

Spiritan

missionary news



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At Kimmage Manor, Dublin, Ireland
Holy Ghost Missionary College
A river flows on through...
The city's ancient water source
And across a little bridge
Since 1911, as Spiritans come and go
The Poddle, mirrors them as they pass
Then flows on by



RETURNING TO THE SOURCE...

THE TRANSCANADA PROVINCE



It may come as a surprise to many how much the TransCanada Province, especially in its early years, was indebted to the Province of Ireland.

Although the Holy Ghost Fathers had been in Canada since 1732 and the Province du Canada had been established in Quebec in 1905, there was no permanent Spiritan presence in English-speaking Canada until 1954.

The Mission and Period

That year (1954) a number of Spiritans from Ireland, under the leadership of Fr Leo Brolly, opened a base in Woodstock, Ontario. Fr Nicholas McCormack became pastor of St Rita's parish, while the others formed a "mission band" to introduce the Congregation to English-speaking Canadians through retreats and parish missions.

To distinguish the new foundation from the long-established Quebec-centred Province du Canada, the name *District of Ontario* was chosen. When the District became a Province in 1976, it was called by its present name - *Province of TransCanada*.

In the first phase of the foundation, all the chartered members of the "mission band" were from Ireland: Leo Brolly, Nicholas McCormack, Robert Hudson, Desmond McGoldrick, Gary McCarthy, Patrick Walsh and John McAsey.

Entry into Canadian Education

The Spiritan Province of Ireland again played a major role when in 1958 the new foundation moved into Canadian education and opened Neil McNeil High School in Toronto.

In this second phase, the pioneers, all the chartered members of the new foundation, came from Ireland. In fact, thanks to the kind offices of the then-Provincial Superior of Ireland, Fr Timothy O'Driscoll, many of them were highly qualified young Spiritans of Ireland assigned to Neil McNeil as their first appointment after ordination and

consecration to the apostolate.

The next large group of Irish Spiritans to join the new foundation came in the 1970's. Most of them had been working in Nigeria and, finding themselves unable to return to that mission in the aftermath of the Biafran war, opted for Canada.

It was the arrival of these experienced missionaries from Africa, mainly from Nigeria, that enabled TransCanada to extend its pastoral work from Ontario to Alberta and British Columbia.

The resultant number of Spiritan parishes, especially in rural areas, has been one of the most significant contributions of the new foundation to the Church in Canada. As well, the



in Papua New Guinea. Fr Gary McCarthy worked in Nigeria, Paddy Boran in Kenya and Michael Brösnan in Malaysia. At present Fr Conor Kennedy continues to do trojan work in Malawi especially with refugees from Mozambique; Fr Pat Doran has been in Papua New Guinea for many years.

Another significant development in this area was the foundation of VICS (Volunteer International Christian Service) in 1971 by Fr Des McGoldrick (a veteran missionary from Kenya).

VICS is one of

the largest Canadian lay-missionary organization. Its volunteers, all qualified Canadian men and women, have numbered, to date, over 400 and all have spent two or more years in Third World Countries. Its present director is Fr Dermot Doran, who spent many years in Nigeria and was very prominent in the air-lifts of food to the starving Igbo people during the Biafran war years.

In fine, the fact that the Province of TransCanada, now an international family of Irish, English, Scottish, Italian, Trinidadian and Canadian-born members, has been able to achieve so much in such a short time - forty years - is due in great measure, to the good graces and wonderful support that the Province of Ireland has given it. †



On the north bank of the Poddle river, stand the New White House Wing and Marian House

presence of so many missionaries, with so many years' experience in Africa, gave a new impetus to mission-animation in English-speaking Canada.

Mission Outreaches

Although always straightened itself for personnel at home, the new foundation did not forget the Congregation's charism of mission *ad extra*. Again the Spiritans from Ireland led the way.

Between 1973-83, Fr Tadg O'Riordan, Patrick O'Donoghue, Louis Cassidy, and Locky Flanagan organized and participated in mission-twinning between the Calgary Diocese and Malawi. In 1980 Fr Bernard Kelly and Colum Corrigan opened up the mission

THE HOLY GHOST FATHERS OF IRELAND

As early as 1842, Father Libermann, the Spiritan Second Founder, looked to Ireland as his first choice of country to supply missionaries to the then English speaking colonies of the British Empire.

Ireland at the time was part of this British Empire and so Irish Spiritans were acceptable in British colonies, whereas Spiritans from France or Germany were not.

As well, Libermann knew that Ireland, with its great missionary tradition and its unbroken loyalty to the Universal Church, was then beginning to have a tremendous impact, through its emigrants and its missionary clergy, on the emerging Catholic Churches of Australia, the United States and Canada.

He was not destined to see his dream come true, although, in 1849, he did receive the first Irish member into the Congregation, Brother William Farrell of Dublin.

Later facts, however, vindicated his intuitions when seven years after his death, the Spiritans made their first foundation in Ireland at Blanchardstown, Co. Dublin in 1859.

The following year they opened their first college in Ireland at Blackrock, near Dublin, and four years later another at Rockwell, just three miles from the famous Rock of Cashel, Tipperary.

A third college, St Mary's Rathmines, was later added in 1890; a fourth, St Michael's, in 1944 and a fifth at Templeogue in 1966. These colleges, today, together, have an enrollment of 4,480 students.

