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SPIRITAN NEWS

November 1997

N° 119

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

PAN-AFRICAN MEETING SPIRITAN SUPERIORS AND FORMATORS

The Superiors and representatives of formators of the Spiritan Circumscriptions in Africa and the Islands met Sept. 01-05 at the Spiritan International School of Theology (SIST) Enugu, Nigeria. In Africa, there are three Provinces, Angola, Nigeria, EAP and the five Foundations, WAF, FAC, SCAF, FCK(Foundations of Congo Kinshasa) FOI. All were represented except WAF which could not attend because of flight problems. Fr Godfrey Odigbo represented the General Council.

Previous Meetings

The first Pan-African Conference of Spiritans took place in Nigeria in March 1974. The theme *Indigenisation of Spiritan Charism in Africa* aimed at seeing how African Spiritans can live the Christian and Spiritan life as realities incarnated in authentic African values – to be truly Africans and truly Spiritans. It was resolved to hold the conference every second year. A secretary was elected for two years.

The second meeting took place in Yaounde in Cameroun in December, 1976. The meeting, scheduled for Dakar in 1979, did not take place. No further meetings were held until June 1986 when, under the auspices of the Generalate, a meeting of African Provinces and Foundations was organised in Saverne, France. There were 16 participants.

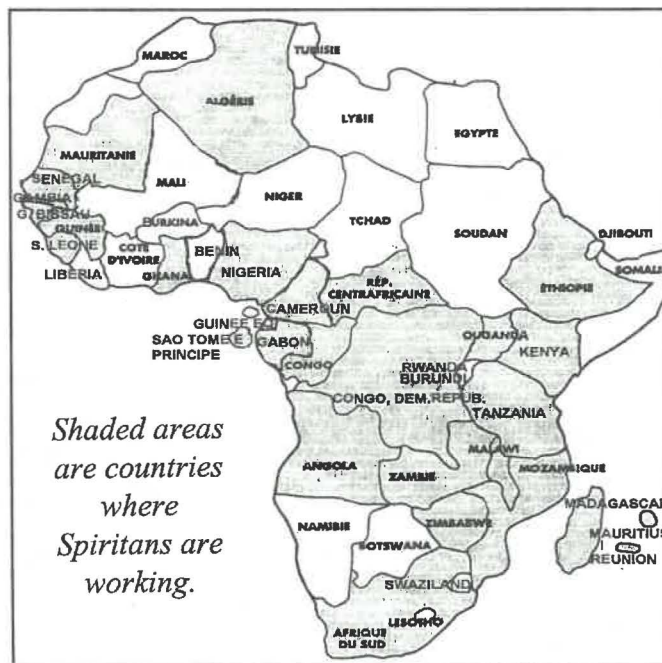
In 1988, a fourth meeting was hosted in Langata, Nairobi by EAP. Before this meeting all African Spiritans were asked to complete a questionnaire describing their own experiences in living the *Vow of Poverty*. The objective was to help to inculcate the *Vow of Poverty* in the African context.

The fifth meeting took place in Brazzaville, Congo in 1990. Based on the responses given to the questionnaire in Langata, it reflected on the inculcation of the *Vow of*

Poverty in the Spiritan formation houses in Africa and the Islands.

The sixth meeting was convened in Ejisu, Ghana, in July 1993. The general theme was *Formation and Mission - which formation for which mission?* The content was considered under various aspects such as *J. & P., Inter-religious Dialogue in Africa* and the *Formation of Formators*.

The seventh meeting was held in Bethlehem, South Africa, in November 1995. There, Fr. Edmund Ndzana, FAC, was elected as a permanent coordinating secretary. The meeting dealt with the *Rationalisation of Structures of Formation in the Cicumscriptions in Africa and the Islands*. It also considered *Spiritan Formation in the Light of the Synod on Africa, the New Guide for Spiritan Formation* and *J. & P.* Following the orientations of the EGC95, Dakar, the meeting discussed setting up Spiritan Centres for on-going formation, especially in the area of Spiritan spirituality, in Bagamoyo (Tanzania) and SIST (Nigeria). The next meeting was scheduled to take place in September 1997 in Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo). However, because of the unsettled situation in that country, the venue was later changed to Nigeria.



