

*Listening
to St Michael...*

Church, Εκκλησία, = convocation = coetus hominum vocatorum = assembly of people called together: This is one of those expressive words that perfectly gives the sense of what it means. By contrast synagogue, Συναγωγή, = congregation; it is a crowd gathered; implicitly coerced, as a flock is rounded up. But for Christians the Church is a society of volunteers rather than individuals driven by force. Jesus Christ has raised the standard and we Christians gather willingly around him. Church is a word on which Christians should reflect and it should also inform the speech of preachers of the Gospel, as counsel, as calling, openly and not in secret.

It is above all to Religious Societies that the word belongs. Religious are called as Christians; but their purpose is freer and their belonging more generous. Because they are not gathered by force or fear, the choice of such a lifestyle is completely free; and we do not advertise great earthly rewards for them; on the contrary we tell them of the suffering that lies ahead.

(From the Cachica Notebook nr 7)



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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 ministries of our mission (4)

In this issue

- Page 4 • Lent Friday on the Jordan
- Page 5 • Facts speak louder than words
- Page 6 • † Father Joseph Canton
- Page 8 • Being close to the social sufferes
- Page 10 • Bird's eye view of the Congregation
- Page 11 • Notices from the General Council
- Page 12 • To simply be a good shepherd
- Page 14 • Religious & laity side by side
- Page 16 • Entry to the religious life, in Bangalore
- Page 18 • The Fondeville notebook (3)
- Page 20 • Listening to Saint Michael...

Sometimes our young people do not understand that we are not defined by large institutions, as if they were the guarantee of the identity of our spirituality and our mission. This is the case in India, for example, where most congregations are responsible for major colleges, hospitals ...

Strangely enough, during my last trip to India, I had the opportunity to meet with an Italian congregation of religious sisters whose charismatic inspiration was centered on the mystery of the Incarnation, like ours. All the experts were advising them to define the originality of their mission. The sisters then told me what happened during their last General Chapter, as they sought this originality: they just did not find it as their mission can be achieved in any type of ministry. That really made me happy.

The same uncertainty took hold of us at the Inter-provincial commission of Bel Sito in 1968, charged with the task of preparing the chapter of renewal - which was to happen the following year - commissioned by the Second Vatican Council. The Commission asked Father

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Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez, with some religious sisters during the feast of the "Gaucho" at Tacuarembó (Uruguay), new betharramite mission post following the appeal of a bishop.

tion were those which others did not want to do, whatever this involved. Every time he had to talk about the, "substantial things of society" he said precisely that from the beginning there were no limits on the tasks. The congregation, he explained, has no other purpose than to train men able and ready to go, at the first order of the bishop or a superior, to exercise all the ministries that were entrusted to him: a task force: idonei, expediti, expositi. (NEF 187 -188, August and September 1968).

Duvignau if Betharram had its own works. He replied as follows:

It would seem so, yes ... with this, we can see that these works (missions, retreats, Christian education of young people) are not limited: they were only assigned to the congregation due to favorable circumstances and the actual situation of the Church in France ... later, there was the response to the call of South America (1856); without knowing exactly what we would be asked to do ... this was renewed when Leo XIII asked us to leave and go to Paraguay. Similarly, when the Holy See gave us a mission to China. Our history, therefore, shows that the congregation is open to all the needs of the Church.

Without the slightest doubt, the will of Saint Michael fits perfectly with this. According to Father Etchecopar, the first inspiration of the Founder summed up the whole mission of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, "the eternal priest, the servant of the Heavenly Father". He liked to say that the favorite works of the congrega-

Not having its own works means that the congregation has its own purpose even if it were not involved in the present works. This also means that any work can become its own. This can also mean that the works in which the congregation operates today are its own if they allow us to live by the requirements and community lifestyle of our vocation as religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. That is why it is good to practise personal and community discernment (Rule of Life 19).

The most important ministries in the life of St. Michael Garicoits were the popular missions and education. However, at the request of the bishop, the founder asked Fr. Vignau in 1851 to take on parish service at the Church Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, with a community which looked after chaplaincies including those of Carmel of Pau. In 1851 again, he asked a community, where Fr. Larrouy was the superior, to take charge of the sanctuary and the parish of Sarrance. In 1862 it was the turn of a chaplaincy opened near the Servants of Mary in Anglet. It was the same in South America: the mission with the

preamble, but their willingness to glorify God, to save their souls and to sanctify the people. The members unanimously elected Mr. Garicoits as their Superior, promised him obedience, poverty, renewed their vow of cha-

stity and emptied into his hands their small allowances. [...]

The Constitutions they followed were not new; they bore the imprint of the sources from which they were drawn. The spirit of the old congregations and religious orders formed the background; the rules were modelled on missionary habits. They did not have to take part in the choir or in curial duties: but they had to strive to deepen the greatness of their vocation and ask God for a great zeal for their own sanctification and for the sanctification of their neighbours.

