

SCJ Mission in Barracas 2019



One guitar ... two guitars and a drum.

This is enough to share the joy of living and the joy of believing.
It can be enough to awaken, in the heart of the passer-by or in the heart of the seeker, the desire to understand the meaning of the music within him and to take a step towards the One who is the Inspirer of all music...



Societas S^{mi} Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

Generalate House
via Angelo Brunetti, 27
00186 Rome (Italy)
Telephone +39 06 320 70 96
Fax +39 06 36 00 03 09
Email scj.generalate@gmail.com
www.betharram.net

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In this issue

Going out to share,
without having 'our
own works' p. 19

Holmily, 1st October
2019 p. 4

The Council of the
Congregation 2019...
p. 6

Go out, in community,
to meet life
and the various
peripheries p. 7

Present & future of
the Vicariate of
Brazil p. 11

Notices from the
General Council
p. 13

Bird's eye view of the
Congregation p. 15

Father Etchecopar...
p. 20

Saint Michael
Garicoits writes
p. 23

Betharram, a door
and a heart open
to all p. 24

A word from the superior general

Going out to share, without having
"our own works"

*'The apostles came back to Jesus and told him everything
they had done and what they had taught.*

*So he said to them: "Come and let us get away,
to a lonely place, to rest a little."*

*For there were so many coming and going
that they had no time even to eat.'*
(Mk 6: 30-31)

Dear Betharramites:

I go out to share with you, and I begin with a memory:
many years ago, when I went to vocational meetings
with other religious men and women, they used to ask:
And what do Betharramites do? What is your charism?
I immediately replied that ours is a charism open
to the Will of God, totally given to the service of the
Church, and that therefore "we do not have our own
works" (SMG). After looking at me a little surprised
by the answer, they repeated again: but do you have
schools, parishes, health centres, etc.? And I ended up
telling them yes, that in our history we had dedicated
ourselves to education, to the service of the diocese,

to parishes, to the formation of the diocesan clergy, to health, etc. and so they were more satisfied ...

There has always been a tendency in religious life to interpret a charism in terms of "what is done" and rather than in terms of "what it represents in the Church", "what it is and what it expresses" about the mystery of Christ.

In practice, it seems that we do have to have a specific job to better place ourselves in consecrated life, emulating those apostles who did not have time to eat. Jesus treated them like brothers and called them from time to time to rest. He treated them that way, for what they were and not for what they did.

Betharramites were conceived as volunteers. Every community must be willing to go out to share in any activity entrusted to it, like a "mobile military camp".

On the one hand, we have the mission of Betharram and on the other the specific tasks to perform. Chapter II of the rule of life tells us about mission. We call "mission" the whole evangelising task of the Church which aims to make Jesus Christ known to all men, of every race and culture: so that they may love him and follow him. Whereas "Our service in the Church" is something else. This is what is described in Chapter VI: the set of activities that we perform as Betharramites; the things we do at a given moment in our history, becoming incarnate in a practical way in the local Church.

In this local Church, we also inculturate ourselves, showing witness to the originality of our charism, a particular face of Christ, humble and obedient, that becomes visible with the colour, customs and local flavour of place in which we live the message. Our charism is not imposed from outside as an external formula, but each Betharramite, as an interpreter or guarantor, tries to stimulate it in the hearts of the faithful, where it resides in an unceasing fermentation.

What does it mean not to have our own works?

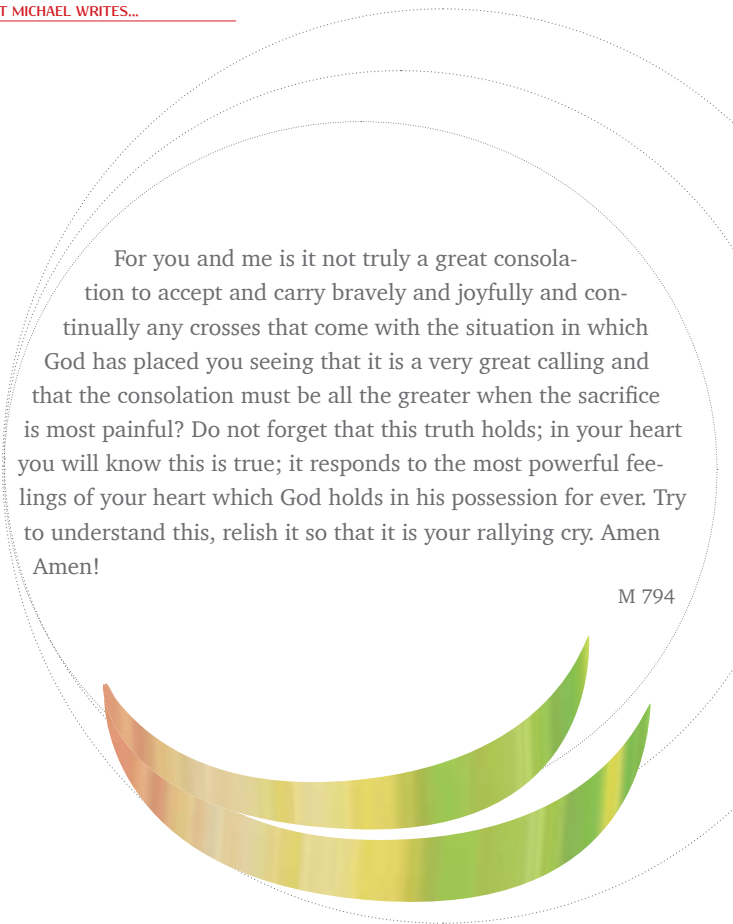
It means that the identity of Betharram does not depend on our works. In many places of mission (I think particularly of Latin America) people call us not by our name "Betharramite", but by the works: the Fathers of Passa Quatro (Brazil), the Fathers of San José (Asunción del Paraguay), Los Basques (Uruguay), etc. But what really characterises us is the witness of life that we have given or should give in those places. A holy, faithful testimony, in which the gospel is discovered.

