

# GLOWING EMBERS



Spiritan Mission Resource & Heritage Centre

June 2016

## Recent Acquisitions



Fan (Nigerian) from Fr. Tony Heerey



'Tree of Life' carving (Tanzania) from Fr Frank Caffrey



Jaricot Medal presented to Fr Séamus Galvin by National Office of PMS Lyon

## It is nearly 20 years on since...

In 1997 Fr. Seán O'Connell wrote an invitation letter to each member of the Irish Province. The invitation was for each confrère to write his own *biopic* or *autobiographical sketch*. At that time there were 522 members in the province and 115 replies were received, a one to five response; some were one pagers and others extended to three and four pages. One confrère made an oral recording and sent in the cassette.

Today, almost 20 years later I would like to renew this invitation in asking each member of the province to consider contributing their own personal *curriculum vitae* to the Heritage and Archives Centre. Such a page or pages would indeed be of lasting value.

Building up a collection of biographical data enables us to preserve and retain personal histories. When writing if you care to add an observation or point to an experience along life's way our collections are further enriched. Personal histories can sometimes contain ideas that are vehicles for intergenerational communication which can influence the thinking and ideas of others, thus empowering Spiritans for their mission.

We would be delighted if you accept and act on this invitation. Today there are 242 members in our province so let's be bold and ambitious and aim for a 100% response rate this time round.

**Fr. Brian O'Toole**

# Four Countries, Four Life Journeys, O

## MAURITIUS

**Population:** 1,319,906 (2015)

**Life expectancy:** 74.5

**Religions:** Hindu 48%, Roman Catholic 26.3%, other Christian 6.4%, Islam 17.3%

**Independence:** 12 March 1968



The first missionaries to come to Mauritius were Vincentians, in 1721 Mgr. William Collier and Fr Jacques Laval came to Mauritius in 1841. The first Irish Spiritan

Br Vincent de Paul (Daniel) McNally arrived in Mauritius in November 1872 and the last Fr Pat Murphy left in 2013.

Fr. PAT MURPHY was ordained in 1960, and was appointed to Mauritius the Indian Ocean Island. From 1962 to 1977 he taught in the Collège du St. Esprit. He moved into pastoral work in 1979 in the Parish of St. Pierre Rivière du Rempart. He was Parish Priest in St. Francis of Assisi, Pamplemousses (1979-1993), The Holy Heart of Mary from 1993, and then back to St. Pierre for a second time (2006-12) and finally Notre Dame du Rosaire, Quatre Bornes until his return to Ireland in 2013.

**Spiritan Mission Today:** Since 2011 Mauritius is a Circumscription within *The Union of Circumscriptions of the Indian Ocean (UCOI)*. It has 15 members. Others in UCOI are: Madagascar, Reunion, Seychelles and India.

## GHANA

**Population:** 27 million (2015)

**Life expectancy:** 60.5

**Religions:** Christian 63%, indigenous beliefs 21%, Islam 16%

**Independence:** 6 March 1957



The first missionaries: Ghana was part of the Vicariate of the two Guineas confided to the Holy Ghost Congregation in 1842. Fr. Louis Gommenginger only visited Kumasi from Sierra Leone in 1879. Irish Spiritans arrived in 1971, on the invitation of Bishop Peter Kwasi Sarpong to assist the local church in Kumasi Diocese.

Fr. JAMES DUNCAN arrived in Onitsha in 1957, where he did pastoral ministry for the next twelve years at Dunokofia and Nnewi. In 1972 he was assigned to Angola. After three years he was reassigned to Papua New Guinea where he remained until 1981. James came to Ghana in 1982 where he worked in the parish of La on the northern slopes of the city of Accra. In 1991 he was invited to work with the Catholic Secretariat which serves the whole Church of Ghana. Part of the work

here was the running of a small factory producing medicines in order to keep costs down. This small factory played a vital role in alleviating both physical and financial hardship for the people. During these years he resided at St. Peter's in Osu. In 2002 he came to the Provincial House and parish at Adenta which had been an outstation of La parish. Fr. James returned to Ireland in March 2014.

**Spiritan Mission Today:** The Circumscription Ghana became a Province in 2009 and is part of *The Union of Circumscriptions of West Africa*. It has 91 Ghanaian priests, 40 of these on mission ad extra and 5 Brothers. There are 44 students in formation.

# Four Spiritans, One Common Mission

## SIERRA LEONE

**Population:** 6.1 million (2015)

**Life expectancy:** 48.5

**Religions:** Islam 60%, indigenous 30%,  
Christian 10%

**Independence:** 27 April 1961.



**The first missionaries:** The Congregation came to Sierra Leone in 1864. Two French Spiritans, Fr. Edward Blanchet and Fr. Joseph Koeberlé arrived from The Gambia on February 12th of that year. Fr Thomas Bracken was the first Irish Spiritan to come to Freetown and he arrived on September 12th 1865.

