

at seeing the spirit of St Michael alive and thriving in the Congregation:

Fr Etchecopar continued: "In spite of the general influence of what our Founder used to call *le mal du jour*, I have noticed that a breath from on high is lifting us and carrying us along in the footsteps of our beloved Father Garicoits. I am convinced that the better his spiritual doctrine be-

comes known it will enlighten us, his virtue will sanctify us and we shall bear abundant fruits of light and life, in the course of this century which is growing darker in its pride and is breaking up in its revolutions". (15 August 1890)

Pierre Duvignau, SCJ  
(to be continued)

**Pensées du R.P. Garicoits, this booklet was written by Fr Etchecopar from December 1888 to February 1889, drawing from the notes he had taken himself during Saint Michael's talks and from Saint Michael's letters. The book will be published in 1890.**



**Sarrance, 1st December 1888.** Fr Etchecopar wrote in a letter: "Dear Sister, I am wondering if divine Providence hasn't brought me here at this point in time to enjoy a peace unknown so far and to put in order some thoughts of Father Garicoits. It will be a small volume but will be full of the most solid and most generous piety. I have written to Betharram about it and I shall wait and see what advice they will give me. I am sure that I shall act wisely and according to the will of Heaven. (L1068)

Here the solitude is so deep and the peace so total that I have taken the resolution to make the best of it to note all the instructions and thoughts of our Founder which I have already collected. And since they continue to encourage me from Betharram to try, I am going to prolong my stay in this residence at least for some time. (L 1069)

**On 16 February 1889**, he completed his work and wrote a foreword: "The content of this booklet is confidential and only the members of the Congregation should have access to it; it contains – so to speak – only family papers, the echo of the outpourings of a Father speaking to his children and words flowing out of what filled his heart".

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Societas S<sup>mi</sup> Cordis Jesu  
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NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE  
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA  
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA  
FAMILY NEWS

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## A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

### Betharram through its Regions and Vicariates

The Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was founded one day in October 1835 when the first companions decided to live in community under the leadership of Father Garicoits so as to put into practice what he had been sharing with them. The community grew and scattered because of the nature of its mission in the service of small colleges or in popular missions in the diocese of Bayonne.

In 1856 a small party set out for Argentina where it formed a community at the service of popular missions and, from 1858 undertook the service of education in St Joseph's college in Buenos Aires. In 1861 the community at Montevideo was founded. From then onwards the growth of communities continued in other places in Argentina. Then in 1904 it was the opening in Paraguay and in 1935 in Brazil. In order to facilitate the government of these communities so far away from Betharram, the Superior General would delegate a Vicar- Father Harbustan, successor to Fr Didace Barbe, called a Provincial. This maintained until 1890 when, after the final approval of the Constitutions, the first American delegation came into being.

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## CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS OF BETHARRAM

## 8 – The 1890 Constitution

The 1877 decree of approval concerned the Institute only and not the Rule. This had to be presented later on to obtain direct approval, in view of the changes demanded by the Holy See or those which the Congregation itself might judge useful to add. The usual time lapse was 12 years.

The General Chapter of 1887 specifically asked the Superior General and his Council "to request as soon as possible that the Sacred Congregation for Bishops and Regulars grant the canonical approval of our Constitutions".

There were fewer requests for changes than in 1877. Part II, entitled Life Style was divided in two: one part consisted in a series of chapters dealing with the vows, and the second part dealing with the practice of the corresponding virtues.

The Chapter entitled "Particular devotions of the Institute" was reduced in size once more and the three sections reduced to eight articles:

1. The Institute is called after the name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
2. All the members of the Congregation consider this divine Heart to be their special model, their treasure and their heritage, the seal which they must imprint on their whole life.
3. For motto they will have his cry of devotion: Behold, here I come! Let us go!
4. Every year in all the houses of the Institute the feast of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated with the greatest solemnity.
5. The birthplace of the Institute is the miraculous shrine of Our Lady at the foot of the hill known as Calvary, all

members will have a special devotion to the Passion and death of our Saviour and for the sufferings of the Queen of Martyrs.

6. They will practise and spread devotion for the Way of the Cross.

7. With great zeal they will establish the practice of the Rosary.

8. They will have great devotion for St Joseph, patron of the universal Church and protector of the Institute.

Approval for these Constitutions was given by Pope Leo XIII in the decree of 28 April 1890; this wasn't the final approval but for a 10 year trial only. "Our Constitutions have been approved but for a ten year trial period, as you know" said Fr Etchecopar to the 1890 Chapter. Nearly all the modifications proposed by the General Chapters – they met every three years – have been approved by the Holy See."

To complete the Constitutions a new Coutumier was composed to which he attached great importance.

Speaking in the same Chapter Fr Etchecopar said: "The Coutumier applies the Constitutions in all the details of our daily life; it stresses the scope, the range, the spirit and the character.

In view of such connections and the importance of the Coutumier for us in establishing the characteristics of our Fathers and to preserve, if I may say so, the primacy of the spirit of our early Fathers, we have made a collection of our habits and customs which I am placing in your hands."

