

expect that there will be more candidates coming to us, a good number of vocations. And we hope that we will have five more priests in the next five years. Some challenges in formation:

1. The limited number of formators. At present we have few formators, and lack of formators with specialised knowledge.

2. The process and stages of formation are sometimes not easy to set up clearly. The formation guide is useful, but should be flexible for changing contexts.

3. Finance: this issue is very important. We have no regular income in the seminary, we live day to day by providence. Luckily that we have many kind people, who support us, but not long term. We have set up a small project called "economic self-sufficiency" with a focus on farming and planting vegetables. But due to the increase of the education fees in college and school, we will struggle to survive in the future. We are grateful for the generosity of the General Council, who have supported us.



Let us say to God: Lord I want to love you! And if really we want to be happy (which is something which we all want) let our heart be faithful to these words; happy the man for whom the name of Lord is full of hope and has not turned his eyes to contemplate the vanities and lying foolishness of the world. (N. 62)



Societas S^{mi} Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

96
2014

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NE

NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

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

A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Don't let community be taken away
from us! (EG 87-92)

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I think the Pope Francisco has liberated the Second Vatican Council. But what I find even more astounding is that the Pope Bergoglio has liberated the Gospel, by making it a priority in his life and preaching. He wants it to be the same for the Church (the mystery of communion and mission), and for each one of us. The person of Jesus, his actions and liberating words are important. The relationships of every Christian community are based on the experience of encounter with Jesus, who is the manifestation of the Father's love for humanity

How difficult is fidelity to community life in institutes of apostolic life! We have left behind, thank God, the style of observance in which we were treated as children. But we have yet to find adult relationships, freely chosen yet demanding, based on our experience of a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, who has saved us from our individualism and opened for us the indispensable relationship with God and our fellow men.

112th year
10th series, nr 96
14th September 2014

How easily we find excuses in frantic missionary activity to avoid relationships with our brothers. But we all know very well that the real obstacles to deep relationships with others are on a psychological level: fear of showing ourselves as we really are, with our strengths and our weaknesses, our dreams and our fears; and of accepting others as they are too, with their qualities and defects, wealth and poverty. We have no idea what we lose by not having a mature relationship with others!

According to the anthropology of Pope Francis we have received life, not to extinguish it but to share it. This basic gospel principle teaches us that if we are closed in on ourselves we are impoverished and die, but if we are open up to others we will be enriched, and find fulfilment (Mk. 8 35 ff).

The life of each one of us does not find

fulfilment on its own but in relationships with others. So we commit to ongoing discernment of the positive influences of others that I accept, or negative influences that I reject.

This anthropology of openness requires us to be generous with the gifts we have, sharing them with others, because they need them to grow. It also requires humility on our part, because we are not self-sufficient and need to accept the gifts that others share with us in order to grow ourselves.

The other element of this anthropology is the experience of the encounter. Firstly this is faith as the experience of meeting the person of Jesus (EG. 7; DCE. 1). But secondly we are challenged to experience our relationships with others as a faith encounter. Neither the encounter with Jesus, nor the encounter with others will leave us untouched. On the contrary



