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### On the schedule of the General Council

Fr. Gaspar  
Fernandez, Superior  
general, will join Fr.  
Laurent Bacho,  
General Councillor for  
formation, in  
Adiapodoumé  
(Ivory Coast)  
for the **international  
meeting of the  
Betharramite  
responsible for  
formation** (2-17 July)

### Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (6)

Betharram there is a tradition that one day Our Lady offered a branch – the lovely branch – to a young girl who was drowning. Since then Our Lady has been venerated under the title of *Notre Dame du Beau Rameau*, giving “Our Lady of Betharram” in Bearnais.

Our young curate loves the Blessed Virgin, but such a sanctuary means nothing to him. True enough, the upheavals of the Revolution obliged the Bishop of Bayonne to open a seminary there and to recruit professors. But what a shock for the young curate to have to go and bury himself in a class room! Of course he is fond of study and he is perfectly capable of being an excellent Professor of Philosophy. *Just the same, I wasn't expecting that*, he said to himself on the way back to Bayonne where he will get instructions from his Bishop. What possessed Mgr to take me away from the little flock in Cambo, just as they were getting back on the road towards God?

(to be continued)

**Continues from page 13** When he asked to return to Adroque for reasons of health, the Sacred Heart continued to mould him. He offered his limbs which had walked so much, when he had to learn to depend on others to push him in his wheelchair. He offered his voice which used to echo under the vaults of our Basilica as he meditated in the silence of his heart like Mary on the mystery of “here I am” that had led him all his life.

On the evening of Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, Our Lady's day, he rejoined the Church in heaven to drink at the source of love. With Fr Amitrano a way of Betharramite life and priesthood has passed away. May we have the same generosity and willingness to be the Church which Jesus wants, at the beginning of the third millennium.

Francisco “Paco” Daleoso, SCJ



# Family News

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

 **A word from the  
Superior general**

## They will look upon him whom they have pierced

Zechariah saw him from afar in his prophecy. Mary, John and the Holy Women saw him, listened to him, touched him and they bear witness in the Gospel handed down through time and space. Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, contemplates him and lives by him; he invites us to continue the contemplation with all the powers of our soul so as to discover the greatest expression of God's love in this pierced Heart.

What is there in this pierced side to attract us? What does this heart possess to change the lives of all who contemplate it and who let themselves be drawn by him? What secret lies hidden in this heart wounded and emptied of self? This is where we meet the real love which Benedict XVI describes: *His death on the Cross is the culmination of that turning of God against himself in which he gives himself in order to raise man up and save him. This is love in its most radical form. By contemplating the pierced side of Christ we can understand the starting point of this Encyclical Letter : “God is Love”. It is there that this truth can be contemplated. It is from there that our definition of love must begin. In this contemplation the Christian discovers the path along which his life and love must move.* (God is Love No 12)

In contemplating this heart we will find out that it is neither the sufferings, the wounds nor the sorrow of Christ

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**105<sup>th</sup> year  
10<sup>th</sup> series, nr.17  
14 June 2007**



which save us, but the love which was his in the middle of all his suffering. Nothing remains of Christ in his pierced heart; nothing but his offering of love presented to his Father and to all mankind. What passionate love which gives everything, risks everything, loses everything for those whom he loves! What passionate love which keeps nothing for self, in the pierced heart where there is place only for his Father's image and those for whom he has lived and died! St Michael Garicoits contemplated this Heart and found in it his way of living and loving: *"From this moment onwards he assumed the attitude of victim, immolated in the presence of God, doing nothing of his own will, acting always through God's Spirit, ever obedient to God's wishes to suffer and endure whatever God willed.* (Manifesto).

*At the origin  
of everything  
there is a  
passionate  
Love which  
does not  
hesitate to  
take all risks  
for the glory  
of the Father  
and the life  
of mankind*

By contemplating this pierced Heart it is easy to understand that at the origin of everything there is a passionate love which does not hesitate to take all risks for the glory of the Father and the life of mankind. Here one understands that from all eternity Jesus is the beloved son in whom the father is well pleased. Here one understands that the *Here I am* of the incarnation corresponds to his Father's will and the salvation of mankind. Here, we can behold the faces of Mary and Joseph transfigured by his glory enveloping everything; humiliations, Herod's persecution, the painful flight into Egypt. Here we can understand that if he forgave, healed, preached, it was because he felt sorry for the crowds who were bewildered and abandoned like sheep without shepherds.