**Fr. PADDY RYAN** came to Sierra Leone in October 1974. His first year was mainly spent at Gerihun and then at Pujehun 75-77. He was then Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish in Serabu. From 1980 he served in Moyamba. He was in Mano from '83 until '91 and in 1993 was in St. Teresa's parish in Bo where he also served as District Bursar. From 1997 he worked in the Parishes of Glasthule and Bawnogue in Dublin with some months in Melbourne, Australia. In 2003 he was appointed to Kasumu, Kigoma in Tanzania. In 2005 he returned to Ireland and did chaplaincy in Beaumont Hospital

and from 2007 he was bursar in Kimmage Manor. In 2009 he returned to Sierra Leone to Gerihun Parish and also served as the Financial Administrator for the Diocese of Bo until 2011. He then became Acting Director of the Pastoral Centre Kenema and Parish Priest in the Immaculate Conception Parish, Burma. In 2015 he served as Bursar for the Province.

**Spiritan Mission Today:** Sierra Leone is a Foundation within the Union of Circumscriptions of West Africa (UCWA). The Spiritan presence in Liberia is entrusted to the Foundation of Sierra Leone. The foundation has 19 priests, 3 deacons and 10 students in formation.

## NIGERIA

**Population:** 182,217,342

**Life expectancy:** Male 50.9 female 51.1

**Religion:** Muslims: 50.4%; Christians 48.2%  
Indigenous belief 1.4%

**Independence:** 1 October 1960



**The first missionaries:** Fr. Joseph Lutz, Prefect Apostolic, landed at Onitsha on December 5th 1885. Other French Spiritans followed: Fr. Joseph Reling (1896-1898), Fr. Rene Pawlas (1898-1900), Fr. Leo Lejeune (1900-1905). Lejeune made "schools" the key to his apostolate, working with him for three years was Fr. Joseph Shanahan who shared his view that education was the key to evangelisation. This was his approach during his time as Prefect Apostolic and then Bishop (1905-1931).

**Fr. PADDY FOLEY** arrived in Onitsha in 1955 to teach at St. Patrick's TTC in Obolo-Eke. In 1959 he transferred to Nsukka and in 1962 was at Emene. He worked in pastoral care at Nsukka and Isieniu in 1968. After studying social development in Antigonish, Canada, he was assigned to the Rural Citizens

Training Center at Abwa in the Makurdi diocese. He became its director in 1971 and functioned also as diocesan co-ordinator for 'Social Development' and 'Justice and Peace'. In

1994 Fr. Paddy became a Kusus Elder for his work in Bridgebuilding. In 2000, he was honoured by Catholic Agricultural Services and by Patrick Foley College Abwa and in 2002 by the Etulu Students' Union. After 44 years at Abwa and 60 years in Nigeria Fr. Paddy returned to Kimmage in 2014.

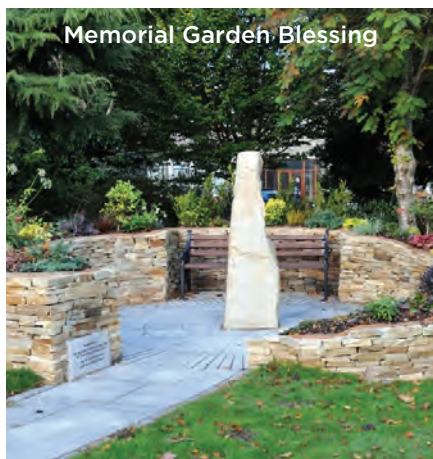
**Spiritan Mission Today: Union of Spiritan Circumscriptions of Nigeria (USCN)**

In October 2010 the Nigerian Province was reorganised into a Union of two Provinces: *Nigeria South East, Nigeria North East* and two Foundations: *Nigeria North West, Nigeria South West*. In 2013 there were 647 professed members with 183 on mission ad extra and 217 students within USCN.

# Templeogue College's 50th

The Spiritan archives of 1955 allude to the potential establishment of a post primary school in the Templeogue/Walkinstown area. In September 1966, Templeogue College, a Catholic secondary school, opened its doors for the education of boys living in Templeogue and the surrounding areas. The Holy Ghost Fathers, laterally known as the Spiritans had established its fifth school in Ireland. The Principal Fr John Horgan and his three staff presided over 42 students; fifty years later the College caters for 700 students and has a teaching staff of 50.

The educational experience was underpinned by the college motto: 'In Virtue Scientia' which was interpreted as "education rooted in values". This continues to inform the spiritual, academic and cultural



life of the College. Team sports are recognised as central to personal development and extra-curricular activities constitute an essential component of College life and students are encouraged to participate.

The Parents' Association and Past Pupils Union have engaged positively with the school over the years for fundraising, consultation and advice to management. In September 2015 a beautiful Memorial Garden was constructed at the front of the College in memory of the students and staff who had died in the past 49 years. The Past Pupils assumed responsibility for the funding, design and construction of the Garden.

The College continues to respond to the educational needs of students in what is now a wide constituency of South Dublin. Its mission is to enable students to reach their potential, prepare them for further studies, meaningful work and become balanced and happy persons, capable of engaging with the enterprise of living and the challenges of life.

Ms Aoife O'Donnell is the 7th Principal to assume the role as the college celebrates its 50th Anniversary in the 2016-2017 academic year.



"This silver communion box was found in Kimmage Manor Sacristy by Fr. Brendan Heeran and three students from Templeogue College decided to investigate the origins of the box. The silver box has an engraving "Rev. D. O'Sullivan, Killarney, killed in 1916."

