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Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

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# SPIRITAN NEWS

August - October 1994

N° 103

CONGREGAZIONE DELLO SPIRITO SANTO - CLIVO DI CINNA, 195 - 00136 ROMA

## Meeting of Newly Appointed Major Superiors

The Major Superiors who were appointed in the past year met at the Generalate from Sept. 18 - 24, 1994. Fourteen Superiors attended. The aims of the meeting were

- to acquaint New Superiors with the working of the Generalate and the administrative tasks of a Major Superior and to give the General Council the opportunity to meet the New Superiors and be better informed about the circumscriptions;
- to enable the New Superiors to know each other and so to avoid a feeling of isolation;
- to plan how the General Council and the Superiors can work together "to see how the spirit of the 1992 Chapter may be widely communicated and permeate the workings of all our Circumscriptions." The road the Congregation will take in future depends as much on the Circumscriptions as on the Generalate.

The meeting began with detailed reports from the circumscriptions. The preoccupation of the older circumscriptions was the reverse of the younger. The older circumscriptions were concerned with dwindling numbers while the younger circumscriptions were rejoicing in growing numbers but concerned with the shortage of finance. The conflict of the demands of the mission and the necessity of establishing a sound home base echoed



*Br J. Blanco, Frs A. Amadi, R. Rivard, N. Perrot, S. Mullin, JP. Delsarte, W. Damen, P. Schouwer, M. Onwuemelie, H. van Loon, P. Iwashita, D. Murray, P. Doran, F. Herraiz, A. Tijssen.*

the conflict of the older circumscriptions of the Europe of the thirties when demands were made to close works in Europe to release personnel for the missions.

The breakdown of communications - telephones, post etc. is being felt more and more e.g. Sierra Leone, Angola. Letters to Zaire take a reasonable time while larger envelopes and parcels may take months. The June issue of Spiritan News had not arrived by October. The mission in Zaire has set up an alternative route for post through Blanden, Belgium.

**Many confreres are working in dangerous areas.** The objective of this was queried. One may ask "why do this?" "In areas of civil strife our presence is a holding exercise. It is a symbol of hope for the local population" (S. Mullin, Sierra Leone).

**Recruitment:** The Superior General expressed the view that we should not give the impression that we are in competition with the local Church. "We are there to establish the local church and not the Congregation". The missionary spirit is the flowering of the local church and is not in competition with it.

**Reverse mission:** To show the universality of the Church, members from the younger circumscriptions are welcome to work in the older Provinces. However, Fr. Bongo added a *caveat*. African Spiritans working in Europe and North America are Spiritans living their Spiritan vocation. It can be disheartening if the impression is given that African Spiritans are in Europe or the USA to enjoy a better life-style.

## Finance

Fr. Dias gave a breakdown of the financial situation of the General Administration. While the Generalate is not in debt, it has now reached a critical point. "The red light is flickering". There are no hidden funds. The sale of property in recent years has kept the Generalate finances running smoothly. There is very little left to sell.

**Retirement fund:** Plans are being made to establish a retirement fund for members of the younger circumscriptions. Details will be given when the project is finalised.

**Auto-financing:** Strenuous efforts are being made by the younger circumscriptions to become self-supporting. To date, great strides have been made. Fr. Schouver advised against universalising cases where mistakes have been made or abuses taken place. In the overall scale, mistakes and abuses have been minimal.

**Cor Unum Fund:** This fund was set up as a sign of solidarity. Details will be given in a later issue.

## JUSTICE AND PEACE

**Involvement in Justice and Peace** almost of necessity involves conflict with structures. The choice often is either Justice or Peace. The question was asked "what is the attitude of the Congregation and what support will be given to members who find themselves in conflict with government or even the bishop?". Fr. Kelly replied that as cases arise, they are dealt with locally at first and are referred to the Generalate only if necessary.

**Confreres in areas of conflict** can feel isolated. A letter or a telephone call not only from the Generalate but from other members can be both supportive and comforting. Fr. Mullin, Sierra Leone, mentioned the encouraging support they got on the death of Fr. McAllister and how greatly it was appreciated.

**Many members are involved in Justice and Peace** e.g. work with refugees in Amsterdam, clinic in Arusha, homeless in London, rehabilitation of boy soldiers in Freetown, refugees in Rwanda and drug addicts in Spain, etc.

**Has the Congregation any plans for dealing with**

emergency situations? Some felt that the structures of the Congregation were heavy and unwieldy. No concrete examples were given to support this view.

**Treatment of lay staff:** We must treat our lay staff as co-workers and not as servants. While every effort must be made to give them a just wage, we must consider local factors and what the local Church and country can support. Creating too large a differential between the wages of our lay staff and the national salary scale can be against justice and often against peace. We should not try to create a universal utopia. Aim to think globally but act concretely and locally.

