

One Heart, One Spirit

CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Newsletter for the Province of the United States



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Fr. Albert McKnight, C.S.Sp., 1927 - 2016

Fr. Albert McKnight, C.S.Sp., of Bethel Park, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, died peacefully April 17, 2016, at Marion Manor, Greentree, PA. He was 88 years old.

Father McKnight was born August 18, 1927, in Brooklyn, NY. He professed his vows as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on August 15, 1947, at Holy Ghost Novitiate in Ridgefield, CT, and was ordained to the Priesthood June 6, 1952, at St. Mary's Seminary, Ferndale, in Norwalk, CT.

Father was first appointed to St. Paul Church in Lafayette, LA. He then served for many years in various parishes in Louisiana, including Our Lady of Lourdes, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Martin de Porres and Holy Ghost Parish. In 1969, he started and was president of the Southern Cooperative Development Fund. He was passionate about ministering to the black community, and served on many national financial philanthropic and human rights committees, including being the Executive Director of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. He was a novice director in Texas for four years until 2005 when he asked to retire to Haiti to continue serving the poor. In 2012, he returned to the Spiritans' retirement home in Casa Laval, and was in residence at Our Lady of the Valley in Hemet until he came to Libermann Hall in Bethel Park in 2015.



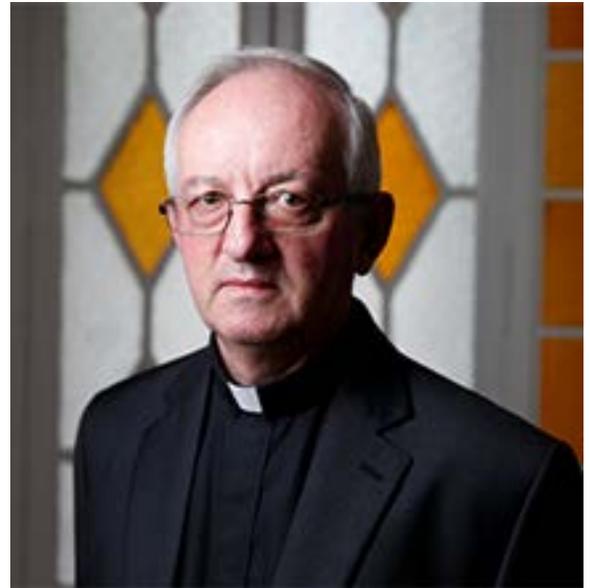
Fr. McKnight was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Althea Holmes McKnight; and his sister, Mrs. Colleen McKnight. He is survived by his brother, Donald McKnight; and sister, Brenda Hubbard; and many nieces and nephews. In memory of Fr. McKnight donations may be made to the Spiritans, designated for retirement or for the education of future Holy Spirit Fathers, 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park PA 15102. Condolences can be sent to his brother Donald at 2909 Blue Bonnet Ct., Antioch CA 94509

Brothers, sisters, fathers: Religious orders key to child protection

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a continuing effort to protect children, the Catholic Church's focus is now turning to religious orders of men and women. Much of the attention had been on how dioceses and national bishops' conferences have been responding to victims and protecting children.

But religious orders and congregations are sometimes left out of that picture, even though they, too, have a duty to make sure every person in their care is safe. Also, the majority of the more than 300,000 Catholic schools and orphanages around the world are run by religious brothers and sisters whose charisms are to promote human dignity and Gospel values.



Fr. John Fogarty, *Superior General*

Pope Francis last year authorized the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to investigate and judge claims of “abuse of office” by bishops who allegedly failed to protect minors and vulnerable adults from sex abuse. But that form of censure “wasn’t extended to superior generals, and it should be,” said Father John Fogarty, superior general of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

Father Fogarty said his “first priority” after being elected superior of the Spiritans in 2012 was to establish comprehensive guidelines and then ask each of the order’s provinces and regions to draw up procedures that would protect children and respect local laws and customs.

