

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

Generalate House
via Angelo Brunetti, 27
00186 Rome (Italy)

Telephone
00 39 06 320 70 96
Fax
00 39 06 36 00 03 09
E-mail
nef@betharram.fr

Visit us on our website
www.betharram.org

The approval of the Society of the Sacred Heart

Here are three extraordinary miracles in the life of Sr Marie de Jesus Crucifie and which happened in May 1875:

First miracle: After three long hours of reflexion and prayer, Mgr Lacroix obeys the orders of the Carmelite and hands over the Rules.

Second miracle: Father Estrate and Canon Bordachar left Pau on 18th May and arrived in Rome on the evening of the 22nd. There they met Father Bianchi, powerful consultor of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Religious.

Third miracle: "I'll look after the approval for Betharram myself", said Father Bianchi. And despite the legendary slowness of all things Roman, in the space of 70 days the decree of approval was given by Pope Pius IX.

In the life of Father Etchecopar, this approval by Rome followed three phases: first of all there was the period of darkness signifying his silent activity; next came the eclipse with the intervention of Sr Marie de Jesus Crucifie; finally her activity stretching to Rome.

1

(to be continued)

We wish you with Mary, religious and lay associates of Betharram, the joy of encountering Christ, wherever you are, every day of the year, in all men and women you meet along your way of life. Best wishes.

**Schedule of
the General
Council**

17th-21st January 2007

Meeting of the members of the
Commission for the Rule of Life
at the Generalate



Family News

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

@ **A word from the
Superior General**

In the limits of one's position

In this issue

- Page 4: The mystery of the nativity according to St Michel
- Page 8: Bird's eye view of the congregation
- Page 9 : Betharram in mission
- Page 10: 5mn with Mrs Videau-Dutreil
- Page 15: The approval of the Society of the Sacred Heart (1)

Through fidelity for that we have received from our father Saint Michael Garicoits, we should be, in the Church and in the world today, **mystics of the Incarnation**.

We are **mystics of the Incarnation** for we never grow tired of contemplating how the Eternal Son of the Father became one of us in the womb of the Virgin Mary as St John of the Cross says: "He then sent the Archangel Gabriel to a young girl, named Mary. By her consent the greatest mystery of all time took place and the Word became flesh; so that like mankind in all things he should live amongst them and that God should be a man, and that man should become God and that he should talk with them, eat and drink with them and live with them for ever." (St John of the Cross: Romance on the Gospel: In the beginning was the Word)

We are **mystics of the Incarnation** because through this contemplation we have come to know God's love for us and have believed in it. Further more, we have been able to resist this love, we have entered into its dynamism so as to love as He has loved us. This supposes that we are like Him, live as He lived, and act as He acted.

We are **mystics of the Incarnation** because we take ourselves for what we are, in all things, in the positive and ambiguous, ready to detect the presence of God in the signs of the times, convinced that nothing human is alien for the Christian.

**Merry
2008!**

106th year
10th series, n°23
14th January 2008

Therein lies perhaps what is extraordinary. The fact that love is without bounds, that it is present and active in the limits of our position

In the days before Christmas we visited an exhibition of Cribs with Father Gian Carlo. My attention was particularly drawn to Neapolitan and Roman cribs. The mystery of Jesus' birth occupies only one corner of the scene which reflects life in the countryside and in the city. The Faithful fully understood the mystery of the Incarnation: nothing extraordinary, just an event deeply linked to the lives of the people and which changes nothing. Therein lies perhaps what is extraordinary. The fact that love is without bounds, that it is present and active in the limits of our position, not attracting attention, as our Father Saint Michael would say.

We are *mystics of the Incarnation* because we admit that our *position* is the God given place revealing God's Will. Here it is that God challenges us through the persons we meet, the events we live out, where ever we live, replying and being faithful to the values and criteria of the Gospels. It is in our *position* that we are responsible for our commitments, committed as we are in the name of truth, supportive of those in need, bearers of forgiveness for any who have offended us. It is in our *position* that we show respect for others, that we live in charity seeking the good of our brothers in humanity, serving with generosity and dedication. It is in our *position* that we are joyful and encourage each other, until the day when we shall enjoy the full vision of God.

