

# One Heart, One Spirit

CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Newsletter for the Province of the United States



6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park PA 15102-2214

Phone: 412-831-0302

Fax: 412-831-0970

Volume No. XLIII, No. 4

July-August 2015

## **Một Năm Hạnh Phúc - A Blessed Year**

Fr. Patrick Palmer - Phan Bả Thông, CSSp, Provincial Taiwan - Vietnam



The past 12 months have been eventful ones for the Spiritans in Vietnam. In August of 2014, six more of our students made first profession into the Congregation in the Church of Ben Hai in Ho Chi Minh City. They are: Giuse Nguyen Hao Phu, Gieronimo Nguyen Viet Thanh, Inhaxio Nguyen Quy Quan, Giuse Nguyen Van Dinh, Giuse K'Suoi, and Giuse Nguyen Van Tho. Samson Mann, from Hong Kong and belonging to the Province of Ireland, was also professed. We said goodbye to Fr. Brandon Bay who had been our novice director for two years. He was recalled to work in his home province of the U.S. We thank Fr. Brandon for his work with our novices for the last two years.

Six young men joined our formation program in September bringing our student total to 30. Five students are in Manila following their course in theology to prepare for ordination to priesthood. One student is now in England for his overseas training program (OTP). Another one will leave shortly for Taiwan for his OTP and this summer four more students will depart for their OTP program. One of our big concerns is to build a house in Manila for the students. The current one is far too small. Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors and the grace of God, we hope to start the building in 2015 and, if sufficient funds come in, finish it in a year.

An important event for us happened on October 2, when our General Council recognized Taiwan/Vietnam as a Province of the Congregation. This is an act of faith in the future of the Congregation in the two countries. During the same ceremony we presented our most faithful benefactors with an insignia of the Congregation in recognition of their support for the community since its arrival seven years ago. Fathers Trinh Le, Frederic Rossignol, Quoc Le and I continue in our work with the students and in various pastoral and charitable involvements. There is no shortage of needs to be addressed, whether it is in the orphanages, with children who cannot afford to go to school, or with people confined to hospitals or care centers. We ask for your prayers and also assure you of our prayers for you and your families in the coming year.



## Great news from San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic

June 3, 2015 was a great day for the youth of our barrio Villa Liberación. The President of the Dominican Republic, Danilo Medina, who has made a firm commitment to support education in poor areas, was on hand for the ribbon cutting and to celebrate with us the opening of our new buildings at our parish

high school, Instituto Politécnico San Miguel Fe y Alegría, along with the Governor, Minister of Education and the Mayor of San Juan. The new buildings triple our number of classrooms, and include science labs and administrative offices, a large cafeteria and basketball court

with bleachers, all paid for by the government of the Dominican Republic. They also will provide free breakfast and school lunches, and we can now concentrate on providing a quality technical education in our community. A dream 10 years in the making has come true!!



*President Danilo with Fr. Don and the student representatives*

*President Danilo cuts the ceremonial ribbon (actually on the free throw line of the basketball court) along with the Governor William de Oleo, the Minister of Education, and the Mayor of San Juan (the woman)*



Great news from San Juan de la Maguana *(continued)*

*A dream  
10 years in  
the making  
has come  
true!!*



*President Danilo congratulates our student who gave a speech on behalf of the students*



*Families await the arrival of the President. The new school is in the background.*



## Fifty days / Fifty years

*Fifty years ago, Fr. J. Clifton Hill, CSSp, wrote an account of "The First Fifty Days" of his priesthood for The Catholic Commentator at the request of Msgr. Patrick Gillespie, pastor of St. Agnes and Vicar General of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. An abridged version of that article follows. After that is Fr. Hill's reflection upon celebrating fifty years of Ordination this year.*

### **The First Fifty Days...** (published August 6, 1965)

For the past eight weeks I have had the time of my life. On June 3 in the chapel of the Holy Ghost Fathers' Seminary in Norwalk, Connecticut, I was ordained a priest of God. The days since have been a time of undiminished joy. Just as I was not made a priest for my own advantage but for the service of others, so too it seems only proper to share the joy of these first days of my priestly life with those whom I have been ordained to serve. This is an account of the happiness I feel, the "icing on the cake" I have experienced during these days.

To witness an ordination is a moving experience. When the bishop lays his hands on your head, with words that have been used for hundreds of years, you know that you

are a priest... forever! But, strangely enough, I found that the emotional peak occurred later. When I stood before my parents and my brother and raised my hands in blessing, tears of joy and happiness flowed freely. And they did not stop quite so readily, because after my family came my brothers in the Congregation - priests, brothers, fellow seminarians.

Three days later I stood at the end of a long procession that filed into St. Agnes Church. It was Pentecost Sunday, the "birthday of the Church," and the main feast of my Congregation of the Holy Spirit. A new organ had been installed, the choir was well prepared and joyful. Together they filled the church with glorious melody. The Solemn Mass went very well. The priests who assisted were old and close friends. It was a thrill to be in their ranks now, celebrating the Eucharist. The reception gave me an opportunity to meet old friends, make new

ones and give all my blessing. It was such a happy and joyful experience that it is impossible to describe. I could have continued all evening! The days that followed were no let-down. Celebrating Mass was, and still is, a great experience. If some of the infatuation has decreased, the deepening awareness of the priesthood has increased in proportion. Its opportunities and responsibilities, to bring the love of Christ to all, seem limitless. Perhaps there will be difficult times in the future, days of loneliness or disappointment or discouragement. But the memories of these times of grace and joy and peace, these first fifty days, will ever be there for

*(continued on top of next page)*



*Fr. J. Clifton Hill, C.S.Sp.  
Ordination - June 3, 1965*



*Fr. Hill with his father J. Clifton, Sr., mother Olga, and brother Richard - June 3, 1965*

## **Fifty days / Fifty years** *(cont.)*

encouragement and strength and the promise of still greater things to come.

