

SCJ NEWS

a newsletter of the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart

December 2013

In this issue...

Honorary SCJ, Fr. Joseph Gole, dies at 97, p. 3

SHST first stop on road to the missions, p. 4

The devastating effects of war, p. 6



Sacred Heart (Sacré-Coeur) Church in Bafoussam, Cameroon, from start to finish

Dedication of church closes year of celebrations

With a liturgy at the Cathedral of Nkongsamba on November 30, 2012, the Cameroon Province began a year of celebration, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the SCJ presence in the country.

The special year closed on November 30, 2013, with the blessing of the newly built Sacred Heart Church in Bafoussam.

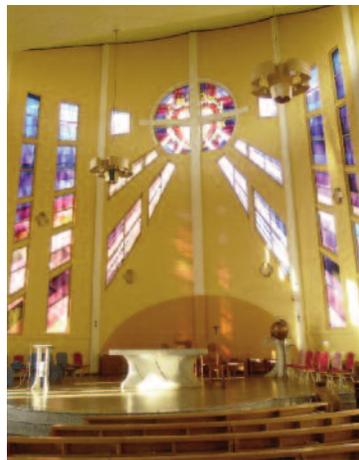
"It was fantastic! I'd go back in a minute," said Fr. Byron Haaland, SCJ, upon his return from Cameroon. "The ceremony was five hours long and I loved it!"

Fr. Byron, Fr. Jan de Jong, SCJ and Fr. Charles Brown, SCJ, represented the U.S. Province at the blessing of the church, a church built with significant financial support from American benefactors.

The history of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in Cameroon, as well as the

Church itself, "is a history of great fidelity but also a history filled with trials," said Fr. Leopold Mfouakouet, SCJ, provincial superior. Twice, wars in Europe seriously disrupted the mission effort. Later, missionaries died in the country's war for independence.

"It is because of the efforts of those who served before me, and the many sacrifices of our missionaries, that the Province of Cameroon has come to be what it is today," said Fr. Léopold when he was elected as the province's first indigenous leader. "This is a legacy, a sacred heritage to be preserved."



TOP: Sacred Heart Church under construction and as it appears today. ABOVE: The inside of the church.

A boat on a hill

According to its architect, Escher Gerard, the newly blessed Sacred Heart Church, built in the form of a boat, references two things: the vessel that brought the first German missionaries to Cameroon, and the bark (barque or boat) of Peter, the first fisherman, pillar of the church.

"It is a rather unique view: a cargo bark built on top of a hill, hundreds of kilometers from the coast," wrote Fr. John van den Hengel, SCJ, who represented the General Curia.

The site for the church was given to



Frater Sharmin (Indian SCJ studying in Cameroon), Fr. John van den Hengel (general administration), Fr. Mpiti Joshua of South Africa, Fr. Byron Haaland, Frater Anthony (Indian SCJ who shared several of these photos as well as text from the celebration), and Fr. Charles Brown.

the Priests of the Sacred Heart by a tribal chief; it was originally intended as the "Chefferie," or the seat of the chief of Bafoussam. Mont St. Jean, the SCJ mission in Bafoussam, and the church, now symbolically dominate the town from atop the hill.

However, the hill's past is not forgotten. The tribal chief's gift was conditioned. He insisted that community keep intact an ancient tree where traditional ceremonies took place before the advent of Christianity. The tree remains in a small park surrounded by a hedge.



Six bishops took part in the celebrations.

Full weekend of events

The day before the ceremonies at the church, visiting SCJs from around the world took part in the blessing of Jonas House. Operated by the group JED (translated from the French as "Youth at Risk"), the organization was founded by SCJ missionary Fr. Bernard Groux. Now managed by a group of French volunteers in coordination with the SCJs, the organization works with hundreds of young people, offering them job training and literacy skills. It also has a group that assists youth with disabilities.

Another part of the weekend's celebrations was a panel discussion on the impact of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in Cameroon. Among the three speakers was Fr. Joseph Kuate, SCJ, whose doctoral dissertation (*Les Dehoniennes au Cameroun*) focused on an intense period of evangelization during which the Catholic Church developed a strong base in the country. Many of the over 2,000 people who attended the concluding cente-



Carrying in a replica of the church

nary ceremonies were first or second generation Catholics.

