

One Heart, One Spirit

CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Newsletter for the Province of the United States



March-April 2016
Volume XLIV, No. 2

Fifty Years of Missionary Service

ARUSHA, TANZANIA – March 7, 2016



Fr. Ned Marchessault baptizing a young man

On March 7, 1966, four young Spiritan missionaries arrived in Arusha, Tanzania to begin their missionary service to the Congregation and the Church. Fathers Ned Marchessault, Joe Herzstein, Vince Stegman, and Don McGregor arrived that memorable day in beautiful Arusha to take up their call to proclaim the good news to the ends of the earth. The newly appointed local superior of the District of Kilimanjaro at the time, Fr. George Crocenzi, along with Fathers Vince Donovan, Tom Tunney and Ed Kelly met the new group of young missionaries who had just arrived from Nairobi with a brief walk around quiet downtown Arusha and their first taste of African hospitality.

Fathers Joe Herzstein and Ned Marchessault are still continuing the work of evangelization with the Maasai tribe in the Archdiocese of Arusha near the Ngorogoro Crater. They continue to reach out to people in the area who want to hear about the Gospel and they rarely tire of going to the most difficult outstation to meet the people and discover God at work in their lives. Fifty years later they feel especially blessed to be living the missionary call and are just as excited to find the best way to share the Good News with those who have scarcely heard of the Gospel. "The day of our arrival in Tanzania and the beginning of our new work in the mission is even more important to me than the day I was ordained because this was the beginning of the work for which I was sent", recalls Fr. Ned. Fr. Ned and Fr. Joe celebrated the special occasion with a simple get together in Ngorogoro parish where they shared some popcorn and recalled many stories of their many years of missionary life.

(continued on page 2)

Fifty Years of Missionary Service *(continued)*

After spending more than 35 years of working in Tanzania and Ethiopia with the Maasai and Borana tribes, Fr. Vince Stegman continues to remain faithful to his missionary vocation as he works with young people as part of the Spiritan Campus Ministry team at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

The Spiritan Congregation has been blessed by such dedicated service of these brothers, and the People of God have been enriched in so many ways for their missionary call.



Fr. Vince Stegman at work



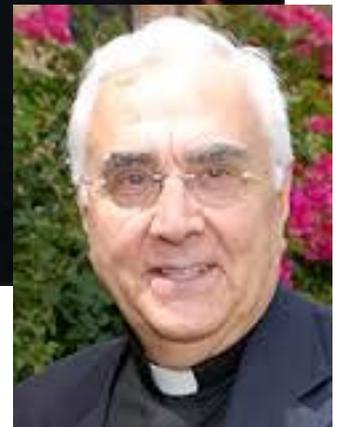
Fr. Joe Herzstein instructing a group of Maasai



Center renamed for Fr. Donald Nesti



Among the guests celebrating with Fr. Nesti (center, left) are Spiritan Fathers Joseph L. Nguyen, Michael Begley, Clifton Hill and Clement Uchendu.



Fr. Donald Nesti

HOUSTON, TX – February 9, 2016

At the University of St. Thomas' 66th Annual Mardi Gras Gala on Tuesday February 9, 2016, Dr. Robert Ivany, the university's president, announced that the school's Center for Faith & Culture will be renamed the Rev. Donald Nesti, C.S.Sp., Center for Faith & Culture. Fr. Nesti founded the center in 1994 in response to Pope John Paul II's 1982 creation of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

In his remarks Dr. Ivany spoke of Fr. Nesti as one of the most beloved and distinguished faculty and one of their community's most esteemed leaders of faith.

"Fr. Nesti's leadership enables the center to instill in those it touches - through both degree programs and ecumenical outreach - a desire to understand and respect people of all faiths and cultures. Because of

Fr. Nesti, the Center for Faith and Culture has become one of UST's most visible symbols of the relationship between the love embodied in the gospel and those uniquely American values set forth by our Founding Fathers."

The presented biography of Fr. Donald S. Nesti, C.S.Sp., included the following details: Fr. Donald S. Nesti, C.S.Sp., a native of Pennsylvania, was ordained to the priesthood in 1963. He earned a licentiate and a doctorate in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He also served the Congregation of the Holy Ghost in many capacities. Fr. Nesti has taught at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA; the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, OH; and currently, the University of St. Thomas School of Theology.

