

*Listening
to St Michael ...*

*I wish you all (...) a
happy New Year, a year full of spiritual riches.
As the indispensable way forward I wish you
to go to the school of our Lord unceasingly.*

(Correspondence, letter 390)



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2015

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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

The Mission of Jesus (2)

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Saint Michael Garicoits tells us that "Our Lord had a spirit of gentleness, humility and commitment, not to punish or confound, but to win us to repentance and the imitation of Him" (M. 323, MS 203). This helps us to better know and live the Gospel as the founder understood so well. Jesus calls us to repentance to be and to live in his image, so that we can live in the love of Father and son, in the Son.

Jesus succinctly describes his mission when he proclaims in the synagogue of Nazareth, the lines from Isaiah 61: 1-2, adding that, "today this is being fulfilled even as you listen" (Lk 4: 16-24).

He was consecrated in the Spirit and sent by the Father to proclaim the Good News to the poor, liberty to captives and sight to the blind, to give freedom to the oppressed, and to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

This meant going out to meet people, getting to know their needs, their sorrows and hurts, to comfort them, give them understanding, help and joy. It meant

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restoring the condition of the people by announcing the love that God has for them. This sums up what Christ did in the Gospel, effecting the healing which is salvation. The parable of the Good Samaritan well expresses tenderness that Jesus lived in his mission.

Saint Michael Garicoits also lived this tenderness as a feature of his mission: *"What do we preach about our Lord? Tenderness at all times: in his incarnation, his holy childhood, his passion, his Sacred Heart, in his outward life and inward grace, in his words and in his eyes ... So what should be the main characteristic of our spiritual life? Christian tenderness! Without it, we cannot possess the spirit of generosity to serve God. It is necessary for both our inner life, in our relationship with God as well as in our outer life and our relationships to men."*(MS 200).



Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, by Angelika Kauffmann (München, Neue Pinakothek)

The first trait of Jesus' temperament is to let himself be touched by the plight of individuals, to have compassion on the crowd, the bereaved mother of the young man of Nain, the Good Thief. He is not indifferent to the suffering of people and he allows himself to be moved by them.

The second trait is the fact of going out to meet people in their actual situations, without fear of danger: the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, the fishermen Peter, Andrew, and John, James, Matthew the publican, Nicodemus, the rich young man, the leper, his friends at Bethany, the lame, the man blind from birth, the Gerasene demoniac, Jairus ...

The third trait is his passion for meeting people. As recalled by the Pope in *Evangelii Gaudium* (87, 171, 220, 239), an encounter permits two lives to dialogue together, influence one another, communicate, to give of oneself to enrich the other.

The fourth trait is consolation/liberation. As a result of the encounter Jesus sometimes heals a sick person and releases the person from a demon, like the man born blind. Elsewhere he heals in the sense that someone who is turned in on himself can come out of himself and trust in others and in God and then everything becomes clear. Thus it was for Peter.

to make them happen. All these good qualities were spotted in Mr Lassalle by the Diocesan Authority. Indeed, his rare intelligence, coupled with exquisite judgment and a serious and sustained modesty, were fully developed through his studies with the Benedictine Fathers, and later with the novitiate of the Doctrinarian Fathers, and were acquired so extensively that he was judged capable of teaching rhetoric to the distinguished youth of the country, over a long period of time .. Father Lassalle was not a speaker, but his diction was distinguished, his words were wise, and we know he excelled in the art of letter writing .. He did not lack ecclesiastical knowledge. .. Father Lassalle combined this knowledge with an austere but gentle lifestyle; he first drew to Betharram that which was best in the country; confessions became frequent; daily pilgrims almost occupied .. the whole morning. However, from 1806, Father Lassalle increased his fortune, through income from paternal property which he managed; he wanted to use this fortune secretly to educate youth and relieve poverty in a permanent way. He also never failed to honor his Superior fees every year and sell for profit any gifts offered to him.

It was, I think, in 1808 or 1809 that he opened a secondary school in Betharram. .. This secondary school is known to .. have gained an honorable reputation.

.. Father Lassalle began and continued his generosity, or at least took care of expens-



es arranging for the Betharram house to receive a portion from the Major Seminaries of Bayonne and Dax, too small for the aspiring of three dioceses. .. The building work was completed in 1814 and the Major Seminary of Betharram was opened in the same year .. Some distinguished coadjutors came to combine their know-how and efforts to those of Father Lassalle .. These gentlemen, while fulfilling with zeal the tasks committed to them, never failed to help Father Lassalle, using their utmost ability to increase and arrange the pilgrimages. ..

