

**Message of the Provincial Jan-Feb 2006**  
**Jeffrey Duaine, CSSp – US East**

**Spiritans and a History of Mergers**

As I reflect on the challenge of merging the two US provinces, I can not help but be encouraged by our past and the historic merger of our Congregation when Libermann's new and energetic mission-oriented community, the Congregation of the Holy Heart of Mary, merged with the more established but diminishing religious community, the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. This union was in the planning stages for years, and there were many detours along the way. The Propagation of the Faith thought it needed to happen right away, but there were many technical and minute details that needed to be worked out. According to the historians, it seemed like a marriage that was meant to be, but things are never that simple and there were many obstacles to be overcome. Libermann himself saw the union as inevitable and recognized that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. There were many others, though, in the hierarchy and within the membership of both communities who were against the idea.

It took time to work through many of the issues, and it was only with the guidance of the Holy Spirit that things came to fruition. Indeed, it was on the "Feast of Pentecost, June 10, 1848 that both parties gathered together in formal session at Holy Ghost Seminary and unanimously accepted the union in principle, leaving the settlement of details to a later date" (*The Spiritans*, H. Koren, 1958, p.99). As the two US provinces prepare ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for an inevitable union, I think it is most appropriate that we learn from our history. We need to be open to the promptings of the Spirit and use this opportunity to reflect on where we have come from, and more importantly, open ourselves to the possibilities of the future. We need to let go of our fears and trust in God's providence to show us the way forward.

Members of both provinces will gather together this June in a General Assembly that will take place at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. It will be a time to celebrate where we have been and to get to know one another again. It will also be an opportunity to share with each other our hopes and dreams along with our fears and concerns for the future. The Joint Commission will plan a process to facilitate our discussion and help us identify the key areas that we need to give attention to. The critical part will be our active participation in this process and the openness that we bring to it and to one another. I am excited and energized by the endless possibilities that are before us. It is a graced moment in our history as we are challenged to think outside the box and to put new wine into new wineskins. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, it is not "our" plan or "our" way of doing things that is important, but God's way that we are looking to discern as we commit ourselves to our Spiritan mission in a new time and in a new way. As we celebrate our pioneers in mission this month of February with the feasts of Francis Libermann and Daniel Brottier, may we walk proudly in their footsteps, and step out in faith embracing a future vision for our mission filled with hope.

## In Remembrance of our Fathers

# Born into Eternity

### LEGALLY BLIND BUT WITH A CHARMING GRIN

- Fr. J. Kelly

The notice on the door to Fr. Louis Dolan's room at the McMurray Hills Nursing Home informed those entering the room that the patient was "legally blind" but said nothing about his charming grin that would soon light up the room once the conversation started.

Being legally blind, however, was a weighty cross for one to bear who had been involved with books most of his life, and even wrote eight of them himself including the *Schools and the Law* which became a standard reference guide for students and practitioners of school law in the local tri-state area. These and other books were his treasures, but now for him they were a treasure buried only in his memory.

Born in Philadelphia on Dec. 22, 1923, Fr. "Louie" Dolan attended local Catholic schools before entering the Seminary at Cornwells in 1942, taking his Religious Vows at Ridgefield in 1944, doing Philosophy and Theology in Ferndale for six years and being ordained on Feb. 17, 1950 by Bishop Joseph Byrne. Bp. Byrne was to become his Vicar Apostolic later that same year when Fr. Louie took up his first assignment in the Vicariate of Kilimanjaro in Tanganyika, as the then more extensive Diocese of Moshi was called.

Fr. Dolan was closely linked with the Umbwe Secondary School on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. Academically it competed with the nationally famous Pugu Secondary School in Dar es Salaam, which was also run by the Holy Ghost Fathers. Pugu's lay staff then included Mwalimu



**Fr. Louis F. Dolan, C.S.Sp.**  
Dec. 22, 1923 - Dec. 13, 2005

Julius Nyerere who would soon leave the school to develop a political party and lead the nation in 1961 to winning independence without shedding a drop of blood, which is quite exceptional in the history of nations.

