

Duquesne University

Duquesne Scholarship Collection

CSSP Newsletter

CSSP Newsletter and Spiritan News

7-20-1971

CSSP Newsletter-No.7 (1971)

Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers

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

Repository Citation

Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers. (1971). CSSP Newsletter-No.7 (1971). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/cssp-news/20>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the CSSP Newsletter and Spiritan News at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in CSSP Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.

CSSP - NEWSLETTER - CSSP

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

Clivo di Cinna, 195 - 00136 Roma

July 20th, 1971

N° 7

CONTENTS

27A-51-20

Spiritans Appointments: new Assistant General - Fr. Verdieu.....	
Principal Superiors.....	
The General House: General Council - Summer schedule of visits, Chapters, etc.....	
The 1972 Ordo.....	
News of the Provinces and Districts.....	
Rome and the Missionary World: The Synod - 1971.....	
The Plenary Assembly of Pro-paganda Fide - 1972.....	

=====

SPIRITAN APPOINTMENTS

The General Council: New Assistant General Appointed

On June 26th, 1971 Father Ernst Verdieu was appointed to replace Father R. Eberhardt on the General Council. Father Verdieu was born in 1929 at Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He is the first member of one of our mission districts to be appointed to the General Council. Trained in the French Province, Father Ernst was ordained in 1954, and in the following year returned to Haiti. Since then he has held a number of important posts in his diocese of origin. He has had considerable experience of students and their problems, having taught and held the post of chaplain at St. Martial College. He was also national chaplain to the Christian Student Movement in Haiti, and then became Director of the Catechetics Office, first at diocesan and later at national level. He founded and directed the Catechetical Institute, Port-au-Prince.

Father Verdieu was among the Haitian Spiritans expelled from the island on August 15th, 1969, which action led to the withdrawal of all Spiritan personnel in September 1969. Until his appointment to the General Council he has been attached to the Canadian Province where he was engaged in pastoral work. The new Assistant holds a Licentiate in Sociology (Strasbourg) and in 1970 received the degree of Doctor in Religious Sciences from the same university for a thesis entitled:

"La pastorale face à l'urbanisation croissante et rapide des pays insuffisamment développés; le cas d'Haiti."

Principal Superiors: The following have been appointed for a second term of three years -

Kongolo: Father René Verlaine - June 17th, 1971;

Bangui: Father Franciscus Timmermans - June 17th, 1971.

THE GENERAL HOUSE

Summer Schedule: Father Lécuyer left for France at the beginning of July. During the first week of August he will attend the Marian Congress at Zagreb. From there he goes on to Canada for the second session of the Provincial Chapter. At the end of August he will be seeing the confreres in the Western Pro-

vince of the United States. This leaves a little time to recover before the opening of the Episcopal Synod in Rome next September!

Father K.Houdijk is at present on tour in Tanzania where he will meet the confreres in the McRogoro and Moshi Districts.

Father L.Ledit will represent the General Administration at the second session of the Portuguese Chapter from July 11th to 26th. At the beginning of August he will be at Le Bouveret for the Swiss Chapter(August 3rd to 15th).

The Spiritan Ordo for 1972: A decision of the Sacred Congregation for Worship allowed episcopal conferences decide on the most suitable time for introducing the new liturgical calendar which was published in 1969. This date depends on the progress made in the work of translating the Missal and the Liturgy of the Hours. Many countries introduced this new calendar in January, 1971, and others will follow suite over the next few months, so that in 1972, most of our confreres will be bound to the reformed Calendar.

Consequently the 1972 Ordo will be drawn up in accordance with the new calendar. And since the rubrics are much simplified, it is unnecessary to repeat what is already contained in official liturgical books. Our Ordo therefore can be reduced size and in format. Supplementary pages will indicate days when the two calendars diverge; these special notes are provided for confreres still bound to follow the old calendar. (In the meantime, Bursars are asked to send their orders to the following address, and not to the Generalate:

Procure des Missions, 30, rue Lhomond,
75 - Paris 5^o, France.)

ERRATA IN 1971

ORDO

Page 64: change the rubric - "In missionum locis" to the following: "In missionum locis de Festo S.Teresiae à Jesu Infante, nihil fit hoc anno.

Page 76: the second last line of the rubrics preceding the First Sunday of Advent: "Seriei A" instead of "Seriei C".

