

of characters helping them to realise together such an important work of animation.

The Vicariate meetings which take place once or twice a year are times of sharing faith and fraternity. Is it not prophetic to assemble around a table a group of religious whose ages range from 30 years to more than 100 at a time when usually only efficiency counts?

It is important not to forget the presence of the fraternity "Me Voici" in the life of the Vicariate, the commitment of several lay persons with the communities to help in their mission of welcoming and management. They are part of the Betharramite family and each in his/her own way benefits from the spirituality of St Michael. Even if the Vicariate is going through difficult

times there is no shortage of projects. The refurbishment of the house in Pau is under discussion. Reflexion on the property in Betharram, started in November 2012, is leading to new openings. Despite its limits the Vicariate is progressing with faith and trust, with the wish to construct communities which are prayerful and fraternal and to respond to the needs of the world. The presence of religious brothers from Africa, Asia and South America is priceless inviting to openness, and to be signs of fraternity "foundation and means to peace" (Pope Francis in his message for World Day Peace, 1 January 2014). Yes, indeed "always forward"!

Jean-Dominique Delgue, scj



What is the end of our vocation? To procure God's glory by corresponding with God's grace. Is this something great? Working for the glory of God is no ordinary task. It is a great and highly estimable task. (M 428)



Societas S^{mi} Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

89
2013

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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 89
14th January 2014



A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Administration of the property of the Congregation

In this issue

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Religious earn their living by their work or by their pastoral and professional competence. Whatever a religious earns with this belongs to the community, including pensions and other sources of income or insurances (R of L 50). By his vow of poverty the religious undertakes to keep nothing for himself but to share with the community whatever he earns depending on the community for his needs, and rendering account thoroughly and with transparency. To be poor means having nothing. Whoever commits himself to a vow of poverty and owns property is deceiving the Church and humiliating his brothers who share everything.

Religious therefore share everything that they can receive with the community, who can only own something in the limits fixed by the Regional Superior and his Council (R of L 287: statute 37). Once a year or every six months the community pays back the 2/3 of what they have, keeping only 1/3 for their daily needs. Like the religious the communities must be poor if our witness is to be worth anything.

It is good that there should be no differences be-

tween the communities; this is why we must strive at a genuine sharing of our goods. It is unbearable to think that there are communities living in abundance while others are in need. "Attention to the poorest begins by sharing between brothers of the same Congregation" (statute 32). In certain Vicariates, with the 2/3 received from the communities that can, it is possible to have enough money to come to the aid of communities not having enough resources because they are engaged in missions which bring in no money (for example Houses of Formation) or they are engaged in the service of the poor. They will each have to draw up their budget and render accounts so that sharing is done with truth and trust.

The Congregation needs to have property so as to provide materially for the religious, cover the cost of formation and

carry out the mission which the different communities receive. With this in view the Vicariates, Regions and General Council can own goods and property, inherited from previous generations or which have been bought for needs both material and missionary: houses, land, cars; they can also have a ready supply of money to provide for new projects or for other needs. All these goods are Church property and the Congregation manages them according to the criteria of the Gospels as explained in the Rule of Life (art 290) and in Canon Law.

The criteria for administration are not only financial so as to get the best results possible. They must also be evangelical: they must provide for a decent standard of living, austere, without luxury, a bit like the type of life of the simple folk in the midst of whom we are living. By avoiding an accumulation of goods, by trusting in Providence, we can be responsible for the mission and the work we receive whether salaried or not, in a spirit of service, of community sharing, relying on the community for the use of these goods, helping the poor and securing the best results for the mission.

It is the Superior who assures the ordinary administration. In this he is helped by



JANUARY	14	Feliz aniversario	Ir. Glecimar da Silva
	18	Feliz cumpleaños 10 años de profesión	P. Antonio Cano P. Marcelo Rodrigues Da Silva P. Sebastián García P. Alberto Zaracho Barrios
	19	55 años de profesión	P. Francisco Daleoso
	20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Victor Bataillés
	23	Buon compleanno	P. Ennio Bianchi
	24	10 anni de sacerdozio	P. Romualdo Airaghi
	25	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Luis Oteiza
	26	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Albino Trameri P. Mario Giussani Br. Shamon Devasia Valiyaveetil
	27	Happy birthday Feliz cumpleaños	Fr. Brian Boyle Ir. Juan Pablo García Martínez
	28	Happy birthday	Fr. Biju Paul Alappat
FEBRUARY	29	Joyeux anniversaire	P. André Grossard
	30	Buon compleanno	P. Celeste Perlini P. Aldo Camesasca
	2	Joyeux anniversaire Happy birthday	P. Jean Suberbielle Br. Vino Arokia Maria Soosia
	3	Buon compleanno	P. Tarcisio Giacomelli
	4	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Angelo Recalcati
	7	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Firmin Bourguinat
	10	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Lataste
	12	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Pierre Grech P. Raoul Thibaut Segla
	13	Buon compleanno	P. Mario Longoni

ies, for welcoming individuals or Betharram religious passing through, for the pastoral of the college and the parish Notre Dame du Piemont.