Two years after independence, Fr. Dolan returned to the States, taught in our Ann Arbor Seminary and studied for his Doctorate in Education. In 1969, he was appointed

to Duquesne University where it was soon discovered that there was something unique in his art of teaching. He, himself, said "You have to be yourself" when teaching and "develop a style no one else has," adding with a grin and "maybe no one else wants."

Many, though, had a great appreciation for his style. In 1989 his colleagues on the staff, the students and the administration at Duquesne University voted Fr. Dolan the outstanding teacher of the year at the University which had hundreds of teachers on its staff.

A good number of his prodigies are now serving as principals or other top administrators in local school districts. He, himself, however, became the Pastor of St. Christopher's Parish in Tiverton, RI in 1990, a post which he held until he retired at Stella Maris in Sarasota, FL, in 1996 and then came to the Spiritan Center at Bethel Park in June of 2002. Steps of decline gradually developed and on December 13, 2005 he passed away, just nine days short of his eighty-second birthday. He is now buried with very many of his confreres in the St. Mary Cemetery at Sharpsburg on the hills north of Pittsburgh.

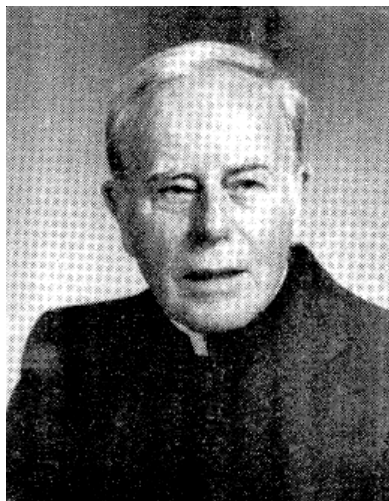
## In Remembrance of our Fathers

# Born into Eternity

### THE WIDE EXPERIENCE OF A SPIRITAN MISSIONARY

- Fr. J. Kelly

When the *SS America* sailed past the Statue of Liberty on August 28, 1951, it had a mixed group of Spiritan missionaries aboard. Some were returning to Tanzania after leave and others were going there for the first time. Among the latter group was Fr. Ed Marley. When the ship reached its first port of call, Cork, in Ireland, most of the Spiritans stayed on board, but Fr. Ed Marley and I disembarked. He had returned to visit the land of his birth.



**Fr. Edward G. Marley, C.S.Sp.**  
April 10, 1917 - December 18, 2005

Fr. Ed had been born in Londonderry in the Northwest on April 10, 1917, but when he was eight, in 1925, his family moved to Philadelphia. He attended local Catholic schools until he went to our Cornwells Junior Seminary in 1932. He took his vows at Ridgefield in 1940, studied at Ferndale for six years and was ordained in 1945. His first assignment was to Okmulgee, OK, in 1946 and then to Detroit in 1949.

After visiting Ireland in 1951, we were supposed to board *Air France* in Paris, but when Fr. Ed and I got there we discovered they never heard of us. While waiting for that to be sorted out, Fr. Ed wanted to visit the birthplace of St. Theresa at Lisieux, so we went to her home where they still had her long curls. We were more interested, though, in her life with the Carmelite Sisters and her spirituality which many see as quite similar to Libermann's. Both St. Theresa and Libermann were a breath of fresh air in an age that had a mixture of scruples from Jansenism and what

appeared to be a "do it yourself" spirituality from some others; whereas both St. Theresa and Libermann showed the way to living in the presence of God in a peaceful, meaningful manner.

Eventually the air tickets were straightened out and we got to Tanzania which was then called Tanganyika before Zanzibar was joined to it. After arriving in Moshi at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, Fr. Ed settled in to learning Swahili in the framework of the life and ministry in the Missions which were

happy to have him in their midst.