SIST Nigeria

The meeting in SIST, gave its blessing to the exchange of staff and students among the member circumscription as was recommended in the South African meeting. Much had happened within the previous two years. A number of students from WAF and Nigeria are doing their second cycle in the houses of formation of FAC and EAP. Some students of FAC have done their pastoral experience in Nigeria and WAF and will do their second cycle in SIST. Some students of FOI and SCAF are also doing their second

cycle in EAP. Some formators have been made available by Nigeria for formation in SCAF and FAC. This trend was seen and encouraged among the circumscriptions as an expression of internationality and solidarity

The acute shortage of formators for the African Provinces and Foundations was painfully felt by the delegates. This led to more pointed discussions on the establishment of Spiritan Centres as proposed in the previous meeting in South Africa. These centres will be for the training of formators, especially in Spiritan missionary spirituality and heritage, and will offer other members opportunity for on-going formation and renewal. The centres as places of spiritual renewal could eventually be open to non-Spiritans who might be interested in our spirituality. The two centres (SIST and Bagamoyo) were approved in line with the deliberation of the previous meeting in South Africa.

Spiritan Centres : SIST and Bagamoyo

It was considered that a Spiritan centre in SIST could use the existing structures and facilities. If approved by the Governing Council of SIST and the General Council, the course could begin in the next academic year in a simple way with three or four formators drawn from SIST and some visiting specialists in Spiritan studies.

Bagamoyo was chosen because of its historical importance for the Spiritans and the church in East Africa. The Spiritans landed there in 1863 and from there began the evangelisation of East Africa. It has a rich historical and missionary museum and a Marian shrine. The building

plans for the proposed structures in Bagamoyo were studied. The meeting agreed that work could be started there in phases beginning with an administrative block and a permanent structure for the museum, as soon as funds are available. It is hoped that the Conference will learn from the experience of SIST before courses are started in Bagamoyo. It was underlined that both Centres from the beginning should be bilingual and open to confreres from the various regions. Meanwhile, following the recommendations of the meeting in South Africa, the meeting commissioned a feasibility study for another centre in a francophone area. This will be considered at the next meeting.

Education

The apostolate of education, formal and informal, as an important aspect of our Spiritan charism and heritage in Africa, was also discussed. Each circumscription was advised to give it a place of importance in its missionary priorities and in its personnel planning in the years to come. The issues of lack of sufficient funds for running the formation houses and the inability to attain financial self-reliance were considered as sources of major concern for member circumscriptions.

Following the resignation of Edmund Ndzana as the secretary shortly after the last meeting, Fr. Gerard Nnamunga, EAP, was elected unanimously as the permanent secretary for a mandate of four years.

The next meeting will take place in two years time in Congo Kinshasa in the last week of August, 1999.

Ethiopia : Silver Jubilee

The mission to Ethiopia had in a sense been anticipated when in the 1940s Fr Devenish of Trinidad, at the request of Rome, came from Tanganyika with a small group of Spiritans to replace Italian missionaries after the victory of the Allies in Ethiopia. (cf Spiritan News, 55, Jan/Feb 1985) This was purely a temporary arrangement.

The General Chapter of 1968 had recommended a new impetus towards first evangelization. An international community was set up,

which found in the Borana their "people of election" while the Irish Province set up another group in the province then called Gamo Gofa, where, for the first time ever, our Congregation met with the Christian East. The Ethiopians and the Ethiopian Catholic Church, particularly in the North and in the Capital, have also benefited enormously from our confreres' dedicated work in Famine Relief and in Development.

Today there are signs that we have become rooted in the Ethiopian soil. Several candidates to Spiritan life are knocking at our door and



L-R: Front Row: D. Hegarty, P. Osuji, P. Kelly, J. Onwughalu
Back Row: B. Cogavin, V. Stegman, O. Lambert, O. Ryan, P. Moran, E. Fritsch, T. Leus, Ype de Jong, B. O'Toole, I. de Lange and K. Hogan.

