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

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Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (2)

Communion at the age of eleven. Imagine Michael's joy and the feelings of his parents! In those distant days, it was thought that one had to be perfect in order to receive Communion, so Michael is obliged to wait until he was fourteen like the others.

During the long hours of silence and peace in the mountains, an idea was making its way in his head: he would love to be a priest. Meanwhile, there are three brothers and a sister younger than he. The eldest must earn his living! "School is over" declared papa Garicoits. I have hired you as a shepherd at Oneix, with the Anghelu family; they age good, hard-working people, and outstanding Christians. You'll be fine there. And every year you will earn thirty ecus and a cheep. Is it there that Michael will finally make his First Communion?

(to be continued)

Note from the General Council



On the 30th January 2007 were appointed members of the **Formation Team** the Fathers:

- Gustavo Agin (Argentina)
- Biju Paul Alappat (India)
- Laurent Bacho (General Councillor for formation)
- Hervé Kouamé Kouakou (Ivory Coast)
- Chan John Kunu (Thailand)
- Angelo Recalcati (Paraguay)
- Pietro Villa (Italy)

On the schedule



28th February-14th March canonical visit of the Superior general to the English Province

IN MEMORIAM

Spain

On 29th December last, Mrs Teresa Gomez went to join her son, Fr Leonardo Gallejones, in the Lord's house. The funeral of this centenarian and mother of a Betharramite priest

Betharramite priest was celebrated in Escalada (Burgos). Let us pray for them!





Family News



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

Obedience for Love's sake

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105th year, nr.13 14th February 2007 The vow of obedience is possible only if one is driven by love. As St Michael Garicoits said in his letter in which he was explaining to a young man his *Method to know and practice God's Will*, in No 6. "In a word, you will accept his decision as God's will, without delay, without reserve, no looking back, for the love of that holy Will rather than for any other motive." (Corr. T.1. Letter 164)

The first to obey through love was Jesus. He didn't live for his own satisfaction (Rm 15,3; Heb. 12,2) He lived to please his Father for he was the beloved Son who gave him utmost pleasure. Jesus' purpose in life was his Father and for food His Will. He had no ideas, no words, no projects, no personal appearance; his ideas, his words, his projects, he learned from His Father; his appearance he inherited from Him. We know well how he was under this stress in Gethsemane. There are times when we are fascinated by the obedience of Jesus to the death, even the death on the cross; at other times when it is a question of vowed obedience, we cite the Rights of Man.

As was the wishes of St Michael Garicoits, what should be our characteristic is the spirit of obedience. Filial obedience like that of Jesus, for love, rather than from fear, from conviction rather than from obligation, willing rather than unwilling. At the example of Jesus, he who doesn't think of himself is obedient, who doesn't seek his own interest nor his own well being The obedient person thinks first of all of his neighbour, wants him to be well, to be in good shape, and

that all his plans have a happy ending; even if I am not talked about, even if I am heading for failure, even if I don't do what I want. Through the death of Jesus on the Cross, through his total self sacrifice, the merciful programme of the Father is made known to fallen man whom He wishes to save.

Resistance to obedience is not part of the things we should be doing, neither for the people we serve, but in the desires of our heart, which longs to be recognized, appreciated and loved. This is why the vow of Obedience always supposes "more", something extra. Obedience always means keeping in the background so as to do the will of God; going beyond one's own desires to seek, find and accomplish the Father's will. Obedience is an expression of love, and if love wants the well being of the beloved, it always requires of the lover that he should renounce himself. Obedience is only possible when we are capable of a love as passionate as that of Jesus. God's passionate love for his people, for mankind, is also a love which forgives. It is such a great love that it sets God against himself, his love against his justice. (Deus Caritas Est, 10)

Obedience refers to the saving will of God expressing a universal love

Some of you will think that it's easy for the General Superior to talk like that. In Religious Life, sooner or later we must all obey, and it costs us. Obedience through love isn't designed to satisfy the touchy caprices of a superior. Obedience refers to the saving will of God expressing a universal love and can only be accepted, by the same kind of love which, humanly speaking would seem to be an act of madness. To get to know this love of God and be able to respond to it with similar love. as shown by the saints, one needs to live a life founded on prayer and to be quietly focused and determined in the pursuit of his will, through personal and community discernment, in both the happy and unhappy situations and events, which affect our lives. This should be the grown up way living out our Christian Faith, for since God became man, nothing human is alien to the Son of God

Michael Garicoits. God's shepherd (2)

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Climbing right up to Heaven...

