



*Listening
to St Michael...*

It is terrible to see how all authority is ripped apart everywhere; and the highest authority is perhaps the worst treated: countries and individuals take pleasure in attacking it from all angles. In this diocese when I see how the priests above all treat their bishop, I only see complaints, disapproval, slander and above all calumny.

Are we, who make a special vow of obedience to His Lordship, going to allow ourselves to be swept along by this worldly spirit which is nothing short of devilish? Are we going to err against our vocation? For the thought of outweighing such guilty conduct to make up to the Bishop for this type of trouble, has greatly contributed to the creation of this society.

(Cachica Notebook nr. 27)



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BETHARRAM

106
2015

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NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

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A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Look back on the past with gratitude and humility

In this issue

- Page 4 • A finger in the pie
- Page 5 • With tenderness
- Page 7 • Bursars at the service of the mission
- Page 10 • Obedience, once again
- Page 12 • Young missionaries
- Page 15 • Notices from the General Council
- Page 16 • Bird's eye view of the Congregation
- Page 18 • Spiritual life in our four scholasticates
- Page 22 • The Fondeville Notebook (7)
- Page 24 • Listening to St Michael...

"It is also a means of being aware of how the charism has been lived over the years, the creativity it sparked, the difficulties it encountered and how these were overcome. Inconsistency can be detected; consequences of human weakness, perhaps even a neglect of certain aspects of the charism." (Pope Francis: Apostolic letter to the consecrated, I, 1, 21 November 2014).

Praise the Lord, my soul, for the gift of St Michael Garicoits: his person, his life, his times, his meeting with Jesus "humble and obedient", his decision to imitate Him and to continue his mission in working class milieu, the education of children and care of the youth. Praise the Lord, my soul for his first companions: Guimon, Chirou, Fondeville, Perguilhem, Larrouy who believed in the charismatic novelty of his experience and shared it with enthusiasm; praise the Lord, my soul, for the missionary ardour of those early years which in 1856 and while the Founder was still alive, encouraged them to head out for Buenos Aires and Montevideo.



Bétharram (picture by Stockli)

the words of Father Estrate: "God scattered us so as to become seeds" in Spain, Italy, England where the charism produced fruits, and in Belgium where the branch failed to take. This painful experience helped us to reinforce the pedagogical mission in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. The commitment of the Religious of the Sacred Heart was great in the formation of citizens who were both responsible and committed.

Lord, forgive us: along with the great success realised in the field of education in these countries we let ourselves be caught out by the prestige and the financial gain of our undertakings; on several occasions this was to take precedence over the value of consecrated life. Forgive us because the religious failed to develop vocational propositions among their pupils fearing that they would be withdrawn from the college by their parents.

My soul, praise the Lord for the missionary zeal of Fathers Pirmez, Etchart and Palou out East and in 1922 as far as China. They had already been missionaries in Argentina and Paraguay. In 1951 with the persecution and the unfortunate episode of the expulsion from China, we arrived in Thailand where our missionaries realised a great work of evangelisation among the Karen tribes in the diocese of Chiang Mai.

Praise the Lord, my soul, for the beatification of Michael Garicoits in 1923 and his canonisation in 1947. In this way, the Church recognised the holiness of our Founder, the authenticity of his charism, the fraternity

Lord, forgive the times we resisted the Spirit on behalf of those who saw in the choice of education a threat to parish missions, and for others who supported the bishop's position against the Founder's, resulting in divisions in the community.

Praise the Lord, my soul, for the devotion and skill in government of Father Etchecopar; his writings are helping us to know the Founder better and his charism. The Congregation had a new surge with the approval of the Rule of Life by the Holy See. With Father Etchecopar the process of canonisation of Saint Michael received a powerful surge forward. The third successor collected his "Thoughts" and accounts on his life. Under his mandate as superior, in 1879, the houses and scholasticate at Bethlehem were founded, trusting the wisdom of St Mary of Jesus Crucified.

Praise the Lord, my soul, for the expulsion of the religious from France in 1903, in

He had already travelled across the Diocese for 16 years, giving missions almost habitually with Mr Chirou, until the latter, involved in administration since 1848, had to give up his Apostolic errands for 6 or 7 years. Mr Casau assisted the Superior and Mr Castetnau by his diligence to the confessional and seeing the infirm, especially in the renowned hamlets, perched on the precipitous montains.

It was in the month of August 1853 that, while reading the new statutes of the Auch Provincial Committee, the Superior was suddenly struck by paralysis, but fortunately it gave way to being bled and to pills.

He made a journey around the month of November to La Puye and Valenciennes, accompanied by a new member of the Congregation: it was Mr De Bailliencourt, originally from Valenciennes which he had left over 8 years before. A lung condition had kept him in Montpellier and in the Midi region. After a season at Eaux-Bonnes in 1847 or 1848, the gentleman asked to stay at Betharram; after a year, he took up his studies again; he applied himself to Theology, in the belief that he had been called to the Priesthood in the Congregation. His lung condition had more or less gone or at least stabilised.