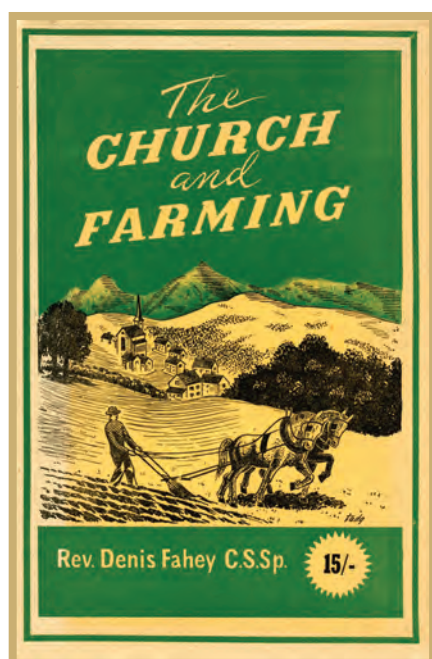
The communion box was made in commemoration of Father Donal O'Sullivan, a priest from Kerry who served alongside the Irish soldiers during the First World War in France. He gave the sacraments to the wounded soldiers and celebrated mass with them. The day before the Battle of the Somme, he heard the soldiers confessions, gave them general absolution and offered the sacrifice of the mass for them. He died on the second day of the battle, on the 7th of July, along with many of the soldiers he had blessed and comforted.



By Alex Kavanagh, Patrick Uduchukwu and Colm Nolan.

# Irish Catholic Anti-Communism - The Fahey Connection

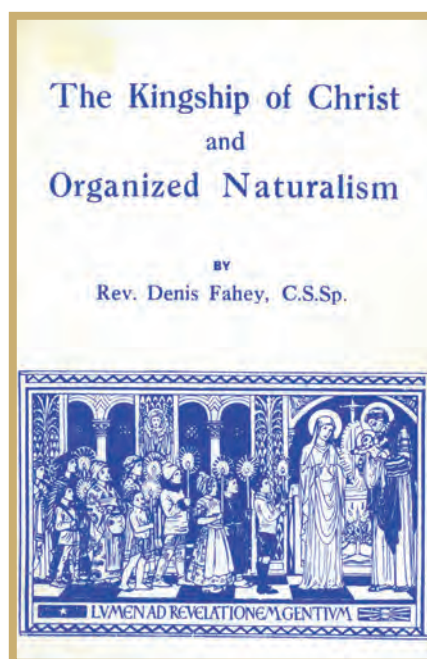
Gerard Fahey, PhD student in NUI Galway



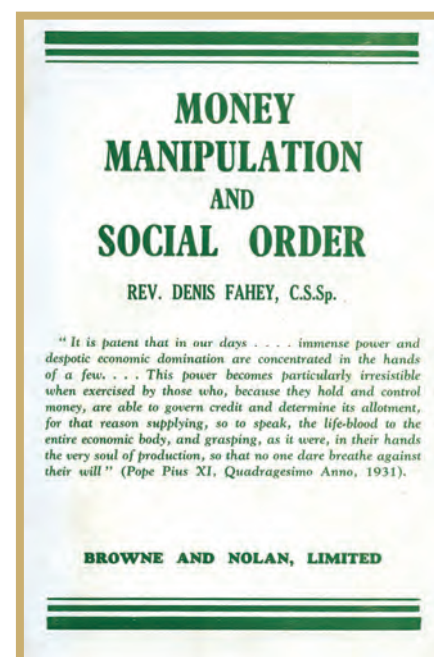
Father Charles Coughlin, who was influenced by Fahey's anti-Semitism and anti-Communism. Such was their popularity that people from as far away as Uganda, China and Quebec wrote to him asking for his books. Communism was a frequent theme of Fahey's many works, such as *The Tragedy of James Connolly*, *The Rulers of Russia*, and *The Kingdom of Christ and Organised Naturalism*. Fahey argued that communism was a Satanic revolt against God, and, claiming that the Russian Revolution of 1917 was led by Jews, argued that it was the 'most recent development in

The surviving papers of Father Denis Fahey, which are contained at the Spiritan Archives at Kimmage Manor, Dublin, are a very important part of my research on the Catholic Church in Ireland and its relationship with anti-communism during the Cold War era. Fahey's studies took him to France and Rome, and continental theological ideas were a major influence on his ideas.

From the 1920s onwards, Fahey became an internationally-known Catholic writer. His works were greatly popularised in the 1930s by the United States-based 'radio priest'



the age-long struggle waged by the Jewish nation' against the Catholic Church.



While staunch opposition to communism was very much the mainstream viewpoint of the Catholic Church in the era, Fahey's particularly conspiratorial and extreme views were unrepresentative of both the Holy Ghost Order and the Church in Ireland more broadly. While Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, himself a member of the Holy Ghost Order, enjoyed a warm relationship with Fahey early in his clerical career, by Fahey's death he had become extremely reluctant to grant the priest permission to publish, in large part due to the campaigning of Fahey's Maria Duce organisation.