“Not everyone is at the same point on the learning curve,” he said. But his experience working for the province in Ireland and as provincial superior in the United States “was very helpful for me for formulating policy,” said the Dublin-born missionary. He was surrounded by “lots of accumulated wisdom, lots of workshops, all the latest insights and reports,” he said. Since each local superior of his order is responsible for his territory, Father Fogarty said he uses his role “to work with the superiors” and to get them all “on the same wavelength.”

Not everyone in every part of the world is “at the same point” in recognizing the need to protect and care for children and survivors; “our job is to get them there, put pressure on them to produce adequate policies, procedures, hold workshops” and use every “means at our disposal” to spread awareness and resources. When new superiors meet in Rome each year, one session is dedicated to safeguarding norms, Father Fogarty said.

When leaders don’t draw up procedures or get informed, he said, “we can urge them” to, “but we can’t do it in their place. We can’t replace (the local superior).”

Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, president of the Center for Child Protection at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University, said that in some places in Asia and parts of Africa, the Catholic Church “is the organization that is doing more to safeguard minors than other groups.” In some areas, he said, “if you didn’t have the church, you would have nothing there” to look after and care for the most vulnerable.

Missionaries are the heroes of evangelization, pope tells young people



By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young women and men who are tired of today’s self-centered, materialistic society should consider becoming missionaries — the heroes of evangelization, Pope Francis said at his morning Mass.

“Life is worth living” to the full, “but in order to live it well, ‘consume’ it in service, in proclamation and keep going forward. This is the joy of proclaiming the Gospel,” the pope said May 10 during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

So many men and women have left their families, homeland and culture to bring the Gospel to other continents, he said. So many of them never returned home, dying in mission lands from disease or martyrdom — “offering their life for the Gospel. These missionaries are our joy, the joy of our church.”

Many missionaries are “anonymous,” having served and died in foreign lands, he said. “They ‘consumed’ life,” far from home and their loved ones, but lived knowing they could say, “what I have done was worth it.”

Open to the work of the Holy Spirit, they felt an irresistible urge — they were “compelled” — to “consume their lives” for God in the farthest corners of the earth, the pope said. “I want to tell today’s young men and women, who do not feel at ease” or happy with “this culture of consumerism and narcissism.”

Pope Francis asked those dissatisfied with worldly pursuits to pray to the Holy Spirit “to compel them to go far, to ‘consume’ their life” by being fully dedicated to serving others and the Gospel.

Duquesne University Oral History Project Documents the Worldwide Experiences of Spiritan Missionaries

By Mary Lynn Davidek Alpino
for the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*

Claude Poullart des Places of Rennes, France, founded the Spiritans, formally known as the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, on Pentecost in 1703. He felt called to start a community for poor, young men wanting to become priests. It was his hope that these young priests would serve France's rural poor and its missions overseas. They have. Since 1703, the Spiritans have dedicated themselves to the underserved around the globe. Today, nearly 3,000 Spiritans labor in more than 60 countries. Their work included the founding of Duquesne University — the only Spiritan university in North America — in 1878. Over many decades as global missionaries, the Spiritans have acquired countless stories that have gone unrecorded and unwritten — until now. In an effort to document their accomplishments and to provide a spiritual legacy for future Spiritans, Duquesne began to record some of these stories. Oral historians so far have interviewed a half dozen priests, some of whom came to Duquesne to work or study. “The mission of the project is to record the history of the Spiritans in their own words,” said Megan DeFries, oral historian at Duquesne. “This includes biographical sketches about their development as Spiritans and the work they’ve done, how they’ve lived the mission as Spiritans.” Even though these missionaries have worked in many different countries, doing diverse work, Ms. DeFries recognized a common thread as she interviewed them. “You find common themes in their faith and their service because the way they develop as Spiritans is very similar around the world, and the way they’re all unified in their mission. Their stories show the human side of being a priest, of someone that leads a religious life.”

