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Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

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# SPIRITAN NEWS

April 1996

N° 113

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

## GENERAL CHAPTER 1998

The General Council has decided to send a letter to all Superiors informing them that initial steps are being taken for the next General Chapter. It is important that the General Council know what are the expectations of the confreres for the next Chapter so that these can be integrated into the formal themes to be drawn up later by the General Council as 'lineamenta' for discussion.

There are four important aspects which must be taken into account in the preparation of the Chapter:

- Consultation of the Circumscriptions about topics to be put on the agenda
- Consultation of Superiors about representation by delegates
- Creating an awareness throughout the Congregation of the importance of the Chapter
- Offering an opportunity for each member to participate in its preparation and to make his contribution.

Chapters can easily become a non-event for confreres who are not delegates. The Superior General, in his letter to the Major Superiors, requests them to carry out a process of discernment on the principal themes for the Chapter with the members of their circumscriptions. He invites them to do this during the assemblies of their circumscription between September 1996 and June 1997.

### Methodology of the General Chapter

According to SRL N° 214, the General Chapter has the responsibility

- to check that the Congregation has remained faithful to the mission that it has within the Church,
- to augment the apostolic and religious vitality of the members of the Institute,

- to evaluate the effect in practice of measures taken by previous Chapters,

- to decide objectives in missionary activity for the coming years,

- to examine the financial state of the Congregation.

The General Council, for their part, will devote a week in May 1996, to examine issues which they would like to put to confreres. Some points were already put forward at the EGC in Dakar.

The General Council welcomes any ideas or views which the Major Superiors may wish to communicate to them for their week's reflection. This will help the them to focus their attention on topics of concern to the members and circumscriptions.

Following their week's reflection in May, the General Council will communicate, to the Superiors, themes for reflection by all confreres during their discernment process from September 1996 to June 1997. It is important that circumscriptions communicate their views to the Generalate before June 30, 1997.

The Superior General, in his letter, gave information also, on the selection procedure for the delegates for the last Chapter in Itaiçi in 1992 and asked for the views of the Superiors on the most suitable method of representation of their circumscription.

**Date for the Chapter:** At the time of going to press the exact dates are not determined. However, the Chapter will take place during the period between 01 July 1998 and August 10, 1998 in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland.

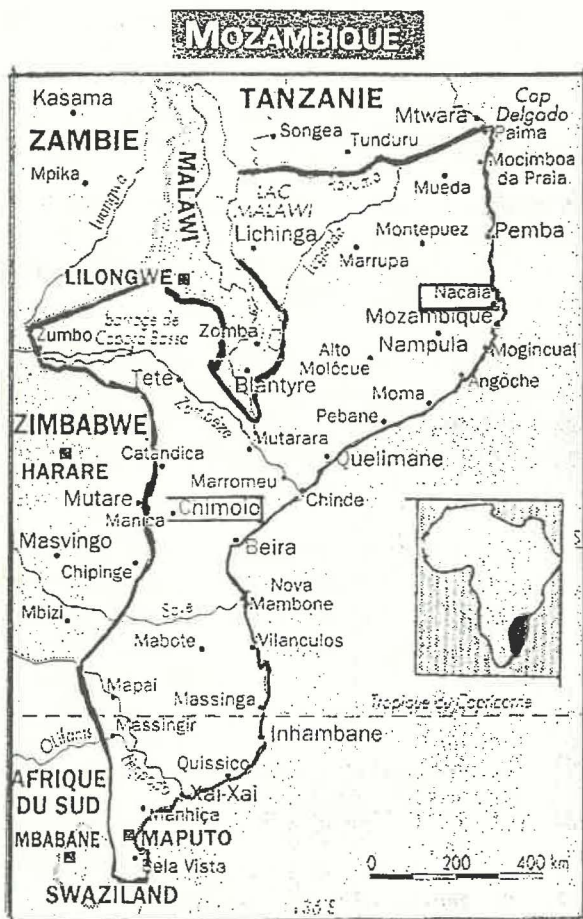
## New Initiative in Mozambique

Following requests from the Hierarchy in Mozambique and consultation of the Superiors of Angola, Nigeria, EAP and SCAF, the Superior General and his Council have decided to establish an International Group to work in the Dioceses of Chimoio and Nacala in Mozambique. The group will work in two communities and will form part of the Region of SCAR (South Central African Region).

The following is the composition of the Team.

