

Eamus! They will be a mirror of his gentleness, humility and, as day by day they are alight with the flames of his love, they will spread everywhere the infinite treasures of his mercy and will try to win all hearts for him. In all houses of the Institute the feast of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated annually with the utmost solemnity.

2. Furthermore, since the Institute is close to a sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin situated at the foot of the hill called Calvary, all members will have a special devotion to the Passion of our Saviour and to the sufferings of the Queen of Martyrs. They will often meditate on the sufferings of the Son and his Mother, they will have a special devotion to the Stations of the Cross and will make this devotion known; they will preach Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ crucified, the virtue and wisdom of God and on Calvary will point to the Mother of God who has become the mother of mankind in order to save the guilty and lead them to heaven. They will promote the recitation of the Rosary with great zeal.

3. The special love which they must have for the Sacred Heart, for his Cross and for the Sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary, is to be applied also to St Joseph, patron saint of the universal Church and special protector of the Institute."

A few minor points were also reintroduced while the remainder were added to the Coutumier.

As soon as the revision was completed, our three "Commissioners" returned to Betharram stopping off at Assisi and Loreto. Fr Etchecopar convened the Fathers in chapter, coinciding with the retreat, for the Congregation had to vote on this text before presenting it to Rome.

The Chapter gave a very good reception to the Constitution which gave a very good impression of the Institute. On 3rd June Fr Etchecopar could write to Fr Magendie: "We are in the middle of our retreat; at the same time we are making a thorough examination of the work done in Rome. We are all in perfect agreement. Unanimous approval, Thanks be to God!" The dossier was sent to the Eternal City once more; and on 8th September 1877 Pius IX signed the decree approving the Congregation with its new rules.

Pierre Duvignau, scj

(to be continued)



Societas S^{mi} Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

84
2013

Generalate House
via Angelo Brunetti, 27
00186 Rome (Italy)

Telephone +39 06 320 70 96
Fax +39 06 36 00 03 09
Email - nef@betharram.it

www.betharram.net

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NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

News bulletin of the Congregation
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram

111th year
10th series, nr 84
14th July 2013



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THE WORD OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Different levels of Councils

The exercise of authority as a service is typical of a life founded on the Gospel; it is the victim of a host of temptations and runs the risk of becoming an instrument of power rather than of being a service for others. Authority made use of others for its own ends and consequently fell into the pit of social authoritarianism.

In order to avoid falling into such extremes, important decisions taken by superiors of consecrated life need to have recourse to councils. Canon Law requires every Major superior to have a council. In the case of our Congregation there are councils at three levels: the Vicar Regional's council also known as the council of the vicariate, the Superior regional's council known as the regional council, and the superior general's council known as the general council. In days gone by there was also a local council with the local superior, the communities being more important. As article 282 specifies, particularly in smaller communities "two religious with perpetual vows will assist the superior."

Before reaching certain decisions, the superior major is bound to seek the advice of his council: according to the



For the government of the Congregation, the Superior General is assisted by a General Council and the Council of the Congregation. (R of L art. 200)

reached which must remain secret.

The General Council (Rule of Life 200 – 216) is constituted of four religious elected by the general chapter and for 6 years. The Vicar General (R of L 208 – 210) and the General Bursar (R of L 211 – 215) reside in Rome with the Superior General; they also assure the role of Procurator and General Secretary. Two other councillors join them at least once a year for a council meeting. The Superior General consults them constantly. The areas in which the consent vote

matter under consideration, he must ask the advice or the consent of his council (RoL 201 & 241). The Superior is not a member of the Council and does not participate in voting when this takes place. His councillors only cast their vote in order to help him to take a decision. According to the issue under consideration, this vote may be:

- an *advice vote*: the Superior General or Regional isn't obliged to assemble his council, rather ask each councillor for his opinion before taking any decision at their level.

- a *consent vote*: The Superior General or Regional is bound to assemble his council with at least half the members present, in order to expose the situation as clearly as possible, to listen to the different opinions, and to submit the whole question to a secret ballot; for this decision an absolute majority of those present is required.

In both cases the councillors must express their opinion on the decision to be

is required are specified in article 205 and in article 206 for the council.