The breadth and impact of the congregation's global reach can be seen in the experiences of the



Rev. Sean Hogan (at right in photo with Diocese of Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik), a fourth-generation Spiritan and president of the Duquesne Scholarship Association. Father Hogan was 28 when he left Ireland for Kenya in 1968. “I was a pastor of a parish that included a maternity hospital, and I paid the bills. I was also the headmaster of a high school in Thika, a large industrial town near Nairobi, Kenya,” he said. Father Hogan built several churches, developed credit unions and built Kenya's first youth center. “We had a lot of schools, but we didn't have a library or recreation facilities for the kids. So we built the Thika Youth Center in cooperation with Thika Lions Club. The nearly two-year project was a great development because we could have a nursery school, a library, soccer fields and basketball courts. We also had a big hall where we could have dances or show movies,” he recalled. The people were grateful, he said. “You bring Christ to them, but you also try and raise the standards of the people. You bring education. You bring medical facilities, and then you try and develop a middle class.”

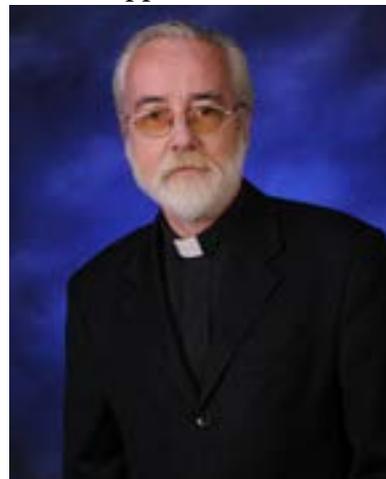
Father Hogan offers this perspective to young Spiritans or men aspiring to join them. “Look at what we’re doing throughout the world. We have various options ... education, development, running parishes and running schools. And it’s a great life. No one’s life is perfect, but it’s a very fulfilling one.”

The **Rev. Bill Christy**, whose work with Spiritan Campus Ministry at Duquesne focuses on counseling and spiritual direction, was a missionary in Tanzania for 15 years and served in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia for six. Unlike the warmth that Father Hogan received from the people in Kenya, the Aborigines initially were not welcoming to Father Christy. The wariness stemmed from years of mistreatment at the hands of the Australian government. “The Aborigines didn’t have rights until the mid-60’s. They didn’t have the vote, they had no right to own property, and every Aborigine was considered a child and the government was considered their parent. An aboriginal Australian had no right to a passport because one would not give a passport to a child. “And then I show up, and there’s all this baggage there. And that’s something you have to overcome.”

At times, “you realize your limitedness,” Father Christy said. “When we adopt somebody else’s worldview, we realize that we don’t have all the answers to their world. A profound importance to the Maasai [an aboriginal group in Tanzania] and to all Africans is fertility. The sense of family, the sense of generations, and ancestors. How do we address infertility? For people who don’t have good medical care and are prone to infections and other things, fertility is the question. We didn’t have a ritual to bless them for fertility. ... Christianity doesn’t have an easy answer for them.”



The **Rev. Raymond French** was 19 when he fell in love with the Spiritans. It happened three decades ago through a chance meeting with the Rev. Jim Brown, a Spiritan who was conducting a 100-mile walk in Scotland for vocations. The congregation’s inclusiveness impressed Father French, now Duquesne’s vice president for mission and identity. “It didn’t matter who you were or where you came from; they accepted you.” He entered the Spiritans with men from Nigeria, Madagascar, Mauritius, Ireland, England and a few, like himself, from Scotland. “At a very early age, I got a sense of the world and that diversity is a beautiful thing,” he said. For almost three years, Father French lived with three groups in Tanzania — the mountain people, the “fishers” and the warriors. He was, he said, “a Scots guy from a small town who finds himself in the middle of a village by the lake in Tanzania, struggling to learn a language, and feeling more at home than any place I’ve ever been, apart from Duquesne.” The people readily welcomed Father French. “Hospitality is in their DNA,” he said. But the different ethnic groups didn’t get along, and Father French wondered what he could do to bring them together. “I went back to my old passion for soccer and I thought, that’s the way I can do it,” he said. *(continued on page 6)*