- The Pau Community: It is situated in town. The last General Chapter decided that Pau should be an international community. Together with the cult of Blessed Mariam, with the students' hostel, with the reception of different groups from the diocese or elsewhere, the mission of this community is to continue and consolidate the spiritual animation while at the same

time looking after the chaplaincy of different Church movements and Care Homes and other parish services. Fr. Stervin and Fr. Pornchai from the Blessed Mariam Region answered the Superior General's call to be part of this international community.

- The Anglet-Saint Palais Community: in two residences. In Saint Palais the religious live in the birth place of Father Etchecopar and are responsible for Ibarre and pilgrimages as well as helping the parish of Saint Palais. At Anglet the religious are chaplains to the Servants of Mary.

- The community at Pibrac: the religious are responsible for the animation of the parish. It is also the formation community for the Vicariate. It is a community of transit thanks to the proximity of the airport.

- The Mendelu Community (Spain): It was the wish of the General Chapter to maintain the presence of this community. To achieve this a religious has just arrived from France and in the next few weeks another will arrive from Brazil.



Vicariate meeting? Not quite. Betharram Fathers and Brothers caught in the act of rehearsing a play on Saint Michael set up in 2013. A great event of communion.

It is a community responsible for the Saint Michael Garicoits parish as well as accompanying several chaplaincies: the Daughters of the Cross, Carmel, and the Christian Brothers. Even if the average age of the religious is high, it doesn't prevent the Vicariate from being dynamic. It can also be a source of joy to note that the six communities are international and are sign of the universality of the Church. In this jubilee year of St Michael Garicoits the religious have the opportunity of making known the life and charism of their Founder. A steering committee of 8 religious worked very hard to prepare a press release with suggestions for animation, retreats and conferences. This committee continues to coordinate all requests from priests, parishes and schools so as to respond in the best possible manner. It is impossible to imagine the results of this jubilee year and all its fruits. What is most interesting for this group of religious is the diversity

continues on page 20

the Treasurer. "[They] spend and carry out legal acts of ordinary administration within the limits fixed by the Rule of Life, and by ecclesiastical and civil law" (art 292). Together they keep up to date the inventory of the property and the accounts as well as the budget so as to be able to inform the community as well as the superiors of what use it is being put to. For example they can pay to the Vicariate the sum fixed by the Regional Superior with the consent of his Council. "This management is ordered in such a way that goods of the community contribute to the life and mission of the Vicariate and the Region, and the goods of the vicariate and region support the life and the mission of the whole Congregation." (art 288).

Sometimes so as to shoulder some particular mission it would be good to have our own works. The responsibility for these can be given to a religious or to a lay person. Whoever it is, he must render account of his management to the trustees amongst whom there must be other religious nominated by the major superior or as far as possible (statutes 31 and 16). They can all render their accounts to their Regional Vicar who is the legal representative in the Vicariate.

A religious cannot keep his inheritance. He can have the ownership without the usufruct, by naming someone before first profession to whom he yields the administration, use and usufruct. Before final profession he must make a valid will in the eyes of the law in which he clearly states who is to inherit his property. He cannot leave an inheritance to persons outside the Congregation – pensions or

loans (art 54) since he is obliged to share them with the community. Family inheritance don't belong to the Congregation. If the religious should sell, the product of the sales is to be shared with the community for his vow of poverty obliges him to keep nothing for himself.

If a religious carries out financial deals without his superior's permission, or if he causes material hurt to another person, he is then acting in his own name and is personally responsible for the consequences of his actions. (art 298, St 38)

The superiors are to take all necessary means to safeguard the property of the Congregation whenever a religious or person unknown to the Congregation is recognised as owner of the property in the eyes of the law. (art 299).

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj

The richness of God's "varied" grace

ON 6 JULY 1947, MICHAEL GARICOITS AND ELIZABETH BICHIER DES AGES WERE CANONISED BY POPE PIUS XII IN THE COURSE OF A MAGNIFICENT CEREMONY. THE NEXT DAY, 7 JULY, THE HOLY FATHER EXPLAINED TO THE PILGRIMS THE FOUNDATIONS AND CHARACTER OF THEIR SUBLIME HOLINESS.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS NEW YEAR SO AS TO ENCOURAGE A NEW SURGE OF FERVOUR, LET US READ ONCE MORE IN THE VERY WORDS OF POPE PIUS XII WHAT IT WAS THAT SANCTIFIED OUR FOUNDER, NOT FORGETTING TO MEDITATE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS THE POPE MADE TO THE SPIRITUAL SONS AT THE CLOSE OF HIS SPEECH.

