



Painting by Juan Vladimir Martinovich

Listening to Saint Michael...

Lately an English lady died at Pau, who also had this virtue [surrender to God] to an eminent degree. She was the wife of a Scottish General; She had had doubts about her own religion (C. of E.?) and had finally entered into the bosom of the Church; While her only daughter was baptised later, she received in secret the nuptial blessing. Her husband died soon after, and left her with their young child; But she herself did not hesitate to follow him to the tomb. The priest who was assisting her in her last moments asked her if she had any serious fears about her child, who was going to be left in a very vulnerable position.

"Oh! On this point – she replied – I am perfectly at peace. If God removes me from this world, he knows that he leaves a little one who needs support, and he will serve her as a father and a mother. My child cannot be better than where he wants her. (...)"

What faith! ...said our Superior. It is rarely found even among priests. Any other mother, the more she had religion, the more fear she would have had; But this woman sees only God and hopes in him. This is true virtue, all else is imperfection. Yes, that trust deserved a reward. When the priest to whom these words had been addressed told me about this, I was struck by this great assurance; I have never forgotten them. The priest said to me again: She was truly of a higher character. She had often astonished him by her wisdom and deep reflections.

Cachica Notebook, 13



Societas S^{mi} Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

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2017

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NE

NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

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

A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

+
FVD

While we await our new Servants

*Without doubt the art of government is difficult,
but not only is His grace with you, but the Lord himself is with you.
Be filled with His spirit and His ways, act in Him and like Him;
surrender and have boundless trust.
May you know Our Saviour's plan and try to follow it.
(Corresp. SMG Letter 97)*

Dear Betharramites,

On May 18, the General Chapter of San Bernardino elected new leaders to govern, animate and accompany the mission of the Congregation for the next six years. Following on from this, those who form the General Council have the task of naming the three religious who will be the main servants of the Regions and their Regional Vicars. The members of the outgoing administrations govern the Regions and the Vicariates until the appointment of their respective successors (Rule of Life 233b), which can happen within three months or beyond this period, if necessary (Rule of Life 198).

In order to help identify the most suitable persons, a consultation is organised where it is possible to indicate three names (Rule of Life 234 & 248). The great majority of the brothers responded to this invitation and, although this consultation is not binding, it allows us to observe and to discern calm-

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ly, to perceive the tendencies which dominate in each place and to be open to the action of the Holy Spirit with the necessary *indifference* (a well-known Ignatian term, meaning that one discerns clearly the basis and the ultimate goal of a decision, without leaning, a priori, “either to right or to left”).

We are well aware that this service, (especially that of the Regional and the Vicar), is not an honorific or prestigious office. Consequently, brothers who misguidedly aspire to power, to money, or to the vanity of the office, are excluded!

We are convinced that the duties that we delegate will fall on those who have manifested a disinterested disposition to serve “from the limits of their position”.

We are all aware of the “surprise” vocations that are presented to us in the Holy Scriptures. The Lord demonstrates his total freedom. He “looks at the heart and not appearances” (cf. I Sam. 16: 7), neither titles nor human powers (cf. I Cor 1,25-29); We see him in David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, & Amos. We see him among the apostles Peter and Paul

themselves - the rough fisherman and the converted persecutor - to name but a few. Saint Michael Garicoits, who was already a spiritual master in his day, had admirable intuitions. He sometimes surprised people by appointing certain of his brothers. We know that in 1856 he sent his best religious to America (leaving Betharram without many leaders). He appointed Father Larrouy as spiritual support for the missionaries to guar-

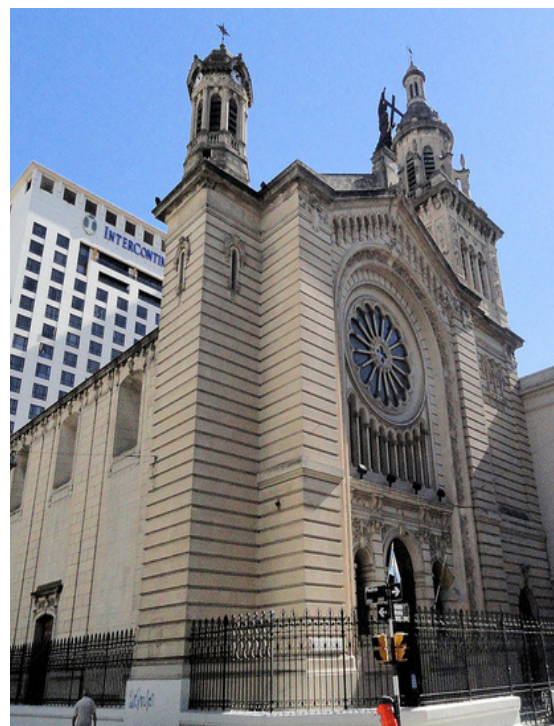
antee the knowledge of the Charism. As for Fr. Guimon, he “liberated” him for the mission to the Indians... But soon cautioned him not to fall into an indiscreet individualism: *non preire, sed sequi* (not to lead but to follow). Didace Barbé, the accomplished headmaster of Betharram, was sent as Superior of the group, but also as founder of what was to become the college of San José of Buenos Aires. Each time, the Lord of History confirmed his choices. Though not perfect, these elder brothers worked tirelessly and devoted their lives to the mission. Thus obedience out of love is fruitful, even if we feel weak!

