

we integrate into the pastoral life, and the ways in which we connect with people. The witness of community life also greatly affects the impact we can have, because it presents an image of the Church which is far from the institutional image. People appreciate us when we serve a Church lacking in priests and we are present where others do not want to go (a mobile camp). The relevance of our presence is measured by our capacity to know to respond to the needs of people today. In other words, a community makes sense when it is able

to adapt to the needs of our time, while maintaining what makes for the specificity of our religious identity.

#### What can we do?

Many insist on the need to give more depth to what characterizes us, give more importance to our times of sharing, and a strong spiritual life that is source of light for people.

We should be what we are, and we should share our Betharramite spirit not only by words but also in deeds!



*The spirit of God is that spirit which transforms our souls, making them go from love of self to the love of God and of mankind. I am deeply convinced that there are people who, under the influence of the love of God, go from their former selfishness to the love of God and of mankind. (M 40)*



Societas S<sup>mi</sup> Cordis Jesu  
BETHARRAM

94  
2014

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

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

[www.betharram.net](http://www.betharram.net)

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

112<sup>th</sup> year  
10<sup>th</sup> series, nr 94  
14<sup>th</sup> June 2014

#### A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

#### A technology for meeting

#### In this issue

Page 4 • Session for final

Profession at Betharram

Page 6 • Insight of a veteran

Page 8 • **Missioning**

Page 10 • Bird's eye view of the  
Congregation

Page 11 • Notices from the  
General Council

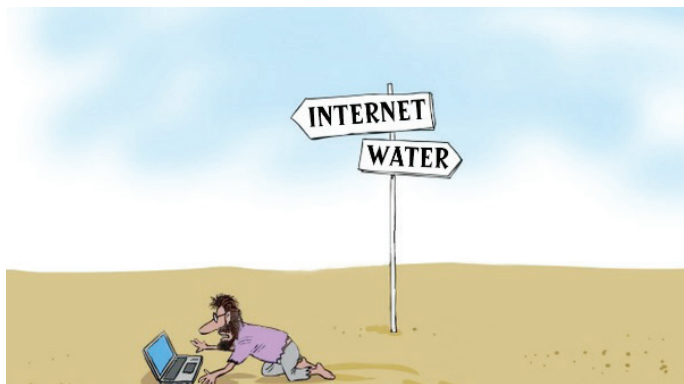
Page 12 • The eleven vicariates (6)

Page 15 • Anniversaries

Page 16 • Listening to St  
Michael...

*Modern means of communication must favour a real deep encounter amongst each other and exchanges within the community, and outside. Their use 'must facilitate a better knowledge of the complexity of the world, allow the opportunity to challenge and question and know how to put these means at the service of evangelisation'. Their restrained and prudent use (bearing in mind our commitment to poverty) should be accompanied by enlightened and communal discernment. (Rule of Life 107)*

We live in a world characterised by the use of technological media in all human environments. Often we cannot avoid making use of them in our life and for the mission. In other cases we notice that the religious take very personal decisions to obtain the latest mobile phone or the latest tablet. The computer is an instrument of work, often demanded by university lecturers or teachers of secondary schools. Is this argument sufficient to justify that each studying religious has a personal computer or would it be enough if we had some computers in the community



The use of the technological media can end up with dangerous situations...

which could be used by all? Do we have to have the same criteria in all facts? To accept one of these instruments as a present does not create some divisions within the community? What can we do when in the community the religious eat with their mobile in their hands sending and receiving messages and answering calls? There are situations more dangerous: some religious due to an inadequate use of the technological media end up with addictions which deprive them of enough freedom to lead a minimal balanced life. The situations are very complex.

