

# One Heart, One Spirit

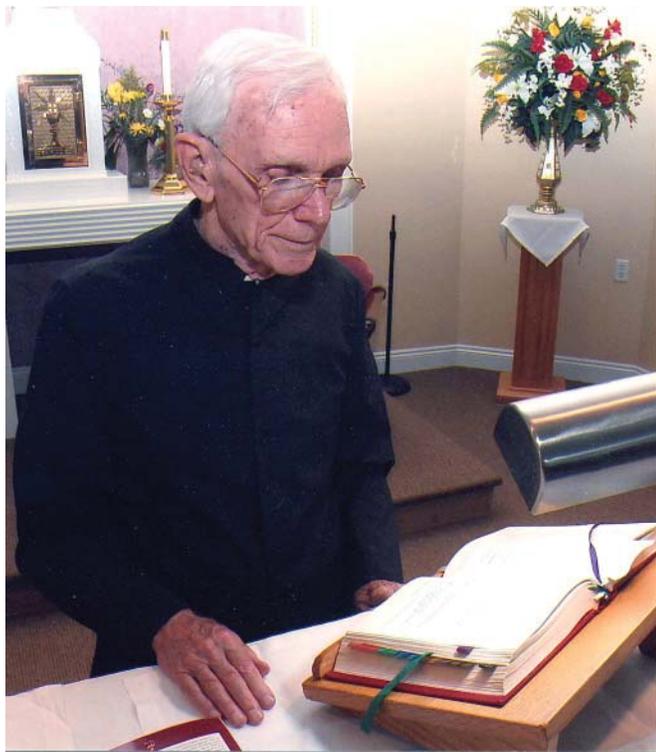
CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Newsletter for the Province of the United States



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**Fr. John Yates, C.S.Sp.**  
July 20, 1922 - May 3, 2014



## ***Autobiography of Father John Yates*** (written about 6 years ago)

Divine Providence has guided me toward the fulfilling vocation of the priesthood. Now at 85 years old I am reminded of St. Francis' prayer that "It is in giving that we receive."

I was born in 1922 in Brooklyn NY during the roaring 20's. Life was good for the Yates clan. We had a nice home, no financial worries and plenty to eat. I was the second of nine children and had plenty of playmates. The "crash" of 1929 hit, and my father lost his job at the bank but soon found a job in a hat factory in Norwalk CT. We settled into a little apartment that cost \$25 a month. My brother and I felt we were the lucky ones because we got to sleep in the attic near

the chimney – a big plus in the cold winter. The only remarkable thing about Norwalk was that it had a Catholic seminary. The town's nickname was the "city of priests". As Catholics we attended Mass every Sunday. My mother was always more expressive with her beliefs than Dad.

As the 1930's came to a close the "Great Depression" hung over Norwalk like a New England fog. We could overhear people wondering if Roosevelt could keep us out of war. As a teen, I didn't worry as much as the old folks did. They had just gone through WWI 23 years before.

After high school I worked at a military airplane assembly factory. This gave me a "deferred" draft status. This bothered me because I wanted to travel and see the world! Didn't God know this? What better way than to get drafted! Mom didn't share this view. Then Pearl Harbor was bombed. The radio blared out the news of the attack. I remember my mother saying, "We are at war. We must pray the rosary!" As the war progressed neighbors would often join us in the evening to pray the rosary.

I begged my mother to let me quit my job so I could join the service. "No way," she would say, "building planes is patriotic enough!" Finally, after pleading with my folks about my desire to travel, they gave me their blessings. I traveled to New Haven CT to sign up. I had no idea what branch of the military I should join.

Here is where Divine Providence took over and led me to the Navy, which in turn led me toward the priesthood. Up until this time I didn't have the slightest desire to become a priest. I was Catholic, I went to Mass, said my prayers, went to communion and was confirmed. Seventy years ago, boys as young as 13 entered the seminary. I don't think anyone I knew would have

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## Autobiography of Father John Yates (cont.)

guessed where the Holy Spirit was guiding me. God uses different paths to lead people closer to him. I stood in the recruitment area and saw different lines for each branch of the service. I was confused but excited. My fear of death was blurred by my desire to see the world. Suddenly a sailor came up to me and said, "You look like a sailor, get in that line over there!" He pointed to a sign that read "Navy". I thought, "Navy? Well, why not? There are ships and I would be able to travel." Sounded good to me! I did not realize what a pivotal role the Navy would play in my choice to become a priest and eventually serve the needy. So many events in life seem to "just happen." Not so with me. I know that Divine Providence guided the past 85 years of my life and still does. My blessings seem to have been patterned to coincide with what I needed from God and what God wanted for me.

Just before I left for the Navy, I started going to daily Mass with Mom. I can only hope my excitement over getting to travel took away some of her worry. I was assigned to a so-called "banana boat", a refrigerator store ship that brought food to the troops in the Pacific. Interestingly enough the first port we visited was Espiritu Santo (Holy Spirit) in the New Hebrides Islands!

While at sea, the majestic beauty of the Pacific Ocean and sky moved me to pray more than I ever had before. I call this my "desert experience!" One might think of Jesus' Desert Experience and wonder why I call it such. Jesus' desert experience was filled with suffering and temptation. Although I had a full belly and glorious vistas, I had never found a time and place in my life where such solitude and beauty led to a rich prayer life. Hence, my "desert experience" on the ocean!

I became friends with a man named Bob O'Connor. After several months, we both nervously admitted to each other that someday we might consider being priests. Amazed at our developing spiritual hunger, we kept this between ourselves.

After two years on the "banana boat", I was transferred to the *Arctic* (1943-1945), a submarine chaser. Our sub guarded the entrance at Subic Bay, Philippines. I learned Morse code in two months and was a

radio operator because I could type fast. There were some scary moments in the months that followed, but I never regretted joining the Navy. My prayer life continued to grow.

While in Manilla in the Philippines, Bob and I went to visit Father Wilman at the USO. He didn't take us seriously at first. Maybe other men had come to him explaining their growing closeness with God. As the saying goes, "There are no atheists in foxholes." Men facing death often pray more, but this was not the case for me. We saw very little action. I was relieved to explain my spiritual growth to Father Wilman.

I learned more about that priest from Manila months later when I was home on leave. When I was talking about George Wilman, my father's eyes opened wide with astonishment. He realized it was the same George Wilman that worked with him at the bank in Brooklyn years before! That same visit home held another coincidence. Our local church "happened" to have a mission. Dad explained that it was for men and would last five days. At this time I was still only "toying" with the idea of being a priest. "Would they even have me?" I wondered.

I met with the priest who was giving the mission. I told him my thoughts about becoming a priest. "Son", he said, "You just might be a priest someday!" I will never forget that moment. I was filled with joy and a little scared at the same time. To hear a priest say that gave validity to my growing desire to serve. Yet I never mentioned that to my folks.

By the time the war was over I was sure that God was calling me to the priesthood. I could not think of anything else I would be happy doing. Again as Divine Providence would have it, the Holy Ghost Fathers accepted me as a candidate to their seminary in my hometown Norwalk CT. It was no party in the seminary. I saw many men quit. I was older than most of the other students, most of whom had six years of Latin and college degrees! I stuck it out, and was ordained on June 6, 1954 in the same parish where I made my first communion and was confirmed.

