

exact reflection of what is to be found in our Rule of Life: formation of the young, attention for the families, the spiritual accompaniment of pilgrims and of consecrated souls. Solid convictions, good suggestions and the best ways of serving the local Church and the neighbour must be pursued during the next few months as we continue our discernment.

In the Middle East the Pastors of the Catholic Church, the Orthodox and Protestant Churches are forever saying: "Either we shall be saved together or we shall perish together". There you have a clear call to unity and community! Furthermore, we religious of the Sacred Heart are full of Hope. Betharram will continue to be in the Holy Land if we so want it and how we want it!



Imitate Christ! Only that can lead to virtue.

Imitate God! That is even greater than anything that can be said, greater even than making the sun rise on the good and the wicked or to make the rain fall on the just and unjust.

How does the Apostle St Paul think that we can imitate God?

He suggests that, filled with God's gifts, we should distribute them amongst our brothers by countless acts of kindness; that we should have for others the heart of a Father, that is, having the deepest feelings of compassion, and human affection. Since it is impossible, in view of the weakness of our human nature, not to offend our neighbour sometimes, we must look for the remedy to this weakness in mutual forgiveness. (M 498)



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BETHARRAM

91
2014

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NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

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of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram

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A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Pastoral Conversion

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Pastoral conversion is one of the key concepts of the papacy of Pope Francis; it is also the fundamental experience for a renewal of the Church in the hearts and communities (EG 20-49). Since it is all about key experience, the Church herself, must experience once more "the delightful and comforting joy of evangelisation" (EN 80; EG 9); the joy of the Gospel filling the life of the community of disciples is a missionary joy; this joy is a sign that the Gospel is being announced and bears fruit. But it always assumes the form of an exodus and a gift, of a path and a seed looking to the future (EG 21).

Talking about conversion we think only of the personal and private level and we hide the interior change under many efforts, demands and sacrifices which mostly are not geared towards a transformation of the individual in his heart and in his conduct no more than the renewal of religious and ecclesial communities. During this coming Lent our conversion must be different; it must be guided by the Word of God as Pope Francis transmits it to us through his actions, words, decisions

and acts; it must also be expressed by a serious change in our conduct and our community relations. May the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* guide us in our reflection.

Pastoral conversion means a radical change in how we understand and live our Christian faith. It means the passage from a situation of tranquillity and self satisfaction focused on the believer or on the community to a situation of openness and movement of the individual meeting all the others; then communities meeting those who have distanced themselves from the Church to bring them the joy of the Gospel message, the love which God has for us, just as Jesus of Nazareth showed it, he the Son of God made man.

It means passing from a Christian life influenced by this world to an Evangelical Christian life full of truth which fills us with joy, urging us to ever greater progress, wanting to share with others the same happiness as St Michael was saying already in

1838: *"The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life, it is not God's will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ"* (EG 2)

Pope Francis is here pointing out some real dangers, specific to a worldly way of thinking and because they are clever lead to a certain familiarity. During this Lent our conversion must consist of opening our eyes to see the signs of the times by listening to the People (EG 154 – 155). It also means being careful in examining our own conduct and motivations, interiorising the

Word of God. Celebrate the sacraments; accept to be challenged in the dialogue with our spiritual director, by our brothers in community and our Superiors. It is only then that we will succeed in overcoming such worldly attitudes and attach greater importance to the place of the person of Jesus Christ in our lives as in the lives of our communities. With Christ at the centre our lives will be evangelical: humility, gentleness, mercy, dialogue,



JANUARY	14	55 ans de sacerdoce	P. Pierre Monnot
	15	Joyeux anniversaire Happy birthday	F. Paul Lamothe Br. Antony J. Livin Fernando
	19	40 años de profesión	PP. Javier Irala, Emiliano Jara
	21	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Bruno Ierullo, P. Jorge Murias, P. José Gogorza
	22	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Gabriel Verley
	23	Buon compleanno Feliz cumpleaños	P. Butrus Alhijazin Hno Osmar Caceres Spaini
	24	Happy birthday	Br. Michael Richards
	27	Feliz cumpleaños	Hno Daniel Pavón Galeano
	29	Joyeux anniversaire	F. Jean-Pierre Nécol
	30	Happy birthday	Fr. Phairote P. Nochatchawan
	31	Buon compleanno	P. Piero Trameri
FEBRUARY	1	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños	P. Jean Gillet P. Daniel González
	2	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Angelo Riva Br John Dawson, Fr. Jiraphat Raksikhao
	3	Buon compleanno	P. Franco Cesana P. Ermanno Rasero
	4	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Casenave
	5	Buon compleanno	P. Tiziano Pozzi
	10	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Aldo Nespoli, P. Mario Zappa Fr. Subancha Yindeengarm, Br. Reegan Vincent N. Raj
	12	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Gérard Badie, P. Laurent Bacho
	13	Buon compleanno	P. Ugo Donini