Supplement to Spiritan News N° 119

*Come Grow along with Me, The best is yet to Be,
The Last of Life for which the First was Made;
Our Lives are in His hands,
Who Sayest, "a Whole I Planned". (R. Browning).*

Our Jubiliarians 1998

75 Years of Profession

21 June : Br Leutfried H. ROEBEN Canada

70 Years of Profession

08 Sept. : Br Lucien Yves-Marie DREAU.. France

08 Sept. : Fr Aloyse KARMANN France

08 Nov. Fr Joseph GUILBAUD France

65 Years of Profession

09 Apr. : Fr Joseph WIPPER Germany

10 Apr. : Fr Gerhard SEIFRIED Germany

21 June : Br Lutwinus Alois STRICK Germany

29 June : Br Petrus Van EKERT Netherlands

16 July : Fr Edmund P. SUPPLE USA/E

27 Aug. : Fr M. Van KOOLWIJK Netherlands

27 Aug. : Fr Christianus Van MEIJL... Netherlands

27 Aug. : Fr Franciscus COMPEN Netherlands

27 Aug. : Fr W. Van den EEDEN Netherlands

08 Sept. : Br Christian Jules WENCKER France

08 Sept. : Fr André TERLET France

08 Sept. : Fr António MOREIRA Portugal

08 Sept. : Fr Joseph A. JACKSON England

09 Sept. : Fr Hervé AUTRET France

09 Sept. : Fr Armand BENDER Switzerland

09 Sept. : Fr Antoine DUCHENE France

09 Sept. : Fr Julien GAYET France

09 Sept. : Fr Henri NOUAILLE France

09 Sept. : Fr Ernest SCHUMACHER.. Switzerland

09 Sept. : Fr Georges HUGEL France

09 Sept. : Fr Harold HEARD, England

10 Sept. : Fr Aloysius P. DEMPSEY Ireland

10 Sept. : Fr Patrick J. HOLLY Ireland

10 Sept. : Fr Edward COLLETON Ireland

21 Sept. : Fr John S. RONDEAU USA/E

22 Sept. : Fr Gaston DEVILLE France

16 Oct. : Fr François LE BOURHIS France

20 Oct. : Fr Pierre MALLET France

04 Nov. : Fr Michel VIATTE France

60 Years of Profession

19 Mar. : Br Georges JALBERT Canada

19 Mar. : Br Elzear SOUCY Canada

16 July : Fr Michel L'HOSTIS France

15 Aug. : Fr William J. McELROY USA/W

27 Aug. : Fr Chr. Van den BOSCH Netherlands

27 Aug. : Fr Adrianus KRIST Netherlands

27 Aug. : Fr Waltherus Van de PAS .. Netherlands

27 Aug. : Fr Joh. WARMENHOVEN Netherlands

08 Sept. : Br Carolus GRIFFIOEN Netherlands

08 Sept. : Fr Antoine ANDRES France

08 Sept. : Fr Arthur BOHN France

08 Sept. : Fr Robert DITSCH France

08 Sept. : Fr André DUCRY Switzerland

08 Sept. : Fr Christian FAVEREAU France

08 Sept. : Fr Jean MORIZUR France

08 Sept. : Fr Aloyse OBERLE France

08 Sept.: Fr Albert PERON France

08 Sept. : Fr Anthony QUINN England

08 Sept. : Fr Max RABOUD Switzerland

08 Sept. : Fr Paul REPOND Switzerland

08 Sept. : Fr Joseph RUBIN France

08 Sept. : Fr Roger SCHNABEL France

08 Sept. : Fr Yves TROADEC France

08 Sept. : Fr Bernard VESVAL France

60 Years Profession (Continued)

08 Sept.	: Fr Erasme VIANIN.....	Switzerland	10 Sept.	: Fr James MOHAN.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Julian WROBEL.....	Poland	10 Sept.	: Fr William L. O'CONNOR.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Antonio Cardoso BOTELHO	Portugal	10 Sept.	: Fr Joseph G. TOBIN.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Cidalino Ferreira MELO.....	Portugal	10 Sept.	: Fr William A. WHELAN.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Cristavao Freire ARNAUD.....	Brasil	10 Sept.	: Fr Richard M. WOULFE.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Delfim da Silva PEDRO.....	Portugal	23 Sept.	: Fr Peter HILGER.....	Germany