SEPTEMBER	14	15 ans de profession	P. Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin
	16	Buon compleanno Bom aniversário 30 anni di professione	P. Egidio Zoia P. Wagner Azevedo dos Reis PP. Aldo Camesasca, Damiano Colleoni
	18	Buon compleanno 45 years of profession	P. Romualdo Airaghi P. Anton Madej
	19	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Constancio Lopez Morales
	20	Buon compleanno Joyeux anniversaire	P. Livio Borghetti F. Dede Constant Kate
	22	40 anni di professione	PP. Pietro Felet, Enrico Frigerio, Mario Longoni
	25	Happy birthday	Fr. Vincent Masilamani
	26	45 anni di professione	PP. Ernesto Consonni, Tiziano Molteni, Aldo Nespoli, Natale Re, Giacomo Spini
	27	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Patrick Moulié F. Vincent de Paul Dimon Worou
	28	Bom aniversário	P. Francisco de Assis Dos Santos
OCTOBER	29	65 years of profession	P. Dominic Innamorati
	30	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Michel Vignau
	1	60 anni di professione 50 anni di professione	PP. Angelo Bianchi, Giulio Forloni PP. Mario Colombo, Giancarlo Monzani, Piero Trameri
	3	Happy birthday Buon compleanno 10 ans de profession 10 anni di professione	Fr. Edward Simpson P. Tobia Sosio P. François Tohonon Cokou F. Angelo Sala
	5	Buon compleanno Joyeux anniversaire	P. Angelo Paino P. Gérard Zugarramurdi
	6	Happy birthday Bom aniversário 55 anni di professione	Fr. Anthony Britto Rajan Ir. Eudes Fernandes da Silva P. Aurelio Riva
	7	Buon compleanno	P. Mario Colombo, P. Davide Villa
	9	Buon compleanno	P. Tiziano Molteni
	12	Happy birthday Feliz cumpleaños	Fr. Thomas Kelly P. Wilfrido Romero

Its Present and its Future...

with Father Tidkham Jailertrit scj, regional vicar

We have communities in 3 different dioceses, Bangkok, Nakhon Sawan, and Chiang Mai.

Looking ahead 5 years from now, we will have (God willing) 27 priests 6 scholastics, 3 Novices, 15 postulants, 5 pre-postulants and 10 students. There will be 4 communities: Sampran, Nakhon Sawan, and 2 communities in Chiang Mai.

Formation of the Thai vicariate

When we look back to 30 years ago, the congregation had only just begun Formation in Thailand. The future looked uncertain. We had few formators and strained finances and only a school and a place for the seminarians to live. But there was hope, enthusiasm and a trust in providence and the Holy Spirit. We would like to thank the pioneers who began this work, for they showed great courage.

At present, the community is growing in



number, as a small tree grows branches and fruit. Now we have 20 native Thai priests, 4 foreign missionaries, 6 scholastics, 2 novices, 11 postulants, 5 pre-postulants and 12 students.

So when we look at Formation five years from now, we are not just focussing on the increasing number, but to the quality of the members of the Congregation. Over the next five years we

► Continues on p. 20



they will move us towards conversion, give a new direction to our lives and allow us to become more authentic and profound. *Meanwhile, the Gospel invites us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.* (EG. 88).

I think that living these Gospel values is as important as all the pastoral activities we can devise, and with them our pastoral activities are so much more effective. This will make interior demands on us internally while externally we will gain neither prestige nor recognition so often unconsciously sought.

How much more effective would be our mission if we lived these values in the community before going out on mission! It would be a great witness and would force some to wonder why we live so happily and would appeal to the thirst of seekers of authenticity, true love and a solid foundation for life.

This is the cry of Pope Francis: *It always pains me greatly to discover how some Christian communities, and even consecrated persons, can tolerate different forms of enmity, division, calumny, defamation, vendetta, jealousy and the desire to impose certain ideas at all costs, even to persecutions which appear as veritable witch hunts. Whom are we going to evangelize if this is*

the way we act? (EG, 100).

When fraternal life in community is authentic and lived in truth and charity, it becomes the right place to share the wonders that God works in our lives: the communal praise of the Lord for his goodness and mercy, the mutual support both human and spiritual, the planning, implementation and evaluation of mission based not on the efficiency of human resources, but on the efficiency of greater knowledge, love and following Jesus in the people. When this happens the community will grow in both quantity and especially quality.

And with this community style, we can acquire the capacity of discernment «to love and serve in everything» our Creator and Lord.

In mature communities like these it is possible to practice this evangelical discernment proposed by Pope Francis as the 'approach of the missionary disciple who «is nourished by the light and power of the Holy Spirit»' (EG. 50) This will free us from fixed ideologies, sociological or psychological: *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 own comfort zone in order to reach all the marginalised in need of the light of the Gospel.* (EG. 20)

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj
Superior General

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

The challenge of economy of communion

HALF WAY THROUGH HIS MANDATE AS GENERAL BURSAR, FR GRAZIANO SALA, SHARES A REFLECTION ON SOME ISSUES DEALT WITH DURING THE 2011 GENERAL CHAPTER, CONCERNING ECONOMY OF COMMUNION.