He had just published the little book "Pensees" and he made no secret of his joy



*Diversity in the Church, which is a genuine blessing, is to be founded on harmony in unity.  
Like a great mosaïque where the pieces mingle so as to form the great plan of God.*

Between 1930 and 1940 the Congregation knew such expansion that at the 1947 General Chapter it was decided to create provinces. There was then the French Province constituted by French communities together with the community in Morocco and the two communities in the Holy Land. The Province of Argentina was linked with Spain, that of America was constituted with the communities in Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil. The vice-provinces of Italy, England, the mission to China and the Province community depended directly on the Superior General.

Four years later in 1951 the General Council modified this organisation of the provinces as follows: the French Province remained as in 1947, the Province of St Joseph of Rio de la Plata comprising the communities in Argentina, Spain, Paraguay and Uruguay; finally the Vice-provinces of England, Italy and Brazil. In 1958 the Vice-province of Italy became a province in its own right.

The Rule of Life, drawn up in 1969 after the Council Vatican II decided on the creation of delegations, attached directly to the Superior General or to a Provincial

SEPTEMBER

14	10 ans de profession 5 ans de profession	PP. Emmanuel Congo Winonga, Omer Koutouan Nanghy, Arsène Noba, F. Alfred Christian Nandjui FF. Marius Huberson Angui, Hyacinthe Ali Konan
16	Buon compleanno Bom aniversário	P. Egidio Zoia P. Wagner Azevedo dos Reis
18	Buon compleanno	P. Romualdo Airaghi
19	Feliz cumpleaños 70 años de profesión	P. Constancio Lopez Morales P. José Gogorza
20	Buon compleanno Joyeux anniversaire 60 ans de sacerdoce	P. Livio Borghetti F. Dede Constant Kate P. Henri Lataste
25	Happy birthday	Fr. Vincent Masilamani
26	45 anni di professione 15 anni di professione	P. Enrico Mariani P. Romualdo Airaghi
27	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Patrick Moulié F. Vincent de Paul Dimon Worou
28	Bom aniversário	Ir. Francisco de Assis Dos Santos
29	65 ans de profession 65 años de profesión 65 anni di professione	P. Jean Lambert P. Luis Oteiza P. P. Celeste Perlini, Egidio Zoia
30	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Michel Vignau

OCTOBER

1	55 anni di professione	P. Carlo Ruti
3	Happy birthday Buon compleanno	Fr. Edward Simpson P. Tobia Sosio
4	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Enrique Gavel
5	Buon compleanno Joyeux anniversaire 50 anni di professione	P. Angelo Paino P. Gérard Zugarramurdi P. Angelo Recalcati
6	Happy birthday Bom aniversário	Fr. Anthony Britto Rajan Ir. Eudes Fernandes da Silva
7	Buon compleanno	P. Mario Colombo, P. Davide Villa
8	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Enrique Miranda
9	Buon compleanno	P. Tiziano Molteni
12	Happy birthday Feliz cumpleaños	Fr. Thomas Kelly P. Wilfrido Romero

Superior. This is how in 1977 delegations of Paraguay and Spain were created followed by that of Uruguay in 1986 and finally the Holy Land and Ivory Coast. In 1983 came the Vice-province of Paraguay followed by the transformation of the mission to Thailand into a Vice-province.

The 1999 chapter decided to regroup the (Vice-) provinces and Delegations in regions: so for example the St Michael Garicoits Region included France, Spain, and Ivory Coast together with the communities in Italy, the Holy Land and the Central African Republic (which previously had been attached to Italy). The Father Etchecopar Region grouped the communities of Argentina and the vice-provinces Paraguay and Brazil; finally the Blessed Mariam Region was formed with the communities of the Vice-province of England (formerly a Province in 2001), the Delegation of India (founded in 2001) together with the Vice-province of Thailand.

The 2005 General Chapter decided (by 25 votes in favour and 1 against) the change in the Rule of Life so as to give a canonical form to this organisation of the Congregation in regions. Consequently articles 116, 227, 228, 229, 235, 252, 253, 254 were modified and became law on 1st January 2009. This new organisation in Regions and Vicariates responds to the wishes expressed in the orientations of the acts of the 2005 General Chapter (Acts 40 – 42).

It was the Council of Congregation meeting in Bangalore in 2007 which created the Regions and Vicariates as follows: the St Michael Garicoits Region with the vicariates France-Spain, Northern Italy,

Central-Southern Italy, the Holy Land, Ivory Coast and Central African Republic; Father Etchecopar Region with the vicariates Argentina-Uruguay, and those of Brazil and Paraguay; finally the Blessed Mariam Region with the vicariates of England, Thailand and India. The 2011 Chapter was to fuse the two vicariates in Italy.