In the course of my research, I really enjoyed my visits to Kimmage Manor. The grounds are very pleasant to walk around and the staff in the Archives could not have been kinder or more accommodating. My visits to Kimmage Manor have greatly assisted the progress of my PhD overall, and I would recommend anyone interested in the history of Irish catholicism to pay them a visit.

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# Spiritans 60 years at Ardbracon

Séamus Maguire PhD, Research Assistant



Generalate Visitation 1963. seated are The Superior General Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, and Community Superior, Fr. Pat Doyle

## Brothers Novitiate 1956-71

The Holy Ghost Order purchased Bishopscourt with sixty acres of land in 1955. The house was circa 3 kilometres from Navan, Co. Meath. It became a Novitiate for Brothers shortly afterwards. This was blessed and formally opened by the Bishop of Meath, Rev. Dr. Kyne on St. Patrick's Day 1956. He was assisted in this task by Rev. Robert Madigan C.S.Sp, of Fanagans (Brother's Postulancy), Kimmage who became the Superior of this new community and also the first Novice Master of the



Metalwork

Brothers. To mark the occasion an inaugural mass was celebrated by Rev. P. O'Connor C.S.Sp, the Provincial Superior of Ireland and it was attended by a large number of guests from St. Columba's College, Navan, Kimmage Manor, Kilshane, Tipperary and diocesan clergy. The Provincial stated during the proceedings that the Superior General greatly appreciated the generous welcome given to the Novitiate by the Bishop of Meath. He stressed that its significance could not be underestimated as there was a



Woodwork

great need for Spiritan Brothers to play their part in assisting the mission of the congregation. In its first six years we find among the novices Brothers Augustine, Conleth, Albert, Vincent, Gerard and Ignatius. Br. Colman was professed in 1961 and spent his entire religious life in Ardbracon; he died in 2008. The new Novitiate began in earnest with the commencement of land cultivation which was greatly expedited by the purchase of a tractor in 1959 so that between 1961-2 fields were completely reseeded.



Looking at camera: (l-r): Fr. Bob Madigan & Brs. Con and Colman

A new residence was built by the novices directed by Br. Senan Smith. The printing press for the province was run here alongside skills training in metalwork and woodwork. In 1969 a meeting was held to discuss the future purpose of this establishment attended by Frs. Tim O Driscoll, Dick Caplice, Robert Madigan, Des O'Sullivan, Willy Fitzpatrick and Br. Alphonses at which it was decided to move the students to Kimmage. Consequently, Ardbracon ceased to function as the Brothers Novitiate in August 1971. Since then leaders of the community have been Frs.: R. Caplice, T. O'Brien, P. Cloonan, G. Gannon, R. O'Dwyer, P. Casey, V. Comer, F. Egan, Br. Conleth and P. Conaty.

## Ardraccon Townland

Ardraccon means St. Breccan's height previously called Magh Tortain. In pagan times it had a history of tree and well worship transformed today into the pilgrim holy wells of St. Ultan's, St. Brigid's and Spawell. Here, St. Patrick established the Church of Domnach Tortain and St. Ultan also founded an orphanage in 653. His pupil St. Tireachain established a monastery which lasted until the 12th century. Henry IV bequeathed Ardraccon to the Bishops of Meath. The medieval St. Ultan's Church was rebuilt in 1750. The White Quarry 3 miles to the north provided limestone for the Custom House, Bank of Ireland and Trinity College in Dublin. A stained glass window from the nearby deconsecrated Protestant St. Ultan's Church was donated and installed in the Spiritan Chapel in 1992.

## Ardraccon House

Ardraccon Palace/House two miles from Navan, Co. Meath was the stately residence of the Church of Ireland Bishops of Meath between 1776-1885. It was built 1774-6 and occupied the site of an important castle from the 1641-52 period. Lebanese Cedars were planted in the surrounds. This palace was considered too costly to maintain and was sold. The bishop's residence was then transferred to the smaller Glebe House in 1885 renamed 'Bishopscourt.' In 2013, American businessman Charles Noell became the new owner of Ardraccon House including 120 acres of gardens, parkland and woodlands.

## Ardraccon Parish

Following the reformation in 1541 the Catholic bishop was ordered to leave Ardraccon and was replaced by a Protestant Church of Ireland



Covered well - An Tobar



counterpart who retained the parish's name. However after Emancipation in 1829 a Catholic parish structure was re-established there but adopted the name Bohermeen (the 'smooth road' to Tara) in order to differentiate between the two. Br. Colman was buried in the Bohermeen cemetery on 23rd December, 2008.



## An Tobar 1982-2012

Following the Irish Provincial Chapter of 1982 part of the renewal in Ardraccon was the setting up of 'An Tobar - The Well'. This was an ideal location for a place of respite where people who worked with the socially disadvantaged could come to rest and recuperate and also to meet other like-minded groups and individuals in order to exchange ideas and faith. Its inspiration came from Spiritans working in inner city

Dublin where religious and social workers involved in community building had experienced high levels of occupational fatigue. It was officially opened in June 1983 and run on a not for profit basis. It offered self-catering hostel style accommodation for up to 24 people, meeting rooms for hire and a non-denominational oratory for spiritual reflection.

