

CORRESPONDENCE

of saint Michael Garicoïts

(fourth period 1849-1855)

THE EXPANSION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

Since October of 1849 to 1855 St Michael's correspondence show him as a man of action involved in all his various works. He continued to give counsel to souls drawn to his light.

The Daughters of the Cross continue to be his concern. He shows them the holiness of their calling, especially those in parishes without priests and without Mass. He encourages them not to look back, he tries to form them in love for each other, love of the Cross, detachment from everything, even their families. He exhorts them to frequent Communion, to trustful and filial relations with God and his representatives through acts of frequent offerings. Frequently in these letters one gleans references to places and residences, travel by train, which indicates that he was responsible for a growing Society¹. He refers to various events and situations in which he is involved. Some are quite ordinary; the management of the Mother House, the organization of missions and preachers, appeals to postulants. After 10 long years of suspense the Bishop of Bayonne shows support for the Society and the Founder. However everything depends on his approval; the work of the missions, admission of postulants, the integration of Betharram and Holy Cross, the opening of schools at Orthez, Asson, residences at Pau and Sarrance, and later Oloron and South America.

St Michael follows with care all these developments. He is the example to all. Without neglecting the material growth, he watches even more carefully the spirit through the boundless-ness of the law of love and obedience. He continually exhorts² and gives directives to Superiors³.

His activity suddenly is exhausted. He suffers a stroke and is obliged to convalesce at the Chateau de Balliencourt at Valenciennes⁴ which was the family home of Fr Arthur de Balliencourt scj (1825-1864) assistant chaplain at Igon.

63. - To Mgr Lacroix, bishop of Bayonne.

Before Nov 1849

Monsignor

Despite his being some way from ordination, I venture to ask permission for M X⁵ to be admitted into your family at Betharram; this is not made out of self-interest but based solely on the dictates of my conscience.

I have not forgotten, I never shall forget those heartfelt words that you, as Bishop, were kind enough to say to me, long ago that I should contact you; ' We need vocations. You do not pray enough...Then pray that God sends them to us.'

This desire you expressed several times with the same enthusiasm to see your projects grow. I recall particularly on one occasion at Bayonne when you said: 'I would give permission for all candidates who wished to be part of the various works of Betharram. They would do their studies in theology there and I would shorten it to their needs.' Not long ago, Your Excellency, was kind enough to express at Betharram the same sentiments with the same generosity to all those who wished to be part of this family.

Here is a plan, Monsignor, which I had, it is true, previously thought about, as a means of fostering vocations; especially in the early formation of candidates in the spirit of the Society, which is a spirit of humility, charity, obedience and self-sacrifice. (**Const of the Soc. art 2**)

However I had no call to propose it to your Excellency then, and I had in fact lost sight of it entirely, since the start of M Menjoulet's⁶ enterprise.

When I saw this same plan initiated and effected by your Excellency I could not but regard it as providential; I have been ready to put my plan into effect in God's good time.

The occasion has not been slow in coming; some applicants have come forward; I am presenting them to your Excellency only after examining their true intentions in the course of a re-treat and after having made appropriate enquiries. Already M Serres and Mazaris have been received with your approval.

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64. - To Mgr Lacroix, bishop of Bayonne.

Monsignor

In accord with your Excellency's intentions, M Hayet⁷ has been to Mauleon⁸, and returned this week. He is urgently awaiting the dossier⁹ that will enable him to clear things with the Rector of the Academy (i.e. for approval to open a school.) They want him to include the letter that you kindly promised the authorities in Mauleon.

As soon as the cases of Fr Barbe¹⁰ and M. Espagnol¹¹ and those of the Brothers¹² were packed I accompanied them to Orthez¹³ where we are today. Fr Barbe has not been able to see the Mayor, but we have learnt that he is delighted in seeing us establish the school.

It appears that the Archpriest¹⁴ wants free schooling for the poor. This, as a rule presents difficulties. To make it known publicly that schooling will be given without payment for those who cannot afford to pay, will prove rather embarrassing since we can only live by this means. As well as this, might not the well-off families from whom we would obtain some assistance feel humiliated to see their children confused with the children of the poorer classes? It would perhaps be better to set a modest charge, without giving the impression of our preference for the poor? We shall abide by whatever decision your Excellency makes¹⁵, and hope that we can implement it without delay because the parents are anxious to see the school open¹⁶.

M Curutchet¹⁷ a priest living at Tardets has made a retreat at Betharram. He has shown among other things, good dispositions and a desire to work and live as a good priest and so make up for the time he has, up to the present, unfortunately lost. He asks me to let your Excellency know that from now on he has no other wish but to do whatever you wish. It seems to me that it would be a good thing if he could go elsewhere.

With most profound respect I have the honour to be your very humble and obedient servant

Garicoits Priest

Orthez 23 Nov 1849

65. - To Mgr Lacroix, bishop of Bayonne.

Monsignor

I wish to present to your Excellency for the forthcoming ordinations: M Mazeris¹⁸, Hayet¹⁹, and Sarthy²⁰, all three are sub-deacons. I venture to hope that their admission will not pose any difficulties. I should be grateful if you would let me know your intentions as regards the examination and retreat²¹, that must precede the ordination. In this matter as in all others I will follow implicitly the lines of conduct directed by your Excellency.

M Beudou²², a tonsured cleric would also profit by being ordained. The references in my power to give will be favourable, but his health is poor, to what extent I am not sure. I believe your Excellency ought to speak to M Manaudas²³ who knows him better than I do.

We have just heard that all the items relating to the boarding school at Mauleon should have been delivered to Pau last night. M Hayet has gone today to despatch them to the Rector.

I have the honour to be with much respect your very obedient and humble servant.

Garicoits Priest

Betharram 6 Dec 1849

66. - To Mgr Lacroix, bishop of Bayonne.

[1850]

Monsignor

I have just received a letter from M Guimon²⁴ who is giving a mission at Sault de Navailles in the canton of Orthez²⁵. This dear confrere has informed me of your Excellency's intentions for him and is anxious for me to agree.

Monsignor, it is both a duty and a pleasure to receive the candidate that you wish to send me. We will neglect nothing in planting and watering²⁶ in order to call down God's blessings on those in our care; we join our wishes and prayers with those of the fervent and numerous community at Igon that all your heartfelt wishes, as a good shepherd, are realised.

I have the honour to be your very humble and obedient servant

Garicoits, Prt

67. - To a priest of the Sacred Heart²⁷.

[1850.]

.....
 You had no liability for these particular events which have made you so very angry. You should have contented yourself with speaking to your superiors and not broadcast your feelings to your associates.

You should understand that every enterprise confided to us by God and his ministers should be begun and carried out as if it carried the promise of eternal life. Is it not, in fact true that every task offers us a real promise of eternal life whatever it is and however long it lasts?

Its earthly duration (if only you had reflected on this) should in no way be put at risk, especially in the way you are inclined to see it; preoccupations, etc.. The length of time is hidden from us; the outcome of the task is in God's hands. We should surrender ourselves to God, not put his works at risk, but treat them with respect, do our best at our own task and not concern ourselves with others. Then whatever God wills will happen...

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68. - To M^{lle} Thérèse Cassaigne²⁸.

[1850.]

My Dear Sister

At last I have got round to answering the letter that you kindly wrote to me. First I will say that I have no doubt at all that God wants you to do everything in your power to become a Daughter of the Cross. Certainly all the signs point to your having a real vocation, as soon as your health no longer presents an obstacle.

All the best then!

Your humble servant

Garicoits Ptr

Please give your uncle my kind regards.

69. - To Sr St Jerome, DC.

Betharram 23 Jan 1850

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister,

Ah! What a character! there you are at last enjoying the fulfillment of your vocation. By the sheer force of your desires and requests, you have now arrived at a very place of residence that is particularly right for you. By a providence specially and extraordinarily in your favour, I believe you are where God wants you to be, not because you are where you would like to be, but because your health required that you should be less harassed²⁹.

You have been happy up to now; make the most of your good fortune by doing in a smooth and tranquil way the duties of your little circle, in taking more care of your health than you did before and most of all, making progress in your life of faith, of boundless trust and of love. But do not revert to your old habit of hiding yourself under the excuse of behaving like an angel. When the good God wishes to hide you more thoroughly, he will lead you into a state of greater solitude. Ask for no more and desire no more than what God wishes for you. Limit and dispose yourself to accept whatever he wishes; then submit yourself to whatever he will bring about, neither more nor less, and I promise you that you will be happy yourself and contribute to the happiness of others no less helpfully than before, and with less harm, far less harm.

As you have now a little more time to concern yourself with Betharram, I am going to speak about this poor solitude. Our poor community has 50 members, with as many priests as brothers. It seems to me that everyone is full of good intentions; but the friction of living together is very painful. It is taking so long and is so difficult and the one who is trying to make it work at this operation has neither the necessary knowledge nor the capability; it is devastating chaos which nevertheless passes for organization in his hands. I must however confess that

order is actually his abiding passion. But how can it be achieved? So you see, my dear Sister St Jerome, how we are fixed. Have you the charity to help me with your advice;

1 How can the brothers do the laundry properly? How can they dry the clothes and keep them clean and suitable for the poor ones that we are? In short how can they organise a good laundry?

2 How do we organise the kitchen?

3 How do we organise the cellar

4 How do we organise the Linen Room?(The linen and clothing thank God have run smoothly through the system already in operation). We have been obliged to put the Brothers in charge of the laundry this year. The Sisters at Igon had been kind enough to help us a little to start it off.

5 What can you tell us about steam cleaning?

Oh! fancy having to ask these things by letter! If only I could speak to you, but I shall have to be patient. Do tell me simply and frankly what you think might work and I shall be most grateful.

What I particularly ask is for you to pray for us so that Our Lord's Spirit may be the spirit in each one of us always. See how important this is at this time when we are working to found a school and a house at Orthez. Already M Barbe from Lestelle is living there with a companion and 2 Brothers. They spend their time surrounded by one hundred and fifty children.

Allow me to conclude this letter

1 - without rereading it

2 - by asking for your prayers always.