I have a special admiration for this pearl of wisdom that St Michael received from the Father and which he developed through a life totally devoted to what God wanted. Moreover, he possessed the gift of the discernment of spirits, so necessary to one who exercises authority. Indispensable not to lose the orientation, to seek and find the Will of God, and to follow it.

Today, Pope Francis reminds us that the superior is not there simply to command, or

anaemia. Upon arrival, he accompanies Father Guimon through Argentina and Uruguay: they are missionaries!

Here, the missions do not happen as in the diocese of Bayonne: often it is their fellow countrymen, not the priests, who welcome them in their houses. However, both in Buenos Aires and in the Pampas, their zeal attracts others: they preach in Basque, even in Béarnais, sometimes in French, with time to learn Spanish. Above all, they proclaim the gospel and are always ready to take confessions and give the sacraments, without schedules, without appointments. The bishop himself admires them and testifies to this in a letter to Bishop Lacroix.



As early as December 1856, the Poor Clares of Buenos Aires allow the newcomers to lead the worship on Sunday in San Juan Church. In 1862, after agreement between the Abbess of Santa Clara and the Bishop of Buenos Aires, the service of the church and the convent is entrusted to the Missionaries of Bétharram; so the chaplaincy of the converted convent becomes the “House of the Mission”, the residence of the community. Father Sardoy was the chaplain to the nuns. To exercise this ministry, new to him, he resorts to the advice of Father Garicoits, who has gained a great deal of experience with the Daughters of the Cross.

Father Sardoy organizes the parish of San Carlos, in Buenos Aires; then he hands it over to the Salesians when they arrive in Argentina. In 1871, he was appointed superior of the residence of San Juan. In 1875, for the first time, he embarked for France. He died on 7 June before being able to rejoin Bétharram in the outskirts of Pauillac, in the estuary of the Gironde. If, in 1862, Father Sardoy asked Father Garicoits for advice, it was because he held him in great esteem. On 21 June 1860, the superior of Bétharram wrote to him: “My dear father Sardoy”; he adds “my” to the usual “dear”; and “father” comes to replace the ordinary “Mr” of that time.

Beñat Oyhenart scj

Pierre Sardoy: the journey of a missionary

Pierre Sardoy is a true missionary; at least according to Father Simon Guimon's criteria ...

Would his first quality be as Barkostar, having originated from Barcus? He was born on 21 September 1810 in the same village as Father Guimon.

When at Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, Father Guimon hears the sad spiritual fate of the Basques who emigrated to Argentina or Uruguay, he has only one desire: go and bring them the Good News. His tactic is simple: find out who could work in America and have this mission accepted by the bishop, before even talking to the superior. We know how the founder appreciated this way of going about things, so little in conformity with the rules of obedience (see NEF n° 126, May 2017). And now this mission is accepted! Having been a priest since 20 May 1837, and parish priest of Menditte (in Soule) since 1842, Pierre Sardoy is among the first priests contacted; informally, of course! In 1854, Father Guimon said to him point-blank: "Will you come with me to America? Our Basques live there like pagans..." There was a quick answer: "Why not?" They speak for a moment. Father Guimon is eloquent, Abbé Sardoy volunteers. Just as planned!

When the "General Congregation" of 16 September 1854 accepted the mission in the diocese of Buenos Aires, it was necessary to prepare the departure and also to regroup the volunteers. In early 1856, Bishop Lacroix authorized Abbé

Sardoy to leave his parish; he comes to Bétharram in April. At the end of a few weeks of probation, instead of the usual two years, he takes the religious vows in the Society of the Sacred Heart.

He leaves for America! The crossing is



San Juan Bautista Church in Buenos Aires, before the restoration of the facade and how Fr Sardoy saw it (above); how it is now (on the opposite page)

difficult: several storms, navigation errors, sickness and even lack of food at the end; Father Sardoy comes out of it with

just to remind us of the rules, lest we grow lax; He is there rather to invite us, without ceasing, to live the gospel according to our style of life; he is there to exhort us to be open to our brothers in community, to those who knock on our doorstep, to the 'special ones' of the Kingdom who gravitate around our homes, to all men and women in the richness of their diversity. The superior is above all a Christian with a big heart, a Father who invites us to meet and give the best of ourselves. It helps us create the conditions for this "encounter". It is someone who puts into practice what he asks of others... Without rushing, with gentleness and without aiming for personal advantages.

