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SPIRITAN NEWS

November 1995

N° 110

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

International History Research Group

The year 2002 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fr Libermann and the 150th of his death. The year 2003 is the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation. In preparation for these anniversaries the second session of the International History Research Group (I.H.R.G.) was held at the Generalate from Sept. 30 to Oct. 07, 1995. The first session was in Nov. 1994. (See Spiritan News, No. 105).



L - R: Frs P. Coulon, V. O'Toole, G. Renaud, H. Moloney, G. de Banville, V. O'Grady, A. Torres Neiva, J-C. Pariat and C. Eke.

There were three new members present. Fr Henry Moloney, Ireland, replaces Fr Dundon. The two new Archivists, Frs Vincent O'Toole and Ghislain de Banville, replace Frs O'Grady and Carrard respectively. Fr B. Kelly, First Assistant, is responsible for coordination between the General Council and the Group.

The Group studied and planned the work to be undertaken between now and the General Chapter of 1998:

- publication of a new **biography of Fr Libermann**. Frs P. Coulon and F. Nicolas will take on this part of the project. Publication of the French text is projected for 1997/98.

- a **Spiritan diary**, a page for every day of the year, noting historical events of that day and where and when they occurred. The initial work will be done by Frs O'Toole, de Banville and Pariat. Projected date of publication is 1998.

- an **illustrated booklet/album** of 300 years of our Spiritan history. Frs Pariat and de Banville are responsible for the

preparation of the first draft: publication date, 1997.

- a collection of **significant historical texts** of an inspirational nature, addressed primarily to our Spiritan family while taking into account diversity within the Congregation.

Fr Pariat, the Coordinator writes:

We shall also deal with the Spiritan life-history of our circumscriptions. We renew our appeal to collect all possible information of an historical nature which concerns our work: mission journals, letters, accounts of special events, photos, etc... These local sources are necessary for writing a Spiritan history of our circumscriptions.

A letter will be sent in the near future to all Major Superiors. We are very aware of the riches and diversity of our Spiritan tradition. Many confreres bear witness to it. We wish to request their help in bringing the preparations for the 300th anniversary to a successful conclusion.

News from Circumscriptions

Puerto Rico

On July 30, 1995, Fr Osvaldo Pérez González, Superior of the Foundation of Puerto Rico, received the vows of the first novices of the Spanish speaking Novitiate. The ceremony was attended by around 400 people. The Novices of this year's novitiate which began on Aug. 13, were also present.



Newly professed: L-R: Jean G. Edumé, Hugo C. Salinas, Javier M. Avilés, Marcellino L. Cruz, Mariano E. Sala and Elvio N. Cantero Avalo.

Poland

The Province of Poland will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its foundation by holding a Spiritan Congress from May 16-26, 1996. The topics of the Congress are:

- What does it mean to live in the time of the "action of the Holy Spirit?"
- What are the means to be used in the New Evangelisation?
- How can we fight effectively against sin and weakness?
- An analysis of the attitudes of the present day world.
- The causes of poverty and suffering in "mission countries", preventive measures and aid from developed countries.
- Prayer as a religious practice today.
- The spirituality of the interior life of Mary.
- Spiritan communities - their work and charism.

Paraguay

The seventh annual meeting of Spiritans of Brazil and Paraguay was held for the first time in Paraguay from July 2 - 6, 1995. The first meeting dates back to Sao Paulo in 1977. All the Spiritan confreres, the Spiritan and Holy Rosary Sisters, working in the two countries, were invited. More than sixty responded to the invitation as well as the Superiors of Martinique, French Guiana and Puerto Rico. The French Province was represented by its First Assistant, Fr Marc Soyer and the Generalate by Frs Schouver and Castriani.

Spiritans in Paraguay work among the *campesinos* (the rural population), at the University, in mission animation, in formation and with the *campesinos* coming to Asunción.

Discussion focused on Regionalisation in the light of what was said at Dakar. Philosophy studies should be in the country of origin while the Novitiate and Theology should be in an international setting. The feasibility of bringing together for an assembly, both the students and those in first appointments, on the continent was considered.

Apropos the future of the Region, the following points were discussed:

- a foundation in Amazonia,
- opening communities in other Latin American countries,
- collaborating with other religious Congregations,
- making better use of facilities available for communication,
- a better knowledge of Africa,
- the appointment of members of Districts to the service of the Province,
- financial solidarity.