However after eight years in the tropics, Fr. Ed came back to the States. Fr. Joseph Gaglione takes up the story from there. "He returned to the United States in 1959 to work in the African-American Parishes in New York City, New Orleans and Lake Charles, LA. He served as Chaplain at the V.A. Hospital in Reno, Nevada from 1972 to 1980. For the next twenty years, he worked in New Dixie, AR, Sacred Heart Parish, Morrilton, AR and then as Pastor of Assumption Church in Arkins, AR, and St. Joseph's Church in Center Ridge, AR. In December of 2000, at the age of 83, Fr. Marley retired to the Spiritan Community of Casa Laval in Hemet, CA. There he died peacefully the morning of December 18, 2005. He was 88 years old. The Mass of Christian Burial took place December 22, 2005 in the chapel, and the burial took place in the Spiritan Cemetery. A memorial Mass was also held in Philadelphia on January 7, 2006, where his sister lives.

## In Remembrance of our Fathers

# Born into Eternity

## WENT TO BAT FOR GOOD SCHOOLS

— J. Kelly

I don't know when the custom started or when it ended, but during the years that Fr. Steve Lasko studied in Ferndale there was a custom for the seminarians to go to Kaiser Island once a year to relax and to challenge the Jesuits, who owned the property, to a baseball game. There were some neighbors close to the property and one had a two-story house near left field. In those days Steve Lasko was a tall, husky ball player. We would wait for him to come to bat and he usually didn't disappoint us. The pitcher would throw his best pitch. There would be a swishing swing at the plate and the ball would go sailing towards left field but it didn't stop. It kept going and going until it went over the roof of the neighbor's two-story house.

It's not clear where Steve learned that swing. It must have been at some place near Norton, CT, where he was born on May 8, 1921 and attended local Primary and Secondary schools before entering Cornwells in 1938 and later Ridgefield where he took his first vows on August 15, 1941. His swing was perfected in Ferndale where he studied Philosophy and Theology from 1941 to 1947 and ordained on March 13, 1947. His class was honored to make their Apostolic Consecration in St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC on June 8, 1947, and he was assigned to the Vicariate of Kilimanjaro.

### Schools in the Missions

Upon arrival in the Missions, Fr. Steve was appointed to the Teachers Training Center where he became Headmaster. To improve his skills, he returned



**Rev. Stephen J. Lasko, C.S.Sp.**  
May 8, 1921 - January 23, 2006

to the States in 1952 and obtained a Masters in Education at DU. When he returned to Kilimanjaro in 1959, he became Education Secretary for what had by then become the Diocese of Moshi.

During the Fifties, there had been a huge push in the diocese to establish very many additional Primary schools. Often this meant upgrading a Kindergarten or a Bush School that was providing two years of education. To help the Missions to finance the building of so many schools, the members of the Kilimanjaro Native Coffee Union

agreed to put a levy on each kilo of coffee the growers in the area sold to help pay for the new schools. The Spiritan missionaries had a close connection with coffee. They were the ones who introduced the growing of coffee on Kilimanjaro when the first missionaries brought a few coffee trees with them. From those few trees, offshoot coffee trees covered the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro and coffee became the basis of the local economy.

The sudden expansion of the education system, however, required good supervision. Fr. Joe Noppinger had provided that supervision in the Fifties and Fr. Steve enhanced it in the Sixties by becoming the Secretary of Education for the Diocese. It was a very difficult task to oversee the quickly-expanding system of education in all the parishes and to maintain proper standards, but Fr. Steve went to bat for good schools and won. His reputation spread, and in 1962 he became the national Secretary for Education with the Bishops Conference for the country.

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## In Remembrance of our Fathers

# Born into Eternity

### **Went to Bat for Good Schools** *(continued from previous page)*

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#### Back in the States

After returning to America in 1965, Fr. Steve was appointed as V.P. for University Relations at Duquesne. In 1968 he became Vocation Director and then served in parishes including St. Ann's in Millvale, St. Theresa's in Tiverton, RI, St. Joseph's in Herndon, VA, St. Anthony's back in Millvale, St. Madeleine Sophie in Tiverton, RI, and St. Theresa in Little Compton before his retirement at Sarasota in November 1990 and then coming to Libermann Hall in Bethel Park at the start of 2004.