In the administrative field, he served as Director of the Immacu-

late Heart Seminary, Bethel Park, PA; Director of Planning, Research and Renewal, Congregation of the Holy Ghost USA Eastern Province; president, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA; and Provincial Superior, Congregation of the Holy Ghost USA Western Province. In addition, Fr. Nesti has lectured extensively, authored books, published articles, conducted workshops, and served as retreat master for clergy, laity, and religious groups.

Currently, Fr. Nesti teaches at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Theology and is the Director of the Center for Faith and Culture. The Center for Faith and Culture seeks to understand and affect the relationship between the worldview of Catholic faith and culture.

Rest in Peace, Fr. Joseph L. Deniger, C.S.Sp.



BETHEL PARK, PA

Fr. Joseph L. Deniger, C.S.Sp. of the Libermann Hall community in Bethel Park, died peacefully December 2, 2015 at Marion Manor in Pittsburgh, PA. He was 84 years old.

Father Deniger was born March 19, 1931 in Beaver Dam, WI. He professed his vows as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on August 22, 1953 at Holy Ghost Novitiate in Ridgefield, CT, and was ordained to the Priesthood June 4, 1958 at St. Mary's Seminary, Ferndale, in Norwalk, CT.

Fr. Deniger's first assignment was as teacher at St. Emma's Military Academy, an institution serving African-American young men in Powhatan, VA, and later he was transferred to the faculty at Notre Dame Prep School, Riverside, CA, until 1964. His parochial ministry spanned over 55 years and included parishes of St. Paul, St. Edward, Blessed Sacrament and St. Augustine in Louisiana; pastor of St. Joseph Conway, AR, 1983-1986 returning there as associate pastor 1995-2002. He was chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, Houston, TX, 1994-1995 and served his Order from 1987-1994 procuring funds for the missionary work of the Congregation. He served at Our Lady of the Valley in Hemet, CA, 1973-1976 and also from 2002-2010. In 2010 he retired and was in residence at Spiritan Retirement Home in Hemet, CA, and since 2012 at Libermann Hall in Bethel Park, PA.

Fr. Deniger was preceded in death by his parents Anthony P. and Marville (Rushmann) Deniger, and his sister Maryanne Wells and brother Anthony. He is survived by his siblings David Deniger, Rose Miller, Richard Deniger, Paula Aal, Ruth Nelson and Rita Deniger and twenty-five nieces and nephews.

A viewing in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at the Spiritan Center, 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park on December 4th preceded the Funeral Mass which was celebrated with the local Spiritan community. Burial took place at St. Mary's Cemetery, O'Hara Twp., in Pittsburgh, PA.



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6230 Brush Run Road

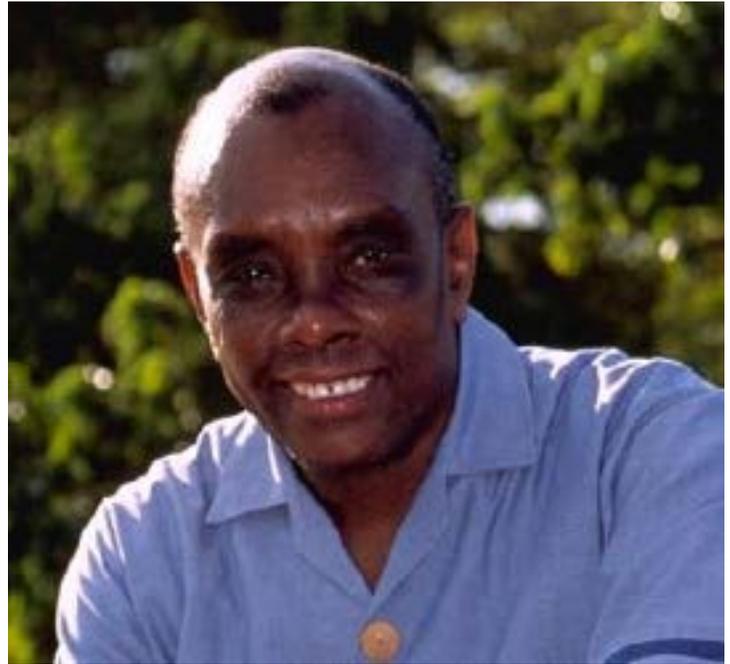
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www.spiritans.org

Documentary, *FATHER JOSEPH*, highlights work of Spiritan Father Joseph Philippe

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, which will be released later this year, on Haiti's unique history, challenges and potential. (View a trailer on the documentary *FATHER JOSEPH* at www.floatingworldpictures.com or at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vet8KzJJC3o&feature=youtu.be)

"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 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.



