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11-1-2002

Spiritan News, No. 144

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

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Congregazione dello Spirito Santo. (2002). Spiritan News, No. 144. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-news-en/153>

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SPIRITAN NEWS

N° 144

November/December 2002

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

SPIRITAN YEAR: February 2002 - Pentecost 2003 ☉ **300 Years of Spiritan Mission**

Spiritan Formators' Meeting : Chevilly 14th – 27th July 2002

A communication from the General Council on 10th November 2000 to all Spiritan Formators and Superiors of circumscriptions stated that an international meeting of Spiritan Formators would take place at Chevilly from the 14th to the 27th July 2002. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together formators from all Regions of the Congregation, particularly those circumscriptions that have programmes of initial formation.

Allocation of places was decided upon, the weight of delegation favouring newer circumscriptions and those with greater numbers in formation. Invitations were sent to a total of twenty-three circumscriptions.

Finally, from the initial expected total of thirty-one delegates, twenty-six attended the meeting, from twenty-two circumscriptions, encompassing a broad geographical base.

Agenda & Methodology

The principal objectives for the meeting, as outlined by **Rogath Kimaryo**, were as follows:

- To examine the challenges and concerns of formation since the last two General Chapters and several regional meetings.
- To provide formators with an opportunity of meeting one another and exchanging experiences in their ministry of formation.
- To identify major common trends in our Spiritan formation while also allowing for diversity.

The methodology of the meeting was a balance between input, discussion and feedback. The input involved a combination of six formal presentations and that of a guest speaker, together with reports from the various circumscriptions. To complement this there was group work in commissions and open forum in general assemblies. There were two moderators and simultaneous translation was provided for the main proceedings. There were two recording secretaries. All of this blended into an overall timetable of common daily Eucharist, evening prayer, community meals and occasional evening socials.

Speakers and Themes

John Fogarty's opening address on Mission in today's World set the context for our challenge. A changing world characterised by 'globalisation' has implications for changes in missionary institutes. John went on to highlight challenges and consequences for missionary formation, emphasising in

particular, recent orientations. Greatly appreciated were John's real life examples from his evident experience of the Congregation worldwide. Jean-Michel Jolibois led us on a most valuable and searching tour of the *Guide for Spiritan Formation*, tracing its genesis towards its vision and spirit for today.

Raymond Jung invited us to return to the heart of Spiritan spirituality, a note that struck great accord among the delegates in this year of Spiritan anniversaries, while Bede Ukwuije shared his valuable insights from both sides of the coin on the interaction between formators and students in transcultural settings.

Both **Pat Palmer** and **Augustine Tavares** dealt particularly with the person in formation: Pat spoke about the importance of human development as a basis for the spiritual and the interrelationship between both, while this appeared to combine very effectively with Augustine's presentation on 'discernment' and accompaniment, the crucial area where the individual is nurtured in his search to understand God's call. Finally, **Jean Savoie** presented the assembly with an insightful and penetrating analysis of the present day situation of the Church in France.

Genuine appreciation was expressed for all the speakers whose presentations were warmly received. For those who had not been exposed to some of the content previously, it was a practical experience of 'forming the formator', while for those participants who had some familiarity with the areas covered, it stimulated further insightful discussion.

Pilgrimage to Saverne

A welcome break in proceedings occurred during the middle weekend of the meeting. This was the occasion of the pilgrimage to Saverne as well as some of the surrounding countryside of Alsace and the city of Strasbourg.

The visit took place on Saturday/Sunday with an overnight stay in Saverne. On arrival at the Spiritan community of Maison Saint-Florent in Saverne we were given a hearty welcome. After a long and hot coach journey the offer of a cold beer, freely flowing and enthusiastically served, was the hallmark of a visit that was truly memorable in its Spiritan significance as well as for the warmth of its hospitality. Later, tracing the footsteps of Libermann through the heart of Saverne was a time that was both privileged and moving.