These Spiritan colleges were to become the nurseries not only of many great Spiritan missionaries like Bishop Joseph Shanahan but also of great Irish patriots who played major roles in the emergence of Ireland as a modern independent nation, e.g. Eamonn de Valera, freedom fighter, Prime Minister and later President of Ireland, a past student of Rockwell and a teacher in Blackrock.

For years, the two main centres where young Irish men received their early Spiritan training, were the Novitiate (1933) at Kilshane, Co. Tipperary and the Senior House of Studies (1911) at Kimmage Manor, Dublin. The latter, for many years, was the largest house of formation for religious men in Ireland



Père Jules Leman (1826-1880), founder of the Holy Ghost Province of Ireland

Important as the colleges and houses of formation were in the emergence of the Province of Ireland as the second largest jurisdiction in the Holy Ghost Congregation (in 1955, it had 883 members and 248 aspirants), few Irish Spiritans today would deny that another important factor in this success story was the deep faith and missionary idealism of their native land.

It is only against the background of what might be called the second golden age of missionary activity in Ireland, that the story of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland can be fully understood.

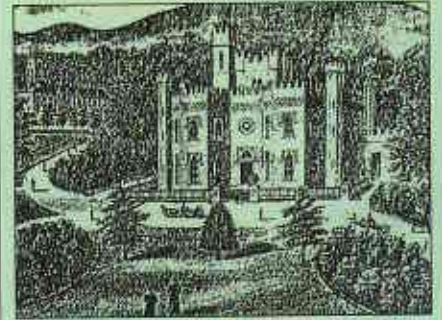
A Missionary People

Ireland may be a small island in the Atlantic Ocean, but the Irish Church was never insular in its spirituality. On the contrary, from the earliest years of St Patrick (432), apostolic zeal combined with Celtic wanderlust to make *peregrinatio*

Christi - missionary wandering for Christ - a prized ideal in Irish spirituality.

The first golden age of this movement came in the 6th century when in "the dark ages" that followed the fall of the Roman Empire, Irish missionaries like Columcille (in Scotland), Gall (in Switzerland) and Columbanus (in Italy) were credited by history as outstanding builders of the New Europe.

BLACKROCK



Blackrock College and Williamstown Castle, 1875

This first golden age of Irish missionary activity came to an abrupt end with the invasions of the Vikings of Scandinavia who virtually ruled and/or terrorized Ireland from 842 up to 1014, the Battle of Clontarf.

Then, just as Ireland was beginning to rebuild as a nation, the Normans, descendants of the same Vikings who had settled in France and later overran England, invaded Ireland in 1169.

The long struggle that ensued between the native Irish and this new invader was worsened in the 16th century when England broke from the Christian unity, became Protestant and tried to impose the Reformation on a staunchly Catholic Irish population.

Since that time there has been little political or religious peace in the country, even after partial independence in 1921, when the country was partitioned into 26 counties in the south (now the Republic of Ireland) and 6 counties in the north (still under British rule).

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AT BLANCHARDSTOWN



"On October 28, 1859, three French Fathers and one lay brother, Order of the Holy Ghost and Immaculate Heart of Mary, came to reside in this Convent, and remained till July 25 the following year, and then removed to Blackrock 1860." This extract from the Parochial Records at Blanchardstown tells simply of the arrival of the first Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland, 7 years after the death of the Venerable Libermann.



It may, then come as a surprise that in spite of all this political and social turmoil, Ireland has been able to maintain its marvelous record of over 1,500 years of peaceful world-wide mission work and even today sees 4,622 priests, sisters, brothers and lay-missionaries working in 90 Third World countries and approximately 7,500 others in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and the U.K.

What may even come as a greater surprise to many in North America is to discover that the Holy Ghost Congregation is one of the largest of the Irish missionary congregations engaged in this work.

The Biafran War

The year 1965 marked a peak year, numerically at least, in this modern Irish missionary movement. That year, Ireland had 6,577 missionaries working in Third World countries and the Holy Ghost Fathers had 715 in Africa - 450 of them in Nigeria and Kenya, but few Spiritans that year could have predicted the immense dislocation of personnel that was imminent.

In 1967 a civil war broke out in Nigeria and for their heroic efforts to airlift food and medical supplies to starving non-combatants, 300 Irish Spiritans after the war, were expelled or refused re-entry to the country.



The whole affair was a glorious but sad ending to a great relationship between the Irish Spiritans and the Nigerian people that went back to early 1920's when Irish missionaries, like Bishop Joseph Shanahan, launched an education programme that did so much to prosper Nigeria and establish the Catholic Church there.

At first sight, the sudden expulsion of 300 priests might have seemed a fatal blow to this young Church but not to Nigeria.



Blackrock Castle today - It was to be the second-chance starting place for the Spiritans in Ireland.

Even during the war, the Spiritans managed to keep the seminaries open and so, after the cease-fire, when the expatriate missionaries had to leave, the native Church in Nigeria and the new Nigerian Spiritan Province came into their own. They not only survived but grew from strength to strength.

Today, the Catholic Church in Nigeria is one of the strongest in Africa while the Nigerian Province of the Holy Ghost Fathers now boasts the highest number of aspirants in the whole Congregation.

The Aftermath Diaspora

But what of the 300 Irish Spiritans of the Biafran diaspora?

After a disconcerting period of temporary assignments, they soon found new challenges in countries as far apart as Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. Nigeria's loss was to be many another country's gain.

Today they are to be found in countries as different from one another as Mexico and Ghana, Canada and Kenya, Pakistan and Australia, Ethiopia and the United States, Malawi and Brazil.