From these principles they deduced the need to learn to practice humility, charity, poverty, obedience, to protect chastity, gentleness and modesty under the strictest care. The practice of weekly confession was recommended. The time for getting up was set at 4am: joint meditation; each had his time to celebrate Holy Mass; they breakfasted at 8am, dined at noon, had supper at 7:30pm and had to be in bed by 9pm. Recreation took place from 12:45pm until 2pm; joint rosary was said; after dinner recreation lasted until 8:30pm. On Thursday



afternoons they walked together. The meals were blessed through a reading. Spiritual reading and the visit to the Blessed Sacrament were also a daily rule. When the missionaries were reunited during the summer, they atten-

ded a theology class or a rehearsal of the rites of the Mass.

Until 1838 Messrs Guimon, Perguilhem, Chirou and Larrouy, forming two missionary bodies, shared missions to give [...]. More than 50 parishes were evangelized in Béarn, not counting several retreats that took place for the first communions. The Diocese of Tarbes was also involved in their work: Argeles, Cauterets, Bordères and the Minor Seminary of Saint Pé did not fail any year to call upon Mr. Perguilhem or Mr. Guimon, and indeed often called upon both at the same time for the retreat given to students. [...]

It was in [1838] that Monsignor d'Arbouy resigned, giving up his beloved Diocese of Bayonne, too much for his infirmities, to Monsignor François Lacroix, whom he had chosen as his successor.

Simon Fonderville scj
(1805-1872)

(to be continued)

About the death of Mr Procope Lassalle About the first community around Michael Garicoits

In 1820, Monsignor d'Astros succeeds Bishop Loyson and founds the new minor seminary of Saint-Pé. Circa 1823, Father Lasalle opens up his plan to Monsignor d'Astros to get the girls of the country involved in a religious education similar to that which the youth were receiving in St Pé, and consequently to call some nuns to Igon and St. Pé. In 1824, he writes to the mother house of the Daughters of the Cross at La Puye offering modest premises in the village of Igon. Six months later, the Good Sister arrives in Bayonne with the staff destined for Igon.

At the minor seminary of St. Pé, philosophy is entrusted to Mr. Michel Garicoits, a new priest. Bétharram lives according to the rhythm of the academic years of the major seminary. In 1831, since Monsignor d'Astros is transferred to the Archdiocese of Toulouse, the Bishop d'Arbou takes possession of the diocese of Bayonne; he makes his visit to Betharram in 1831, around the month of May, where he carries out an ordination...

Two months later, on 3rd July 1831, Mr. Lasalle gave his beautiful soul back to God; he was buried with solemn funeral rites on Calvary at the Resurrection Chapel. [...] Betharram gave a great show that day. Our Lady, who had inspired the deceased towards all the works of charity he had founded and towards the renewal of devotion to the Holy Chapel, saw at her feet a great many people, grateful for the benefits received from heaven, through the good priest, praying for his soul and accompanying his remains to the Chapel of the Resurrection. [...]

In 1833, [...] Messrs Garicoits and Guimon remained alone with a small fraction of the major seminary, a fraction which was called definitively to Bayonne at the end of 1833 [...] Mr. Garicoits therefore remained there in 1834 with only Mr. Guimon; They took care of Betharram service and management of the Igon Convent, waiting for God to send them help. Divine Providence did not delay. In the course of the year, Mr. Chirou of Pontacq, a former student of Bétharram, arrived in order to increase the number of Béarn missionaries transferred to Betharram. [...] Mr. Larrouy of Guiche, former curate of Pon-

tacq and Parish Priest of Osse, left his parish and was admitted at the same time. [...] The year 1835 saw the arrival in Betharram of Mr. Perguilhem, a former colleague of Mr. Guimon in the missions [...]. Seeing calm restored in France and the core missionaries of Béarn being educated in Betharram, he resigned his parish and went back to his first vocation, after a five-year break.

In the month of July of the same year, Mr Fondeville, who was called to serve the parish of Labatmale in 1830 and the parish of Asson in 1832, asked for and obtained the grace to be readmitted to the body of Béarn missionaries; he did not bring a large health dowry, but he hoped to receive from Holy God, through the mediation of Mary, the precious gift of good will, to fulfill the wish of his mother, who had consecrated him to Mary during his childhood.

In October of the year 1835 the staff of Betharram, composed of Messrs Garicoits, Guimon, Perguilhem, Chirou, Larrouy and Fondeville, wanted to give themselves a rule to become holy with more edification. They adopted the house rules of Hasparren missionaries, and without further novitiate

Saint Joseph's College in 1858, the Church of Saint John the Baptist with the chaplaincy of the Poor Clares of Buenos Aires in 1861, the Church of the Immaculate in Montevideo in 1861 and later the college in 1867.