Over the years I was given different responsibilities in different cities. Holy Ghost Fathers had 19 black

## Autobiography of Father John Yates (cont.)

parishes in South Louisiana. I was sent to an impoverished community in New Orleans. With the help of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters we educated many students. I also worked in several Hispanic parishes in California over a nine year period.

I felt at home working with the poor. It was with them that I felt most wanted and needed. I learned how people in a close knit community can be happy working together and needing each other.

My most memorable assignment was in the Diocese of Valles, Mexico. After a swift trip to Bolivia to learn Spanish in three months, I went to Mexico. It was truly another world, like nothing I had ever seen. The streets were full of horses and hot swirling dust. No one spoke English. The food was not the best. I ended up in the State of San Luis Potosi. The church was built in 1772 and they had not had a priest for years. This hit home with me when I was asked to perform 29 marriage ceremonies in one day! It was truly a new beginning for them and me.

Within a few weeks I caught hepatitis. Nearly everyone gets it there. You suffer through it and get over it. I look back at the rough physical conditions, the heat, the smells, the sickness and still I smile with amazement at how I grew to love Mexico. Why? Ultimately, it is the people! It is always the people. Like in Louisiana there was that sense of community, of everyone working together. It is the people who allow you to feel so needed and loved. I don't know today if that matters so much to young folks. This would explain the lack of religious vocations being chosen.

Today young people have so many choices of what to do with their lives. These are unbelievably wondrous prosperous times in the United States. Is this necessarily good? Do we feel like we need each other? Or need our religious personnel? I don't know.

If people achieve material wealth but fail to understand the desire we all have to be loved and needed trouble follows. The more we serve, the greater the fulfillment. Such was my time in Mexico. I look at that time as the "crown jewel" of my years as a priest. I will forever be grateful to the Holy Spirit for leading

me to the priesthood and especially for my eleven years in Mexico.

On my 75th birthday I was asked to set up a Spanish ministry in Conway and Morrilton AR. I called the bishop to clarify. "But Bishop", I said, "I am 75 years old," to which the bishop said, "I'm 74 and what exactly is your point?" I helped establish those ministries and after 3-1/2 years I was made pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Center Ridge AR. That was my entire ministry.

Saint Joseph sits in the foothills of the Ozarks. The church itself is located on a hill surrounded by pasture land. There is always a breeze here. In the fall the wind blows over the yellow hay in waves as the multitudes of ducks fly over. Gorgeous colors are forming on the nearby hills and ridges.

**"I Look at the rough physical conditions, the heat, the smells, the sickness and still I smile with amazement...  
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It is always the people."**

I am 85 years old now. Retire? No, I need to be needed and pray for God to "take me with my boots on." The beauty of nature is once again pulling me to pray just like years ago on a "banana boat" in the blue Pacific. I give thanks to that Divine Providence which led to vocational fulfillment and for the people of Center Ridge today who make an old priest feel needed.

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*Ed. note: In April 2010, Fr. Yates came to the Spiritan Retirement Community of Libermann Hall in Bethel Park PA, where he happily resided until the last few months of his life. He passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 3, 2014, at Golden Living Center in Waynesburg PA at the age of 91 after a long, happy and fulfilling life and just one month shy of 60 years of service as a Spiritan priest. Viewing and Mass for the community were held on May 7th at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in the Spiritan Center at Bethel Park. Burial took place at St. Mary's Cemetery in O'Hara Township, Pittsburgh.*

# inTune with the Holy Spirit

## Are you inTune with the Holy Spirit?

Written by Joseph L. Nguyen, C.S.Sp., and reprinted from *The Daily Vine*, Archdiocese Galveston-Houston

Are you connected with God? Picture yourself typing away at your computer and without warning your computer freezes or locks up. What do you do? I would press Ctrl + Alt + Del buttons at the same time. Amazingly, my computer revives. Generally, our computer freezes when it goes beyond its capacity with so many downloads and programs. Our lives too can be stuck when we are overloaded with so many 'downloads.' Harmful 'viruses' can attach to us and eventually destroy us. There are times in our lives when we get stuck, and need to take quick actions to stay connected with God. The three keys to keeping inTune with the Holy Spirit are the following. We are called to give God control (Ctrl) of our lives. We are invited to choose God's alternative (Alt) way. We must (Del) all that is not of God in our lives.



Lent was a time of special grace when we let the Holy Spirit, the Helper, keep us inTune with God by helping us to give God the control (Ctrl) of our lives. Jesus began his journey into the desert led by the Holy Spirit: "Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." (Luke 4:1-2) Even at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry he allowed himself to be led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was strengthened by the Holy Spirit to resist temptations to give control of his life over to the Tempter. What or who is in control of your life? What have you given your life over to? Where do you spend your time and energy? What consumes you? What takes priority in your daily life? To give God control of our lives means to surrender our lives to God. God has a plan for our lives. So we are to set aside our own plans and seek God's will through prayer. God's plan for us is always good. "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you... plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) Wow, God has a plan for you and me!

To be inTune with the Holy Spirit goes beyond giving

control of our lives to God by choosing God's way, an alternative (Alt) direction. We are invited to consider God's path because we are all on a journey through life. Most journeys begin with the focus of our destination. Even if our destination is clear the roads can be difficult at times. In his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, former South Africa President Nelson Mandela made a most perceptive insight. He profoundly said, "I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb..." As Christians this is the path and pattern of our lives, the death and rising to new life. It happens again and again until the end of our lives. We can be assured that we do not make this journey alone. The Holy Spirit is always with us! God's alternative direction is the way of total and complete love. Be led by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was led!

Trusting in God's way then leads us to be more connected with God by letting go (Del) of anything that is not of God in our lives. What needs to be deleted? What needs to be purged? Our Lord Jesus has the greatest anti-virus protection which He has given freely to us through the Church. This is the Sacrament of Reconciliation, known by most Catholics simply as 'Confession.' Here our sins are deleted forever! Gone! Removed! A psalmist puts it this way: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us." (Psalms 103:12) There is only 'delete,' and there are no 'undo' rituals when it comes to receiving absolution for our confessed sins. Our lives are always in need of 'reformatting,' in need of an 'upgrade' from the Lord's unlimited source of all life's 'downloads.' Pope Francis' first Angelus message on March 17, 2013 speaks to us clearly about God's mercy and forgiveness as he reminds us: "Never forget this: The Lord never gets tired of forgiving us. It is we who get tired of asking for forgiveness." Let us not be afraid to be more connected with God through the confession of our sins!

In short, inTune with the Holy Spirit is ongoing conversion, the turning over of our lives to God, accepting God's way for us and surrendering all that would stand in the way of God and us. It is about being led by the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life. This is truly the way to stay connected always with God.

## Headley: Passion for Peace

University of San Diego, Inside USD, Tues May 6, 2014  
- Ryan T. Blystone, photo courtesy of Rodney Nakamoto

Father Headley, who from 2007 to 2012 was the founding dean of USD's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, said he knew in grade school he wanted to be a priest. What sealed the deal was learning about human struggles internationally.