If this is the case, he will be able to receive, by opening his door, those who wish to share in community with us that happiness which has brought us together and overwhelmed us. He will witness to the Love of God and the "God of Love". He will inspire us with confidence, by exchanging on what he thinks and decides in the name of all, with frankness and not by means of a roundabout way. It will be the best antidote against the slanders that are sure to wash around us when there is a lack of sincere dialogue and communication. If he does so, the "heavy, stagnant air" of pessimism, bitterness, and the knee-jerk response of "every man for himself" will be transformed into the "sweet perfume of brotherhood in Christ", for we will be led to accept the poverty of the brothers and to forgive (2 Cor 2: 14-17).

How often have I heard young religious ask for a life flavoured with a little more fraternal love? Our young generations need these open horizons, these glimpses of the heavens, these free moments that encourage their passion for Christ and for humanity! I do not want

to believe that we are not ready to dream!

If we share the desire for a better integration between the different cultures and generations that make up Betharram today, we need superiors who do not allow themselves to be overcome by routine, fatigue or the weight of the management of structures, or harmful internal divisions. They will avoid the quest for power, or a misguided authority that either says 'anything goes' or veer towards authoritarianism. I hope that the Regional as well as the Vicars, and each Betharramite, will help to recreate our life in the light of the Gospel.

Today more than ever we need servants close to the heart of God: we need Brothers who pray, meditate, celebrate together, can forgive one another, dialogue and fraternally correct, celebrate, and show mercy to him who sins, without judging him as evil. Those who act in this way, sharing life and faith, express true authority, even if they are not invested with any office. That is why I think that today, more than "superiors", we need **communities of servants** who in turn, will wash the feet of others.

It is in this spirit that we will try to respond to the expectations of the greatest number, knowing full well that we will not always all agree ... Blessed is the one who will have to carry on his shoulders the weight of this service. And Blessed is he who will understand his task in this way! We will ask him to do it with humility without departing from his joy. Will we be able to help each other so that it is so?

I embrace you all fraternally *In Corde Iesu*.

Gustavo Agín scj
Superior General

A saving branch and roses

Happy feast of our Lady of Betharram



« ... Mary, you are full of grace,
And you fill all men with grace: what happiness!
You are not looking to be saved alone or with just a few others,
But you want everyone to be saved: what happiness!
Because of this, we turn to you
So that we may be saved.
O Mary, you who are filled with light,
Enlighten us all!...»

From *En Avant* (nr. 64) by Fr. Beñat Oyhénart scj,
collection of prayers based on texts by Saint Michael Garicoits

Picture: *Nossa Senhora do Belo Ramo* (Paulinia, Brazil)

of a new people of believers and he guarantees it with his faith : « On you, I will build my Church ». Then Jesus entrusts the keys of the kingdom to him : « Everything you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven and everything you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven. » Translation : « your mission will be to make the Church grow and to reconcile sinners. »

So, friendship with Christ leads to service. To confess that He is Lord is a commitment to following Him, to take part in His mission. That is what Fr André Gillet did in his own way, a man of duty and faithfulness, leaning on the rock of faith, in schools and chaplaincies, in the parish and at the switchboard of Betharram. But this complete and potent commitment, this faithfulness to doctrine and rules, without fail, was accompanied by a gentle expression, an almost maternal kindness when heaven's Betharram, St Michael and Our Lady were mentioned in front of him. Then all the irritation, all the indignation, fell away. All that was left was this nice smile. Only hope was left. Then, he indicated to you with his eyes, filled with emotion, the statue that was bequeathed to his father by the Count of Astagnaires : the Omnipotentia Supplex, the all powerful supplicant, as the fathers of the church called it, Mary of whom we can ask anything because she is Mother, our Mother, and she is able by her prayer as God is by his power

The day after his 101st birthday, Fr Gillet confided to me with the simplicity of a child : « I do nothing. I am lost. I only have God and Our Lady. All I can do is pray. It is the most important thing. » With his face lit up, he began to recite the 'Hail Mary'. On each visit, the ritual was the same and he always finished with this angelic salutation. Except last April : I found Fr Gillet curled up on his bed, in foetal position. Ready for his new birth, more than ever.