Fathers Etchécopar and Bourdenne followed the same policy especially in France. In South America, by way of contrast, it was education that developed, bringing difficulties as with any human enterprise, to look for "greatness" as a lifestyle. It was not always based in the Gospel. Father Chirou in 1875, with a community, in 1879, secured the work of the chaplaincy of Carmel in Bethlehem.

With the exception of Sarrance, it is possible to note that St. Michael was not on the side of the ministry, as we read in the correspondence II, letter 244, p. 84-85, the letter of 02.17.1860. Father Magendie who decisively led the educational work in Buenos Aires said: "I did not become a religious man in order to be a parish priest." Yet in 1912 he was the first parish priest of Pereyra in Barracas.

In 1909, the parish of Droitwich was entrusted to us. Up until 1967 therefore, the congregation was responsible for 14 parishes including La Plata. Since II Vatican Council, this type of ministry prevailed over others in the congregation. It seemed that this was the most appropriate ministry. Today we keep a more critical distance. There were communities capable of cultivating a community and charismatic identity in parish service. In other cases, parish ministry has contributed to neglect of community life and Betharramite identity, developing instead an individualistic lifestyle in pastoral work, which is not exactly the lifestyle of the consecrated.

We have had communities focused on ministerial formation in the diocesan semina-

ries: as at Beit Jala in 1932, San Juan de Cuyo in 1936 and Rosario in 1939. Currently, there are communities working in health care, something quite new to the congregation: the care home for the elderly, the *Maison Neuve* in Betharram, the family home of Monteporzio living with AIDS patients, the clinic at Niem with the Saint Michael centre at Bouar in Central Africa. Not to mention the first evangelization work in America (1856), China (1922), Thailand (1952), the Ivory Coast (1959) and Central Africa (1986).

What matters is that in these various ministries, the mission is accomplished. This means that Jesus, the Word incarnate, is known, loved, accepted, followed and announced to the people who live around us. It is the witness of the gift of our lives that must shine, that must attract, giving meaning to the hope that is in us. That is the very thing that must not be missing in the college, the parish, the home for the elderly, nor in the mission ad gentes. Be aware! When this is sometimes missing, this is the important point! Even if we say that this is what we do, people are not wrong, they see something else: the predominance of our personality, the risk of authoritarianism, the money instead of education and evangelization ... On 29 November 2013, the Pope said to the general superiors, without it being reported by the media: "I do not want you to have colleges so that you can earn money!"

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, scj
Superior General

Lent Friday on the banks of the river Jordan



“And when Jesus had been baptised he at once came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.And suddenly there was a voice from heaven, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.’ “ (Mt 3:16-17).

Lent Friday on the banks of the river Jordan and in the desert of Judea: this is a favourable time for recollection and prayer for the novices and their master, Jacky Moura scj. We thank Koffi Serge, Arnaud, Djeban Landry, Christian Kouadio (novices of the Region Saint Michael Garicoits)

enthusiasm. Then practice the virtues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially humility in our daily life, and have Lectio Divina daily, and give importance to the examination of conscience twice a day, namely noon and before going to bed.

What are your priorities? - During the first year of novitiate - known as canonical year - it is important to provide a personal accompaniment to each novice in order help him to be aware of and improve in different dimensions of religious life (consecration, communion and mission), just like the two disciples who travelled towards Emmaus with Jesus, and prepare them for their future mission. They attend also different inter-novitiate classes , they experience the community life in the light of our spirituality, they do some pastoral ministry with people outside (with the children of Xavier’s care Home and with the laity) in order to integrate the religious life into the local Church.

How is this service enriching yourself? - As a religious, I sincerely try to share my joy with my younger brothers so that they may be inspired to live their vocation following Christ. I consciously and humbly do my best to renew my life in Christ every day to respond to his invitation, by saying: Here I am Lord, I come to do your will in my daily activities. To accompany these young brothers helps me to look carefully into my own life and be more and more faithful to my priestly and religious life, according to God’ plan for me. Above all, as a formator I do feel the need to grow in my vocation and keep my eyes fixed on Jesus who is our perfect model. “Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach” : these words are a great inspiration for me, as a religious and as a priest.

