

One Heart, One Spirit

CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Newsletter for the Province of the United States



Volume No. XLII, No. 4
July - August 2014

Father Paul Thang Hoang, CSSp. Ordained July 5, 2014 - Houston

The Most Reverend Joseph Everard Harris, C.S.Sp., Archbishop of Port-Au-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, presided over the joyous celebration of the ordination of Fr. Paul Thang Hoang, C.S.Sp., on Saturday July 5, 2014 at St. Benedict the Abbot Catholic Church in Houston, Texas. Attending were the Very Rev. John Fogarty C.S.Sp., Superior General of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Rome, the Very Rev. Jeffrey Duaine, C.S.Sp., Provincial of the U.S. and dozens of Spiritan and diocesan priests.

Fr. Paul's first assignment will be in Arkansas as Parochial Vicar, assisting Fr. Benoit Mukamba, C.S.Sp., ministering to the five Spiritan parishes the Congregation serves in the diocese of Little Rock.

See related story on page 11.



Fr. Paul blessing Archbishop Harris



Fr. Jeffrey Duaine, Archbishop Harris, and Fr. John Fogarty

**Ordination of Fr. Paul Thang Hoang, CSSp.
July 5, 2014**



Father Paul (in center with bouquet) joyfully shares the day with his father and fellow Spiritans.



Archbishop Harris lays hands on Father Paul as he blesses him. 2



“My mind still has not registered the title of “Father Paul” because I still cannot believe that God loves me so much.”

Duquesne Theology Professor Named Bishop in Ghana

July 3rd, 2014

An assistant professor of theology at Duquesne University has been named by Pope Francis as the bishop of more than 408,000 Catholics in Ghana.

The Rev. John Bonaventure Kwofie, C.S.Sp., S.S.L., a native of Ghana, arrived at Duquesne in 2013 to teach an undergraduate course in critical examination of biblical and historical perspectives. He will become a bishop of Ghana's Sekondi-Takoradi, an area of 2 million people, including 408,650 Catholics, 110 priests and 70 religious.

The bishop-elect, born in Powa, Ghana, was ordained as a member of the Spiritan Congregation in 1988. He holds a licentiate in sacred scripture in biblical exegesis (the interpretation of the Bible) from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. At Duquesne, his class related interpretation of the Bible to contemporary issues.

Kwofie's experience is rooted in his roles as an academic, a pastor and a leader in his congregation. Besides teaching at Duquesne, Kwofie has been involved with the Spiritan International School of Theology in Nigeria. He has presented on Culture and Formation, The Consecrated Life in Africa and to special assemblies in Africa and Rome. His pastoral work has touched parishes in Bohyen Bamtama, the archdiocese of Kumasi and the archdiocese of Accra, the capital city. Additionally, he has done pastoral and missionary work in The Gambia.

Kwofie has served in a variety of leadership roles with the Spiritan Congregation, which is the order that founded and operates Duquesne. These positions included vice president of the Conference of Major Superiors for Africa, provincial superior of the Congregation of West Africa, coordinator of the Continental Conference of Major Superiors for Africa and first assistant of the Superior General of the Congregation. He received his bachelor's degree in theology from Paul's College-Seminary in Liberia/ Urbaniana University in Rome and continued his studies in pastoral leadership formation at Lumko Institute, South Africa. He earned his S.S.L. from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. Additionally, he holds a certificate from the Ghana Institute of Management and Professional Studies in Accra.



Duquesne University

Founded in 1878, Duquesne is consistently ranked among the nation's top Catholic research universities for its award-winning faculty and tradition of academic excellence. The University is nationally ranked by U.S. News and World Report and the Princeton Review for its rich academic programs in 10 schools of study for 10,000-plus graduate and undergraduate students, and by the Washington Monthly for service and contributing to students' social mobility. Duquesne is a member of the U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for its contributions to Pittsburgh and communities around the globe. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges acknowledge Duquesne's commitment to sustainability.

Provincial Message – July-August 2014

It has been a difficult past couple of months in terms of the various crises that have been taking place in our world. More than usual the world seems in disarray, pulled loose from any semblance of normalcy. The crisis in Gaza continues and claims the lives of more and more innocents caught in the violence of an intractable conflict. The humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children seeking asylum at our border with Mexico continues with some voices crying "not our children, not our problem" and closing their eyes to the needs of these vulnerable boys and girls.