At Bethel, Fr. Steve participated as much as he could in community activities. At one time he loved to watch golf tournaments on TV, but more recently he spent much of the day and even some hours of the night watching the Global Catholic Network, EWTN, on television. He received Holy Communion every

day, and often, instead of a bat, he held the rosary in his hands, even on the day before he passed away.

For some weeks Fr. Steve had grown weaker and weaker from medical complications which had set in. The community gathered together in his room as he was anointed by the Superior, Fr. Hanley. Early in the afternoon of Monday, January 23rd, he peacefully slipped into eternity at the age of 84. The local funeral mass was concelebrated on Thursday, January 26th, at Bethel with Fr. Tim Hickey, the First Assistant, as main celebrant. Fr. Steve's body was then taken to Darien, CT, where the Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by the Provincial, Fr. Jeffrey Duaine, at St. John's Church in Darien on Saturday, January 28th. This was followed by internment at the family plot in the parish cemetery.

### **Nigerian Confrere Dies in Plane Crash**

It has been confirmed from the Nigerian Province that the Second Assistant to the Provincial, Fr. Aloysius Obi, CSSp, died on a plane that crashed in Nigeria on December 10, 2005. The plane was bringing passengers from the capital Abuja when it overshot the runway during an electrical storm and burst into flames. The plane was also carrying 75 school children from a Jesuit school in Abuja going home for the Christmas holidays. It has been reported that 71 school children were among the 107 people who were killed as a result of the crash.

Fr. Obi was born in 1941, professed in 1962 and ordained to the Priesthood in 1968. He had served as the Director of the Holy Ghost Juniorate, Ihiala, parish priest of Mater Misericordiae, Port Harcourt, and was parish priest of St. Joseph's Gwagwa in Abuja Archdiocese in Okura Region of the Province. He has served as Provincial Councilor in a number of Provincial administrations in Nigeria.

Following the confirmation of the death of Fr. Obi, Superior General Fr. Jean-Paul Hoch, on behalf of his Council and all members of the Generalate community, sent heartfelt condolences to the Provincial and all confreres of the Province of Nigeria, and assured them of the sympathy and prayers of the Congregation.

May he rest in Peace.

## A Visit to the Ferndale Cemetery



I was 5 miles down the road in Noroton, CT for Steve Lasko's funeral in his home parish of St. John's, and it had been 20 years since I had visited the old Ferndale property in Norwalk. Even though I had never done any of my own formation there, the stories of the "good old days" still resonate in my head. I had visited often enough before the property was sold that I still feel a certain connection with the place. Being so close, I knew it would be important to see the property and, more importantly, find out how the community cemetery is being maintained. GTE has since sold the property to a company known as Dolce which still uses it as a Business Conference Center, and

I was somewhat skeptical about how the original agreement to keep the cemetery in good condition was being kept. As I drove up the driveway, there was very little change from the last time that I had visited in 1985. As I walked over to where the cemetery is, I passed the outdoor Stations of the Cross which still line the pathway down to the lake. The black iron fence sets off the cemetery and the plaque at the gate announces that the graves that lie beyond are part of a time honored tradition of Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers. Even in the midst of winter, it was obvious that the property is well cared for and that the cemetery is given proper respect. The accompanying picture was taken at the time of my visit, and I am happy to report that our deceased confreres are resting in peace.

*-Jeffrey Duaine, C.S.Sp.*

### **The New Provincial Council - West Province**

The West has announced the results of their recent election. The new Provincial Council will be composed of the following confreres:

Michael T. White, First Assistant  
Joseph Gaglione, Second Assistant  
Huy Dinh  
Phillip Howard

They join Fr. Daniel Walsh, who was elected Provincial in October. The first meeting of the Provincial Council was held at the Provincial House beginning on February 3, 2006, where the first order of business was to select a new Provincial Bursar. Congratulations and Best Wishes to All.

