

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

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## The approval of the Society of the Sacred Heart

to have the approval of Rome” (Letters dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 1872 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1873).

After the death of the Very Reverend Father Chirou, and as soon as he was appointed provisional superior on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1873, his main preoccupation was to appeal to Rome. But he was soon to become aware of the grave obstacles with the Italian political situation; he says as much in a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 1874: “as for the presentation, I am sure that M. Inchauspe is putting in all the efforts necessary, but at the moment Italy is so sorely buffeted around that it is not surprising that the best projects languish and are delayed.”

The Very Reverend Father Etchecopar is a man of deep faith, even a mystic. He doesn't hesitate to call upon the Lord and from heaven God soon intervened.

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(to be continued)

➔ **Continues from page 13** develop it, is its capacity to bring together priests, brothers, laypeople, pupils and friends of Betharram. The site is an important meeting place for the family of Betharram throughout the world.

**What role can our little congregation play in the vast country of Brazil?** - The congregation does good work in the field of education: many parents of our pupils and young people today are grateful to Betharram for giving them the means of succeeding in life. But there are not only the colleges which are places of mission for Betharram: an important work of evangelisation is done in all the parishes where they devote themselves to the service of the people of God who are confided to them.

**What attracts you in the spirituality of St Michael and nourishes you each day?** - In my life, whether at work or in the family, in whatever I might do, I try to act through love; so I have a feeling of peace in always trying to do my best. When a member of the society asks me to do something, I have only one reply: here I am. Such is the force in my life which makes it grow and makes me happy.



# Family News

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



**A word from the  
Superior General**

## To give a manifestation of conscience

In the archives of our Congregation are kept copy books where the first Betharramite religious would annotate by hand the Summary, Rules and other documents relating to this practice at the time of the foundation. The best known is Father Pierre Cassou's copy book. He was Assistant to St Michael from 1841 to his death on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1847. The date is important because he was the first Betharramite to die.

The copy book is famous because it contains the preface of the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus *concerning the spiritual leadership of the priests of Betharram, and which all must observe*. The preface is none other but the famous manifesto of 1838; it states the original spirit in which St Michael wanted the Constitutions of the Jesuits to be read and put into practice. Father Cassou is the only one to mention it.

I would like to draw your attention to another document in the same copy book entitled: cf. *Everyone gives a manifestation of conscience on the following points: whether they are happy with their vocation; how they behave in respect of obedience; whether they are worried by any concerns or temptations*. Here is a document which proves that this exercise taken from the Jesuits and found in the tradition of Religious Life, was already in existence at the time of the foundation of our Congregation. It is a sort of questionnaire on the interior life of each religious. Funnily enough, *The Writings of Father Etchecopar* contain a document with personal answers to these questions.

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Happy St  
Michael  
feast! ✨

106<sup>th</sup> year  
10<sup>th</sup> series, n°27  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2008



The manifestation of conscience is an Ignatian spiritual exercise in which a religious confides to his Superiors what concerns his interior and exterior life: thoughts, feelings, spiritual and natural tendencies, deeds, acts and behaviour.

By exposing what is happening in his conscience, the religious makes known what God is doing in his soul, the genuine convictions and motivations of his being and action, the difficulties and resistances which are preventing him from being freer and more faithful to the Lord's call. Above all it helps Superiors to accompany the religious in their permanent discernment of God's will, to overcome the difficulties which they meet, to help them to be faithful to their vocation, to build on favourable situations. Thanks to this knowledge of the interior life of their religious, Superiors are in possession of facts which will be of help when it comes to defining ministries where the religious will be best fitted for the Mission.

