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Nearer to Me
Michael Bistis, postulant (Bangalore)

The approval of the Society of the Sacred Heart

on as Master of Novices for a two year novitiate which Mgr Lacroix wanted to be strict, so as to “get the young men used to carrying the burden which would be imposed on them”.

From 1863 to 1868 his position was very delicate. He wasn't inclined to be in open revolt against the authority of his Bishop, who had taken the position against the religious vows which Father Garicoits had cultivated in his community from 1837, nor to hurt the feelings of his superior, Father Chirou, whom Father Garicoits had been obliged to remove from Betharram because of his scheming with the Bishop.

*Nearer to Me My Lord,
I go far from you
Nearer to Me My Lord,
My feet go weary soon
The breeze smells frozen
The flower appears withered
Nearer to Me My Lord
I pray a while in darkness under a blind sky
I am fragile, weak, and vulnerable
Be nearer to Me My Lord
I need you till my road comes to an end
I need you though I have a skeptic mind
Nearer to Me My Lord
I know I am precious to you
If I forget you also you are there for me- yet
Nearer to me My Lord*

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(to be continued)



Family News

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



**A word from the
Superior General**

Examination of conscience

In this issue

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To celebrate the Sacrament of reconciliation well, it is absolutely essential to begin by a calm examination of conscience. In our spiritual tradition we have inherited the practice of the Examen, both particular and general. Because it appears to be repetitive or superficial, and because it has gradually been transformed into a purely devotional exercise, little by little it has declined, or, if I may say so, it has disappeared completely from the lives of many of our brothers.

The examination of conscience is a fundamental exercise for any one wanting to take his spiritual life seriously. It is one way of putting into practice the command of the Lord: “*See that you are dressed for action and your lamps lit*” (Luke 12,35). “*You should be awake and praying not to be put to the test; the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*” (Matt. 26,41). From the time of the Fathers of the Desert and monasticism, the examination of conscience reached St Ignatius, who adopted it up and gave it all its strength. He made it a regular practice for anyone wanting to advance spiritually. Thanks to the Spiritual Exercises and the Thesaurus given to him by his spiritual director at the end of his 30 day retreat, Saint Michael learned the practice of the Examen from St Ignatius himself. Today it is still part of our way of life. Article 70-1 of our Rule states: “*Aware of our poverty and of our sinfulness: 1) each day, we review our life before the Lord by the examination of conscience*”.

The latest news On February 13th, Br Denis Cutinha has been struck down by a heart attack. He was 38 years old and he was about participate to the session for his Final Profession. The funeral were in Vettla (Mangalore). We pray for him, his family and all the Delegation of India.



**106th year
10th series, n°24
14th February 2008**



*The Examen
is a prayer
based on life
in which are
to be seen the
presence and
calls of God*

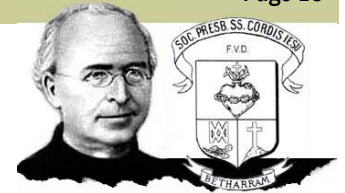
We are going to refer to what St Ignatius calls the *General Examination* in the Exercises. It is quite simply a practical means of living as Mystics of the Incarnation: learning to make the best of our life and finding the presence and action of God at all times. It is necessary if we are to remain constantly watchful, to discover signs of God in the life of the world, to be able to attach importance to the reality which is ours to live, and to oppose the pipe dreams and illusions which we invent as self protection against the hardships of life.

For St Ignatius the general Examen is a method of prayer. He recommends it in the same way as he recommends meditation and contemplation. It is a prayer based on life in which are to be seen the presence and calls of God. It is the spirituality of realism and of the Incarnation.

In No 43 of the Exercises, St Ignatius presents the *Method of making the General Examination*. Contrary to expectations the *first point gives thanks to our Lord God for favours received*. Generally speaking this is an exercise which takes place at the end of the day. It is meant to be a time for reviewing the times and places visited, to review the people met and think of what happened with each one of them. It is a time of being aware of the events and meetings which were source of desolation or consolation for me. From what point in time was I anxious or serene? What has caused my consolation or desolation? Elsewhere St Ignatius wrote: *Here I will beg for a deep-felt appreciation of all the blessings I have been given, so that out of the fullness of my gratitude I may become completely devoted to His Divine Majesty in effective love* (Ex. 233).