Everywhere they went they brought with them the same high spirits and missionary enthusiasm that had so endeared them to the Nigerian people in the halcyon pre-Biafran War days.

Some 20 came to reinforce the new Province of TransCanada; some joined

the American Provinces (West or East); many, still members of the Irish Province now work in New York, San Francisco or New Orleans inner-city parishes, in education and special ministries to refugees or minority groups like Hispanic or Black communities. Several, as chaplains, serve the elderly and handicapped.

New Approaches to Mission

The year 1965 marked a turning point in more things than numbers of missionaries from Ireland.

Up to 1965, work in "the foreign missions", evangelization ad extra, was considered a quasi-monopoly of religious missionary congregations. Lay involvement was minimal. Development and relief programmes, as organized today, were relatively unknown.

In 1970, Irish Bishops set up an *Irish Mission Union* to facilitate all missionary-sending and mission-aid organizations in the country in coordinating their efforts and making the best use of personnel and resources.

Today, IMV represents 90 Irish mission-sending organizations. Prominent among them are the Holy Ghost Fathers who have 311 missionaries working outside of Ireland. In this day and age, it is a wonderful record!

But the Spiritans of Ireland, as will be seen in the following pages, do not live on past glories. New tasks and challenges are always there; new horizons to be crossed.

In the Millennium Celebrations in Dublin a few years ago, much was made of Viking longships that sailed into





An aerial view of Blackrock College founded by the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1860



PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

Give your blessing, dear Lord, to all your missionaries throughout the world. Help them with your grace of understanding that they may feel for those they serve; with your grace of wisdom that they may understand new cultures; with your grace of courage when difficulties are many; with your grace of hope when the clouds are dark; and with your grace of perseverance when the temptation to quit is strong. Amen

Dublin Bay a 1000 years ago, wrecked the monasteries and so ended the first Golden Age of Irish missionary activity.

Nothing was heard, however, during these celebrations, of the native Irish, who for over 1500 years have sailed out of Dublin Bay (or now fly from the airport) on a very different mission - one of peaceful service to the world!

Long may they continue to do so, the generous young Irish men and women of Ireland who carry on their country's great missionary tradition of *peregrinatio Christi* - travelling the world for Christ and may the Spiritans of Ireland, hopefully, be always there among them in the 21st century! †



Rockwell College founded by the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1864



St Patrick's Day, March 17, a National Holiday celebrated by the Irish everywhere



Ireland's flag dates from the 1800's. Green represents the country's Roman Catholics; orange, the Protestants of Ulster; and white, unity.

IRELAND

Total Area: 27,136 sq. miles (1% area of USA)

Partitioned: Republic of Ireland (Eire) 26 countries, Northern Ireland (Ulster) 6 countries

Population: Eire 3.6 million, N.I. 1.48 million

Religion: Eire 95% Catholic, N.I. 33.3% Catholic

Language: English, Gaelic

International Sport: The Republic of Ireland, is one of the 24 top countries qualifying for the Soccer World Cup (1994)



St Mary's College, Rathmines, founded by the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1890

IRISH MISSIONARIES IN FIRST WORLD COUNTRIES

Continent	(IMU Survey 1989)*				Total
	Priests	Brothers	Sisters	Laity	
Australia	487	33	168	—	688
New Zealand	118	3	105	—	226
U.S.A.	1749	38	1072	1	2860
Canada	119	15	23	41	198
Europe	66	14	120	8	208
U.K.	1590	100	1483	6	3179
Total	4129	203	1971	55	7359

* 1994 statistics were not available: These earlier figures, however, are some indication of the extraordinary number of Irish Missionaries working in countries other than the Third World especially in England and the United States.

IRISH MISSIONARIES IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Continent	(IMU Survey 1994)				Total
	Priests	Sisters	Brothers	Laity	
Africa	935	1352	125	61	2472
Asia-Oceania	465	285	91	51	892
Latin America					
Caribbean	345	118	41	15	629
Middle East	1	15	-	-	16
Total	1746	1880	257	127	4009

THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OF ASSIGNMENT

(IMU Survey 1994)				
Central/South America	St Lucia	Kiribati	Botswana	Rwanda
Argentina	St Vincent	Korea	Burundi	Senegal
Bahamas	Trinidad &	Macau	Congo	Sekyichelles
Belize	Tobago	Malaysia	Cameroon	Sierra Leone
Bolivia	Uruguay	New Caledonia	Djibouti	South Africa
Brazil	Venezuela	Pakistan	Egypt	Sudan
Chile	Virgin Islands	Papua New Guinea	Ethiopia	Swaziland
Colombia	West Indies	Guinea	The Gambia	Tanzania
Ecuador	Asia/Oceania	Philippines	Ghana	Togo
El Salvador	American	Siberia	Ivory Coast	Uganda
Falkland Islands	Samoa	Singapore	Kenya	Zaire
Grenada	Bangladesh	Solomon Islands	Lesotho	Zambia
Guatemala	Cambodia	Sri Lanka	Liberia	Zimbabwe
Haiti	China	Taiwan	Madagascar	Middle East
Jamaica	Fiji Islands	Thailand	Malawi	Israel
Mexico	Guam	Vanuatu	Mauritius	Jordan
Nicaragua	Hong Kong	Africa	Mozambique	Syria
Paraguay	India	Algeria	Niger	West Bank
Peru	Indonesia	Angola	Nigeria	
	Japan	Benin	Reunion	

IRISH MISSIONARIES TODAY

According to the latest statistics published by the Irish Missionary Union (IMU), in 1994, the number of Irish Catholic missionaries working overseas in Third World countries is 3009. They are to be found in 90 countries where the local churches still feel the need of outside support. The majority of Irish missionaries are in Africa where they are working in 36 countries. In the Latin American-Caribbean region, Irish missionaries work in 25 countries; in Asia-Oceania in 25 countries and in the Middle East in four.