However on February 17, 1820, the diocese lost its first pastor, Bishop Loyson; but on leaving this Earth, he left to Bétharram more than a treasure; and this treasure was a young Basque man whom he had recruited in 1797, born in Ibarre from poor but religious parents, who lived a pure and simple lifestyle - it was Michael Garicoits.

Simon Fonderville scj

NOTE 1 :The Consul BONAPARTE who, by the CONCORDAT of 1801, allowed the "CATHOLIC, APOSTOLIC AND ROMAN RELIGION TO BE FREELY EXERCISED IN FRANCE." (Editor's note)

(To be continued)

THE FONDEVILLE NOTEBOOK OR BETHARRAM SINCE 1790

CAREFULLY PRESERVED IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE CONGREGATION, THE «FONDEVILLE NOTEBOOK» POINTS TO A SIGNED MANUSCRIPT WRITTEN BY PIERRE SIMON FONDEVILLE SCI (1805-1872), WHICH GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF BETHARRAM'S HISTORY SINCE THE REVOLUTION OF 1790. THIS DOCUMENT, WRITTEN BY ONE OF THE FIRST COMPANIONS OF MICHAEL GARICOITS, IS ONE OF THE MAJOR SOURCES OF THE HISTORY OF BETHARRAM IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND OF THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CONGREGATION. THIS YEAR, WE WILL PRESENT A FEW EXCERPTS.

From the fourteenth century, a devout chapel in Betharram brought pilgrims to the Virgin. The venerated statue had disappeared in Spain, when Jeanne d'Albret burned her sanctuary at the end of 1569. Restored in 1614, the bishop of Lescar called for Hubert Charpentier to go there in 1632 and he then enlarged the original chapel, built the monastery, erected a crucifix and founded the Congregation of Our Lady of Betharram. Its members, in 1661, completed the present sanctuary and developed the pilgrimage. During the French Revolution their property was confiscated, their actions were stopped and their worship was disturbed. In 1808, after the Concordat, Monsignor Loyson, Bishop of Bayonne, bought Betharram.

Regarding the arrival of Procope Lassalle, the renewal of Bétharram and the Great Seminary Foundation ...

(NB : We will indicate the presence of deleted passages by the symbol ••)

•• Providence, which sent his man¹ to France to restore its worship, sent also by Mary's prayer, a man who had to call people back, by his prudence, patience and charity, to true devotion to Mary and to Jesus crucified, and to bring back hearts to the fountain of supernatural life, the Sacraments. For this it was necessary to revive Christian and ecclesiastical education, banished from the country as a result of the French Revolution; it was necessary to renew the spirit of both genders in the four abolished dioceses: Tarbes, Landes, Lescar and Oloron. •• Mary planted this man in Betharram for 26 years who, according to the wishes of her heart, should carry out the works of mercy she had planned for her chosen country. This man was Mr. Procope Lassalle, a former doctrinarian priest, aged about 45 years. •• He was a native of Saint-Pé (diocese of Tarbes, then administered by

the Bishop of Bayonne). He had two brothers and a sister. •• Mr. Procope Lassalle and his elder brother embraced the Institute of Christian Doctrine in Tarbes; his younger brother joined that of the Barnabites at Lescar; his sister became a Carmelite or Dominican. During the Revolution, the three brothers went to hide in the Rouergue ••.

Mr. Procope Lassalle, back from exile, was called in 1806 or 1807 by Monsignor Loyson to take on the management of Betharram. He prepared himself to fulfill the intentions of Our Lady and to resurrect the former works of the Holy House, to arrange pilgrimages, making them honorable and useful, and to create an institution for youth to recruit a sufficient clergy for the four dioceses. •• All these works called for knowledge, great zeal, a lively piety, great resources and great persistence in order

At other times, he comforts, forgiving sinners like Mary Magdalene. Or again he can awaken ardour in the hearts of listeners with his fiery speech as he did with the disciples of Emmaus.

Consolation means more than cure; consolation is discovering that life has meaning because God loves me, even though everything might appear otherwise. If we manage to comfort a sick man, it means help to bear the pain of his illness, relieving the pain of his heart to relieve the body.