An airliner has been shot down over Ukraine, extinguishing the lives of 298 men, women, and children. Violence continues in Nigeria, Sudan, and Somalia with kidnappings and executions. We read of ominous reports of the Christian community disappearing in Mosul in Northern Iraq as a result of religious intolerance. We ask ourselves when will it all end? More personally, we ask ourselves what we can do to make a difference in a world which seems to be in chaos?

I am reminded of St. Paul's rhetorical question in the letter to the Romans, "What [who] will separate us from the love of Christ?" At first glance, for these suffering people around the globe, the answer seems to be clear: there are many things that challenge this love.

But on closer examination, what St. Paul says is crucial for us and for suffering humanity. The misunderstanding is in the word "of." At first glance, we could think that Paul is referring to our love of God. That nothing - anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword - will separate us from loving God. In other words, loving God is something we should be doing despite all of these terrible things.

This understanding, however, completely misses Paul's point. It is not our love that is being referred to. Rather it is God's love for us. Despite anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword, God's love for us holds firm. In spite of suffering and death, God's love is there and "we conquer overwhelmingly because of him who loves us."

Writing for the persecuted Christians of his day, Paul empathizes that this love is stronger than earthly or cosmic powers. Our faith in this love is ultimately not something we do for God, but it is rather something that God does for us.

Let our prayer and actions then, paraphrasing the words of the Second Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation, be ones that through the outpouring of God's grace give concrete witness to "hatred being overcome by love and revenge giving way to forgiveness."

PIP Executive Director - Dr. Richard A. Gosser - Announces "Re-Wirement"

After more than 13 years as executive director of Partners in Progress, Lay Spiritan Associate Dr. Richard A. Gosser is stepping aside from that role at the end of 2014 to assume the title of "Founder and President Emeritus" of Partners in Progress. Not ready to "retire" from an active work life, Gosser sees his change in status as an opportunity for "rewirement" in response to the new opportunities opened up by his change in status. He plans to continue overseeing the "Rich in Mercy" or "faith based" division of Partners in Progress which is rooted in the "Haiti work" that he and his wife, Daneen, began in the early '90s following their initial visit to Haiti in 1987.

Gosser is emeritus professor of mathematics at St. Vincent College where he taught in the Math and Engineering Department between 1975 and 2005. In 2011 St. Vincent College presented him with an honorary "Doctor of Humane Letters" degree for his work in social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. He continues to teach a "service learning" course called "Haiti: Window on Our Worlds" as an adjunct professor of history at St. Vincent.

UST-Houston's Center for Faith and Culture hosts ground-breaking Business Ethics Conference

Marion Fernandez-Cueto, freelance writer, Houston TX

Business school deans from 23 Catholic universities, including Duquesne University, gathered for a ground-breaking business ethics conference in April hosted by the University of St. Thomas-Houston's Center for Faith and Culture and the Cameron School of Business.

Spurred by the sobering implications of the 2008 financial meltdown, and guided by Pope Benedict's call in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* for financiers to "rediscover the genuine ethical foundation" of their work, the three-day conference was convened by the Center for Faith and Culture to explore ways to better prepare graduates from Catholic business schools for the ethical challenges they will encounter in the workplace, organizers said.

"Ever since I saw the two movies, *The Smartest Guys in the Room* and *Inside Job*, I have been plagued with the question of how business ethics are taught in business schools," observed conference organizer and Spiritan Father Donald Nesti, the director of the Center for Faith and Culture. "What makes the teaching of business ethics in business schools at Catholic institutions of higher education different from the way they are taught in Ivy League Schools and state universities, which are generally held up as models of 'best practices'? How does the teaching of business ethics, in light of Catholic teaching, prepare MBA graduates for the 'Wall Street Culture' in which they will be working?"

The conference offered an opportunity for deans to reflect on those questions and invited them to incorporate a truly holistic understanding of Catholic teaching throughout the curricula of their institutions, Nesti said. "How do you create the ethos of a Catholic business school—this is the issue!" Nesti said. "It's one thing for a university to claim Catholic identity and espouse *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. It is another for that university, in particular its business school, to implement the vision throughout its curriculum."