The cloister of Sarrance Monastery

He entered into Holy Orders in 1851, and in 1853 he became a Priest. It was in this year that he accompanied Mr Garicoits, without doubt for two commendable motives - the first was to see his parents, the second was to serve as a positive distraction for the Superior for 1 or 2 months, as per the advice of doctors. The two travellers returned in reasonably good health. Then Mr De Bailliencourt spent 2 or 3 days in Igon, making himself useful to the Community where he later set up an Orphanage. He was also a remarkable benefactor of the Carmelites.

Simon Fondeville scj
(1805-1872)

(continuation)

THE FONDEVILLE NOTEBOOK OR BETHARRAM SINCE 1790 (7)

The Betharram Fathers responsible for the Sarrance sanctuary... The apostolate at Pau and Sarrance... The first illness of Father Garicoits... His journey to Valenciennes (in North France, 621 milles away from Betharram)...

Having bought the old Prémontrés Monastery at Sarrance in 1851, the Monsignor made the Betharram Fathers responsible for that parish and for the Pilgrimage of Our Lady in 1852;...

... he sent Mr Larrouy there as the Superior, Mr Castetnau as the Parish Priest and Mr Cazau as the Curate; soon to be joined by a young Basque priest, after taking the competitive exam of the Basques who went willingly in big numbers to visit Our Lady of Sarrance. The Good Lord called him to the Company of Jesus. Mr Larrieu, who had abandoned the Parish of Sarrance asked the Congregation for sanctuary: the Congregation received him willingly as he was still young and of sound health. Indeed, he made himself useful to the Congregation either at Orthez, where

he had been a Curate in the past, or at Betharram listening to the pilgrims' confessions.

That way, Our Lady of Betharram would gently join together those in the Aspe Valley and those within the borders of the Pau plain at the foot of the Pyrenees, a union represented by the two rivers which come from the same source in Spain, then separate and flow along to the foot of each of the two sanctuaries, a distance of 80 kms, and then join again at Peyrehorade.

The Sarrance Residence, like that at Pau, soon bore abundant fruits; confessions became frequent, the various works of Pau occupied Mr Vigneau in the work of the Curacy and we can say that foreigners took up his time just as much as the people of Pau. Mr Castetnau, who was already like a missionary, soon captured a respectful affection from the parishioners of Sarrance. Mr Larrouy stirred the parishioners and pilgrims by his strong rationale and by his training.



A village in the Aspe valley

and mission of our Congregation.

Praise the Lord, my soul, for that particular time in history. The Congregation developed its organisation in Provinces replying thus to a need: many communities had been opened for the service of new missions thanks to the increase in numbers of religious. In Brazil in 1935 then in North Africa, first of all at Casablanca in 1940 and Sidi-Bel-Abbes in 1949; then followed in sub-saharian Africa at Katiola in 1959. It was at this time that we were asked to look after the formation of priests in the seminaries of Auch, Jerusalem, San Jose de Cuyo and Rosario.

Pardon, Lord, because the Provinces became very withdrawn making communications difficult, the sharing of vocations, people and property. Forgive us, Lord, for the envy, the power struggles and the difficulty in respecting cultural differences.

Praise the Lord, my soul, for the mission realised in the parishes since 1909 and the foundation of the Sacred Heart at Droitwich. The countless efforts that were necessary so that Jesus could be known, loved, imitated, witnessed and announced! What a task for the construction of ecclesial communion! The time given to preaching, to catechesis in developing the Word of God! How many sacramental celebrations would be necessary to enable the disciples to meet their Master! What energy in the development of charity to come to the aid of the poor! The time consecrated to meeting people!

Pardon, Lord, for often overwhelmed by pastoral work in the parishes, we paid little attention to the demands of the spiritual life, community life and the life of poverty and obedience. Forgive us for not realising that

the reality of the charism and belonging to the Congregation were somewhat diminished, which stood in the way of arousing the desire of a vocation.

Praise the Lord, Oh my soul, for all that Betharram was given to live during the Council: the centenary of the death of our holy Founder, the assembly of the whole Congregation, the inter-provincial commission, the Chapter of renewal and the 1969 Rule of Life, the session on the charism at Betharram for the 150 years since the foundation of the Congregation. Gratitude also for the foundations in Central Africa and India, for the advances in meeting new forms of poverty with the Family Home at Monteporzio for the terminally ill Aids patients.

Pardon, Lord, because sometimes, without our realising, in the work of renewal demanded by the Council ideologies became more important than the Gospel message. We ask you to forgive us because preference for a certain type of presence deprived us of the freedom of the missionaries.

Praise the Lord, my soul, for the gift of so many of the laity who, thanks to the Council, are now sharing our charism and mission; they are helping us to find solutions for difficult situations, including from the point of view of the economy.

Lord, forgive us our lack of openness in dealing with the laity; very often we don't know how to share our spirituality and mission while at the same time respectful of what is original in each of our vocations.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, SCJ
Superior General

A finger in the pie



A very queer pie indeed, you could say... ! But if you want to carry out the mission, sometimes you must change your clothes and soil your hands. Fr Suthon Khiriwathanasakun scj, as a true betharramite, does it with a smiling face! He is building a dormitory for the girls in Maepon and all the youngsters, no matter their age, have been actively involved in the job.

our Christian and religious life. Eucharistic Adoration Thursdays (18.00) is an important time when we put ourselves at the feet of the Master to worship, contemplate and echo his love. This encourages the desire to follow Jesus, the desire for conversion of life, the desire to meet God, a God who gives meaning to my life.