Not having our own works also means that any work may be suitable for the charism of Betharram; and that, if at some point we have to abandon a particular work, Betharram is still being faithful because it is not defined by that activity. Leaving something behind, with proper discernment, makes us no less Betharramites.

Our itinerant style demands docility to the Holy Spirit and its



SAINT MICHAEL WRITES...



For you and me is it not truly a great consolation to accept and carry bravely and joyfully and continually any crosses that come with the situation in which God has placed you seeing that it is a very great calling and that the consolation must be all the greater when the sacrifice is most painful? Do not forget that this truth holds; in your heart you will know this is true; it responds to the most powerful feelings of your heart which God holds in his possession for ever. Try to understand this, relish it so that it is your rallying cry. Amen

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of the course on March 3rd. On March 19th, he presides the solemn celebration in the honour of Saint Joseph.

- On April 29th, he returns to the San José in Buenos Aires where he stays until May 5th, and from which he will sail back to France.
- 2. The Quinta de Caseros is the place where Fr. Etchecopar spends most time. The Religious of San José stay there, specially during the holidays, a little before Xmas and until the first days of March. On December 25th 1891, he blesses the new chapel and sings the midnight mass. In January 1892, he preaches two retreats (1st-10th and 15th-24th) ended by the celebration of taking the habit and profession. From there, he visits the Lugan sanctuary on February 13th. On February 25th, he attends the sacerdotal ordination and minor orders of our Brothers, celebrated by the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, who congratulates him for his visit.
- 3. From December 17th to 19th, he goes to Montevideo where he attends the school prize-giving, presided by the local Bishop, Mgr. Soler. From March 28th to April 21st 1892, he makes the official visit of the Montevideo community, and meets the family Jackson-Hébert-Buxareo, a benefactor of the community. On April 1st, he preaches in Spanish in our church of the Immaculate Conception and at the Dominican sisters. He celebrates the Holy Week with the community, and on Easter Day he preaches in French. He visits the Cistercian Fa-

thers of Manga and their school, as well as the Bishop of Montevideo.

- 4. He visits the community of the San Juan church from March 20th to 27th. The religious of this community are in charge of the chaplaincy of the Clarisses and of the spiritual and sacramental care of the faithful who come in numbers because the priests are devoted. The cloister reminds Fr. Etchecopar of his beginnings and of his retreat in Toulouse with Fr. Leblanc, when the Congregation was only a project.
- 5. In the harbour of La Plata, Fr. Etchecopar is waited for by his brother Maxime and Evariste who have spent a few days with him in the school. On January 2nd 1891, from the Quinta de Caseros, he thanks his nephews Lastenia, Julia and Evariste for the beautiful letters they sent to him. On March 3rd 1891, he meets other people bearing the name of Etchecopar in Argentina, who say they are parents of Fr. Auguste. At the end of April 1891, he meets his brother Maxime's family, coming to Buenos Aires for a few days to know him. The Argentinian dream is fulfilled.

To come back, he boards the ship Brasil in Buenos Aires on May 5th 1892, and lands in Bordeaux on May 26th to arrive in Betharram on the 27th, after a journey of twenty two days. •

mediations. To listen to the cry of the poor... To assume commitment and co-responsibility in mutual dialogue... To serenely accept what our superiors propose after consulting their councils.

The Will of God is also recognized through other mediations according to our founder: "How to recognise the will of God? ... By our vows, our rules, the will of our superiors, the duties of state and also by all events, happy or unfortunate, that divine Providence always sows in our steps." (D.S. 93).

It is important, then, to evaluate our activities, not only from the situational framework (that is, from the conjunctural reasons that appear here and now) but in the light of faith and our life project that is constantly updated in a changing world.

According to Rule of Life (2012) in Chap. VI entitled *Our service in the Church*:

1. Our priorities: service to the local Church (114), proximity to every human person in their different forms of poverty (115);

2. The fields of activity: youth ministry (117), educational mission (118-120), family ministry (121), parish pastoral (122-123), animation and spiritual accompaniment (124), promotion of the human person (125), Primary evangelisation (126), ecumenism (127) Interreligious dialogue, the encounter between cultures (128-129);

3. The criteria for discernment of activities (130-135).

Betharramite service to the Church

is highly valued by Bishops. In a time where there is a particular need for workers for the harvest, there are very few times when a Pastor lets us leave a work ... However, there are requests for new implantations that are carried out too hurriedly, sometimes because of a misunderstanding about our charism ... The argument "we have to go where others do not want to go" is true, but only after discerning in the appropriate way, without anxieties or disordered affections, giving time to the Holy Spirit, analysing pros and cons, etc. And finally: "willing to respond to the first signal of the superiors."

The Rule of Life also establishes criteria (130-135) that (it seems to me) we rarely read at the time of proposing a new activity.

Betharramites do not work to strike a pose (appearing generous), we have to be humble servants, and sometimes even endure humiliation, so that the Lord and his Kingdom appear more clearly. I thank all those who go out daily to share: and display their immense love in the position that the Lord asked of them, with joy and simplicity of heart.