With the creation of vicariates and their administration the wish was to develop the unity of the Congregation while at the same time respecting the cultural differences, to facilitate the inculturation of the charism. This is how it is explained in the Rule of Life, 2012 edition: *To promote greater unity, to manifest the life of the family, and to ensure a more immediate and direct animation in regard to different cultures, the Congregation is organised into Regions (art. 221). Each region is subdivided into vicariates which give to our family their own characteristics and riches (art. 261).*

With this new organisation of the Congregation the real aim is to express better what Pope Francis was saying in his homily on 29th June 2013: “diversity in the Church, which is a genuine blessing, is to be founded on harmony in unity. Like a great mosaic where the pieces mingle so as to form the great plan of God. That is something which should help us to overcome any conflict wounding the body of the Church. United in our differences: there is no other way open to us to be faithful to unity. That’s the Catholic spirit, the Christian spirit: be united in our differences. That is Jesus’ way of doing things.”

The Father August Etchecopar Region is the most uniform and that for two very good reasons: the Church in Latin Amer-



ica and the Caribbean is already used to meeting as in a synod during the Episcopal conferences and other instances of the CELAM. Besides, the different realities of the countries in this part of the world, are already used to pooling ideas since 1986, with the six meetings of the ELAB (Betharramite meetings in Latin-America), meetings from time to time of the Vice-provinces with the Latin-American Coordinator, the meetings of young Betharramite religious, not forgetting the meetings with directors and students.

As for the St Michael Garicoits Region it is the largest of all, first by the number of religious as for the distance between the different Vicariates. We have not been able to make one Region out of the two countries: Ivory Coast and Central African Republic which are still quite fragile.

It didn't seem ideal either to leave things as they were: on the one hand Ivory Coast with France and on the other Central African Republic with Italy. This is why it was thought better to make two Vicariates so as to better respect their cultural differences.

The Blessed Mariam Region has organised itself in function of language. English is the unifying instrument and even then it is limited. It is the newest Region where there is much life for the Congregation. It needs to be accompanied by the charismatic and missionary experience of the hundred years old Vicariate of England. Material help and exchange visits by the religious is a genuine result of this Region.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj



*Saint Michael Garicoits wrote...*

The great progress which we have made consists in dying to ourselves, to the care which we have for ourselves; we have made some progress in self denial and in love of the Cross; we don't always keep it in mind although our rules and instructions don't talk to us about anything else. As a strict minimum we train ourselves to be good religious, but if we are not careful we shall not become apostles. If we only want to do what is usually done, we shall not go far! (M 376)

# OF THE CONGREGATION

Betharram is present – tried to discern their Christian vocation and the different ways to live it. On the agenda: married and religious people shared their experience in a joyful and prayerful atmosphere full of games and songs. The climax of the day was the Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr Crispin Villalba SCJ.

## Vicariate of India

**Shobhana Shaakha**

► On 22nd July, the community hosted a meeting for the priests of our congregation residing in various parts of the Bangalore Archdiocese. All the priests shared their experience in their particular parishes and in communities. These are the resolutions taken during this meeting: All the priests will gather at least once in two months; They will study the Rule of Life together; They will pray together as one family; They will contribute towards the Common Fund. It was the first meeting for this academic year.



## Vicariate of Thailand

**Chiang Mai** ► On 27 July 2013, Bros Albert Saat Prathansantiphong, Dominic Athit Kasetukchai and David Pitak Bi-thu made their final profession in the family of Betharram. This event took place in the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Chiang Mai. A large congregation attended the ceremony, most of them from the villages where the three brothers are from. We would like to thank the Parish Priest of

the cathedral, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Bangkok for getting everything ready and the people who provided food for lunch. The singing has been masterly performed by the girls of Ban Pong center.

**Our Lady of Betharram** ► On 3rd August, the Ban Garicoits & Ban Sampran Community invited the neighbouring religious communities along with well-wishers and friends to celebrate the feast of our Lady: more than 500 faithful turned out to join them. The Mass was presided by Fr Subancha Yindeengarm. May Our Lady of Betharram intercede for all of us and God grant us a fruitful and joyful life.

## Note from the General Council

► On August 21, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, presented to the **priestly ministry the deacon Francisco de Assis Dos Santos** (Region Fr Auguste Etchecopar, Vicariate of Brazil);

► On August 21, the Superior General approved the appointment of **Fr. Alessandro Locatelli as Superior of the community of Milan-Castellazzo** and of **Fr. Angelo Riva as Superior of the community of Parma** (Region St Michael Garicoits, Vicariate of Italy).

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mrs Maria José Trameri**, sister of Fr. Albino Trameri scj, passed away during the night from the 16 to 17 the July at the age of 83. We pray for her and her family.

On 17 July 2013, **Mrs Alphonsine**, the mother of Fr Hervé Kouamé Kouakou scj, Regional Vicar of the Ivory Coast, returned to the Lord, after a long illness. Let's keep Fr Hervé and his family in our prayer: may the Risen Lord give them strength in this time of sorrow.

