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SPIRITAN NEWS

August - October 1995

N° 109

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

MEETING OF NEWLY APPOINTED MAJOR SUPERIORS

The Meeting of the Major Superiors who were appointed in the past year took place at the Generalate from September 18 - 23, 1995. Sixteen Superiors attended.



Back Row: L-R: Frs Breidenbach, Shine, Berton, Ward, Lefèvre, Keane, Mbilingi, Promis, Nesti, Duchesne.

Front Row: Le Quéré, Devine, Choquereau, Perez, Leven and Miranda.

In his opening address to the participants, Fr General gave the reasons for the meeting

- It is a time of apprenticeship in learning the administration necessary for your new function.
- It is a time when you share with us your experience of your circumscription and when we share with you how we see the Congregation as a whole.
- Our meeting as brothers will facilitate our relations in the future so that you can be part of the leadership of the whole Congregation.
- It is equally a spiritual experience. It is in mutually communicating our missionary experience, in a spirit of fraternity and prayer, that the grace of God and his call are revealed.

DISCUSSIONS

On Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 18-19, each Superior gave a report on his circumscription. There was also an opportunity to ask for clarifications. All were invited to go on pilgrimage to Assisi on Wednesday, Sept. 20, as was the custom in the past years. Thursday morning, Sept. 21, was reserved for a global presentation of the Enlarged General Council which was held in Dakar in May 1995 (EGC95) and the follow-up since then. On Thursday evening, the General Bursar and the Coordinator of Justice and Peace spoke about their work. On Friday morning, Sept. 23, the members of the "Services" described their duties and responsibilities. The Superiors met the General Councillors who are correspondents for their respective circumscriptions on Friday evening. Saturday morning, Sept. 23, was devoted to Open Forum.

Enlarged General Council '95

Fr Kelly gave a global presentation on EGC, Dakar and the follow-up since then.

The EGC was about people, about Spiritans and the mission of a world-wide worldwide Congregation. Dakar was meant to evaluate how the directives of Itaici are being implemented, to study new means and initiatives and to reinforce collaboration between the General Council and the Circumscriptions.

Itaici dealt with the concept of mission, mission as listening and as respectful intervention. We left Itaici asking ourselves where the Spirit was leading us. The theme at Dakar was "under the guidance of the Spirit". Beyond the main themes of our meeting: "Formation", "Organisation" and "Communication", EGC95 was a new momentum for opening in Asia and Mozambique, a celebration of 150 years of Spiritan mission in Africa and for many, a moment of personal conversion in Gorée.

Formation

Fr Jolibois presented what had been said in Dakar about On-going Formation. Part II of the "Guide for Formation" which deals with "Initial Formation" has now been approved. Suggestions made at Dakar and subsequently have been integrated into the text.

Part III, which treats of "On-going Formation" needs further consultation and reflection. It appears that some confreres do not feel the need for continuous and on-going formation. Perhaps they may lack the proper motivation, the call to continuous conversion, the awareness that the world is changing and that we continually need to update both our spiritual growth and professional competence. Our missionary experience teaches us that in order to profit from it, we need time to reflect, to see how the world is moving and to transform ourselves so that our apostolic life is an effective witness to the Gospel. A healthy person is the one who continually integrates the human, the psychological and the spiritual. It takes time to read and to interpret the signs of

the times, to see what is God's call, and to evaluate our commitment. We must be conscious of the changes in ourselves and avoid the danger of routine.

Means of On-going Formation

1. Habitual

a). **Personal:** time reserved for study, spiritual reading, meditation and spiritual direction.

b). **Community:** Periods organised by the local community, by the circumscription, such as meetings, celebrations, retreats, liturgy etc. or the elaboration and evaluation of a community project.

2. Periods of deep renewal.

More intense updating at different periods in life which can be a short period of a few weeks or a longer period of from two to twelve months. SRL states that each must take a period of longer duration. There are stages in the apostolic life-cycle when a special formation is required, e.g. after the first ten years in active ministry, mid-life, as we move into the 'slow lane' in our declining years and finally in retirement. There are other times which are not identified with life's patterns e.g. when a person changes his work; returns permanently from the missions; takes on a new job or in moments of growth-crisis which have roots of a physical, psychological or spiritual nature. Renewal is the concern and the responsibility both of the confrere and his circumscriptions of appointment and origin. The time and courses to be followed are decided in consultation between the confrere and relevant superiors. Finance is likewise the responsibility of the circumscription, the province of origin and the confrere. The Congregation in solidarity, may be called upon to help in some cases.

Father Keane, spoke on how he saw the orientations of Dakar being implemented in Ireland. A course of two or three weeks is organised each year in the Province. The course covers trends in modern theology, spirituality and self-awareness. The fruits are seen in better relationships among the members of the Province. The occasions offered by celebrations for on-going formation are not missed e.g. professions, reunions, jubilees and "our Founders' days". Fr General's Report to EGC95 has been sent to all the Communities and will be discussed at the next meeting with the Communities and the Provincial Council. It has been used also at liturgies, anniversaries, profession retreats.

