

ning up to help with “personal evangelisation and accompaniment” for our managing staff, our teaching staff and other members of the educational team.

- A greater closeness and awareness on the part of the religious and laity to the poor (in towns and villages) as in 2013.
- On-going Formation meetings and assemblies which are appreciated by the religious, so as to transform them into places of fraternity and community discernment.

- Advance armed with decisions the result of community discernment, in which we feel that we have been closely involved.

2014 is offering us countless challenges which could easily open up new occasions for action. I pray to the Lord that we may let ourselves be guided by the light of his Spirit. Amen.



“Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate” (Luke 6,36)

Our Lord said to his disciples: “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; grant pardon and you will be pardoned; Give and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back”.

Two recommendations are made here in this passage of the Gospel: one what we must do and the other what we must avoid. The first one is the duty to be compassionate; the second one is that we are forbidden to judge anyone. How dangerous it is to judge others! This sin is to be avoided with utmost care and watch over one’s self, for the same measure will be meted out to us as we have meted out to others.

(M 502)



Societas S^{mi} Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

90
2014

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NE

NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

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

112th year
10th series, nr 90
14th February 2014

A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Separation of a member

In the new Rule of Life chapter X was developed at the request of the Holy See in view of the very many demands for leaving Congregations which they had to deal with in these past few years. It is essential that those responsible for formation should study it carefully with those in formation; consequently, the decision to consecrate one’s life to the Lord in our Congregation will be taken with great maturity and responsibility. Only the most serious of motives can change a decision freely reached, supposing a spiritual discernment undertaken in all serenity. The procedures for leaving a Congregation are most complex.

Before embarking on such an undertaking, a religious contemplating leaving the Congregation should take a fresh look at article 99 in the Rule of Life. According to this article, only a question of health, study or a missionary experience can justify the request to live outside the community for a year. This religious must make his request to the Regional Superior who, with the consent of his council, can grant it to him.

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Belhartz SCJ

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The indult to enter another Institute is a situation which can be considered between the Major Superiors of the two institutes and the consent of their respective councils. A trial period of at least 3 years in the new institute is required during which the vows already emitted remain valid, the rights and duties of obedience are suspended for the first institute but remain in place for the new one. Final incorporation becomes official with Final Profession (Rule of Life 301-306).

The indult of Exclaustration consists of spending one to three years in a diocese. A religious can ask his Superior General for serious personal reasons. Such a request is to be accompanied by a written one from the Bishop accepting him in his diocese. The indult of Exclaustration is granted by the Superior General with the consent of his council

(Rule of Life 307-309).

Exiting the Congregation by a religious with temporary vows can happen at the end of the normal period of their emission. Should he wish to leave before this he must make his request in writing to the Superior General stating the serious motive which justifies his decision. The Superior General can grant it to him with the consent of his council (Rule of Life 310-313).

Indult for leaving the Congregation for a religious with final vows. The person concerned can make his request to the Superior General giving the serious reasons for such a request. The Superior General presents the request to the Sacred Congregation for Religious (CIVCSVA), adding his own opinion as well as that of his Council. It is this Congregation which grants or not this indult. (Rule of Life 314-315)

Indult for leaving the Congregation for an ordained religious. The religious concerned makes his request in writing to the Superior general giving in detail the serious reasons urging him to take this step. At the same time he will add the written consent of the Bishop ready to accept him in his diocese. The Superior General presents the request to the CIVCSVA, adding his



	14	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Hyacinthe Ali Konan	JANUARY
	17	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Luc Morin P. Serge Braga Latta	
	18	Happy birthday	Br. Andrew Ferris	
	19	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños 20 años de profesión	P. Henri Lamasse Hno. Raúl Villalba Maylin P. Daniel González	
	20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Mirco Trusgnach	
	22	Happy birthday Buon compleanno	Fr. Enakius Charles P. Alberto Pensa Ir. Iran Lima da Silva	
	23	45 años de profesión	P. Julio Colina	
	25	Joyeux anniversaire 35 años de profesión 25 años de profesión	P. Elisée Mambo Sika PP. Enrique Miranda, Tarcisio Vera P. Gerardo Ramos	
	26	Happy birthday 20 años de profesión	Fr. Chokdi Damronganurak P. Gilberto Ortellado	
	27	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Arsène Noba	
	28	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz aniversário	P. Pierre Salla P. Francisco de Paula	FEBRUARY
	1	Joyeux anniversaire Buon compleanno	P. André Gillet P. Albino de Giobbi	
	3	Happy birthday	P. Tidkham Jailertrit	
	5	Buon compleanno	P. Giuseppe Franchi	
	7	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Saint-Pé	
	8	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Marsaa-Poey	
	10	Buon compleanno	P. Pietro Felet	
	12	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Canton	
	13	Buon compleanno	P. Natale Re	