Chan Kunu scj
Master of the novices

Weekdays	Time	Thursday	Sunday
Rising	5.30		
Morning prayer	6.00	Rising	Rising
Mass	6.30	Mass	Morning prayer
	7.00		Mass
Lectio divina	7.30	Lectio Divina	
Breakfast	8.00	Breakfast	Breakfast
Bible Reading	9.00	Bible Reading	Personal study
Class	10.00	Class	Personal time
Class	11.00	Community Service	Lezione di morale ai bambini
Examination of Conscience	12.30	Examination of Conscience	Examination of Conscience
Lunch	13.00	Lunch	Lunch
Recreation	14.00	Recreation	Recreation
Singing Practice	14.30	Singing practice	Personal time
Divine Mercy	15.00	Divine Mercy	Personal time
Tea	15.30	Tea	Tea
Gardening	15.45	Gardening	Personal time
Sports	16.30	Sports	Sports/ Walk
Bath	17.30	Bath (Friday:Adoration)	
Personal Study/Tuition	18.00	Personal study / Tuition	Bath/Tuition
Evening prayer/Rosary	19.30	Evening prayer/Rosary	Evening prayer/Rosary
Dinner	20.15	Dinner	Dinner
Examination of conscience	21.30	Examination of Conscience	Examination of Conscience
Personal reflection	22.00	Personal reflection	Personal reflection
Good night	22.30	Good night	Good night



OUR FORMATION HOUSES

Entry to the religious life, in Bangalore

SINCE LAST AUGUST, FIVE YOUNG PEOPLE DECIDED TO ANSWER JESUS' CALL AND TO FOLLOW HIM ON THE ROAD OF THE EVANGELICAL COUNSELS ACCORDING TO THE BETHARRAMITE STYLE. UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF FR CHAN SCI, TODAY THEY CAN LIVE ON A DAILY BASIS WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNT AND LOVED ABOUT RELIGIOUS LIFE. IT IS A TIME OF INITIATION AND PROBATION LIVED IN THE LIVELY AND "FLOWERY" COMMUNITY OF BANGALORE (INDIA)

"The life witness and experience of the missionaries who were very much dedicated and had totally given their lives for the evangelization, the simplicity of the life style of the members and the charism: 'Ecce Venio, Here I am Lord, I come to do your will' of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram, all this has drawn us to



From left: James Thanit and Peter Ravee (Thailand), Rajendra Kumar (Andrapradesh, India), Joshua Antony (Tamilnadu, India) and Akhil Joseph (Kerala, India)

enter into the novitiate of this family. We are available and ready for any mission wherever we are called by God to meet the needs of the Church. During this first year our expectation is to deepen our personal communion with Jesus and to learn more about the charism and religious life in order to be witnesses of God's kingdom. We also would like to grow in our identity of disciples of Christ and be mature persons and religious in the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram."

This is what the 5 novices, hailing from both Indian and Thai Vicariates, say about themselves. At the moment, the three Indian brothers are engaged in giving tui-

tion (homework) to the children at Xavier Care Home in the evenings and liturgical animation on Sundays, with spirit of belongingness and availability. They all share different community services, for examples, taking care of guests rooms, inner garden and Sunday liturgy and choir. They also join the Inter-Novitiate programmes along with novices from other congregations.

Fr Chan, what do you propose to the novices in order to prepare them for the religious life ? - First and foremost "be human then be a religious", according to the Betharramite way of life which means to live the Ecce Venio concretely and in a simple way in our daily life from morning to evening with love and

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF ROME



Facts speak louder than words

IN HIS RECENT APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO SRI LANKA AND TO THE PHILIPPINES, POPE FRANCIS ADDRESSED THE YOUTH WITH COURAGEOUS WORDS: HE LEFT HIMSELF BE CHALLENGED BY THEM: TAKING NO NOTICE OF HIS SPEECH PREPARED BEFORE HAND, HE OFFERED THEN AND THERE A SPONTANEOUS SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE.

"She [pointing to Jun's friend] today asked the one question that doesn't have an answer. And she couldn't say it in words. She had to say it with tears. [...]

I thank you, Jun, for being so brave in talking about your experience. As I just said, your question, deep down, is almost unanswerable. Only when we are able to weep over the things that you experienced, can we understand and give some kind of response. The great question for everybody is: "Why do children suffer?". Why do children suffer? Only when our hearts can ask this question and weep, can we begin to understand. There is a worldly compassion which is completely useless. You said something about this. A compassion which, at most, makes us reach into our pocket and take out a coin. If Christ had that kind of compassion, he would have passed by, cured three or four people, and then returned to the Father. Only when Christ wept, and he was capable of weeping, did he understand our troubles. Dear young men and women, our world today needs weeping. The marginalized weep, those who are neglected weep, the scorned weep, but those of us who have relatively comfortable life, we don't know how to weep. Certain realities of life are seen only with eyes that are cleansed by tears. I ask each one of you to ask: Can I weep? Can I weep when I see a child who is hungry, on drugs and on the street, homeless, abandoned, mistreated or exploited as a slave by society? Or is my we-

eping the self-centred whining of those who weep because they want to have something else? This is the first thing I would like to say to you. Let's learn to weep, the way [Glyzelle] taught us today. Let's not forget this witness. She asked the big question – why do children suffer? – by weeping; and the big answer which we can give, all of us, is to learn how to weep.

