

One Heart, One Spirit

CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Newsletter for the Province of the United States



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Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Media Release

Collaborative US Brothers' Think Tank Applauds the First-Ever Vatican Document on the Vocation of Brothers



SILVER SPRINGS, MARYLAND (January 12, 2016). For three and one-half years, leaders from the Religious Brothers' Conference, the Religious Formation Conference, the National Religious Vocation Conference, and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in the United States, have met twice yearly to strategize about raising awareness of the long-admired but rapidly disappearing witness of religious brothers within the American Catholic Church. Renowned for education and health care, often highly skilled in administration and undaunted by labor, willing to mission both in foreign and domestic places, brothers have been a highly effective force, along with sisters and religious clergy, in building and sustaining the American Church.

The newly issued (October 4, 2015) and recently published Vatican document, entitled "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church," rolled out in a Vatican press conference at the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life on December 14, 2015 and became available in English only after the text reached the Vatican Bookstore in late December. The text expresses strongly the values and ideals central to the relationship of religious men and women to the mission of Christ and to our common communion in the Church. The publication comes as the Church concludes its Year of Consecrated Life focusing on the gifts that the Holy Spirit calls forth from religious women and men for the good of many.

Over many months the members of the U.S. Brothers' Think Tank awaited this publication, having learned of Pope Francis' personal interest in the development of the document, of various brothers who contributed to the composition of the text, and of the arduous task of producing accurate translations into English, German, Spanish, and French.

Speaking as a founding member of the Think Tank, Br. Jack Henn, president of the Religious Brothers Conference and a member of Glenmary Home Missionaries, comments that the document has the potential to reawaken brothers "with the challenge and importance of their call and to inspire others to consider this great way of following and serving Jesus Christ."

The text, numbering only twenty-seven pages in one printed version, presents a renewed vision of consecrated life or religious life of which "The fraternity of religious brothers is an encouragement for the whole Church, because it makes present the Gospel value of fraternal relationships of equality in the face of the temptation to dominate, to search for the best place or to exercise authority as power." [7] The values represented seem to echo others put forth by this Papacy. The document also asserts the common heritage of our Church-Communion as a place in which "all are fundamentally equal, in common dignity and in common rights and duties," the brother lives out an ancient form of discipleship in profound unity with lay Christians explicitly and at the same time witnessing "in an integral and prophetic way the mystery of Christ and the Church within consecrated life, as a service to the entire People of God."

Br. Ignatius Perkins, OP, who has served the Dominican Friars in spearheading an unprecedented world-wide consultation and review of the life of "cooperator brothers" in the venerable Dominican Order, reflects that

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US Brothers' Think Tank *(continued)*

this new “document is not prescriptive but its grounding in the Gospel Message of communion and mission, fraternity and love, and caring for and about our brothers and sisters who are forced to live on the fracture lines of life and are found in our created cultures of waste, is a strong call for the life and mission of Religious Brothers in the Church and global world. In many places, the document is naming that the renewal of religious life is the work of Religious Brothers, the prophetic memory of Jesus, himself. The identity of the Brother at whose center lies fraternity, mystery, and communion is extraordinarily powerful [for our contemporary world].”

Most forcefully, the text asserts that “Brothers are a permanent reminder of ‘fundamental dimension of brotherhood in Christ’” [11]. Brothers stand like the Son of Man with the least ones, live faith in communion, witness to the sublime value of work, and seek out the lost.

The Think Tank is planning a national symposium on the vocation of the Brothers to be held at a major Catholic university in the autumn of 2016.

