

GLOWING EMBERS

Issue No. 7



Spiritan Heritage & Archives Centre

July 2019

Archives illuminate and elevate the ordinary

Patrick Crean/ Brother Alban

Patrick Crean/ Brother Alban

(1845-1867), from Claremorris, Co Mayo was appointed to the Gambia in late 1866. In August 1867 he became ill and was sent to Dakar to recuperate. However, when he realised he was dying he asked to be allowed to make his profession. He was professed on the 18 October 1867 and he died the following day aged twenty-four.

We learn of Br Alban's death and first profession in a letter from Père Duby, dated 21 October 1867 which is recorded in the *General Bulletin* No. 42 (Vol 6). It is fitting therefore that Br Alban's name be included in the necrology of the congregation and of the Irish Province.

It is easy for the archivist to see Spiritan achievements which are measured by the visible success of institutions such as parishes, schools, hospitals, community centres, seminaries etc. However, the archivist has a more profound task. While recognising the contribution of Spiritans to the establishment of Christianity at the visible, institutional level, where human effort predominates, it is the archivist's task to shed light on the interior level of the heart where the Spirit is at work. What motivated these Spiritans? Where did their energy for mission and their dedication come from?

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a treasure hidden in a field, to a tiny mustard seed germinating underground, to yeast buried in the loaf, to wheat hardly visible for the weeds mixed in with it. Our Blessed Mother, Mary was a revealer of hidden things. Following SRL 5 we live out our mission taking Mary as our model of habitual fidelity to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Francis Libermann's Practical Union).

St Luke would have made a good archivist; he pays great attention to detail and is much concerned in getting the facts straight. Time and places matter to him because he is passing on what he has received from eyewitness testimony. The Blessed Virgin Mary was the only person who could have given eyewitness accounts of the unusual events surrounding the first Christmas - the angelic visits, the journeys from Nazareth to the 'hill country' to Bethlehem, and to Jerusalem; not to mention a birth hidden away in a stable. The Spirit 'filled her beyond measure with the fullness of holiness and apostolic zeal' (SRL 6),

St Luke manages to convey marvels in a matter-of-fact tone. The stories of Jesus' birth are corroborated by local traditions. The memories pondered by Jesus's mother were shared with the Church and 'kept in the family' as a heritage. And so we pray to Mary 'that we may as she did, welcome within us the Holy Spirit who dwelt in her Immaculate Heart, and that he may be for us also the abundant source of our apostolic spirit' (SRL 89). ■

Brian O'Toole

Spiritans in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia¹

Séamus Maguire

Ballarat is a city located on the Yarrowee River in the central highlands of Victoria, Australia. In 1854, two years after its founding, the town was named Ballarat, a word derived from two Aboriginal words meaning 'resting place'. In 1888 the population was 65,000. Today this has risen to 101,588.

There were long negotiations throughout August 1888 finally ending on 12 September when the contract was signed between James Moore, bishop of Ballarat and Fr Ambrose Emonet, superior general of the Spiritans. The Spiritans were to run a college at Ballarat and also the parish of St Augustine, Maryborough forty miles from Ballarat. Over the next four years every aspect of the contract was in practice revoked causing the Spiritans to withdraw. From our archives we



mainly see the Spiritan side of things. !!! Legal wrangling continued and it was not until 1905 that the 'Holy Ghost College' became 'St Patrick's College' run by the Christian Brothers [the Christian Brothers had been running the College since May 1894]

In 1888 a group of nine, five priests and four brothers were appointed to Ballarat.

Fr Achille Lemire, French, died in Trinidad in 1894, aged thirty-four. **Fr Eduard Reffé**, French,

community leader, died in France in 1894 aged fifty-three. **Fr Charles Griffin**, Irish, died in 1889 at Ballarat, aged thirty. **Fr Patrick Brennan**, Irish, died in 1891 at Ballarat, aged thirty-four. **Fr Bernard Carey**, Irish, died in Trinidad in 1932, aged sixty-seven.

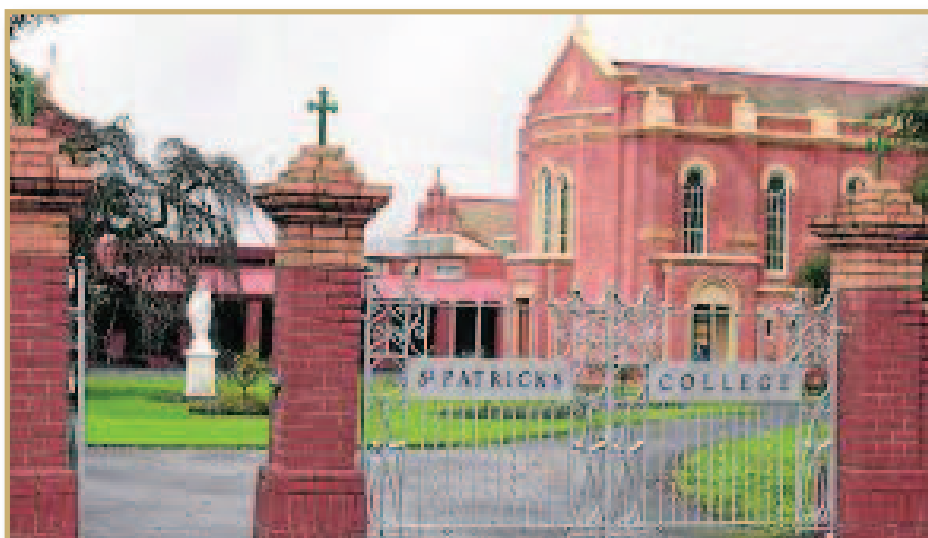
Over the next three years six other Spiritan priests joined the group: **Frs Louis Leinenger, Martin Croagh, Christian Schmidt, Michel Levadoux, Jeremy Tuohy, George Lee and Fr John Stephens** (a Spiritan novice).

