More than 225 professed religious from 15 different communities attended the Brothers Symposium at the University of Notre Dame in March.

O Brother, We Need You!

BETHEL PARK, PA Growing up in California, Bro. Michael Suazo, C.S.Sp., knew in the fourth grade that he wanted to enter a religious community as a brother.

“I remember being inspired to enter consecrated life by the Divine Word priests and brothers working in my home parish of St. Patrick in West Oakland, Calif., when I was a child, and later by a Spiritan vocation poster I had seen when I was a teenager,” said Bro. Michael. “My parents were supportive, though confused that such an aspiration would be coming from a fourth grader!”

(continued on page 2.)
His religious formation involved entering the Spiritan seminary in Houston, Tex., in 1971, when he was 17, followed by further formation in Glenwood Springs, Colo., and San Antonio, Tex. His first profession in the consecrated life as a Spiritan brother was in 1975. Bro. Michael had fulfilled that childhood dream, and has not regretted making that decision as a youngster. He has compiled a travelogue of various assignments for the Spiritans within the U.S. Province, serving in Louisiana, California, Texas and Pennsylvania.

Throughout his time with the Spiritans, Bro. Michael has been involved in administration as Provincial Secretary, served as pastoral associate at different Spiritan parishes and in various outreach ministries to the poor and marginalized. He currently serves as director of vocations for the U.S. Province and assistant operations manager of the Spiritan Retreat Center in Bethel Park, Pa., and is a member of the Robert Morris University Campus Ministry Advisory Board.

“Getting young people interested in the religious life these days can be challenging,” said Bro. Michael. “But you just have to meet people where they are; try to relate to them and help them to discern a calling. “It can be a long process, over several stages, and I try not to lead them into either being a brother or ordained as a priest. I just allow the Holy Spirit to guide them to that conclusion for themselves; their own choice.”

Recently, Bro. Michael joined with more than 225 of his peers from 15 different religious communities for talks and fellowship at the Brothers Symposium at the University of Notre Dame, in South Bend, Ind.

The symposium was an outgrowth of the Vatican’s Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life’s “Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church” document in 2015.

Among those in attendance was Cardinal Joseph Tobin, of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., who gave supportive remarks to the assembly and was the main celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass.
Bro. Michael enjoyed spending time with his peers, and believes it is important to have that support among others in consecrated life, both religious men and women. He is the only Spiritan brother in the U.S. Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, though other Spiritan provinces have active and retired brothers.

“I enjoyed the brief time we were all gathered together at Notre Dame this past March,” he said. “It gives those in consecrated life a chance to discuss common issues that they may face.

“Though we may have different charisms within each distinct religious community, there still remains collegiality among brothers that enables us to bond and to provide support for each other.”

In fact, when he was stationed in San Antonio, Tex., back in 1995, Bro. Michael chaired, organized and hosted the Religious Brothers Conference (RBC), entitled “The Brother: A Gift to the Collaborative Church.” This year, the RBC assembly, entitled “Brothers: Ministers at the Margins,” is set for July 17 – 20, 2017, in Los Angeles, in Bro. Michael’s home state of California. And this May 1, marks the Inaugural Religious Brothers Day, celebrated on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Bro. Michael explained that members of religious communities make solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, with some orders being apostolic or missionary, which means they are active within the world, such as with the Spiritans; or monastic, which means they live and work within a monastery or religious community; or within a cloistered setting, living out their charism of prayer and solitude. Brothers can also contribute through their training and education as doctors, lawyers or teachers within their religious communities and for the people they serve.

In 2015, the universal Church celebrated the “Year of Consecrated Life,” paying tribute to both religious men and women living within community and serving the Church in a wide variety of ways. According to the Vatican’s “Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother” document from that year, “The religious brother and sister, by participating in the saving mystery of Christ and the Church, are permanent reminders for all Christian people of the importance of the total gift of self to God and a reminder that the mission of the Church, respecting the various vocations and ministries within it, is one and is shared by all.”