One of its original aims was to promote justice and peace among the socially disadvantaged and it would later become an all-Ireland community development project. It provided services such as counselling, spirituality of the labyrinth and social analysis training.

Groups who have used An Tobar include parish and community groups, traveller groups, cross border groups, school retreats, adult faith education, and drug abuse support groups. Team members over the years: M. Kane, P. Donovan, S. Ryan, D. Coffey, P. Galvin, V. McDevitt, J. Fitzpatrick, N. Colgan, B. McLaughlin, B. Murtagh, M. Murray and P. O'Toole.

Since 2012 'Ardraccon - An Tobar' continues to redefine and renew itself by making creative responses to community living and ministries of service.

# ‘This is Your Life’ Irish Missionary Films and Filmmaking

Edel Robinson is an artist filmmaker and researcher who lives and works in Drogheda, Co. Louth.



Since 2009 I have been independently collecting and cataloguing films made and commissioned by Irish missionary societies (1930-1997). Thirteen Catholic missionary societies including the Holy Ghost Fathers have so far participated in this film research project, providing over one hundred films now housed in the IFI, Irish Film Archive\*. More recent are twenty film titles from Concern Worldwide covering the years 1968-1986.

Irish missionary films were made to promote vocations, volunteers and boost fundraising and belong to a tradition of film and filmmaking by male and female religious that has been forgotten. The purpose of this work is to

compile a catalogue of films by all missionary societies on the island of Ireland as the basis of a critical analysis of these valuable films for publication. Films made and commissioned by Irish missionary societies are cinematically accomplished works of art and of immense educational value, especially now as crisis numbers of refugees seek asylum in the European Union.

I came to the Spiritan Mission Resource Centre to find out more about Fr. Michael Doheny C.S.SP (1915-1992), the filmmaker, specifically those films he made for Concern throughout thirty countries around the world and later Firoda Communications, (named after his old school,

Firoda National School, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny) a film production company he set up with charitable status in 1987.



**Fr. Jimmy O'Toole worked with Concern from 1968 until his death in 1975. While he was Field Director in the Yemen Arab Republic he became involved in film making and realised his latent talent.**

Housed in the Spiritan Archives is a VHS video recording of ‘This is Your Life’ a popular BBC biographical documentary series hosted by TV presenter Eamon Andrews. This episode from 1984 features Fr. Mike as he was affectionately known and his younger brother Kevin, also a Holy Ghost Father, as they are taken through their life assisted by ‘the big red book.’ To the surprised and unsuspecting brothers, guests arrive such as Lady Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire of Leonard Cheshire Disability and also the author Frederick Forsyth. Actress Glenda Jackson and humanitarian Mother Teresa of Calcutta as well as US senator Ted Kennedy, who could not be there in person, but who relayed their tributes to the life and work of these two missionary priests via television link. This was the first time ever that two priests were featured on the This is Your Life programme.

[\*There are 41 films deposited by the Irish province in the Irish Film Archive.]



# John Chisholm and the Arab World

Brian O'Toole



Fr John Chisholm with Yasser Arafat P.L.O C-in-C

John Chisholm C.S.Sp (1922-2014) a well-known and highly regarded academic was a keen linguist and spoke Irish fluently and had a working knowledge of other languages such as Croatian and Arabic. This latter interest can be explained by his lesser known role as Vice-Chairman of the Irish-Arab Society which deserves more scrutiny.

## THE IRISH ARAB SOCIETY INFORMATION CENTRE

An Cumann Gael-Arabach جمعية الصداقه الارلنديه العربيه

In 1969 the Irish-Arab Society was established. The purpose of this new organisation was to promote understanding and cultural and commercial links with the Arab World. This group also highlighted humanitarian projects in the Middle-East which could benefit from some Irish involvement. The first *Dublin Oriental Festival* was held in 1976. The same year John Chisholm toured Iraq with the Fianna Fáil deputy Charles Haughey which in a few short years resulted in significant Irish involvement in the provision of healthcare in that country. It also signalled the establishment in Ireland of medical training programmes for Arab students and the development of a lucrative beef export trade with the Arab World. This new group also had a political agenda and actively supported the

creation of a Palestinian state and worked to promote the acceptance of the P.L.O. as the legitimate political representatives of the Palestinian people. It sought to counter the influence of the *Irish-Israel Friendship League* and the unchallenged prominence given, at this time, to the Israeli position in the Irish Press. In response to this John Chisholm became an often strident yet erudite critic of Israeli policy and a reasoned champion of the Palestinian cause, in support of which he always emphasised strict adherence to UN resolutions and international law. In conjunction with this much of the programme of the Irish Arab Society was expressed through the medium of their official quarterly publication *Irish-Arab News*, 1975-85. John Chisholm became editor of this publication in the 1970s. He also

became the Director of the *Eurabia* office in Dublin which was an organisation and publication founded in Paris by Lucien Bitterlin in 1972 in order to co-ordinate the efforts of European Arab friendship societies.