With the tenderness of Mary and the devotion of our dear Father, with gratitude for his rich priestly career, with the words of St Paul to Timothy, we are certain: «all those who have longed for his appearing», the Lord will let enter His Kingdom of Peace. And in an instant, staring at the host, we could say as Peter does : « You are the Lord, you are the Son of God who brings us to the fullness of life for eternity. »

Happy are we, as it is not flesh or blood which has revealed this to us, but our Father in Heaven, the Spirit which He has given us, Christ, our salvation and our resurrection !

| Homily of Fr. Jean-Luc Morin scj at the funeral of Fr. André Gillet



communion with his Lord on the Cross. The Lord chose it otherwise, and he drew his last breath not just on any old day, but on the morning of the Feast of Sts. Peter &

Paul ... We say with St. Andrew: "Lord, where do you live?" "Come and see." John 1. 38

Gabriel Verley scj



(2 Tm 4,6-8.17-18; Mt 16,13-19) «As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to depart.» These words of St Paul could also have been spoken by Fr André Gillet. He waited for this great meeting for years! For years, he united his offering with that of Christ in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass! After several days in the throes of death, he passed away on the morning of 29th June. As if he was waiting for this day, as if the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul had to crown his religious life (85 years in his profession) and his catholic priesthood (80 years ordained).

«I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith. All there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day» continues the letter to Timothy. Father Gillet had the soul of a fighter; he could sometimes be harsh and sharp. He claimed to be a guardian of the faith and of his liturgical expression. He held these in such high esteem that he could not stand what he considered to be disrespect or negligence. Strict on himself, he was also strict on others. At the same time, in confession, he never separated love from truth or truth from love. That is without doubt why so many penitents came to him and why he was so diligent in his ministry of mercy. What made him happy was enabling everyone to get hold of this strength that he was filled with, and that way, proclaim the Gospel....

Even within the limits of life and character, we can figure out the apostle's passion. After St Paul, St Peter, also fascinated by this Nazarene who made his heart burn within him. In the Gospel, and in a forgotten corner in the north of Galilee, Jesus asked his friends: «And you, what do you say? Who do you say I am?» The response of Simon, son of Jonah, wasn't expected. It was unexpected from the mouth of a simple fisherman. Astounding even for a Jew steeped in tradition, where the deed of pronouncing the name of God alone sounds like a blasphemy. Here he is affirming, without reserve or digression, to Jesus' face: «You, the carpenter of Nazareth, you the son of Joseph and Mary, I say you are the Son of God». Not a son of God among others, but the only Son, the beloved of the Father. For the first time, one of the twelve unveils the mystery of the Christ. And Jesus, far from being defensive, confirms the faith of the apostle by attributing it to a revelation from above.

Simon had just expressed his whole personal faith. Jesus replied to him with an even greater trust. He started by changing his name to signify his new mission. Peter will be the foundation



Challenges and pitfalls

AT THE PATRIARCHAL SEMINARY IN MAADI (CAIRO), ON APRIL 29TH, THE POPE ADDRESSED PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS AND SEMINARIANS, WHO GIVE A COURAGEOUS WITNESS TO CHRISTIAN LIFE "AMID MANY CHALLENGES AND OFTEN FEW CONSOLATIONS." MANY CHALLENGES INDEED, DUE TO THE HARD CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY WORK IN THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD. YET, CHALLENGES DO NOT ALL COME FROM OUTSIDE.

Although there are many reasons to be discouraged, amid many prophets of destruction and condemnation, and so many negative and despairing voices, may you be a positive force, salt and light for this society. Like the engine of a train, may you be the driving force leading all towards their destination. May you be sowers of hope, builders of bridges and agents of dialogue and harmony.

This will be possible if consecrated men and women do not give in to the temptations they daily encounter along their way. I would like to highlight some of the greatest of these temptations. You know them, because the earliest monks of Egypt described well these temptations.

1. The temptation to let ourselves be led, rather than to lead. The Good Shepherd has the responsibility of guiding the sheep (cf. Jn 10:3-4), of bringing them to fresh pastures and springs of flowing water (cf. Ps 23). He cannot let himself be dragged down by disappointment and pessimism: "What can I do?" He is always full of initiative and creativity, like a spring that flows even in the midst

of drought. He always shares the caress of consolation even when he is broken-hearted. He is a father when his children show him gratitude, but especially when they prove ungrateful (cf. Lk 15:11-32). Our faithfulness to the Lord must never depend on human gratitude: "Your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Mt 6:4, 6, 18).

2. The temptation to complain constantly. It is easy to always complain about others, about the shortcomings of superiors, about the state of the Church and society, about the lack of possibilities... But consecrated persons, through the Holy Spirit's anointing, are those who turn every obstacle into an opportunity, and not every difficulty into an excuse! The person who is always complaining is really someone who doesn't want to work. It was for this reason that the Lord said to the pastors: "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees" (Heb 12:12; cf. Is 35:3).

