

discerning. It requires an enormous amount of energy!

- Final challenge and not the least: the last "Founding Father" from France, Father Laurent Bacho, is leaving us. It will be up to us to maintain his heritage and make it bear fruit. In this year of all challenges it will be up to the religious of Ivory Coast to maintain their strength, to avoid useless chats and to keep our eyes fixed on the same goal. The same thing goes for the Vicariate project chosen in December 2013,

linking the parochial house (Betharramite style) and the training mission at the Tshanfeto Farm with the campus at Dabakala or with the students at the University while awaiting further developments.

Finally we owe a great word of thanks to the Congregation, through the different Vicariates who helped with the construction of the Hostel at Adiapodoume. It is a fine example of solidarity and a vote of confidence in the future of our young Vicariate. Forward march!



Let us therefore reject the vanity and lying folly of false men of wisdom. In us there will be no virtue. He who is our helper is absent; there is no happiness if it is not God's Will that we enjoy it; and if, through the gift of immortality and incorruptibility, God doesn't absorb everything in us which is changing and corruptible and which is only a collection of weaknesses and misery. (N. 62)



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BETHARRAM

97
2014

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NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

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

A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Reawaken God's gift within you

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This is the title of Chapter VI of *Pastores Dabo Vobis* the apostolic exhortation which addresses the theme of the ongoing formation of priests. The quote is from the 2Timothy 1: 6-7: "Therefore I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands. This is not a spirit of fear that God has given us, but a spirit of power and love and self-control."

Meditating on *Evangelii Gaudium* we all feel moved by the enthusiasm, dynamism and the joy of being missionary disciples of Jesus, as well as alerted by the temptations that the Pope flags up. Indeed, in each of us, a struggle will take place between living for oneself and for others. And even without any ill intent on our part, we start by devoting ourselves to others but eventually return to ourselves. Without being aware of it, we think we are doing good but in fact we are looking after ourselves. The missionary dynamic of the encounter with the other turns into a dissipation of our own energy. Thus our growth in humanity and faith affects community life that we are committed

112th year
10th series, nr 97
14th October 2014



Interior pilgrimage towards Jesus

to serve. Here are some quotes from the Pope Francis: *Spirit-filled evangelization is not the same as a set of tasks dutifully carried out despite one's own personal inclinations and wishes* (EG. 261).

Unless we see [Jesus] present at the heart of our missionary commitment, our enthusiasm soon wanes and we are no longer sure of what it is that we are handing on; we lack vigour and passion. A person who is not convinced, enthusiastic, certain and in love, will convince nobody. (EG. 266).

We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing... But once we separate our work from our private lives, everything turns grey

and we will always be seeking recognition or asserting our needs. We stop being a people. (EG. 273).

This is why we must always live by discerning in the light of the Word of God the motivations of our missionary task; Scripture exposes the contradictions and invites us to an ongoing conversion. Anything that can help us do that, day by day, is a source of ongoing formation: an examination of conscience, lectio divina, Eucharist, frequent confession, spiritual direction, the faithful performance of our duty and our missionary activity, service and community prayer meetings as well as meetings of Congregation or the diocese, preparing sermons, study, reading,

	15	Feliz cumpleaños Happy birthday	P. Osvaldo Caniza Fr. Wilfred Poulose Perepadan	OCTOBER
	17	Bom aniversário	Ir. Jeferson Silverio Gonzaga	
	19	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Javier Irala Cabrera	
	20	Buon compleanno	P. Aurelio Riva	
	21	Buon compleanno	F. Severino Urbani	
	22	Buon compleanno	P. Romano Martinelli	
	23	Happy Birthday Buon compleanno	Fr. Terence O'Malley P. Raimondo Perlini	
	25	60 años de profesión	P. Antonio Cano	
	28	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Tarcisio Vera, P. Sebastián García	
	29	Bom aniversário 65 ans de profession	P. Davi da Silva Lara P. Pierre Grech	
	30	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños 15 years of priesthood	P. Pierre Monnot Mons. Claudio Silvero Acosta Fr Tidkham Jalertrit Fr Subancha Yndeengarm	NOVEMBER
	2	Feliz cumpleaños Bom aniversário	P. Carlos Ecurra Cantero Fr. Wagner Ferreira Aparecida	
	5	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin	
	6	55 ans de profession	P. Henri Marsaa-Poey	
	9	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Baptiste Olçomendy	
	12	Buon compleanno Feliz cumpleaños	P. Carlo Luzzi P. Constancio Erobaldi	

- Another source of joy is the sight of the young religious responding to the calls of the Region “corde magno et animo volenti”. At present there are four religious from the Missionary Vicariate in the Central African Republic.



