

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

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Father Barbé's log (3)

Thursday 4th September - Today for the first time we celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. M. Guimon officiated. I don't know how he felt, but to all intents and purposes, he was deeply moved. As for us, we were very recollected. What a sight! For a church we had a tiny little room 5 metres long, 1.20 metres wide and 1,50 metres high; our altar was a table, the surface of which was divided into little compartments, sticking out; a cross impossible to keep in place because of the movement of the sea, a dear priest who has grown old in the service of the Lord, at his side a group of priests and brothers who are going to carry the Good News of the Gospel to distant lands and strive to gain souls for the same Jesus Christ. He is there close to us to enlighten us, strengthen us, and bless us. What could be more moving to imagine?

(to be continued)

On the schedule of the General Council

5-11 March 2006

The Superior General, accompanied by Mr Luigi Pirovano, financial consultant, went to Buenos Aires, for a joint reflection with the local administration on the management of the Province of the Rio de La Plata, and the reconversion of the works.



IN MEMORIAM

Let us pray for

- Fr. **José Luiz Arantes Vilela**, born in 1931. We have just heard of his death. The funeral is today, March 14th, at Passa Quatro.
- Michel Etcheverria, brother of Father Dominique (Limoges).
- Ida, sister of Fr. Anselmo Ghezzi (Monteporzio).
- Natale Trameri, Brother of Fr. Albino (Montemurlo).

NEF

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March 14th, 2006

Family News

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



**A word from
the Superior General**

The vocation of saint Joseph

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March 19th is the feast of St Joseph. The Betharramites whom I have known since the age of eleven, have always taught me to celebrate this feast with great joy. I was always struck by the devotion which our old Fathers had for St Joseph. Today, I understand that it wasn't just on the surface; on the contrary they could see in St Joseph a saint who was the embodiment of the virtues proper to the Betharramites.

Mary and Joseph are the first disciples of Jesus, for in them were accomplished his words when he said: *Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother.* (Mt 12:50) Mary is the woman who says *fiat*, St Joseph is the man of action - *fecit*. Mary is docile and ever ready to respond; St Joseph is the one who acts. Receptiveness to God's will characterises Mary; steadfastness in action, without ostentation, is the virtue of St Joseph. Here is how the evangelist Mathew describes them for us: *When Joseph woke up he **did** what the angel of the Lord had told him to do; he **took** his wife to his home (Mt 1:24) So Joseph **got up** and, **taking** the child and his mother with him, **left** that night for Egypt, where he **stayed** until Herod was dead. (Mt 2:14, 15) So Joseph **got up** and, **taking** the child and his mother with him went back to the land of Israel... He **left** for the region of Galilee and **settled** in a town called Nazareth. (Mt 2:21 - 23)*



Love resides in acts rather than in words, according to St Ignatius. Underlying St Joseph's actions we find **that obedience, for love's sake rather than for any other motive** of which St Michael speaks. The series of acts which we have mentioned are in direct response to three demands from the Angel of the Lord. The purpose of this obedience is the protection of the frail **Mystery of the Incarnation**. St Joseph must surely have had to overcome doubts, fears and sufferings at the beginning; he had other plans. But he was touched to the heart by the God of Love, whose plan it was to reveal to mankind his Love which consoles, cures and liberates. For him there was no escape. He accepted to live for God's plan and like a champion ran the course. (Ps 19:6) He has neither excuse, time nor delay for reflection. He has no idea where the adventure could lead him; he was incapable of delaying. The importance of the Incarnation was the divine plan of salvation! For that alone, it was worth while to obey.

*To obey
out of love...*

*To dedicate
oneself, to
forget oneself,
to seek the
good of the
others...*

*To know
when to speak
and when
to remain
silent...*

Such is the loving obedience to a loving God, who has loved us first! And as love invites love, obedience to a loving God is always shown in our love for the principal actors of the Incarnation. St Joseph's love finds its expression in his self abnegation and in seeking the best interests of the Virgin Mary and of the Child Jesus by unselfish service.

