

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

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## Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (7)

become a saintly priest and do great things for God". The young man is completely changed.

Some dissatisfied elements organise a cabal against the new Professor who won't let them do what they like. "He'd like to catch us too! Let's keep an eye on him! When we catch him out, we'll be able to tell him that he's no better than the others".

The days go by and our young men are in a quandary: They can find nothing to reproach Michael with! So much so, that in the end, apart from a few hot heads who leave, everyone closes ranks around their new Professor who keeps on telling them: *My friends, go to Communion, go to Communion often!*"

Have any of his fellow priests something to say about his methods? He simply explains his position and the whole seminary continues to improve. Father Garicoits can face the future with high hopes. And at the death of M. Lasalle he is named Rector of the Seminary.

(to be continued)

## Schedule of the General Council



In Adiapodoumé, in the presence of Fr. Gaspar Fernandez, superior general, end of the meeting of the formators of the Congregation, followed by the

Meeting of the Betharramite Formation Team, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
July

*Have a great summer,  
and see you on the 14<sup>th</sup> September!*

## The Scout's prayer

For the centenary of the movement

Lord Jesus,  
Teach us to be generous,  
To serve you as you deserve,  
To give without counting the cost,  
To fight without heeding the wounds,  
To work without seeking rest,  
To use ourselves without seeking any  
reward other than knowing that we are  
doing your Holy will.

(Saint Ignatius of Loyola)



# Family News

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



A word from the  
Superior General

## The Prophetic dimension of Consecrated Life

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The meeting last June of Major Religious Superiors and the feast of St John the Baptist have given me the idea to reflect on the prophetic dimension of consecrated life. Prophets are believers who have experienced God's action in their lives; this is something which makes them capable of discerning His presence in the history of mankind and of speaking to the Faithful in His Name.

Jesus Christ is the great prophet; as the beloved Son of the Father, through his life, his preaching and his actions, he reveals the God of Love and how to reach Him. "A great prophet has appeared amongst us; God has visited his people" (Luke 7/16).

On the day of our Baptism, when we were anointed with the Sacred Oils we were reminded of our union with Christ, *priest, prophet and king*. Thus the prophecy of Moses is realized when he said: "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them" (Numb. 11/29) Consequently, in the Church we are all prophets, for, as it is said in the Apocalypse, prophecy means bearing witness to Jesus.

Number 84 of *Vita Consecrata* recognises the prophetic dimension of consecrated life as a special way of sharing in the prophetic function of Christ, given to the

105<sup>th</sup> year  
10<sup>th</sup> series, n° 18  
14<sup>th</sup> July 2007



*whole People of God by his Holy Spirit.* Our gift of prophecy has meaning only in so far as we bear witness that *God is the sole essential* and that as a consequence we receive the Christian values which fill our lives:

- The brotherhood bears witness to the fact that it is possible to live in community with others, even if their culture and way of thinking is different, on condition that we accept their originality, that they enjoy the services we offer and that we accept theirs.
- Because we trust in Divine Providence which cares for all creation, we share our materiel goods and use them advisedly.
- Because we believe in God's Love, we want to love as he has loved us by giving up our life.
- Loving obedience to the projects of the Congregation, and to the service of the mission of the Church makes us people at the service of others.

During the meeting of the Major Religious Superiors great importance was attached to the fact that this gift of prophecy has no value apart from the primacy of God, of community life and loving obedience. Furthermore, amongst the enemies of the prophetic dimension of Religious Life there is the disillusionment of those who have lost all enthusiasm for their vocation, who have become accustomed to the facilities of modern life, by pushing God aside or being ashamed of their vocation.

Our prophetic way of life is not founded on any reconnaissance of values that are ours, nor on the misunderstanding of our contemporaries. It is founded on fidelity to our vocation, in joy or in adversity. We seek neither to be congratulated nor to be persecuted, but an authentic way of life, that is consistent with the

*Our prophetic way of life is founded on fidelity to our vocation, in joy or in adversity*

## *Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (7)*



### **A crack corps**

Rose Dardennes tells the story of Father M. Garicoits' early steps in Betharram and the first fruits of his new mission. Already the spiritual master can be seen behind the formator of priests.

The Bishop has a great idea in mind! The seminary in Betharram is in a bad way. M. Procope Lasalle, the Rector, is a very good man, but he's old and no longer has control over this group of young men who by way of preparation for the priesthood are no less capable of being up to pranks!

*-You got Cambo back on track without harming the old Parish Priest in any way. Now, do the same in Betharram; the dear old rector will stay put; he has done so much for the seminary that I owe him that. Incidentally, I am entrusting this mission to you; I want you to restore order and train saintly priests.*

The task will be hard and delicate. The priest is heart broken about leaving Cambo. God wants him in Betharram; and so he will go to Betharram and take this chosen group to his heart. One of the seminarians bothers him: *"My friend, what is the meaning of this carry on? Is this how to become a good priest? Take care! All this could have serious consequences. There must be a rapid and complete change, otherwise, I'll take no responsibility for what can happen!"*

The young man would not have accepted the reprimand from anyone else. But he has been deeply impressed by the young Professor who says his Mass much better than the others, with deep respect and recollection encouraging the faithful to join in prayer with him. And if he speaks clearly to him, it is done with so much affection that the young man is completely won over. On the other hand, the priest has spent a long time in prayer before speaking to the seminarian. In a word, with God's help, the young man admits his misgivings, abandons his bad habits and will become a very good priest.

Another seminarian said to him: *"I don't know whether I should become a priest or leave"*. The young Professor looked at him like Christ would have done: *"You are to*



AUGUST

15	60 ans de profession	P. Pierre Salla, P. Mathieu Etchenique
	60 ans de sacerdoce félicitations	P. Sauveur Londaizbéhère
16	Buon compleanno	P. Celestino Gusmeroli
17	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Gustavo Agin
18	Buon compleanno	P. Ernesto Consonni
21	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Domecq Fr. Martial Mengué
25	Joyeux anniversaire	Mgr Vincent Landel
26	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Tapie
27	35 años de sacerdocio, enhorabuenas	P. Milciades Ortigoza
28	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Alexandre Berhouet
29	Happy birthday	Br. Gabriel Phonchai Sukjai
30	15 anos de sacerdocio, felitações	P. Henri Karam Amorim
31	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Dominique Etchéverria

SEPTEMBER

1	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Ceferino Arce
2	Bom aniversário	P. Paulo Cesar Pinto
3	Joyeux anniversaire Happy birthday	P. Michel Vignau P. Suthon Khiriwathanasakun
4	Happy birthday Joyeux anniversaire	Fr. Austin Hughes P. Luc-Martial Kouadio
6	Buon compleanno	P. Giovanni Trameri
8	Bom aniversário 65° di professione, auguri	P. Dante Angelelli P. Celestino Gusmeroli
12	25° di professione, auguri	P. Emilio Manzolini Fr. Claudio Mantegazza
13	Bom aniversário Joyeux anniversaire	P. Paulo Vital Campos P. Philippe Hourcade
14	25° di professione, auguri	P. Aurelio Riva P. Elie Kurzum
16	Buon compleanno	P. Egidio Zoia
18	Buon compleanno	P. Romualdo Airaghi
19	80 ans de profession, félicitations	P. Joseph Canton

values which we preach and those which we practise. What is evident in our silent and faithful way of life is that another world is possible, whether visible or not.



We are bound to cultivate and to revive the prophetic dimension of our life. Consequently we must deepen our spiritual life, our prayer life and our ascetic life. We must be men of discernment, endowed with a true sense of God, and able to see his presence in the ups and downs of daily life. Our way of life should show us to be simple, obliging, understanding, responsible and kind; that we are people capable of forgiveness, helping our neighbour to discover himself, both in community and in the mission.