The practice of the *Manifestation of Conscience* is acquired during the 30 days Retreat. At the end of each day, the retreatant meets with his retreat-giver to tell him what has happened today. The 17<sup>th</sup> Note says: *The retreat-giver, without wishing to pry into or know about the thoughts and sins personal to the retreatant, will be greatly helped if he is given precise information about the promptings and suggestions arising from different spiritual influences; for it is in accordance with the retreatant's progress that the retreat-giver will be able to propose suitable spiritual exercises, adapted to the needs of a soul thus affected.*

During formation, the practice of the *Manifestation of Conscience* is maintained on a weekly or bi-monthly basis – for the postulants and novices – and it can become monthly for the scholastics. Number 66 of *Vita Consecrata* states: *The personal dialogue is a fundamental means of formation and should be used regularly, for it is effective, confirmed and cannot be replaced.*

## Fr. Etchecopar and the approval of the Society of the Sacred Heart 5



by Pierre Mieyaa, SCJ

### *The growing influence of Father Etchecopar*

He it was whom Mgr Lacroix chose in 1868 to edit the Episcopal Constitutions. Three times he was member of the editorial committee. Not only was he present at the General Assembly which between 17<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September drew up the articles which in 1875 the Holy See was to approve, but he also prepared the rules which were to give it more depth. He didn't even hesitate in encouraging Fathers Etchegaray and Casau, two faithful followers of Father Garicoits, to come to the meeting.

Every time, during the sessions, he was the one most often consulted; not wanting to vie with the best orators, he would speak up. Without effort or claim, he captivated his audience by his skill rather than eloquence. From his arrival in Betharram in 1855, and particularly during the seven years he was Master of Novices, he took care to write down all the teachings and examples of the Founder of Betharram. These notes constitute a body of doctrine. Now, every time he mentions Father Garicoits words come spontaneously and to the point: he is listened to not only as the disciple of the Master, but as the voice of Father Garicoits.

After October 13<sup>th</sup>, he is sent with Father Angelin Minvielle to the different communities to plead on behalf of the Constitutions. The advocate possesses all the gifts and he is a very good ambassador to rekindle everywhere the spirit of the Founder. He was totally successful, so much so that Mgr Lacroix finally gave a provisional approbation to the Rules.

Named vice-superior on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1872, he ardently encouraged the General Council to take the Constitutions to M. Inchauspe for them to be sent to Rome. He informed Father Megendie in Buenos Aires: "We are working hard



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14	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Paul Baradat, Fr Gilbert Napetien Coulibaly
	Buon compleanno	P. Antonio Riva
22	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Henri Nadal
	Buon compleanno	P. Gianluca Limonta
23	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Marie Ruspil
25	Buon compleanno	P. Angelo Petrelli
	Joyeux anniversaire	P. André Lacaze P. Beñat Ségure
	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Gerardo Ramos
26	Buon compleanno	P. Mario Bulanti
28	15 years of profession	Fr Peter Chaiyot Charoenkun
29	Happy birthday	Br. D. Athit Kasetsukchai
30	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Bertrand Salla
	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Julio Colina
31	Buon compleanno	P. Emilio Manzolini
	50° di sacerdozio, auguri	P. Carlo Antonini P. Carlo Luzzi P. Angelo Pajno P. Ermanno Rasero

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3	Bon anniversaire	P. Joseph Mazerolles
4	Happy birthday	Br. Suphot Gabriel Liko
6	Happy birthday	Br. Subesh S. Odiyathingal
8	45 anni di sacerdozio, auguri	P. Franco Cesana P. Albino de Giobbi P. Raimondo Perlini
10	Bon anniversaire	P. Guillaume Etchébarne P. Barnabé Kpéhéléfopé Bakary
	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Crispin Villalba
12	Buon compleanno	P. Angelo Bianchi
	Happy birthday	P. Anton Madej
17	Bon anniversaire	P. Jean Laclau
	60 años de sacerdocio, enhorabuena	P. Enrique Lasuén
24	Bon anniversaire	P. Dominique Etchépare
25	Bom aniversário	F. Marcelo Rodrigues da Silva

If during the period of formation, the right conditions of trust and confidence are created, it is easier to preserve the practice of *the manifestation of conscience in the life of the communities and in the dialogue with the Provincial and General Superiors during the canonical visits*. For the Jesuits, the *manifestation of conscience* is fundamental for the exercise of the service of authority and for sending on mission. St Michael is inspired by the Constitutions of the Jesuits for his new religious family. Our interpersonal relationships are based on the experience of faith and on a meeting with the person of Jesus. This is why they haven't group dynamics nor the laws of psychology or sociology as their sole reference. Our relationships are not professional but spiritual. The manifestation of conscience, the practice of brotherly correction, of sharing of the Word, and of the review of one's life are all practices in the Evangelical and Christian tradition. Their purpose is the cultivation of the spiritual life and are a help for us to remain faithful to our vocation and our mission.