Bethlehem: Verbum caro, hic factum est.

missionary spirit and the stability to pursue an apostolic project. The youngest and most active of the religious had their initial formation at diocesan level. The not so young have a diocesan mentality rather than a religious one. Not many of them know what it means to belong to Betharram, hence the need to pay particular attention to on-going formation in community so as to rediscover together the beauty of our charisma when lived in another cultural and religious context. Enculturation of the young religious is most important. Consequently it is absolutely necessary to begin by learning a local language as a tool for communication and insertion. Something else which is of vital importance is integration in the Arab and Jewish culture with courage, passion and love. Anything gleaned in books is useless. The Mother Church in Jerusalem is rooted in the Middle East, meeting point of peoples, religions, tongues, cultures and thousand year old histories. It is a world to be discovered, known, interpreted and with which to communicate. If this is missing, the religious is living under a cloud, cut off from the surrounding world, and with the risk of

a slow death by suffocation. Betharramite missionaries in South America, in China and Thailand, and in Africa have much to teach us. Moving from one place to another by make shift roads, problems with local authorities, new smells and tastes were their daily lot. Yet they never lost their initial joy and enthusiasm at bringing the Good News of salvation and liberation to the people. The Holy Land is a relatively narrow strip of territory but the difficulties concerning the movement of people remain: the residents permit to be renewed periodically, visiting another community requires time, and a lot of patience. In the Holy Land there are also frontiers which are not all constructed with barbed wire or blocks of cement but which can lead to a dialogue between cultures, religions and even generations. To acquire a new culture means entering into the mystery of the kenose of Christ himself: it means leaving one world to enter into a new world and be consumed by it for love. To learn another language so as to build up good relationships demands a certain stability. Such stability can come from commitment to the pastoral of vocations on the spot, collaboration with the clergy presenting ourselves with a strong religious identity and a clear project. Betharramite religious from other countries can be a positive element in the stability of the Vicariate, if they make clear and conscious choices for "ever" and not for a brief period of time. Although they didn't have our Rule of Life at hand local animators helped us to find the points on which to focus our commitment for and with the local Church in crossing new frontiers. I am going to resume them for they are an

continues on page 20

communion, fraternity, happiness and departure for the mission.

The key to this pastoral conversion lies in the meeting with Jesus, as Pope Benedict XVI said in *Deus caritas est* and repeated in the document of Aparecida and by Pope Francis in EG 7. Jesus is a living person, exciting because everyone knows the love of God and can enjoy it. By putting him at the heart of our lives, in a loving relationship as disciples we cannot lead a quiet life as long as we don't consecrate our lives to that which he had consecrated his life: that all mankind today may know and live of the love which God has for them (EG 264 – 267).

No one is really a disciple if he isn't also missionary. We shall not be real missionaries if we are not his disciples, his companions, his closest friends (Mk 3,13 – 15; EG 262 – 267). The life style of the missionary-disciple like that of Jesus, his master, will be evangelical love, expressed in the image of a grain of wheat which falls to earth and bears much fruit about which Jesus said: "He who wants to save his life will lose it; he who loses his life for my sake and the sake of the Gospel, will save it" (Mark 8,35) The apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* says how this love is the corner stone from which all the rest proceeds:

Evangelii Gaudium expresses well that this love is the corner stone from which all proceeds. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelisation. (8) "Consequently, an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from

a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow. And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discourages, impatient or anxious but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ" (10).

All Betharramite religious and laity must be part of this process so as to be part of the renewal of the Church; this renewal will be the result of the renewal of our communities, our missions, our services, our good works and the structures of our Congregation so as not to be an obstacle to evangelization. Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our comfort zone in order to reach all the "peripheries" in need of the light of the Gospel (20).