Joining these lay people at the celebrations was just about the entire Cameroon Province, visitors from many of the other provinces, regions and districts of the congregation, as well as local clergy, religious sisters who have worked with the SCJs for many years, and SIX bishops.

The blessing of the church was an intense celebration, filled with symbolism of both the Church and of the local African culture. Each ritual was accompanied by prayer, song and dance.

At the end, Fr. Leopold expressed his thanks and his hope that this celebration would be a sign of the vibrancy of the second century of the SCJ presence in Cameroon.

The final word at the celebration was from the archbishop of Douala. He thanked the congregation for its work in helping to build the church in Cameroon. Most of the people at the celebration could recount the moment in which their families became Christian, and often, it was because of the influence of an SCJ.

A seminarian's view

"The excitement of the closing of the centenary was visible at the Scolasticate of Ngoya months before the event," wrote Frater Anthony, an Indian SCJ seminarian at Ngoya. "The arrival of delegations from different provinces gave an even more joyous

atmosphere in the preparation of the event.

"On Thursday, November 27, we took the road to Bafoussam, for the festivities. After the long journey between Ngoya and Bafoussam we had a soccer game between the Priests of the Sacred Heart and the youth of the parish of Sacred Heart. It ended with a score of 5 to 3 for the SCJs!"

The seminarians attended the panel discussion on the impact of the SCJs in Cameroon and after, "we took part in the Holy Hour, led by Fr. Christopher Dikoundou Eitel, SCJ, the novice master. It was a moment of reflection calling us to entrust all of our activities to the Lord."

And then, "The party continued!" wrote Frater Anthony. There was an evening of skits, poems, dances and music. "The atmosphere was electric and opened with the singing of the centenary hymn, sung by all members of the Cameroon Province."

The next day, the church blessing and consecration began at 10 a.m. with Bishop Diedonné Watio of the Diocese of Bafoussam, presiding. "Rich in color and ceremony, despite the length [as noted: five hours] it was not possible to become impatient because it was so well prepared, very beautiful..."

"We scholastics experienced the event in all its dimensions... the joy of working for the kingdom of God and the well-being of the province. This was the feeling everyone had when we left Bafoussam for the long trip back to Ngoya."



Fr. Jan de Jong and Fr. Byron Haaland talk with one of the religious sisters from Cameroon.



Fr. Gole at the front of the classroom years ago. The honorary SCJ taught at Sacred Heart School of Theology and at Marquette University.

Fr. Gole, honorary SCJ, dies at 97

Honorary SCJ Fr. Joseph Gole died December 8 in Milwaukee, Wis. His health had been deteriorating significantly in recent days.

Born in Dubrovnik, Slovenia, Fr. Gole grew up in the town of Zagorica. He began his studies for the priesthood at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. While there, his education was interrupted by the German occupation of France during World War II. He completed his seminary training in Yugoslavia.

He was ordained on July 4, 1943, for the Diocese of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 1945 he left for Austria to continue his studies but was detained by German troops and spent time in a concentration camp.

After the war he earned his doctorate from the Austrian University in Graz and soon after began teaching International Law.

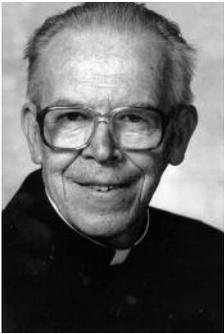
Recruited by both Fr. Richard Keifer, then provincial superior of the US Province, and Fr. Edward O'Donnell, SJ, of Marquette University, he came to the United States in 1950 to teach at both SHST and MU. At SHST

he taught Philosophy, Metaphysics, Homiletics and Scripture. At Marquette, he taught in the law school.

Fr. Gole was fluent in seven languages, but when he first arrived in the United States, English was not among them. On his 40th anniversary at SHST he looked back on that first year and laughed. At his first teacher review he was told by a school administrator that "Everything is going well, you are a fine teacher and you know your top-

The SCJ NEWS is published by the U.S. Province of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJs). Articles, photos and suggestions are always welcome. Editorial offices are located at P.O. Box 289, Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289 (414) 427-4266. Email: marygorski@sbcglobal.net Mary Gorski, editor. Postage prepaid.