### **The First Fifty Years...** *(June, 2015)*

It is remarkable that I am back once again at the very site of that First Solemn Mass, now “in residence” in the parish of my youth, living in the very spot where my vocation to the Spiritans began!

After that day in June 1965 came another year in the seminary in Connecticut, five years of graduate school in Texas and thirty years teaching physics at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. The dream of being a priest in a community of religious and teaching in college had come true! Those thirty years were filled with a variety of experiences: teaching at a university in Taiwan,

several summers working in a government lab while living and helping in a parish in Orlando, a sabbatical of study in St. Louis and Houston with a three-week trip to the Holy Land, all punctuated with weddings of relatives and students and funerals of relatives and friends.

It all changed in 2001. My mother had been ill for some years and my father was days away from his 90th birthday as I drove back to Pittsburgh after summer vacation in Baton Rouge. A conversation with my mother’s caregiver told me that my father was now sick too, and he would no longer be able to manage their care and the situation at home. Arrangements were made for someone to cover my classes and I was able to return home. I am very grateful that my provincial superior allowed me to remain at home, managing the care of my

parents until their deaths. During those years I had been able to help regularly with Masses at St. Joseph Cathedral and occasionally at St. Agnes. I received permission to remain in Baton Rouge and was invited by Msgr. Berggreen to take up residence in St. Agnes. Life in a parish - my home parish - was a new and rewarding experience, with its full schedule of Masses and confessions, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and simply enjoying the company of parishioners.

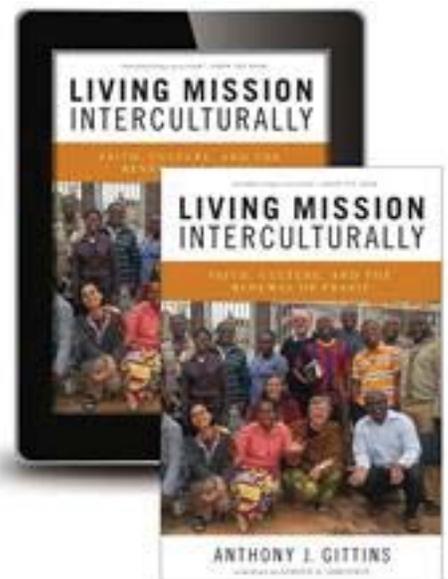
I have been blessed by God with so much, so much on the receiving end of His love and care. Life, Faith, Grace, loving parents and brother and his family, faithful relatives, friends and confreres, good health, rewarding work, and for 50 years, the gift of Priesthood. I am deeply grateful for them all. May I use these gifts to serve His people.

---

## **Tony Gittins publishes a new title: Living Mission Interculturally, to be released by Liturgical Press available in September.**

Our globalized world increasingly brings together people of many different cultures, though not always harmoniously. In recent decades, multinational companies have sought more efficient strategies for authentic intercultural collaboration. But in today’s multicultural world-church, faith communities too—from local parishes to international religious communities—are faced with the challenge of intercultural living. The social sciences have developed some constructive approaches, but people of faith also need to build their endeavors on a sound biblical and theological foundation. *Living Mission Interculturally* integrates sociology/anthropology with practical theology, reminds us that good will alone is not enough to effect change, and points to a way of intercultural living underpinned by faith, virtue, and a range of new and appropriate skills.

Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp, taught theology and anthropology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago from 1984 until 2011 and is now emeritus professor of theology and culture. He continues to do consultancy work and offer workshops, seminars, short courses, and retreats in more than thirty-five countries from Africa to the Pacific. He is the author of fourteen books on theological and anthropological topics, on mission, and on spirituality.



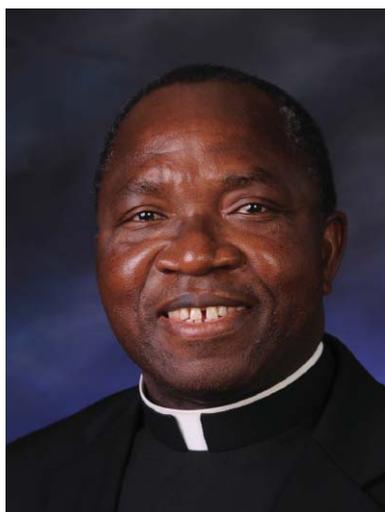
## Fr. Jeff Duaime is re-elected Provincial of the US.

After prayerful consideration of the consultation for Council that was done during the 2015 Spiritan General Assembly held at Duquesne University June 15-19, the members re-elected Fr. Jeff Duaime as their Provincial.