<b>FERNANDES</b> Pedro, 27 yrs	.....	Portugal
<b>TCHINDEMBE</b> Alberto, 28 yrs	.....	Angola
<b>UGOH</b> Anthony, 31 yrs	.....	Nigeria
<b>VITORINO</b> Domingos, 56 yrs	.....	Portugal
<b>CANGUENO</b> Benedito, 30 yrs	.....	Angola
<b>NWANERI</b> Lawrence, 39 yrs	.....	Nigeria

No problems are foreseen in getting entry and residence permits. One of the difficulties which our confreres will meet, is isolation. Chimoio is 1,800 Km from Nacala. Travelling by road is impossible and travel by air is expensive and necessitates a landing at Beira. Financial help from the Dioceses will be skimpy as the Dioceses have difficulty in surviving financially themselves.



**Insertion in Nacala:** Living quarters which were used up to the present by Sisters are in a reasonably good condition.

There are also good facilities in the Institute of Paul VI which is run by the Combonians for studying the local language (Macua) whenever the need arises.

### Mozambique

<b>Independence</b>	<b>1975</b>
<b>Area</b>	<b>784,032 Km sq.</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>18 millions</b>
<b>Ann. populat. increase</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>Life expectancy</b>	<b>49 yrs</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Minerals:</b>	<b>Coal, Copper</b>
	<b>Bauxite, Oil</b>
<b>Official Language</b>	<b>Portuguese</b>
<b>Religion:</b>	
<b>Animist</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Christian</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Muslim</b>	<b>10%</b>

<b>Dioceses</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Diocesan Priests</b>	<b>30</b>

<b>Diocese of Chimoio</b>	
<b>Established</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>Area</b>	<b>61,681 Km. sq.</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>90,000</b>
<b>Catholics</b>	<b>55,000</b>
<b>Priests Dioc.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Priests Other</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sisters</b>	<b>45</b>

<b>Diocese of Nacala</b>	
<b>Established</b>	<b>1991</b>
<b>Area</b>	<b>26,000 Km. sq.</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>1,750,000</b>
<b>Catholics</b>	<b>70,000</b>
<b>Priests: Indig.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sisters</b>	<b>48</b>

**Insertion in the Diocese of Chimoio:** The community will work in Inhazonia which is about 120 Km from the town of Chimoio, and relatively near the border with Zimbabwe. The mission is in a poor state - Church, school, boarding school and hospital - are all in need of repair - but the Fathers' residence is under renovation. There is no electricity as the generator, which is considered essential, was stolen during the war. The mission is blessed with a large farm which gives hope for self-financing at a later stage. Learning the language (Chibarroe) in Chimoio will be somewhat more difficult than in Nacala as there are few books and no organised courses available.

Inhazonia is 200 Km from Mutare. As the roads are good, there will be an opportunity for contacts with our confreres in Mutare/Zimbabwe. The confreres travelling to Chimoio, are considering travelling via Zimbabwe.

## Some of the areas where our confreres will focus their efforts

The number of Catholics and local clergy is relatively small. The Catholics in the Diocese of Nacala are a mere 4.5% of the population and 6% in the Diocese of Chimoio. There are only 2 indigenous priests in Chimoio and 1 in Nacala.

While not being concerned with quantity or the "numbers game", one of the reasons for the small number of Catholics is most likely a certain inability of church personnel to penetrate deeply into the spiritual psyche of the local population. For example, there was no dialogue between the Church

and traditional religions.

## Some Initial Goals of the Group

- start a deep reflection on our present mission methodology
- promote vocations to the local diocesan clergy

The growth of Islam in Nacala must also be taken into account, a factor which is almost totally absent in the mission of Netia in Chimoio.

The group will come together in Portugal for a familiarization and planning meeting in September 1996.

## FINANCE MEETING

A representative group of confreres who are involved in finance in the Congregation met in the Generalate from March 11 - 14, 1996. Haiti, Nigeria, Brazil, Angola, WAF, FAC, Trans-Canada, USA/E, , Zaire, FOI, EAP and Europe were represented.

The objective of the meeting was to examine our solidarity and how best resources can be found and shared. The main fund for helping new foundations is Cor Unum. This fund is limited and alternative sources must be found.