Jesus also consoles when around him: *'All were amazed and asked each other: "What is this? This is a teaching with authority" ...'* (Mk 1: 27) so it is in the Sermon on the Mount, the parables and the teaching on the last judgment.

The fifth trait is the change of heart in the person consoled, liberated and restored to happiness, enthused, committed and joyful; it is then that he knows salvation. He now lives and works with a new spirit, alive in a new way, because he feels a new person.

Such is the experience of salvation in practice: the result of healing and consolation after encountering Jesus. It is also decisive for the people, they feel drawn to him (Mt. 14: 13-14; 15, 32, 18, 16-18; Jn 6: 1-2.). This is what will make them believe that he is the way, the truth and the life, and the light of the world, the bread of life, the bridegroom, the resurrection and the living water.

The Kingdom of God is the essence

of Jesus' teaching. When the encounter happens, and there is a change related to the experience of divine love, then a new way of living human relations is emerging: instead of wounding we become peacemakers; instead of seeing others as enemies we see them as brothers; each of us dependent on God as his sons since he loves us; equal among others because God loves them too. We must make these fundamentals our own because in all things and everywhere, they humanise us and confirm us as gifts of God for those He loves.

This is the secret of the Kingdom: we must lose our life to find it; we mustn't seek to save it at any cost for whatever reason. Serve, love enemies, forgive, give life. May the first among you be the servant of all. He who humbles himself will be exalted. That is why, after having announced the Kingdom of God, Jesus accomplished it by his abasement; by giving his life, his Father could save humanity. Thus he showed his love for God and for men. Jesus, his life, his passion, death and resurrection is the good news; his person, his life and his paschal mystery manifest the Father's love for every single person.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, sci
Superior General

SNAPSHOTS OF BETHARRAMITE LIFE

As in the Garden of Eden



If St Francis spoke to the birds ... Fr Enrico Frigerio scj, has, in his turn, definitely found the right words for this baby elephant!

Like in the Garden of Eden, peaceful harmony between man and animal (with the help, however, of some bananas, he said...)

This happened on the occasion of his visit to the Vicariate of Thailand on last December, with Fr Athit Kasetsukchai scj. A big thankyou to the photographer, Fr Suthon scj.

To this end, please send your amusing, surprising or moving photos, telling in their own way the story of our family, to us at ... nef@betharram.it

is going on in the Region. We thank him for accepting to be concise in his contribution.

REGION: the ministry with the youth, the missionary pastoral ministry, the ministry in the colleges (fifteen) and in the parishes and the substations (fifteen) urged us to raise some questions about the vocation promotion.



Vicariate of Paraguay: young people are invited for a Vocation Day, twice a year. Some religious are available for spiritual direction: Fr Osmar (formator), Fr Raul, Fr Alberto and Br Sixto. On average, every year there are three postulants (in 2015 there are possibly five). Usually they hail from rural or urban areas.

Vicariate of Brazil: the young people are guided by Fr Eder (formator of the aspirants). He meets their families and their Parish Priests. Fr Jefferson cooperates with the team, keeps contacts through the social networks, etc... Fr Gleimar (formator of the Postulants) guides the young people and organizes the Spiritual Exercises. The seven newly-ordained priests are involved in vocation promotion. On average, every year there are two or three postulants. In 2015 there will be two hailing from parishes of Minas Gerais and of San Paolo.

Vicariate of Argentina-Uruguay: in Argentina we provide personal accompaniment. The young people are small in number but fairly perseverant. On average, every year one young person joins the Postulancy. Fr Daniel and Fr Sebastian along with some other religious or lay persons offer their guidance to college students involved in the missionary pastoral ministry or youth ministry. In Uruguay the missionaries are looking for the "Uruguayan Candidate". God will provide.

The Region relies mainly on the Regional Team for Vocation Promotion and Formation. This group gathers twice a year with the Regional Vicars (Fr Mauro and Fr Daniel, formators) and implements the Regional Project of formation, following to the *Ratio Formations*.

