

8-2006

From the Editor and Table of Contents

Gerald Fitzgerald

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

Recommended Citation

Fitzgerald, G. (2006). From the Editor and Table of Contents. *Spiritan Magazine*, 30 (3). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-tc/vol30/iss3/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Spiritan Collection at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritan Magazine by an authorized editor of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.

The Media and the Message

"Today, the press, film, radio and television are the most urgent, rapid and effective ways of communicating all that is good, all that is true, all that is useful."
Blessed James Alberione

As I sit in the office of *Spiritan* magazine, I never cease to be amazed how the development of media has greatly increased our knowledge and awareness of the world in which we live. Newsletters, emails, fax messages, magazines, reports and letters arrive at the office from all quarters of the *Spiritan* world. *Spiritan* websites, of which our own www.spiritans.com is an excellent example, provide us with not only our history, but up-to-date news of our current initiatives and developments. Our central administration in Rome passes on to us *Spiritan* news from around the world. Our various congregational departments, dealing with everything from justice and peace issues to financial affairs, produce regular reports in print and on the web. I am more in contact with the personnel and works of the Spiritans, from Algeria, Angola and Australia to Zambia and Zimbabwe, than at any other time in my life.

The contribution which our Spiritans in Canada make to this flow of information includes both this magazine and our website. Members of our group also publish books about the *Spiritan* story, *Spiritan* spiritual life and *Spiritan* biography. No less than three such publications have appeared in the past twelve months. Also representatives of our group have attended *Spiritan* gatherings in the U.S.A, Ireland and Rome in recent months, sharing news and ideas.

All this communication within the *Spiritan* family and with our friends and benefactors is necessary because the world is changing at an ever-faster rate, and with it the *Spiritan* missionary movement. Three facts are driving these changes. Firstly, as the number of vocations in the first-world countries diminishes, *Spiritan* seminaries in what were once seen as "mission territories" are bursting at the seams. This provides the Spiritans with a great financial challenge of meeting the expenses of an ever-increasing number of old retired priests in Europe and North America and the mounting expense of educating our seminarians and young priests in Africa, Haiti and South America. The centre of gravity of our group is switching from the northern to the southern hemisphere; white is no longer our prevalent skin colour.

Secondly, the number of lay Spiritans and associates working in *Spiritan* projects overseas, side by side with our missionary priests, is growing steadily so that we no longer are a strictly clerical organization.

And the third fact driving the changes is a consequence of the first two. Spiritans no longer work in national teams as they did until recent times. Now our missionary groups are international, composed of persons of different countries of origin, different languages and cultures, men and women. This fact provides new challenges but also new opportunities.

Within the past twenty years, *Spiritan* missionaries have started missions in fifteen regions where we have not served before. These international teams work with people who have never been previously evangelized. The foundation of a new church in such conditions presents great challenges. A new language must be learned, a new culture understood and appreciated. All financial support must be raised elsewhere. No baptisms, no Christian weddings, no Eucharistic community; just year after year of presence, of service. The seed is being sown. Others will see shoots spring up and grow. Later still others will work when the harvest is ripe. New challenges, new opportunities. Our use of the media helps it happen. The stories of these fragile little churches are being told, their needs are being expressed.

Today Spiritans serve in more countries than at any other time in our 300 plus year history. These are challenging times for us, they are exciting times. *Spiritan* tries to catch the vitality, the diversity, the philosophy of this rainbow coalition.

Gerry FitzGerald, CSSp

Spiritan

Volume 30, No. 3
August 2006

Spiritan is produced by
The Congregation of the Holy Ghost
TransCanada Province

Editors: Fr. Gerald FitzGerald
Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick

Design & Production: Tim Faller Design Inc.

CONTENTS

- 2 From the Editor:
The Media and the Message
- 3 As I See It:
Christianity Rediscovered
- 5 Sigillate Sand
- 6 Interview:
Up River in French Guiana
- 9 I was in prison and you
visited me
- 10 There's Just Something
about Fondwa
- 12 Struggling with Chichewa:
A Great Challenge!
- 14 A New World, A New People
- 16 VICS:
Whose Spring Is It?
- 18 Food for Thought
- 19 The World of Media
- 20 Home and Away

Front cover: University of Fondwa students.
Photo by Brian McElroy.

Back cover: Photo by Martin Kawalski,
iStockphoto

Spiritan is published four times a year by the Spiritans, The Congregation of the Holy Ghost, 121 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto, ON M4E 3S2. Tel: 416-698-2003. Fax: 416-698-1884. E-mail: mission@spiritans.com. All correspondence and changes of address should be sent to this address.

One year subscription: \$10.00.

Printed by **Mediavision International**, Toronto.

Canadian Publications Mail Agreement no. 40050389. Registration No. 09612. Postage paid at Toronto, ON.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Visit our Web site at
www.spiritans.com