**Mass for the Intentions of Fr. General:** Each ordained member offers Mass on his appointed day each month. However, stipends are not received by the Generalate for these intentions.

## Over-all assessment

The experience for participants was worthwhile. The feeling came across that the Congregation is doing a worthwhile job and each member can feel proud to be part of it. The question was as always: How can this inspiration be transferred to those who were not here?

The effort made by missionaries, men and women, who worked for generations on end on the African continent, deserves our praise and gratitude. They worked very hard, endured much discomfort, hunger, thirst, illness, the certainty of a very short life-span and death itself, in order to give us what was most dear to them: Jesus Christ. They paid a very high price to make us the children of God. Their faith and commitment, the dynamism and ardour of their zeal have made it possible for us to exist today as Church-Family. (African Synod No.10)

## News from the Provinces

### France

The sixth chapter of the Province of France took place from July 1 - 22, 1994. There were 45 voting members of whom 15 were from the Districts. There was a number of invitees also. An imposing document of 250 pages gave a view of the present situation of the Province. Two days recollection were directed by Fr. Jolibois, who also represented the General Council. The method adopted was inspired by that of Itaiçi. The Chapter emphasized the *Spiritans life* on certain precise points e.g. the *call to personal and community holiness*. It did not aim to produce another beautiful document. It re-affirmed *solidarity with the Districts and the European Region*. The *call to Mission* was made precise in what concerns our missionary presence in France - *Vocations, "Les Fraternités" "Esprit et Mission" and Spiritan Associates, Auteuil, Education, Initial and On-going Formation, Houses of Welcome, Parish Ministry, First Appointments and Better Communication*. The next Assembly in three years will not be an Enlarged Council but a Chapter. A message was addressed to each confrere giving the principal orientations of the Chapter.

### Portugal

The Sixth Provincial Chapter took place from the July 25 - 30, 1994 at Carcavelos. The theme *Spiritans Life, Source of Joy and Renewal* had been prepared during the previous year. The

retreat was preached by Fr. B. Bongo who also represented the General Council. There were 28 capitulants plus 5 invitees among whom was the Provincial of the Spiritan Sisters in Portugal. The Provincial's Report giving an overall view of the life of the Province was followed by 12 "significant experiences". Six were by Spiritans working 'ad extra' *Hostel Project - Durban*; *Angola: Huambo, mission in war context*; *Kuito-Bié, mission of presence in war situation*; *Malanje, help to the war refugees*; *Cabo Verde, Spiritan and vocational animation in the local Church*; *Brazil, ministry at the periphery of the city and youth and vocations in Tefé*; *Paraguay, experience with ecclesial basic communities*. The other six experiences were presented by Spiritans who work in Portugal: *Justice and Peace Committee*; *Vocational Animation*; *Missionary Animation*; *Formation*; *Youth without Frontiers*; *A Spiritan Parish*. At the end of the Chapter a message, underlining four points, *Our Mission: Our Life: Future Objectives: Concrete Achievements*, was sent to each member of the Province.

The Chapter stressed that our spirituality must be apostolic and also underlined the importance of strengthening our Spiritan life through communion, unity and co-responsibility. Our Spiritan commitment demands an increased input in vocation animation and the formation of a lay missionary movement.

## Ireland

The Sixth Provincial Chapter was held in Rockwell from June 26 to July 9, 1994. The 44 voting members included 19 from over-

seas circumscriptions, 19 from the Home Province plus the six members of the Provincial Council. The Generalate was represented by Fr B. Kelly while the initial day's retreat was directed by Fr D. Byrne O.P, former Master General. Fr Byrne's reflections on the *effectiveness of Chapters in the life of a Province, cherishing of personnel and ongoing formation* had a lasting influence on the deliberations of the Chapter. The proposed agenda was formulated from responses to the report of the outgoing Provincial Administration which had been circulated several months beforehand. In the discussions which followed, *care of personnel*, with particular emphasis on confreres in transition (first appointments, redeployment, the sick, the ageing etc) emerged as a matter of primary importance and underlay many of the Chapter's subsequent decisions.

A *Director of ongoing formation* will be appointed for the Province. The necessity of developing an ethos in our communities of personal study, reading etc., is seen as an integral part of life. Renewed emphasis was placed on the promotion of *Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation*. The Chapter also stressed *partnership with the laity* in the works of the Province and directed that further studies should be done on the implementation of the programme of *Associate Membership*. The overseas priority commitments approved were *WAF, Angola, Pakistan, East Pokot, Brazil and Ethiopia*. Ways of strengthening the relationship with *IOF* are to be investigated. Collaboration with other Provinces for *further ventures in Europe* in addition to *Rostock Mission, Germany*, was approved.