Fr. Jeff is happy to announce the appointment of the new leadership team for the Province:

- Father Tim Hickey - Fr. Tim is the pastor of Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish in Arlington VA.
- Fr. Benoit Mukamba - Fr. Benoit is pastor at St. Mary Church in Helena, AR.
- Fr. James Okoye, Director of The Center for Spiritan Studies, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh PA.
- Fr. Francis Tandoh, pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Dayton OH.

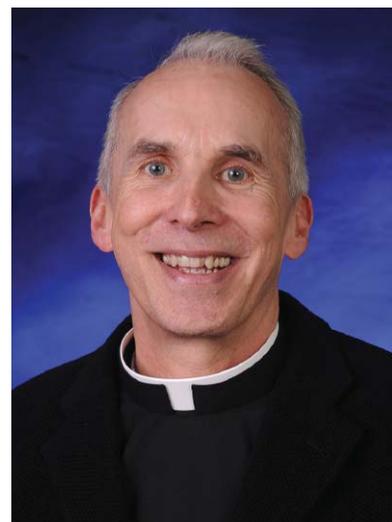
The new Council members will begin their three-year mandates August 15 and will come together for a planning meeting on August 17-21 at Bethel Park to reflect on their service to the province as a council and to plan the work that lay ahead. At that time, the appointment of the Province Treasurer will be made by the Council.



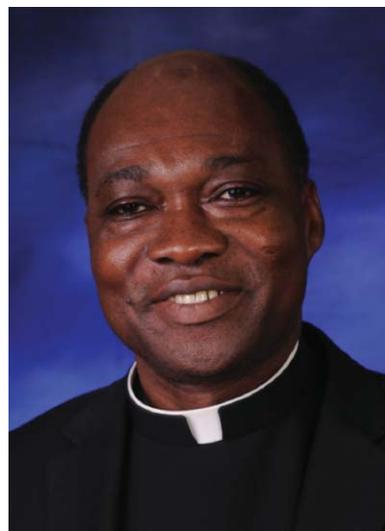
Fr. Benoit Mukamba

*Congratulations to  
the new Provincial Council  
and to Father Jeff!*

*Our best wishes  
for a blessed and fruitful  
term!*



Fr. Tim Hickey



Fr. Francis Tandoh



Provincial - Fr. Jeffrey Duaime



Fr. James Okoye

# What a Spiritan Education Means to Me

Nick Keddie (Holy Ghost Prep graduate, Class of 2015)

Holy Ghost Prep prides itself in teaching young men in the Spiritan tradition. For students, the idea first comes from a letter from the school, or in scraps of a conversation at Open House. Students initially believe a Spiritan education to be just a religion class on the schedule. But over my time with the Spiritans and their school, I have discovered that a true Spiritan education transcends a religion class. To me, a Spiritan education is embedded in the foundation of the school's curriculum, the seven core values, which give the school its immaterial fire.

All Holy Ghost students have heard of the seven core values of a Spiritan education, but few students have any idea what they are or what they really mean. In the minds of HGP students, a Spiritan education is kind of like an Aramark cheeseburger: they know what it is, but do they really know what it is? These values illuminate the perceived ambiguity of the Spiritan education by defining what this type of education actually is. Exploring the seven values separately -- sense of community, Christian service, concern for the poor, global vision, academic excellence, openness to the Spirit, and personal development -- allows us to understand a Spiritan education holistically.

A Spiritan education starts with the first value, a sense of community. The community is the nexus that links all of the other values together. The community is not just your local neighborhood or county. The community extends outward, to the global community -- to every corner of the Earth. Without community, none of the other values exist. The community, with all of its members working together, makes the values what they are. The work these members do in the community is the spark that ignites the flame.

This work leads to the second value, Christian service. One way to allow students to recognize the way Spiritans view community is to provide a service requirement. HGP hired John Fitzpatrick '89 to make Christian service a dynamic learning experience. He does that by providing underclassmen with service opportunities in the local community. These activities include, but are not limited to, playing basketball and softball with St. Charles School, serving food at the soup kitchen, helping the Sisters of Holy Redeemer run their annual Ok-

toberfest, and tutoring at Holy Family School in Levittown. Rather than being preached to about seemingly irrelevant topics in a lecture, students participate in a different part of the local community. Simultaneously, students learn more naturally through experience. At Holy Family, for instance, I taught basic elementary subjects, resolved conflicts between students, and managed kids. Those skills cannot be learned in the classroom. They are life skills that I learned because of my interaction with that community. For me, Holy Family transformed the spark into a visible flame.

The third value, concern for the poor, helps to expand the students' perception and experience with community. Another way Holy Ghost initiates students to the idea of community is through a sophomore day of service. There, students take a break from the traditional learning environment of the classroom and leave campus to find and help the poor. The places where they go are themselves, disguised classrooms. This outreach expands their exposure to the greater community since students are forced to confront a community with which they are not familiar, thus opening them up to new ideas. For example, I took a school van to St. Bart's Parish in North Philly, where I learned to stain doors, paint statues, and do other minor repairs. Again, this was not something I would be tested on in class, but nonetheless I acquired valuable skills through a positive interaction with this community. From interaction with new people and expanding my view of community, the single flame grows into a larger fire.