The Regional Council (R of L 240 – 260): as part of his function the Superior Regional is assisted by the Regional Council, constituted by the regional vicars; each one is in charge of a vicariate (R of L 240). The council is therefore formed by all the regional vicars, appointed by the Superior General on the advice of his own council and the advice of every religious of the vicariate. Their mandate is for 6 years. One of the regional vicars is appointed "first regional vicar", and becomes a major superior (R of L 251). The sectors requiring a consensus vote by the regional council are stipulated in the articles 244 and 245. For those mentioned in article 244 the approval of the Superior General and the consent of his council are required.

The vicariate council (R of L 261 – 267): Each regional vicar works in collaboration with a council composed of all the superi-

CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS OF BETHARRAM

7 – The 1877 Constitutions and approval of the Institute



It is a well known fact that we get on better in talking than by writing, so Fr Etchecopar gladly accepted the invitation from Fr Bianchi: "Come and write your Constitutions here!" He took with him Fr Estrate as secretary and Fr Etchegaray; this latter was also looking after the approval for the Servants of Mary; our three Commissioners arrived in Rome on the evening of 20th April 1877.

A couple of days later Fr Etchecopar was writing to Fr Pagadoy: "We're already at work" and on the 4th May writing to the same correspondent: "Our work is getting on well. We are spending hours at it with all the care possible". They were in daily contact with Fr Bianchi and Mgr Di Luca from the Sacred Congregation.

They were not allowed to change either the order or the plan of the Constitutions. The same chapter headings were maintained as well as the Rule of St Augustine. The contents could be improved. And so it was that in the case of the badly headed chapter "Devotions special to the Congregation" Fr Etchecopar succeeded in including these three articles:



Auguste Etchecopar (1841-1897)



Salvat Etchegaray (1811-1887)



Pierre Estrate (1840-1910)

« 1. All are to remember with great gratitude that they are under the invocation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. They are to look upon this divine Heart as their special model, their treasure and heritage, the hall mark that they are to impress upon their entire life. They will throw all their worries into this well of tenderness; encourage each other in their weaknesses as they repeat his cry of devotion: Ecce venio.

AUGUST	14	20 anos de sacerdócio	P. Wagner Dos Reis Azevedo
	15	Joyeux anniversaire 60 ans de profession	P. Bernard Béhocaray P. José Mirande
	17	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Gustavo Agín
	18	Buon compleanno	P. Ernesto Consonni
	20	10 ans de sacerdoce	P. Théophile Degni N'Guessan
	21	Joyeux anniversaire Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Domecq Fr. Martial Mengué
	25	Joyeux anniversaire	Mgr Vincent Landel
	26	Joyeux anniversaire 30 years of profession	P. Jean Tapie Br. Liam Finucane
	28	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Alexandre Berhouet
	29	Happy birthday	Fr. Gabriel Phonchai Sukjai
SEPTEMBER	31	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Dominique Etchéverria
	2	Bom aniversário	P. Paulo Cesar Pinto
	3	Happy birthday	Fr. Suthon Khiriwathanasakun
	4	Happy birthday Joyeux anniversaire	Fr. Austin Hughes P. Luc-Martial Kouadio
	8	60 anni di professione	PP. Romano Martinelli, Guido Pradella, Albino Trameri
	10	25 ans de profession 25 anni di professione	P. Jean-Luc Morin PP. Gianluca Limonta, Tiziano Pozzi
	13	Bom aniversário Joyeux anniversaire	P. Paulo Vital Campos P. Philippe Hourcade

ors of the vicariate communities. Should they be missing they will be replaced by two councillors elected during a meeting of the vicariate assembly. (R of L 262).

The function of the vicariate council is to favour the links between the communities of the vicariate, to have an eye on the life and mission of the communities and to favour communication between all the religious on the life and mission of the vicariate as well as of the region (R of L 263). Decisions are not taken in the vicariate council with the exception of the admission of postulants (art 264). This can allow great freedom for analysing the situation and mission of the communities, to inform the regional superior of the advice and conclusions so that with his council he can take the necessary decisions. There is also the function of assessor to the regional vicar in his role as representing the congregation before the civil authorities (R of L 265) and the administration of the goods of the

vicariate (R of L 266).