The Garicoits household is poor. Michael goes bare-footed. in short trousers and eats porridge more often than boiled chicken! But the fresh air of the Basque country makes up for the awful diet. But the lad continues to grow, as spirited as a thorough bred and a real dare devil.

The boy is also a day dreamer. His mother has spoken to him so well about Heaven that he longs to go there! And when Michael wants to go some where, who is going to stop him? After all, doesn't that peak overlooking the meadow reach to Heaven? There and then, he leaves his father's flock in the care of the dogs and off he goes. In one go he climbs right to the top! But according as he advances the heavens seem to withdraw... on to the second height, finally to the third and fourth! It doesn't matter. I'll make it.

Michael continues to climb. Further and further! Higher and higher! And then suddenly it's nightfall. Oh, to get down? And get the flock home? And what are his parents going to say? But Michael is so disappointed that his parents simply tell him that to reach Heaven it's not a question of climbing mountains but of growing in love of God and one's neighbour.

Loving God? Of course the boy loves God with all the affection of his heart. What a joy it is for him, on Sundays, to go to Mass, to note the actions of the priest and once back home to "play at saying Mass" at the risk of burning the table top with the resin candles which he used instead of wax candles!

As for Heaven, Michael continues to dream of it ever since his escapade in the mountains. But he has understood; the pathway to Heaven is by loving God and one's neighbour, like Jesus did. Young Garicoits knows his catechism so well that his Parish priest admits him for his First

Michael is a boisterous lad but he is intelligent and generous. Part 2 of the story by Rose Dardennes and published 40 years ago. in Fripounet a weekly magazine for children.



EBRUARY

14	Joyeux anniversaire Buon compleanno	F. Bertrand Belhartz F. Giuseppe Pozzi
17	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Luc Morin F Serge Braga Latta
18	Happy birthday	Br. Andrew Ferris
19	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Lamasse
20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Mirco Trusgnach
22	Happy birthday	Br. William Finucane
22	парру ыннау	Br. Charles Enakius Fr. Alberto Pensa
26	Happy birthday	Fr. Chodki Damronganurak
28	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Pierre Salla
	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Francisco de Paula
	50° años de profesión,	Mons Claudio Silvero
	felicidades	P. Daniel Ramón Martín
1	Joyeux anniversaire	P. André Gillet
	Buon compleanno	P. Albino de Giobbi
	25° años de profesión,	felicidades, P. José Larrosa
3	Happy birthday	Fr. Tidkham Jailertrit
5	Buon compleanno	P. Giuseppe Franchi
7	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Saint-Pé
	Happy Birthday	Br. Xavier Irudayaraj Abraham
8	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Marsaa-Poey
9	Happy Birthday	Br. John Peter Philip
10	Buon compleanno	P. Pietro Felet
	65 anni di professione	Auguri, P. Piero Donini
11	Buon compleanno	P. Pierpaolo Nava
12	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Canton
15	Joyeux anniversaire	F. Paul Lamothe
	Happy birthday	Br. Antony J. Livin Fernando
17	Buon compleanno	P. Natale Re
19	60 ans de profession,	félicitations, P. Jean Gillet
		,

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He who is ready to love without reservation, is capable of obeying at all costs, for he has nothing to lose. He who refuses to obey is clinging on to something which he doesn't want to lose. There are many everyday situations which demand obedience of us. Religious obedience can only be explained by the love of Him, who like the grain of wheat, is ready to lose everything in order to bestow life.



Gaspar Fernandez Perez, SCJ

Father Etchecopar writes... to the religious of the college San Jose of Buenos Aires, February 18th 1877

It is truly a magnificent vocation to be children of Betharram, a land so holy, land of miracles for so long; to be children of Calvary, that mountain which is a lighthouse of truth, the home of love, stretching out beyond the seas to the distant lands of America.