In the other points of No 43 of the Exercises, St Ignatius introduces the negative aspects of our day. *The second to ask grace to know and root out our sins. The third to ask our conscience for an exact account of our conduct*. Everything is conducted in an atmosphere of prayer: *give thanks, ask for the grace, ask for forgiveness, resolve, with*

Fr. Etchecopar and the approval of the Society of the Sacred Heart 2



After the death of Father Garicoits, 16th May 1863, the day was to be marked by two important and contradictory declarations. In the morning in his funeral oration, Mgr Lacroix praised the deceased as a “model for priests” placing him on the pinnacles of holiness. Then in the evening, in the presence of the Fathers he had assembled, he wiped out Father Garicoits’ work as “being the result of a saintly illusion” and condemned thirty years of his action: “He was mistaken”.

Such words not only surprised the community, but they were deeply hurtful to the majority of them, troubled several and were the cause of a long crisis.

Amongst those most affected was the Very Reverend Father Etchecopar. He had been the saint’s preferred disciple and his trustworthy confidant. During those hours of doubt and anxiety an interior light kept him from judging his Bishop, and some heavenly intuition told him that Father Garicoits’ spirituality would one day be recognized, not only by his sons, but also by the Bishop. Therefore in his heart he was totally faithful to him in the hope that the spirit of the Founder would be recognized.

He even declared what he was to write later: “There is one undisputed truth for me, based on the documents, and on everything that I saw in the conduct of Father Garicoits from my entry to Betharram in 1855 until his death, that God had chosen him to be the Founder and model of a new Religious Congregation for the service of God’s Church, so shaken by the Revolution and the havoc of the spirit of the world.”

More than being a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart, his official function and activity of choice was to watch over the thought of the Founder. He had been kept

DARKNESS

Continuation of
the story by
Father Pierre
Mieyaa, SCJ



2008

FEBRUARY

14	Joyeux anniversaire Buon compleanno	F. Bertrand Belhartz F. Giuseppe Pozzi
17	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Luc Morin F. Serge Braga Latta
18	Happy birthday	Br. Andrew Ferris
19	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Lamasse
20	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Mirco Trusgnach
22	Happy birthday	Br. William Finucane Br. Charles Enakius Fr. Alberto Pensa
26	Happy birthday	Fr. Chodki Damronganurak
27	Joyeux anniversaire	F. Arsène Raymond Noba
28	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños	P. Pierre Salla P. Francisco de Paula
29	20° años de profesión, felicidades	P. Sergio Gouarnalusse

MARCH

1	Joyeux anniversaire Buon compleanno 50° de profesión, felicidades	P. André Gillet P. Albino de Giobbi P. Constancio Erobaldi P. Enrique Gavel
3	Happy birthday	Fr. Tidkham Jailertrit
5	Buon compleanno	P. Giuseppe Franchi
7	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Saint-Pé
8	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Marsaa-Poey
9	Happy Birthday	Br. John Peter Philip
10	Buon compleanno	P. Pietro Felet
11	Buon compleanno	P. Pierpaolo Nava
12	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Joseph Canton
13	Buon compleanno	P. Natale Re
15	Joyeux anniversaire Happy birthday	F. Paul Lamothe Br. Antony J. Livin Fernando

the grace of God, to do better. In the examen we come face to face with our own truth and we realise that we need help. Thus our defences and excuses fall one by one. We know that will power on its own is no good: all is grace.

This is the only way for preparing entry to our life by being sure that we are not deluded. We don't have to appear "pure" in the presence of a God who showers us with his gifts and who is waiting for us at grass level. Such an examination of conscience is a real prayer with the added advantage of never giving way to illusions. In fact, to reach God who is Creator, it's impossible to escape what already exists. St Ignatius doesn't imagine a meeting with God as escaping from reality; on the contrary, it is a means of being open to reality and to accept it.

The Examen should not last more than a quarter of an hour at the end of the day. But the dynamics of the exercise make us into people aware of the active presence of God in our lives, grateful for the gifts received, always capable of reviewing our day in the presence of "our Creator and Lord", and in all honesty being determined to amend our ways with the help of his Grace.



Gaspar Fernandez, SCJ

Father Etcheccopar wrote... to his parents, February 5th 1861

I am very well, thank God, and am still happy and contented in my vocation, of which I continue to feel the most inestimable, the most inexpressible and I think the most inconceivable advantages possible. Such must surely be the case in the Home, the Palace, in the service of such a master, of such a king, of our God. Dear Father and Mother, what an honour! what graces! what a life! when the eyes of faith are open and when created and imperishable objects no longer offend them. Unfortunately, here too, in my poor heart, the old man is still alive, alas! Pray for his death.