In the Gospel, Jesus wept. He wept for his dead friend. He wept in his heart for the family which lost its daughter. He wept in his heart when he saw the poor widowed mother who was burying her son. He was moved and he wept in his heart when he saw the crowds like sheep without a shepherd. If you don't learn how to weep, you are not a good Christian. And this is a challenge. Jun Chura and his friend who spoke today posed this challenge. When they ask us: Why do children suffer? Why does this or that tragedy occur in life?, let us respond either by silence or with a word born of tears. Be brave. Don't be afraid to cry!"



Father Joseph Canton scj

Saint-Dos (France), 12 March 1910 - Bétharram, 19 February 2015

Bethlehem, February 6th, 1933



« I am preparing my ordination; in five months I'll be a priest; I'm a little afraid seeing me so young and still somehow not wise enough, and yet I am looking forward to it. I want to be a priest just a Betharramite, small, happy, constant and devoted; small and

dedicated, this is the ideal that I want to accomplish; I think that everything is contained in these two things»



From the letter of Br. Joseph Canton, aged 23, to V.R.F. Hippolyte Paillas, Superior General

Is there an age limit to be a seeker of God?
Is there an age limit for wearing a beret?
Is there an age limit to loving and serving?

The long life of our Father Joseph Canton may be an answer. It has touched us as much as his departure to the Father. Who has not gained from his life dedicated to Christ and to the Congregation not to mention his human family?

Regarding the simple devoted life of faithful Joseph, the prayer of the psalmist can strongly resonate: "Yes, grace and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life!" (Ps22). How could he persevere in his life choice unless by rooting his life in the very life of Christ? Joseph troubled to take time to meditate on the Word, and to experience the power of the Eucharist.

In recent years, I have always been struck by his way of celebrating and praying. An inner spirit lived in the heart of Joseph. "Grace and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

For Bétharram, Joseph's long life is like a library that has now shut. But what remains as a seed of life and promise of fruit, is his life given as a servant, a watchman. Rooted in the life of Christ, Joseph tried to imitate Christ the Servant responding, day after day, to the call of Jesus to his disciples: "Stay dressed for service and keep your lamps burning. Blessed are those servants, whom when the Lord comes, he shall find awake." To follow Christ and to love Christ is not an impossible road, for the Lord gives grace at the right time to him who knows how to keep his heart open and free. Joseph risked, day after day, this



Antonio, nicknamed "Tonino", president of the Association Il Mosaico

standing, organized to go to the heart of the problem and allow a more rational and conscious approach to a reality as complex as AIDS. Training courses were then set up to allow volunteers to support people with AIDS in the best possible way.

The reality of the Casa Famiglia was very hard, especially in the early years. At the time, the care was not very effective, so that in one way or another the problems associated with AIDS quickly overwhelmed our young people. For many volunteers, it was difficult to persevere in the long term faced with the reality of death and the abrupt di-

scontinuation of newly formed friendships. Many have moved away. Some of us, however, have maintained commitment to the association.

Throughout these years of collaboration, we have come to understand the meaning and reason behind the principles of the association. In their daily activities, the association has in fact wanted to make the spirituality of St Michael Garicoits its own, which we can easily sum up, I believe, by the witness given by the Fathers of the Community of Villa del Pino and by the witness they continue to give through their involvement with those who have AIDS. This commitment is reflected by daily genuine gestures of welcome towards the poor, regardless of religion or social condition, without judging or censoring behaviour or personal choice, but by choosing to be with people by supporting them and being attentive to their needs. This was and remains for us a shining example in that it really adheres to the Gospel precept of solidarity towards the poor and marginalized, away from the spotlight and all forms of self-gratification.

Antonio Vicari

The experience of the Casa Famiglia, subject to the requirements of regulatory bodies, experienced difficulties due to its growth: the specifications and demands to be accredited to the Lazio Region have given rise to a number of procedural, administrative and economic obstacles, that have troubled the organisation in its operation and its economic viability. The association Il Mosaico, with the help of the Fathers of the Community and in close contact with their superiors, sought to find an adequate solution to allow the work to continue. This is how the management of the House came to be entrusted to a cooperative. Relieved of this management, Il Mosaico will continue its volunteer activity in working with guests to help maintain the spirit and family atmosphere that were the primary objectives of their presence in the House of Welcome.

LAITY AND THE CHARISM OF BETHARRAM

Religious and laity side by side

THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BETHARRAMITE RELIGIOUS AND THE LAITY OF THE ASSOCIATION "IL MOSAICO" IS QUITE STEADY. IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SPEAK OF THE WORK DONE BY THE FAMILY HOME OF MONTEPORZIO (ITALIA) WITHOUT MENTIONING BOTH OF THEM. THANKS TO THIS ASSOCIATION, SOME LAY MEN AND LAYWOMEN COULD WALK A SHORT OR A LONG DISTANCE WITH OUR RELIGIOUS, SIDING THEM IN SERVING THE MARGINALIZED AND GIVING WITNESS OF A BETHARRAMITE LIFESTYLE.