The six pioneering Spiritan brothers (four Irish and two French):

Br Alphonsus/Patrick Brennan born 6 May 1859 in Co Donegal, Ireland in the diocese of Raphoe. After Ballarat he went to Senegal and then left the congregation in 1895.

Br Vincent de Paul/Daniel McNally born 30 December 1838 at Cullentradduff, Laragh, Co Monaghan. He served in Glasnevin, Blackrock, Rockwell, Langonnet, Cellule, Mauritius, Bechuanaland, Ballarat and Zanzibar. Br Vincent died in France in 1908.

Br Adelme/Patrick Walsh born 8 February 1853 in Silvermines, Co Tipperary. After a number of postings in Ireland and France Br Adelme worked in Ballarat, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. He died in Onitsha, Nigeria in 1920 aged sixty-seven.



St Patrick's College, Ballarat 2019

¹ The Spiritan Heritage and Archives team have been researching this missionary journey for Br Rory Higgins, archivist, De La Salle Brothers, Oakhill College, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154, Australia. Br Rory is writing a history on religious brothers in Australia.



Bro Gontram/John Meehan
(1850-1919)

Br Gontram/John Meehan born 1 April 1850 in Drumlaughafin, Inver, Co Donegal. He was stationed at Maryborough Parish, Ballarat. Afterwards he served in St Mary's, Blackrock, and Peasley Cross Parish, Liverpool. He died in Rockwell on 24 October 1919 aged sixty-nine.

Br Corneille/Guillaume Siepe, born 4 September 1854 at Stachelau, Germany in the diocese of Paderborn. Travelling to Ballarat he left Marseille on 1 April 1889 and reached Melbourne on 27 May. He died in Senegal in 1911 aged fifty-seven.

Br Basilee/Joseph Gass, born 22 March 1863 at Uhrwiller, (Alsace) France in the diocese of Strasbourg. He had made his final profession while at Ballarat on 25 July 1890. He died in Senegal in 1893, aged thirty.

The Group Leaders

Fr Edward Reffé served in the French College, Blackrock from 1865 to 1888. He organised the Civil Service College in the Castle as well as the secondary school. From 1881 the Castle became what Père Leman had always wanted, namely, a real university college which prepared students in a Catholic milieu as they sought to qualify for degrees under the Royal University system. Fr Reffé led the Spiritan team in Ballarat but



Fr Eduard Reffé
(1841-1894)

ill health forced him to return to France after only two years where he suffered a stroke from which he died on 23 September 1894 aged fifty-three.

Fr George Lee spent only ten months as leader at Ballarat. Later he served at Pittsburg High School. He published three books: *A life of the Venerable Libermann*, *Fr Jacque Laval and Our Lady of Guadeloupe*. He published the first translation in English of *the Rule of the congregation*.

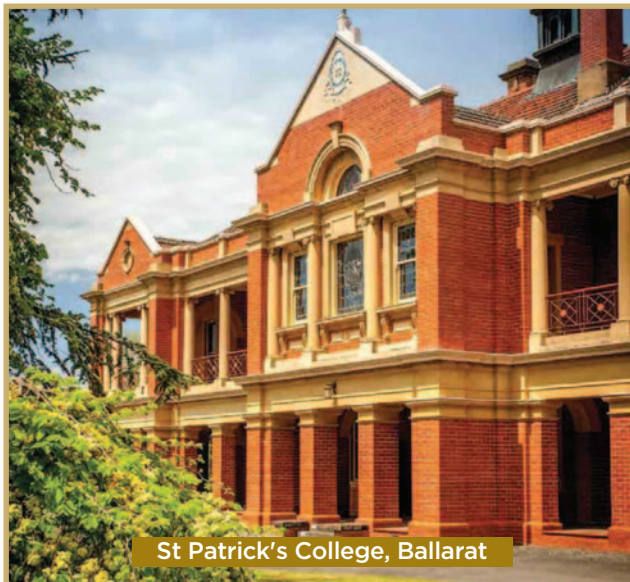
Fr Martin Croagh was the third leader. Though he worked hard as superior, assistant dean and professor of mathematics, English and French, he had to recommend to the Mother House in 1892 that they should withdraw in defeat from Australia.



Fr Martin Croagh
(1856-1909)

The first Irish Spiritan to set foot and work in Africa, was **Edward Mathews/ Brother Florentin (1839-1886)**.