A Director for On-going Formation has been appointed in the Province. Sabbaticals are a regular feature. The Province contributes £3,000.00 to each member doing a Sabbatical.

It was suggested from the floor that there should be a better development of a theology of the Holy Spirit and this should be integrated into our missiology. This would bring our apostolic life and "practical union" with God together. The gift which we bring to the Church is the charismatic aspect.

In common European projects it is sometimes difficult to get resource people for their successful implementation e.g. the "Spiritans month". There is the same problem each year and we do not profit from our world wide experience.

The following places have been suggested as Spiritan Spiritual Centres for courses of a longer duration:

Saverne, Silva, Bagamoyo and SIST. The question of Saverne will be taken up at the next meeting of the European Provincials.

Guide for Organisation

Fr Castriani presented the Document "Guide for Organisation". Itaici asked for a review of Chapter VII of the SRL "Organisation of the Congregation". After consultation, it was clear that there was no need for a total rewriting. SRL has left open various possibilities in the organisation of the Congregation especially regarding New Groups. Change in the concept of mission which has evolved has consequences for the relationship between circumscriptions. Among other themes, Fr Castriani took up 'regionalisation' as a point to be considered at the meeting.

Conclusions of the EGC on Regionalisation

The Conclusions are that the General Council

- favour regionalisation and internationality but must not impose it. Presently, circumscriptions are at the stage of collaboration but not at the point of juridical structures. EGC is against a legal structure which could be a handicap rather than a help. There are as yet no regional councils.
- ensure that whatever is proposed is in keeping with the ethos of the Congregation.
- ensure that no circumscription is out on a limb, and intervene wherever a problem arises.

Fr Devine responded by giving an account in the concrete of how regionalisation in South Central Africa has evolved. He

gave a short history of SCAF. It was stated from the floor that if we want to have regional autonomy we must have financial autonomy. Foundations are tied to Districts and the Districts should finance regional projects. FAC is the project of its Region. There can be co-operation in formation on a regional basis as in the International Novitiate in Puerto Rico.

Communication

Fr Wijnen drew attention to what Itaici said about the importance of communication. Communication is by witness. He gave a run down on what is required for communication. There is an ID "in the pipeline" dealing with communication so there is no need to anticipate what will appear in this document.

Fr Eduardo Miranda responded by drawing attention to the international meeting which took place in Portugal from May 28 - June 1, 1995. European confreres concerned with Spiritan communication in the Congregation met in Carcavelos with the object of exploring greater cooperation among the European Provinces and with the Generalate in collecting and disseminating information and photographs. They concluded that we should not confine ourselves to mission magazines only: we also need to have permanent contacts with journalists. Missions are a major source of information for them but we must ensure that news releases are precise, current and on time. There is a great need to have a close contact with Spiritan publications in other provinces in order to keep mission in focus. We have a duty to present the good things that are happening in Africa. People outside Africa, in general, only see the "miserable face of Africa". Emphasis must be on training our young members: a good missionary is not necessarily a good journalist.

NEWS ITEMS

General Council

- April 2, 1995 nominated Fr Anthony AMADI as Major Superior of the District of **Zimbabwe**, for three years from April 28, 1995.
- April 28, 1995 confirmed the election of Fr Patrick KELLY, as Superior of the District of **Brazil S.W** for three years from April 28, 1995
- April 28, 1995 confirmed the election of Fr Donald NESTI as Provincial Superior of the Province of **USA West** for three years from July 01, 1995.
- April 28, 1995, in keeping with SRL 157, formally erected the **District of Zimbabwe** as from April 28, 1995.
- May 08, 1995 nominated Fr Max DOMINIQUE as Superior of the District of **Haiti** for a second mandate of three years from May 08, 1995.
- May 14, 1995, following requests from the Hierarchy in Mozambique and likewise following consultation of Superiors of Angola, Portugal, Nigeria, EAP and SCAF, decided to establish an international group in the Dioceses of

Chimoio and Nacala. The group will start with two communities and will form part of the Region of SCAR(South Central African Region).

- COURANT as Superior of the District of **Bangui** for a second mandate of three years from Oct. 19, 1995.
- 23 June 1995, nominated Fr Alphose GILBERT as **Postulator at the Holy See of the causes of Frs Libermann, Laval and Brottier** to take effect from Oct. 01, 1995. (Fr J. SAVOIE is **Postulator of the cause of Claude Poullart des Places** and Fr G. GUILLEMOT is **Vice Postulator of the cause of Fr Laval**)
- July 24, 1995 confirmed the election of Fr Hubertus MEUWISSEN as Major Superior of the District of **Amazonia** for a second mandate from Aug. 1, 1995
- Sept. 08, 1995. named Br Robert GUENO of the Province of France as **Bursar of the Generalate** for three years from Nov, 01, 1995.

