

# Spiritan Magazine

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## Home and Away

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# “Post Bagamoyo: on the way...”

Brian Joel

TransCanada Lay Spiritan Associate

**K**atie Flaherty introduced us to a personal walking reflection on the first evening. After about twenty steps under her guidance, many of us had gone round in circles, some arrived where we started, others had criss-crossed the room, sometimes backwards, sometimes forward, often-times sideways.

Katie’s sharing of her personal journey set the tone for the weekend. We spent our time in prayer, reflection, social interaction, personal sharing and discussion on the theme of journey as individuals, as groups and as provinces.

## Fr. Pierre Jubinville

### First Assistant, Spiritan General Council, Rome

The central consensus of last year’s Bagamoyo Chapter was the importance of “animation” i.e. acting to produce the desired change; literally, breathing life into something. This includes ongoing formation; going back to the roots of who we are as religious and missionaries; our self identity as an ongoing process; the role of superiors as animators, not just administrators; shared community life and the missionary project seen as a means of animation and formation. Community life is cru-

cially important and doesn’t happen without ‘roof – table – prayer’: live together, eat together, pray together. Special emphasis must be placed on mission as “cross-dimensional”, a give and take approach involving Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. We cannot leave this to our experts; it is meant to include and involve every Spiritan. Inter-religious dialogue is replacing ‘go and tell’, ‘go and convert’. Education takes place in formal and informal settings. There has been a heightened awareness of the demographic and cultural diversity of the Congregation and the growing importance of African Spiritans, with their own diversity.

Various forms of fragility were recognized, including withdrawal from difficult missions, delinquency, and aging. Bagamoyo was the symbolic start of the first Spiritan missions in East Africa — a new beginning for so many enslaved and without hope.

## Bagamoyo, a personal journey

*John Hansen, USA*

For John, Bagamoyo was a personal journey: a return to a place that was his home for 3 years, enabling him to reconnect



Lay Spiritan Associates gather from Ontario (facing page), Quebec (below) and United States (right).



Joy presented a common project for North American LSAs and urged each of the participants to take up the St. Francis Pledge to care for Creation and the Poor; the form of implementation will be left up to the Associates in each province and their level of commitment to pray, learn, assess, act and advocate (<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/the-st-francis-pledge>).

### Re-visioning the way forward

*Fr Pat Fitzpatrick CSSp*

Towards the end, Fr Pat invited us to distill what we would like to take home with us and what practical actions we would choose to take as a result:

with the people who have kept their deep spirituality expressed through dance and music despite the obvious changes that had taken place over the years. At the Chapter, there were 3 other Lay Spiritan Associates from Uganda, Portugal and Bolivia who described their life-supporting ministries to the Chapter delegates. John commented on the fact that, although we are all grappling with change, there appears to be a real understanding of the gift of lay people in the Congregation and what it means to be a truly international Congregation. The idea of an international conference of Lay Spiritan Associates (LSAs) was proposed for 2015.

### JPIC Common Project

*Joy Warner, TransCanada*

In concert with the powerful Tom Shadyac documentary entitled "I am", Joy's presentation emphasized the role each of us plays in righting "What's wrong with the World", recent Church teaching on the environment, and inter-generational solidarity (even with those not yet born). Agreeing with our values is easy; doing something concrete is difficult. Justice costs money.

- "What characterizes the second half of life is an ability to live in paradox, to live in mystery. We no longer think that we know it all; we no longer think that we can know it all; we've long ago given up on trying to know it all." *Fr. Richard Rohr.*
- "...it is more rewarding to explore than to reach conclusions, more satisfying to wonder than to know, and more exciting to search than to stay put."
- What spoke to me? What do I take away with me? What shall I do with it? The Word was made Flesh... which idea can we embody? How much can we deal with? What is it time for?
- Did this time together help me? How do we see ourselves as a group and/or as part of the Spiritans?
- "God is in the bits and pieces of Everyday — A kiss here and a laugh again, and sometimes tears, A pearl necklace round the neck of poverty." *Patrick Kavanagh*
- We can't move forward honestly unless we acknowledge the rocks along the path.
- What should we continue to do ... the activities that continue to bear fruit? ■

## Canadian Church Press Awards

*Spiritan* recently won two Canadian Church Press awards:

- **First Place** in the Editorial category for “Watch your language” by Pat Fitzpatrick CSSp.
- **Second Place** in the Personal Experience First Person Account category for “Will you keep her now?” by Ellen Einterz.



## Pentecost Novena at Toronto Spiritan Parish

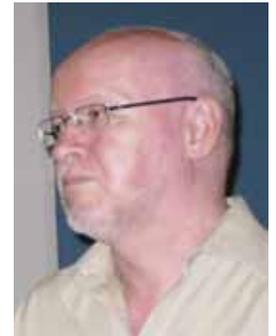


**Carlyle Guiseppi CSSp**

The Annual Holy Spirit Novena, led by nine priests, including Our Lady of Good Counsel pastor, Spiritan Fr Carlyle Guiseppi, was celebrated on the nine days leading up to Pentecost. The Caribbean parish is in the west end of downtown Toronto. “When we started the Holy Spirit Novena, I was told that people would not come out for nine nights,” Fr Carlyle said. “This is our sixth year and every time we have had it we have been almost full. If they weren’t getting something from it, people wouldn’t be coming here for nine nights... As priests we are in the business of helping God to help His people.”