### **Is There Room for African Identity in Christianity?**

Fr. Luke Mbefo presented his paper "Is there room for African Identity in Christianity?" on January 12. The event was at the 2006 Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu, Hawaii January 11-14. He was invited last summer to contribute the paper. Fr. Luke also chaired one of the sessions.

Fr. Mbefo felt that his topic reflected the aims of the Congregation by speaking out in a world forum for those neglected and marginalized.

## Joseph Nguyen Ordained to the Diaconate

We are happy to share in the joyous news of the ordination to the diaconate on Saturday, February 4, 2006, of Joseph Lam Thien Nguyen from the West Province. He was born on March 27, 1966 in Saigon, Vietnam, the next to last child in a family of six children - three boys and three girls.

Joseph was finishing his first year of law school in 1997 in Florida when his mother called and expressed her concern about his father, Joseph, who was very ill. Joseph's mother was also very ill. In the Vietnamese culture, family members honor the elderly and infirm by caring for them personally in their illness. It is unacceptable to turn the care over to an institution. Within his family, it was decided that the care of their father would be given to Joseph. Joseph decided to talk to his dean at school and decide what his options would be. His dean assured him that his spot would be there for him whenever he wanted to return to school and understood completely that Joseph needed to care for his father. Joseph prayed over his decision and took a leave of absence from school. He became his father's caregiver for the next two years.

During those years it was like the "Lord's Novitiate" for him, as Joseph put it. He prayed often and began searching: "What is the meaning of my life? What am I supposed to do with my life?" During this time, one of his sisters had given him a prayer book to the Holy Spirit. He was comforted by the prayers in that book and felt compelled to write to the address in the back of the book to let them know how touched he was and to request information about the priesthood and the Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

Some time later a priest asked him if he ever thought about trading his suit, tie and brief-

case in for a clerical collar and becoming a priest who would defend the poor and the oppressed. So, he began to think about it and prayed about his decision.

On August 15, 1999 his father died. Joseph's sadness was tempered by the happiness of knowing that his father went to his eternal reward on the feast of the Assumption.

It was too late for Joseph to go back to school for that semester, but while he was waiting for the next semester to begin he met an elderly priest from Vietnam who had known his father. Joseph was telling about his father's illness and death and his own interest in the priesthood. The priest arranged a meeting with some Spiritan priests in the Houston area that he knew. Joseph was very interested in the international work of the Spiritans and the fact that they have always worked for the poor and marginalized and refugees, and for social justice. Joseph shared that interest. He began to realize that maybe he could be a voice to the voiceless and help the poor to have a voice. More and more, he felt drawn into the priesthood, and in the Spring of 2000, Joseph decided to join the Congregation. He made his Novitiate in New Braunsfels TX and was professed on August 3, 2002.

He was ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at the Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Houston, TX. The ceremony took place by the imposition of hands and invocation of the Holy Spirit by His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph S. Vasquez, Auxiliary Bishop of Galveston-Houston. Joseph's ordination to the Priesthood is being planned for some time this summer. Please keep him in your prayers.



Col. Francis R. Duffy, C.S.Sp., was recently awarded the Freedom Team Salute Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding service to the nation as a United States Army Soldier. He was being recognized for his patriotism and continued support of the Army family. "The United States Army and a grateful Nation thank you."

## Status regarding the Cause of our Founder

On November 16, 2005, the Acts of the Informative Process in Paris of our Founder, the Servant of God, Claude François Poullart des Places, was handed over to the Roman Congregation for the Causes of Saints by Fr. Jean Savoie, the Postulator of the Congregation for this Cause in the Diocese of Paris, which was begun on October 1, 1989.

The Cardinal Prefect who was given a brief presentation of the Cause encouraged the Spiritans to proceed with the request. The file was lodged at the Chancellery and duly registered. Frs. Savoie and Mendès met with Fr. Holz, a Dominican working at the Causes of Saints, who is acquainted with this case and would probably be given the task of examining it. Then Fr. Jean-Jacques Boeglin submitted the official request for opening the Process in Rome. He is now awaiting the dossier which will be given to him as Roman Postulator. It will be some time before the text of "*Positio super virtutibus*" is drawn up and the declaration of the heroicity of virtues. So far, no miracle attributed to the intercession of Claude Poullart des Places has been presented for examination by the Church.