These missionaries represent 90 congregations of Irish religious sisters, 34 societies of priests, 10 congregations of religious brothers, 20 Irish dioceses, 2 lay missionary organizations, as well as other lay missionaries who are working abroad with missionary congregations.

Religious sisters represent the largest category of Irish Catholic missionaries overseas (46.8%) compared with priests (43.5%), brothers (6.4%) and lay missionaries (3.16%). Among religious sisters, a high proportion (71.9%) are in Africa. In Asia-Oceania, and in the Latin America-Caribbean region, the number of Irish priests is higher than that of sisters. There are 193 missionaries from other Christian Churches, and 420 volunteers with Irish Development or Relief organizations. If these were added to the total figure of Irish missionaries working in Third World countries in 1994 would be 4,622.

South Africa continues to be the country with the greatest concentration of Irish missionaries, with 715, 18% of the total. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Brazil has the greatest number, with 184 (4.58%). Asia/Oceania has the greatest number in the Philippines, 212 (5.28%).

The above figures do not include the number of Irish priests and religious who belong to overseas provinces of their groups or the number of Irish development workers who go abroad for short periods of less than two years, or the number of Irish priests, religious and lay people working in Europe, (East and West) Scandinavia, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, North America, Australia and New Zealand. There is an increasing number of priests and religious doing pre-evangelization work in some of these countries.

The number of Irish missionaries working in these countries is not easily available but the IMU figures given in 1989 give some indication of their number, 7359 which with those working in Third World Countries would bring the grand total of Irish Missionaries abroad to 11,981.

✻ - From Small Acorn to Mighty Oak

THE HOLY GHOST FATHERS IN IRELAND TODAY

The Spiritan Province of Ireland, with its 590 members (Dec. 1, 1993), is second only to France as the largest jurisdiction in the international missionary Congregation of the Holy Ghost.

According to the latest statistics, 311 Irish Spiritans are stationed overseas in 20 countries, 190 of them work in 14 Third World countries, and some like Angola and Sierra Leone at present are among the most dangerous places in the world for expatriate missionaries. This was brought home recently to the people of Ireland when news of the brutal killing of Fr Felim McAllister in Sierra Leone was released.

Administration and Some Works of the Province

The headquarters of the Province of Ireland are in Temple Park, Dublin. The present Provincial Superior is Fr Brian McLaughlin. His Provincial Council, four in number, is made up of Frs Brendan Hally, First Assistant; Patrick Donovan, Second Assistant; Fr Michael Moore, Provincial Procurator and Anthony Geoghegan, Provincial Councillor.



Fr Brian M. McLaughlin, Spiritan Provincial Superior of Ireland

The largest community in the Province, with 69 members, is Kimmage Manor, Dublin, where a variety of works are centred like the Theologate, a Development Studies Centre and an Institute for Theological and Missionary Formation. Residents at Kimmage include many retired missionaries and seriously ill members of the Province. The Superior of the Kimmage Community is Fr James Shanley.

Saluting Some Outstanding Achievements

Like every large family with a long history, the Province of Ireland has had its share of joys, tragedies and glories. Apart from other difficult times, it has survived a struggle for National Independence and two World Wars.

The Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland,

The Provinciate House, Temple Park, Dublin

apart from their missionary work overseas and their houses of formation, are well-known in education and sport for their five famous colleges, Blackrock, Rockwell, St Mary's, St Michael's and Templeogue.

Less known but equally important are their involvement in relief and development organizations, a Justice and Peace centre like Ardbraccan, options for the poor like at the Fatima Mansions, above all country-wide engagement in parochial ministries and hospital-chaplaincies, North and South of Ireland, as well as extensive youth-ministry work outside of the Spiritan Colleges.

The Heart of the Matter

In the pages to follow, as far as space allows, some of this story will be covered, but a camera can only record externals, never discover the inner springs of the inspiration that makes them possible.

Young men, are given such an opportunity in the *Come and See Programme* now in place in the Province, and what they see so often impresses them that they, too, want to be part of it.

Hopefully, some of this inspiration may shine like a leit-motif through these pages as well.

Solidarity in the Holy Ghost International Congregation, has never been envisaged as the suppressing of gifts and talents of the various nationalities that make up the family, but as the developing them for the benefit of all.

The same might be said of the different communities in



Like this ancient oak tree - the Province of Ireland, year in, year out, spreads new branches worldwide

the Irish Province, where each is proud of its own past achievements, its own way of doing the things that make the Province a Spiritan jurisdiction very much alive.

Key to all this story perhaps, lies in its fidelity to the charisms of its founders, a deep love of the missions and devotion to the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin.