Instead of speaking about St Joseph's silence, I shall rather dwell upon his discretion. Silence means not talking. Discretion is the art of knowing when to speak and when to remain silent. I think about the quiet conversations St Joseph would have had with people visiting his workshop during his working hours. I think of how with Mary he marvelled *at the things that were being said about him*. (Luke 2:33) How Mary must have shared with him, in private, *all those things which she treasured and pondered in her heart*. (Luke 2:19) How they must have shared in silence their anxiety and pain caused by the disappearance

Betharramerica
1856-2006



**On board the Three-Master
L'Etincelle en route for
Montevideo (3)**

Tuesday, 2nd September - After lunch, M. Larrouy who is fond of the open air, took a few minutes stroll on the outer part of the ship. He looks at the arid coast of Spain lying in front of us and expresses all the feelings that that country can arouse in catholic and religious hearts. I don't know if his beret was sea sick or if it feared the storms, but in any case from what I could see it looked as if it wanted to have done with it at all costs. Grabbing a good occasion, it suddenly took off from its owner's head and landed in the depths of the sea. The beret, sailing towards the coasts of Spain quickly disappeared from view. Have a good trip! I would love to know what kind of reception it will get from the Spaniards.

Wednesday, 3rd September - Today the sea is a magnificent sight. What wonderful things I could tell if only my tongue could express my feelings! You can read everything that has ever been written about the sea, believe you me, you would still have no idea of the reality. And now our boat is lifting, lifting, lifting, and then dropping with all its weight, as if it wanted to plunge to the depths of the sea. Can you see those mountainous waves which seem to be coming towards us, as if they wanted to block our passage? Wait a moment: now they are sinking respectfully in the presence of the Lord's ambassadors. As for the birds swooping round our boat, even playing in the rigging, what do they want? I have no idea, but I like to imagine that it's our Heavenly Father who sends them to cheer us up, to remind us of happier occasions and above all to invite us to sing his praises. And so we say **Benedicamus Patrem!**

Third appointment
with Fr Barbé and
his companions:
his lively account
makes events
spring to life 150
years later.



2006

MARCH

15	Joyeux anniversaire Happy birthday	Fr. Paul Lamothe Br. Antony J. Livin Fernando
17	50 ans de sacerdoce, félicitations Buon compleanno	P. Jean Lambert P. Natale Re
19	60 ans de profession, félicitations	P. Eugène Lhouerrou
21	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Bruno Ierullo P. Jorge Murias P. José Gogorza
22	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Gabriel Verley
23	Buon compleanno	Fr. Butrus Alhijazin
24	Happy birthday	Br. Michael Richards
25	Happy birthday	Br. Chaowit Phraisokhumwong
27	Feliz cumpleaños	Ho. Daniel Pavón Galeano
29	Joyeux anniversaire	Fr. Jean-Pierre Nécol
30	Happy Birthday	Fr. Pairo P. Nauchachawan
31	Buon compleanno	P. Piero Trameri

APRIL

1	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños	P. Jean Gillet P. Daniel González
2	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Angelo Riva Br. John Dawson Fr. Jiraphat Raksikhao
3	Buon compleanno	P. Franco Cesana P. Ermanno Rasero
4	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Casenave
5	Buon compleanno	P. Tiziano Pozzi
8	Happy birthday	Br. Denis Cutinha
9	Happy birthday	Br. Abraham S. Nadackalaya Br. Leo Jesu Dinesh Leenus
10	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Aldo Nespoli P. Mario Zappa Fr. Subancha Yindeengarm
12	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Gérard Badie P. Laurent Bacho
13	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Ugo Donini Br. Shaju Kalappurackal
16	Happy birthday	Fr. Chanchai Temaroonrung

of Jesus, as they retraced their steps towards Jerusalem! *My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.* (Luke 2:48) How they must have tried together to understand the prophecy of Simeon about the sword, and how in the light of this prophecy they would understand certain events they had lived through, for example *there was no room for them at the inn.* (Luke 2:7) I think about how, in their workshop in Nazareth, he would explain the secrets of their craft to the young Jesus. With what humility, what affection he would direct, correct and encourage the boy Jesus, *who was subject to their authority.* (Luke 2:51)

I also believe that St Joseph was a happy man - contented. The joy of knowing that he had been chosen by the Lord for the sole mission of watching over the frail Infant Jesus. The joy of dedicating himself to their service so that Mary and Jesus should feel safe. The joy of sharing everything spiritual and materiel within the family circle. The joy of the tokens of affection exchanged between the three of them in family. The joy of mission accomplished; a joy which flows from remaining faithful in the midst of trials. The joy at seeing the child increase in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men. The joy of seeing that Jesus was learning the trade and the joy of hearing the people calling him *The Carpenter.*