We are *mystics of the incarnation* because we struggle against the illusions and pipe dreams driving us to refuse the reality which we are bound to live. In so far as it is the will of God, our Father, we accept our *position* with all its consequences. As St Michael Garicoits says: "*They are where God wants them to be, doing what he wants and how he wants; without ever leaving the confines of this position, they can practice charity in all its dimensions.*" (Correspondence 2, letter 215)

It would be wonderful to be always aware that God is with us, all the time, for he is Emmanuel. But it is almost im-

Fr. Etchecopar and the approval of the Society of the Sacred Heart



Father Etchecopar is not only the disciple of St Michael Garicoits nor only the one who will continue his work. He wanted to be a reflexion of the model, the echo of his thoughts. Having been Novice Master for 15 years, general secretary for nine years and vice-superior for a further two years, his long Generalate began under a shower of graces. A few months after his election, thanks to the approval by the Holy See, Divine Providence guaranteed the existence of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Betharram.

Once during his lifetime our Founder admitted, with gratitude, the "God had intervened"! (DS 272) Now again, twelve years after the death of Father Garicoits, in May 1875, the hand of God could be seen in the intervention of a Carmelite from Pau; Sister Marie de Jesus Crucifie.

Acting on orders from Above, she set about getting the approval of Rome for the Betharram Congregation. In Rome, she knows nobody – neither priest, bishop nor cardinal. So what? She appoints her negotiators herself: Canon Bordachar, superior of St Francis College Mauleon and Father Estrate, one of her directors.

Surprised by such an important mission, one of them accepted, the other was reluctant. She relaunched the two of them: "*Let them go to Rome in May and present the Betharram Rules*". They didn't even have the Rules. For the past four years, their Bishop, Mgr Lacroix has then under lock and key in a drawer at Bishop's house in Bayonne. Never mind! Sr Marie de Jesus Crucifie dispatches one of her friends, Miss Berthe Dartigaux, to inform his Lordship to hand over the Betharram Rules and recommend that they should be approved by the Holy See.

During the course of the coming year you will be invited to follow the ups and downs of the approval by Rome of the Congregation. In an unpublished study Fr Pierre Miéyaa, SCJ (1901-1981) was the historian. Father Auguste Etchecopar, 2nd successor and confidant of St Michael Garicoits, appears here in his true worth...



2008

JANUARY

17	20 anos de profissão, felitações 10 años de profesión, enhorabuena	P. Henri Karam Amorim P. Crispín Villalba
18	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Antonio Cano
20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Victor Batailles
23	Buon compleanno	P. Ennio Bianchi
25	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Luis Oteiza
26	Buon compleanno	P. Albino Trameri P. Mario Giussani
27	Happy birthday Feliz cumpleaños	Fr. Brian Boyle P. Carlos Rodriguez
28	Happy birthday	Fr. Biju Paul Alappat
29	Joyeux anniversaire	P. André Grossard
30	Buon compleanno	P. Celeste Perlini P. Aldo Camesasca
31	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean Lanusse P. Mathieu Etchéniq

FEBRUARY

2	50 anos de profissão, felitações Joyeux anniversaire	P. Paulo Vital Campos P. Joao Batista Ribeiro P. Jean Suberbielle
3	Buon compleanno	P. Tarcisio Giacomelli
4	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Angelo Recalcati
8	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Firmin Bourguinat
10	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Lataste
11	70 ans de profession, félicitations	F. Henri Cha
12	70 años de profesión, enhorabuena Joyeux anniversaire	P. Ceferino Arce P. Pierre Grech Fr. Raoul Thibaut Ségla
13	Buon compleanno	P. Mario Longoni
14	Joyeux anniversaire Buon compleanno	F. Bertrand Belhartz F. Giuseppe Pozzi
17	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Luc Morin P. Serge Braga Latta
18	Happy birthday	Br. Andrew Ferris
19	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Lamasse
20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Mirco Trusgnach

possible. What is important is to do well what we have to do, so that at each Mass, when presenting the bread and wine for the consecration, we offer to the Lord our daily efforts, conscious or unconscious, so as to create a greater fraternity among mankind.