(continued from page 5)

He organized a soccer match and asked the villagers and their families to bring food to the big event. “It was magnificent. It was great fun, and I think it did show that difference can be a cause for celebration.” The stories of Father French, Father Hogan, Father Christy and other Spiritans offer powerful insights into the human condition across the globe. The oral history project is ongoing. Recordings and transcripts of the interviews are available by appointment at the Duquesne library. The Spiritans’ work requires an “openness to the Spirit, authentic relationships and walking on the margins,” Father French explains. “Know that when you’re with the underserved, they become your teacher. It was the most powerful experience of my life.”

Duquesne’s Dougherty Ends Tenure; Pursued Spiritan Identity

On October 13, 2001, Dr. Charles J. Dougherty stepped to the podium at Duquesne University’s Palumbo Center:

“I ask you today to join with me in a bold and candid conversation about who we are and what we can be,” he urged the assembled crowd of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. “If I am right, the future we want is an even greater university, an even greater Duquesne.”

Fast forward nearly 15 years later, and that prophetic message by Dr. Dougherty has become reality as he steps down as president of Duquesne University, effective June 30, 2016.

Born in New York City in 1949, Dougherty was steeped in the Catholic educational tradition. After attending St. Anthony’s High School, he became the first in his family to attend college, earning a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Bonaventure University in 1971, then receiving master’s and doctorate degrees in philosophy from Notre Dame in 1973 and 1975.



Dougherty’s academic background as a philosopher and ethicist suggested that his presidency would begin with thoughtful analysis, and indeed, one of his first actions was to initiate a comprehensive strategic planning process—the first in University history. Every constituency was engaged in the dialogue, which produced a simple yet elegant plan built around three priorities—emphasizing Duquesne’s distinctive Spiritan identity and mission, building a global reputation for academic excellence, and enhancing the quality of every student’s experience.

The renaissance began with improving the size and quality of the student body. While increasing selectivity, Duquesne has simultaneously grown its undergraduate ranks. The 10 largest classes in its history matriculated in the Dougherty era. Students from all 50 states and 77 nations are enrolled, and racial and ethnic diversity across the student body is steadily rising.

As the faces of Duquesne have changed, so has its landscape. In total, Duquesne has added more than 500,000 square feet of space for academics, student life and support services during Dougherty’s tenure—a number that

Dougherty has maintained and strengthened the University's financial position during challenging economic times. The University's budget has been balanced every year during his tenure. Duquesne is ranked 18th by U.S. News and World Report among the most efficiently operated top-tier universities. Only two other Catholic institutions made this list.

With all that has changed at Duquesne under Dougherty's leadership, a Washington Monthly magazine ranking underscores a key factor that has not. The publication examined universities' contributions to social mobility; that is, providing opportunities for low-income students to advance personally and professionally. Duquesne ranked in the top 75 on that list as well.

This honor gets to the core of the Duquesne difference: the Spiritan charism that, for more than three centuries, has recognized education as the key to liberation from poverty and injustice.

Dougherty studied at Franciscan and Holy Cross institutions. He spent a quarter-century teaching at a Jesuit university. Yet from the day he became Duquesne's 12th president, Dougherty embraced its unique responsibility as the world's only comprehensive Spiritan university.

Outreach to Africa and the African diaspora is a central tenet of the University's current strategic plan. Dougherty has personally traveled to Africa to visit Spiritan educators and missionaries. Faculty, staff and students followed, initiating scores of teaching, research and service projects.

Under Dougherty, the Office of Mission and Identity was elevated to a cabinet-level division, overseeing Spiritan Campus Ministry and the Centers for Spiritan Studies, African Studies and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Spiritan Horizons, an annual journal of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, is published and distributed to Spiritans worldwide, and Spiritan historical documents, including the writings of Venerable Francis Liberman and documents that record the early development of the Congregation, are being digitized.