Fr. Gole

ics... yet, unfortunately, no one can understand what you are saying!"

In Europe classes could be taught in a variety of languages. He was surprised to learn that in the United

States he would be expected to teach in English. "Even my Latin class – it had to be taught in English!"

Frustrated, he initially wanted to quit teaching. A Slovenian parish in Milwaukee was looking for a priest and he could have easily gone there. "But I was trained to be a teacher and that is what I came to do," he said, though for years he did assist at the Slovenian parish.

Fr. Gole got out his English/German dictionary and began the difficult process of translating all of his classes. Self-taught, he was able to give his first homily in English at a Christmas Mass only a few months after his arrival in Milwaukee.

Over the years he had offers to take positions at other universities around the country but he said that "the SCJs have always been so good to me." Many of the founders of the U.S. Province had roots in Germany, similar to his own. "I felt at home here."

After 25 years at SHST Fr. Gole retired from his teaching responsibilities and was awarded the rank of Professor Emeritus. However, even in retirement he continued as a tutor for many years. He also served as chaplain to two Knights of Columbus councils (the KCs named a scholarship in his honor) and with the Boy Scouts.

In 1975 the Priests of the Sacred Heart named him an honorary member of the community. It was his 25th anniversary at SHST.

"I always felt that I was a part of the community," he said.



Fr. Albert Suryadi, Fr. Daniel Antônio de Carvalho Ribeiro and Fr. Ricardo José da Rocha Teixeira just completed ESL in preparation for the missions

Mission preparations begin at SHST

The road to Asia begins at Sacred Heart School of Theology! Well, at least for some members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Twenty-five years ago an international group of SCJs came to Hales Corners to prepare for the congregation's first mission in the Philippines. Together they honed their English skills in SHST's ESL program and outlined their plans for the mission.

Once again, SHST is a springboard to a new venture in Asia. Fr. Ricardo José da Rocha Teixeira from Portugal, Fr. Daniel Antônio de Carvalho Ribeiro of the Central Brazilian Province and Fr. Albert Suryadi of Indonesia spent the past semester in ESL before they will join with the rest of their mission group in Manila in January.

For Fr. Ricardo, coming to SHST was a return to familiar ground. He first studied in the ESL program in 2001 and then again in 2004.

English studies gave Frs. Daniel and Albert their first opportunity for

a visit to the United States.

"Coming here was a real gift for me," said Fr. Daniel. "I had no sense of what our congregation was like here; I knew nothing of this mission, this school."

"For me, it is a first step in becoming a missionary," said Fr. Albert. "I learned about living with people from other countries, and what it is like to be in another culture. These are skills that I need to be a missionary."

Vocations nurtured in parish, school and on TV!

Fr. Albert and Fr. Ricardo each felt a call to the priesthood and religious life when they were very young. The Priests of the Sacred Heart served at Fr. Albert's home parish. "An SCJ baptized me," he said. "I've known the community my whole life."

It was a presentation by an SCJ priest who spoke at Fr. Ricardo's school – a public school in Portugal — which inspired him. "I was only 10 years old but I was fascinated by the

idea of going out to the world and speaking of Jesus, going beyond what was familiar to me."

He entered the minor seminary as soon as he was eligible.

And for Fr. Daniel "it was the television that was important to my vocation," he said laughing. The SCJs in Brazil are well known in mass media. "I watched a program with an SCJ priest answering many of the questions that I had been thinking about. At the end of the program there was a number to contact if I wanted to learn about Priests of the Sacred Heart."

Fr. Daniel was 19 when he called the number. At the other end was a voice that said, "Hi! Come and get to know us."

"And I did. Within a month, I knew that this is where I belong, with the SCJs," he said.

"We are SCJs first"

It is one thing to start a vocational journey, but not all who begin formation find their vocation with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Why did these men continue, eventually professing vows and pursuing ordination with the SCJs?