Here one understands the deep feeling that the Father gives him for the lowly, the poor, the ignorant and the sinners. Here are the acts of kindness performed by the Women : the anointing by Mary, the serving by Martha, the personal possessions of the women who served Him from Galilee right to the tomb where they laid him to rest. Here are to be seen the glorious scars of exclusion from the days in Bethlehem, *"because there was no room*

## *Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (6)*



**From Cambo to Betharram:  
to serve further a field**

For him in his parish of Cambo, the poor, the needy, the sick were the privileged lot of the flock. When he has spent everything for them, he prefers to go begging than to let them go short of anything. Even if they have offended him! So much so that one individual grumbled on seeing him. "There's a man who would die to save his enemies". What greater tribute could be paid to a priest?

*"So you go to confession to the saintly priest"? Of course! He's exacting, but you feel that it is for God. And you know you have a feeling that he can read hearts. With him as guide, you learn to love God once and for all."*

And so it is that the majority of the faithful in Cambo ask him to help them to keep to the straight and narrow on the way to Heaven. Within a year, the parish is completely transformed; there is greater love for God here than elsewhere; and under the direction of the young curate his parishioners prove it by doing better and better whatever he asks of them. The best of his parishioners want someone as their model to imitate. "Imitate Jesus! He is the safest model"!

Precisely, just then there was much talk about the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart is Jesus full of love and obedience to God; but full of Love also for mankind; he is the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his flock. What better model could be found for anyone wanting really to be a "child of God"! And what joy for Father Garicoits!

One day a letter arrived from his Bishop. "My friend, I am appointing you Professor of Philosophy at the Seminary of Betharram". Betharram? But that's at the other end of the diocese, in the Bearn country! What would this thorough-bred Basque, not speaking a word of Bearnais, go doing there? Does he even know that in the Bearnais dialect the word Betharram means *"Beau Rameau"* or *"Lovely Branch"*? In

Nothing can stop Father Garicoits, neither the calls of the people, nor Episcopal appointments.

And **Rose Dardennes** brings us along the roads travelled by this *man of heart*, of the Sacred Heart.



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15	50 anni di sacerdozio, auguri !	P. Davide Villa P. Livio Borghetti
17	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Laclau
26	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Couret
24	30th of priesthood, congratulations	P. Austin Hughes
25	Bom aniversário	Ir. Marcelo Rodrigues da Silva
27	Bom aniversário	Ir. Robson Antonio Leite
28	Bom aniversário Feliz cumpleaños 55 ans de sacerdoce, félicitations !	Ir. Pedro Wladomiro Merlo P. Milciades Ortigoza Acosta P. André Grossard P. Jean-Baptiste Olçomendy P. Guillaume Etchébarne P. Gaston Gabaix-Hialé
29	55 anni di sacerdozio, auguri ! 50 ans de sacerdoce, félicitations!	P. Giovanni Duca P. Ernesto Colli P. Pierre Leborgne
30	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Lambert

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2	Buon compleanno	P. Massimo Motta
3	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Eugène Lhouerrou
4	Buon compleanno	P. Carlo Ruti P. Enrico Frigerio P. Fulgencio Ferreira P. Hervé Kouamé Kouakou
5	Buon compleanno Joyeux anniversaire	P. Lino Gurini P. Jacky Moura
6	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Gilberto Ortellado
8	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Pierre Caset
11	Buon compleanno Joyeux anniversaire 70 ans de sacerdoce, 15 ans de sacerdoce, félicitations	P. Arialdo Urbani P. Joseph Ruspil P. André Gillet P. Jean-Luc Morin
12	Feliz cumpleaños 65 anni di sacerdozio, auguri	Ho. Roberto Miner P. Giovanni Trameri
14	Bom aniversário	P. Joachim Soares Moreira

for them in the inn,” the agony in the Garden of Gethsemani, the wounds of the nails which fixed him to the Cross. Here too are the incomprehension of the disciples, Peter’s denial. Here too the traitor’s kiss from Judas now wrapped in glory.