Spiritan Fr. Joseph Philippe of Haiti founded Fonkoze in 1994 as Haiti's Alternative Bank for the Organized Poor, and the microfinance organization which has helped thousands of Haitians is featured in the documentary *FATHER JOSEPH* which will be released later this year.

Fr. Philippe wanted to enable the rural poor in Haiti to organize themselves economically. He chose to focus on the Haitian women, who are considered the *potomitan* ("backbone"), of the Haitian economy. 44% of all Haitian households are headed by single women, and they dominate the landscape of small commerce.

Offering both financial and development services, Fonkoze's Staircase out of Poverty provides a comprehensive approach to poverty alleviation in Haiti.

Each of its four steps is uniquely designed to provide a woman with the resources and support that she needs to ascend from poverty, wherever she is in her climb. Along with the four main Steps, Fonkoze's Staircase includes "handrails" - programs that provide members and clients with business skills training, education, and health services to support them as they progress. Fonkoze's accompaniment is designed to help women succeed as they do the hard work required to climb the Staircase, creating a better future for themselves and their families.

In 1995, Fonkoze was recognized as an official Haitian foundation. With three volunteers working from a borrowed building, Father Joseph began the process of providing financial services to Haiti's rural poor. Since then, Fonkoze has grown into a globally recognized institution with 45 branches covering every area of Haiti, providing both financial and development services including education and health to support its 60,000-plus microfinance borrowers.

Spiritan Appointed Bishop of Diocese of Kingstown

Port of Spain, Trinidad - December 23, 2015



The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Gerard County, C.S.Sp., as Bishop of the Diocese of Kingstown (area 149 sq. mi. with a population of 115,060 of which 8,500 are Catholic, 6 priests, 6 permanent deacons, 10 religious), located on the island of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Lesser Antilles.

The newly-elected Bishop was born in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, on December 15, 1960. He attended schools in Woodbrook, in the Archdiocese of Port of Spain, then worked in the banking sector, holding positions of leadership. He entered the Spiritan Novitiate in Port of Spain, professed his temporary vows on September 9, 1991, and completed his philosophical and theological studies at the St. John Vianney Regional Seminary in Trinidad and Tobago, and was

ordained a priest on January 21, 1996.

After his ordination, he was sent to the Spiritan mission in Mexico where he served for the past nineteen years in a number of ministries, including bursar and director of youth pastoral care, parish priest of St. David Roldan Lara in the diocese of Tampico, and Provincial Superior of the Spiritan Mexico Group. He returned to Trinidad after finishing his service as major superior in Mexico in October 2015 and is currently a member of Our Lady of Fatima Spiritan Community in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. The Most Rev. Bishop-elect's episcopal ordination took place on February 22, 2016, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle.





Spiritan Major Superiors L-R: Fathers Joachim Njoku (French Guyane), Don McEachin (DR), Isaac Aujour (Haiti), Orlando Camacho (Puerto Rico), Francis Folleh (TransCanada), Jose Alamo (PR), Jeff Duaiame (USA), Paul McAuley (TransCanada), Maurice Shortal (Rome), and Paul Ahiaba (Mexico).

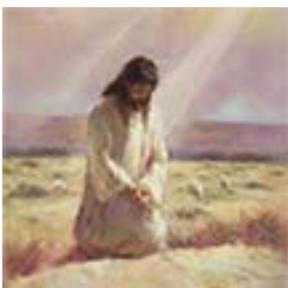
SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
February 1, 2016

The Spiritan Major Superiors who form the Union of Circumscriptions for North America and the Caribbean (UCNAC) met from January 24-29, 2016 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as part of their annual meeting. The agenda for this year’s meeting included an overnight visit to the collaborative Spiritan mission in San Juan de la Maguana which UCNAC has sponsored in the Dominican Republic since 2004.

The group received a report from the Generalate in Rome concerning the preparations for this year’s Enlarged General Council scheduled to take place in Rome June 19-July 2, 2016. Each superior also shared an update on what is happening in each of their own circumscriptions which included an overview of the Spiritan mission in the respective parts of the Congregation.

Representatives from Canada, French Guyane, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United States spent three days in meetings at Casa Altagracia in the capital city of Santo Domingo before heading to visit the Spiritan mission San Juan de la Maguana which is located three hours from the capital in the center of the Dominican Republic.

Next year’s UCNAC meeting will be held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on January 22-27, 2017.