In the 1969 rule there was also the Council of the Province and the Council of Congregation. The Council of the Province was abolished by the Holy See because of the new organisation in regions. The Council of Congregation has survived because of its competence which is listed in article 217: it checks, lists the tools, indicates, and examines but takes no decisions. This does not take away its importance in the life of the congregation. It is here that the major superiors meet with the general council to feel the reality of the congregation; it is here that the life of the religious and communities find ways of thinking over projects as well as plans for future animation and government which will facilitate inculturation and the development of the charism.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, SCJ

Saint Michael Garicoïts wrote...



Question: What is the most necessary piece of knowledge for human life?

Reply: It is self-knowledge. It is better to know one's faults than to enter

into all the secrets of states and empires than be able to unravel all the demands of nature. Question: What is the scarcest of all knowledge? Reply: It is self-knowledge. We can see far beyond ourselves and yet we miss what is nearest, namely ourselves. Everybody knows our short comings, we are the only ones not to know them.

Question: What is preventing us from knowing ourselves? Reply: We see ourselves from too close an angle. Our eyesight gets mixed up with the object and we are not sufficiently detached from ourselves to be able to have a good view of ourselves. This leads to great disorder; we don't want to know ourselves. (M 412)

Betharram in Rome

SINCE OUR COMMUNITY IS SITUATED IN THE HEART OF ROME AND SINCE PILGRIMS COME TO ROME ABOVE ALL "TO SEE THE POPE", WE WERE WONDERING HOW BEST TO ANNOUNCE THIS JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATING THE 150 ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ST MICHAEL GARICOITS...

The church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli is central and many people, as they cross the Piazza del Popolo drop into the church either through curiosity or to say a short prayer. What could we Betharramites do to let the world know that there is also St Michael Garicoits and that his spirituality is very up to date? Don't be afraid that we won't be heard. Doesn't St Paul tell us that we cannot stay silent? So here is what we suggested to the faithful using our church on a regular basis and those simply passing through:

The first step was to celebrate the 14th May and a goodly crowd of people was present at the celebration which assembled the fathers of the communities in Rome and of Monteporzio.

On Friday 17th May we introduced St Michael using the icon by Fr Giancarlo Monzani. On 21st, 22nd and 23rd June the doors of the church Santa Maria dei Miracoli remained open all day for prayer and reception. On Friday 21st there was an hour of adoration with the "St Michael Choir" from Pau offering Betharramite hymns with short reflexions on the spirituality of our Patron saint. On Saturday 22nd was the inauguration of an exposition by the photographer Jean Jacques Stockli, preceded by a talk given by Fr Francesco Radaelli. Among those

present were the parishioners from Montemurio who had come to Rome for the occasion; on Sunday 23rd there was a solemn Mass concelebrated in the church of St Louis des Français, presided by Mgr Robert Le Gall, archbishop of Toulouse. In his homily, Fr Gaspar spoke with much conviction of the beauty of the message from St Michael. The same day, after Mass, the faithful who already know St Michael and those who were hearing of him for the first time, joined for drinks and nibbles offered by the Congregation. To bring this day to a close the "St Michael Choir" from Pau was our guest and in the courtyard of Santa Maria del Miracoli there was a festive dinner offered by the Generalate. Finally, we can be satisfied with the first part of the day, but is it enough? We don't think so. Following the example of "The Friends of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph" who use the church of Santa Maria del Miracoli and who went on pilgrimage to Betharram and Lourdes, may others take an interest in St Michael and Betharram, encouraged by our message and our witness.

Angelo Riva, scj

JULY	14	Bom aniversário Happy birthday	P. Joachim Soares Moreira Hno. Éder Chaves Gonçalves Br. Edwin Jose Manavalan
	16	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Enrique Lasuén
	18	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Giovanni Duca Fr. Mongkhon Charoentharn
	20	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Carlo Antonini P. Beniamino Gusmeroli Br. Patrick Leighton
	21	Happy birthday	Br. George Anthonyswamy
	23	Bom aniversário	P. Sebastião do Nascimento Pereira P. Mauro Ulrich de Oliveira
AUGUST	26	Happy birthday	Fr. John Britto Irudhayam
	28	Feliz cumpleaños Joyeux anniversaire 15 ans de profession	Mons. Ignacio Gogorza P. Jean-Dominique Delgue P. Théophile Degni N'Guessan
	29	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Gaston Gabaix-Hialé
	31	Buon compleanno	P. Carlo Sosio
	1	Buon compleanno Bom aniversário	P. Enrico Mariani P. Jair Pereira da Silva
	2	Buon compleanno	P. Graziano Sala
	4	Feliz cumpleaños Buon compleanno	P. Julián Miguel P. Eyad Bader
	8	Bon anniversaire	F. Armel Vabié Daly
	10	Bom aniversário	P. Vicente de Menezes
	12	Buon compleanno	P. Maurizio Vismara P. Damiano Colleoni
	14	Bom aniversário	P. Antonio Scarpa