- The regular monthly meetings of the Vicariate Councils, the fidelity of the religious at the three general assemblies and their yearly retreat are also a source of great joy. They represent a good experience of collegiality.
- Another source of joy is the progress made at the Educational farm, Tshanfeto, where a number of Fathers and Brothers are employed. For the last three years we have doubled the number of trainees.
- Whatever the answer is it not a source of joy when the bishops come asking us for a service as for example in the diocese of Katiola or abroad in the diocese of Dassa in Benin? Isn't this a sign of gratitude on the part of the local Church and faithful to the project of our Founder to be a mobile camp?

Difficulties and challenges

- First of all there is the construction of communities which should be uni-

ted and fraternal. There is no shortage of obstacles coming from ourselves, but there is also a willingness to progress.

- In the Vicariate there is a shortage of financial autonomy. The rate of exchange is a problem. In the last three years the value has dropped leaving the finances of the Vicariate in a precarious position. This is something which drives us to find other sources of income, to be strict and clear in our management and to practice sharing fully. It obliges us to seek help for financial questions and make good use of competences in the community.
- There is always the question of formation: to have religious ready and trained for this service, have the means of accepting good accompaniment. Formation is a long road, both for the young members and for those who have the responsibility of

personal relationships and the annual retreat. These are the means in everyday life that help us to protect, cultivate and purify our human balance and our vocation.

But there are times in life where all the resources are scarce and we need to take a longer and deeper time for ourselves, because we are tired, because we have been hurt by a relationship, or because we experience a pastoral failure, a disappointment, because routine controls us, or because after many years, we are experiencing a change of place of mission.

We need the time and space that allow us to deepen our self-knowledge, and the blockages that unintentionally, get us bogged down and prevent us from developing the best of ourselves to continue to grow in our personality and our vocation; this path of growth, of maturity and wholeness, is the very thing that guides our relationship with Jesus, our Master, with the Father and with our brothers. It releases the secret spring of love spoken of by Saint Michael Garicoïts, otherwise something keeps us bound and made us lose our enthusiasm, dynamism and faithfulness to life.

In these situations, it is not enough to attend classes, or read a few books. It is not enough to take a vacation or a long journey of several days. It is important to return to the fundamental experiences of our lives, the motivations that guide the way we live, and the point of who we are and what we do: the encounter with the person of Jesus, who gave a direction to our lives, which for some reason have become a burden.

Sometimes I do not understand why

some brothers of our religious family put up such resistance to taking time to renew themselves with the help of experts in spirituality and psychology.

Certainly some (brothers) are tired and weary, and this weariness in turn wears down communities instead of animating them. They have already given the communities everything they had, they feel too drained and refuse any proposed change or ongoing formation; thus these communities are prevented from becoming enriched by new approaches from a renewed pastor or even a new pastor.

The General Chapter of Bethlehem 2011 had called for a formation session in 2015 for religious over 40 years, based on the elements described, in our houses of Bethlehem and Nazareth. The commission, we have appointed to prepare this session, has worked on it these last three years and now everything is ready. It is not intended that it be a sightseeing trip or even a simple pilgrimage. The goal is to match the discovery of the holy places with the active interior search, so that everyone may be assisted to overcome the resistances and obstacles that stand in the way of our full commitment to follow Christ, who first loved us and sends us to love our brothers.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj
Superior General

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Blessing of the New Betharram Formation House in India and St Michael Care Home

Our Superior General, Fr Gaspar Fernandez, always reminds us that Betharram is small, Betharram is poor, and Betharram is beautiful. Yes it is true; the Betharram Congregation has always been small in numbers, poor in heart but never failed to be beautiful. One such beautiful branch has been our Formation house in Mangalore.



