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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.

In this third edition, **Christian de Mare** explores the religious, social, and political context in which *Claude-François Poullart des Places* lived and the factors that shaped his vocation. **David. L. Smith** investigates the *spirituality of Francis Libermann* in terms of its constituent components, underscoring the centrality of the notion of *presence*, while **Donald J. Nesti** reflects on *Libermann's Jewish background* and its enduring influence after his conversion to the Christian faith. **Tony Geoghegan** examines the *Apostolic Life* in the doctrine of Libermann, noting its relevance for today in a world where so many seek integration; **Cornelius van der Poel** looks at the significance of *consecration to the apostolate* in Libermann's writings and in contemporary Spiritan life. **Frans Timmermans**, former Superior General, takes us through the exciting journey of renewal that began with Vatican II, its impact on the Spiritan Congregation, and the developments that took place during his period in office (1974-1986). **Matthew V. Bender**, African History professor at The College of New Jersey, analyzes the missionary strategy of the Spiritans among the Chagga people on Mount Kilimanjaro, and the extraordinary transformation to which it led, between 1892 and 1953. **François Nicolas** explores the *educational legacy of Blessed Daniel Brottier*, director of l'Œuvre des Orphelins Apprentis d'Auteuil from 1923-1936, and **Seán Kealy** reflects on the motto of Duquesne University, "*It is the Spirit who gives life*," from the perspective of current Johannine scholarship. **Guy Tapin** introduces us to an innovative approach to *continuing the Spiritan heritage* in the wake of the transition from Spiritan to lay administration at the In'Afu Center in Quebec. **Chibuikwe Ojilere** from Nigeria, drawing on the significance of his Igbo name, shares with us his personal story as *an African missionary in Asia* and Spiritan poet **Cothrai Gogan** muses on the sentiments that surround the death of a missionary in his native land, far from the people among whom he lived and worked.