AFTER VISITING A GOOD NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES AND MEETING MANY BURSARS, WE CAN SAY THAT THIS NEW STYLE IS TAKING HOLD. THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SEMINARIES (THAILAND AND INDIA) AND THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE SEMINARY OF ADIAPODOUMÉ, SHOWED THE FRUITS OF THIS PERSPECTIVE.

WE NEED TO GO BACK TO THE ROOTS OF HANDLING OF ADMINISTRATION OF RESOURCES AND OF THE ECONOMY IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ARE NOT FRUITLESS AND MEANINGLESS ISSUES, BUT THEY CONCERN EVERYBODY IN A DECISIVE WAY AND NOT ONLY THOSE CALLED TO CARRY OUT THE SERVICE OF ADMINISTRATION ...

Speaking of money and administration may seem to be a fruitless and tedious exercise, in a period strongly marked by economic fragility that especially in Europe and in the western world in general, is taking on alarming proportions.

And when it is a religious - who is supposed to be doing something else - who puts forward these reflections...!

Yet, always, at all times, in all life conditions (famine, war and poverty but also prosperity and plenty) our brothers who came before us, spent a lot of time & energy to reflect on, clarify and orientate the issue of economy in the religious life.

Do not worry: my intention is not to write a treatise on poverty. This is not my aim. For an exhaustive study on this issue you can read our Rule of life: in its latest and



final version, it shows in theological and practical ways the road our religious family is called to travel.

My aim here is only to draw a few guidelines in order to re-orientate our outlook on the use of the money.

The latest General Chapter (2011) reminded us that the foundation of a healthy administration, is not based on the logic of

THE ELEVEN VICARIATES OF THE CONGREGATION

Vicariate of Thailand

its roots



Betharramite presence in Thailand began in the early fifties after the expulsion of missionaries from China. The congregation had accepted the mission in China, in the region of Yunnan, in 1922, and another thirty missionaries had carried their mission to Tali (today known as Dali), where in December 1948, the Holy See had built the diocese, entrusting it to Monsignor Lucien Lacoste, first Betharramite Bishop.

The Civil War and the winning political-military which brought to an end the Communist regime in 1949, forced the missionaries to leave the country. The last to leave China were Bishop P. Giocchino Spini, in July 1952, after having spent around 130 days in prison, together with Sister Albina Trameri, of the Daughters of the Cross. However, from November 1951 some missionaries, including Fathers Saint-Guily, Pédebideau and Séguinotte, arrived in Bangkok in Thailand, joined the following year by Fathers Lanusse, Sablayrolles, Fognini e Lontaitzbéhère, all ex missionaries in China.

So began the Betharramite missionary adventure in South-East Asia. In December 1951, the first Betharramites arrived in Chiang Mai, in the North of Thailand, which would be the site of the apostolic mission. Other missionaries, some of old and some new, joined the new work between 1952 and 1953. Father Saint-Guily was nominated First Superior, under the authority of Bishop Lucien Lacoste, who in 1959 would be nominated Holy Administrator of the newly erected Apostolic Prefecture of Chiang Mai, elevated to the rank of diocese in 1965. The Betharramites revealed a fundamental role for the birth and the formation of the church in the north of the country, with the institution of missionary stations, the foundation of churches, chapels, the construction of the Cathedral of Chiang Mai, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the formation of seminaries ... It would be impossible to describe in a few short sentences the immense work that has been done by Betharram for the church in Thailand.

Towards the middle of the 1980s, the congregation, after having handed over the diocese to the Bishop and the diocesan clergy, decided to set up a Betharramite Seminary for young Thais. This new work saw the coming together of local missionaries and all the Congregation.

And so in January 1987 the new Sampran residence, near the capital Bangkok, was inaugurated. This houses the training centre. Today, there are 20 Betharramite priests in Thailand who were trained at Sampran.