Mangalore is a major all-weather harbour linked to other major harbours of the country and international ports. It is located about 350 kilometres west of Bangalore which is the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka. It is in this chief port city of the state that our 'Betharram Formation House' is situated.

It was indeed a delightful day, 10th September 2014 when our Superior General Fr Gaspar Fernandez SCJ inaugurated the "Betharram Formation House" in Mangalore in the august presence of Fr Enrico SCJ- our Vicar General, Fr Austin Hughes SCJ- the Regional Superior, Fr Biju Alappat

SCJ- the Regional Vicar and many other priests and nuns, friends and companions of Betharram amidst the hospitality of Maria Kripa community. Most Rev. Dr Aloysius Paul D'Souza, the Bishop of Mangalore blessed the new house and presided over the Eucharistic Celebration. Maria Kripa- the name of the formation house where we have been living since 1999 in Mangalore, was a beautiful cottage which was later converted to be a prayer house for the Apostolic Carmel Sisters in 1977. From then on, it was at the service of the sisters and in 1980 it turned out to be centre for the study of 'Asian Spiritua-



In August 2000, the ordination takes place of the first Ivory Coast Betharram priest, Father Herve.

Betharram in the Ivory Coast becomes a provincial delegation. In 2002 the country is once again struck by a grave political crisis which deteriorates into civil war. The communities face up to it, unite with the population and support it in these troubled times.

In 2007, given the increasing number of our young West African brothers, the congregation puts itself at the ser-

vice of the Bishop of Yamoussoukro who gives his permission for the establishment of a Betharram community in the parish of Saint Felix of Sinzibo.

In 2009, the provincial delegation of Ivory Coast becomes the "Vicariat of Ivory Coast", attached to the Region of St Michel Garicoits, happy to celebrate 50 years service in Ivory Coast with a pilgrimage to Ferke, Katiola, Dabakala and Boniere.

Laurent BACHO scj

Its Present
& its FUTURE...

with Father Hervé Kouamé Kouakou scj, regional vicar



55 years after the arrival of Betharram in West Africa, in the Ivory Coast Vicariate there are now eleven religious in perpetual vows of whom nine are priests, five temporary vows, four novices and five postulants. Add to this six religious on mission abroad and two novices in Betharram.

The three communities lie on a north-south axis: Dabakala together with the parish Notre Dame des Pauvres which also serves several rural communities; Yamoussoukro with the parish Saint Felix which serves the University community; and Adiapoudoume with Saint Bernard parish serving the formation house in Abidjan.

Let's now take a look at the joys and sorrows of a reality in full growth.

The joys

- At the opening of the 150th anniversary of the death of St Michael Garicoits there were a number of or-

dinations in perspective; at the close of the anniversary on 28 July last the Vicariate had three new priests, two religious in perpetual vows, and a similar number of temporary vows.

- Every year for the past three years there is a steady flow of postulants thanks to the importance attached to formation. For this year 2014-2015 six postulants have begun their formation in the religious life.



one they have known in Katiola. "What makes us happy, above all, is to be able to meet together, the 3 of us, three times a week, to talk about this and that, to pray and eat together, and lead a brotherly way of life. To live together in community, that is the most important thing..." Our brothers also take care to help young apprentices, the unemployed, people who have dropped out of education, agricultural workers to make more active plans for their futures.

In Dabakala, it is the Muslims who are marked out as "those who pray". Our brothers feel called: they decide to put a greater emphasis on prayer and invite young people in particular to come and share times of prayer. But also, the brothers' involvement is particularly noted in the social and agricultural domain, to try and retain in the villages those young people who are tempted by adventures on the Basse Cote, where they are often exploited in the coffee and cocoa plantations. Whilst still being often asked to help in the life of the Diocese, the community remains very attentive to the needs of the hostel for young students in Dabakala, offering moral support and educational input.