Father João Batista RIBEIRO (Virginia, 6 November 1940 - Paulinia, 14 June 2013)

Fr. João Batista Ribeiro was born in Virginia, near Passa Quatro (Brazil), one of the parishes served by our Fathers from St Michael's College. At that time, after a week at the service of the pupils, the teachers' rest consisted in helping the Parish Priests for confessions and Mass in rural communities.

João Batista entered the apostolicat of Conceição do Rio Verde (St Joseph's) in 1953. Under the guardianship of Fr Enrique Lasuen about a hundred of us instilled life into the school, which previously had been for the primary school children (7 – 11 year olds). After the college, together with other companions, still under the guardianship of Fr Enrique Lasuen, he did his novitiate in the seminary of Belo Ramo, Passa Quatro, in 1957. After First Profession in February 1958, he left for Adroque (Argentina) to do his philosophy. He will be part of the first group which came to Belo Horizonte in 1961 for a foundation meant for the Brazilian scholasticate. We looked after the new Sacred Heart parish in Nova Granada and our students followed lectures at the diocesan seminary. These four years of theology prepared him for his priestly functions. His superior was still Fr Enrique Lasuen who followed him with considerable care and understanding.

On 20th December 1964 with three others he was ordained priest; he spent his first years as religious-priest mainly in our schools in the south of Minas Gerais.

Our benefactor, Archbishop João Resende Costa, of Belo Horizonte, asked us if we would take on the parish of St John Baptist at Santa Luzia. Fr João Batista was its first Betharramite parish priest. For nine years he dedicated him-



self to the service of his people. By his presence in a poor area at the limits of his parish, the parish of Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch, Villa Jacqueline was born.

Later on we met him at Passa Quatro, parish priest at Tres Pontas, at Nova Granada, at Conceição, Rio Verde. But it was his three mandates as Vice Provincial which caused him greatest sufferings. His heart bore the consequences. He bore his illness for several years and finally died of bone cancer.

He was deeply attached to the Congregation, even with his own way of doing things. His disappearance reminds us of the mystery of the human being: "We carry this treasure in pots of clay". As he gradually withdrew from us, it was a cry for help and understanding on our part. The Congregation, like the Church, must integrate into the wider community those who have problems of adaptation to a uniformity which is not always real unity.

Antonio Scarpa. scj

The joy of singing for St Michael Garicoits

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE: THE SOLEMN MASS IN THE CHURCH OF ST LOUIS DES FRANCAIS IN ROME WILL BE CELEBRATED. THE "ST MICHAEL GARICOITS CHOIR" WHICH HAS COME SPECIFICALLY FROM PAU IS READY. AT LAST, THE MELODY AND VOICES RISE HEAVENWARDS TO REECHO IN THE LORD'S HOUSE THE BEAUTY AND SIMPLICITY OF THE SPIRITUALITY OF OUR FOUNDER.

IT WAS CERTAINLY GOOD FOR THE FAITHFUL TO BE ABLE TO LISTEN TO THESE NEW HYMNS FROM THE "ME VOICI" GROUP, IT WAS ALSO AN EXPERIENCE FULL OF MEANING FOR THOSE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE "PETIT CHOEUR" WHOSE JOY IT WAS TO TRANSMIT, IN MUSIC, ST MICHAEL'S MESSAGE.

The Saint Michael Garicoits Choir sings in honour of the Holy Spirit on the second Tuesday of the month at the Saint Michael House, formerly the Carmelite monastery in Pau, according to the wishes of Blessed Mariam.

"If you want to find me and to follow me, call upon the light, meaning the Holy Spirit. Speak to the dove of fire, the Holy Spirit, who inspires everything. It is my ardent desire that each month the priests should celebrate a Mass in honour of the Holy Spirit. Whoever celebrates this Mass or is present at it will be honoured by the Holy Spirit. He will have light; he will have peace; he will cure the sick, and rouse those who are sleeping". (Blessed Mariam)

With respect and love for the liturgy, the Saint Michael Garicoits Choir sings the praises of the Lord, it sings its love and fidelity, and its joy at being Christian. "Sing to God with all your heart with gratitude, with psalms, hymns and sacred canticles", (The Epistle of St Paul to the Colossians).

