Editor's Introduction (English)

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In 1890, then Father Alexandre Le Roy, C.S.Sp. (later archbishop and superior general) spearheaded the first Spiritan team to survey the interior of East Africa for purposes of evangelization. In 1914, he published Au Kilimandjaro, detailing the fortunes of this expedition and the founding of the first East African Catholic communities. Adrian Edwards, C.S.Sp., translated this book into English before his death. The Center has prepared it for publication early next year as Mission to Kilimanjaro. Florentine Mallya, C.S.Sp., introduces our readers to this work and its implications for mission and formation today. Le Roy, for example, was not only fluent in Swahili, but was geographer, botanist
and anthropologist. Bede Uche Ukwuije, C.S.Sp., takes up the discussion of missionaries and culture in “Spiritan Missionaries: Precursors of Inculturation Theology.” He shows that with the production of the first catechisms, Bibles, hymnals and dictionaries, etc., the missionaries were actually forerunners of inculturation. In the section, Spiritans for Today, we portray deceased Spiritans who were trailblazers in some aspect of Spiritan life and mission. Brendan Carr, C.S.Sp., “Spiritans for Today: Willie Jenkinson, C.S.Sp. Portrait of a Missionary,” shows how this Spiritan embodied the tension of the transition after Vatican II. Most older Spiritans did their novitiate in the Jesuit mold. Damien Meki, C.S.Sp., “Discernment: Ignatius of Loyola and Libermann – Two Models? Toward a Methodology of Discernment,” clearly shows the difference between Libermannian and Ignatian discernment and calls for the embrace of the greater flexibility of the former. This was part of Meki’s research as Spiritan Scholar at the Center for 2018–2019.

The Tanzania Province is celebrating 150 years of evangelization. Gerard Nnamunga, C.S.Sp., “Spiritan Pedagogy of Evangelization in Tanzania,” shows the part education played and is playing in evangelization in the country.

For three years, three Duquesne professors, Dr. Steve N. Hansen, Dr. Maureen O’Brien, and Dr. Anne Marie Witchger Hansen, have been interviewing Spiritans engaged in education and formation work. Their initial report, “Spiritan Charism, Vocational Commitment, and A Different Kind of Excellence: A Study of Spiritan Educators,” opens the door for further discussions on Spiritan Pedagogy and how Spiritans should be involved in education.


Director, Center for Spiritan Studies
The Center for Spiritan Studies is a resource facility for the Spiritan Congregation (through research on its charism and history, tradition and spirituality) and Duquesne University Community (in re-imagining its Spiritan legacy for a new era).

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