"The sense of welcoming," said Fr. Ricardo. "You notice it when you go to our houses, the way SCJs receive others is special and it is something that is then in our ministry outside of our communities. We help people be welcoming to others, to be close to others."

Echoing what Fr. Ricardo said, Fr. Daniel added that "fraternity, conviviality — this is a part of our spirituality. Also, mercy, the Dehonian charism of mercy. This is very important to me."

"When I look at an SCJ community I don't see different kinds of people," said Fr. Albert. "I don't see young and old, different nationalities. I just see SCJs. We are SCJs first and this is why I am an SCJ before anything else."

Common threads

Although they are from different cultures, and from different countries, Frs. Albert, Daniel and Ricardo share many similarities — even the year of their birth.

"1980!" They all say when asked their age. "We were all born in 1980," said Fr. Albert. "It must have been a good year."

Aside from a common age, all three were involved in youth ministry prior to accepting a call to the missions. A month after he was ordained Fr. Ricardo was assigned to vocation ministry; he was also a teacher. "Seeds that you plant when a person is a child begin to grow as they get older," he said. "Even here, at Sacred Heart, I get email or a Facebook message from someone I



Fr. Ricardo

may have spoken to two years ago: 'Do you remember me? You gave a presentation at my school and I have been thinking...' The seed has begun to grow and the person starts to think about what he wants to do with his life."

Ordained just two years (his second anniversary of ordination was December 11), Fr. Daniel was assigned to a parish prior to entering ESL.

He had hoped to start his English studies earlier in the summer but World Youth Day activities consumed much of his time through July. Fr. Daniel worked with young people preparing for the event — which included hosting 30 youth from Australia at his parish — and then chaperoned over 100 young people to Rio de Janeiro to see Pope Francis.

"I worked in different areas of the parish," he said. "But most important to me was ministry with the young; youth ministry is vital."

As with Fr. Daniel, Fr. Albert's first assignment after ordination was in parochial ministry. "My primary focus was in youth ministry too," he



Fr. Albert

said of his parish assignment. During formation Fr. Albert worked at a K-12 school operated by the Indonesian Province.

Saying "yes"

All three noted that by saying "yes" to the missions they were following a desire for "something more."

"I am at an age when life is going well, no problems. I loved my ministry, my community; I love being a priest," said Fr. Ricardo. "But, I want more. Since my ordination I have wanted to go to the missions... expanding the SCJ presence in Asia is important because so much of the world's population is there; China alone has one-fifth of humankind. It is important that the Dehonian charism be in a place that has such growing influence in the world."

"At my ordination I said that

'Now my life isn't for me but for the Church; I live for more than myself,'" said Fr. Daniel. "It isn't important where I am; my life is for the Church so I will go where there are needs in the Church."

"I want to have the opportunity to grow and be changed by another culture," added Fr. Albert,

returning the idea of experiences as "gifts." "By going to a different country I have the opportunity to learn new languages, new ways of living, new cultures... living with my brothers from other countries I get to learn more about our congregation. It is a challenge and a gift, a very valuable gift."

After completing their ESL studies Frs. Albert, Daniel and Ricardo will have vacation time before joining the rest of the missionary group in Manila (the full group includes other ESL alums: Fr. Eduardo Agüero, a member of the original Philippine group, and Fr. Agustinus Guntoro, formerly a missionary in India).

The full group of seven SCJs will meet in person for the first time on January 25.



Fr. Daniel

“How can one preach a loving God to women who have been raped, to malnourished children, to a community which has become unjustly disabled and destroyed because of human greed and selfishness?”

-Fr. Gauthier Buyidi, SCJ

Photo from UNHCR

Bringing the message of God's love to a war-ravaged people

Fr. Gauthier Buyidi, an SCJ of the Congolese Province, joined the Dehon Formation Community this year to begin graduate studies in political science. Here, he reflects on how seeing the devastating affects of war on so many people compelled him to find ways to help heal the broken social structures of his country.

Today my history makes sense only through the citation I chose for my priestly ordination: “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me” (Rm 10:1). What I share below echoes this quotation.