Duquesne University Occupational Therapy Alumni Volunteering in Tanzania

A 2015 graduate of the masters program in Occupational Therapy, Ms. Keira DiSpirito, traveled to Tanzania in September 2015 with Dr. Anne Marie Hansen. Dr. Hansen gave her a short orientation to the health and rehabilitation services in preparation for serving in a one year volunteer position with Olkokola Vocational Training Center (OVTC) and the Plaster House in the Arusha area. Ms. DiSpirito is residing at the Olkokola Mission and using her occupational therapy skills with students at OVTC and with children at the Plaster House. When interviewed in January 11, 2016 over Skype, Keira reported “This experience is amazing! I have so many opportunities to learn from others here, to use my OT skills and to explore new skills I did not know I have. Every day presents new challenges and opportunities. I am so grateful to Fr. Pat Patten, C.S.Sp., the Flying Medical Service Team and the Spiritan community in the Tanzania Province for their hospitality and for giving me this opportunity.”



FrancisEmma, Inc.

Fr. Vincent Stegman, C.S.Sp.

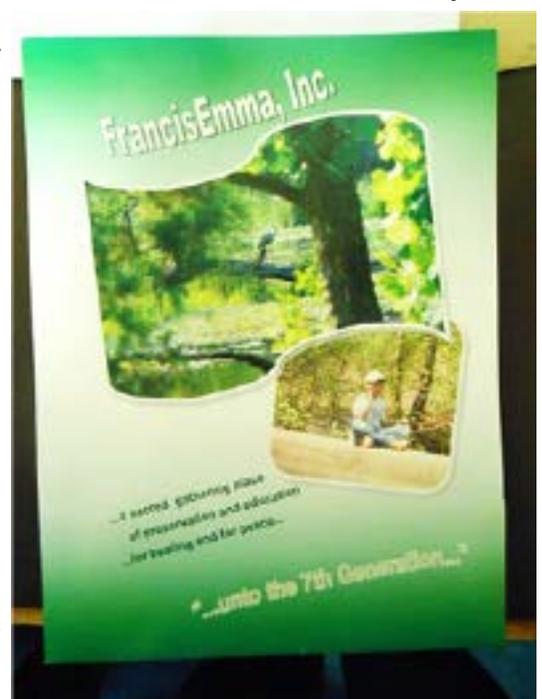
The weekend of October 16-17, 2015 was an interesting and memorable one for anyone interested in the U.S. history of the Spiritans. Over those two days 130 former students of Saint Emma Military Academy and Saint Francis girls' school held their thirtieth annual reunion in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Saint Emma Military Academy in Virginia was opened by the Christian Brothers in 1895 as a school for the education of African American and Native American students. This was the fulfillment of a dream of Saint Katharine Drexel and her sister, Louise (Drexel) Morell. The land for the school was the former plantation of the sister and brother-in-law (Edward Morell) of Katharine Drexel. Saint Francis de Sales girls' school opened a few years later and from its opening until its ending it was staffed by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the congregation begun by Saint Katharine Drexel. The Christian Brothers turned over the operation of Saint Emma Academy to the Benedictines in 1924. Lay administrators maintained the school until 1929 when the Benedictines took charge of the school until 1947. In that year the Benedictines asked the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) to take over the management of the academy. From 1947 until 1972 the Spiritans maintained the school. Its closure happened after an earthquake in 1997 and an earlier flood, which had weakened the structure, caused so much damage that it would have been too expensive to rebuild. Also, due to the greater availability of integrated schools in the southern states in the 1960s the enrollment was decreasing in both schools. The decrease in enrollment was in the aftermath of Brown vs. the Board of Education which brought integration to the schools throughout the United States after 1958.

The schools closed in 1972 but the interest among the alumni continued. In 1985 the combined schools held their first reunion. Every year since then they have held a reunion to relive the memories and keep alive the spirit that helped them during their critical teenage years.

During their histories the two schools educated 15,000 African American women and men from the major cities of the northeastern United States and from many southern states. The graduates are now scattered across the United States, many of them successful lawyers or business men and women. The only Spiritan who taught at Saint Emma and is still alive is Fr. Vince Stegman. (Fr. Joe Deniger died December 2, 2015.) None of the alumni at the 2015 reunion had any information about the lay teachers – mostly African-Americans – who taught in the two schools in the 1960s and early 1970s.