With all our heart we sing the marvels performed by God, our faith in Jesus Christ. There is nothing too beautiful for praising the Lord, for beauty, simplicity and recollection in the celebration of the liturgy are a treasure, leading us to prayer and elevating our whole being heavenwards.

"Happy the man who sings thus adding to

the beauty of the world. Happy the man who lends his voice to express the hopes of mankind. Happy the man who knows that music is a child's game played out in all freedom." (Didier Rimaud)

The suggestion that was made to us to celebrate in music this jubilee year marking the 150 anniversary of the death of St Michael Garicoits filled us with enthusiasm; indeed it is impossible not to think of St Michael Garicoits when you know Blessed Mariam's life! The Mass of St Michael Garicoits, composed by Eric Saint-Mark, burst forth in an inspired melody which is truly remarkable. This project lead us to explore and discover the musical treasures which lie hidden in the archives of Betharram and Rome. The words of the songs, written by the Fathers of Betharram, of yesterday and today, gradually filled our spirits and our hearts with thoughts from St Michael Garicoits.

"God is everything, I am nothing. Humble, devoted, constant, Here I am, Father, I come to do your will." By dint of repetitions we made these messages ours. The wish to procure a similar happiness for others is something which is very much alive in our group which is like a little family. By our singing we wish to extend this same happiness even further afield, outside our walls.

Each new choir member is greeted by the following text composed by one of the Betharram Fathers:

"No one is any better than the next one.
We are all on our way.
No one is master of any one.
Everybody must learn the lesson.
No one is lord over any one else.
Everybody is made to give,
To be of service and to love freely!
The best way to progress
Is to take each other by the hand.
The best way to learn
Is to know how to listen
The best way to love
Is to serve freely". Fr Geraldo L. Bastos.

Ours is a way of life consisting of fraternal and friendly sharing within the group. We are deeply aware that we can do nothing without each other. We are to remember that "God is all and that we are nothing! And that "doing everything required in so far as our means and situation will allow", is attested by St Michael Garicoits himself.

Singing St Michael Garicoits helps us to be missionaries of the Gospel and of God's love, as we celebrate Jesus Christ and joyfully announce this good news: "It has so pleased God to be loved and so he gave us his only begotten Son"! Our pilgrimage to Rome helped us to enter more intimately and more solemnly into the message of St Michael; and our reception in a family atmosphere by the Betharram Fathers filled us with joy and hope. As we conclude, we naturally sing for St Michael and Mariam as part of this choir linked to the Fathers of Betharram from its beginning. Our song is a cry of love for our Father in Heaven and St Michael has shown us the way: "Do God's will. To see God's will one must love. Love is clear sighted, it sees everything, understands everything, it informs, it guesses." So, "Father, here we are without delay, without reserve, without looking back, for love's sake."

Véronique Leid



Vicariate of Brazil

Priestly ordination ► On June 22 Br Marcelo Rodrigues da Silva was ordained as a priest at St. Rose of Serra (MG-Brazil). Mons Joao Justino, Auxiliary Bishop of Belo Horizonte, presided over the celebration; Fr Gustavo Agin (Regional Superior), Fr Ulrich Mauro de Oliveira (Regional Vicar for Brazil) and many other Betharramite religious from different communities of the Vicariate of Brazil took part in the ordination rite.

What came as a pleasant surprise was the presence of religious from Argentina and Uruguay, the two Vicariates belonging to the same Region, and of priests coming from the dioceses where Fr Marcelo carried out his pastoral ministry. All expressed their affection and appreciation Fr Marcelo deserved for his untiring pastoral work along these years. We wish you all the best, Fr Marcelo!

Vicariate of India

Ordinations to Diaconate ► On June 13, Bros George Antony, Yesudas, Jesuraj and Rojo Thomas were ordained deacons in Mangalore by the laying on of hands of Most Rev Dr Varghese Chakkalakkal, Bishop of Calicut.