The fourth value, global vision, took my exposure one step further into the global community. For me, this step took place at St. Mark's Parish in Harlem, New York. Here, I learned the value of my faith by participating in Mass with the local community. Their liveliness sparked my interest in my Catholic faith, which led to my receiving the sacraments for the first time. I took another step in the summer after my sophomore year in Arusha, Tanzania. While I was shadowing a student from a local school, I saw a mural on the side of a building that I will never forget. It was a painting of a brain wrapped in chains that were locked. Next to this image was a key, upon which was inscribed the word education. Many of the people living in Arusha are leading

*(continued next page)*

## What a Spiritan Education Means to Me *(continued)*

economically poor lives. This mural highlights the importance students in Tanzania place on their education. They are well aware how much it can affect their future. Without my experience with this community, I would not have learned to value my own education like I do now. By continually expanding my view of community the initial flame grows substantially.

The fifth value, academic excellence, is the most obvious one in regards to a traditional education. Academic excellence is not limited to getting good grades, but is the result of a collaboration between students and teachers. As students progress through grade levels, classes in a Spiritan community become more focused on seminar style learning rather than lecturing. This approach provides an open, interactive dialogue that can bridge the gap between students and teachers. This fusion builds academic excellence, and builds the fire into a magnificent, self-sustaining entity.

The sixth value, openness to the Spirit, is not limited to the traditional view of the Holy Spirit as a person. Rather, the Spiritan view is expanded to include the spirit of a community which, under closer examination, is itself the Spirit. When I took a bus to St. Mark's food pantry with Mr. Fitzpatrick, the people there showed us a great deal of appreciation. The flood of genuine "thank yous" I received was overwhelming. At Mass the next day, people approached me again to thank me for the work I had done, just before we stood together as one to receive the Eucharist. The feeling I experienced that day was the Spirit working His way into my life. Holy Ghost put me in that environment to be open to that love, that spirit. Another concrete way that Ghost manifests openness to the Spirit is through its senior retreats. During these weekends, students, with the examples of both student leaders and teacher leaders, begin to feel the effects of that openness to the Spirit. By opening up to the spirit of the community, we opened ourselves up to our own spirit. The senior retreat links the fire of each person, into one flame, one Spirit. This is nothing that can be manifested in a classroom, but only through extraordinary measures of the Spiritan education curriculum.

The final value, personal development, is the end goal of a Spiritan education. By indulging in our local, regional, and global communities, we receive an unpar-

alleled education that culminates in immeasurable personal development. When I visited HGP as an 8th grader, my mom wanted me to enroll because the students seemed so "mature." The Spiritan education explains why. Last summer, I was almost arrested. I was walking home and a cop drove over the curb to detain me. As it turned out, I matched the description of a suspect for a crime that had recently been committed. When I told the cop I was a Holy Ghost Prep student, he let me go. Because of its curriculum embedding the seven core values, Holy Ghost has a reputation for maturity and personal development. This particular development turns the Spirit into a pure but mature flame that is ready to light up the world.

Years ago, Fr. Philip Agber told me something: "You must use your education to help others; otherwise, it is meaningless." His advice explains the whole system. Holy Ghost puts its students through a series of calculated experiences. These experiences culminate in the highest levels of personal development, which completes the cycle of the seven core values. A Spiritan education begins by developing a sense of community in which to learn and grow. This community then practices Christian service, shows concern for the poor, and shares a global vision. This community then encourages each student's academic excellence. This community then fosters an openness to the Spirit, with the end goal of growing each member's personal development. Each stage is marked by new knowledge of the self. Now, as mature, more fully developed men, students can use their education to work together and help others by repeating the cycle, just as many of our faculty at Holy Ghost are currently doing.

A Spiritan education means learning through and from community. Holy Ghost's curriculum leads students to that community. From there, they can learn anything. Robert Sternberg has a theory of intelligence involving three distinct areas: analytical, creative, practical. With a Spiritan education all three of these intelligences have a place to grow, which again leads to one's personal development. This personal development offers students the opportunity to light the world, to spread the fire everywhere they go. So what is a Spiritan education? Simply put, it's learning from community and giving back that education to community.

## Holy Ghost Preparatory School Keeps Producing Presidents

Two Class of '79 Alumni, Classmates Named Presidents of Private Catholic Institutions

BENSALEM, PA (June 5, 2015) – The new presidents of Holy Ghost Preparatory School and Villa Joseph Marie High School have something in common. Besides both having dedication, determination and a unique set of skills to bring to their positions, Gregory Geruson and Thomas Kardish are also both alumni of the Holy Ghost Prep class of 1979. Effective July 1, 2015, Geruson took over the presidency of Holy Ghost Preparatory School, while on the same day Kardish assumed the presidency of Villa Joseph Marie High School in Northampton Township, Bucks County.

“It’s an exciting time for both of us,” said Geruson. “It’s pretty remarkable that two Holy Ghost alums from the same class have the opportunity to lead two such distinguished institutions as Holy Ghost and Villa Joseph Marie. But to start at the same time is quite a coincidence.”

Holy Ghost Preparatory School prides itself on preparing young men for college and adult life through a challenging program. The school puts emphasis on students’ unique gifts and talents, academic excellence and generous service to the poor. Since graduating from Holy Ghost Prep, Geruson and Kardish have taken the lessons learned throughout their schooling and made names for themselves as being well-rounded and accomplished in their fields.

