

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

Generalate House
via Angelo Brunetti, 27
00186 Rome (Italy)

Telephone
00 39 06 320 70 96
Fax
00 39 06 36 00 03 09
E-mail
nef@betharram.fr

Visit us on our
w e b s i t e
www.betharram.org

The log of Father Barbé

close to you in order to be edified by your regularity, your zeal in the study and above all by the progress of your virtue ...

In the meantime, here we are so-to-say inhabitants of the sea. What is in store for us in this new country? I have no idea, but (...) my pulse does not beat any faster; I am not scared at all. It could not be otherwise...

This is God's will! Besides we are members of a society whose motto is: *Fiat voluntas Dei*. These words boost my courage.

*Come on, let us go, my Etincelle!
What are you waiting for? This is the voice
of the Lord; He has spoken... Woe to those
who waver! Let us go, let us fly!... This is
peace, this is happiness.*

O!!! I don't understand myself any more! I am a poet!... Hurrah to the sea! And long life to Betharram!

(to be continued)

On the schedule of the General Council

From January 16th to 19th

Fr. Enrico Frigerio will take part in the 2nd session of the **provincial chapter of Italy** (Albavilla)



From February 4th to 15th

Fr. Gaspar Fernandez, Superior general, will visit our communities in the **Ivory Coast**

*Best wishes for
more communion
and... more
fantasy in
2006!*

NEF

104th year, n° 1

January 14th, 2006

Family News

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

 **A word from
the Superior General**

A spirituality of communion

Each of us, religious or lay Betharramite, should always keep at hand - in his breviary, his wallet or his diary - like the Shema Israel (Dt 6,4-9), the section 43 from *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. Or better still, we should fully absorb the contents and put them into practice in our religious communities and in our mission work. *To make the Church the home and the school of communion: that is the great challenge facing us in the millennium which is now beginning, if we wish to be faithful to God's plan and respond to the world's deepest yearnings...* a world split by fratricidal wars.

To build communion means to bring together different persons into the unity of a single community. This unity includes differences in the commitment of reproducing and manifesting the *here I am* of Jesus; this is what Saint Michael taught us, and this is what transformed our lives when we encountered him. Unity with differences in a common mission: to live in such a way that any man may encounter Jesus, be transformed by him and consider his neighbour as a brother.

The spirituality of communion is a way of life that comes from the inmost recesses of our being; it was created in the image of the Trinity; equally, each person finds his/her own identity in his/her relationships to others. This is how unity is being built in a couple, a family, a community, in the church, in the society. We feel the

In this issue

- Page 4: The long story of the NEF
- Page 6: Interview with Fr. Britto
- Page 8: General survey of the Congregation
- Page 11: Christmas eggs
- Page 14: Our prayers
- Page 15: 1856/2006 the log of Father Barbé
- And many other things...



*Mission
can never
be an
obstacle to
communion*

pressing need for sharing our original individuality which can be a source of enrichment to others. We are aware of our frailties as well, and we can see in others a gift of God which can enrich us too.

From this point of view, the brother is not a challenger vying for the first place: he is a friend with whom we can cooperate by valuing what we have in common and what deeply unites us, as well as by giving value to our differences and to what enriches us mutually. This is the way we are made: we have to risk the lot if we want to become a person. *Unless a grain of wheat ... Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life* (Jn 12,24-25) Our happiness is at stake there. Instead of mistrusting our brother, we feel responsible for him, we share his life, because, without him, we cannot be fully ourselves.

It happens sometimes that the mission turns out to be an excuse for us for not living in communion. But mission can never be an obstacle to communion. The obstacle is rather the success and the gratifications we would like to obtain from anything: from the mission, from human relationships, from the community and from vocation.

Jesus was engrossed by this project of communion. He drew inspiration from his experience with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He wanted it for his disciples, so that they may have a part, within the community, in the happiness he enjoyed within the Trinity. He gave his life on the cross for such a project.