Kind regards and thanks

Garicoits Ptr

70. - To Marthe³⁰, Assistant of the DC

Betharram 25 Jan 1850

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister

Just a few days and we shall have the pleasure of seeing you at Igon. That is why I am mentioning a few things today, while keeping the rest to tell you at length at Betharram.

Now I will limit myself to ask rightly or wrongly for some ideas from Sister St Jerome concerning matters³¹ in which she has experience as she clearly understands them. It would be very helpful if you could bring her reply. If you have the opportunity to see her, could you speak to her about what I am asking so that

you might make a few notes about it for future reference. Like her you will understand these matters better than I do.

I shall always remain your most humble servant

Garicoits Prt

PS Pray and ask others to pray for Betharram

71. - To a Daughter of the the Cross

Betharram 26 Jan 1850

My Dear Sister

This is very good. I love to see the Daughters of the Cross thankful, joyful, and happy in their vocation. There are so many reasons for this. But you have special ones. I congratulate you in recognising them and I beg you never to lose sight of them, but on the contrary to discover in them new motives for trust in God for loving Him and for courage in his holy service.

The only advice that I can give to your unfortunate sister³², in this state for so long and almost always, is for her to stay with something reasonable and give up her wandering around like a vagrant. For a long time I have realised it is useless giving her direct advice. She is so obstinate. How many times your brother and I have tried to make her settle down! But it was futile.

For the rest, be assured I have no doubt that she will be saved. She is somewhat eccentric, and consequently not fully responsible; perhaps through her disappointments she will be in the end cured of the obsessions and extravagances that she found normal in the past. Let us pray and not be upset.

Are the unfortunate brothers really dead, Donatian from yellow fever, and Lezin³³ from cholera? You would think so even after such a sketchy letter; but time will tell. The fact is that it would be a blessing for both, by all appearances because realising that they had a fatal illness, they would not fail to fulfil their spiritual duties. I am sure of it. They had too much faith to neglect it in the face of death. Let us pray for them in any case and put them in the hands of divine providence. I have already celebrated 10 masses for them.

I send my kind regards to all your dear companions, especially Sister Jeanne-Sophie³⁴. You can tell her that I have seen her sister at Ustaritz recently and that she is well and doing very well.

All yours in OLJC

Garicoits.

PS My condolences to M Viguer³⁵. Let your conscience be at peace over things that belong to your past. etc... May the peace of the Lord be always with you...

72. - To Monsignor Lacroix

[February 1850.]

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I am sending to your Excellency the note that M Perguilhem sent to me; he has been presiding at the missions in Montaut, Bordes and Angais.³⁶ I constantly refer to your Excellency's advice, so clear and wise as it is. I shall always abide by it. I sincerely deplore what has been allowed to be said outside that line of conduct that our rules lay down so clearly and constantly. I will make every effort to see that it is adhered to in future.

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73. - To a Daughter of the the Cross

Igon 1 Feb 1850

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister

Divine Providence tomorrow presents us with a beautiful occasion for correcting our faults, in proposing that we should reflect on the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord.

Yes, that is what you should put in practice. You only have to work at creating in yourself a pure heart and mind³⁷ using the grace that Our Good Lord offers you tomorrow without worrying about anything else, not even what sins you confess. Confessing your sins will not bring about conversion; but having a pure heart and an upright spirit will help you to avoid all your faults, will correct misguided remarks, sinful thoughts, all your failings, and will leave you as a good, obedient, humble, and charitable Daughter of the Cross who will carry out the good pleasure of God and her superiors, her companions and friends. Amen

All your in JC

Garicoits, Ptr

74. - To a Daughter of the the Cross

Feb 2 1850

LSNSJC

Here is a double feast, the Purification and the Presentation; but also there are two very important lessons there for us to put into practice: to make ourselves pure and to present ourselves³⁸. We should observe these two duties at one and

the same time till our dying day, they are to live and die purifying ourselves of our daily faults whilst presenting ourselves in homage to Mary, through Mary to Jesus, and through Jesus to Our heavenly Father.³⁹ Think about this often, love it, do it. Amen.

To change the subject: I come to the letter that you have so kindly sent me. I will say firstly that I am again delighted with what you tell me of your unity and happiness. Is there anything sweeter than this mutual feeling of harmony in goodness and in striving together to promote this goodness. How good it is! How delightful it is... Ps 133, says the Holy Spirit Himself.⁴⁰ Always persevere in living in this happy spirit.

As for your past sins, you must not dwell on them; do as you said you would do. The same applies for your temptations, at least you can say that you have not given in to anything serious.

I am leaving for Igon; they are expecting me there.⁴¹

Best wishes to you, your dear superiors and companions.

Pray for us

Garicoits, Ptr

75. - To a Daughter of the the Cross

Feb 11 1850

LSNSJC

My dear Sister

I am going to be brief..... The worry and feelings that have been caused by the letter which you mention; you are quite right not to mention it to your confessor. You will content yourself by treating this sort of things with the contempt they deserve, without putting yourself to the trouble of mentioning them. Continue to make your communions and perform all your duties, in spite of your feelings, in complete peace of mind, appreciating more and more your vocation. I assure you that you are not on the wrong road. You will be happy in the next life and in this one in so far as one can be in this vale of tears. Write back to me as I so much desire your happiness...Do not keep slipping back in your mind to the Deceiver and Murderer, from whom all these old memories and dark stories keep coming to haunt you, which only serves to severely upset you...

Your dear Sisters are well, I saw them yesterday at Igon. Joseph⁴² is at Pau, a strong young man but not very fervent. Your little brother has made his First Communion; all is still well with him.

I am writing to you in haste; with kind regards to yourself and your dear Sisters, your devoted servant

G., P.

76. - To Sr St Jerome DC

Betharram 10 April 1850

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister

I would be extremely pleased if you could spend a few months at Lestelle. I have even spoken to Sr Marthe about this idea, then I am sure order could be established at poor Betharram from the cellar to the hayloft. But I see no chance of this happening. It looks to all intents and purposes as if I shall have to manage with God's help, but without your presence to get myself out of this predicament. I know I can count on your kindness and be sure I shall not forget you and will continue to pray for you.

At the same time I shall make strenuous efforts to be at Betharram more in order to devote myself body and soul with God's help and the good advice that I know you will never refuse me, to establishing and maintaining both the material and spiritual order in our little community. For this purpose I am going to detach myself little by little from the important work at Igon, installing there a priest full of piety and goodness, M Lassus, the former Parish Priest of Coaraze. From next week I am going to begin his preparation and initiate him in the direction of the Sisters at Igon. I shall pass on all my experience. I hope that between now and the holidays I shall bring matters to the point when I can signify my complete withdrawal. I most particularly commend this enterprise to your prayers in a special way. After that who knows what course I shall be directed to take? I shall be busy with the Bishop's and my superior's requests and so carry out the will of God. Pray, Dear Sister, that God will bless my efforts.

Be assured of my kind regards and thanks, etc..

Your devoted servant.

Garicoits, Ptr

PS I will put into effect the spirit of order found in Sr Maria's letter as soon as possible. I ask you to picture in your mind our community of 50, equal numbers of priests and brothers, and when you can spare the time to walk in spirit amongst us in your moments of leisure and ask yourself what you would do to create and to keep order; order in the cellar, in the linen room, etc... and write down your ideas and send them to me. Most certainly your advice and your thoughts will not be in vain; and be sure I shall use them.

All yours in JC

77. - To a Daughter of the the Cross

Betharram 28 April 1850

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister

Really, it is too bad! Fancy my not having replied to that much appreciated letter!

Here am I caught up in my work, day after day; the more I am determined to reply, the more my answer gets postponed! I do rely fortunately on your forbearance, which you poor and dear sisters have in abundance...I shall get to the point as I am going to give you a good telling off.

You have, my dear Sister, a great need to be completely shaken up to the marrow of your bones, to be renewed from head to toe. This is why. You have fed yourself far too long during your time of spiritual growth on a diet of milk, despite all the efforts of Divine Providence in trying to make you change, you still have too much of this childish irresponsibility that you brought with you to the congregation through your behaviour, a need for that piety associated with the milk of Mount Tabor; this prevents you from taking, experiencing, and digesting properly the solid food that the good Lord gives in abundance to his beloved Daughters of the Cross. I am speaking of the food that Our Lord holds in such high regard, loves so much and which he constantly made use of during his life on earth which consists in never doing his own will but doing always the will of God whatever it was, including very unpleasant things and dealing with very unpleasant people while knowing how to respect them and love them to the point of sacrificing himself for them for the sole reason that they were allowed by Divine Providence.

There is, my dear Sister, the divine life to which you are called and in which you have not made all the progress which is expected. I have told you why; because you have not applied yourself with enough courage and constancy to complete detachment. Do you understand? Total. Only attaching yourself to God's good pleasure, to sacrifice all, every day till death, to the good pleasure of God, not always without pain and tears, but in a disposition of loving all kinds of privations and sacrifices which are pleasing to God. My God, dear Sister, hated himself in that way, as he also did his parents and his friends for the good pleasure of God, did he not? Is not this truly good? Can you love yourself, your parents and your friends more? Oh my dear Sister with what ardour I would wish you to have this spirit of Our Lord, an abundance of this spirit.⁴³

It seems that you have made some progress; but something is missing; and it is this missing factor that prevents you from being happy in this dear Congregation, and even keeping you from feeling spiritual consolations from the very hardships it causes you to suffer. Give yourself to this spirit of Our Lord as I have just advised. You will see that you will be happy in whatever the good God wishes you to do; and even more, nothing will happen that God has not foreseen and wished for you. Amen.

There, enough preaching. It is time to say something of your family. Your dear sisters see me frequently as usual; there is no real harm in them; in fact there

is much that is right about them, they are all good people... Like you they have stayed too long on mother's milk and have every need of solid food. They are not so fortunate in being at so good a school as yourself, but God will provide. Generally speaking I must congratulate all of you. Make use of this circumstance to acquire the precious habit of detachment and of uniting yourself with God, more and more to become better and better. The two Josephs could do better; the oldest has made his Easter duties. I think we shall have to wait for the other one.