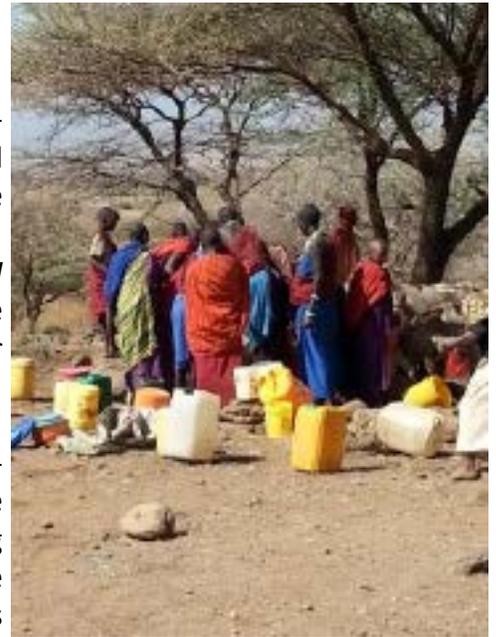
The Blessed Sacrament Sisters are interested in resurrecting the two school properties with a very different emphasis. Education would continue but with a devotion mainly to ecological and environmental issues. Since 2005 they have been holding seminars and conferences on these themes at the former Saint Emma School site and using the one remaining serviceable building for small scale retreats. Their programs will increase as they receive funding to renovate the two remaining buildings and thus increase their size and usefulness. Their motto for this endeavor is "...unto the 7th generation," moving into the future in a very creative and meaningful way.



Ned's Mission

Fr. Ned Marchessault, C.S.Sp., Spiritans Maasailand Tanzania

Someone once said that the cause of World War III will be ... water! Shrinking freshwater resources, the expanding Sahara, and yearly droughts all seem to confirm this theory. Water in Africa is priceless ... where it is, there is a life. Because of that, here in Africa, rain is considered as a BLESSING! The rain has particular importance for the Maasai. God here is called *enkAl Narok* (The Black God). He/She is the gracious God who blesses the people with black clouds that herald rain, rain that provides plenty of grass for herds and plenty of milk at home.



But the rainy seasons are getting shorter, and the dry seasons are lengthening from year to year. Then the cow bells fall silent in the villages, the life dies, deserted villages revive only in the evenings. The herds trek long distances to find water, and families follow the herds. A village seems to be abandoned because of the daily task of searching for water which makes women and often children “disappear” every day as they carry their heavy water containers 10 and 20 km in search of distant ponds and riverbeds that have not dried up.

In the dry season people dig pits in the dry riverbeds, sometimes several meters deep, in search of the precious liquid. There is not the clear water which we were taught about in school (colorless, odorless), but still it's water! Periodic rivers are permanently etched into the African landscape. Strange as it seems, at times one sees bridges, but there is no river. Interestingly, when the river appears, sometimes capriciously choosing a new riverbed, the old bridge stands as a monument to a bygone age “next to” rivers. The emphasis should be placed on the words “the bridge stands”, because there were times when I crossed over a bridge in the morning and in the evening when I returned to the mission, that bridge was gone, carried away during the day by a flash flood.

A major challenge is drilling wells, boreholes or building water reservoirs. We drilled such a well on an earlier mission, and it cost us \$10,000. Now we have the 180-meter hole, which to this day remains... just a hole! There was no water. Cleverly enough often a company investigates for presence of water, but they will not give you a guarantee that water is there. A different set of challenges are the water tanks fed by rain water. Sometimes the water is pilfered by humans or animals, as in the case of the Ngorongoro parish. One day the mission was visited by elephants that can smell water at distances of up to 20 km. Cleverly, the animals shifted the concrete lid of the tank to quench their thirst in the front of the vigilant gaze of Fr. Joe Herzstein. His loud protests went unheeded by the elephants.