In keeping with Spiritan values, Duquesne, under Dougherty, has emphasized sustainable growth in both its operations and its academic programs, and there has been widespread use of historical Spiritan names on buildings and endowed chairs. In addition, the University has 300 mission-related endowed funds with a market value exceeding \$125 million.

His extensive publications in the fields of ethics and health care include five books, two of them published by Oxford University Press, and more than 50 scholarly articles.

Dougherty and his wife, Sandra, a retired judge of the Nebraska District Court, have two children: a daughter who is a Notre Dame and Georgetown University graduate working as a lawyer for Akin Gump in Washington, D.C.; and a son who is a Creighton and University of Nebraska alumnus who works for Goodwill in Omaha, Nebraska.

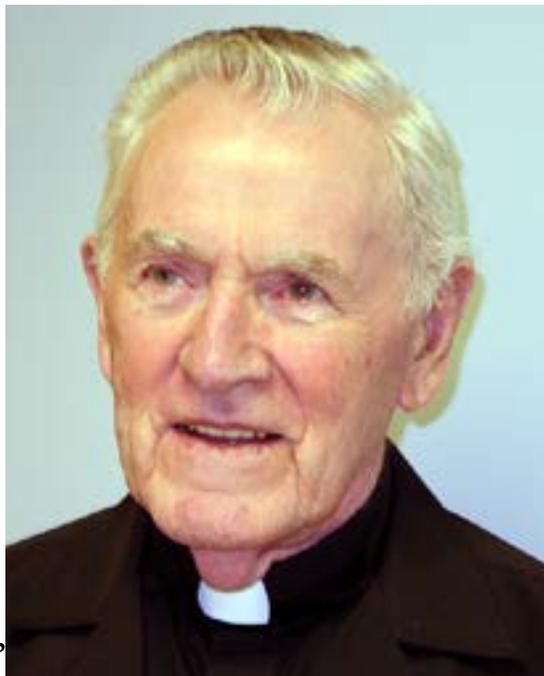
During Duquesne's most recent Middle States accreditation, the visiting reviewers observed that the University's mission—to serve God by serving students—influenced every decision and permeated every corner of its campus. Such concentration is rare, and doesn't happen by chance. Dougherty's relentless focus on that mission—and the conversation he began in 2001—have propelled Duquesne's rise to the highest echelon of American Catholic higher education during his tenure.

Fr. Joseph Kelly, C.S.Sp., 1924 - 2016

Fr. Joseph Kelly, C.S.Sp., of Bethel Park, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, died peacefully May 21, at St. Clair Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. He was 91 years old.

Father Kelly was born September 16, 1924, in Philadelphia, Pa. He professed his vows as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on August 15, 1945, at Holy Ghost Novitiate in Ridgefield, CT, and was ordained to the priesthood on September 15, 1950, at St. Mary's Seminary, Ferndale, in Norwalk, CT.

Father Kelly was assigned to the missions in East Africa, where he was destined to minister for 52 years. He worked in various positions in parochial ministry in the Arusha and Moshi Dioceses of Tanzania and Usa River, one of the missions in Arusha; he started AMECEA Documentary Service in Nairobi, Kenya, which shared the pastoral situations, experiences between the dioceses of Eastern African and with the universal Church. He was director of development for the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and, in 1997, was appointed head of the Spiritan Planning and Development Office for the Holy Spirit Fathers in Arusha, Tanzania. Fr. Kelly returned to the United States in 2003, and was a resident of Libermann Hall Spiritan Retirement Community in Bethel Park.



Fr. Kelly was preceded in death by his parents Patrick J. and Margaret Conway Kelly; and his sisters, Mrs. Ruth Bicknell and Sister Martha Marie, O.P. He is survived by his sister, Mrs. Kenneth (Eileen) Rehm, of Sayville NY; nieces, nephews and many extended family members and friends.