## Lay Spiritans honoured

**George Webster**  
Lay Spiritan Associate



**2013 Lifetime Achievement Award, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada**

### *Citation*

For more than 30 years, George has made an outstanding contribution to Catholic health care, and to the broader Canadian health care system, in the field of health care ethics services. Prior to joining the ethics service at St. Boniface Hospital in 1997, he was for 14 years the Director of the first full-time, hospital-based ethics service in Canada, serving St. Michael’s, St. Joseph Health Centre, and Providence Centre in Toronto.

In addition, George has worked on numerous provincial, regional and national ethics committees.

George has been tireless in his quest to be just, caring and wise in this domain of ethical decision-making. Not given to facile answers, he listens well, questions when necessary, and involves the caregivers who are closest to the patients; he meets with families and has at heart the goal of arriving at resolutions that will bring life and serenity.

**Dermot McLoughlin**  
Lay Spiritan Associate



**2013 Honorary Doctor of Science, Lakehead University**

### *Citation*

Dr Dermot McLoughlin is an award-winning, community-minded staff radiologist with the Sioux Lookout Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre who takes pride in the role he has played as an Associate Professor with the Northern School of Medicine and as a founding board member. He received the Chris Cromarty award for Leadership in honour of his effective teamwork, quality leadership and significant contributions to the wellbeing of the people of the Sioux Lookout region. He started his career in Ireland and Scotland, worked in Africa and then Ontario where he has practiced as a radiologist in various hospitals.

“I would recommend to all newly graduated Health Professionals that they should include in their careers working in remote areas at home and abroad where the need for their services is the greatest,” Dr McLoughlin said.

# Father James Dunne CSSp

August 19, 1928 – May 5, 2013

Gerald FitzGerald CSSp

For sixty-five years Fr Jimmy Dunne has been a friend and model for me. Fr Gerry Scott — our presider over this farewell Eucharist — Jimmy and I, three young boys recently graduated from High School, entered the Spiritan Novitiate on September 2, 1948. Although three among thirty-eight, we soon became a trio of friends despite the Novice Master's fulminations about what he called "particular friendships." By sheer coincidence, we all ended up belonging to the new Spiritan foundation in English-speaking Canada.

Jimmy was a few years older than either of us and was always regarded as prudent, sensible and reliable: mature beyond his age. In our Mass booklet is a one-page biography of Jimmy: a series of facts and dates. This is the record of his life, which will be preserved in our archives in Rome. Future scholars, researching the history of the Spiritans, might read it and be tempted to say, "A very ordinary life: nothing very spectacular." They may think that Jimmy was a very ordinary man who led a very unspectacular life. But we who knew Jimmy and loved him and who benefited from his friendship and ministry, know that he was indeed a very extraordinary man.

His character was based on a deep, mature faith in God. He obviously acquired this in his home, from his father and mother, his seven brothers and sisters. He is the first of the siblings to die. To them we extend our deepest sympathy.

Jimmy spent ten years on what was called "formation", preparing himself for living as a priest, taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience — which he lived to the day he died — and acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to be a missionary. Even in this period of formation Jimmy's spirituality and holiness were apparent. When he was sent for two years of practical training, it was to teach in a Juniorate, a school where young boys who felt a calling to the priesthood, developed their vocations.

## Nigeria first, then Canada

After ordination to the priesthood, the particular friendship among the trio of Jimmy, Scotty and Fitz was broken up. Jimmy was sent to Nigeria, Scotty and I to Canada. Jimmy was appointed to the Junior Seminary in Ihiala. One of his students there, Fr Gabriel, is present on the altar today. It is no coincidence that there is a Nigerian presence at Jimmy's requiem. He was so disappointed to be expelled from that country, along with his fellow missionaries, at the end of the Biafran war.

Africa's loss was Canada's gain. Jimmy served loyally for forty years in various parishes in Ontario. The people of Holy Rosary in Guelph, St Joseph in Highland Creek, St Rita in Woodstock, and St Bernard in

Waterford loved and admired

their pastor. In his declining years

the people of Waterford covered up his medical problems from all outsiders. Nobody in Waterford wanted this wonderful pastor to be replaced.

## A deeply spiritual man

What the people of these parishes saw and what his Spiritan brothers and sisters recognized was the deep spirituality of the man. He was a laid back, quiet, strong person. He flew very much under the radar. His prayer life was built on the foundation of his daily Mass, his daily Divine Office, his daily Rosary. Everyone who met him knew they were dealing with a holy person. His sanctity was that of St Therese of Lisieux. On her death another nun said, "What will we write in her obituary?" Like her, Jimmy did ordinary things in an extraordinary way.

Only a handful of people know the pain he suffered since a botched procedure in one of our Toronto hospitals left him medically incapacitated for the last thirty years of his life. The pain he endured after a series of major operations and numerous surgical procedures is known to very few.

In my years of friendship with Jimmy, I never once heard a word of complaint about his medical condition, his pain or the circumstances which caused it. In my years of friendship with Jimmy I have never heard any parishioner or confrere make a negative remark about him — never once. In my years of friendship with Jimmy, I never once heard him make a nasty or judgmental remark about anybody.

I was blessed to have enjoyed the friendship and example of one very holy man and like all of you here I will miss him very much. I thank God for the great gift of Jimmy and I ask God to welcome this good man, this good priest, this good Spiritan into Paradise. ■