My mission in Ngorongoro at a village called Olbalbal has its undoubted advantages and disadvantages. When I moved into my room there was a burning candle and a kerosene lamp. After a few days I enjoyed a small lamp powered by solar battery. In the corner is a bucket of water of 10 liters. On it stands a plastic basin for washing. I use the outside “shower” which consists of four walls, a tin roof, and a concrete floor. Our major convenience is a “water pipe” with a tap next to the mission. Olbalbal is a village with a local health clinic and a primary school for approximately 500 students! There is a pond, but the more correct term would be “swamp”, used by the Maasai to water their herds. A few years ago, thanks to a project, a spring was improved in the mountains from where the water is brought by pipes to the village. A pipe passes next to our mission. This pipe fills our plastic tank of one thousand liters capacity.

Most of time the water appears at approximately 10 a.m. for a short time and again later at 4 p.m. The water point here on the mission is used by the Maasai for their drinking water and to wash their clothing. Colorfully dressed

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Ned's Mission *(continued)*

Maasai women begin gathering at the tap at about 8 a.m. They come equipped with colorful plastic buckets that are usually used for selling the cooking oil. They sit at "the tap", talk, laugh and joke. After some time, there are more women driving donkeys that will transport the water to their homes. As the hours go by, it gets noisy and cheerful. Someone is singing, someone is laughing, and then suddenly there is water! All conviviality is over and what seemed like a family meeting turns into a struggle for water and survival. The issue now is getting water before the tap dries up. Shoving and quarrels break out and voices are raised. Someone jumps in the colorful crowd with her bucket then, and someone stronger pushes her aside. Everyone wants to be first to fill her container. Each woman has 1,000 reasons why she should be first to get water. An attempt to "regulate" this is a classic Gordian knot, and the awareness that the water is not enough for all does not help. Any lucky one with a full bucket goes to one side, carefully guarding her treasure.



Women load buckets on their backs, fastening them with one of their many scarves, or they look around for donkeys and load the containers into canvas pockets on their backs. Then the last drops of water fall from the tap with many buckets still empty. There returns calm, laughter and chatter. Women exchange news from various places - who was born, who is sick, who is getting married, how children are doing in school. The women slowly disperse to their homes to look for firewood or for other chores. The joyful buzz will return in the afternoon but once again turn into a fight at a time when the first drops of water appear at the tap. Sometimes it happens that voices wake me up as early as 2 a.m. in the morning... But the water will not appear until approximately 10 a.m. Silent witnesses of all this are plastic bottles that I put on our roof of corrugated metal. These small plastic bottles, which are filled with water are exposed to the sun for few hours. I have heard that the sun will purify the water. I'm waiting for the truth and explanations that maybe you have? Is it true that any water, placed in a plastic bottle and exposed to several hours of sunlight, becomes "clean" and safe to drink? And so the Maasai seeing the bottles on the roof have verified one more time that these foreigners are nuts.



Water "purifying" on our roof

Naish'nkai and Lemalali Wed

We had a great celebration and feast on the day that two of my students married. LenkAi and Naishengai were married on the 28th of November. LenkAi has a small herd of cattle and goats at his family home in the mountains above Olbalbal. He also has a small shop at Ngoile, a small village near us. Naishengai graduated from secondary school a year ago. Having now been here at Ngorongoro for thirty years, I am seeing the children of the young people that I educated growing up and starting their own families.





Jacob, on right in grey hoodie, with his parents and crew



Eagle Project completed in Breezeway

Jacob Richert, a Life Scout of Boy Scout Troop 228, led an Eagle Project at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park on October 17-18. He and other members of his troop, along with family and friends, spent the weekend scraping and repainting the windows and ceiling of the Breezeway. He and his grandfather also repaired the supporting structure of numerous columns and the arch of one of the pillars. Jacob is now completing the paperwork for this project and hopes to attain his Eagle rank in the Spring.