### Simon Srouji of Nazareth

Through his interest in Arab affairs Fr. John Chisholm R.I.P. learned about Simon Srouji and wrote about him in the *Missionary Annals of 1973*. Simon was born into a Catholic family in Nazareth in 1878. Later at an orphanage in Bethlehem he became proficient in Italian and French and learnt tailoring. In 1896 he became a Salesian Brother and would work for more than four decades in Beit Jamal as a teacher, miller, tailor, sacristan and infirmarian.



Simon Srouji of Nazareth

He served both Catholics and Muslims in the vicinity of Beit Jamal. Thus his name became synonymous with kindness and sanctity. Finally after 47 years of ministry he succumbed to malaria and died on the 27 November 1943 at the age of 65. He was buried in the crypt of St. Stephen's Church, Beit Jamal. Since his death his legend has grown internationally amongst both Christians and Moslems and his impartial duty of care to all denominations is seen as a practical demonstration of the modern spirit of ecumenism.

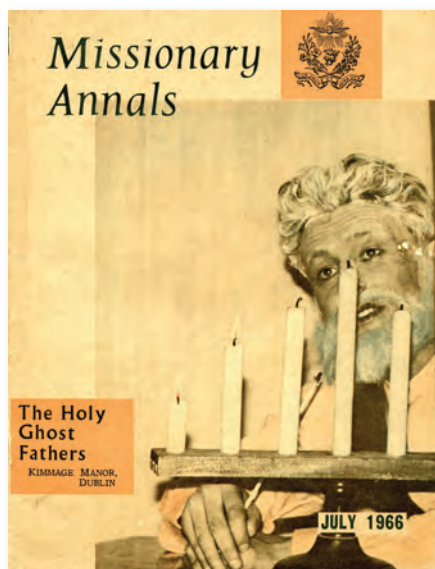


The President with contemporaries of his school days, Cardinal d'Alton and Monsignor Alfred O'Rahilly; also in the picture are Most Reverend Charles Heerey and John McQuaid and Mr Frank Duff.

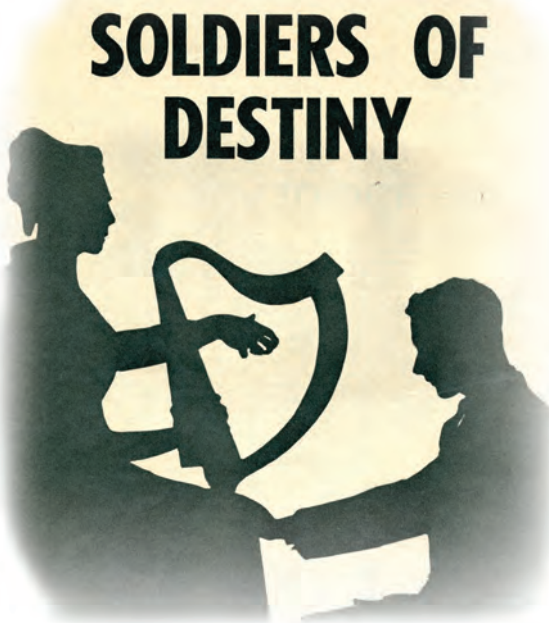


Preparing for the Kimmage pageant. Make-up artist is Stephen Walsh, Kevin Lewis plays the role of Robert Emmet, Desmond O'Rourke of Padraig Pearse and old man by Brian McLoughlin.

## 1916 – As commemorated in the Missionary Annals in 1966



The cover of the Missionary Annals 1966



Soldiers of Destiny – The Kimmage Pageant



The cyclist De Valera with his friend, Jim Sweeney



Thomas McDonagh – Rockwell boy, poet and patriot



Eamon de Valera, the schoolboy, 1899

### Also in the Archives...

The Spiritan Archive holds 42 of the 47 volumes of **The Capuchin Annual**. This was published in Dublin from 1930 until 1977. Its ethos was the promotion of and education in Christian values and a Catholic way of life. The editors' goal was to make the Irish people aware and proud of their rich history, language, literary and artistic heritage.



# Irish Spiritan Army Chaplains

## World War One



### **Bishop Henry A. GOGARTY** 1884-1931

Stationed at Nairobi he worked as chaplain to the hospital where there were already many victims of the war. He was given the status of Military Chaplain with the rank of captain by the British authorities.



### **Fr. Denis FAHEY** 1883-1954

During 1916-19, when he was ill in Switzerland he acted as chaplain to British soldiers interned at Müren in the Bernese Oberland near Lucerne.



### **Fr. Bernard CAREY** 1865-1932

He volunteered as a military chaplain and saw service during the Great War in the Middle East.



### **Fr. David O'BRIEN** 1876-1932

In 1916 he was called on to serve as military chaplain at the front in Belgium.



### **Fr. Thomas F. O'BRIEN** 1871-1928

He served in Salonika, 1916-18. After the 1918-20 Armistice he went as chaplain with a troopship to India, to Mauritius and to Japan. He was awarded the Military Medal (M.C.) and the O.B.E., and was several times mentioned in despatches.



### **Bishop Bartholomew WILSON** 1884-1938

He volunteered as Military Chaplain and served with the 15th Division. One of his daring deeds was to bring in from 'No Man's Land' five wounded men - the last of them being shot off his back. He was awarded the Military Cross and recommended for the V.C. "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action." and was featured for this in the *London Gazette*.