The Angelus which we recite every day at noon, personally, in family, or in community, is the prayer of the Incarnation at the heart of our daily life. It reminds us that the Father's beloved Son assumed our human nature in all its dimensions. It helps us to realise that the Emmanuel is among us, in our homes, in the work place, in the midst of our actions and relations. Now is the time to ask Him who became one of us, to revive his incarnation by extending his action towards all mankind, always and every where.

Gaspar Fernandez,SCJ



Father Etchecopar wrote... to his sister Julie, on January 4th 1882

May our Lord from his crib bring peace to all souls of goodwill! The Church sings of our faults, and the reason for our redemption, so sweet, so charitable, and so devoted on this occasion! In face of all our wretchedness, one can say so without any exception: by detesting and weeping over it, we ought to see from time to time this reason for our redemption. The first is God himself... but if there had not been sin, there would not have been atonement, if there had not been a slave to save, there would not have been a saviour... and if our ingratitude had not been without limit, our liberator might have given less, suffered less, and been less generous with his infinite love.

So let's go forward! It is good that we feel more and more each day how God has loved us and that he loves us without seeking any reward, in spite of our indifference, that he loves us in God, and that he is truly and always Jesus, Jesus every moment, which means he is our liberator, our Redeemer, our saviour every minute, for each weakness, each new act of ingratitude.



The Christmas Mystery with Michael Garicoits

On the 7th December 2007 at the Library for Religious Culture in Pau Fr Gaston Gabaix-Hiale gave a conference on Incarnation Spirituality. Here are some excerpts. (The complete text is to be found on <http://bcrpau.free.fr>)

The Christmas festival holds an important place in the Christian life but it is also the most celebrated festival in the whole world. I would ask you to forsake the décor and to wander around inside the mystery of Christmas, as we listen to St Michael Garicoits; he uses the Incarnation to explain the content of Christianity. The Incarnation is the mystery of the Son of God becoming man and taking human nature in Jesus, the Son of the Virgin Mary. Let it be said, the Incarnation is not just the birth of Jesus, but it covers the thirty three years of his existence not forgetting his Resurrection.

Michael Garicoits uses the mystery of the Incarnation to explain Christianity, linking it up directly with the witness of the Apostles. In order to follow Christ the Apostles didn't start out with his divinity; they are Jews who rediscovered God through the man, Jesus, as they understood, little by little, to what extent he referred to God. Jesus Christ used his relationship with the Father as the source of his life and mission. It's this extraordinary relationship of Jesus with his Father which holds all Michael Garicoits' attention. For him, the Incarnation explains everything. "It would be just as impossible to imagine the economy of Christianity and the functions of one of its parts as to imagine the planetary system without the sun" (M.S. 103)

If Christ is the centre of humanity and of the Christian faith, then He is the axis and the pointer to bring the world back to God. He is the Messiah, the Messenger from the Father desired by the People of Israel. He comes to revive the Alliance between the Creator and mankind. Christians of the 21st century, the only God we need to know is the one whom Jesus Christ announces, for Jesus is the man in whom God wants to be understood and recognised.

St Michael and the feast of Christmas

Before the crib St Michael lets his heart speak: "Poor little Jesus! Dear little Jesus, you have been born for my sake. Our Lord has come down to us; he has made us not only spiritual but divine. This is what he has deigned to do and

encourage the young to reflect and even to take part in the different celebrations. These two priests are a welcome presence for us all. Finally I hope to get to know some of the Fathers in the Nursing Home who have had a rich experience in the past and who might like to share it.

Betharram has an educational and spiritual tradition. Can you detect it? - The very walls are saturated with it! I think that we mustn't hesitate in repeating it to the young. I have just received a letter from the General Superior which has deeply touched me. This is what he says: "Education is an exciting mission; provided it is not restricted to simply teaching and that it is perceived as accompanying individuals in their discovery of freedom so as to release what St Michael Garicoits called the inner spirit: the love which the Creator has put in each one of us" and he goes on to quote a word from St Michael Garicoits: "Love is what animates man". May we be able to prove this to the young in their daily lives and they will understand.