As a member of St. Thomas More Church in Bethel Park, Jacob attends mass regularly with his family. His father attended both Seton La Salle and Duquesne University and his parents were married in the Chapel of Duquesne University. Jacob decided to help The Spiritans because they chose to spend their lives in the same manner that Jesus did. Jacob is a Junior at Bethel Park High School. He currently attends a Building Trade Class at Steel Center Vocational School and hopes to work in this field after graduation.



Jacob with his grandfather working on one of the columns



Friends pitching in to help

News Updates for Lay Spiritan Associates - Fall 2015

Dr. Anne Marie Hansen

Holy Land of Appalachia Pilgrimage

Rich Gosser, Lay Spiritan Associate and member of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee for the US Province, joined JPIC coordinators from five other US religious congregations at the end of October to participate in a "Poverty and Care of Creation" immersion trip to Central Appalachia.

The "Pilgrimage to Appalachia", planned and sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) Justice and Peace and Mission Committees, provided opportunities to visit organizations working closely with people on the margins in rural, Eastern Kentucky including some of the poorest counties in the United States. In response to Pope Francis' encyclical linking care for creation and poverty with "integral ecology", the 5 day pilgrimage was an immersion encounter with people engaged in the concrete struggle for a more just and sustainable world.

The pilgrimage group visited organizations that address health care, housing, women and children, sustainable food production, and alternative education. In addition the group traveled to sites that illuminate issues of environmental destruction and related public health issues including "mountain top removal" (MTR) strip mining of coal, deforestation, flooding due to mining, black lung and other pulmonary diseases related to airborne particulates resulting from mining practices.



Bishop John Stowe, ordinary of the Diocese of Lexington, KY, joined the JPIC representatives for dinner at the beginning of their pilgrimage to the "Holy Land of Appalachia". Fr. John Rausch, an award-winning author

and Glenmary priest who has lived 40 years in Appalachia, accompanied the JPIC pilgrims. He introduced them to some of his many friends who minister to some of the poorest and most marginalized people in the United States. In turn the pilgrimage participants affirmed the "local folk" by listening respectfully to their stories and learning about their struggles and successes.

Singing a New Song

Lay Spiritan Associates Rich and Daneen Gosser, together with two other women from their parish of Holy Trinity, have initiated the **Trinity Singers**, an outreach ministry to hospice patients at the Bethlen Nursing Home and Ligonier Gardens Personal Care Home in their community of Ligonier, PA. Each week the Trinity Singers minister in song to patients who have entered hospice care. Sacred songs and favorite hymns provide comfort, joy, and encouragement to the dying through this ecumenical ministry of outreach and care.

Scholar in Residence, Center for Spiritan Studies

Lay Spiritan, Dr. Anne Marie Hansen, is serving as the Scholar in Residence at the Center for Spiritan Studies October 2015-2016. In this role, she is researching the founders of the Spiritans, particularly Francis Libermann, the Spirituality of Mission, Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation resources and other resources from the Spiritan Collection at Duquesne University and Church documents on laity in the Church. The outcome will be a draft of a formation program for Lay Spiritan Associates in the US province. Anne Marie is collaborating with the Generalate as well as Lay Spiritans in other provinces throughout the world.

Fr. Barney Kelly, C.S.Sp. Shares his Wisdom with Lay Spiritan Associates

Fr. Barney Kelly, C.S.Sp. led a directed study on Francis Libermann at the Spiritan Center for Lay Spiritan, Dr. Anne Marie Hansen, Scholar in Residence, in November. During their time together Fr. Barney introduced Anne Marie to key Libermann writings and shared his own vast knowledge of Libermann. The week culminated with a Day of Reflection - *Libermann*

(continued next page)

Fr. Barney Kelly Shares his Wisdom... *(continued)*

as *Formator and Guide* for all Lay Spiritan Associates and laity in formation. Fourteen laity attended the retreat. The retirement community of Libermann Hall hosted a social for the Lay Spiritan Associates at the end of the day.