It is truly a magnificent vocation and a privilege to be shoots of the beautiful branch which bore Fr Garicoits and countless men renowned for their humility, their piety, their simplicity, and who, burning with zeal, were happy to live and die for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

It is truly a great vocation to be part of our works which are doing so much good, which the Bishops and the Holy See are happy to praise. They are destined to become ever more important and useful to the Church, and will succeed, on condition that we are grateful, and just, and that we appreciate such a vocation at its true value, and if we are the faithful possessors, irreproachable and invincible, in the name of the Sacred Heart.

Let us therefore be united in obedience, regularity and charity. Let us be meek and humble of heart. Let us be prudent, not trusting ourselves, but trusting grace, and our Superiors. Let us be strong in faith – fortes in fide! Let us resist Satan who would like to devour us; let us be strong in the notions of faith, in the thoughts of faith, meditation of the great mysteries of our faith. Let us believe, and fight, full of trust in Our Lady who will bless, protect, save, and glorify all those who will have persevered in her service in our Congregation.

Towards the new Rule of Life



As planned, the team responsible for reviewing the "Rule of Life" – Fathers Pietro Felet, Jack Moura, Benat Oyhenart and Bruno Ierullo – together with the Superior General – Gaspar Fernandez – met at the Generalate in Rome from the 25th to 29th January to pursue the work in hand. Bearing in mind the contributions from the different Provinces and from several religious, and after the mandate received at the last General Chapter, the team updated the Rule of life so as to be able to present it at the next Council of Congregation next November.

Not once did they lose sight of the project fixed by the Acts of 2005: "Betharram, a family in the process of renewal in a changing world". Every reflection and addition to the Rule is focused on the renewal of Betharramite religious life so as to respond better to the challenges of today, to be a real presence of Christ in a world which, more than ever, needs visible and credible signs, and which needs values and landmarks. While trying to practise creative fidelity, we are trying to produce a model of consecrated life, rooted in the Gospel and our charism, which speaks to contemporary man, which attracts in the following of Christ, personal accomplishment and service of our neighbour. All these problems have shaped the Rule of Life so as to provide sufficient themes and so construct a project which will take into account every dimension - human and Christian, personal and community – of our being and mission.

We reflected on the identity of our Betharramite family, on our mission as religious, and how we live out our vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a society which is proud, pleasure seeking, and self assured. In a secular society, we live in

Apart from the 14 years spent in the Nursing Home here, the communities of Sarrance (10 years at the Monastery), of Limoges (5 years at Ozanam college), the parish of Lestelle (12 years service), witnessed the maturity and self sacrifice of Father Laborde.

In each of these missions the communities witnessed the generosity and faith brought by their brother. As for Lestelle, you especially the youngsters of the day, you know how much he loved you, how he launched you in his newly founded youth club at Izards, in sports, leisure and sharing.

As a priest he carried his mission with him. For the Golden Jubilee of his ordination he wrote: "Admitting, quite simply, that there is in every life a love which precedes, follows and surrounds everything. This is a fact in the life of every Christian, but without a doubt is to be found in the life of anyone called to the priesthood. I understand my life as a priest only as a call and an invitation to which, all my life long, I have tried to the best of my ability to answer, certain in the knowledge that I was being led by someone who desires my happiness — not any cheap happiness, but a happiness equal to God!"... "Whatever the future holds for me, I want to live it as I have always tried to live faithful to my ideal, with all the convictions which have helped me and this to the end of my days!

Finally there is this message of hope added to the announce of his death, ending his witness: "May the world be a better place for my passage here below!"

Thank you, Father Laborde, for this final invitation to a better life.