Have you any convictions, requests or dreams to share with Saint Michael Garicoits' heirs? - To be sure! I would ask Saint Michael's heirs to continue marking the route, to accompany and help all the educators who believe in the educational intuition of the Founder and whose mission it is to pass it on to the young: an exciting task but sometimes a difficult one. I would also ask them to help us laity, responsible in your institutions in the whole world to have meetings and be able to exchange on our different methods of working and different situations, with our specificities and what is unchanging world wide. Never forgetting that education is a question of love and dignity.



are countless challenges seeing that we are dealing with the education of the young. Having now spent a few months at Betharram I would like us to work on the following points: Continue accepting young boarders offering them an educational accompaniment offering them values and convictions for the construction of their adult life. – Continue with the work of the *College des Activites* which helps the young to succeed and to blossom, while at the same time responding to the demands of many families. – Be open to the outside world, talk about the educational project of the establishment and of the work accomplished; work as a team with other local schools and imagine a partnership with a neighbouring school with whom we have been in relationship for a long time and in the true historic tradition of Betharram.

What are your relations with the religious in particular and the Trustees in general? - I have excellent relations with the Betharram Fathers. As for the Trustees, we are lucky in that we are situated near to the Provincial which makes things easy, direct and cordial. As for me, it is important to be in contact with the Trustees representing the wishes of the Founder and who are both counsellors and an inspiration. Father Oyhenart and I have started making the educational team and outside contributors more aware of the pastoral mission and special character of the Establishment and encouraging greater collaboration amongst the different actors. There are two religious living here: Father Fourcade renders us many services and is always ready to help a pupil with his Latin or to find a key gone missing! He is the “guardian” of the Establishment; without him I’d be missing an eye!!! Father Henri Marsaa-Pouey is chaplain to the Lycee; very close to the big boys, when necessary he can be just as close to the youngsters. With tact and gentleness he can listen to the young and their worries, assert his own convictions and values, and

what we have become in Christ Jesus” (DS 108). “God is love everywhere and ever present; to bring man back to the memory and love of their Creator, Jesus Christ shows them the divine nature present in his humility; behold him present in the crib. It is a manifestation for all, a school for all who have eyes to see and ears to hear. What force and what gentleness are present in the lessons of the crib” (DS 109).

After these words full of fervour in the presence of the child in the crib, Michael Garicoits says this prayer which will lead him to total fidelity. “Lord, make us find consolation in the humility of your Divine Son. He is a God full of love, he encourages us, he urges us, and he gives himself up, while, at the same time, he sees that we are not surrendering to his heart. The Word became flesh for our instruction and to unite us to his Father” (DS 110).

“He dwelt amongst us” (John 1, 14). Michael Garicoits meditated on these words from the Gospel like this: “What made him come down? Love. What kind of heart will he have given to our human nature except a heart full of love? This heart of our King-Saviour, ever in God’s hands, introduces him to his destiny by this profound answer: HERE I AM! That is the heart of Jesus, that is what sums up Christianity. I believe in Love, that means everything. He became man, I believe it! He loves and he who loves can do anything. Let us therefore have a heart like the heart of Jesus, a heart all embracing which excludes no one from his love” (M.S. 65 – 66).

Michael Garicoits is seized and carried away by the love expressed in the mystery of the Incarnation. The “Here I am” of the Son, from the moment of his conception till his birth, will become the “Here I am” of his entire human existence. Here I am is the simplest of words, and the sign of Love. “He loves and he who loves can do anything”.

Inspired by Bossuet’s Sermons for the feast of the Annunciation, Michael Garicoits composed an introduction for the Rule of Life. He began thus: “It pleased God to be loved”. This declaration expresses the entire mystery of

The intuition
of St Michael



God, that means everything that we need to know about it. “It pleased God to be loved” resumes the whole Gospel, doesn’t it? Eternally orientated towards the Father, the beloved Son meets us in his Incarnation. “On entering this world, Christ said: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said “God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will” (Heb 10,5-8)

“It pleased God”. God has the initiative and gives us his Son. One is only loved on condition of loving the first, and this is how Michael Garicoits presents the Incarnation. “While we were his enemies, he loved us so much that he sent his only begotten Son. God’s image at the heart of St Michael’s inspiration is the God of “Me Voici”. He invents nothing, but quite simply returns to the Old Testament. The prophet Isaiah tells us that the “Me Voici” is one of the names given by God whereby we recognize him. This name lets him say who he is in the love of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. Each of them is a “Me Voici” for the others. The father is “Me Voici” for the Son and the Son is “Me Voici” for the Father. The Holy Spirit is the love which binds them. He expresses the power of the Love and eternal “Me Voici” of God.