Back Row: L-R: Frs M. Onwuelie (Nig), P. Jeffery (Eng), A. Loos (Fr), E. Graham (Tr/Can), V. Griffin (WAF), G. Oliveira (Br), M. Teixeira (Ang), P. Rigolet (FOI), J. Burgraff (Belgium), D. Smith (USA/E).  
Front Row: Frs J. Philipe (Haiti), A. Dias (Rome), E. Shao (EAP), Br J. Nsimba (FAC), Fr N. Perrot (Zaire)

The following were some of the points on the agenda:

- In the case of foundations and of younger circumscriptions, how can bilateral financial support from "founding circumscriptions" be coordinated with allocations from COR UNUM?
- How can a regular financial support be guaranteed by a circumscription to a small International group or District?
- responsibility of the local Church to support its own missionaries,
- how can confreres be helped to draw up projects for presentation to funding agencies?
- searching for other sources of support both inside and outside the circumscription,
- question of investments. Justice and Peace in a capitalist society. Should we put our trust in our own earnings and the generosity of the faithful rather than in investments?
- our life style as a witness to and a reflection of evangelical poverty.

Fr Abel Dias, General Bursar will later send an account of this meeting to the Major Superiors, giving its recommendations and suggested orientations for the future.

## Review "SPIRITAN LIFE"

The editorial board for the publication of "SPIRITAN LIFE", Frs Joseph Gross, Vincent O'Toole and Jeronimo Cahinga, met at the Generalate from March 06 - 09, 1996 to discuss the future of the Review, "SPIRITAN LIFE". Fr Vincent O'Toole, gives the following outline of plans for the future:

It is hoped that the first edition of the re-born "SPIRITAN LIFE" will appear this autumn. At a meeting of the editorial board with the General Council in early

March, it was decided that the first edition will take as its theme "Mission and Parishes", because so many Spiritans live out their vocation as religious-missionaries in some type of parochial setting. There will be six articles or "testimonies" from confreres in different parts of the world, reflecting the diversity of parish-type works in which Spiritans are engaged. These will be followed by a slightly longer article that will take the reflection further.

The revised form of *"SPIRITAN LIFE"* will aim at being a means of on-going formation, an instrument of animation for the Congregation along the lines of Itaici, through mutual sharing of significant experiences. It will try to furnish confreres with:

- a help towards interpreting their Spiritan life and reflecting on their personal experience
- a source of stimulation through the experiences of other confreres
- some new ideas for their action, their community and personal life.

Each edition will concentrate on a specific type of

Spiritan experience, seen from the perspective of different confreres.

*"SPIRITAN LIFE"* will appear twice a year and will be published in English, French and Portuguese. The editorial board is most anxious to hear from confreres throughout the world because they want to be sure that they are addressing those topics that are of most concern to Spiritans today. Any suggestions, comments, complaints etc. should be sent to the relevant editor: Joseph Gross (French version) in Chevilly, Jeronimo Cahinga (Portuguese version) and Vincent O'Toole (English version), both in the Generalate, Rome.

## NEWS FROM THE CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS

### GHANA: Silver Jubilee.

The first group of Spiritans, Frs A. Murphy, S. Agnoli, J. Morrow, M. Buckley, E. Scott, J. White, T. Sweeney, M. Smithwick, arrived in Ghana in November 1971. Frs V. Murphy, and P. Nolan, members of the original team, arrived in May 1972, accompanying the luggage for the group. Those whose names are underlined, are still in Ghana. Spiritans worked initially with Bishop Sarpong who asked them to come to his Diocese of Kumasi. When the Diocese of Kumasi was divided to create Sunyani, a number of confreres chose to remain in the new Diocese.

Bishop Sarpong designated two parishes in his Diocese as Spiritan parishes, New Tafo opened by Fr Smithwick and Bantama opened by Fr B. Butler. The Pre-novitiate is in the grounds of Bantama parish. The group later took responsibility for the parish at Labadi (now La) in Accra Diocese. Both New Tafo and La parishes have been handed over to the administration of WAF who now staff them.

Two of the original group are now dead: Fr Joe White died in Ireland in 1981; Fr Edward Scott died resulting from a car accident in 1995. He is buried in the Spiritan cemetery in the grounds of WAF Novitiate at Ijisu. Fr Declan Dorr, who was a member of the District for many years and later WAF Novice Master is buried there also. Over the past 25 years more than 30 confreres have worked in the District. Frs D. Caplice, J. J. Coleman, M. Smithwick are in Kimmage; Frs B. Butler and P. Nolan, are in USA; Fr C. O'Brien is in Ireland and Fr M. Daly is in Australia. 14 Spiritan seminarians have done their prefecting in Ghana, many of whom were members of WAF.