2. The mission shared with the laity; reorganisation of property for the service of the mission.

For years we have known that every baptised Christian is called to the mission, in line with the charism and ministries. In 2013, the Council of Vicariate and the lay representatives of the Pastoral Teams (Youth, Mission, Laity, and Education) worked side by side to construct the Pastoral Project of the Vicariate. Here is its main plan:

“Faithful to the charism of the Incarnation and to the call of the Church in Latin America, we propose “to facilitate the meeting of the individual with Jesus Christ, to encourage and form disciples and missionaries, so that responding generously and with joy to their vocation, they may bear witness to the gift received and thus change the present situation by constructing the Kingdom of God.”

Specific objectives:

a. Create zones of formation which will be a help in discovering and living one's vocation. / b. Choose the preferential option for the young people. / c. Promote on-going formation which must be dynamic and be found in the community. / d. Preferential option for the poor, not only those lacking bare necessities materially, but also those in need of God and neighbour. / e. Promote and accompany educational communities from the point of view pastoral and missionary.

3. Create and pursue a pastoral to cultivate vocations.

- In the Vicariate there are 3 young candidates in initial formation, 2 professed and 1 novice.

- We understand vocation in the deepest sense as an invitation to follow Christ, consequently all pastoral is vocation inspired. Today we are carrying on the fine tradition of work amongst the young and with the

young. However I notice that we are lacking the courage and joy in our vocation, which wants to be an invitation to lead the same style of life. Unless of course we don't know how to set about it.



4. The future of Montevideo.

In Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, we have a college and a parish but only one religious. The regional chapter of 2010 suggested examining this situation. As a result of our discernment we opted for a regional missionary choice, by strengthening the presence of Betharram in Uruguay. As a result, in February 2014, a community was opened in Montevideo, made up of 4 members – a religious priest from our vicariate, a deacon from Brazil, a religious priest and another brother from Paraguay. They will be responsible for pursuing a mission in the north of the country, 400 km from the community, in the diocese of Tacuarembó-Rivera; as well as all this they will look after the pastoral animation of the College in the city of Montevideo.

In 2014 at the height of an unsettled economical situation, hostile to the formation given by public institutions to private ones like ours, we want to maintain the following options:

- The missionary dimension acquired little by little by our Colleges as well as the new sectors which are open-

continues on page 20

own opinion as well as that of his Council. It is this Congregation which grants or not this indult. The Bishop having accepted the incardination must produce a document proving the incardination and must forward it to the Superior General as well as a copy for the CIVCSVA (Rule of Life 314-316).

A Religious in Final Vows can be dismissed from the Congregation for serious reasons, attributable and legally established as it is stated in articles 319 and 321 in the Rule of Life and in canons 695, 696, 1397 and 1398. The Major Superior after consulting his council can start the proceedings for dismissal. He must establish the facts, send in writing and within a fortnight two warnings to the religious concerned in the presence of two witnesses. He enjoins him to reform his conduct under risk of being dismissed from the Institute if he does not conform. The warnings must clearly indicate the reasons for dismissal and the means at his disposal for self defence. After the elapse of a fortnight and no visible sign for correction on the part of the religious, the major superior sends the entire dossier to the supreme moderator (Rule of life 322 – 324),

The Superior General with his council acting in collegiality, then makes a study of the proofs, the observations and the defence; a vote by secret ballot is then taken. If the latter is favourable for the dismissal the Superior then issues the decree of dismissal This decree must state the reasons for the dismissal, list the appeals to the competent authority on the part of the religious being dismissed, in the ten days following the dismissal decree. The

decree must be confirmed by the CIVCSVA. If the dismissed religious is a cleric he can no longer exercise his ministry until a Bishop accepts him (Rule of Life Art 327, CIC 701).

An ordained religious can lose his clerical status by a judicial sentence or administrative decree declaring his ordination invalid, because of a legitimate hitch or a rescrit from the Holy See (CIC 290). The one who has lost his clerical status is prevented from holding an ecclesiastical office (CIC 194); he is no longer bound by statute, loses his rights; he is deprived of all responsibility and all delegated power. (CIC 292); he cannot be readmitted to the ranks of the clergy but by a rescrit from the Apostolic See (CIC 293). The loss of the clerical status does not dispense with the obligation of celibacy which can only be granted by the Sovereign Pontiff (CIC 291).