At the moment of the Incarnation, while offering himself to his Father to seal the Alliance of God with mankind, the Son introduces us to the dialogue of the Three Persons in God. “You prepared a body for me, so I said: “Here I am, I come to do your will.” It’s as if the Son said: “I have come to reveal your Love” for with the Son’s Incarnation, the love of the Three divine Persons comes to dwell on earth. This love will take the form of obedience, for the Son takes the condition of a creature. By giving us his Son, the Father shows us the full extent of Love.

Michael Garicoits comments thus the Son’s Mission: God gave Him to us to be:

The attraction which wins us over to the divine love. The

the same wave length concerning the education of the young, in spite of the professional experiences which were different but complementary. I was highly honoured when Father Oyhenart invited me to direct the establishment. So I accepted this mission in the service of the education of the young. I understood that I could continue to be a link in the educational chain, and be a feminine presence in the team directing the School. This is a First in the tradition, but it proves the desire of the Betharram Fathers for openness, which is quite natural today and is part of our present day society. I am quite at ease with this responsibility which I have already exercised. To be the only woman in an assembly composed mainly of men is not a problem, above all if one is welcomed warmly, as is the case!

How is the School today? What challenges can you see in the short and medium term? - The establishment comprises two educational units – a college and a lycee. It is a school without walls situated in a park of more than 5 hectares, with outstanding sports facilities and important buildings demanding restoration to comply with security measures. At the moment the establishment comprises 300 pupils half of whom are boarders. Numbers are growing since the beginning of the School Year 2004, especially in the college. A total educational reform enabled the creation of the *College des Activités* with the right sort of timetable allowing the young students to develop their abilities. Alternating the programmes of each class with sporting programmes allowing the young to blossom during the course of their formation. The Lycee accepts young pupils who are accompanied personally by the educational team, in an atmosphere of work where they can participate in all kinds of sport and study for optional subjects, e.g. a diploma in aeronautics or learn Occitan. There

● A
●
5 MN...

DONATIONS TO

Bro Michael, SCJ
Sacred Heart
Mission Centre
St Joseph's
Murcott Road
Whitnash
Leamington Spa.
CV31 2JJ
(United Kingdom)

Please make
cheques payable to
« Sacred Heart
Missions »

practical way in the formation of a Betharramite student in Thailand, will enable the congregation to continue to serve the universal Church.

Each Provincial, or Vice Provincial, one responsible for a community, will know how to achieve and promote this cause. In regard to information (projectors, brochures) will be soon available from the General Secretary, the Procurator or missionary teams. What is important is to enjoy our family spirit and make people feel responsible by supporting financially the development of our younger brothers.

This initiative does not exclude anyone. It means simply putting into effect a priority for this year, and widening the horizons of our solidarity. Geographically and in the Church particularly, the project "Sampran 2008" emphasises the truth of our togetherness. Betharram is very much alive.... with postulants, novices and professed, 130 young people in formation throughout the world. This is something we can be happy about, and feel responsible for.

God loves those who give joyfully

Bruno Ierullo, SCJ

5 MINUTES WITH... Marie-Hélène Videau-Dutreil

In 1837, Father Garicoits founded the college of Betharram. 170 years later, a lady is entrusted with the management of the institute: an interview with Mrs Videau-Dutreil

Nef - You are the first head teacher of Notre Dame de Betharram College. How did you get the post and how are you coping with this responsibility? - I would never have dreamt that one day I would direct Notre Dame de Betharram College-Lyce, whose reputation is well known in Bordeaux where I come from! It was either through luck or providence that I happened to meet with the team responsible for the school and I was attracted by the extraordinary work done by my predecessors; we were on

child in the crib is the first image of God: an image of poverty, fragility. First of all the child is begging for our love; one never tires of cuddling babies. God chose this image to let us know that he wants only one thing from us, our love.

The model showing us the rules for love. He shall never have finished learning how to love in truth. All too often we think that love consists only in the feeling we have for the beloved. In all his life, Jesus shows us that love requires the heart of the poor, forgetful of self. He teaches us that Love unites obedience with reality and finds its expression in the service of our neighbour.