The Chinese Liu Xiaobo, peace Nobel prize winner in 2010, says that the Internet is a gift of God. The Pope Francisco makes an optimistic reflexion on the use of technological media at the service of the meeting culture in the message for the XLVIII World Day of social communications 2014, as he already had written in EG. 87: *Today, when the networks and means of human communication have*

*made unprecedented advances, we sense the challenge of finding and sharing a "mystique" of living together, of mingling and encounter, of embracing and supporting one another, of stepping into this flood tide which, while chaotic, can become a genuine experience of fraternity, a caravan of solidarity, a sacred pilgrimage. Greater possibilities for communication thus turn into*

*greater possibilities for encounter and solidarity for everyone. If we were able to take this route, it would be so good, so soothing, so liberating and hope-filled! To go out of ourselves and to join others is healthy for us. To be self-enclosed is to taste the bitter poison of immanence, and humanity will be worse for every selfish choice we make.*

To forbid to the religious the use of the technological media does not seem the best way to educate young people and to treat adults. As in many other aspects of life, in the use of the technological media the situations are ambiguous and need reflection and community discernment considering that the very important values of the consecrated life are compromised: poverty, seriousness in work, chastity, fraternity, and responsibility of the execution of the mission. It has to be considered "as far as they help me or hinder me" (Cf. *The Principle and Foundation* by Sant Ignatius). As other scopes of the consecrated life the use of the media needs a careful attention

JUNE	15	Feliz cumpleaños	Hno. Victor Torales
	17	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Laclau
	18	Feliz cumpleaños	H. Ismael Cristian Romero
	19	10 years of priesthood	Frs. Mongkhon Charoentham, Chokdi Damronganurak, Arun Kano, Phairote Nochatchawan, Jiraphat Raksikhao
	20	5 years of priesthood	Fr. Kriangsak Luke Kitsakunwong
	21	5 ans de sacerdoce	P. Narcisse Zaolo
	22	40 anni di sacerdozio	P. Tarcisio Giacomelli
	23	35 anni di sacerdozio	P. Angelo Riva
	24	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Dominique Etchepare
	25	Bom aniversário	P. Marcelo Rodrigues da Silva
JULY	26	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Couret, F. Marius Angui
	27	Bom aniversário Feliz cumpleaños 50 ans de sacerdoce	P. Robson Antonio Leite H. Alcides Ramón Riveros Díaz P. Joseph Saint-Pé
	28	Bom aniversário Feliz cumpleaños	Ir. Pedro Waldomiro Merlo P. Milciades Ortigoza Acosta
	29	65 ans de sacerdoce 65 años de sacerdocio 60 ans de sacerdoce 45 ans de sacerdoce 45 anni di sacerdozio 40 anni di sacerdozio	PP. Jean Gillet, Jean Laclau, Joseph Mazerolles P. José Gorgorza PP. Bertrand Salla, Mirko Trusgnach Mgr Vincent Landel P. Enrico Mariani P. Giuseppe Franchi
	30	Joyeux anniversaire 35 ans de sacerdoce	P. Jean Lambert, F. Jean-Paul Kissi Ayo P. Jean-Marie Ruspil
	1	20 years of profession	Br. Andrew Ferris
	2	Buon compleanno 20 anos de sacerdocio	P. Massimo Motta P. Francisco de Paula
	3	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Eugene Lhouerrou
	4	Buon compleanno Feliz cumpleaños Joyeux anniversaire	P. Carlo Ruti, P. Enrico Frigerio P. Fulgencio Ferreira P. Hervé Kouamé Kouakou
	5	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jacky Moura
	7	Feliz cumpleaños	P. José María Ruiz
	8	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños	P. Pierre Caset P. Gilberto Ortellado
	11	Buon compleanno Joyeux anniversaire	P. Arialdo Urbani P. Joseph Ruspil



*The laity collaborate actively with the religious of the vicariate to carry forward the common mission*

**COMMUNITY OF ALBAVILLA:** it is the centre of missionary animation. In the Community live 7 religious engaged in various pastoral activities: helping parishes, ministry in Houses of Welcome for the elderly or disabled and chaplaincy to religious institutes.

**COMMUNITY OF COLICO-BORMIO:** 4 religious are present who exercise their ministry again in various sectors: in the Care Home for the elderly; in a hospital; in a small parish where they work as parochial priests.

Parish communities are numerous: Ponte a Elsa, Montemurlo, Parma, Milano-Castellazzo and Lissone. Most religious of the Vicariate, (about half) are engaged in pastoral work in parishes. These communities share all the aspects that characterize ordinary pastoral life, while integrating in pastoral

programme of the diocese in which they are located.

We feel in Italy a certain fatigue due to lack of vocations and the advancing age of our religious. It makes us think about our future.