## Vicariate of France-Spain

**Betharram** ► On July 28, for the feast of Our Lady of Betharram, a solemn Eucharistic celebration brought together in the Shrine of Betharram many priests and lay people who came to this holy place to renew their faith seeking the protection of St. Michael Garicoïts. The celebration was presided by the Superior General, Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez scj, and a large number of Betharram Religious from France, Italy, Spain and Jordan joined him. Many parishioners, pilgrims, priests and well-wishers were also present along with lay associates of the "Petit Choeur Saint-Michael" who led the singing and the members of the Fraternity "Me voici" who renewed their commitment.



**Pilgrimage to Ibarre** ► August 28 - To celebrate the Jubilee of the 150th anniversary of the death of St. Michael, the traditional program has been slightly modified: masses at 7 a.m. and 10,30 a.m.; Vespers at 3 p.m. followed by the procession to the house of St Michael; the Eucharistic adoration in the church from 12.30 to 14.30 was added to the programme, followed by the recitation of the Rosary and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament; the relics of St Michael were exposed in his native house throughout the day. A soft drink at the end of the Mass added to the festive atmosphere.

Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez, Superior General, gave the homily in French, using the language of the heart: it was exactly what was needed in this place and at this time! Simplicity and gentleness in this simple context! Just like the Heart of Jesus.

## Vicariate of Brazil

**Sabará** ► On August 10th, the betharramite missionary community of Sabará held a recollection at the Capuchins' religious house for 60 young people. On the agenda: prayer sessions, prayerful reading of the Word of God and the Eucharistic Celebration, a healthy walk in the park and an exhibition were also on the schedule.



**Ordination** ► On August 24, in Medeiros (Minas Gerais), Br Éder Chaves Gonçalves was ordained as a priest by the laying on of the hands of Mons Antonio Carlos Felix, Archbishop of the Diocese of Luz. Congratulations!

## Vicariate of Paraguay

**Asunción** ► Saturday, August 10 a meeting was held to promote vocations among the youth; a team of betharramite religious and lay people organised the event, which took place at the "Colegio Apostólico San José". More than 40 boys and girls from different parts of the country - where

## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2013 (1)

**WHAT IMPRESSIONS ARE WE TAKING AWAY WITH US AFTER THE WYD LAST JULY FIRST IN PAULINIA AND THE IN RIO DE JANEIRO?** Joy, prayer, sharing, mutual welcome, adaptation, sacrifice, weariness. Everything contributed to make these days

intense and full of meaning.

We possibly spoke little of St Michael during this 150th anniversary dedicated to him but we shared his life style.

It is possible that we didn't bring out a document, but what we have experienced and felt is worth more than a book.

It is possible that no direct mention was made about vocations, but what we went through was a real "pro-vocation".

We felt that St Michael was not unknown to the young people; he was a friend who spoke words of truth to them and whose life style they had adopted. To be all together, coming from different latitudes, strengthened friendships in an atmosphere of genuine fraternity.

The youth and we religious have already forgotten the little organisational mishaps, the inevitable difficulties of such a type of experience, the fatigue of long walks, the cold and the rain.

What still remains is the warm smile of welcome in the families, the religious community, the parishioners of Paulinia and the experience of the Church with thousands of outer young people, plus the appeal by Pope Francis during the night prayer in Rio de Janeiro. "Dear Youth, the Lord needs you! Today he is calling each one of you to follow him in his Church and to be a mission-



nary. Dear Friends, today the Lord is calling you! He is calling you, and you, and you. He is calling each one of you. Listen with your heart to what he is saying to you".

What still remains can become the "secret source" which will give life to new decisions and new orientations in the life of each one.

Let us now leave the young people and the religious who accompanied them, the time to tell us about this experience next month.

Graziano Sala, scj



**Let us first take an overall view of the whole event with Fr Gilberto Ortellado, Parish Priest of “Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch” in Paulinia and superior of the Community of Paulinia-Sao-Paulo.**



Good day dear brothers and sisters, faithful readers of the NEF. I am happy to be able to share briefly with you what the recent WORLD YOUTH

DAY (WYD) in Rio de Janeiro has meant for the Betharramite community and parish of Paulinia, beginning with the preparation at Paulinia to the events which we are enjoying today.

We started preparations last year as soon as the person responsible for the Youth from the Archdiocese of Campinas announced that each parish would welcome groups of young people coming from other countries for a missionary experience in the week leading up to the WYD. This week was known as “Missionary Week”. To this end our archdiocese drew up a programme including religious, sporting and cultural activities as well as visits to the families.

Father Aurelio, Deacon Chiquinho (Francisco de Assis Dos Santos) and myself decided that our parish couldn't be absent from such an event. So we got into the preparations too. Thank God, we were able to have the help of an extraordinary team. We assembled the youngsters and when we told them about our plan, they joined with us with enthusiasm. We began to work with them: meeting to reflect on the WYD, to organise activities

to collect money to cover inscription fees and travel expenses. Once a month there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the WYD among other intentions. 40 young people from the parish were enrolled for the WYD for the first time. Besides, we got ready with the same team and the whole parish to welcome the young pilgrims who were to come from other countries. What a surprise and what a joy when Fr Gustavo and Fr Mauro asked us to welcome the young Betharramites from Argentina, Paraguay, Italy and France who also wanted to come for the WYD. The general idea was to use the pre-WYD days to reflect on the 150 years since the death of our founder Saint Michael Garicoits.