With even a quick review of Bro. Michael Suazo’s life as a Spiritan brother, one can easily see that he has lived out that directive in many, very meaningful ways.

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In an effort to conserve paper and cut costs of printing, we are offering the option to receive our newsletter via email. If you would like this option, please email uscommunications@spiritans.org or call 412-831.0302 x421 to let us know. We appreciate your help in saving our environment.
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Marks 50 Years; DU Students Key

By John Franko, Staff Writer
The Pittsburgh Catholic

PITTSBURGH, PA The Catholic Charismatic Renewal marked its 50th Anniversary this past February 17-19 with a gathering of adherents at a Pittsburgh-area hotel to celebrate the movement that began here.

It was on February 18, 1967, that students from Duquesne University felt the indwelling of the Holy Spirit following a retreat at the Ark and the Dove Retreat Center (above photo) just outside of Pittsburgh.

Today, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is represented in 230 countries with more than 160 million followers.

“It’s beyond words,” said Patti Gallagher Mansfield, one of the DU students who received the Spirit on the weekend and has become a prominent spokeswoman for the Renewal.

“To think what happened to a handful of college kids from Duquesne would have even gotten beyond the walls of that building,” she said.

The program included the dedication of a Cross of the Renewal at Ark and the Dove; an address by Michelle Moran, a leader of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in England and Wales and president of the International Council for Renewal in Rome, and Mansfield; and a Mass celebrated by Bishop David Zubik.

“I really believe this 50th anniversary, this jubilee is the occasion for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit,” said Dr. Mary Healy, professor of sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. “It’s going to surprise us all.” One of the reasons she thinks the Lord has poured out his Spirit in an abundant way in our time, Healy noted, is that He wants to heal the divisions between different faiths, nationalities and groups.
“In a new way it’s a gift the Lord wants to bring through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal,” she said. “It’s a gift of unity.”

In his homily Feb. 18, Bishop Zubik spoke of the difference between people who hear the word of God and those who listen to it. Those who merely hear it are often confused by the language, but those who listen truly understand what is being said.

The students at the 1967 weekend not only heard the word of God, they listened and allowed it to deeply touch their hearts, he said. “Thank God for that Pentecost moment 2,000 years ago,” the bishop said. “Thank God for that Pentecost moment 50 years ago.”

Mansfield noted that when the Lord wanted to renew his church he didn't go to the University of Notre Dame, Georgetown, Boston College or Catholic University of America. Instead, he went to a little school on “The Bluff” in Pittsburgh. “There’s a message in that,” she said, adding that Duquesne's motto is “It is the Spirit that Gives Life.”

Thousands of Catholic Charismatic Renewal members plan to flock to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh July 20-23 for the 2017 Jubilee Conference.

Preparing for Pentecost 2017

It’s never too early or not the right time to being open to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in your life. One of those ways would be to prepare for and celebrate the feast of Pentecost, which in 2017 falls on June 4.

The U.S. Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit offers several ways to participate and to pray along with the congregation through directed prayers, novenas and individual spirituality.

Resources for praying to the Holy Spirit can be found on the Spiritan Website at: http://www.spiritans.org/prayer/

There you will find several options for praying a Novena to the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, that include reflections and writings by the Spiritans. Or you can contact the Spiritan Office for Mission Advancement, 1700 W. Alabama St., Houston, TX 77098 713-522-2882 missiongiving@spiritans.org

Or you may find another form of prayer and spirituality surrounding adoration of the Holy Spirit through your local parish, diocese or spiritual director. Whatever form it takes, a devotion to the Holy
African Adventure: Coming Full Circle

Story and photos by Mary Winkler**

EAST AFRICA Africa isn’t the first place some people think of for a vacation, but it turns out that it is one of the most meaningful and life-changing vacations I have ever taken. The poverty in places is shocking, and as we became more familiar with the areas, it seemed that the infrastructure, especially in parts of Kenya, lags behind that of the U.S. by about a hundred years. But the people are resilient, friendly, kind, intelligent and hard-working; and we had enough wonderful experiences to last a lifetime.