P. Gustavo scj
Superior General

Homily, vespers for the beginning of the missionary month

Papal chapel, Vatican basilica, 1st october 2019



In the parable we have heard, the Lord appears as a man who, before leaving on a journey, calls his servants and entrusts his property to them (cf. Mt 25:14). God has entrusted us with his greatest treasures: our own lives and the lives of others. He has entrusted any number of different gifts to each of us. These gifts, these talents, are not something to be stored in a safe; they are a true vocation: the Lord calls us to make our talents bear fruit, with boldness and creativity. God will ask us if we stepped forward and took risks, even losing face. This extraordinary Missionary Month should jolt us and motivate us to be active in doing good. Not notaries of faith and guardians of grace, but missionaries.

We become missionaries by living as witnesses: bearing witness by our lives that we have come to know Jesus. It is our lives that speak. Witness is the key word: a word with the same root as the word "martyr". The martyrs are the primary witnesses of faith: not by their words but by their lives. They know that faith is not propaganda or proselytism: it is a respectful gift of one's life. They live by spreading peace and joy, by loving everyone, even their enemies, out of love for Jesus. Can we, who have discovered that we are children of the heav-

enly Father, keep silent about the joy of being loved, the certainty of being ever precious in God's eyes? That is a message that so many people are waiting to hear. And it is our responsibility. Let us ask ourselves this month: how good a witness am I?

At the end of the parable, the Lord describes the enterprising servant as "good and trustworthy", and the fearful servant as "wicked and lazy" (cf. vv. 21.23.26). Why is God so harsh with the servant who was afraid? What evil did he do? His evil was not having done good; he sinned by omission. Saint Albert Hurtado once said: "It is good not to do evil, but it is evil not to do good". This is the sin of omission. This could be the sin of an entire life, for we have been given life not to bury it, but to make something of it; not to keep it for ourselves, but to give it away. Whoever stands with Jesus knows that we keep what we give away; we possess what we give to others. The secret for possessing life is to give it away. To live by omission is to deny our vocation: omission is the opposite of mission.

"God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). He loves the Church on the go. But let us be attentive: if it is not on the go, it is not Church. The Church is meant for the road, meant to be on the move. A Church on the go, a mis-



communities: the religious who live and work at the San Juan Bautista church as chaplains of the Clarisses; the religious of the Colegio San José in Buenos Aires, and those of the church and school of the Vascos in Montevideo. At the time, the Congregation owns two residences called Quintas: that of Almagro in the town of Buenos Aires, which they shall have to sell because of the expansion of the town, and that of Caseros¹ in the Buenos Aires Province, 30 kilometers away from the capital, where the religious-teachers of Colegio San José spend their three months' holidays devoted to rest, spiritual retreats and writing books for their tuition.

1. Fr. Etchecopar is welcomed in the Colegio San José which, already at that time, has acquired a lot of prestige due to the seriousness of its educative project; The school will welco-

¹) See here above, Quinta de Caseros in the middle of this old picture.

me the children of the great landowners in Argentina, attracted by the French education given by the Fathers. The various activities to which Fr. Etchecopar will participate will enable him to measure this prestige:

- On December 6th, 380 alumni organize a great reception in his honour, in spite of the absences due to the elections taking place on that day. He celebrates mass, and a great banquet gathers 300 guests. Many speeches are given, especially that of Dr. Pedro Goyena. This alumnus praises the Congregation of Betharram, starting from Fr. Garicoit's humility to end with the excellent education level reached by the Colegio San José pupils. In his answer, Fr. Etchecopar congratulates the teachers, quoting the praises of a traveller he met on board the ship. On the same day, in the afternoon, he has taken for a visit to the Quinta de Almagro.
- On December 14th takes place the prize-giving at the San José, with musical accompaniments, crowns of flowers, small plays and speeches.
- On March 2nd, he goes back to the Colegio San José by tram with 34 Brothers for the beginning

Fr. Etchecopar visits the American communities

Gaspar Fernández Pérez scj

When already very young, Fr. Etchecopar is attracted by Argentina, especially since his brothers, Evariste, Séverin and Maxime went to settle there.

Since the departure of the first community of missionaries for Argentina, no authority went to visit it to admire the development of the missions among the population, and of the educative missions founded in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Far from the conflict between the Bayonne communities and their Bishop, those of Argentina remain serenely faithful to the intuitions and orientations given by the Founder since 1856, as Fr. Victor Bourdenne testifies during his visit (letter Fr.V.B. January 1885). Health problems prevent Fr. Etchecopar to travel so far. Unable to go to America himself, he sends his Assistant, his confidential man, Fr. Victor Bourdenne, who shall be thus the first Visitor to the American communities. Fr. Bourdenne arrives in Buenos Aires on December 31st 1884 and will sail again for Betharram on March 1st 1885. In his correspondance, he tells what takes place during his visit. In January, he directs both retreats in the Quinta de Almagro residence and takes this opportunity of conversing with the religious of San José Colegio. He stays for a week in the community of Montevideo, then for another week in that of San Juan, where he will make an important visit to the Clarisses. He will also visit San José during the last days of his journey. He will call on the Je-



suit Quinta in San Miguel, on the Archbishop of Buenos Aires twice, and he will spend long moments with the friends of the community who expose to him what they are expecting from the Fathers and valorize their educative work. In his letter dated February 22nd 1885, he gives a description of the house Quinta de Almagro.