Gabriel Verley, SCJ

IN MEMORIAM

France



I started my priesthood with a great project: to live out Love and to announce it

Fr. Jean Laborde-Turon (1910-2007)

Father Laborde - Turon was vice-dean of our Congregation. He was born on the 25th October 1910 at Lescar: five days later he was christened. He made his First Vows in the Congregation on the 11th September 1928 at Balarin (Gers) where the Novitiate was situated. It was at Bethlehem that on the 9th November 1932 he made his Final Vows. It was in Bethlehem also that on the 7th July 1935 he was ordained priest. From then onwards he fulfilled many missions -Betharram from July 1935 to September 1938; Sarrance from September 1938 to July 1948; Limoges from August 1948 to July 1952; chaplain at Igon from July 1952 to August 1953. Parish Priest at Lestelle between August 1953 and September 1965; in for different places (Limoges, Floirac, Betharram, and Pierrefitte) between October 1965 and January 1968; at the parish Notre Dame in Bordeaux from January 1968 to November 1979; at the Bon-Pasteur in Cauderan from November 1979 to 1994. In 1994 he entered our Nursing Home in Betharram. During the last few years, because of illness and disability he was very dependant. He remained faithful to the community Mass as long as he could. (Fr Beñat Ovhenart - French provincial.)

We are publishing the final tribute paid to Father Laborde-Turon for his funeral at the sanctuary of Betharram on January 17th.

Three months ago Father Laborde-Turon entered his 97th year! Together with his brother Joseph he was our favourite uncle!! He was all the more senior because there had been far too many deaths these last few years. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family for the passage of this "isle into God's ocean".

Our sympathy is fraternal for it was in 1928 at the end of his novitiate that he chose his second family. He has spent nearly 80 years in our midst! Having answered the different calls from his Superiors, he got to know many communities even if they were not always big communities.

communities built on faith, so that prayer, both personal and community, are the pillars of our type of life. Our community life must be visible by the sharing of our feelings, our sorrows, and our projects and should bear witness to the merits of life, solidarity and forgiveness as opposed to the culture of death, to selfishness and the spirit of revenge.

All this is in the spirit of the invitations of Pope John-Paul II to us at the time of the Bicentenary of the birth of our Founder: accompaniment of families, special attention to youth and education, spiritual direction, service of all kinds of poverty.

So that this way of life and service can materialise, the order given by Fr Sorge at the 1999 Chapter is full of meaning for us today: *Formation, Formation, Formation!* Number one priority of our Congregation for years, the Rule of Life comes back to it through a whole course of "Ongoing Formation" from discernment of vocations, to formation for the Religious Life as Brothers or Priests. If formation has a beginning, it never ends, seeing that it is Ongoing! The importance therefore of the task of the formators.

Like any group of individuals, our Congregation needs to be well organised. Given that its international and multicultural character is a reality. Consequently, the question of the Government and organisation of the regions, vicariates, and local communities have not been neglected. Continuing the reflections over the last few years, and the forthcoming debates in the Provinces and Councils of Congregation, there will be concrete propositions in the Rule.

In a word, all this work on texts is meant to accompany our Congregation on its way as a family renewing itself in a changing world.



Bruno Ierullo, SCJ

An event, three points of view: testimony of the meeting of the South American Betharramites. as seen by a seminarist, a religious and a lay person.

God not only speaks in the Bible and the Church; He also speaks through us, our thoughts and feelings, our meetings and separations, our relations with others, through our body and dreams, and even our wounds and weaknesses. As John Lafrance wrote: "What constitutes Christian prayer, is the prayer in the depths of our heart and in the meeting with the community".

It was in this spirit that the South American Betharramites held their meeting in Paraguay from 2nd to the 6th January, as part of ELAB (Latin-American Betharramite meeting). There was a strong contingent of religious and laity from the four countries forming the Region P. Auguste Etchecopar (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil). For five days they discerned and reflected on the 150 years presence of the Betharramites in South America; on the challenges which a society which is more and more individualist and pluralist throws at the Betharram mission, in a world such as our continent; the importance of the contribution of the laity to make Betharram more brotherly and missionary: a presentation of plans of formation for postulants, novices and scholastics. With the help of all this, we Betharramites, want to be faithful to our vocation as religious and laity replying in the name of the Gospel, and aiming for a better world.

In the programme for ELAB was included the question of a regional scholasticate. Discussed for a time, the project needs to be better developed. The choice of place wasn't finalised as the decision was kept over for a future meeting. The best contribution came from the Rev. Father Gaspar Fernandez. In his talk, he reminded us as Betharramites to assume our weaknesses, our reality, and to assume in truth and reality, the project of our father St Michael who wanted Betharramites to be idonei, expediti et expositi*.