A Betharramite priest for Ivory Coast

Ordination of Father Serge Braga Latta

Deo gratias! Thanks be to God! This is what Father Serge could have said at the end of his ordination to the priesthood on 12th February 2008 at Saint Laurent de Yopougon Koule. In a beautiful but sober celebration in which many of the faithful, together with Ivory Coast clergy took part, the bishop of Yamoussoukro Joseph Ake, Mgr Laurent Mandjo ordained the 8th priest of the Ivory Coast Delegation and the 2nd Ebrien priest. But before the ordination rite and after calling the seven candidates, the Bishop used his sermon to impart wise counsels to the ordination candidates. He begged them to show signs of wisdom, to persevere in their following of Christ, to be real lights for God's people under their responsibility. But above all he begged them to stay clear of all economical, social, and political powers so as to announce the Word of God in all circumstances. After the ordination ceremonies there followed all sorts of rejoicing.

The next day, Sunday 13th January, the parishioners from Saint Bernard's, father's family, friends and acquaintances met for his thanksgiving Mass at Adiapodoume. There too, the sheer beauty of the celebration helps us to pray. Father Laurent Bacho gave the sermon (see below). For such marvels bestowed on him, Father Serge concluded by thanking all those who had contributed in any way to his formation. After the reception, Father Serge returned to Yamoussoukro. The same evening he regained the campus of the Institute National Polytechnique where the Lord is sending him to continue his studies and for his mission as religious-priest.

Hyacinthe and Marius, novices

Homely of the first Mass (extracts)

1. As a religious and priest you must be **competent**, capable of fulfilling the mission entrusted to you. You must first of all cultivate a heart overflowing with love for the Lord, like the Son of God our unique model who had such close links with his Father from the first movement of his heart in the womb of the Virgin Mary to his death on the Cross: *"Father, into your hands I commend my*

His life can be divided into two important periods:

The first, from 1950 – year of his ordination – to 1988. Here Father Angelo was almost entirely occupied in the formation of future religious and college students. He was teacher of the young for the major part of his life, passing on his passion for the Lord and for St Michael, our founder.

The second stretches from 1988 with the road accident which condemned him to a wheelchair, and – something which was harder still to accept – obliged him to live in an Orthopaedic Centre at Solbiate Comasco, run by the Order of St John of God. During those 20 years, he was not abandoned by Providence: an agreement with these same Hospitalier Brothers, anticipated the appointment of a Betharramite as chaplain to the Centre.

These were difficult years. No one accepts suffering easily. Father Angelo was no exception. At the same time, he was always gracious with those who visited him. I have always been struck by his deep desire to return to his religious community – to enjoy life in family, moments of prayer and conviviality (above all, cards which was a sport in which he excelled.)

These years of suffering certainly transformed him. Instead of rousing feelings of revolt, resentment or hardness, they made him gentler and more affectionate. I am convinced that he was able to accept God's will as it was shown to him through sickness and changed him into *an instrument of salvation* for himself, and through him, he made it an offering for the Congregation which he dearly loved.

We entrust him to the Father's love, to the intercession of St Michael Garicoits and to that of all the religious of Betharram who received him into the Father's house.

Graziano Sala, SCJ
Superior provincial



LET US PRAY ALSO

- For the **mother of Father Wilfrido Romero, SCJ** who died on the 10th december 2007 at Carapuega (Paraguay)
- for **Mrs Ana Maria de Paula**, mother of Fr. Francisco de Paula, SCJ, who died on the 23rd January 2008 in Passa Quatro (Brazil)
- for the **father of Bro. Martial Mengué** who died in Centre Africa on the 28th 2008
- for **Mr Luigi Sala**, father of the Provincial of Italy, who died on the 1st February 2008 and was buried on the 4th in Calo (Milan)

Bel-Sito would give him a time of grace and peaceful joys – nature, cattle breeding, and the farm. From the garden he went on to milking the cows and was capable of finding help from the young students who liked nothing better than escaping lessons now and again! Brother Yves would play and enjoyed it; he liked to play “boss” and his band of youngsters advanced full of admiration. He liked relations which were many and varied, from the guy swapping farm animals to the French tennis champion who could leave him a few good pairs of trainers. The housewife would come every day with her milk can to chat for a little. It was a bit ecological.