So there has been an important and clear step forward towards the recognition by the Church of the sanctity of our founder. While the Diocesan Informative Process is only a necessary stage before the opening of the "ordinary" Roman process, some elements have become clearer regarding the spiritual personality of our founder:

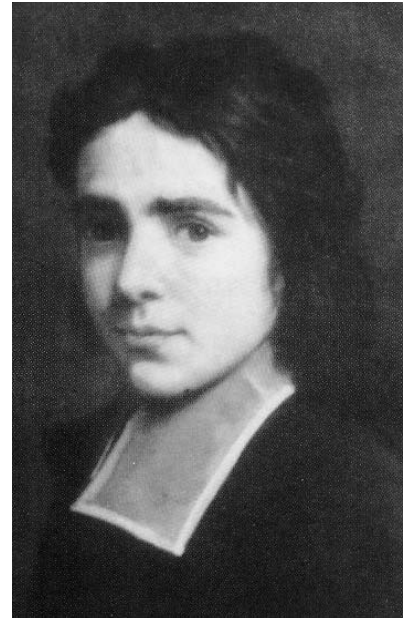
- The different steps in the history of our Congregation, the roles of Poullart des Places and François Libermann, the nature of the "Fusion" and the definition of our charism;

- The contemporary relevance of the charism of Poullart des Places regarding the service of the poor in first or subsequent evangelization, the invitation to the poor to become priests for the poor, the carrying out of ministry in sanctity and community life.

From here on, the Cause will progress by the grace of God, which we cannot doubt, and by the degree to which we make it our own. This we can do by our prayers, by giving prominence to his spirituality and by our conviction that Claude Poullart des Places continues to present his Society to the Lord to obtain the apostolic graces that it needs. He was an educator of the poor, imbued with a sense of the universality of the call of God, motivated by his Trinitarian prayer and faithful in all things to the Holy Spirit and trusting in the help of Mary. He will surely obtain for us the grace of an apostolic life which will help the strong, support the weak, and console the down-trodden. We trust that he will obtain the miracles that we will ask for the good of people and for the progress of the work that God confided to him.

From now on, you can send news of events, witnesses and miracles concerning this Cause (and other Spiritan Causes) to our Postulator: Fr. Jean-Jacques Boeglin, 42, via Santa Chiara, 00196, Roma, Italy. Tel: 0668021423, email: j.boeglin@email.it.

Fr. Jean-Paul HOCH, CSSp  
Superior General



Let us pray with Claude Poullart  
des Places

Spirit of Pentecost, you called  
**Claude Poullart des Places**  
to bring the Good News to the  
poor by forming a community of  
priests to live among them.  
Help us to follow his example.  
Make him a saint of the Church,  
and grant us the graces  
we ask through him. Amen

*"Let my heart and soul be  
filled  
with you alone, O God.  
Keep me always in your  
presence."*

Poullart des Places

## Why a Lack?

Over the years I have heard a legion of reasons for the lack of religious and priestly vocations. The finger of blame has been pointed at family, schooling, wealth and materialism. I would like to propose a reason that has nothing to do with family, schooling, wealth or materialism.

Religious Communities come into being when there is a need, and the founder or foundress is entrusted by God with the charism that is capable of fulfilling a particular need. Sometimes the reason why a particular Religious Community comes into being is fulfilled and thus said Religious Community ceases to exist. We have witnessed this throughout the history of the Church. At other times some of the members may decide that a particular part of a need be accented to the detriment of the Religious Community's charism. When this occurs, I fully believe that God gives a call to such Religious Communities. If they listen and return to their charisms, they will continue to exist. If they refuse to listen and not return to their charism they will begin to die.