Meetings of our Religious held in the Vicariate, highlighted three issues:

**Personal dimension:**  
**How do you feel today in your life, in your community, in your ministry?**

Most religious feel good where they are, even if they experience the inevitable difficulty of combining pastoral life with religious life.

**Relevance of our presence: Do you think that our presence is meaningful to the local church?**

Here, the responses varied depending on religious' commitments. Some argue that we are considered a bit like "gap-fillers"; others think that we are not prepared to meet the challenges of the local churches. Some bishops consider us more useful for what we do than what we are.

A large number of religious see our presence as strong not because of prestige or power, but by the simplicity with which

➔ continued on p. 16

in the initial as well as permanent formation: this aspect of life needs to be treated rigorously from a personal point of view, as praying, fraternity, chastity, use of material goods....The formator, the superior and the spiritual director have to verify the authenticity of what the religious says. Confront him with situations that contradict his option for the consecrated life and encourage him to change in order to avoid an hypocritical and worldly conduct which denies what he claims to be.

It does not help this accompaniment in the initial formation, if the religious with perpetual vows live this dimension with autonomy, without reference to the community, to spiritual direction and to obedience. The faithfulness to the vocation of the consecrated person is compromised and therefore the significant testimony. It does not help, as in other aspects of life, to endure the demands during the period of formation, knowing that when definitively accepted in the Congregation, one can do what he wants.

The community has to be the environment of reflection, revision, discernment, decision and fraternal correction of the use of social media. Within the community a wise discernment has to be made in order to see if the use of these technological media facilitate or hinder fraternity, bring us closer or apart and therefore isolate us more and more. In the community it has to be decided if a religious has to change his mobile or computer for the demands of the mission and if it can be done within the economical conditions of the community and if there are other priorities. In the community there must be a fraternal revision and correction on how the use of the technological media affects the values of the consecrated life: silence, praying, communication within the community, chastity, time used to listen to the brother, for the mission and for the services.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, SCJ  
Superior General



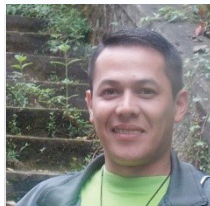
*We still keep a vivid memory of that gesture that just over ten years ago enthralled millions of internet users. According to the experts, Pope John Paul II by simply switching on the "enter" key to send the Apostolic Exhortation "Ecclesia in Oceania" only through the web, in November 2001, launched the evangelization of "the sixth continent".*



## LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

### Session in preparation for final profession at Betharram

**FROM APRIL 23 TO JUNE 1ST, 10 YOUNG BETHARRAMITE RELIGIOUS, LIVED THIS IMPORTANT PERIOD OF THEIR INITIAL FORMATION: THE SESSION AT BETHARRAM, TO DEEPEN THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE CONGREGATION, TO EXPERIENCE A MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY LIFE, TO DRINK FROM THE SOURCE OF OUR SPIRITUALITY AND TO LET THEIR HEART BEAT IN UNISON WITH THE MISSIONARY AND INTERNATIONAL HEART OF THE CONGREGATION.**



"The sky I'll reach and touch", said Saint Michael. This session helped me to remember all the ways, during the formation, I was obtaining for that; and for throughout the Religious Life I can continue discovering this little piece of sky that Saint Michael touched and left us as an heritage. Now I can feel that I am sent by Betharram to discover and live with others, wherever I am, the joy of love. Br. Victor Manuel Torres Martínez (Vic. Paraguay)

We have to wait for the harvest time to come. "This will be a joyful time when what I have planted will be in full bloom and I will realize that fruits do not come from me! In other words: there are flowers because seeds have been sown . . .

Fruits will come in God's time!

Br. Guilherme Glecimar Da Silva (Vic. Brazil)



The different pilgrimages have been for me the occasion of daily conversion, openness to the will of God, to the availability to respond "here I am" to the mission of our congregation.

Br. Vincent Worou Dimon (Vic. Côte d'Ivoire)



Among the possible ways to reach God, Michael Garicoits takes the most straight: the way opened by the Incarnate Word saying to his father: "Here I am, God, I have come to do your will." In other words, the betharramite international session is

to drink from the same source our Founder Father.