Following the new organisation of the regional congregations, Thailand, which was already a vice-province in 2001, became a regional vicariate of the Blessed Mary and the Crucified Jesus. Thanks to the new and frequent religious professions and ordinary priests, the number of Betharramite Thais increases ever more, and this has allowed in these last few years the rise of new apostolic works and the birth of a tight collaboration with the Betharramite vicariate of India.

Roberto Cornara



P. Joseph Mazerolles scj

is this fruit going to be? It belongs to God. Perhaps it would be good for us to remember that all lives are priceless in God's eyes, that they have meaning in God's eyes even if we don't understand everything.

So with trust and hope, in the course of this Mass let us thank God for Joseph's life. Let us thank God for the fruits which Joseph brought to fruition. Thank God for the love of the Church which Joseph tried to transmit as faithful servant of the Gospel. Let us thank God for all comes from Him, belongs to Him and is for Him.

Let us pray that hence forth Joseph will contemplate Him Whom he sought and Whom he announced, that he will contemplate the One he served saying, day by day, in the footsteps of St Michael Garicoits: "Here I am, for love's sake".

Jean-Dominique DELGUE, scj
Homily for the funeral of Fr Joseph Mazerolles,
Bétharram, 19 July 2014

Our departed

R.I.P.

On August 5, **Mrs. Casilda** died. She was sister of Fr Antonio Cano and Br Jesús Cano. We express our condolences to Fr Antonio, to Br Jesús and to their family, and we promise to keep them in our prayers.

R.I.P.

On August 22, at Ban Huaypong Chaiprakan, Chiang Mai, there took place the funeral mass of **Fr Arun Kano's mother**. We express our sympathy to Fr Arun and his family members and we promise to keep them in our prayers.

the macro-economy, but on the sequela Christi. St Paul reminds us: *"although He was rich, he became poor for your sake, so that you by his poverty could become rich"* (2 Cor 8:9).

That's true... But what does it mean in practice?

In the symposium organised by the Congregation of Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic Life on March 7-8, Pope Francis had welcomed the participants with these words:

"Fidelity to the founding charism and to the subsequent spiritual heritage, together with the purpose proper to each Institute, remain the first criteria for evaluating the administration, management and all of the work carried out in the Institutes at every level." And further down: *"The Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life have always been a prophetic voice and living witness to the newness which is Christ, of conformation to the One who made himself poor so that we might become rich by his poverty. This loving poverty is solidarity, sharing and charity and is expressed in moderation, in the quest for justice and in taking joy in the essential, so as to guard against the material idols which blur the authentic meaning of life. Theoretical poverty is not needed, but rather the poverty that we learn by touching the flesh of the poor Christ, in the humble, in the poor, in the sick, in children."*

That is why when we speak of economy and management, this means for us:

- **At a personal level:** to live with transparency and honesty (esp. economic) the choice made. Accounting for the money received and spent

(giving reasons), always remains the concrete way to express not in theory but in practice, the primacy of communion and solidarity. This means renouncing a form of independence and autonomy in order to live a "mutual dependence". While examining one's conscience these questions cannot fail to be there: how have I spent the money the community has put at my disposal? Have I accounted with honesty and transparency for the money received for my ministry and for other gifts received?

- **At a community level:** The management of the goods must take into account two principles: the goal of the mission of the community and the situation lived by the community. These two principles will regulate the ways the community manages the resources at its disposal. Practically speaking each decision of the community which is not in line with the mission entrusted to the community must be considered inappropriate, even if it appears good and legitimate. Each decision regarding the way to use the money that conflicts with the context in which we live, even if taken with all the necessary permissions (RoL 49; PC 13), risks becoming a counter-witness for the people to whom we are minister. In this field too, the community must not fail to ask questions: the choices we want to make (or we have already made), though they are good, are they in tune with the mission we have been entrusted with? Are we living a simple life? Are we attentive



who are in need of it. The first is transparency in the accounts ...

- For a greater honesty and transparency in the accounts: I state in advance that nobody (neither Superiors nor bursars) can interfere in a person's conscience. Honesty and transparency cannot be imposed by anybody.

to the needs of the Region, of the Congregation, or we are worried only about ourselves?