Neither the religious leaving of his own free will nor the religious dismissed have any right to any indemnity for the work and services rendered to the Congregation (Rule of Life 328). Great attention will be paid to the good name of the one leaving as well as any help given him as required by charity (Rule of Life 326; CIC 702/2).

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj

With this contribution the series of editorials by the Superior general on the new Rule of Life comes to an end. By request of some religious, these articles will be bound into one volume and sent in a PDF format, in the four main languages, to the Regional superiors, to Regional vicars and formators to be used for animation and formation activities.

Brother Bertrand Belhartz scj

Chéraute (France), 14 february 1920 - Bétharram, 24 January 2014

One day in September 1940 four young religious were standing on the altar steps ready to go and carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to China, the Province of Yunan – two were from the Bearn: Fathers Pedabideau and Bignolles, one from the Languedoc, Father Sableyllolles, and one from the Basque Country, Brother Bethan Belharx.

It was the Farewell ceremony: a simple rite but moving and a trifle sad; they were bidding farewell to Betharram, to their family, to their homeland. They had a one way ticket by boat but no return ticket. They had placed their lives in God's hands. Facing them in the nave of the Sanctuary were the students from the apostolic college, the scholastics from the Major Seminary at Floirac, Fathers, their parents and friends.

Vespers had been sung and the opening lines of the parting Song: "Depart, cheerful messengers of light, go and win the Yunan for the Lord; go, joyful children of St Michael!" During this song began the silent and moving procession, the procession of the kiss; all those present in the church came forward to kiss the feet of the young missionaries. It was a sign of sending and a share in the Mission.

On 18 September Bethan Belharx with his brother missionaries boarded the "Chantilly". The trip was to last 50 days, but finally they landed; they were in



China. But the hardest was yet to come: learn the language; accept the customs; live like the locals; eat with chopsticks; never forget the knife.

The first missionaries who had arrived 20 years earlier had already founded the church in Tali, the first bishop, Mgr Lacoste, the first Betharramite bishop, had some great projects in mind: build a house for the Daughters of the Cross, open a dispensary and a school. He wrote: "for such huge undertakings Brother Bertrand's multiple skills will be very useful for me." Bethan loved to build and create; in this way his Mission allowed him

it was once more joined with Argentina and today they form the Vicariate Argentina –Uruguay which was approved at the General Chapter of 2005.

Its Present
AND ITS FUTURE...

with Fr. Daniel González scj

Roberto Cornara

Our Vicariate comes with a long history and looks at the present with enthusiasm to prepare the future. This is the reason why it is actually *en recherche*. In this last period, the 18 religious in the Vicariate have been strenghtening this conviction: discernment is a community exercise; it is the meeting point for inter generations; it is the place where decisions are taken which direct our lives in conformity with the call received.

During the Assembly of October 2012 we made 4 choices:

1. Restructure and reorganise our communities according to what we are called to live together as Betharramite religious today.

This led us to examine how we see ourselves as religious, to look at where we are and our life style, and to undertake the difficult task of intergenerational dialogue.

From that point of view, 2013 has been a difficult year for dialogue, discernment and choices; at the beginning of 2014 we find ourselves in a new situation and with new projects which are the result of these elements:

- Awareness of our reality, both fragile and rich;
- The desire to remain faithful to our vocation;
- The creativity of the religious to generate and transmit life;
- The commitment and sense of membership of the laity.



We decided to live in four communities: Adroque, Barracas, San Juan and Montevideo; so we have moved from a few communities organised for a specific mission, as was the case formerly – a community for a rural mission, the community for the mission in the schools, the formation community – to the formation of communities giving us the best conditions to live out our vocation and our mission as Betharramite religious.

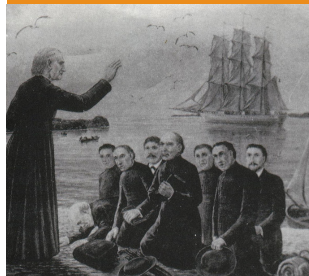
We decided to fix our service on three projects: popular missions in the city; mission in the 9 schools; On-Going Formation.

These Vicariate projects are meant to promote a new style of mission: a style which is less personal and more fraternal, encouraging dialogue, community discernment, group work, exploiting the gifts of each one for the service of all, exchanges between communities, opportunities to celebrate the work performed together.