I grew up in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) in the family of my brother. His faith and involvement in parish activities was a family obligation for all those who lived in his house. I become an active member of several youth movements within my parish.

As a teenager, my dream was to become an engineer. I mocked my peers who wanted to become priests. I

was always teasing them and making fun of them. But one day when I was 18, I was curious so I decided to go to their meeting. Nothing extraordinary happened there except that everybody was astonished to see me. But since that day my dream, my plan for my future, changed. I started to view my commitment to the youth movement as the goal of and plan for my life.

My parish priest was a diocesan priest and he asked me to join the diocese but I said I would like to enter a religious community. He gave me a book about different orders working in DR Congo. I was touched by the name “Priests of the Sacred Heart.” I told him naively that I would like to become a “Priest of the Sacred Heart,” to be a “Sacred Heart.” He looked at me and he went on scanning the book in silence. Then suddenly he told me,

“Gauthier, you will not survive in that congregation, it's a bad choice, look for another one.” I asked him why he said so. “It is because soon (1997) the Priests of Sacred Heart are going to celebrate 100 years of their presence in Congo but they have only three ordained priests. No, young brother, look for another congregation.” But I told him that I had made up my mind to be a “Sacred Heart.” It is there that my story as a Priest of Sacred Heart began. *[Editor's note: since 1997 the number of ordained SCJ priests has grown exponentially; the province is now led by a Congolese SCJ, Fr. Zénon Sendeke.]*

In 1994, Fr. Yan Kierpiek, a Polish SCJ, welcomed me and agreed to help me discern my vocation. When I finished high school he presented me to the formation director to take the admission test to be accepted to the preparatory year. Unfortunately, I failed the test. However — I don't know what happened — the formation director made an exception. He admitted me with a big warning: “You did not get the required grade but in spite of that you are admitted. However, if you don't show a better performance in the first semester, we will send you back home”.

I was shaking and unsure of my future when I started my formation in Kisangani in 1997.

In August 1998, it was impossible to go to Cameroun for the international novitiate because of the war; Kisangani was taken by a militia group. As a result I stayed six years in Kisangani, completing my novitiate and philosophy studies there. I then went to South Africa for theology. On December 30, 2007, I was ordained a priest in my home parish in

Kinshasa in front of my friends and family.

After the ordination I worked as an assistant parish priest in Mambasa, a very remote village in the African rainforest, in the Diocese of Wamba



Fr. Gauthier

(2007-2010) and then as director of postulants in Kisangani (2010-2012).

During these years of ministry I was touched by the affect of poverty on the life of the people. The war, the lack of social and political stability which claimed more than 7 million lives in two decades, also significantly destroyed the basic social and economic structure of the regions where I ministered. Mambasa, our mission, is the only place with a viable school, as well as a small hospital, between the city of Kisangani and Bunia, a distance 750 kilometers (about 465 miles).

In these conditions of extreme poverty and degradation of the human life I started to ask myself what the meaning of the Gospel was for these people. How can one preach a loving God to women who have been raped, to malnourished children, to a community which has become unjustly disabled and destroyed because of human greed and selfishness? It was very hard to tell people "God is love." I had a frustrating experience. Sometimes I had to read all the readings at a Mass because no one in the village was able to read. Several times I baptized children without them having completed their catechism because I believed it was unfair for them not to be baptized just because they didn't know the catechism instructions well. It was not their responsibility. God does not care about catechism I told those who criticized me.

These frustrations and my interior revolt helped me to think about my responsibility as an SCJ and as a member of the Congolese Province. Rereading the texts of Fr. Dehon, our founder, the province wants to renew our social commitment as SCJs in the Congolese context. The plan is to get involved in social transformation of the country through education and consciousness-raising by opening a center for social justice, human rights, democracy and peace-building in order to respond to the Dehonian mission of restoring the Reign of the

Heart of Jesus in individuals and in society.

That is why I am presently here in the United States. I am involved in the Social Justice and Community Development Master's Program at Loyola University, Chicago, a program which fits in very well with my hopes. My goal is to obtain a doctorate in political science because of the political nature of the challenges that undermine the social order necessary for peace, development and human flourishing.