3. The temptation to gossip and envy. And this is terrible! It is a great danger when consecrated persons, instead of helping

the little ones to grow and to rejoice in the successes of their brothers and sisters, allow themselves to be dominated by envy and to hurt others through gossip. When, instead of striving to grow, they start to destroy those who are growing; instead of following their good example, they judge them and belittle their value. Envy is a cancer that destroys the body in no time: "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand" (Mk 3:24-25). In fact – and do not forget this – "through the devil's envy death entered the world" (Wis 2:24). Gossip is its means and its weapon.

4. The temptation to compare ourselves to others. Enrichment is found in the diversity and uniqueness of each one of us. Comparing ourselves with those better off often leads to grudges; comparing ourselves with those worse off often leads to pride and laziness. Those who are always comparing themselves with others end up paralyzed. May we learn from Saints Peter and Paul to experience the diversity of qualities, charisms and opinions through willingness to listen and docility to the Holy Spirit.

5. The temptation to become like Pharaoh – we are in Egypt! – that is, to harden our hearts and close them off to the Lord and our brothers and sisters. Here the temptation is to think that we are better than others, and to lord it over them out of pride; to presume to be served rather than to serve. It is a temptation that, from the very beginning, was present among

the disciples, who – as the Gospel tells us – on the way argued with one another about which of them was the greatest (cf. Mk 9:34). The antidote to this poison is: "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all" (Mk 9:35).

6. The temptation to individualism. As a well-known Egyptian saying goes: "Me, and after me, the flood!" This is the temptation of selfish people: along the way, they lose sight of the goal and, rather than think of others, they are unashamed to think only of themselves, or even worse, to justify themselves. The Church is the community of the faithful, the Body of Christ, where the salvation of one member is linked to the holiness of all (cf. 1 Cor 12:12-27; Lumen Gentium, 7.) An individualist is a cause of scandal and of conflict.

7. The temptation to keep walking without direction or destination. Consecrated men and women can lose their identity and begin to be "neither fish nor fowl". They can live with a heart between God and worldliness. They can forget their first love (cf. Rev 2:4). Indeed, when they lose clear and solid identity, consecrated men and women end up walking aimlessly; instead of leading others, they scatter them. Your identity as sons and daughters of the Church is to be Copts – rooted in your noble and ancient origins – and to be Catholics – part of the one and universal Church: like a tree that, the more deeply rooted it is in the earth, the higher it reaches to the heavens!

Father André Gillet SCJ

1st March 1914, (Capbreton, France) - 29 June 2017 (Bétharram)

How can we describe Fr. André Gillet? He was a priest, a religious priest, and a religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Betharram was close to his heart, but above all, it was a source from which he came to draw strength... Our Lady, the Cross, Saint Michael, the Sacred Heart ... For some years now his mobility has been restricted, and it weighed heavily upon him. He was 'no spring chicken', since 'he was born before the war'... True... but, this was before the First World War: March 1st 1914 at Capbreton.

Ordained priest at the age of 23, in the Holy Land on July 11th 1937, he was a priest for almost 80 years. In that time he celebrated over 30,000 Masses! There he found another source of strength.

As a professor: at Bazas, Betharram, and Limoges, he was soon asked to take up the bursarship. With Father Andre, goodwill prevailed ... far, too far! No one followed him!

Father André wanted to be a welcoming man, making visitors happy to be welcomed at the door... And, similarly, on the phone - from his room the same welcome -: 'Hello! Betharram Here, Good Morning!' Always with a friendly tone.

As a religious, he lived and preached the "spirituality of the present moment". (The next moment seemed to him to be the entrance to the Kingdom) ... Yes, he lived the day of his death 'one day at a time' but Time itself rejoices: "It does not hurry, now



will always be the right moment". After Bel Abbes, he was dedicated to different chaplaincies – with all that implied! It gave him another dimension: Anglet, the Servants of Mary ... and "The Tent of Meeting" on the beach in summer, for Renewal, the Daughters of the Cross, the charismatic movement, the Marian priestly movement, the Prayer Groups, spiritual direction, confessions, blessings, holy water for healing maladies. As a priest, we must remember, he had served working in parishes in the diocese of Limoges, mainly as parish priest of La Celle-Dunoise. After a long time he returned fully to Betharram. Every day, Father Gillet started early in the morning to climb the Calvary: this Passionate Way of the Cross, and this is where he really wanted to die in full

Region



India

Bangalore ► On June 9th, St Mariam Region was blessed with six candidates entering to the Novitiate: Bro. Joseph Pham Van My from Vietnam, Bro. John Weerapong from Thailand and Bro. Stephen R, Bro. Wilfred Steevan Rodrigus, Bro. Johny Marak and Bro. Alwyn Crasta from India. As they begin this spiritual journey they need everyone's support, so please pray for them.