"I remember being in sixth or seventh grade and a member of our community came in and showed us a movie about Africa," he recalled. "I was smitten."

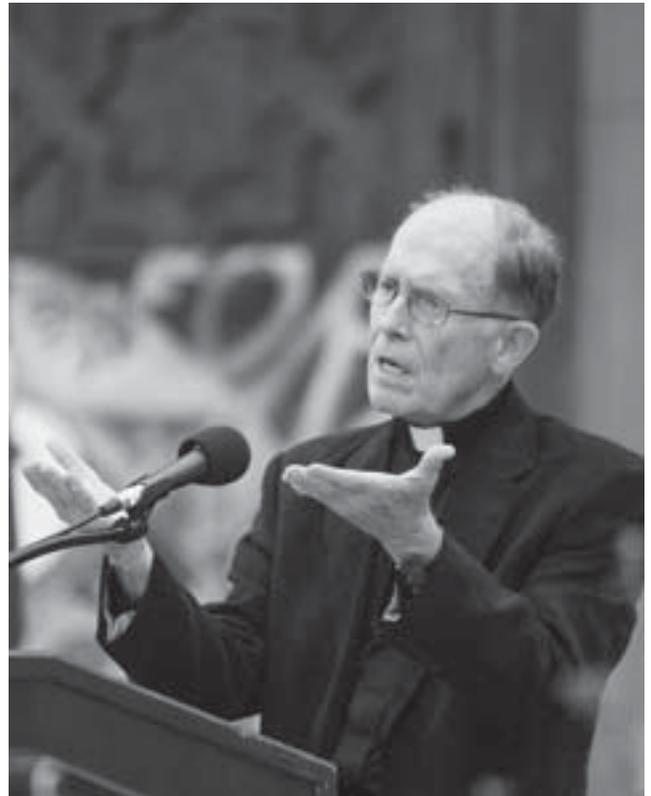
Headley has had a whirlwind of service and learning opportunities. Headley, whose education includes a degree from NYU, post-doctoral work at Harvard Divinity School, George Mason and the Gandhi Peace Institute in New Delhi, India, has traveled to 80 different countries. He's developed a broad background in Church leadership, justice, peace and international aid.

He belongs to a missionary community of priests, brothers and lay people known as the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, or Spiritans. His roles and experiences through this association helped him understand and see the world in its many forms.

"The Spirit has moved through my life in certain ways and I've had opportunities far more than I would have ever anticipated or imagined," he said. "I had the capacity to go into international situations because of my training in sociology and spend relatively short periods of time to study, reflect, and help practical missionaries make determinations about their ministry. I found when I was going back and forth that this was much more the type of ministering I preferred."

Headley's interest in Africa, seeking ways to stop intra-state conflict, deepened his commitment to peace education. He did a sabbatical from his work as director of the International Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation Office in Rome to explore the grassroots efforts of peacemaking efforts in northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine, South Africa and Haiti.

"I began to specialize in that about 20 years ago," he said. "I founded a graduate program at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and then went to Catholic Relief Services where we tried to apply it in a practical way."



His work focused on relief, development, and justice and peace programs. Headley was a peace builder. He assisted with conferences involving bishops in Ghana, Nigeria, the Balkans, Sudan, Haiti, Burundi and Myanmar.

Headley then came to University of San Diego to be the Peace Studies dean. While the master's program began a few years prior to Headley's arrival, he was there for the school's inauguration, led community listening groups for an inclusive voice on the school's direction and hired faculty. The master's program also grew from one 12-month track to two, and an 18-month program geared to develop a new generation of peacemakers. Combine all of that with a robust Trans-Border Institute and the impressive international work and on-campus programming in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice and the school thrived.

"The opportunity to build something from scratch is a rewarding and energizing experience," he said.

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## Provincial Message – May-June 2014

Fr. Jeffrey T. Duaime, C.S.Sp.

Pope Francis continues to surprise and inspire both those inside and outside of Rome by his thoughtful and provoking ministry as shepherd of the church. His recent visit to the Holy Land was full of symbolism and the remarkable challenge to make peace and unity a priority as people of faith. I don't know where he gets the energy or who is his PR agent (a definite job for the Holy Spirit!), but he never fails to make us think and ponder ever more deeply.

In his recent encounter in the beginning of May with the Executive Committee of the US based Conference of Major Superiors of Men, I was struck by how clearly he understands the mission of religious in the world today (see the report of the May 5th meeting with the Pope on page 12 of this newsletter). He reminds us in a very focused way that we are called as religious to give witness to the power of the Gospel in our world today. The Holy Father challenges us as religious to reflect deeply on the lives that we live both in the way that we treat each other and the example that we give in professing our vowed commitments. I felt personally challenged in his reflection on the call to develop "honest relationships" that become the instrument for promoting the resolution of conflicts and division wherever we are living. Or in the words of one of his predecessors, "if we want peace, live justly!"

"Honest relationships" are very difficult to live for any individual. First, we need to be honest with ourselves which is a life-long journey already, and second, we need to trust each other enough to share honestly who we are as limited human beings. None of us are perfect, and accepting our own limitations in the knowledge and presence of God's liberating love is the challenge each of us seeks to integrate our whole life. Being "honest" with each other is probably even more difficult because it entails trusting someone other than ourselves and sharing our fragility in a life-giving way that can support one another in our weakness. This is the evangelical witness that we are called to which leads to authentic fraternity. We do not do this naturally or because it is easy, but by professing the evangelical counsels as religious we trust in the power of the Spirit which enables us to live as God has called us to live.

"Be brave; be courageous" Pope Francis told the leaders of CMSM and says to us as we seek to live more authentic and prophetic lives as religious in the world today. We cannot remain entrenched in the familiar ways that have become all too routine for us. We need to be open to the power of the Spirit which sends us "to the periphery" and strengthens us for the unsure journey which lies ahead. It is only to the extent that "we remember our heritage that we have the capacity to understand the present and have the courage to place tomorrow in the hands of God. The transcendent vision of the action of the Holy Spirit enables us to 'let go of many things' in order to give our witness as religious." (Pope Francis to leaders of CMSM on May 5, 2014)

As the province begins a process of animation and renewal, I pray that I might open my heart and mind to allow the Spirit to truly inspire and lead us in this time of new beginnings.

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### **Headley: Passion for Peace** *(continued)*

Nevertheless, as Headley prepared for his Golden Jubilee Mass at 4 p.m., Thursday, May 22, Founders Chapel, he approached it and other celebratory events surrounding the milestone with a humble approach. "I'm going back to places I've been and I'll offer liturgies, follow up with simple receptions to touch back on the relationships I've developed over the years. I don't have the satisfaction of serving people in one geographical region constantly over a long period of time."

All of the work he's done is only to benefit others. It's what he signed up for in 1964 and, as he reflects on 50 years now, it's a promise everyone knows he's kept.

## ***Are Christians being persecuted in the Middle East?***

Persecution! In many parts of the Western world, this word is on people's lips. It is said that Christians are being persecuted in the Middle East today! What is really happening? How should we speak in truth and integrity as Christians and as Church about the suffering and violence that are going on in the region?