It is only in this way that we can understand *how the Father has loved me, as I also have loved you. Remain in my love. My commandment is: love one another as I have loved you.* (John 15, 9, 12)

We also, in contemplating the one whom they have pierced, will find in him the centre of our life and our love. As religious and as lay people of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we must not cease focusing our gaze on him so that our fervent love of the Father and of each person enables us to forget ourselves, to give ourselves to others so that they have a better life and that they learn equally from us the secret of true love.

Gaspar Fernandez Perez, SCJ

*Father Etcheccopar wrote...* to his brother Evariste, June 24<sup>th</sup> 1852

*My dear Evariste, I am now a sub-deacon! This is what I have been meaning to tell you. In two year's time I shall be 24, the age required canonically for the priesthood. I have every hope of reaching that goal. Thank the Lord, for you and for me, for all the graces he has granted me; ask him to grant me the supreme grace of being one day his priest.*

*My dear brother, never forget that of ourselves we can do nothing: created by God, guided and preserved by God; God alone is our beginning, our middle and our end. Bring all your enterprises and projects to Him; always sacrifice your own interests to God's. He will repay you a hundredfold. Give him your heart. I could not imagine your heart, so generous and ardent, belonging to anyone except God.*

## What must I do, Lord? (Acts 22, 10)

**Behold, here I come to do your will! (Heb 10, 7)**

On the day before the celebration of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Andre Perroux is presenting us the spirituality of Fr. Leon Dehon: an other look upon the mystery and the mission of the Heart of Jesus

“Here I am”! In Sacred Scripture many of those chosen by the Lord for a specific mission answered with these two short words of commitment. True, there were often shades of difference: Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah; but all replied with the same love, the same readiness to serve. According to the Epistle to the Hebrews, this is the response which resumes the entire life of Jesus, the Son of God, and the One who was sent and whom the others were preparing. “God, here I am! I am coming to obey your Will” to accomplish your plan of salvation by surrendering myself without reserve. He thus launched a new and definitive Alliance. “By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he sanctifies.” (Heb. 10,14)

All the baptised are sanctified by the Lord, through and for his mission. Some are called to work more closely for the spreading of the Word throughout the world and for the Father’s harvest. Many replied repeating the very words of the Lord Himself. One of them is Michael Garicoits: “Here I am, O God, without delay, without reserve, without looking back”. Some years later and in the same century it is the reply of Leon-Jean Dehon. His long life (1843 – 1925) will be unified and sanctified by his humble and determined will to answer the call by an offering of love, united to that of Jesus, for God’s glory and the service of his Reign of justice and charity in this world.

Like Michael Garicoits, Leon Dehon was a priest, a religious, and founder of a Congregation dedicated to the Heart of Jesus through an apostolic life closely connected to the pressure of the missions of his day. They both sought the source of their spiritual experience in the French School. But the Spirit manifested itself to each as was best for the good of the whole body (cf. 1 Cor. 12,11). Let’s see briefly the grace received by the

master; he had many friends among the laity, religious orders and in the diocese among whom were cardinals and bishops. Among the laity were the benefactors of the Basilica and the College of Barracas. Being near his family, he was an appreciated preacher in the Cathedral of Buenos Aires as much as in retreats and missions throughout the country.

He was a zealous priest who responded immediately to the call of the sick, he heard confessions all over the place, standing, sitting, walking... how many pilgrims of our Lady of Lujan have benefited from his presence! He never murmured when it was a matter of replacing a confrere even when it tested him to the limit.

Fr Eugenio struggled constantly against his volatile temperament. But he knew how to ask pardon, even in public. It was the Sacred Heart, the good Shepherd who had fashioned his heart without sparing him of deprivations and uprootings. “The vow of obedience is what costs the most,” he often said to his relatives.

 **Follows on p. 16**

**Continuation from p. 7** Living witness of those who had followed other routes, we all gained from the meeting... from the witness of faith for some, from the love and family or children of others, from the generous commitment to the service of others, for all.

What can be called the Betharram “family” is still alive and moving with the times yet faithful to the Founder’s message and spirit. This is what we noticed during the homily of the Provincial, Fr. Oyhenart, and of the General, Fr Gaspar Fernandez, during the Sunday Mass.

This is what was expressed around Pierre’s tomb; there were rich expressions but there were also silence, tears, sometimes barely withheld. Finally there was joy – the joy of meals taken together, the joy of happy memories and personal stories shared.