In 1987, the community on the Ivory Coast is reduced to two members. To remain, it will be necessary to offer young people the opportunity to join the religious life of Betharram. In 1988, on the occasion of the visit of the Provincial Superior, P. Firmin Bourguinat, the time for this is judged to be ripe. In Boniere, after the first vocational camp, a postulant comes forward! But in order to train the young people it is necessary to come closer to Abidjan! After making an initial contact with Mgr. Laurent Mandjo, the latter entrusts us with the parish of St. Bernard of Adiapodoume in the Diocese of Yopougon. On the 14 September 1993, on the occasion of the blessing of the house of formation, situated just opposite the parish house, three novices make their first profession.

In 1996, the celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of our Founder allows us to send invitations to the lay brothers who wish to share

our spirituality. Several respond favourably and form the "NeMe Fraternity" (Here I am in ebrie)

On the 14 September 1999, Brothers Koffi Kouman Gilbert and Herve Kouame Kouakou are the first two Africans to make their final vows in the Congregation. Unfortunately the end of the year is marked by a military coup which establishes a difficult political climate.

With the goal of attaining eventual financial independence, the Ivory Coast Betharram is launched from 1992 onwards in the agricultural plantations (rubber trees, palm oil, kola) This agricultural work can also offer a good training for young people. Thus in 2000, the teaching farm " Tshanfeto " ("Get up" in ebrie) can open its doors; it is a centre for agricultural training for future market gardeners or stockbreeders wanting to become established in their villages.



lity'. It became the House of Postulants of Apostolic Carmel from 1980 to 1994. But in 1999, this Maria Kripa house was placed at the disposal of Betharram Fathers as our Formation House.

It all started with two fathers namely Fr Jose Mirande SCJ and Fr Britto Rajan SCJ and a handful of brothers in the year 1999 at Maria Kripa in Mary Hill under the guidance of the Apostolic Carmel sisters and with the magnanimous approval of the Bishop of Mangalore. From then till today, it has been the mother who has given birth to 14 priests and 2 deacons.

The priests in Maria Kripa are active in forming the future priests, preparing them with some parish ministries. The theology students go to different parishes for their pastoral ministries at the weekends whereas the postulants and scholastics are involved in social ministries. The postulants too go to a nearby 'Home for Aged' run by

the Little Sisters of the Poor Congregation and help them out in all possible ways.

Despite our witness to evangelical poverty expressed in our way of life, the signs of time necessitated the construction of a new Betharram Formation House. We had to build this new house not because we desired it but because the demand of formation of brothers for the priesthood needed it. Nevertheless, the task wasn't a cake walk considering the construction costs and the resources at our disposal were very meagre. But our God works even when we all sleep.

Under the guidance of the present Superior Fr Biju Antony Panthaloorkan SCJ, a project committee was formed with six lay members namely Mrs Vilma Pais, Mrs Marriette Mascrenhas, Captain John Prasad Menezes, Mrs Joan Fernandes, Mrs Vimala Monteiro and Mr Stanley D'Silva. Fr Antony Chiramel, a Passionist Priest designed the



house and every one of them worked wholeheartedly towards the building of this formation house as their own home building. "Betharram is not only poor but also with the poor", are the words of Fr Biju Alappatt SCJ and that echo the prophetic message of Pope Francis who called on the Church to be 'Poor Church for the Poor'. To give tangible substance to this effect, Fr Enrico Frigerio SCJ, the Vicar General inaugurated and blessed the "St Michael Care Home" on 11th September 2014, that is adjacent to our Formation House. It accommodates nearly twenty children who are socially disadvantaged and whose needs are taken care of by our community.

We remain grateful to the Superior General Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez SCJ and his General Council who granted permission for the erection of this new house, Sr Agatha Mary- the former Superior General of the Apostolic Carmel and her councillors for their generous donation of this land in 2011, all our donors and benefactors whose contribution and hard work resulted in this new house.

We ask God's blessing on all the benevolent hearts whose goodwill made this day a manifestation of God's love for Betharram and for the Church.