Let us be as good as we can be, then the good God will work his miracles of conversion.

A thousand regards to your good superior and companions. Pray for me.

All yours in the LJC.

Garicoits, Ptr

78. - To Sr St Sabinien, DC

Betharram 28 April 1850

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister,

In everything you have said there is nothing which should surprise you. In this life temptations are inevitable, we should always be ready to fight, and be on the look out, watching and praying. It is hard, my dear Sister, but necessary even, for without combat, and consequently without temptation there is no crown of victory. One reason why God lets us be tempted is to enable us to merit a rich reward. Temptations serve to make us know in a better way our own wretchedness and our need to always have recourse to God and to attach ourselves to Him alone, to place in Him alone all our hopes. And then our temptations will be not only useful for our own sakes but also serve to help others. They teach us to be sympathetic; they will make us more suitable to teach others to conquer them from the experience that we have had.

The best doctor is one who has often suffered himself. Now what remedies can you use against temptations?

1 Not to be discouraged when they appear. On the contrary trust in God; he will not allow us to be tempted beyond our strength; distrust yourself and have confidence in God.

2 Use short and fervent prayers.

3 Redouble your efforts in the practice of your rule, especially in obedience in fulfilling your duties, despising and taking no notice of the temptations and disappointments that we experience, etc. Let us try it.

4 Above all, let us not omit our normal communions. In fact in circumstances of extraordinary temptations such as yours, ask to receive more frequently than usual.

Use these measures as well as you can and I promise you that far from their causing you trouble you will draw much profit from your temptations. Hold them in horror, despise them, and do not be troubled by them. I assure you of this. Do not think that I have forgotten you, I know perfectly well the one I am speaking to, I have understood you very well. I see your complete state of soul to the marrow of your bones. Keep then to what I have said and act on it with fresh courage always as a Daughter of the Cross with an ever more ardent love for the persons and objects of the Congregation in the same measure as the temptations increase.

Be brave then! Always go forward! God wishes this! Always go ahead! Turn your back on temptations. Amen

With kind regards to yourself and to all your companions in Tarbes.

Your humble and devoted servant to the dear congregation of the Daughters of the Cross.

Garicoits

79. - To a Daughter of the Cross

Betharram 10 July 1850

LSNSJC

My dear Sister

A whole month has passed since I received your kind letter and I was certainly very pleased to receive it. Several times I was thinking of replying, but something occurred to stop me. Today I will not let one of our pupils who is going on holiday leave without sending these few lines to you. I hope that my delay in replying will not prevent you writing again and giving me the opportunity to help you in the future. I am always delighted to do so; I should like to be sure that you know I really mean it.

I hope you realise that I am always pleased to receive your letters. You want me to say what I think about this feeling of helplessness. I believe that this is something beyond your willpower, that you ought not worry about at all, treat it with contempt. Although I do not blame you for accusing yourself of these things, I would much prefer that you did not speak of it. For the rest follow this as long as you have your spiritual director, follow the course that brings you most peace of mind.

You are quite right in having a high opinion of your work. It is a real apostolate, which demands great devotion. Be an unassuming and generous Daughter of the Cross with zeal in planting and watering what you have received from God's hands and then leave the growing of the plant to the good Lord.

Concerning your question of loving your parents more than you love God, you can and ought to show them the same respect and affection that you have always shown; and especially do not fail to let them know how your vocation has made you happy etc. and whatever happiness you have gained from your vocation

etc. Nothing could be more appropriate to dispose your dear parents, so good in so many ways, to want to share a little of your happiness.

Goodbye, my dear Sister, all yours in JCOL. Kind regards to all your companions.

Garicoits

80. - To Jean-Pierre Vignolle⁴⁴, PP of Aydie

Igon 14 July 1850

My Dear confrere and friend

I am hurrying to answer your letter. I am pleased to see that you are soon coming to be one of us. In fact I had even thought of speaking to Monsignor about you on his journey through Betharram. He arrived at 9.00 in the morning and he left the same day after giving confirmation and minor orders.⁴⁵ I do not doubt that he will promptly give you permission to join us here. Be assured that we shall be delighted to welcome you.

I, in particular, have been looking forward to this for a long time. Seeing that you are quite decided, I now venture to say that for a long time I have believed for a long time that the good God wishes you to be a good Betharramite.⁴⁶ See you soon...

All yours in JC

Garicoits, Ptr

81. - To a Daughter of the Cross

21 July 1850

LS N-S J-C

Dear Sister,

I am hastening to reply to the letter that you have written to me. I would like first of all to say that you are too shy, too sensitive and self-conscious. I would like to see you enjoying a much more relaxed attitude not only with me and with your superiors, but also with all the Sisters whoever they are. The good Lord has given you good qualities and with the grace of God, it will be so easy for you to be a good child, a good Daughter of the Cross, always humble, kind, gracious and charming to everyone, not harbouring feelings experienced after conflicts with others by broadcasting them, instead of condemning and hiding them as corrupt feelings. There is no point in speaking about them. Al-though there may be

nothing serious in what has happened, al-though they may not be a matter for confession, these kinds of remarks do harm. Take care to avoid them.

So for once be much more at ease especially with your su-periors for all your needs, in conformity with the rule, express them quite simply even after a sharp reprimand from them. If she acts in an unpleasant manner towards you, if she asks you to do something which you believe is out of order, even bad for herself, be patient. Be always gracious and entirely obedient in what is evidently not a sin or impossible for you, and I promise you that you will gain immense graces for heaven and that you will gain the hundredfold in this world. I do not say that you will reach this stage immediately, start to do it, be firm, and never tire of going ahead.

You can be at peace over the past. You have not been perfect, but you have not committed any serious faults. If you do what I say, you will commit less and less of them each day, and you will finish by being what you would like to be and what God wants you to be. Be completely at ease, quite unpretentious, quite unassuming, obedient, loving and happy; because not wanting anything other than the good pleasure of God, you will have al-ways as in your precious vocation, the happiness of knowing Him and the power to do this since it is certain that what your superiors wish and judge, God wishes and judges for you at least if it is not a sin or impossible for you. So even when you are in doubt do what she asks or at least do not fail to put it into effect, and then be at peace before God and before men. You will have done the will of God, you obtained his greater glory and the greater good of your neighbour. Understand this and do it. Is this not the fullness of happiness? Take care not to ignore it.

Forgive me for these stains; please do not copy this letter sent to you as it is. If you have any problems, do not hesitate to write. I shall always be ready to speak to you with an open mind and by God's grace do whatever I can to help you.

All yours in JC

82. - To M Bertrand Sanstort⁴⁷, Curate of Soumoulou

Betharram 23 Sept 1850

Dear Father

Although I would like to help you, the commitments already undertaken prevent me from being able to do so. The only suggestion I can give is to open the Mission in your parish next Sun-day the 28th following the Jubilee⁴⁸ and on Monday evening Fr Vignau and another missionary will continue it.

Would you please arrange for the two missionaries to be picked up on Monday, but not before.

I am your humble and devoted servant

Garicoits

83. - To Jean- Dominique Miegerville of Garaison

Igon 25 Sept 1850

My Dear Friend,

We are about to conclude the retreat at Igon and I take these free moments to say that from my point of view, I think MM⁴⁹ should only contemplate changing their position if the work at Garaison has no longer any chance of success. In conscience I could not think otherwise. To give up would require a miracle. Who suggested that MM should give up his first idea? Was it because it was impossible to follow? In my opinion to do otherwise would be equally impossible. Does not this seem clear to him? Pass on my advice; be sure that I will do anything I can to help.

All yours in JC

Garicoits.

84. - To a Daughter of the Cross

19 Sept 1850

My Dear Sister

I am not too busy to write to you, as you see; but beyond the things I have to do, I am reassured to know how you are. I can only say; continue to keep yourself at peace and in the very wise decision you have taken in responding to certain worries; 'They are not my business.'

Do not be frightened any longer with being open with your superiors.

Go ahead then! By asking God frequently for a pure heart and an upright spirit for yourself and for us.

When you write to your dear parents, you will write to them as if nothing was....⁵⁰ But when you tell them of things you have said to me, you need in a manner of speaking to sugar the pill.

All yours in JC

Garicoits

85. - To a Friend

13 Dec 1850

.....The sad loss that we have just felt has upset me very much. I only find consolation in the sure hope that such a full life will be already rewarded; which has not stopped me and will not stop me from praying and asking others to pray for such a true friend whose memory will never be forgotten by those like myself who have known him so intimately.

Let us hope as we continue to pray for his eternal repose that he will obtain for us from the Lord the grace to live by his example with that boundless charity in the confines of our own lives Amen⁵¹.

Be again assured, my dear friend, of my condolences to your-self and your dear parents.

All yours in the Lord.

Garicoits

86. - To M Pierre Barbé Superior of the college of Moncade⁵²

Igon 18 Jan 1852

My Dear Friend

Here are the answers and formal stated wishes of His Lordship in reply to my request for his opinion on the various matters I have asked about.

1 Make a plan and give an estimate for the new classrooms, the floor spaces and staircases leading to them etc. have the plan and estimates drawn up by the town architect⁵³. I have to send them to him as soon as I get them from you.

2 No one should hear any women's confessions in the chapel at Moncade under pain of interdict. You will confine yourself to hearing only men's.

3 The teachers will not hear confessions in the town, nor in the hospice. Let them take care of the children; that is all they can reasonably be expected to do. Fr Perguilhem alone, when he is in the house will lend himself to these sorts of services, when able and willing.

4 Tell Fr Mazaris in particular that he will no longer be able to hear confessions at the hospice, that his responsibilities will not allow him to pass Sunday mornings

at the hospice etc... in fact you all have enough to do in the school. Tell Fr Mazaris especially that if he has some spare moments, he can devise a course of solid Christian instruction and that as and when he composes each one, he should send it to me so that I can make any revisions. You can say the same to Fr Serres and others who are composing courses.