Please continue to pray for these confreres who are ill:

Fr. Girard Kohler
Fr. Al McKnight
Fr. Matthew Amoako-Attah



Bishop Lori (left) and Fr. Munishi (center)

Building a better world one council at a time

Reprinted from KofC *Columbia* Feb 2016

Every day, Knights all over the world are given opportunities to make a difference whether through community service, raising money or prayer. Pictured at the left are Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore and **Spiritan Father Honest Munishi, pastor of St. Edward the Confessor Parish**, helping students of Catholic Charities Head Start of Baltimore City try on new coats. They assisted with the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids initiative, as they distributed 1,000 coats to children from Catholic Charities Head Start, Alexander Hamilton Elementary School and several Catholic schools in Baltimore.

Happy Birthday to these Spiritans who celebrate Birthdays during the months of April, May and June

April

- 1 Fr. William R. Headley
- 11 Fr. Daniel S. Sormani
- 20 Fr. Andy V. Do
- 23 Fr. Ned Marchessault
- 29 Fr. Adrien T. Hebert



May

- 9 Fr. Edward J. Caron
- 13 Fr. Josephat Msongore

June

- 2 Fr. Paul M. Flamm
- 8 Fr. Joseph F. McDonough
- 8 Fr. Jean-Pierre Tambwe
- 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. Freddy J. Washington
- 28 Fr. John Owusu-Achiaw

Libermann Hall Hosts Their First Baby Shower!

Mary Kay Hinds, Activities Director

It was a happy day when one of the Fathers' favorite employees announced that he and his wife Allison were expecting their first baby! Tim helps Terry, head of maintenance, to keep both Libermann Hall and the Spiritan Center running smoothly. Everyone loves Tim! No matter what you need all you have to do is ask, and Tim will do it! Because we are so grateful to him, this baby will have more than the usual number of grandfathers, aunts and uncles!



It was decided that President's Day would be a perfect day to invite Allison (a reading specialist in a local school district who would have the day off), to lunch. Planning began in earnest - one of the priests designed and made invitations, a cake to match was ordered, decorations were planned, games were downloaded from the internet, some of the ladies volunteered to bring salads and the cook planned a meal she knew the parents-to-be would enjoy.

In spite of a little snow and cold weather that day, everything turned out wonderfully. There were balloons, baby pictures, great food and games to keep even a pro crossword puzzle master, like Fr. Joe Seiter, intrigued. Beautiful and thoughtful gifts were presented, and Allison even had a small gift for each person attending (a perfectly delicious cookie with a thank you note from the baby). Happiness comes in all different ways. The generous spirit of the priests and the staff at Bethel Park certainly made Tim and Allison happy. But the funny thing about it was that everyone attending went away smiling. The happiness was shared; and we all feel that we are a small, but significant part, of this miraculous event that will happen in April! Best wishes to Tim and Allison, and thank you for bringing this joy to our place!

Ned's Mission

Warrior Final Rite of Passage

Fr. Ned Marchessault, C.S.Sp.

This year the retiring Ilkorianga age group will undergo their final rite of passage and thereby become young elders. The Maasai "Laibon" is very much part of this event.

The *Laibon* is the Maasai witch doctor (he identifies cursed situations and finds remedies). Many times finding solutions for problems involves identifying the person who cursed the person with the problem, and the *Laibon* in turn curses the person that he has identified as causing the problem. In doing so he often brings significant suffering and pain to innocent people. He simply has to say that a particular man or woman is the cause of the problem, and that person is marked for life as a witch.



The feast this year has to do with the retiring warriors eating meat provided by and in front of their wives. Warriors can only eat together with other warriors and especially never in front of a woman. After this ceremony called "Olesher", the new young elders will be permitted to share food in their own homes with their families.



A big part of the preparations for the feast this year is getting the blessing of the *Laibon*. Part of the role of the *Laibon* in the feast is to curse the wives of the retiring warriors who have slept with men outside of the age group. If the women own up to their adventures they can be forgiven, otherwise they will die - at least that is the story. A number of the present group about to go through the ceremony tell me that when the age group above them did this rite of passage, over 600 of their wives hid their unfaithfulness and died. I am skeptical, but this is what people say.

Some members of the age group - the Christian warriors and some others - are rebelling against this role of the *Laibon*. They have been holding meetings here at Olbalbal to figure out what to do. The idea would be to have a "Christian Olesher", who would rescind any permission from, blessings by, or contributions of the *Laibon*. It is a huge question for the Ilkorianga and their fathers, their "firestick elders." Age group rites of passage are deeply related to the participation of the *Laibon*.