José Kumar JOHNROSE, SCJ

From the Ivory Coast to France, with the joy of obedience

AFTER SPENDING 25 YEARS TRAINING YOUNG AFRICAN MEN TO PREPARE THEM FOR BETHARRAMITE RELIGIOUS LIFE, NOW IN SEPTEMBER 2014 FR LAURENT BACHO SCJ HAS BEEN CALLED TO A NEW MISSION IN THE FRENCH VICARIATE. "BEFORE ALL ELSE, HE SAYS, I WANT TO POINT OUT HOW THE DIFFERENT MAJOR SUPERIORS BELIEVED IN THE BIRTH AND FUTURE OF BETHARRAM IN AFRICA; WITHOUT SUCH CONCERN NOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE ON THE SPOT."

I feel deeply grateful to the Lord for those years spent in the formation and growth of the African Betharram. I was a makeshift formator and yet the Lord granted me the grace to be an earthenware vessel through which flowed the treasure of the charism of St Michael Garicoits in a land prepared and enriched by predecessors. I enjoyed the beautiful daily liturgy and community life with all the respectful cordiality of which St Michael talks a lot. Laughter and joy are a help in overco-

ming the faults and failings which are part and parcel of our human condition and the cultural differences which are appreciated in divers ways. The demands of the Formation team were a great help for my own fidelity.

I was particularly struck to see how St Michael's charism corresponded to what this land was expecting where God was often manifested in different ways including the wearing of the tee-shirt with its Gospel message, accepted and worn without em-

Ivory Coast Vicariate

its roots



Following the encyclical letter *Fidei Donum* by Pius XII in 1957, Betharram decides to provide help to the young churches of Africa. After a period of exploration, Fr. Jean Mateo, Provincial Superior of France, answers the call of Mgr. Emill Durrheimer, SMA, Bishop of the Diocese of Katiola, for the opening, in Ferkessedougou, of the first Catholic educational establishment in the north of the country for the training of Catholic teachers for the diocese. September 1959 marks the departure to the missions of Fathers Pierre Prevost, Jean Superbielle and Pierre Monnot. In 1963, on the occasion of his first visit, the Superior General, Fr. Joseph Mirande is edified by this new foundation: "No difficulty hinders our Fathers... they expend all their energy but it is on behalf of the mission, the Bishop, thus as helpers, as instruments, in accordance with those words so dear to St. Michael." In 1965, Mgr. Durrheimer asks Betharram to follow the SMA missionary fathers to the little seminary of "St. John" in Katiola. For 16 years the congregation maintains this service whilst at the same time managing several pastoral responsibilities in the parish and diocese. In 1970 Fr. Giovanni Trameri, the new Superior General, confides: "Mgr. Durrheimer has confirmed his satisfaction to me in the good running of the seminary. The percentage of those who will attain the priesthood is very small, but we will have trained good Christians who will form the laity of tomorrow, the Church of tomorrow." In the next few years however some discouraging signs are noted: though trained at the intermediate seminary, our former students do not proceed to the upper seminary and instead pursue their studies at university.

In 1981, due to several transfers of priests, the question arises as to whether it is possible to continue to take charge of the seminary. At the end of a period of deep reflection, the local Betharram community decides to give up the seminary but asks to stay on in the diocese. In 1982, the new Bishop, Mgr. Keletigui, entrusts the congregation with pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Boniere and Dabakala, then 3 years later adds that of Nyangourougbonon! This is a pastoral area which is somewhat of a wilderness and attracts few people so it is a dream environment for Betharram who thus plunge into the bush! The Betharram Fathers are happy to live in a completely different environment from the

NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Decisions by the Superior General and his Council

IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON AUGUST 4:

For the Region Fr Auguste Etchecopar

- The Superior General, with the advice of his Council, **approved the closing of the community of Villa La Punta** (Vicariate of Argentina-Uruguay);

IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON 8 & 9 OCTOBER:

For the Region St Michael Garicoits

- The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, decided to present **to diaconate Br Jean Paul Kissi Ayo & Br Firmin Vincent de Paul Worou** (Vicariate of the Ivory Coast);
- With the advice of his Council, he approved the **appointment of the following community superiors of the Vicariates of France/Spain, Italy and the Ivory Coast:**