All six communities from the parish got down to work. General mobilisation: organisation of the families who were going to welcome the visitors, teams for the kitchen, preparation of the programme for the Missionary Week with celebrations, conferences, cultural and sportive events, festivities, visits, transport, preparation of the meeting place for the pre-WYD, etc. When the great day arrived we welcomed 30 young Betharramites: Fathers, religious and laity.

The pre-WYD week was very touching. It was a source of pure joy for the youth of the parish and for the parish community, principally for those who had accompanied the preparation of the week at close hand, but also for our religious community at Paulinia. The enthusiasm of Fr Aurelio and Deacon Chiquito during those days is worth mentioning. It is also worth noting the speed with which the youth here and

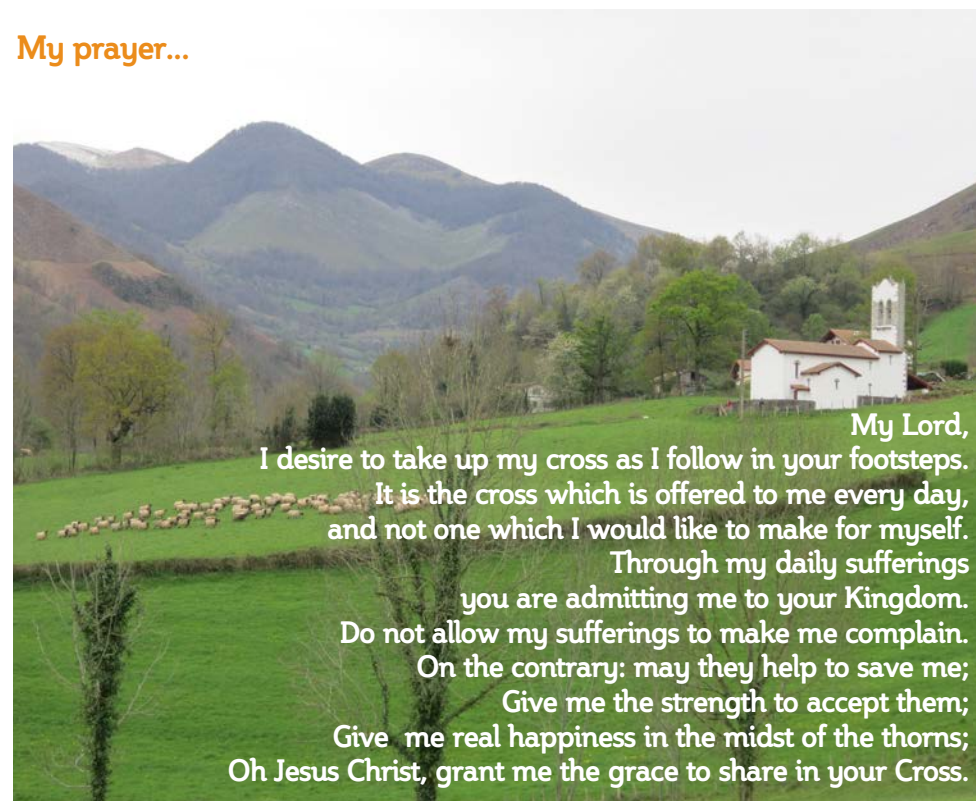
I also send you.” Like Our Lord, we are there to do the Divine will. What a mission! But what are we sent to? Like our Lord, we are sent to the Cross of our station in life to make the best of it.

This is how all the states of life should be viewed and we should embrace the crosses and pains which accompany. This is how we should view our ministries, our teaching, our missions and we should embrace all the crosses which litter all our ministries. Are there dangerous crosses which we should try to avoid? Yes, there are but they can be pushed aside: “I desire to support

all these crosses and others besides so as to participate in the humiliations, poverty, and sufferings on the cross of my Divine Master.” What a marvellous disposition! In a short time one becomes a saint and a great saint by being willing to make the best use of our present situation.

Witness the Good Thief: to start with he was a well-known robber, cursing God, then accepting the cross as coming from God himself, finally happy to be associated with his God by means of the cross, considering himself unworthy of such an honour.

### My prayer...



My Lord,  
I desire to take up my cross as I follow in your footsteps.  
It is the cross which is offered to me every day,  
and not one which I would like to make for myself.  
Through my daily sufferings  
you are admitting me to your Kingdom.  
Do not allow my sufferings to make me complain.  
On the contrary: may they help to save me;  
Give me the strength to accept them;  
Give me real happiness in the midst of the thorns;  
Oh Jesus Christ, grant me the grace to share in your Cross.