Viewing was held in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at the Spiritan Center, 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park, Pa., on Saturday, May 28, followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated at 11:00 am. Committal service followed by burial was conducted at St. Lawrence Cemetery, Sayville, NY, on June 2.

Condolences can be sent to father's sister and brother-in-law, Eileen & Kenneth Rehm, 68 Pine Street, Sayville, NY 11782.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace!

Prayer Requests - for those who are ill:

Fr. Sean Hogan - recovering from leg injuries;

and for the recently deceased:

Fr. Joseph Kelly, 91, on May 21, 2016 in Pittsburgh. See obituary above.

Fr. Albert McKnight, 88, on April 17, 2016 in Pittsburgh. See obituary for Fr. McKnight on page 1.

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May Our Lord's blessings, His Joys and His Graces be a rich reward for your selfless dedication in His service and fill your hearts with peace.
 Congratulations on these many years of faithful service!

	Ordination Date		Profession Date	
Fr. Arlindo Amaro	September 16, 1956	60 Years	September 8, 1951	65 Years
Fr. Brian Cronin			September 8, 1961	55 Years
Fr. David T. Cottingham			August 22, 1971	45 Years
Fr. George J. Spangenberg	June 19, 1976	40 Years		
Fr. James H. Burnie			August 1, 1981	35 Years
Fr. Chris H. McDermott	June 13, 1981	35 Years		
Fr. Donald J. McEachin	June 13, 1981	35 Years	August 26, 1976	40 Years
Fr. Matthew Amoako-Attah			August 15, 1981	35 Years
Fr. Jeffrey T. Duaimie	June 14, 1986	30 Years	August 1, 1981	35 Years
Fr. Jocelyn Gregoire	June 17, 1986	30 Years		
Fr. Simon Lobon			June 16, 1986	30 Years
Fr. John A. Sawicki	June 14, 1986	30 Years	August 1, 1981	35 Years
Fr. Daniel S. Sormani	September 19, 1986	30 Years		
Fr. Raymond French	September 20, 1991	25 Years		
Fr. Daniel L. Walsh	August 3, 1991	25 Years	August 2, 1986	30 Years
Fr. Binh T. Quach	May 25, 1991	25 Years		
Fr. Philip Agber	July 28, 2001	15 Years		
Fr. Joshua Otusafo	July 1, 2001	15 Years		
Fr. Joseph L. Nguyen	July 8, 2006	10 Years		
Bro. Joseph F. Cannon			August 19, 2011	5 Years

Best wishes for a Very Happy Birthday to these Spiritans
 who celebrate birthdays during the months of June, July and August.
 Happy Birthday!

<u>June</u>		<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>	
2	Fr. Paul M. Flamm	2	Fr. Honest Munishi	4	Fr. Jocelyn Gregoire
8	Fr. Joseph F. McDonough	3	Fr. Patrick A. Patten	6	Fr. Edward J. Vilkauskas
8	Fr. Jean-Pierre Tambwe	13	Fr. Joseph M. Herzstein	10	Fr. Quoc P. Le
17	Fr. Michael T. Grey	14	Fr. Thomas J. Byrne	17	Fr. Joseph B. Gaglione
19	Fr. Jean-Michel Gelmetti	15	Fr. Michael T. White	18	Fr. Alert J. McKnight
22	Fr. Raymond French	18	Fr. Vincent G. Stegman	18	Fr. Eugene Uzukwu
26	Fr. John A. Sawicki	20	Fr. J. Clifton Hill	20	Fr. Francis Tandoh
26	Fr. William L. Smith	21	Fr. Fidelis Nwankwo	23	Fr. Philip Agber
26	Fr. Freddy J. Washington	22	Fr. Paul Hoang	26	Fr. Sean M. Hogan
28	Fr. John Owusu-Achiaw	25	Fr. Donald J. McEachin	26	Fr. Daniel L. Walsh
		27	Fr. Brian Cronin		
		30	Fr. James Okoye		

Membership Directory Updates & Changes:

Pg. C-13 - GITTINS, Anthony J. - new address as of May 1, 2016: 4827 North Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60640

Council Appointments: Fr. Silvio D'Ostilio granted retirement status with residence at Spiritan Hall in Bensalem, Pa., effective July 18, 2016. Fr. James McCloskey appointed to Trinity Hall community for service to Duquesne University effective July 1, 2016.