Gustavo Agin scj

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Priestly Ordinations

THE RELIGIOUS OF THE REGION FR AUGUSTE ETCHECOPAR, WITH A HEART FULL OF JOY, GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WHO HAS ALLOWED THEM TO CROWN THE YEAR 2014 WITH THREE ORDINATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE IN BRUMADINHO (BRAZIL) FOR BR. GLECIMAR GUILHERME DA SILVA (NICKNAMED "TERERE") AND BR. EUDES FERNANDES DA SILVA (CALLED "EUDINHO"), AND IN CIUDAD DEL ESTE (PARAGUAY) FOR BR. RAUL VILLALBA. WE WISH THE NEWLY-ORDAINED PRIESTS THAT THE LOVE FOR THE LORD AND FOR HIS CHURCH MAY GROW IN THEM DAY BY DAY AND THAT HIS SPIRIT MAY GUIDE THEM ALWAYS!



Father Glecimar Guilherme da Silva scj

I have always expected that the priestly ministry would be for me a dream come true! Today, as a Betharramite priest, I can contemplate how great is God's love for us: to be a priest is more than a personal achievement! It is the fulfilment of the plan of salvation in my life, that is the joy of being a sacramental offering. At present, my Vicariate has entrusted me with the mission of being the formator of Postulants! This mission is important and urges me to be faithful in my prayer life and to always be in a state of discernment! In this mission I am fully

committed in fulfilling what I am called to be as Betharramite! I am quite happy to guide my young brothers at the beginning of their journey in discerning their vocation.

Now I ask God to enlighten me with his grace, so that, in Christ, I can be faithful to the ministry entrusted to me! I put in God's hands my vocation and my ministry! May he, the Doctor of souls, always grant me his light and make myself light in the journey of my people and instrument of healing for many hearts and souls!

»

At the beginning of this year, dedicated to the consecrated life, Pope Francis wrote a letter to the Religious, in which he says: *"Who has found the Lord and follows him faithfully, is a messenger of the joy of the Spirit"* (n.6).

The Pope is urging us to renew and deepen the meaning of our vocation with joy and passion. I was ordained as a priest a month ago. Everyday I ask the Lord to

its of their position: in family life, with all the family members that the Lord gives them, in the office, in the firm, in the club, in the political party, in the trade unions, in the NGO's, and in all the other areas of life.

⁶ In everything each one is committed fully, unassumingly, joyfully and generously, each aware that he is where God wants him to be, because this is God's will and in order to do what God wants, eliciting in those around him the inevitable questions of Blessed Paul VI: Why are they like this? Why do they live this way? By whom or by what are they inspired? Why are they among us? (E.N. 21)

⁷ Always, they try to show the reason for their hope that it is Jesus Christ who is filling their lives with joy, so that all can know him, love him and follow him in order to live in the same happiness.

⁸ The Lay Betharramite lives his faith in a mature way, he tries to discern the will of God in all the various circumstances of his life, in order to see in the signs of the times the presence of God (G.S. 1).

⁹ He enriches his personal interior formation by studying the Holy Scriptures, reading St Michael's writings and following Betharramite tradition; he tries to fully understand the social Doctrine of the Church (see Compendium of the social doctrine of the Church).

¹⁰ When he has the chance, he joins one of the Betharramite communities to help carry

out the mission the Church has entrusted to the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram.

¹¹ He lives the Christian life joyfully so as to attract everyone to experience the new life which flows from the Heart of the risen Lord.

¹² When we think of the married lay Betharramite we realise they have accepted the sacrament of marriage as a joyful gift. They live family life like the newly baptised, accepting their daily crosses and enjoying consolation from the Lord. Their family becomes a "domestic Church" where the family members read the Word of God, take part in the Eucharist, build up unity through Christian love; each one pursuing the good of others. They care for the poor and sympathise with them, respect life and bring up children to follow the Gospel values. In all of this they are witnesses to the love God has for us all and which He has revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

¹³ When thinking of Betharramite lay people who are single or widowed, we realise that they can live their vocation consecrating their life to the Lord by committing themselves to living the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience. This would need a private consecration. The lay person who wishes to do it, makes an agreement with a religious of Betharram, who will inform his Regional Vicar and, with his consent, accept the consecration in a small private celebration

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj

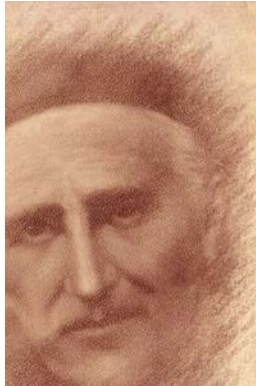
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LAITY AND THE CHARISM OF BETHARRAM

The definition of a Christian lay Betharramite

SHOULD WE ADD A QUESTION MARK TO THIS HEADING? IN FACT, WHAT FOLLOWS IS A TEXT WRITTEN AND SUGGESTED BY THE SUPERIOR GENERAL, FR GASPAR FERNANDEZ PEREZ, TO SHOW HOW TO GO ABOUT DEFINING A BETHARRAMITE LAY PERSON. ALL ARE CALLED (CF RoL 3) "TO LIVE THEIR BAPTISMAL VOCATION, ENLIGHTENED BY THE CHARISM OF THE INCARNATION".