Page 78: in mission lands, the feast of St. Francis Xavier should be celebrated as a feast and not as a solemnity. Hence omit First Vespers and the Creed in the Mass. For Little Hours, the ferial psalms are said.

=====

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE FOR SPIRITANS

It was the wish of the General Chapter that the Congregation should have a Service for Development to which the confreres could refer in their work of human promotion.

Since the end of the Nigerian War, early in 1970, Father A. Byrne has been investigating the possibilities of such a service for the Superior General. Father Byrne has a Diploma in Community Development; he was the founder and administrator of a dynamic social centre in Onitsha, Nigeria, and during the tragic war was responsible for the airlift into former Biafra from the island of Sao Tome.

In April 17th, Father Byrne made a report to the General Council on his activities and on his view of how a service for development could be provided.

To date Father Byrne has represented himself as a Social Development Consultant, and goes to a mission only on the invitation of a bishop. So far 12 bishops have invited him (Sierra Leone,

Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Angola).

At village level his policy is to meet, not only the Catholic mission personnel, but also officials of local government, village leaders, and leaders of non-Catholic groups, and to build up the image of the Church and the local priest as a collaborator with community effort: the Church and the priest no longer work for the community but with the community, and the projects are not Mission projects, but Community projects.

At Government (local and central) level his approach is as follows: the Catholic Mission and the Organizations supporting it want to work within the Government Plan for Development. Would project X or project Z fit into Government plans? If so would the Government be willing to pay recurrent expenses, should the Catholic mission establish that project? Would Government be willing to pay all or part of the 25% erection costs which the funding organizations expect to be contributed locally?

At parish or mission level, Father Byrne advises project-holders or prospective project-holders on how to start, how to present, and how to develop a project. He helps them to write up the project. When he has covered an entire diocese he writes a report or survey on the total situation, submits it to all the personnel of the Diocese for amendments, and once it has been agreed to by all, sends a copy to all concerned, including the generalate and provincialate concerned, to Agrimissio, to SEDOS and the funding organizations.

Before leaving the diocese, Father Byrne urges the Bishop to set up a diocesan coordinating committee for development, and to select a suitable candidate for special professional training, who will later replace the interim coordinator. He secures a scholarship for the training of this future coordinator.

From the foregoing it is clear that the Service for Development envisaged does not require at generalate level any structure other than a secretary to coordinate the efforts of such consultants as Father Byrne. The funding organizations are not impressed by officials presenting projects from a desk thousands of miles away from the field; they are interested in the man who is in direct contact not only with the project but also with the project-holder. Hence it would be a mistake to have the hub of the service at Rome in the Generalate.

Furthermore it is clear that mission development projects are the business of the bishops. Hence all projects and all such efforts for development should be coordinated at a diocesan level or at that of the episcopal conference, and the work of the Holy Ghost missionaries integrated into that overall local ecclesiastical plan. The best service we can render the local Church is to build up local structures that will function of their own accord as soon as possible. (And it is understood that mission plans for development should dovetail with government plans where these exist.)

Generalate Secretary for Development: The Secretary for Development at the Generalate is envisaged as a liaison between the mission and the Consultants, i.e. to put "clients" in touch with the Consultants. For this the Secretary will know the schedules of the latter. The Secretary will also keep the Consultants in touch with developments in human promotion in the world which might escape their notice while in the field. He should keep records of reports filed and lists of projects held by members of the Congregation for information through the congregation information media.

Father K. Houdijk is the present Secretary for Development at the Generalate. Father A. Byrne has been released by the Province of Ireland and is attached to the General Administration. A similar arrangement for francophone missions in Africa is being studied.

The General House: Cooperation in the field of Missionary
Information and Documentation

An "ad hoc" meeting of members of SEDOS was held at the Generalate, Clivo di Cinna, on June 16th, 1971. About thirty members of missionary-sending-institutes met to discuss the resolution passed at the Provincials' Meeting (C.S.SP.) last April:

"That this Assembly wishes the general council to collaborate with other generalates towards organizing a common service of general mission news and documentation."

Father G. Tannam, C.S.Sp. was in the Chair, and Father J.C. Darricaud, C.S.Sp., a Spiritan lecturer in Journalism at Strasbourg University was present on the invitation of the General Council. A paper "The Mission Today", by Father Tonna, Executive Secretary of SEDOS, had been circulated before the meeting; this paper dealt with the wider issues of cooperation and sharing in the field of information - "of what is really at stake" according to the words of the author.