Since he knew that communion is a gift, he asked the Father for it: *“Holy Father, keep those you have given me true in your name, so that they may be one like us”* (Jn 17,11). Since he knew that it was also a task, he unceasingly reminded us about the Commandment of Love. Saint Michael made this deep desire of communion his own for his Congregation:

**Betharramerica
1856-2006**



**On board of the three-master
L'Étincelle heading for Montevideo**

August 31st, 1856 - The longed-for moment has come eventually. It is not a dream anymore, it is reality. Whether all the people who pitifully smiled at us when thinking of our project, and who would indefinitely postpone its execution, may be pleased or not, we are today on board of the ship *L'Étincelle*...

Said in the language of seamen, but in good French, this means that we do not belong to the earth any more, that the ground is not our dwelling place anymore. Some other people may say that being on board of a ship as we are now means to be separated, spirit and body, from all that we must cherish here on earth. It is no more the case and it will never be as far as we are concerned. With the spirit and the heart we will remain at Betharram and we want to remain there for ever.

Often, very often, we will visit our beloved chapel to draw from the treasure of graces it contains. Often, very often, we will be near to you, Venerable and Venerated Superior, (...) we will confide to your fatherly heart our joys, our sorrows, and our sufferings. And you will rejoice with us and you will encourage us. In a word, even absent, you will talk to us and we will hear your voice.

We will be among you as well, good and virtuous brothers, to be encouraged to practice the apostolic virtues. We will also be among our brothers who edify us by their humility, their obedience, and their abnegation...

Lastly we will be near to you, beloved novices, to help you to thank the Lord for the inestimable favour he made to you by taking you away, at your young age, from the midst of the world and by calling you to a position which should make you living copies of his Son; we will be

From this issue onwards and throughout 2006, an extract from the log of Fr. Didace Barnabé will be published every month. Following the very beginnings of the Betharramite adventure overseas, we will closely share in the celebrations for the 150 years anniversary of the foundation in America



Back to Italy in 1956, he worked in different places: Albiate (1956-57), Lissone (1957-62), la Caravina (1962-64), Colico (1964-67), Monteporzio (1967-69), Bormio (1969-82). For the last 24 years, he dedicated himself to Hospital chaplaincy in Morbegno.

We entrust his work and his life to God, being certain that He, and He only, can give it back to him in abundance.



France

Mr. **Pierre Capdevielle**, the father of the secretary at the generalate house, died in an accident on December 19th in Saint-Girons. Our thoughts and prayers for Martine and her family.

Mr. **Arnaud Oyhénart**, father of the French Provincial, passed away on 21st December. "He was lucid and passed away without suffering at the age of 93, wrote Fr. Beñat. Also my mother saw the end coming like a passage or an Easter..." Let us share in the sorrow and the hope of his family, and assure Beñat of our fraternal friendship.

Father Etchecopar wrote... To his sister Julie, January 8th, 1874

Happy New Year in the Lord Jesus, who enlightened us through his light, who sanctified and regenerated us through his blood, and who is at any time our light, our unique way, our unique life, the unique worthwhile object of our charity and our love.

Here we are, on the feast of the Epiphany. The sin made us a den of thieves; through our twofold vocation, as Christians and as religious, Jesus turned us into torches, into suns to enlighten the world; he placed us among his angels, he made of our hearts his temple, his house, his paradise! From there, his only concern is the salvation of our soul and the glory of his Father. May he be thanked, adored and loved for ever by any creature. Amen.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, what a model community...! The Three Persons make One Community... These Three Persons, perfectly distinct, do not fail to be united and to act as one in nature, in thought, in will and in work, and thus constitute one adorable perfect society... (MS 117)

Each religious or lay Betharramite must be a man/a woman of communion. It is a communion to be built up day by day, through the efforts and the gift of oneself required by the fidelity to one's position. A communion which one should deserve and ask for every day, in union with Jesus, Saint Michael, Fr Etchecopar, the Servant of God, and with all Betharram in heaven and on earth:

O God, look not upon my sins but on the society that your Sacred Heart has conceived and formed. Deign to grant it your peace, that peace according to your will which alone can pacify it, and unite all its members more closely with each other, with their superiors and your divine Heart, so that they may be one as you and the Father are one in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Fiat! Fiat! (DS 273)

Gaspar Fernandez Perez, SCJ

From the reply of Mgr. Gabriele Caccia, member of the Secretariat of State, to the Christmas wishes sent by the Superior general to the Holy Father. Vatican, December 17th, 2005:

The Supreme Pontiff wholeheartedly thanks you for your testimony of devotion and spiritual closeness. He wishes that the contemplation of the mystery of the Word of God, incarnated in the womb of the Virgin Mary and born for us in Bethlehem, stir in each of us the desire of communicating his love and his peace. He sends with all his heart his Apostolic Blessing—extendible to all those who are dear to you—as a pledge of serenity and hope.



*Each religious
betharramite
must be a
man of
communion*

Communication**Something new in the "News"**

New year, new format. The glossy NEF has gone. Welcome to the *News* on loose sheets! The first one attached great importance to the presentation and in-depth articles. Mission accomplished, at the cost of paying at times a heavy price (in terms of cost and deadlines)!

The new version is going to find another rhythm, going back the idea of the beginning of the Congregation: news sent to the whole *family* of Betharram (religious and lay members who “drink at the same source”, according to the Chapter 1999). It will rely on the new technologies which have increased and made the exchange of information accessible to all. The formal aspect is likely to lose out, but we hope that communication will improve, and – who knows? – the communion between us too.

The principle is simple even though the challenge is risky: on the 14th of every month – 14 like Saint Michael’s feast, the holy Cross’ feast (not to mention February 14th) – will be laid out on computer and sent out by Internet.

Regarding the contents, nothing really new: a message from the Superior general, brief accounts from the Provinces and vice-provinces, a column of history or spirituality, official communications, etc. But the bulletin will be as concise and flexible as a monthly publication should be (as it used to be in the past, but now published in four languages rather than only in French). The *News* will also be available on digital format, the basis for a regular updating of the website www.betharram.org.

Here it is. You know all about our editorial project. Please remember that all this will be possible only with your help, with the news flowing from provincial secretaries, communities and individuals, thanks to the chain diffusion from the computer wizards to those who do not use computer at all. Blue (for the French issue), green (Italian), orange (English), fuchsia (Spanish) or black and white (for home made copies). Whatever the colour, may these *News* reflect all the colours of an international Family.

Jean-Luc Morin, SCJ

IN MEMORIAM**Italy****Father Antonio Cattaneo**

In the night of November 23rd, 2005, Fr. Antonio Cattaneo returned to the house of the Father, at the age of 74. He made his first profession in France, at Balarin, on September 29th, 1948. Ordained priest in Milan on June 4th, 1955, he had just celebrated his jubilee.

He graduated in physics and put all his energies into teaching, doing his best in the education of young generations.

Death took him by surprise in Albavilla on November 23rd. These days, the liturgy invites us to “*stand erect, hold our heads high, because our liberation is near at hand*” (Lk 21:28).

We entrust Fr. Antonio and all our departed to the mercy of the One who gives us true and eternal life.

Father Ireneo Simonetti

At the end of the year, Fr. Ireneo fell suddenly ill, his health deteriorated rapidly. The Lord called him home, at dawn on January 2nd.

Born in 1927 in Cavaion (Province of Verona), he entered our religious Family in 1936, and pronounced the first vows in 1943.

He studied philosophy in Colico and completed the theology courses in Albiate. Ordained priest in Milan in 1948, he did his ministry in Brazil for eight years. His whole life was deeply marked by this impassioned experience in Brazil. He felt ever since very close to the Betharramite mission in that country..