Mangalore ► We, the Mangalore community celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with our benefactors, teachers and friends. Fr. Ravi Kumar was the main celebrant. Our

5 second-year novices, who had come here for two weeks of community experience, were also present.

Thailand

New deacons ► On June 24, in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Chiang Mai, Br. John Bosco Sommai Sopa-Opaad scj and Br. Alfonso Prasert Pitakkiriboon scj were ordained deacons by the laying on of hands of Mons Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, Bishop of the Diocese of Chiang Mai. The solemn celebration was attended by several Betharramite religious, diocesan priests, and many other religious congregations present in the diocese. The whole Betharramite family wishes Br. John Bosco and Br. Alfonso Prasert a fruitful diaconal ministry.



From the generous countryside of Brazil

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, AT THE PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS IN BELO HORIZONTE, BRO. IRAN LIMA DA SILVA SCJ MADE HIS PERPETUAL PROFESSION. THE VOWS WERE RECEIVED BY FR. GUSTAVO AGÍN SCJ, SUPERIOR GENERAL, WHO PRESIDED OVER THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION, ACCOMPANIED BY NUMEROUS BETHARRAMITE RELIGIOUS AND A LARGE ASSEMBLY. OUR YOUNG BROTHER HERE RETRACES IN A FEW LINES HIS INITIAL JOURNEY.

I spent my childhood in the countryside, in a place called "Mont Joyeux". I worked for several years in agriculture with my parents and brothers. Born and educated in a very humble family, I learned the simplicity characteristic of the population living inland ... Yes, I am a child of the interior countryside of Brazil. It was in this place, in this family, in this environment that I made my first steps in the faith; And it was there that at the age of seven a vocation was awakened in me. I knew the Congregation at the age of 20, thanks to Fr. Jair Pereira, who was originally from the same region. Because of distance, our first contacts were made by letters. It was through this correspondence that I

learned to know the Betharram charism. Deeply touched and attracted by the charism, I decided to deepen it. Indeed, I was fascinated by the simplicity, the availability and the life of Saint Michael, because they connected with my own roots; I identified with him, his story, his way of being. From that moment on, I never ceased to cultivate the desire to be an apostle of the Sacred Heart in the family of Betharram. I entered as an aspirant in 2003. Everything I have experienced as part of my initial formation has been important. I would highlight among other things the period of the novitiate and, more recently, the Spiritual Exercises of thirty days. The time

I am Brother Iran Lima da Silva. I was born on 22nd February 1981 in Pombal, a small town about 400 km from João Pessoa the capital of Paraíba State in north-eastern Brazil. My parents are Paulo Carvalho da Silva and Inácia Lima da Silva. I am the second of five children..



NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL

On June 5, the Superior General, Fr. Gustavo Agin scj, sent a letter to all the religious of the three Regions in view of the appointment of the Regional Superiors and their Regional Vicars. Every religious of the three Regions has been invited to indicate, in order of preference, the names of three religious whom they deem capable of assuming these services.

THE NEW SUPERIOR GENERAL ARRIVED IN ROME ON JULY 6TH AND IS NOW SETTLING DOWN IN THE GENERALATE HOUSE; FR. JEAN-DOMINIQUE DELGUE, NEW VICAR GENERAL, IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. WE REMIND YOU THAT THE SUPERIOR GENERAL WILL GATHER HIS NEW COUNCIL AT BETHARRAM FROM JULY 24 TO 27 AND WILL ATTEND THE CELEBRATION OF THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF BETHARRAM WITH THE RELIGIOUS AND THE LAY ASSOCIATES OF THE VICARIATE OF FRANCE-SPAIN.

of the novitiate marked me for the deep experience of God, for prayer, which he offered me, and for having experienced very deeply the feeling of being a Betharramite religious. In this stage I drank from the living source and the richness of our spirituality. In the Spiritual Exercises, I experienced in depth the presence of God in my history, which helped me to confirm all that I had experienced so far, as well as the call to be a definitive member of the Betharram family, through the religious profession. It is a path of growth and maturation in faith, with the desire to pattern my life on the following of Christ, and all the challenges that this entails; times of renunciation, of

construction and of destruction, especially, as regards my way of thinking, feeling and acting.

As a consecrated person, with the help of the grace of God and the accompaniment of my brothers, I wish to serve people and be a good Betharramite... I am on the road, in discernment, in the learning phase, which includes falls and restarts ... allowing me to be formed; I let myself be molded in the hands of God so that my devoted service to the Church and the Congregation may be the work of God and for God. May God be everything, always! Always ahead, *Fiat Voluntas Dei*.