Notice Vatican II gave a call to Religious Communities to return to the spirit of the founder or foundress. Where this has been ignored, such Religious Communities have experienced a decline in membership. God through His Church gave a call that fell on deaf ears.

I would quickly state that in some cases the Religious Community may hear and react to the call but a given Province or Provinces may not listen to the call, and then a Province or Provinces begin to die. An example of what I am saying is found when a Province is called by its Religious Community to work among the most abandoned, be this in home or foreign missions, parish or educational works. When this is done the Province flourishes. However, when the Province loses the larger vision and begins to narrow its focus on one work or one area, I feel that God has no choice but to stop the numbers of vocations to that Province, since they have moved from the work of God to the work of a group. Thus, the true reason for its existence is lost.

One Province I examined when considering the reasons for the lack of vocations showed that as the Province's focus became smaller so did the number of vocations. As the Province moved from home and foreign missions to only foreign missions, the membership declined. When vocations were only accepted if they were willing to go to the foreign missions rather than home missions, parish or educational works, vocations declined. In short, when the larger focus for which the Religious Community was founded was ignored by the Province, vocations to that Province began and will continue to dwindle. The Province has declined from 300 members and growing, when the larger focus was followed, to just over eighty members as the narrower focus has been followed. It seems that until the larger focus is reintroduced by the Province that the membership will continue to dwindle until the Province ceases to be. I pray that said Province listens to God's call to return to the larger focus.

In my opinion when a Religious Community or Province is lacking vocations the very first thing it should do is to ask itself, "Are we following the charism given to this Community or Province?" If not, then let us return to why the Community or Province was founded, thus exchanging a manmade focus for a focus given by God.



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

***The deceased:***

Fr. Malcolm Grad, 76, former Spiritan Associate from Cincinnati Diocese, 10/30/05, in Cincinnati;

Mr. Leonard Sedor, 70, husband of Virginia, Provincial Assistant, 12/24/05, in Pittsburgh;

Paul Duffy, 78, cousin of Fr. Francis Duffy, 12/27/05, in Mt. Airy PA;

Mr. John French, father of Rev. Ray French, CSSp, recently, in Scotland.



***And those who are ill:***

- Fr. Robert Spangenberg
- Fr. Ed Vilkauskas
- Fr. Dick Wersing
- Fr. Bill Christy

How much we enjoy what we have is more important than how much we have. Life is full of people who have more than they know what to do with, but cannot be content. It is the capacity to enjoy life that brings contentment.



*Happy Birthday to these Spiritans Who Are Celebrating Birthdays*



- January**
- 03 Fr. Donald S. Nesti
  - 04 Fr. Wayne T. Epperley
  - 17 Fr. Arlindo Amaro
  - 20 Fr. John P. Skaj
  - 21 Fr. Albert M. Seichepine
  - 22 Fr. Edmond Aristil
  - 27 Fr. Trinh Q. Le
  - 30 Fr. John L. Marini
  - 31 Fr. Pierre L. Deglaire
  - 31 Fr. Francis P. Meenan

- February**
- 03 Fr. Philip D. Evanstock
  - 06 Fr. Benoit K. Mukamba
  - 08 Fr. Martin T. Vu
  - 12 Fr. Timothy J. Hickey
  - 12 Fr. Richard F. Wersing
  - 16 Fr. Anthony A. Bacher
  - 16 Fr. Anthony J. Gittins
  - 19 Fr. Joseph L. Deniger
  - 21 Fr. William J. Jackson
  - 22 Fr. George Spangenberg
  - 25 Fr. Joseph A. Seiter
  - 26 Fr. James P. McCloskey
  - 28 Fr. Luke Mbefo

- March**
- 03 Fr. Cornelius McQuillan
  - 04 Fr. Huy Q. Dinh
  - 07 Fr. Ralph J. Poirier
  - 12 Fr. Joseph E. Miller
  - 22 Fr. John J. Costello
  - 26 Fr. Francis R. Duffy
  - 27 Fr. Joseph L. Nguyen
  - 29 Fr. Sean P. Kealy
  - 31 Fr. Michel R. Boutot