Br. Eudes Fernández da Silva (Vic. Brésil)

Since I arrived to this beautiful place, God worked my heart with the contact with the brothers from different cultures and ages, throughout the lectures and discovery of the places which were important for our Saint. I thank God and the Congregation for this experience which, without doubt, will always be remembered in my betharramite religious life.

Br. Raúl Villalba Maylin (Vic. Paraguay)



the first superior. The event was followed by a flourishing of vocations and charities, which led the major superiors to establish the Italian province in 1958. The houses of formation were soon set up, at Albiate for scholastics, at Albavilla for junior seminarians, at Monte Porzio for novices, the parish residence at Lissone (1953), founded by Father Giuseppe Airoldi, the college at Gravedona, in use from 1957 to 1966, the sanctuary of Our Lady of Caravina, on the Lugano lake (1960-2003), the parish community of Santa Rosa in the suburbs of Rome (1962-2006), the communities of Montemurlo and Ponte a Elsa in Tuscany at the end of the 70s, the Piedmontese residence of Premosello and Sala Babanza, and several other communities...

From the 80s, the Italian province opened a mission ad gentes with the foundation of the parish of Niem in the north west of the Central African Republic and at the same

time relationships with the Italian missionaries in Thailand became ever closer. As a consequence the province courageously chose to share life with the poorest and most excluded in society, a choice which became a reality in 1992 with the opening of a reception centre to welcome people suffering with AIDS in Monte Porzio Catone.

The crisis in vocations particularly touched the province from the 90s, and the natural ageing of the religious community has necessarily led in recent years to a reassigning of tasks, without in any way diminishing the vitality of the province, notably thanks to a sharing of the charism of St Michel with the laity, who today collaborate actively with the religious of the vicariate to carry forward the common mission of the church.

Roberto Cornara

Its Present  
and its future...

with Father Aldo Nespoli scj

The communities of the Italian vicariate are 10 in number and are composed of 46 religious. They comprise:

**COMMUNITY OF MONTEPORZIO:** with 6 religious. The community is fully engaged in the care of AIDS patients (about ten people). It also offers a service to the parish of Monte Porzio and animates two other parishes in the Diocese of Tivoli.

**COMMUNITY OF ROME – OUR LADY OF THE MIRACLES:** three religious animate the Shrine and welcome the youth groups and the FSC (Association of Separated & Divorced Christians) working closely with the Fathers of the Generalate.

**COMMUNITY OF ALBIATE:** it is the centre of the Vicariate. It is composed of seven religious ministering in various ways: assistance to parishes and chaplaincy to female religious institutes; then, two religious conduct their ministry in the Patient Support team in two Care Homes.



## THE ELEVEN VICARIATES OF THE CONGREGATION

### Vicariate of Italy

#### its roots



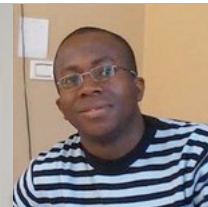
First Betharramite community in Italy: Traona

The presence of the religious order of Betharram was born in Italy in the context of the expulsion of religious orders from France in 1903. It was the fruit of divine providence according to Father Marque, one of the founders of the community in Valtellina. The congregation was committed in two directions: even before the expulsion, there was the need for a residence in Rome which would be the office for the procurator general for business matters with the Holy See; running in parallel, following the expulsion, there was the suggestion of opening a community in the diocese of Côme in the far north of the peninsula. This was how the two main communities of the Italian Betharram order were founded: the residence of the church of the Holy Guardian Angels in the centre of the eternal city and the missionary community of Traona in Valtellina, which was also given the responsibility of welcoming young Italians destined for the religious life in the Betharram congregation for the start of their formation.

These two communities, Rome (inaugurated in January 1905) and Traona (opened in August 1904) no longer exist today, but they are the

bedrock of the Italian vicariate which developed in these two regions, the north and the centre of Italy. The community at Traona closed in 1911, but the close links which were forged with the priests in the area allowed other young people with a calling to the Betharram order to be sent to the Betharram college; some of them were asked to return to Italy in 1928 to found what was to become the mother community of the vicariate, the apostolic school of Colico which then became a college. The residence of the Holy Guardian Angels was closed in 1914, but a Betharramite presence remained in the church of Our Lady of Miracles on the piazza del Popolo. In the 20s, Father Jules Saubat, procurator general, acquired the residence of Monte Porzio Catone, 25 km to the south east of Rome, which then became one of the principal communities of the vicariate.