More than thirty years have passed since I met the priests of the "Villa del Pino" (Monteporzio, Rome). I shared reflections and discussions with them and I participated in the activities and initiatives of the parish, and friendships also developed. When the community closed the seminary, the local people felt its absence.

Then one day, the opening of a House of Welcome in Villa del Pino, designed to receive people with AIDS, was announced at a meeting held in the town hall of Monteporzio. On this occasion, I learned about

the beginning of the association Il Mosaico launched by Fr Mario Longoni and supported by a fairly substantial group of young people he had rallied around the project of the Casa Famiglia. Thus I returned to the Villa del Pino, to learn more about AIDS, but also to understand more about this new form of volunteering in our country. That was in March 23 years ago. Since then I have been involved quite regularly in the life of the House of Welcome and with initiatives of the association, such as study days and days of deepening under-



Villa del Pino: a good example of a recreated and extended family!

availability and obedience to the will of God, saying in his innermost heart the words of Michael Garicoits "Here I am without delay, without reserve, without looking back, for love rather than for any other motive!" "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life!"

Joseph could radiate the joy of life itself, the joy of conviviality; not a fleeting joy, but a joy that gives confidence and serenity, that reveals something of the happiness of God. One could never be irritated with Fr. Joseph. Maybe he wanted to be a disciple of Saint Michael Garicoits who invites us constantly "to seek for others the happiness of God."

Isn't it that joy in the midst of our sorrow that we must present to the Lord this afternoon? The joy of giving thanks for everything that each one of us received from our brother Joseph. The joy of knowing that God welcomes the whole life of Joseph. The joy of Hope: The Life of Joseph now blooming in the happiness of God. The joy of the Eucharist because everything comes from God, everything is for God and everything is God.

Thank you, Father Joseph, for your witness. With you we want to repeat the words of the psalmist: "Grace and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life!" With



you, we want to say it loud: there is no age limit to standing ready before the Lord and for the Lord. Amen.

Jean-Dominique Delgue scj
Regional Vicar

In memoriam



On February 19, **Mr Maria Irudayam**, father of John Britto scj, died. He had been suffering from cancer for some time. Kindly keep the family in your prayers and let's pray for the departed soul.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Being close to the social sufferers

CATECHESIS IN CIUDAD DEL ESTE (PARAGUAY) IS FACED WITH THE ISSUE OF HIGH NUMBERS OF DRUG ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS. THE RESPONSE TO SOME OF THEM WAS - AND STILL SHOULD - QUITE CLEAR: STAY AWAY!

BUT WITH THE PAPETRA PROJECT (ACRONYM FOR PASTORAL OF PREVENTION AND SPIRITUALITY AND TREATMENT) ANOTHER PATH HAS BEEN DISCERNED. SINCE 2010-2011, ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO RESPOND TO THIS SOCIAL PROBLEM BY A WELCOME AND PREVENTION PATHWAY USING THREE COMPONENTS: ART, CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY. FR. FULGENCIO FERREIRA SCJ, WHO IS BEHIND THIS PROJECT, AND HAS COMPLETED A DOCTORAL THESIS ON THE SUBJECT, TELLS US MORE¹.

Before ascending to heaven, the Saviour gave his disciples in every age the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all creation, highlighting three interesting aspects: «Go and teach; Go and baptize; Go and heal.» This third aspect is still new for us. We have not yet developed the therapeutic role of the Gospel, and this pastoral project continues to be a weakness or even a deficit in our Congregation. Our holy founder says that we must take on the tasks that others will not or cannot take on.

Social suffering related to the excessive consumption of alcohol and drugs is a complex problem that requires a careful response that is multi-layered and humane. In this area, our Church and our Congregation can say and do something: This problem requires a tailored response, specializing with a spiritual dimension.

Social suffering resonates with us as a call that sometimes does not find an echo in our hearts. PAPETRA Pastoral of Prevention and Spirituality and Treatment, is proposed as a response to enrich the Pastoral Care of the Church in a preventive dimension, offer-



«What we're doing with PAPETRA is to enable the individual to adopt a protective pathway. Without it, we cannot imagine overcoming drug addiction. What we hope to establish and encourage by this community programme is for children and adolescents to have opportunities to cultivate life skills. We want them to learn to practice good values and good habits, so that when they are offered drugs, they know to say 'no'.»

ring space to develop skills for life. It offers a football academy, a dance academy and two music workshops (guitar and flute) in Ciudad del Este, Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For treatment, we rely on a treat-



to express our inner self to others. Sacraments are the deepest and richest signs of all. Our faith proclaims that Jesus is present in the sacraments.