He hailed from Moynalty, Co Meath. He arrived in the Gambia in 1863. He unfortunately contracted consumption and died on the 19 March 1886 without ever having returned home to Ireland for a holiday His past pupils undertook to pay the expenses of his funeral. The bishop, Mgr Duboin, wrote: 'Br Florentin understood the Wolof language and could converse freely with the people and children. This gave him great influence with the people and helped very much in his teaching the children Christian Doctrine'



St Patrick's College, Ballarat



65 Years of the Irish Spiritans in the Province of TRANS-CANADA 1954-2019

Margaret Bluett

The Irish Spiritans in Canada (Trans-Canada)

The Spiritans arrived at St Rita's in Woodstock in October of 1954: **Frs Leo Brolly, Nicholas McCormack, Des McGoldrick, Robert Hudson, Gerard McCarthy and Patrick F. Walsh.**

Leaders of the district/province were Frs: **Leo Brolly** (1954-63), **Garry McCarthy** (1963-72), **Mike Doyle** (1972-81), **Barney Kelly** (1981-90), **Seán Byron** (1990-93), John Geary (1993-2000), **Pat Fitzpatrick** (2000-06), **Lockey Flanagan** (2006-10) and **Bob Colburn** (2010-16). Today the provincial is **Fr Francis Folleh** who comes from Sierra Leone.

In 1968 the District of Ontario had 32 Irish Spiritan members and in the following few years 25 Spiritans who had been expelled for Biafra, Nigeria, joined them.

Parishes: The first permanent establishment outside of St Rita's was Holy Rosary Parish, Guelph. Over the years, no less than forty two Spiritan priests and five lay Spiritans have served in parish, chaplaincy, education and social work. In June 1999 Holy Rosary Parish was returned to the care of the diocese.

Between 1969 and 1971 six new parishes were accepted: four in the west, in the diocese of Calgary and Edmonton, and two in Ontario, one in Hamilton Diocese (Port Elgin) and one in Toronto (West Hill). The commitment to rural parish work continued to grow. By 1986 Spiritans had charge of fifteen parishes from Ontario to Coquitlam in British Columbia.

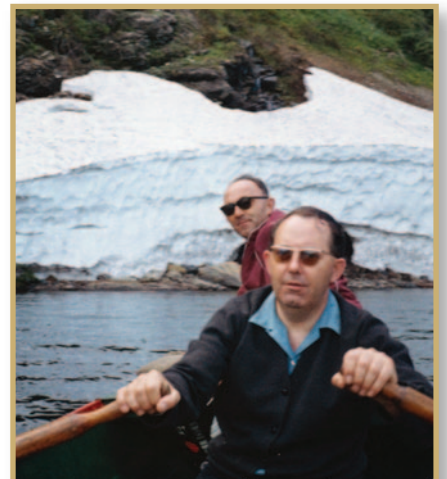
Sancta Maria is a welcoming home and refuge for street girls. It grew out of the Legion of Mary Praesidium of 'Our Lady of the Wayside'. Spiritans who



Fr Francis Folleh



Fr Leo Brolly



Front: Fr Paddy O'Donoghue
Back: Fr Tadgh O'Riordan



Back left to right:
Frs Gerry Scott and Pat Doran.
Center: Bp Rawel

led this venture were Frs **Mike Doyle**, **Barney Kelly** and **Gerry Fitzgerald**. With changing societal needs, the mission of Sancta Maria has evolved. Today, it caters for the needs of young women in two residential homes.

Working with Immigrants:

In 1975 Spiritans began to work with immigrants. The first Caribbean Centre (Cari-To) was opened in 1975. **Fr Bob Hudson** is remembered for his deep concern for the 'boat people' and how he encouraged the parishioners at St Joseph's to sponsor families from Laos. This ministry to immigrants was further expanded with the appointment of **Fr Phil Doyle** from Brazil to work among the Portuguese immigrants in downtown Toronto in 1976.

Brottier House: The Spiritan Refugee Centre in Toronto was blessed and opened on 2 February 2009. Since 1991 Brottier House had served as an oasis of security for more than 600 refugee claimants from thirty-nine countries around the world. The Brottier Community continues to play an active advocacy role in the CCR (Canadian Council for Refugees) and the COSPRC (Coalition of Shelter Providers for Refugee Claimants).

Apostolate in Education:

Neil McNeil High School which was established in 1958. **Fr Michael Troy** was the principal and **Fr Garry McCarthy** the assistant principal. Spiritan principals who followed were Frs **John Geary** (1968-75), **Gerald FitzGerald** (1975-80) and **Peter Fleming** (1980-91). The last Irish Spiritan on staff at Neil McNeil was **Fr Joe Kelly** who worked as a teacher, counsellor and chaplain for over thirty years.

Spiritans dispersal from Neil McNeil: **Fr Michael Troy** to **St Joseph's High School, Edmonton**. He remained on the staff until his retirement from teaching in 1983. In 2003, a junior high school was subsequently named after him.

Fr Michael Doyle was appointed to Centennial College as director of student affairs. **Fr John Geary**

founded **Francis Libermann Catholic High School** in North Scarborough in 1977. **Fr Gerard FitzGerald** also opened a new high school, **Regina Pacis**, in the west end of Toronto. **Fr Pat Fitzpatrick** worked with school boards in Toronto and Duferin Peel in adult faith formation.