This too is the secret of our joy: the certainty of accomplishing our mission in community, of collaborating like St Joseph and according to demands, in the project of the Father to reconcile and unite the whole of humanity in Jesus. Finally the joy of being able to share with our brothers in community that same experience which the risen Jesus, the Carpenter, continues today in consoling, saving and reconciling all mankind.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez,SCJ



*The joy of
being chosen,
of serving,
of dedicating
oneself to the
mission of
the Lord,
and of
sharing with
our brothers*

Father Etcheccopar writes... to his sister Julie, February 14th 1868

Eternal love to our Lord Jesus! Love to his crucified love! Love and boundless trust in his adorable wounds... Love to the Virgin, his Mother, sinless Mother, Mother of the sinners, Hope of the desperate people (...) and after Jesus, our love and our everything!!!

Love to Saint Joseph, source of abundance, minister of the divine palace, secretary of the king and the queen of the angels, advocate of all causes, bearer of all the alms from Heaven, delights of the One who is but all delights, owner and master of the One who possesses everything, mildness at the final distress, steady and immovable bridge as we slowly pass into Eternity... Love to all the angels, all the saints, our friends, our protectors, our guardians. Under their gaze, under their wings, let us go ahead, despite all, and always.



5 MINUTES WITH... FATHER JOSEPH CANTON

Nef - Your novitiate started in September 1926. In 80 years time, which changes are more remarkable?

Father Canton has just celebrated a new spring at Betharram. In this month of St Joseph, let us meet the oldest member of our family.

Yes, it was the first novitiate in France since the expulsions at the start of the century. It was located in Balarin (Gers) in an old friary. There was no water, no electricity, 2 toilets all in all, a single wood stove, etc. If the novitiate is a time for testing, in such circumstances, we were indeed put to the test, and how! Out of 17 novices, 15 made their profession, and became priests in the congregation. "And if there is only one of them alive", well, here I am.

Changes? Undoubtedly yes, but the principles of religious life are still the same. As regards the physical life, breakthroughs have achieved. (...) Concerning religious life, obedience is no longer that strict; it has turned to be, if I dare say, more human. Enough of those calls to obedience notified at the end of a chapter, as it used to be at the very beginning, or communicated by a letter calling up the vow!... Now we propose rather than we impose. It is as much as easy to obey. It is not still that easy! Another change concerns, in my

here and allows Italian people to develop a real sharing and sympathy towards a poor country. Thanks to this solidarity, the schools in the villages can prosper, the dispensary in Niem, run by Fr. Tiziano, is growing into an increasingly busy hospital; an extension is even planned in order to meet emergencies. Without this human and economic support, the region would be hopeless and left abandoned.

In spite of traffic difficulties and of the fact that the villages are scattered throughout the territory, the Fathers manage to foster Christian life through their visits. The work of the catechists, formed by the religious, allows the communities to grow in number and quality. Through the J.E.C., the children and the young people are well supported both on a spiritual and an educational level.

In the major seminary of Bouar, Fr. Beniamino and Fr. Mario are appreciated for their courses on theology and philosophy. 20 years after the arrival of Fr. Arialdo, the first Betharramite in the Central African Republic, a song of thanksgiving arises from our hearts: Betharram is very much alive in this landlocked country; young people knock at the door and move on in formation; an 8 hectare-size piece of land has just been bought in Bouar for that purpose; projects in agriculture and professional training are being studied: these are as many ideas to diversify our presence and to reduce our dependency on Europe. As regard, the production of cheese in Niem it is the beginning of what we can do.

To conclude, I would like to stress the importance of the contacts taken with the families of our students. This link is essential for a long-lasting presence of Betharram on the continent, and for the blossoming and the perseverance of the young people who have chosen our religious life. Between the Ivory Coast and the Central African Republic, the relations have to be increasingly strengthened. Far from complaining about the social and political difficulties, we are glad to see that the Gospel brings strong hope and allows people to stand on their feet! Our charism meets the expectations of these young countries.