We remember that on 31 May 2011 at Bethlehem, the members of the general Chapter wrote a letter to the laity, in these terms:
"The charism of Saint Michael is more than ever alive and can offer a path to Christians wishing to know how to live their faith. Their presence with us in our life and mission is the proof. We thank you for your collaboration, competence and generosity in all that you have done for the formation, mission, and the management of our assets. During our discussions we came to realise the diversity that exists in different countries in the way this spirituality and mission is lived ... We encourage you to continue to study and deepen the sense of your identity as lay people, and your mission in the Church, as members of the Betharramite family ..."



1 Through Baptism, the lay Betharramite lives in union with Jesus, annihilated and obedient, the Word Incarnate who, with the generous impulse of his Heart always says to his Father "Here I am" so as to co-operate in the redemption of mankind through his unceasing service. As followers of Jesus Christ, known, loved, inward looking but following the example of St Michael, all, through their actions and words are missionary-disciples of Jesus.

2 The lay members of Betharram foster in their Christian way of life the virtues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and try to live them in their daily lives. They do everything unassumingly with humility, obedience, commitment, meekness, love and joy.

3 They live and build up the community of the Church and join in the life of the Church with the help of the Word of God in the celebration of the Eucharist and other Sacraments, in their unity towards the needy and with a steadfast commitment towards the work of announcing Jesus to all and bringing them the same happiness.

4 Among their fellow brothers and sisters, lay Betharramites witness their Christian authenticity and like a grain of yeast transform the world little by little according to the Gospel values, presenting the Kingdom of God to their fellow brothers and sisters.

5 They commit themselves, like Jesus, to practice unbounding charity within the lim-



Father Eudes Fernandes da Silva scj

make my vocation new. In the history of each vocation, God himself is the mysterious person who does the calling. As betharramite religious and priest, I am marked by the sign of God's consolation, and in my ministry I am called to bring this consolation to others. This is Pope Francis' desire, expressed in the book of Isaiah too: to bring to all the consolation of God and to be witnesses of his mercy. So, I am called to spread the truth of the Gospel. As Betharramite religious and priest I have some dreams and projects:

- to be a facilitator and not a hindrance of God's grace in the life of the people;
- to witness a God who fully loves us, beyond our human wretchedness and weaknesses;
- to show this particular face of God through our charism, by following in a creative and faithful way what Saint Michael laid down for us in our Rule of Life;
- to bring to all the joy of my personal encountering with the Lord;
- to build up the community with my ten-

derness, in the limits of my position. As a newly-ordained Betharramite priest, today, this is my dream and my wish for my Congregation: may our Congregation always make the experience of being together around the table (community), because this is the special place to be nourished, to strengthen the bonds and to go to the mission. I pray to the Virgin Mary and to Saint Michael, that they may help me to be faithful to my betharramite vocation.

»

"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour".

I make the words of Mary my own because the feeling pervading my being is one of gratitude and lowliness. Gratitude, because God, in his infinite love, has turned his eyes towards me; lowliness because, in spite of my limitations, Christ has called me to share in his priesthood.



Father Raul Villalba scj

To start my priestly ministry in the school with the youth, is a great challenge; by virtue of my offering, I wish to be an appealing witness to draw people to Jesus annihilated and obedient.

I thank God for calling me. I thank the

Betharram family for supporting me in giving my answer. I appeal to the intercession of our Father Saint Michael Garicoits, that I may be a Priest according to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Golden Jubilee

LAST MONTH, OUR BRAZILIAN BROTHERS, FR. VITAL PAULO CAMPOS AND FR. ANTONIO SCARPA, CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN JUBILEE IN CONCEIÇÃO DO RIO VERDE (BRAZIL) AND IN THE VERY CHURCH WHERE THEY HAD BEEN ORDAINED PRIESTS ON DECEMBER 20TH, 1964.