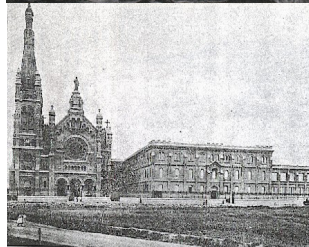
THE ELEVEN VICARIATES OF THE CONGREGATION

Vicariate of Argentina-Uruguay

its roots



The Betharramite mission in south Argentina was one of the most courageous and most important choices made by St Michael. Everybody knows the whole story. Countless Basques had immigrated to the New World in search of work and a better life, but most of them were living like pagans according to Father Guimon, without any care for their religious formation. The Bishop of Buenos Aires had written to the Bishop of Bayonne asking him to send him some Basque priests. Mgr Lacroix spoke to Betharram about the problem. During the general assembly of the Congregation on 16 October 1864 our Founder included in the programme the following question: ***"Will our Society accept the mission which is offered to it to go and minister in the diocese of Buenos Aires?"*** The response was unanimous and the adventure in America had begun.



After two years of preparation, on 31 August 1856 the first missionaries left Bayonne on board the "Etincelle". It is a good idea to recall their names once more: Fathers Didace Barbe, Simon Guimon, Louis Larrouy, Pierre Sardoy and Jean-Baptiste Harbustan, the seminarian Jean Magendie and Brothers Joannes Arosteguy and Fabian Lhopital.



After countless ups and downs the community took up residence in the parish of San Juan Buenos Aires from 1862. A few years previously, on 19 March 1856, feast of St Joseph, the San Jose College was officially opened in the Capital and on 1st March 1861 the arrival of the first community in Montevideo, capital of Uruguay. In 1867 it was the opening of a school which was to become the Lycee Immaculada Conception. From the end of the 19th century the number of communities grew corresponding to the expulsion of the Betharramites from France: the scholasticate at Almagro (1898), Rosario College (1900), La Plata College (1903), the community at Barracas (1908), and later on the seminary at San Jose de Cuyo (1936) and Rosario (1939), the scholasticate Adroque (1937). In Uruguay two small communities were opened at Atlantida (1950) and Sauce (1987), both closed today.



The General Chapter of 1947 decided to divide the congregation into Provinces. The first project joined Argentina with Spain and Uruguay with Paraguay and then Brazil. In 1951 it was the birth of the Province of Rio de la Plata with the communities of Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. This organisation was maintained until the end of the 1980s when Paraguay became autonomous as a vice-province and Uruguay a delegation directly attached to the Superior General. Actually as an autonomous vice-province Uruguay didn't last long. In the 1990s

to be in contact with countless Chinese craftsmen.

Father Dutton who had already spent many years in the Yunan wrote: "the most important job to be done here is the care of the body; perhaps afterwards it might be possible to reach the souls; I nurse the sick, I catch the ailment, afterwards I know what it's all about so I can care for the ailment in others. Mgr Lacoste will not have the time to finish all his projects. The revolutionary Mao Tse Toung, the new boss in China, cannot bear the presence of foreign religious. A few missionaries were arrested and thrown into prison. Others will move to Thailand or will return to their respective countries. This was the case for Br. Bethan. It was the end of the Betharramite Mission to China. However we know that the church in Tali is still alive; the foundations must have been solid.

A Chinese priest is carrying on the work of the Missionaries from Betharram.

The Brother continued building and creating; in a shed he had installed a modern carpenter's shop, with all the most up to date machines and which allowed him to make doors, windows,

cupboards and more complicated objects, for example the altar in our chapel and the panel in sculptured wood above the altar. If somebody asked him if he had trained in a woodwork school he would reply "not in a school; I am self taught". He had learned everything by himself.

With him our last missionary in China disappears and with him our last carpenter!

Let us ask Bethan to pray with us for the Church in China which is still going through tough times. May the Lord, the Carpenter of Nazareth, welcome our little carpenter into his workshop!

Firmin Bourguinat, scj

Our departed

On 16 January 2014, Mr Natale Gorgia, member of the Betharramite Lay Association of Italy, informed us that his son **Stefano**, 44 years old after a long illness.

On 19 January 2014, **Mrs Augusta Pozzi**, 77 years old, mother of Fr Emilio Manzolini scj and sister of Br Giuseppe Pozzi scj who died last December, died after a long illness.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

“I shall take her into the desert and there speak to her” (Hosea 2, 16)

NEXT YEAR (2015) A SESSION ON ON-GOING FORMATION WILL TAKE PLACE. DURING THE MEETING WHICH WAS HELD FROM 8TH – 12TH JANUARY, THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION, APPOINTED BY THE SUPERIOR GENERAL IN 2012, DREW UP THE LINES ACCORDING TO WHICH THIS SPECIAL TIME OF FORMATION WILL BE CONDUCTED.