In a recent visit to Ireland, I was privileged to see some of this evidenced in the Rockwell community's morning prayers and their celebration of the Eucharist, the Saturday evening get-togethers at St Michael's, the outstanding Paschal Mystery ceremonies at Kimmage Manor, an ordinary mid-day meal at Templeogue or the Provinciate, a cup of tea at Fatima Mansions, an animated chat with some of the young



Spiritans at Spiritan House, the Novitiate or the Theologate, being present in the beautiful chapel of Blackrock College when the parents and students of a particular grade (year) joined with the college-community for the celebration of the Sunday liturgy, or just being part of the big crowd in the rain the night St Mary's community and its students celebrated the return of the SCT Cup to Rathmines after 25 years.

This same spirit can also be seen in the

attitude of the Irish families whose sons or brothers are Spiritans, and in the students of the colleges, who somehow seem to imbibe this Spiritan idealism and enthusiasm, this same pursuit of excellence and a fierce competitiveness that finds temporary quarrel in a straw (or a football) when honour is at stake, a love of God and of life, a willingness to work and an optimism that believes that in God's good time, the best is yet to come.†

Michael J. Troy



Devotion to Mary, an Irish and Spiritan tradition

The Provincial Council of Ireland with the Provincial Superior, Fr Brian McLaughlin (centre). Back Row (l. to r.) Frs B. Hally, A. Geoghegan, D. Casey. Front Row (l. to r.) Frs P. Donovan, M. Moore.

THE PROVINCE OF IRELAND PERSONNEL 1993

STATIONED IN IRELAND

Ireland	Bishops	Priests	Brothers	Vows	Students	Total
Provincial House		5				5
Ardbraccan		6	2			8
Bawnoge		5				5
Blackrock		36	7			43
Fatima		2	1			3
Greenhills		4				4
Kimmage	1	63	5			69
Theology		5		6		11
Rockwell		24	4			28
St Mary's		14				14
St Michael's		14				14
Templeogue		9				9
Spiritane House		2			4	6
Novitiate		1			4	5
M.I.D.s		53				53
Temp./Sp. Assignments (Ir)		3	1			4
Total	1	246	20	6	8	281

APPOINTED OUTSIDE OF IRELAND

	Bishops	Priests	Brothers	Vows	Students	Total
Angola					8	8
Australia					9	9
Brazil		31	1			32
Canada		2				2
England		19				19
Ethiopia		5	2			7
Gambia			1		15	16
Ghana				1	10	11
Kenya				1	57	58
E.A.P.					1	1
W.A.F.					9	9
Malawi					5	5
Mauritius			1		5	6
Nigeria					4	4
Pakistan					5	5
Papua New Guinea			4		3	7
Rome					3	3
Sierra Leone					5	5
Trinidad					23	23
U.S.A. East (N.Y.)					4	4
U.S.A. East (N.O.)					34	34
U.S.A. West					7	7
U.S.A. Eastern Province					21	21
Zambia					5	5
Temp./Sp. Assignments (Ov)					1	1
Total	3	298	7	3		311

Total Personnel of the Province of Ireland (1993)	Bishops	Priests	Brothers	Vows	Students	Totals
	4	544	27	9	8	592

THE HOLY GHOST FATHERS IN IRISH EDUCATION

One of the greatest contributions of the Irish Holy Ghost Fathers to Ireland and to the missionary countries in which they served, has been youth-ministry through their schools and colleges.

For this tradition, they owe a great debt to men like their founder, Jules Leman, who, against great opposition, advocated this kind of approach to evangelization and even to missionary recruitment.

Youth Today - Leaders Tomorrow

It is said of St Patrick that after he escaped from his slave masters in Ireland, he never wanted to hear again of Ireland or Slieve Mis(ery), where for twelve years he looked after pigs on a mountain side. However, as he himself later put it, the "voice of the young people of Ireland" called him back and it was their appeal that changed his life and theirs.

St Patrick, as a missionary, paid due respect to high-kings and members of the druid establishment, but it was to the young people of Ireland, their idealism, enthusiasm and generosity that he looked to bring about significant changes. In missiology, his methods might not have been seen as the desired short-cut to the conversion of a "pagan" nation, but, within a generation or two, Ireland, thanks to him, had become an "island of saints, scholars and missionaries."

The Early Holy Ghost Colleges

Fr Jules Leman, the founder of the Spiritan Province of Ireland, may not have had visions like St Patrick, but he quickly realized that the key to the future of the Holy Ghost Missionaries in Ireland (and to the country!) was not just a pre-novitiate seminary in Blanchardstown but a college at Blackrock.

His superiors in France may not always have approved, but history has recorded that Jules Leman, through his foundations, Blackrock and Rockwell Colleges, laid the cornerstone not only for great things for the Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland but also for the young men of these colleges, who, in their turn, would, at a critical time of Ireland's history, help build up a nation, or as missionaries go abroad and greatly

benefit other peoples.

Many of the great patriots and churchmen who were to do so much to make Ireland a nation once again and complete the Catholic Church's emancipation from crippling Penal Laws, were educated in Spiritan schools e.g. Eamon de Valera, President of Ireland.



Irish Spiritan Ideals in Education (stained-glass window at Rockwell College) Our Lady, as Mother, with arms outstretched protectingly over all the activities of Spiritan schools

Spiritan Educational Ideals

A recent Mission Statement of Blackrock College (summarized) describes very well this Spiritan ideal on youth-ministry through education: "providing them with an environment in which Faith is nurtured; students develop full potential, personal responsibility is promoted, students are prepared for an appropriate career and made aware of their cultural heritage; parental collaboration is promoted and encouraged."