## News Items

### General Council Decisions

#### General Council

- June 10, changed the first appointment of Sylvestre EVES (FAC) from Algeria to Senegal.
- June 20, 1994 appointed Fr Bernard TENAILLEAU, Superior of the Spiritan Community in the French Seminary, Rome, for three years from Sept. 1, 1994.
- June 23, 1994 confirmed the election of Fr Christopher PROMIS as Provincial Superior of USA/East for three years from Aug. 18, 1994.
- July 7, 1994 confirmed the election of Fr Martin KEANE as Provincial Superior of Ireland for three years from Sept. 1, 1994.
- July 14, 1994. confirmed the election of Fr Jean-Paul HOCH as Provincial of France for a second three year term from July 14, 1994.
- July 19, 1994 has confirmed the election of Fr Marc Soyier as first Vice-Provincial of France for a second three year term and Fr Christian BERTON as second Vice-Provincial of France for three years, both from July 18, 1994.
- July 21, 1994, confirmed the election of Fr James DIVINE as Principal Superior of the District of South Africa for three years from Sept. 15, 1994.
- July 25, 1994 confirmed the election of Fr Eduardo F. MIRANDA as Provincial Superior of Portugal for three years with effect from July 26, 1994.
- August 16, 1994 has appointed Fr Gabriel VUITTENEZ as Superior of the District of Madagascar for a second term of three years from Sept. 9, 1994.
- Oct. 4, confirmed the election of Fr Konrad BREIDENBACH as Provincial of Germany for three years from Oct. 4, 1994.
- Sept 2, 1994 approved the change of Province of origin of Mr. Mariusz MAZEK from Poland to U.S.A. East.

### General Council Diary

- Fr Schouwer: Nov.15 - 25, 150 yrs. Cel., Gabon: Nov. 25 - Dec. 5, Congo: Dec. 26 - Jan. 10, Centenary and Chapter, RCA: Jan. 15 - 25, Meeting of Sup. of Cent. America, Puerto-Rico: Jan. 25 - Feb. 1, Meeting of North American Superiors, Texas: Feb. 1 - 10, Mexico: Feb. 10 - 17, Chapter, Haiti.
- Fr Odigbo: Nov. 11 - 19. SCAF Meeting: Nov. 23 - Dec. 3, Visitation, Malawi: Dec. 9 - 25, Visitation, Makurdi: Jan.4 - 12, Chapter, Makurdi: Feb. 3 - 25, Chapter and Visitation, WAF.
- Fr Wijnen: Nov. 20 - 27, Meeting of European Prov., Poland: Dec. 3 - Jan. 9, Centenary, Visitation and Chapter, Bangui: Jan. 9 - 19, Cameroon.
- Fr. Castriani: Nov. 5 - 18, Chapter, Puerto-Rico: Dec.7 - Jan. 12, Visitation, Makurdi: Jan. 12 - Feb. 1, Nigeria: Feb. 1 - 24, Chapter and Visitation, WAF.
- Fr Bongo: Nov. 15 - 30, Visitation, Guadeloupe: Dec. 1 - 31, Visitation, Guyane: Jan. 11 - Feb. 6, Chapter, Angola.
- Fr Jolibois: Nov. 28 - Dec. 3, Archives, Chevilly: Dec. 3 - Jan 9, Chapter, Centenary and meeting of Superiors, Bangui: Jan. 9 - Feb. 19, Visitation, Cameroon.
- Fr Moreira: Nov. 12 - 20, Fribourg and France: Jan.10 - 23, Fribourg.
- Fr. Kelly: Nov.13 - Dec. 12, Pakistan: Jan. 24 - Feb.31, Meeting of North American Superiors, Texas: Feb. 2 - 28, Visitation, Australia and Papua New Guinea.

#### "Planet Mission"

From Nov. 11 - 13, five thousand delegates from Christian communities will meet in Lourdes with Christians from the other continents. The objectives are to honour God, source and fount of all mission, to renew their missionary commitment, to encourage and make more dynamic the interest of Christians in France and elsewhere in "Mission".

Interested groups have been asked to respond to a questionnaire, individually or collectively. Further information can be got from "Pentecôte sur le Monde," 30, rue Lhomond, 75005 Paris.

### One hundred and fifty years of the Church in Gabon

On the Sept. 29, 1844, Fr. Jean-Remi Bessieux celebrated the first Mass in Libreville, Gabon on the spot where the present Cathedral stands. Gabon was destined to be the launching pad for most of the other missions in Central Africa. The day chosen for the Celebration is Sunday Nov. 20, 1994. The Superior General, Fr Schouver, will be present.