Pope's Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* and Action for Integrity of Creation

Lay Spiritan Associates met for their monthly formation meeting in September, reflecting on action for the Integrity of Creation and Pope Francis' Encyclical letter, *Laudato, Si'*. The afternoon began on Duquesne University's Academic Walk where Lay Spiritan Associates participated in "Water Walk", an event sponsored by Pure Thirst and Duquesne University's Office of Mission and Identity. Lay Spiritan Associates in formation who were involved in the event included Luci-Jo DiMaggio and Kate Lecci who organized the day's activities and Dr. Ian Nettleship who presented information about ceramic water filters and the non-profit he works with at the University of Pittsburgh. Several Duquesne students spoke about their personal experiences related to water issues in Tanzania and South America. Lay Spiritan Rich Gosser shared facts and stories about the lack of clean and potable water in Haiti to the crowd of Duquesne students, staff and guests gathered in the front of the Union. Rich then presented key points in the Pope's letter, *Laudato Si'* and led a discussion with the Lay Spiritan Associates and those in formation.



Fr. Barney Kelly



Luci-Jo DiMaggio with daughter, Anna



Group of Lay Spiritan Associates at Water Walk Event



At Social with Libermann Hall Residents

Lay Spiritans and Residents Share Day of Reflection



Lay Spiritan Associates on Retreat Day



Lay Spiritan Associates during Retreat



Rich Gosser talking with a Duquesne student



At Social, Ed and Sandy Bayer with Fr. Jeff



Libermann Hall residents and Lay Spiritan Associates sharing time together

One Heart, One Spirit, January-February 2016

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Missionary Cooperation Plan - 2015

Our pastoral participation in the long standing annual Missionary Cooperation Plan for 2015 began in May 2015 and ended in October 2015. Uniquely, this program allows us a structured opportunity to share our missionary story as well as educating parishioners about our mission theology, practice and projects. It also offers an opportunity to encourage vocations to the religious and missionary life and other forms of lay collaboration. In his first address in Philadelphia on September 26th 2015, Pope Francis stated: "One of the great challenges facing the Church in this generation is to foster in all the faithful a sense of personal responsibility for the church's mission, and to enable them to fulfill that responsibility as a missionary disciple, as a leaven of the Gospel in our world."

We are now eagerly awaiting the final proceeds of our efforts, but you will be glad to know that already we have secured approximately \$176,000.00, before expenses, and hopefully we will exceed the \$200,000 threshold, once all collections have been received. At this stage, we will be in a position to make the annual distributions to our overseas missions. Receiving pastors were most gracious in their provision of accommodations and hospitality, while parishioners were equally generous in their moral and financial support. Indeed, one parishioner in the Washington area was so touched by our missionary message that he gave a check for \$10,000!

We wish to gratefully thank all the 32 confreres who so generously offered their spare time and pastoral energy to present last year's mission appeals to 71 parishes in 32 Dioceses/Archdioceses, and across 22 different States. Few other missionary Congregations and Orders received the same volume of assignments as ourselves during 2015, and I am glad to report that we were able to fully respond to all the assignments offered to us. Moving forward into the future, we want to carefully guard this level of invitation.

In fact, last year confreres visited Diocesan destinations as varied as San Jose in California, Salt Lake City in Utah, Corpus Christi and Galveston-Houston in Texas, Lafayette in Louisiana and Oklahoma and Kansas City in the heartland of the country. On the East Coast, our missionaries travelled north to Hartford in Connecticut

and south to Raleigh in North Carolina with many stops in-between, just to name a few.

You will be interested to know that the mission appeals were not only presented by 13 U.S. based confreres but also included 19 other confreres originating from or either currently working in 11 other Congregational Circumscriptions including Cameroon, the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mexico, Nigeria NE, the Philippines, Vietnam, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. In doing so, it is very conservatively estimated that we directly shared our Spiritan story and charism in a "face to face" manner to more than 90,000 parishioners.