5 Monsignor has promised to write to M Plante⁵⁴ as soon as he returns from his travels. Let me know about his return to Orthez without delay, and send me the plan and the estimate for the toilets. Record in an exercise book⁵⁵ both the instructions I gave you at the time of my visit to Orthez and those of the Bishop which I am giving you today; I have been sorry for a long time that I have not seen these carried out to the letter. They are dictated first and foremost by common sense and by a clear understanding of the situation. Let no one fail to do these things, let them understand the nature of the task, and that confining themselves to accomplish it, they are practicing boundless charity. The greater glory of God is here.

When you do not keep to these boundaries, you inevitably make blunders. You may call them pious ones, if you wish, but always blunders, causing a reversal of standards. All these things create a fine spectacle which makes some apostles seem like children.

I embrace you, with all my heart, all the Priests and Brothers. May the Spirit of Our Lord be your guide... always! Try to send me my umbrella and a dozen knives to Pau as soon as possible, those that Fr Chirou ordered from M Cousy.

All yours

Garicoits

P.S. If you see Fr Perguilhem before I do, tell him what the Bishop has said to him. The rest are general directives which apply to Mauleon and Asson for the same important reasons.

I am going today to Mauleon. Ask the good Lord that my journey may be for the greater glory of God.

87. - To Sister St Victor DC⁵⁶

Before 14 Feb 1852

My Dear Sister,

Do not worry yourself; the devotion of the Daughters of the Cross will never be lost, when through no fault of their own they cannot have Mass during the week. Their first task is to live in the parishes where there are no priests.

Even on Sundays they might have to go miles to get to Mass. However you have not been reduced to these extremities, and I believe you will have holy Mass every day and you can visit the Blessed Sacrament as often as you wish.

Do not get upset; everything will work out; provided that we know each other's mind. But since we are neither prophet nor sorcerer, we do not know anything by magic. You need to tell us clearly what you want and how things are with you. I hope that all will go well.

All yours in the LJC.

Garicoits Prt

88. - My dear Sister

Before June 1852

I am very happy and edified with this spirit of unity which exists between you all. Love one another, and God will bless you and even pardon many sins, but love each other for God and in God.

Concerning what disturbs you, I believe that you should not be upset. You do what you ought to do or as much as you can; excuse the people, deflect the conversation, while bearing pain silently; it is correct to do whatever you can concerning your Superior. Go ahead then. Try during this great feast of Pentecost which we are about to celebrate to be filled more and more with the Spirit of Our Lord Jesus Christ which is essentially a spirit of charity. Animated by the Holy Spirit, you will also become holy through all your actions and all your trials. Amen.

Once more I send my kind regards to yourself and your dear companions.

Will you all pray for me now, at this time, when I am going to Bayonne with 6 ordinands⁵⁷ and to settle some rather important business⁵⁸. I am leaving next Monday.

All your in JCOL

Garicoits.

89. - To Mgr Alexandre Jaquemet, Bishop of Nantes⁵⁹

Betharram 6 Sept 1852

Monsignor

Your Lordship kindly expressed, a few days ago, a wish to know more about the way of life of the little Society of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus established at Betharram. I take great pleasure in sending a copy of our constitutions. I have just fulfilled this duty today.

Your Lordship will find, under a separate cover, a summary of our constitutions; more detail will be found in the little book that I venture to include.

If you would require further information I shall most respectfully hasten to answer any further questions.

I am with deep respect your humble and obedient servant⁶⁰.

Garicoits. Priest.

90. - To P Barbe, Superior of College of Moncade

Before Nov 1852

My very dear Friend

Concerning your double role, I am aware of it; it is my decision and I have taken all responsibility for it myself. You must not worry about it at all, understand that... It is the same over the ordination⁶¹... So do not be preoccupied over both the dual roles and the ordination; this affair is over and done with. I have taken responsibility for all in perfect knowledge of the matter. So do not be troubled about it and concentrate on the work that is be-fore you. Apply⁶² yourself to that with all your might and main...

Fr Cazaban⁶³ has already sent you, he tells me, a cassock for M Espagnolle, a smock for M Arabehere⁶⁴, and he will send you tomorrow a new cassock for yourself and shorts for the summer for M Carrerot, with a pair of sleeves and lining for a cassock, also some old pieces of material for the bottom of a soutane....

My heartfelt greetings...

Garicoits

91. - Character Reference⁶⁵

Betharram 8 Nov 1852

I the undersigned declare that M Aris⁶⁶ (B)⁶⁷ of Montaut⁶⁸ has behaved with excellent conduct during the two and a half years he passed at Betharram and that he returned home for the good of his health on advice of the doctors who will not allow him to pursue the studies demanded by the career he intended to follow.

In faith.

Garicoits

92. - To Sister St Jerome

Betharram 13 Nov 1852

LSNSJC

*Here I am... without delay, without conditions,
without going back on what is mine. Amen
Behold the servant of the Lord
Let it be done to me according to your word*

My Dear Sister,

Here I am, replying to your letter, as it would upset me no end to let our dear Sisters Marthe and companions leave without sending you a word.

But what can I say? The best thing I can do, is to confirm for all the best possible reasons everything you have said.

1 You tell me what God has put into your heart.... Do not have any doubts over that.

2 You have been very busy and a poor worker.... Indeed, I have been busier than you and a poorer worker than you! Al-though this is the case, we must both say 'God knows all the harm that we have done. If we have done something well, it is the good Lord who wanted to be served by us, in spite of our wretchedness and that of others. Therefore we must pray and ask for prayers so that our good Father continues to guide us and carry the weight of our ministries, in the firm belief that under the guidance of such a shepherd, nothing will be wanting to lead us to safety and those many others led by us.'

3 It seems to me that I am not obliged to court anyone's favours⁶⁹;

I believe this is a true grace. **God for God and everything for God** or indeed **nothing but for God**, this is what I pray for both you and me; to do only and wholly the will of God. Yes, my dear Sister, especially at this moment, it is what you should pray for and ask others to pray for our little Society.

Since you want news of Betharram, I will tell you that this poor Society is possibly at a quite critical moment.

This is the situation which you must keep secret⁷⁰, since nobody knows this, even here. Fr Menjoulet has approached me on the advice of his council to admit his community into ours. It is not difficult to realise the implications of such an undertaking for better or for worse. Pray and ask for prayers for all this and for our houses at Orthez, Pau, Sarrance and Mauleon.

Poor me. If God does not help me, what will happen to me this time? I am certain that the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross will have the greatest share in the formation of our Society by their prayers. I hope that, if they will be good enough to redouble their prayers, God will protect and take it forward. So be it.

All yours in JCOL

Garicoits Priest.

P.S. You will be interested to learn and adopt as a new reason for prayers our present situation:

1 With regard to our numbers, we have twenty five priests who are professed and two seminarians, who are both sub-deacons and professed; our novices consist of one priest, one sub-deacon, seven students, and two teachers; the Brothers who have made their vows are deployed as follows; five for various tasks, and four as teachers; the Novice brothers are 9 in number and do various jobs.

2 A summary of our work:

1 A free school at Orthez, for about 200 children run by Fr Barbe from Lestelle and two teaching brothers.

2 A House with three priests, Frs Lassus, Carrerot, and Vignau at Pau to serve the Church of St Louis de Gonzague and the Chapel of the Daughters of the Cross.

3 At Mauleon, a secondary school up to fourth standard; the headmaster is Fr Hayet with one of our sub-deacons and two others who do not belong to our community.

4 At Sarrance, a house, with Fr Larrouy as superior and two other priests.

5 At Asson, a primary school with a priest and a teaching brother.

6 I forgot a secondary boarding school at Orthez with three priests and two lay teachers. I have not even mentioned Betharram. You know all about that.

Have I not good reason to ask for prayers?

Please excuse these notes.

93. - To Sr Marie-Timothee, DC

Betharram 5 Jan 1853

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister,

Be certain that God loves you dearly; but try to really convince yourself of this, and I promise that His Will will not just make things bearable for you, but even enjoyable and sweet, including the changes of residence and worries at Sarrance and at Bagneres... even, ultimately, death itself!

Do not allow yourself to become unsure⁷¹, but pure in body and soul, and brave, showing courage in the face of bleak periods in your life etc, etc, and one day you will overcome and reign. The throne that you will win is waiting, it is wonderful, made by the hand of the master and waiting to be won and will cost you nothing...⁷²

I will pass your message to Sr Hy⁷³. she is doing very well. Greetings to all and I wish you many blessings. Pray for me.

Garicoits Priest.

94. - To Sr Marie-Victorina DC

Betharram 19 Nov 1853

LSNSJC

My very dear Sister,

Although I received your kind letter on time, I have not answered it for some days. Without any further excuses, I want to say firstly that I am puzzled about all the good things you would like the Lord to give me. How many times have I had occasion to say Deo gratias, on seeing evidence of real interest expressed by all the Daughters of the Cross in their good wishes for me.

Yes, Deo gratias, a thousand times for the concern that your holy Congregation bears me. My trust in their prayers and Holy Communion is beyond what any words can express so that my fears vanish when I think of this.. They pray, and will pray for me, and will gain all the graces that I need so much. If you only knew how much this has meant to me on so many occasions. Will you please continue to give me this help which is needed more and more? What I am asking you, I ask from all your companions without forgetting this Louise that you mention and Sr Emmanuel.

You will be pleased to know that your brother Carmel has taken his vows. By the grace of God he is doing very well. Your other brother has presented himself, but they have decided that he will still go to Saint Pe⁷⁴ this year and then we will see. I wish the good Lord would settle his mind.

All yours in JC

Garicoits

95. - To M Jean Hayet⁷⁵, 2 Superior of the College of St Francis

1853-54

.....

The world was not made in a day. You well know that you do not make half-hearted efforts to accomplish desired results, and when you have to install a fireplace in the house, you need to look for the best place while taking account of what is at your disposal. Remember that whatever you do, you will always have imperfect tools for the job; it is an inevitable condition in doing any good and often providentially necessary, ut non exaltetur cor nostrum, neque ambulemus in magnis⁷⁶.