In his time away from Holy Ghost Prep, Geruson has gone on to serve as vice president for development and alumni relations at Saint Joseph’s University and as vice president of the Healy Education Foundation. He also served as assistant headmaster at Holy Ghost Prep from 1991 to 2000. Geruson is a graduate of La Salle University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and an eleven-time presenter at the National Catholic Education Association Conference.

Kardish went on to attend Harvard University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He has held management-level positions at SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals and Johnson & Johnson/Merck Pharmaceuticals and senior executive positions at DiMark Pharmaceutical Marketing and the Trident Group. Most recently, Kardish was the owner and CEO of Doylestown Lumber & Millwork.

“It is always rewarding to see our alumni rise into such well-deserved positions that they work so hard to achieve,” said Anthony R. Geonnotti Jr., chairman of the board of trustees at Holy Ghost. “We know Greg and Tom will excel in their respective president roles because of their experiences inside and outside the walls of Holy Ghost Prep. Dedication to their faith is deeply rooted in their leadership and will surely help them to uphold the missions and reputations of Holy Ghost Prep and Villa.”

*One Heart, One Spirit, July-August 2015, Vol. XLIII, No. 4*

*One Heart, One Spirit is published by  
the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, U.S. Province  
6230 Brush Run Road  
Bethel Park PA 15102-2214  
Phone: 412-831-0302 Fax: 412-831-0970  
[www.spiritans.org](http://www.spiritans.org)*

## A Pentecost Ordination

Robert di Nardo: First Canadian Spiritan in 26 Years

Bernard Kelly CSSp

(Reprinted from **Spiritan** Spring 2015)

### Pentecost - Babel reversed

If you've ever been in a situation where you were unable to understand anything and someone finally came to your rescue, you can readily appreciate the story of the Tower of Babel in the Book of Genesis. The people decide to build a tower to the sky, reaching to heaven. No need of God. We can do it. They make a great start. Then they find that they can no longer understand each other. All communication breaks down. The people go their own way and the tower project is abandoned.

Pentecost is the reversal of the Tower of Babel. It is the saving of the situation. The Holy Spirit arrives on the scene in the form of tongues of fire. The disciples forget the fear that has held them captive and openly proclaim the Good News that Christ is risen. And people from very different language groups all get the message.

Spreading the Good News has begun. Soon it became clear that it was not just a question of language. The Holy Spirit was at the heart of it. He would form genuine missionaries to be at the service of others without discrimination; to share the truth in charity, to be of help without condemnation; to give thanks, to share, to bless. We may only slowly learn to speak other peoples' languages, but our generosity, our encouragement, our joy speak to them.

### A new beginning

Unexpected things happened to

the apostles. Spectacular reports were coming. Jesus is alive, he is risen from the dead. There was excitement and danger... but also weariness. They were tired.

They were in the throes of a huge readjustment; trying to see how a major setback could be the start of a new beginning. We all know the feeling. Hopes have been dashed, discouragement is taking hold.

It was hard to believe stories that Jesus had risen from the dead. The atmosphere was threatening. Better to have the protection of fellow believers, to stay indoors and pray together. Heavy weariness had set in. Then came the wind in great gusts, the tongues of fire, the call to come out of hiding, the challenge to go public. Today we celebrate their courage and the wonder of it all.

### A Pentecost Ordination

The fact that Robert di Nardo was ordained at Pentecost did not happen by accident. He had been a fully-fledged Spiritan for years. The Holy Spirit is the patron of the Spiritans, the one to whom we look in a special way. We pray for and with Robert and we have our own hopes and prayers.

The Spirit comes to each of us and works in each of us. This is clear from the Pentecost reading from I Corinthians:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

Robert is not setting out on a solitary crusade. The same Spirit that guides and protects him guides and protects each of us. The same Spirit that urges him on brings disturbance to our pursuit of the comfortable quiet life.

### A visit of the risen Christ to the disciples

The message is for each of us but in a special way for Robert. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

By becoming a minister of the Lord's forgiveness, Robert will become a channel of the Lord's peace for people. Maybe we can follow him in this. Maybe this gospel is asking each of us to forgive someone. In this way we give them fresh life. It's in the spirit of the day.

### Prayers to the Holy Spirit

The Sequence in Robert's Ordination Mass is a classic:

*Bend the stubborn heart and will, melt the frozen, warm the chill.*

*Guide the steps that go astray.*

We have a traditional Spiritan prayer borrowed from Francis Libermann, one of our founders.

*(cont. on pg. 11)*

## A Pentecost Ordination (cont.)

In 1840, he was writing a commentary on the gospel of John. He was fascinated by Jesus' interview with Nicodemus and the reference to the elusive presence of the Holy Spirit being like the wind, sometimes a gust, sometimes just a breath. One sentence of his commentary on this incident has become a Spiritan prayer:

*Divine Spirit, I wish to be before you as a light feather,  
So that your breath may carry me off where it wishes  
And that I may never offer it the least resistance.*

We give thanks for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He is our Advocate, God on our side. We give thanks for Robert, offering his first Mass. We pray that other join the path he has chosen.