BEFORE THEM, ON DECEMBER 8TH, IN ADROGUÉ (ARGENTINA), FR. FRANCISCO DALEOSO SCJ CELEBRATED THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF HIS PRIESTLY ORDINATION TOO. A LARGE NUMBER OF FAITHFUL THANKED GOD FOR 50 YEARS OF CONSECRATION OF THIS BELOVED PRIEST AND ARGENTIAN MISSIONARY.

TO THEM ALL, THANK YOU! FORWARD, WITH JOY AND AD MULTOS ANNOS!

For me this is the time to thank the Lord, to be an instrument in his hands to do the good works He expects from me. Then I have to say thank you to my family for being close to me in my priestly ministry in a discreet way. Furthermore, this Jubilee was an opportunity to show to the people the way of walking: only in communion with all the brothers. First of all I thanked the Congregation for always caring for me with tenderness since the days of the minor seminary until now. I had the opportunity to express my gratitude during our Regional Assembly in Paraguay.

At the beginning of my ministry as a priest, I learned how to work in the education field in Saint Michael College: this helped me to carry out my mission at Dom Helder for 26 years. I expressed my gratitude to the communities for helping me to become a priest: J. the America, S. Domingos, Brumadinho, Santa Luzia, Nova Granada. At Conceição do Rio Verde, near my village, Itanhandu, in the same Basilica where the four of us (Geraldo Luz and João Batista have gone to the Lord before us) were ordained, we thanked our Mother Mary for the blessings received over these 50 years.



Antonio Scarpa scj

ed us in prayer and encouraged us to live more in brotherhood.

- Vicariate Community Celebrations in assemblies of the vicariate ... Here the focus is more on the Betharramite family. These celebrations effect an encounter between older and younger brothers, coming from very different backgrounds ... The Eucharist brings us together. The Eucharist shows us the Father's love in his Son the Sacred Heart. Here we are not parish or chaplaincy; we are brothers of one family sharing the same *Here I am* of St Michael. The Eucharist in such encounters helps us forge a greater sense of belonging to our family.

- At Shefamar (near Haifa in Galilee [current residence of the scj community]) on Sundays all three of us concelebrate together. Here the focus is more missionary:

- This is a district with a Muslim and Druze majority. With other Christians, we participate in their festivals where we are very well received. We try to form in our town one single family with a clear link to the Eucharist.

- We live in the context of violence in the Middle East: in our Eucharist, we take care to pray, and encourage prayer for peace and for the persecuted Christians on our doorstep.

- Mass is in Arabic of course, in the land of Jesus, not far from Nazareth where Jesus lived the Incarnation for 30 years.

- Three of us concelebrating together posed questions to local Christians at first, because they were accustomed to seeing only one priest. We explained that we are a religious community, with different ministries in the parish, in Nazareth, and in Haifa. Concele-



Father Firmin Bourguinat scj

brating in the parish showed that our life is rooted in the Eucharist because we come together to celebrate.

- We are happy to live this Eucharist together, not only to say who we are, but to bring together in one celebration, the life of the parish : it is a witness and at the same time an offering to God of our mission with the people of God.

- the Eucharist continues afterwards with a cup of coffee in the big divan (lounge): we greet, we exchange, we pass a pleasant time together: the Eucharist is there, already, the first spiritual fruit of Eucharistic encounter ...

To concelebrate is to be invited by the Lord to the one table: to let oneself be received and loved. We come to Him with our poverty but also the richness of our encounters and our shared life. The Church is born and reborn in the Eucharist. «*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation!*»

Firmin Bourguinat scj

PRACTISING THE RULE

OUR RULE OF LIFE IS THE PATH FOR EVERY BETHARRAMITE. BY OUR THOROUGH ACCEPTANCE OF ALL ITS ARTICLES, IT SHOWS US THE WAY TO CONFORM US TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS.

ALONG THIS PATH, HOWEVER, EACH ONE OF US DRAWS HIS OWN LANDSCAPE, ACCORDING TO THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE HE LIVES, ACCORDING TO HIS EXPERIENCES, HIS ENCOUNTERS AND HIS OWN CHARISM. THE RICHNESS OF OUR CONGREGATION CONSISTS ALSO OF THE VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES, WHERE EACH RELIGIOUS LIVES HIS EFFORTS AND HIS JOY OF FAITHFULLY PRACTICING THE RULE.