2006

JANUARY

14	Happy birthday	Br. Lucas Soosai S. Manickam
16	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Pierre Lagouardat
20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Victor Batailles
23	Buon compleanno	P. Ennio Bianchi
25	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Luis Oteiza
26	Buon compleanno Por 15 años de profesión, felicidades	P. Mario Giussani P. Osvaldo Caniza
27	Happy birthday Feliz cumpleaños	Fr. Brian Boyle P. Carlos Rodriguez
28	Por 5 años de profesión felicidades	Hno. Luis Carlos da Silva Hno. Jair Pereira da Silva
29	Joyeux anniversaire	P. André Grossard
30	Buon compleanno	P. Celeste Perlini P. Aldo Camesasca
31	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Lanusse P. Mathieu Etchénique

FEBRUARY

2	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Suberbielle
3	Buon compleanno Feliz cumpleaños	P. Alessandro del Grande P. Tarcisio Giacomelli P. Angelo Recalcati
5	Happy birthday	Br. Mahimai Nathan Kabriel Lukku
8	Feliz cumpleaños Joyeux anniversaire	P. Eugenio Amitrano P. Firmin Bourguinat
10	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Lataste P. Pierre Grech
13	Buon compleanno	P. Giacomo Ghislanzoni P. Mario Longoni
15	Auguri per 45 anni di professione	Fr. Severino Urbani
17	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Luc Morin
19	Joyeux anniversaire Por 20 de profesión, felicidades	P. Henri Lamasse P. Francisco de Paula
20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Mirco Trusgnach

*A bit of history***The long story of the N.E.F.**

The *Nouvelles en Famille*, alias N.E.F., is going into its 104 years of life. It has now a new shape, a new size... which has changed throughout the years. The N.E.F. dates back to 1903 when the General Chapter of that year (the one of the expulsion from France and the “diaspora”) decided to create a “liaison bulletin” between the different parts of the Institute, first and foremost between the religious themselves. A periodical came to life which, on the one hand, took the place of the circulars from the Major Superiors and, on the other hand, satisfied a greater need for information and, gradually, for formation.

In 103 years there have been ever since seven series of publications. The first two series (1903-1906 and 1911-1922) were produced in a particular way: the pages were handwritten, then duplicated. The first series, interrupted in 1906, started again following the initiative of the General Chapter of 1911. It gradually got thicker and richer in its content: from a simple 4 or 8-page leaflet to a real magazine, getting sometimes even 48 pages filled with a small and a dense writing (no pictures then to make it easier to read!).

In 1923 the first printed series was published. Once again a General Chapter decided to keep on publishing the NEF monthly (a periodicity that was not always respected). This series came to an end in 1925, after 13 issues.

Afterwards there was a new interruption. The N.E.F. was replaced by *L’Echo de Betharram* which had just come to life. It would reappear in 1930 with the fourth series (the second one to be printed). The same shape was maintained till 1987, while the contents gave more importance to information, and to a lesser extent, to formation. This series ending in 1946 (154 is the total number of issues) was followed by a fifth (from 1947 to 1952, 72 issues), and a sixth one (from 1953 to 1994 with 416 issues).

*From a
leaflet to a
news
magazine*

*From
typography
to photo-
composition*

*From printing
to Internet*

In 1987, even though the progressive numbering continued, for the first time, the N.E.F. underwent a radical change, especially the typographical format. (We all remember the typewritten NEF or written on the computer, and then photocopied). In 1995 there was a second decisive transformation, and I would say, an indispensable modernisation. The result was a new series of 35 issues, in different languages (French, Italian, English, and Spanish), with a focus on formation.

In this year 2006, the N.E.F. is changing again to keep up with the times: multimedia, global communication, on-line service.

Roberto Cornara, *archivist*



5 MINUTES WITH... FATHER BRITTO

Native of Madras, P. Britto Anthony Rajan is one of the first Indian Betharramites. At present he is finishing a course on social communication at the Gregorian University in Rome. We took this opportunity to ask him a few questions.