This then is the aim of our mounting to Jerusalem with Jesus where we shall celebrate the mystery of his death and resurrection next Easter. Each Betharramite, whether religious or laity, washing his garments in the blood of the Lamb, renews the power of his baptism and consecration with the whole Church. He can therefore experience with greater joy and enthusiasm the evangelical fraternity and the mission to evangelize. Each Betharramite community, animated by this renewal of the religious can then be a worthy witness of the Risen Christ.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj

IN MEMORIAM

Father Enrique Miranda SCJ

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 8 October 1956 - Buenos Aires, 21 February 2014

Fr Enrique Miranda SCJ was born in Buenos Aires on 8 October 1956. He attended the primary and secondary school in the Saint Joseph College, run by the «bayonenses» religious (Betharramites)

In 1974 he participated in the VII Eucharistic Congress, celebrated at Salta. On this occasion he discovered his vocation to the priesthood in the Congregation of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, founded by Saint Michael Garicoits.

At the beginning of 1975, since the Congregation did not have a formation house in Argentina, he was sent to France where he attended a two years philosophy course. In 1978 he did his novitiate at Villa Bétharram, Adrogué, in the province of Buenos Aires, Fr Ignacio Gogorza – at present a Bishop in Paraguay – being his novice master.

He attended the Theology course at the faculty of Toledo at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, at Villa Devoto. He was ordained as a priest during a well-attended celebration, held in the Palermo gardens, the high spot of the VIII National Eucharistic Congress; on this occasion, 32 deacons, 3 of which were from Betharram, were ordained by the bishop of Buenos Aires Juan Carlos Aramburu, at the presence of the Pontifical Delegate Mons Agostino Casaroli.

After doing his ministry in the historic Saint Joseph college in Buenos Aires, he was appointed as director of the Sacred Heart College in Rosario and later of the Sacred Heart Institute in Barracas.

From September 2005 to June 2009 he was the provincial superior and regional vicar of the Congregation of the Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Bétharram. From 22 March 2009 until today, he has been the Parish Priest in the Sacred Heart Basilica, in the “porteño” quarter of Barracas.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We are assembled here this evening to greet the memory of a friend, son, brother, the Betharramite priest who has left us. Christ's Pascal mystery has entered Enrique's life and challenges our faith in the

te religious. Their presence led to the opening in 2008 of the parish residence Zarqa in Jordan, and hopes for the future of Betharram in the Holy Land. Finally with the new millennium, the residence in Bethlehem has beco-

me once more a place of formation and preparation for consecrated life as the seat of the novitiate for the St Michael Garicoits Region.

Roberto Cornara

Its Present
and its future...

with Father Pietro Felet scj

1875/1879 – 2014 = 138 years of history written by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram in the Holy Land.. That counts for something! Successive generations of religious but who are now dying out, have kept faithfully in memory the years spent in formation or in ministry; the word “hic” engraved in stone has left an indelible mark on their hearts as contemplatives. It is “here” that the Word became man; it is “here” that Christ was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary; it is “here” that he was crucified, died and was buried; it is “here” that he rose again from the dead; it was “here” that his “Here I am” rang out with that of Mary “to do your Will, Father”. If you want to know the effect of an experience in the Holy Land you have only to question the young African religious who spent their canonical year of novitiate here. The religious of the Vicariate feel responsible for carrying on the heritage, as heritage to be transmitted to future generations of religious. In the Vicariate we have often been wondering what we should be like today, as religious of Betharram at the heart of the Mother Church in Jerusalem, and what we should be like tomorrow.

The time of our discreet entry in the face of Church feelings of the day, is well and truly part of history, but is typical of what are our characteristics, that is humility, devotion and

fidelity. In the course of time our Congregation found its place and has always been and still is renowned for its availability in the service of the local Church. Its close links with the local Church were not in self interest but for the good of souls met on the way: Carmelite Sisters, seminarians, priests, refugees, abandoned children, the disabled, and the laity. Our commitment to the laity was carried out in an indirect fashion: train future priests in our seminary who afterwards would become formators of the laity. Only six years ago in a show of total trust the Patriarch entrusted us with the responsibility for a large parish in Jordan where the young and not so young are to be found side by side with the Betharramites. These parishioners, seeing our way of life, have been attracted and are asking to have a better knowledge of our Charisma which is witness of our life style of humility, fidelity, devotion and welcoming.