With the division of the congregation into provinces, determined by the General Chapter of 1947, the Italian vice-province was established and Father Alessandro Del Grande was

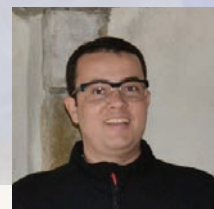


I discover further the cultural diversities, and the joy to share the same spirituality following a great, humble, passionate and ever-living Basque saint Michael Garicoits. I think I have gleaned the resources for my way of religious life.

Br. Jean-Paul Kissi Ayo (Vic. Holy Land)



The session helped me to know better about the very life of our founder and his spirituality. It was also a joy for me to take part in the session with all other brothers who have come from different countries and cultures and it gave the feeling of being one with our Betharram family. I thank God and those who made this wonderful experience possible. Br. Siluvai Antony (Vic. India)



This is a mystic experience, in our mother house where everything began, makes me able to pray and to reflect about my betharramite vocation and about the generosity of my Ecce Venio. I thank the Congregation for giving us the opportunity to live this beautiful experience, this share among brothers from different realities and cultures, contemplating the "Here I am", encouraging me to go further, faithful to Betharram and to be always available to be wherever Betharram is. Br. Davi Aparecido Da Silva Lara (Vic. Brazil)

The international 2014 session is one of the most important turning point in my life. I come more closed to our Founder's spirituality. It is an inner strength for me to live the spirituality and be the living witness to the humanity.

Br. Jacob Biso Puliampally (Vic. India)



The reunion of different cultures at the very foundation in Betharram is just amazing. I could experience how the spark of Michael has let so many hearts get illuminated to radiate the face of Christ throughout the centuries. This session has reaffirmed my firm belief that Betharram means Hope because St. Michael lives in our hearts and Christ is the source of our life and hope that we are Easter people and Alleluia is our song. I am carrying that same spark from here to my vicariate to continue the joy of being Betharramite to share the same happiness with others.

Br. Michael Bistis T. Fernando (Vic. India)



## Insight of a veteran

**FR STERVIN SELVADASS, A BETHARRAMITE FROM INDIA, IS AT PRESENT A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IN PAU, FRANCE. AFTER A FEW YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, HE IS LIKE AN ACTOR WHO GOES TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TV CAMERA: AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE 2009 SESSION AS A CANDIDATE TO FINAL PROFESSION, FR STERVIN IS ONCE AGAIN FOLLOWING SAINT MICHAEL GARICOITS' STEPS AS A SPIRITUAL GUIDE FOR HIS YOUNGER BROTHERS. A SECOND PILGRIMAGE FOR HIM WITH A LITTLE MORE RESPONSIBILITY...**

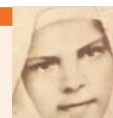
*"Let the magnificat be your favourite canticle and the expression of your feelings says our father St. Michael Garicoits".* Yes, of course, this proposed sentiments of St. Michael Garicoits becomes a reality for me in having participated in this international session 2014. This year is really a blessed and grace-filled year for all the Betharramites to seek the powerful intercession on his 150 birth year in heaven in order to be more rooted in the Charism and the Spirituality of our founder St. Michael Garicoits. But It was indeed a auspicious moment and a double joy for me to celebrate the anniversary of fifteen years of my religious profession and five years of priestly ordination. Therefore, this God- given opportunity simply lead me to thank God, our founder and to renew my consecration. I assure you that each conference that I participated, every pilgrimage and visit that I walked, every testimony of our fathers and brothers in France and Spain that I saw by my own naked eyes and the aspects of internationality in the presence of all the brothers indeed nourished my Betharramite vocation and supported me once more to walk in the footsteps of our father St. Michael.

