

# Spiritan Magazine

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## Home and Away

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# Fr. Peter Fleming's Retirement Dinner

On November 18th, 2005, seven hundred friends and admirers of Fr. Peter Fleming gathered for a tribute to him to mark his retirement after a long, diverse and very successful career. From his arrival in Canada in 1959 he was involved in high school education at Neil McNeil High School, where he was to remain on staff for almost forty years, and active in the world of music in Southern Ontario.

Peter served in Neil McNeil as music teacher, classroom teacher, Guidance Department Head, Vice-Principal and Principal. Many of those in attendance at his farewell dinner were his former pupils.

Peter wasn't long in Toronto before the growing Irish community there invited



Top: Peter Fleming's retirement dinner.  
Bottom: the "Old Piano Man".



him to form an Irish Choir to perform at Irish gatherings. This Choir soon achieved such a degree of excellence that it began to receive many awards at local, national and international choral competitions. The Irish Choral Society traveled internationally to perform and cut a number of records of Irish ballads which were very well received. Many choir members attended Fr. Peter's retirement gathering.

Peter had directed the choir at St. Joseph's Church in West Hill, Ontario for many years and on retirement from teaching he joined the parish staff, serving eventually as pastor until his retirement in September 2005. Parishioners of St. Joseph's organized his gala and attended the celebration in big numbers.

Peter played golf at Cederbrae Golf Course for over two decades. He was highly regarded by both staff and members there who joined in the many tributes he received.

The fact that Peter had to leave hospital where he was preparing for surgery, to attend the celebration, took nothing away from everybody's enjoyment of the event.

His many friends are pleased to know that he is recovering well after surgery and should be ready to tee off when the golf course opens in April. ■

## Changing Face of Spiritan Leadership

Twelve new superiors represent regions that range in size from Nigeria with over five hundred members to Croatia with only four. Coming from five continents, they bear witness to a variety of missionary challenges and the diversity of the Congregation.



Back row (Standing, from left): José Antonio Alamo Villegas (PUERTO RICO), Augustine Onyeneke (NIGERIA), Tomislav Mesis (CROATIA), Gabriel Luseni (WEST AFRICA), Sylvester Igboanyika (ZIMBABWE), Samuel Akwuba (GUYANE), Alberto Tchindemba (MOZAMBIQUE), Heliodoro Machado (SPAIN). Front row (from left): Donatus Onyeke (PAPUA NEW GUINEA), Martin Okafor-Ilozue (PHILIPPINES), Jean-Pascal Lombart (TAIWAN), Marc Tyrant (PAKISTAN — see “Spiritan Doctor in Pakistan” on page 23).

### Jack Hourigan R.I.P.

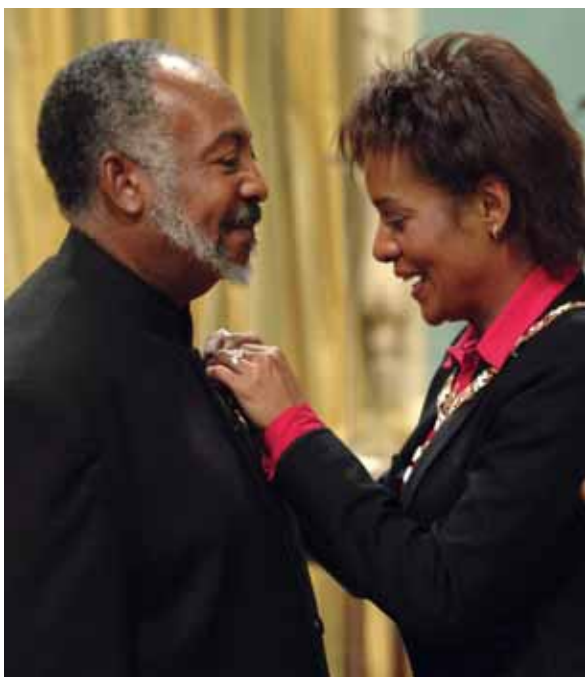
The Spiritans lost a wonderful friend and supporter when Jack Hourigan passed away last September. He was photo chief at the *Hamilton Spectator* newspaper and a thirty-year associate of the Spiritans. His wonderful photos appeared in many issues of *Spiritan Missionary News* and he visited Trinidad, Haiti, Central America, Sierra Leone and the Gambia to record the efforts of Spiritan missionaries and VICS volunteers.

To his wife Barbara and their children we extend our sincere sympathy.



A Haitian market. Photo by Jack Hourigan.

Photo courtesy of the Hamilton Spectator



## Gary Warner awarded Order of Canada

Gary Warner of Hamilton, Ontario, who with his wife Joy are long-time Lay Spiritans, was awarded Canada’s highest civilian award for lifetime achievement. On November 18th in Rideau Hall, Governor General Michaëlle Jean invested Gary into the Order of Canada.

This high honour was bestowed on Gary, who is a professor at McMaster University in Hamilton for his work as a peace activist, a refugee advocate and anti-racism crusader. Gary has been a community activist for over thirty years.

Congratulations Gary from your fellow Spiritans.

# Spiritan Doctor in Pakistan

*Marc Tyrant CSSp, Superior of the Spiritans in Pakistan, and a qualified doctor, recounts what it was like after the earthquake there last Fall.*

Our team, Doctors of the World, is located in a camp at the entrance to Balakot, on the banks of the river Kunhar. We are squeezed in between the formidable military presence and the makeshift encampment, increasing in size day by day, as more and more refugees come streaming down the mountains...

The local administration has completely disappeared. The soldiers act as doers, decision-makers, and coordinators. They are impressive in the speed with which they get things done, and are certainly welcomed by the survivors of the earthquake.

For the past week we've gone out in small groups (doctor, midwife, nurse, interpreter and soldier — a non-negotiable presence) to the most remote villages. By car for the first kilometers, then climbing the mountain slopes on foot. We walk four to six hours each day to get to the sick who two weeks after the earthquake have not yet seen a caregiver. Others have received some hurried care but without any follow up. The villagers give us a warm welcome and the stories they have to tell seem unbelievable: the number of people who remained under the rubble for hours surrounded by corpses, the number of school children who speak of their friends submerged in the debris. I saw one school where they dug out forty small bodies. More often than not, the villagers' faces are haggard and their eyes expressionless when they recount the horrors they've been through.

My fluency in Urdu enables me to talk at some length with the patients and the smiles that punctuate our conversations are more rewarding to me than anything else.



## New Provincial Council

The Spiritans of TransCanada have elected a new Provincial Council. Locky Flanagan was recalled from Malawi to replace Pat Fitzpatrick, whose six years as Provincial Superior had expired. Paul McAuley, Bill McCormack and Bob Colburn were elected as Council members while Gerry FitzGerald, as Provincial Treasurer, rounds out the group.



Toronto Spiritans celebrate Mass for their Nigerian brother, Fr. Aloysius Obi, killed in an air crash near Port Harcourt in December 2005. Fr. Aloysius lived in Laval House from 1995-1997. RIP