Spiritual accompaniment which the scholastics are invited to attend at least once a month becomes a place of discernment of God's action in the life of the religious. The discernment of a vocation, in which spiritual accompaniment has a privileged space, is not the moment to record of the formator/candidate conversations. The goal of this accompaniment is to enter into the "mystery of life".

The scholastics are invited to do this in openness and trust. A monthly retreat allows us to review our religious life in the light of the charism of our Congregation. The text (reissued) of the spiritual doctrine allows greater appropriation of our spirituality. Fraternal sharing during recollections can encourage the sharing of joys, expectations, fears ... and help us entrust them to the one who unites us in His Sacred Heart. Once a month, we share lectio divina, in order to, as St Michael Garicoits says, "taste the things of God ... chew and taste the Holy Word." The narratio fidei takes place between scholastics based on the NEF editorial of the Superior General. Religious are invited to the regular attendance of the sacrament of reconciliation at least once a month.

It should be noted, there is in our situation a need for greater ownership of the charism of our congregation which doesn't simply

consist in repetition or recitation of some slogans or some well-known phrases ... We really need to embody the charism of St Michel in our culture and in our society. So each religious of the Sacred Heart should now reproduce in his life, the life of Father Garicoits, the life of Christ; religious life is itself like a 'holy game' of the imitation of Christ. The rule of the game is the imitation of Christ, poor, chaste and obedient. For us African religious, to reclaim the spiritual battle of Michael Garicoits, his charism in creative fidelity, is now the great challenge. I sometimes ask myself the question of what is our religious Betharramite African identity? What makes us different from others? Religious and diocesan? How to continue to grow in living the charism of the Congregation? How is our Religious life relevant to the world? A presence in the world? How can the Betharramite religious of our seminary, find insertion in our social and cultural context as a significant effective and true witness, without being contaminated by the spirit of the world? The risk is high when the values that can promote a call to religious life are fading away: there is a fear of commitment, fear of anything demanding. Ease becomes a norm, as does physical security that religious life does not guarantee ... Then there is the fragility of people who want to devote themselves to God. All this impacts on the spiritual dimension of our religious life.

[Fr. Jiraphat, master of the scholastics in Sampran, was not able to answer our questions for this month, but in September he will certainly give us his insights about the formation in the Sampran scholasticate. We take this opportunity to send him and the scholastics in Sampran our fraternal regards.]

the spiritual dimension i.e. Love for His Church, passion for His people and spirit of belongingness for the Congregation. Our prayer is always that of St. Michael Garicoits saying, *"Give us a heart that truly loves! It believes and tastes the things of God. It is the secret spring... without which we can do nothing"* (DS 146). Yes, of course, we are not perfect examples rather it is a daily struggle but we will gradually succeed. It is this divine love which urges us to go 'forward' in our Sunday pastoral ministry and weekly social ministry like the visits to the old age home, orphanages and homes for the destitutes in and around Mangalore.

Fr. Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin scj

Our scholasticate of Adiapodoumé is a part of a greater whole that comprises the Adiapodoumé formation house. The latter accommodates within it, both pre- postulants (6), postulants (4), scholastics (6) and perpetually professed religious (4). In this complex, the scholasticate has a special place because it is the place where the religious within it discover, assimilate and deepen their sense of religious identity. It is their first space to reproduce and manifest the impulse of the Heart of Jesus, the



With the scholastics of Adiapodoumé

Incarnate Word saying to his Father, "Here I am." The whole spiritual life of the seminary of Adiapodoumé is ordered for this purpose: to conform to the virtues of the Sacred Heart. It is for each religious to integrate his life by basing it on the charism of the Congregation.

To do this, each religious is invited to fidelity to daily personal prayer and meditation on the Word of God to be rooted in prayer. This heart to heart encounter that lasts at least half an hour, is done either before Lauds or Vespers. Active participation in community prayers is a requirement of our spiritual life. The daily Eucharist is celebrated at 6:15 in the morning or at 18:30 on big feast days or for Masses in honour of the Holy Spirit (in response to the desire of St. Mary of Jesus Crucified). It holds a central place in the life of our house. It is the source and summit of



With tenderness

IN THE BASILICA OF SAINT JOHN LATERAN IN ROME, ON FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH, 2015, POPE FRANCIS GAVE THIS HOMILY ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD RETREAT FOR PRIESTS COMING FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE AUDIENCE IS SILENT AND MEDITATIVE. CAN YOU TOO HEAR THE SOFT BUT STEADY VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD...?