The 2011 General Chapter asked specifically, concerning On-Going Formation that “An international session in Bethlehem should be held for religious aged over 40 years, lasting from 40 – 60 days. This session should have the following objectives:

1. “A deepening and appropriation of our charism.
2. Biblical formation for personal and spiritual renewal.
3. The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius.
4. Enrichment through internationality” (General Chapter, nr. 17).



Fr. Gianluca Limonta and Br. Andrew Ferris, members of the commission in charge of the session 2015

The Commission underlined the following points:

1. The session is meant for religious who have been in religious life for quite some time (religious aged over 40). Those who are going to be invited by their Regional and Vicariate superiors to participate will be asked for their availability to get involved. The commission preferred to speak of an on-going formation “session” rather than a teaching “course”. Although the broader outlines have already been drawn up, the course will be built after the different life experiences of each one.
2. It was preferable to work from a biblical image in the Prophet Hosea: “This is why I am going to seduce my spouse; I shall take her into the desert and there speak to her” (Hosea 2,16) to show how the course which we are going to follow together will

unfold: in the light of the experiences of Jesus we will talk about our own life experiences, our hopes and our failures, our enthusiasms and our wounds.

3. We shall use the narratio fidei method. We shall try as best we can to pool our experience of God in our lives (how I came to be a believer?). How did my faith grow? What difficult times did my faith meet? When was my faith sorely tried? Here, Father Gaspar reminds us “that the narrative will help to make progress on the way of personal conversion. In the story of our faith we come to recognise the immense gift of God’s love. We thank him for all that he has done through our humanity, and we tell him also all that is lacking in us to be totally like Christ”.

sues and presentation of the project of the new retreat house. The day after, Br. Hyacinthe Ali Konan, was ordained a priest by Mgr Coty, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Daloa. Congratulations!

Region

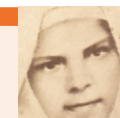


Brazil

Belo Horizonte ► The Vicariate of Brazil held a week long meeting: January 27 -31. The meeting brought together 23 religious, including 8 scholastics. Father Gustavo Agin, Regional Superior was also present. The Vicariate gathered to pray together, to evaluate and reflect on the mission of every religious community and of the Vicariate (lights and shadows, projects for the future) and also to choose the delegates who will attend the Regional Chapter, to be held in Paraguay in July this year and, lastly, to develop our project and the annual agenda of the Vicariate. The assembly was held in a fraternal atmosphere; in fact, the

vicariate is experiencing the joy of the newly ordained priests (Frs. Marcelo, Eder and Chiquinho), the Deacon Wagner Ferreira, the newly professed and the upcoming diaconal ordinations of Br David and Br Glecimar, the perpetual vows of Brother Eudes celebrated on Saturday, February 1st in Belo Horizonte.

Region



Thailand

14 December 2013 ► Mons Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, Bishop of Chiang Mai, in a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Chiang Mai, ordained deacons five Betharramite brothers: Br Peter Nonthapat Mayor, Br Martin de Tours Thinakorn Damrongusasil, Br Dominic Athit Kasetsukchai, Br Albert Sa-at Prathamsanti-pong and Br David Pitak Bithu. On the same day, His Excellency Paul Tshang In Nam, Apostolic Nuncio of Thailand, visited the center of Maepon, the whole community of the small centre welcomed him with joy.

NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

- On January 13th, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, **admitted to the Deaconate** Br. **Davi Aparecido Da Silva Lara** (Vicariate of Brazil) and Br. **Osmar Vicente Caceres Spaini** (Vicariate of Paraguay).
- In the General Council meeting of February 3rd, the Superior General granted the **indult of departure** to Br. **Arockia Vino Maria Soosia** (Vicariate of India).



Generalate House

Vatican

► On 2nd of February 2014, on the Feast day of the Presentation of the Lord and Feast day for all



the consecrated Persons, representing our Congregation with our Superior General Fr. Gasper Fernandez, we have been humbly privileged to partake in the Candlemas ceremony and concelebrate with Pope Francis to mark the joyous occasion of the feast at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. On 18th world day of Consecrated life, Pope Francis, in his homily, stated that at the centre of consecrated life there is always Jesus, because He calls us to pray and worship in the Church where we can meet Him, know Him, give welcome to Him and embrace Him. Jesus comes to us in the Church through the charism of a congregation.