The conference provided a rare combination of academic best-practices speakers, a review of the principles of Catholic social teaching, and insights from both

business executives and industry whistleblowers. In a keynote address written by Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and delivered by his assistant, Fr. Michael Czerny, Turkson observed that business educators must form students to "lead an integrated life" of faith and work in view of principles such as human dignity and the common good. In a culture which emphasizes the notion that "ethics is costly while cutting corners is profitable," MBA graduates need both the formation and tools to "speak up courageously and act as needed," he said.

To provide that formation, Catholic business schools need to do more than offer "a few ethics courses," Czerny said; their curricula as a whole must be grounded in Catholic social teaching. "Too often, ethics are applied like paint when the building is already done," he observed. "That's not ethics—that's decoration."

On the last day of the conference, deans convened in roundtable discussions to explore practical ways to more effectively teach business ethics in their schools based on current gaps and challenges. A newly released white paper on their findings concluded that business schools at Catholic universities need to more fully align their mission and strategic objectives with Church doctrine, embed business ethics training throughout their curricula, and provide business graduates with more practical "decision-point" strategies for making ethical choices in today's corporate climate.

"Hopefully this will be the beginning of an evolution in the way that business ethics is taught," said UST business ethics professor Dr. John Simms. "We cannot afford to fail—the headlines tell us the damage that is incurred when we do."

The white paper and other details from the conference can be found at the University of St. Thomas-Houston website, www.stthom.edu.

Vocation Discernment Group News

Shortly after graduation a group of four students from Duquesne University and one student from the University of Houston went to Chicago with Father Dan Walsh and Sister Clara Kreis, CDP to further discernment through their participation in vocation discernment. We were warmly welcomed at St. Ambrose Parish by Father Chris Promis. This trip had several purposes and those who participated were very pleased with the excursion. As a group we were able to see and learn about the final stage of Spiritan formation at CTU (as well as get to know the location of other religious formation houses), we experienced prayer and community life, had a tour of Catholic Theological Union and we visited with Catholics on Call.

Two years ago Father Dan Walsh and Sister Clara Kreis began the vocation discernment group at Laval House on Duquesne University's campus. The stated purpose of the discernment group is to provide a space for young people to consider the call to religious life and ministry. Each Wednesday evening the group begins with evening prayer followed by a simple meal and then for the rest of the evening there is a discussion or talk on matters that relate to discernment. At the beginning of each semester the students choose what topics will be considered and who will present them. Some topics are presented by a religious (Sisters Clara or Christine Pinto, OSB or Fathers Dan or Bill Christy) while other talks are very well prepared by the student participants.

The thought of discerning a vocation on the college campus is a daunting proposition. A recent study by CARA showed that 13% of young men and 10% of young women give serious thought to the idea of a vocation at some point in their life. In the student population on Duquesne's campus, where religious demographics mirror that of the region, the number of Catholic students at this university who would give thought to the idea of a vocation is pretty sizable. Our

intention in starting the vocation discernment group was to provide a safe space for young people to discern and learn about religious vocations. Those who participate in the group have formed a very strong community among themselves.

There are very few vocation discernment groups on Catholic college campuses. There could be many reasons for this reality. In looking to construct a credible ministry for discernment we found that there is a big difference between vocational recruitment and vocation discernment. If the purpose is only to drive people to apply to a formation program the population will be quite small. If the net is cast wider and the intention is to engage people in the long-standing and rich tradition of discernment more people are included.

Our group in two years has grown from 4 to 20 participants. Students feel mutual support and security in their community of discerners. With this sense of security they recruit friends to come and participate. On our last night in Chicago one of the students who graduated two weeks before the trip said to one of the freshman how lucky she is to have this group. The graduate stated that if this group had existed when he was a freshman it would have made a big difference in his college career.

I ask all the members of the province to keep the participants in the vocation discernment group in their prayers. I would also encourage those who work with youth to investigate how a vocation discernment group might be introduced in parishes or other pastoral work. Let's hope that through this outreach we will be blessed with more vocations.

One Duquesne alumni, the nephew of Fr. Hackett, has given a very nice endowment in honor of his uncle and Fr. Hanley to support this effort.

~ Fr. Dan Walsh

Canada and TransCanada Chapter Meetings

Chapter Meetings were held recently in Canada and TransCanada. Fr. Michel Boutot was re-elected provincial in Canada, and in TransCanada, Fr. Francis Folleh was elected provincial.