According to Fr. Mieyaà, Fr. Etchecopar's health is getting better, apparently, along the years and so he can achieve his lifelong dream : to visit the American Betharramites. The doctors agree. Fr. Etchecopar is more than 60 then, and has been the General Superior for 17 years. Six journeys to Rome and a pilgrimage to the Holy Land have made him a new man.

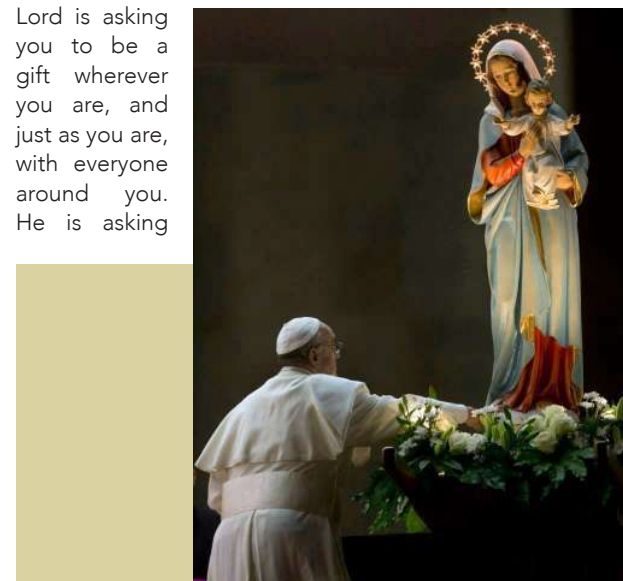
The crossing is fixed to November 3rd 1891 and May 27th 1892. He is happy to announce it to his brother Maxime and to Fr. Magendie, the Superior of the communities of Argentina and Uruguay. Fr. Romain Bourdenne and three scholastics join him in Bordeaux to board the ship Portugal on November 5th 1891. They land in La Plata on December 3rd 1891 after sailing for 30 days. There, Fr. Magendie, Maxime, the brother of Fr. Etchecopar and his son Evariste, welcome him.

Fr. Etchecopar devotes 148 days to the visit, from December to May, a period corresponding to the Summer holidays, and from March to the beginning of the school year. There are three

sionary Church is a Church that does not waste time lamenting things that go wrong, the loss of faithful, the values of the time now in the past. A Church that does not seek safe oases to dwell in peace, but longs to be salt of the earth and a leaven in the world. For such a Church knows that this is her strength, that of Jesus himself: not social or institutional relevance, but humble and gratuitous love.

[...] No one is excluded from the Church's mission. Yes, in this month the Lord is also calling you, because you, fathers and mothers of families; you, young people who dream great things; you, who work in a factory, a store, a bank or a restaurant; you who are unemployed; you are in a hospital bed... The Lord is asking you to be a gift wherever you are, and just as you are, with everyone around you. He is asking

you not simply to go through life, but to give life; not to complain about life, but to share in the tears of all who suffer. Courage! The Lord expects great things from you. He is also expecting some of you to have the courage to set out and to go wherever dignity and hope are most lacking, where all too many people still live without the joy of the Gospel. "But must I go alone?" No, that is wrong. If we think about doing missionary work like business organizations, with a business plan, that is wrong. The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of our mission. Go with the Holy Spirit. The Lord will not leave you alone in bearing witness; you will discover that the Holy Spirit has gone before you and prepared the way for you. Courage, brothers and sisters! Courage, Mother Church! Rediscover your fruitfulness in the joy of mission! •



The Council of the Congregation 2019

The Council of the Congregation was gathered in the Vicariate of Argentina- Uruguay at Adrogué from 18th till 24th September 2019.

The first part of the meeting was consecrated to see how we have progressed in the theme of the year 2019, "Go out to Share" that we had proposed to ourselves to live in the light of the Acts of the General Chapter 2017 in our respective communities, in our Vicariates & in our Regions.

As it is true that we involve ourselves in all the dimensions of pastoral service in the Church; so, each community, each Vicariate and each Region is progressed in its own unique way by offering our richness of the theme "Go Out to Share" in



the Universal Church.

All the 3 Regional Superiors have happily explained about all the efforts that are sincerely taken by every member of our family. Thanks be to God for all his continual support & constant guidance.

You yourselves knew & witnessed how much your Region has provoked to go out to share. As I reflect on, I see that there are few points mainly 5 to be emphasised from what the 3 Regional Superiors have shared.

First of all, our religious- elder or younger - continue to have a great responsibility & availability towards the mission entrusted by the diocese. It is in deed in line with what we are called to live. Secondly, the ear-



Vira Arpondratana, Bishop of Chiang Mai, the PIME fathers, after running it for 46 years, "handed it over" to the religious of Betharram: with a symbolic gesture, Fr. Maurizio Airoldi, superior of the PIME in Thailand entrusted this parish to Fr John Chan Kunu scj, Regional Vicar. Along with many fathers and brothers, Fr. Peter Nonthaphat Mayoe scj, the new Parish Priest, and Fr. Alfonso Praesert Pitakkiriboon scj, his assistant, were also present. Many faithful turned out for this occasion to express their gratitude



to the PIME Fathers for the 46 years of their valuable ministry, and to welcome the religious of Betharram who are starting this new mission.



In memoriam

We express our sympathy and condolences to our brethren who have lost a close member of their family. Let us pray for their dear one that he or she may be welcomed in the Father's House.