The means of reaching Divine Love. Left to ourselves we know that we are incapable of loving God as he wants to be loved. God is faithful by his very nature, and day after day we find out that we are both changeable and unfaithful. Jesus comes to cure our heart. His Father has sent him so that we may learn from him how to accept God's love as sons and how to reply: "This is why the Son of God became man."

If Jesus goes to the limits of his self sacrifice on the Cross, if "He is ever in the state of a victim before God", it's not to satisfy Divine justice, but to help mankind to understand and to help us to understand that there are no limits to the Father's merciful love. When it is said with the Apostle John (1 John 4,8) and Pope Benedict XVI: "God is Love" all has been said about God. Anything else is a commentary made by man. This is what lies at the heart of the spiritual experience of St Michael Garicoits.

And when I say "Here I Am" to God and to my brethren, I am an image of God, and I take my place in that loving dialogue of the Three Persons of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit fashions my image of the son of God until the day of our meeting in the light of his Kingdom, the day of my true birth!

Gaston Gabaix-Hialé, SCJ

b
Fr. Etcheopar
Region

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

Province of the Rio de la Plata

A hard-working summer n About sixty missionaries participated in the January provincial Mission, in the Parish of Our Lady of Mercy (district of Pellegrini, Santiago del Estero). The same month, another group of lay people and religious stayed in Calamuchita, a Betharramite holidays resort where the summer camp of Boy Scouts from Barracas took place. All those good initiatives do some good to the Province too...

Vice-Province of Brazil

Marian blessing n On December 16th, Carmo de Minas's parish installed in a solemn and joyful way, a statue of Our Lady of Betharram. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by the Vice Provincial Superior, Fr Vicente de Menezes, in a church full of young people. The witness given by the alumni, the presence of betharramite lay people, of members from the St Michael Group and of future postulants, gave to the meeting a strong vocational tone.

Morocco

The "new" Foucauld in Casablanca n The building accommodating 150 pupils (450 are expected within the next three years) of the Charles de Foucauld College was inaugurated on 2 January in Casablanca. Betharram had been responsible for that college until 1986, but for the last 30 years only the primary school was running. On insistent request of the parents, Rabat Diocese has relaunched the project and built functional premises. The college follows the Moroccan program, with bi-lingual courses. For Mons Landel, scj, this is a precious instrument put at the service of the Moroccan youth. The educational project, on the other hand, has been mapped out by Muslims and Christians.

Note of the General Council

During the meeting on November 19th were appointed...

- As Superior of the community of Albiate-Lissone : Fr. Francesco Radaelli
- Provincial Councilor of France : Fr. Joseph Ruspil
- As Superior of the community of Yamoussoukro : Fr. Jean-Marie Ruspil

During the meeting on December 8th were appointed...

- As Superior of the community of Dabakala : Fr. Luc-Martial Kouadio



Betharram in mission

Without doubt St Michael Garicoits ardently desired that Betharram would be a missionary congregation, ready to respond to the call of the Church and of the people of their time. We have begun to celebrate 150 years of the Betharram Mission in America: at present it is still very much alive, involved and renewed in its service and greater commitment.

Four continents benefit from this missionary involvement; the young communities of the Ivory Coast, Central Africa, Thailand and India are at this time becoming more independent. The recent Council of the Congregation has been amazed by the different ways of mission, its multiplicity and creativity in the Betharram world. Even more significant is the awareness that a potential for vocations exists in those places which carry this spirit and this missionary endeavour.

Consequently, it is necessary to be more engaged in missionary co-operation with all religious involved in this work. To promote this, the General Council wishes to make known to the whole congregation a missionary project for this year. The initiative is to support the formation of religious in Thailand.

These young people are our brothers, members of our family. European religious, after half a century of endeavour, are little by little passing over to them their work. In order to form those who will be carrying on the mission of Betharram tomorrow involves real financial considerations. There are actually 27 students in philosophy and theology, and 70 minor seminarians. A new seminary is in the process of construction at Sampran, near Bangkok, but it is still necessary to continue supporting the different needs of those in formation (schooling, boarding, furniture etc.).

Lent is not too far away: and is a favourable time to appeal to our communities, colleges and parishes on behalf of our students in formation in Thailand. Why not invite religious or lay, young or old, to help? To participate in a

SAMPRAN PROJECTÛ 2008