Alto Juruá

The District Assembly was held from July 11-14, 1995. To overcome the problem of travel, the Superior provided a small plane to collect the confreres. The meeting took the form of discussion and exchange between the confreres and Fr General. The question of a Foundation of Amazonia which would include the two Districts of North Brazil as foundation members, was also discussed. There are vocations in the North, particularly in the Diocese of Cruzeiro do Sul, as well as formation structures. However, participants were reminded that such decisions should be taken within an overall vision of the Congregation and the present Brazilian Province. It may be difficult also for the District of Alto Juruá to shoulder the responsibility alone.

The confreres were encouraged by meeting together, by being a member of an international community and family. They felt the need to strengthen those bonds. The District is not dying but being transformed. It will continue to serve the Church, in which, up to recently, it was the sole missionary presence, assuring an opening *ad extra*.

Amazonia

The second session of the District Chapter of Amazonia was held from July 18-21, 1995. The Chapter studied and approved a document concerning missionary involvement which covered the following points:

- lay formation,
- vocation animation for the local Church and eventually for Spiritans,
- support for organizations involving the rank and file of the population both at Church and state level,
- a better knowledge of the language, history and the value systems of the people among whom we work,
- research for alternative structures which may be more simple than the present parish structures,
- giving special attention to Indians,
- ecumenism.

General impressions of Brazil

It would not be realistic nor honest to speak of Brazil as a unit.

There is the Brazil

- of the large cities and the rural areas,
- of the Universities and of the illiterates,

- of the Indians, Blacks, Whites and Mulattos,
- of Catholics, Sects, African/Brazilian Groups and of no religion at all,
- of the culture in the South and that in the North East.

The same diversity is evident among the Spiritans: Brazilians, Irish, Portuguese, German, Dutch, French, Spanish, Haitians, a Cape Verdian, and a Zairian. There are young and old. Spiritans work in the traditional parishes among both the well-to-do and the deprived, in the big cities and in isolated missions.

In the Amazon region **distances** are calculated in hours rather than miles. The journey from Sao Paulo to Asunción, which was made by 45 confreres for the July meeting, takes twenty four hours by bus.

The growth of **those without any religion and the sects** is creating a new situation. Brazilian society is changing at a break-neck speed and it is virtually impossible to keep on top of these changes.

Brazil has moved from a dictatorship to a democracy. The

economy is that of the free market with its advantages and disadvantages. The effects of unemployment and the widening gap between the rich and the poor are visible. For us Spiritans and for the Church, the challenge of commitment to the poor remains a Gospel option.

Haiti

Our confrere, Jean-Yves Urfié, has been named by a decree of President Mitterrand, *Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite*. The medal was presented on March 24, 1995 by the French Ambassador to Haiti in the presence of many confreres, the President of the Conference of Haiti Religious and many government ministers.

The Ambassador wrote to Fr Jean-Yves Urfié:

Your nomination is a just reward for your work among the most deprived of the population in Haiti and in other countries and for your commitment to working for the defence of human rights and freedom in Haiti.

NEWS ITEMS

The General Council

- Oct. 16, 1995 appointed Brother Paul Maria HEINZ, of the Province of Germany, to the post of **General Maintenance Services at the Generalate** from November 01, 1995 to January 31, 1997.

- Nov. 03, 1995 nominated Fr William JENKINSON of the Province of Ireland, as **Superior of the Generalate Community**, for second mandate from April 01, 1996.

- Nov. 03, 1995 made the following **First Appointments**

Belmiro CUICA CHISSENGUETI (Angola)	Angola
Gaudêncio do Rosario SANGANDO (Angola)	Angola
Alberto TCHINDEMBE (Angola)	Mozambique
Francisco AMANDIO (Angola)	Angola
Dominic GATHURITHU (EAP)	Zambia
Zakayo KIMARO (EAP)	Zaire
Michael MAYO (EAP)	EAP
Peter NDEGWA (EAP)	EAP
Thadeus SIYA (EAP)	Zambia
Nazaire DIATTA (FAC)	FAC
Samuel GBANG (FAC)	Bangui
Christophe KPWAMA (FAC)	Gabon
Damien MEKI, (FAC)	FAC
Eric-Achille NGOUAMENE (FAC)	Madagascar
Thomas-Emma SONGO (FAC)	Senegal
Thierry AUROKIOM (France)	French Guiana
Michel SELLAYE (France)	Haiti
Emeka AKABUEZE (Nigeria)	Nigeria
Thomas Chinedu ANEKE (Nigeria)	Zaire
John ANYAEGBUNAM (Nigeria)	Nigeria
Alphonsus ANYANWU (Nigeria)	Belgium
Paul ASHIEGBU (Nigeria)	Zaire
Festus CHIANAKWANA (Nigeria)	Gabon
Ifeanyi EMEJULU (Nigeria)	Nigeria
James IBEH (Nigeria)	Nigeria
Augustine Isah KATUKA (Nigeria)	FAC
Casimir NWACHUKWU (Nigeria)	Congo
Augustine NWOSU (Nigeria)	Nigeria
Edwin OGBUCHI (Nigeria)	Nigeria
Jude OKEKE (Nigeria)	Congo
Casimir OLOWU (Nigeria)	Nigeria
Anthony Ahamba UGOH (Nigeria)	Mozambique