## World War Two



### **Fr. William Leo BROLLY** 1903-1984

From 1943 to 1945 he was Army chaplain with West African troops in the Middle East and North Africa.



### **Fr. Desmond P. CONNAUGHTON** 1905-1962

In autumn 1940 he joined the army as chaplain, Kenya-Middle-East-India Command.



### **Fr. James Gerard CURRAN** 1906-1944

He offered his services in 1941 and was attached to the Irish Guards. During their period of waiting for more active service, he and members of the Guards built a public church.



### **Fr. Michael W. GILMORE** 1910-2000

In Nigeria he was called on to act as Chaplain to the British Army.



### **Fr. Denis KENNEDY** 1898-1984

Between 1941 and 1945 he was a military chaplain with the Allied forces.



### **Fr. Thomas MAHER** 1903-1992

On the outbreak of World War II Fr Tom served as chaplain to the King's African Rifles, a post he retained until 1952.



### **Fr. Kevin WHELAN** 1905-1964

He volunteered 1942, he was posted to Singapore. A week after his arrival, Singapore fell to the Japanese, and he was interned, with the whole garrison of British and Australian troops. He was once mentioned in despatches. It is reported that Fr. Kevin was rescued from the Japanese concentration camp on the direct intercession by Mountbatten, acting on a message from an amateur radio ham. He emerged after 1945 in poor health.



### **Fr. Brendan TIMON** 1907-2000

In Nigeria, during 1941-46, he was called on to serve as Army Chaplain.



### **Fr. Aloysius P. DEMPSEY** 1914-2000

In 1943 he volunteered as a chaplain to the Royal Air Force from 1943-1947.

# Living out our legacy

Brian O'Toole



Père Jules Leman,  
Irish Province  
Founder and Superior  
1860-80

*“We are aware that we owe much to the past, to those who have gone before us. Their vision, their courage and their generosity brought us to where we are today. We celebrate the legacy of those who have gone before us. In spite of their limitations they inspire us on our journey and we seek to emulate their zeal, commitment and self-sacrifice. Our future is born out of that past.”*

(Fr. John Fogarty speaking at the TransCanada Chapter 2014)



Fr. Laurence Healy,  
First Irish Superior  
1900-07

**W**e Spiritans are missionaries. Our vocation as missionary religious is to allow the Spirit of Christ to be present in our lives and thus present in our world, as a force for its transformation into the kingdom of God. This is the core and essence of missionary activity, in which we are all called to participate, no matter how much infirmity or illness cuts some of us off from the external world of human activity.



A ‘new beginning’ in  
Mexico 1971:  
Fr. Paddy Townsend



A ‘new beginning’ in  
Brisbane, Australia 1971:  
Fr. George Lahiffe

In many ways today we are being called to go back to the basics of the Gospel, the way of Jesus and the early church in simplicity and humility. The call is to come together as people of faith, to be renewed in the fundamental truths of who we are as Spiritans and what the Church is; this will build on what we hold in common, through our Baptism. We will not be today or in the future as we were in the past; either in age, or in numbers, or in lifestyle,

or in ministry. But we will be what we have been since the earliest of times; disciples called by Christ to commit ourselves totally to him.

Our Spiritan *Rule of Life* is a compendium of the Gospels. Provincial and General Chapters, give us snapshots of how we are interpreting the SRL at a particular time in history. Each Chapter shows how we are living out the charism of our founders in the church of our day; in God’s present day. “It is an actualisation of our Rule; it restates the meaning of our Spiritan vocation in the context of the world today” (Introduction to Maynooth Document).

Our Spiritan history shows how the province / congregation evolved as new questions arose that required engagement in matters unheard of by previous generations. Our current grappling with issues resonates with how our tradition has



A ‘new beginning’ in Ethiopia 1972:  
Br. Augustine O’Keeffe and Fr. Harry Mullin.

responded in the past. We will continue to experience resonance as we appeal to our history and our experience of the Holy Spirit, yet we must be aware, knowing that it is the nature of the Spirit to do something new, to surprise us with insights that draw us to a new place in our communities and in God's mission.

For the past to cross over into the future: "What is needed is a contextualised re-reading of Libermann; reading his texts in the context of the signs of the times; our own experience; new historical insights; the values and vision we share with each other; other foundational spiritual experiences, as well as drawing on the lives of other Spiritans who serve as role models" (**Mission Meeting at Emmaus 2010**).

Our energy and enthusiasm for new departures and new beginnings comes from the fervour or our first fallings in love with Jesus. "Nevertheless, a small group – with an impossibly ambitious dream, little or no finances or resources, and often no support or even outright opposition from ecclesiastical authorities – inspired by a dream, commit itself totally, heart and soul to its realisation. This is spontaneous community, without structure or organisation, united by a dream and very little else". (*Living Mission Interculturally*, 2015, Tony Gittins p165).



A 'new beginning' in setting up 'Narcotics Anonymous Centre' in Dublin 1981, Fr. Michael Murray.