From our corner of the World... we reach out to Others

Mary Kay Hindes

While most of us were busy preparing for our Easter Celebrations, one of our wonderful nurses at Libermann Hall was packing!

Nurse Sandy Smith was leaving for a journey to help the very poor people of Haiti. She was going to use her skills learned in nursing school to try to help in whatever way she could. This was her very first time on an airplane, and of course, her first trip out of the country. Sandy was accompanied by other members of her Church, Bethany Presbyterian.



Fr. Frank Wright checks over the supply of eyeglasses he donated for Libermann Hall nurse Sandy Smith to take with her on a mission trip to Haiti.

The staff and the residents of Libermann Hall are a close bunch, so many knew of her adventure and shared her enthusiasm!! One of our amazing residents, Fr. Frank Wright, decided that this would be a great opportunity to bring much needed eyeglasses to some of these very poor people. He supplied Sandy with the money, and she had her husband and brother-in-law go on a shopping spree to buy eyeglasses. Some were for children, some were for adults. There were many different colors and shapes. But what they all had in common was that they would help a person see more clearly! Sandy learned shortly after arriving, that there are no eye doctors nearby, and it is very expensive to see a specialist if you are lucky enough to find one. She delivered the eyeglasses to the clinic where she was helping and was told by the physician there, that an eye doctor from the States was expected the following month. At that time, the glasses would be distributed.

Another Libermann Hall resident, Fr. Norbert Rosso, sent along Fifty dollars. This money was given to a volunteer who travels to Haiti from Pittsburgh to teach English to the people. If a person from Haiti can speak English, it opens up doors for future education.

When Sandy took off, she also was armed with other monetary donations, prayers, best wishes, and even hair accessories for the little girls of Haiti. Donations were from priests, other staff members, and the ladies from the Provincial Office. Sandy's adventure came to an end a week later. She came back with pictures, stories, and a new appreciation for our great country. But she definitely left a little bit of "us" there. The people of "this community" in Bethel Park are an amazing, generous, and loving group. From the extraordinary priests who keep helping people even in their retirement, the staff which often goes above and beyond, to the "friends" and people who attend Mass in the little chapel, they are constantly giving and looking to see who needs help.

How blessed we are that in a crazy world we still have love and compassion in our little corner of the world.

Ned's Mission - Olbalbal Diary - July 2014 (www.nedsmision.org)

Feasts are taking place all over these days as families celebrate the transition of their sons to warriorhood. It is the mid-year school break so boys that attend primary or secondary school are home for a month providing time for them to be circumcised. Each family puts on the most sumptuous feast they can. Naponu, the subject of my recent blogs, slaughtered two goats for the circumcision of her son, Tetia. This is in contrast to the blowout celebration staged by Shaudo, one our Christian leaders and the richest man around. He slaughtered six oxen and seven goats to feed the many hundreds of well-wishers gathered to celebrate the transition rites of the twelve boys of his family.



An ox to be ritually slaughtered

A new age group opens about every sixteen years. All the boys circumcised during the time that the age group is open are members of that age set. Traditionally the members have a very close bond and help each other in difficult times. An example of their closeness and interdependence is food. A warrior is not supposed to even take a drink of water alone but must be with an age mate and share the cup with him.

At Naponu's celebration for her son, we had a good meal of roast goat and rice together with family and friends gathered for the party. Shaudo's celebration by contrast was amazing. Happy crowds gathered for his feast. Warriors and young girls were dancing and singing in one place. In another, women in great numbers were singing their songs of happiness at having children or laments for lack of them.

The day before, the boy's heads were shaved and even their eyebrows were carefully removed. Circumcision signals a new birth for a boy, a new beginning where



A young man begins a new life with all his hair shaved off, even the eyebrows.

he leaves the carefree happy-go-lucky life of a child and begins to shoulder the responsibility for the welfare of his family and village.

Boys who were circumcised in recent weeks dressed in their black sheep fat-saturated clothing with white and black painted faces the evening before. Through the night they sang to the twelve who would fall under the knife at dawn. They sang songs of warriorhood aimed and giving courage to the twelve. Showing any sign of fear during the procedure, even a twitch, could bring disgrace on the family. The boys needed all the help their new age mates could provide.