.....

Garicoits

96. - To Sr Vincent de Bonnecaze, Daughter of Charity

1854

My Dear Sister

You are quite right. We have not forgotten you here; we often speak of you with much interest, especially when we have the opportunity to meet the bishop in Bayonne, and Sister Aquinas and our poor exile at Buzy⁷⁷. But besides this, we very often think of you and always with inexpressible happiness.

Yes, we are filled with joy at the blessings that the Lord has poured on you since that moment when filling you with so much love as you knelt at Betharram at Our Lady's feet and her divine Son's statue, he called you for the answered him without delay; Here I am with all I have, without delay, without conditions, and with no looking back!... And I have often said and will say to my dying day; My God! How much you have loved this poor girl! You have done such great things for her! Complete them. May she be faithful for ever.'

And you will be, my dear Sister, I am very sure of that. What almost certainly convinces me of it, is the special grace that he has shown in keeping you safe, and it seems to me that it is growing in you every day the awareness of two strong feelings of equal importance: the misfortune of your being a sad daughter of Eve, a feeling that God has left with you so that you will always be vigilant and have recourse to Him, and to know the love of being one of God's Daughters of Charity, a love He

has given you to protect and cultivate⁷⁸. By making the best of this grace you will not fail to always go forward and win many souls for God. Amen.

Be kind enough to pray every day for the members of our Community at Betharram, for a disdain of oneself and a love for our vocation which will enable us to go forward to become more suitable instruments in winning more souls for God.

I venture to suggest the same for our respected superior to whom I send my kind regards.

.....

97. - To a Superior of the Daughter

Igon 5 Jan 1854

LSNSJC

My dear Sister

At last it is your turn and hoping that you are not too angry with my late reply. You said it was because I was busy and this was true.

Certainly zeal coming from an embittered heart is worth nothing. The zeal of a child of love should be steadfast, yet gentle and sympathetic, prudent and motherly. You see this yourself and therefore I like to think that you have not done anything seriously wrong. Own yourself, be kind, be yourself. Be on your guard especially for what used to give a bad impression, once upon a time in our own Sister N...be the opposite, pliable, but not soft.

Without doubt the art of government is difficult, but not only is His grace with you, but the Lord himself is with you. Be filled with His spirit and His ways, act in Him and like Him and all will go surprisingly well. He knows these things better than we do; surrender and have boundless trust. Never root out the weeds immediately, or before time, nor to the detriment of the wheat. Know how to let them grow right up to harvest time, when such is the will of God for others or for yourself, and this will not be your least merit. Read today's gospel; may you know Our Saviour's plan and try to follow it.

Evidently you were wrong in not receiving Holy Communion for so long, when you had at that time no reason stopping you. You have enough intelligence; do not go into these details. Similarly with a little thought, you can find in yourself the right answer. Then Igon is not far away.

2 Certainly not, lack of silence is not a mortal sin, unless it is done with calculated contempt.

3 These habitual faults through weakness or giving way to anger are not obstacles to receiving Holy Communion; it can help to remedy these faults.

4 Generally speaking you will do well in not paying attention to complaints about the Parish Priest or anyone else, unless it is to give helpful advice to anyone in distress.

5 You do not have any cause to speak about these impressions in confession, especially by referring to priests, or giving explanations that could be disturbing. Have an honest mind and treat temptations with contempt. You are right in condemning these overcautious ways that you mention, but do not judge people. Be satisfied on these occasions to say: 'That is not my business.'

Go ahead! Always be brave, open your heart a little more, have much trust in God, and believe that he will bless you in so far as you trust Him. You are in a wonderful position to do good. Do what you can in the best way you know, and leave the rest to God as a humble and useless servant, and you will see that all will be well.

If you feel upset, do not hesitate to write. Never remain sad⁷⁹, angry⁸⁰, or depressed⁸¹ but on the contrary be open hearted and act in the spirit of what I have advised and God will be with you.

All yours in the Lord

Garicoits Priest

PS You need patience to be serious or gracious. Do not make any attempt to be anything other than what you should be, be satisfied with simple and proper behaviour; then whatever the good God wants, will be realised. May you all be one. This is my wish for you all in the peace of the Lord.

Goodbye, dear Sisters.

98. - To a Daughter of the Cross

Igon 24 Jan 1854

My Dear Sister

Tomorrow I shall be in the chapel between 8 and 9, God willing.

These few lines are to assure you that God has you in His holy care

All yours in OL

(Without Signature)

99. - To M Jean Louis Larrouy,
Superior of Notre Dame de Sarrance

24 Jan 1854

My Dear Friend,

I have informed the superior at Igon of the removal that you speak about in your letter. We all recognise an over-indulgent⁸² spirit with its blind prejudices. Have patience!

The superior of Igon has written to Lapuye. I will keep you informed of whatever they decide concerning the means you suggest to remedy the evil.

Fr Casau told me that you are thinking of going to your brother on the last days of the carnival. I am afraid that this will be inconvenient to leave Sarrance at this time; something that one well appreciates having been in similar places.

I would like you to make apostolic visits at times, but you need to choose suitable times and seek the greatest good in the order of providence.

All yours in OL

Garicoits.

P.S. I forgot to comment on what you said in your last letter but one. I have never doubted your good intentions, good will and religious spirit. Misunderstandings easily happen.

One needs to prevent this by direct and well meaning communication, while taking characters' reactions into account etc It is a fact that lasting good is only where God's blessing rests. Those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them. Ecce quam jucundum habitare, fratres in unum⁸³.

100. - To Sister St Thomas Aquinas

Betharram 24 Jan 1854

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister

Thank you for your New Years Greetings. I am indebted after God to your Congregation for the recovery of my health. I do not hesitate to think that after having obtained the grace of feeling far better than I was even before my illness. You will have obtained for me the signal favour of having my energy re-stored to use for the good of souls and for the greater glory of God. Amen.

101. - First Testament⁸⁴

This is my will.

I leave to my brother Manech all my goods which belonged to my father during his life.

I declare that at Betharram I have nothing that belongs to me.

Made at Betharram 4th May 1854.

Signed:

Garicoits Priest.

102. - To a Daughter of the Cross

Igon 7 June 1854

LSNSJC

My Dear Sister

You certainly have no need to be worried over this business or anything like it. Every time you can honestly say that you were not awake at the time these things happened you would do well not to bother about them or to mention them in confession.

I have not too much confidence in this Holy Spirit that puts restrictions on your food. You need to go up there on time and eat properly to do your work, and do not consider what will happen to you afterwards. You know that you are given to scruples, so you need to keep to what I have told you to do in confession and elsewhere.

All yours in OL

G.

Kind regards in Jesus Christ to all the Sister of Mont.

103. - To a Daughter of the Cross

Betharram 4 July 1854

F.V.D.

My Dear Sister,

When you experience these movements of natural affection very strongly do not be alarmed. You should turn towards the Good Lord and say for example; My God have mercy on me, I am all Yours, or something like this; and then go ahead as if nothing happened, while having respect for the holy rules and customs of your Congregation. You know the advice of St Vincent de Paul which was not to mention these sorts of temptation to your confessors in the Parish, but wait to unburden your concerns to those who have the grace and authority to direct you; which your ordinary confessors have not. You in particular should be faithful to that, for well-known reasons which I will not go into.

In general, try to renew within yourself the spirit of prayer, the habit of having recourse to God as a good child each moment automatically. He is near you, he is in you. You have him in the depths of your heart; he is so desirous to listen to you, to give himself to you, to support you, to make you holy. Turn to Him and nothing will ever be wanting.

Goodbye,

Garicoits, Priest.

104. - To a Priest at the Sacred Heart

7 November 1854

F.V.D.

My dear Friend

Be and show yourself to be what You Are

⁸⁵Homo mundo crucifixus et cui mundus ipse est crucifixus; homo novus, qui tuis te affectibus exuisti ut Christum indueres, tibi mortuus ut justitiae viveres; qui in laboribus, in castitate, in scientia, in longanimitate, in suavitate, in Spiritu Sancto, in charitate non ficta, in verbo veritatis, te Dei ministrum exhibeas, et per arma justitiae a dextris et a sinistris ad coelestem patriam et tu ipse contendas et alios etiam quacumque potes ope studioque compellas, maximam Dei gloriam semper intuens.

Be brave then and let this be a mirror for you.

All yours in Jesus Christ Our Lord.

My greetings to everyone else in the community.

Garicoits Priest

105. - To Sr. Madeleine
Superior General of the Daughters of the Cross

1st December 1854

L.S.N.S.J.C.

My Dear Sister

I have taken the liberty of sending you a letter that Fr. Eberte has written to me.

I am telling him that I fear that my attempt to influence you was useless since you must have serious reasons for not agreeing to the pious request. You see that my note has no other object than to show good will to this family.

All yours in Jesus Christ

Garicoits priest

106. - To Pierre Vignau, Superior of St Aloysius Gonzaga

15 December 1854

F.V.D.

My Dear Friend

I am sending you an exhortation. Read it and copy it in order to absorb it as well as you can, but particularly put it into practice. Guard against considering it as something strange and impracticable; on the contrary these things concern us and are immediately important for our way of life. Consider it seriously and return the original to me. You can make this exhortation the subject of your meditations and especially of your considerations. I would like to add the considerations of the book Petit Didier on the rightness of intentions and conformity to the will of God and the whole of the Spiritual Combat, especially in Chapter 10. I am also sending you an extract of Fr. Aquavivas book for guiding superiors. Once more; copy it and then send it back to me and tell Fr. Lassus to send me a summary of the common rules. Pray that you and I may both be blessed by God's healing touch, which alone will possess us, not with a spirit of evil, but with the spirit of God to march forward; indeed to make us fly along God's path. So be it.

All Yours in Jesus Christ

Garicoits Priest

107. - To Sister Zephirin St Blaise, DC

27th December 1854

F.V.D.

