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SPIRITAN NEWS

May - July 1994

N° 102

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

International meeting on Education (April 12 - 15, Dublin)

Following a General Council questionnaire addressed to Superiors of circumscriptions about the Spiritan education mission, an *ad hoc* committee assembled in Blackrock College, Dublin, to consider the replies and reflect on the way forward for the Spiritan commitment to educational undertakings. Ten Spiritans represented the United States, Duquesne University, some of the Provinces of Europe, Canada, TransCanada and East and West Africa. Frs Bernard Kelly and James Hurley, the General Secretary, represented the General Council.

There were a number of important topics on the agenda: the Spiritan charism and education; collaboration with the laity; an exchange concerning experiments and different degrees of involvement; learning projects; educating educators; formal and non-formal schooling; new methods; the future outlook...

The participants looked at two quite different situations, in the "North", a falling number of Spiritans working in education and an increasing number of lay persons running the schools (leading to the question "Can there be a Spiritan school without Spiritans?"), and in the "South", an increasing number of vocations, plus the desire of new Provinces and Foundations for a greater commitment to education in countries where the population has a high percentage of young people. The question for them is whether this should be achieved by committing individuals or by running schools and institutions.



Frs P.Fitzpatrick, C.Hill, M.Keating, S.Kealy, B.Hally, B.Kelly, J.McCloskey, R.Barry, A.Onyeneke, J.Hurley, D.Macha

All these considerations led to reflection on the Spiritan charism itself and how it might be expressed in work for education, and then how this task might be passed down the generations. At Duquesne University, as in many other Spiritan-founded schools and colleges, there have been many attempts to integrate lay people into the mission of the Congregation and its outlook, to learn its history and the history of the establishment. In this video has often been used. There are in-service courses to up-date staff, spiritual retreats, colloquia and outreach programmes.

Is Spiritan education reaching people who are poor or is it only for those who are better off? An exchange of real-life experiences brought to light a multiplicity of undertakings in community programmes, links with the Third World, initiatives for Justice and Peace. Both staff and students are committed in actual programmes - for senior citizens, the disadvantaged, the homeless, drug addicts, Aids sufferers, alcoholics, society's rejects. There has been travel and exchanges with Africa (Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania) to deepen understanding of the Spiritan mission. Some are convinced that influencing those who will be leaders and mould society, is something really worthwhile.

An ease in inter-personal relationships characterises Spiritan education, as do care and respect for the individual, tolerance and compassion, and solicitude for the very poor. Yet above all this, it is the mission of evangelisation directed straight to the world of childhood and of young adults - this completely new "mission-field" that demands an inculturation, that has a private language... Young people and Church are far apart. As long as the Spiritan charism lives, this mission to educate and evangelise must go on and that is why "stages" (OTP, PEP) and first appointments in education work must be encouraged in the Congregation. At the close, the meeting sent a message to educators and Superiors of circumscriptions.

Spiritans and the Synod for Africa

The Generalate community moved to the Synod's rhythm for a whole month. We welcomed two Malagasy bishops as well as two Spiritans, Msgr A. Maanicus (Central African Republic) and Mgr P. Evora (Cape Verde Islands) into the Community. Other Spiritans - Mgrs J. O'Riordan (Sierra Leone), M. Cleary (The Gambia), R. de Chevigny (Mauritania) - were in Rome with their national or regional delegations. Then there were many who visited us, individuals or groups of bishops, from Angola, the Central African Republic, Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zaire.



l to r. Mgrs Maanicus, Cleary, Evora, O'Riordan, de Chevigny and Father Schouwer at the Generalate

Two Spiritans, at different levels, made important contributions in the Synod process, Fr James Chukwuma Okoye who had worked first on the permanent staff of the General Secretariat, preparing the Synod, getting the *Instrumentum Laboris* ready and then during the course of the Synod preparing the syntheses of committee and group reports. Everyone praised the organisation that ensured the work ran smoothly. Versions of the texts were prepared in the three languages, ready next morning for the members. Our confrere is to continue in the Council for the implementation of the Synod and for subsequent stages that are to take place in Africa.

