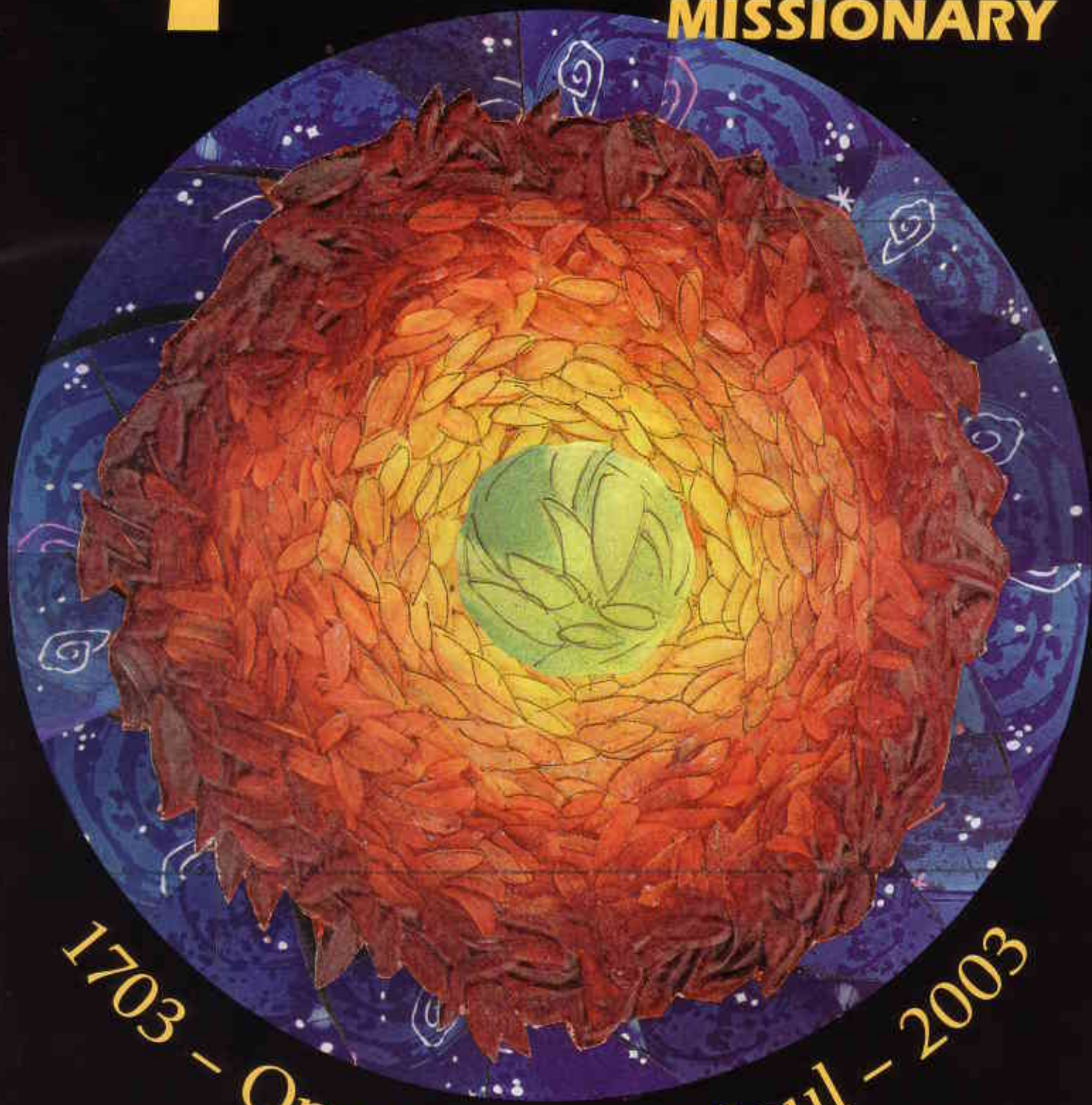


November 2002 / \$2.50

Spiritana **NEWS**

MISSIONARY



1703 – One Heart One Soul – 2003

Volume 26, No. 4
November 2002

Spiritan Missionary News
is produced by
The Congregation of the Holy Ghost
TransCanada Province

Editors: Fr. Gerald FitzGerald
Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick

Design & Layout: Tim Faller Design Inc.