I prayed that my friends and I would be able to do what we came to do: work as volunteers for two weeks at Hekima Place Orphanage for Girls in Kiserian, near Nairobi, Kenya; followed by two weeks in Tanzania. Hekima Place is a beautiful compound in the Ngong Hills, founded in 2005, as a home for Kenyan girls orphaned primarily because of HIV/AIDS.

Our next stop was Spiritan House in Arusha, Tanzania, where Fr. Evod Shao, C.S.Sp., greeted us warmly and immediately made us feel welcome and comfortable. It was a blessing to be able to attend daily Mass there and to hear the beautiful African songs. We so enjoyed our lively conversations, fellowship and delicious meals there.

As director of MSpirit Travel & Tours*, Fr. Evod made all the arrangements and travel plans for our time in Tanzania, Zanzibar and on safari. One day he drove us to Usa River Dispensary, the hospital built by the Spiritans on the outskirts of Arusha. The community of Sant’ Egidio, in collaboration with the Spiritans, built a modern molecular biology laboratory on site, the first one in the country to be opened for public service.

We next went to Olkokola to visit bush pilot Fr. Pat Patten, C.S.Sp., who started the Flying Medical Service in Tanzania in 1984. He has made it his life’s work, and he is passionate about helping others. We were intrigued by a large wall map in the house, and Fr. Pat pointed out the huge area that FMS covers.

After our visit with Fr. Patten, we drove a short distance to the rim of the crater to visit Fr. Joe Herzstein, C.S.Sp., and Fr. Ned Marchessault, C.S.Sp., who both have spent the majority of their priesthood ministering to the Maasai people. They have reached out and gotten to really know them, and their work among the Maasai is legendary. They have cared for them, taught them, protected them, established Christian communities and outstations among them, and brought education to so many Maasai. From the seeds they have planted, the harvest is growing, resulting in many Maasai now serving as teachers, lawyers, nurses and more.

(L-R) Guide and driver Nick, and travelers, Colleen, Mary Winkler and Andrea;
Editor's Note: Mary Winkler was communications director for the U.S. Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit for 18 years before retiring last May. After all that time writing about the Spiritan mission and charism, she got to experience it first-hand by spending a month recently in East Africa.

Our next stop was in Zanzibar, where we had the great honor to meet with Bishop Augustine Shao, C.S.Sp., when he visited there. We attended a Swahili Mass at the ornate and historic St. Joseph’s Cathedral built by French missionaries more than a century ago.

Often on our trip I was reminded of the many Spiritans over the years who told the stories that piqued my interest in Africa, priests like Spiritan Frs. Gene Hillman, Joe Kelly, Ralph Poirier, Girard Kohler, Joe Herzstein, Ned Marchessault, Pat Patten, and Paul Flamm - to name a few, and I felt like I had come full circle! I am so grateful to them and hopeful that many others continue to hear those stories. It is truly inspiring to see the results of their work and how they live the gospel values.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the wonderful hospitality of the Spiritans in East Africa. Everywhere we went, we were made to feel so comfortable and at home. It was like being with family! It was wonderful to share meals and conversations with each one of them, and those they welcomed into their homes. We had so much fun and will never forget their kindness and gracious hospitality. For all those who shared their time, talent and treasure with us, thank you! And know that you will remain in our prayers.

* Missionary Spirit Travel is a unique company founded by the Spiritans in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Zanzibar. All profits of Missionary Spirit Travel go to charitable works. www.mspirittravelandtours.com or email MSpirittravel.info@gmail.com.

** Editor's Note: Mary Winkler was communications director for the U.S. Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit for 18 years before retiring last May. After all that time writing about the Spiritan mission and charism, she got to experience it first-hand by spending a month recently in East Africa.
Summit on African Church Held in Rome

ROME A conference titled “African Christian Theology: Memories and Mission for the 21st Century” was held in Rome on March 22-25, and was considered one of the most important gatherings of African Catholic leaders since the Synod of Bishops for Africa in 2009.