Holy Spirit Catholic Community Celebrates 25 Years In East Hemet

By Bob Chechile,
Holy Spirit Parish

Holy Spirit Parish recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016, along with paying off its construction debt and a ceremonial burning of its mortgage. Planning for the parish began in September 1990, when the Rev. Silvio D'Ostilio, C.S.Sp., known affectionately as "Father D" to parishioners, was asked to found a new parish in East Hemet, CA. A 15-member planning committee was formed in December of 1990, and the first parish meeting was held on April 1, 1991, where Father D'Ostilio presented his vision for the parish. On Pentecost, 1991, Bishop Straling dedicated the Holy Spirit Catholic Community as a parish, and the first Mass was celebrated at Buckboard Ranch, a rental hall, on June 2, 1991, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Regular Sunday Mass, starting in September 1991, was celebrated at Valle Vista Elementary School, and continued there for the next 10 years.

In February 1993, Bishop Straling approved of Holy Spirit's building plan, and 18.8 acres were purchased at the present location on Soboba St. for \$1,075,000 including land, farmhouse, chapel and office trailers. Bishop Barnes celebrated Holy Spirit's Second Anniversary on Pentecost, 1993, at the Soboba Street site. Religious Education classes were held in the "garage," the rectory, and in catechists' homes. Construction plans for a multi-purpose building (the "Hall") that would also be used for Mass and religious services until a worship sanctuary would be built -- across the courtyard from the Hall -- was approved in May 1997; in July 2001, the first Mass was held in the Hall. "Father D" retired in June 2003, and Father Patrick Vincent Aherne was assigned as priest minister for the parish. In February of 2005, Father Aherne left Holy Spirit for health reasons; thereafter, the parish had to rely on available priests to celebrate English Masses, and Father Joseph Collier conducted Spanish Masses and liturgies. Finally after one very long year in February of 2006, Father Jeremiah Holland accepted the vacant priest minister position; however, Father Collier was still required for the Sunday Spanish Mass because of Father Holland's deficiency in the Spanish language. He also continued with the Spanish Masses with Father Celestine Afuwgabi and Father Richard Bordonaro who had succeeded Father Holland in July 2011.



Holy Spirit parishioners gathered outside the church for a ceremonial mortgage burning prior to the start of the 25th Anniversary Mass.



In July 2012, Father Patrick O'Hagan SS.CC, being retired from military service some years earlier, was assigned as Holy Spirit's pastor. In January 2013, Father Pat challenged Holy Spirit parishioners to pay-off the remaining debt of \$285,067 in 18 months: by July of 2014. Months of lagging building fund contributions followed; thereby forcing Father Pat to declare that most all parish event income be applied to debt reduction. Finally an anonymous parishioner in March 2014, offered a \$25,000 matching funds donation, which was embraced by parishioners and was so successful that, in May 2014, the last \$85,212 debt payment was made. In July 2015, his term as pastor having already been extended once by Bishop Barnes, Father O'Hagan retired from pastoral work. He was replaced by *Rev. Michael Obi Onwuemelie C.S.Sp.*, from Our Lady of the Valley Parish. Father Mike, after his ordination in 1979, taught in a seminary; worked as a chaplain and law lecturer at the University of Nigeria; and held leadership positions on the national and international levels of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, the last of which was assistant superior general at the Spiritan's world headquarters in Rome for 14 years.



Rev. Michael Obi Onwuemelie C.S.Sp., was appointed pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in July, 2015. Fr. Mike leads the recessional after the 25th. Anniversary Mass.