A Year of the Spirit

December 1, 2002, the first Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of a new year in the calendar of the Church and January 1, 2003 is the start of a new year in the secular calendar. In the weeks before these two occasions we have an opportunity to look back and to look forward. The Roman god of the new year Janus, after whom January is named, had one face looking back to the year gone by, the other looking forward to the year ahead.

Looking back on 2002, we Spiritans belonging to the TransCanada group have much to be grateful for. We began our Spiritan Year on February 2nd, the 150th anniversary of the death of Francis Libermann, with major celebrations centered around Masses of Thanksgiving in Toronto and Edmonton. And on April 12th, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Libermann, Spiritans gathered to listen to presentations on his life and spirituality and to eat a celebratory meal together.

The highlight of the year for us and for the whole Church in Canada was the wonderful two weeks when our country hosted hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from around the globe, culminating with our Holy Father celebrating Mass in a Toronto park on July 28th for 800,000 World Youth Day pilgrims. During the course of their pilgrimage Spiritan-led groups from many African countries, from Europe, Asia and North America joined young people from Spiritan parishes in Ontario. Hundreds of enquiring young men and women visited the Spiritan booth in the Vocations Hall. Religion went public on Toronto's streets, in its subways, streetcars and buses as hundreds of thousands gathered, walked, sang and prayed their pilgrim way through the city. "Did you ever see so many young people together in this city?" an elderly streetcar passenger asked the driver. "No" she answered. "And isn't it great?"

We look back on the year gone by in gratitude to God for the early success of our new initiative to recruit prospective members to our Spiritan family and the opening of des Places Centre, a residence for them, in Scarborough, Ontario on Tuesday September 3rd. We thank God also for the continued support our ordained members and our lay Spiritans, as well as our colleagues in VICS who work as volunteers in overseas missionary countries, receive from you, our friends and benefactors. Your prayers and friendship as well as your moral and financial support are essential for all our endeavours.

Looking forward to the year ahead, Pentecost Sunday will be a highlight for us. On that day in early June we celebrate our 300th birthday. We will mark this happy event with gatherings of Spiritans and our friends in central and western Canada.

As this 300th anniversary calendar measures out another year in your life, we invite you to walk with us into the fourth century of the Spiritan movement. The flame lit by Poullart des Places, and blown into a full fire by the bellows that was Libermann in the 1840s is now ablaze in more countries and among more peoples than ever before.

May 2003 be for all of us a year of the Spirit with whom we cooperate in renewing the face of the earth.

The Editors

The Blue Planet,
with assorted life
in the heavens above
and the seas below,
is set against an
all-surrounding darkness.

Deep inside its breast
a nest of many-coloured leaves
shelters triune dove-like life.

One recalls the words
of Jesuit poet

Gerard Manley Hopkins:

"... the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast
and with ah! bright wings."

Front Cover: Artwork for "Pentecost" skylight
by Sarah Hall, Epiphany of Our Lord Church,
Toronto

Back Cover: Photo by Sarah Hall

Spiritan Missionary News is published four times a year by the Spiritans, The Congregation of the Holy Ghost, 121 Victoria Park Ave. Toronto, ON M4E 3S2. Tel: (416) 698-2003. Fax: 698-1884. E-mail: mission@spiritans.com. All correspondence and changes of address should be sent to this address. Canadian Publications Mail Registration No. 09612. Postage paid at Toronto, ON. Printed by Mediavision International, Toronto, Ontario. One year subscription: \$10.00.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

Visit our Web site at
www.spiritans.com

Keep listening to the calls of the Spirit

To Fr. Pierre Schouver Superior General of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit



Photo © Bill Wittman

I take this opportunity of sending you my heartfelt greetings while you prepare the celebrations which will take place in your religious family in 2003 A.D. I am happy to see the spirit in which you want to live these anniversaries by affirming your charisma and your missionary commitments.