---

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Best wishes to these Spiritans who will be taking new assignments:

- Mr. Phuong Nguyen will be entering the novitiate in Trinidad.
- Fr. Chris Promis is assigned to Trinidad to serve as novice master beginning August 14.
- Bro. Joe Cannon will go to Ireland on August 21 for his overseas training program (OTP)
- Fr. Mike Onwuemeli, appointed administrator of Holy Spirit Parish in Hemet, California effective July 1.
- Fr. Gilbert Tairo has been appointed to the parish of St. Mary in Helena, Arkansas effective July 1.
- Fr. Paul T. Hoang is going to Mexico to study Spanish on August 11.
- Fr. James McCloskey is on sabbatical in Jerusalem in the fall, and in Rome from January to May of 2016.

---

## June 11, 2015: Nomination of a Coadjutor for the Diocese of Ponta de Pedras (Brazil)

The Pope has named as Coadjutor for the diocese of Ponta de Pedras (Brazil) H.E. Monsignor Theodoro Mendes Tavares CSSp, until now titular bishop of Verbe and Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Belém do Pará.

H.E Msgr. Teodoro Mendes Tavares CSSp was born on January 7, 1964 at San Miguel Arcanjo, on the island of Santiago (Cabo Verde). He took vows in the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on September 8, 1986 and was ordained priest on July 11, 1993.

He did his Philosophy studies at the Higher Institute for Theology at Braga (in Portugal) from 1986-1987 and studied theology at the Portuguese Catholic University of Lisbon from 1988-1993. He then obtained a licentiate in Ecu-menism at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland in 1994.



He began his priestly ministry in the prelature of Tefé as curate and parish priest at Alvaraes, Uarini and Carauari (1995-1998); he was parish priest in the "Bom Jesus" parish and he was director of the vocational centre (1999-2011) and then Vicar General. He was also Major Superior for the Spiritans in Amazonia (2003-2011). On February 16, 2011 he was named titular Bishop of Verbe and Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Bélem do Para, and received episcopal ordination on May 8 of the same year.

## Anniversary of Profession & Ordination

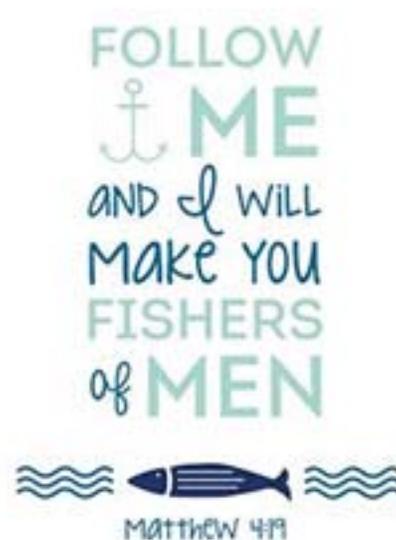
### Professions

Fr. Joseph L. Kelly	8/15/1945	70 Years
Fr. Philip D. Evanstock	8/22/1955	60 Years
Fr. Thomas P. Tunney	8/22/1955	60 Years
Fr. Josephat Msongore	9/8/1960	55 Years
Fr. Christopher P. Promis	8/22/1965	50 Years
Fr. Edward J. Vilkauskas	8/22/1965	50 Years
Fr. Michael T. Grey	8/2/1975	40 Years
Fr. James P. McCloskey	9/2/1975	40 Years
Fr. Christopher H. McDermott	9/2/1975	40 Years
Bro. Michael E. Suazo	8/3/1975	40 Years
Fr. Peter Osuji	9/8/1980	35 Years
Fr. Raymond French	9/13/1985	30 Years
Fr. John Owusu-Achiaw	9/9/1985	30 Years
Fr. Francis Tandoh	9/8/1985	30 Years
Fr. Honest Munishi	7/24/1995	20 Years
Fr. Joshua Otusafo	9/8/1995	20 Years
Fr. Binh T. Quach	9/9/1995	20 Years
Fr. Duc G. Luong	9/9/2000	15 Years
Fr. Joseph Q. Nguyen	8/6/2005	10 Years
Fr. Gilbert Tairo	7/7/2005	10 Years

### Ordinations

Fr. Joseph L. Kelly	9/15/1950	65 Years
Fr. Thomas P. Tunney	9/21/1960	55 Years
Fr. Quoc P. Le	7/31/2010	5 Years
Fr. Joseph Q. Nguyen	8/15/2010	5 Years
Fr. Simon T. Nguyen	8/15/2010	5 Years
Fr. Martin T. Vu	7/31/2010	5 Years

Congratulations on these many years of service. to Our Lord and His people. May He continue to bless you in your ministry.



## Spiritans Birthdays to Celebrate... Our Best Wishes for a Very Happy Birthday!

### August

4	Fr. Jocelyn Gregoire
6	Fr. Edward J. Vilkauskas
10	Fr. Quoc P. Le
17	Fr. Joseph B. Gaglione
18	Fr. Albert J. McKnight
18	Fr. Elochukwu Uzukwu
20	Fr. Francis Tandoh
23	Fr. Philip Agber
26	Fr. Sean M. Hogan
26	Fr. Daniel L. Walsh



### September

5	Fr. Girard J. Kohler
11	Fr. Louis G. Perreault
16	Fr. Joseph L. Kelly
28	Bro. Joseph F. Cannon

### October

1	Fr. Peter Osuji
4	Fr. Christopher P. Promis
12	Fr. Chris H. McDermott
21	Fr. Duc G. Luong
27	Fr. William H. Christy
27	Fr. Norbert T. Rosso

## Our Spiritan Vocation

Fr. Dan Sormani, CSSp

Our Spiritan headquarters here in the U.S. is located right next to our retirement community, so whenever I'm back, I find myself with the elders of our Spiritan family. Over the years I have walked into the chapel or dining room to see men in their 70s, 80s, 90s, a scattering of walkers and wheelchairs often waiting nearby. And it is a kaleidoscope of our history...men who shared the Good News of God's love in many countries on different continents, men who wrote books of thought and insight, men who founded parishes and schools and built them from the



ground up, men who were truly prophets in their day, defying mayors, governors and bishops in the tumultuous '50s and '60s to integrate schools and parishes to bring unity and dignity to all. In their various missions they were often larger than life, legends in their own time, giving of all they were and all they had.