In 1995 the Kumasi Diocese was again divided to create two new dioceses. Spiritans are now working in four Dioceses, - Kumasi, Obuasi, Sunyani, and Accra.

The pre-novitiate is still at Bantama and is the responsibility of the District. This year, there are 12

Ghanains and 1 Gambian preparing for the Novitiate in September next year. The District has the following number in formation; 4 in Philosophy, 9 Prefecting, 4 in Theology and 3 Brothers. The first Ghanain Spiritans were ordained in Bantama in 1988 and Ghanains are now working in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Nigeria. This year, WAF will take on a mission in the North of Ghana.

Celebrations, involving both the Districts of Ghana and WAF will take place in June/July 1996. The climax of the celebrations will be the ordination of five WAF members on July 01, 1996. Fr Pierre Schouver, the Superior General, will be present for the occasion.

### ZAMBIA: 25 Years of Spiritan Presence

On Feb 02, 1996, on the site of the new Postulate in Pemba, the Spiritans celebrated, 25 years of their presence in Zambia. The ceremony was attended by many priests and religious as well as representatives of the laity from many parts of the country, especially from parishes where Spiritans are working.

They paid glowing tributes to the great work of the Spiritans in Zambia over the past 25 years. The Superior General, Fr P. Schouver and Fr G. Odigbo, represented the General Council at the celebration.

The first group of six Spiritans from the Irish Province, Frs A. Heerey, G. Doherty, P. Hughes, M. Walsh, C. Flanagan (RIP) and M. Fallon (RIP), arrived in Zambia on Feb. 03, 1971. These men had worked in Nigeria and like many Irish Spiritans, had to leave the country in 1970, at the end of the civil war. On arrival in Zambia, they were welcomed at the airport by the Bishop of Monze, Mgr James Corboy S.J. From there, they were taken to the Jesuit Community in Chikuni. They were later assigned to their missions in Monze Diocese. A year later, they were joined by Frs P. Flynn, P. Duggan, V. O'Connell and S. D'Arcy. After a brief start in Lusaka Diocese, this second group moved to the Diocese of Livingstone where they were welcomed by Bishop Felim O'Shea OFM Cap. Nine more Spiritans followed over the next few years.



*Spiritans renew their commitment to their vision statement, Feb. 02, 1996  
L-R: Frs P. Njau, J. Marandu, L. Tilisho, M. Walsh, P. Ng'oja,  
G. Mushi, P. Schouwer, J Massawe.*

In 1976, an important turning point was reached with the appointment of Fr Paul Chuwa, the first priest of the East African Foundation. He was followed by Frs Dan Macha and Liberatus Mapendo in 1978. From then up to the present, no less than 24 Holy Ghost Priests and 8 students from EAP have worked for longer or shorter periods in the country, giving a total of 52 Spiritans in all.

In 1982 the group was constituted an international group, known as Zambia International Group (ZIG) As the years passed, the number of Irish Spiritans decreased while that of the EAP increased.

Presently there are 7 priests and 2 scholastics from EAP and 1 priest from the Irish Province, working in the two dioceses. With the exception of the Diocesan Secretary in Livingstone, all the Spiritans are working in parishes where their primary commitment is in the area of first evangelisation. According to their vision statement, their other priorities are - establishment of small christian communities, Justice and Peace, formation and empowering of lay people in all areas of pastoral activity.

Many young men are now expressing an interest in joining the Congregation. With the establishment of a New Foundation(SCAF) in South Central African Region in 1994, a decision was made to start a postulancy in Pemba, Zambia. The first group of four postulants from Zambia was received in Pemba in September 1995 with Fr Michael Walsh as Director. The postulate house was officially opened by the Superior General on Feb 02, 1996, as one of the high points of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

## **PORTUGAL: Missionary Animation**

Missionary Animation has a long tradition within the Province. The Province has two monthly publications - "Encontro Magazine" with a circulation of 7,500 and a Paper, "Missionary Action" with a circulation of 30,000.

A missionary outlook is fostered by many

organisations which have been founded and directed by Spiritans. In this sector, two challenges come to the fore:

- a stronger participation of laity in the managing and directing of these movements
- the creation of a Centre of Missionary Spirituality.