Pedro FERNANDES (Portugal)	Mozambique
Gérard COUNTY (Trinidad)	Mexico
Raphael ANNAN (WAF)	Makurdi
William DAMAH (WAF)	WAF
John HELU (WAF)	Malawi
Kenneth KOUGHNA (WAF)	Makurdi
Joseph OWUSU-BOAFO (WAF)	Gambia

News Snippets

- Fr Michel de Vertueil directed the **Retreat** for the General Council in Loreto from 08 - 14, October 1995.

- The District of Mexico celebrates the **silver jubilee** of its foundation this year.

- The Provincials of Europe at their meeting in November 1994 expressed the desire to set up a **permanent secretariat** for the European region.

- The "**Spiritans Nigerian Memorial 1885 - 1945**", a history of Spiritan in Nigeria, is in preparation. The work is being done by Fr H. J. Koren and will be in the same format as the "East African Memorial". It is expected to be ready by the end of this year. The estimated price is \$25.00 plus postage.

- The General Council is initiating a project to send a team to work with **refugees in Guinea**. This will involve some experienced confreres from both Senegal and Sierra Leone and possibly First Appointments from WAF and Nigeria.

- Fr Norman Bevan was **inaugurated as Fifth President** of the Catholic Theological Union (CTU), Chicago on Sunday Oct. 15, 1995.

- Fr Cahinga, former Provincial of Angola is doing a **sabbatical in Rome** this year.

- Fr Brian McLaughlin came to the Generalate on Oct. 25, 1995. During his stay of a month, he plans to meet the General Administration of missionary societies who are working in Asia and to discuss the "**Asia Project**" with the General Council.

- Pierre Veau has been chosen as **Coordinator of the Spiritans of Mauritania** and as their representative on the District Council as from March 01, 1995.

- Augustine Bayoh and John Baptist Baalaboore of WAF will be **ordained Deacons** at Clivo di Cinna on Dec. 17, 1995.
 - In Houston, Texaco, Fr Binh The Quach, made his first profession on Sept.09, 1995. He is the **first Vietnamese priest** to take vows in our Congregation. The ceremony took place in the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters' Convent. Many of the Vietnamese community in Houston attended.

Electronic Mail

Fr Gaétan Renaud CSSp has kindly offered to act as a **Distributor** for all E/Mail addresses within the Congregation. Would confreres wishing to avail of the service please forward their E/Mail addresses to P. Gaétan Renaud, Résidence Le Roy, 3136 Le Boulevard, Montréal, Québec H3Y 1R9, Canada. E/Mail address: grenaud @ accent.net

Fr Renaud will forward all E/Mail addresses to each confrere who contacts him.

Diamond Jubilees

The brothers, Frs Ronald and Wilfrid Gandy, celebrated the diamond jubilee of their ordination to the priesthood on October 6, 1995. This is probably the first time in the history of the Congregation that two brothers have celebrated sixty years in the priesthood on the same day. They were ordained on October 6, 1935.



Frs Wilfrid and Ronald Gandy

Fr Ron was appointed to the Diocese of Port-Louis, Mauritius in 1936 where he remained for forty nine years. He worked on the island of Rodrigues from 1941 until 1981. While in Rodrigues he was architect, builder, educationalist and pastor, all in one. He was honored with the MBE in 1958 for his work in soil conservation.

Ron's younger brother, Wilfrid taught History and Greek in both the Junior and Senior Scholasticates. He was one of the founding Fathers of the Missionary Institute, London and President from 1971/75. He came to the Generalate as Secretary General of the Congregation 1975/76. On his return to England from Rome he started the Archives of the Province. His book "*Holy Ghost Fathers in England*", a history of the Spiritans in Britain from 1792 to 1945, has just been published.

