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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 which seeks to further the Center's aims. The journal combines articles of a scholarly nature with others emphasizing the lived experience of the Spiritan charism today. 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 first edition, **Jean-Savoie** explores the originality of the Spiritan founder, *Claude-François Poullart des Places*. Articles by **David Smith**, **John Fogarty**, **Bernard Kelly** and **Pádraig Leonard** investigate different aspects of the spirituality of *Francis Mary Paul Libermann*, 11th Superior General of the Spiritan Congregation and effectively its second founder, and point to his relevance for the contemporary world. **Anthony Gittins** and **Casimir Eke**, each from his own perspective, reflect on the meaning of the *charism of a religious Congregation* and on the issue of creative fidelity, with particular reference to the contemporary Spiritan context. **Janie Harden Fritz** and **John Sawicki**, two professors at Duquesne University, explore the notion of *charism* in regard to *the founding vision of a university* and outline how the charism is expressed and lived in the context of the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Duquesne today. **Bruce Beaver**, a chemistry professor at Duquesne, introduces us to his efforts to bring the *Spiritan charism into the classroom and laboratory*. Scripture scholar **Séan Kealy** examines the text that introduces the Spiritan Rule of Life, Lk 4, 16 ff., and looks at the challenge of St. Luke to bring the *Good News to the poor*. Lay Spiritans **Gary Warner** (Canada) and **Maria Jesús de Souza** (Bolivia) share with us their *personal stories* of how the Spiritan charism has shaped their lives and continues to do so.