09 Sept.	: Br Stephane Gustave BUAUD....	France	28 Sept.	: Fr Gerard C. HEFFERNAN.....	Ireland
09 Sept.	: Br Martin Paul LEMOINE.....	France	02 Oct.	: Fr John D. SHEEHY.....	Ireland
10 Sept.	: Fr Dermot P. EGAN.....	Ireland	21 Oct.	: Fr Pierre VANLUGGENE.....	France
10 Sept.	: Fr William A. McKENNA.....	Ireland	30 Oct.	: Fr Norbert GÜTHOFF.....	Germany

50 Years of Profession

02 Mar.	: Br Celestine Peter MARLOW	Ireland	08 Sept.	: Fr Pierre STINTZI.....	France
02 Mar.	: Fr Adrianus HERTSIG.....	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr Georges-Henri THIBAUT ...	France
19 Apr.	: Fr Stephan SCHMITZ.....	Germany	08 Sept.	: Fr Noel COX.....	Ireland
15 June	: Br Gall Patrick KAVANAGH.....	Ireland	08 Sept.	: Fr Andrew Francis DUFFY.....	Ireland
22 June	: Fr Jules DARMONT.....	Belgium	08 Sept.	: Fr James F. DUGGAN.....	Ireland
22 Aug.	: Fr Joseph A. DUCHENE.....	USA/É	08 Sept.	: Fr Patrick C. HOLOHAN.....	Ireland
22 Aug.	: Fr George F. HEALY.....	USA/W	08 Sept.	: Fr Thomas M. McCARTHY.....	Ireland
22 Aug.	: Fr Francis P. KANDA.....	USA/E	08 Sept.	: Fr James J. McNULTY.....	Ireland
22 Aug.	: Fr Francis J. KICHAK.....	USA/W	08 Sept.	: Fr John Sean O'CONNELL.....	Ireland
04 Sept.	: Fr Robertus HAFFMANS, ...	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr John A. O'SHAUGHNESSY..	Ireland
04 Sept.	: Fr Johannes HOGEMA.....	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr Gerard TANNAM.....	Ireland
04 Sept.	: Fr Johannes JANSSEN.....	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr José Joaquim CORREIA.....	Portugal
04 Sept.	: Fr J. NOORDERMEER.....	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr João Gomes GONÇALVES .	Portugal
04 Sept.	: Fr Jacobus ROTHANS.....	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr Oscar de Moura GUEDES....	Portugal
04 Sept.	: Fr Johannes SCHIKS.....	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr Rosaire BEAULIEU.....	Canada
04 Sept.	: Fr Ant. Van de LOKKANT.	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr Bruno GODBOUT.....	Canada
04 Sept.	: Fr Adr. Van ZONNEVELD	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr Antoine MERCIER.....	Canada
08 Sept.	: Br Norbertus VERBEEK	Netherlands	08 Sept.	: Fr Kelvin TAM,.....	Trinidad
08 Sept.	: Fr Robert BACHOTET.....	France	08 Sept.	: Fr Jos VERDONCK.....	Belgium
08 Sept.	: Fr Henri BAUMLIN.....	France	09 Sept.	: Br Francisco DUARTE.....	Portugal
08 Sept.	: Fr Georges BESSON.....	France	09 Sept.	: Br Jose Lucas REIS Bosco.....	Portugal
08 Sept.	: Fr Michel BINDAULT.....	France	09 Sept.	: Br Jose M. FERNANDES Tomé	Portugal
08 Sept.	: Fr Marcel BRACQUEMOND.....	France	14 Sept.	: Fr Patrick O. LEONARD,.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Pierre BUIS.....	France	15 Sept.	: Br Paulin MINOT.....	France
08 Sept.	: Fr René CHARRIER.....	France	15 Sept.	: Br Michel Victor COFFIN.....	France
08 Sept.	: Fr Norbert FLAJOLET.....	France	21 Sept.	: Fr William Gerard FOLEY.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Joseph GALLET.....	France	21 Sept.	: Fr Lorcan J. O'TOOLE,.....	Ireland
08 Sept.	: Fr Antoine NIBEL.....	France	04 Oct.	: Fr Bernard GUY,.....	France
08 Sept.	: Fr Bernard PAQUETTE.....	France	04 Oct.	: Fr Daniel LEJEUNE.....	France
08 Sept.	: Fr Maurice SCHRIVE.....	France	25 Dec.	: Fr André HEROUX.....	France
08 Sept.	: Fr Paul SIGWARD.....	France			