The Chairman explained the background of the resolution given above. When the Provincials met and passed this resolution they were thinking within the context of their own congregation, dealing with general practitioners and mainly priests. They had found that often not all publications and information were available to the general practitioner on the missionfield due to financial and other reasons and they felt he needed to be orientated in his choice of information, etc.

Father Tannam put the following question to the meeting: "Is there a strong conviction among missionary institutions that there is a need for cooperative efforts in the field of missionary documentation?" The Holy Ghost Fathers had called on the advice of Father Darricaud of Strasbourg to give a rough estimate of how much a really effective institute Information and Documentation Service would cost in money and personnel. The price was much higher than the Holy Ghost Fathers could afford, and they thought the time was now ripe in Rome for a common service of general news and documentation for missionaries. Today, above all, it was costly to continue investing money and personnel in an institute service which could be done better by a cooperative effort, thus saving men and money for higher priorities. The objective of this common service would be to:

- improve input so that available material could be better processed here in Rome;
- improve output so that all (SEDOS) Institutes could be kept informed of developments.

To get such a scheme off the ground as it were, the Chairman suggested some concrete pilot schemes which could be launched inside the existing structures of SEDOS:

- an experienced team could be set up to deal with French and English speaking West Africa;
- another team could deal with Brazil, leading eventually to a Spanish speaking Latin American team;
- there could be other teams to cover French-speaking Equatorial Africa, East and Central English-speaking Africa, and eventually similar regional groupings in Asia.

The scope of the meeting was primarily one of "the probe type", and the above resolution helped to spark off a lengthy debate on various aspects of internal documentation and information services among the missionary institutes. It was decided that permanent

working-groups be set up to cover specific areas or countries, and consist of a permanent panel, meeting to report four times a year and pass on their information through the SEDOS weekly bulletin. To begin with, a special group for Brazil was suggested, to be followed by others for English and French speaking Africa as was suggested in the course of the meeting. (Permanent working-groups for Education, Development, Health, Social Communications, etc. have been a feature of SEDOS for some time past. Informal groups have met to discuss certain regions of the missionfield, and so the addition of special teams for information is a logical development of SEDOS structures. Editor)

=====

NEWS OF THE PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS

France: Twelve-Month Refresher Courses for Missionaries

Three of our French confreres were asked for their impressions after completing a full year of "updating" in Paris. Since this process of "re-treading" veteran missionaries is generally recognized as very high on the list of mission priorities, we let the confreres speak for themselves:

"Our unanimous conclusion is that the experience was really marvellous; we formed a close-knit team of three, and we were not in the least disappointed with the course.

Updating is a necessity; it concerns real situations which affect each and every aspect of human existence... rapid change, far-reaching developments, literally a new phase in the history of the human race. It would be really stupid of us, Spiritans, to neglect the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with these very changes. A new world produces a new psychology; man's relationship to nature and to his fellow man have been radically changed. To refuse to make allowance for such developments is the equivalent of being resigned to talking to oneself or singing out of tune for the rest of one's active ministry!

Updating is a duty; failure to see the need for it is in itself a proof of how badly one's in need of updating. We feel that the confreres who were most sceptical about the value of our "studies" are the ones most in need of them. Lack of awareness in this field is difficult to cure!

We do not think that the emphasis should be laid on new knowledge to be acquired, but rather on a new way of looking on life, a new mentality, a new vision of things, people and our own missionary vocation. At the same time we doubt that the same effect could have been achieved by means of a brief course of one or two months. For the younger confreres, this short updating might become the normal course of events, during their return to Europe... "

Kabba, Nigeria: First Session of District Chapter

The first session of the District Chapter opened on April 27th, 1971. Father Soucy, Canadian Provincial, was present at all the meetings, a fact which was appreciated by all the members of the District. Twenty four confreres were present for the early sessions, but some had to leave before the end. Unfortunately a certain shadow fell on the proceedings when news came of Father Audet's accident. This was his second accident in a short space of time, and he has been flown back to Canada where convalescence will take six months. His absence will be a big blow to the Catechetical Centre, of which he is one of the two permanent staff

members.