## **Movements and organisations**

### *L.I.A.M*

With more than 50 years of existence, L.I.A.M is connected to more than 300 parish groups and

- publishes a manual each year (10,000 copies) on training leaders and on how to conduct meetings of L.I.A.M
- organizes a Spiritan family pilgrimage annually in which around 10,000 people take part,
- promotes retreats,
- distributes 60,000 diaries, 150,000 calendars and 135 thousand Mission Almanacs.

### *Jovens sem Fronteiras- Youth without Frontiers.*

These young people commit themselves to missionary animation within their communities by showing solidarity and openness to the values of other cultures and sharing on a basis of respect and equality. Each summer some of these young people go to a missionary country.



*"Jovens sem Fronteiras" in Guinea-Bissau.*

### *Spiritan Volunteers*

This movement is still in its infancy. It is preparing lay people to go overseas.

### *M.O.M.I.P*

This is a missionary animation movement of teachers, students and those involved in schools. The 34th Missionary Meeting of teachers took place in 1995. It organizes outlets to 'Missio ad extra'.

### Former Students

Former students of our seminaries have formed an association so that they can keep in touch with the works of the Province and the Missions.

### Volunteer Missionaries and IMAG (Missionary Institutes "ad Gentes")

On the initiative of the Province of Portugal, a meeting of Missionary Institutes working in "missio ad Gentes" was organized on Jan. 24, 1996, in Fatima. The aim of the meeting was to reflect on the Volunteer Missionary movement. Reflection on this question had already been initiated as far back as 1992. The Province, with the knowledge of other Missionary Institutes, took the first steps with the understanding that membership was open to all other Institutes. There was evidence that there were parallel initiatives taken elsewhere. It was an opportunity:

- to assess the situation
- to evaluate what had already been done and what was being proposed by the Spiritans
- to examine the advantages and disadvantages of joining together as one organisation under the umbrella of IMAG
- to discuss collaboration with Fundação Evangelização e Culturas. All the members of CNIR (Conference of Major Religious Superiors) already collaborate financially
- to note the legal responsibility of sending lay missionaries.

It was a day for exchanging views and impressions. A small working Committee was formed, of which Fr Castro de Oliveira is part, to study in the concrete two points

- a complete programme of formation while taking into account the possible collaboration of Fundação Evangelização e Encontro de Culturas
- enunciation and presentation of the legal implications (life assurance, length of service and the legal status of the volunteer) and possible solutions.

### South Africa

Fr Jimmy Devine, Superior, SCAF, writes:

*Glen Ash, Bethelhem was "en fete" for the feast of our Venerable Founder on Feb. 2nd. Almost all the confreres gathered to celebrate the feast. They came long distances from the Hostels of Durban, from Frankfort and Vrede to show in a concrete way that our 'Cor Unum' spirit is alive and well.*

*The day started with our concelebrated Eucharist at which Bishop Hubert Bucher was celebrant. It was a great joy for us to share with John Guwa and Sylvester Kansimbe, both from Malawi, as they made their first profession in the Congregation. As Superior, Fr James Devine received their vows on behalf of the Congregation. Lawrence Matemba, another from Malawi, renewed his vows on that day also.*

*Having taken care of the spiritual needs in the Church, Bro Alfons was on hand with all things ready to take care of our material needs as well. A most enjoyable day was had by all.*

*We are proud of our group of Spiritans in South Africa which surely must be one of the most international in the Congregation with members from Germany, Portugal, the US, Scotland, England, Nigeria, Poland, France, South Africa and Ireland. Each of us is variously enriched by the manifold gifts of the Spirit.*



*John Guwa receives his SRL from Fr Devine*

*Of course, we in South Africa, are now part of the newest region in the Congregation, the South Central African Region (SCAR). SCAR is made up of Zimbabwe, manned by Nigerians, Zambia with East Africans and Irish, Malawi with WAF and Irish, and Mozambique where two confreres are making final arrangements for the planned entry of our international group later this year.*

*That gives you a bird's eye view of where we are at the moment. In so large a territory, there are always vacancies: so anyone wishing to start, or return again to Africa, please write to The Superior, S.C.A.F, P.O Box 1219, Bethlehem 9700, South Africa.*

### Spiritans Refugee Service.

Paul Flamm writes from a Refugee Camp in Tanzania,

*I believe that home visits are at the heart of our ministry. Almost every family has had at least one person killed. Many have lost several family members.*