Often as we celebrate the chosen whom we have been privileged to raise to the honours of the altar, it has been our pleasure to have them admired in their appearances and the wealth of the divine display of the *multiformis gratia* (1 Peter 4,10), evident in each of the saints as a reflection of the unique and uncreated light, giving a pale image of the mirror of justice and reflecting the splendour of his Son who is *candor lucis aeternae* and *speculum sine macula* (Ws 7,26). If all these virtues practised to a heroic degree are to appear on the crown with which the Church wishes to adorn her sons and daughters, the character and temperament of each one together with the circumstances of their life show us in detail the one or other priceless gem which adds to the splendour.

Image of a saint

We notice this difference with the saints when we compare the two priests whose life and works were closely connected

with St Elizabeth Bichier des Ages. One of them shared with her the honours of yesterday whereas the other preceded them by several years yet it is impossible to separate them completely. Taking a look at St Michael Garicoits, his personal history and psychology one gets the impression of being in the presence of one of those strong characters capable of expressing an appearance of a character of outstanding strength.

Image of Michael Garicoits

Oh the Pyrenees! This is where Michael Garicoits enters the scene. This great saint, so different naturally from the image created by Andre Fournet, was to become after his death a second father to the Daughters of the Cross. If we were to believe him he owed everything to their mother: "When I saw the holiness of this chosen soul, her religious life, her poverty, I was obliged to reflect on my own life..... where would I be without her? For it is thanks to her, after God that I am where I am; I can assure you it is



Now
AND TOMORROW...

It was then that to prepare a safe refuge for the expelled religious a foundation in Spain was decided: the Buena Vista residence and, at Irun, the Cesario residence which welcomed the senior fathers and General Council; and the apostolicat at Mendelu (1910). The two first communities were closed when the Betharramite religious were able to return to France at the end of World War I. The apostolicat passed from being a refuge for young French candidates to a junior seminary for the formation of the first Spanish religious, earmarked principally for Betharramite missions in South America or for the mission to China.

The 1947 General Chapter decided to divide the Congregation into Provinces, the Province of France to which were added the communities in Bethlehem, Nazareth and Beit-Jala (Holy Land), Casablanca (Morocco) and Sidi-bel-Abbes (Algeria). Numerically speaking this was the biggest and most important part of the Congregation. Despite the distance Spain was added to the list because of the linguistic and cultural links to the Province of Rio de la Plata as well as Argentina and Uruguay.

This new organisation helped in the realisation of a fantastic development of the Congregation and the birth of new religious communities; in France the communities at Floirac, Gan, Limoges, Saint Affrique, Pau, Saint Palais, Auch, Bazas, Balarin etc in Spain Zamora, Saragossa and Azpetia.

From May 1977, Spain was detached from the South American Province and became a delegation, directly answerable to the Superior General to give a fresh impulse to the pastoral of vocations. With this in view a new parish community was opened at Castellon de la Plana in the region of Valence.

Finally the 2005 General Chapter decided on a new form of organisation: the Regions composed of regional Vicariates along national lines. Today France and Spain form a single Vicariate belonging to the Region "Saint-Michel-Garicoits".

Roberto Cornara, archivist

with Fr Jean-Do Delgue scj

The Franco-Spanish Vicariate is composed of 58 religious in six communities:

- **The Maison Neuve community** at Betharram: a community of senior religious, each with a long record of religious life and missionary activity. This is a community with the time to pray for the whole congregation. As well as the religious there are 14 lay persons who enjoy the care and attention of the staff at the Care Home in the service of all the residents.

- **Notre Dame Community** at Betharram: it has just welcomed the novitiate for the Region with the Master of Novices, Fr Jacky Moura and 2 novices from Ivory Coast. This community has the responsibility for the animation of the sanctuar-

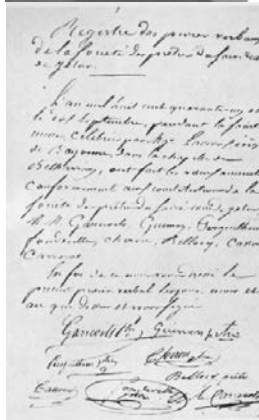


THE ELEVEN VICARIATES OF THE CONGREGATION

FOR THIS YEAR 2014 WE ARE GOING TO OFFER YOU A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE IN TIME AND SPACE: ELEVEN APPOINTMENTS TO DISCOVER THE ROOTS, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE ELEVEN VICARIATES OF OUR CONGREGATION. OUR ARCHIVIST, ROBERTO CORNARA, WILL HELP US TO DISCOVER THEIR BEGINNINGS, WHILE THE REGIONAL VICARS WILL TELL US THEIR PRESENT SITUATION AND FUTURE OUTLOOK.