The heart of the priestly ministry is celebrating the sacraments, through which God touches our lives. In the parish, the sacraments provide key moments in the weekly ministry of my life: The celebration of the Eucharist every day in the Church, as well as the occasional Mass in a school or Nursing Homes, or in people's houses and visiting sick people at home. In simplicity, we as a community are available to the people through these ministries, by doing this one can experience what is expressed in the rule of life "to procure for others the same happiness". In the most profound way I say with St Paul, 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ

who lives in me' (Galatians 2:20).

Finally, I want to remember the words of Cardinal Bergoglio that always magnifies my ministry and my vocation: "A strong priestly heart is able to leap with joy when he contemplates, for example, how his catechists give classes to children, or when he sees his youth group going out at night to take care of those who are homeless.

A priestly heart is strong if he has the ability to be full of joy before the prodigal son returning, when he is patiently waiting in the confessional.

A priestly heart is strong if it allows his happiness to increase with the word of the hidden Jesus, who walks with us, just as on the road to Emmaus."

Vincent Masilamani scj

PRACTICING THE RULE

To simply be a good shepherd

FIRST BETHARRAMITE PARISH IN ENGLAND, FOUNDED IN 1909, DROITWICH, OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN HAVING A REVIVAL THANKS TO THE PRESENCE, OF FOUR RELIGIOUS AND THANKS TO THE INDIAN VICARIATE THAT SENT ONE OF ITS RELIGIOUS. FROM BANGALORE, FR VINCENT MASILAMANI SCJ, CAME TO TAKE CARE OF THE FLOCK IN WORCESTERSHIRE. HOW DOES HE EVALUATE HIS MINISTRY IN THE LIGHT OF OUR RULE OF LIFE?

Article 122. At the request of bishops, religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus can accept the responsibility of a parish or take on ministries in a parish. In parochial ministry, we work to "procure for others the same happiness" which lives in us. We live in community in simplicity, available to all, with a particular care for the most vulnerable.

I have been member of the Betharramite Family for 15 years. In these years, I have been involved in various ministries in different cultures. I thought the ministry or pastoral work among the homeless children who were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd in the streets of Banga-



Father Vincent Masilamani scj, present Parish Priest at Droitwich

lore, was a satisfying and fruitful service. At that time being a novice to the religious life, that ministry helped me to hear the voice of the Spirit speaking to deepen the steadfast love for the call of God.

But now as a priest, for nearly 2 years I have been implicated in the pastoral work in the parish. During these years I understand that a parish is a family, one of the living cells of the family of God. In general, the parish is where one might experience what it means to belong to the Church. Each ministry offers joy, happiness, and blessings and also has its own challenges in distinctive way. However, being in persona Christi, we are called to build a community of faith, of truly faith-filled people. It is there we encounter the living Jesus in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, in the prayer-life of the community. It is through this ministry we are called to be a communion of faith and witness. The heart of the catholic belief is that God touches our lives through human signs and gestures. We use signs and symbols

At present there are 12 people who have been trained to carry on this project. Four people are managing the structures for preventive measures, three people are dealing with the treatment in medical clinics, two people are supervising the building of the "Christ's home", a future residence for long-term care, that is a Therapeutic community for recovery and social rehabilitation. Three people are working in the Clinic and in other areas collecting funds and seeking technical support.

The treatment of social suffering coupled with excessive consumption of alcohol and drugs must be: appropriate, specialised and with a spiritual dimension. In our ministry we offer closeness and human and spiritual support: all these aspects are overlooked by Institutions and Technology. In this area the Church has something to say and something to do. The San Jose Association has offered on lease a piece of land for the construction of a Clinic for a well-planned treatment for drug addicted.



ment centre, which operates in two places: one in the parish and another in a medical clinic funded by the municipality.

We are aware that this Pastoral project can't overcome all social suffering. However, we can ensure that the negative impact of situations of suffering does not persist, and that aggressive behaviour and destructive syndromes diminish. Being close to these people, we can heal what is sick in human relationships and the social fabric, so that

life can develop in a healthy and productive way, «I came that they may have life and have it to the full,» Jesus said. With PAPETRA, Betharram offers a saving branch to those who suffer in our society to free them from compulsions that prevent their life from growing.

Fulgencio Ferreira, scj

¹ Title of the thesis: «The scientific basis for the prevention and treatment of addictions and people with serious social fragility»





Generalate House

The Superior General

Vatican ► On February 14, the Superior General, Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez SCJ, went to the Vatican to greet some of new cardinals who know the Congregation of Bétharram through the mission work that the Betharramite Religious are carrying out in their respective dioceses: the Archbishop of Hanoi (Vietnam), the Archbishop of Montevideo (Uruguay), the Archbishop of Bangkok (Thailand), the Archbishop of Yangon (Myanmar) and the Archbishop Luis Villalba, Archbishop Emeritus of Tucumán, who had been for years the Bishop of San Martín (Argentina), where we used to have the community of Martín Coronado and where we still have the Colleges of the Sacred Heart and St. Michael Garicoits. Fr Gaspar took also the opportunity to greet the Archbishop of Valladolid (Spain).