And now I see them here; the strong, vibrant heroes and role-models of my young days as a Spiritan now in a new chapter in their lives, in my life. Some are quite warm and welcoming; some can be quick and easily disturbed. Some, though their bodies be a bit worn and tired, are still sharp with an insight or piece of wisdom, some forget where they are.

It is strangely humbling for me to be with them, though just for a short time every few years when I am back. One Father in his late 80s kept looking at me one morning and suddenly blurted out, "Weren't you my philosophy professor?" He would have done philosophy in the late 1940s, but I guess I look like I age well. I tried to explain again who I was, but I think I only confused him more. A few days later he posed the same question, and I waved a warning finger at him saying, "Ah, and your assignments!! Really!!" He laughed so hard and I suddenly saw him as a 20 year old with his whole life before him, listening for the daily beckoning of God, wondering if he would indeed become a priest and where he would be assigned. He listened, he heard, and he followed. May we all do the same!

At an important meeting of Spiritans from all over the country and even some from abroad, I sat near a confrere in his early 80s who forgot the batteries for his hearing aid and so unwittingly shouted all the time, often interrupting proceedings and, as they say, "showing his age". But when we began to share on what it means to be a Spiritan, he began to talk about love, God's great love for us which, as St. Paul said, impels us to love everyone around us. It is our love that counts, and everything, all the fine works we engage in, must always be filled with love. I knew much of his history in the community, but he never mentioned all the amazing things he has accomplished in his years of ministry, he only talked of God and of love, and that God is love. He ended by quoting Jn.13:35, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

I am touched and challenged at how these men are called to adapt to a whole new way of life, how they must now live visibly the often repeated phrase that what counts is "who we are, not what we do." They remind me

*(continued at top of next page)*

## **Our Spiritan Vocation** *(continued)*

that there are no monuments to ourselves; that we are here to give all we can; that we are on a journey and we must keep moving. And as I see these once strong, dynamic missionaries and educators being given their pills and shots by the smiling nursing staff, as I watch them help each other with walkers and wheelchairs, as I pray with them in chapel, I wonder how difficult it must be to accept so much help from others after a lifetime of being “the helper”. Being with them reminds me of patience, acceptance, humility, honesty. Moving into this stage of life’s journey is “Let Go and Let God” embodied. It is a special kind of holy ground.

I recently mentioned to a fellow Spiritan that I wished all our younger members could spend some time with our elders during the year. He thought it was a good idea and said it would be good for the elders. But actually I was seeing it from a whole other perspective. I keep thinking of how much we, still young and healthy enough to be quite active, could learn so much from being with them. It is, in fact, a new ministry that the elders may not even realize they have...to remind the rest of us of who we are, why we do what we do, and that in the end, it is only our love that we take with us...and leave behind.

---

## ***Manifesting the Kingdom Award presented to Spiritan Fr. Sean Hogan***

*Manifesting the Kingdom Awards* are given by the diocesan bishop to laypeople and consecrated women and men who demonstrate the presence of Jesus in their lives and have participated in an exceptional way in showing forth the kingdom of God among us.

Initiated in 1999, the awards recognize exceptional service to the church reflected in so many different ways in the lives, ministry and work of those who receive them.

Bishop David Zubik bestowed *Manifesting the Kingdom Awards* for distinguished service to 280 Catholics from parishes, religious communities and the diocese at large, with the honors distributed throughout the six counties of the diocese.

The awards were given during a special Mass on June 7 at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh’s Oakland neighborhood.

Fr. Sean M. Hogan, C.S.Sp., (at right with Bishop David Zubik) was awarded the award for his many years of working with the students at Duquesne University.

The recipients are chosen from nominations submitted by pastors, major superiors of religious communities and diocesan staff.