FOR THIS FIRST CONTRIBUTION, ON THE ARTICLE 82, WE TURNED TO FR FIRMIN BOURGUINAT WHO, LAST SEPTEMBER, JOINED THE COMMUNITY OF NAZARETH IN HOLY LAND.

The Eucharist celebrated in community

It is the remembering, the making real of the Lord's Supper: Jesus with his disciples, «Do this in memory of me»! The community celebrates the Risen Lord together and carries in its prayer the mission entrusted to it.

Here are some experiences of community celebrations of the Eucharist I have experienced:

- In the parish for many years, our community of three fathers used to celebrate together during our monthly recollection. We took the time to celebrate, making the link between the Word of God and our missionary commitments. We were mindful of the action of the Spirit in our brothers sharing with one another our experiences, joys and difficulties. But the most important thing in the Eucharist was not so much our shared lives, but Christ who came to us to

Article 82 Daily, the priests will celebrate Mass and the other religious will actively participate. Concelebration as a sacrament of love, sign of unity, bond of charity is always preferable. Each community will regularly celebrate the Eucharist together.

embrace everything in our lives: his love constituted our consecrated community. Concelebration has also been a meaningful time of reconciliation: during a day of recollection we cannot share meaningfully on the needs of our brothers, without becoming vulnerable and reaching out to one another.

The Eucharist helps us to be truthful with our God and with our brothers ...

- In the Bétharram retirement home

the community celebration for 20 Religious (mostly sick and elderly) took a simpler character; the slow and meditative celebration allowed everyone to find their place and feel that the whole community prayed for each participant there and also for those who remained in their rooms for different reasons. The Eucharist celebrated together brought us together in our humanity, unit-

NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Announcements from the Superior General & his Council

In the meeting of the General Council of December 19 and 20, 2014, the Superior General, with the vote of consent of his Council, **erected the novitiate of the Region Saint Michael Garicoits in the community of Bethlehem.**

The Superior General with his Council approved the **appointment of Father Firmin Bourguinat scj as superior of the community of Nazareth** and the appointment of **Father Henri Lamasse scj as superior of the community of Bethlehem** (Region Saint-Michael-Garicoits - Vicariate of Holy Land).

The Superior General with his Council approved the decision of the Regional Council of the Region Fr. Auguste Etchecopar to give **the pastoral care of Saint Michael Garicoits parish in Montevideo back to the diocese.**

Further announcement

From now on the **Anniversaries Calendar** will be published

on the last day of the month, for the following month,

on the website of the Congregation, as a PDF file,

so you can print it for the community.

ANNIVERSAIRES - ANIVERSARIOS - ANNIVERSARI - ANNIVERSARIES			
Janvier - Enero - Gennaio - January 2015			
1	Happy birthday 15 años de profesión	F. Valère Pélissier Ransgaillat F. Pierre Ransgaillat Ransgaillat Ms. Daniel Pélissier	
8	Feliz cumpleaños	F. Sergio Gascón-Rodríguez	
7	Feliz cumpleaños	Ms. Jesús Cervera	
8	Feliz cumpleaños	Ms. Sándoro Miquel	
10	Happy birthday	F. Nicolas Ruffinacci	
11	Buen cumpleaños	F. Alessandro Lucatelli	
13	Buen cumpleaños	F. Angélio Salas	
14	Feliz aniversário	F. Gláucio da Silva	
15	15 años de profesión	F. Wilfredo Romero	
18	Feliz cumpleaños	F. Antonio Cano	
20	Ungeen anniversaries	F. Victor Batallas	
23	Buen cumpleaños	F. Evens Bianchi	
25	25 años de profesión	F. Wagner Azevedo dos Reis	
26	Buen cumpleaños	F. Alberto Irujo F. Mario Gascón Br. Shannon Devaux Vallyscent	
	Happy birthday		
27	Happy birthday Felix cumpleaños	F. Brian Boyer Ms. Juan Pablo García Martínez	
28	Happy birthday	F. Rigo Paul Mayquet	
29	Ungeen anniversaries	F. Jérôme Gervais	
30	Buen cumpleaños	F. Celeste Pontes F. Aldo Camarero	

In memoriam

December 20, 2014 - **Mr Pinuccio Urbani**, the younger brother of Fr Ariedo Urbani SCJ (community of Niem - RCA) and Br Severino Urbani SCJ (community of Bethlehem - Holy Land) died of a heart attack. Our thoughts and prayers go out to our brothers and their family members.