On 25 August, *Mrs Maura Shanney*, sister of Fr Tom Kelly scj, of the community of Droitwich (England) died. She was 97 years old.

On September 20, *Mrs Gethruth Mary*, mother of Fr Sathish Paul Raj scj of the Vicariate of India, died. She was 68 years old and she lived at Horrebele (Bangalore, India)

On 27 September, *Luigi Locatelli*, aged 98, father of Fr Alessandro Locatelli scj, member of the Community of Ponte a Elsa (Vicariate of Italy) has died at Caslino d'Erba (Como).

Sunday, October 6, *Mr François Berger*, brother-in-law of Mgr. Vincent Landel SCJ, Bishop betharramite Emeritus of Rabat (resident in the community of Pibrac), died at the age of 76.

with all the benefactors and friends into the Heart of Jesus.



• On 14 July 2019, the same community welcomed our Vietnamese brothers Joseph Vu Van Tuan & Peter Do Va Hung who have completed their philosophical studies in Thailand.

On August 15 (a special day for India as it celebrates its independence day) our Mother Church celebrates the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. On this day began the canonical year of novitiate of the St Miriam of Jesus Crucified Region.

On this auspicious occasion, the four Novices of St. Miriam Region (the three brothers from Vietnam and one brother from Thailand) made their entry into the canonical year of Novitiate in the presence of Fr. Antony Siluvai SCJ, Superior of Shobhana Shaakha community (Bangalore) and Fr. Luke Kriangsak, Superior of



Sampran community (Thailand).

Rev. Fr. Xavier Manavath CMF, Episcopal Vicar for Consecrated Life, guided the five days retreat.

We wish them to live with joy and enthusiasm this time of novitiate, in which they are called, in a special way, to «engage in an experience of the love of God, and to commit to follow Christ, "humble and obedient"...» (R. of L. 144).

Thailand

• On June 29, in the Cathedral of the "Sacred Heart" of Chiang Mai, two young Betharramites were ordained priests in a solemn celebration presided by the Bishop of the Diocese, Mgr Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana: Br. Andrew Manop Kaengkhaio SCJ and Br. Stephen Banjerd Chuensuklertaweekul SCJ, along with other deacons. The whole Congregation rejoices with our brethren of Thailand!



• On Saturday, September 28th, the parishioners of Fang witnessed a memorable event in the history of the Parish of the Epiphany, founded 46 years ago by the PIME Fathers: in the presence of Mgr Francis Xavier

nest desire to mark our identity & our presence wherever we are present is growing stronger & stronger. It is very much seen in living our betharramite life and spirit in the international communities, inter-generational communities & intra-generational communities. Thirdly, when we talk about economy of communion, there is joy in seeing the younger vicariates take up seriously the contribution towards the vicariate & Congregation as well as there is an effort sincerely taken in order to be more accountable, and this is appreciated. Fourthly, the vicariates have undertaken new missions where no one dares to go in order to share our identity, mission, charism, spirituality and our simplicity of life. There is also a certain fresh thinking to go on, on a search of a new mission together as one region.

Fifthly, the Regional Superiors have also emphasised the collaboration between us, the family of Betharram & the lay associates. It is very much evident that we become more effective when the lay associates are with us in our respective missions. We remain ever grateful to the Almighty God who continues to grant every member of our family His enthusiasm, energy, zeal and freshness to do His will especially making us faithful to go out & to share His Life with all. Thanks to all the Regional Superiors, Regional Vicars & Communities for leaving no stone unturned in order to go out & to share. Forward, Always Forward!

Stervin Fernando Selvadass scj
General Councillor

Go out, in community, to meet life and the various peripheries

This is the theme that the Congregation proposes us for the year 2020, following the indications of the XX-VII General Chapter. More than a theme, it is a call to live, in depth, an essential aspect of our Charism, the Ecce Venio, imitating Jesus, who "being in the form of God, did not count equality with God something to be grasped. But he emptied him-

self, taking the form of a slave "(Ph 2, 6-7) ... and all this for Love.

We certainly want to make ours the orientation that Pope Francis proposes to the whole Church, with much conviction and courage: "the reform of the Church in her missionary outreach" (Evangelii Gaudium, 17).

"To go out to drink from the same





Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Luján of the members of the Council of Congregation, accompanied by Mgr. Enrique Martínez Ossola, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago del Estero (Argentina).

source", "We go out to share": without doubt we have already experienced the "missionary joy" of the disciple who answers to the call of Jesus: "Go out to the whole world ; proclaim the gospel. (Mark 16:15)

The Icon of Visitation

Mary goes out in haste, to the joyous meeting with Elizabeth, John the Baptist and Jesus who seem to embrace themselves in the womb of their mothers: everything invites us to renew our faith, our hope and our Love, convinced that it is possible, today and for us too, to reach this third step that St. Michael presents

on the way to God, which is the way to eternal happiness: "At the third stage are hearts expanded with holy joy, running, flying in the service of God. 'Along the way of The commandments I have run when Thou didst expand my heart (Ps.118, 32). This degree is reached after a long struggle and many victories.' (Spiritual Doctrine § 137)

The Virgin Mary and Saint Elizabeth were women of FAITH: nothing is impossible for God, FVD, that the Will of God be done. It was not an easy faith, going against all reason. Zachariah remained dumb for lack of faith like Moses who could not enter the promised land, because he did not have a total trust in God, or like Sara, wife of Abraham, who

was old and who could not restrain a laugh when the three angels assured her that she would have had a child... the faith of Anne, Samuel's mother, who will sing the first version of the Magnificat (1Sam 2, 1-10): "I rejoice in your deliverance. There is no Holy One like Yahweh."