Region



France-Spain

Pau ► On January 6, in the parish of the Holy Family, the group in charge of the ministry to the bereaved organized a convivial gathering for all those who have lost a loved one. The gathering was attended by 30 people and

everyone brought something to eat and to share. It was a precious opportunity of meeting new people and sharing experience. After lunch, each member introduced him/herself and shared the painful moment you go through when you lose a loved one. Speaking about the loss and sharing the pain with people who are also living the same suffering, helps carry on in life. Then the community of St. Michael presented the mission of the Betharram Fathers, especially in India with their culture and their way of praying.

Pibrac ► Sunday, January 26th the «Friends of Tsanfetho» organized the annual dinner at Pibrac proposed by their Association. Jean, Esteban and Vincent who have recently returned from Côte d'Ivoire, were happy to share the latest news of the «Ferme Pédagogique» (School of Agriculture) at Adiapodoume. It was a joyful opportunity to express solidarity with those who are involved in the training of young farmers and in the comprehensive education of young Ivorians.

Ivory Coast

Adiapodoumé ► On December 28th, the Vicariate Assembly was held at the presence of the Regional Superior. This was the program: morning prayer, welcome speech by Fr Hervé Kouamé, regional vicar of Côte d'Ivoire, narration fidei on «Our service in the Church», reflection on economic is-



4. Is this going to be a journey for someone facing a crisis in his vocation? Of course not! It is all about a journey planned for anyone wishing for self renewal and for refreshment after the daily fatigue. It is a journey planned for all those who do not simply exist but who want to live out the experience of their consecration and mission with joy, responsibility and enthusiasm. It is a journey for the brave, willing to challenge themselves and to profit by living an international experience.
5. When? The session will take place in the

Holy Land (Bethlehem and Nazareth) from 28th June – 1st August 2015.

The first step is not far away! Soon Regional Superiors and Regional Vicars will be proposing some religious to be part of the session. "YES" showing availability will already be one way of wishing to realise the plans which the General Chapter is speaking about.

Graziano Sala, scj

Formation Team

ALONG WITH THE SUPERIOR GENERAL, FATHERS LAURENT BACHO, JACKY MOURA, GUSTAVE AGIN, GIANLUCA LIMONTA, CHAN JOHN KUNU, FERNANDO STERVIN SELVADASS, SYLVAIN DANSOU. ONCE WE HAVE EACH EXPOSED THE SITUATION WHERE WE ARE MISSIONED, WE THEN EXAMINED THE DIFFERENT POINTS ON THE AGENDA.

First of all the situation as from today (16 January 2014):
121 young in initial formation.

13 deacons; 6 seminarians in Final Vows; 27 temporary professed; 7 novices; 32 postulants; 36 aspirants.

Note that the "Blessed Marie" Region assembles nearly 2/3 of the young in initial formation in the Congregation.

Vocational Awakening in Europe

In Italy Father Simon continues to accompany groups of young Betharramites and groups in contact with the Daughters of the Cross. WYD were an important moment which we must not neglect. In France a few religious are involved in the

pastoral of Vocations in Pibrac for example with the "Samuel" group. We hope that the presence of young religious from India, Thailand, and Ivory Coast will rouse an interest in what we are suggesting to the young people.

The Novitiate

Today the only novitiate is in the Michael Garicoits Region. The three second year novices are on stage at Bethlehem, Dabakala and Niem respectively. Two novices began their novitiate on 20 December at Betharram; visas for Israel are refused to people from certain countries from Africa, eg Ivory Coast. In the Etchecopar



Region the novitiate will begin this month with an Argentinian and a Paraguayan.

The "St Michel Garicoits" Region

Remember that for the Central African Republic initial formation takes place in Ivory Coast. St Michael House is earmarked for aspirants. Three of them are in the Junior Seminary in Bouar. The newly ordained priest, Father Marius, has been sent from Ivory Coast to accompany these young religious.

The "Blessed Mariam" Region:

At Mangalore the constructions of the new scholasticate is progressing well.

The "Auguste Etchecopar" Region

The young religious are heavily engaged in the region with the pastoral of Vocations and with the 2 new mission sites in Brazil and Uruguay: choices made for the jubilee marking the 150th anniversary of our Founder.

Some Reflexions

Father Gaspar told us about the meeting of Major Religious Superiors with the Pope

in November. The Pope addressed the question of formation pointing out that this was an artisan craft and not a police one. It's all about shaping the heart rather than be contented with behaviour which is "all right". Such formation is very much in line with what St Michael Garicoits tells us about the "secret spring" and about the link between the interior and exterior. Without this formation of the heart we are shaping little monsters to be looking after the people of God. The thought makes my flesh creep" said the Pope. "We should not be forming administrators and managers but men who are fathers, brothers and companions en route."