Huge platters of roasted beef and others heaped with rice and potatoes awaited guests in the house of Shaudo. Many families, the clan of Shaudo among them, do not have alcohol at their feasts, so there was very sweet tea and soda to drink.

“Sodbusters” is the name of this new age group, a name derisively given to them by the older warrior

continued at top of next page



Newly circumcised boys wearing their unique black clothing

Ned's Mission - Olbalbal Diary - July 2014

age group. The name points to the fact that these days and where possible the Maasai cultivate plots of corn, something that used to be forbidden. The Maasai grow corn. People don't have the herds of cattle that they had in the past and farming has become a necessity for survival. In the Conservation Area of Ngorongoro, where cultivation is forbidden, people with few cattle struggle.

One of the boys to be circumcised with the baptismal name of Yohana, was renamed the day before his circumcision. He was given the name "Lobikoo", "The one who will endure." This name was chosen because it belonged to a man in the history of his family who possessed great herds of cattle. The elders blessed the new name and he will be known by that name from now on. This is one more strong reason for using the traditional Maasai names at baptism. These carefully



chosen names are given shortly after birth with much blessing and ceremony. I haven't been able to find out why Yohana didn't already have a Maasai name.

This time of feasts in Maasai country is a happy time and people are eating their fill. I think I've gained at least five pounds since the celebrations started.

Bush Internet

Some have asked how I can use the internet in a totally isolated place like Olbalbal. The short answer is that my small solar system provides the minimal needed electricity and there is a cell phone tower perched on the top of Ngorongoro Mountain.

Here in Tanzania people get on the internet by means of their cell phone connection. Some use the phone itself to surf the net, access websites and to receive and send email. Others use the small sticks that have a small card inserted, a sim card, one that is identical to the one that is in their cell phones. The stick is inserted into the USB slot of a computer and allows them to access the internet, again by way of the cell phone towers that have sprung up all over the country. Except in the big towns like Dar es Salaam, the connection is generally very slow and often intermittent.

During my first couple of years here at Olbalbal, the cell phone company that I was using was very poor with regard to the connection speed. Also very often there was no connection at all. During the last four months, I have gotten a different cell phone provider and the connection speed is much better. In fact, I have been able to post my blogs to my website on a regular basis. It often takes many minutes for a website to load on my computer but with patience, I'm

able to get news on sites like the BBC website. One interesting website that I have found is MyWay.com where news articles are presented without pictures and other things that slow things down.

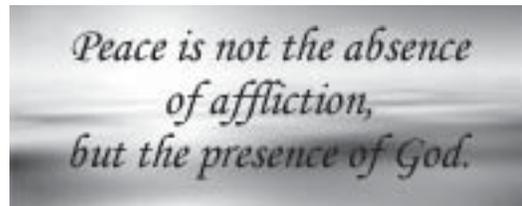
Since my phone allows me to use it as a "hot spot," that is a wireless connection, I am able to use the phone itself to access my email and send my blogs. I place it near my computer using the phone as a wireless modem. This allows me to have a single internet subscription for the phone and the computer. I pay about \$15 a month and am able to post my blogs, get the news, and even download a book now and then from Amazon to my Kindle eBook reader.

Having a Kindle makes a tremendous difference to life here in the bush. In "LBK", that is, in "Life Before Kindle" I had to depend on some traveler or fellow missionary to discard a book. If no one visited, often I had nothing to read for months on end. This situation changed dramatically when I received my first Kindle some years ago. Now with the many thousands of eBooks to choose from on Amazon, I download the book I want from the internet and put it on the Kindle eBook reader by way of a USB cable. This has been a real life changer for me.

Being Remembered in Prayer

Please join us in praying for those who are ill:

- Fr. George Spangenberg, recovering from surgery
- Fr. John Skaj, recovering from surgery
- Fr. Len Tuozzolo, recovering at the Golden Living Center, Canonsburg PA, following an illness



Prayer Intentions from the Holy Father, Pope Francis

August

Refugees. That refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights.

Oceania. That Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all the people of that region.

September

Mentally disabled. That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life.

Service to the poor. That Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.

October

Peace. That the Lord may grant peace to those parts of the world most battered by war and violence.

World Mission Day. That World Mission Day may rekindle in every believer zeal for carrying the Gospel into all the world.