I might ask myself : am I convinced that in going out of myself, I will find LIFE?

What are the joys experienced during a missionary journey and that I remember?

What prevents me from going out in haste like Mary?

The Virgin Mary and Saint Elizabeth were women of HOPE: Mary



REGION FR. AUGUSTE ETCHECOPAR

ARGENTINA URUGUAY
PARAGUAY BRAZIL

- Adrogué 24 September. From 18 to 21 September the members of the Council of the Congregation worked intensively. On Saturday 21 September, in the afternoon, they had a break in order to join the Eucharistic celebration for the priestly ordination of our Betharramite brother Leandro Sebastián Narduzzo scj who was ordained through the laying on of hands of Mgr. Enrique Martínez Ossola, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago del Estero . (Argentina)



REGION SAINT MARY OF JESUS

CRUCIFIED
ENGLAND INDIA
THAILAND

England

- On 28th of September in the afternoon the English Vicariate organised the annual sponsored walk



in aid of Indian Missions.

The members of the English Vicariate, along with Companions of Betharram and parishioners from our pastoral area came together and walked a five miles sponsored walk. There were around 50 people partook this challenge and enjoyed the walk in Clifton woods at Nottingham. Nottingham Sacred Heart Community hosted this event and after the walk we celebrated Br. Dawson John SCJ's 40 years of his profession and 70th Birthday with a Barbecue. It was a very joyful occasion.

India

- Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Presence of Betharram in Bangalore. Rev. Fr. Enrico Frigerio SCJ, the Regional Superior of the Region inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Presence of Betharram in Bangalore on 28 August 2019 in the presence of all the Betharramites in India. He mentioned that he himself was present on the day of inauguration (1st September 1995). As a sign of our celebration, he blessed a Sacred Heart Statue and prayed for all those who toiled for this Vicariate and entrusted the Vicariate



Ivory Coast | Benin

• On 6 July, in the Church of St. Luke of Yenadjro, in Godomey Togoudo (Bénin), Mgr. Vincent Landel scj (bishop emeritus of Rabat) ordained priest Br. Habib Yelouwassi SCJ. We join the Vicariate of the Ivory Coast in thanking God for the gift of this new priest.

We pray that our Father St. Michael Garicoits will intercede for him.

May the Lord inspire Fr Habib to live the virtues of the Sacred Heart throughout his life.



• Assembly of the Vicariate of Côte d'Ivoire on Friday, September 13th around the theme: "Go out to share". The brothers were called to take stock of the activities carried out during the passed pastoral year by the different commissions of our respective

communities. Many questions were raised about the future of Betharram in Côte d'Ivoire and about autonomy in the management of the property of the Vicariate.

The commissions have undergone some reorganization and have been enriched by other members to continue the projects and the work in progress.

It was on a note of hope that the Vicar of Côte d'Ivoire (Fr Théophile) with his council encouraged the brothers to be more devoted to the Betharram cause but also to remain faithful in prayer and in the community and fraternal solidarity to carry out all our projects.



• On Saturday, September 14, 2019, in the St. Bernard Parish of Adiapodoumé, Brothers Hyacinthe and Jean Claude made their first religious profession in the hands of Fr Théophile. May they, through the intercession of Our Lady of Betharram, remain faithful to their commitments in following Jesus Christ, sweet and humble of heart.

represents all the hope of the Messianic times, the little remnant of Israel who continues to wait for the fulfilment of the promises, the realization of a New Covenant between God and Man, prophesied in his times by Isaiah: "the Virgin will conceive".

Elisabeth represents all those men and women who have had no luck in life, often condemned to live on the margins of the society, in the peripheries, badly seen by many others, considered useless and sterile. But "your prayer has been heard ... Your wife Elizabeth is to bear you a son (...) He will be your joy and delight." (Lk 1, 13-14)

What is the hope that still animates my religious consecration?

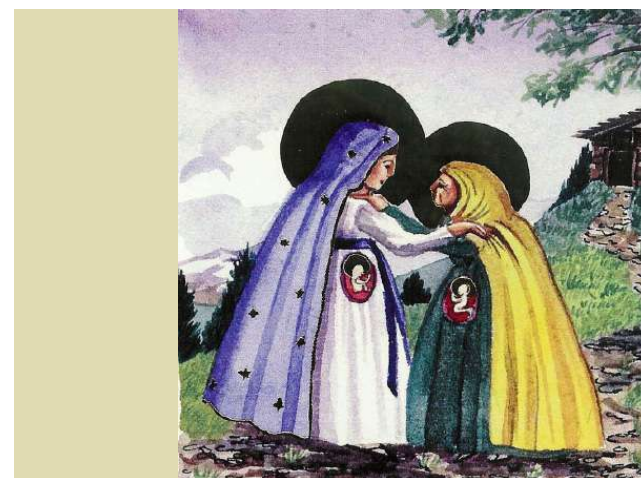
Or am I one of those who are resigned, who will change nothing for nothing, who, old and sterile, see very little future before them?

Who or what continues to paralyze my

need to go out, to encounter/meet life and different peripheries of our time and the environments in which we live?

The Virgin Mary and St. Elizabeth were women of CHARITY who "Both were upright in the sight of God and impeccably carried out all the commandments and observances of the Lord" (Lk 1: 6). What the Evangelist Luke writes about the spouses Zacharia and Elizabeth certainly applies itself to the young Mary, and she demonstrates this by putting herself, with determination and without searching for excuse, at the service of her relative Elisabeth.