And what about those who grumble about the cross. For St Paul they are enemies of the faith; they are renouncing it, they are denying it in a manner of speaking. How many renunciations of the faith? What are we complaining about? To be on the way to heaven? I have just received a letter from a Daughter of the Cross. In it she says how happy she is in her vocation, even in the midst of all the thorns she finds there and which she says are inevitable. What a wealth of teaching in a few words!

Yes, yes, the cross everywhere: it is the eternal law, necessary, merciful, whether you view it from God's angle or from our own. You run away from it in vain, it is to be found everywhere for it is the cross which saves; unfortunately, not everyone. Everybody has the cross but in different ways. There are those who want it and those who refuse it; there are those who accept the cross and adore it; there are others who carry it in spite of themselves. These latter suffer without merit, they increase the pain, and by tear strewn paths are heading for hell. There are those who are happy in the midst of sorrows just like that simple Daughter of the Cross.

If it was permissible to complain now and again it should be for lack of big crosses; Who would dare to grumble and complain about the little crosses linked to our station? Is this not a common failing? Woe betide the person who doesn't love or share the cross of Jesus Christ! He will still suffer, and he will suffer even more and without merit, risking suffering eternally in hell.

Take a look at the Blessed Virgin at the foot of the Cross; she is standing, suffering indescribable pain, without a murmur and

without asking for a change in her situation, happy and contented as she is in the situation which Divine Providence has chosen for her. Obedient like when the Angel greeted her as Mother of God, and always saying "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" perfectly obedient to the will of God.

Our mission is to imitate her and not to say: "I want to please; here I am displeasing. Therefore I want to change residence. I want to do good, so I must change work. I must find employment elsewhere. We should be saying: "Where I am is where God wants me to be; behold the handmaid of the Lord! Be it done unto me according to thy word!"

It's not unusual to feel tempted in the opposite direction. Everybody is tempted. I've often felt like that myself. More than once I have pictured to myself my little village Ibarre, with its poor little church, the fountain whose waters I can still see, and the old Father who I would be so happy to see again and the sister who Providence has kept for me. I was tempted to say to the Bishop: "Pick another superior and let me leave. There would have been no car at Ibarre but I wouldn't have needed one in any case. When I would have had to dig the ground I would have felt strong enough with just some soil.

That poor little church, so bare and neglected! I would have gone begging for money to decorate it. That would have been enough to keep a man busy. But I always regarded such images as temptations. If I believed that this was God's will I would have left everything and set out at once.

Let's listen to the words of the Divine Master to his disciples: "As my Father has sent me, so

those coming from abroad were quickly integrated. There were those speaking Spanish, others Italian or French or Portuguese. So what! Everyone understood thanks to the language of music, dance, hugging, smiles, games, prayer or simply sharing a meal together or celebrations. It was a pleasure seeing the youngsters sharing all those happy moments as if they were friends from long ago.

On Saturday 20 July at Campinas we had the celebration of Mass to send the young pilgrims on their way to the WYD together with the participation of all the parishes in the archdiocese. It was a beautiful celebration and marked the beginning of the WORLD YOUTH DAY. On Sunday evening the young people from the parish set off for Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by Fr Aurelio and Chiquinho. The young Betharramites caught up with them on Monday morning. They were brimming over with enthusiasm and happiness encouraged by what they had experienced during the pre-WYD days, impatient to live through something unique in their lives, and the thought of meeting Pope Francis together with hundreds of thousands of other young people. They were also aware that they were going to have a spiritual meeting with Jesus as they had never had before. Meanwhile we who remained at home in the parish, we experienced the WYD thanks to the media and during our Masses by praying for the meeting and for our young people.

If the trip to Rio was touching the return was no less so. When our young parishioners met up with the young Argentine-

ans, Italians and Paraguayans it was an explosion of joy. The return of the youth coincided with the week's preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Betharram. The young shared with us what they had lived during the WYD, this during our week day Masses. They were successful in transmitting to us all the enthusiasm and spiritual strength which they felt during the previous week at Rio de Janeiro.

The WYD brought a breath of fresh air and a new spirit to our parish. Our young people are full of life, enthusiasm and are longing to serve the Church in a missionary spirit. There is something else striking: although we spoke little about the spirituality of St Michael Garicoits, they now want to hear more about his life, his charism and on the Congregation. This is the result of the time spent with the young Betharramites and with the religious who visited us. This is a unique possibility given to us and which we must make the best of.

Fr Aurelio has already begun working with the young people by assembling them so that what was sown during those days of the WYD will not die but bear fruit not only in them but in other young people of the parish. The young people are already dreaming about the next WYD in Poland in 2017. God willing we shall be there too!