So far I have been talking of the past and present; but what of the future? How do we imagine it? What are the calls? With what troops will we carry on the good work? For the past year and in the course of our community meetings these are the questions which come up for discernment. Here are the points on which we are all agreed: the meaning of belonging to Betharram, the courage of enculturation, rediscovery of a

**HOMILY FOR THE FUNERAL MASS OF
FATHER ENRIQUE MIRANDA.
SACRED HEART BASILICA – BARRACAS.
21 FEBRUARY 2014**

THE ELEVEN VICARIATES OF THE CONGREGATION

Holy Land Vicariate

its roots

The presence of Betharram in the Holy Land is due to the combined efforts and determination of two great characters in the history of the Congregation, namely Father Auguste Etchecopar, 3rd Superior general and Blessed Marie de Jesus Crucifie; they worked together at the establishment of a community in Bethlehem in 1879. Sister Marie was linked to the work at Carmel, whose priests were and still are chaplains; it is only right to remember the names of the pioneers of this vast undertaking for Betharram: Fathers Prosper Chirou, Pierre Estrate (future superior general), Jean Auguste Abbadie and Brother Hilaire Mestrezat.

At the end of the 19th century the residence of Bethlehem had become the spearhead and centre of the whole Congregation. To avoid the seminarians (or scholastics as they were called then) having to do the two years National Service required by French law, in 1890 the chaplains' residence accepted part of the young recruits for the Congregation; these young candidates were leaving France knowing that for at least ten years they would not be able to return –

such was the law. When the Congregation was expelled from France in 1903, the residence in the Holy Land was named official seat of the scholasticate and for a time for the novitiate also. Meanwhile, in 1905 a new residence was opened in Nazareth and in 1911 received the scholastics for their two years of philosophy. From then onwards the two houses in the Holy Land were fully in activity as scholasticates for the Congregation, not forgetting the primary and fundamental work, namely the spiritual accompaniment of the two Carmelite Monasteries.

At the beginning of the 1920s and after the break for the First World War, both residences were admitting once more the scholastics in philosophy and theology together with the corresponding teaching team. Bethlehem had as many as 50 students and Nazareth more than 30. In view of the number of young candidates, at one moment it was necessary to open a new residence which was situated near the archaeological site of Emmaus. This house didn't open its doors to the scholastics who were directed towards Balarin in France. Finally, another important and well deserving sign was to have accepted to direct the patriarchal seminary at Beit Jala from 1932 to 1980.

After the Second World War the houses in Bethlehem and Nazareth ceased to function as a scholasticate, precisely in 1948 when the Congregation was divided into Provinces. From then onwards, not forgetting the chaplaincy to the Carmelite Monasteries, little by little they became prayer centres and guest houses for pilgrims. Finally they served as meeting places for Congregational assemblies at international level (formation, Council of the Congregation in 1995 and the General Chapter in 2011).

At the end of the 20th century the young Arabs began their formation in view of the priesthood and consecration as Betharramites

Resurrection of Christ which is comforting us in this moment of trial.

In this basilica filled to capacity with his brothers words seem vain especially when you want briefly to describe the person who has just left us. Presence, we know, is more powerful than words and here today we have the good fruits of a good tree. But the Word of God enlightens us and gives real meaning to what the pain find hard to accept.

In the first text we have heard: *"For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting house not made by human hands, in the heavens."* (2 Cor 5, 1)

Listening to them I thought of your talent for everything concrete and manual. I also thought of the energy you employed for the upkeep of our big houses, of those buildings of which you, Enrique, took such great care. Not only ordinary upkeep but important works, for example the stain glass windows, the roofing, and all kinds of installations. Today all we can say is that the House has been built and that God Himself is the builder. You need worry no more about what used to keep you awake at night. The Lord is welcoming you with love into his House.

Psalm 22 reminds us that as Pastor you have been able to win the affection of many people by creating love around yourself. There are those who were your friends, but I want to remember the friendship you enjoyed as a result of your happiness and dynamism. Your advice was always welcome and well followed. There was the love you had for children and

young people many of whom are today married couples, consecrated religious. Your friendship was built on the friendship of Jesus, the Special Friend. What you offered us as pleasant sayings were fascinating for many: Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life. Your conduct as Pastor has been good for the Church, Enrique! Especially for Betharram! Like many Betharramites you have left a track which many are taking in their pilgrimage towards Christ where you are waiting for us today.

His mother, Pochi, is here with us; she was proud of her son *Enrique*, the priest. Today I want to tell her, with all those here assembled, to continue to be proud of her son, for through the mercy of God we can see in him an intercessor who with Our Lady of Betharram, St Michael Garicoits and Father Etchecopar will help us to make the best of the life before us. From Heaven, where Mary is our Guide, the voice of the Good Shepherd will lead us.