No less enthusiastic in their welcome were the confreres in Strasbourg who met us next day and treated us to a guided tour of this beautiful city.

Recommendations

A detailed set of recommendations to the General Council was agreed to by the meeting. These come under the broad headings of Evaluations, Programming, Communication and Initiatives. Among those recommendations were the following:

- The establishment of common criteria for welcoming new candidates into our Spiritan life.
- The need for a more defined Spiritan spirituality; perhaps a booklet might be drawn up to include all stages of formation.
- The need for a thorough grounding in missiology at all stages of formation.
- The development of the Congregation's website as a forum for information and communication.
- The holding of international meetings of formators more than once during the mandate of the General Council.

Impressions

Most striking was the enthusiastic participation of the delegates. They expressed a genuine concern for the



Some participants at the meeting in Chevilly

overall situation of formation in the Congregation and a strong particular desire to see improvements in their own area of operation. This was evident in what appeared to be honest and sometimes quite passionate sharing.

The admission of their own individual need for further education to effectively carry out the work of formator was uppermost. The need for collaboration and support from the assistance of other formators was allied to this. There was a frank acknowledgement of the disparity existing in regard to material resources and an urgency towards more effective collaboration among circumscriptions. However, financial and material constraints only served to fuel the desire to search for a way forward and to deepen the sense of our Spiritan identity.

Pan-African Meeting of Spiritan Superiors and Formators : Yaoundé, 01 – 08 September 2002

Because of visa and travel difficulties, this meeting was not able to start until September 2nd. In all, there were 11 persons present. Four of the five spiritan Provinces were represented and three of the four Foundations. There were no representatives from the international Groups or the Districts. The only Provincials present were those of Nigeria and WAP : all the rest were representatives.

Apart from these problems, the meeting went well. The main aim of the gathering was to give new dynamism to this Pan-African meeting : the whole structure was examined and changes suggested.

Redefinition and reorganisation

It was agreed that this meeting will henceforth be called the "**Pan-African Conference of Spiritan Major Superiors and formators**". The membership comprises all Major Superiors in Africa and a delegate of formators from each Province and Foundation. As need arises, the Secretariat could invite special invitees.

The following **objectives** were outlined: promotion of mutual acquaintance among members, sharing of information and experience, helping in the common reflection on challenges facing Spiritans and our mission in Africa, helping members to articulate common positions on issues as African Spiritans, promoting African inculturation of our spiritan charism, engendering and promoting better understanding and solidarity among African Spiritans, facilitating the exchange of students and staff among the

circumscriptions and co-ordinating the functioning of the centres for on-going formation.

To ensure stability and effectiveness, the conference decided to have a **secretariat, a secretary and a president**. The Provincial of the Central African Province will take on the role of President until the next meeting and Godfrey Odigbo (Nigeria) was elected as the new secretary of the Conference.

As regards **finance**, each circumscription will pay an annual contribution of \$100 for the running of the conference. The host circumscription will bear the cost of feeding and accommodation for the meetings of the conference.

Normally, the meeting will be held **every two years** and will take place in the last week of August. So as to give sufficient attention to matters concerning formation, the Formators will arrive two or three days before the Superiors join them.

Spiritans Formation

There has been a felt need for specific Spiritan formation especially in Spiritan spirituality in Spiritan houses of formation in Africa. In most of these houses, Spiritans collaborate with other institutes in a consortium where the students follow a common academic formation programme. To ensure an effective ongoing formation in our specific Spiritan identity and life, the conference recommended that Spiritan spirituality be introduced as an important integral part of our formation programme in all the stages of our

formation. The Conference proposed to set up a committee to draw up guidelines for this programme.

Spiritans Centres for On-going Formation

SIST, Nigeria: This Centre has twice run a programme for the on-going formation of formators; it will continue to organise the course once every two years.

Bagamoyo, EAP: Because the delegates from EAP were not able to attend the meeting, the secretary has been asked to contact them to get a report on the progress of the centre in Bagamoyo.