*You begin to see that the oversimplified image of the Hutu killing Tutse (so widely publicized in the international press) is a grave injustice to the suffering these people have experienced. After listening to the story of the family, we read a passage from the Scriptures and then pray. I believe for many, it is the first time, since they arrived here, that anyone has recognized their losses and prayed with them for their family.*

*Unfortunately, all of this has come to a halt. The government of Tanzania and the UNHCR are really pressing for the refugees to go home. They are sensitive to anyone or anything that could be perceived as discouraging the refugees from going. As a result,*

*the government has forbidden home visits. They are also very suspicious about any small gatherings of people. In an atmosphere where rumours spread like wild fire and quickly become accepted as truth, I felt that it was better also to discontinue the Bible study and to let my translator go.*

*For the time being, I will try to organize and coach some volley ball teams. We are also building a church in Kagenyi, so I will do what I can to help with the construction. The others have also adjusted their ministries accordingly. It is really a time to let the Spirit guide us in our ministry. I firmly believe He will speak to us, as always, through the people He has called us to serve.*

*It is possible that after a month or two, things will calm down a bit, and we will be able to resume our former activities. Right now, though, I am not too hopeful that this will happen, at least not in the near future.*

*I have a feeling that the difficulties we are experiencing now with the Tanzanian government and the UNHCR are part and parcel of the refugee ministry. No matter what country is involved, the government will always be pushing for the refugees to go home; and sadly the UNHCR seems to be more sensitive to the demands of the host government than it is to the needs of the refugees. Anyone who is perceived to be working against the refugees going home is automatically "persona non grata". Unfortunately, I have the feeling that would include doing anything that might help restore a sense of identity and human dignity to the refugees.*

## Senegal

The new Spiritan House in Ziguinchor



This is where our confreres who are working in the youth ministry are living. Shortly, they will have the responsibility of a new parish in this area of Ziguinchor. It is a base also for those Spiritans who are working in the south of Senegal, in Guinea-Bissau and for Spiritans who are from Casamance. It is a house where those who are interested in becoming Spiritans, can be welcomed and follow formation programmes before going to the Postulate in Dakar.

Spiritans with less than 7 - 8 years of apostolic experience held their last reunion there.

## Reunion

With the construction of Foyer Alexandre Monnet complete, the circumscription has welcomed eleven Spiritan students - 8 from Madagascar and 3 from Reunion. They follow classes in the first cycle at "Séminaire de la Trinité".

Fr Bernard Reniers writes

*Many of you will be surprised at the name given to the house of Studies for Spiritan students in the 1st Cycle. Fr Alexandre Monnet is one of the Holy Ghost Fathers who arrived in Reunion in 1840, which was then known as Bourbon Island, to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ especially to those who were slaves. He lived at Rivière des Pluies where he built a Church. He fought so strongly for the abolition of slavery, that as a result he was expelled from the island "manu militari". He was the tenth Superior General of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. In 1848, he was the brains behind the "fusion" between the Congregation of the Holy Ghost and the Congregation of the Holy Heart of Mary. He was named Vicar Apostolic of Madagascar. It was when he returned to the "Grande Ile", in 1849, that he died. His body rests in the Church of Rivière des Pluies.*

*Alexandre Monnet is therefore an important figure for Reunion and for the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. He has well merited that one of the houses of formation for the young Spiritans of the FOI should bear his name and recall his memory.*

## Zaire

The 28 Spiritans in Zaire have regrouped in the principal centres of the Dioceses of Kindu, Kongolo and Manono. Then there are the two houses in Kinshasa: a house of formation at Ngafula which was opened on Sept. 09 and another house at Livulu which serves three parishes. In Lubumbashi there are the "Centre de Bel Air" with the Postulate and St Joseph's Parish. The 28 Spiritans comprise 8 Belgians, 7 from EAP, 5 French, 3 from FAC, 3 from the Foundation of Zaire and 2 Dutch.

The megalopolis of Kinshasa counts 127 parishes. Every year, for the past ten years, five new parishes, on average have been added. The estimated population of the Capital is 5 millions. There has been no census in recent years.

Kinshasa, despite its poverty, is missionary. Cardinal Etsou presided on September 11, at a ceremony when eleven young missionaries of different missionary Societies were commissioned for "missio ad extra". Base Communities function everywhere with competent and committed leaders.