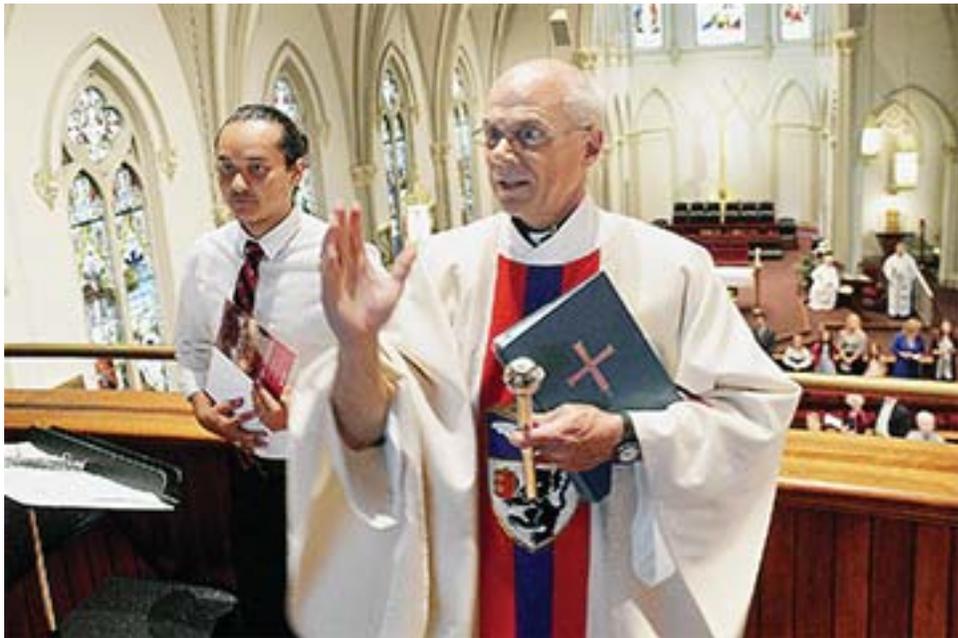
*Bishop Zubik presenting the award to Fr. Sean Hogan.  
Photo by Chuck Austin.*

## The pipes are calling

*Duquesne University completes \$500,000 renovation of chapel organ*

by Teresa F. Lindeman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Hours before Ann Labounsky was to perform a recital on a recent Sunday morning at Duquesne University's Chapel of the Holy Spirit, she took a moment to test the \$500,000 rebuilt organ that would be featured in a special Mass and dedication celebration. A plunge in temperature of 10 degrees or more can throw a pipe organ out of tune. But the rich, vibrant colors that Ms. Labounsky had been waiting decades for came through clearly as she pulled on white stop knobs labeled with titles such as Soubasse, Bordon and Quintaton - sliding easily over the bench and pulling off hand-and-foot coordination far more complicated than driving a stick shift vehicle.



*Fr. Dan Walsh, C.S.Sp., Duquesne University's chaplain, blesses the organ during its dedication in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. At left is choir director Jacob Temple.*

The chapel, with its soaring ceiling and stained glass windows, was first dedicated in 1895. The original 24-stop, 1,290-pipe organ was installed in 1896 and then given a major refurbishing in 1964, a few years before Ms. Labounsky started teaching part time at Duquesne. The Fulbright scholar joined the faculty full time in 1972, at which point music students and faculty began presenting weekly organ recitals in the chapel. Ms. Labounsky said it was quickly apparent the chapel could use a better instrument, but they nursed the old one along for years. At one point, leaking bellows and wind chests were repaired with duct tape - not exactly an approved organ repair technique. Then last year, the Donald and Therese Hastings family gifted the Uptown university with funds that could be used for campus ministry. The Rev. Ray French, C.S.Sp., vice president of mission and identity, chose to devote it to the chapel's organ. "I feel so grateful," Ms. Labounsky said, who noted the renovation of the choir loft where the organ sits was done with funds from the Rita M. McGinley Foundation.

Ms. Labounsky had previously played an organ built by Dan Jaeckel from Duluth, Minnesota, and knew he could make the Duquesne chapel's project work despite a relatively tight budget and a relatively small space. The project took a year, with the installation of the new 24-stop, 1,458-pipe organ completed in early April. Some pipes were rebuilt and reinstalled, others are entirely new. There are two pedal boards, depending on the organist's preference. One spreads the pedals out like rays of the sun, while the other lines them up in straight rows. Learning a new organ is like moving to a different car, and I'm still getting comfortable," said the earnest musician who previously recorded the complete organ works of Jean Langlais, her former teacher, in a project that created 26 compact discs. Since no organs are exactly alike, Ms. Labounsky takes her Duquesne students to Europe every two years to get experience playing a number of different ones. Touring can also be helpful because different music was written with certain organs in mind. This particular organ also will be capable of delivering an especially deep, resonant musical hue thanks to the influence of Joseph Willcox Jenkins, a composer, Duquesne professor and friend of Ms. Labounsky who died last year. When the design work on the organ was being done, he had asked, "Is there a 32?" That would be a reference to the white stop knob that says Resultant 32, one that wasn't in the original plan. "It was a gift from the organ builder," Ms. Labounsky said.

## The Spiritans celebrate National Ice Cream Month!!

July is National Ice Cream month and there are many ways to celebrate this special event. At Libermann Hall, on July 22, many of the priests skipped dessert in the dining room after lunch and came down the hallway to the community room for an ice cream tasting. Once there, they were given samples of five different flavors of ice cream. On a board in the center of the room were many flavors of ice cream listed. After they would taste each sample they had to try to identify what flavor they had in front of them to see which resident could get the most flavors correct. After all the guesses were made, everyone could pick what flavor they wanted in their ice cream cone. It was a lot of fun and a refreshing treat on a hot summer's day!



Sampling the delicious ice cream flavors, clockwise from top left are Fr. Len Tuozzolo, Fr. Ralph Poirier, Fr. John Costello, Fr. Lou Perreault, Bro. Michael Suazo, Fr. Girard Kohler, Fr. Adrien Hebert and Fr. Huy Dinh.