Editor's Introduction (English)

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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.

This year, Spiritan Horizons pays special attention to the founder of the Spiritans, **Claude Francois Poullart des Places**, who died 300 years ago this past October. We turn to him in four essays, not out of nostalgia, but to drink from our own wells.

**Eamonn Mulcahy**’s enthusiasm for the task is transparent as he reawakens our interest in a talented and courageous young man who died at the age of thirty. **Christian de Mare** traces Spiritan consecration to the Holy Spirit back to its origin, when Claude gathered a small group around him in prayer in 1703 in a Paris church, long since destroyed. **Adelio Torres Neiva** goes further back to situate des Places in the reform of the clergy as it gathered momentum in the 17th century. In a scholarly essay, **Jotham Parsons** provides a veritable treasure trove of insights, featuring contemporary evidence from the milieu of des Places.

A small trickle has become a river. Happily beginnings retain their fascination for us.

**Paul Kollman** takes a penetrating look at the beginning of Spiritan missionary endeavor in East Africa. **Brian McLaughlin** writes of a modern beginning: the recent Spiritan initiative in South East Asia. **Fintan Sheerin** speaks of a new beginning in his personal journey, of being empowered by the powerless.

**Ruth Montrichard** writes of Servol, the heartwarming Trinidad success story that developed from taking the unfortunate seriously through “attentive listening and respectful intervention.” We accept our ethos as the elusive spirit we live by. With greater authenticity in mind, **Cormac O’Brolchain** helps to dissipate any difficulty we may have in grasping and evaluating just what is the ethos of our schools and colleges.

**Sylvester Kansimbi** describes for us how the Spiritans still face difficult challenges in post-apartheid South Africa. **Jocelyn Gregoire** laments the situation of the Creoles in Mauritius: a situation that prompts his own vigorous response and his heartfelt prayer to the “Apostle of Mauritius”, fellow-Spiritan Blessed Jacques Laval (1803-1864).