I am grateful to the US Province for the opportunity I have to come and study in this country. More importantly, I am grateful to the confreres of this province for their Dehonian cordiality. Through their hospitality and *ecce venio*, I feel the beauty of belonging in this great, multicultural and multiracial family of Dehonians.

SCJ leadership prepares for 2015

Referred to as the "Senate of the Congregation" the major superiors of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, representing over 40 countries on five continents, met in Rome in November to begin plans for the 2015 general chapter. It is at the general chapter where the next superior general and council is elected and directions are set for the congregation for years to come.

To prepare for the week's discussions, Fr. Bartolomeo Sorge – a noted Jesuit theologian, lecturer, writer, and socio-political scientist — gave a presentation on religious life in the Church and world.

What the Church is experiencing now, said Fr. Sorge, is nothing less than a moment of crisis. But instead of



Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, US provincial, talks with Fr. Carlos Henrique Caamanño of Venezuela

defining "crisis" as a cause for fear and apprehension, Fr. Bartolomeo said that it is an opportunity to revisit the Church itself, including religious congregations within it and how their charisms speak to the world today.

"We are seeing the Industrial Revolution ending before our eyes," he said. "We are in a transition to a new civilization."

He spoke of the Second Vatican Council and how it called the Church to define itself in an historical context.

Pope Francis, said Fr. Sorge, brings the Church back to the spirit of Vatican II and Pope John XXIII. "It is time again to open the windows to the winds of change," he said.

He added that it is by example that Pope Francis embraces this new era. His simplicity, his obvious love for the poor, speak volumes. "Seeing him walk into the crowd and give a poor, sick person a hug does more than the written word. That is the Gospel in action. That is what people see. That is

what people remember," said Fr. Bartolomeo.

Photos from each day of the meeting are in an album titled "Major Superiors Meeting 2013" at:

www.generalate.smugmug.com

Daily reports from the meeting are on the general website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mybltt3>



The meeting hall in Rome.

SCJ NEWS

60th anniversary in Rome

On December 7 the General Curia and International College in Rome celebrated the 60th anniversary of the building that houses both communities, as well as the general administration of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, took part in the celebration.

Built at the top of a hill less than



The Generalate in 1954, shortly after it had been completed.

two miles from the Vatican (St. Peter's is visible from the windows of the upper floors), the outside of the building looks similar to the photo below. However, the land which surrounds it is vastly different now, filled with stores, restaurants, car dealerships, traffic, traffic and more traffic!

Typhoon Haiyan

"It is with great sadness that we have witnessed once again the force and the devastation of extreme weather," wrote Fr. José Ornelas Carvalho, superior general. "Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippine coast. With storm surges of up to six meters [almost 20 feet] and winds exceeding 200 km per hour [approximately 125 mph], the death toll reached many thousands."

The SCJs were lucky — no member of the community was harmed by the storm. The families of Filipino SCJs saw their homes damaged but no significant injuries were reported.

The general curia gave \$20,000 to relief efforts; the US Province matched the donation.

"We hope that with international assistance the Philippine people will soon be able to rebuild homes and replace the crops that were ruined by the very high winds. We will support them also with our prayers," added Fr. Ornelas.



The formation community with a "larger-than-life" SCJ logo during the general visitation in September.

Join us!

The Dehon Formation House in Chicago is home to an international, intergenerational, multi-program community of professed SCJs and those discerning religious life with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The community not only houses the initial formation programs (candidacy, novitiate, philosophy and theology) of the province but also welcomes SCJs in sabbatical or graduate programs.

Go to the following link to read the stories of this year's community: <http://tinyurl.com/mjv9zd4>

Do you know of someone who may be discerning a vocation to religious life? Contact our vocation office to learn about visits to the formation community: 800-609-5559.

Vol. 34, No. 6
December 2013

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PriestsoftheSacredHeart

Vocations: www.scjvocation.org

Visit us on the web: www.sacredheartusa.org

Change service requested

Priests of the Sacred Heart
P.O. Box 289
Hales Corners, WI 53130-0289

SCJ NEWS

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hales Corners, WI
Permit No. 71