Mission Overseas

In 1973 a mission in **Malawi** was accepted; this marked the first TransCanada foreign mission outreach, a real milestone for the maturing of the province.

In 1979 Frs **Colum Corrigan** and **Barney Kelly** began working in the diocese of Aitape in **Papua New Guinea** where the VICS volunteers had already been working.

Fr Michael Doyle worked in Aitape with two mission stations, Arup and Po, both reached only by the parish aluminium boat (outboard engine).

Fr Joe Fitzgibbon and two VICS volunteers built a most spectacular church at Karap, high in the Jimi Hills.

Fr Colum Corrigan was pastor of Lemieng with two mission stations at Vokau and Paup and three bush stations: Chinapelli, Kriel and Kara which could be reached only by foot-patrol. **Fr Gerry Scott** was pastor of Aitape itself with **Fr Pat Doran** as associate pastor.



District of Ontario Chapter 1973



Fr Conor Kennedy with four workers in Malawi

Volunteer International Christian Service (VICS)

VICS was founded by **Fr Des Mc Goldrick** and was subsequently run by Spiritan directors: **Frs Dermot Doran**, Bob Colburn and Daniel Abba. Today the director is **Ms Joyce de Gooijer**.

In 1972 five ‘missionaries’ were sent abroad. This great work went from strength to strength and fifteen years later in 1987 VICS had fifty volunteers working in mission territories. Over the past forty eight years 600 VICS volunteers have served in as many as fifty five countries. Today local in-country volunteers are presently serving in Tonga, Nigeria, Cameroon, Nicaragua, Ghana, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The Spiritan Mission Institute was started as a renewal programme for missionaries. The programme grew into a means of ‘sensitizing animators in the areas of mission, development and social justice in order to contribute to the conscientisation of the Canadian Church.’ The institute was later transferred to Trinidad.

The work of Spiritan student formation

The first two men to be ordained from Trans-Canada were Pat Callaghan and Jim Burnie and the first brother was George McLaughlin. In 1989 a meeting of



Frs Barney Kelly, Pat Doran, Frank Laverty and friends.

the superiors of North America and the Caribbean took place in order to coordinate formation programmes at home and missionary work overseas. In August 2008 the Spiritan novitiate opened in Chicago. This is a joint venture of the North American-Caribbean region.

Lay Spiritans

Led by Dermot and Deirdre McLoughlin on 17 January, 1975, **Ashling House** opened as a community of religious and lay Spiritans. The community became involved with the Indians of Treaty Nine and helped to train paramedics for work there (1978). In 1980 work began with various groups of Indians in the Osnaburgh, Ontario. Members of the community have also become involved in spiritual direction and retreat work. Dermot and Deirdre McLoughlin made their permanent commitment to the lay Spiritan life in October, 1993. TransCanada was the initiator and remains in the forefront of the lay Spiritan movement that has been taken up by many other Spiritan groups worldwide.

Accolades

Awards and tributes received by Spiritans are numerous. In citing a small number we acknowledge all - **Fr Gerry Scott**: Irish Person of the Year Award, Toronto, 2004.

Mr Gary Warner, Lay Spiritan: Order of Canada, 2006, for his work as a peace activist.

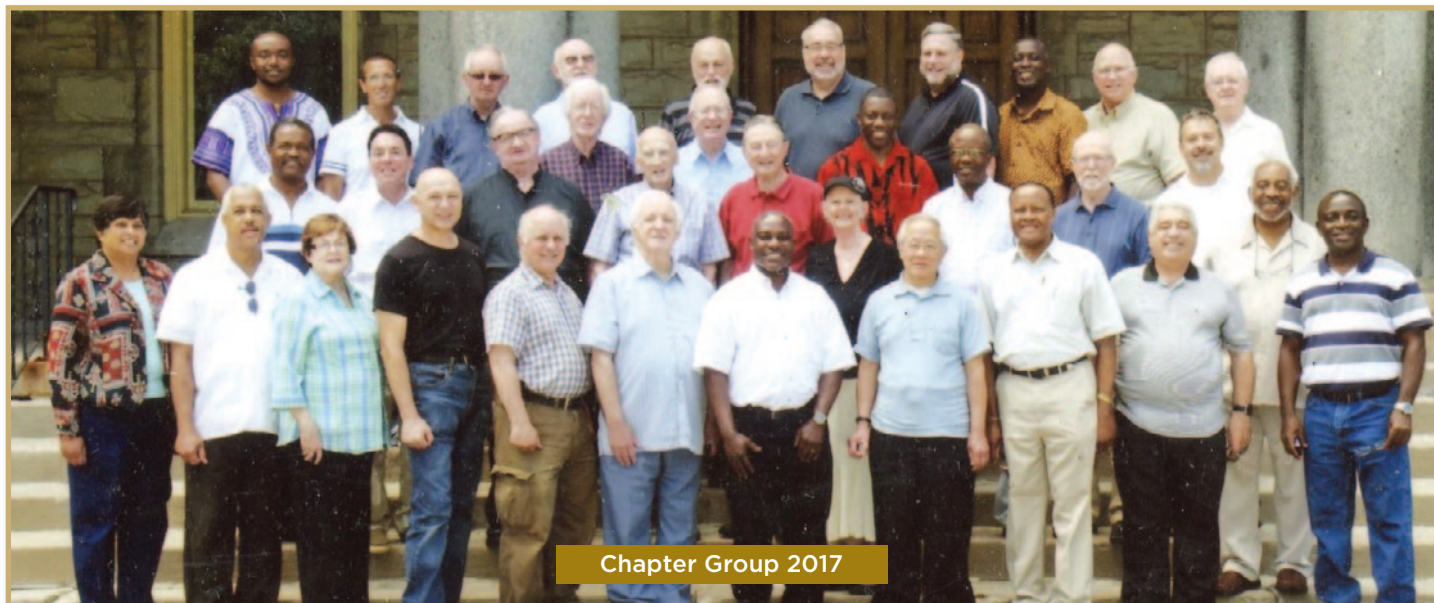
Frs John Geary and Gerald Fitzgerald: National Catholic Education Association Award 1990. **Mr Michael Heron** (former Rockwell student): Libermann Award for his work with Spiritans over forty-five years. **Mr Gerry O’Connor** (former Kimmage theology student): Order of Canada, 2018, for volunteer work and the Libermann Award for his work with Spiritans as a financial advisor.