A Francophone Centre: The Conference decided that a francophone centre should be opened in Congo Brazzaville at the former Scholasticate at Kinsoundi.

As regards the financing of these centres, each circumscription will make a financial contribution for the upkeep of the centres and for the organisation of the programmes, and the Secretary will make an appeal to the Generalate for a subsidy from the Cor Unum fund.

Formation of Formators

The Conference identified urgent needs with regard to the formation of formators in African circumscriptions. Several priority areas were identified which will be taken into account in the planning of member circumscriptions.

Refugee Ministry

Because of the current situation on the continent, the Conference saw this ministry as a very important aspect of its missionary engagement in Africa today. It acknowledged with gratitude what the confreres are already doing in some circumscriptions and regions, e.g. EAP, CKF, PAC, FANO, SCAF, etc. The following recommendations were made: each circumscription is to conscientise its members on the urgency of this ministry; the spirituality of justice and peace, conflict resolution and reconciliation are to be studied in our formation houses at all levels. Circumscriptions can call on the confrere presently in-charge of Justice and Peace in the Generalate to help them in this area.

FIRST APPOINTMENTS - 2003

Name	From	To
CHAMBASUCO A. Manuel	Angola	Angola
DIOGO Aniceto Bento	Angola	Mexico
GAIOLA Manuel Bumba	Angola	France
MONTEIRO Pedro Delfim	Angola	PAC
MUKEVELA D. Tchamolehã	Angola	Angola
MUQUINDA Estêvão	Angola	Angola
PEDRO José Maria Segunda	Angola	Angola
BUKENYA Dennis	EAP	Nigeria
CHUNDU Filbert	EAP	Philippines
KAGUA Patrick Njau	EAP	PAC
KARUMUNA Renatus	EAP	Ethiopia
KIWALE Gerald Peter	EAP	FOI
KWAY Peter Mashaka	EAP	Kenya
MALLYA Peter Claver	EAP	EAP
MMASI Nicodemus C.	EAP	England
MUMBI Nicholas Kerebba	EAP	EAP
NDUNDA Andrew Mwanja	EAP	EAP
RIGII Kamangara John	EAP	Malawi
BEZARA Cyrille	FOI	Pakistan
MOSESY Adrien	FOI	Madagascar
TAILLASSON Tristan	France	PAC
ALMEUS Enel	Haiti	Trinidad
ARISTIL Edmond	Haiti	USA East
INNOCENT Paulin	Haiti	Haiti
REMY Joseph Perald	Haiti	Haiti
SIMON Habens	Haiti	Puerto Rico

Name	From	To
GIL-TORRES Guillermo	Mexico	Mozambique
MARTINEZ Antonia Emiliano	Mexico	Mexico
ABBA Benjamin	Nigeria	Nigeria
ADAYI Daniel	Nigeria	Nigeria
ANUSIONWU Vitalis U.	Nigeria	Zambia
ANYANWU Patrice	Nigeria	Nigeria
DURUAKU Jude	Nigeria	WAP
EMENIKE Peter Sixtus	Nigeria	Ethiopia
EZENWAMMADU Michael E.	Nigeria	Trinidad
FAGAH Richard	Nigeria	FANO
IHEAGWARA Benedict	Nigeria	Trinidad
NNAJI I. Valentine	Nigeria	PAC
NWADIKE Chinedu	Nigeria	PNG
NWAGWU Magnus	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
NZEADIBE Emeka Jude	Nigeria	Germany
OGBODO Hyacinth	Nigeria	Nigeria
OKERE Eugene	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
OKEY Tony Bruno	Nigeria	Nigeria
OKOLO Anthony Oguejiofo	Nigeria	Nigeria
ONA Ezindubuisi Brendan	Nigeria	PNG
BALOU DIBAKIDI Anatole	PAC	PAC
BODIONG Gabriel	PAC	PAC
FOZONG ETIMBI Pierre	PAC	PAC
KAMGUE Jean-Claude	PAC	PAC
KIDZIMOU Ignace	PAC	PAC