Fr. Laurent Bacho (Pau) 1 st mandate	Fr. Celeste Perlini (Colico-Bormio) 2 nd mandate
Fr. Pierre Grech (Bétharram - Maison Neuve) 1 st mandate	Fr. Mario Longoni (Monteporzio) 2 nd mandate
Fr. Jean-Dominique Delgue (Bétharram - Notre-Dame) 1 st mandate	Fr. Piero Trameri (Albavilla) 2 nd mandate
Fr. Beñat Oyhénart (Anglet - Saint-Palais) 1 st mandate	Fr. Maurizio Vismara (Montemurlo) 1 st mandate
Fr. Gérard Zugarramurdi (Mendelu) 1 st mandate	Fr. Natale Re (Rome Miracoli) 1 st mandate
Fr. Tiziano Molteni (Ponte a Elsa) 2 nd mandate	Fr. Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin (Adiapodoumé) 2 nd mandate
- With the advice of his Council, he **approved the appointment of Fr. Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin as a Master of Scholastics;**
- With the advice of his Council, he **approved the closing of Bethlehem & Nazareth Community and the erection of two distinct communities: community of Bethlehem and community of Nazareth;**

For the Region St Michael Garicoits & the Region Blessed Miriam of Jesus Crucified

- In order to carry out the decision of the General Chapter as regards the creation of international communities, the Superior General **appointed Fr. José Kumar Johnrose** of the Indian Vicariate **as a member of the Vicariate of Holy Land**; Fr. José Kumar gave his availability to go to Holy Land for ten years and give his contribution to the project of the Congregation.

For the Region Blessed Miriam of Jesus Crucified

- With the consent of his Council he **approved the erection of the community of Huay Tong** in the diocese of Chiang Mai (Vicariate of the Thailand) and the **appointment of Fr. Chokdi Damronganurak** as the **superior**;

For the Region Fr. Auguste Etchecopar

- With the consent of his Council he **decided to present to priesthood the deacons Eudes Fernandes da Silva, Glecimar Guilherme da Silva** (Vicariate of Brazil) and **Raúl Villalba Maylín** (Vicariate of Paraguay).
- With the advice of his Council, he approved **the appointment of Fr. Giancarlo Monzani as Superior of the community of Barracas** (Vicariate of Argentina-Uruguay).

barrassment! The message of God's love has been accepted like a breath of fresh air in the middle of so much fear stoked up by traditional beliefs where spiritual powers are on the watch out for misfortunes to be exploited and joys to be destroyed! Our lay associates, the Betharramite teen agers and St Michael's children can bear witness to this.

I was happy to enjoy the spirituality of happiness on a daily basis, by trying to add my own contribution of joy. In the course of the formation of our candidates human development was obvious on condition to overcome one's self. This is very meaningful in the existence of the Farm School "Tshanfeto" which is meant to provide a sound formation for the young men so that they take their own future in hand and become upright people in the footsteps of the Risen Christ.

With my brothers I was careful to make our Christian Communities more missionary, careful of the countless problems, without getting too caught up in organising. In the parishes, the fact that we were religious helps us to have relationships which are more fraternal without the priest dominating. The faithful helped me as a priest to transmit God's life through the sacraments which transformed their lives and challenged me in the importance I attached to the sacraments.

I had my share of suffering and failures. My discernment was sometimes a disaster, sometimes too severe, at other times slack. There were painful departures in the Formation house. In the Formation house there are already two graves – one of the first professed religious, Anatole who

died aged 30 and the other of Father Omer, who died aged 33 and who was getting ready to be the next Formator. The Cross was ever present but we know that it is a glorious

Cross. The blessing of the Formation House in Adiapodoume took place on 14 September 1993; the blessing of the present house took place on 14 September 2014. Yesterday I left Ivory Coast with great peace of mind because I know that the Brothers can carry on the mission with great courage. I should have stayed on longer so as to be filled with the joy of my brothers and sisters and especially with the patience as lived in Africa. I can't say that I left with a light heart saying that I had carried out my mission but I am happy at the knowledge that I am accepting a new mission; I owe this joy to the young and not so young Africans who showed me lots of affection and gratitude – God's grace.