Gaspar Fernandez Perez, SCJ

22<sup>th</sup> July: feast  
of St Mary  
Magdalene

*Father Etchecopar wrote...* to his sister Magdalene,  
24<sup>th</sup> July 1866

*As soon as she got to know Jesus, Magdalene left all things for him. By an unheard of gesture, both decisive and courageous, she broke with her past life, and threw herself at the feet of Our Lord right in the middle of a big dinner – a woman without authorisation and under the scornful gaze of the guests present. At that precise moment she swapped what had been instrumental in her downfall for signs of repentance and good deeds: she used her eyes to weep, she used her hands to wash the feet of her Saviour, her hair to wipe them, her lips to kiss them and her perfumes to anoint his feet.*

*With great humility she focuses all the love of her heart on Jesus Christ as she takes her place at his feet. Silently and in tears she carries on with perseverance right up to the foot of the Cross and the silence of the tomb. Oh Magdalene, the Drachma lost and found again has been restored to the Father's treasure house. Teach us to be humble, generous and persevering. Amen.*

**Thailand, 26<sup>th</sup> May-16<sup>th</sup> June****Sawaddi krap Betharram!**

News of a three week stay, together with the Superior general.

Once upon a time there was an old man in a wheel chair looked after by a twenty year old health carer. The former has spent 50 years on the mission. The carer is full of respect and gratitude for the old man who had announced Christ to his family. Double fidelity to the Gospel and to a story. Father Jean Lanusse has the smile of the servant at the end of the day; Anuphong the smile of a devoted and dynamic people. The scene takes place in Chiang Mai, the Betharram “domain” in Thailand. Betharram has given everything for this diocese which is about to become third in the country, and for these mountain tribes. Today, twelve young Thai priests are taking over from the European missionaries.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, only a few metres from Father Lanusse’s room, a young religious makes his final vows as a Sacred Heart religious. Surrounded by his family and community, Brother Phonchai is radiant, just like the classes at Sampran. For the start of this new academic year in June, the Betharramite academy has 26 students and two formators, Fathers Chan and Suthon. The heat is part of the scene, of course – the heat outside and the warmth of the reception.

The community is a real family, regularly present at the lessons at the national seminary, organised in teams according to the services and strengthened in their vocation in the Chapel. Here it is that in the presence of the Sacred Heart, of Our Lady and of St Michael (the “Betharramite Trinity”) they sing, in Thai or in English, sitting cross-legged. The accompaniment is either a guitar or a synthe; hands joined in a sign of respect; there is silence so as to savour the joy of being sons and the mission of living as brothers. Day by day hearts and horizons grow towards the mountains in the north and even into China for the volunteers.

16	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Enrique Lasuén
17	65 años de profesión enhorabuenas	P. Enrique Lasuén
18	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Giovanni Duca Fr. Mongkhon Charoentham
20	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Carlo Antonini P. Beniamino Gusmeroli Br. Patrick Leighton
21	Happy birthday	Br. George Anthonyswamy
22	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Eleuterio Cabero del Pozo
23	Bom aniversário	P. Sebastião do Nascimento Pereira Ir. Mauro Ulrich de Oliveira
26	Happy birthday	Br. John Britto Irudhayam
28	Feliz cumpleaños Joyeux anniversaire	Mons. Ignacio Gogorza P. Jean-Dominique Delgue
29	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Gaston Gabaix-Hialé
31	Buon compleanno	P. Carlo Sosio
1	Buon compleanno Bom aniversário	P. Enrico Mariani Ir. Jair Pereira da Silva
2	Buon compleanno 65° di sacerdozio, auguri	P. Graziano Sala P. Lino Illini
4	Feliz cumpleaños Buon compleanno	P. Julián Miguel P. Eyad Salameh Bader
6	Feliz cumpleaños	Ho. Juan Cazaubon
10	Bom aniversário	P. Vicente de Menezes
12	Buon compleanno	P. Maurizio Vismara P. Damiano Colleoni
13	55th of profession congratulations	Br Michael Richards
14	Joyeux anniversaire Bom aniversário	P. Robert Daquo P. Antonio Scarpa
15	Joyeux anniversaire 70 ans de profession, 65 ans de profession félicitations	P. Bernard Béhocaray P. Raymond Descomps P. Paul Baradat, P. Joseph Mazerolles, P. Jean Cazenave, F. Bertrand Belhartz

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right direction, to accompany them and encourage them to launch out into the mission. I want to thank you for inviting me to answer your questions and helping me to feel that I belong to the Congregation. ●

### In memoriam

#### United in prayer and Hope...

- for the grandmother of Fr. Luc Martial Kouadio: the funeral has recently taken place in Bouaflé (Ivory Coast)
- for Fr. Juan Antonio Morales who died in Buenos Aires on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, at the age of 92 (an homage will be paid to him in the next issue of the NEF)

Continues  
from p. 9



Dominic celebrate Mass. Sometimes we've had bishops arrive, Anglican and Catholic, from the Sudan. Several children attend our two primary schools.

Now the war in Southern Sudan has been brought to an end with an uneasy peace, many from the Midlands, both men and women, have returned to take their place in the Sudanese Parliament. It came as a surprise when Fr Dominic joined them on New Years Eve to find among them the Minister of Health, the Minister of Finance and several MPs from various regions of southern Sudan who had returned to see their families still living here. Before the peace had been settled, the Catholic Bishop Gassi of Tombura Yambio stayed with us. Among other things, he urged his people to return to rebuild the devastated country of the South. He told us that he had one nurse for the whole of his diocese and that nearly all the schools had been destroyed. He appealed for religious orders to go there.

In our small way, we are able to welcome these people into our hall and church. Who knows, in God's good time, we might be able to help rebuild the church in that part of Africa?

Dominic Innamorati, SCJ

Certain centres under the care of the Betharramites are worth a visit. For example there is Ban Pong where 200 children are received, mainly "Akas" to study, to get to know life in a group, even to learn a trade (artisan embroidery, thanks to which the community can manage its budget. Here the joys of life go hand in hand with the joys of believing, just like Vitnai and his friend (20 years old between them), first at Mass and at sport.

Maipon is another haven of peace, in the heart of the forest. Here too, 200 youngsters, wearing their traditional dress (white for the girls, red for the boys) are given a good education, human and Christian. The Sisters and Fathers have taken over the mission of Father Seguinotte and developed it. In the middle of the poultry, the flowers and the children's laughter, the Kingdom of God is advancing.

We should speak of the parishes in the plains and in the mountains, of the trees bending under the weight of the litchis, of meetings full of fervour, of the town with its mirages, of places visited formerly, of hectic modernisation, of future missions. For the Vice-Province there are the steps to be undertaken to obtain legal recognition, the project of extending beyond the diocese of Chiang Mai, the 32 junior seminarians boarding at Saint Joseph's Lycee, and the future Seminary now being built. And above all there is the Church's trust in what has already been sown and in what now exists, there is the gratitude of all the visitors for so much fruit and for our Thai brothers the necessary audacity to project tomorrow.

*Sawaddi krap, Betharram!* meaning *Hello Betharram* in Thai. We can look forward to more happy times full of simplicity and joy.

Jean-Luc Morin, SCJ



## Latin America

### Chronicle of the Regional Novitiate

The novitiate for the Region P. Auguste Etchecopar is in Argentina, at Adrogue. There are eight first year novices (three from Paraguay and five from Brazil) and one second year novice, from Paraguay. A postulant and seminarian (both from Argentina) are part of our community. There are four priests, all Argentineans, who are responsible for our formation, so that at this time of our formation we are getting as close as possible to God through his Son Jesus, humble and obedient.

Nearly four months ago we were arriving at Adrogue full of fear and apprehension, as we should have been! On the 15<sup>th</sup> June, after a five day retreat, we were accepted for our canonical year. The previous months were a time for adaptation, of getting to know each other, and the discovery of the values of peoples and cultures.

This short period of cohabitation wasn't lacking in trials: the death of the mother of the two seminarians, Guido and Sebastian; the death of our dear Fr Eugenio Amitrano; a surgical operation for Br Raul, novice. But the sympathy, availability, and brotherly love are signs of the presence of the Spirit working in each of us to strengthen and encourage us in the midst of the trials of all community life.

Our daily life is punctuated by prayer, meditation, and Mass to which are added pastoral activities, study, assignments and community recreation. Each of us has been able to share his personal history with the community; at the same time we have each discovered the treasure which is reconciliation, counselling, personal and community prayer and above all the Mass.

Another important thing is the regionalisation, which helps to rid us of our manner of seeing and judging and of replacing them by Gospel values which know no

### *What pastoral priorities emerged during the Conference of Aparecida?*

- Announcing the Kerygma\* in the following of Christ; formation of disciples; creation of new forms and structures of evangelisation; missionary dioceses and parishes to renew contact with people who have moved away from the Church, with those who know nothing about the Word of God and the non-baptised; the family and defence of life; preferential option for the poor and the excluded; the social teaching of the Church for the promotion of the whole of humanity; education and the Pastoral of Communications.

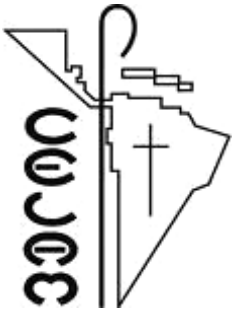
### *How do you see the future of the Church in Latin America after Aparecida?*

- It could well be a new Pentecost for our Church. All will depend on how we put into action the spirit, contents and priorities which the final document proposes, explains and entrusts to us.

### *An unavoidable question: in the project from Aparecida what must be the life and mission of the Betharram communities in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay?*

- Betharram is part and parcel of Latin America, and consequently must accept the final document so as to be in communion with our Church and our reality. The spirit and priorities of Aparecida must be taken into account as structures for our educational and pastoral projects. This means that the religious communities must live out their Betharramite identity fully active in the local Church, sharing its everyday life and important events. As has been stated at Aparecida, Religious Life must form witnesses capable of showing by their life what it means to be a Christian in the presence of materialism and Godless structures. Religious Life faces a huge challenge, but I believe our Congregation is made up of courageous religious, ready and generous to undertake such a mission. One has only to point them in the

\* From a Greek word meaning "solemn proclamation", the **Kerygma** is at the heart of the early preaching of the Apostles "Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour" Through the proclamation of the Resurrection for the remission of sin, it sheds light on, and is the foundation of all the other tenets of our faith. (editor's note)



terrific experience, and to the Bishops' Conference of Paraguay for the trust and support which they constantly gave me. During the Conference at Aparecida I was constantly in communion with the Bishops of Paraguay, for I knew that they were united to me by prayer and friendship.

*As for communion within the Church: did you feel tensions between the unity as expressed by the orientations from the Holy Sea, and the different expressions of Christian life as expressed by the cultures, countries, and situations in which the Church in Latin America finds itself?*

- There was absolutely no tension. We experienced the Church, the People of God as defined by Vatican II, in communion and participation. We achieved this thanks to all the preparatory work done by the leaders of CELAM in close communion with the Holy Father and his collaborators in the Holy Sea. The Holy Spirit was present too: all the participants had one desire, namely to find the answers and structures suitable for answering the huge challenges in today's world, from the point of view of evangelisation. Our method of working in commissions and groups made things easier. The final document was drawn up thanks to the free and active participation of each one, even if the final approval was voted by the delegated Cardinals and Bishops.

*You are a religious; you must have been attentive to the different speeches on Religious Life. How did the Conference of Aparecida regard Religious Life in Latin America?*

- Resolutely on the side of the poor, in general, and prophetic; seeking to balance action and being; challenged by the new problems arising today, but wanting to be faithful to God, the Church and one's charism by sharing the sufferings of the people; bothered about the scarcity of vocations in many Congregations and at the same time, trusting in the renewal taking place and in a future full of hope.

frontiers. And with all this help we shall grow into open and available religious.

There is something however which can weigh heavily: it's the longing for the family, our culture and our language, especially for the Brazilians. But with patience and the help of Providence, we can overcome all such obstacles.

We have chosen neither where we want to live nor with whom, but in the name of Jesus and of his Gospel we have been called to construct together a community of consecrated souls which in charity and despite our differences, is giving a fresh start to the Betharram of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The novices of Adrogué

### **Ivory Coast**

#### **Crisis and hope for the School in the Northern Zone**

Lying to the north east of Ivory Coast, Dabakala is a small town of 10 000 inhabitants (at least before the uprising). It is a cosmopolitan town like all the towns in Ivory Coast and is inhabited for the most part by djiminis, diolas, and other ethnic groups which have arrived from neighbouring regions and even from other countries of West Africa. After five years of political and military crisis all socio-economic sections of the country are in a state of instability.

The school which is at the centre of all development is now suffering the repercussions of the crisis. Work-Discipline-Success is the motto of the Lycee Moderne of Dabakala; this is a state school which, despite the gloomy atmosphere, has about 1700 pupils from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the Final Year. The children are from all corners of the department and are in search of knowledge and security. Are they not the hopes of their families and of the whole nation? At the Lycee Moderne, it sometimes happens that during a lesson a pupil cannot take notes for want of a copy book or a biro. As for the results of their efforts, surprise gives way

to grief when one sees that the level of attainment is below average. In any case, pupils who for the last five years of instability have been left to their own devices can't work miracles simply because the required level is the fruit of sustained effort.

As for the teachers, we must congratulate all those who have chosen to remain in the war zone in order to take on their duties as formators (the majority of their colleagues have retreated to the South, to the government zone, for security reasons). These Civil Servants have run all the risks so as to be able to continue working, with the help of young students transformed into voluntary teachers.

With other students from the University of Bouake I am part of this highly motivated team, which is available and badly paid\*. Freed as I am from all political affiliations and ambitions, I teach history and geography. Although from the South, I have never at any moment been driven by tribe or ethnicity, less still by feelings of hatred towards my brothers in the North. On the contrary, I am challenged by the poverty and famine; in a word by the sufferings of the peasants' children held hostage by politicians blinded by power for power's sake. In reality we owe these children a huge debt.

The important thing here is to be able to look at them with eyes full of love. I feel like saying with Christ: "Get up and walk!" As educators we are obliged to take our share in their formation. Where I am concerned I think I have spread the joy of living together with the constant preoccupation of protecting the dignity of man, of helping my brothers to stand up and grow in humanity. As a Christian I feel I am called to this and I shall always respond in order to save the face of suffering mankind.

At the end of a match, we must be able to say: "Even if I haven't won, I have made choices, I have taken risks, spent painful moments, but at least, I have given everything". Long live the restoration of peace in Ivory Coast!

Serge N'Da  
Betharramite  
aspirant

\* 40.000 FRS  
CFA, or €60 a  
month, for  
25hours teaching  
per week

- Our People received the Christian Religion as part of a history, as part of a tradition; as a result the first challenge consists of helping them to discover the Word of God. The personal meeting with Christ so as to feel invited to follow Him, will be the result. From this meeting commitment for unity and identification with the Lord so as to become his disciple will be realized. We want to direct this project in a personalised manner, by founding little communities so as to do away with the gap between faith and life, which is the cause of widespread corruption. We want to build a living Church whose existence in every place will be a ferment for the social, cultural and structural renewal of our continent. In other words, a Church evangelised and evangelising, on the side of the poor, with the new expressions of suffering and exclusion which we see in the faces of aids victims, of drugs victims, of the old, the sick and prisoners.

*What are the evangelical values which the Conference of Aparecida wants to suggest to the Christians of Latin-America?*

- The following of Christ with everything that that implies. Love of Christ and personal communion with Him. Prayer, principally the Lectio Divina which lends light to the wealth of the Word of God, the lights which it brings and the dialogue which it allows. A social conscience to see people's needs and to support them. Community life full of brotherly love, which places the common good before selfishness. Confidence in the triumph of the Risen Christ in the midst of all the crosses which litter our life here below.

*What was your responsibility like as representative of the Bishops of Paraguay?*

- There was the fear of not responding adequately to the hopes that had been placed in me. At the same time I was grateful first of all to God who had allowed me to have this





Mgr Gogorza Izaguirre is a Betharramite. As Bishop of Encarnacion and President of the Bishops' Conference of Paraguay, he was present at one of the most extraordinary Church events of these last months, namely the 5<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the Latin American Bishops at Aparecida (Brazil). For these reasons we wanted to spend a few minutes with him.

## 10 MINUTES WITH... Mgr Ignacio Gogorza

*Nef - It is a great grace to have had such an experience of the Church; could you share with our readers something of what you experienced at Aparecida?*

- It was a magnificent experience! There I met with a Church very much alive, preoccupied by the dechristianisation of the masses, by the side effects of globalisation, increasing materialism and the spread of sects; but it is also a Church which believes profoundly in the power of the Risen Christ, whose grace sends us out to evangelise the world by filling us with his Holy Spirit who enlightens, renews and gives hope; a Church of the People of God, because all those present felt responsible for the New Evangelisation.

*Being that this was a meeting of the Hierarchy, Aparecida must surely have been a help for discernment. Can you tell us how, by listening to the Word of God, you tried to discern the presence of God in the lives of the men and women of Latin America.*

- With the eyes of faith we took a look at the reality. There we discovered a people famished for the Word of God, concerned about social justice so as to overcome the gaps of inequality. The environment as well as peoples lives are under threat; to defend one is to defend the other. In the face of the danger of a levelling as the result of globalisation, we are determined to care for, to protect and cultivate the native cultures – Afro-American, and others, present on our continent. Fortified by their own customs and traditions, a popular religiosity will keep alive the Christian Faith.

*For the Church in Latin-America, what are the most important challenges noted during the reflexions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference?*

## England

### Parishes showing solidarity with asylum seekers

Both the Community at Olton and the Parish of Ss John and Martin Birmingham have been offering hospitality to Asylum.

The Friary, at Olton offers accommodation to homeless refugees until they are passed on to more permanent accommodation; Congolese, Iraqis, Russians, Christian Pakistanis, etc.

For over 10 years, the parish of Ss John and Martin have offered hospitality to the people of Sudan who had fled their country during the 30 year period of war. Birmingham has at least a quarter of a million asylum seekers without documents and with no rights to home or shelter. If it wasn't for the Churches and various charitable organisations they would have no one to speak up for them, to give them food and shelter, and nowhere to live. This SCJ Parish has helped the Sudanese in various ways, for example in paying towards the studies of a solicitor who in his own country before he fled was regional governor. But his qualifications in the Sudan counted for nothing when he came here; as a result he had to study all over again. When Fr Shaju was here as a student he was involved in caring for newly arrived asylum seekers and helping them integrate themselves into the community by accompanying them to find legal and social aid, taking shopping etc.

The Sudanese community come to St John and Martin's from all over the country to use our parish hall for their reunions over the years, for celebrations, weddings and funerals and general meetings. Most of them have harrowing stories to tell of torture and death. Our hall and church sometimes echoes with hymns in Arabic, Dinka and Zande when either one of their own priests or Fr

## Congregation

**Study holidays** ■ On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, in the magnificent green surroundings of the scholasticate at Adiapodoume opened the session for the Formators of the Congregation. In all they are 14 from 9 different countries - including Fr Gaspar, Superior General - who will spend time reflecting and sharing ideas during the next fortnight. Main issue: spiritual accompaniment and formative dialogue.

Let's hear what one of the participants, Father Suthon, has to say: "This stay has been a wonderful chance of meeting with others, getting to know each other better, sharing our experiences on formation, and above all to improve thanks to the contributions of the facilitator, Father P. Arij Roest Crollius. This Jesuit has a long experience of accompanying which he lectures on at the Theology Faculty in Abidjan. We take the work of our own development seriously for a better service of the Congregation. Would that we could follow the same path towards the Heart of Christ, our perfect model, who said "Yes" to his Father throughout his entire life." It would seem that the Spirit is breathing on the lagoon.

## Province of France Delegation of the Ivory Coast

**Betharram: Frat'2007** ■ The members of the *Me Voici Fraternity* will be holding their annual meeting on the banks of the Gave from the 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> July. Fr Jacky Moura will launch this 17<sup>th</sup> edition with a talk on the "International dimension of St Michael's spirituality". On Saturday evening the renewal of vows will close the "Celebration of Me Voici". Sunday will be given over to discussing the common mission of religious/laity. A very good programme, wouldn't you say, for a meeting which coincides with Our Lady's feast day.

**Here I am for life** ■ On the 15<sup>th</sup> July Br Raoul Segla will make his final vows in our Congregation in the Church of St Bernard, in Adiapodoume. Don't let us wait for the next issues of the Nef, and the ordinations promised in September, to sing together "*Here I am, alleluia!*"

## Province of Italy

**Father Airoldi Square** ■ 40 years after the consecration of the Church of the Sacred Heart, the village of Lissone took



*Saint Michael  
Region*

advantage of the refurbishment of the village square to name it after the founder and parish priest of the Parish from 1959 – 1972. So, at the beginning of June the Father Giuseppe Airoldi Square was officially inaugurated. This was the first Italian Betharramite to have his name set in marble. Thus, tribute is paid to all the "living stones" which are the dozen or so parishes entrusted to our religious from the north to the south of the peninsula.

**Spiritual Exercises** ■ From the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> August, Fr Gaspar Fernandez will give the annual retreat to the Italian religious at the Casa San Giuseppe (Albavilla). This will surely be an excellent introduction to the canonical visitation of the Province due to take place during 2007 – 2008.

## Province of England Delegation of India

**Companions for the route** ■ On July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fr Philippe Hourcade (France) will go to Bangalore for a month. There he will meet up with Fr Tidkham Jailertrit (from Thailand) who is there since the beginning of June, to accompany the students from our formation houses. Thus the band of solidarity put in place after the tragic death of Father Xavier Ponthokkan continues – religious from different cultures give of their time and skills to help the young Delegation.

## Vice-province of Thailand

**Family joys** ■ There was great rejoicing for the Congregation of the Sacred Heart in our "Seminary" at Sampran. After hours of preparation (choir rehearsals, decoration of the rooms, preparation of the buffet) at last all was ready for the great day. Our 32 junior seminarians joined their elders (professed and non-professed) together with friends from Bangkok for the celebration of Mass followed by a friendly meal. The Superior of St Joseph's Junior Seminary and an assistant from the diocese of Chiang Mai were also present. This beautiful family feast brought to a close the Visit by our Superior General and the Secretary-Bursar, 20 years after the foundation of the house.

Other festivities: on 11<sup>th</sup> August next Brother Phonchai Gabriel Sukjai will be ordained deacon. All our best prayers go with him.



*Blessed Miriam  
Region*

News bulletin of the  
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## Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (7)

become a saintly priest and do great things for God". The young man is completely changed.

Some dissatisfied elements organise a cabal against the new Professor who won't let them do what they like. "He'd like to catch us too! Let's keep an eye on him! When we catch him out, we'll be able to tell him that he's no better than the others".

The days go by and our young men are in a quandary: They can find nothing to reproach Michael with! So much so, that in the end, apart from a few hot heads who leave, everyone closes ranks around their new Professor who keeps on telling them: *My friends, go to Communion, go to Communion often!*"

Have any of his fellow priests something to say about his methods? He simply explains his position and the whole seminary continues to improve. Father Garicoits can face the future with high hopes. And at the death of M. Lasalle he is named Rector of the Seminary.

(to be continued)

## Schedule of the General Council



In Adiapodoumé, in the presence of Fr. Gaspar Fernandez, superior general, end of the meeting of the formators of the Congregation, followed by the

Meeting of the Betharramite Formation Team, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>  
July

*Have a great summer,  
and see you on the 14<sup>th</sup> September!*

## The Scout's prayer

For the centenary of the movement

Lord Jesus,  
Teach us to be generous,  
To serve you as you deserve,  
To give without counting the cost,  
To fight without heeding the wounds,  
To work without seeking rest,  
To use ourselves without seeking any  
reward other than knowing that we are  
doing your Holy will.

(Saint Ignatius of Loyola)



# Family News

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



**A word from the  
Superior General**

## The Prophetic dimension of Consecrated Life

### In this issue

- Page 4: Sawaddi krap betharram!
- Page 6: novices in Adrogué
- Page 7: crisis for the school in the Ivory Coast
- Page 9: English parishes showing solidarity
- Page 10: Bird's eye view of the congregation
- Page 12: 10mn with Mgr Gogorza
- Page 19: Little story of Michael Garicoits (7)

The meeting last June of Major Religious Superiors and the feast of St John the Baptist have given me the idea to reflect on the prophetic dimension of consecrated life. Prophets are believers who have experienced God's action in their lives; this is something which makes them capable of discerning His presence in the history of mankind and of speaking to the Faithful in His Name.

Jesus Christ is the great prophet; as the beloved Son of the Father, through his life, his preaching and his actions, he reveals the God of Love and how to reach Him. "A great prophet has appeared amongst us; God has visited his people" (Luke 7/16).

On the day of our Baptism, when we were anointed with the Sacred Oils we were reminded of our union with Christ, *priest, prophet and king*. Thus the prophecy of Moses is realized when he said: "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them" (Numb. 11/29) Consequently, in the Church we are all prophets, for, as it is said in the Apocalypse, prophecy means bearing witness to Jesus.

Number 84 of *Vita Consecrata* recognises the prophetic dimension of consecrated life as a special way of sharing in the prophetic function of Christ, given to the

105<sup>th</sup> year  
10<sup>th</sup> series, n° 18  
14<sup>th</sup> July 2007



*whole People of God by his Holy Spirit.* Our gift of prophecy has meaning only in so far as we bear witness that *God is the sole essential* and that as a consequence we receive the Christian values which fill our lives:

- The brotherhood bears witness to the fact that it is possible to live in community with others, even if their culture and way of thinking is different, on condition that we accept their originality, that they enjoy the services we offer and that we accept theirs.
- Because we trust in Divine Providence which cares for all creation, we share our materiel goods and use them advisedly.
- Because we believe in God's Love, we want to love as he has loved us by giving up our life.
- Loving obedience to the projects of the Congregation, and to the service of the mission of the Church makes us people at the service of others.

During the meeting of the Major Religious Superiors great importance was attached to the fact that this gift of prophecy has no value apart from the primacy of God, of community life and loving obedience. Furthermore, amongst the enemies of the prophetic dimension of Religious Life there is the disillusionment of those who have lost all enthusiasm for their vocation, who have become accustomed to the facilities of modern life, by pushing God aside or being ashamed of their vocation.

Our prophetic way of life is not founded on any reconnaissance of values that are ours, nor on the misunderstanding of our contemporaries. It is founded on fidelity to our vocation, in joy or in adversity. We seek neither to be congratulated nor to be persecuted, but an authentic way of life, that is consistent with the

*Our prophetic way of life is founded on fidelity to our vocation, in joy or in adversity*

## *Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (7)*



### **A crack corps**

Rose Dardennes tells the story of Father M. Garicoits' early steps in Betharram and the first fruits of his new mission. Already the spiritual master can be seen behind the formator of priests.

The Bishop has a great idea in mind! The seminary in Betharram is in a bad way. M. Procope Lasalle, the Rector, is a very good man, but he's old and no longer has control over this group of young men who by way of preparation for the priesthood are no less capable of being up to pranks!

*-You got Cambo back on track without harming the old Parish Priest in any way. Now, do the same in Betharram; the dear old rector will stay put; he has done so much for the seminary that I owe him that. Incidentally, I am entrusting this mission to you; I want you to restore order and train saintly priests.*

The task will be hard and delicate. The priest is heart broken about leaving Cambo. God wants him in Betharram; and so he will go to Betharram and take this chosen group to his heart. One of the seminarians bothers him: *"My friend, what is the meaning of this carry on? Is this how to become a good priest? Take care! All this could have serious consequences. There must be a rapid and complete change, otherwise, I'll take no responsibility for what can happen!"*

The young man would not have accepted the reprimand from anyone else. But he has been deeply impressed by the young Professor who says his Mass much better than the others, with deep respect and recollection encouraging the faithful to join in prayer with him. And if he speaks clearly to him, it is done with so much affection that the young man is completely won over. On the other hand, the priest has spent a long time in prayer before speaking to the seminarian. In a word, with God's help, the young man admits his misgivings, abandons his bad habits and will become a very good priest.

Another seminarian said to him: *"I don't know whether I should become a priest or leave"*. The young Professor looked at him like Christ would have done: *"You are to*



AUGUST

15	60 ans de profession	P. Pierre Salla, P. Mathieu Etchenique
	60 ans de sacerdoce félicitations	P. Sauveur Londaizbéhère
16	Buon compleanno	P. Celestino Gusmeroli
17	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Gustavo Agin
18	Buon compleanno	P. Ernesto Consonni
21	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Domecq Fr. Martial Mengué
25	Joyeux anniversaire	Mgr Vincent Landel
26	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Tapie
27	35 años de sacerdocio, enhorabuenas	P. Milciades Ortigoza
28	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Alexandre Berhouet
29	Happy birthday	Br. Gabriel Phonchai Sukjai
30	15 anos de sacerdocio, felitações	P. Henri Karam Amorim
31	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Dominique Etchéverria

SEPTEMBER

1	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Ceferino Arce
2	Bom aniversário	P. Paulo Cesar Pinto
3	Joyeux anniversaire Happy birthday	P. Michel Vignau P. Suthon Khiriwathanasakun
4	Happy birthday Joyeux anniversaire	Fr. Austin Hughes P. Luc-Martial Kouadio
6	Buon compleanno	P. Giovanni Trameri
8	Bom aniversário 65° di professione, auguri	P. Dante Angelelli P. Celestino Gusmeroli
12	25° di professione, auguri	P. Emilio Manzolini Fr. Claudio Mantegazza
13	Bom aniversário Joyeux anniversaire	P. Paulo Vital Campos P. Philippe Hourcade
14	25° di professione, auguri	P. Aurelio Riva P. Elie Kurzum
16	Buon compleanno	P. Egidio Zoia
18	Buon compleanno	P. Romualdo Airaghi
19	80 ans de profession, félicitations	P. Joseph Canton

values which we preach and those which we practise. What is evident in our silent and faithful way of life is that another world is possible, whether visible or not.



We are bound to cultivate and to revive the prophetic dimension of our life. Consequently we must deepen our spiritual life, our prayer life and our ascetic life. We must be men of discernment, endowed with a true sense of God, and able to see his presence in the ups and downs of daily life. Our way of life should show us to be simple, obliging, understanding, responsible and kind; that we are people capable of forgiveness, helping our neighbour to discover himself, both in community and in the mission.

Gaspar Fernandez Perez, SCJ

22<sup>th</sup> July: feast  
of St Mary  
Magdalene

*Father Etchecopar wrote...* to his sister Magdalene,  
24<sup>th</sup> July 1866

*As soon as she got to know Jesus, Magdalene left all things for him. By an unheard of gesture, both decisive and courageous, she broke with her past life, and threw herself at the feet of Our Lord right in the middle of a big dinner – a woman without authorisation and under the scornful gaze of the guests present. At that precise moment she swapped what had been instrumental in her downfall for signs of repentance and good deeds: she used her eyes to weep, she used her hands to wash the feet of her Saviour, her hair to wipe them, her lips to kiss them and her perfumes to anoint his feet.*

*With great humility she focuses all the love of her heart on Jesus Christ as she takes her place at his feet. Silently and in tears she carries on with perseverance right up to the foot of the Cross and the silence of the tomb. Oh Magdalene, the Drachma lost and found again has been restored to the Father's treasure house. Teach us to be humble, generous and persevering. Amen.*

**Thailand, 26<sup>th</sup> May-16<sup>th</sup> June****Sawaddi krap Betharram!**

News of a three week stay, together with the Superior general.

Once upon a time there was an old man in a wheel chair looked after by a twenty year old health carer. The former has spent 50 years on the mission. The carer is full of respect and gratitude for the old man who had announced Christ to his family. Double fidelity to the Gospel and to a story. Father Jean Lanusse has the smile of the servant at the end of the day; Anuphong the smile of a devoted and dynamic people. The scene takes place in Chiang Mai, the Betharram “domain” in Thailand. Betharram has given everything for this diocese which is about to become third in the country, and for these mountain tribes. Today, twelve young Thai priests are taking over from the European missionaries.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, only a few metres from Father Lanusse’s room, a young religious makes his final vows as a Sacred Heart religious. Surrounded by his family and community, Brother Phonchai is radiant, just like the classes at Sampran. For the start of this new academic year in June, the Betharramite academy has 26 students and two formators, Fathers Chan and Suthon. The heat is part of the scene, of course – the heat outside and the warmth of the reception.

The community is a real family, regularly present at the lessons at the national seminary, organised in teams according to the services and strengthened in their vocation in the Chapel. Here it is that in the presence of the Sacred Heart, of Our Lady and of St Michael (the “Betharramite Trinity”) they sing, in Thai or in English, sitting cross-legged. The accompaniment is either a guitar or a synthe; hands joined in a sign of respect; there is silence so as to savour the joy of being sons and the mission of living as brothers. Day by day hearts and horizons grow towards the mountains in the north and even into China for the volunteers.

16	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Enrique Lasuén
17	65 años de profesión enhorabuenas	P. Enrique Lasuén
18	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Giovanni Duca Fr. Mongkhon Charoentham
20	Buon compleanno Happy birthday	P. Carlo Antonini P. Beniamino Gusmeroli Br. Patrick Leighton
21	Happy birthday	Br. George Anthonyswamy
22	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Eleuterio Cabero del Pozo
23	Bom aniversário	P. Sebastião do Nascimento Pereira Ir. Mauro Ulrich de Oliveira
26	Happy birthday	Br. John Britto Irudhayam
28	Feliz cumpleaños Joyeux anniversaire	Mons. Ignacio Gogorza P. Jean-Dominique Delgue
29	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Gaston Gabaix-Hialé
31	Buon compleanno	P. Carlo Sosio
1	Buon compleanno Bom aniversário	P. Enrico Mariani Ir. Jair Pereira da Silva
2	Buon compleanno 65° di sacerdozio, auguri	P. Graziano Sala P. Lino Illini
4	Feliz cumpleaños Buon compleanno	P. Julián Miguel P. Eyad Salameh Bader
6	Feliz cumpleaños	Ho. Juan Cazaubon
10	Bom aniversário	P. Vicente de Menezes
12	Buon compleanno	P. Maurizio Vismara P. Damiano Colleoni
13	55th of profession congratulations	Br Michael Richards
14	Joyeux anniversaire Bom aniversário	P. Robert Daquo P. Antonio Scarpa
15	Joyeux anniversaire 70 ans de profession, 65 ans de profession félicitations	P. Bernard Béhocaray P. Raymond Descomps P. Paul Baradat, P. Joseph Mazerolles, P. Jean Cazenave, F. Bertrand Belhartz

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right direction, to accompany them and encourage them to launch out into the mission. I want to thank you for inviting me to answer your questions and helping me to feel that I belong to the Congregation. ●

### In memoriam

#### United in prayer and Hope...

- for the grandmother of Fr. Luc Martial Kouadio: the funeral has recently taken place in Bouaflé (Ivory Coast)
- for Fr. Juan Antonio Morales who died in Buenos Aires on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, at the age of 92 (an homage will be paid to him in the next issue of the NEF)

Continues  
from p. 9



Dominic celebrate Mass. Sometimes we've had bishops arrive, Anglican and Catholic, from the Sudan. Several children attend our two primary schools.

Now the war in Southern Sudan has been brought to an end with an uneasy peace, many from the Midlands, both men and women, have returned to take their place in the Sudanese Parliament. It came as a surprise when Fr Dominic joined them on New Years Eve to find among them the Minister of Health, the Minister of Finance and several MPs from various regions of southern Sudan who had returned to see their families still living here. Before the peace had been settled, the Catholic Bishop Gassi of Tombura Yambio stayed with us. Among other things, he urged his people to return to rebuild the devastated country of the South. He told us that he had one nurse for the whole of his diocese and that nearly all the schools had been destroyed. He appealed for religious orders to go there.

In our small way, we are able to welcome these people into our hall and church. Who knows, in God's good time, we might be able to help rebuild the church in that part of Africa?

Dominic Innamorati, SCJ

Certain centres under the care of the Betharramites are worth a visit. For example there is Ban Pong where 200 children are received, mainly "Akas" to study, to get to know life in a group, even to learn a trade (artisan embroidery, thanks to which the community can manage its budget. Here the joys of life go hand in hand with the joys of believing, just like Vitnai and his friend (20 years old between them), first at Mass and at sport.

Maipon is another haven of peace, in the heart of the forest. Here too, 200 youngsters, wearing their traditional dress (white for the girls, red for the boys) are given a good education, human and Christian. The Sisters and Fathers have taken over the mission of Father Seguinotte and developed it. In the middle of the poultry, the flowers and the children's laughter, the Kingdom of God is advancing.

We should speak of the parishes in the plains and in the mountains, of the trees bending under the weight of the litchis, of meetings full of fervour, of the town with its mirages, of places visited formerly, of hectic modernisation, of future missions. For the Vice-Province there are the steps to be undertaken to obtain legal recognition, the project of extending beyond the diocese of Chiang Mai, the 32 junior seminarians boarding at Saint Joseph's Lycee, and the future Seminary now being built. And above all there is the Church's trust in what has already been sown and in what now exists, there is the gratitude of all the visitors for so much fruit and for our Thai brothers the necessary audacity to project tomorrow.

*Sawaddi krap, Betharram!* meaning *Hello Betharram* in Thai. We can look forward to more happy times full of simplicity and joy.