70 years Priesthood

29 July : Fr Alexis Riaud..... France

65 Years of Priesthood

01 Oct. : Fr Alphonse GEMMERLE..... France

60 Years of Priehood

24 Apr.	: Fr Josef WIPPER	Germany	17 July	: Fr Franciscus COMPEN	Netherlands
24 Apr.	: Fr Gerhard SEIFRIED	Germany	17 July	: Fr W. van den EEDEN	Netherlands
10 June	: Fr Timothy P. O'DRISCOLL	Ireland	15 Sept.	: Fr John S. RONDEAU	USA/E
11 June	: Fr Patrick S. FULLEN	Ireland	25 Sept.	: Fr Joseph A. JACKSON	England
11 June	: Fr William P. ROCHE	Ireland	29 Sept.	: Mgr André LOUCHEUR	France
07 July	: Fr M. van KOOLWIJK	Netherlands	29 Sept.	: Fr Médard OFFTINGER	France
10 July	: Fr Jean BARASSIN	France	29 Sept.	: Fr Charles BERCLAZ	Switzerland
10 July	: Fr Edmund P. SUPPLE	US/E	29 Sept.	: Fr Gaston DEVILLE	France
17 July	: Fr Christianus van MEIJL ...	Netherlands	29 Sept.	: Fr Hervé AUTRET	France