Laurent BACHO, scj



Fr. Laurent Bacho scj

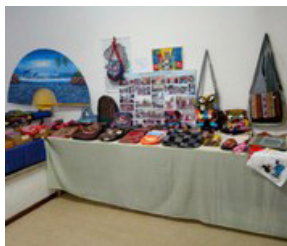
BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

Region



Italy

Missionary Exhibition ► Like every year, for two weeks in the month of August, was held at Bormio, Valtellina, the traditional missionary exhibition, organized for the first time by "AMICI", the newly formed Association. Posters and brochures were prepared to illustrate and publicise the ongoing projects in the Betharramite missions.



Many handmade articles were displayed and offered for sale. Most of them were made by artisans in Africa and Asia; and also bags made by the girls of "Ban Kon-thip" ("fairy hands house") living in the "Holy Family Catholic Centre" of the betharramite mission in northern Thailand.

All in all, it was a valuable opportunity to see friends and benefactors, and thank them for their generous and tireless support they have been giving along these years.

France-Spain

Turnover in Pibrac ► Saturday, September 6, in the Basilica of St Germaine in Pibrac, during a solemn Mass presided by Mgr. Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of Toulouse, the parish wished farewell to Fr Emmanuel Congo scj and Fr Jean-Dominique Delgue scj.

Fr Emmanuel Congo has been called by his superiors to a new mission in Ivory Coast, while Fr Jean-Dominique Delgue, Regional Vicar for France and Spain, is transferring the headquarters of the Vicariate to Betharram. During the same celebration, the community rejoiced for the arrival of Fr François Tohonon and Fr Jean-Luc Morin (Regional Superior). Fr François will minister in the parish area of Pibrac and Brax.

Ivory Coast

Assembly ► On September 15, in the formation house of Adiapodoume, was held the meeting of the Vicariate. After the speech of Fr Jean-Luc Morin, Regional Superior and the contribution of his Vicar, Fr Hervé Kouamé, the exchanges that followed highlighted the exacting challenges the Vicariate will face in the near future, which is, however, full of hope.

Region



Paraguay

Ordination to priesthood ► Saturday, September 20th, the Church and especially the Betharramite family witnessed a joyful event. In the church dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Deacon Osmar Vicente Cáceres Spaini was ordained a priest in his hometown, Yataity del



Norte (Department of San Pedro). We all wish Fr Osmar a fruitful ministry!

Brazil

Assembly ► On September 12, at Igarapé (near Belo Horizonte), was held the meeting of the Vicariate at the conclusion of the visitation of Fr Gustavo Agin scj, Superior of the Region "Fr Etchecopar." It was a time of fellowship. The reflection was focused on the decisions – taken by the last Regional Chapter – to be implemented by the Region over the next three years. Then the discussion moved on to the activity which is being carried out by the team in charge of vocation promotion; the tenor of the debate showed how much each one is anxious about this issue.

Region



India

Beginning of the novitiate ► On August 3, after a long and tiring process for the visa delivery, the two Thai novices, James Thanit and Peter Ravee, arrived at last in Bangalore along with Fr John Chan scj.



Assembly ► The Sacred Heart vicariate of India gathered at Shobhana Shaakha,

Bangalore from 28 to 30th September for the 6th vicariate assembly. It was blessed with the presence of very rev Fathers Gaspar, our superior general, Enrico, vicar general, Austin, regional superior. On 28th evening Fr Enrico led us in recollection on the theme of "meaning of joy." We could also share the state of Indian vicariate and it helped us to know our strengths and weaknesses.

Very rev Fr Gaspar also inaugurated a new website for us: <http://betharram.azurewebsites.net>. So we also expect everyone's co-operation towards it.

Thailand... & England

In-depth lectures ► Sampran, August, 28 - In the betharramite scolasticate of Thailand, Fr Dominic Innamorati SCJ gave a lecture to the scholastics on the theme: the charism of St. Michael. Father Dominic has been working for several years on the spirituality of our Founder and he is more and more eager to share the fruits of his research with our young people in formation, but not only...



On September 24, our SCJ Companions held a meeting at Ss John and Martins B'ham.

A time of prayer, a presentation in slides by Fr Dominic Innamorati of SCJ Missions throughout the world, followed by refreshments. Bros Gerard, Patrick, Michael and John, and Frs Vincent, Mongkhon and Brian were also present.