In this Jubilee year in honour of Saint Michael, this graceful event is one more sign that the charism of Saint



Michael Garicoits is alive in India thanks to the witness given by our brothers and fathers and to the dedication of our formators.

Let us be grateful to all those who support our mission in India through their prayer and generosity.

Notes from the General Council

► On June 17, the Superior general, with the consent of his Council, **admitted to final profession** the Brothers David Phithak Bi-Thu, Athit Dominic Kasetsukchai and Albert Sa-at Prathansantiphong.

► On 5 July, the Superior general, with the consent of his Council, **presented to the order of diaconate** the Brothers David Phithak Bi-Thu, Thinakorn Martin de Tours Damrongusasin, Athit Dominic Kasetsukchai, Peter Nonthaphat Mayoe and Albert Sa-at Prathansantiphong.

IN MEMORIAM

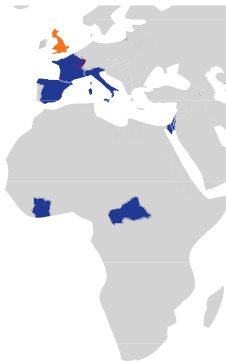
On July 1st, **Mrs Nélida**, the mother of Fr Gustavo Agin scj, the Regional Superior of the Region Fr Augusto Etchecopar, passed away. We feel close to Fr Gustavo and his family in praying the Risen Lord for their mother, that she may be welcomed into the arms of God the Father.

On July 10th, **Mr. Raymond Madej**, father of Fr Anton Madej scj of the community of Olton (England Vicariate), died. We are close to Fr Anton and his family in this time of sorrow, and we raise our prayer to the Risen Lord for his father.

Vicariate of Italy

Meeting in Montemurlo ► On June 9, a group of parishioners from the parish of St William of Castellazzo of Bollate (Milan), accompanied by Father Ennio Bianchi scj, and a group of lay people of the Sacred Heart Parish of Montemurlo (Prato) gathered together for a moment of prayer and reflection. This event was organized by Fr Ennio Bianchi scj with the cooperation of Mr. Giovanni Guarnieri, a betharramite lay associate from Montemurlo. The theme of the meeting was that of the Jubilee year: «From the Heart of Jesus to the heart of the world».

Conference at Albiate ► On June 14-15 a conference attended by Betharramite religious and lay people engaged in service to the poor and health pastoral care was held at Albiate (Monza and Brianza). The topic of the conference was the same as the Jubilee Year's, «From the heart of Jesus to the heart of the world»; various religious, engaged in health pastoral care, took the floor: Fr Guido Pradella, Fr Alessandro Paniga, Fr Aldo Camesasca and Fr Damiano Colleoni. Fr Mario Longoni, who has been working for so many years in the care home for AIDS patients in Monteporzio, attended the conference too. All gave a meaningful contribution: the lay people working



at Monteporzio, those giving their co-operation to our missionary activity and those who support in various ways the dispensary of Niem and the "St Michael Centre" of Bouar (Central African Republic). The conference ended with the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez, Superior General.

Vicariate of Argentina-Uruguay

Annual retreat ► During 6 days (May 20 to 26), in an atmosphere of meditation and prayer, the religious of the vicariate participated in the annual retreat led by Fr. Tomás Santidrián, from the Archdiocese of Rosario and former betharramite student. The religious granted themselves this time of silence dedicated to prayer through meditation, celebrations, a revision of life and by remembering the brothers who have gone to the Lord.

The testimony of the life of Mgr Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, martyr of faith and justice, was read during the meals in the refectory; it helped everyone to renew their apostolic impulse and their commitment to the option for the poor. The retreat ended with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Fr Enrique Gavel's and Fr Constancio Erobaldi's priesthood. A great celebration indeed!



of Father Wilfred Perepadan, scj

"Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and all kinds of illness. And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd." (Mt 9,35-36)

...Oh! If only we could gather together a society of priests having for their programme the very programme of the Heart of Jesus, eternal priest, servant of the heavenly Father: absolute generosity and obedience, perfect simplicity, unchanging gentleness! These priests would be a real mobile camp of picked soldiers, ready to hasten at the first signal of their leaders, where ever they would be called, even and above all to the most difficult ministries, unwanted by others! »

« Jesus Christ is our mirror our example that we must never lose sight of; His life, His interior and exterior way of life... Let us compare ourselves continually with Him: "is my heart like His? at the present moment what would He do?" Yes He alone is my life»

«Give me a heart that truly loves! It grows, and tastes the things of God, it leaps and runs along the path of our Lord Jesus Christ. Love is what leads a man forward; it is the secret spring necessary to discover in postulants and novices; and there is found the divine seed to develop in the hearts. If it is lacking, you can do nothing.»