The Church in short, remains the beacon, a light in the long Zairian night.



## NEWS ITEMS

### The General Council

- 19 Feb. 1996 confirmed the election of Fr John Geary as Provincial of the Province of Trans-Canada for a second mandate of three years from 01.07.1996.

- 20 March 1996 approved the establishing of a Novitiate at 309, East Whittier Avenue, Hemet, CA in the Province of USA/West.

- 20 March 1996 prolonged the mandate of Fr Bernard Reniers as Superior of FOI from 26 Feb, 1996 to 26 Aug. 1997.

### General Council Diary

**Fr Schouwer:** Apr. 07-19, Nigeria(SIST Meeting):May 20-27(Poland,Jubilee):June 16-24, Switzerland (Chapter):June 25-July 02, Ghana.

**Fr Kelly:** Apr. 16-25, Montreal(Major Superiors Meeting): June 16-July 05, Trans-Canada(Visitation): July 14-21, Duesquesne(CSSp Renewal):Aug.04 - 09,Canada(Chapter).

**Fr Odigbo:** Apr.07-19, Nigeria(SIST Meeting): June 16-Aug. 22, Nigeria(Visitation and Chapter).

**Fr Wijnen:** March 17 - Apr. 13, Germany(Visitation): Apr. 15-24, Kenya(Chapter):June 15-20, Belgium.

**Fr Castriani:** March 27-April 07, Haiti(Visitation): Apr. 07-18, Mexico(Visitation):June 16-Aug. 22, Nigeria(Visitation and Chapter).

**Fr Bongo:** March 29-Apr. 26, St Tomé e Príncipe: June 16-July 30, Nigeria(Visitation): Aug. 01-07, Mozambique:Sept. 02-09, Portugal(Meeting)

**Fr Jolibois:** March 25-April 15, Switzerland(Visitation): June 16-July 08, Trans-Canada(Visitation):July 08-15, St Pierre et Miquelon(Visitation).

**Fr Dias:**April 20-30, Portugal(Bursars Meeting): June 30-July 31, Brazil(Visit and Chapter): July 30-Aug.10, Rome and Fribourg.

### News Snippets

- According to a UNO report, **the number of refugees in the world in 1995 reached a record number of 27.4 million.** The increase is largely due to civil wars which have become so common. In 1990 the number was less than 15 million. Half the present 27 million are children and young people. In some cases they represent 65 % of the displaced population with a high proportion of deaths among babies and children.

- According to figures released by Fides Agency, **32 missionaries were assassinated in 1995.** Among those who suffered violent deaths were 2

Lay People, 3 brothers, 1 deacon, 9 sisters and 17 priests (10 diocesan and 7 Religious). 10 missionaries were killed in Burundi alone. This is the highest number to date if we exclude the tragedy in Rwanda where, in 1994, 248 missionaries were killed - Bishops, Lay People, Religious and Priests.

- Themes for the **Meeting of European Provincials** in Nov. 1996:

- Care of the old and those preparing for retirement
- Preparation for the General Chapter in 1998
- The Document on "Organisation"
- European solidarity with attention to the continuation of particular houses
- Looking into the future
- Our young confreres and their accompaniment
- Meeting of young members.

- Information has been received from Nigeria at the Information Service, that consideration is being given to **making a film** on the life of Bishop Shanahan.

- The meeting of **Lay Associates of North America** will take place in Centre In'Afu, Canada from May 17 - 19, 1996.

The following are some of the items are on the agenda

- Associates and Finances(including "the Feather"); Autonomy
- Who is an Associate? Common Characteristics, Programmes
- Training
- Message to other Associates and to Spiritans.

### Change of Address etc.

#### USA/WEST

**The Provinciate** is relocating to:

1700 West Alabama Street,  
Houston, TX, 77098-2808

Tel: Office: 713/522-2882: Residence: 713/522-2667  
Fax: 713/522-8063.

#### Our Dead

24 Feb.:Fr Etienne DATTAS . . . . . France, 81 yrs  
28 Feb. Fr James WHITE.. . . . . Gambia, 80 yrs  
29 Feb. Mgr Michel MAITRE . . . . . Bangui, 67 yrs  
01 March, Mr Célestin SAMBA . . . . . FAC, 33 yrs  
06 March, Fr William T. MAHER, . . . . . Ireland, 59 yrs  
19 March, Fr J-M DELCOURT . . . . . France, 87 yrs