeria) | Cameroon |
| Fidelis Nwankwo (Nigeria) | Nigeria |
| Christopher A. O. Nze (Nigeria) | Senegal |
| Damian Odunze (Nigeria) | Nigeria |
| Daniel Mary-Silas Abba (Nig) | South Africa |
| Edward Okeke-Oraeki (Nigeri) | Papua-New Guinea |
| Remigius Okere (Nigeria) | Nigeria |
| Clement Uchendu (Nigeria) | Cameroon |
| Njoku Uchenna (Nigeria) | Senegal |
| Adalberto Ferezini (Brasil) | Brasil |
| Sebastião Ferreira Bonjour (Brasil) | Makurdi |
| Gilmar Soares Ferreira (Brasil) | Haïti |
| - on March, changed the first appointment of Fernandino Cardoso Pereira (Portugal) from Angola to Senegal . | |

Spiritans at the Synod for Africa

In addition to Fr Schouwer, delegate of the Union of Superiors General, several bishops are members of the Synod: Mgr Michel Cleary, Bishop of Banjul (Gambia), Mgr John O'Riordan, Bishop of Kenema (Sierra Leone), Mgr Paulino Evora, Bishop of Praia (Cape Verde), Mgr Robert de Chevigny, Bishop of Nouakchott (Mauritania), Mgr Antoine Maanicus, Bishop of Bangassou (Central African Republic). Fr James Okoye, former General Councillor, is an ex officio

member of the Synod Secretariat. Fr Godfrey Odigbo has taken part in the liturgical preparation of the solemn celebrations for the opening and closing of the Synod.

Fr McAllister killed in Sierra Leone

On 12 March, a convoy of three vehicles evacuating the hospital of Panguma to leave an unsafe area, was attacked by rebels in military uniform. Fr McAllister was alone in one of the vehicles and was killed on the spot. A Dutch doctor, his wife and daughter aged 4 were killed in the second vehicle, while a woman doctor from New Zealand escaped and hid. In the third vehicle, four Sisters, Daughters of Charity, managed to get away and to continue their journey. Felim, 53 years old, was an Irish confrere appointed to Sierra Leone in 1968 and had worked in various capacities. He devoted his work to the people, and had recently initiated a programme to help refugees in this unsafe region. He was buried in the little cemetery of Panguma mission. A memorial Mass was celebrated on 21 March in Freetown Cathedral.

Visit to Lay Associates

Fr Frans Wijnen, General Councillor, visited the Lay Associates in North America. Since the Itaici Chapter, the Lay Associates have been expanding their role in the mission of the Church and deepening their bond with the Congregation. Structure is not a priority; greater emphasis is placed on the search for a community dimension and for a spirituality inspired by Libermann's "practical union". Belonging to the Congregation cannot be understood as merely an "added dimension"; it must integrate daily life and missionary commitment, which starts right at the doorstep of each home. The Lay Associates are listed in the Directory of the Congregation.



A group of Lay Associates in Canada

Our Jubilarians

70 Years of Profession

26 August :Bishop Thomas BROSNAHAN (Ireland)

60 Years of Profession

31 July :Fr John R. MUKA (USA/E)
 15 August :Fr Richard WERSING (USA/E)
 22 August :Fr Theodorus ROOIJAKKERS (Nederland)
 22 August :Fr Petrus SCHOLTEN (Nederland)
 22 August :Fr Franciscus SOONTIENS (Nederland)
 22 August :Fr Martinus AARTS (Nederland)
 27 August :Fr Petrus van DOORN (Nederland)

50 Years of Profession

16 July :Fr George A. CROCENZI (USA/E)
 16 July :Fr William F. CROWLEY (USA/E)
 16 July :Fr Daniel B. de DOMINICIS (USA/E)
 16 July :Fr Louis F. DOLAN (USA/E)
 16 July :Bishop Denis DURNING (EAP)
 16 July :Fr William R. GRAVES (USA/E)
 16 July :Fr William J. MAGUIRE (USA/E)
 16 July :Fr John E. NADER (USA/E)
 16 July :Fr Vincent J. NIEDERBERGER (USA/E)
 16 July :Fr Francis W. WRIGHT (USA/E)
 15 August :Fr Benoît AUDET (Canada)
 16 August :Fr Bernard MURPHY (Brasil SO)

50 Years of Priesthood

04 June :Fr Maurice BARBOTIN (Guyana)
 16 July :Fr William T. BUTLER (USA/Irish)
 16 July :Fr Richard A. CAPLICE (Ireland)
 16 July :Fr Gerard A. ELLIS (Ireland)
 16 July :Fr Gerard C. HEFFERNAN (Ireland)
 16 July :Fr Joseph Le BADEZET (Congo)
 16 July :Fr Desmond McGOLDRICK (TransCanada)
 16 July :Fr Michael A. McGRANE (Ireland)
 16 July :Fr Vincent Montes de OCA (Ireland)
 16 July :Fr Andrew J. O'TOOLE (Ireland)
 16 July :Fr James P. WHITE (Gambia)
 16 July :Fr Cornelius C. WOULFE (Ireland)
 23 July :Fr Marcellus DIERIKX (Nederland)
 23 July :Fr Petrus PEETERS (Nederland)
 23 July :Fr Adrianus JANSEN (Nederland)
 23 July :Fr Antonius LINDEMAN (Nederland)
 23 July :Fr Johannes van LOO (Nederland)
 23 July :Fr Martinus van der VEN (Nederland)
 23 July :Fr Henricus VERDIJK (Angola)
 23 July :Fr Theodorus WINKELMOLEN (Bagamoyo)

40 Years a Bishop

01 July :Bishop Jean DAVID (France)

30 Years a Bishop

24 August :Bishop Auguste DELISLE (Canada)

Our Dead

20 Jan. :Fr Francis PHILBEN (USA/E), 75.
 24 Jan. :Fr Cornelius FOLEY (Ireland), 67.
 24 Jan. :Br Walterus van HIMBERGEN, (Nederland), 72.
 29 Jan. :Br Baldomir HERMANN (USA/E), 95.
 18 Febr. :Fr Petrus SWINKELS (Nederland), 70.
 18 Febr. :Fr Cornelius GROOT (Nederland), 75.
 21 Febr. :Fr Michel MADIGAN (Kenya), 80.
 04 March :Fr Kevin CAREY (Kenya), 68.
 07 March :Fr Michael F. McCARTHY (Ireland), 72.
 10 March :Fr Theodor ARNDS (Germany), 81.
 12 March :Fr Anthony HANNON (Ireland), 78.
 12 March :Fr Philip J. McALLISTER (Sierra-Leone), 53.
 23 March :Fr Alois GAIST (Switzerland), 81.
 24 March :Fr Alphonse KEHRWILLER (France), 80.
 27 March :Br Moise Costa CORREIA (Portugal), 91.
 31 March :Fr Johannes MAGIS (Nederland), 63.
 02 April :Fr Patrick McMAHON (Ireland), 82.
 06 April :Br Clément REY (Switzerland), 75.
 07 April :Fr Jean-Claude CAROFF (France), 86.
 07 April :Fr John McMANUS (Ireland), 63.
 13 April :Br Antonius Van ES (Nederland), 79.
 14 April :Br Jean-Pierre MARCHAL (Belgium), 82.