LOUKANGA Faustin	PAC	CKF
MADIELA Pierre	PAC	CKF
MEBE ZOA Grégoire Marie	PAC	PAC
MINTSA MBA Désiré	PAC	Guyane
NDE Paul	PAC	Gen. Administration
NGOUEDI Christian	PAC	FANO
NGUEMA EDOU J.-C. Patrick	PAC	PAC
TOUNOU Paul Ges	PAC	PAC

TOUABOY Henri	PAC	PAC
ESPINOZA Mariano Br	Paraguay	EAP
WATAE Michael	PNG	Australia
BARBOSA Tiago A. Simões	Portugal	Mexico
ACHINA Jonas	WAP	FANO
AGBO John Boniface	WAP	Malawi
NANGNUOR F. Dometerio Br	WAP	WAP
OHENE Ambrose	WAP	WAP

MEETING OF MAJOR SUPERIORS

It has now become customary for recently appointed major Superiors to meet with the General Council in September for a mutual "getting to know each other". It is an occasion for the superiors also to discuss matters of interest to them and to meet the General staff.



L to R: P. Chéry, C. McQuillan, W. Pierrot Rabe, Sup. General, G. Ezewudo, V. Stegman and E Shayo

This year the meeting was held from 15-21 September, with six major superiors taking part. These were 2 Provincial Superiors: Frs Evarist Shayo (EAP) and Gabriel Ezewudo (Nigeria); 3 Foundation Superiors: Frs Cornelius McQuillan (Puerto Rico), Pierre Chéry (Haiti) and Wenceslas Pierrot Rabe (FOI); 1 International Group Superior: Fr Vincent Stegman (Ethiopia).

The procedure was as for previous meetings. The first two days were given to presentations and discussion of the circumscription reports. There was also an input on the quality and styles of leadership and an exchange on our

ministry of leadership. The third day was devoted to a pilgrimage to Subiaco and Tivoli. Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings were taken up with inputs on the support of International Groups, Formation for Mission, Finances (Special Jubilee fund, fund-raising, solidarity and autonomy), Further studies, First Appointments, Policy for receiving students from the South, History and Anniversaries/Spiritual Year.

The Superiors also had the opportunity to visit the various departments of the General Administration and meet the personnel involved.

DATES FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER

The next General Chapter for the Congregation will begin on Sunday 20 June 2004 and it will conclude on Saturday 17 July. Accommodation at the venue for the meeting, Torre d'Aguilha in Portugal, will be reserved three days before the Chapter starts and two days after it has ended to allow for those who need to prepare the secretariat as well as those who may arrive a few days before the meeting starts because of flight arrangements.

Decisions of the General Council

The Superior General with the consent of his Council

- nominates Fr. Raymond **Gonnet** as Superior of the Group of Algeria for a mandate of three years, with effect from the 1st December 2002.
- transfers Fr. Peter **Kilasara** from the General Administration (Palmarola Parish community) to the East African Province, with effect from the 1st January 2003.

Corrigendum: "Guide For Confreres Going On First Appointment"

3.3 p on page 9 should read: During the early years of first appointment, confreres are not **normally** expected to be engaged in Spiritan formation work in the receiving circumscription.

OUR DEAD

15 October	Fr Peter V. COMER	Ireland 69
16 October	Fr Gerard SENNE	N/Lands 65
18 October	Fr Richard KISSANE	Ireland 85
26 October	Br Luke McCAFFREY	Ireland 83
31 October	Fr Michael O'DONNELL	Ireland 78
01 November	Fr Michael V. MURPHY	Ireland 72
05 November	Fr Joseph JASPERS	N/Lands 75
05 November	Fr Edward CROWLEY	US/W 80
10 November	Fr Henry PLANINSEK	US/W 78
18 November	Fr Thomas MAKELA.....	PAC 35
22 November	Br Johannes van GURP.....	N/Lands 86
22 November	Br Bernardus van MOORSEL	N/Lands 86