## OVER TO THE YOUNG PILGRIMS...



### Poliana (Brazil)

Isn't it great to be all together, to get to know other young people, and young Betharramites from all over the world, to share the same faith and carry it out in the streets! This is what the WYD really means and much more besides for the youth of Vibra (Vicariate of Brazil)

We met up at Paulinia, Sao Paulo, for the pre-WYD where we were delighted by the welcome in the local Betharramite communities. For the majority of us this was our first meeting. Yet we were received like children, friends and like the young broth-

ers and sisters. Italians, Paraguayans, French, Argentineans and Brazilians. Everyone was speaking in his own language but we were spreading the same happiness to be missionaries following and announcing the Lord. In that marvellous city called Rio de Janeiro things were even better: a huge crowd on the beach at Copacabana were rejoicing, praying, awaiting the joy of seeing and hearing the Pope himself for the first time we shall never forget his presence so close to us, nor what he had to say. As young Betharramites we want to make ours what Francis said to us at the closing Mass: "Go forth without fear, to serve for the real missionary becomes the servant of all". Here I am, Lord! Send me!



### Brian Barrionuevo (Argentina)

We arrived in Paulinia with our Italian brothers and we received a wonderful welcome! Songs, dances, colours, and JOY.

From the start it was obvious that we were united when we had to leave the bus which was blocked in the entrance. We all began to push the bus in all directions. We understood at once that our union

## of Father Michael Garicoits

AT THE AGE OF A PHOTO-MONTAGE THE NEF HAS TAKEN THE BOLD DECISION TO IMAGINE OR RATHER TO RECONSTRUCT A NARRATIO BY OUR FOUNDER. THE PASSAGES IN HIS CORRESPONDENCE ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN WHERE ST MICHAEL GIVES US SOME INTIMATE IMPRESSIONS OF HIS OWN LIFE STORY. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO CROSS AND TEMPTATIONS, HE OPENLY SHARES HIS FEELINGS. HERE THEN IS A "NARRATIO FIDEI" BY FATHER GARICOITS WITH THE COMPLICITY (YET WITHOUT THE CONSENT) OF HIS BIOGRAPHER, FATHER BASILIDE BOURDENNE.

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me". (Luke 9,23)

"Here is an important teaching, this is a great mystery I am proposing; and so as to understand it well come and meditate on it on Calvary at the foot of our Saviour's cross. There you will see two actions totally opposed which the Father is performing at the same time: he is there practicing his mercy and his justice; he is punishing and at the same time forgiving sin; he is taking revenge and at the same time being reconciled; for the love of criminals he strikes his Son who is innocent and at the same time forgives criminals for the love of his Son who is innocent. Oh Justice! Oh mercy! Who has thus assembled us? It is the mystery of Jesus Christ, it is the foundations of his glory and of his elevation on the Cross to have reconciled in his body these two attributes mercy and justice. (...)

Learn this way, Christians, how and in what spirit you should receive the cross. It's not enough to suffer, for who goes through life without suffering? It's not enough to be fixed to the cross; many are there already, like that unrepentant old thief, who are far from the Crucified Lord. For some the cross is a great favour, for others it's a form of revenge; all this depends on what use we make of the cross. Take note, Oh you whom Jesus is trying, and make up your mind in which of these two categories you wish to be: and so that you make a wise choice, see in a few words the appearance of both who are going to be sharers of this speech".

(Extract from the *Second Sermon for the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross* by Bossuet)

**Narratio...** Is it not an act of Faith to enter heaven by the Cross? But by which Cross? You must take up your cross, says Jesus Christ, meaning the cross of one's station and not the cross we are making ourselves. This is something which concerns everyone without exception. Our Saviour Jesus was

addressing everyone. It is therefore a general rule, necessary and inevitable, says St Paul. It is necessary, it is necessary. So what, Oh Great Apostle, is the way into heaven a path of tribulations! And why is the Apostle speaking like this to the early Christians? To consolidate them in their faith.



the language but we still had something in common: we all spoke the language of love, Christ's language. There was no language barrier, no culture, no tradition, no colour, nothing to prevent us from chatting together. The joy and enthusiasm of the young pilgrims was palpable. Songs, cries even tears of joy and emotion! It was a climate totally different from what we are accustomed to every day. Quite impossible not to be happy nor to greet those we met. Quite impossible not to feel the presence of Christ incarnate in each one there. But the moment when I had the certainty that He was actually working along with the patron saints of the WYD was when Pope Francis began to speak. I have never heard anything like his voice – so soft and yet able to communicate with us. I thought "How close the Pope must be to Jesus to be Pope!! How he must be like him! In a word, it is the Lord himself but under another appearance whose choice has fallen on Francis. An incredible choice!" That's how it is; Christ chooses us, calls us, calls us to be his disciples to evangelise, and to bring him where people have greatest need of him; we realise that by trusting in his love and his divine grace we can do a lot. I have experienced this great love of God in each passing moment. What the Pope was saying was captivating, touching. He left us with the desire to do something and to realise it. Every day of the

WYD is engraved on my memory and has convinced me that we can build a better world. The first thing we must rid ourselves of is fear and God will take care of the rest. Neither money nor other earthly goods can buy this, because God's love and the will to succeed are incredible. This is why he manifests himself through people like Pope Francis and people like us from the whole wide world, to show the world that we believe in someone who is in heaven, and who loves us with all his heart; someone capable of assembling the youth of the whole world to give us his message and show us how lucky we are. An incredible experience, fantastic, exhilarating – I'm running out of adjectives! There are no words to describe what it's like to have such an experience. There is still the duty to communicate everything the Pope said and everything that Jesus said to each one in a special way. Christians must change the world; Christians WILL CHANGE the world.