And what about Betharram in such a context? We are well integrated into the local Church. This is mainly due to the fact that for over 50 years we run the patriarchal seminary. Our links with the priests and generally speaking with the Church of this country are still quite close. We carry on, so to speak, the honourable work achieved by our Fathers in the Seminary of Beit-Jala. In Holy Land Betharram is not a foreign body. We feel we belong to this Church and to this people. We really live here the mystery of Incarnation.

Pierre Grech, SCJ

February 25-26th

The Central African Republic between difficulties and hope



My recent visit to the Central African Republic lies within the framework of the sharing at various levels between our communities in the Ivory Coast and the Central African Republic. My programme was focused on formation; I wanted to review the progress of the two scholastics (Narcisse and Martial), of the two Central African postulants (Aristide and Antoine, members of the community of Adiapodoumé), and to examine the contents of the 2nd year of Emile's noviciate. The sharing also concerned the preparation of three new aspirants.

The Fathers are very much concerned about providing a good preparation to these young people, by introducing them fully into their community life, by sharing with them prayer and pastoral life, also by helping them to improve their French. In the Central African Republic, our Brothers are confronted with a political and social situation which is very hard: the country is one of the most indebted states plunging into misery. Now, there are rebels, the so-called 'highway robbers' or *zarguinas* overrunning the country - who do not hesitate to kill. In such a context of insecurity and pandemic AIDS, religious people are witnesses of hope, through different initiatives in the fields of health or education. While I was there, Fr. Piero Trameri, the Italian procurator of the missions, and two volunteers arrived for three weeks. Their presence brings back hope to the people

opinion, formation: the formation we received mainly during the scholasticate, was first and foremost a spiritual and theological one, but it was delivered in a closed environment, without a window into the real world, without a sufficient preparation to active life. Studies and preparation to the apostolic and active life are now offered together through regencies in our different works.

You live your retirement in the cradle of the Congregation. What are your joys, your activities, and your hopes today?

- My joys? Why the plural form? My joy is to be still a religious of Betharram. I am happy with that. My activities? Can you have any in a retirement house? We have time for prayer besides community exercises, time for reading magazines and books, and brushing up a foreign language you learnt once, in order to prevent your brain from disintegrating totally! (...) I am also looking after an apiary, and I am busy with odd jobs outside (...). Then I have been chaplain to the retired sisters at Igon, since 1985 till... ?

What would you like to say to a young man who would knock at the door of Betharram ?

- Hard to say. But I am just thinking of a passage, in Saint John's Gospel, the call of the first disciples. Andrew and another disciple of John Baptist were following Jesus, when Jesus asked them: *What are you looking for? -Rabbi, where do you live?*, the disciples asked on their turn. Jesus answered: *Come and see*. This sums up for me what is going on in a young man's spirit when he comes to knock at our door. He has already considered to live at the service of God, as he came to us. What does he ask for? To know better our religious life, its spirituality, its works. It is, in my opinion, the meaning of the question to the disciples: *Rabbi, where do you live?* Jesus answered: *Come and see*. Come in order to see! I would then say to this young man: *Come and see*. The noviciate and the scholasticate are the places where you can be informed... The disciples never left Jesus since then: They became apostles. Thus I would just add, as a wish: *You will stay*.

My joy is to be still a religious of Betharram



Find the full version of the interview on www.betharram.org (English/heading: Nef)



Passa Quatro

One step ahead in the Vice-Province

As Betharramite religious of Brazil, we gathered last November in order to be acquainted with the decisions of the Council of the Congregation of Betharram. The second meeting took place on February 15th, and the next one is planned on May 17th. Since we are not numerous, we have decided to plan meetings every three months. It gives us the opportunity to strengthen further unity, to foster conviviality and to involve the largest number of religious in decision-making. There is also time for community prayer and for the continuous review of the vice-provincial project.

In Passa Quatro, we have shared on two priorities: 1) the value of each Betharramite religious; 2) being a Betharramite lay person. As regards the first issue, we intend to bring out the value of the personal history of each religious, to help him in difficult times and to rejoice for his growth and his achievements. As for the second issue, we are preparing the meeting of the Lay Betharramites of the Region Fr. Etchecopar, planned in April in Passa Quatro.