Vicariate of France-Spain

its roots



France is the birthplace of the Betharram Congregation. According to the first biography of St Michael by Father Basilde Bourdonne, the saint of Betharram began assembling his first disciples. Once the Major Seminary had been transferred to Bayonne in 1833, he was left on his own "superior of the four walls of a huge building". The first beginnings of the future Congregation emerged in the shadow of the Marian shrine, and it was here that Father Michael Garicoits assembled the first group of volunteers "ready to go wherever obedience called them".

In the "History of Betharram since the Revolution of 1790" Father Fondeville has left us a terse account of the official birth of the first community:

In the month of October of this same year (1835) the community of Betharram, composed of MM Garicoits, Guimon, Chirou, Larrouy and Fondeville wanting to have a rule for their own sanctification and edification adopted the rules of the Missionaries of Hasparren and without any further ado for a novitiate other than their willingness to glorify God, save their own souls and sanctify the people, elected M. Garicoits as their superior, promising him obedience and poverty, and renewing their vow of celibacy they emptied their modest sums of money into his hands.

The official date of the birth of the Congregation is 10 September 1841, when the Bishop Mgr Lacroix gave the little community its first Betharramite rule. For that occasion, Father Didace Barbe wrote the PV of the ceremony and first profession:

On the 10 September 1841, during Mass celebrated by Mgr Lacroix, Bishop of Bayonne, in the chapel at Betharram in accordance with the constitutions of the Society of Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, annual vows were made by MM Garicoits, Guimon, Perguillhem, Fondeville, Chirou, Belloq, Cassou and Carrerot.

Right up to the beginning of the 20th century there will be no other communities in France except those founded by St Michael and Father Etchecopar in the diocese of Bayonne: Betharram, Orthez, Pau, Bayonne, Anglet, Sarrance and Oloron. These foundations all disappeared with the expulsion of the religious in 1903.

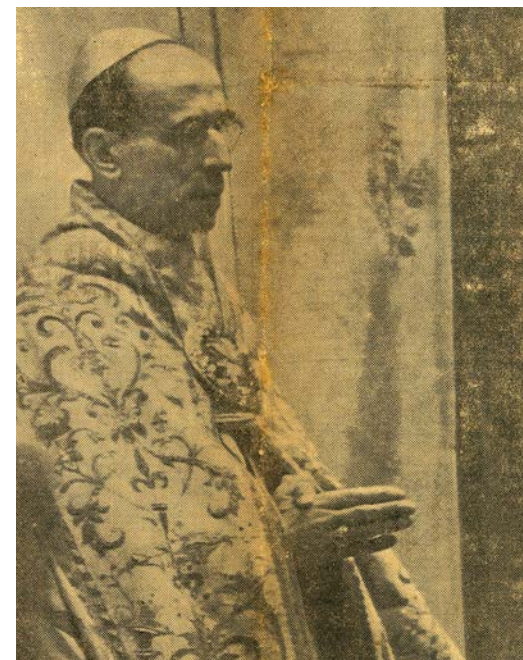
she who converted me". And he was wont to tell anyone who listened to him "that it was she who had done everything for the foundation of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Betharram of which he was the first Superior General". Let's give modesty its due! The saints are great at sending each other the merits of their virtues and good works. Be that as it may, Michael Garicoits does nothing by halves and if it is true that the sight of the poverty of the esteemed Elizabeth Bichier des Ages was enough to convert "the

young priest who had previously lived in poverty bought fashionable footwear in replacement of his shepherd's clogs," it wasn't long before he was as good as his model even leaving her behind! And the saint's cassocks were soon as famous as the dresses of Elizabeth Bichier des Ages.

"De forti dulcedo"

As well as poverty, accepted and loved,

he practised humility, mortification, abnegation, zeal and charity, at the same time so full of goodness that "de forti dulcedo (Jg 14,14) could easily be applied to him. In the countless details of his life, from his talks and from his letters there is a constant evidence of all these virtues. This need to excel made of him the ideal founder of a Religious Congregation but also made him the friend of all the others. Where lesser souls might detect competitors he could see brothers and bet-



Pius XII during the "Te Deum" soon after the canonization of Saint Michael Garicoits (from the Osservatore Romano 9 July 1947)

ter still apostles with whom his ambition was to be a fellow worker. He opened his door to the Capuchins turned out of Spain; he lent a helping hand to the young Congregation of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception; he had the joy of welcoming the Jesuits in Pau; he did everything in his power to facilitate the return of the Premontres; he helped with the creation of Our Lady of the Refuge of Father Cestac; he was Spiritual Director of the Carmelites, the

Ursulines, the Dominicans but especially of his dear Daughters of the Cross.