There are instruments, though, that foster and favour these attitudes, in daily life. Submitting accounts regularly is one of these instruments, and the *modus operandi* is the actual implementation. The General Chapter had requested to put in place an on-line administrative system in order to help the bookkeeping at all levels: community, Vicariates, Regions and Congregation. This system has been active for two years!

Thanks to the contribution of many religious, it has been corrected and improved and continues to be corrected and updated. I can say with a touch of pride, that a major milestone has been reached! Moreover, this instrument is an excellent guide to help every religious render account. Those who were appointed bursars must learn to use this system and must teach all religious communities how to do the accounts.

Taking into account what I have just said, we must remember that the General Council, to fulfil the mandate of the General Chapter 2011, has carried out two tasks entrusted to it:

- For an economy of communion: in January 2014, with a decree of the Superior General, the "formation fund" was created. This fund, created thanks to the effort and contribution of the General Council, of the Regions and many Vicariates, is now a reality and it can support the formation of young religious in the Vicariates where finances are scarce. This fund has been created by optimising the return of the patrimony of the Congregation, without diminishing it. Of course there are steps to be taken for making use of this fund for those

gave thanks to the Lord. He emphasized in particular his faithfulness to the religious life. In fact, Fr Gavel quite recently celebrated 50 years of life in the Betharram order and it was Fr Gonzalo himself who had presided over the celebration in place of Fr Gavel who was too weak due to his illness.

After having recalled his deep connection with the parish where he was baptised and with the Congregation, due to the education received in colleges from several members of his family, the Archbishop highlighted Fr Gavel's commitment to the Betharram community in return, including when he had been asked to leave the college he had devoted his whole life to, in order to take care of the parish, even

though he had no pastoral experience. Finally Bishop Sturla noted the profound meaning of the family of our brother. Far from being a burden, this sense of belonging strengthened him. The statements heard about his ability to understand others and his serenity were numerous and moving, qualities that many people have benefited from during the years he was a priest. Also while thanking those who came to share these moments of contemplation, we wish to thank the Lord for the gift of the life and the person of Fr Enrique Gavel.

Angelo Recalcati, scj

Father Joseph Mazerolles scj

Caubios-Loos (close to Pau, France), 3 June 1922 - Bétharram, 17 July 2014

When I heard of Fr Mazerolles' death, memories came flooding back. Joseph was jovial and friendly. Whenever we met he always loved to greet me in Basque. I never lived in community with him. During the last few years he experienced what we could call life's mysteries. Consequently, the Gospel text means something to me when I contemplate Joseph's life especially where St John says "*Unless the wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain, but if it dies it yields a rich harvest*". (Jn 12,24)

Is this not the meaning of our baptismal life and even more so of our religious

and priestly life? We must give ourselves over to God's love; give ourselves over body and soul for the good of mankind, to the mission of the Church which is the announcing of the Good News as St Paul reminds us in the first text: "*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and was laid in the tomb; on the third day he rose from the dead according to the Scriptures*". (1 Cor. 15, 3-4)

Joseph's ministry was essentially pastoral: listening, accompanying, announcing the Good News. The shepherd lives in the middle of his sheep with care, discretion and sometimes courage. It is work which

IN MEMORIAM

Father Enrique Gavel scj

Montevideo (Uruguay), 4 October 1939 - Montevideo, 14 July 2014

On 14 July after long years of illness which had got worse in October 2013 and after two days in a coma, Fr Enrique Gavel made his return to the father's house. Just a few days previously, he had received the sacrament of the sick and a visit from Father Gaspar, accompanied by his ordination companion, Fr Constancio Erobaldi. Since October his illness had confined him to bed. During these months, his sister and nephews were with him and comforted him with remarkable devotion and affection. Fr Enrique died on Monday at three in the morning. On that day, nearly all the Betharram community in the region were on their way for the Paraguay Assumption

to take part in the regional Pre-Chapter meeting. That's why they could not be present at the funeral mass, celebrated in the parish church of St Michael Garicoits, where Fr Enrique was the priest until the end. Concelebrating with the Archbishop of Montevideo, Bishop Daniel Sturla and the Bishop of Florida, Bishop Martin Pérez Scremini, a former scholar of Betharram was Fr Gonzalo Estévez, another former student of Betharram, alongside numerous diocesan priests and brothers. The Congregation was represented by Fr. Angelo Recalcati. Fr. Gonzalo began the celebration by recalling certain aspects of Fr Gavel's life, for which all those present