Yes, the quietness of Betharram, the simplicity of Ibarre, the passionate love of the Anghelu family for St. Michael, the courageous conversions of Ignatius of Loyola and Francis Xavier



and the Living witnesses of the different people whom I met through their conferences, testimonies and so on, in a way, enabled me, as a formator, to enter into the heart of my original love, fervour and enthusiasm ( Pope Francis calls it 'return to Galilee') for God and to the family of Betharram and renewing it with a daily personal conversion. For me, this daily personal conversion became possible with the cooperation of my brothers in the community. Yes, I, in fact, witnessed a greater enthusiasm among this bunch of 10 brothers. They had come with every theoretical knowledge regarding Betharram and the Spirituality and the Charism of St. Michael Garicoits like me once. I personally saw the spark of joy in their eyes as they could touch the reality ; as

## Region



### India

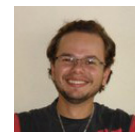
**Mangalore** ► On 5th of May, our Maria Kripa Community witnessed a twofold celebration: the Blessing of Sacred Heart Chapel & Jubilee Celebration of 150th Death Anniversary of our founder. Our re-

novated chapel was blessed and dedicated to The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop of Mangalore, in the presence of Fr. Austin Hughes SCJ, Regional Superior and Rev. Sr. Agatha Mary AC- Superior General of Apostolic Carmel. The age old chapel which dates back to 1961 was renovated with the help of many generous people.

## NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

### Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

- The Superior General, with the consent of his Council gathered on May 13, presented **to the minister of priesthood the Deacon Wagner Aparecido Ferreira** (Brazil) and to the minister of diaconate **the Brs Raúl Villalba Maylín** (Paraguay), **Eudes Fernandes da Silva**, **Glecimar Guilherme Da Silva** (Brazil);
- The Superior General, with the consent of his Council gathered on May 31, presented **to the minister of priesthood the Deacons Thinakorn Martin de Tours Damrongusasin**, **Peter Nonthaphat Mayoe**, **David Pitak Bithu**, **Dominic Athit Kasetsukchai**, **Albert Sa-at Prathansantiphong** (Thailand).



Br. Wagner



Br. Eudes



Br. Glecimar



Br. Raúl



Br. Thinakorn



Br. Nonthaphat



Br. Pitak



Br. Athit



Br. Sa-at

### Our departed

On Tuesday, May 20th, Mrs Teresa Srimala, sister of Fr John Chan Kunu scj, Novice Master of the Blessed Mariam Region, died after a long illness. We express our sympathy to Fr Chan and his family and we offer our prayers for the repose of the soul of their dear one.



### Congregation

**Jubilee Year** ► Wednesday, May 14th at Betharram the closing of the Jubilee Year in honor of St. Michael Garicoits was celebrated. After the Morning Prayer in the chapel of San Michael, Mons Marc Aillet, Bishop of Bayonne, presided over the solemn Eucharistic Celebration. Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez scj, Superior General, Fr Enrico Frigerio scj, Vicar General, Fr Jean-Luc Morin scj, Regional Superior, Fr Jean-Dominique Delgue scj, Regional Vicar for the Vicariate of France and Spain and many religious were among the concelebrants.

The presence of the young Betharramite religious who took part in the session in preparation for the final profession, created an international atmosphere during the celebration. Lay Associates were also present along with friends of Betharram (priests, religious men and women, lay people) and a good number of faithful who joyfully joined the celebration in honor of Saint Michael. The celebration ended with the "mandate" of the Superior General to the religious.

The celebrations organized on the occasion of the closing of the Jubilee Year in honor of Saint Michael Garicoits, held pride of place in all the communities and Vicariates.

All the events that in different ways took place throughout this year under all the latitudes have been promptly reported on the website of the Congregation. ([www.betharram.net](http://www.betharram.net)).

### Region



#### France-Spain

**Pau** ► Saturday 24 - The transverberation of the heart of Blessed Mariam of Jesus Crucified was celebrated on the very spot where the event took place and on the same day of the month (24th May). The day started with an interesting three-voice lecture on the topic: "Carmel and Bétharram: from Pau to India" given by Fr Gaspar Fernandez scj, Fr Stervin Selvadass scj and Sr. Vinaya D'Souza ac. We could enjoy the Solemn Mass presided by the Superior General, Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez.

In the afternoon, there was a beautiful procession to the Chapel of the Hermitage with a prayer session in front of the Altar and the Cross. The adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament followed: the beautiful songs created a prayerful atmosphere. The Vespers closed this beautiful day.