Region



Albiate ► From 12 to 15 of February, the Regional Council was held at Albiate. The Council welcomed the Episcopal Vicar for the area of Monza, Monsignor Patrizio Garascia. The talks were quite frank and respectful and were aimed at helping the communities residing in the Diocese of Milan to serve the local Church as best as they can and, on the other side, they intended to invite the Diocese to value more and more our charism.

Region



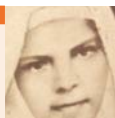
Paraguay

Retreat ► From February 20 to 22, the FVD Group had a recollection in the retreat House at Lambaré to kick off the pastoral Year 2015. Guided by Fr Gustavo Agin, Regional Superior, by Fr Osmar Cáceres, formator in charge of the postulants, and by Fr Raul Villalba, over 80 members of all communities of the FVD Group could reflect and explore the theme of vocation. During these days the group could hear the testimony of young and adult laypeople, consecrated laypersons, missionaries, religious women, married couples and priests - all generously shared their experience in walking with Jesus in their daily life.

Brazil

Serrinha ► On March 1, the Vicariate of Brazil started a new missionary experience in Serrinha, in the northeast of Brazil, thanks to the availability of Fr. Francisco de Paula SCJ and of Fr. Davi Lara SCJ, who will be able to remain only for a certain period of time. In fact, Fr. Davi will soon return to Mendelu, in the Betharramite Parish of St Mikel Garicoitz (Spain) as soon as the formalities regarding his visa are completed.

Region



England

Inspired by St Michael ► On 26th of February 2015, Fr Wilfred attended a 'Year

4 school assembly' at St. Thomas More Primary School at Sheldon, Birmingham. The theme of the assembly was linked to the 'Year of Consecrated Life'. The Year 4 students and staff chose to think about the Life of St. Michael and they narrated and acted out St. Michael's life. One of the questions they asked during the assembly was, how can the life of St. Michael inspire us today? The year 4 students came up with this answer: "When things get tough in my life I will continue to trust in God, following Saint Michael's example, when he wanted to become a priest and

had no money. It seemed impossible but he did become a priest through his own hard work". I had a chance to interact with the year 4 students and the staff after the assembly.

India

Assembly ► Sacred Heart Vicariate of India held its 7th Vicariate Assembly from Jan 26th to 27th at Mangalore. The assembly focused on the theme "Vision2020" and the session was guided by Rev Fr Joe Tau-ro OCD, Ex-Provincial of the Carmelites and the Rector of St. Joseph's monastery.

NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Notices from the Superior General and his Council

During the session of 18 February 2015 of the General Council, the Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appointed Fr Jean-Dominique Delgue, as Regional Bursar of the Region Saint Michael Garicoits.

The Superior General, with the advice of his Council, decided to invite some confreres to the canonization ceremony of Blessed Mariam of Jesus Crucified, which will take place on May 17 in Saint Peter's Square. For the spiritual bonds with the Blessed Mariam or as representatives of our three Regions, and in a particular way the Region carrying her name, these are the religious that have been invited: Rev. Fr Pierre Grech, Rev. Fr Francesco Radaelli, Fr Laurent Bacho, Fr Francisco de Assis Dos Santos, Fr Austin Hughes, Fr Henri Lamasse, Fr Pietro Felet, Fr Aldo Nespoli, Fr Beñat Oyhenart, Fr Gabriel Pornchai Sukjai, Fr Mirco Trusgnach and an Indian religious. Unfortunately Mons Vincent Landel, Fr Biju Alappat, Fr Jean-Dominique Delgue and Fr Jean-Luc Morin, due to different reasons, will not be able to be present.

We have the joy to announce the final list of the participants of the session of ongoing formation which will take place in the Holy Land from June 26 to July 30 2016:

Fr. Eyad Bader, Fr. Osvaldo Caniza, Fr. Ercole Ceriani, Fr. Mongkhon Camilo Charoentham, Fr. Julio Colina, Br. Gilbert Coulibaly, Fr. Francisco Daleoso, Fr. Francisco De Paula, Fr. Daniel González, Fr. Sergio Gouarnalusse, Fr. Valan Peter Kanagaraj, Fr. Javier Irala, Fr. José Larrosa, Fr. Mario Longoni, Fr. Henri Marsaa-Poey, Fr. Tiziano Molteni, Fr. Subesh Sebastian Odiyathingal, Fr. Beñat Oyhenart, Fr. Paulo Cesar Pinto, Br. Angelo Sala, Fr. Mauro Ulrich de Oliveira, Fr. Michel Vignau.

These days, these brothers have received the official invitation letter from the Superior General and from their respective Regional Superiors. We hope they will make the most of this period of spiritual renewal and of rest.