And now I am going to finish with another quotation, but in Latin this time: *Ecce quam bonum et quam iucundum, habitare fraters in unum.*

Thank you everybody for everything and, why not, see you soon!

Mariano  
(Miguel  
Angel)  
Ibeas



## IN MEMORIAM

## Argentina

**Fr. Eugenio Amitrano (1925-2007)**

Fr Eugenio Amitrano was born in Barracas on the eighth of February 1923. The sixth of eight children, he entered the apostolic school at 12, the minor seminary of the congregation in his native town. After novitiate he went to the Scholasticate at Adroque in February 1945. As he was particularly clever, his ordination was advanced to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1949 so that he could study in Rome.

On returning to Argentina the young doctor of theology began his ministry at the apostolic school in Barracas. In addition to spiritual direction, he was in charge of the choir and taught several subjects. In 1960 he was appointed superior to the community and headmaster of the apostolic school which became a secondary College four years later. In 1966 he became parish priest of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart which had need of serious restoration. He completed this task with determination and with the enthusiastic support of the parishioners. He refurbished the church to the liturgical changes required by Vatican II and embarked on many Pastoral initiatives: renewal of lay movements, particularly the Cursillo movement, he initiated a preparation course for marriage: created a leisure centre and a school for altar servers which supported many surrounding parishes.

In 1992 he left his dear Barracas and after a year at St Juan he became master of novices at Adroque. After he was appointed superior of the community of Rosario in 2001, his health deteriorated and made him return to Villa Betharram. Since 2003 he remained like a patriarch at the house of formation. A man of prayer and a witness of faith during his illnesses, witnessing in his body the mystery of the cross, he celebrated the Eucharist as much as he could. He had said during his life 25,496 masses.

Of a robust constitution and a joyful disposition, Fr Eugenio loved to sing, and was a great speaker and a good cook. In his prime, he excelled in literature and drama. He wrote magazines and sketches, a great music lover and choir-

Founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Saint-Quentin (known also as “the Dehoniens”).

He was aware of having received this grace at the age of 13, on Christmas Night 1856. After Midnight Mass he stayed on a moment before the Divine Child in the Crib. It was then that “he had the most extraordinary impression of his life: Our Lord was urging me to give myself to him”. This would be a gift nourished by the mystery of the Word made Flesh, flesh exactly like ours, part of our history in preparation for the Kingdom.

He was born into a Christian family, and from his tender childhood he learned from his saintly mother to love Christ by devotion to his Sacred Heart; through Him, by all he is and does, Jesus reveals to us the God whose Love is Victory over evil and who fills our life and world with song.

“Jesus went about doing good, for God was with him” (Acts 10,38). Risen from the dead, and in his Church enlivened by the Spirit, he continues to be the Way, the Truth and the Life, drawing all men to himself. So “here I am”! May the Servant’s “Rule of Life” which he learned from his Mother Mary, the Handmaid of the Lord, be mine also; may it be so for all who have been invited to dwell on this same inspiration. “Here I am! I am the Handmaid! In these words we have our entire vocation, our aim in life, our duties, and our promises.”

But to correspond to the Father’s will, there must be a constant corresponding to the Father himself and to his Word: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!”, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” Saint Paul will say. And Father Dehon will repeat it thousands of times. With Psalm 40 and with the help of Jesus, he is gradually inhabited by one conviction: “You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me” (Heb. 10,5), you gave me a heart with which to love! For this reason his answer took shape gradually. It will be the priesthood to begin with; then study, for service of love demands competence, a passionate openness on the world, loved and saved in Christ. It would



be in solidarity with the poor, compassion, and mercy but with the moral courage to denounce evil and the risk of truth according to the Gospel, in the midst of the poor, principally amongst the working class which burgeoning capitalism exploits by crushing it; it would be in the care given to the education of a rising generation ready to assume its civic and Christian responsibilities. It will be by participating in the programme of the young “Christian Democrats”, conferences and publications aimed at spreading the messages of Pope Leo XIII, and in this way come closer to the simple folk to whom the Lord announces the Good News.

To structure this intense apostolic life there will be religious consecration; to have strength in reserve there will be “union with the Lord” without which “I am unable to live”. By insisting on the Eucharist, celebrated and adored, celebrating in Christ the victory over sin, the joy of reconciliation, and the beginning of a new creation, “the divinisation” of the earth with which our entire life must collaborate in a humble and trusting service.