We in Betharram are challenged by the "Ignatian magis". We cannot be contented with the "spiritual worldliness", longing for pleasures but we are to take on board all the realities of life, including humiliations for us who want to be like Christ "humble and obedient".

There was another preoccupation which we as formators shared concerning openness and trust in our meetings with the young. We sometimes regret the lack of openness as if solidarity in a formation house demanded silence on the mistakes, leading to complicity and superficiality. There is still a long way to go in training people in freedom; the right intention is necessary in formation. Otherwise it's a risky business once initial formation is completed. It is possible to offer for final profession a candidate who is not well known in depth. Personalisation of the period is a necessity; prolonging the time and having a multiplicity of experiments

of Fr. Mauro Henrique Ulrich de Oliveira

Regional Vicar of Brazil and Superior of the community of Belo Horizonte

The only genuine attitude of mankind in the presence of God is humility. Any other attitude not rooted in humility would be a lie. The truth is to be found in the contemplation of the Cross of Christ, kneeling before him and stripped of everything. Another fundamental text which is part of my spiritual journey is composed of the "Fundamental Principle" in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola (Spiritual Exercises, 23). Here is a personal vision:

Man has been created to live of Love in his relationship with God and his brethren. It is in this type of relationship that one reaches personal accomplishment. This is how one reaches happiness, the happiness which only God can give. Whatever exists or whatever God permits to happen to us is to allow everyone to obtain this type of attitude before God and before those who are in relationship with us. Everything is grace. Everything is God which helps us to love.

I cannot forget Chapter 4 of St John's First Epistle: There is no relationship with God which does not pass through the brother. It was God who led me to Betharram. He didn't guide me here to be useful in some way to Betharram. To tell the truth I am convinced that to do what I am doing and give the witness that I am giving, God could easily have found better equipped persons than me. I have no doubts on that score!

*Reading
and
meditating...*

1 Peter 1,2-6



God wanted me to be master of the scholastics for the same reason. God gave me the grace to be named Regional Vicar, not for any particular honour which could go with the appointment, but to help me to follow the route prepared on purpose for me, to help me to accept his will: so that I practice greater love for my brothers. It can be noticed in the life of St Michael that God is Love above all else. This same God is capable of doing everything possible so that each one finds the way to personal accomplishment. The "Law of Love" is not something that I must follow so as to avoid punishment. It is the way that will lead me to total happiness.



Three Betharramite "continents" heartfully welcomed by Pope Francis on January 21st 2014

states very clearly our charism: spirituality and mission. We cannot simply use it to resolve debates at Canon Law level. One of our most important duties in the service of authority is the accompaniment of the religious, communities, spirituality as expressed in the Rule of Life, how to fulfil our mission and our internationality so that there is life in abundance.

As superiors and vicars in the service of our brothers, we must continue insisting on the value of the community as requested by the last General Chapter. We feel that there is still a lot to be done on this question. A lot of our brothers don't attach the same importance to fraternal life in community as they would to a pastoral commitment. Since evangelical fraternity is an essential part of our Life style it would be good to have a reflexion on the reasons for this situation.

We know that a community is a very fragile institution just like a family. For this reason

we are called to accompany the communities so that they remain faithful to their community and apostolic projects.

We must also accompany the communities so that they are always "houses of communion" and places of discernment so that the mission may be renewed and not the private affair of a religious.

We want to accompany the communities so that they remain always open to welcome the laity, to share our charism and collaborate with them for the mission. Furthermore so that they welcome young people researching

their vocation in life, communities with the courage to propose our charism by their example and words. Just like religion, a congregation doesn't increase and multiply by means of preaching but rather "by attraction". This demands of religious and communities that they live in a constant state of on-going formation so as not to distance themselves from their vocation.

This is only possible on condition that all of us, religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we are docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, Master of the Interior life, who is accustomed to instilling into our hearts the law of love and obedience as was the experience of our Father Saint Michael Garicoits (DS 45-46).

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj

are not enough on their own; all depends on how serious the accompaniment is.

The means of communication

We are all in the presence of a phenomenon which is taking over. To ban is no solution for it only results in a game of hide-and-seek, or else an obligation accepted during initial formation to be used later on without discernment. Like everything else the means of communication are ambiguous and need dialogue during the period of accompaniment. Care should be taken that they don't interfere with study today or with the mission afterwards. Their use must not endanger fraternity in community; the danger is that we can be mentally elsewhere at the expense of brotherly relations in community. Another issue is the financial aspect considering that publicity often urges you to buy unnecessarily a state of the art device. It is important to promote interior life and sobriety and allow each one to be responsible for himself and have order in his life.