There is no doubt that the recent upheavals in the Middle East, initially called the Arab Spring, have opened the way for extremist groups and forces that, in the name of a political interpretation of Islam, are wreaking havoc in many countries, particularly in Iraq, Egypt and Syria. There is no doubt that many of these extremists consider Christians as infidels, as enemies, as agents of hostile foreign powers or simply as an easy target for extortion.

In the name of truth, we must point out that Christians are not the only victims of this violence and savagery. Secular Muslims, all those defined as "heretic", "schismatic" or simply "non-conformists" are being attacked and murdered in the prevailing chaos. In areas where Sunni extremists dominate, Shiites are being slaughtered. In areas where Shiite extremists dominate, Sunnis are being killed. Yes, the Christians are at times targeted precisely because they are Christians, having a different set of beliefs and unprotected. However they fall victim alongside many others who are suffering and dying in these times of death and destruction, and being driven from their homes alongside many others and together they become refugees, in total destitution.

These uprisings began because the peoples of the Middle East dreamed of a new age of dignity, democracy, freedom and social justice. Dictatorial regimes, which had guaranteed "law and order", but at the terrible price of military and police repression, fell. With them, the order they had imposed crumbled. Christians had lived in relative security under these dictatorial regimes. They feared that, if this strong authority disappeared, chaos and extremist groups would take over, seizing power and bringing about violence and persecution. Therefore some Christians tended to defend these regimes. Instead, loyalty to

their faith and concern for the good of their country, should perhaps have led them to speak out much earlier, telling the truth and calling for necessary reforms, in view of more justice and respect of human rights, standing alongside both many courageous Christians and Muslims who did speak out.

We fully understand the fears and sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Christ, when by violence they lose members of their families and are driven out of their homes. They have the right to count on our solidarity and prayers. In certain circumstances their only consolation and hope is to be found in Jesus' words: "Happy are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 5:10). However, the repetition of the word "persecution" in some circles (usually referring only to what Christians suffer at the hands of criminals claiming to be Muslims) plays into the hands of extremists, at home and abroad, whose aim is to sow prejudice and hatred, setting peoples and religions against one another.

Christians and Muslims need to stand together against the new forces of extremism and destruction. All Christians and many Muslims are threatened by these forces that seek to create a society devoid of Christians and where only very few Muslims will be at home. All those who seek dignity, democracy, freedom and prosperity are under attack. We must stand together and speak out in truth and freedom.

All of us, Christians and Muslims, must also be aware that the outside world will not make any real moves to protect us. International and local political powers seek their own interests. We, alone, can build a common future together. We have to adapt ourselves to our realities, even realities of death, and must learn together how to emerge from persecution and destruction into a new dignified life in our own countries.

Together, we must seek out all those who dream as we do of a society in which Muslims and Christians and Jews are equal citizens, living side by side, building together a society in which new generations can live and prosper. Finally, we pray for all, for those who join their

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## **Are Christians being persecuted in the Middle East? (continued)**

efforts to ours, and for those who are harming us now or even killing us. We pray that God may allow them to see the goodness He has put in the heart of each one. May God transform every human being from the depth of his or her heart, enabling them to love every human being as God does, He who is the Creator and Lover of all. Our only protection is in our Lord and like Him we offer our lives for those who persecute us as well as for those who, with us, stand in defense of love, truth and dignity.

*Jerusalem, 2 April 2014*

## **Hazelwood and Saint Stephen Parish Development**

Propel is a private corporation that presently operates nine charter schools in the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County area. For the past four years there has been an attempt by Propel to open a charter school in Hazelwood. This would be a tremendous asset to the area since at present there is no school in Hazelwood. When Father Dan Walsh, CSSp, was pastor at Saint Stephen's, he was instrumental in starting the process to get the school opened. He offered Saint Stephen School as the site for the school, and Propel was very interested in that possibility. Saint Stephen parish saw that as an opportunity to get some income for the parish and also to have a school once again in Hazelwood. At present the nearest school is more than two miles away. Propel found St. Stephen School to meet all of its requirements and it had the needed number of classrooms, but it would have needed substantial renovations to bring it up to city code and make it handicap accessible.

Many meetings and negotiations have taken place since those early days. Last September, Propel offered to buy the closed Burgwin public school from the city to start their charter school there and in order to avoid the costs and delays for renovations that St. Stephen School would have needed. At the time the city school board refused to sell Burgwin School. That's when Propel came back again and asked if they could lease Saint Stephen School. That was acceptable to us but a major shift happened a few weeks ago when Propel said they wanted to buy Saint Stephen School, not just rent it. That offer came too quickly and had too many conditions attached to it, so the parish Finance Council decided that it was not acceptable. In the meantime, when the Pittsburgh School Board heard that Propel would move into Hazelwood anyway and use Saint Stephen's School, they changed their minds and agreed to sell the Burgwin School to the Hazelwood Initiative. The Hazelwood Initiative is a community organization.

Buying Burgwin School and then leasing it to Propel for a monthly rent will give the Hazelwood Initiative some income. Since it was founded it has relied mainly on grants from different organizations for its running costs. All of this came to a conclusion on March 26 when the school board gave final approval to the Hazelwood Initiative to buy Burgwin School. The money for the purchase and renovation of the school will come principally from the Heinz Endowment. The Heinz Endowment, which is connected to the Heinz food corporation, has committed itself to investing some millions of dollars into Hazelwood to bring it back to something of its former glory when it was the site of a Jones and Laughlin steel rolling mill. Propel can now begin to make whatever renovations are necessary to make Burgwin ready to accept students for the 2014-2015 school year.

Where does that leave Saint Stephen's? In the coming months we will be looking into possibilities to rent space to other people or organizations so as to defray the cost of upkeep for the school building and to make some amount of profit for the parish. As the renaissance which is happening in Hazelwood continues, there may be numerous opportunities to rent the building.

*Father Vince Stegman*





*Left to right: Fathers Robert Colburn, TransCanada, Joachim Njoku, French Guyane, John Fogarty, Superior General, Don McEachin, Dominican Republic, Orlando Camacho, Puerto Rico, Paul McAuley, Secretary UCNAC, Trans Canada, Rulx Andre Alcineus, Haiti, Gerard County, Mexico, Jeffrey Duaine, US, and Michel Boutot, Canada*

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## Union of Circumscriptions of North American & Caribbean (UCNAC) Major Superiors Meeting, Bethel Park, PA, April 28 - May 2

The Union of Circumscriptions of North America and the Caribbean held its annual meeting of Major Superiors in Bethel Park the week of April 28. Representatives from Rome, French Guyane, Mexico, Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, French and English speaking Canada and the United States began arriving in Pittsburgh the weekend prior to the beginning of the meeting on the evening of Monday, April 28th at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. Special thanks to the members of the Trinity Hall and Libermann Hall communities for the gracious Spiritan hospitality that was offered to our visitors during their stay.