Many questions need to be answered - would a separate Christian Olesher rite make sense, would it be accepted by the Maasai community as "valid."? Would the Christian warriors who participated be accepted by the Maasai as having genuinely completed their "Olesher." Or would the Maasai consider such a Christian "Olesher" meaningless? Would the *Laibons* curse the rebel members of the age group together with their fathers? ...So many questions.



Spiritans and St. Katharine Drexel



"Please don't say that some great sorrow drove me into the convent. That's nonsense. I am, and have always been, one of the happiest women in the world." - St. Katharine Drexel

HOUSTON, TX - March 3, 2016

March 3, the Feast Day of St. Katharine Drexel, reminds us of the blessed and productive working relationship our community enjoyed with Mother Drexel.

The cooperative relationship of these two congregations goes back well over 100 years. Katharine Drexel had contact with the Holy Ghost Fathers from the time of her early novitiate formation in Pittsburgh. In Philadelphia she was instrumental in the Fathers obtaining a tract of land just a mile from her own center in Cornwells Heights. That property is now

the site of Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Bensalem, PA.

St. Katharine Drexel

Subsequently the Sisters and the Holy Ghost Fathers worked together in literally dozens of parishes and schools serving African-American communities in Philadelphia, New York and the deep South. Over the years hundreds of Spiritans, clergy and lay associates served in these "unwanted" ministries, including a large number of Holy Ghost Fathers from Ireland who came under a special arrangement with the innovative Mother Katharine.

Membership Directory Updates & Changes **Please make these changes to your Membership Directory**

Pg. C-12: FLAMM, Paul M. - Spiritan Missionary Seminary - Njiro, P.O. Box 2682, Arusha Tanzania

Pg. C-23: ROSSO, Norbert T. - new room at Marian Manor - Room 217B, phone 412-942-9063

Pg. H-1: ADIBE, Anthony - 1164 2nd Avenue, Apt. 38, Des Moines, IA 50314

Pg. H-4: OFORCHUKWU, Joachim - Corpus Christi Parish, 2822 Corpus Christi Drive, South Bend, IN 46628, 609-233-2591, iffezu@hotmail.com

Pg. H-4: OGUMERE, Augustine - Our Lady of Lourdes/Prince of Peace Parish, 19002 North 128th Avenue, Sun City West, AZ 85375; Phone: 623-214-5180, Cell: 602-703-0438



Bishop Dennis Durning House

Retirement Residence for Elderly & Infirm Missionary Priests
Usa River, Arusha, Tanzania

A retirement residence is being built at Usa River, approximately 20 kilometers from Arusha Town, easily accessible by road. Three acres of land have been carved from the land owned by the Spiritans and on which their minor seminary and health center are located. The project responds to a lack of a suitable facility for retiring and sick priests, many of whom require medical care which will be provided by the health center. They will also require handicap accessibility and trained staff to care for them.

The Tanzanian Province includes 143 Spiritans ranging in age from 25 to 96. Of those, 18 are above 60 years of age, an additional 18 are between the ages of 55 and 59. Even younger priests find themselves with serious ailments or conditions which also require special care. The Bishop Dennis Durning House will provide such care.

Bishop Dennis Durning House will consist of a chapel for Mass and other spiritual use, 13 handicap accessible bedrooms, kitchen and dining room, recreation room, exercise and physical therapy rooms, laundry facilities, infirmary, reception and visitors parlor, and grounds for walking and gardening.



Fr. Joseph Babu, C.S.Sp., 96

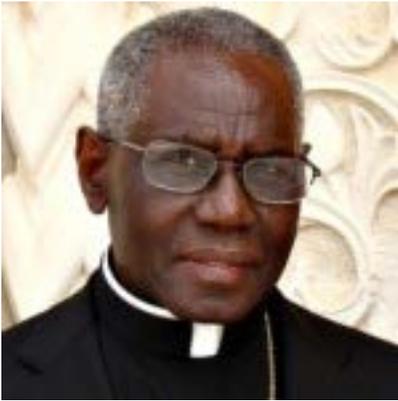


*Fr. Josephat Msongore, C.S.Sp., 87,
inspecting dedication plaque*

Anniversaries of Profession and Ordination

Our congratulations and best wishes to Spiritans
Fr. Binh T. Quach, who celebrates 25 Years of Ordination on May 25,
and **Fr. Freddy J. Washington**, who celebrates 25 Years of Profession on April 24.