«In the First Reading (Hosea, chapter 11) we enter into the tenderness of God: God tells his people how much he loves them, how much he cares for them [...]: "When you were a child, I loved you; I loved you as a child; I saved you; I led you out of Egypt, I saved you from slavery", from the slavery of sin, from the slavery of self-destruction and from every kind of slavery that each of us knows, has had and has within. "I saved you. I taught you how to walk". How beautiful to hear that God teaches me to walk! The Almighty abases himself and teaches me how to walk. I recall this phrase from Deuteronomy, when Moses says to his people: "Listen you," — they were so hard-headed — "when have you ever seen a god so close to his people as God is close to us?". And the closeness of God is tenderness like this: he has taught me how to walk. Without Him I wouldn't know how to walk in the Spirit. "And I held you by the hand. But you did not understand that I was leading you, you believed that I would leave you alone". This is the story of each one of us. "I held you with human bonds, not punitive laws". With bonds of love, ties of love. Love binds, but binds in

freedom; it binds while leaving you the space to respond with love. "I was for you as one who raises a child up to his cheek and kisses her. And I bent down and fed her". This is our history, at least it is my history. Each of us can read her own history here. "Tell me, how can I abandon you now? How can I hand you over to the enemy?". In the moments when we are afraid, at the times that we are uncertain, He says to us: "If I did this for you, how can you think I would leave you alone, that I could abandon you?". On the shores of Libya, the 23 Coptic martyrs were certain that God would not abandon them. And they were beheaded proclaiming the name of Jesus! [...]

"How can I treat you as an enemy? My heart recoils within me and my compassion grows warm and tender". God's compassion is kindled, this warm compassion: He alone is capable of warm compassion. I will not unleash my anger for the sins that exist, for all these misunderstandings, for the fact of idol worship. Because I am God, I am the Holy One in your midst. It is the declaration of a father's love to his child. And to each one of us.

How often do I think that we are afraid of the tenderness of God and because we are afraid of God's tenderness, we do

not allow it to be felt within us. Because of this we are so often hard, serious, punishing.... We are pastors without compassion. What does Jesus say to us in Luke at Chapter 15? About that shepherd who noticed that he had 99 sheep for one was missing. He left them well safeguarded, locked away, and went to search for the other, who was ensnared in thorns.... And he didn't beat it, didn't scold it: he took it tightly in his arms and cared for it, for it was injured. Do you do the same with your faithful? When you realize that one of your flock is missing? Or are we accustomed to being a Church which has a single sheep in her flock and we let the other 99 get lost on the hill? Are you moved by all this compassion? Are you a shepherd of sheep or have you become one who is "grooming" the one remaining sheep? Because you seek only yourself and you have forgotten about the tenderness your Father gave you, and it is recounted

to you here, in Chapter 11 of Hosea. And you have forgotten how to give that compassion. The Heart of Christ is the tenderness of God. "How could I fail you? How could I abandon you? When you are alone, disoriented, lost, come to me, and I will save you, I will comfort you". Today, I ask you, in this retreat, to be pastors with the compassion of God. To leave the "whip" hanging in the sacristy and to be pastors with tenderness, also with those who create many problems. It is a grace. It is a divine grace, We do not believe in an ethereal God, we believe in a God who became flesh, who has a heart and this heart today speaks to us thus: "Come to me. If you are tired, oppressed and I will give you rest. But the smallest, treat them with compassion, with the same tenderness with which I treat you". The Heart of Jesus Christ says this to us today, and it is what I ask in this Mass for you, and also for me.

there is the ordinary regular service given to the community, such as bursar, stewardship, service such as driving, cooking, etc. These are the main elements that allow us to deepen the experience of the charism of the Congregation. I could add to this all the sincere and open dialogue between members of the community (formal dialogue during personal interviews and community meetings, or informal, with spontaneous meetings). These are moments when we mustn't fear confrontation, since each seeks the common good, following Christ. Undoubtedly, facing the pastoral reality of the parish, as well as other activities in the Archdiocese, which take place within or without an ecclesial context, also offer subjects of constant reflection, exchanges of experience and prayer.

are simple, ordinary yet filled with enthusiasm and zeal for the family of Betharram. The aim of our spiritual formation is to help every brother " to search, to see, to touch, to taste and to share " the Word which became flesh and dwelt among us. Thus, as for me, our spiritual dimension rests on these two pillars. First, as we read in the DS 149, " Where does one learn the interior law of Love? In prayer and meditation ". Hence, the importance of daily prayers, meditation, Eucharist, reading of the letters of St. Michael Garicoits, lectio divina, and reading the lives of Saints etc. It is also an important factor in our culture i.e. every 'sishya' (Disciple) sits at the feet of his 'Guru' (Master) in order to be well equipped to face the world. So our focus is not to waste time in prayer rather to invest our time, our energy and all that we are in the Lord who is our sole Divine Guru. It is this personal intimacy which leads one to the second part of

Fr. Stervin Selvadass scj

Jesus continues to inspire many young who



Father Stervin and the scholastics of Mangalore

Spiritual life in our four scholasticates

ENTERING THE SCHOLASTICATE IS STRICTLY SPEAKING THE FIRST COMMITMENT TOWARD THE CONGREGATION. THE FOLLOWING YEARS - THREE AT LEAST - WILL LEAD TO A DEFINITIVE DECISION, WHATEVER IT WILL BE. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE TRAINING IN THIS NEW STAGE OF FORMATION, IS GRADUALLY GROWING DEEPER AND STRONGER IN BELO HORIZONTE, MANGALORE, ADIAPODOUMÉ AND SAMPRAN.