There was a welcome dinner and social with the local Libermann Hall community on Monday evening which set the tone for a week of sharing and support among the group. The spirit of community and fraternal sharing was the hallmark of the week. We were pleased to welcome John Fogarty, Superior General, to be part of the meeting. He shared with us some of the opportunities and challenges that are facing the Congregation today. The discussion focused on how superiors and the circumscriptions in the North American and Caribbean region can support each other in the challenges of Spiritan mission and life today. Some of the

topics which were addressed included the purpose and role of Unions in support of the Spiritan mission, the potential of a common UCNAC novitiate in 2015, the role of the Circumscription of Origin in providing for the retirement of confreres, an update on the policies and practices concerning the Safeguarding of Young People and Vulnerable Adults in our ministries, and the challenges of irregular confreres within our circumscriptions. While there were no major decisions on any of these topics, the information that was shared was helpful to each of the participants.

In addition to the time to relax and get to know each other informally during meals and the free evenings during the week, the group also took part in an excursion which included a visit to the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh and a brief visit to Trinity Hall followed by a nice meal at a local Brazilian restaurant. It was a very beneficial week during which the participants were able to listen to each other and work together on strengthening our Spiritan identity in each of our circumscriptions. The next meeting of UCNAC was tentatively scheduled to take place in April 2015 in Granby, Quebec.

# Jesus 'knows what you are going through,' Cardinal Dolan tells inmates

By Beth Griffin

Catholic News Service

FALLSBURG, NY (CNS) - At an upbeat Mass in a maximum security prison, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said Holy Week resonates with inmates, who can relate to Jesus' arrest, captivity and trial.

The archbishop of New York celebrated Mass April 14 for offenders, staff and visitors at the Sullivan Correctional Facility in Fallsburg.

The state prison, 100 miles north of New York City, houses approximately 450 men. Most are serving life sentences for committing violent felonies.

The hilltop facility is surrounded by tall chain-link fences, topped with concertina wire.

"If you ever wonder, 'Does God know what I'm going through? Has God forgotten me? Has God abandoned me?' think of Jesus on the cross, who cried out, 'My God, my God why have you abandoned me?'" Cardinal Dolan said in his homily.

And if you think you don't have any friends and you wonder why people are telling lies about you, think of Jesus on the night before he died, when his friends ran away and one sold him for money, the cardinal said.

"If you're fighting an addiction, if you're craving a drink or drugs, think about Jesus on the cross, who said, 'I thirst.' Any time you feel dead or that you'd rather be dead, think of Jesus on the cross. He knows what you're going through," he said. "Think of the Son of God who died, and you know that Easter and new life is only three days away. He died so we would no longer be prisoners in shackles and chains, but would be with him for all eternity," he said.

Inmates nodded their heads in assent when Cardinal Dolan said, "Never forget your buddy, St. Dismas," the so-called good thief crucified with Jesus. Dismas acknowledged his own guilt and recognized Jesus as an innocent man and the savior. "Think of what Jesus felt when he finally found someone who trusted and believed in him. We know Dismas is there and he's rooting for you guys. Don't feel alone," he said.

Cardinal Dolan concelebrated the Mass with prison chaplain Holy Ghost Father Stanislaus Ogbonna and six other priests associated with prison ministry and



local parishes. Two deacons assisted him. The altar servers, ushers, cantor, keyboardist and sacristan were inmates. Approximately 40 inmates joined an equal number of prison administrators, staff, guards and visitors at the cardinal's Mass.

Father Ogbonna said the local volunteers, including two women who sang for the Mass, "made the presence of the archdiocese permanent." He told Catholic News Service there are more than 85 prisoners who identify themselves as Catholics. He has been the Catholic chaplain for 19 years.

At the end of Mass, the cardinal recognized one offender who was going to be received into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday. "I'll be praying for all of you during Holy Week, for your families and the people you miss," he said, "and on Good Friday, when it's standing room only at St. Patrick's Cathedral, I'll be thinking of you when we read about St. Dismas."

Cardinal Dolan said it is a joy to visit people in correctional facilities, but it is also a selfish deed. "When I die and stand in front of Jesus, the eternal judge, he's going to ask ... 'When I was in prison, did you come visit me?' and I'll say, 'Yeah, remember that time on April 14?' So you guys are doing me a big favor."

The cardinal joked that he likes prison Masses because the congregants "are the only people who never come late or leave early and you don't care how long I preach!" His remarks were punctuated with applause.

After Mass, Cardinal Dolan greeted each inmate and staff member. In a now-familiar gesture, he perched his

## **Jesus ‘knows what you are going through’** *(continued)*

red zucchetto on Jose Soltero’s bald head, saying, “I like being with guys who have less hair than I do!” Bronx native Michael Lopez said the cardinal was “exceptional, charismatic and funny” and he was elated to participate in the visit, which he planned to describe in detail to his mother and two sisters. Lopez, who has been incarcerated at Sullivan Correctional Facility for 21 years, is eligible for parole in 2017. He serves as an usher and sacristan.

Lopez said the concrete-block chapel room is shared with other denominations and he is one of several people who set up and remove Catholic religious paintings, statues and linen each week. He showed a reporter a tiny chapel where Mass is celebrated for 20-25 people four days a week.

Altar server Danny Gonzalez, who has 140 years left on his sentence, told CNS, “It’s an honor and blessing that the cardinal is bringing the message of Jesus’ humility to prison. We need people like him in society to let us know we are not alone, that God is here with us. This is a very lonely environment. It helps to keep us moving forward. People need to see we are still human.

A man can lose everything, but as long as you are still capable of loving and forgiving, you’re still a human being, you’re alive and you have a soul,” Gonzalez said.

Cardinal Dolan recognized Patrick J. Griffin, superintendent of the prison since 2011, and his staff. “I am always inspired by the people here. It’s more than a job and they take it very seriously,” he said.

Griffin told CNS about 40 percent of the inmate population is sensorial-disabled, mentally ill or intellectually challenged, with an IQ at or below 70. Sensory disabilities include visual and hearing impairments.

“We provide mental health services and also reasonable accommodation to the sensorial-disabled and legally blind,” he said.

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## **From the Archives...**

### **The Flame of 1953: Cornwells Comments from the Past**

**Question:** Do you think the college in the future should undertake the production of an operetta instead of the traditional drama?

**Answers:** I would much rather watch a well performed dramatic production than an operetta because the plot of an operetta is too simple and lacks the suspense and conflict which make a dramatic production so interesting. Secondly, in the preparation of a dramatic production, the actors have the opportunity to practice speech which will aid them greatly in their future careers. For these two reasons I would much prefer the standard dramatic production to an operetta.  
~Vincent Novak

In my opinion, an operetta would be a rather enjoyable change from the annual dramatic offerings of past years. I do not think that all the dramas have been entirely understood and appreciated here at Cornwells by our audiences. However, an operetta, in contrast to a senior play, would be light and enjoyable, and would be understood by all. It would be light because the plot is usually simple; it would be enjoyable because the main part of its composition is music, which is pleasing to all. As William Congreve once stated, “Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast, to soften

rocks, or bend a knotted oak.”