Little by little the peaceful days at Bel-Sito were drawing to a close and it was back to Betharram and that for almost 30 years. Ongoing sadness according as his activities were gradually reduced. No more poultry, no more rabbits, no garden with its display of vegetables. What remained? The hill of Calvary, and the chestnut forest where he could graft, cut back, burn!

How could one describe such a man? Compare him with what? Those flowers needing to be revived and turned round by the sun. Was there any real friendship? He blossomed under its presence. If friendship was lacking, he would turn his back. It was forgivable!

As a matter of fact there was much respect – even sometimes a certain shyness; there was also austerity, sobriety, and resistance to evil. He knew what it was to be a burden on society. He didn’t want to lean further on it. As for care, just a minimum. This was the unsociable side of the man. What secrets and what memories could be recalled! Dear Brother Yves!

Gabriel Verley,scj

IN MEMORIAM

Italy

Father Angelo Pessina,scj

On the 27th January 2008, Father Angelo left us for the Father’s house. Born at Linate (Province of Milan) on the 8th January 1926, he entered the Betharramite family at the age of 12, pronounced his first vows in 1944, and was ordained priest in 1950.

spirit” (Luke 23,46). Jesus’ whole life was a response to his Father: “Here I am! For love’s sake rather than for any other motive”. He realised his Father’s will “with a great and generous heart” because he was always tuned into his Father, through his life of communion and love. Just as Jesus’ mission was to show his Father’s love for all mankind, so too your primary preoccupation must be to reproduce the great love of the Son.

To be a religious-priest capable of assuming such a mission, a personal relationship in the daily heart to heart with the Lord must be the priority and foundation of your life. Your priestly ministry is not defined by the pastoral activities which might be entrusted to you but by the depth of your Faith: revealing the face of God present in the hearts of those in whom he maintains an unending action. (RdV 15) The heart of the apostle should be a heart burning with divine love. It is your personal life of prayer which will set your heart aflame: *“before being a missionary one must first of all be a man of prayer.”* (DS 333)

2. As a religious-priest you must be a **free** man, not without responsibilities or neutral, but a man cleared of all the obstacles which might hamper your mission, a man free of all the different links and ties – family, associations, political – free as regards the image which others have of you, free from all fashions. The importance lies not that you are appreciated or hated but that you fulfil your mission faithfully. All evangelical missions are received; we don’t have to cling on to them as if we were indispensable.

Liberated from everything concerning his trade mark, the religious-priest should be fully committed and live cordially in a real loving relationship with his entourage, like Jesus who could be overwhelmed by the sufferings of those who approached him. A Sacred Heart priest is one who bears mercy, as the meaning of the word indicates, sensitive to the woes of mankind, full of compassion,

adopting the position, not of a judge, but of a father, like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. And precisely because you are an instrument of God's mercy, we shall call you father. You will have to become a father full of understanding with kindness and receiving sinners with simplicity while, at the same time, denouncing sin.

Liberated from the personal need to be appreciated at all costs, you become a religious-priest committed to the promotion of mankind. Our Congregation allows us to diversify our suggestions without making use of the sacraments, so necessary for the life of the Church, as the only way possible. Fifty years ago, Betharram didn't land in Ivory Coast to run a parish but for the education of the youth, at St Michael Garicoits' College at Ferkessedougou, a teacher's training college for Catholic education. Today, Tshanfeto is an answer to the awareness of the needs of youth in rural areas. As soon as you have finished your professional training, we hope to open with you an apprenticeship for young mechanics. For us, these social works are a field for evangelization. Competence is not for us an end in itself but a means of best responding to what God expects of mankind.

3. As a religious-priest of the Heart of Jesus, you must be an apostle at risk, **open** with all your superiors but also with all your brothers with whom you have chosen to live the charism of the Word Incarnate in the Betharram Congregation. With us, you have chosen to live your mission in community. The community sends us on mission and even if we are alone in our pastoral activity, our links with the community don't disappear; such is your situation in Yamoussoukro for the past year.

The community is also a mission field for us where we experience the sacrifices necessary for putting into practice the spirituality of communion. It would be pointless preaching love to others if in community we were indif-

result of communication, sharing, and a common will on the part of both laity and religious. I am solidly convinced that every desire for new life for our Family becomes a reality through communication, sharing and a common will to live, to live, to live!!!!