January 9, 2015 - After less than one year since the death of his son, Mr Natale Gorgia (Coordinator of the Lay Association of Betharram) is facing a new painful moment in his life: his wife, **Maria Grazia**, died, after a long and painful illness. We express our condolences to Natale and we keep him and his wife in our prayers.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

Region



Novitiate

► On Friday, December 12, Fr Jacky Moura, at the Maison Neuve Community, presided the ceremony of the conclusion of the first canonical year of the Novitiate and of the sending to mission for the second year's. The first year's Novices have arrived in the Holy Land.



to receive the order of the diaconate.

In his homily, the Bishop emphasized the meaning of the "Here I am" of the Incarnate Word. Br. Vincent, religious of the Sacred Heart and mystic of the Incarnation, was delighted to see that the motto "Here I am", so dear to the religious of Betharram, was the main topic of the homily. Br. Vincent will serve as a deacon in the Parish of Saint Bernard at Adiapodoumé.



Central African Republic

Day of recollection ► On December 15th, the religious of the Vicariate had a day of recollection in the community of St. Laurent, the Capuchin Friars, at Bouar. The leader of the retreat, Fr. Augustine Bassani ofm Cap., drew his inspiration from the message that Pope Francis sent to the consecrated persons on the occasion of the year for Consecrated Life. He invited the Betharramites present in Central Africa to witness with love and creativity the beauty of their religious consecration and urged them to see the importance of the papal message and to live in the community and in their respective mission posts, the mystery of the Incarnation.



Italy

A Family meeting ► On December 6, the family members of the Italian Betharramites gathered at Albavilla. The aim was to strengthen the bonds with the family members of the Betharramite religious and to thank those who, in various ways, have always been on their side.

Ivory Coast

A new-ordained deacon ► Saturday, December 13, Br. Vincent de Paul Worou Dimon SCJ was ordained as a deacon in the parish of St. Mary of Agouéto in Abo-bo in the Archdiocese of Abidjan. During the same ceremony, eleven brothers of the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) were also ordained. The celebration was presided by Mgr. Raymond Ahoua, Bishop of Grand-Bassam. Fr. Sylvain Dansou SCJ, Superior of the house of formation of Adiapodoume, presented Fr. Vincent

Region



Novitiate

► The novices of the Region, Sergio Leiva and Mariano Surface, are making the second week of the Spiritual Exercises at Villa Betharram of Adrogué. Fr Daniel Gonzalez is their guide.



Brazil

Renewal of vows ► During the Eucharistic celebration, in the Chapel of the scholasticate of the Region in Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Juan Pablo García Martínez (Argentina) and Jeferson Silverio Gonzaga (Brazil) renewed their vows. Juan Pablo begins now the year of preparation in view of the perpetual profession. Jeferson has completed the third year of theology.

Region



India

Christmas celebrated in advance... ► The Betharram Seminary, Mangalore celebrated Christmas in advance on December 8, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mary. The celebration began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by Rev. Fr. Biju Paul SCJ, the Regional Vicar and concelebrated by

a number of priests. Many lay associates of Betharram were present and added colour to this Celebration.

The Holy Eucharist was followed by a sound and light programme based on the theme "A Pilgrim Christmas" in which the nativity of Jesus and the Spirituality of our Congregation was being blended together with a message showing that every Christian is placed as pilgrims on this earth. Towards the end, the community released the calendar for 2015 and the Christmas Cards.

India... & Holy Land

From Hojai to Nazareth ► "Be ready to fly to wherever Obedience calls for. Success belongs to God, so let us not poke our nose into what God has reserved for himself". Fr Jose Kumar has just put into practice these words of St Michael Garicoits, he was quoting on Facebook, when he answered "Here I am" to the call of his superiors. In fact, a few months ago, our Indian brother made himself available to go for a few years to Holy Land, in the community of Nazareth, where he will start by learning Arabic and Hebrew. He arrived in Holy Land just a few days before Christmas: may the Christmas celebration lived on the very spot of Jesus' birth, give him the strength and the courage necessary to carry out this mission with the joy of a Betharramite.