I embrace you...

Iran Lima da Silva, scj

A new branch in Assam

THANKS TO THEIR EXPERIENCES OF MISSION, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, OUR BROTHERS OF THE VICARIATE OF INDIA PREPARED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE ANIMATION OF A WORK IN THE NORTH-EAST OF THE COUNTRY. FR. BIJU ALAPPAT, REGIONAL VICAR, OUTLINES THE STAGES OF THIS JOURNEY WHICH TODAY LEADS TO THE OPENING OF A NEW BETHARRAMITE MISSION.

The project of Betharram Sacred Heart mission is christened on 19th March 2017 as the fruit of our long mission experiments and discernment in the land of North East of India. It was in 2005 during the time late Rev. Fr. Xavier Ponthokkan, delegation of India made a historic missionary option for North East as our place for mission experience for students in formation besides south India. Brothers were sent there for their regency experience in collaboration with MSFS fathers in North East. Later Fr. Shaju (Hojai and Punjao), Fr. Subesh (Bongaigaon and Hojai) and Fr. Arul

(Hojai) gave pioneering leadership with assistance of Fathers and brothers to make known the presence of Betharram in North East since 2009.

In the Vicariate assembly of 2015, proposal for new Betharram mission centre was made keeping in mind for future pastoral possibilities, vocation animation and as the invitation of Arch Bishop Most Rev. John Moolanchira of Guwhati for the pastoral care of 200 families of tribal Christian living in 6 villages at Kanpur, 30 Km away from main Parish Centre and 55 Km away from

Appora, Bishop of Bambari.

Fr Marie-Paulin is the second Betharramite religious from Central African Republic to be ordained priest, eight years after the priestly ordination of Fr. Narcisse Zaolo scj. We thank the Lord for this gift. We call upon Fr. Marie-Paulin the blessing of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Region



Paraguay

A good tradition ► In Ciudad del Este, the youth of the Betharramite Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus organised a prayer vigil which began with the Eucharistic celebration. Then the vigil continued in the sports centre with cultural and social events.



About 300 young people spent the night in prayer imitating the Early Church. The youth who animated the vigil are part of the Youth Ministry Group of the Parish. The young people preparing for the Confirmation also joined in this event, where many songs of praise and catechesis recalled the Pentecost feast. This beautiful experience ended at dawn with the Eucharist celebration. Religious events such as these vigils are

deeply rooted in the Church of Paraguay, particularly in Ciudad del Este. It is a good opportunity to evangelise and create good habits to foster evangelical values. This vigil was a deep spiritual experience and it was a good opportunity to launch the Youth Triennium.

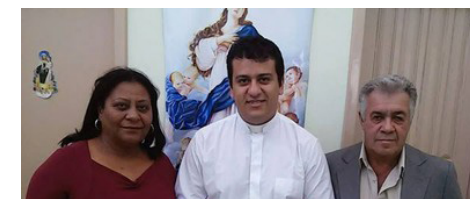
Fr Fulgencio Ferreira Ríos scj adds: *"Sharing with the young people helped me to discover in them the future of the Church. Their hearts have not yet been spoiled by the corruption that exists in the society. Young people are a fertile soil, in which we find the opportunity to spread the Gospel and we are called to encourage them to be generous in listening to and responding to the call of the Lord."*

Brazil

Ordination to diaconate ► On June 17, Br. Jeferson Silvério Gonzaga scj was ordained Deacon in the parish Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception of Setubinha, by the laying on of hands of Mons Aloysius Vitral Pena, Bishop of the Diocese of Teófilo Otoni.

The whole Betharramite family wishes Fr. Jeferson a fruitful ministry he is called to perform in the Church.

"Unassuming and dedicated" according to the wish of Saint Michael Garicoits.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

Region



France-Spain

The heart of Miriam ► Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified is celebrated in Pau in this season to commemorate the mystical phenomenon that took place there on May 24, 1868: the transverberation of her heart in the chapel "Our Lady of Mount Carmel".

This celebration (Friday 2 and Saturday 3), presided by Mons Gardès, Archbishop of Auch, began with the singing of Vespers and was followed by Bishop Gardès' conference on the example of humility given by St. Mar-iam. The evening ended with the candlelight procession towards the chapel "Our Lady of Mount Carmel".

The next day, the assembly gathered to pray Morning Prayer, followed by a time of adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation. Then the eucharist presided by Mons. Gardès was celebrated in the nearby church of "Saint Therese of the Child Jesus". The celebrations were animated by the "Little Choir Saint Michael Garicoïts" and many Betharramite religious attended this festive occasion.



Holy Land

Spiritual Exercises ► From 1 to 10 June, the regional novitiate of Bethlehem held a second session of the yearly Ignatian spiritual exercises in St Peter in Gallicantu, Jerusalem.