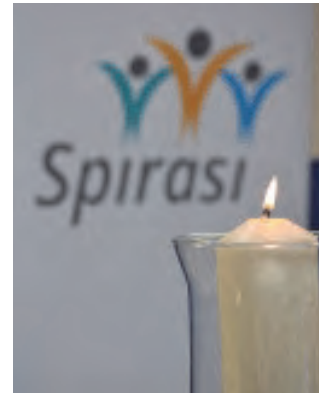


A 'new beginning' in Ministry to Overseas Students in Ireland 1982: Fr. Liam O'Sullivan

Our General Chapter in Bagamoyo 2012, "be fervent in the Spirit" saw itself as a return to our sources seeking new inspiration and new courage for our Spiritan life and mission today in very different but no less challenging times. The Ireland EPC 2015 takes us to the brink of yet another new departure, "In today's world of 'social media' we seek to be present and speak our story so that the

burning embers of our history and charism can ignite new fires in the lives of others"

Keeping the flame alive was a motif at the 'Spiritans Mission – Spiritan Family' meeting on October 2015: "The importance of keeping faith and mission alive is recognised as important for Irish society. We need to be there for the poor and oppressed. Pastoral outreach in parishes is greatly appreciated. This is particularly the case where the Spiritan charism of being close to people, especially in times of crisis, is lived out. Spiritans have a proven track record in managing complexities. We can learn from past mistakes and successes and so identify opportunities to address the contemporary need for a faith that does justice".



A 'new beginning', the opening of SPIRASI in 1999.



A 'new beginning' in the Spiritan Parish of Ballintubber-Ballymoe, Co. Roscommon, 2010.

The Holy Spirit goes on working at the interior level of our hearts leading us to search for the hidden treasures of our past; the seeds of our predecessors germinating underground. We should not be surprised that the Holy Spirit should lead us back to discover our heritage in order to lead us onwards. Our future, as missionaries, is to be witnesses to the primacy of God in our lives as pilgrims and humble servants of humankind. "Just as Christ carried out the work of redemption in poverty and under oppression, so the Church is called to follow the same path in communicating to men the fruit of salvation". (**Lumen Gentium No 8**).

# 55 Years at Kilshane, Novice Masters 1924-1979



Fr. Hugh Evans  
1924-33



Fr. John McCarthy  
1933-36  
*(later Archbishop of Nairobi)*



Fr. Tom Gough  
1936-48



Fr. Bill Higgins  
1948-56



Fr. Pearse Moloney  
1956-66



Fr. Willie Nugent  
1966-74



Fr. Noel Banahan  
1974-79

## And Novice Directors after 1979



Fr. Hugh Boyle  
1981-86



Fr. Michael Kane  
1986-92



Fr. John Kingston  
1992-98

In 1980 the Novitiate was at Kilshane for one month and then transferred to Spiritan House, North Circular Road, Dublin. Fr. Michael Cahill was the Acting Novice Director for this year. In 1981 the Novitiate was spent between Kilshane and Carysfort Training College. From 1982 onwards the Novitiate was located at Cypress Grove in Templeogue, Dublin. The Directors of Novices were: Fr. Hugh Boyle 1981-86, Fr. Michael Kane 1986-92, Fr. John Kingston 1992-1998. Since 1990 the Irish Province Novitiate at Templeogue had become an International European Novitiate.

## Corrections

### Glowing Embers June 2015

**Page 1:** The impression may have been given that there were two Associations of Church Archivists. This was not the case; it was just a change of name.



**Page 8:** The headstone caption should read “**James Brown, Pro Vicar Apostolic, 1835-1903.**”

### The Centre Advisory Committee:

Ms. Deirdre Carpenter (*Secretary*),  
 Ms. Marguerite Curran,  
 Ms. Marie Finnerty,  
 Ms. Ann Kinsella,  
 Fr. Noel Moyihan,  
 Fr. Brian O’Toole (*Chair*),  
 Fr. Michael Reynolds,  
 Mr. Myles Ryan,  
 Fr. Paddy Ryan,  
 Fr. Marc Whelan

## WELCOME

### Manager



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 Walk-in hours: 9am-12 noon  
 (Monday to Friday)  
 By appointment: 2pm-4pm  
 (Monday to Friday)

### Libermann Library



Contact: Ollie Connolly  
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 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

### Archives



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 (Monday to Thursday)

### Visuals



Contact: Dolorés Stewart  
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 Email: [photo@kimmagemanor.ie](mailto:photo@kimmagemanor.ie)  
 Walk-in hours:  
 (Tuesday 2pm-4pm Thursday 10am-1pm)

Our technology is supported by the generous assistance of Niall Collins.

The Spiritan Mission Resource and Heritage Centre follows the Code of Conduct on Images and Messages upheld by Dóchas.



**Fr. Michel Archange Nkong** from the Cameroon Province has now completed a year as *intern* with us. He will continue this internship as he progresses through an MA in Historical Archives at NUI Maynooth.

Email: [intern1@kimmagemanor.ie](mailto:intern1@kimmagemanor.ie)



**Mr Seamus Maguire** has been working part-time as *Research Assistant* over this past year. After graduating with an M Litt from UCD and PhD in history from NUI Maynooth he worked with the Allen Library (heritage project).

Email: [history@kimmagemanor.ie](mailto:history@kimmagemanor.ie)



*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**