

Fall 2021

## Introduction

William Cleary C.S.Sp.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-horizons>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Cleary, W. (2021). Introduction. *Spiritan Horizons*, 17 (17). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-horizons/vol17/iss17/3>

This Editor's Introduction (English, French, and Portuguese) is brought to you for free and open access by the Spiritan Horizons (English, French, and Portuguese) at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritan Horizons by an authorized editor of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.

# Introduction

## Contemporary Spiritan Mission

### Wellsprings

“Black lives matter” is the call challenging police violence in the USA that echoed across the world in the summer of 2020. **Gerard Nnamunga**, C.S.Sp., in his article, *Libermann’s Theological Anthropology and the Contemporary Context*, connects today’s struggle with Libermann’s l’Œuvre des noirs (project for the Blacks) in the context of the nineteenth century with its prejudices against Africans. **Étienne Osty**, C.S.Sp., memorializes one who connected many with the humanity of Francis Libermann probably because he was himself, as Osty puts it, “a spoiled child of the Good Lord.” *Father Alphonse Gilbert (1921-2020): Animated by the Spirit of God for a century* is a fitting tribute to a much-loved Spiritan Scholar.

In keeping with the theme of this issue, **Pedro Fernandes**, C.S.Sp., reflects on contemporary Spiritan mission in *Major axes for Missiological Models after Vatican II: Rereading Spiritan mission from the Portuguese Perspective*. He summarizes the axes of Spiritan mission as closeness to people; dialogue and hospitality that appreciates different cultures; and proclamation and confessional clarity rooted in a radical following of Christ. **Marc Whelan**, C.S.Sp., weaves together a tribute both to Brottier and the work he helped establish in his article, *Apprentis D’Auteuil: A Place of Spiritan Mission*. Ensuring the continuation of traditional Spiritan works in the older provinces of Europe may benefit from the kind of innovation employed by Daniel Brottier who initiated a Church-State partnership for *Apprentis D’Auteuil*.

Two Spiritans in formation, **Kenneth Ofoma**, C.S.Sp., and **Matt Broeren**, C.S.Sp., from the provinces of Nigeria South East and the United States respectively, share different and complementary perspectives on the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenge for Spiritan mission. The former, in *Libermann’s Understanding of Suffering and the Challenges of Covid19 Pandemic in Africa* provides an intriguing application of Libermann’s positive understanding of human suffering to coping with the pandemic in Africa. The latter, in his article, *Spiritan Mission Post-COVID-19 as Healing the World: A Possible Framework?* interrogates the role for Spiritan mission in analysing the underlying conditions that exacerbated the consequences of the pandemic for some more than for others, and the radical action needed to heal a broken and divided world.

### Soundings

**Jeff Duaine**, C.S.Sp., acknowledges the continuing need for renewal to meet the challenges the contemporary world holds for the missionary. In his article, *Spiritan Mission Today and Tomorrow: New Wine in New Wineskins*, he looks to General Chapter XXI as a moment for the congregation to find new and creative ways for doing mission. From an Asian perspective, **Pat Palmer**, C.S.Sp., understands Spiritan mission as sharing poverty and insecurity in the search for justice and liberation. His article, *Spiritan Mission*

*in Asia*, highlights active involvement with people as core to Spiritan mission. **Andrzej Owca**, C.S.Sp., Vivat International representative at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, takes up this theme. His article is entitled, *A Human Rights Approach to Spiritan Mission for Today*. Dialogue is a communication between interlocutors. **Jean-Claude Angoula**, C.S.Sp., documents the importance of the concept of interlocutor for progress in interreligious dialogue in his article, *The Current Perspective of Interreligious relations in Senegal: Dialogue Proportionate to the Interlocutors*.

#### Education

Drs. **Steven Hansen**, **Anne Marie Witchger Hansen**, and **Maureen O'Brien** in *Pedagogy in Practice: Academic Excellence through Solidarity with People Experiencing Poverty*, report on their ongoing research project recording ways in which Spiritan educators integrate Spiritan values with academic excellence. Drs. **Norman Conti**, **Rick McCown**, and **Maureen O'Brien** of Duquesne University, share an educational program within a correctional setting that brings together “outside” university students with “inside” incarcerated students. *Spiritan Mission and Restorative Justice at Duquesne University: The Elsinore Benu Think Tank for Restorative Justice*, shows how the Spiritan approach to mission and Freirean methodology can come together to bring about the Kingdom of God. Dr. **Luci-Jo DiMaggio** provides a summary of her recent doctoral thesis focusing on the importance of a critical service-learning model for community learning programs at Duquesne to ensure transformative relationships between students and the communities they serve. *Curricular and Co-Curricular Community Engagement at a Spiritan University* is the fruit of eighteen years’ experience of accompanying Duquesne students in community-engaged learning.

#### Lived Experience

**Kuha Indyer**, C.S.Sp., in *Evangelization and Development*, shares the story of his commitment to the education of the young and to development work beginning in 1994 with his mission experience in The Gambia to today as founding Principal of Holy Ghost College, Sankera, and as Director of the Spiritan Office for Mission Development of his province, Nigeria North East. Dr. **Dennis Ranalli** benefited greatly from growing up in a Pittsburgh parish served by Spiritan priests. He pays tribute to these Spiritans of his youth in *A Century of Spiritan Commitment: Saint Ann’s Parish Millvale, PA*.

#### Reviews

Reviews of recent publications by Spiritans, **John O’Brien** and **Cardinal Nzapalainga**, and by Religious Sister of the Sacred Heart, **Maria Cimperman**, addressing issues of women’s ordination, peace building, and religious life respectively, bring this issue to a conclusion.

*William Cleary, C.S.Sp. (Editor, Issue #17)  
Associate Director, Center for Spiritan Studies.  
clearyw@duq.edu*