His zeal for pastoral activity

He wasn't short of personal activities: the formation and government of his Congregation of Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Sanctuary and Calvary at Betharram, the creation and management of colleges, of agricultural and industrial orphanages, and the choosing of teaching brothers for such institutions. The Pyrenees where there is so much to do and where he has done so much don't stop him from responding to a heavy mission in Argentina and then in Uruguay. If only he could be satisfied with simply founding or launching an operation! But no! He was present everywhere, helping either by visits or letters – thousands of letters full of sound advice and at the same time heartfelt and with such ardour that it is a wonder how one man could face up to so many responsibilities.

Supreme glorification

As Elizabeth's life was declining and Michael's was emerging, Divine Providence brought these two saints closer together through mutual assistance and the strength and results of their respective good works and wanted to set the seal of approval on their meeting here below by uniting them in the supreme glorification. Amazed at the fullness of the existence of two such divers characters people

will wonder how such boundless activity could exist alongside the spiritual dimension of their contemplative lives. Who is talking of conciliation? One between the flame and the source of charity? Between the brightness which they spread around them and the light of which they bear the reflection?

A Fatherly exhortation

What lesson does this hold for you, dear Priests of the Sacred Heart and you dear Daughters of the Cross? It's a lesson which is on the lips of these two saints to whom you owe so much! Let your zeal, like theirs, be ardent, active, overpowering, adapted to the needs of every age, but let your zeal always be founded at the living spring! Don't heed the temptation to sacrifice your religious life and personal sanctification to the apostolate. It would be like gathering flowers on a tree for a posy and then looking for fruit on the bare branches.

The power of their intercession is to be added to their teachings and example. With confidence as We give you and yours Our Apostolic Blessing we pray to them for you and for all those whom you represent here today.

by Fr. Piero Trameri scj, procurator for the missions, assisted by Mr. Giovanni Parolari, a layman who for one year did voluntary work in CAR with the Betharramites.

Central African Republic Christmas for the children

► In spite of the war and the grave turmoil, the religious of the community of the «St. Michel» Centre of Bouar organized a Christmas celebration for HIV-positive children. Br Angelo Sala SCJ, superior and religious-in-charge of the centre, has just sent in this message: «I am sending the pictures of the party that we organized at the St. Michel Centre for our HIV-positive children for Christmas. The situation in Central African Republic, despite the arrival of the French contingent, is still difficult: clashes between Muslims and anti-Balaka troops... do not seem to subside; at Bouar the situation is still quiet but we do not know for how long. I wish you a Merry Christmas.» In this Nativity of the Lord let's



continue to ask for the gift of peace for the Central African Republic!

Region



India

Christmas in Mangalore ► On 10th of December, our community of Maria Kripa celebrated Christmas with our benefactors, teachers, friends, well wishers and neighboring communities. The Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Austin Hughes along with Fr. Biju Antony (Superior) and Fr. Enakius (Administrator). The day was blessed with the presence of all our invitees and the event got colored with a sound and light programme «Mystic of Incarnation» (a play based on Betharram Spirituality) and Carols by our brothers. The day ended with a fellowship meal.



NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Decisions of the Superior General and his Council



On December 27th 2013, Fr. Gaspar Fernández Pérez, Superior General, appointed **Brother Davi Aparecido DA SILVA** (Vicariate of Brazil) as a member of the community of Mendelu (Vicariate of France-Spain) for three years from March 1st 2014.



Generalate House

Meetings underway ► The team in charge of the recyclage planned for 2015 has just given the kick-off of the meetings at the Congregation level which will be held at the Generalate in January. From January 8 to 12 Fr Jacky Moura chaired the meeting with the presence of these religious: Fr Gustavo Agin, Br Andrew Ferris, Fr Gianluca Limonta and Fr Graziano Sala. It is now the turn of the Service of Betharramite Formation – they started their meeting yesterday 13 January.

Region



France-Spain



Fr. Julian Miguel scj

► On 21 November 2013, the community of La Salle-Enea, Irún (Spain) held a thanksgiving celebration for Fr Julian Miguel SCJ, member of the Betharram

Community (Mendelu) who has been their chaplain for 62 years. Fr Julian was accompanied by the other members of the community: Fr Gogorza, Fr Julio Colina and Fr Gerard Zugamurdi. The Christian Brothers thanked Fr Julian for his loyalty, perseverance, carefulness, kindness, mercy and joy. On

August 6, they had celebrated his 90 years of age. A couple of months ago, Fr Gerard Zugamurdi, a new member of the betharramite community, took over from Fr Julian as chaplain of the Christian Brothers.