Then remains the icon of Bethany (John 11, 17-27), the place of hospitality and friendship, but also the Passion endured with illness. We remember all the care bestowed on Enrique by his brothers who accompanied him closely, just like Martha and Mary with their brother Lazarus. It would be unfair to forget anybody but here I want to mention Brother Gustavo Angarola, Gabriela Vazquez, his brothers and family, Alfredo Crespo and the Betharramite Fathers who helped him to accept God's Will on this final stretch of road towards heaven. By being abandoned into the han-



*Scholasticate in 1898
Walk to an archeological site and... picnic!*

ds of God there is certainty of God's love and the Resurrection.

Dear brothers, today the Lord is asking us to make this offering: saying farewell to someone we can never forget. His quick steps in the corridors, his bunch of keys dangling in one hand and his mobile phone in the

other... Of course we are going to miss them! We have been preceded by a friend who has sown the seeds for Christ in many hearts. Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him! Amen

Gustavo Agín, sci

150TH ANNIVERSARY

THE JUBILEE YEAR WE ARE CELEBRATING IS CHARACTERISED NOT ONLY BY DIFFERENT FESTIVITIES AND ANNIVERSARIES, BUT BY NEW OPENINGS TOO. INVITED BY POPE FRANCIS TO "GO FORTH" AND TO REACH OUT TO DIFFERENT PERIPHERIES, THE RELIGIOUS OF BETHARRAM FEEL COMMITTED NOT ONLY TO PRESERVE THE PRESENT SET-UP, BUT TO MEET THE NEW CHALLENGES OF TODAY'S WORLD WITH COURAGE. THIS IS THE FRUIT OF THE JUBILEE WE ARE CELEBRATING.

WE FEEL THE WORDS OF SAINT MICHAEL AS RELEVANT AS EVER TODAY: "THE OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY IS THEN TO TRAIN AND FORM THESE MINISTERS SO PERFECTLY THAT AT THE FIRST SIGNAL OF THE WILL OF THEIR BISHOP OR SUPERIOR THEY CAN BE WORTHILY CHOSEN TO WORK FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS." (MS 339)

Harbustan Project: Mission to Tacuarembó

For some time now this project has been under consideration. During the first Regional Chapter of 2010 it was suggested to open a regional missionary community in the Etchecopar Region.

Last year several discussions took place, especially among ourselves Betharramite religious, then with some priests in Uruguay and finally with the Bishop. Each discussion was shared with all the religious who wanted to be kept informed about the progress which the discernment was making. At the end it was decided to make a foundation

with three religious in the diocese of Tacuarembó, 400 km from Montevideo: a deacon from Brazil, Brother Wagner Ferreira, a brother from Paraguay, Brother Victor Torales and Father Angelo Recalcati.

The Bishop, Mgr Lopez Bonino, suggested that we take pastoral care of the outer ring road quarter of Tacuarembó, the Lopez Barrio, and of four villages inland: Paso del Cerro, Los Laureles, Puebla Treinta y Tres and Lambare. The three of us met up 13th February at Montevideo; on the 14th we set out for Tacuarembó where we met up with Fathers

(Spain), the community where the Superior general called him to be a missionary for three years. What a joyful exchange! Always ahead, readily, unreservedly irrevocably out of love!

Region



India

Bangalore ► In the month of February various events enlivened the the community life of Shobhana Shaakha, our formation house, in Bangalore. Br Patrick Leighton, from the English Vicariate visited India for the

first time and we were all very glad to meet him! He came with Fr Wilfred Pe-reppadan, the Vicar of En-



gland, who flew to India for a short period of holiday. On this occasion the Apostolic Carmel Sisters paid a visit to our community. This was an opportunity to pray together in front of the relics of Saint Michael Garicoits brought to India by the Indian Vicar, Fr Biju Alappat, who attended the Council of the Congregation in Rome in January.

NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

- On February 17, the Superior General, with his Council, approved the foundation of the **regional missionary community** of Montevideo-Tacuarembó (Uruguay). The community will have the pastoral care of St Michael-Garicoits parish, of the school and the Inmaculada Concepción high school; they will ensure a missionary presence at the Ntra. Sra. de Fátima chapel in the López quarter of Tacuarembó as well as in the rural area connected to the San Fructuoso parish of Tacuarembó (Diocese of Tacuarembó);
- On the same day, the Superior General also approved the following appointments for the Fr. Auguste Etchécopar Region: Fr. Mauro Henrique Ulrich de Oliveira as Master of scholastics; Fr. Daniel González as Master of novices; Fr. Angelo Recalcati as Superior of the Montevideo-Tacuarembó community; Fr. Carlos Escurra as Superior of the colegio apostolico San José community (Asunción); Fr. Sergio Gouarnalusse as Superior of the San Juan Bautista community (Buenos Aires); Fr Francisco Daleoso as the Superior of Adrogué community; Fr. Crispín Villalba as Superior of Lambaré community.