On Pentecost Sunday, you will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of your Congregation, founded on May 27th, 1703 by a young deacon aged 24, Claude-Francois Poullart des Places. It began with a seminary, dedicated to the Holy Spirit and with the Virgin Mary as guide, open to poor students whom your founder wished to work in the most neglected parishes of the Kingdom of France. Very soon, the young Congregation developed a missionary dimension with the sending of the first priest to Quebec, followed shortly by others who went to Senegal, Guyane and the south of present-day Vietnam.

Almost a century and a half later, in 1848, Fr. Francois Libermann, born of a Jewish family in Alsace and son of a rabbi, converted to the Christian faith at the age of 24 and became the second founder of the Congregation by uniting it to the Congregation of the Holy Heart of Mary which he had founded in 1841, primarily for missionary work on the continent of Africa.

While thanking God for the work accomplished by your Congregation over the last three centuries, particularly in the evangelisation of Africa, the West Indies and South America, I invite you to remain faithful to the dual inheritance you have received from your founders: a concern for the poor and all people socially deprived and neglected, and a missionary commitment to announcing the Good News of Christ to all people, especially to those who have not yet received the message of the Gospel. This double undertaking, has often led you to start your missionary works by founding a school, so as to instruct the young and give them access to knowledge, but above all, to receive an authentic education which would make each of them aware of their personal dignity, their rights and their duties. Keep listening to the calls of the Spirit in order to help the poor of our day and to let them know the Good News which awaits them, as Jesus himself did. (cf. Lk 4:18)

The current crisis in vocations to the priesthood in some countries affects you in a special way because you have put special emphasis on vocations in your missionary work, setting up junior seminaries in the young Churches for which you were responsible. Announcing the Gospel to the men and women of our time calls for faithful witness, inspired by the Spirit of holiness, who will be signs for their brothers and sisters by the strength of their words and, above all, by the authenticity of their lives.

Dear Brothers in Christ, I am not forgetting that the full name of your Congregation is the "Congregation of the Holy Spirit, under the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary". I ask Mary, the Mother of the Lord and Queen of missionaries, to intercede for the many members of your Congregation, spread throughout the whole world in the service of the Gospel. May the Blessed Virgin always be an example and a spiritual model for you! May her "yes" given to the Lord be the rule of your own lives! To all of you I am happy to impart a special apostolic blessing.

From the Vatican,

Joannes Paulus II

January 2003

It has been Canada's destiny to play a crucial role in Spiritan History. In 1732 it became the recipient of the first Spiritan missionary to serve abroad. And in 1972 the first community of lay persons to be part of the Spiritan family was established in Toronto.

(Henry Koren, Spiritan)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2002 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		New Year's Day 1 Mary, Mother of God World Day of Peace Spiritan Martyrs, Congo	St. Basil and St. Gregory 2 9	First Friday 3 10	4 11 St Elizabeth Seton
Epiphany of the Lord 12	Blessed Andre Bessette 13	Eastern Catholic / Orthodox Christmas 14	15	16	17	18
Baptism of the Lord 19	Martin Luther King Day (US) 20	21	22	23	St. Anthony, Abbot 24	25
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 26	27	St. Agnes 28	29	30	St. Francis de Sales 31	Conversion of St. Paul
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 26	St. Angela Merici 27	St. Thomas Aquinas 28	29	30	St. John Bosco 31	31

One Heart One Soul

Spiritans  300 years

February 2003



For over sixty years
I have daily offered the
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,
raised my hands
in absolution
over more repentant sinners
than I could ever count,
poured the waters of baptism
over the heads of babies
without number,
preached the gospel
in Ireland, England, Africa,
the United States and Canada,
anointed the foreheads of those
who were within minutes
of meeting God face to face...
If I had another life to live —
I'd Do It Again.

(Fr. Ted Colleton, Spiritan)