Fr Schouwer, as he belongs to a Congregation strongly represented in Africa, was an elected delegate of the Union of Superiors General. The religious superiors who were taking part had arranged among themselves the themes of the speeches they were going to make in the Assembly so Fr Schouwer's address dealt with "the commitments of our institutes in Africa to-day" (*excerpts below*). Every week-end the religious superiors taking part made a presentation for religious of their institutes, reporting what was being dealt with and giving their impressions. Concurrently

in Rome SEDOS sponsored a series of meetings on topics of interest to Africa (justice and peace, "North-South" relationships, Christian - Islamic dialogue, woman's place in the church...). Fr Schouwer was invited to supper by the Holy Father with several other religious superiors. The Pope sent good wishes to every Spiritan, quipping "Well, in your case at least, things have got to be fine - you have the Holy Spirit!".

The Roman phase of the Synod is closed. If there are regrets that it took place in Rome it should be recorded that this assembly of Africa's bishops and the solemn ceremonies, with inculturated liturgy, in St Peter's, have done good to the Church in Rome. The Synod had the benefit of good media coverage, thanks to what can be done to-day. Yet there is much still to do, beginning with the Pope's visits to three places in Africa, of English, Portuguese and French language respectively. Communion and solidarity became a reality in the assembly of bishops of Africa. They spoke freely, on the basis of things that happen in practice. Of theoretical and theological debate there was very little, but many events of those days - in Rwanda, Algeria, Sudan, Liberia, Zaire - brought home the reality of violence, conflict and intolerance and how necessary it is that faith be truly inculturated, that the Church enter the fray for Justice and Peace, that the preconditions be in place before dialogue between religions. Local churches voiced their desire to be missionary and underlined the ever-present role of the missionary institutes. The final statement of the Assembly was a declaration of faith and of hope. When mixed into all that there is of "bad news", the often negative image of Africa in the media, the preaching of the Gospel should stand out as "Good News".



Liturgy for the Opening of the Synod, St Peter's Basilica

"... We are becoming ever more and more conscious of the spiritual input that we receive from Africa. The Spirit precedes us there. The people we meet reveal to us facets of the Gospel we had not discovered and our mission becomes like a pilgrimage in quest of Christ...

We want to participate in our own way in the inculturation of the Gospel in Africa.

The importance of this has been taught us by our own mistakes. We pass through inculturation, as through an experience of death and resurrection. ... missionaries arrive from the outside and are led to die to their pretensions and to discover a new fullness of life.

This is something our Founders called us to. Father Libermann required his missionaries not to judge the Africans "on first impressions"... "Don't decide according to what you have been used to in Europe... Behave towards them like a servant must to the master, respecting the master's customs, style and habits".

First then we try to avoid anything that might be a hindrance to the local church in its search for a way that is right for it, and takes on all its responsibilities, and then we make it as easy as possible for the men and women to whom we announce the Good News to have their say and to take initiatives. We try to live in a partnership that is real and ever closer with every person who is an agent of evangelisation. ... We endeavour to train our young members into this new missionary attitude of complete openness to others, of listening, of trust, so that they may know and value their own culture in a way that is both critical and dynamic, and then be prepared to meet with people of different cultures in this new way of being missionary. We initiate them to a missionary spirituality along the lines of St Paul, who

discovered the mystery of Christ in his apostolic ministry. We train them to an interpretative theological approach.

It would be our wish that this Assembly pronounce in favour of a greater openness on the Church's part to the African reality, and in favour of according - at all levels - greater freedom and greater trust to the People of God in Africa. There can be no doubt that what the People of God in Africa needs is not a multiplicity of new directives but that we should be closer to them in a new way and let them see a new confidence in them on our part." (Extract from Fr Pierre Schouver's presentation to the Synod for Africa)



News Items

General Council decisions

General Council:

- April 15, confirmed the election of Fr T. REY as Superior, District of Reunion, for a 3rd term of three years from June 1 1994.
- April 20, confirmed the election of Fr J. BURGRAFF as Provincial of Belgium, for a 2nd term of three years from August 1 1994.
- May 2, changed the First Appointment of Fr Gaspar MUSHI from East African Province to the International Group, Zambia.
- May 4, confirmed the election of Fr Francisco F. CORREIA as Superior, District of Brazil SE, for a 3rd term from August 1 1994.
- May 4, appointed Fr J-J. BOEGLIN from St-Pierre-et-Miquelon to the General Administration, Rome, as Assistant General Secretary, for three years from September 8 1994.
- May 6, appointed Fr Y. le QUERE as Superior, District of French Guyana, for three years from October 1 1994.
- May 13, appointed Fr P. WARD as Provincial of England, for three years from September 1st 1994.
- May 13, appointed Fr Wieslaw POLEWCZAK of Poland to Cameroon (First Appointment).