My dear Sister

I have just left the parlour and Sr Jeanne Sophie has come to see Fr.Fradin at Igon. I have been thinking more than a hundred times without exaggeration of replying to the letter which you sent me a long time ago. Here is then, quite simply, my opinion on the things that you have written about:

1 Why reason so much about your position. I have no doubt that it is the Will of God that you are there; in this respect, you need to ask nothing, and refuse nothing, now, and always, because God wishes it. No more looking back; no more if's and but's.

2 I am not worried too much about your position, or yourself, or your spirit of reasoning, nor even about your feelings of discouragement, but what does bother me, is that after all those graces there is the lack of infinite trust in God. Be at peace, peace even in war; peace is the prize. Peace in spite of all; and be brave. This is the sentiment that must always be supreme in your heart. Are you afraid of God? Throw yourself into his arms. It is the one and only reasonable way of acting which will be suitable for you and is something which you must grasp.

3 You do surprise me! Just keep on doing your best to fulfil your personal responsibilities, relying only on God, without concerning yourself with what someone else has or has not done, and do not be worried about the success of your work. Whatever happens, will be what God wishes.

4 It is true that there is much to do; all the more reason why you should not be the sort of person who gives up when there is a chance here for you to exercise charity in the widest possible way⁸⁶, yet within the limits of the situation, with an open heart and a generous spirit.

You can do all in Him who strengthens you and is always with you through every moment as your light, your force, your all. I pray with all my heart that you will be able to relate to him personally⁸⁷ as He wants you to, so much; it is why he humbled Himself so much to come on earth as a little child, yes, to "Give us our daily bread" and to inspire in you truly filial feelings for Him. It is time for you to profit hugely from the great help He is offering you.

All yours in Jesus Christ Our Lord

Garicoits Priest.

Did you know that a humble little creature, very wretched indeed⁸⁸, has written to tell me that her superiors have sent her to Salerno, much further than Parma,

and even further than Rome. In moments when we cry out in pain, I repeat the battle-cry; 'Forward. God wishes it' and then I march. Do the same, dear Sister.

This dear sister is in an establishment similar to yours with about 12 other sisters.

¹ Letter 89.

² Letter 106.

³ Letters 86, 90, 95, 99, 106.

⁴ Letters 94, 100.

⁵ The candidate seems to be Victor Saubatte of Asson born in February 18th 1823 who began novitiate in July 1849 lasting 2 years, professed 1st August 1851. He had been ordained in December 1850 before taking vows and became Headmaster of the College of the Immaculate Conception in Montevideo, Uruguay that same year, died as headmaster on 23 August 1884

⁶ Joseph Menjoulet, born at Lasseube (B-P), 24th October 1807, pupil of the College of Saint Severe, of the seminary of Saint Sulpice and of the major seminary of Toulouse, ordained at Bayonne on 17th December 1831, director and professor of moral theology at Bayonne from 1831 to 1844, Canon in 1838, founded the Society for Higher Studies in 1844, archpriest of Saint Croix 31st October 1853, Vicar General of the diocese of Bayonne in 1867, died 13th of July 1882. He wrote extensively on local Church history including a Chronicle of the Sanctuary at Betharram. The enterprise of M Menjoulet was that of Mgr Lacroix, the foundation of The Holy Cross which was to fail. St Michael began his foundation with the approval of the former Bishops Mgr D'Astros and Mgr d'Arbou. Initially St Michael did not receive the present Bishop's support for various reasons. Firstly he thought Betharram being on the edge of the Diocese was badly situated as a house of formation and education Oloron was better situated, being in the centre. Being a member of the Society of St Sulpice, a community of priests without religious vows, he favoured the same for his Diocese, whereas St Michael wanted a Religious Society with vows modelled on the Jesuits. After his first 6 months the Bishop intended to take St Michael from Betharram and appoint him as rector of the Seminary in Bayonne; but he withdrew from this measure because of a public outcry and an interview with St Michael. However he transferred the work of Betharram to Holy Cross and indirectly made people know that he wanted St Michael at Holy Cross. St Michael held to his principle; 'To do the will of God where one finds oneself without interfering in anything else.' Without taking notice of rumour, he went forward; 'God has called me to Betharram', he would say. 'For that reason I have stayed. They may speak of the Holy Cross at Oloron. I am always ready to obey the orders of the Bishop.' The orders never came. St Michael welcomed with enthusiasm the foundation of this new Society. He did not search as much for vocations, fearing that this would upset the Bishop. However the Society after an enthusiastic start of no more than 12 members began to fall apart, several leaving it. The founder eventually turned to Betharram and asked for amalgamation in 1852. From this time Mgr Lacroix became more supportive of Betharram. From then St Michael intensified his search for vocations which doubled from 30 in 5 years. His delight is evident in this letter.

⁷ Jean Hayet, at 29, one year professed and a subdeacon was chosen as Founder and Headmaster of the College of St Francis in 1849. See letter 95

⁸ Jean de Bela de la Salle in 1775 had bequeathed £11,226 for the building of two schools. One for girls was directed by the sisters of Nevers in the actual Hospice; the other on the site of the Dominican convent built in 1857. The former school had been sold as a national school in 1790. Mauleon and Soule had regretted the disappearance of the College and through repeated requests, the General Council of the Basses Pyrenees during the second republic and acceded to their requests. The archpriest and sub prefect of Mauleon with other notables asked the Bishop of Bayonne for a college. Monsignor Lacroix entrusted the business to Saint Michael Garicoits. Although he was somewhat embarrassed because he was requested on all sides to open other schools, he accepted to do what seemed the impossible. Classes had not begun in 1849 because of the lengthy formalities with the authorities. But in 1850 the College opened in the former monastery of the Capuchins. The diocese was legally empowered to acquire the property on the 23rd of October 1850 it was registered on the 25th of October which included part of the Capuchin monastery with adjoining gardens of the price of 9000 francs the last payment being made to the authorities on the 29th of June 1851. The diocese had paid in excess of 18,000fr for it. The college took the name of St Francis because it was situated in a Franciscan monastery and was the patron of the Bishop, François Lacroix, who made the foundation. By accepting the bishop's request to send priests to South America, St Michael had to reorganise his priests. He had to consent provisionally in 1855 to give up the direction of this college as would be done again in 1870 under Fr Chirou. But Sister Mary of Jesus favourable future: "Our Lord watches over it... God will make it into a useful and lasting work.. he will bless it and make it prosper." Crucified had prophesied a bright future. Our Lord will watch over it. God will make this work last and useful. He will bless it and make it prosper."

⁹ This was legally required for the opening of a school. It consisted of

1 A statement by the Director of the School to the Mayor indicating the building used for the school; one copy going to the Prefect and another to the Procurator general of the Department.

2 The written reply and agreement of the Prefect and Procurator.

3 Birth certificate of the Director.

4 A letter of compliance with the State by the Bishop.

This was submitted to the Rector of the Academy; the school would open one month after this process. The Dossier would be returned to M Hayet on the 5th of Dec which would delay the opening till 1850.

¹⁰ M Pierre Barbe was the first headmaster and Superior of the College at Orthez; he was 38. He took the oath required before the mayor to the state. This was the time when Raymond Plante born 19th January 1797 at Santander, deputy of the Basses Pyrenees died 29th June 1855 in Paris. He was with his mother one who supported the school's out Orthez. St Michael was friend with them as indicated in his copious correspondence. See letter 245.

¹¹ Jean Espagnolle, aged 21, was appointed the deputy to Fr Barbe. He was professed in 1844 and ordained in 1847.

¹² 2 Brothers; M Arabehere, a schoolmaster, Br Joannes, a professed brother.

¹³ The town of Orthez had not in the middle of the 19th century a suitable school for boys. Saint Michael was to be present at the foundation, the first made by the Society outside Betharram. He arrived at Orthez Tuesday the 22nd of November 1849 with one priest Fr Barbe, a scholastic, Espagnolle, a Regent, Arabehere and brother Joannes. When they arrived the place was empty; they had nothing. Br Joannes knocked at the nearest door, a Protestant House. They gave them a blanket and some plates, glasses and forks. The rest they purchased from the nearby inn. St Michael kept a very close interest in this first foundation outside Betharram.

¹⁴ The archpriest, Jean Basile Mirande, see letter 148, had counted on this being a free school as he had approached the Christian Brothers and Brothers of Christian Instruction, but both declined. Saint Michael saw this as providential as he would say later: "the spirit of our society is devotion to the works that others don't want to take on, for example the work at Orthez for poor children." He came with the intention of opening one school but in fact he opened two: a primary and the College. Although the furniture was virtually non-existent, 200 children turned up on the first day. St Michael was delighted; 'The work at Orthez for so many poor children sitting on these rotten benches on the dusty floor is a ministry of predilection.'

¹⁵ The school was divided into two establishments; a primary and an elementary school, known as the College of Moncade; Fr H Serre was appointed headmaster.

¹⁶ The schools opening was delayed till January 1850.

¹⁷ Jean Curutchet, born at Cheraute (B-P) 17th of December 1805, ordained 13th of June 1829, parish priest of Tardets, then ministering at Saint Etienne de Baigorry in 1831, at Jaxu in 1832, dismissed from office in 1834. Saint Michael seems to have helped him reform his life.

¹⁸ Jean Pierre Mazaris born at Esquiule 4th of April 1824. In 1856 he entered the Jesuits. Professor of physics, mathematics, ecclesiastical history, archaeology and canon law of the major seminaries of Mende, Aire, Montpellier, spiritual director at Pau, where he died 31st of August 1905

¹⁹ See letter 95

²⁰ Louis Sarthy born 10 January 1822 at Sainte Columbe (B-P) Entered the Society at Betharram 1849, ordained in 1850, founder and headmaster of the school at Asson 1851-6 bursar at Notre Dame. There was great pressure from all the surrounding parishes for schools. St Michael was present at a meeting where the Bishop was present and pressing him to open a school at Asson. On that occasion Fr Sarthy a sickly person passed by. St Michael turned to him and said; 'You will go. It is necessary to be dedicated and to sacrifice yourself. If you are ill, they will look after you.'

He replied very simply: 'Fiat .Fiat' (let it be done).