May Our Lord's blessing, his joys and his graces be a rich reward
for your selfless dedication in his service
and fill your hearts with peace!



HOUSTON, TX – November 23, 2015

From an interview conducted earlier this year by the National Catholic Register.

The Holy Ghost Fathers, a French missionary order, inspired your faith as a child. Why was their missionary effort so effective, and what can it teach us about spreading the faith in missionary territory in the West?

The Holy Ghost Fathers in 1912 came to my village of birth, Ourous, to preach the Gospel and establish a Catholic mission. These missionaries made great sacrifices and suffered many deprivations, without complaining, and gave of themselves with great generosity.

Cardinal Sarah Attributes his Faith to the Spiritans

I owe my Christian faith to the dedication of the Holy Ghost Fathers. It was also a Holy Ghost missionary, Father Marcel Bracquemond, whom God has used to reveal to me my priestly vocation. I will always admire these men who have left their families and homelands to bring the love of God to the furthest corner of the Earth.

Every evening, the fathers gathered the children near a large cross set up in the mission courtyard. Under the cross, the missionaries taught us the Catholic faith. Gathered around this cross, we were given our cultural and spiritual education. The cross in the courtyard, then, came to symbolize the heart and center of the village.

The moments seated around this great cross to learn about the Catholic faith would prepare us for the revolutionary persecution that the Church in my country would face in the following years of its history. It's thanks to these missionaries, who

made me understand that the cross is the center of the world, the heart of mankind and the place where our stability is anchored.

One of my most profound impressions of the Holy Ghost Fathers was their faithful prayer life. Their daily life was filled with moments of prayer with the Lord; whether it was celebrating Mass or individual and community prayers, they devoutly prayed. They were completely consumed by the fire of God's love. They were great and holy missionaries, thanks to their deep and persevering prayer life.

So a good prayer life is the essential element to successfully spreading the faith to any part of the world. Even Our Lord, in the discourse of the Last Supper, reminded us of this important truth: "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for, apart from me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5).



*Crow Indian
Reservation
in Montana*

Lay Spiritan Associate in Formation is Inspired by the Spirit of a Carpenter

By Ed Bayer

Each year a friend leads a volunteer Christian group to various Indian reservations out west to help Native Americans with construction and fulfilling some basic needs, such as blankets and school supplies. I have been both impressed and intrigued with his Christian call to action. This year, inspired as a member of the Lay Spiritan Associate Formation group, I felt compelled to inquire and volunteer in any way that I could to assist in this mission.

My friend, Ed Shlonka, explained that he and his wife had recently prayed for assistance to help in transporting his collected supplies to Montana. His normal driver had recently sustained a back injury, and along with getting up in years, was not going to be able to make the drive. Thus, this August I will be participating in an interfaith, multi-cultural mission trip to Lame Deer Montana to provide clothing, household goods and school supplies to the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian reservations. Once the dispersal of goods has been completed we will be working on construction projects that have been earmarked for our consideration. Apparently there is a roof project in mind, and with a little roofing in my background, some nail pounding will commence. A focus on engaging the people and gaining cultural awareness will persist throughout our stay. I look forward to this trip to meet a people who have been uprooted and marginalized. I will be taking with me the tools of a carpenter and a desire to offer service inspired by the Spirit of a carpenter. I plan to create a photographic journal of this Mission and will share it upon my return.

28th Annual Spring Clean-Up!

April 16th, 9am.-12:30pm



Each year, Spiritan Campus Ministry, in collaboration with on campus and community partners, sponsors a clean and green event in the South Side, Uptown and Greater Hill District neighborhoods. Duquesne students, faculty and staff work together with community partners to pick up litter, plant flowers and beautify the neighborhoods where we live, work and play. Following the clean up, we gather together for lunch in our respective communities and enjoy music together. Lay Spiritan Associate in formation, Kate Lecci, is one of the Spiritan Campus Ministers organizing this event.