We also discussed the risk of haste when sometimes the superiors don't seem to pay attention to the advice of formators asking for more time to check out certain points.

We also discussed the mobile interpretation given to the year "disconnected from all academic activities" in preparation for final vows. Besides, the fact of doing the international session every two years causes difficulties in the course of certain young religious. We think that situations

are to be studied at regional level and submitted to the Superior General. Personal projects are to be considered here too. We repeated what we said last year that the session is important but "not a determining factor for final profession." It's true that it is a change in the brief history of the 12 years of the international sessions. In certain cases a longer stay around Betharram for younger religious could be considered with the agreement of superiors.

International Session

(Wednesday 23 April – Sunday 1 June). It is intended for 10 religious: 3 Brazilians, 2 Paraguayans, 3 Indians and 2 Ivorians.

We agreed that for the first few days the young religious must construct a project, pointing to the most important points to be respected. An awareness that the time for interiority is to be implemented by each one; sharing such a time with the brothers would help them to have a deeper understanding. We hope to get better participation because the majority of them are over 30 years of age. The "Narratio Fidei", already introduced in 2012 will be extended. We shall pay particular attention to the first 7 topics of the Rule of Life. We are thinking of asking the resource persons not to forget the experiences of each one who would be better challenged that if it was a university lecture.

At the end of our meeting we agreed that great progress has been made for formation during the past 10 years, except on one point; generally speaking overworked formators have noticed that their many

responsibilities have not been reduced. We understand the difficulties in our Congregation where vitality is on the wane in several places. This must not prevent us from being watchful that the burden of

formation must not become a heavy load too early in life.

Laurent Bacho, sci

Il Consiglio di Congregazione

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF CONGREGATION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN ROME FROM 19 – 25 JANUARY 2014 WITH THE REGIONAL VICARS WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE OF FRATERNITY, COMMUNION AND PARTICIPATION.

We began by looking at the conclusions of the last General Chapter of 2011 in Bethlehem. We were happy to note that the regionalisation was on course, that the Regional Superiors and their Vicars were doing everything to find the right means of implementing the service of authority, consequently the celebration of the Jubilee for the 150 anniversary of the death of St Michael Garicoits has given a new surge to certain Vicariates and has been an opportunity to

make the Congregation better known. The Regional Councils are now reflecting on their type of collegial work; some Vicariates have difficulty in sticking to their role of reflexion and discernment, their mission being to provide the suggestions to help in the decisions to be taken by the Regional Council. A lot of resistance in accepting propositions for on-going formation. Vocational pastoral is very active in certain realities; in others there is almost nothing happening

which worries us.

If, on the one hand we have not yet succeeded in getting to know the financial state of all the realities of the Congregation, on the other hand we have been able to rejoice at two acts of fraternity: firstly, the setting up of a Formation Fund in which everyone collaborates; and secondly an act of solidarity in the construction of a hostel in the Ivory Coast Vicariate. Six Vicariates, the General Council and the Congregation for Evangelisation are taking the realisation of the project in charge. If only two Vicariates had been involved on the project it would have been too heavy a financial burden for them.

To pursue the application of the orientations of the General Chapter during the next three years, we want to help our brothers with the following propositions:

- Sustain the pastoral conversion demanded by Pope Francis so as to launch a missionary surge in our communities. This pastoral conversion means that we must leave our comfort zone where elements of worldliness subsist and pass on to a missionary dynamic full of the evangelical virtues of humility, joy, cordial friendliness, pity and communion. We must have one ear open for the people

(EG 154 and 155) and the other open for the Gospel, as Pope Francis says. This is something which requires a regular practice of discernment, an essential part of our life style (Rule of Life 19). The only thing which doesn't change is the person of Jesus Christ, the Gospel. Everything else, ministries, good works, property, ways of life, can continue as they have always done or else be changed in the light of the Gospel.

What is important is to make decisions and have projects which are an expression of our conversion: our identity and our membership, our fidelity to the Gospel in line with our charism and the coherence of our lives so that our lives have meaning. Decisions and projects which will rid us of our self seeking attitudes and will make us more aware of the needs of others and keep alive in us that missionary availability.

Without wanting to attach too great an importance to the written word, we must esteem the new edition of our Rule of Life, in our personal and community prayer, in community reflexions both at Vicariate and Regional levels, in discernment as we have already mentioned so that it will become a reference for revision and our life style. The Rule of Life