~ Louis Baldino

Under our circumstances, I believe it would be twice as difficult to put on an operetta as a dramatic production and the results would not be so profitable. Without good singers you would have a show that is low in audience appeal and I do not believe enough capable singers could be found to take the leading female roles so numerous and prominent in operettas. The outcome of such an attempt would be comical, so why not simply stage a comedy if we want pure entertainment?  
~ Anthony Kirsch

No, I do not think an operetta should replace the drama because the former could not be staged as easily as the play. As a humorous attraction I suppose the operetta would prove both interesting and entertaining, but let us not forget that the traditional college drama put on each spring has been the scholastics’ only opportunity to participate in or attend a performance of a serious nature. Also, I believe that we have more dramatic ability in our ranks than we have musical talent. The drama has also been beneficial in giving scholastics a fine training in speech and acting.

~ Antonio Cosme

## Pope Francis Meets with CMSM Executive Committee



*Pope Francis meets Superior General Fr. John Fogarty*

*John Edmunds ST, CMSM President, shares with major superiors and councilors a report of the meeting with Pope Francis, May 5, 2014.*

During their annual trip to Rome for meetings with the various dicasteries of the curia, the Executive Committee of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men met in private audience with Pope Francis, a visit suggested by the pope last October in order to talk about religious life in the United States. The Holy Father approved the following summary statement to be shared with the members of CMSM:

### **Conference of Major Superiors of Men "Be Brave. Be Courageous."**

The Executive Committee of CMSM met with Pope Francis in a private audience on Monday, May 5, 2014, in the Papal Library. We had a free and open discussion of many of the issues important to religious in the United States. We began by thanking the Holy Father for calling the Year of Consecrated Life and about our hope that the vocation of the religious Brother can be highlighted during the year. He informed us that a document on the Brothers' vocation would be issued soon. We then asked Pope Francis what he would like to share with religious in the United States. The Holy Father responded by saying that he was very interested in the collaboration between religious and the hierarchy, about vocations, and about issues related to formation. We spoke of our desire to improve the bish-

ops' understanding of the role of religious life in the church in the United States. The Holy Father agreed this was essential and spoke of the necessity of developing a unity among bishops and men and women religious. We added that CMSM has worked closely with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to ensure the protection of children and we thanked His Holiness for his initiatives in this regard. Instead of talking about vocations we shared the work done by the National Religious Vocations Conference and the work done on the vocation of the religious Brother at CMSM. He received this information gladly.

The discussion on formation opened up a wide range of issues relevant to the life of religious. Pope Francis is very concerned that a genuine spirit of fraternity lives in our institutes. He sees a great witness in religious who have honest relationships that can resolve whatever conflicts arise. The Holy Father quoted a hymn which calls for "Eucharistic tenderness" as characteristic of our brotherhood. We are weak human beings but gospel values centered on Christ lead to authentic fraternity. Pope Francis reminded us of the "four pillars" of formation: spiritual life, intellectual development, community living, and apostolic formation. It was in this context that the Holy Father called us to "be brave, be courageous." We should not be entrenched in a set way of doing things but become a church that "moves forth." Here his call to "go out to the periphery" has special resonance. Those on the periphery are not in any one place and do not belong to any one class. They are those who do not feel "the sweetness of mercy." For example, those in education ministry should not close schools but find ways of using those schools to touch lives that are broken. And the Holy Father reminded us that keeping our lives centered on the gospel requires that we genuinely touch the lives of the poor and allow the poor to touch our lives.

Pope Francis ended our discussion by reminding us that the prophetic dimension of the church is not separate from, but intimately woven together

*(continued at top of next page)*

## Pope Francis Meets with CMSM Executive Committee (continued)

with, the administrative dimension. Institutions are called to be prophetic. With the proper interpretative "key of faith" we remember our heritage, we have the capacity to understand the present and we have the courage to place tomorrow in the hands of God. The transcendent vision of the action of the Holy Spirit enables us to "let go of many things" in order to give our special witness as religious.

As we were leaving, Pope Francis spoke of his hope of coming to the United States next year. If this develops, we hope that those in consecrated life will be a part of his visit.

### God bless these Spiritans on the Anniversaries of their Ordination & Profession

#### ORDINATIONS

#### PROFESSIONS

Fr. Francis W. Wright	65 Years	June 3, 1949	70 Years	July 16, 1944
F. John J. Costello	60 Years	June 3, 1954	65 Years	August 22, 1949
Fr. Silvio A. D'Ostilio	60 Years	June 3, 1954	65 Years	August 22, 1949
Fr. Norbert T. Rosso	60 Years	June 3, 1954	65 Years	August 22, 1949
Fr. Adrien T. Hebert			60 Years	August 22, 1954
Fr. Leonard J. Tuozzolo	55 Years	June 4, 1959	60 Years	August 22, 1954
Fr. Thomas J. Byrne			55 Years	August 22, 1959
Fr. Joseph B. Gaglione			55 Years	August 22, 1959
Fr. William R. Headley	50 Years	June 3, 1964	55 Years	August 22, 1959
Fr. J. Clifton Hill			55 Years	August 22, 1959
Fr. Edward T. Marchessault	50 Years	June 3, 1964	55 Years	August 22, 1959
Fr. William Smith	40 Years	June 15, 1974		
Fr. Michael T. Grey	35 years	June 16, 1979		
Fr. Michael Onwuemelie	35 Years	July 8, 1979		
Fr. Michael T. White			35 Years	August 1, 1979
Fr. Gregory Olikenyi	25 Years	August 12, 1989		
Fr. Peter Osuji	25 Years	August 5, 1989		
Fr. Fidelis Nwankwo	20 Years	July 16, 1994		
Fr. Clement Uchendu	20 Years	July 23, 1994		
Fr. Paul M. Flamm	15 Years	June 26, 1999		
Fr. Timothy J. Hickey	15 Years	August 14, 1999		
Fr. Duc G. Luong	10 Years	May 29, 2004		
Fr. Simon T. Nguyen			10 Years	July 31, 2004
Mr. Thang Hoang			5 Years	August 2, 2009

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.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please join us in praying for the following who are recently deceased:**

Rev. John L. Yates, CSSp, 91, Pittsburgh, May 3, 2014. Obituary on front cover.

Angela Marie Drabek, mother of Sandra Dougherty and mother-in-law of Duquesne University President Charles Dougherty, May 20, Omaha, NE, Mass and burial May 22.,

Mr. Felician Kapumet, brother (uncle) to Fr. Jean-Pierre Kapumet, CSSp, May 23,

Mr. John Notaro, Lay Spiritan from the former West Province, May 14, 2014, Fredonia NY.

**and for those who are ill:**

Maureen Flamm, sister-in-law of Fr. Paul Flamm, CSSp, undergoing chemotherapy;

Fr. Tom Tunney, CSSp, recuperating and doing physical therapy following surgery,

Fr. George Spangenberg, CSSp, bypass surgery and recovery.



## Prayer Intentions from the Holy Father, Pope Francis

### June

- **Unemployed.** That the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity.
- **Faith in Europe.** That Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers..

### July

- **Sports.** That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth.
- **Lay Missionaries.** That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.

### 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..

Happy Birthday to these Spiritans who are celebrating birthdays in the next few months!