Robson Antônio Leite, SCJ

spend the night in the forest for fear of being robbed or taken hostage. These are villages which were once inhabited, but are now overgrown with scrub, their weekly markets reduced to nothing, and their trade almost non existent

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Is the CAR a very unstable country? Were you afraid on your last trip? - Every departure for a journey, especially to a country as dangerous as the Central African Republic can instil fears. But quite frankly, I think that it is even more dangerous to drive on the outskirts of Milan or to go skiing off-piste. An accident is always possible but I trust in Providence

How did you get to know about this mission and why did you choose it? - I got to know about the mission quite by accident. Shortly after attending my viva, I felt the need to take a break. For several years I had been wanting to go on the missions, and so, as I was talking about it with my brother, I happened to meet my sisterin-law's parents who introduced me to Father P. Trameri, responsible for the missionary activities. The decision to help with the projects of this mission was helped by the family atmosphere which I found there. Everybody knows everybody, each one works to the limits of his possibilities, and above all, the results of our efforts are there to be seen. There are no intermediaries, no directors, no under directors, no administrators etc.

Have your motives and understanding of the mission changed in any way? - I must say that my motives are as powerful as on the first day. What I would really like is to bring my contribution to the progress of the project.

In the CAR have you learned anything about yourself or about humanity? - I have discovered that one can live without what is superfluous, that self improvement is always possible and that all too often we complain without real reasons.



To know more, visit the website:

* "Men ready for everything, freed from everything and totally open to all." St Michael (DS 100)



Daniele Sambrizzi is a young architect from San Antonio Morianonc, in the Italian Alps. He is just back from a trip to Niem (Central African Republic) where for the 3rd time since obtaining his diploma, he has been helping as a volunteer. He will explain what this is all about.

5 MINUTES WITH... Mr. Daniele Sambrizzi

Nef – What missionary project were you involved in? Did vou have a particular task? - It was my third trip to Africa. It all began by accident. The object of my first journey was two fold: spiritual and materiel: on the one hand to have a look at the missions to understand the exact meaning of the exercise, and, on the other, to lend a hand in setting up the paediatric service at the dispensary in Niem in the Central African Republic. I must admit that right from my arrival in Africa, my ideas about the mission were perfectly clear and I was able to concentrate on the manual work to be done to pursue the project. Thanks to the collaboration of an old hand on the missions (Ugo Zugnoni) we began by studying different projects, including the toilets at the hospital and the eventual extension of the dispensary. The toilets were completed during my second trip, whereas the extension of the dispensary was the object and aim of my last trip.

Now that you are just back from the CAR, what images and impressions of the country have you brought back this time? - I must admit that I have come back with mixed images and impressions. On the one hand, there is the gentleness of a people with little to live on other than the cultivation of the land and whatever nature provides for them. On the other hand, it's a people unknown to a non existent State, at the mercy of armed bands who ransom all classes of society. These are images which are clearly in my head especially because of an experience I had at the end of my stay. The carelessness of the State is easy to illustrate when you know that a town of a population of 50.000 like Bouar is without drinking water while at the same time aerials are being installed which will encourage the people to spend huge sums of money to buy portable telephones. There are empty villages which come to life in the middle of the day because the families

From an Argentinean Father

A new Emmaus

The celebrations for the 150th anniversary ended with the meeting organised at the Retreat Centre Emmaus. This name showed the gratitude of the American Betharramites happy to meet again. Like the disciples on Easter Sunday, we shared our concerns and the fear of being reduced to a tiny minority, victims of ageing and sickness.

Mgr Celso Yegros, Bishop of Carapegua, presented us with an image of the laity in Paraguay, suffering from the divorce between faith and life, lacking in formation and moral references. In a pluralistic society, where Evangelicals and Agnostics are progressing, a renewal of the laity is necessary. Meeting with the Lord, through his Word, the Eucharist and the poor ought to urge us to become disciples and missionaries.

The union of the Latin-American hierarchy with the Pope, only a few months away from the Assembly in Brazil at Aparecida was reaffirmed. We reflected on the religious life, using the document for the forthcoming conference of the CELAM. The talk by Fr Gaspar Fernandez was perfect as usual. He began by recalling the memory of some great Betharramites, "beginning with Fathers Barbe and Magendie who were models of fidelity to their vocation and total gift to the mission" he gave us a long and invigorating talk, pointing out the failing in the practise of the vows, and community life.