The documents of the Chapter had been seriously studied in advance, and the work went ahead very satisfactorily during the 7 days allotted to the first session. All were delighted with the spirit of fraternity and cooperation which characterized the meetings. Our first impression of the preparatory schemas (which still have to go before the General Council) was that they were brief, to the point, and deeply missionary. Questions such as evangelization and development are clearly treated, and key problems such as adaptation, disengagement and missionary prayer were outlined in such a way as to stimulate discussion and eventual enrichment of the final documents.

It was decided to continue the Chapter in the form of an assembly grouping delegates from each of the five regional communities. These will meet every two or three months during weekends, and will deal with the less important schemas.

East Nigeria: Bishop Shanahan Centenary in East Central State

Bishop Shanahan's centenary has been fittingly celebrated in his native land by such publications as The Furrow and our own Mission Outlook. However, it is most fitting that we devote space to recording the celebrations which took place in the land of his adoption - the Ibo homeland which today looks upon him as their "own St. Patrick". We are indebted to Father Stöcker, Assistant General, for the following details concerning the celebrations.

On June 6th, 1971, Archbishop Arinze presided at the concelebrated Mass of the Blessed Trinity. Father Stöcker was among the concelebrants. During the afternoon a symposium in honour of Bishop J. Shanahan took place in the Cathedral, with the Hon. Mr. Justice C.A. Oputa in the chair. Papers were read on various aspects of the life and apostolate of the great missionary by the following: Mgr W. Obelagu, Chief R.R. Olisa, Mother Bernadette Anyogu, Mr. W. Onuchukwu.

Similar functions were held at Enugu and Owerri between June 5th and 7th. A centenary booklet was edited at Enugu by Father J. Okoye, C.S.Sp., which in itself is a testimony to the remarkable recovery of the Church in the area since the recent conflict.

Southern Brazil: Scholasticate Residence Inaugurated

The new scholasticate-residence has been opened at Vila Mangalot, Sao Paulo, Brazil. At present there are 12 senior scholastics living in a building attached to the parish complex of Vila Mangalot. The director is Father Gregor Lutz, and the students come from our Districts of Southern, South-West Brazil, and Alto Jurua.

The parish of Sao Joao of Vila Mangalot, a suburb of Sao Paulo, has about 25,000 Catholics. There is a considerable complex of parish schools, elementary and secondary, not to mention one professional or trade school. Thus the scholastics will have ample opportunity to practise pastoral methods, catechetics and prepare the godparents of those to be admitted to baptism.

Mali: Tambacounda and the Language Centre at Faladye

Father Francy Kihm, a young confrere from Tambacounda began his training course last November at Faladye in Mali. Faladye lies about 50 miles north-west of Bamako in the heart of Bamako country. It is an important Christian centre with a school for catechists as well as the Language Centre, directed by Father C. Bayeul, W.F. For Father Kihm this was an interesting introduction to his future flock; the course being attended by 12 priests and 3 Sisters from Bamako, Segou, Bobo-Dioulasso, Sikasso, Kayes and from Tambacounda.

The course at Faladye is conducted in two stages: the first period (of two months) is devoted to the theoretical study of Bambara at the Centre itself. Then three months are given to practising the language in the villages, introduction to African life and culture, Islam in Africa and catechetical methods. Father Kihm followed the first section of the course, as is customary in the neighbouring diocese of Kayes adjoining Tambacounda. He was more than satisfied with the initiation provided at Faladye, and the opportunity of meeting missionaries working in similar cultural areas was particularly rewarding.

Sierra Leone: Ordination of a Sierra Leonean Spiritan

Sierra Leone is the oldest mission of the Irish Province; it dates from 1864. In 1939 a Sierra Leonean, Father Edward Hammelberg, C.S.Sp. was ordained in France after completing his novitiate and scholasticate there. He then served in Angola for a long tour, and is back in Sierra Leone today.

The next two ordinations were of diocesan clergy, Fr. J. Ganda and Fr. A. Labor in 1961 and 1968. Both studied in the Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu, Nigeria. Father Ganda was ordained bishop in February this year.