IN THIS JULY ISSUE OF THE NEF, THREE MASTERS OF THE SCHOLASTICATE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE HELPING THE YOUNG PEOPLE ENTRUSTED TO THEM, TO GROW AND BLOOM IN THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Fr. Mauro Henrique Ulrich de Oliveira scj

At the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" regional scholasticate at Nuova Granada (Belo Horizonte), the spiritual dimension and Betharramite charism are daily experienced by the religious community. Every day we share three times of community prayer: Lauds, rosary and daily Mass, with a brief moment of personal meditation in preparation; the Thursday before the first Friday of the month, we celebrate the adora-

tion of the Blessed Sacrament with the parish community; the first weekend of each month, we share a time of spiritual recollection, from Friday evening until Saturday evening. During community meetings on Saturday too, every fortnight, we focus together on documents of the Congregation or the Magisterium of the Church on themes common to the programmes of theological students.

Furthermore, to show our concern for this dimension of religious life, we decided to include in our programme eight days of Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, once a year at the beginning of the academic year, in addition to the Annual retreat of the Vicariate.

And we do not forget the less visible aspects of this spiritual dimension such as our availability to care for our infirm brethren such as 93 yr-old Fr. Enrique Lasuen, Fr. Joseph Mirande and Fr. Sebastião do Nascimento. Also we share (with support) pastoral care of some ecclesial happenings of the archdiocese or the parish. Finally



The courtyard of the scholasticate in Belo Horizonte. In July, the scholastics of the Fr Etchecopar Region take a break and go home for a while.

Bursars at the service of the mission

IN THE PROCESS OF GROWING UP, THE LIMBS OF THE BODY DEVELOP AND CHANGE INTO AN ORGANIC AND WELL-BALANCED SYSTEM.

THE SAME PROCESS TAKES PLACE IN OUR CONGREGATION: THE GOAL REMAINS THE SAME, BUT IT DEVELOPS AND ADJUSTS ITSELF TO ANSWER THE NEEDS OF OUR TIME..

ON THE ONE HAND THE RELIGIOUS MUST GET READY FOR NEW CHALLENGES, ON THE OTHER HAND ECONOMY MUST KNOW HOW TO ADJUST TO NEW SITUATIONS IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE NEW FIELDS OF THE MISSION. IT MAY SOUND LIKE A PARADOX, BUT ACTUALLY IT IS NOT. LET US LISTEN TO THESE THOUGHT-PROVOKING INSIGHTS OF THE GENERAL BUSAR!

What is the meaning of "being the General Bursar"?

I feel like saying that I am discovering it day after day. At the beginning of my mandate I used to be in a cold sweat seeing all the good works under the care of the Congregation, for I am not an expert in matters of accountancy nor have I ever done any studies in this department. Luckily I soon realised that we are helped by a certain number of qualified and competent persons. I said to myself that my main care should be the purpose of goods rather than their use and management. Before tackling the question of the administration of goods our Rule of Life introduces us to its fullest meaning. It helps us to discover and contemplate the obedience and fullness of the Incarnate Word who "from rich that he was became poor to enrich us with his poverty" (2 Cor.8/9). We ought always to keep that type of "poverty" in mind which was so like Jesus himself and we should become like it. To be able to bear witness to it

we ought to try and have that life style while at the same time rejecting all forms of misery and "get rid of anything that looks like luxury, gain or accumulation of goods" (Rule of Life 51).

My role as General Bursar is enclosed in that "mission". Consequently I regard myself as an animator, somebody trying to remember and to remind his brethren of the choice we made in Betharramite religious life.

Is it easy to describe the mission of the Congregation and the management of our goods?

The mission of the Congregation is the end towards which all our efforts should be focussed. For it is in the mission and through it that the Betharramite way of witnessing, announcing and helping others to experience that special way of meeting the Risen Lord.

Of course, the mission of the Congregation is a vast area! Our mission pays attention to facts that are more concerned with poverty and the most marginalised in society. St Michael likes



Fr. Graziano Sala scj and Fr. Jean-Baptiste Olçomendy scj during a meeting with the bursars of the Vicariate of France-Spain last April.

to say "that the Betharramites should shoulder missions where others fear to go". That is our *raison d'être*, our mission. Our resources should be invested in that direction, and the first resources of the Congregation are the religious themselves, who have been prepared and formed for years to reply to such calls as are expressed by the Church. But that is not possible without investing financially. Consequently the goods of the Congregation must be well administered otherwise we run the risk of not being able to support the mission entrusted to us.

In keeping with the spirit of the Betharramite mission the Congregation doesn't own special works. That means that the works which are particularly connected with education are very important because they were and still are the reply to the needs and difficulties of certain milieu and social contexts. They must not however get in the way of our vocation which is to be a "flying camp" ready "to go where obedience is calling us." If the works are not an image of this ideal they are in danger of becoming obstacles to the freedom necessary to obedience and availability.

Region



England

Let Bétharram be known ► As a part of an International Day celebration at Our Lady's catholic primary School, Tile Cross in UK, Holy Mass was concelebrated by Parish Priest Fr. Anthony Pham-Tri-Van and Fr. Wilfred Pereppadan SCJ from Olton Friary. Fr. Anthony is from Vietnam and briefly told the children about his dramatic escape at the time of the Vietnamese War and how he came to England and became a Priest.

Fr. Wilfred had a privilege to explain about our congregation and Betharramite presence around the world and share our international dimension of our communities. It was also an event to help raise funds

with the generous benefactors, teachers, and well-wishers.