Please note the following changes to your Membership Directories

Page C-7: new address for Amoako-Attah, Matthew: Church of the Visitation, 407 E. Main St., Eaton OH 45320

Page C-10: mailing addresses for Fr. Deglaire - Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, 996 I Sierra Ave., Fontana CA 92335; Residence: 16970 Marygold Ave., Fontana CA 92335

Page C-23: Owusu-Achiaw, John - new cell phone no. 224-247-8345 and email address: johnowusu305@yahoo.com

Page D-11: Houston TX - change title to read: Spiritan Office for Mission Advancement (SOMA)

Page E-1: Ahua, Emmanuel - new address: Resurrection Parish, #1 Majka Drive, W. Mifflin PA 15222

Page E-1: Enamali, Mark - new address: John the Baptist Church, 943 Powers Street, New Haven IN 46774

Go Green:

You can receive **One Heart, One Spirit** via Email!

In an effort to conserve paper and cut costs of printing, we are offering the option to receive *One Heart, One Spirit* via email. If you would like this option, please email usnewsletter@spiritans.org or call 412-831-0302 to let us know. We appreciate your help in saving our environment.



August

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

September

- 5 Fr. Girard Jean Kohler
- 11 Fr. Louis G. Perreault
- 16 Fr. Joseph L. Kelly
- 28 Bro. Joseph T. Cannon

October

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



My Extraordinary Walk with Thang

A personal reflection by Cynthia Sapio (in above photo with Fr. Paul)

Fr. Paul Thang Hoang, CSSp, was ordained on my 45th wedding anniversary, July 5, 2014! How extraordinary is that? Very! I would like to share with you briefly what it is that makes it so.

About ten years ago, I was asked by my then boss, Fr. Donald Nesti, CSSp, working in the office of University of St. Thomas, Center for Faith & Culture, in Houston TX, if I would be willing to give some of my free time, a few hours a week during the summer, to help the Spiritans' Vietnamese seminarians with their study of English. Since English was my minor in college, I was eager to try, although I was not trained or educated on how to teach ESL. I had no materials to work with, no books, and no clue how to begin. It was a challenge for me, but I accepted Fr. Nesti's invitation to serve his community. Thang was in that small group of Spiritan seminarians that I taught ESL.

Even after Thang left Houston for studies in Chicago and for his other assignments throughout his years in formation, through email correspondence, I was able to help him with proofreading and editing his papers for spelling, grammar, style and for clarity of meaning. We had ten years of communication and hard work during which we built a wonderful friendship.

There are truly no words to describe what I felt when I attended Thang's ordination. I could not hold back the tears. They were happy tears and "remembering" tears... remembering all those days when Thang labored over those papers trying to put into words of another language his thoughts, reflections, and theological understanding of all the topics seminarians are asked to write about in their journey toward priesthood. Tears recalling all those days when I would receive Thang's papers at what I thought were some of the most inconvenient of times for the busy life I lead.

But, NOTHING could stop me from wanting to help Thang. I felt that he was God's gift to me and saying "no" or "not now" was like saying that to Jesus Christ, because like only a very few other people in my life, I believe that Thang truly has the heart and the mind of Christ. Some of the papers he asked me to help him with were

My Extraordinary Walk with Thang (continued)

so honest and transparent. He trusted me with his innermost thoughts; and although I felt so unworthy and inadequate at times to be Thang's helper with those papers, my desire to help him was stronger than those feelings. In all his papers, I saw that he had what it took to be a good shepherd – he had the spirit of servanthood, of simplicity, humility and genuine love. The tears I shed that day of his ordination were tears of joy and of remembering sacrifices – his and mine – to accomplish something bigger than either of us... to enable him to follow his call and give his life in the service of the People of God.

It was appropriate and extraordinary that Thang was ordained on my 45th wedding anniversary. Just as Thang's journey was about 10 years, my husband and I dated for 10 years before we married. There were many ups and downs in those years – just as I know there were peaks and valleys in Thang's journey. But, my husband and I somehow knew what we had together was bigger than both of us. We knew that we were working towards something, and as our relationship with God has grown over the years - years of sacrifice and joy - we see our marriage as vocation, a sacrament which is blessing us more and more with every passing year. I know that Thang's vocation will continue to bless him for many years in ways that he can't even yet imagine.