The fourth Sierra Leone priest and second Holy Ghost Father is Father Michael Fillie who was ordained priest by Bishop Ganda on Sunday, June 20th, 1971 in the big church at Bo. Michael Fillie completed his secondary studies in Sierra Leone, and then went to Awo-Omama in Nigeria for his novitiate. His seminary years were interrupted by the civil war, and he and Father Alfred Labor finally returned to their native land in 1968. Father Fillie was sent to Ireland to complete his studies and was ordained subdeacon and deacon there. He will return to Ireland to complete his studies.

Ordinations are rare events in Sierra Leone, and so Fr. Fillie's was a big day for the mission, for the Congregation and for the country. All the superlative adjectives applied to it on the sunny Sunday morning in the packed church at Bo. Some 23 Fathers celebrated at the Mass, and the ceremony was covered by the national newspaper and radio. Next day's "First Mass" was at Father's former secondary school, Christ the King College in Bo, and the next day in his home town of Telu.

This ordination gives one more priest to the Church and to the Congregation but the missionaries hope especially that its side-effect will be on the boys who witnessed and attended it and heard about it, since the work of vocations "is of vital importance for the work of the missions" (CDD 374). The next day is, alas, many years off yet; it is God alone who gives the increase.

Angola: 25th Anniversary of arrival of Dutch Confreres

The first Dutch Spiritans arrived in Angola in 1933, but at the end of the Second World War another contingent of 30 arrived. Thus their date of arrival, May 30th, 1946 marks an important stage in the evangelization of Angola. Celebrations to commemorate this event have been taking place in Angola this year. They are a symbolic of the fruitful collaboration between Dutch and Portuguese Spiritans in this vast missionfield.

Cameroon: Cardinal Léger helps combat colera threat

Cardinal Léger's name has been given to the special centre for handicapped people at Yaoundé in the Cameroons. The centre is due to open next August. Canadian sources recently sent 50 tons of medical supplies which will be used to combat colera in nearby Tchad.

NEWS OF THE MISSIONARY WORLD

Rome: TWO NEW DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST TO SPIRITANS

1) Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelica Testificatio":

This document on Religious Life has been expected for the past twelve months. Due to requests for modification of the text the present exhortation was delayed until the beginning of July.

Without attempting a summary of its contents, our purpose here is simply to underline its serene and positive tone, and recommend it to the attention of the confreres. Suffice to say that there is ample scope permitted for a renewal of the religious life, and at the same time our attention is drawn to exaggerations and other trends destructive of the true character of religious life.

2) Exposition of Topics for discussion at the Synod-1971:

The second text prepared for the Synod is entitled "Justice in the World". Since it is the second and last, we feel confreres would like to know something of its contents. It is intended as a guideline for discussion during the Synod. Though the Church as traditionally conceived since the 16th century tends to be pre-occupied with the priesthood crisis, this document reminds us that justice in the world is the central problem of the human family today.

Three sections deal with (a) the real situation of Justice in the world today; (b) Justice in the light of the Gospel; (c) Relevant Church teachings. Two concluding sections deal with practical guidelines and a "Word of Hope".

A careful perusal of the text shows that this document is both forceful and direct. It should be sufficient to quote the very first paragraph of the section entitled "A Guide to Action":

"The Synod must deal with the deplorable fact that in certain cases the Christian message (i.e. Christian social message) is neither known nor put into practice by the community of the faithful." What better debating point could be proposed to the Synod of bishops during their meeting next September?

=====

Rome: Union of Superiors General to collaborate with Propaganda

Mgr S. Pignedoli, Secretary of Propaganda Fide, in June, 1971 invited the Sixth Commission of the Union of Superiors General to help in the preparation of an enquiry into key missionary problems today. By this is meant, problems central to apostolic action in mission territories. When the enquiry has been carried out a list of priorities will be drawn up which should influence the course of mission strategy over the next few decades.

Here are some of the trends or problems to be investigated over the next twelve months: Population growth and related problems of available missionary personnel; Decolonization and related trends and attitudes; Urbanization and the Apostolate; Social Justice and Development; Mass Communications and Mission, etc.

=====

NECROLOGY

Father Donatus Kuster of the District of Bagamoyo, died on June 12th, 1971, aged 62 years. He had been professed for 35 years.

Father Ernest Sottiau of the Belgian Province, died on June 15th, 1971, aged 66 years, after 46 years of profession.

Father Paul Guillaume of the French Province died at Chevilly on July 8th, 1971, aged 63 years. He had been professed for 39 years.