General Council Diary

Fr Schouver: Jan. 02-15, E.A.P. (Chapter): Jan. 15-31, Kenya: Jan. 31-Feb. 7, Zambia: Feb. 07-15, Zimbabwe: Feb. 19-26, Ireland.

Fr Kelly: Nov. 15-Dec 18, Madagascar, Réunion, Mauritius

(Visitation): Jan. 26-Feb. 26, Ireland (Visitation).

Fr Odigbo: Nov. 12-26, South Africa (Pan African Meeting of Superiors and Formators + SCAF): Nov. 26-Jan. 02, E.A.P. (Visitation): Jan. 02-15, EAP(Chapter) Jan. 15-31, Kenya (Visitation): Jan. 31-Feb. 18, Zambia (Visitation).

Fr Wijnen: Nov. 20-26, Dublin (Meeting of European Provincials): Nov. 26-Jan. 02, E.A.P. (visitation): Jan. 02-15, E.A.P. (Chapter): Jan. 15-31, Kenya (visitation): Jan. 31-Feb. 07, Holland.

Fr Castriani: Nov. 10-19, Spain (Visitation): Nov. 28-Dec. 15, FAC (Visitation): Kinshasa (Meeting of Formators), Dec. 15-27, Gabon (Visitation): Jan. 01-05, Libreville (Enlarged Council FAC): Jan. 05-25, Gabon (Visitation): Jan. 28-Feb. 25, Ireland (Visitation).

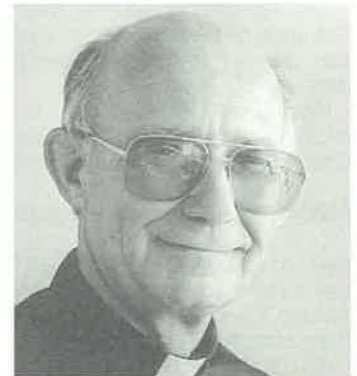
Fr Bongo: Nov. 10-19, Spain (Visitation): Nov. 30-Dec. 15, FAC (Visitation): Dec. 15-27, Gabon (Visitation): Dec. 27-Jan. 07, Enlarged Council FAC: Jan. 10-28, Ireland: Jan. 28-Feb. 26, Ireland (Visitation).

Fr Jolibois: Nov. 23-30, Algeria (Visitation): Dec. 01-15, FAC (visitation): Dec. 15-27: Gabon (Visitation), Jan. 01-5, Libreville (Enlarged Council FAC): Jan. 05-23, Gabon (Visitation): Jan. 23-Feb. 01, Gabon: Feb. 01-17, Congo (Meeting Young Spiritans + District Congress).

Fr Moreira: Nov. 15-30, Fribourg: Jan. 07-21, Fribourg.

New Bishop of Bridgetown, Barbados

Mgr Malcolm Galt CSSp. was ordained Bishop of Bridgetown, Barbados in St Patrick's Cathedral, Bridgetown on July 25, 1995. Bishop Galt was born in Trinidad on July 7, 1929. He attended St Mary's College, Port-of-Spain and did his novitiate and philosophy studies in Canada. He then returned to St Mary's College for three years' prefecting. After prefecting, he went to Kimmage, Dublin for his theology where he was ordained in 1955. His first appointment was to Christ the King College, Nigeria from 1956-60. From 1961-65, he was Secretary of the Regional Bishops' Conference of Eastern Nigeria. He worked with the Catholic Relief Services from 1966-68. He returned to Trinidad to be Provincial from 1969-75. He was Bursar and in parish ministry until 1993 when he was appointed Director of Formation. The Diocese of Bridgetown has a Catholic population of only 4,4%.



Mgr Malcolm Galt CSSp

Tel/Fax/E.Mail

Bishop's House Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Tel. 222-2-504-27; Fax. 222-2-537-51

Holy Ghost Fathers, Bickley, England. Fax: 0181-295-4965

Pentecôte sur le Monde. Tel. (33-1) 44.08.90.50

Chevilly Archives: Fax (33-1) 41.80.93.90

Mission Spiritaine (SPEM) Dakar, Sénégal:

Tel.: 221/24.96.98

Our Dead

- Oct. 19 :Fr Etienne MORIN France, 65 yrs
- Oct. 21 :Fr Michael WOULEF Ireland, 73 yrs
- Oct. 25 :Fr Jacques GUILBERT France, 73 yrs
- Oct. 29 :Fr Joseph R. CASEY USA/E, 75 yrs
- Nov. 03 :Fr Klaus E. PILLER Germany, 60 yrs
- Nov. 04 :Fr Desmond J. O'FARRELL Ireland, 59 yrs