At present Betharram in Brazil is made up of 19 religious and several lay groups. The life of the Vice Province revolves around three communities, in charge of six parishes, three schools and three formation houses (aspirants in Paulinia, postulants in Passa Quatro, and scholastics in Sao Paolo); we also keep contact with the novices present in Argentina.

Our main concern is to help those young people to discern what the Lord is asking each of them to do. A joint challenge for both the religious and the lay people is to make all the schools reach financial self sufficiency. This is how life urges us on and how the road opens up as we walk along.

Vicente de Menezes,SCJ



Report from the Holy Land

If I forget you, Jerusalem...

Gradually, global political situation seems to get better. The last Palestinian elections and the victory of Hamas movement have certainly brought about worries. But only a strong party, supported by peoples' representatives, can bring peace. We'll see how the situation is going to be; and Holy Land will be in our prayers.

Now, the most positive and obvious point is that pilgrimages have started again. We have been working a great deal for that. Bishops from several countries did not hesitate to take the pilgrim's staff in order to encourage their faithful to go to Holy Land. As for us, here in Jerusalem, we wish to improve our welcoming and animation of the pilgrimages which have been growing in number since last Summer.

One of the missions of the Church in Jerusalem is to welcome the pilgrims. This is a pastoral work which needs to be set up; we are quite willing to work at this together with the Franciscans Fathers of the Custody of Holy Land.

One of the main problems we have to deal with is the emigration of Christian people who are already the minority (2% of the population). The little Christian community is like crushed between two blocks, the Moslem and the Jews communities. Like almost the whole Palestinian population it suffers from unemployment, traffic impediments, countless military annoyances due to the territory occupation...

Christian people can hardly see any future in living in a country where life is getting tougher and tougher. As a consequence they prefer, as far as they can, to emigrate in order to ensure their children a future. We do as much as we can to stop the flow as we do not want the Holy Land to become a museum.



Religious men and women around the world and the Aids pandemia: commitment, challenges and prophecy. Fr. Mario Longoni, an expert in those issues, kindly accepted to attend this meeting on behalf of the Superior General and to give his contribution to the debate.



*Blessed Mariam
Region*

Province of England

The little house on the hill ■ At Nympsfield, the Religious had their first of the 2006 animation meetings on Feb20/21 led by Sister Bernadette (Presentation Sister). They took up one or two of the themes of the Chapter and Council of the Congregation. The *Communication project* generated a lot of interest, as did the theme of *Valuing the Consecrated person*. One or two separate meetings will be held in the near future.

Visits to the Friary ■ For a week in February, the community of Olton hosted two Servants of Mary from Anglet and helped them in their contacts. Sr Chinamma (Delegate Superior of India) and Sr Louisette (member of the General Council) could look into the possibility of founding a community in Birmingham. More unexpected, the appearance of Fr. Terence O'Malley on the 26th. Settled in California, Fr. Terry is still interested in the life of the congregation. His surprise visit was appreciated.

Vice-Province of Thailand / Delegation of India

News from East and Far East ■ For the first time, an Indian Brother came to the Vice Province of Thailand for his ministry as a deacon: "My life and activities are going on well at present," says Br. Shaju Kalappurackal, ordained to the diaconate in October 2005. "I very much enjoy the community life at Ban Betharram (Sampran), especially the activities related to community animation. I helped the postulants to improve and practice their English, and could take part in other programs too. I find everyone here welcoming and supportive. I feel that I am experiencing and enjoying the best time of my formation." Problems with the visa applications will hopefully not hamper the progress of this growing collaboration between the Delegation of India and the Vice-Province of Thailand.

Lambaré

Two days gathering

On February 20th and 21st, all the Religious of the Vice-Province of Paraguay gathered in assembly. The first morning was dedicated to the priorities fixed by the Council of the Congregation at Betharram. Father Tobia Sosio put them forward with the clarity and the conviction of the one who took part in their elaboration.

Afterwards, under the presidency and the careful supervision of Fr. Rogelio Ramirez, the Assembly started dealing with the analysis of those matters and their implementation in the Paraguayan reality. Such a work was neither simple nor easy, but besides a few controversial issues, the debate resulted eventually in a consensus around two priorities for the Vice-Province: to value the consecrated person and to value the fraternal life. We stressed the importance of a personal project and a community project as means to attain the proposed objectives. Interesting suggestions have also been made in order to draw up those projects.

