

# Spiritan Magazine

---

Volume 29  
Number 4 *Calendar*

Article 2

---

11-2005

## From the Editor and Table of Contents

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

---

### Recommended Citation

(2005). From the Editor and Table of Contents. *Spiritan Magazine*, 29 (4). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-tc/vol29/iss4/2>

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.

# A call to prayer

A recent holiday in Ireland left many memories. Among them were two contrasting approaches to prayer and praying. Twice a day at noon and 6 p.m., RTE — the national radio and television station — broadcast the Angelus. The 3x3x3x9 chiming of the bells invited listeners and viewers to pause a while, to stop what they were doing, and be still. On TV the accompanying images depicted men and women, young and old, taking time out from ordinary activities, interrupting work, raising heads in recognition indoors and outdoors, just being silent and attentive. Without words, in a countrywide call to prayer, the bells of the Angelus invited listeners and viewers to tune in to God.

Sunday Mass in several parishes included the praying of the Glory to God and the Creed by the whole congregation. The Glory to God was short enough that I more or less kept pace, finishing only a sentence behind the general body. The Creed, however, left me breathless. By the halfway mark I was straggling, at the three quarters point I had lost even more ground. Only by eliminating two or three of the “I believe in . . .” did I succeed in finishing within speaking distance of those around me. They were on a roll, I was out of my class.

I got to thinking about prayer. What’s it all about? Words, formulas, set prayers? Silent attention, saying nothing, just being present to the moment? All of the above? I recalled a down-to-earth piece of advice: “Pray as you can, not as you can’t.”

Whatever form it takes, at its deep heart’s core prayer is placing myself in the presence of God. In most cases that means stopping what I’m doing, at least for a minute or two. Perhaps Psalm 46 says it best: “Be still, and know that I am God.” Or if you prefer another translation: “Let be then, learn that I am God.” Anywhere, anytime. A grateful moment as the day dawns, a moment of thanks for a new beginning. A silent moment before going to sleep, a moment to muse on the day gone by. Standing at the foot of a best friend’s grave. Dropping into a church for a visit. Having a few words with the Man Above about a son or daughter, a husband or wife, a sick neighbour or an upcoming surgery.

Such moments may include formal prayers, if they draw me into the presence of God. One of my early memories of going to bed was my mother’s question, “Have you said your prayers?” Music too may help me enter the presence of God — Gregorian or Taizé chants, background easy listening, instrumental accompaniment. Lighting a candle, gazing at the rising sun, contemplating a starry night, or a moon in its many phases, kneeling, sitting, standing — whatever enables me to respond to the traditional call to prayer, “Let us place ourselves in the presence of God.”

Whatever its form, prayer is the means by which we spend time with God. What we say, if we say anything at all, is less important than being in the presence of God. Prayer is more a habit of the heart than a formula of words.

Our 2006 calendar, *Praying*, portrays human beings of many religions and different ages, entering into the presence of God. Their postures vary, their gestures are expressive of what is deep within — they bow, they kneel, they clasp hands, they squat around a cross, they sit and ponder, they make the Sign of the Cross, they pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in an otherwise empty church. Alone or with others, outside or inside a sacred place, they are attentive to a Presence within them, around them, among them. They are tuning in to God.

*Patrick Fitzpatrick, CSSp*

## CONTENTS

- 2 From the Editor:  
A call to prayer
- 3 Reflection:  
Will Katrina open our eyes?

January — Photos by Carl Hiebert,  
PWS&D

February — Photo by Nicholas Rjabow,  
iStockphoto

March — Photo by Carl Hiebert, PWS&D

April — Photo by S. Leutenegger,  
© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé,  
71250 Taizé, France

May — Photo by Andrei Tchernov,  
iStockphoto

June — Photo by Christina Craft,  
iStockphoto

July — Photo by Mark Aplet, iStockphoto

August — Photo by Renee Lee,  
iStockphoto

September — Photo by Javad Montazeri,  
PonkaWonka

October — Photo by Carl Hiebert,  
PWS&D

November — Digital Stock

December — Digital Stock

Front cover: photo by Renee Lee, iStockphoto

Back cover: Digital Stock

*Spiritan Missionary News* 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](http://www.spiritans.com)