Fr. Enrique Gavel (in the centre) and Fr. Constancio Erobaldi celebrated this year the Golden Jubilee of their Betharramite Priestly Life

Finally I can't forget that in recent days the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has published a paper specifically on administrative matters. The document entitled *"Guidelines on management of property in the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life affirms precisely a principle that consecrated persons are invited to take into account, namely the» evangelical*

dimension of the economy according to the principles of freedom, fraternity and justice, building the foundation for an evangelical economy of sharing and communion"...

Graziano Sala, scj
General Bursar

Regional Chapter of Region Fr. Etchecopar



AT LAMBARE, ASUNCION PARAGUAY, THE 2ND (INTERMEDIATE) REGIONAL CHAPTER WAS HELD FROM 17-20 JULY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF 18 MEMBERS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL, REV. FR GASPAR FERNÁNDEZ PÉREZ SCJ AND HIS GENERAL COUNCILLOR FOR MISSIONS, FR TOBIA SOSIO SCJ.

The event was preceded by four days of pre-chapter involving about 15 lay people, very involved in the life of the communities, who had been invited by the three vicariates of the Region. After organising the internal proceedings of the Chapter, the Regional Superior, Fr Gustavo Agin scj, presented a brief report.

Finally, after three days of session, the 18 religious members established their priorities for the next three years: MISSION VOCATIONS, LAITY, COMMUNITY. These themes revolve around the options presented by the General Chapter of 2011. The Superior General invited us to approach them from the following per-

The members of the Regional Chapter / Region Etchecopar: From left to right, standing) Fr. Wilfrido Romero, Fr. Carlos Ecurra, Fr. Francisco De Paula, Fr. Gustavo Agín, B. Osmar Caceres Spainí, Fr. Gaspar Fernandez Pérez, Fr. Franciso Daleoso, Fr. Paulo Cesar Pinto, Fr. Tobia Sosio, Fr. Marcelo Rodrigues Da Silva, Fr. Sebastián García, Fr. Mauro H. Ulrich de Oliveira, Fr. Guido García, Fr. Fulgencio Ferreira...
Sitting: B. Victor Torales, Fr. Daniel González, Fr. Sergio Guarnalusse, Fr. Glecimar Guilherme Da Silva, B. Juan Pablo Garcia Martinez, Fr. Javier Irala, B. Eudes Fernandes da Silva.



spectives: **INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BROTHERHOOD, LIVELY & FRATERNAL COMMUNITIES, ONGOING FORMATION: "OPENNESS TO THE ACTION OF GOD", VOCATIONAL ANIMATION AND ECONOMY OF COMMUNION** (the latter topic, not specifically addressed, is already a reality in the region, especially in the field of formation and cooperation with the Congregation thanks to aid provided regularly or occasionally to other communities).

MISSION

Operating in a more and more secularised society, mission in Latin America still makes the heart leap in people who accept their spiritual dimension and it continues to nourish their faith in com-

munities where at a moment in history, the Good News is a reality. While faith and life undergo the constant threat of an anti-life culture, we perceive the latent desire to answer the call of the Pope and bishops to form a Church that is in a «permanent state of mission» (Aparecida).

The challenges are not insignificant, and the chapter members realised that this was not the time for writing new documents. Indeed, it was time to «go out» and to dare to say *Here I am* in new areas where harsh reality speaks for itself, but where the missionary disciples of Jesus are not as present as they should be.

'With men and people affected by all kinds of injustices and poverty, we contemplate

as a priest to continue his mission with the community. To Fr Davi Lara our best wishes for his ministry!