Holy Land

Christmas in Zarqa

► On December 24th, the parish of the «Twelve Apostles» of Zarqa celebrated the Nativity of the Lord. Braving the cold, several parishioners attended the celebration to welcome and to worship Jesus born among us. The solemn celebration was presided over by Fr Eyad and concelebrated by Fr Elie (Parish priest). Br Jean-Paul Kissi, novice in the 2nd year, was also present and very happy to experience his first Christmas in Jordan.



Italy

A.M.I.C.I. ► Lately, the Centre for Missionary Cooperation of Albavilla has begun to function as an NPO organization, called "A.M.I.C.I. Betharram O.N.L.U.S." (AMICI, which means «friends», is also in Italian the acronym which stands for International Cultural Missionary Association). The main aim of this Association is the socio-medical assistance to people in developing countries: construction and management of schools, professional training centers, health clinics, with the help of the Betharram Religious missionaries living and operating in the areas concerned. In addition, the Association is also a «Centre for Missionary Animation», with a new legal status, headed

Brother Giuseppe Pozzi, scj

Castello Valsolda, 14 febbraio 1938 - Solbiate, 29 décembre 2013
(Italy)

Homily during his funeral mass

Monday 30 December 2013

Here we are in the presence of the Lord to celebrate the funeral of Brother Giuseppe, a non-priest Brother consecrated by vows just like St Francis of Assisi.

It is consoling to recall his memory for all those who knew him, particularly during those 25 years spent in Albavilla, where he was appreciated for his goodness and generosity, even though people didn't always understand his position and status as a consecrated soul because of his great discretion.

It is important for each one of us, his brothers, to recall his memory. We who were too lucky to have known him well are now invited to recall the witness of his life.

As I was saying.... a consecrated soul like St Francis, called to lead a life as closely as possible to the origins, according to the type of a religious family, that of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Betharram, faithful to their spirituality.

A consecrated soul called, despite his limits, in the Church to be a "sign" of total dedication to the Gospel, "sign" of fraternal love and "sign" of service to charity.

Such is the difficult task that consecrated life is called to lead in the Church and in the world. The readings which we have just heard remind us exactly of this task, while at the same time sketching out the spirituality of the Fathers of Betharram.

Isaiah says: "I then heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who is



going to be our messenger?"

"Here I am", just like Mary to the Angel's message and like Jesus to his Father at the moment of his Incarnation: "Here I am to do your will".

It was the consecration of his life to the Lord that was accomplished by Brother Giuseppe at 30 years of age and after several years as a painter in the building industry. These years got him used to work and prepared him to be always available for calls from everyone for the needs of the communities, friends for every kind of service:

Whether it was the heavy work in the vineyard at Monte Porzio Catone, or the activities in the S. Giuseppe House here at Albavilla or at Teggate during the summer; or in response to the requests from the Roscio Sisters where he managed to mend almost anything like an expert and with the love of someone who had learned to put his "Here I am" into all the actions of his daily life.

Br Giuseppe was aided by a close relationship with the Lord sustained by early

Morning Prayer and rounded up in the evening, after his day's work by decades and decades of the Rosary. We all remember in community the countless hours spent listening - full blast - to the broadcasts of Mass or the Rosary on radio and Television! We also know how often he would bring a fresh flower for the statue of Our Lady in the refectory every morning.

I believe that for us he will always be that brother who by the witness of his life will remind us to take care of the things necessary in a life offered to the Lord.

In the second reading St Paul invites us to assume, like the beloved of the Lord, "the sentiments of mercy, goodness, humility gentleness and patience".

Our Rule of Life asks us to live the challenge of a fraternal life in community as a sign of the presence of Christ in the midst of mankind. "By this men will recognise that you are my disciples."

Freed from pastoral obligations but mindful of the needs of the brothers in community, Giuseppe was ready to go anywhere at the wheel of his van looking for the craziest of objects or with his mini-tractor mowing the lawn for the Sisters. I think he has been and always will be a living example of consecrated life: to be a "signum fraternitatis", a sign that it is possible to live like brothers in Christ.

In the Gospel, Jesus thanks his Father for revealing the deep truths to the humble and the despised, then he invites all who are weary and oppressed to speak to him with trust. That is what consecrated life, in imitation of Christ, is invited to do: offer "the service of Charity" to those who have the greatest need.