Fr. Mike also spent six months in sabbatical studies at CTU Chicago before coming to Hemet to Our Lady of the Valley. Father Mike also brought retired priest Rev. Joseph Gagliardi C.S.Sp., to Holy Spirit with him to share Masses; moreover, Father Mike would then conduct the Spanish Masses, the first time in more than 10 years that a parish priest would say the Spanish Mass.

In his first month at Holy Spirit, Father Mike developed a building plan, presented it to the parish, and had it approved in concept by Bishop Barnes. It modifies the plan envisioned by parish founders, but it will give the parish in a few years what would have otherwise taken decades to do. The first phase of the building plan consisted of locating all office personnel in a repartitioned office; creating an Adoration Chapel in the church; and making structural repairs in the rectory. Since he is at present committed to continue living in his present quarters at Our Lady of the Valley, the plan for the rectory was to reconfigure it into a smaller parish guest house for visiting clergy, with two meeting rooms for ministry use. The second phase of the building plan consists of converting the present multi-purpose hall into a worship sanctuary. This will include: construction of a permanent altar area; installing standard pews with kneelers throughout; constructing private, screened confessionals; and, expanding the entry foyer that would put the rest rooms inside the doors to the church. The architectural firm of Herron & Rumansoff has been contracted to provide the plans and cost estimates for this project that should be finalized by December, 2016. The third phase of Father Mike's vision would be an office/meeting hall structure constructed across the patio where the once worship sanctuary was planned to relocate the office from the present trailers and provide space for parish gatherings as well as with classrooms and meeting rooms. However, this phase will be sometime in the future. Because Holy Spirit is the fourth smallest parish (in numbers of registered families) in the Hemet Vicariate of 13 parishes (chapels and mission churches excluded), adequate parish finances have always been a struggle. Nonetheless, parishioners have met every challenge required of them, and Father Mike's vision should be able to be successfully met by the still young and growing Holy Spirit Catholic Community.

North American Lay Spiritan Gathering - Toronto

April 22-24, 2016



Brother Marc Tyrant, C.S.Sp., general counselor; and US Lay Spiritans Rich and Daneen Gosser and John and Anne Marie Hansen, eight Trans-Canadian Lay Spiritan Associates and their accompanier, Fr. Joseph Kelly, C.S.Sp., together with Fr. Cornelius Bokema, C.S.Sp., representing the Canadian Province, attended the North American Lay Spiritan Gathering at the Scarborough Mission Center on April 22-24, 2016. The weekend began Friday evening with dinner, personal sharing and updates, and evening prayer. On Saturday morning, Brother Marc presented the draft of the Lay Spiritan Guide, followed by reports from a representative from each of the North American Provinces - Trans-Canada, Canada and USA. Saturday evening, the Provincial of the Trans-Canadian province, Fr. Francis Folleh, C.S.Sp., hosted a wine and cheese party at the Shanahan House. After morning prayer and a business meeting on Sunday morning, the group gathered in the Chapel to celebrate Sunday liturgy, followed by lunch and farewell. Fr. Cornelius Bokeman, C.S.Sp., gave a report on behalf of himself and the Lay Spiritans in the Canadian Province. Fr. Cornelius shared a report from Lay Spiritan, Marie-Reine Guilmette, about her ministry and witness over the past year, in the midst of dealing with her own physical challenges; Marie-Reine has been actively involved in parish life. On behalf of the US province, Dr. Anne Marie Hansen presented a draft of the Lay Spiritan Formation Program that she has been developing in her role as the Scholar in Residence at the Center for Spiritan Studies, Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. To frame the presentation, her husband, Lay Spiritan Associate, Dr. John Hansen, facilitated a personal and group reflective process whereby the audience responded to four questions. Initial responses included surprise at the fact that the lay formation process, after all these years, has been finally written down -- and looks "formal" -- yet leaves room for flexibility and adaptability to each province's context.