# Mission Diary

January-February 2006



## Endulen Diary

Vol. 21, #1

January, 2006

*As the New Year begins here is something of who and where we are.*

### ENDULEN MISSION - AN OVERVIEW

Endulen mission encompasses about half of the Ngorongoro conservation area, the central feature of which is the crater itself, with its heavy concentrations of wild animals. The great herds of buffalo, zebra, wildebeest, gazelle and the many predators, lions etc. make it, perhaps, the major tourist attraction of East Africa. To the North and West of us are the vast Serengeti plains, and to the South and East, the sheer walls of the Rift Valley give onto breathtaking views of the salt lakes on the Rift floor. The entire Ngorongoro highland area, of which Endulen is a part, is traditional grazing land of the semi-nomadic Maasai, and the landscape is dotted with their cattle camps.

Endulen itself is a small trading center some eighteen miles from the Ngorongoro Crater. There are small shops here, and twice a month there is the cattle market to which Maasai come from great distances. They come to buy sugar, tea, salt, corn meal, and the white “shuka” cloth, which they wear draped over their shoulders toga-fashion. They shop for these things with the cash they get from the sale of their milk and butter. The highlight of the market is always the cattle auction, which gives the Maasai access to the money needed for major expenses like getting married. Here in Endulen, we also run a hospital for the nomads. A Tanzanian doctor and four African sisters staff the hospital. The use of the diocesan plane every couple of weeks makes it possible to do clinics in otherwise inaccessible places and to bring critically-ill people here to Endulen Hospital.

An important priority here at Endulen Mission is the education of young Maasai leaders. The Maasai have little voice in the decisions which affect them. Their primary schools are much poorer than in other areas of Tanzania, and they have only one secondary school, very poorly operated compared to the seventy post primary schools in the neighboring district of Kilimanjaro, serving the Chagga people. Their permanent water and arable land continue to be taken at an alarming rate. There is only one way to turn this situation around. There must be educated Maasai sitting on decision-making councils at every level. Maasai will soon be nowhere if they don't acquire a voice in the decisions that affect them. Here in Endulen, I want to do all I can to make this happen. Right now I have almost 100 Maasai girls and boys in secondary and technical schools, with a view to eventually becoming veterinarians, mechanics, nurses, teachers, lawyers, politicians etc. Also, many of our Maasai boys and girls are at University in various programs.

*(continued on reverse)*

**Kokarre Elekana Olenginoni**

Kokarre comes from the far North of Maasai country very near to the borders of Tanzania and Kenya. Her family lives a traditional Maasai life in the mountainous country northeast of the Serengeti plains.

When Kokarre was a little girl she helped her mother carry water from the spring some two miles from her village. She carried the water on her back in locally-produced tin containers. Most Africans carry loads on their heads; Maasai differ from the rest in this respect. Accompanying her mother on trips to the forest to cut firewood was another one of her tasks as a small girl, as was herding the young calves and goats near the village. All this was to prepare her for her life as a Maasai wife and mother.

Her father, Elekana, sent Kokarre to first grade in an effort to prepare her to deal with people of other more-sophisticated tribes. So often the Maasai are cheated at the shops when they go to buy salt, sugar, tea and other things because they don't know Swahili, the national language, and especially how to count and figure in Swahili.

When she finished grade school at the end of 2005, she approached her father about continuing her education. This was something of an unprecedented step for a young Maasai girl to take. In the normal course of events, Kokarre would have been circumcised and married soon after finishing grade seven. At this juncture I heard of her desire to go on, and I joined her in pleading with her father. He reluctantly agreed and Kokarre joined my Osetua Prep School here in Endulen this month. With the remedial help in English and Math she is receiving here she hopes to be able to pass the entrance exams and be accepted into a high school come January of 2007.

Till next month . . . Ned

Ned Marchessault

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Pictures: <http://www.pbase.com/nedmarch>

Endulen Diary: <<http://spaces.msn.com/members/NedTZ1/>>

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