Lay Spiritan Outreach to Haiti through Rich in Mercy Institute



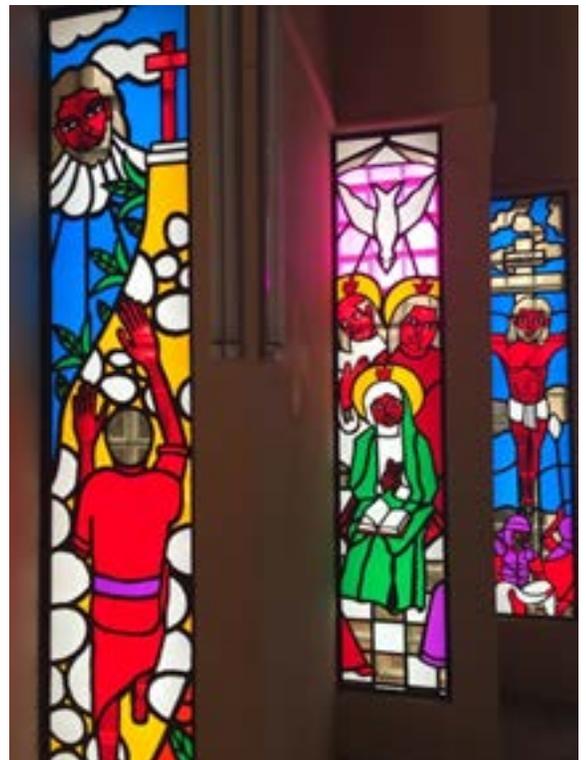
Rich Gosser, a Lay Spiritan, member of the Provincial Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation committee, and director of the Rich in Mercy Institute, recently accompanied seven students from St. Vincent College (Latrobe, PA) on a “service learning” and immersion trip to Haiti. The students, who are enrolled in Gosser’s “Haiti: Window on Our Worlds” course at St. Vincent, engaged in various learning activities with elementary school students at the Fondation Enfant Jesus school in Lamardelle and the H.E.L.P. (Health, Education, Learning Projects, Inc.) school in La Tremblay.

In Mirebalais the students visited participants on the “Chemin Lavi Miyo” (Path to a Better Life), a program for “ultra-poor” women in Haiti’s central plateau launched in

2006 by Fonkoze, the microfinance institution founded by Fr. Joseph Philippe, C.S.Sp., to provide financial services for the “organized poor” of Haiti. In Cuvier St. Vincent students met with members of the Famn Vayan women’s cooperative, a group of fourteen single mothers who are working cooperatively to generate income to feed and educate their children through agricultural activities.

In addition to accompanying the St. Vincent students during their “spring break” trip to Haiti, Gosser made site visits to numerous projects supported by the Rich in Mercy Institute which he and he and his wife Daneen (also a Lay Spiritan) founded in 1993. These include construction of a new church at the Spiritan parish of St. Paul in Furcy (photo at right) and finishing four new elementary school classrooms at the Spiritan parish of Sacred Heart in Pon Sonde. He also met with some 75 elementary and secondary students from the Solino neighborhood of Port au Prince who receive scholarships funded mainly by the Rich in Mercy Institute “Education for Change” fund and managed by Haitian Spiritan Fr. Patrick Eugene, C.S.Sp.

Additional site visits to Rich in Mercy funded projects included the Little Sisters of St. Antoine in Fondwa, the Little Sisters of St. Therese in Signeau, the new diocesan parish of St. Joseph in Gwayave, the Foyer de la Misericorde in Les Cayes, and a pre-school education and nutrition program at the St. Louis de Montfort parish in Port au Prince funded in part by the Rich in Mercy Institute “Skip a Lunch, Save a Child” fund.

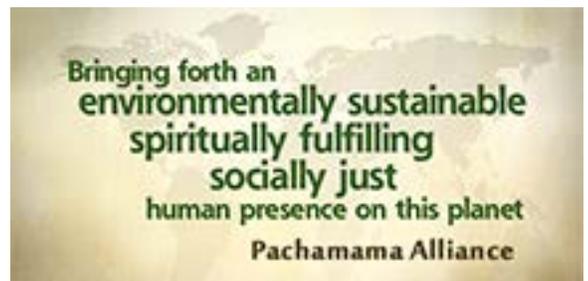


Additional information about the Rich in Mercy Institute projects in Haiti and East Africa is available on the website at www.RIMIN.org.

Ministry to Pachamama - Mother Earth

By Carmen Accetta, LSA in Formation

After losing a ministry I had been very committed to for about fourteen years, I had been without a specific ministry for about the last three years. Nothing called to me. I am happy to report I have finally found the ministry that I believe God has called me to work in, and I believe it is consistent with the Spiritan charism. The parent organization is called the Pachamama Alliance (www.pachamama.org if you are interested). "Pachamama" is an indigenous name for "Mother Earth." It was formed about twenty years ago when a tribe from Ecuador reached out to the modern world for help in defending their tribal lands from encroachment by big business. An alliance combining indigenous wisdom with modern know how was born. The Alliance sees all creation as connected and one, believes that love must drive our actions, and preaches not demonizing adversaries or even considering them adversaries.