Of course, independent of the 200 plus Masses and homilies that we delivered, many of us also shared with pastors, associate pastors and parish deacons in a most personal way, our own specific missionary experience while also finding time to visit the sick, celebrate the sacrament of confession, offer blessings to children, present religious articles, and network with parishioners.

If you want to know which Spiritan priest, brother or associate is giving a confirmed mission appeal during 2016, please consult our website (www.spiritans.org), which is updated on a daily basis! Preparations for 2016 are now well underway. Formal letters of request have already been sent to 143 Dioceses/Archdioceses in 43 different States while early assignments have been received from Dioceses in Florida, Louisiana and Connecticut. Consistent with linguistic related requirements over the past few years, we are increasingly receiving requests for presenters who can speak Spanish and Vietnamese fluently.

Finally, we are thrilled that Fr. Joseph Nguyen, C.S.Sp. will assist us on a full-time basis until the middle of August with mission appeals and vocation-related ministries, prior to assuming his new appointment in Vietnam. Likewise, I encourage each of you to consider making yourself available to cover "at least" one mission appeal during 2016, if at all possible.

Fr. Michael Begley, C.S.Sp.

Director - Spiritan Office for Mission Advancement

January 2016

Lay Spiritan Associates Plan 2016 Formation and On-going Formation program

Lay Spiritan Associates John and Anne Marie Hansen, Rich and Daneen Gosser and Debbie Zugates met for their monthly on-going formation meeting on January 10, 2016. Their meeting focused on a discussion of their upcoming presentation for the North American Lay Spiritan Associate meeting in Scarborough, Canada, Spiritan website updates on Lay Spiritans and the formation program for 2016. Currently, nine laity are in their 2nd year of formation and two additional lay people are in their first year of formation.

The two-hour monthly on-going formation meetings precede the monthly formation meetings. On-going formation meetings usually take place at Laval House and formation meetings take place in the Spiritan Campus Ministry Center in Towers dorm, also on Duquesne University campus. A brief overview of the formation topics and dates for Spring 2016 include the following:

February 5	3-4 pm	Colloquy: Unique Features of the Lay Spiritan Associate Formation 109 Union, Duquesne University. Speaker: Scholar in Residence, Dr. Anne Marie Hansen
March 13	12:30 – 2:30 pm	Solidarity: A Model of Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Spiritan Campus Ministry Center, Duquesne University
April 6	3:30 – 5 pm	Spirituality of Mission, by Fr. Eamon Mulcahy 609 Union, Duquesne University
April 14	4-5:30 pm	On Intercultural Living Fr. Anthony Gittins, C.S.Sp. Africa Room @ Duquesne University
May 14	8:30 – 4 pm	Day of Reflection – Spiritan Center, Bethel Park, PA Pentecost Preparation
June 12	12:30 – 2 pm	Picnic with Spiritan Family Duquesne University

Anyone interested in attending one of the formation meetings is welcome. Please contact Dr. Anne Marie Hansen at hansen@duq.edu if you wish to attend or if you would like more information.



Welcome, Fr. Albert McKnight

We extend a warm welcome to Fr. Albert McKnight who recently joined the Libermann Hall community. Fr. McKnight was formerly assigned to Our Lady of the Valley Church in Hemet California.

Our best wishes for an easy transition. We hope you will be very comfortable and happy here, Fr. McKnight! It's so nice to have you with us!



Please join us in praying for our Spiritan family...

for the recently deceased:

Mary Ann Saunders, niece of the late Fr. Gene Hillman, Jan. 6;
Andrew Hartnett, nephew of the late Fr. Francis Hanley, in Downingtown, PA, Jan. 19;

and for those who are ill:

Fr. Matthew Amoako-Attah, who is home recuperating from extensive surgery.