The conference was convened by Fr. Paulinus Odozor, C.S.Sp., and the Center for Ethics and Culture at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind. It was held at Notre Dame’s Global Gateway Center near the Colosseum in Rome.

Frs. Eugene Uzukwu, C.S.Sp., and James Okoye, C.S.Sp., from Duquesne University; and Fr. Bede Ukwuije, C.S.Sp., first assistant to the Superior General in Rome, also delivered papers during the conference. Other Spiritans invited to speak included Fr. Mark Enemali, C.S.Sp.; and Fr. Bonaventure Ugwu, C.S.Sp., both of the Spiritan International School of Theology (SIST), Attakwu, Enugu, Nigeria.

According to the conference Website, “African Christian theology emerged as a formal branch of study in the Catholic Church in the mid-20th century when several African priests, trained in Rome and various European universities, began to approach the Faith as ‘African Christians,’ not merely the ‘consumers’ of a Eurocentric understanding of the Christian Faith.

“African theology has largely coalesced around the theme of inculturation and has gone on to probe, interrogate, and dialogue with realities both in and outside the African churches with regard to morality, worship, dogma, scripture, pastoral activities, evangelization, interreligious dialogue, etc. It has also continued to engage African societies at various levels: political, social, and economic.”

According to the World Christian Database, by 2050, Africa should have more than 450 million Catholics, making it the largest Catholic continent. Currently there are 24 African members in the College of Cardinals, 14 of whom are under the age of 80, meaning possible candidates for the papacy in a future conclave. They represent 12 percent of the electors, not far from the estimated 12.63 percentage African Catholics represent of the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics.

Other topics at the three-day conference included: Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment, Laudato Si’, as well as his apostolic exhortation on the family, Amoris Laetitia; the challenges of Catholic Social Teaching; “Islam and Christianity in dialogue in Africa,” and “Women, gender and theology of the African Church.”
Rev. Norbert Rosso, C.S.Sp., Passes into Eternal Life

PITTSBURGH, PA Fr. Norbert Rosso, C.S.Sp., a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, died peacefully February 9, 2017, at Marion Manor, Greentree, Pa. He was 89-years-old.

Fr. Rosso was born on October 27, 1927, in Lambertville, N.J. He professed his vows as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on August 22, 1949, at Holy Ghost Novitiate in Ridgefield, Conn., and was ordained to the priesthood June 3, 1954, at St. Mary Seminary, Ferndale, in Norwalk, Conn.

Fr. Rosso was first appointed to St. Benedict the Moor Parish, Detroit, Mich., in 1955, serving there for three years; and then to Sacred Heart Parish in Detroit until 1961. In succeeding years, he ministered at St. Edward, New Iberia, La., and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bakersfield Calif. He was administrator of St. Augustine, Isle Breville, La., from 1969 to 1970. From 1971 to 1991, he was pastor of Holy Ghost parishes in Marksville, Opelousas and New Orleans, La. In August of 1991, he was assigned as pastor to Holy Redeemer in San Antonio, Tex., until 1997, when he was named pastor of St. Anthony, Natchitoches, La. He obtained retirement status in 2001, and was in residence at Spiritan retirement homes in Hemet, Calif., and in Bethel Park, Pa., since 2009.

Fr. Rosso was preceded in death by his parents, Norbert T. and Reba Oblinger Rosso; his brother, James; and sister, Catherine Rosso Curtin. He is survived by eight nieces and nephews and many grand-nieces and nephews.

A memorial Mass was celebrated in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at the Spiritan Center, Bethel Park, Pa., on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. On February 25, there was a viewing at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Lambertville, N.J., immediately followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Burial was at the Spiritan Cemetery, Bensalem Pa.