Later, Pachamama expanded their scope. Their overall goals are increasing the human presence on the planet of people who are committed to achieving a sustainable environment, social justice and a fulfilling spirituality for all peoples of the world. They have been spearheading a grass roots international movement of people with like goals and forming coalitions with other groups who are working on practical aspects of the three main goals. I recently completed their seven week program "Game Changer Intensive," one of the richest educational/transformational experiences of my life. In my cohort of between 300 and 400 people, there were thirty-four different countries represented.

Out of my experience in the Intensive, I have felt drawn to work to "recruit" and form others to become "Game Changers." I was asked to become a moderator for one of the small groups in the Intensive after mine. Shortly, I will be taking the training to conduct their "Awakening the Dreamer Symposium" which is the gateway experience into the work of the Alliance. On Good Friday, I talked with someone about starting a Pachamama Community in Pittsburgh. I might also become involved in climate action, but first I am waiting to see how much time I will be giving to the above endeavors.

Part of the draw for me has been to work with people who are different from me. This Alliance crosses all boundaries of nationality, religion, politics, beliefs, etc. I find myself among many good, committed, spiritual people, although I think the number of Christians is probably relatively few and Catholics even fewer. I am concerned about the increasing polarization in our country and world. I hope to do something to start building some bridges. Since I am a minority of sorts, I plan to rely on my brother and sister Lay Spiritans for the support of my Catholic faith. I believe I am working for the potentially most marginalized in that it would be hard to be poorer than someone who no longer even has a planet to be poor on.

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*Let us be good stewards of the Earth we inherited.
All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources,
and each of us have a role to play in preserving them.
If we are to go on living together on this earth,
we must all be responsible for it.*

Kofi Annan

Lay Spiritan Associates On the Move

By Anne Marie Witchger Hansen

Lay Spiritan Associate Formation Program Update

Each month, the Lay Spiritan Associates (LSA) meet with 11 members of the formation group for prayer, reflection on scripture and writings of our founders, and then sharing in small groups and large group on how the Spirit is moving us from action to prayer and prayer to action. From this experience, several LSA in formation, are exploring a new ministry of service to those on the margins, while others embrace their current work as a unique Spiritan ministry. During this exciting and ever-changing world in which we live, we feel the Holy Spirit stirring us and calling us to become a dynamic, "Spirit-led movement of the laity".

Our formation program this spring will include a meeting on Wednesday, April 6, to prepare for Fr. Tony Gittens, CSSp presentation on inter-cultural living. On Saturday, May 14, 2016 our Spiritan accompanier, Fr. Vince Stegman, CSSp will lead us in a day for reflection "Becoming Pentecost People – Committed to Justice & Peace and Integrity of Creation" at the Spiritan Center, Bethel Park, PA. In June, we will gather together on a Sunday afternoon for a picnic.

Lay Spiritan Formation Program: A Work in Progress

When I began this 9-month Scholar in Residence program in October 2016, I never realized how many moving parts might be needed to create a draft of a Lay Spiritan Formation program for the US Province. Fr. James Okoye, CSSp, director of the Center for Spiritan Studies, reassured me that the Guide for Spiritan Formation (2013) was a work in progress over more than a few years.

In February, John and I had the privilege of meeting with our General Superior, Fr. John Fogarty, and with Brother Marc Tyrant, CSSp to discuss the Lay Spiritan Formation program, the draft of the outline and content ideas, seeking their input and suggestions. During this visit, Brother Marc shared the fruits of many meetings and discussions of the General Council on the upcoming draft of the Lay Spiritan Associate guide. We were moved by the General Council's time and energy dedicated to this project, and their commitment to listen to and integrate Lay Spiritan Associate feedback on the upcoming draft of the LSA Guide.



Libermann Attic residence - John Hansen (left) and Fr. Fogarty (right)

On Sunday, March 13, Lay Spiritan Associates and LSA in formation reviewed the content outline for the formation program during a Colloquy sponsored by the Center for Spiritan Studies. The North American Lay Spiritan Associates will have an opportunity to offer their input and suggestions, too, during my presentation at the North American Lay Spiritan Gathering in Scarborough, Ontario, hosted by the Trans-Canadian province.



Fr. Fogarty, Bro. Tyrant, Fr. Shortall, Fr. McCloskey, A-M Hansen



Bro. Tyrant and John Hansen consulting over a computer



Fr. Fogarty and the Hansens at Generalate