'You have got me out of a difficult situation,' replied the Bishop. He with 2 Brothers, the schoolmaster Marie Pujo, Regent, and Br Joannes set out in November in a cart with whatever furniture they had and began preparing the place: one hall and 2 rooms upstairs. They had to beg wood for a fire to cook something. Without fuel it was bitterly cold; Br Joannes had to go back to Betharram. On another occasion they all returned for lack of nourishment. As the bursar was not sympathetic, St Michael had to find them food. Saint Michael assured them by saying; "if you are lacking in anything come to me and I will find it for you, God will provide. "But soon people rallied round and the following year there were 150 pupils. M Sarthy later had to return because of ill health.

²¹ Mgr Lacroix did not allow the SCJ ordinands make their retreat at Betharram under St Michael until 1858, letter 110.

²² Letter 110

²³ Martin Theodore Manaudas born at Accous 27th of September 1797, ordained 24th of May 1823, Professor at the minus seminary of Aire in 1823, at Oloron in 1824, Rector of the major seminary of Bayonne in 1827 and Professor of moral and holy Scripture, Canon in 1839, Rector of the major seminary in 1838, died 7 March 1873.

When Monsignor Lacroix appointed him rector of the major seminary, he suggested that it would be better for Saint Michael to be Rector and would not accept it without St Michael's collaboration. This was the reason why Monsignor Lacroix gave the order to St Michael in 1838 to leave Betharram and come to Bayonne for a new post.

²⁴ Simon Guimon(1793-1861) from the Basse Pyrenees was one of the first members of the Society and a reputed Missioner in the region. Born at Barcus (B-P) 27 September 1793. As a late vocation he began his studies 1 November 1811. He was a pupil at Mauleon 1 March 1812. Follow the course in grammar first of April 1813 under the parish priest father Forcade of Aramitz from the presbytery. After a period at the house in Oloron, he entered in 1813 the Royal College of Aire sur LAdour. 20 of November 1816 to 21st of July 1817, and from 4th of November 1817 to 20th of July 1818 studied theology at the major seminary of Dax. In July of the following year he distinguished himself in a theological joust with his friend M Adoue in the presence of all the seminary and of the Bishop's Secretary, Fr Honnert. He received the tonsure at Dax from Mgr Loison, four minor orders and sub diaconate on the same day from Monsignor D'Astros 10th of December 1820. Two weeks later 23rd December was ordained deacon at the Cathedral of Bayonne. Ordained 18th of February 1821 at the seminary of Saint Leon.

He was appointed curate in his home parish 1st March 1821. In 1822 he joined the Diocesan Missionary Society of the Adorers of the Sacred Heart under Fr Garat. When the Revolution of 1830 dispersed the members of this small society, he took refuge in Betharram where St Michael was a member of the staff. He was appointed professor of Moral Theology. Canon Clavier appointed him chaplain to the Daughters of the Cross in place of Saint Michael at Igon. Sr Elizabeth, the foundress was not happy; he was too strict and postulants were leaving. She requested the Bishop to restore St Michael which he did. After the closure of the seminary he took up home missions with immense success. In December 1833 he preached a retreat at Deguin and the Jubilee at Nay. In 1834 he preached the Jubilee at Bidache, a retreat at Asson in September, and a mission at Cazeres in October, and another at St Colombe in December. In 1835 at Toulouse the grand mission at the request of Monsignor D'Astros. In 1836 he accompanied the missionaries of Notre Dame de Garaison who were being trained by the Society at Betharram. In 1838 he preached a mission at Artigue-Loutain.

With St Michael Garicoits and his companions on the 10th of September 1841 he made his first vows as a member of the Society. On the same day he was elected councillor of the Society of the Auxiliary Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He was re-elected on the 11th of June 1845 and the 5th of July 1848. On the 3rd September 1851 he became assistant and 28th October 1852 was re-elected. In February 1844 and November 1849 he gave a mission at Bruges and Bosdarros. In 1850 he is at Lescun in January, at Sarrence in February, at Nay in March; in 1852 was a member of the Diocesan Synod of Bayonne; 25th of April 1853 he received a legacy from Cardinal D'Astros of 22,000 francs.

In March 1853 during a mission at Saint Jean Pied de Port he was informed of the unbelievable neglect of the Basque emigres through lack of religious orders who spoke their language in Rio de la Plata. Monsignor Lacroix was concerned and asked St Michael at his general assembly to send missionaries to Argentina which they agreed.

In 1856, 23rd August at the age of 60, he left Betharram with the first community. They sailed from Bayonne on the 31st of August. Two months later on 3rd of November they landed in Montevideo in Uruguay and the following day in Buenos Aires in Argentina to minister to the large Basque immigrant communities. He wasted no time in preaching missions to the Basques before he learned any Spanish. He began to draw crowds round the church of San Jose de Flores on the outskirts of Buenos Aires and at La Merced in the centre. In Spring and Autumn he organised missions. His missions covered vast areas. In March and April 1857 he gave missions to the Basques in the regions of Dolores, Chascomus, Ranchos and Montevideo. In the months of January, February and March 1858 he went in the region of Lujan, Mercedes, Chivilcoy, Navarro, Cagnuelas, Lobos and Azul, in 1859 he remained for sometime in Uruguay. In 1860 he tried to give missions to the Indians. Gave missions at Merlo, Moron and Quilmes.

At the request of Monsignor Vera he accepted to give a retreat to the clergy of Montevideo in his bad Spanish. He had more than one success. He managed to unite the divided clergy of Montevideo. In Buenos Aires he gave conferences, was the principle preacher in Advent and Lent. It was on such a mission at San Telmo that he was taken ill on 22nd of May 1861 when he suddenly died. His death was a great loss and left a void in the missionary community. All the bells of the town sounded his knell. St Michael Garicoits who missed the absence of his longstanding companion, gave orders for his ashes to be returned. They were only returned after the death of the founder and were buried on the 29th May 1872 in the cemetery on the Calvary.

²⁵ Parish in Diocese of Bayonne of 1400. M Castelnau-Tachaires Parish Priest. It is not clear what the Bishop requested.

²⁶ 1 Cor 2:6

²⁷ During this period of growth from 1849, with the opening of the Colleges at Orthez and Mauleon, followed in 1855 by taking on the Seminary at Oloron and in 1856 the Mission in South America, St Michael in this letter gives guidance for managing these new works. It was only by a gradual process that he gave it a title, constitutions and a spirit.

He called his members Missionary Priests of Our Lady of Betharram in 1846 and Missionaries of Mary in 1856. Its present title has undergone three changes:

1 The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the beginning was preferred by the founder and adopted at the beginning by his first companions when they took on the rules of the Sacred Heart of the Missionaries of Hasparren.

2 The Society of Auxiliary Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus after 1841 was at the insistence of Bishop Lacroix, was to bind them legally to the Diocese. St Michael did not like the title; auxiliaries. Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was adopted after the decree from Rome in 1875 recognising that the Society was no longer as a Diocesan Society but a Religious Order in the universal Church. Mgr Lacroix although a Professor of theology did not like the title priests of the Sacred Heart, but reluctantly agreed to it. He was a conservative theologian who was suspicious of this new devotion which had not at this time widely entered into the mainstream of Catholic devotion.

In 1851 at the Council of Auch, the Archbishop Mgr La Croix d'Azolette invited his suffragan Bishops to consecrate their dioceses to the Sacred Heart. The bishops of Tarbes and Aire further influenced Mgr Lacroix by making a public and solemn consecration. Monsignor Lacroix confined himself to a private consecration three years after the council. Only after the disastrous defeat of the France by the Prussians in 1870 and the loss of the Papal States, did he approve unreservedly on the first of June 1875 devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus throughout his diocese.

Saint Michael Garicoits under the influence of Mgr D'Astros and personal devotion from the beginning wanted his religious to be known as priests of the Sacred Heart, even after brothers were accepted.

What is the spirit of our society? asked Saint Michael.

The spirit of our state of life is the spirit of the Heart of Jesus that this phrase *Ecce Venio* so well sums up. (Writing of St Michael Garicoits, cahier 1134).

St Michael's first biography written by Bourdenne, *Vie et lettres*, page 119 says: dedicated to the Sacred Heart from whom this Society has its name; *Ecce Venio*: this rallying cry of our Saviour proclaims from the first instant of his incarnation recalls so well the sentiments of charity, humility, gentleness, obedience and devotion which must characterise all the members of the Institute.

²⁸ Therese Cassaigne, born at Renung, Landes, 26th of February 1821, entered the Daughter of the Cross 25th of July in 1852 as Sr Sara, died 5th May 1890at Navailles-Angos (B-P)

²⁹ She had left the heavy responsibilities of La Puye to be Superior at Bethines.

³⁰ Sister Marthe born at Marthe Damotte a Xigny (Cote d'Or) in 1800 and admitted to the daughters of the cross by St Elizabeth Bichier des Ages, replaced Sr Marie Perpetue 23 December 1830 as superior of the convent of Igon, superior at Ustaritz 16th of November 1844, appointed assistant general at La Puye where she died in 18 She knew Saint Michael Garicoits when he was chaplain at Igon. She gave him the spiritual direction of the novitiate which had re-opened because of the influx of a postulants after the foundation at Ustaritz.⁷⁸

³¹ This refers to the previous letter of 25 Jan.(59)

³² Thérèse, Letter 42.

³³ See Letter 42

³⁴ Sr Jeanne-Sophie, Letter 22

³⁵ Francios-Marie Jules Viguer warned 28th of April 1808, after his ordination he was assistant at the Dalbade in Toulouse, appointed 23rd of April 1838 to the parish of Colomiers. In 1858 he relinquished this post, and as an honorary Canon became chaplain to the convent of the Daughters of the Cross established in the parish and contributed to their foundation in Aurignac.

When Saint Michael visited the daughters of the cross at Colomiers he stayed at his presbytery. He arrived one evening when it was dark. He knocked at the door and called in vain. The priest thought he was a tramp.