Spiritans presence in Trans-Canada today

Today, there are forty-two professed members, twenty-nine by origin and thirteen by



Fr Dermot Doran & Ms Sally Kerr



Chapter Group 2017

appointment. There are also twelve Lay Spiritans. Spiritans from Nigerian, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Poland have been appointed to membership in the province. **Fr Francis Folleh** from Sierra Leone is the present provincial. What was once an Irish Community is now truly Canadian, in that it is multicultural. Four members of the province have also been appointed to other circumscriptions.



VICS Group 1998 - Right: Fr Michel de Verteuil & Left: Fr Dermot Doran

Priorities

Among the first priorities of the province are: the accompaniment and promotion of Spiritan Associates, the Volunteer International Christian Service (VICS), which now operates

under a lay director. The province also helps immigrants and refugees in the Brottier House Refugee Service.

Other Spiritans continue the traditional involvement of the

province in education through three educational chaplaincies and youth ministry works. Other confrères have the responsibility of four parishes and three rural parishes are staffed by semi-retired priests. Moreover, the province maintains a very good communication service through the magazine *Spiritans News* and the Web site *Spiritans.com*.



Front Rt to Lt: Frs Enzo Agnoli, Frank Laferty, Locky Flanagan.
Back Rt to Lt: Fra Michael Troy, Bill McCormack. Edmonton 1978



Lay Spiritans & Fr Alex Osei

Unique Windows on 20th Century Mission History (Part 2)

Gerry Jeffers, Educational Researcher, Lecturer and Writer



Fr Des Arigho in Mozambique

Changing understandings of what it means to be a 'Christian missionary' emerge through the pages of the *Missionary Annals* and *Outlook*, the magazine that told the Spiritan story for more than ninety years. Later editions of *Outlook*, for example, contrast notably with the *Missionary Annals* published before the Second Vatican Council. An initial strong focus on church buildings and on baptising large numbers shifts to a more nuanced emphasis of human development. The almost singular voices of missionary priests in early issues are complemented with a wider



Returning from Biafra in March 1970.

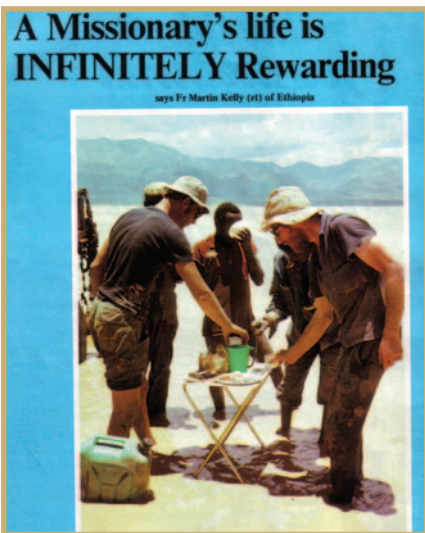
Left to right: Frs Eamon McMahon, Henry Malone, Tony Geoghegan, Tom Maguire, Sr Margaret, Steve Darcy, Sr _____, Dermot Kavanagh, Sr Thomas, Jimmy Peters, Denis Foley, Frank Caffrey

range – particularly African voices – in later issues.

The multiple articles, photographs, letters, anecdotes and life stories presented between 1919 and 2011 consistently offered readers in Ireland insights into a wider world. Early on-the-ground reports from locations in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Kenya and Brazil, for example, captured well the work of Irish Spiritans. Following the expulsions of missionaries from Nigeria in the wake of the Biafran War in the late 1960s, stories from even further afield, including Ethiopia, Canada, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Angola, Mozambique, Puerto Rico, Zambia, Tanzania, Pakistan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Alaska, Australia and Taiwan appeared.