Rev.Fr. Stervin SCJ, the main celebrant of the Festal Holy Mass, enlightened the community with his inspiring sermon where he highlighted the correlation of the functionalism of human organs, especially the heart and the characteristics of Jesus' missionary life. After the celebration, the community and the boys of the Children Care Home joined with the invited guests for the tea-party.



The presence of the parish priest, Rev. Fr. Andrews D'Souza also added color to the celebration..



for the School Association and it is a major fund raising project called K'Nex Robotics which will involve every child in the school giving them the opportunity to learn and enjoy 'physical' Information Technology.

Thailand

Assembly ► On May 29, Fr Tidkham SCJ, Regional Vicar of Thailand, and Fr Austin Hughes scj, Regional Superior, called a meeting of the Vicariate religious in Ban Betharram, Chiang Mai.

The religious shared their views about the situation in the Vicariate of Thailand and tried to consider new ways to carry out their mission.

During the Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Fr Austin, the Regional Superior, thanked the Lord for the work done by all the missionaries of the Vicariate.

India

Fest day ► Friday, 12 June, on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Bangalore Community celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus along

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

Region



France-Spain

Sainte-Marie du désert ► On 22 June, the Betharramite community of Pibrac had a recollection in the Trappist monastery of Sainte-Marie du Désert to mark the end of the academic year. A conspicuous absence: the dean of the community was held back for a few days in a clinic to have a heart surgery. When we returned to Pibrac we were thrilled to meet Fr Dominic with a renewed heart!

Ivory Coast

Ordination ► Our confrere Jean-Paul Kissi Ayo scj, was ordained as a priest last Sunday, July 12, in Yopougon. On July 18, Fr Vincent de Paul Dimon Worou, on his turn, will be ordained as a priest in Cotonou (Benin).



Region



Argentina

Fraternal life ► The Betharramite religious community of Adrogué spent a few days in a retreat house at Brandsen (Bs As). On the agenda: evaluation of the first year of the community project; end of the canonical year for the novices Maria-

no and Sergio ... Faith sharing and prayer; snacks around the fire-place; bowls and table-football games. Fr Badie was not just a spectator!



Ongoing formation ► Defying the cold of the southern hemisphere, the religious of the Vicariate gathered for a session of ongoing formation at Adrogué. Let's pray for them and for vocations!

Paraguay

Visit of the Pope ► On July 11, Pope Francis met the different officials of the Paraguayan Society in the sports hall León Coundou scj of the Betharramite College San Jose in Asunción. We will cover this event on the next issue of the NEF.



Brazil

Retreat ► The religious of the Vicariate had begun the spiritual retreat in a Clarettian house at Juatuba (M.G.). The talks were given by our young confrere Fr Glecimar scj. The retreat had to be interrupted because of the death of Fr Joaquim scj.

Is there a "Betharramite" way of being the "Bursar?"

I don't know. Actually our Rule of Life shows a path for us in that direction. It is to be read passionately, without ever getting weary; look at it with fresh eyesight accepting to be surprised.

I would say that every Betharramite treasurer, whether community, vicariate, regional or general treasurer must be constantly aware of the aim of our Congregation. The mission of our Congregation as expressed in the Rule of Life is the topic for discernment when it comes to investing our resources.

A good "Betharramite Treasurer" ought therefore to be an animator rather than an administrator. His vision should be both on the spirituality (the scale of values) and on the "accounts" (the reality) so as to avoid all abuse of goods (whether such abuse is the result of "community" or "personal" aims. It is also a way of looking at the reality serenely.

While seeing to it that the community is short of nothing, he must be able to correct and change attitudes in the management of goods (I'm not talking about big expenses for which authorisation is required from the Major superiors, but also for the sums of money at the disposition of each one".

To help the communities and each religious to be faithful to their vow of poverty, a "Betharramite Treasurer" has two methods at his disposition:

- At community level: help in the preparation of the budget which notes "income" and "expenses". To prepare a budget is a priceless tool

and a necessary duty, for it helps the community to fix its priorities and make choices.

- At personal level: train all the religious to render an account personally of the use of money and goods put at their disposition. It is not an operation of the type "tax control" but a real means for helping each one to be faithful. In line with the fidelity of rendering accounts there must be a similar fidelity on the part of the treasurer himself in rendering account regularly of the management of goods belonging to the community, the Vicariate, the Region and the Congregation into the hands of his lawful superior and, in the case of the top levels, into the hands of the Councils concerned.

But the Betharramite Treasurer must never forget that he is to be a servant. And nothing but a servant.

Graziano Sala scj
General Bursar

We are grateful to Fr. Jean-Dominique Delgue scj for giving us the permission to publish this interview that he made to the General Bursar for "En avant", the magazine of the Vicariate of France-Spain.

Obedience, once again

ONCE AGAIN ARTICLES 64 AND 65!... WHY SO MUCH INSISTENCE? SAINT MICHAEL GARICOITS HIMSELF WILL GIVE THE ANSWER: "UNDER PENALTY OF DISOWNING OUR PROFESSION TO BE AUXILIARY PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND TO RALLY UNDER THE STANDARD OF SATAN, ALL IN OUR DELIBERATE CONDUCT MUST RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TO OUR SUPERIORS. 'HERE I AM'" (DS). THE DOCTRINE OF THE OBEDIENCE OF OUR FOUNDER IS AS STRICT AS SAINT IGNATIUS', REMARKED FR. DUVIGNAU; LET US NOT FORGET, HOWEVER, THAT "RELIGIOUS OBEDIENCE, FAR FROM LESSENING THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON, BY EXTENDING THE FREEDOM OF THE SONS OF GOD, LEADS IT TO MATURITY." (PERFECTAE CARITATIS). FINE WORDS, YET THIS COLUMN OF THE NEF DEALS WITH REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE. SO HERE IT IS.