### May

- 9 Fr. Edward J. Caron
- 13 Fr. Josephat Msongore
- 20 Fr. Naos McCool

### June

- 2 Fr. Paul M. Flamm
- 8 Fr. Joseph F. McDonough
- 8 Fr. Jean-Pierre Kapumet
- 17 Fr. Michael T. Grey
- 19 Fr. Jean-Michel Gelmetti
- 22 Fr. Raymond French
- 26 Fr. John A. Sawicki
- 26 Fr. William L. Smith
- 26 Fr. Leonard J. Tuozzolo
- 26 Fr. Freddy J. Washington
- 28 Fr. John Owusu-Achiaw

### July

- 2 Fr. Honest Munishi
- 3 Fr. Patrick A. Patten
- 13 Fr. Joseph M. Herzstein
- 14 Fr. Thomas J. Byrne
- 15 Fr. Michael T. White
- 18 Fr. Vincent G. Stegman
- 20 Fr. J. Clifton Hill
- 21 Fr. Fidelis Nwankwo
- 22 Rev. Mr. Thang Hoang
- 24 Fr. Francis W. Wright
- 25 Fr. Donald J. McEachin
- 27 Fr. Brian Cronin
- 30 Fr. James Okoye

*"As God adds years to your life, may He add life to your years."*

# North American Gathering of Lay Spiritan Associates

By Anne Marie Witchger Hansen

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Fr. Jeff Duaine, CSSp, welcomed the North American Lay Spiritan Gathering at the Spiritan Center, Bethel Park, PA the weekend of April 11 – 13, 2014. Highlights of the weekend included a reception with the residents of Libermann Hall, a welcome, and sharing stories on Friday evening, Saturday presentations by Fr. John Fogarty, CSSp, Fr. Jean-Pascal Lombart, CSSp, Fr. John Kwofie, CSSp and Anne Marie Hansen, and Palm Sunday Mass and lunch at Duquesne University. Spiritans and Lay Spiritan Associates who attended the weekend gathering included Fr. Cornelius Bokema, CSSp, Dieudonné Yenga and Grâce Kabange from the Canadian Province, Gary and Joy Warner, Frank and Anne O’Neil, Brian and Gil Joel from the Trans-Canadian Province. Lay Spiritan Associates from the US Province who attended include Rich and Daneen Gosser, John and Anne Marie Hansen and Debbie Zugates, and Frs. Dan Walsh and Gerry Kohler. Lay Spiritan Associate candidates Mrs. Luci-Jo DiMaggio, Ms. Kate Lecci, Adam Wasilko, Tom Berna, Rose Velgich, Gerry Lococo and Carol Serafin as well as Dr. Maureen O’Brien and Andy Bechman joined in on the Friday evening prayer and sharing as well as Sunday mass and lunch. The Lay Spiritans all expressed appreciation of the weekend together, sharing and learning from each other. More updates and descriptions of on-going formation and on-going formation will be forthcoming.

Here are highlights of some of the presentations.

Fr. Jean-Pascal Lombart discussed “Spiritans in Asia”. He shared his story of the Spiritans’ work in Asia. After a short interruption of 200 years, Spiritans went back to South East Asia in 1997. Because of language learning, they have to become again like little children, led step by step by the laity of the local churches. In his presentation, Fr. Jean-Pascal shared the stories of some of these amazing people he has met through his ministry in Taiwan.

Fr. John Kwofie presented on Spiritans in the New Emerging Africa. One of the greatest accomplishments, if not the greatest the Congregation has made in Africa, was the celebration of its 2012 General Chapter at Bagamoyo in Tanzania. It was an opportunity not only to celebrate the heroic works of the early Spiritan missionaries and the legacy they left behind

but also to recognize the great works presently going on in Africa undertaken largely by African Spiritans. In his presentation, Fr. John Kwofie shared some of the rich history of Bagamoyo, the geographical location for the General Chapter. Bagamoyo brings with its memory both the sacrifices involved in the missionary task and the shameful suffering slave-traders meted out on fellow human beings. Fr. John shared his insights that choosing Bagamoyo was a positive statement regarding Spiritans in Africa whose struggle continues to be the struggle of the wider Spiritan family and whose joy continues to be a shared joy. He reminded us that Spiritans in Africa face new challenges as we take our place in an emerging new Africa and at the same time, respond to the mission of the wider Congregation.

Anne Marie Witchger Hansen presented an overview on Lay Spiritan Associates in Africa, sharing experiences with the Lay Spiritan Associates in Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe on her research trip to Africa last summer when she met with each group. She also shared greetings from each of these groups and best wishes for a fruitful weekend.

The Lay Spiritan Associates in Tanzania began as a small group of lay people who supported Fr. Joseph Babu, CSSp in his work to establish the Nngarnara Parish and St. Elizabeth’s health clinic that eventually became a hospital. Their activities over the years have included fundraising to support Fr. Babu’s ministry, direct work with Fr. Babu as medical director of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, marriage counseling within their parish and recruiting other laity to support Fr. Babu’s ministry. Fr. Babu offered the lay group spiritual direction, retreats and days of reflection. Today, the Lay Spiritan Associates of Tanzania meet several times throughout the year for prayer and reflection, help organize and attend Spiritan celebrations including ordinations and continue to find ways to support the Spiritans of the Province of Tanzania in their many ministries.

The Lay Spiritan Associates in Uganda meet monthly for prayer, mass and to share their life and their ministry. Their works include a wedding ministry to hundreds of couples who want to have their marriage

blessed by the church, ministry with people struggling with alcohol and drug abuse, and a ministry with street children. The challenges this group faces include funding to support their ministries, not enough Lay Spiritan Associates to meet the needs, some language barriers due to the variety of different languages and resources on the Spiritan Charism including the Rule of Life, just to name a few. This talented group of laity are dedicated to those they serve, the Spiritans and to each other.

The Lay Spiritan Associates in Zimbabwe focus their ministry on raising funds to support the Spiritan seminarian scholastics from the novitiate (Zambia) to philosophy (Malawi) and through their final year of theology (Zimbabwe). They raise funds through selling the HGVM fabric, printed T-shirts with the Spiritan logo and the pictures of the ordination candidates. They also sell plastic dishes and cups and ask for donations in cash and kind through pledges. Due to the difficult economic environment facing Zimbabwe, they are experiencing many challenges to fulfill their commitment to support the scholastics. The Lay Spiritan Associates support one another, pray together and are committed to finding ways to overcome the challenges they face. In addition, they counsel Spiritan seminarians, teach them English and cook dinners for them at times, too. These dedicated and compassionate Lay Spiritan Associates are proud of their commitment to be present to the seminarians and to try to help them as much as possible.



Lay Spiritan Associates at Spiritan Center

**TransCanadian Lay Spiritan Associates:**

Gary Warner, Brian Joel, Gil Joel,  
Joy Warner, and Frank O'Neil  
in front of Laval House.  
Dan Walsh, Rich & Daneen Gosser  
standing in the background.