The Economist (Nov. 21, 1992) asked the question "Why do some schools succeed and others fail?" and found the

answer that on both sides of the Atlantic and in Asia, the best schools are not necessarily those with richest financial backing, best equipment, or lowest student-teacher ratios, but those which give a rounded (not a narrow) education and whose students are highly motivated.

From the beginning the Spiritan colleges inherited this kind approach or ethos from the "French College" Spiritan pioneers who, on arrival in Ireland, added something extra to the prevailing British and Protestant educational system of the time by bringing in some new approaches to education from Europe and bringing back some of the lost older Catholic traditional ideals.

What's in a Name?

The very names and logos of the Spiritan Colleges give an insight into all this: Blackrock - Fides et Robur (Faith and Strength), Rockwell - Constantia Inter Mutanda (Constancy in Change), St Mary's - Fidelitas in Arduis (Fidelity in Difficulties), St Michael's Quis ut Deus (Who is like to God?) and Templeogue, In Virtute Scientia (Knowledge is Strength).

The success of the Holy Ghost Colleges in Ireland can only be understood then, against this background of the Holy Ghost international ideals of integral education whether seen in a bush school in Kenya or at Duquesne University, Pittsburg - the glory of God in young men and women fully alive, fully human, fully informed, striving for excellence for the glory of God. As all the Yearbooks of these Irish colleges show, the Spiritans have and do succeed in doing all this because they care for their students and the students are highly motivated, having fun, working hard, saying their prayers and ready to help in any worthy cause.

It is impossible to cover here all the activities of the five Spiritan colleges in Ireland, but these gleanings from their Yearbooks may show a little of how they manage to maintain their own traditions while yet being open to every new development in modern education and every changing need of their students.



BLACKROCK COLLEGE

Blackrock College was opened by the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1880. This year it celebrates its 134th year of outstanding service to Irish Catholic education. Its founder and first headmaster was the famous Fr Jules Leman. The present Superior of the Blackrock Community (43 Spiritans) and President of the College is Fr Sean Kealy. Headmaster of the Senior School is Fr Cormac O'Brolchain and Headmaster of the Junior School (Willow Park) is Fr Stephen Maher. The total student enrollment is 1755 (1585 day-boys and 170 boarders). The students come from 20 different countries, including Canada.

Academic results at Blackrock may be judged by the fact that in 1993, although no entrance examination screening is in place, 94% of the graduating class gained sufficient points to go on to Third Level studies.

In sports, 'Rock's record is the same. It won the Leinster Senior College Trophy 60 times! Last year it had 23 rugby teams in the school!

But rugby is far from being the only sport. 'Rock boys, year by year, excel in every other kind of sport - athletics, soccer, Gaelic games, cricket, squash.

Nor are the fine arts forgotten. Once famous for its annual Gilbert and Sullivan operas, it now presents musicals like Jesus Christ Superstar and Godspell. But this interest in classical music is not all. 'Rock has no less than 20 rock-bands and 4 of them make the stage at Leman Concert in the National Concert Hall, the annual 'Rock orchestral and choral extravaganza in which 400 students of the college display their talents.



'Rock' Seniors discuss the day's happenings

Blackrock is fortunate to have one of the most beautiful college chapels in Ireland. It is a worthy setting for the many fine liturgies during the year - especially the parent-student family Sunday masses arranged separately for the senior grades and culminating in the annual end-of-the-year Graduation mass.

Blackrock's record in world-concern is less well known, but its students, past and present, have been outstanding in this regard. The College St Vincent de Paul Society has a long record of charity e.g. last year 140 Christmas hampers and \$36,000. were donated to the poor. Rock Fighting Famine (1993) raised \$200,000, its Past Students (UCI) \$100,000 for GOAL. Aid-Link, in its seventh year, in the St Patrick's Day Badge campaign, raised \$80,000 in 1993.

'Rock' has its own license for school-broadcasting and this year had a full

week of programmes interviewing Irish personalities, including the President, on a variety of topics.

Even during the summer, 'Rock' is still open to students - with a very popular International Summer School - 500 students (180 boarders), mostly Spanish.

WILLOW PARK

Willow Park School, Booterstown, south of the city of Dublin, was opened in 1935, when Dr J.C. McQuaid (later Archbishop of Dublin) was President of Blackrock College.

It began as a preparatory junior school to Blackrock College, but apart from other developments, opened an independent elementary school for younger boys in 1985.

The "Willow" Spirit

Although located on the west side of Blackrock College campus, Willow, from the start, always had its own spirit. Much of this must be credited to "Stano" - Fr Robert Stanley, who has spent his whole priestly life in Willow and has been an inspiration not only to generations of Willow boys but to the staff as well.

Some "Willow" Accomplishments

Willow Park parallels the College in its boys not only being highly motivated in studies and sport, but in the true Spiritan generosity to every worthy cause.

Its famous "Willow Wheelers" - the famous cycling club for example, by its "Behind the Bars" campaign, raised \$4000 for Sierra Leone. Willow's work for the Holy Childhood is equalled only by its efforts for Bosnia (\$3000) or for the local St Vincent de Paul Society (\$12,000) or for the Wheel-Chair Association.

Because some of the students are younger, First Holy Communion is a big day at Willow. Last year, 65 of the boys received their First Communion at a special mass organized by their own choir, acolytes, etc.

Sport also plays a big part in the life of Willow. The range is legion. Apart from



Blackrock College Staff (1993) with President Fr Sean Kealy, (centre of front row)



Spirit of Willow Park School - Fr Robert Stanley ("Stano")

Willow Park juniors on their way home

rugby, Willow boys are rated tops, nationally, at their own age-levels in swimming, cross-country and squash.