Many a time Br Giuseppe was seen coming out of the cellar with bags of food for those who were knocking at the door. This too is a practical sign of an important aspect of the spirituality of a consecrated person.

Br Giuseppe taught us the meaning of care through the great love which he showed the elderly, the sick, the humble and the simple. Finally, I think that I have been too long in my praises. Br Giuseppe would never forgive me!

However I believe that all that has been said in gratitude for a Brother who, in silence and simplicity has led a life totally consecrated to the Lord and has given us a precious witness not to be forgotten.

I believe his life has been a gift from the Lord for each one of us.

Thank you Bepi, for showing us how to believe simply and in confidence in the Lord. Thank you for your daily fidelity to "Here I am to do your will".

Thank you for the goodness which you showed us for those who are in need.

In the name of all thank you!

And thanks to the Lord for the gift of your life and witness.

Piero Trameri, scj

self, the more I felt worthless. The sessions helped me at the end to understand what I am and what I ought to become. My life as a religious and a priest leads me to live a life of holiness only as far as there is transparency and openness in my own life with God, others and myself.

I thank my parents, my family, my Religious Aunts belonging to the order of Mother Theresa sisters who inspired me lot in my vocation younger age. I always remember the affectionate love given to me by Fr Xavier who is in heaven interceding for us always. I have discovered my calling, to be more kind, more compassionate, affectionate, to see my troubles as blessings, to be an adventurer, to love my work, etc. Thanks to Fr Charles Enakius, my companion priest and all the members of the community of Mariakripa for their encouragement and timely correction.

Thirteen years ago, while taking a catechism class, a small boy questioned me: how does the 'firefly' give out the light? I answered that I did not know what is the science behind it. The boy got up and said that we can give to others only what we have. I concluded that if I have joy, love, peace, quietness within me I am able to give it out to others. I can't not give what I do not have. So also if I have any negativity inside me, I will be giving negativity to others. From that day onwards Epiphany has got new meaning in my life. As an enlightened Betharramite, knowing what he has within him and this awareness, will help filling ourselves with light to dispel the darkness through the sacrament of confession, reconciliation with God and man. I would like to conclude with a prayer taken from Teilhard de Chardin: formation is a slow process and we need to be patient.

"Trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet, it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability... and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you. Your insights and desires mature gradually - let them grow, let them shape themselves without undue haste. Do not try to force them on as though you could do today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own goodwill) will make you do tomorrow.

Only God can say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of your believing that on his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete...."

Teilhard de Chardin



ing, absolutely nothing for four years except for a tiny shoot coming out of a bulb. During those four years all the growth is underground in a massive fibrous root structure that spreads deep and wide in the earth. But in the fifth year the Chinese bamboo tree grows up to eighty feet.

This is about a small plant. Then what about the human being: he or she needs to undergo real transformation. If one keeps a long face and withdraws from community activities he causes a real pain to the others in the community. Like a potter, as Jesus shaped his disciples he can also shape us if we allow him.

I recall with immense joy and gratitude the grace given to me to be part of the family of Betharram, work in the formation of the Sacred Heart vicariate of India, under the guidance of Fr Biju Paul Alappat Scj (Vicariate Superior of India). The upmost priority is given to the personal accompaniment of those in formation to understand one's own feelings and help them to reach their goal and the right decision.

By choosing religious and priestly way of life I had a strong desire and determination to develop a deeper intimacy with God. I thought I had completely allowed God to be the God of my life with my final Profession and Priestly Ordination. At the beginning of my priestly life, I attended a three-year formator course and vocational growth sessions (VGS) on a regular basis. I became aware of my own limitations which hinder me to reach the goal of total union with God. I discovered my dissonant needs such as depending on appreciation, self righteous attitudes and many more. The more I came in touch with my-

J.Sheen's article, *In the fullness of time*: Let a speck of dust enter the eye and at once the hand flies up to minister. Let a person slip in the street and strain his foot and the other foot will do double duty all the way home. If a person burns his face, doctors would graft skin from another part of his body and apply it to his face. If a person is suffering from anaemia, doctors will transfuse blood from another member of society to that weak individual to cure him of that anaemic condition. "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with him" (1 Cor 12:26). We should be available to any situation in the community because God works through our hands, and through our heart.

To reach this stage it takes many years of formation. I was ordained after twelve years of formation. People often wonder and ask why so many years of formation to become an ordained priest? I remember the insight about the Chinese bamboo tree:

After the seed is planted, you see noth-

of Fr. Biju Anthony Panthalukkaran, SCJ

Superior of the community of Mangalore in India



"As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. (1co 12.12)

"Father, Son and Holy Spirit, what a model community... (...) These Three Persons, perfectly distinct, do not fail to be united and to act in the same nature, in the same thought and in the same will and in the same activity, and thus constitute one adorable perfect society...