In the years preceding Vatican 11,

there was a move away from a narrow interpretation of the notion that 'outside the Church there is no salvation' – *extra ecclesia nulla salus*. The 1964 constitution on the Church *Ad Gentes* made it explicit that all those who live according to the light of conscience can be saved. This constitution also stated that many elements of sanctification and truth are found outside the visible structure of the Church. *Ad Gentes* emphasised that the Church is by its nature missionary. Thus, the entire people of God and each baptised Christian share a common responsibility to preach the gospel, to reach out to all who are afflicted with human suffering and to share in the Church's work of charity, justice and peace so that God's plan for our world may be realised.



Mission Outlook, November 82



Ordination of Michael Watae in Papua New Guinea



Namula M...



Fr Pat Clarke at Vila Prudente parish in 2010

Traditional missionary activity, centred on catechesis, the administration of sacraments, the formation of indigenous clergy, religious and laity with schooling and healthcare as key activities, was complemented with new initiatives directed towards human development and inculturation. There was an appreciation that the Church is more likely to succeed if it roots itself in the traditions, philosophy and cultures of those it seeks to evangelise. This in turn opened up new inter-religious conversations.

The pages of *Outlook* reflect the struggle to put fresh visions into practice. Headlines from the 1980s such as: 'Dick Quinn develops people', 'World Concern's Gus Finucane', 'Liam Sheridan sides with the poor', 'Gerry Pantin breaks the poverty trap', 'Dermot Doran believes in lay missionaries,' indicate certain shifts. In a 1982 feature on missionary work in Brazil, Pat Clarke stated that he is

not concerned with 'reading the gospel of charity in terms of handouts' rather 'what I am concerned about is in liberating people, helping them to become free, responsible, independent, self-helping people'. He spoke of helping people break the bars which 'lock them into this ghetto of poverty'. In Brazil, he stated this 'means a whole turn around in the value system, and the way society is organised. This is the gospel of liberation'.

Seeing the work of justice as an integral part of evangelisation is a persistent theme through the issues of *Outlook* in the 1980s and 1990s. 'Only when justice is accomplished can we begin to think of calling ourselves Christians', wrote editor Brian Gogan in 1991. During those years *Outlook* also addressed some challenges facing Irish society. Articles on unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, gambling, marriage, family, homelessness, abortion, crime, divorce, the plight of Travellers complement tales from missionaries abroad. From 1989 onwards there were items about environmental awareness of climate change. A regular focus on youth, media education, parenting and sport is also evident. Revulsion at apartheid in South Africa is also strong.

The new century saw a new editor, Mary Rieke Murphy, bring a fresh journalistic edge to *Outlook's* pages. The unfolding Spiritan story continued to be told in lively articles and reports as well as through some superb photographs. Spirasi, the Dublin-based initiative



Youth Retreat in Brazil

set up to respond to 'the needs of newly arrived immigrants, specifically asylum seekers, refugees and survivors of torture' received particular attention. Reports of ordinations in local African churches as well as insights from African priests working in Ireland gave readers a sense of how much the wheels of missionary activity had turned since the magazine's first appearance in 1919.

Inevitably, a quick overview of nine decades of the *Missionary Annals* and *Outlook* has to omit references to many informative, stimulating and inspirational items and people. Indeed, looking at the choices made by various editors over the years invites consideration of what's under-reported, even excluded. Disagreements or debates about mission or about Spiritan priorities, not least in Ireland, rarely surface. Therefore, the very final issue of *Outlook* (December 2010 / January 2011) is quite stunning in its blunt editorial disagreement with the decision to close down the magazine. A collector's item, as, perhaps, are all previous issues. ■



Mozambique



Spirasi Group

A Century of Fundraising and Mission Animation

Dolorés Stewart

The Missionary Magazines

In 1883, Fr Prosper Goepfert, superior of Rockwell College, published the magazine *The Messenger of Saint Joseph*. This magazine was discontinued towards the end of the century. In August 1919 the *Missionary Record of the Holy Ghost Fathers* was published for the first time. The initiator and editor was **Fr Thomas Pembroke** who was an able educationalist and administrator. **Bro Killian (Christopher Melligan)** helped in getting the necessary advertising revenue. *The Missionary Record* a year later was renamed *The Missionary Annals* and was to champion the cause of the African missions. In addition to this it served to make the congregation known, fostered missionary vocations and was also a means of fundraising. For a time before 1930 the magazine circulated in America. In 1970 it changed its name to *Mission Outlook* which became *Outlook* in 1981. One of the main distribution points was through the primary schools. At its zenith in the 1960s it had a circulation of some 90,000 copies and wide networks of lay promotors dedicated to the province and its mission.

Used Stamps

Fr Jean Martin Ebenrecht began the collection of used stamps which were sold in bulk to stamp collectors, especially in Belgium. Details of this mission fundraising initiative were published in the *Irish Catholic*. The collection of used stamps continued at Kimmage into the 2000s promoted by **Bro Oliver (James Dowling)** and his band of helpers.