Saint Michael Garicoits

PERSONAL SILENCE

Narratio... The first impression of the gospel passage from Matthew says to me, Jesus an image of God who interacts with humanity. He can be found and be known. He is available to reach out to the needy. It is a profound explanation for me the insights of the mystery of Incarnation that is God comes to dwell

with the ordinary circumstances of life to affirm and strengthen my life. Real people in Jesus' time like each one of us saw Him, spoke with Him and felt His compassion. He shows His compassionate Heart that itself manifests an offering of kindness to the Humanity. Jesus Heart inspires me to say... yes my heart is



Fr Wilfred enjoying a very nice company

ready to learn how Jesus treated people, what kept Him focused and how to live in a way that pleases God. I am capable of being compassionate about people but in the first instance I may hear from within because it is challenging and it is painful.

Sometimes, I hear people use a common phrase to 'Have a Heart'. It happens when people considered the other person is too demanding or not being approachable or too unsympathetic. They are considered to be heartless. St Michael urges his companions. 'Have a Heart' and be in tune with the very programme of the Heart of Jesus, The heart of Jesus reveals a meek heart, a heart that endured injury with patience and without resentment. Full of patience, devoid of bitterness and totally fixed on His Father's will. Yes, for me it is a mirror of Christian love

as it is revealed to me in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As penny catechism teaches that God created me in order to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world, and be happy with Him forever in the next. God's love is the reason for my existence. This motivates me to say that His love leads me forward to always make a response. It is a response to Him as a living and loving person.

After joining our congregation, I can happily say that spirituality and mission focused on the theme of the

compassionate Heart of Jesus has made an impact on my life. The first living and loving impulse of Jesus' Heart towards the Father allowed Him to say 'Here I am' without any delay or hesitation. Following to live out that impulse of the heart not only provokes a challenge and implications but also needs a tremendous strength to carry out in practice. When I was asked by Fr. Gasper Fernandez and General Council to become Vicariate Superior of English Vicariate, I thought myself why I, a young religious a recently ordained priest to take up the responsibility. In February 2012, I received an encouraging letter from Fr. Gasper in response to my 'why' question. He quoted from St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, "Let no one disregard you because you are young, but be an example in the way you speak and behave, and in your love,

your faith and your purity (1Tim. 4:12). Fr. Gasper also noted in that letter by saying that he wants me to know that I am not alone in this task and the congregation is a project of the Sacred Heart of Jesus whom we serve by serving our brothers. Yes, that's true from the beginning St. Michael taught us we are modelled on the very programme of the Heart of Jesus. The programme of the Heart of Jesus, we spread to become a messenger of Christ for the salvation of all and our salvation. Jesus opened His Heart wide open, knowing that people misunderstand him and pierce Him. I too confront the same reality of Jesus suffering in my life when I called to open my heart wide open. To become more charitable, more thoughtful, God invites me to make my life's foundation on love. My life is the result of God's love for me. I am not just a product but a being called out to live to the fullest expression based on God's love. It would be wonderful if every day in my faith journey I could be moved to tears by the indescribable, literally unspeakable enormity of God's love for me.

My humble prayer would be 'Lord, Thank you for giving me your Love, guide me in



In the Birmingham Cathedral, flower arrangements, inspired by the Betharram logo of the Sacred Heart and made by Shirley (on the right on the photo of the previous page).

your love, seek your love and love you more and more every day. Amen.

Fr Wilfred Perepadan was born on 15 October 1979 at Kuttikad (Trichur), a village in Kerala (South India). He belongs to the Syro-Malabar Rite. He studied Theology at Oscott College (England) with Frs Pascal Ravi and Vincent Masilamani. He made his Final Profession at Olton in 2009. After being ordained priest on 13 August 2011 at Kuttikad, he was called back to Olton where his confreres and all the parishioners and friends were thrilled to have him back as a warm and nice shepherd who knows when to tease and when to be serious. He is at present the Regional Vicar for England.