But he was for ever reminding himself and his fellow religious: “God has no use for our knowledge nor our works, if he hasn’t our hearts!” Together with St Paul “captivated” by Christ, in the form of a prayer of a life time he could say: “The life I now live in this body, I live in faith; faith in the Son of God, who loved me and sacrificed himself for my sake!” (Gal. 2,20) Is it of little importance? He quickly welcomed and supported the message from the two giants of holiness inspired by the Holy Spirit in the closing years of a century running the risk of forgetting God: St Teresa of the Child Jesus and St Elisabeth of the Trinity. Here were two humble lives consumed by their offering to the merciful Love, by their unfailing fidelity even in the depths of their darkest nights, in their trust and joy of loving.

“Here I am!” – three little words; but they enlighten and change a whole existence on the strength of Jesus and his Gospel.

André Perroux, SCJ (Dehonien)



*How will you celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June at Adiapodoume?* - Our programme is that of the community where several young members in formation will be taking their exams at their Institute of theology, but we will go for Mass in the evening and have a meal with them afterwards.

*What can the spirituality of the Sacred Heart of Saint Michael bring to the community in the Ivory Coast?* - Society in this country is in crisis. It is in disorder. The young have a tendency to impose their will on parents or on those who are responsible for them. State-employed teachers do not hesitate to stop working in order to oblige the State to pay due salaries. In spite of the peace agreement the positions of both sides in the North and South are unchanged and feelings run very high. On the other hand corruption is rife and one is surprised to find honesty.

In such a situation the spirituality of the Sacred Heart can bring much if religious and laypeople live it and share it with others in words and deeds. It can help to cultivate the respect due to authority. It is capable of contributing to the appeasement of hearts and will favour reconciliation. It is possible that it will bring much comfort to this country through those who strive to preserve human dignity. It can bring them, especially the young, hope which will help them not to despair in life, as difficult as it may be. It can reinforce the sense of hospitality and a spirit of openness amongst people.

In a word the spirituality of the Sacred Heart of St Michael can certainly help the community in the Ivory Coast to emerge from this crisis if we, laypeople of Betharram, make known Jesus Christ as he teaches us in point 4 of the project of life which our lay brothers and sisters of the region of St Michael Garicoits have adopted here in September 2003.



We have decided to have an open house and welcome others. We receive at the week end our godson from our parish. With everyone that we receive, we try to share the happiness that “here I am” gives us.

*Does the “here I am” help you in your teaching?* - It invites us to accept the will of God and to work for its accomplishment. In our teaching life one of the ways in which it applies, is to admit with Saint Michael “that success depends on God and is reserved to him alone”. Since we have accepted this, we have become more serene in the exercise of our profession. In fact we no longer see teaching as a rush to success for our pupils. We no longer fear that our pride will be wounded by a pupil’s failure. We see our work rather as a process of adaptation in our activities in doing the will of God better, by giving life to the weak shoots confided to us. So we try to prepare our classes well and give them methodically and take great care in making the pupils better people.

Here, teaching is particularly difficult because of the conditions in which we live. Overcrowded classrooms in national schools, indiscipline and aggressive behaviour from pupils, no professional prospects. In spite of these difficulties we never despair of our pupils. We try each day to work happily doing God’s work. To sum up, the “here I am” is beautiful and a source of inspiration in our teaching life.

*As a father and mother of a family, what values do you think can be transmitted to formators and to the young in formation in religious life?* - As a father and mother of a family, the values of hospitality, listening, tolerance, understanding, love, discipline, responsibility, satisfaction in work well done, acceptance of oneself and of others. These are nothing compared with the more numerous and rich values that we expect from them.

**12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May - Old boys from Bel-Sito in Betharram**

## All of us

*All of us, all of us, all of us, trying to save our immortal souls, by paths which are sometimes more winding than others, we are doing fine here. But with the hope that all will soon be revealed.* (John Carver)

It is not easy to translate poetry, but poetry is not easily replaced as a medium for expressing one’s feelings. This is what I am going to try and do in this story of the meeting last May of the “Old Boys from Bel-Sito in Betharram”.

First of all, there was the wish to meet up with old friends, after forty years for some of us. This was the first surprise. Forty years ago, we were young. Actually, after forty years, some are still young.