- June 6, confirmed the election of the Provincial Team, Holland, Frs O. van den BRINK, P. DELISSE, H. van LOON, A. TIJSSEN, for a term of three years, from June 6 1994.

General Council's Diary

Fr Schouver: June 9, Provincial Chapter, USA(E); June 26, England. July, leave. August 7 - September 8, Belgium and Zaire.

Fr Kelly: June 19, Provincial Chapter, Ireland; July, leave. August, language course.

Fr Odigbo: June 28 - July 25, South Africa; August, language course.

Fr Wijnen: June 3 - 9 Provincial Chapter, Holland; June 28 - July 25, South Africa. August, leave.

Fr Castriani: present at the Generalate.

Fr Bongo: July 10 - August 5, Provincial Chapter, Portugal.

Fr Jolibois: June 30 - July 22, Provincial Chapter, France; July 22 - August 26, leave.

Fr Dias: July 10 - August 5, Provincial Chapter, Portugal; August, leave; September 1 - 6, Fribourg, Switzerland.

General Council: September 15 - November 15, in session.

Meeting for recently appointed superiors: September 19 - 24, Generalate.

French Seminary in Rome

On April 16, the Congregation for Catholic Education appointed Fr Bernard TENAILLEAU Rector of the Pontifical French Seminary in succession to Fr Maurice FRECHARD. Fr Paul GRASSER, from Mauritania, is to be Vice-Rector.

Province of United States/East

Fr Norman BEVAN, Provincial Superior, has accepted the Presidency of the Administrative Council of the Chicago Catholic Theological Union.

Address Changes

Puerto Rico: Principal Superior, Suite 327, Calle Rossy 1, BAYAMON. PR 00959

FAX/phone: (809) 780 14 64

East Africa: Provincial Superior, FAX/phone (255) (57) 24 36

Two confreres are coming to the end of their appointments at the Generalate, Fr Verchère, "secrétaire-adjoint", and Fr Hollande, Director of Information. Fr Verchère is going to Mauritius and Fr Holland to Senegal. Father General and the General Council extend sincere thanks to them for the work they have accomplished here over three years and take this opportunity to wish them every blessing in their future apostolate.

Mission in the east of Germany

The plans of the united Provinces of Europe have become reality in the new Spiritan community at Rostock which has started its apostolate. Fr Brendan Duggan, Ireland, is the parish priest both of St Joseph's in Rostock and of St Joseph's at Schwaan nearby. The combined parishes number about 500 Catholics. Br Pius Weber, Germany, runs the presbytery, which is the Spiritan community house. Fr Raymond Maher, Ireland, is Port Chaplain and links with justice and peace initiatives in Rostock. Fr Johannes Henschel, Germany, has the pastoral care of those who use the Family Holiday Home of the Mission Sisters of the Holy Name of Mary, Graal-Muritz. He is also parish priest of St Ursula's. The population of the *land* (state) of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is 92% non-Christian, about 3% Roman Catholic and 5% Protestant. It is a real diaspora, with the Christians a scattered seed. The Community asks our support in prayer and in solidarity.

Our Jubilarians

50 Years of Profession

- 02 Sept. :Fr Wilhelmus BERNDSEN (Nederland)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Martinus COOLS (Brasil Central)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Jacobus ELBERS (Nederland)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Antonius HEURKENS (Nederland)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Nicolaus KOMEN (Nederland)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Josephus LODEWIJKS (Brasil Central)
- 02 Sept. :Bishop Antonius MAANICUS (Bangui)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Johannes van MELIS (Brasil Central)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Gerardus NILLESEN (Nederland)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Johannes Andreas van OOIJEN (Nederland)
- 02 Sept. :Fr Gerardus VOSSEN (France)