Region



India

Bangalore ► June 27 - On the feast of Sacred Heart, the community of Shobhana Shaakha rejoiced by witnessing the entry to postulancy of 6 students.

Mangalore ► In the month of June, in the Mangalore community there took place some meaningful events aimed at enriching the human and spiritual growth of the young people in formation. Sr Marie Eugene AC, led the monthly retreat inviting the community to reflect on "Human Formation and Relationships." A few days later, Mr Ralph Nazareth, a US based Indian who is well known for his inspirational talks, shared with the community some insightful reflections on Christian spirituality.

On June 27, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fr Andrew, the Parish Priest, presided over the concelebration. Then Sr M. Susheela, Superior general of the AC Sisters, made her first visit to our community after her recent election. And last but not least, 5 new candidates started their formation process in our community.

Thailand

First mass

On June 30, the newly ordained priests of the Vicariate went to Pakia, the village of Fr Peter Nonthaphat Mayoe SCJ, first priest Akha of Thailand, to celebrate their first Mass. The young priests were accompanied by Fr Alberto Pensa SCJ, Fr Mirco Trusgnach SCJ and many other brothers. The Christian community welcomed them with joy and expressed their affection and friendship in prayer; they also set up a big party, with sound and music and a parade to the center of the village.



NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Decisions of the Superior General and his Council

- On August 5, the Superior General, with the vote of consent of his Council, **approved the Acts of the Regional Chapter of the Region Fr. Etchecopar.**
- On August 23, the Superior general with his Council **approved the appointment of Fr. Arul Gnana Prakash Maria Joseph as superior of Hojay community** (Vicariate of India).



Generalate House

Vietnam ► In August, the Superior General, Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez SCJ, was on a visit to Vietnam, accompanied by Father Xavier Le Van Cuong, a Vietnamese priest who is studying in Rome and lives in our community "Our Lady of Miracles." The aim of this journey was to advance the project of the congregation in this country.

Region



Ivory Coast

Perpetual vows ► Sunday, July 27, at the conclusion of the 150th anniversary of the death of St. Michael Garicoïts, brothers Vincent de Paul Worou Dimon and Jean-Paul Kissi Ayo committed themselves through perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram.

All the Betharramite religious of the Vicariate attended the celebration along with Fr Jacky Moura SCJ, master of novices, who arrived in Ivory Coast to guide the novices in preparation of their first profession, which happened on July 28.



Spiritual Retreat ► In the formation house of Adiapodoumé, the religious of the Vicariate made their annual retreat from September 8th to 12th, guided by Fr Tobia Sosio, General Councillor, in charge of the coordination of the Missionary activity of the Congregation, on "the spirituality of St Michael through the different steps and choices in his life".

Region



Paraguay

Ordination to diaconate

► Saturday, July 19, in the Church of San José in Asunción, Br Raul Villalba Maylin was ordained a deacon by Bishop Claudio Silvero SCJ. We wish Deacon Raul a fruitful and joyful ministry in serving his brethren in Jesus' name.



Brazil - Spain/France

Ordination to priesthood ► Paulinia August 16 - in a solemn ceremony held in the Parish "Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch" at Paulinia, Br Davi da Silva Lara SCJ was ordained a priest.

Many Betharramite religious made a point to be present at such an important event for the life of the Vicariate of Brazil and the Vicariate of France and Spain. In fact, Fr Davi has already spent a few months in the community of Mendelu (Spain) as a deacon and soon he will be back at Mendelu



the disfigured face of Christ, who "put himself in the place of all victims." In all our works, we should make ourselves present to all people in their different forms of poverty.' (R. of L. §115).

The proposals of the Chapter:

- Apostolate of Meeting and listening. A «Church that comes out of herself.»
- Formation of the People of God: forming apostles who are qualified and capable.
- Pastoral Conversion (starting with the conversion of hearts to Jesus Christ)

As an encouraging example, we see the missionary path that lies before us: the mission of Tacuarembó (Uruguay), the

Missionary Community of Setubinha north of Minas Gerais (Brazil), the missionary presence in Santiago del Estero (northern Argentina), in the suburbs of Sabara (Belo Horizonte, Brazil), the presences in San Joaquín, and Tevycuarymí La Colmena (in the Paraguayan Interior), the PAPETRA project for attention to people in distress, etc.