Anniversaries of Profession

Congratulations and Thank You for all these years of committed service

Fr. Elochukwu Uzukwu	Professed 50 Years	February 11, 1966
Fr. Freddy J. Washington	Professed 25 Years	April 24, 1991



Happy Birthday wishes to these Spiritans who are celebrating birthdays during the months of February, March and April

February		March		April	
3	Fr. Philip D. Evanstock	3	Fr. Cornelius T. McQuillan	1	Fr. William R. Headley
6	Fr. Benoit K. Mukamba	4	Fr. Huy Q. Dinh	11	For Daniel S. Sormani
8	Fr. Martin T. Vu	7	Fr. Ralph J. Poirier	20	Fr. Andy V. Do
12	Fr. Timothy J. Hickey	21	Fr. Joseph Q. Nguyen	23	Fr. Edward T. Marchessault
15	Fr. Michael Onwuemeli	22	Fr. John J. Costello	29	Fr. Adrien T. Hebert
16	Fr. Anthony J. Gittins	27	Fr. Joseph L. Nguyen		
22	Fr. George J. Spangenberg				
25	Fr. Joseph A. Seiter				
26	Fr. James P. McCloskey				

Membership Directory Updates & Changes

The updated Membership Directory is currently in printing and will be mailed to you when we receive them.
Please replace the old pages with the new ones when you receive them.

STOP! Don't discard used stamps! Please donate your canceled stamps to:

Spiritan Stamp Bank
780 S. State St.
Hemet, CA 92543



SAVE THE DATE

Please remember to mark your calendars for the **Annual Provincial Retreat** May 23 – 27, 2016

At St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center
Detroit, MI

The retreat director will be Pierre Jubinville, C.S.Sp., former First Assistant to the Superior General, and currently serving as Bishop of the Diocese of San Pedro in Paraguay.

The theme of the retreat will be The Holy Spirit and the Gift of Intercultural Community which comes from the General Council's Animation plan for the Congregation and is one of the priorities from the recent Provincial General Assembly.



*The Grand Hall
befitting
its Name*



CHRISTMAS JOY COMES TO LIBERMANN HALL

Mary Kay Hides, Activities Director

The weekend after Thanksgiving the decorations begin to appear all through the lobbies, the Grand Hall and the community rooms of Libermann Hall. The volunteers do a beautiful job of decorating!

On December 17th all of the residents and the employees and their spouses gathered in the Grand Hall for a holiday reception, a delicious catered meal and wonderful Christmas entertainment. This year everyone was delighted to listen to a group of about 15 men known as the Pittsburgh South Hills Keystone Chorus. Their harmony was amazing, and not only did they sing but they interacted with the audience and shared some humor and an invitation to sing along. It was a wonderful night. At the end of the evening everyone joined together to clean up and get the hall ready for the next day. "Many hands make light work" is an attitude we believe in here at the Spiritan Center.

Just before Christmas, on December 22nd, the men were asked to linger after the evening meal. We gathered around the beautiful Christmas tree and enjoyed sitting and talking in the soft glow of the tree lights. We began to hear young voices coming up the stairs. Before you knew it, there were about 20 young girls and their Dads passing out Christmas cookies to everyone. A few minutes later they began to sing lovely Christmas carols for all to enjoy! These girls are members of a group called "Indian Princesses", and they attend Catholic schools in the immediate area.

The Christmas season really is magical, and because of so many kind people, there is an abundance of joy here at Libermann Hall.



*Indian Princesses
and their
Dads
entertain
the Priests*





Fr. Ralph Poirier with Jennifer & Clay Nestler



The Wonderful Pittsburgh South Hills Keystone Chorus



Karen Black & Mary Kay Hindes



Bro. Michael Suazo with Fr. John Costello



Arlene Martin & daughter



Fr. Tom Byrne



Fr. Joe Kelly with Mary Winkler



Fr. Ralph Poirier & Fr. Joe Seiter



Fr. Jeff Duaine with Ed & Dorothy Matthews