Fr. Osvaldo Caniza scj, with 24 years of religious profession

The only rural parish of the Vicariate of Paraguay is situated in La Colmena, in the district of Paraguari, 130 Kms from the capital of Paraguay. It is there that I fulfil the mission entrusted to me through religious obedience. I visit the 29 Christian Communities with a heart energised by total confidence in the Grace of God, trying to spot the call of God in people and events, in the protection of St Francis Xavier, Patron Saint of the Parish.

I have lived day by day for 19 years now, in the capacity of a Betharramite Priest, with a firm will, a faithfulness to "Ape Aime" ("Here I Am" in the Guarani Language); I have made an effort to respond with joy to the demands of the faith, leaving me surprised by all that the Lord still has me discovering along the way, deepening my vocation to the service of those living in distress or suffering in this rural area.

In my life as a Pastor, along the way, I accompany the sick, particularly the elderly, who very humbly and sincerely, turn to the Lord with a deep devotion. The strength of their faith experience never fails to impress me. It helps, day by day, to strengthen my own faithful-



ness to prayer and my zeal for the mission that my superiors have entrusted to me. In this way, I always progress with a little more confidence and determination to the service of the neighbour who finds themselves in the fringes and is living through neglect or abandonment. In this service, you only need simple words, as Our Lady and our founding father, St Michael Garicoits, teach us; these words by which they replied to the call of the Lord: "Here I Am".



Fr. Stervin Selvadass scj, with 16 years of religious profession

It is so beautiful to repeat the word of God, "Obedience is better than sacrifice". But I know that evangelical obedience always remains a challenge. As a

Notices from the Superior General & his Council

In the meeting of the General Council held on 10 June 2015, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, granted to Fr Joachim Viravit Sasai an indult of excommunication for three years in the diocese of Ubonratchathani (Thailand).

In the meeting of the General Council held on 17 June 2015:

- the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, decided to present to the ministry of priesthood Bros Daniel Jude Vijay and Sathish Paul Raj (Indian Vicariate, Region St Mary of Jesus Crucified);
- the Superior General, with the advice of his Council, approved the closure of the community of Milan - Saint Ilario (Vicariate of Italy, Region St Michael Garicoits) and the restitution of the parish to the archdiocese of Milan;
- the Superior General, with the advice of his Council, approved the closure of the community of Zarka (Jordan, Vicariate of Holy Land, Region Saint Michael Garicoits) and the restitution of the parish to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In the extraordinary meeting of the General Council on 10 July 2015, the Superior General, with the advice of his Council, approved the appointment of fr Biju Panthalukkaran as novice Master and of Fr Stervin Selvadass as Master of the Scholastics for the Indian Vicariate and approved the appointment of Fr Stervin Selvadass as Superior of the community of Mangalore (Region St Mary of Jesus Crucified).

On 26 June last, the Superior General addressed to all the betharramite religious and laity, via the regional Superiors, a letter on the project of a new foundation in Vietnam. Let's be united in prayer that the decision of the General Chapter 2011 may be carried out soon.



In memoriam



In the afternoon of Wednesday, July 8, Fr Joaquim Soares Moreira SCJ died, after a sudden declining of his health conditions. He was 85 years of age and 63 years of religious life. The religious and lay people of the community of the College of São Miguel cared for him with great love and concern. We join the Vicariate of Brazil in praying to the Lord that He may welcome him into his eternal happiness. May Our Lady of Betharram and our Father Saint Michael Garicoits intercede for him. We will publish a tribute to him in the next issue of the NEF.

Sunday, June 21, Mr. Panpi Caset, brother of Fr Pierre Caset SCJ, passed away. He was 80 years old. Please let's hold Fr. Pierre Caset and his family in our humble prayers for their dear one.

We have just received the news that on July 8, Mrs. Germaine Laphitz (68 years old) died. She was the sister of Fr Pierre Carricart SCJ, our late lamented Betharramite confrere. We express our sympathy to her family and we pray for her.

the days went by I seemed to be giving more and more things! Soon I realised that my back pack was getting heavier and heavier and that it wasn't I who had carried out the Mission: I had gone out to meet others and yet I had benefitted by their mission; the children taught me more than I had taught them. I was happier than I have been in my whole life."

Juan, 17 years old.

"Sharing, instructing, living out the Kingdom, fullness, meeting."

Agostina, 16 years old.

The Solidarity Mission is one way of embedding the charism of Betharram be-

cause it gives the opportunity of absorbing the cultural meeting; you don't go on a mission because you are a "good guy" having everything and then giving our surplus to the "poor"; we go because we are faithful to the attitude consisting of "being on the same level" as the others, to have a look at each other, to meet, to share, to explain, to evangelise, and be evangelised by them. It's not a matter of drawing down blessings from on high but to share life "horizontally" and let God purify it. It is a matter of being one with "God's People", of being part of these individuals, of this history and of this land.