### Region



#### Brazil

**Paulinia** ► On 24-25 May the first Betharramite Youth Camp was held in Paulinia (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and it was attended by youth and laity from Sabará, Sao Paulo and Paulina. The young people experienced the joy of being together as brothers and sisters in the Church and in Betharram.

they could verify their knowledge ; as they confirmed their hear-say and as they shared their experience with one another. Their deep rooted commitment, availability and creativity for prayers and everyday readings of the letters of St. Michael according to the theme of the day, their ever fresh enthusiasm to discover all that concerning St. Michael, venerable Fr. Etchécopar and Blessed Miriam ; their real interest in knowing well the New Revised Rule of Life ; their ever readiness to share all that they have ; the acceptance of their own limitations ; their openness to exploit the modern communication in order to overcome even the language barrier to certain extent ( usage of google translator) and the spirit of searching the newness from different vicariates and regions - these all helped me to go ahead from my "me" to "us" ; and from my "mine" to "ours". It means that it is this community which helps to realise this daily personal conversion which , in one hand, I could live and transmit to the youngsters through the accompaniment as

a formator and on the other hand, the youngsters could see my joyful living witness as a formator which is the fruits of my personal daily conversion. It is nothing but to say again and again 'Here I am' to the will of God every day, every moment. That is why I believe St. Michael says "Use all your enthusiasm within the confines

of your duties ; just to occupy yourselves with doing them well ; so fulfilling the will of God, repeat the words : Do what God wants, how God wants it and become as he wants it ". I am sure that the youngsters are convinced from their lived experience in and around Betharram that " Betharram exists within the Church - not to preach in the parishes, not to teach in the schools, nor to leave for the missions - rather they came about in the Church because a Basque Priest Michael Garicoits was upset by a 'certain face of God'" (Jean Mateo). I am sure also that Fr. Bacho, Fr. Mauro and the brothers will agree with me if I say that we have together rediscovered this "Certain Face of God during these forty days of our experience". It makes me to affirm that Betharram with its spirituality and Charism of St. Michael Garicoits will ever remain Simple, Holy, Hope-Giving and Relevant for Today and Forever. .

Stervin Selvadass, scj



2014 session group with part of the animation team



## MISSIONING

by Fr. Gaspar Fernández Pérez scj, superior general  
to all Betharramite religious

The closure of this jubilee year for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our Father, Saint Michael Garicoits, is not an end in itself but the opportunity to renew the "missioning" of the early days so that Betharram can continue carrying out the mission entrusted to her by the Church. The project wished for by Michael Garicoits still has its *raison d'être*. Ever since 1835 the little community, a few Basques and a few Bearnais, has spread its branches throughout the whole world. Today, it is an international family present in 15 countries on four continents.

Ever since 1856 when Saint Michael sent the first community to Argentina, the religious of Betharram have always responded to the missionary calls of the universal Church and local churches.

**Religious of Betharram**, religious of all the Betharramite communities, spread throughout the world,  
**I am renewing this mission.**

*Full of joy be faithful to the charism of Michael Garicoits in community.*

*Do all in your power to obtain that same joy for all the men and women, through your service, the witness and the announcing of Jesus Christ ....*

*in Europe..., in Latin America..., in the Holy Land..., in Africa..., in Asia even as far as Vietnam,*

*...to make known the charism of the God "who was pleased to be loved"*

*...to be the messengers of the new evangelisation,*

*...to bring to all Jesus Christ who is the source and cause of our joy!*

*"Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life..... people (who) are starving and Jesus Christ does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat'. (Mk 6,37)" (EG 49)*



*To express our desire to pursue the mission of Michael Garicoits, with the little group which he had assembled, with all those who have continued down the history of the Congregation and today, let us say this prayer:*

*Oh my God, you have loved me so much  
And it has pleased you to be loved by me;*

*You created me,*

*You have kept me in being*

*And you continue to keep me constantly in being.*

*You gave me your Son*

*And you saved me by delivering your beloved Son  
to a most cruel death.*

*My God, you have done so much to earn my love!*

*You longed for,*

*and you continue to long for my love!*

*My heart is ready; I want to hold nothing back*

*To prove my love for you.*

*What would you have me do?*

*Here I am.*