Nef - What is your course about?

It is Master degree in social communication. This course consists of theology of communication, pastoral communication, socio-cultural communication and media ethics. The aim is to know the function of media and to give a critical outlook on how they are used in the mission of the Church. In February, I'll present a final paper entitled "Folk Media bring development in Tamil Nadu".

A tale from Thailand

CHRISTMAS



December 24th, 2005 - This year, the children of the mission are happy because Christmas is on Sunday: No school. In Thailand, Christmas is not a holyday.

At the mission, the crib has been set up. In front of the chapel, a sort of cabin has sprung up, in the style of the mountain villages: built on a platform, supported by a bamboo fence, surrounded by colourful festoons, and equipped with a ladder, it all looks so real.

There are nine days left before Christmas, but the characters have already been positioned into the crib: the shepherds and their sheep, the knife grinder, the carpenter, the baker, the housewife doing the washing. Cats, dogs, hens and chicks are running around the cabin, taking part in the Christmas preparations in their own way.

At the beginning of the novena, something incredible but true happened. A hen, heedless of the traffic, came closer, gave a glance at the ladder leading to the grotto, climbed it quickly, found her way among the figurines, reached a nice cosy place, behind the cradle of the child and laid in there... a lovely white egg.

Just imagine our surprise! Like in that recent Italian hit, we could sing: "when the children say 'oh', how wonderful! how wonderful!" But surprise increased when we noticed that every day around nine in the morning, the pullet would go into the grotto to lay her gift for Jesus. Today, on Christmas Eve, we counted eight eggs.

It seems that here in Asia, the hens feel particularly in danger; they turn therefore to the Saviour. They ask for the grace of being saved from the violence of mankind and from the dangers of the... birds flu!

I hope that tomorrow morning too the pullet will lay her daily egg... for the joy of Jesus and of all the children of the world. And after that, may-be, she will even sing a Christmas lullaby.

Fr. Alberto Pensa wrote us from the Holy Family Catholic Centre (Pong Ngam, Maesai)



Alberto Pensa, S.C.J.



*Blessed Miriam
Region*

The English Province Delegation of India

The laureate ■ Fr. Colin Fortune passed his M.A. in Theology on October 10th. This was the culmination of over two years of long and hard work at Newman College. Congratulations!

A new deacon ■ On Sunday 30th October, at Shobhana Shaakha, Bro. Shaju Paul Kalapurakkal was ordained a deacon by the Emeritus Archbishop of Bangalore, Mgr Ignatius Pinto. The young deacon is now making his first experience in the communities of Thailand. Best wishes and good luck!

Closure announced in Leigh ■ The council of the Province gathered on November 28th, 2005 decided to close the community Saint Joseph's in Leigh. Discussions are in progress with the diocese of Liverpool for a possible transfer in a nearby smaller parish. This solution would be compatible with the charge of provincial bursar for Fr. Anton Madej, and with the functions of school chaplain for Bro. John Dawson.

7 rules for good communication with God



1. Don't dial your number carelessly: take care to dial the right number.
2. Don't talk all the time: listen to the voice at the other end.
3. Don't make emergency call only: call when everything is all right too.
4. Don't make only cheap fare calls: ring when you have to pay the full price too.
5. When you find a message on your answering machine, don't forget to ring back.
6. When the conversation is interrupted, dial again immediately.
7. And if, even by following these instructions, you cannot manage to hold the line, turn to the Holy Spirit: it will restore communication.

Why did you choose this subject for your paper?

In this electronic age of big business, Traditional media or Popular media have an important role to play in order to provide the poor with a voice to get their concerns across and communicate the need for their development. I felt this Folk Media is the media for the folk, of the folk and by the folk. The communicator has the responsibility to re-educate the people, to find out the uniqueness and importance of folk media and to get rid of his wrong concept about folk form: that is why I have selected this theme for my work. And this is important in the developing countries for the development of the poor people.