- Sept. 09, 1995, confirmed the election of Fr Gérard SIREAU as Principal Superior of the District of **Cameroon** for a second mandate from Oct. 09, 1995

RISC Meeting for Younger Spiritans

Fr B. Kelly writes

Thirty three Spiritans gathered at St Jerome near Montreal from July 31 - Aug 6, 1995 for the RISC Meeting. RISC(the Real, the Ideal, Spirit, Chaos) evoked the familiar landscape of our personal experience of mission and our daily struggle to choose life and not death. It was a meeting about the North American and Caribbean Spiritans today. It also had an eye to tomorrow. Only Spiritans under 50 were invited, though dispensations were granted to some provincials and myself.

The process did not aim at elaborating a document or a project. Rather, from unhurried sharing of our experience, with intervening time for prayer and meditation we tried to discover the principal values we hold in common. There emerged AVAILABILITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT(resilience, versatility, solidarity, risk taking) and A SIMPLE WAY OF BEING WITH PEOPLE(respect, openness, personal visiting) This was firm ground on which to build. Everyone who participated felt that they had been refreshed at the wellspring of a shared identity.

The meeting was a sign of hope for the regional community of North America. It generated momentum for Spiritan life. On one evening I assisted at a meeting of the Provincials. Plans are well underway for the first North American renewal program at Duesquesne University next July.

The Oldest Confrere

Fr Patrick Wallis celebrated his hundredth birthday in Kimmage Manor, Dublin on Aug.19, 1995. He was professed in 1914 and ordained in 1923. The following year he went to Kenya where her stayed for fifty five years.

A special message of congratulations was sent from our Superior General, Fr Schouver. Her Excellency, Mrs Mary Robinson, President of Ireland sent a cheque of two hundred and fifty pounds. On receiving it, Fr. Wallis remarked that it was too much!

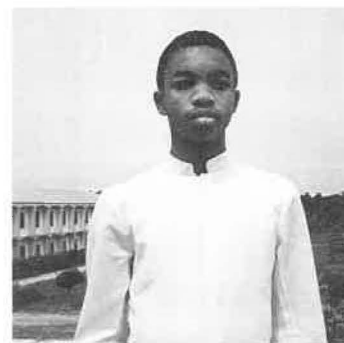
Fr. Henry Koren points out that statistics tell us that only one in 15,000 reaches the age of 100: presently, cumulative membership of the Congregation has just reached 15,000.



Fr Patrick Wallis CSSp

Our Youngest Professed

Just 81 years separate the oldest member of the Congregation from the youngest professed, **Nwadike Victor Chinedu**, Nigeria. Nwadike looks forward to the next century with optimism and confidence. He says: "the year 2,000 has been widely given the mark of 'wonder year' . From my own point of view I do not see why the Holy Ghost Congregation should be pessimistic. On the contrary bright days await us. We are a group who hold firm convictions that this will be so. I believe that our



Nwadike V. Chinedu CSSp

Congregation will be an even more alive and buoyant missionary Congregation into the year of 2000 and beyond".

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Our Dead

10 June	:Fr Henry J.McANULTY	USA/E, 80 yrs
17 June	:Fr Charles D. READ	USA/E, 81 yrs
19 June	:Fr Joseph P. O'CONNOR	Ireland, 73 yrs
29 June	:Fr Hilaire BEAULIEU	Canada, 87 yrs
03 June	:Br Jude A BERNABLE	France, 88 yrs
03 July	:Mgr Jean DAVID	France, 82 yrs
11 July	:Fr Jacques COMMANDEUR	N/lands, 77 yrs
22 July	:Br Heinrich THODAM	Germany, 80 yrs
25 July	:Br Camille STACOFFE	France, 79 yrs
31 July	:Br J. A. VAN DER STEEN	N/lands, 80 yrs
08 Aug.	:Fr Rémi CATHELINE	France, 54 yrs
08 Aug.	:Fr Alphonse CESBRON	France, 90 yrs
12 Aug.	:Fr Philippe GAGNON	Canada, 86 yrs
27 Aug.	:Fr Frederick FULLEN	Ireland, 87 yrs
29 Aug.	:Br Georges T. STARCK	France, 79 yrs
30 Aug.	:Fr Eric MACKAY	Canada, 67 yrs
30 Aug.	:Fr E. da Silva LEITO	Portugal, 85 yrs
09 Sept.	:Fr Elie BOBILLIER	France, 70 yrs
16 Sept.	:Fr John A. STRMISKA	USA/W, 95 yrs
21 Sept.	:Fr Wilhelmus BERNDSEN	N/lands, 80 yrs
03 Oct.	:Fr Eamon MANSFIELD	Mauritius, 61 yrs