- 04 Sept. :Fr Augustine LINDSAY (USA/Ir.)
- 08 Sept. :Fr José Coelho AMORIM (Portugal)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Timothy BUCKLEY (Nigeria)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Cyril J. BYRNE (Ireland)
- 08 Sept. :Bishop Michael CLEARY (Gambia)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Peter DINAN (Nigeria)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Kevin F. DOHENY (Ireland)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Timothy J. ENRIGHT (USA/Ir.)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Thomas J. FLYNN (USA/Ir.)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Patrick HOLLAND (USA/Ir.)
- 08 Sept. :Fr William A. JENKINSON (General Admin.)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Brian J. KILBRIDE (USA/Ir.)
- 08 Sept. :Fr James J. LEWIS (Kenya)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Desmond F. McMAHON (Ireland)
- 08 Sept. :Fr Mathias M. MOORE (USA/Ir.)
- 08 Sept. :Fr William NUGENT (Ireland)
- 08 Sept. :Fr José Antonio TEIXERA (Portugal)
- 08 Sept. :Fr José Martins VAZ (Portugal)
- 08 Sept. :Fr William A. COSTELLOE (Ireland)
- 12 Sept. :Fr Franz LAMBERT (Belgium)
- 12 Sept. :Fr Jan van OSTA (St Pierre et Miquelon)
- 16 Sept. :Fr Thomas J. CLEARY (USA/Ir.)
- 16 Sept. :Fr Thomas M. FARELLY (USA/Est)
- 16 Sept. :Fr Norman FITZGERALD (Ireland)
- 16 Sept. :Fr Michael F. FRAWLEY (Ireland)
- 18 Sept. :Bishop John C. O'RIORDAN (Sierra Leone)
- 21 Sept. :Fr Patrick J. FLYNN (Ireland)
- 21 Sept. :Fr Jeremiah LAMBE (USA/Ir.)
- 21 Sept. :Fr Leo LAYDEN (Ireland)
- 21 Sept. :Fr Timothy B. O'BRIEN (Ireland)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Jules BOURDELET (France)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Hervé BRIEC (France)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Etienne DUPONT (Martinique)
- 05 Oct. :Fr John A. FARELL (Ireland)
- 05 Oct. :Fr. Edouard GRALL (France)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Justin HOAREAU (La Réunion)
- 05 Oct. :Fr André LANDREIN (Cameroon)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Charles Le FUR (Cameroon)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Daniel LEGOUPIL (Madagascar)
- 05 Oct. :Fr André LEMAIRE (France)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Bernard de LEPINAY (Congo)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Léon NECK (Congo)
- 05 Oct. :Fr John C. O'MAHONY (Kenya)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Guy PANNIER (France)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Joseph P. SHIEL (Ireland)
- 05 Oct. :Fr Bernard VOISIN (France)
- 13 Oct. :Fr Jeremiah C. GODFREY (Ireland)
- 15 Oct. :Fr Patrick F. O'DONOGHUE (Trans-Canada)
- 29 Oct. :Fr René PILLOT (France)
- 29 Oct. :Fr Etienne VIENNOT (France)
- 30 Nov. :Fr Jean CRIAUD (Cameroon)

50 Years of Priesthood

- 29 Oct. :Fr Joseph P. O'NEILL (Makurdi)

Our Dead

- 24 April :Fr Pieter SCHOONAKKER (Nederland), 84.
- 29 April :Fr Tom CLERKIN (USA/Ir.), 86.
- 02 May :Br Paul VILLAIN (France), 66.
- 02 May :Fr Jacques BONDALLAZ (Switzerland), 77.
- 09 May :Br Mathias CONNOLLY (Ireland), 72.
- 09 May :Fr Johannes HUIJSMANS (Nederland), 62.
- 19 May :Fr Alexius (Gerardus) PASTOR (Nederland) 52.
- 22 May :Fr Gary Steven BURNS (USA/East), 54.
- 21 May :Fr Alvaro Soares da SILVA (Portugal), 83.
- 25 May :Fr Jean-Baptiste ANDRE (France), 84.
- 04 June :Fr Frans VISSERS (Nederland), 75.
- 07 June :Fr Patrick HARNETT (Ireland), 79.
- 08 June :Br Armand (François) SAALBACH (France), 61.