50 Years of Priehood

15 Feb.	: Fr Joseph BALTHASAR	France	11 July	: Fr G. A. McCARTHY	Transcanada
15 Feb.	: Fr Charles DITNER	France	11 July	: Fr Michael J.F. McCARTHY	Ireland
15 Feb.	: Fr Joseph HEITZ	France	11 July	: Fr William A. McKENNA	Ireland
15 Feb.	: Fr Alphonse KLEINDIENST	France	11 July	: Fr Josef Van MULLEM	Belgium
15 Feb.	: Mgr François MAURER	France	11 July	: Fr Thomas G. O'MALLEY	Ireland
15 Feb.	: Fr Victor ROESS	France	11 July	: Fr Jeremiah O'SULLIVAN,	Ireland
15 Feb.	: Fr Antoine SCHMITT	France	11 July	: Fr Patrick J. WALSH	Ireland
15 Feb.	: Fr Georges SENDELIN	France	11 July	: Fr James P. WARD	Ireland
21 Feb.	: Fr Ar. Van den EIJKHOF ...	Netherlands	17 July	: Fr Franciscus COMPEN	Netherlands
22 Feb.	: Fr John GROVES	England	17 July	: Fr W. Van den EEDEN	Netherlands
22 Feb.	: Fr Henry PASS	England	17 July	: Fr Christianus Van MEIJL ..	Netherlands
28 Mar.	: Fr José Martins VAZ	Portugal	18 July	: Fr Paul-Emile DUCLOS,	Canada
04 Apr.	: Fr A. GRIENENBERGER	France	18 July	: Fr Pearse MOLONEY,	Ireland
24 Apr.	: Fr Gerhard SEIFRIED	Germany	18 July	: Fr Redmond WALSH	Ireland
24 Apr.	: Fr Josef WIPPER	Germany	25 July	: Fr Peter HILGER	Germany
10 June	: Fr Constantine J. CONAN	USA/E	25 July	: Fr Moses ORAKWUDO	Nigeria
10 June	: Fr T. O. GIANGIACOMO	USA/E	15 Sept.	: Fr John S. RONDEAU	USA/E
10 June	: Fr Timothy P. O'DRISCOLL	Ireland	25 Sept.	: Fr Joseph A. JACKSON,	England
10 June	: Fr John J. WALSH	USA/W	29 Sept.	: Fr Hervé AUTRET	France
11 June	: Fr Patrick S. FULLEN	Ireland	29 Sept.	: Fr Charles BERCLAZ	Switzerland
11 June	: Fr William P. ROCHE	Ireland	29 Sept.	: Fr Gaston DEVILLE	France
04 July	: Fr Jean ERNOULT	France	29 Sept.	: Mgr André LOUCHEUR	France
04 July	: Fr Bartholomew LYONS	Ireland	29 Sept.	: Fr Médard OFFTINGER	France
04 July	: Fr Francis A. MARTIN	Ireland	03 Oct.	: Fr Antoine ADRIEN	France
04 July	: Fr Théophile MENORET	France	03 Oct.	: Mgr Robert de CHEVIGNY	France
04 July	: Fr Donal V. O'SULLIVAN	Ireland	03 Oct.	: Fr Paul DAMBACH	France
07 July	: Fr Martinus Van KOOLWIJK	Ireland	03 Oct.	: Fr Philibert de MOUSTIER	France
10 July	: Fr Jean BARASSIN	France	03 Oct.	: Fr Joseph NICOL	France
10 July	: Fr Edmund P. SUPPLE,	USA/E	03 Oct.	: Fr Adrien REMY	France
11 July	: Fr Oliver BARRETT	Ireland	03 Oct.	: Fr Gérard SAUTY	France
11 July	: Fr Edward F. BUCKLEY	Ireland	03 Oct.	: Fr Henri SCHALLER	France
11 July	: Fr Daniel F. CURTIN	Ireland	03 Oct.	: Fr Jean SCHEER	France
11 July	: Fr Michael J. DOWNEY	Ireland	03 Oct.	: Fr Jean VAST	France
11 July	: Fr John P. FARRAGHER	Ireland	14 Oct.	: Fr Eugène SCHIBLER,	France
11 July	: Fr Francis J. LEAHY,	Ireland	03 Dec.	: Fr Eugène CURNOL	France
11 July	: Fr Sean A. LODGE	Ireland	05 Dec.	: Fr J. Van HENSBERGEN ...	Netherlands
11 July	: Fr Redmond J. LYONS	Ireland	05 Dec.	: Fr Gelinus MOLIER	Netherlands

Missionaries

Apart from a few exceptions, the only genuine collaborators to have given service and what is more, over many years, are the religious, both male and female. I have never seen one of them returning with their pockets full of money. No religious ever made a fortune in Africa. It simply does not happen.

They return home poor and worn out. Very often they have nothing but a house of retirement as a place to stay where, after having spent ten, twenty, thirty years or more of disinterested service, they can hide their old age, illnesses and death. What self-sacrifice!

I find that they do not blow their own trumpet. They are not bought or bribed. I feel that an Africa solid and responsible can be built by people of that quality. Whether they are lay or religious is of little importance provided they are people capable of committing themselves completely and of inspiring respect for their competence, devotion and honesty.

MARC GENTILINI : *"Temperer la Douleur du Monde"* Centurion, 1996

Professor Gentilini was head of the tropical unit at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris. It was with him that Spiritans who had returned from the Missions began systematic help check-ups. Many other Congregations followed suite. Many Spiritans owe to him the fact that they are still on the Missions. Professor Gentilini is the present president of the French Red Cross.

those in charge of formation in the local Catholic Church are more and more requesting our contribution.

Publications

In preparation for the official national celebrations on Aug. 15-16, 1997, both groups came together and prepared a number of publications in order to present the Spiritan way of life to a wider public. Leaflets in English and Amharic were distributed and a colour booklet of over fifty pages, *Spiritans: Ethiopia, 1972-1997*, was published. This booklet contains a wide variety of articles expressing the motivations and experiences of both the Borana and Gamo Gofa Groups.

National Celebrations

Celebrations took place in Addis Ababa over two days and were hosted by the Capuchins of Holy Saviour parish. Highlights were the Official Opening and the Jubilee Eucharist in the Ethiopian Rite. Cardinal P. Tzadua presided at both.