Our departed

On February 24, **Mr Ernest Kouamé**, father of Fr Hervé, first regional vicar for Ivory Coast, died at 69. While expressing our sympathy to Fr Hervé and his family, we promise to pray for their dear one that the Lord may welcome him into his kingdom.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

Region



France-Spain

100 years!

► Saturday, March 1, 2014 the community gathered around Fr André Gillet on



his hundredth birthday! The celebration began in the chapel of the "Maison Neuve", where the community, in the presence of Fr Jean-Luc Morin, Regional Superior, and Father Jean-Dominique Delgue, Regional Vicar, thanked the Lord for the gift of Fr André's life.

During the traditional toast, the mayor of Lestelle-Bétharram presented a tribute to Fr André. The festive meal shared with the religious and the residents was the best way to end such a memorable day. Happy birthday Fr André!

Cambo ► On days 8 and 9 February, as part of the Jubilee Year, the Parish «St. Michael Garicoïts in Cambo les Bains, welcomed the relics of our Father and Founder. In Cambo, the young Father Michael Garicoïts had been sent as an assistant parish priest (January 1824) after his ordination (on 20 December 1823). He remained there until the end of 1825, when the Bishop moved him into the seminary of Betharram, where he spent the rest of his life. The parish of Cambo by introducing once again to all the faithful the figure

of its saint assistant parish priest (who is now their Patron Saint) intended to spread his example and his spirituality. The days were animated by Fr Beñat Oyhenart SCJ and Fr Pornchai Sukjai SCJ through talks, Eucharistic celebrations, prayer meetings..

Ivory Coast

A new chapel ► On Sunday, February 8, in the presence of administrative and traditional religious authorities, the parish of St. Bernard Adiapodoumé, led by the clergy and the various parish councils, with a solemn celebration laid the foundation stone of the chapel of one of its communities at TRCI (rubber plant district), named Saint Michael Garicoïts. The ceremony was attended by the parishioners of St. Bernard and those of the neighboring Christian communities. In his homily Father Laurent Bacho scj, encouraged all the congregation to carry on this noble commitment of building their chapel. To this end, people of good will pledged to help.

Region



Brazil

Sabará ► Sunday, February 9, in the city of General Carneiro, Br Davi Aparecido da Silva Lara SCJ, was ordained as a deacon by the laying on of hands of the Auxiliary Bishop of Belo Horizonte. The Mother Church was filled with parishioners who had known Br Davi for two years, and with many Betharramites from all communities of the Vicariate. On February 24, the newly-ordained deacon boarded on his "winged Etincelle" and fly to Mendelu

Gustavo Agin, Regional Superior and Sergio Gouarnalusse who had come on purpose from Argentina to accompany us on this new mission.

On Sunday 16th at 9.00 am, the Bishop presided over Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima; in his homily the Bishop spoke of the importance of the Word of God which assembles us, of the Christian community which is always a missionary community, stressing that the mission is a task belonging not only to the religious but to all Christians.

At the end of Mass, someone from the community said a few words to welcome us and in a symbolical gesture handed over to us the keys of the modest house which was going to be our home

The project which we had built with the Bishop was to promote the small base communities which would meet to read the



Word of God, encourage the formation of Pastoral helpers who will animate the liturgy, making it a time of celebration and prayer for the community, catechesis, by which the community shares its faith and what it is doing for the poor as a means of expressing real charity.

However we can't forget our mission to Montevideo: the parish cared for by

Father Gavel for years despite his illness and the college. This is why we decided on a rotation by which two of us will be at Tacuarembó and one at Montevideo. Furthermore, one week a month, we shall all meet up at Montevideo to strengthen our community life.

We are fully aware that this is an ambitious and demanding programme. We are relying on God's help and on your prayers that we will carry it out to the best of our ability.