³⁶ These parishes had 1200, 800 and 850 faithful during this period

³⁷ Ps50;1 The theme based on Ps 50 and related to Mary, on the feast of the Purification. Maybe his meditation on the feast

³⁸ He means to dedicate ourselves

³⁹ Saint Michael composed a prayer based on the triple presentation of this feast: the presentation or offering of Jesus, presentation of Mary and presentation of oneself.

Mary, here we are!

Welcome us and present us to your Divine Son. Hail Mary.

Jesus, here we are! Place us in the hands of your Holy Mother and offer us to your

Father. Soul of Christ sanctify me ...

Eternal Father, here we are! Without reserve, now and forever, under the guidance of your Spirit and our superiors, under the protection of Jesus and Mary, of our guardian angels and patron saints. Our Father.

See letter three.

⁴⁰ How good and pleasant it is for brothers to live together in peace. Psalm 133.

⁴¹ The second of February 1850 was Thursday the day St Michael went to Igon.

⁴² See letter 440

⁴³ Jn 12:25. St Michael emphasised the primacy of God's Will when there was a conflict between parents and family but never to the detriment of love. The practice of this principle in Religious Life in later times lost some of the compassion that St Michael to some extent conveys in this letter

⁴⁴ Born in Basse Pyrenée he entered the Society in 1853. Died at Betharram in 1882. His decision occurred after a brief stay with St Michael. His Sister became a Daughter of the Cross. She wrote to him a message from St Michael; 'If you do not enter the religious life you will be lost.' He seems to have been thinking of joining in any case. But after receiving this letter, he made a retreat under the Jesuits at Aire. The director confirmed what St Michael had said. Despite protests from his mother and sister who were living with him, he made the sacrifice to enter. He became a remarkable missionary.

⁴⁵ Mgr confirmed pupils from the College and gave the tonsure to 6 students for Betharram; one was Romain Bourdenne.

⁴⁶ This was the popular name given to the Priests and Brothers of Betharram

⁴⁷ A pupil of St Michael at the Seminary of Betharram, ordained in 1827.

- ⁴⁸ The Jubilee in Rome was interrupted by its capture by Garibaldi as well as all the Papal States. The Pope had fled to Gaeta. But in spite of this the celebrations extended to all the Catholic world. In France it was fixed from Christmas 1850 to Christmas 1851.
- ⁴⁹ Probably refers to Monsieur Miegerville himself who was thinking of joining the Jesuits instead of Garaison.
- ⁵⁰ The rest of the line has been possibly erased.
- ⁵¹ St Michael seems to be writing to a lay person possibly about one of the priests.
- ⁵² At 28 he was the first headmaster and founder of the college with Fr H Serres as assistant. Fr Perguilhem was Superior of the primary school in name, but in fact it was Fr Barbe. Small in stature, he had a tenacious will and a firm hand, a smiling and friendly face. A keen overseer of distribution of work, responsibilities of the staff, exercises of piety, intensive work and fruitful results. He began the baccalaureate class and built a chapel which attracted the local people.
- ⁵³ The primary school for the locality was housed in an old municipal college, the plan was to be made by the town architect.
- ⁵⁴ Raymond Plante mayor of Orthez.
- ⁵⁵ St Michael was keen on order. The Bishop was noted in saying; 'Here comes M Garicoits with his note-book.
- ⁵⁶ She gave evidence in the process of canonization. St Michael had a particular regard for her. Six months before his death, Sister went to confession
 'You are leaving Yes, Father.
 Well Goodbye, Victor; be strong, very strong. Goodbye till we meet in heaven. Not yet, Father, we need you.
 No, I have to meet Fr Merigot (He died in 1862)
 Goodbye till we meet in heaven...
- ⁵⁷ Romain Bourdenne, de Bailliencourt, Castagnet, Coos, Espagnolle and Latapie were ordained as subdeacons and deacons in 1852 and to the priesthood in May of 1853.
- ⁵⁸ Refers to administrative reorganization of the Society of the Sacred Heart which took place in 1852 and the amalgamation with the Society of Holy Cross.
- ⁵⁹ He came to know St Michael through, Count Uruski, a Polish Official at the Court of the Czar and a friend of St Michael. In October the Bishop took the waters for chest trouble at Bagnères; on that occasion he met Bernadette Soubirou who was also taking treatment. The outcome of this letter may be that he was intending to establish his own Diocesan Missionary Society.
- ⁶⁰ This letter is written in a very formal style as was the customary style of respect.
- ⁶¹ Ordination of a member of staff and the community, probably M Espagnolle.
- ⁶² Phil3;13 forgetting all that lies behind me, and straining forward to what lies in front.
- ⁶³ He entered the Society in 1847 and was ordained in 1849; was master of novices 1849-54, assistant to Fr Chirou in 1856, bursar general unofficially and officially in 1863. A very ascetic man with a difficult character. Very generous in hospitality (food) to outsiders, but less so with his companions.
- ⁶⁴ Arnaud Arabehere, had been a church student but had to give up through bad health. St Michael welcomed him warmly as a teacher at Notre Dame as assistant to the infamous Headmaster Élicabide. On the 22 April when the monastery was on fire, he alone went on the roof with St Michael to put it out by cutting through the main beam with an axe thus saving the rest and the chapel from being destroyed. In 1844 he entered the Society as a brother, in 1849 went to Orthez as a teacher with M Barbe. Renoir is said to have used his severe schoolmaster's face for Pilate at the 8th Station of the Cross as he threatened his pupils with the cane which brought complaints from St Michael. Sickly and reclusive, he used to tend the shaded garden below the Chapel of St Louis. In that garden M Nabarraa later planted a shoot from the wild rose that grows around the Grotto at Lourdes.
- ⁶⁵ This was required to enter the teaching profession, plus a recommendation signed by the Mayor and 3 Councillors.
- ⁶⁶ One of the first pupils at the School of Notre Dame.
- ⁶⁷ B stands for Basil.
- ⁶⁸ Village very near Betharram.
- ⁶⁹ Il me semble aussi que je tiens a l'estime de personne implies that he seeks to please no man or wish to gain any favours from anyone when making decisions. One might say that he is his own man, but, of course, he would see himself called to be God's man first. For this he prays.
- ⁷⁰ This Society of Higher Studies that Mgr Lacroix had constituted in 1844 under the authority of Fr Menjoulet in the former Convent of the Society of the Holy Cross at Oloron was about to die out. Two priests had left and its numbers never rose above 12. The Superior asked the Bishop for amalgamation with Betharram to which he agreed.
 However many at Betharram were not happy to receive them. The Society was in the process of acquiring its own identity; the spirit of its founder, St Michael, who was not in agreement with the Bishop's conception of Religious Life. They feared that this influx would weaken and distort their spirit with attitudes similar to the Bishop's. These fears however proved to be unfounded.
- ⁷¹ Tournilleuse is a coined word used by St Michael referring to those who continually look back on their past; totally preoccupied with themselves.
- ⁷² 1 Cor 9;25
- ⁷³ Sr Hyacinthe who was probably in a post of responsibility.
- ⁷⁴ Because classes at Betharram only went to quatrieme (4th standard), he sent older ones to the Minor Seminary of St Pe to complete their studies.
- ⁷⁵ The mayor delayed permission to use the building for boarders, so they had to rent a the local house. When they finally obtained the Dossier which gave them permission authority refused to pay their allocation for the building; the other two parts having been paid by the bishop and a benefactor. The site of the College was the ruined Capuchin Convent which needed considerable repairs
 For 5 strenuous years he established this school to the detriment of his health when he was forced to retire. The mayor delayed permission to use the building for boarders, so they had to rent the local house. When they finally obtained the Dossier which gave them permission authority he refused to pay their allocation for the building; the other two parts having been paid by the bishop and a benefactor. Furniture had been promised but they found none. Local townspeople provided some. The site of the College was the ruined Capuchin Convent which needed considerable repairs.
- ⁷⁶ So that our heart may not be haughty, nor do we exercise ourselves in great matters.
- ⁷⁷ Her cousin Marie-Claude Saut who had tried her vocation with the Daughters of the Cross but had to leave because of ill-health. She lived at Buzy and came to St Michael for spiritual direction.

⁷⁸ She became a Sister of Charity with the name Sister Vincent and worked in Alexandria.

⁷⁹ serre; tight, tied in a knot inside.

⁸⁰ grille; burning within with frustration or anger

⁸¹ noir; unhappy, sad

⁸² esprit bourgeois; bourgeois spirit.

⁸³ Ps 132,1. How happy it is to live in unity as brothers.

⁸⁴ St Michael suffered a stroke which might have proved fatal in August 1853. This forced him to put his affairs in order. As the eldest he wrote this will, bequeathing his possessions not to his older brother, Joannes, who inherited the property of his wife by marriage (1847) and had 4 children but to Manech who was single and worked and looked after his Father at the farm. St Michael had 4 brothers and one sister, Joannes, 1799-1865; Manech 1801-177, Paulle 1805-1881, Bernard 1810, and Marie 1810-1860.

⁸⁵ This letter presents the first and the earliest portrait of St Michael Garicoits made for the religious and the society of the Sacred Heart. See circular letter 361, 368 and letter 293

A man crucified to the world and who the world has crucified the new man clothed with Christ and unattached to anything, dead to yourself but living in Holiness Showing yourself a minister of God in action in chastity in knowledge in patience in gentleness under the conduct of the Holy Spirit by real charity and by sincerity in your speech. Try to take all means to become Holy. All means at your disposition to serve God Your Country and to help others with all energy and zeal to become Holy. Doing everything for the greater Glory of God.

Constitution of the society of Jesus Summa et Scopus nostrarum Constitutionum, P Ribandeneira.

⁸⁶ 'Vous exercez l'immensité de la charité' is a frequent exhortation of St Michael which suggests that when love is practiced in a limitless way, it brings immense blessings and reflects the infinite love of God that effects unexpected and immense changes for good.

⁸⁷ Oh! If this disposition was queen and if this sentiment was king we would be more at peace.

⁸⁸ Reference to a Sister of Charity, formerly Hortense Peyrounat, daughter of the Public Notary of Pau, whose sister Marie later became a Daughter of the Cross.