Editor's Introduction (English)

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Introduction

The Center for Spiritan Studies, inaugurated in September 2005, is a collaborative venture between the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and Duquesne University. Its purpose is to promote scholarly research into Spiritan history, tradition, and spirituality with a view to fostering creative fidelity to the Spiritan charism in a changing world. **Spiritan Horizons** is an annual publication of the Center for Spiritan Studies that seeks to further the Center's aims. The journal combines articles of a scholarly nature with others related to the praxis of the Spiritan charism in a wide variety of cultural settings. Special attention is given in each issue to the Spiritan education ethos, in view of the university context in which the journal is published. It is hoped that the journal will provide a wider audience than hitherto with access to the riches of the Spiritan charism and spirituality.

Last year's Spiritan Horizons celebrated the tercentenary of the death of Claude Poullart des Places. This year Francis Libermann reappears, no longer in the chapel, but now in the waiting rooms of the influential, hoping and maneuvering for a sympathetic hearing. Arsene Aubert reveals interesting details about Libermann's adventures with "the authorities". Luke Mbefo explores the meaning of the original 19th century missionary project, L'Oeuvre des Noirs. His parting challenge to reexamine the sense of the Spiritan motto, *Cor unum et anima una* (One heart and one soul), is taken up by Séan Kealy, who painstakingly examines its origin in the Acts of the Apostles. What is at stake is the importance of grasping how Jesus intends us to live. A concluding modern story shows how creeping familiarity can threaten the original inspiration.

Duquesne University comes alive in the presentation of university president, Charles Dougherty. It is a heartening story where a small fire of collaboration between the Spiritans and the people of Pittsburgh has grown to give scholarly warmth to a multitude of today's students. The many struggles of the past ensure that nothing is taken for granted in the leadership of the present. The university's emphasis on Africa is celebrated by Christopher Duncan, dean of the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, in his reflection on the visit of the deans to Tanzania. With a penetrating and sympathetic eye, he brings the country to life in all its natural beauty as well as in its human struggle to take its place in the world without ambiguity. Collaboration with the Gumberg Library has always been a mainstay of the Center for Spiritan Studies. Laverna Saunders and Robert Behary give a fascinating reflection on how the aims of the Center and the concerns of the Library can combine to reach around the world.

Mgr Augustine Shao, bishop of Zanzibar and a member of the Vatican Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, describes the fruits of dialogue between Christians and Muslims in his diocese. Progress is slow and hard earned, but real and rewarding. Michael Kilkenny shows us how the procedures of canon law can involve high drama. His story begins with an adventure where the hero is an archivist.

Spiritan social concern is forcibly present in two articles. In the last century Joachim Alves Correia was obliged to leave Portugal and take refuge in U.S.A. because of his outspoken social criticism. He was a member of Trinity Hall (Duquesne) community when he died in 1951. Last year Edward Flynn went to Geneva to work with Vivat, a group of religious congregations formed in 2000 to lobby for social causes at U.N. His commentary is sharpened by his previous experience of life with the poor in Pakistan.