Fr. Paul Thang Hoang will always be “Thang” to me. His gentle spirit and the laughs we shared, not to mention his deep love of Christ and his desire to follow wherever the Holy Spirit leads, have blessed, encouraged, and inspired me. However, in my sincere respect for his ministry in the priesthood, I bow in humble gratitude to him as Fr. Paul Thang Hoang, CSSp, and ask him to continue praying as he has prayed for me and my family, as I will continue to pray for him, all he does, and all those he serves. Our friendship has enriched my life in countless ways. I will never forget his hands on my heart or his hands on my head, as he gave me one of the first of what will be thousands of blessings he gives as a priest. God bless “Thang” / Fr. Paul Thang Hoang, CSSp, always. P.S. - I asked him to send me some of his homilies.....I would love to continue working with him!



Consecrated Life: Many Possibilities



Year for Consecrated Life - November 27, 2014 to February 2, 2016

With the theme of “Wake Up the World!” - inspired by Pope Francis' call to action to the men and women in Consecrated Life - VISION Vocation Guide and its parent organization, the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), as well as the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), have developed the above logos for use throughout the Year of Consecrated Life in order to promote this year-long celebration of the unique lives and witness of those in consecrated life. The year will include renewal for men and women in consecrated life; thanksgiving among the faithful for the service of religious sisters, brothers, priests, nuns, and others in consecrated life; invitation to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation. For more information and resources refer to www.yearforconsecratedlife.com

Important dates during the Year for Consecrated Life:

Nov. 29, 2014 Opening Prayer Vigil

Nov. 30, 2014 Opening Mass with Pope Francis

Feb. 1, 2016 First Sunday of Advent Closing Prayer Vigil

Feb. 2, 2016 Closing Mass with Pope Francis on World Day for Consecrated Life

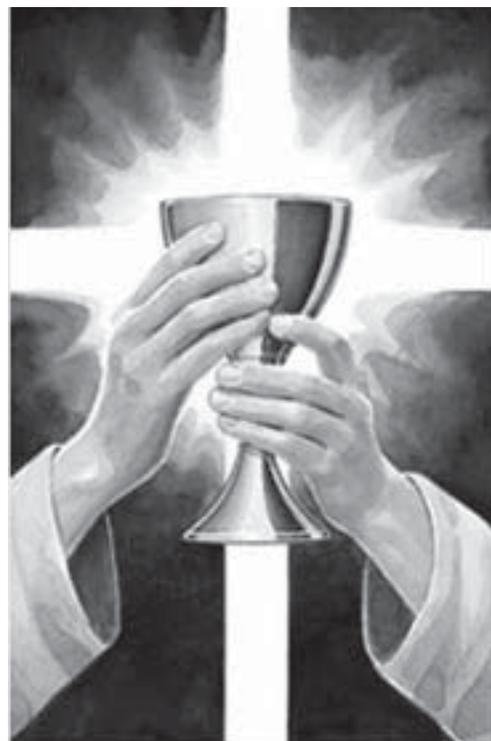
Congratulations to these Spiritans who celebrate special anniversaries in August and September. May God sustain you in celebrating the Sacraments, in proclaiming the Gospel and in consecrating your life to God for the good of the people entrusted to your care.

PROFESSIONS

65 Years	Fr. John J. Costello	August 22, 1949
65 Years	Fr. Silvio A. D'Ostilio	August 22, 1949
65 Years	Fr. Norbert T. Rosso	August 22, 1949
60 Years	Fr. Adrien T. Hebert	August 22, 1954
60 Years	Fr. Leonard J. Tuozzolo	August 22, 1954
55 Years	Fr. Thomas J. Byrne	August 22, 1959
55 Years	Fr. Joseph B. Gaglione	August 22, 1959
55 Years	Fr. William R. Headley	August 22, 1959
55 Years	Fr. J. Clifton Hill	August 22, 1959
55 Years	Fr. Edward T. Marchessault	August 22, 1959
55 Years	Fr. Sean M. Hogan	September 8, 1959
35 Years	Fr. Michael T. White	August 1, 1979
30 Years	Fr. Michael Begley	September 8, 1984
30 Years	Fr. Jean-Michel Gelmetti	September 8, 1984
5 Years	Fr. Paul Thang Hoang	August 2, 2009