A particularly significant event was the **Response** by His Grace Archbishop Timotheos of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to two presentations **Evangelization in Gamo Gofa** by Fr Brian O'Toole, CSSp. and **The task of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia** by Prof. Ernst Chr. Suttner, Vienna. It was the first time that an Orthodox bishop had addressed a Catholic gathering in Ethiopia.

Two Appeals

Algeria

If you are free to do a sabbatical year beginning in September 1998...If you enjoy relatively good health...If you speak French and maybe arabic (which would be a plus)...If you feel that you can make a radical break from your professional or pastoral work which is too absorbing...If you do not fear having a lot of free time for prayer and reflection and eventually to give courses in either English or French and most especially for meeting people...If you want, as a member of a minority Church, to have the experience of meeting everyday with muslims...If you accept to live in community with a confrere, a bit shock-proof from having lived this experience for 26 years but who is ready to do everything to make life pleasant...

Then tell the Superior of your circumscription and contact me. You will thus permit Raymond Gonnet to take a year's recyclage as well as a rest. You will help the 'Groupe d'Algerie' to survive and to get over a difficult period caused by events of which you are aware. It is not feasible to send first appointments at this time to Algeria. The choice has its risks, more perhaps for the mind than for the body, but the deep spiritual joy of living in solidarity with a people and a Church which is suffering as well as the support of the fraternity and the prayers of Spiritan confreres, will not fail you.

(R. You, Paroisse et Cité Spiritaine, 32 Ave de la Macta, B. P.24 22000 Sidi-Bel-Abess, Algeria).

Ethiopia : Apostolate among the Gomo Gofa.

The Irish group (or Gomo Gofa group) of Ethiopia is characterised by its type of evangelisation - with and through the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. This Church is widely spread in the area and it qualifies as a "sister Church" of the Catholic Church. The apostolate is therefore geared towards both the renewal of this Church and accompanying it in its effort to reach out to the people living according to their African traditional religion, particularly the Hammer. This type of apostolate is unique in the world. It is supported by the Congregation and the Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity. In addition, an important programme of development is presently being restructured.

The group is at present attempting to give due attention to some young people, mostly from an Ethiopian-rite background, requesting entry to the Congregation. Two of us are involved in a formation programme, common to all Religious, at the Major Seminary of Addis Ababa.

Our particular problem, is our extremely small number. Should someone be interested in such an apostolate in the context of the Ethiopian rite tradition, with a dimension of development work and a commitment to help building up community life, please contact both your Superior and the person responsible for the group.

(E. Fritsch, P.O Box 23, Arba Minch, North Omo, Ethiopia).

NEWS ITEMS

Decisions of General Council

- On Oct. 10, transferred Fr Domingos VITORINO from the International Group of Mozambique (Inhazônia) to the Province of Portugal.
- On Oct 10, gave approval to open a Novitiate at Bel Air, Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo. for the Foundation of Congo-Kinshasa.
- On Oct. 31, confirmed the election of Fr Christian CHOQUEREAU as Maj. Sup. of the Apostolic Group, Mexico, for a 2nd mandate of 3 yrs from Dec.01, 1997.

Meetings

- SIST, Spiritan Presence in Nigeria: Dec.18 - 20, 1997. Fr Odigbo will represent the G:C.
- EC, WAF, Ejisu, Feb. 14 - 18, 1998. Fr Odigbo will represent the G. C.
- North American and Carribean Superiors: Jan. 31- Feb. 06, 1998.
- GIHA.: Dec.12-19, 1998 in Rome (Provis).

Vidimus Dominum

"Eight hundred young Religious, men and women, born after 1967, among whom were four Spiritans, met, in Rome, Sept. 29-Oct. 04, 1997. Participants came from the five Continents. There were five official languages - English, Italian, German, Spanish and French. The meeting was organised by the Union of Superiors General.

The following were among the topical questions: can one be a religious without living in community? Do our Congregations cut themselves off from the poor because of their riches? Could our training be more attuned to the modern world? Depending on whether we are still discerning our vocation or have already made a permanent commitment, expectations may not always be the same. One thing however, is certain. We value our elders and we wish to guide the bark together with them - to be a hope for the world of today" (Jean-Pascal Lombart).