Prayer Requests - for the recently deceased:


Fr. Donald Fisher, priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, passed away February 25, 2017. In the late 1970s, he did mission work in Tanzania with the Spiritans, bringing the sacraments to Maasai peoples in remote areas.

Prayer for Deceased:

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let the Perpetual Light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”
**Changes in Place at SOMA**

**HOUSTON, TX** Fr. Jeff Duaimé, C.S.Sp., provincial. U. S. Province, has appointed Fr. Dave Cottingham, C.S.Sp., as director of the Spiritan Office for Mission Advancement (SOMA) based in Houston. Fr. Dave replaces Fr. Michael Begley, C.S.Sp., who has returned to Ireland.

Fr. Dave had previously been assigned to Sarasota, Fla., where he was responsible for maintaining properties owned by the Congregation.

Additionally, Fr. Mike Grey, C.S.Sp., who has spent decades ministering in Houston, has been appointed assistant director of SOMA.

SOMA supports the Congregation's public and charitable works of health, education, social services and religious mission in the United States and throughout the world. It operates under the auspices of Sharelink-Spiritan Worldwide Aid Foundation, Inc. (The Spiritan Foundation).

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**Membership Directory Updates & Changes:**

**Page E-1:** Fr. Matthias Alonyenu, 56405 Mayflower Rd., South Bend, IN 46619

**Page H-3:** Fr. Innocent Njoku, VA Medical Center, Chaplain Services (125), 2002 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030

**Page H-5:** Fr. Remigius Okere, St. John Adel, 24043 302nd Place, PO Box 185, Adel, IA 50003
Cell: 515-988-6414

**Page H-6:** Fr. Lawrence Teteh, Phone: 260-747-9139

**Page I-6:** New email for the Province of Congo Kinshasa, congr.saintesprit_ckf@yahoo.fr

spiritans.org
Best wishes for a very Happy Birthday to these Spiritans who celebrate 
birthdays during the months of April, May and June.

Happy Birthday!

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<td>1 Fr. William R. Headley</td>
<td>9 Fr. Edward J. Caron</td>
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<td>11 Fr. Daniel S. Sormani</td>
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<td>20 Fr. Andy V. Do</td>
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<td>23 Fr. Ned Marchessault</td>
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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 to these Spiritans on their many years of faithful service!

Ordination Date

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<td>Fr. Louis G. Perreault</td>
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<td>Fr. Joseph A. Seiter</td>
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<td>Fr. Elochukwu Uzukwu</td>
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Prayer for Vocations

Loving and generous God, it is you who call us by name and ask us to follow you. Help us to grow in the love and service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ’s Mission of love and justice. Bless the Church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as priests, brothers, deacons, sisters and lay ministers. Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to hear your call. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.
HGP Wins Flyers Cup; Plays in State Championship

BENSALM, PA The Holy Ghost Prep Firebirds won the 2017 Flyers Cup Class 3A Championship on March 20, defeating LaSalle 5-3, giving them their second Flyers Cup title in the past three years.

In the game, the Firebirds built a comfortable 4-0 lead in the second period, and then had to hold off a furious comeback by LaSalle. Penalties in the second and third periods gave LaSalle a chance to win the game towards the end, but Firebird goalie Tristan Devine stopped 35 of the 38 shots he faced and won the Bobby Clarke Award as the tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

The win earned them a place in the Pennsylvania 3A state championship, where they were ultimately defeated by the Penguins Cup champion Peters Township Indians in a hard-fought 2-1 game on March 25.

In the state championship game, the Firebirds and Indians were tied at 1-1 in the final period. Holy Ghost Prep had outshot the Indians 38-28 in the game, but Peters killed off four power-play chances by the Firebirds. Firebird forward Byron Hartley had tied the game at the 4:45 mark of the third period, but the Firebirds were unable to come back after the Indians scored the winning goal with only 3:26 left in the game.

The Firebirds finished the 2016-17 season with a 22-3-1 record, and not only captured two of the past three Flyers Cup crowns, but the 2015 state title, as well.