ORDINATIONS

25 Years	Fr. Peter Osuji	August 5, 1989
25 Years	Fr. Gregory Olikenyi	August 12, 1989
15 Years	Fr. Timothy J. Hickey	August 14, 1999



The Lay Spiritan Formation program:

Eight applicants have been accepted by the Provincial Council for admission into the 2014-2015 Lay Spiritan Associate formation program. Additionally there are at least three serious candidates in a “pre-formation” or inquirer status. The formation program extends for 1-2 years and is customized to meet the needs of each group of participants. Monthly meetings focus reflection and discussion on aspects of the Spiritan charism and mission while building community among both lay and professed Spiritans. Additionally candidates reflect on the history of the Congregation and dialogue on contemporary issues of justice, peace, and the integrity of creation as well as on other issues raised in Spiritan publications and on new approaches to the Spiritan way of life coming out of general chapters.

The Lay Spiritan Associates are a “branch of the Spiritan tree” (Torre d’Aguilha, I 1.2) open to adult Catholic men and women who envision a community brought together by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and called to solidarity with those who are most poor, vulnerable and excluded from society. The identity of the Lay Spiritan Associates centers around the fundamental aspects of vocation, Spiritan mission, the spirituality of our founders, and a sense of belonging to the Spiritan family (Torre d’Aguilha, I 1.3). Lay Spiritan Associates are committed to a certain life of prayer and community and some kind of commitment to the defense of the weak and poor, particularly around issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Lay Spiritan Associates seek to be united in heart and spirit with professed Spiritans throughout the world in openness and simplicity working together with each other and living out the charism of the Spiritan congregation. For additional information about the Lay Spiritan Associates contact Dr. Anne Marie Hansen or Fr. Dan Walsh, C.S.Sp. at Duquesne University.

FR. JOSEPH Documentary



From feature documentaries to short films, Floating World Pictures produces stories that move, challenge, entertain, and inspire. Jeff Kaufman has produced and directed a number of documentaries for Amnesty International. He has also produced, written, and/or directed programs for The Discovery Channel (including

a special on the World Trade Center recovery effort), MTV, The History Channel, and The Learning Channel, and worked on other human rights projects. He is doing a feature documentary on the life and work of Haitian Spiritan priest Father Joseph Philippe, an economic visionary who has lifted the lives of thousands of people. *FATHER JOSEPH* is a feature documentary on Haiti's unique history, challenges and potential. (View a trailer on the documentary *FATHER JOSEPH* at www.floatingworldpictures.com.)

"I try to empower - the poor, the young people, women, and peasants. We want to help everyone recognize that they have a lot of gifts, even though they are poor, to give to the community by working together as a body. We can grow together as human beings, and complete each other, and learn from each other. We can become bridge-builders and peacemakers, for ourselves, for the others, and for the world."

~ Father Joseph Philippe

Haiti is a country often plagued by the cruelties of politics, commerce, and nature, but it has also produced some rare individuals, disinterested in self-promotion or personal gain, who have - against incredible odds - found ways to better the lives of those in need. Father Joseph Philippe is one such man, or more accurately, he is five-or-six social activists in one. Through a vivid profile of Father Joseph's remarkable life and work the feature documentary *FATHER JOSEPH* will represent an intimate view of Haiti's turbulent history, and an unusually immersive community portrait. Named "2010 Social Entrepreneur for Latin America" by the Schwab Foundation, Father Joseph was born to poor mountain farmers and was the first in his family to get a college degree. He became an accountant and a Spiritan priest, established the Bank of Fonkoze - Haiti's first micro-credit bank for the poor (with small business loans and training for tens of thousands of women), started the Association of Peasants of Fondwa, co-founded a 700-student K-12 school, an orphanage, a clean water project, a reforestation program, a health clinic, a radio station, built dozens of homes, and founded the University of Fondwa, Haiti's first rural college. Along the way, he has experienced shocking violence, remarkable courage, and equal amounts of tragedy and inspiration. Almost all of Father Joseph's 25 years of work was destroyed by the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti, but he is rebuilding on several levels.

FATHER JOSEPH, and the outreach campaign this film launches, will bring alive an inspiring personal story with epic scope, and connect a diverse audience to themes of economic and educational opportunity, social justice, environmental protection, healthcare, history, the power of faith, and public service - issues that should speak to people everywhere.