Another moment of grace was the religious profession of Brothers Eder, Francisco and Marcelo. It was a moment when each one reflects on his own choice of the religious life and the wishes of God on him. Hence, as well as personal conversion, we were strengthened in the joyful hope of having the Lord with us, the Lord inviting each one to renew today his "Here I am, send me!"

Constancio Erobaldi, SCJ

Quotations from Fr Gaspar

It's not the number that counts, but the quality.

Let us be faithful to our vocation. Let our life style be in accordance with what we have professed.

If we pray together, if we love one another, if our actions are positive, we shall be communities that are inviting.



I am still deeply touched at the memory of the days I spent with my Betharramite brothers and to whom I address my heartfelt thanks: Thank you for sharing with us, laity, the treasure of your charism. I was deeply impressed by the way you value our partnership for the mission; thanks for your openness which helps us to practice our baptismal vocation. It was a wonderful experience getting to know the religious and laity who treated me as a sister, and whose lives bear witness to the "here I am". This reminds me of the words of the Father General: "We must look upon a brother as God's gift, and instead of being in competition with each other, to be complementary and help each other to perform to our best the mission which the Church has entrusted us with". Such an invitation will be important for me where ever I am sent...

Son of St Michael and Father of a local Church ■ After visiting Spain and Betharram, Mgr Ignacio Gogorza continued his tour of Europe, calling in Rome where the Generalate hosted him from 16th to the 20th January. This Betharramite, Bishop of Encarnacion (Paraguay) was able to meet a priest student from his diocese and have a few chats with him. But the summit of the stav in Rome of the President of the Bishops' Conference was surely his first meeting with Benedict XVI. at the end of the general audience on 17th January.

Province of France Delegation of the Ivory Coast

Books etc: ■ The Religious Library in Pau (BCR) has just created its own website for its catalogue. The address is: http://bcrpau.free.fr. There was originally a project with this diocesan association to pass them the religious section of the library in Betharram. The creation of this depot is meant to preserve a unique patrimony and to allow research students of this University City the possibility of consulting these works. Recently the documentary links between these two have been strengthened by a further link between the website of the BCR and the website of the Congregation.

Oh happy days ■ On the 11th February at Nyangourougbonon (Dabakala - Ivory Coast) a young man from here

pronounced his Final Vows in the Betharram Congregation. Gilbert Napetien has thus become the first religious Brother on the continent of Africa. When we think that St Michael had a special liking for the Brothers, and that Brother Gilbert was born on 14th May, we can but join in the thanksgiving of the many joyful participants.

Province of the Rio de la Plata

A "House of the Heart" for the 20-30 year olds ■ The Adroque Community has adopted an orientation which is very definitely spiritual, and this not only because it is the home of the Regional Novitiate which houses 8 candidates to the Religious Life since the month of January. To the "Retreat House-Heart of Jesus" has been added a programme of formation and life experiences designed, in the first place, for the young: Ignatian retreats, plans for accompaniment and construction of personal projects, intensive times of prayer and sharing to be spread all along the year.



Province of England Delegation of India

English speaking - The Ratio Formationis, or more precisely the Formation Guide has just been published in the language of Shakespeare, the revised version in its integrality. In Bangalore and Mangalore they must be very happy as well as in Bangkok, where the most important Betharramite houses of Formation are to be found. Since one piece of good news never arrives on its own, the Province is going to have the second volume of St Michael's correspondence (letters 304-479). Thanks to Fr Dominic Innamorati, our tireless translator, as you probably guessed!

Vice-Province of Thailand

Priority for formation On the 10th January, the religious of the Vice-Province held their monthly meeting. Their discussions were mainly around the question of formation. If there is no lack of problems, it's a good sign; there is no shortage of vocations either. Whether it is in St Joseph's Junior Seminary or the House of Studies in Sampran, the Thai Betharramites take the question of formation very seriously, aware as they are that the extension of the charism and the future of the mission depend largely on it.



Miriam Region