was going to last for the duration. A few days later our French and Paraguayan brothers joined us and the family was complete. During the week prior to the WYD all the stories which we shared with our hosts are buried in our hearts. We reached Rio finally. Several of us had a nice surprise which was not necessarily what we were expecting, but this didn't deter us. We went FORWARD. FORWARD ALL THE TIME! During the WYD we split up according to nationality to follow the different activities, the Italians on one side, the Brazilians and Spanish on the other. Yet during those days something extraordinary happened. Although we followed different routes, sooner or later we met up with our friends again, whether in the train, on the underground or on the beach at Copacabana. Don't you think it's crazy to

find your group in the middle of 3 million individuals? It's not crazy, it's the hand of God!

There I understood that God wanted to see us. Distance isn't a problem and if we met up in the course of this adventure it's never to be separated.

I understood what it means to "make disciples in all countries".

For this reason and many others besides I thank God for having met them, and of having walked part of the way with them and leaving my foot print.

Thank you very much. Amen.



#### **Michele Arosio (Italy)**

It's never easy to resume one's everyday life after such an experience! Especially when such an experience is the WYD in Rio, something very special because we were with other young pilgrims coming from different countries – Betharramite pilgrims.

I shall remember this summer because of the huge number of experiences I enjoyed and the great number of people I met. Today my heart is greater than ever.

Even before setting out I was undecided and terrified at the journey. 9000 km is enough to frighten anyone! No sooner had we arrived in Paulinia than I understood that this was no ordinary journey... the welcome, the singing, the dances all showed us the joy of the meeting! The first week made an impression on me, seeing so many South American young people full of enthusiasm at the prospect of following Christ. To be able to share this with the Fathers gave me fresh impetus to

share this also with the young Italians. Yes, following Christ is an amazing experience! All these feelings were confirmed during the week at Rio – millions of young people, ready to sing, tireless, rushing to be as near as possible to Jesus and to catch the least message from Pope Francis – sign of their willingness to live really of Christ and with Christ.

The mingling of colours, songs and dances! A new and unique way of being faithful to one's faith, something hardly ever seen in Italy, and which I would love to see every day! All can be resumed in the three phrases which the Holy Father left us: Go! Without fear! Serve! Especially this "without fear", courageously! Christians are courageous. They don't panic at the sight of differences, refusals, difficulties. Just like at Rio: off we went and we talked to everybody. We shouted our joy of belonging to Christ! It's not easy. Today society is trying to chill our faith, but after you've been to Brazil I can tell you that united we are strong! Let's support each other; let's live our faith in communion; let's trust our brothers! What I have received during those two weeks I would love to have every day!



#### Camille Bartels (France)

The word which best sums up my WYD is perhaps "meeting". A meeting with one's self, with my group, with the young Betharramites from different countries, a meeting with the

youth from the whole wide world and the meeting with Pope Francis. A joyful meeting! For me this was an unforgettable experience. When the Pope speaks it is with utter simplicity which touches us to the heart especially us the youth. He makes us long to get out then and there without further ado. Here is a quotation from his homily at the closing Mass: "Dear young people, Jesus Christ relies on you! The Church relies on you! The Pope relies on you! May Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother accompany you always with her tenderness." "Go now and make disciples of all nations" Of course the atmosphere in the



was the Stations of the Cross. There were a million of us, all nationalities, packed like sardines, under the rain, on the beach at Copacabana. And yet that is where I felt "something".

During the Stations of the Cross, at each station a meditation was proposed on present day problems which we young people are sure to meet.

At the last station, each continent was entrusted with a mission. Here is ours: "May Europe get over this destructive wave of secularisation, thanks to the courageous proclamation of our Faith".



My name is **Marie Silvana Godoy Bonini (Paraguay)**. I am 17 years of age and I was lucky to be present at the

World Youth Days in Rio de Janeiro. This was a unique and incomparable experience, like all the WYD. But this particular one was very special and impressive. First of all because Blessed Chiara Luce Badano, who departed this life at 18 years of age after a life of incredible holiness, patron of the event. A real example to follow! Secondly because I was able to stand near Pope Francis. To be standing there was just like being in Heaven; quite simply moving. To be there and see that so many individuals, especially the young, were there for a single reason: Christ and the Successor of Peter. We were the youth of 5 continents, with different languages, cultures and traditions. Sometimes things got complicated because of

WYD is so different from what we are used to; everyone is open to the others; you talk to everyone about everything without any fear. You can spend days that seem unbearable with the cold, rain, or lack of sleep, yet to us they seem fantastic. It's an experience to be lived through at every WYD, to be encouraged and to help your neighbour to discover.



#### Aude Fioc (France)

"Take up your cross and follow me!" The thing which made the deepest impression on me