Each year, Willow's orchestra and drama group produce top class musicals like Brigadoon or HMS Pinafore.

In 1993, 130 members of the Willow Wheelers made history with their Irish 100 Mile Tour and their Tour of France. In 1994, they plan a Tour of Holland.

ROCKWELL COLLEGE

Rockwell College, situated 4 miles from Cashel on the main Dublin-Cork road, was founded by Fr Jules Leman in 1864 and while it is proud of its 130 years record of excellence in academic and sports and the achievements of its past students who have held the highest positions in Irish life in government, church, business and the professions e.g. 400 priests, a president of Ireland and a cardinal) it still continues to adapt itself to the changing needs of its students in a rapidly changing world.

Only three of these adjustments are mentioned here: Rockwell's Agricultural College, co-educational classes and its new sports programme.

Reaching for the Top

Rockwell, 130 years young, still continues to enjoy a wonderful reputation for high standards in its academic, sports, arts, music and social justice

programmes.

Its international student body includes 150 boarders, 350 day-students (260 boys and 90 girls) and 100 resident students in its Agricultural College.

Fr Colum Cunningham is President, Fr Sean Broderick, headmaster of the College and Fr Bernard Frawley director of the Agricultural College.

There are 28 Fathers and Brothers in the Rockwell Spiritan community.

The Agricultural College

Since Rockwell is situated in Tipperary, one of the great agricultural centres of Ireland, it was only proper that the Holy Ghost Fathers should give due attention to "farming" as part of its educational curriculum.

This they have done by opening an Agricultural College which provides a one-year residential course for future farmers and those going on to further third level courses in agriculture.

Courses at the Agricultural College, over and above the prescribed modules in basic agricultural theory and skills that are required for the Irish Government's Teagasc Certificate in Farming, have been developed by Rockwell itself and its Director, Spiritan Bernard Frawley. These latter pay special attention to local crop and grain production, animal husbandry, poultry farming and marketing skills.

The presence of a large model farm at the college itself, greatly facilitates the operation of these courses.

Co-education

For many years, Rockwell was exclusively a boarding school for boys. Today, its day-pupils outnumber the boarders and girls are in integral part of the unique 9 am - 9 pm "day-boarders" from Mondays to Fridays.

Water-Sports

With its extensive grounds (100 acres), Rockwell has always been a powerhouse in every kind of sport, rugby, track and field, hurling, ballooning, horse-riding, etc. It even has its own 9-hole golf course.

However, with its 23-acre lake, it also excels in water-sports. Once renowned for its rowing, it now is best known for its Canoe Club. Last year, Rockwell won the prestigious National Leander Liffey Descent (4-5 miles) for the 16th successive year. In 1993, sixty-one members of the club participated in national



Rockwell Lake - a kayak spring training session





The Rockwell community on the occasion of a visit from the Superior General, Fr Pierre Schouver (centre of front row)

own indoor heated swimming pool, swim teams from Rockwell also compete with the best in Ireland at all levels.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE

In the 1880's, successive archbishops of Dublin were acutely aware of the need for Catholic education in the archdiocese, especially on the south side of the city. St Mary's College, after repeated appeals for help, was opened in Rathmines by the Holy Ghost Fathers. Opening day was September 8, 1890. Thirty four boys were enrolled. The first president of the college was Fr Thomas Fogarty.

During World War 1, when Ireland was cut off from France, the college in 1916, was closed and the buildings were used as a seminary for the young Holy Ghost clerical students who, because of the War, had to do their studies at home in Ireland.

At the end of the War, Archbishop Byrne, local clergy, eminent laymen, including past pupils, pleaded for the re-opening of the college. After ten years, in 1926 the college was re-opened amidst great

rejoicing and it has never looked back since.

Today its student enrolment is 700. Its president is Fr James McNulty; its principal of the senior school Mr Frank Conlon and its principal of the junior school is Fr Sean O'Shaughnessy. Like all the other Irish Spiritan Colleges, while it has its own spirit and tradition of doing things, it, too, has had signal success in all its programmes, academic, musical, performing arts, sport and works of charity at home and overseas.



Over the years the students of St Mary's have brought great honour to their Alma Mater. Nearly 100 have entered the priesthood and religious life. Many are Spiritans e.g. Bernard Kelly and Pat Fitzpatrick of the TransCanada Province and of the 13 Spiritans in the present St Mary's community, one of them, Fr Cyril Byrne, is a past student.

St Mary's has always been remarkable for its "family spirit" and is legitimately

proud of the achievements of past students who have excelled in professional and public life at home and overseas. It is, however, still more proud of the thousands of ordinary St Mary's boys, who over the last 104 years, have, after their graduation, with their wives and children, built up wonderful homes of their own, and living to see their sons and even grandsons maintain their family tradition of "going to St Mary's".

St Mary's celebrated its first centenary in 1990 and while that year was billed as "a pivotal year in St Mary's history", for the present "Boys of St Mary's", 1994 will surely go down, at least for them, as the real "pivotal year".

Anyone privileged to attend the final SCT replay and victory celebrations afterwards will know why. This year, thanks to the indomitable spirit of the old



How St Mary's won the Cup before 20,000 spectators

"Fidelitas in Arduis" - "Grit", the Leinster Senior Cup, the most coveted schools' rugby trophy in Ireland, was brought back to Rathmines and St Mary's. What a memory that was when, after a thrilling victory in the rain over Clongowes (5-3) at Landsdowne Road before 20,000 spectators, the mother of Denis Hickie, the captain, proudly presented the Cup to her son. What a cheer too, that night, as the Cup was presented to the President of the College, Fr James McNulty!