« Give me however a heart that truly loves. Such a heart believes, tastes the things of God; it runs; it flies in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ.... » (Spiritual Doctrine § 101) : It is the firm conviction of St.



Michael, in his experience as formator and founder of our religious family.

Love: Is this really what drives my life, the secret spring that motivated and that continues to motivate my consecration? I may have let myself to be contaminated by the "globalization of indifference" that ends up making me insensitive and blind in the face of all this life that is around me and all the needs that are hitting my heart.

Conversion - Pastoral, Personal and Communitarian

We who want to follow Jesus, are aware that our experience allows us to affirm, that conversion must be permanent and touch all aspects of our lives. The General Chapter invites us to "a change of attitude to overcome the blockages". In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis writes: "I dream of a" missionary option, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything" and thus continues: "The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: a part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself." (EG 27).

Do we manage to discern, to think and to project our "missionary going out" in the

apostolic community project?

Do we go out with the laity who share our life, our charism and our mission?

Are we sensitive to the different calls of life that we hear from the different peripheries and what decisions can we make, personally and in community to answer them?

The theme that the Congregation proposes us, fills us with enthusiasm, even if it supposes lot of generosity and sacrifices. But when Love calls, everything is possible.

I deeply share the conviction of Pope Francis: the revitalization of the Church and therefore of our religious life goes through the missionary going out, which is not limited to this year, but which will be the constant choice of those who want to follow Jesus, who today also tells us "Go out, proclaim the Good News".

No to a sterile pessimism, No to selfishness and spiritual sloth, No to spiritual worldliness, No to warring among ourselves... Yes to the challenge of a missionary spirituality, Yes to the new relationships brought by Christ. (*Evangelii Gaudium*, Chap. 2, II : Temptations faced by pastoral workers)

« Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigour! » (EG 109)

Tobia Sosio scj
General Councillor for the mission

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATIONTA



CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEART
OF JESUS
OF BETHARRAM

• **Synod for the Amazon 7 - 23 October 2019** : We would like to share with you the letter from the Vatican Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life on the Synod for the Amazon recently opened by Pope Francis at the Vatican. This letter is available in pdf on our website (cf news on October 8th). Follow the synod step by step: www.sinodoamazonico.va



REGION SAINT MICHAEL GARICOÏTS

FRANCE SPAIN
ITALY CENTRAL AFRICA
IVORY COAST HOLY LAND

France-Spain

• From 6 to 11 August, 7 young people (two Ivorian novices, one French girl and four Italian young people) accompanied by Fr. Gérard Zugarramurdi scj (residence of Mendelu, Spain), Fr. Habib Yelouwassi scj (community "Notre Dame" of Betharram, France) and Fr. Simone Panzeri scj (community of Pistoia, Italy), walked about 115 km from Betharram to Ibarre. In a very simple and fraternal way they shared the joy of being together and helped each other in their difficulties. Every day they reflected on a particular

aspect of the spirituality of St Michael making the journey towards Ibarre a way to walk in his footsteps and to be accompanied by him to discover new paths in their own own life.



• Ibarre, August 28, 2019 - More than 500 pilgrims from the Basque Country, as per tradition, gathered together to pray St Michael Garicoïts, at Ibarre, his native village.

About twenty diocesan priests and Betharramite religious from four continents took part in the concelebration presided by the Abbot Jean-René Prédaigne who in the afternoon led the Way of the Cross.

He invited the pilgrims to follow the path of holiness with joy and faith, in the footsteps of Saint Michael Garicoïts.

The benediction with the Blessed Sacrament at "Garacotchea", the native place of Saint Michael, ended the day's celebrations.

It was a day full of prayer and fruitful encounters.



... SCJ library

The Betharramite library has grown with new titles...

Jésus, attrait ineffable pour le cœur: Collection of the editorials of the Superior General Emeritus, Fr. Gaspar Fernández Pérez scj, edited by Fr. Beñat Oyhénart scj. For now only available in French (yet, the single editorials can still be found on the Congregation's website in other languages: Italian, Spanish, English).*

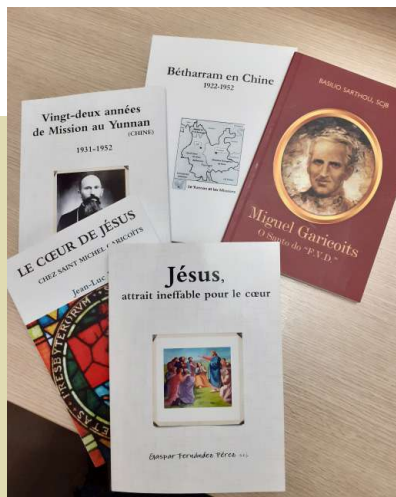
Vingt-deux années de Mission au Yunnan (Chine 1931-1952): Memories about the mission in Yunnan (China) and testament of Mgr. Lucien Lacoste scj, first Betharramite Bishop, of the Diocese of Chiang Mai (Thailand).*

Bétharram en Chine 1922-1952: two testimonies (not signed) on the mission of the Fathers of Betharram in Tali (today Dali), still in the province of Yunnan (China). *

Le Cœur de Jésus chez saint Michel Garicoïts, publication of the thesis in theology, submitted in 1994, in Rome, by Fr. Jean-Luc Morin, scj.*

Last but not least, a good surprise: *Miguel Garicoïts O Santo do "F.V.D."*, Portuguese edition of the book of Basile Sarthou scj, edited by P. Paulo Vital Campos scj.