Parish Missions

As far back as 1884 there was an involvement in parish retreats or missions. Individual ventures grew into the formation of the 'Missionary Band' in 1898. Its first three members: **Frs Jean Martin Ebenrecht, Martin Hyland and Con O'Shea** took up residence in Clareville, Blackrock. The Mission Band transferred to the USA in 1910 principally for fundraising purposes. In the 1930s the Band was integrated into the US Province



Joe Carpenter



Fr Barney Flynn,
Fr Michael Buckley



Fr Des Kenny



Left to right, back row: Ann Behon,
Marie Finnerty, Eileen Browne, Annmarie Reed.
Front row: Fr Brian McLaughlin, Eilish Doherty,
Frances Keishery



Sean Tracey



On left, Bros Oliver & Mattias



Marie Finnerty
celebrates 40 years of
working with the Burse
in 2019



Michael & Nancy O'Neill



Bishop Shanahan at Missionary League



Bro Ignatius with promoters



Fancy Fair



Frs P Leonard, G Gibbons, M Doheny & F Sheridan



Sale of Work



Sewing Guild



Fr Christy O'Brien & promoters



Vestment Sewing Class



Fr John McAsey



Kathleen Downey



Winnie Timmons



Stamp Collection



L to r: Pat Heavy & Donal Donovan



Irish Dancers



Horse Jumping



Fr Martin Keane & Rita Holland



Rose Jackson & Friend



Sale of work



L to r: Kathleen Curtin, Jenny Grimes & Anne Geraghty



Mrs Laura Anderson

Promotions: Holy Ghost African Mission League and the Burse

The production and distribution of the *Missionary Annals* led to the formation of the Holy Ghost African Mission League. A major work of this 'league' of lay helpers was the holding of the annual sale of work. The sale of work was held in the Mansion House each December and in later years at St Agnes's and Greenhills community centres. **Mr Seán Tracey** was one of the outstanding people who helped for so many years in the sale of work.

The Burse was developed specifically to provide material support for Holy Ghost students. **Mr Michael O'Neill**, the founder, and his helper **Mr Mick Morgan** organised a group to collect a small sum of money per week towards a student education fund. A copy of the *Missionary Annals* was given as a kind of receipt. 'Burse' refers to the sum of money needed to educate a student for the priesthood.

In 1948 the Holy Ghost African Mission League and the Burse were amalgamated. The Burse moved from Kimmage Manor to join the Missionary League, directed by **Fr Nicholas O'Loughlin**, at 46 Lower Rathmines Road. In this new arrangement **Fr John McAsey** became the director and **Fr Gerry Gibbons** his assistant. **Ms Kathleen Downey** became the first lay staff member to be employed.

In 1948 **Bro Mathias (Seán Connolly)** was appointed to work on the Promotions team. He dedicated his life to the sale of work each year and the various Burse activities countrywide. He was a marvellous ambassador throughout Ireland for the Spiritans until his unexpected death in 1994.

In 1988 the official name was change to Promotions/Mission Animation. Over the years new forms of fundraising developed. Such as the annual gymkhana (in 1960s) and the Gala Day initiated by **Frs Paddy Cleary** and **Michael Buckley**.

Since 2012 Promotions and Mission Animation has been organised from



L to r: Ethel Page, Fr Brendan Smyth, Eileen Brown, Ann Smith



Fr Liam Martin



Frs Des Arigho & Noel Murphy



Fr William Opoku-Boateng



Fr Paddy Cleary



Fr John Laiser

Kimmage Manor by a highly motivated team of lay people, led by **Ms Marie Finnerty** and accompanied by one or two Spiritans. Each year the team promotes the work of mission and appeals for funds in a number of dioceses in Ireland allocated

through The Association of Missionaries and Religious (AMRI).

On Pentecost Sunday each year the promoters are invited to Mass in Kimmage and to a meal afterwards. ■

Blackrock College Chapel: 1868-2018

Brian O'Toole

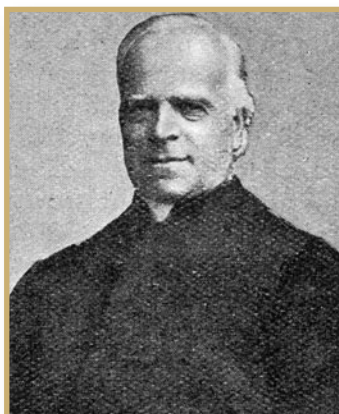
The Scholasticate Journal of 12 February 1867 carries the following entry by a student: 'To-day the foundations of the new Chapel commenced to be dug. It is expected that his eminence the Cardinal [Cullen] will visit the college and lay the first stone of the chapel'. The architect of the new chapel, as of most of the college buildings erected between 1867 and 1909, was the bursar, Fr Jean Martin Ebenrecht.

Père Jules Leman decided that the chapel was to be dedicated to Our Lady of Victories because of the close associations between the Venerable Libermann and this shrine of Our Lady in Paris. Fr Ebenrecht drew up the plans and constructed a model to scale. The work progressed with the engagement of a foreman mason, a Mr Murphy and the employment of Bro Wilfrid O'Donovan and a Mr Gay as carpenters. The chief aide responsible for the interior decorative stucco work was Bro Eugene Devena.

The ceremony of dedication was performed by Cardinal Paul Cullen, archbishop of Dublin, on 20 March 1868. The chapel was extended in 1878 which had been necessitated by an increase in student numbers.