Then there was the apprehension of appearing before a mirror, our own mirror: To look in the face a person for whom time has passed too, and who has suffered the ravages of age, of failing health, of illness, or even possibly death.

Someone like us, again, one of us.

In the community’s little cemetery in Betharram, there are names engraved on the tomb stones, the names of our masters, of our companions that I don’t want to name, for some are missing, others are still alive. These names reminded us of the past, but they were very present to us.

It is difficult to give way to nostalgia, but easy to give way to gratitude. Gratitude for the greeting, a smile, and the living witness of the paths we followed for part of our existence beside religious and laity, the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation.

My greatest joy to my mind was meeting up with Paul (from the Landes), with Bertrand, the cobbler, with Teodoro Miguel, and with Bernard Oyhenart, “young Eilsetch”, Ruspil, the new parish priest of Asson, etc. Meeting others for the first time, not to mention the seniors, those who preceded us.



## B I R D ' S E Y E V I E W



*Saint Michael  
Region*

### Province of France Delegation of the Ivory Coast

**Parish of Asson** ■ Fr. Joseph Ruspil has been appointed as parish priest of Notre-Dame parish in Asson, in order to take over from Fr. Léon Laclau.

### Province of England Delegation of India

**Admissions** ■ During the meeting of the General Council, held in Rome on the 26th of May, Fr. Gaspar Fernández, Superior general, and his Council admitted to perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betharram the Brothers Charles ENAKIUS, Valan Peter Arasu KANAGARAJ, Subesh Sebastian ODIYATHINGAL, Stervin Fernando SELVADASS.



*Blessed Miriam  
Region*

### Vice-province of Thailand

**Oriental breeding ground** ■ On the day before the start of the new academic year at the seminary, the Betharramite students are gathered again in Sampran (30 km from Bangkok). The study house hosts this year 28 members (2 Fathers and 26 students). Among them, 5 new ones who are starting philosophy, and 2 others who will make an experience. We wish these young people and the community an academic year full of prayer, energy and... music, just like the starting mass presided by Fr. Gaspar in visit to the Vice Province.

**Under construction** ■ Only a few minutes away from the national major seminary of Thailand, the future scholasticate of Sampran is under construction. On the foundations which have already been completed, there will be a main building (52 m long and 10m high) consisting of 2 floors, 19 rooms (2- or 3-bedded), a chapel on the ground floor, and annexes (kitchen, laundry, etc.). During the past holidays, the Betharramite postulants made there a work experience. Let us meet again in July 2008 for the inauguration, unless technical problems arise... and provided that the benefactors will continue to respond to the call!

O F T H E C O N G R E G A T I O N

### 8 MINUTES WITH... Anne Marie & Faustin Douh

*Nef - What immediately comes to your mind when you think about the Sacred Heart?* - It is the heart of Christ from which flows the source of life to all men.

*What values come to your mind from this?* - The love that God gives us without measure and that he wishes we share it with our neighbour; to be humble by renouncing something of ourselves so as to be open to others, to respect the dignity of each human being whoever he or she is; to be obedient and trust which bears witness to our filial attachment to God; to be gentle as a way of helping us overcome our irritability.

*How does one live the "here I am" in the life of the family?* - We try to be available to each other when we can. We prepare certain courses together. Recently being in the pastoral counselling office has limited my availability for my wife. But Anne Marie understands and accepts. This is one way of living "here I am".

We iron out our differences quietly. The word of God and the spirituality of Saint Michael help us quite a lot to create and preserve harmony in our relationship. It seems that a certain understanding exists which permits one of us to do in the absence of the other what they would have done if they had been present. As a couple we had fervently desired another child for 12 years! Since we discovered the trust that St Michael had (DS64), this unfilled desire is no longer a haunting memory. We now commit ourselves to the will of God.

We teach our nieces and nephews and our children who live with us obedience and acceptance, which to seems indispensable in our crisis torn society. We always ask for a Mass on each ones birthday; and give them a special meal and gifts according to our means.



*Anne-Marie and Faustin Douh, lay members of the fraternity NeMe know Betharram well. Faustin participated in the last general chapter and represented his country. Both are teachers and have two children Gertrude 21 and Charles Nicholas 16. In view of the 15th of June, the Nef has been welcomed in their home and listened to their Hearts.*