Which use can you make of it in your future ministry?

To create a group (youth and laity) in parishes and mission posts according to the intellectual and psychological capacity of individuals.

To form cultural groups in parishes through which we can communicate God's message (Christ's love and Christian values).

To conduct faith education and media education classes for seminarians and school children.

What is your vision for the future of Betharram in India?

To educate and bring social awareness through media. That means to create media centres, preaching the word of God with popular proverbs and riddles, to produce some devotional and social songs, to start some social awareness cultural groups to eradicate social evils (caste system in India).

*To give a voice
to those who
are not
comfortable
with language*

*To awaken
social
awareness*

*To evangelise
through the
media*



Saint Michael
Region

Every month, short news from the congregation...

The French Province Delegation of the Ivory Coast

Nominations ■ All the members of the council of the Delegation of the Ivory Coast have been appointed. Last December, the new councillors, Fr. Firmin Worou Ogoubé and Br. Barnabé Bakary Kpéhéléfopé, joined Fr. Jean-Marie Ruspil, Superior delegate.

Brainstorming at Betharram ■ From December 27th to 29th was held the 2nd session of the Provincial Chapter. On the agenda: the guidelines of the Council of the Congregation and a reflection on the commissions.

The Italian Province

A new deacon ■ On September 10th, 2005, Eyad Bader was ordained deacon in the cathedral of Como. The bishop, Mgr Alessandro Maggiolini, laid his hands upon our Jordanian Brother. He has been welcomed by the community of Montemurlo where he is now doing parish ministry. Let us accompany him with our fraternal prayers.

Changes and continuity at the Miracoli ■ From October 1st, 2005, the church of Our lady of the Miracles in Rome has a new rector: Fr. Enrico Frigerio, member of the General Council, succeeds Fr. Giovanni Trameri. After fifty years of good and faithful service, Fr. Giovanni will still be present in the church, like a *guardian angel* (as Fr. Antonio Canavesi puts it). As for him, Fr. Antonio plays an important role in the daily running of the sanctuary in close collaboration with Fr. Enrico and the Religious in via Brunetti. The project of the Italian Province and the last General Council of forming one single community is therefore being implemented.

Preparations in Albavilla ■ The 2nd session of the Provincial Chapter of Italy is planned from January 16th to 19th (more details in the next issue).



Father Etchecopar
Region

Priority to formation ■ Those in charge of Formation in the Etchecopar Region have planned a meeting on January 23th-24th in Passa Quatro (Brazil) to review their practice and their project.

The Province of the Rio de La Plata

Religious gathering ■ From December 27th to 30th 2005, the chapter of Argentine and Uruguay was hosted by the community of Adrogué.

The Vice Province of Brazil

... in Passa Quatro also ■ The vice provincial assembly met on November 30th to be brought up to date on the decisions of the Council of the Congregation. Next meeting in February.

Good news ■ After a long convalescence, Fr. João Batista Ribeiro has taken up again his activities as parish priest in Conceição do Rio Verde.

Best wishes! ■ On January 22nd, a feast day for Betharram in Brazil: Brs. Robson Antonio Leite and Luiz Henrique Ribeiro will pronounce their first vows in the church of Conceição. Welcome in our family!

The Vice Province of Paraguay

Thanksgiving ■ On October 1st, Feast of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus, Br. Daniel Pavon was ordained deacon in the parish church of San Joaquin, by Mgr. Gavilan, bishop of Coronel Oviedo. Let us pray for our young Brother.

Thanksgiving (bis) ■ On January 19th, Gustavo Ferreira Melgarejo, Carlos Helman Cabello and Joel Vera Talavera made their first profession in the church Saint Francis Xavier of La Colmena. All our wishes to them.

Retreat ■ The religious of Paraguay concluded the year with a retreat. Fr. José Mirande, returned to Brazil in autumn, guided them in this privileged time of spiritual and fraternal growth.