So I will endeavour to reproduce and perfect in myself and in others, especially in those who are entrusted to me, this unity of the Three Divine Persons in the unity of the same thought and the same will of God; to relish the same things in the same Spirit.

"May they be one in us ! (...) And they will be one heart and one soul, constantly, without anything being able to separate us. All one in the Father and the Son: how perfect; how happy. It is what will be given us in the future life. But what we must begin here below by the sincerity of our harmony. A curse on any spirit of trouble or division! Spirit of peace and union, come down and stay with us. (St Michael Garicoits - M 930 - 723)

Narratio... As I was reflecting about this text my memories went back to my novitiate life, when my novice master Fr Enrico Frigerio Scj shared about the above texts. All of us are parts of Christ's Body. The way the human body gives unity to all its component parts is the way Christ, as the unifying principle of his Church, gives unity to all Christians in his body. The religious community is the model for this because its members share the life of the Risen Lord with the same mind and spirit. Today as I live in community, I personally feel that none of us can live good Christian life without joining hands with

and working with the other members of the community.

If I hurt my hand, my whole body feels the pain; for my hand is one with my body; if my eye sees a blow about to be directed against the ear, the eye does not say, "it is not going to strike me and therefore I need not worry". As a matter of fact, the eye does seek to prevent injury to the ear, for both are one because they are parts of the same organism. Likewise as we live together, we should work for the betterment of the community with one mind and spirit as the unity of the three divine persons in unity of thought and the will

of God; to relish things in the same spirit (m.930). To live in community we need this unity, understanding and acceptance. But whenever we face tragedies, failures, accusation, problems, we try to avoid them, and to become isolated or independent from the community. It is because we all are clever with our head rather than the heart.

During my novitiate class on how to become a balanced person, Fr Biju Paul Alappatt scj commented about this. Of course there was a time when the world was considered to be ruled by the head. A person who had a high level of intelligence (IQ) and used it efficiently would be a successful person. Today the whole world, including the world of multinationals, recognises the importance of the heart for increasing the efficacy of persons as well as institutions. Today everyone looks for persons who possess high levels of emotional intelligence (EQ) and are able to utilise it in their relationships and in the pursuit of their goals. Affective maturity is no more seen as a desirable item but something very necessary for becoming an effective, loving and holy person, priest or religious. To this we need to add spiritual intelligence (SQ) whereby an intellectually balanced and psychologically matured person opens oneself to God's power of transforming love.

During my formators Course an insight was given to me by my spiritual director when I went for my Vocational Growth Sessions (VGS), if you are able to accept your hurt feelings you can make them into a precious pearl in your life. He said: There was once an oyster, who found that



Family photo: the community of Mangalore in its entirety

some sand had got into his shell, it was only a grain, but it gave him a great pain. Now did he berate the harsh workings of fate that had brought him to such a deplorable state? Did he curse at the government, cry for election and claim that the sea should have given him protection? No, he said to himself as he lay on a shell: "since I cannot remove it, I shall try to improve it."

Now the years have rolled around as the years always do. And he came to his ultimate

destiny - in the stew and the same grain of sand, which had bothered him, so... was transformed into a beautiful pearl all richly aglow.

The oyster sailed through its life carrying a grain of sand and producing a beautiful pearl.

When I went to France for the preparation for the final Profession, I was happy to discover that my name Biju, pronounced 'Bijou' (in French) meant Jewel or little pearl. I knew it was a hard work for me to

reach to that stage. That year of preparation helped me to understand better, how to grow in my community life integrating other cultures and adjusting to the different situations.

At every stage of our formation life we encounter good times as well as tough times. In this long journey we hold on to power, prestige, relationships that come into our life from God's goodness. We realize that our anger, jealousy, indifference, hatred, unforgiveness do us no good. We also realize that the process of 'letting go' of all those things that reduce our values in our life is a painful process. We do know that God's grace, support and guidance from others and our cooperation enable us to 'let go' and discover great treasures, those fine pearls of love, kindness, patience, endurance, humility so on.

There is an inner urge and deep longing to produce those pearls and do our best to possess them. Every visit of our Regional Superior Fr. Austin Hughes Scj, really strengthened my personal life and the community of Maria Kripa. I always appreciate the prayer he often says: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. Courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference". In the community life we are indeed very precious as God has brought us together and we reflect His glory. In every event of our life when cooperate with His grace we produce fine pearls of great values.

In the human body, if the tongue tastes something sweet, the whole body rejoices. When I think about the value of Availability, always I am inspired by a Fulton