*Can be bought
website:



only online on the
www.lulu.com

Present and future of the Vicariate of Brazil

with Fr. Paulo Cesar Pinto scj, Regional Vicar

The Betharramite Vicariate of Brazil has eighteen religious priests. All are active and almost all engaged in parish activities, in five dioceses belonging to three different sectors of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil. In our Regional Formation house in Belo Horizonte (MG), the young people pursue their theological studies. They are currently five: one Argentinian, one Brazilian and three Paraguayans. Two religious are preparing themselves for the service of initial formation at the Sao Paulo School of Formators, one is about to finish his formation, while the other begins. In the house of aspirants and postulants, we have two young people, one of them is preparing for the novitiate. A significant number of young people and adolescents are accompanied by the animation team for vocations, with the participation of religious residing in communities close to their places of life.

The organization of the administration is on the right track-thanks to the collaboration and participation of many religious. Our efforts tend to put in value the properties of the Vicariate to ensure, in priority, the formation of the young people of whom God gifts us so often, without effort or merit on our part.



At Passa Quatro, we have re-developed the area around the house to relaunch the Inn and make better use of the apartments which, until now, have been underutilized; we also think of other spaces that could be used for a variety of events.

The communities are alive and well integrated into the particular churches where they are inserted. They are recognized and appreciated by the faithful, the clergy and the bishops. They see in our way of life a contribution and a wealth. They always put forward what we do not always see ourselves: the dimension of the incarnation - which is so dear to us - our style of presence and pastoral action.

The fraternal visit of our brother, Fr. Gustavo, in his service of government of our family, allowed us to see what we are and what we are living, our strengths and our weaknesses. He favored a time to contemplate the past with a respectful heart, present with a grateful heart and future with a heart overflowing with hope. This was highlighted in the Eucharistic celebration at the conclusion of our assembly, at the end of the canonical visit, when we were invited to pronounce the names of young people in vocational research, who are in contact with the communities



in which we are sent on mission or close to them.

Before us are the opportunities to go further in the service of the Kingdom. Go ahead into the deep lands of Brazil that can be enriched by the quality of Betharram spirituality. There are many requests for the establishment of a community of our Congregation in different regions and in our different particular Churches. In the next ten years, we may be able to establish new establishments in the north-east, north and west-central. The disciple's capacity to listen allows him to unite oneself more intimately with the Master and predisposes to the condition of missionary discipleship.

These days of intense pilgrimage

have fostered meetings between brothers, with lay people who drink from the same source as we and with communities of faith and who have been a breath of the Spirit's air to overcome fatigue and our concerns and to prepare ourselves for the Mission in the footsteps of Saint Michael, discreet and ready for the cause of the Kingdom, without delay, without reservation, with all our heart and love! •

NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL



At the meeting of the General Council, held in Adrogué (Argentina) from 23 to 25 September, the Superior General, Fr. Eduardo Gustavo Agin scj, with his Council,

- approved the appointment of Fr. Vincent Masilamani scj as Superior of the Great Barr Community (RSMJC, Vicariate of England) from 15 January 2020, for a first term (Rule of Life §206 a);

- admitted to perpetual profession Brother Thanit Panmanikun and Brother Rawee Prempoonwicha (RSMJC, Vicariate of Thailand) (Rule of Life § 205h);
- granted an indult of final exit from the Congregation to scholastic Leonardo Ferreira (RPAE, Vicariate of Brazil) (Rule of Life §311);
- granted an indult of exclaustation to Fr. Subancha Paul Mary Yindeengarm scj for a period of one year, in the Diocese of Chiang Rai, Thailand, (Rule of Life § 205n) to live an experience of monastic life, as a hermit.

Other matters,

- He authorised the Regional Superior of the SMJC Region, Father Enrico Frigerio, to purchase on behalf of the Congregation a piece of land in the village of Huay Tong (Thailand) (Rule of Life § 295, 205t). The pastoral project concerning the use of this land (so far indicated only in broad terms) will be submitted in due time to the approval of the Superior General and Council.
- By dispensing from Rule of Life § 227 and under §197, he has authorised the Regional Superior of the SMJC Region not to hold an intermediate Regional Chapter in view of the financial difficulties concerning travel expenses that such a chapter would entail, and has instructed the following:
"Let an assembly be held in each Vicariate of the Region of Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified on the themes of the General Chapter of 2017. In the assembly of each vicariate, choose a cleric who will serve as secretary.
These secretaries will then be invited by the Regional Superior to participate in an enlarged Regional Council to bear the fruit of the reflections of the various assemblies. In the Regional Council, invited members would have neither active voice nor passive voice."
- He welcomed the request made by the Regional Superior of the SMJC Region to benefit from the General Fund for Formation to cover tuition fees for the scholastics of the Vicariate of India, provided that the procedures and all the conditions prescribed by the 2014 decree issued by the Superior General for the constitution of this fund are met.

NOTA BENE :

The Vicar General, Fr. Jean-Dominique Delgue, will visit Ivory Coast from 29 October to 17 November; Secretary General, Fr. Graziano Sala, will pay a visit to Vietnam at the end of November. During the first week of December, he will meet the bursars of the communities of the Vicariate of Thailand. As a result, the next meeting of the Superior General and his Council has been moved. Originally scheduled for October 30-31, it will be held on November 19-20; the scheduled meeting on 4-5 December is also postponed.