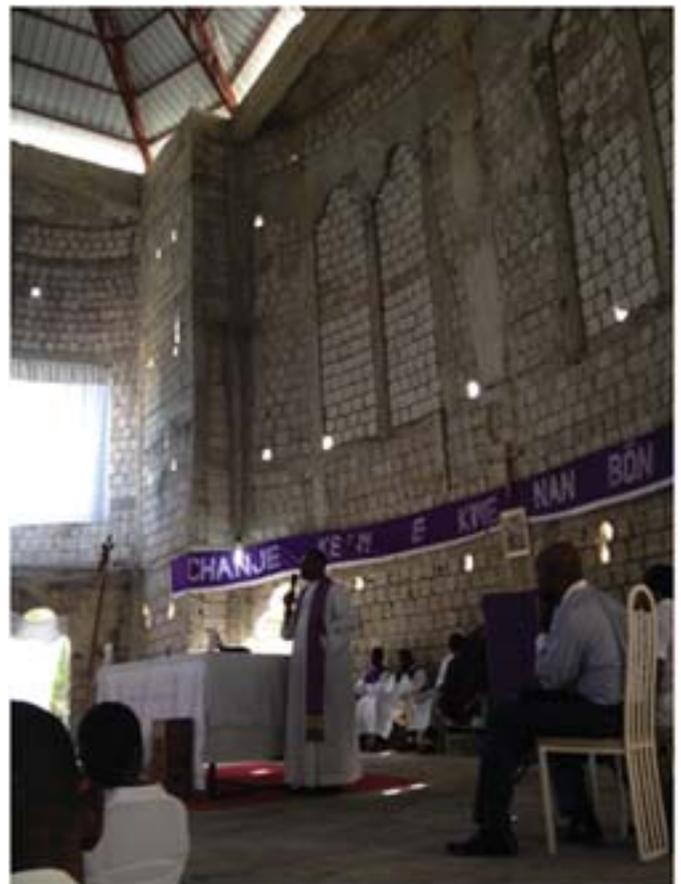


## May 2014 Update on the Work of Rich Gosser

Lay Spiritan Associate, Dr. Richard A. Gosser, executive director of Partners in Progress (PIP), a nonprofit organization that supports sustainable development in rural Haiti, secured funding for construction of the new worship space for the Spiritan parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) in Cote Plage (Carrefour), Haiti through the “faith based” *Rich in Mercy* division of PIP. Spiritans have had the parish since 2001 and Fr. Jean Patrick Eugene, CSSp has been pastor of OLPH since August 2013. The parish numbers about 10,000 parishioners and averages 25 baptisms each month. In 2008 the former worship space was deemed much too small to accommodate the burgeoning population of the parish and was subsequently demolished so that construction could begin on a new church that could accommodate more people. Masses were held under a tent not far from the church site.

In 2010 Haiti was struck by a massive 7.0 earthquake. The new Cote Plage church under construction was situated very near the epicenter of the earthquake, but – remarkably – was not damaged at all. Within two months of the earthquake, government authorities gave approval to continue the construction, however, the project had to be halted after available funds ran out. Work was stalled for nearly 3 years.

Soon after becoming pastor, Fr. Patrick realized that the new worship space could be used – even though only partially completed – if funds could be found to finish the roof construction. He announced a campaign to raise the necessary funds. In spite of the extreme material poverty of the parish, parishioners responded with enthusiasm and raised more than \$10,000 in contributions. *Rich in Mercy* was able to make an initial grant of \$2000 and later secured a foundation grant of \$15,000 for the project. Some additional help from other sources made possible the completion of the new roof and mass was held for the first time in the new worship space on January 1, 2014.



Interior of *Notre Dame du Perpetuel Secours* (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) parish showing new roof construction.



## Graduation from Duquesne University

Fr. Lazarus Langbiir, CSSp. arrived in the United States in December 2011 and began a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh in the spring of 2012. He is from the Province of Ghana and was ordained July 2011 in his home country. Laval House was his first community upon arrival. In the summer of 2012, he and the other Spiritan Priests studying at Duquesne moved to St Stephen Church, Hazelwood and commuted to school. Fr. Lazarus graduated on Saturday, 9th May 2014 with a Masters in Business Administration (MBA). He is grateful to the Spiritan community for their unflinching support throughout his program. He will begin a PhD Rhetoric program at the school of communication in Duquesne University next Fall. We extend our congratulations to Fr. Lazarus on his achievement and offer our best wishes in his future plans.

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## Priest honored at Chrism Mass Luncheon

Reprinted in part from *The Pilot*, the Catholic newspaper for the Archdiocese of Boston.  
Written by Christopher S. Pineo  
*South End.*

Fr. Peter P. Nolan, C.S.Sp, was honored by Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley and Fr. Robert M. Blaney, Director of the Clergy Personnell Office at Cathedral High School, April 15 in a celebration of fraternity after the chrism Mass.

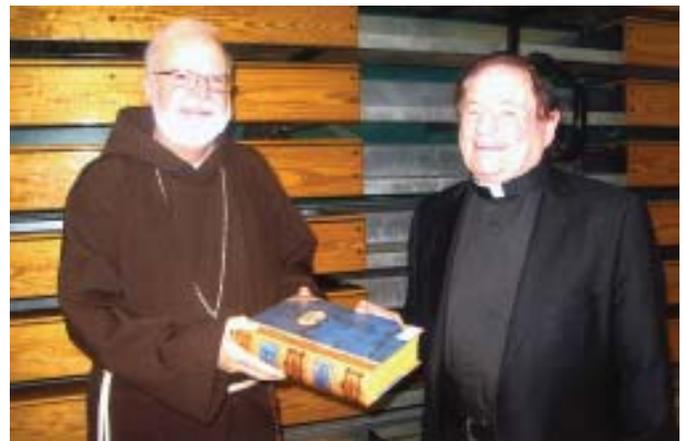
Fr. Nolan has served as pastor of Most Precious Blood in Hyde Park for 17 years, and for the past seven years he has taken care of two parishes - St. Pius X in Milton, Massachusetts, as well as Most Precious Blood. He was ordained with the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1959 in Dublin, Ireland, before he came to the Archdiocese in 1981.

"I am very honored to be chosen by this holy group, this particular group of priests as a matter of fact, it's like I was a stranger and you took me in," Fr. Nolan said. Fr. Nolan spent eight years in Nigeria, taught himself the local language, and showed what Fr. Blaney called "great missionary zeal - the zeal of the apostles themselves" when he refused to leave his missionary work of feeding the hungry during a civil war. "We didn't ask them if they were Catholic, Christian or Muslim, we just fed the people," Fr. Nolan said. "It's interesting, the pagans, as we were calling them then, and the chiefs at the time, they were very impressed because all the white people had left."

The church where Fr. Nolan served grew rapidly after the war, and the people of Nimo, Nigeria, made the Holy Ghost Father an honorary chief in 2012.

Cardinal O'Malley said the men (Fr. Brian J. McHugh and Fr. Brian M. Clary were honored along with Fr. Nolan for their pastoral service to the Archdiocese of Boston) who accepted the honors "epitomize the wonderful, generous, and zealous priests" of the Archdiocese. He reflected on the chrism Mass as a time to show and share fraternity.

"The chrism Mass is always a moment for renewal and reflection, to recommit ourselves to the Lord and to one another. I thank all of you for your presence here today, for the good example that you give to me, and to our seminarians, and our people. I assure you of my prayers and affection, and ask all of you to keep us, the diocese, in your prayers," the Cardinal said.



*Cardinal O'Malley presenting gift to Fr. Peter Nolan, C.S.Sp.*