St Mary's Senior Rugby team, Leinster Champions 1994

THE LEINSTER SCHOOLS' SENIOR CUP

With 12 seconds to full time, the flood-lights, for the first time at a School's final, came on. And that proved to be a signal St Mary's were waiting for.

Seconds later, Kelvin McNamara passed to full-back, Denis Hickie, who, gloriously using his great speed, split the Clongowes defence and went in for a fine try. Richard Osmond, the outhalf, made the convert good and that was it.

The last time St Mary's won the Cup was 25 years ago in 1969. No wonder it was a day to remember for the St Mary's fans.

So the glory of the 1994 rugby season, for the fourth time in all, belongs to St Mary's. However, the all time record belongs to Blackrock College who won the Cup 60 times. Not a bad record together for two Spiritan Colleges!

ST MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

St Michael's College, Ailesbury Road, Dublin, was opened by the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1944, and while it, like the four other Spiritan Colleges, excels in academics and sport, etc., it has its own spirit and its record of proud achievements. This year it celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

The present student enrolment is 830 - in the Senior School 560, in the Junior School 270. The President of the College is Fr Patrick Holohan, the Principal of the Senior School is Fr William Bradley. In the Junior School, Fr L. McHugh, is Director; Mr J. Kelly, Principal; and Fr A Little, Dean. The Spiritan community is made up of 13 members.

Its 1993 College Annual, a record of the year's achievements, was dedicated to John Crowley, a popular member of the staff who died during the year. The Senior SCT team, which had toured Canada (and defeated the Alberta Selects 44-0) was defeated by Clongowes by the narrowest of margins (6-5). Many of the players were on the team that won the

JCT Cup in 1991. This year, the under 13's team beat Blackrock in the final (15-8)!

St. Michael's, during the Easter holidays, hosted two teams from St Michael's College, Victoria, B.C. Canada and in typical Irish spring rain and mud, both games were fun.

In addition to the regular sports, St Michael's has an archery club, field hockey and bowling teams and its community activities include a model United Nations, European Youth Parliament, School Bank, Computer and Video Clubs. Mr Noel Turley's cycling club sponsored a ride to Brittas Bay that collected \$4,000. for the missions.

St Michael's play last year was Shakespeare's Othello, a very successful production.

The St Michael's Juniors are no less active. Their swimathon raised \$4,000 for Somalia. Their school play, The Blue Bird, raised \$4,000. for the Alzheimer's of Ireland Society.

St Michael's, last year, had 27 First Communions and 58 Confirmations. The Confirmations were administered by Bishop Donal Murray CSSp.



St Michael's Senior School Staff 1993 (6th left, front row Fr P. Holohan, President)



Templeogue College founded by the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1966

TEMPLEOGUE COLLEGE

In 1963, the Holy Ghost Fathers were invited by the then Archbishop of Dublin, John Charles McQuaid, to open a third Catholic high school in the city, this time in the Templeogue area.

The school was officially opened on September 6, 1966. It had a humble beginning, just 42 students and a staff of three - the principal, Fr John Horgan, and Fr Noel O'Meara (both Spiritans) and a lay teacher, Mr John McCormack.

Today, Templeogue is a fully operational high school with its own Board of Management, a strong Parents' Association, a well supported Past Students' Union and a present student enrolment of 600 boys. The Superior of the College is Fr Patrick Devine. There are 9 in the Templeogue community and Mr Ray Kennedy is Principal of the College.

The Templeogue School Band

Like all Spiritan-associated schools, Templeogue College is highly competitive in every field, whether it is in sport, under games-masters like Fr Noel

Redmond, Young Scientist exhibitions, raising funds for local charities or overseas relief and development projects, public speaking, cycling or even gardening. In overseas charities, for example, at the recent 5th annual 24-hour fastathon, \$4000 was raised for the school's favorite charity - the war-torn Spiritan mission of Angola. However, as most will agree, it is perhaps the College Concert Band that first brought the most glory to Templeogue.

The Band was first organized by Fr Noel O'Meara. Its founding musical director was Colonel Jim Doherty of Ireland's famous "Number One Army Band" and the Irish Army School of Music. Under his leadership, the band won so much praise for its indoor and outdoor concerts that it was only a matter of time before it was on world-tours to Canada, the United States, Finland, Germany and Holland.

Templeogue is also well known for the number of its small rock bands, its choir (which, last year, broadcast an

R.T.E. Sunday Mass), its choral singers, its operatic and dramatic societies' performances and above all its annual now famous *Horgan Concert*.

The College Swim Team

The Templeogue Swim Club is much more than just an ordinary school swim team, it is now recognized nationally as a major force in Irish swimming. With its own superb swimming facilities, it is already producing not only present Irish-record holders but many young swimmers well on their way to be future international and Olympian stars.

The Spiritan Connection

In the *College Annual* (Yearbook) of 1991, the Silver Jubilee Year of the school, the Principal, Mr Ray Kennedy, paid this tribute to the Holy Ghost Fathers: "Templeogue College has grown strong and tall, over the last 25 years. This further involvement of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Irish education has been justified. The Holy Ghost link has been the cornerstone of our success." †



Templeogue College Band at practice