The issues regarding the openness to the youth and to the laity have not been forgotten. It falls to the Vice Provincial Council to build up projects for the coming years, starting from the elements emerging from the assembly. Before the conclusion of the session, the different vice provincial teams have been set in place once again.

I would like to highlight two points that appeared to me quite encouraging: first, the participation of all the members of the Vice-Province, which shows the unanimous interest for the growth of Betharram in Paraguay. Second, the quality of the debates, even in case of disagreement, with the constant concern for a consensus. May the Sacred Heart help us, so that our efforts may bear fruits in abundance.

Angelo Recalcati, SCJ



Generalate House

The newborn directory ■ Thanks to the work of the secretary of the General Council, the 2006 edition of the directory of the congregation was published at the beginning of March. In 84 pages, you will find any information about the communities and details of the Betharramites all around the world. On December 31st, 2005, according to the statistics communicated to the Holy See, we are 337 Religious of the Sacred Heart (besides novices and postulants): 82 Scholastics, 26 Brothers, 226 Fathers et 3 Bishops. For information about the number of non-professed, houses and email addresses, refer to your dear directory. Any mistake or misprint? Please inform the Generalate House. The updating will be available on the www.betharram.org.

New « residents » in via Brunetti ■ At the end of february, a Lady of the Beautiful Branch, a Christ on the cross and a Saint Michael have joined the company in Via Brunetti. These polychromatic terracotta statues are the work of Sr Mercedes, Benedictine of Dourgne (France). They have been placed in the chapel of the Generalate House for the delight of the eyes and the benefit of community prayer.

Province of France Delegation of the Ivory Coast

Uncommon effort into common patrimony ■ The old monastery is still the object of great care. This time, it is the museum to be renovated by the hands of the workers who have put in place a false ceiling and changed the lighting (safety norms requirements!); the members of the Fraternity and friends of the Sanctuary have worked with paintbrush and broom; the restorer of the main chapel has started her work on the art pieces of the first room. Mrs Piquemal-Tartie has given new life to the painting dating back to the XVII century which is placed above the mantelpiece. The subject is the sacrifice of Isaac. The technique: high technology. The result: a nice place to visit at Betharram.

Pau-Betharram : the sacred union ■ On February 19th, the Saint Bernadette church was crowded for the ordination to the diaconate of Bro Sylvain Dansou



*Saint Michael
Region*

With the *Veni creator* and the African songs, the celebration was at the image of the close link between the Congregation, the parish where Bro. Sylvain has been ministering and the diocese: friendly, pluralist by the choice of the words, and deeply united. The parish priest (Fr. Jacky Moura being his cooperator), as much as the Provincial and the bishop of Bayonne gladly highlighted this fruitful collaboration. The same was quite evident to all at the Saint-Michel House, where the community of Pau and the newborn Fraternity lay group have welcomed over two hundreds people for lunch. This is a happy example of collaboration, a good omen for the years to come...

Liberty, fraternity, spirituality ■ On March 4th and 5th, the members of the Fraternity *Me voici* were invited to the monastery of Sainte-Marie du Rivet (Gironde) for the traditional yearly recollection. 21 lay members could benefit from Fr. Jean Lambert's teachings on the Eucharist. No wonder that the participants lived the Sunday mass in a special way.

News covered by the Apatam* ■ The Superior general returned on February 15th from a visit to the Ivory Coast. A very busy stay indeed: Individual meetings, gatherings with the Council of the Delegation, the formators, the scholastics, the aspirants, the lay members; the Superior visited also the hevea and oil trees plantations (a source of income for the community), and the Tchanfetho factory, which trains young people in cultivation and breeding. Fortunately, the 2 Fathers and the 2 novices in Dabakala could cross the "trust area" separating the loyalist zone from the rebel zone; The Betharram community in the Ivory Coast could gather around Fr. Gaspar for a moment of sharing, listening, and planning of future development. We wish the same experience to this country oppressed by over three-year-long crisis. In brief, according to our correspondents on the spot, "this visit allowed us to hold fruitful meetings resulting in hope for the future."

* The Apatam is a typical structure in the Baoulé country where the villagers hold their meetings.

Province of Italy

Delegate voice ■ The Union of the Superiors general and the International Union of the Superiors of women's congregations arranged a meeting on March 10th in Rome:

