

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

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Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (9)

And that's all that's to it! It is God's wish that he should be kind; he is kind, even if it means parting with his dear books.

There was another problem bothering the heart of Father Garicoits. The Bishop put him in charge of the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch. Now, this sanctuary is falling into ruins, and pilgrimages there have been falling off.

Dear Jesus, your will must surely be that I revive the sanctuary dedicated to your Holy Mother, and that pilgrimages should flourish once more. I'm willing and ready!

He preaches, makes collections, appeals to his friends and acquaintances, opens a subscription. Money flows in and work begins. He is happy to place his little commando under the protection of Our Lady of Betharram. But what a work load and what a source of worry for the good Priest, on top of all his other worries!

- *Good! It is God's will! Forward march on the way to Heaven!*

(to be continued)

Agenda of the General Council

16th-17th October

Start of the visitation of the M.R. Superior General, Fr Gaspar Fernandez, in Italy with his participation in the provincial assembly at Albavilla

13th-23rd November

Council of the Congregation gathering in Bangalore (India) the General Council and the (vice)Provincials



*With some delay, but nonetheless we send our warmest congratulations to **Brothers Enakius, Stervin, Subesh and Valan** who became full members of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart on the 4th August 2007. Their **final profession** took place in Bangalore in the Chapel of Shobhana Shaaka... Beautiful Branch in Sanskrit. One could not hope for a better patron for our newly professed Indian brothers.*



Family News

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



A word from the Superior General

Betharramite joy

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Reading the document of the Vth Conference of the CELAM* at Aparecida made me feel very happy. As I went over it several times I had the impression that I was reading a commentary from the spirituality of St Michael Garicoits.

The Aparecida document proposes a way of living the Christian life here and now, with realism, trust in God's love, and passion for the kingdom and joy.

To encounter Jesus Christ is the point of departure for the vocation of a disciple and a missionary; from here we follow Christ, live that mission in union with the church, and cultivate all its values along the path of permanent formation.

I was struck by the theme of joy. You may recall, St Michael wished that his religious of the Sacred Heart distinguish themselves by their joyfulness. It cannot be otherwise: joy is the fruit of the Spirit, a gift from God and a consequence of the efforts in living one's vocation and one's daily mission with maturity and all one's heart. For example, pray the Psalms with awareness, and you will see with what insistence there is on joy. Contemplate the Gospel of St Luke and appreciate how joy was the great sign of salvation when Jesus the incarnate word worked among people. In his exhortation, *Gaudete in Domino*, Pope Paul VI affirmed that *Christian joy is, in*

105th year
10th series, n°20
14th October 2007

To communicate to others our enthusiasm and our joy of being disciples of Jesus

essence, a spiritual participation in the fathomless joy, both human and divine, of the glorified heart of Jesus.

Saint Michael Garicoits wished that every Betharramite, seized by the extraordinary spectacle of the love of God manifested in Jesus Christ, would be filled with enthusiasm and joy in living as a disciple of Jesus, and that he will commit himself to communicate the same enthusiasm and joy to others... dedicating himself to obtain for others the same happiness (Manifesto). Aparecida says practically the same thing: *we listen to him in the community of the missionary disciples, we have had the experience of a living encounter with him and wish to share each day with others similar joy* (Apar 364).

Joy gives warmth to life, an indispensable experience. It is then a fundamental need which becomes significant for our life. Benedict XVI appreciates that the transmission of faith to new generations is passed on by a joyful witness of our Christian life. Being gloomy convinces no one. The witness of a joyful and happy life arouses this irresistible question of *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (no 21): *why such joy?*

It's a matter of genuine joy, which can convey the conviction that our life is rooted in God's love: it calls us, we have responded and we have lived it, we are faithful to it in things both great and small, we give ourselves generously in the service of our brothers, in such a way that we feel God's love and savour the same happiness.

In our encounter with Christ we wish to express the joy of being a disciple of the Lord, having been sent with the rich treasures of the Gospel. To be a Christian is not a burden but a gift: God the Father has blessed us in his Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

The joy of the disciple is not a simple sentiment of selfish well-being, but a certitude that springs from faith, which



Michael Garicoits, God's shepherd (9)



Enemy doesn't disarm

From now onwards, the priest is sure: God wants these shock troops for the service of the diocese. And when God wants something the priest does it at once. The commando is born: a few priests move in to live with Father Garicoits, and choose him as their leader. Henceforth, they call him "Father" and they make a vow to obey him and to live in poverty to be better able to serve.

But Satan views this commando grudgingly; other priests would like to join but the Bishop is slow in giving them permission. This is something which hurts Father Garicoits very much; but he only complains about it to God: *- Lord, how hard it is to be torn between you urging me forward and your Bishop holding me back!*

Finally he understands; whenever one undertakes something for God, it never runs smoothly. Jesus, who wanted to save the whole world, died on a cross and it's his apostles who succeed. He – who wants to save a diocese – and perhaps many others, must suffer so that his "sons" may succeed. So he accepts the bishop's slowness.

He accepts the difficulties of every day. The Fathers only have a worthless servant for the running of the big house; and a woman comes in once a week to cook the soup for several days.

And one fine morning the servant disappeared! Then the same evening his creditors arrived: He owes them 600 Francs – a huge sum at that time! And should they ever find him, they will throw him into prison.

*- No, no, said the priest. I'll pay for him.
- But, Father, you haven't any money.
- So what! I've still got some books that I appreciate. I'll sell them, that's all, and our friend won't go to prison.*

Far from discouraging him, difficulties energised St Michael Garicoit's will; God wishes it, go ahead!

And Rose Dardennes continues to tell his story.



2007

OCTOBER

14	50 ans de profession, félicitations	P. Firmin Bourguinat
15	Feliz cumpleaños Happy birthday	P. Osvaldo Caniza Br. Wilfred Poulose Perepadan
19	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Javier Irala Cabrera
20	Buon compleanno	P. Aurelio Riva
21	Buon compleanno	F. Severino Urbani
22	Buon compleanno	P. Romano Martinelli
23	Happy birthday Buon compleanno	F. Terence O'Malley P. Raimondo Perlini
27	Joyeux anniversaire	F. Yves Sanguinet
28	Bom aniversário Feliz cumpleaños	P. Lino Illini P. Tarcisio Vera Ho. Sebastián García
29	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Nicolás Ayerza
30	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños	P. Pierre Monnot Mons. Claudio Silvero Acosta

NOVEMBER

2	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Carlos Escurra Cantero
3	Happy birthday	F. Colin Fortune
5	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin
6	Bom aniversário Happy birthday	P. Joao Batista Ribeiro Br. Anthuvan Savari Muthu
8	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Firmin Worou Ogougbeu
9	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Baptiste Olçomendy
12	Feliz cumpleaños Buon compleanno	Ho. Henri Cha P. Carlo Luzzi
15	Feliz cumpleaños	Ho. Alberto Zaracho Barrios
16	Joyeux anniversaire	F. Narcisse Zaolo
17	Feliz cumpleaños	Ho. Alfredo Alonso
18	Buon compleanno	F. Claudio Mantegazza

calms the heart and makes one capable of proclaiming the good news of the love of God. To know Jesus is the most beautiful gift that one can receive: having experienced it is the best thing which has happened in our life; and to have made it known by our words and our deeds, there lies our happiness. (Apar 28 - 29)

Gaspar Fernandez Perez,SCJ

* CELAM = South America Bishops Conferences

Thoughts

"October, month of the Missions"



When we talk of the Missions in October, our thoughts, especially in Europe, turn instinctively to the peoples of the Third World. In the Congregation the English will surely think of India, the Italians will think of Central Africa and the French will think of Ivory Coast. But in Latin America, Asia or Africa, what do we mean by *October, month of the missions*. As you can see, it's not a good starting point for our reflexion to divide the world up into sections, geographical entities, governed by the god who rules our lives today, meaning money.

October, month of the Missions, for me this expression should mean something to us; it should urge us to look on the earth and all its inhabitants as a gift from God. Every one is the handiwork of God who is revealed and made present by us. October is a time for friendship, for the universal brotherhood and dialogue. It's a good time to be immersed in humanity, to be on good terms with others; it is a time to be aware of life, the outward expression of that other sacred life which is in me, in you, and makes us able to greet the colours and thoughts, the sufferings and anguish, the joys and hopes of everyone. October is the time to walk the long road leading from me to you, to us, to ours.

October, month of the missions is the time for hospitality. From that moment in history when Christ told us to announce the gift of salvation to all peoples, October is the

Each October on the feast of St Teresa of Lisieux, patron of the missions with St Francis Xavier we begin Mission Month; it culminates with World Mission Day Sunday 21st October, which reminds all the baptised of their mission as members of the Universal Church. October has been chosen as mission month in memory of the discovery of America which opened a new page in the history of evangelization.

time for announcing – announcing what I believe, what keeps me going, what I hope for. Announcing Christ: announcing life. Just as for Mary “*The angel of the Lord brought the message to Mary... and she conceived of the Holy Spirit*”. The announcement becomes a gift, a gift of self and the gift of what the Spirit begets in us. It is a gift which happens with time, in everyday events. It is a gift offered to everyone near or far.

October, month of the missions is a time of peace, justice and truth. The task of bringing forth Christ springs from my heart and goes directly to the heart of the world. My life is real if, in prayer, I make the transition from “*my Father*” to “*our Father*”. My life is a just life if the commandment to love takes root in me: “*Love one another, as I have loved you.*” My life is a life at peace, if in you I meet a brother.

Gian Carlo Monzani, SCJ

34 years in Latin America, has taken a year's sabbatical in Rome

Father Etcheepar wrote... to his sister Julie, 5th September 1881

We pray, we work, we cast all our worries concerning life and death in the Heart of Him who for us has been continually beaten by all kinds of storm, if I may say so, by all the events, all the torments... I suppose that we shall carry on for some time with the pursuit of our ordinary tasks of teaching and the missions. Until the end of October, our missionaries are preaching for the Jubilee; at the beginning of October our schools will be reopening. We have a few candidates for the novitiate... In America we have a house, work and good friends. But don't let us anticipate the will of God. At Lourdes there are miracles all the time, crowds from every country in the world, begging our Heavenly Father to have pity with all the faith of the early Church. Now and again the pilgrims come as far as Betharram, in spite of the added fatigue and expense. They do us good by their piety...

Obviously, God looks down on the earth, since the earth raises its eyes towards him.

a reference. Because his life style was strict and because he was demanding (with himself first of all), he had a good relationship with the young who, even when grown up and working, continued to keep in contact with him and would pay him visits.

He loved poetry; the poetic soul of Father Giacomo could be expressed every where from sermons to his writings. The review *Presenza Betharramita* included him in its full time editors, and his poems always had their own page.

We shall keep him in our prayers, now that he can contemplate Christ face to face. And we know that he will enjoy forever that fullness of Joy towards which his whole life strove.

Albate, 26th September 2007
Graziano Sala, SCJ *Provincial Superior*

I believe and so I attain the dawn

O God, my father was an early riser,
Fisherman at dawn, like the cockerel or the almond tree;
Shepherd at dawn, whose ideas were clear and exact.

My mother was slim, tall like the spire of a cathedral.
From her I think I inherited a Faith which was
Simple, hardy and silent like early morning:
Later I added my heady wanderings
And the impact of knowledge.

O God, O father, help me to believe in the essential,
Help me to appreciate the dawn.
You are telling me: “Go forward, my soul! Be beautiful!
Go out to meet the world who is requesting your hand,
Go out and keep the tears in your eyes,
Advance like the flowing of a gentle stream.”

Giacomo Ghislanzoni, SCJ
(*Presenza betharramita*, March-June 1999)

Here in Saint-Palais, I am with two confreres, one a bit older than myself, the other, my brother, a bit younger than I am. They both collaborate with the Parish Priest and his curate. As for me, I am not looking for a parish ministry. My mission is to be present at the Maison Etchecopar, to pray and meditate, and also to read.

*To what extent does the spirit of St Michael continue to sustain your "Here I am, Lord"? - My model is Jesus in his Incarnation. God wants me to be a saint! God wants us all to be saints. He has made it a commandment (*Maître Spirituel 150*). This will be accomplished through the Mass, through a humble and constant prayer, and through sacrifice and supporting the ups and downs of life.*

IN MEMORIAM

Italy

Fr. Giacomo Ghislanzoni (1929-2007)

"You also, be ready." (Mt 24,44)



Damaso

13th February 1929



Castellazzo

25th September 2007

At the age of 78, Father Giacomo Ghislanzoni has entered into the joy of his Master. Suddenly, just as the Lord himself had warned, his time had come on tip toes.

Born at Domaso (Province of Como) on the 13th February 1929, the young Giacomo joined the junior seminary at Colico at the age of 12. In 1946 he did his novitiate in Balarin and in 1947 made his first profession. On his return to Italy, he was ordained priest at Albiate, after his final profession, in 1950.

He dedicated his entire life to the education of the young. He taught Theology for years in State schools. Those who were his students in Busto Arsizio were greatly marked by him. Of course, like everybody else he had to put up with suffering and contradictions. His strength of character refused half measures. And for the countless students who came in contact with him, he was and always will be

Province of the Rio de la Plata

A heart-to-heart assembly

One can easily say and often does that such and such an event is a time of grace. For me, the assembly at Adrogue has truly been a time when one felt the presence of God, a real *kairos*. I say this with conviction and from experience.

From experience, because after 44 years of profession in this Province, I can affirm that not only do I know its life and history, but I have been part of it, being a witness and a worker in its success. By conviction, because the structure, atmosphere of dialogue and listening, concern for concentrating on essentials, have been emphasised with clarity, serenity and sincerity.

It is as if I had heard the assembly heave a deep sigh and "then", then I had been able to speak and say whatever I wished, then I discovered that we all are pursuing something serious and essential: we do not lack material for consideration: few religious, few vocations, the burden of works, a quantity of problems... but these actual difficulties haven't stopped us going to the essential things; our life, ourselves, our religious life, our consecration.

"Martha, Martha you worry yourself about too many things. Only one thing is necessary." For the first time before serious decisions, occasionally painful discernments,... things which disturb have not taken precedence before the defence of life, of consecration, of mission... as a result of this, courageous decision had been taken at the assembly, decisions accepted by the Council of the Province, in the presence of the Superior General, of the Vicar General and of the Counsellor of the Region: decisions concerning personal and community life, religious identity and mission; decisions that the provincial, Enrique Miranda, will make known at the appropriate time and which tells a Province that wishes to live and look ahead.

Thanks be to God the assembly has ended on a note of hope... but we all know that the new life is at once a gift

From 27 to 28th September the closing assembly took place for the canonical visit of the Superior General to the religious of Argentina and Uruguay.

The impression

Bruno
Ierullo,SCJ

and a challenge; so “let us go forward, forward always, acting as if all depended on us, but in ourselves putting all our trust in God. “He calls us more than ever to a faithfulness and creativeness.”

Vice-Province of Brazil

Parochial Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Sunday, 19th August, the parish of Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch, Vila Matilde (Sao Paulo), was celebrating its Golden Jubilee. All the preparations – spiritual, liturgical, and materiel – had been seen to with the utmost care during the weeks beforehand. It is not surprising, therefore, that the parishioners all felt involved and that they responded massively to the invitation.

On D day, the stream of cars accompanying the statue of their Holy Patroness brought the whole quarter to a standstill. For the Mass which followed, the Church was packed out. People had come from all around to remember a part of their life, and attracted perhaps by the presence and witness of former Parish Priests (seven of whom are still alive), among whom was the founder of the parish and most senior member of the vice-province, Fr Dante Angelelli.

The emotional shock was plain for all to see, and the Bishop, Mgr Fernando Legal SDB was able to stress the connection between the parish community, the Betharram congregation and the charism of *Me Voici*. The exposition of photos and the liturgical articles about the different periods of these past 50 years is worth mentioning, as well as a video retracing half a century in the life of the parish.

Another great moment was the intervention, during the liturgy, of Mr Luiz Paulo and Mrs Amelia who had got married the very day of the creation of the parish. Then there was a child's voice singing the psalm solo; finally the word of thanks pronounced with a lot of conviction by a young member of the community.

As Mgr Legal asked us: *Let's make an even greater success of the next 50 years!*

José Mirande,SCJ



5 MN ...

up with so many trials. They were so happy to see the Christians they were visiting!

I volunteered for the China Mission, but before I was ordained in 1953, foreign missionaries had been expelled from China by the communists. In 1956 with Fr Batailles we rejoined a number of our missionaries there. From the beginning when I was in the villages accompanied by a catechist I had been well received. Whether in the plain or on the mountains, I keep vivid memories of these people's welcome.

What are your reasons to be thankful for the Church that you have just left? - First of all I was fortunate in having a very good catechist to help me in my ministry. With him we travelled through the mountains for years. (Now, one of his sons is a priest and formator of seminarians.) I am convinced that a catechist's work is capital. Another reason why I am grateful is that many, many people heard the Word of God and received the sacraments. In the region of Huey Bong there have been many priestly and religious vocations amongst the Christians; there have even been contemplatives – Carmelites and Poor Claires. The vocations have flourished since I left.

What about the parish you are in now? - I have a lot to learn. A few days ago I was at a catechists' meeting in Saint-Palais. There were several retired men and women, teachers and peasants – voluntary helpers. Among the Karians, catechists are paid. Here, I also see some lovely celebrations, with songs which are taken up by the faithful.

Talk about returning, can mean a wrench, but also a new beginning. How are you coping with this phase? - Like for everybody else, leaving is a bit like dying. But the more we advance in years the more we feel the need to be indifferent. The priests left in Thailand carry on the work already undertaken.

(Austin Hughes, Sup. provincial)

In spite of their busy first week, the three joined us at Nympsfield for our Provincial retreat where they shared with us something of their own vocational story. Pascal, from Tamil Nadu, has a music degree and has just spent a year teaching in Assam at a missionary school in very demanding and dangerous conditions. Vincent, also from Tamil Nadu, has an arts degree, and has been doing something similar in a different part of Assam. Wilfred from Kerala has just finished a master's degree in philosophy, as well as a regency year in our own communities looking after the young postulants.

A few local parishes have already asked for their services in weekend parish ministry. For the moment their priority is study and community life. In just a few days all three have made their presence felt in a very positive way, and I am sure they will be a blessing on our communities.

Vice-Province of Thailand

Official recognition ■ On September 22nd, the Holy Family Center and its workshop Ban Khon Tip received the visit of an important visitor: Mr Piyabut Chonvijarn, Thai Secretary for industry and his retinue, about 30 persons escorted by the police. He wrote on the visitor's book: "When I saw the embroidery items, I was struck by the fineness of the work... The problem is to sell the stock... Let me help you as much as I can. I consider indeed that what you are doing here is a response to the problems of our society: it builds the future and gives work opportunities to the young of the mountains. You have our full support."

On the 16th May this year, Fr Pierre Salla returned home to his native land after spending 52 years in Thailand. Five months later *Family News* has interviewed him about his "retirement" in Saint-Palais.

5 MINUTES WITH... Fr. Pierre Salla

Nef - Father, you have spent almost the whole of your ministry thousands of Kilometres from the Basque Country. What took you out so far? - My missionary vocation dates from the time I was at Betharram. There the Fathers used to read us the letters from missionaries in China. These letters would tell us about their visits to the villages, with all the difficulties involved: riding on horseback most times, crossing rivers, etc. I used to say to myself that they must surely love the Chinese people to put

Novitiate of Adrogué

Freeing Christ's life in us

From the 22nd to the 31st August, we novices of Father Auguste Etchecopar Region did the first week of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. In this way we reflected on the fundamental principles of the Christian life and the choices of Jesus Christ. We were able to clear up our image of God, learn to love with His love and find him in all things.

This retreat helped us grow in the love of Christ, our liberator. We are happy and grateful for the gentle way in which God took care of each one of us, for he gave us the grace which we were seeking: namely discovering, with all our weaknesses, the gifts which he has bestowed on us. We have become aware of a new relationship with God, and we are conscious that our response is not always equal to his grace.

We have often wounded Jesus, our Brother. Yet, at the same time we discover his merciful Heart which neither judges nor condemns, always ready to forgive us and to welcome us back. We have become aware of our misdeeds and our inability to love. This awakened in us a healthy regret, accompanied by the grace of joy and hope.

We finished our first week by a general confession which freed us from our fetters and eased the pain of having wounded the merciful Lord. We emerged from this experience with the firm resolution of offending as little as possible Jesus, the Brother who loves us so much. The grace of the Sacrament of reconciliation has strengthened us and revived our being as baptised Christians.

The Spiritual Exercises concluded with Mass in the presence of Mgr Auguste Radizzani accompanied by a future permanent deacon. On this occasion the Bishop gave us a talk directly in tune with what we had experienced during the week.

Raul Villalba, novice



Saint Michael
Region

Province of France Delegation of the Ivory Coast

Boniérédougou celebrates ■ On September 15th the parish of the Sacred Heart of Boniérédougou (diocese of Katiola in the northern part of the Ivory Coast) celebrated a great event: the ordination of Br. Barnabe Bakery as a priest and Br. Raoul Segla as a deacon. The whole area turned out for these celebrations which were presided over by the Bishop of that place, Mgr Ignace Bessi, accompanied by the religious of Betharram and others, their parents, parishioners, friends from Adiapodoume and even from France. In his homily the Bishop invited the newly ordained to be a light for a society marked by corruption, witness of the gospel throughout their lives. In his words of thanks, the provincial Superior, Fr Oyhenart noted that God was looking down on us in giving as the first priest of this parish of the Sacred Heart of Boniérédougou a religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After the ceremony, the celebrations proceeded in procession to the songs of the choir. Old, young, influence, even adults all left their daily work and in their best dress came to the feast for this son of the region. The following Sunday, the young Fr Barnabe, who celebrated his first Mass at the church of Boniérédougou, assisted by the new deacon, Br Raoul. The preacher, Fr Laurent Bacho, dispensed wisdom and counsel of an elderly father to his friends, urging them to persevere and remain steadfast on the road that they have chosen. Following the example of Barnabe and Raoul *may God encourage other vocations to take up the work of Christ and the salvation of the world.* (Jean-Paul Kissi, postulant)

Celebrations at Urrugne also ■ About 800 people, 50 priests, almost as singers of the choir, celebrated with great fervour at the priestly ordination of Br Gérard Zugarramurdi, SCJ on the 30th September in Urrugne. The celebration reflected the ordinand's character: simple, prayerful, and with an inner joy, both tranquil and infectious. In his homily, Mgr Molères, bishop of Bayonne, showed himself an inspired teacher of religious life. St Vincent's beautiful church vibrated with Basque and French hymns, the Latin Gloria and the litanies in Spanish. The crowd then moved to the village hall for a reception where wine, very much appreciated in that hot day, was served in honour of the newly ordained priest. A few days before his return to the Ivory Coast, Fr Gérard's priestly life has well begun in a spirit of witness, thanksgiving and communion.



Father Etchecopar
Region

Province of the Rio de la Plata

Count on them ! ■ On September 21st-23rd, the young lay betharramites have gathered together for a period of prayer and reflexion in Rosario, to coincide with the beginning of the Spring Season. *Camjumita 2007-Count on me*; this was the topic of the 21st meeting of 140 young people, hailing from our different colleges and parishes of Argentina and Uruguay. The Superior General, Fr Gaspar, on his visitation to the Rio de la Plata Province, also took part in this meeting and gave a talk based on the Aparecida document. The meeting wound up with a Eucharistic Celebration in which Br Guido Garcia received the Ministry of Acolyte. The final word to Fr Sebastian Garcia of the pastoral team for youth was : 'It has been an excellent occasion; we have learned to understand each other better by sharing our lives and faith. Once more, the young have experienced being more *deeply betharramite*, as members of this great family which is the Church.'

Vice-Province of Brazil

Family reunion ■ For the 2nd time in their history, the Brazilian Betharramite laity gathered in Passa Quatro from 21 till 23 September. The meeting allowed them to appreciate being more members of the same family, that of St Michael Garicoits, and to reaffirm their desire to commit themselves in a practical way to Betharram and the Church.

Province of England Delegation of India

First steps in England ■ Only after the second attempt did the British Consulate grant visas to Wilfred, Vincent and Pascal, whom we have been delighted to welcome in Olton. Before Fr. Xavier died, he and I shared the idea that one or two of our Indian students might come to England to study theology and live in our community for a few years. That way we could generate better communication and understanding between the two halves of the Province. And so it was that Pascal, Vincent and Wilfred arrived in Birmingham on September 25th.

With no time to get over jet-lag they began studies at Oscott College almost immediately. Oscott College, which has been training priests for over 2 centuries, awards theology and philosophy degrees validated by Birmingham University and the Catholic University of Louvain. Our students will follow the Louvain theology degree course (4 yrs).



Blessed Miriam
Region