Angelo Recalcati, scj



Guest House at Adiapodoumé

Thanks to Betharramite solidarity
The Guest House in the compound of the Formation Community at Adiapodoumé is for the use of:

- The brothers of the Vicariate and brothers from other Vicariates to facilitate fraternal meetings for times of reflexion and prayer.
- People from outside (priests, religious and laity) who wish to spend a time of recollection and retreat.

More and more people are asking to join our community at Adiapodoumé for a break so as to meet the Lord. Our house didn't have the means to respond to this type of request.

The building which is now going up is composed of a meeting hall, a kitchen, a dining room, and 12 two-bed rooms. The cost is estimated at 247 000 euros. Work started at the beginning of February and is expected to last 6 months.

Thanks to the solidarity of different Vica-

riates of the Congregation, a first payment has already been made. The continuation will demand the same solidarity. The Vicariate of Ivory Coast could have assured half of the budget over 2 years if the rate of exchange of the *hevea* (latex extracted from the rubber tree) was the same as in 2011. Unfortunately the purchase price is actually down 1/3 of what we knew but the expenses haven't dropped. The Vicariate can only reasonably hope to pay for the furniture.

Heartfelt thanks to the Vicariates which will help in the realisation of this project which is a real necessity for our Vicariate. Isn't that what is called "the economy of communion"?

Once more very heartfelt thanks for such Betharramite solidarity shown in this fraternal sharing.

The Community at Adiapodoumé



members, so that they feel happy in their heart. Always ready to say "here I am", and respond to their call with joy for the glory of God, when they need pastoral care.

On what do I feel driven to focus my attention?

In my experience I feel that the elements of availability, obedience, simplicity are the major points on which to focus my attention during my mission work. All these elements go together to support our spiritual life and carry out the mission with strong faith. We must also be ready to adjust to the actual situation of the people.

To recap: Respond to the needs of the people with availability, obey in order to find the right way of action, live in simplicity.

What prayer is all this meditation inspiring me?

The Prayer to the Holy Spirit, written by Blessed Miriam of Jesus Crucified.

The prayer is inspiring me every time I say "Ecce Venio". This prayer makes my faith stronger and deepens my trust in God to do the Mission for the Glory of God with happiness and joy.

*Holy Spirit, inspire me.
Love of God, consume me.
Along the true road, lead me.
Mary my Mother looks upon me.
With Jesus, bless me.
From all evil, from all illusion,
from all danger, preserve me.*



(for God and neighbor) happiness and peace will come into the community members where I live. But if the main goal is my own advantage everything will fail and I will be unhappy.

"Outside of obedience man does nothing". Everything should be done in obedience to God, that is listening to him and

to others too in order to find the right way to go, because God has given us different talents' for sharing with others and accepting ideas and talents of others.

"Living easily with my neighbor (community members)"

Both the quotations from the Gospel and from the Spiritual Doctrine repeat the same concept: lay people and theology scholars, all should live a simple life because this will make people feel free and happy in doing the will of God with joy and happiness and ready to say "Ecce Venio"

Which aspects have had a major impact on my personal history as religious of Betharram?

Obedience has a strong impact on my personal history, because obedience is very important not only for the religious of Be-



Deacon Thinakorn Martin de Tours Damrongusasin scj

tharram but also for every religious.

So, I feel that living outside obedience would make me selfish and this would lead me to seek my own advantage.

How do I try to live what these texts show me?

These passages stress the importance of leading a simple life; so, in my personal daily life (Mission life, pastoral care) I live according to the condition of people around me as the Betharram Missionary style would suggest, that is "to be with not only to work for" (this is the principle of incarnation). This means being with the people, eat like the people, learn from the people.

Very often what the people are in need of, is not working for them but simply being with them, visiting them, and leading prayer sessions for them and their family

Joseph's Joy

IN HIS INTRODUCTION TO *REDEMPTORIS CUSTOS*, JOHN PAUL II SUMMED UP JOSEPH'S MISSION AS FOLLOWS: "HE DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD COMMANDED HIM AND TOOK HIS WIFE. (CF. MT 1 :24)... HE TOOK LOVING CARE OF MARY AND GLADLY DEDICATED HIMSELF TO JESUS CHRIST'S UPBRINGING..." WITH FR. JOSÉ MIRANDE, LET US BE INTRODUCED TO THE MYSTERY OF JOSEPH'S JOY.

In the Bible, my attention is drawn to two figures of Patriarchs and both are called Joseph. As I see it Providence has given me more than a name: it is a vocation, a call to liberty and joy in God.