Blackrock Chapel



Fr Jean Martin Ebenrecht



Left to right: Fr Cormac O'Brolchain, Archbishop Jude, Papal Nunico & Fr Denis Kennedy, Blackrock 2018

Interred in the chapel crypt are:

Fr William Ryan d. 1874: Fr William was from Killaloe, Co Clare. He was a very brilliant student at the French College, especially in mathematics. He was ordained in France in 1873 but returned to Blackrock in 1874 as his health had taken a turn for the worst. He died on 2 April 1874 aged thirty years and was the first to be buried in the vaults under the college chapel.

Fr John O'Keeffe d. 1877: Fr John was the first student from Rockwell to be ordained for the congregation. He was from Golden, Co Tipperary. Ordained in 1876 he was appointed to Rockwell. Unfortunately he developed TB and died at Blackrock on 9 May 1877 aged twenty-five. He was the second to be interred in the vaults built under the college chapel.

Fr Jules Leman d. 1880: Père Jules was born on 30 June 1826 in Deulemont Nord, France. He was ordained in 1851. On 28 October 1859 Fr Jules arrived in Ireland with three other confrères; Bro Philippe, Frs Jerome Schwindenhammer and Fr Louis Holley. For the next twenty one years Fr Jules made a remarkable contribution to education in Ireland in general and to the Spiritan foundation in Ireland in particular. He died on 3 June 1880 aged fifty-three years and was the third person to be buried in the college chapel vault.

Fr Jean Martin Ebenrecht d. 1914: Père Jean Martin was appointed as bursar and art teacher to Blackrock in 1862. Fr Ebenrecht designed and supervised the erection of all the buildings and alterations undertaken in the college from 1866 to 1908 and was consulted by Archbishop Edward McCabe about church buildings in the diocese of Dublin. Fr Jean Martin was the fourth and last person to be interred in the college chapel vault



Left to right: Bishop Robert Ellison & Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okoli, Papal Nunico, Blackrock 2018

Corrections and Additions

It is a great service to us when informed of any inaccuracies in our productions and publications. Please never hesitate to contact us in this regard. This is how we learn and how we improve our collections.

Embers numbers 2 & 3 – Other Army Chaplains

Fr John Byrne (1898-1990): During the Second World War he acted as military chaplain to the United States forces based in Trinidad.

Fr Thomas McEnnis (1899-1973): Fr Thomas was awarded the Gold Crest of Merit by Poland for his work with the Polish refugees who, after World War II, entered Kenya from prison camps in Russia.

Fr Martin Reidy (1902-84): Fr Martin was chaplain to the British Army forces in Nairobi in the 1940s.

Fr Thomas Kennedy (1903-73): During World War II he was active as a local chaplain for the troops stationed in Trinidad.

Fr Tom Maher (1903-92): At the outbreak of World War II Fr Tom served as chaplain to the King's African Rifles, a post he retained until 1952.

Fr Des Connaughton (1905-62): In 1940 Fr Des joined the British Army and served as chaplain with the Kenya-Middle-East-India Command.

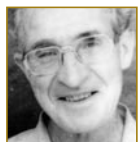
Fr Kevin Devenish (1906-74): When Ethiopia was taken from the Italians in 1943 the Holy See named Fr Kevin pro-vicar apostolic of Addis Ababa. He held this post until 1947.

Fr William (Kevin) Power (1926-2000): Fr Kevin was chaplain to the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force from 1958 until 1993. He held the rank of major.

Irish Spiritans Remembered II



Fr Patrick Joseph Dunne



Fr Patrick J. Walsh

Page 5: **Fr Edward Darcy (1916-2000):** Line 3 – delete Athlone, Co Westmeath and replace with Co Offaly.

Page 60: **Fr Patrick Joseph Dunne (1922-2009):** Exchange photo.

Page 134: **Fr Patrick Coyne (1931-2004):** Last line – delete Dardistown and replace with Kimmage Manor.

Page 141: **Fr Patrick J. Walsh (1919-2003):** Exchange photo.

The citation awarding the **Rotary International Medal to Fr James Corry CSSp** reads: 'In appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world'.



This vintage 'turnip sower' from Enfield Farm is on display in Mr Andy O'Flaharty's local museum in Kildare. The Spiritans farmed at **Metcalfe House, Enfield** from 1948



to 1961. The earlier farm was called **Killeenmore** which was located in Kill. It was purchased in January 1940 with a view to supplying the dairy and meat requirements of Kimmage Manor. The price included 'all the growing turnips free of charge'. Spiritans associated with the farms are: Frs Jim White, Colman McMahon and Bros Finian (Brian O'Mahony), Peter (William Mullen) and Eunan (James Breen).

Collections

Heritage and Archives appreciate donations to:

- The Fr Michael & Fr Kevin Doheny collection by Mrs Peggy Corr, Cork.
- The Fr Denis Fahey collection by Ms Nora Kennedy, Dublin.
- The Fr Alo Dempsey collection by Mrs Patricia Hund, New York.

We also thank the Pakistan Group, Mr John O'Loughlin Kennedy, Frs Jim Corry, Séamus Galvin and Gerry Ryan for their valuable donations.



*Stewardship includes all aspects of
the Province's heritage.
Special attention will be given to
libraries, archives and our
spiritual patrimony.*

Irish Chapter 2012, No. 52