L-R: L.Tunde Alabi(Nigeria), J-P. Lombart(France), G. Temgoua(Cameroon), V.M. Martinez(Mexico).

"All of us who joyfully acclaimed that "we have seen the Lord" also acknowledge that it implies a responsibility. What we have seen and experienced, we must transmit to our brothers and sisters. We must proclaim to those who have not seen Him and to those who, due to their inhumane living conditions - the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised - cannot see Him, much less proclaim Him, that they too have seen the Lord. Consequently, we are called to share with them our experience, the experience of encounter with the Lord". (Victor Martinez. Martinez).

"I had the opportunity for the first time to visit Rome, the meeting place of peoples. I saw many of the important monuments about which church history speaks. In Rome one meets people of every race, colour and language. I was, however, somewhat shocked by the way some young Romans or tourists behave in public and before the eyes of the whole world, both night and day and with a total disregard for modesty or decorum". (Gaston Temgoua).

"We hear of no vocations from the West but the Congress was filled with religious from Europe and the Americas. It is encouraging that the Spirit is still alive in the Church especially among the youth. As such we are strengthened to forge ahead, daring the future and radically living the evangelical counsels and witnessing to the Gospel beyond frontiers". (Lawrence Tunde Alabi).

News Snippets

Fr Jean-Pierre Gaillard, French Province, has been appointed **Permanent Secretary** for the European Region. He will reside at the community in Brussels.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux was declared a Doctor of the Church on Sunday Oct. 19, 1997. There are 33 Doctors of the Church among whom are 3 women - SS Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena and Thérèse of Lisieux who is also Patroness of Auteuil.

Fr Schouver represented the Union of Superiors General at the eleventh **SECAM Plenary Assembly**, Sept. 21-28, 1997. This was the first to be held in South Africa. Among the topics discussed were *the Church as Family* and *the Need to Restructure SECAM*.

Celebrations: In June this year the Spiritans celebrated the centenary of our arrival in Tefé. In October, Mauritius celebrated the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Port-Louis. There will be an account of these celebrations in the next issue.

On Oct 01, 1997, **membership of the Congregation** was 3,081 comprising 31 Bishops, 254 Brothers, 2,373 Priests and 423 Junior Professed.

Fr Paddy Roe, Ireland and Kenya, came to the Generalate on Oct.19, 1997 to help in the preparatory work for the General Chapter. He will be in Rome until Dec.19, 1997.

Correction:Telephone No: Canada: Provincial Residence: (514) 384-5238, not 5288: Sp. News No. 118.

The **Group for our New Mission in Asia** is expected in Rome on Nov. 27, 1997. The plans are to go to Assisi on the following day for a period of prayer and reflection, returning to the Generalate on Dec. 07, 1997 and to set out for Asia on Dec. 11, 1997.

The cause of **Bishop Shanahan CSSp** is being formally inaugurated in Onitsha, Nigeria, by Most Reverend Albert Obiefuna, Archbishop of Onitsha, on Nov. 15, 1997. The Postulator is Fr A. Gilbert CSSp and the Vice Postulator is Sr Angela Ruddy MSHR.

It is expected that His Holiness, Pope John Paul II will visit Nigeria in March 1998 and that it will be the occasion for the **beatification of Fr Cyprian Tansi**.

New E-Mail addresses

New addresses will not be published in *Spiritan News* in future but will be sent by E-Mail to other addressees directly. Confreres who newly link-up are asked to continue sending their new addresses to the Information Service.

Publications by Spiritans

Meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary: The Rosary as Biblical Prayer: Michel de Verteuil, Veritas, Dublin, 1997.

LA MAISON MERE de la Congregation du Saint Esprit: Jean Ernoult: Rue Lhomond 1997.

Our Dead

Oct. 10 Fr Thomas H. TARIMO..... EAP, 44 yrs
Oct. 14 Fr Jean GUILLARD Belgium, 81 yrs
Nov. 05 Fr Norman, G. HANNAHS USA/E, 70 yrs