VOCATIONS

Our region was blessed last year by seven perpetual professions (six priestly ordinations are planned for 2014); the next coming period looks less prolific. Indeed, the number of vocations for our «Little Family» dropped slightly recently. All this has led us to the following reflection: we propose an initial serious formation by well organised and qualified formators, but the animation work for vocations demand more commitment from every religious.

The goal is not to capture young people to fill the seminary no matter what their motivation (see EG 107). Our mission is to provide a response to someone who has been drawn by the Lord. It is an ecclesial service that we cannot deny. This means that we must be able to propose vocation, stimulate the question of vocation starting beginning from real life, to propose our charism, in the same way that we are called to offer, stimulate and propose the Gospel.

The proposals of the Chapter:

- Encounters together, times of prayer, retreats and weeks for vocations in the communities.
- Spiritual Exercises, for vocational discernment, coordinated by trained religious and laity (brothers in each vicariate, have already been introduced to the art of accompaniment).
- Experience of exchange (of personnel) in various vicariates.
- A joint team of lay and religious for each vicariate, in addition to the existing regional team.

LAITY

We arrived together at the convictions summarised below: our religious life will be more religious when lived amongst lay

people, we will thus enlighten our community life and our configuration to the Ecce Venio of the Incarnate Word. Moreover, if the desire of Jesus is that the Gospel is addressed to everyone, it is impossible to think that this can be done without the participation of the laity. Thus, we cannot conceive of mission without them. It's not that we need the laity, but rather that the Heart of Jesus includes both religious and lay Betharramites and we are all called to be missionary disciples.

Proposals of the Chapter: they boil down to four Commitments or Missions

- In education: sharing, fellowship, formation, spiritual accompaniment, family pastoral work.
- In the social field and support initiatives with «people in distress.»
- With the laypeople in various works:

support their groups, facilitate their organisation.

- Religious communities: spaces of welcome in the homes of religious communities.
- Organise a regional meeting of lay Betharramites in the next three years.

COMMUNITY

We noted that a particular style of religious community is now outdated, but we have not yet reached a new way of being ... The PCA (Apostolic Community Project) often not realised or simply existing only on paper. Why? Perhaps because of relationship problems between religious (antagonism, resentment, unforgiveness). Perhaps because of individualism (losing the sense of community because of one's own pastoral project). Perhaps because of an overload of responsibilities, leading to activism or dissipated efforts. It will seem repetitive, but ask us first and always, why do we want to live in community?

What beliefs / proposals on community life? :

- Community life is born of personal choice. We need to commit to it more.
- It arises from one option to live with Jesus Christ, through Him and in Him. We must renew ourselves from the heart.
- We said «yes» to the Apostolic Community Project and the annual budget. Let it be real!
- It is a faith option that we make space

to share faith and life. A new reality: religious and laity together.

Thus the intermediate Regional Chapter took place in the certainty that Jesus Christ, humble and obedient, called us to renew the commitment of the historic Mobile Camp, which continues its pilgrimage in Latin America begun in the time of the founder. Days lived or days survived (several of us went down with flu), have given us hope, (often undermined by discouragement and routine).

Our motivation was to rediscover ourselves, religious and laity, as a Betharramite family, ever driven by the ceaseless fermentation in our hearts. This leaves us steadfast against both the anti-life culture and the crises of our age and instead impels us to be more united to join with St. Michael Garicoïts in saying "Here we are, Yes, Father!", "forever and for love" because "we must hope even more when all seems lost."

In fraternity and friendship in the Lord, I warmly greet you all on behalf of Betharramites of America.

In Corde Iesu: Gustavo scj
Regional Superior



Religious and lay Betharramites: missionary disciples of the Sacred Heart of Jesus