Joseph of Egypt, betrayed and sold by his brothers, is the image of a God who chooses poor means, to the point of being taken for a victim; he takes no decision for anything in his life, thrown into a cistern, then sold as a slave; kept in prison then upgraded to the position of Master of the Palace, slandered and deposed, reinstated in his former position, it would seem that he wasn't free to choose his own wife! Finally proclaimed governor of the whole country, ever the same in all situations, he is the image of a God who forgives, whose forgiveness is so deep that he seems to forget himself. Finally he saves his father and his brothers and plans the place where the People of God will bloom.

Joseph of Nazareth has often reminded me of what "Joseph's joy" could be like. He was called to such a very special service in God's plan that he didn't have a minute to think of his own projects. He has no choice but to adapt and accept the indications from Divine Providence and lead a life of total renouncement. He seems to me to be the perfect answer to the individualism of



Father José Mirande scj

today. He reminds us that we receive our joy as the result of something, and that the Christian's joy and even more so the joy of the consecrated soul, is a joy from God and according to God's plan.

Father Garicoits is presented to us as a man full of optimism and joy; yet there is a certain evolution in his interpretation of God's joy. He begins by being a person who pleases everyone: as a child, servant, student and young priest; he is happy to be at the service of all and to the best of his ability. But he was soon to discover religious life and finds himself member of a community, bound by choices taken together.

But what must have been St Michael's joy between 1841 and 1863, that is from the



God and of the Church. How therefore can we call "joy" a life where one gives up a large part of what one believes in?

It is at this point that we must return to "Joseph's joy" or rather that of Jesus on his way up to Jerusalem there to carry out his destiny. Our interpretation of God's will is like the millstones in the old mills. Under the action of running water these millstones are constantly moving, constantly rubbing off each other, they crush the grain and produce good white flour. The Word of God, which seems to be a stumbling block between Michael Garicoits and Francois Lacroix becomes a source of research resulting in the manifestation of God's Will and the existence of our Congregation.

There is therefore just now with Garicoits a real joy, a bitter-sweet joy if you like but for real, a bit like that of a child who has total confidence in his Father: joy of the new flour to be consecrated like Bread.

Michael returns from Mirepeix, dead beat as much by fatigue as by the last chat with His Lordship who led him to understand that his project of foundation was over. He will die "from lack of air" where his illness is mixed with the expectations of the baby fox enjoying in advance the definitive meeting with the little prince. He therefore dies in a state of joy.

This is what Saint Michael tells me: "I must urge you with every fibre of my being to live constantly in the joy of the Lord, and let it shine through everything you do, in all your relations with God, your neighbour and your innermost self as Mary did" (DS 135 – 136).

José Mirande, scj

of Br. Martin de Tours Thinakorn Damrongusasin

Deacon in Huay Tong residence (Chiang Mai - Thailand)



Whatever you eat, then, or drink, and whatever else you do, do it all for the glory of God. Never be a cause of offence (...), just as I try to accomodate everybody in everything, not looking for my own advantage, but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be save.
(1 Co 10,31-33)

"Here I am without delay, without reserve, without return. Exultavit ut Gigas. He leapt like a Giant. Man of activity, man of suffering within the limits of obedience, man who does nothing, suffers nothing outside obedience. Immense generosity but controlled; generosity applied to duty, to the proprieties of ones position; immense generosity which discovers a worthy situation in which it can be deployed to the Glory of God and this even in the womb of Mary; in the crib, in the humble cottage of Nazareth or amid the splendours of Heaven at the right hand of the Father.

Long live God. I can glorify God. I can be useful to my neighbour just as easily and with less danger amidst poverty, humiliations and humble occupations, as in the most brilliant position. Here, I am ready for anything but never seeking outside my position." (Spiritual Doctrine)

SILENCE

NARRATIO...

What do these extracts tell me?

I would like to share my personal reflection on my own experience of faith, drawing my inspiration from the following passages:

"Do it all for the glory of God" (1 Co.)

"For the advantage of everybody" (1 Co.)

"Outside of obedience man does nothing" (SD)

"Living easily with my neighbor (communi-

ty members)" (SD)

The text *"Do it all for the glory of God"* is the motto I selected when I took my religious vows; I chose this because the happiness comes from doing wholeheartedly all things for the glory of God and bringing the same happiness to others by sharing my personal talents.

When I consider the happiness of others I am urged to reflect on my own happiness. *"For the advantage of everybody"*. If this is the main goal of the missionary projects