Personally, what are your worries, your reasons to be grateful, your hopes for the future of Betharram? - I have no major worries! When I was a young priest, Father Giuseppe Airoldi taught me the love of the Providence of God; so, I remain open to the virtue of Hope, and I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. I sincerely hope that our Family will have the courage to continue with regionalisation. Together, we must build the future in a spirit of collegiality which respects the values of our charism, founded on a solid formation respectful of people and their culture. 2008 is going to be a very important and busy year. But we are not alone; Our Lady of Betharram, our Father St Michael and Blessed Mariam are with us and nothing can frighten us!

Brother Yves Sanguinet,scj

Brother Yves Sanguinet had his fair share of a hidden life of which little is known. He scarcely ever spoke of his childhood, his youth or his odd jobs. Born in Bayonne, but by the age of 20 he was living at his grandmother's at Rieulhes, near Saint-Pe de Bigorre. One of his cousins was a Daughter of the Cross, so he went as a gardener to Igon. Life wasn't always very kind to him.

What meaning could his life have? As a farm labourer he was scarcely noticed for his piety. Therefore, the Sisters found him a new family at Betharram. By this time he was 30 years of age.

He has joined the novitiate. It was a time demanding great patience and which made a great impression on him; everything was so new! Here he learned fidelity to all the spiritual exercises to which he remained always faithful.

IN MEMORIAM

France



Bayonne
27th October 1922


Betharram
15th January 2008

*The Architect
Francesco
Radaelli, SCJ is
undertaking the
following:*

In the Holy Land:
In Jerusalem the construction and decoration of a new church; in Nazareth, refurbishment of the parish church; at Abellin, erection of a monument to the memory of Blessed Marie de Jesus Crucified.

In Italy: 28 stained-glass windows and 7 mosaics are under preparation; at Brescia finishing the restoration of an 18th century church; in Milan, reconstruction of a parish church.

must express something of yourself on this blank element, bring out what's best in yourself, and which you received from God. You are responsible for each action, for each form which you produce." In a word, my master was telling me that art is nothing more than an act of love, a simple way of expressing the wealth, the values, and the emotions in ones self; and so, painting a picture, composing a piece of music, are means of expressing the dynamism of a whole life, passing on to others the beauty which is in ones self. The supreme work of art is to be found in creation, where God realised and expressed his love for mankind; God is love! Art and spirituality go well together and are witness of the eternal and supreme Beauty of God.

You encouraged the regionalisation of the Congregation; at local level how is this working? - Yes, with the General Council we did a lot of work on this question which is both delicate and indispensable for the future of our Family. The General Chapter itself discussed it and gave its approval. In Italy, the Provincial Council and the Council of Province work at the animation of the religious and the communities so that they accept and apply the directives. I hope that the work realised will bear fruit for the good of the entire Congregation.

In what concerns the coordination of the laity, what are you most interested in at the moment? - Last year there were meetings for the formation of the laity in most of our parishes; the final meeting took place at Albavilla, with two days of meetings for the Pastoral councils of our Betharramite parishes. It was important for both the laity and the religious, and allowed a sharing of experiences and the launching of fresh initiatives for more formation and spiritual deepening. Three decisions saw the day: the invisible monastery, a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Michael and the passage of the statue of Our Lady of Betharram in our parishes. These initiatives are dear to my heart not just for themselves, but because they are the

ferent, aggressive or constantly suspicious. We shall never have done meditating on what our Founder tells us about our duty to our brothers: *"We are each responsible for all our brothers. He adopted them at his own risk. Let us therefore be for them what the sun is for the ground."* (DS 313).

Your priesthood is ministerial and is different from the baptismal priesthood received by all the baptised. Yet this ordination which bestows a special mission on you doesn't place you above the assembly of faithful but opposite. Dialogue, sharing, consultations are the necessary means to help build up the Church-family of God in which each one feels recognised and respected.

Laurent Bacho, SCJ

Ever since their expulsion from China in 1951, our missionaries have been working in the north of Thailand, baptising, setting up new communities, creating the diocese of Chiang Mai. When the time came to withdraw for lack of vocations in the West, the voice of the Bishops was to be heard: "Why not propose religious life to continue serving the Church in Thailand with young men here, trained in the spirit of St Michael?" The challenge was launched. In October 1999 the first two Betharramite Thai Fathers were ordained. Today they are twelve and there is no lack of candidates. But to talk of formation supposes a place to receive these young men to introduce them to our way of life. Betharram is actually building a new house at Sampran; not only must the building be erected, but men prepared for this Mission.