Sebastián García scj

The word of God also invites us to recognise that we are a people: "Once you were no people but now you are God's people" (1 Pet 2:10). To be evangelizers of souls, we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people's lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy. (Evangelii Gaudium 268)



young priest, I felt it especially at 2 moments of my priestly ministry. First, as soon as I had completed my formator course, I was asked to go to England to a parish. Secondly, as I returned to India, I was asked to go to France. It was so hard at that time to discern the will of God. I was confused within me. I questioned the purpose of my training. But I always responded positively and remained open to my superiors. At this juncture, one of the lessons that I learned is as follows: "To be whole-heartedly obedient, one needs to do some sacrifices. A sacrifice would not be a problem to the one who knows how generous God is". Yes, it is God who in his generosity called me and consecrated me in the family of Betharram to be at the service of the Church.

My positive response and the given mission always prompted me to look deep into my God-given abilities and put them joyfully at the service. It was not easy. As the Rule of Life states it increased my desire



to be faithful and joyful without bothering about the success. It is here I cherish the words of Mother Teresa, "Let us strive to be faithful rather than successful". Yes, evangelical obedience continues to make me joyful and faithful.



Fr. Jean Tapie, scj, with 69 years of religious profession

Real life? Well I would rather talk for me of a state of the soul.

In January 1945 I left the lycee in Tarbes and entered the novitiate where I embarked on the Betharramite programme, and I haven't regretted it for an instant.

I spent 3 years in the scholasticate in Bethlehem, nearly 30 years in our schools in Betharram and Limoges and nearly 30 years in our houses in Bethlehem and Nazareth as chaplain to the Carmelites and seeing to pilgrims.

I'll need the whole of eternity to thank the Lord for letting me spend 30 years in his homeland.



I did the toing and froing between our two houses in Nazareth and Bethlehem according as the needs arose.

Then one day this question was put to me: "Let's see! Do you live in Nazareth or in Bethlehem?" "I don't really know. My superiors don't seem to know where to place me..." God never asked my advice. He knows what is best for us, and when. Let's be led by him! May his Will be done. F.V.D.

It's all there.

I am now 89 years of age... retiring age at Betharram! What next? Recently the Lord said to me: "These days I am welcoming a lot of people. You can come, if you like; you'll see: it's worth the trip". OK "Forward march!" at all times.

THE LAITY AND THE CHARISM OF BETHARRAM

Young missionaries

EVERY YEAR, FOR SEVEN DAYS, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE BETHARRAMITE SCHOOLS IN ARGENTINA TAKE THE PATH OF A MISSION AD GENTES IN A RURAL AND ISOLATED AREA OF THE NORTHWEST OF THE COUNTRY. IN THEIR OVERNIGHT BAG: PRESENTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGES AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILLINGNESS, SMILES, A LITTLE CONCERN IN FRONT OF THE UNKNOWN AWAITING THEM AND AN OPEN HEART READY FOR LISTENING. THE VERY WORD "CHARISM OF BETHARRAM" IS NOT WRITTEN ON THE SCHEDULE OF THE WEEK, BUT IT IS THERE AS A SEED OF INCENSE WHICH SILENTLY RELEASES ITS PLEASANT FRAGRANCE TO DRAW THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOGETHER.



For the last few years something interesting for the young has been under way in the schools in the Argentine-Uruguay Vicariate and known as Solidarity Mission with Santiago del Estero. The entire Educational community can take part in it throughout the whole school year from the elementary classes right through to final years with the parents, past pupils and teaching

staff. But only the pupils in the last two years at the lycee actually leave for the Mission in the rural province of Santiago, accompanied by adults. The invitation is made to all and nobody is excluded. Each one can be a participant. Although there is no obligation almost all the pupils want to take part. Some even have to give up their place to allow others to have their first experience!

For this Mission of Solidarity on the ground the young collegians are divided

into groups. Each group is incorporated into a Christian Community in the Santiago del Estero Province, situated to the north east and one of the forgotten regions of Argentina where Father Sergio Gournalousse scj has been performing an intense missionary activity for the last few years. Once they have arrived in their host community the students try to contact the local population by means of two fundamental activities: small groups for the school children in the mornings and visits



to the families in the evenings. After several days of life together the experience ends with the Eucharistic celebration followed by a fiesta with dinner and a ball typical of the locality.

Here is an account given by some pupils who took part in the latest edition:

"It was a unique experience, rich in emotions. For my part I was deeply involved and it greatly touched me. Here I discovered the affection of the child who gets attached to you very quickly and is something beyond comparison. It is similarly true of the kindness and trust of the families who in greeting you make you feel at home at once. It was an incredible week!"

Javier, 16 years old

"During this Mission week I experienced something I had never felt before. With all those who were with me we were able to see the best we could offer and express it to the best of our ability. I got to know another



fact and was able to put myself in the place of the inhabitants of Santiago del Estero by listening to them and spending time with them. Finally I felt I was accepted and appreciated by all the love given us by the children of the school of Sol de Mayo".

Maria, 16 years old

"On arriving I was full of apprehension. I had no idea what was going to happen; I was tense. On the Monday the children arrived and I started emptying my back pack to distribute and leave all I had brought. As