The daily program comprised prayer sessions, meetings and sharing with the eyes turned towards the Temple of Jerusalem. It was a good time to taste and to be moulded by the word of God.

Ivory Coast

End of the year ► On June 29, the community of Adiapodoumé joyfully celebrated the solemnity of Saint Peter and Paul. On this occasion they closed the academic year 2016-2017. On the day after, July 10, a solemn ceremony took place to deliver the training certificate to the young trainees who attended the courses at the "Ferme Pédagogique Tshanfeto". The ceremony was held at the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio for Côte d'Ivoire, Bishop Joseph Spiteri, Fr. Laurent Bacho scj (founder of Tshanfeto), Fr. Jean-Dominique Delgue scj, Vicar General, Bernadette Laborde, representative of "Friends of Tshanfeto" in France and other guests. Congratulations to our Betharramite brothers who take care of the professional training of these young people.

Central Africa

Marie-Paulin, a new SCJ priest ► On Saturday, June 17, Fr. Marie-Paulin Yarkai scj was ordained priest in the Cathedral Mary Mother of the Church in Bouar, by the laying on of hands of Mons Richard



Our missionaries working in the North-East surrounding the bishop of Guwahati (from the left: Br. Sharat, Fr. Jesuraj, Fr. Jestin, Fr. Vipin, Fr. Daniel, Fr. Arul, Fr. Pascal and Br. Pakyarakj)



Hojai community. Fr. Yesudas under the guidance of Fr. Arul superior of community and Fr. Thomas parish priest a Kattiatholi succeeded to identify a suitable place in the area of Sigulmari, Kanpur proposed by Arch Bishop. The Process of purchase of 4 acres of land costing 29 Lakhs rupees was initiated from Niranjan Kakkoti, a retired school teacher in 2015. Fr. Austin after meeting with Bishop, local parish priests and religious gave permission to purchase the land as the decision of regional council. By the grace of God, the fund for the purchase of the land was raised with the collaboration of the members of the vicariate and laity. The land was purchased and registered in the name of the Congregation in August, 2016. The community at Hojai took responsibility of caring this new mission centre under the leadership of Jesuraj, with the support of local parish priest Fr. Soosai. After the return of Fr. Yesudas to Vietnam, Fr. Pascal joined the community and took the responsibility of developing the new mission centre which will comprise a community house,

church, School and a pastoral Centre with the assistance of Fr. Jestin and Shamon. Arch Bishop was happy to declare this Betharram mission center as a new parish centre on 19th march 2017, in the presence of 600 people of the village. The formation of new community was accepted by the Congregation in March 2017 under the leadership of Fr. Pascal as superior and parish priest, Fr. Vipin as assistant and Bro. Pobitro. A temporary (bamboo made) school is being built at the site with the presence of 20 children from the village and a small concrete building for the school with the 6 class rooms is under progress. We are promised the collaboration of the sisters of Incarnation in our Betharram mission project in future. Trusting in God's providence and by the Moto of congregation Betharram missionaries are always forward to share the same happiness with the other.

Biju Alappat scj

Life of the parish and beginnings of a new community

SACRED HEART PARISH - SIMALUGURI, WAS ERRECTED AS PARISH ON **19TH MARCH 2017** BY HIS GRACE JOHN MOOLACHIRA, ARCHBISHOP OF GUWAHATI. THIS PARISH HAS A MIXED COMMUNITY NAMELY, GAROS, ADIVASIS, BODOS, TIVAS AND KARBIS. EACH COMMUNITY IS UNIQUE IN ITSELF BY ITS LANGUAGE, FOOD, DRESSING CULTURAL HEREDITY. THERE IS AROUND 200 FAMILIES' ALTOGETHER. THE PARISH COVERS AROUND 19 KM RADIUS.

Some of the parishes are living in reserve forest area. Some places we have to travel by boat. Very frequently we have a visitation of jungle jumbos (elephants).

Our parishioners live a very simple life and are very much practicing Catholics.

It's very challenging but not that difficult. I celebrate the liturgies in their languages so they are able to follow it up. I also tried to learn their state language but it is of seldom use as they hardly speak state language. I use the language of love and a good smile.

To help in people grow in faith, I got catechists who can translate what I say. The main occupation of the people is agriculture and some work in tea garden. Their economic condition is rather poor than but rich in heart. After becoming parish priest have sent few boys and girls become religious priests and sisters.

As a community we are involved in *Betharram Sacred Heart School*. At present we 20 children. And the academic year is from January to December. The school is in a bamboo shed. There is lots of work to be done. Its just a new beginning.

Thou its few months old parish I have already managed to visit and bless the families.

Pascal Ravi scj