Continuation on www.betharram.org/mission/une.html. To help this campagne with donations, the Congregation website has just opened a special page Mission. There you will find all the literature necessary and materiel for activities. There is a leaflet to be down loaded. See you soon on the Solidarity website!



Saint Michael
Region

Generalate House

Rome-Jerusalem-Montevideo ■ On the 16th January, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr Michel Sabbah, the Archbishop, Mgr Fouad Twal, came to dinner via Brunetti, together with the Superior General, the Italian Provincial and Fr Pietro Felet, Superior from Bethlehem. Father Pierre Grech was also present. He was coming for the last time as their General Secretary for the "ad limina" visit of the Conference of Latin Bishops from the Arab Regions. During the second fortnight of January, the Superior from the National Seminary of Uruguay was over for the symposium marking the 25th anniversary of the Code of Canon Law and lodged at the Generalate. Before going to the diocese of Montevideo Fr Gonzalo Estevez had been a novice at Adroque in 1978 under the direction of the future Mgr Ignacio Gogorza. Here were two nice occasions to strengthen the links between Betharram and local churches.

New Rule handed in ■ On January 22nd the last version of the Rule of Life was submitted to the secretarial department of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life. The consulted expert will return his conclusions at the beginning of March. Thank you for their work to the commission members: Fathers Pietro Felet, Bruno Ierullo, Jacky Moura and Beñat Oyhénart, with Fr Gaspar Fernandez.

Province of France

Lay associates to La Trappe ■ On February 2-3rd, about 15 members of the *Fraternité Me voici* gathered in the abbey Saint-Mary of the Desert, 30km from Toulouse, for their annual retreat. In relation to the Feast of the Presentation, Fr. Gabriel Verley led them to contemplate and to follow Christ, on the footsteps of the old Simeon and Anne – who foreshadow the role of laity in the Church - up to Michael Garicoits, Mariam Baouardy and Bernadette Soubirous. The prayer of the Trappist monks accompanied these two days of "spiritual breathing".

Province of Italy

Micro Bible ■ Since 2001 Radio Mater has been availing itself of the biblical science and of the art of popularization of Fr. Mario Giussani. Arrived in Rome in December, he is still cooperating with this catholic radio: by telephone, from our residence of Miracoli, he expounds St Paul's letters and answers the questions of the listeners. You can tune in on FM in Italy, or by internet everywhere in the world.

5 MINUTES WITH... Fr. Francesco

Nef: Father, what brings you to Rome several times a year? - I come to Rome at least three times a year for meetings of the Liturgical and Sacred Art Commission of the Italian Bishops Conference of which I am a member. As well as that I teach the formators at the Salesian University. These different experiences allow me to learn, listen and above all to develop the values which I have always supported and put into action, both on the artistic and educational level. I am enthusiastic about both aspects because they allow me to share the contents and experiences with the utmost competence. The Congregation for Religious calls me from time to time to Rome, to advise the General Council of male and female Institutes.

You have always attached importance to formation; what do you see in it for Religious Life? - To meet its many commitments Consecrated Life must depend on two great pillars of formation. The first one is about the return to the sources, after the living experience of Christ and a life founded on Him, with Him, and for Him (after all, this is particular to every Christian); to come back to the knowledge, the experience and therefore belonging to religious Family founded on a special charism, fruit of a free gift, inspired and entrusted to the Founder by the Holy Spirit. The second pillar consists in attaching importance to the individual as subject loved and called by Christ to follow Him. The individual is too often considered as a means in view of the work, forgetting that the first *work* is the individual. The creative and dynamic subject of the work is neither the shape nor the missionary choice, but the individual.

What link do you make between art and a spiritual process? - Between art and spirituality its not so much a real link as the unity realised with life. When I started, Dom Ambrogio Fumagalli used to say to me: "Every time you sit down in front of paper or canvas, remember that you



Father Francesco Radaelli was General Superior from 1993 to 2005. He was appointed to the Albiate community, but thanks to his many responsibilities he is called in all directions. This is so this week. It has been an opportunity for us to share what he has been up to.