Jean-Luc Morin, SCJ



## Latin America

### Chronicle of the Regional Novitiate

The novitiate for the Region P. Auguste Etchecopar is in Argentina, at Adrogue. There are eight first year novices (three from Paraguay and five from Brazil) and one second year novice, from Paraguay. A postulant and seminarian (both from Argentina) are part of our community. There are four priests, all Argentineans, who are responsible for our formation, so that at this time of our formation we are getting as close as possible to God through his Son Jesus, humble and obedient.

Nearly four months ago we were arriving at Adrogue full of fear and apprehension, as we should have been! On the 15<sup>th</sup> June, after a five day retreat, we were accepted for our canonical year. The previous months were a time for adaptation, of getting to know each other, and the discovery of the values of peoples and cultures.

This short period of cohabitation wasn't lacking in trials: the death of the mother of the two seminarians, Guido and Sebastian; the death of our dear Fr Eugenio Amitrano; a surgical operation for Br Raul, novice. But the sympathy, availability, and brotherly love are signs of the presence of the Spirit working in each of us to strengthen and encourage us in the midst of the trials of all community life.

Our daily life is punctuated by prayer, meditation, and Mass to which are added pastoral activities, study, assignments and community recreation. Each of us has been able to share his personal history with the community; at the same time we have each discovered the treasure which is reconciliation, counselling, personal and community prayer and above all the Mass.

Another important thing is the regionalisation, which helps to rid us of our manner of seeing and judging and of replacing them by Gospel values which know no

### *What pastoral priorities emerged during the Conference of Aparecida?*

- Announcing the Kerygma\* in the following of Christ; formation of disciples; creation of new forms and structures of evangelisation; missionary dioceses and parishes to renew contact with people who have moved away from the Church, with those who know nothing about the Word of God and the non-baptised; the family and defence of life; preferential option for the poor and the excluded; the social teaching of the Church for the promotion of the whole of humanity; education and the Pastoral of Communications.

### *How do you see the future of the Church in Latin America after Aparecida?*

- It could well be a new Pentecost for our Church. All will depend on how we put into action the spirit, contents and priorities which the final document proposes, explains and entrusts to us.

### *An unavoidable question: in the project from Aparecida what must be the life and mission of the Betharram communities in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay?*

- Betharram is part and parcel of Latin America, and consequently must accept the final document so as to be in communion with our Church and our reality. The spirit and priorities of Aparecida must be taken into account as structures for our educational and pastoral projects. This means that the religious communities must live out their Betharramite identity fully active in the local Church, sharing its everyday life and important events. As has been stated at Aparecida, Religious Life must form witnesses capable of showing by their life what it means to be a Christian in the presence of materialism and Godless structures. Religious Life faces a huge challenge, but I believe our Congregation is made up of courageous religious, ready and generous to undertake such a mission. One has only to point them in the

\* From a Greek word meaning "solemn proclamation", the **Kerygma** is at the heart of the early preaching of the Apostles "Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour" Through the proclamation of the Resurrection for the remission of sin, it sheds light on, and is the foundation of all the other tenets of our faith. (editor's note)





terrific experience, and to the Bishops' Conference of Paraguay for the trust and support which they constantly gave me. During the Conference at Aparecida I was constantly in communion with the Bishops of Paraguay, for I knew that they were united to me by prayer and friendship.

*As for communion within the Church: did you feel tensions between the unity as expressed by the orientations from the Holy Sea, and the different expressions of Christian life as expressed by the cultures, countries, and situations in which the Church in Latin America finds itself?*

- There was absolutely no tension. We experienced the Church, the People of God as defined by Vatican II, in communion and participation. We achieved this thanks to all the preparatory work done by the leaders of CELAM in close communion with the Holy Father and his collaborators in the Holy Sea. The Holy Spirit was present too: all the participants had one desire, namely to find the answers and structures suitable for answering the huge challenges in today's world, from the point of view of evangelisation. Our method of working in commissions and groups made things easier. The final document was drawn up thanks to the free and active participation of each one, even if the final approval was voted by the delegated Cardinals and Bishops.

*You are a religious; you must have been attentive to the different speeches on Religious Life. How did the Conference of Aparecida regard Religious Life in Latin America?*

- Resolutely on the side of the poor, in general, and prophetic; seeking to balance action and being; challenged by the new problems arising today, but wanting to be faithful to God, the Church and one's charism by sharing the sufferings of the people; bothered about the scarcity of vocations in many Congregations and at the same time, trusting in the renewal taking place and in a future full of hope.

frontiers. And with all this help we shall grow into open and available religious.

There is something however which can weigh heavily: it's the longing for the family, our culture and our language, especially for the Brazilians. But with patience and the help of Providence, we can overcome all such obstacles.

We have chosen neither where we want to live nor with whom, but in the name of Jesus and of his Gospel we have been called to construct together a community of consecrated souls which in charity and despite our differences, is giving a fresh start to the Betharram of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The novices of Adrogué

### **Ivory Coast**

#### **Crisis and hope for the School in the Northern Zone**

Lying to the north east of Ivory Coast, Dabakala is a small town of 10 000 inhabitants (at least before the uprising). It is a cosmopolitan town like all the towns in Ivory Coast and is inhabited for the most part by djiminis, diolas, and other ethnic groups which have arrived from neighbouring regions and even from other countries of West Africa. After five years of political and military crisis all socio-economic sections of the country are in a state of instability.

The school which is at the centre of all development is now suffering the repercussions of the crisis. Work-Discipline-Success is the motto of the Lycee Moderne of Dabakala; this is a state school which, despite the gloomy atmosphere, has about 1700 pupils from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the Final Year. The children are from all corners of the department and are in search of knowledge and security. Are they not the hopes of their families and of the whole nation? At the Lycee Moderne, it sometimes happens that during a lesson a pupil cannot take notes for want of a copy book or a biro. As for the results of their efforts, surprise gives way

to grief when one sees that the level of attainment is below average. In any case, pupils who for the last five years of instability have been left to their own devices can't work miracles simply because the required level is the fruit of sustained effort.

As for the teachers, we must congratulate all those who have chosen to remain in the war zone in order to take on their duties as formators (the majority of their colleagues have retreated to the South, to the government zone, for security reasons). These Civil Servants have run all the risks so as to be able to continue working, with the help of young students transformed into voluntary teachers.

With other students from the University of Bouake I am part of this highly motivated team, which is available and badly paid\*. Freed as I am from all political affiliations and ambitions, I teach history and geography. Although from the South, I have never at any moment been driven by tribe or ethnicity, less still by feelings of hatred towards my brothers in the North. On the contrary, I am challenged by the poverty and famine; in a word by the sufferings of the peasants' children held hostage by politicians blinded by power for power's sake. In reality we owe these children a huge debt.

The important thing here is to be able to look at them with eyes full of love. I feel like saying with Christ: "Get up and walk!" As educators we are obliged to take our share in their formation. Where I am concerned I think I have spread the joy of living together with the constant preoccupation of protecting the dignity of man, of helping my brothers to stand up and grow in humanity. As a Christian I feel I am called to this and I shall always respond in order to save the face of suffering mankind.

At the end of a match, we must be able to say: "Even if I haven't won, I have made choices, I have taken risks, spent painful moments, but at least, I have given everything". Long live the restoration of peace in Ivory Coast!

Serge N'Da  
Betharramite  
aspirant

\* 40.000 FRS  
CFA, or €60 a  
month, for  
25hours teaching  
per week

- Our People received the Christian Religion as part of a history, as part of a tradition; as a result the first challenge consists of helping them to discover the Word of God. The personal meeting with Christ so as to feel invited to follow Him, will be the result. From this meeting commitment for unity and identification with the Lord so as to become his disciple will be realized. We want to direct this project in a personalised manner, by founding little communities so as to do away with the gap between faith and life, which is the cause of widespread corruption. We want to build a living Church whose existence in every place will be a ferment for the social, cultural and structural renewal of our continent. In other words, a Church evangelised and evangelising, on the side of the poor, with the new expressions of suffering and exclusion which we see in the faces of aids victims, of drugs victims, of the old, the sick and prisoners.

*What are the evangelical values which the Conference of Aparecida wants to suggest to the Christians of Latin-America?*

- The following of Christ with everything that that implies. Love of Christ and personal communion with Him. Prayer, principally the Lectio Divina which lends light to the wealth of the Word of God, the lights which it brings and the dialogue which it allows. A social conscience to see people's needs and to support them. Community life full of brotherly love, which places the common good before selfishness. Confidence in the triumph of the Risen Christ in the midst of all the crosses which litter our life here below.

*What was your responsibility like as representative of the Bishops of Paraguay?*

- There was the fear of not responding adequately to the hopes that had been placed in me. At the same time I was grateful first of all to God who had allowed me to have this



Mgr Gogorza Izaguirre is a Betharramite. As Bishop of Encarnacion and President of the Bishops' Conference of Paraguay, he was present at one of the most extraordinary Church events of these last months, namely the 5<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the Latin American Bishops at Aparecida (Brazil). For these reasons we wanted to spend a few minutes with him.

## 10 MINUTES WITH... Mgr Ignacio Gogorza

*Nef - It is a great grace to have had such an experience of the Church; could you share with our readers something of what you experienced at Aparecida?*

- It was a magnificent experience! There I met with a Church very much alive, preoccupied by the dechristianisation of the masses, by the side effects of globalisation, increasing materialism and the spread of sects; but it is also a Church which believes profoundly in the power of the Risen Christ, whose grace sends us out to evangelise the world by filling us with his Holy Spirit who enlightens, renews and gives hope; a Church of the People of God, because all those present felt responsible for the New Evangelisation.

*Being that this was a meeting of the Hierarchy, Aparecida must surely have been a help for discernment. Can you tell us how, by listening to the Word of God, you tried to discern the presence of God in the lives of the men and women of Latin America.*

- With the eyes of faith we took a look at the reality. There we discovered a people famished for the Word of God, concerned about social justice so as to overcome the gaps of inequality. The environment as well as peoples lives are under threat; to defend one is to defend the other. In the face of the danger of a levelling as the result of globalisation, we are determined to care for, to protect and cultivate the native cultures – Afro-American, and others, present on our continent. Fortified by their own customs and traditions, a popular religiosity will keep alive the Christian Faith.

*For the Church in Latin-America, what are the most important challenges noted during the reflexions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference?*

## England

### Parishes showing solidarity with asylum seekers

Both the Community at Olton and the Parish of Ss John and Martin Birmingham have been offering hospitality to Asylum.

The Friary, at Olton offers accommodation to homeless refugees until they are passed on to more permanent accommodation; Congolese, Iraqis, Russians, Christian Pakistanis, etc.

For over 10 years, the parish of Ss John and Martin have offered hospitality to the people of Sudan who had fled their country during the 30 year period of war. Birmingham has at least a quarter of a million asylum seekers without documents and with no rights to home or shelter. If it wasn't for the Churches and various charitable organisations they would have no one to speak up for them, to give them food and shelter, and nowhere to live. This SCJ Parish has helped the Sudanese in various ways, for example in paying towards the studies of a solicitor who in his own country before he fled was regional governor. But his qualifications in the Sudan counted for nothing when he came here; as a result he had to study all over again. When Fr Shaju was here as a student he was involved in caring for newly arrived asylum seekers and helping them integrate themselves into the community by accompanying them to find legal and social aid, taking shopping etc.

The Sudanese community come to St John and Martin's from all over the country to use our parish hall for their reunions over the years, for celebrations, weddings and funerals and general meetings. Most of them have harrowing stories to tell of torture and death. Our hall and church sometimes echoes with hymns in Arabic, Dinka and Zande when either one of their own priests or Fr

## Congregation

**Study holidays** ■ On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, in the magnificent green surroundings of the scholasticate at Adiapodoume opened the session for the Formators of the Congregation. In all they are 14 from 9 different countries - including Fr Gaspar, Superior General - who will spend time reflecting and sharing ideas during the next fortnight. Main issue: spiritual accompaniment and formative dialogue.

Let's hear what one of the participants, Father Suthon, has to say: "This stay has been a wonderful chance of meeting with others, getting to know each other better, sharing our experiences on formation, and above all to improve thanks to the contributions of the facilitator, Father P. Arij Roest Crollius. This Jesuit has a long experience of accompanying which he lectures on at the Theology Faculty in Abidjan. We take the work of our own development seriously for a better service of the Congregation. Would that we could follow the same path towards the Heart of Christ, our perfect model, who said "Yes" to his Father throughout his entire life." It would seem that the Spirit is breathing on the lagoon.

## Province of France Delegation of the Ivory Coast

**Betharram: Frat'2007** ■ The members of the *Me Voici Fraternity* will be holding their annual meeting on the banks of the Gave from the 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> July. Fr Jacky Moura will launch this 17<sup>th</sup> edition with a talk on the "International dimension of St Michael's spirituality". On Saturday evening the renewal of vows will close the "Celebration of Me Voici". Sunday will be given over to discussing the common mission of religious/laity. A very good programme, wouldn't you say, for a meeting which coincides with Our Lady's feast day.

**Here I am for life** ■ On the 15<sup>th</sup> July Br Raoul Segla will make his final vows in our Congregation in the Church of St Bernard, in Adiapodoume. Don't let us wait for the next issues of the Nef, and the ordinations promised in September, to sing together "*Here I am, alleluia!*"

## Province of Italy

**Father Airoldi Square** ■ 40 years after the consecration of the Church of the Sacred Heart, the village of Lissone took



*Saint Michael  
Region*

advantage of the refurbishment of the village square to name it after the founder and parish priest of the Parish from 1959 – 1972. So, at the beginning of June the Father Giuseppe Airoldi Square was officially inaugurated. This was the first Italian Betharramite to have his name set in marble. Thus, tribute is paid to all the "living stones" which are the dozen or so parishes entrusted to our religious from the north to the south of the peninsula.

**Spiritual Exercises** ■ From the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> August, Fr Gaspar Fernandez will give the annual retreat to the Italian religious at the Casa San Giuseppe (Albavilla). This will surely be an excellent introduction to the canonical visitation of the Province due to take place during 2007 – 2008.

## Province of England Delegation of India

**Companions for the route** ■ On July 3<sup>rd</sup> Fr Philippe Hourcade (France) will go to Bangalore for a month. There he will meet up with Fr Tidkham Jailertrit (from Thailand) who is there since the beginning of June, to accompany the students from our formation houses. Thus the band of solidarity put in place after the tragic death of Father Xavier Ponthokkan continues – religious from different cultures give of their time and skills to help the young Delegation.

## Vice-province of Thailand

**Family joys** ■ There was great rejoicing for the Congregation of the Sacred Heart in our "Seminary" at Sampran. After hours of preparation (choir rehearsals, decoration of the rooms, preparation of the buffet) at last all was ready for the great day. Our 32 junior seminarians joined their elders (professed and non-professed) together with friends from Bangkok for the celebration of Mass followed by a friendly meal. The Superior of St Joseph's Junior Seminary and an assistant from the diocese of Chiang Mai were also present. This beautiful family feast brought to a close the Visit by our Superior General and the Secretary-Bursar, 20 years after the foundation of the house.

Other festivities: on 11<sup>th</sup> August next Brother Phonchai Gabriel Sukjai will be ordained deacon. All our best prayers go with him.



*Blessed Miriam  
Region*