**St. Martin's Church, Freetown,** celebrates its thirtieth anniversary with the ordination to the priesthood of two Spiritans, Michael Conteh and Peter Folleh on the Nov. 4, 1994.

**The Province of Trans-Canada,** celebrates from Oct. 16 - 22, the 40th anniversary of the arrival of the first confreres in Woodstock.

**African Church as Peace-Maker Colloquium,** attended by a number of African Bishops took place at Duquesne University from Oct. 2 - 6. It provided an opportunity to Bishops from countries that have experienced conflict to share and to learn from their mutual experiences.

## New Spiritan Mission in Asia

The efforts of the General Council to respond to the call for a new missionary initiative in Asia (Itaici 1992 No.7) are making some progress. We have received several substantial submissions, as well as letters demanding action and offering assistance, even confreres volunteering to be part of an eventual project.

In answer to a request for their opinion, the Spiritans in Pakistan have sent us a statement of advice and support.

At present we are arranging for a Spiritan to commit himself for a year, full-time, to consultation and research with a view of developing a realistic proposal.

We welcome your opinions and suggestions: anything that you feel would help us fulfil this responsibility entrusted to us by the last General Chapter. A more detailed account of the progress will be given in the next edition of Spiritan News. (Fr Bernard Kelly CSSp.)

### Address/Tel/Fax. changes

**Generalate:** Two out of the three telephone numbers change on Nov. 8, and become 353.48.247/353.47.721 and on the Nov. 10, the third number changes to 354.50.678 and the Fax becomes 354.50.676.

**Fr G. de Kinderen, IMBISA Refugee Service,** 88 Broadlands Road, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe. Tel: 263 - 4 336775. Fax: 263 - 4 724971.

**East Africa Province: Fr A. Shao**  
Tel: 255 57 24 36. Fax: 255 57 82 36.

## Our Jubilarians

### 70 Years of Profession

08 Dec. :Br Germanus Bucken (Germany)

### 65 Years of Profession

10 Dec. :Br Antonin GOELLER (France)  
12 Dec. :Br Veronus MOLLEMANS (Holland)  
31 Dec. :Br Richard SPIESSER (France)

### 60 Years of Profession

8 Dec. :Br Camille STACOFFE (France)

### 50 Years of Profession

8 Dec. :Br Brendan KEOGH (Ireland)

### 65 Years of Priesthood

31 Aug. :Fr John A. STRMISKA (USA West)

### 60 years of Priesthood

08 July. :Fr Gabriel BERTHAUD (France)

### Errata Spiritan News No. 98

#### 50 Years of Profession

should read  
24 March : Fr Michel PICHARD (France)

#### 50 Years of Priesthood

should read  
25 March :Fr Michel BINDAULT (French Guiana)

## Our Dead

20 June :Fr Auguste CRESPEL (France),84.  
23 June :Fr Theodorus TURKENBURG (Brazil),68.  
04 July :Fr Petrus Reinerus SCHULPEN (Holland),77.  
04 July :Fr Gerard AVERY (England),61.  
04 July :Fr Paul ONDIA (Senegal),70.  
04 July :Fr Roger CADORET (France), 68.  
07 July :Fr Martinus Van der VEN (Holland),75.  
08 July :Br Elie JANVIER(Chantepie, Ille-et-Vilaine),66,  
11 July :Fr James Patrick O'REILLY (USA/West),79.  
13 July :Fr Pierre ALLAIN (Martinique),83.  
16 July :Br Nova BRULOTTE (Canada),88.  
23 July :Br Adrianus Maria Van DOOREN (Holland),67.  
25 July :Fr Elloi MAYOR (Switzerland),84.  
08 Aug. :Fr Andre USINIER (France),82.  
15 Aug. :Br Luis Augusto de OLIVEIRA (Portugal),77.  
16 Aug. :Br Abel JEANOT (Janze, Ille-et-Vilaine),79.  
21 Aug. :Fr Stanislaus GRONDZIEWSKI (USA/East),81.  
21 Aug. :Fr Hubert MELOTTE (Belgium),74.  
24 Aug. :Fr Siegfried ECKERT (USA/East),85.  
09 Sept. :Fr Petrus de BOER:Junior (Brazil),75.  
11 Sept. :Fr Paul BREUVART (France),88.  
14 Sept. :Br Maximus SCHLAGHECKE (Holland),83.  
24 Sept. :Fr Charles Emile GALIEGUE (France),81.  
27 Sept. :Fr Edward OLIVER (England),70.  
29 Sept. :Fr Alphonse J. A. SOUCY (Canada),76.