Gaspar Fernandez, SCJ

*Father Etchecopar wrote...* to the Priests and Brothers  
of Betharram, 10 January 1888

*Despite his deep humility, Father Garicoits believed in the novelty of his new undertaking which had its own aim, its own organisation, its own spirit and means. He believed that the God of the underdog and the poor had chosen him specifically for this purpose. He was only the shepherd from the last house in the village of Ibarre, a disaster, and God had said to him: "Go and found a new Institution in my Church; it will be important in these troubled times when the great Orders of the Church are all scattered and when the revolutionary spirit of independence is invading from all sides even in the Church. Here is your banner and rallying cry. You will march at the head of your troops waving your banner of the Sacred Heart and calling out the Ecce Venio of my Son. You shall be his joy and the support of his Church." He believed that voice; he grabbed the banner and, like a giant rushed forward into the enterprise, and there he worked to the end of his life.*



## For me who is St Michael?

On the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> May, liturgical feast of St Michael Garicoits, a religious bears witness to his particular bond with the founder of Betharram

It was on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Care Home in Betharram; I was 18 years of age at the beginning of September 1981. Father Toucoulet had invited me to read some of the Founder's texts before making my request to enter the novitiate. There in the midst of the smells of medications, under the smile and faith of a greatly admired man, I was to undergo my first and decisive love at first sight. St Michael's deep faith, his strong and balanced spiritual thought, his love for the Church, well and truly won me over. If since then, Christ's face has become more precise and real for me it's always and only in the experience of St Michael Garicoits that I recognise him and where I like to renew my spiritual energy. I haven't found better than his own words to express my faith in Christ.

Before my novitiate, like St Michael, it was only when I came into contact with the Sisters of the Holy Family of St Emilie de Rodat or the Daughters of Charity met in the Lebanon, that I discovered all the beauty, the wealth and the depth of the gift of one's life in the Religious Life. With his fiery ardour, St Michael was an apostolic soul spending all his ardour where the Lord wanted. He always wanted to live with others in the service of the Church. I discovered the different forms of fraternities in the communities where I lived. During my novitiate, studying his correspondence helped me to discover how St Michael regarded each individual with an eye of faith, and to what point his joy and hope were powered by his meditation of the Word of God. Then I was to discover that the most important thing is not so much the actions which unite us, as the brotherly love urging us to procure the same joy for others. In reality it's not brotherly love itself but our life in Christ which helps to make real and full of mercy our relationship with our brother who is a "sacrament". Differ-

and obedience.. God has called me to Betharram and that's how it is.

*These last years, the vice Province has made great efforts to improve the sense of belonging and put its resources to the common good. Can you say something about this?* - "When ants join together, they can move an elephant." This must be the attitude for the family of Betharram, as they face the present challenges. It is necessary that each finds in the other a brother and a friend. It is necessary all place their spark plugs together and harness themselves to the wind to follow the same coast, the same direction. It is necessary to find viable solutions which put the vice Province of Brazil in a position to fulfill its financial engagements, to give the best formation for those in the seminary, and stabilize the economic situation by abandoning community selfishness. For this reason all the religious in 2004 have embarked on a project which has two points; sharing and transparency. Since the fathers in the communities present their accounts each month to the vice Province; on this basis is established the monthly balance sheets, comprising the initial balance of income and expenditure, and the final balance of each community. Each term, the accounts are presented in assembly, so that all the religious have a clear understanding of the finances of the vice Province and its works.

*You are occupied with the website [beloramo.com.br](http://beloramo.com.br); what you see as important in having a website?* - I like to quote a well-known phrase used in marketing: "what is not seen is not remembered." To develop a website is quite a simple, cheap and effective way of promoting the congregation, making it more up to date and more in touch with the world where distances have diminished. It provides the possibility of making oneself known, spreading the knowledge of our charism and our works, events, schools. Through the site I tried to give a clear picture of the congregation. What urges me mostly to create and

## In memoriam

Let us pray for

- the father of Fr. Mario Sosa (Apostolic college of Asunción of Paraguay), who died on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs Zilia Bourguinat, mother of Fr. Firmin, chaplain of the Sanctuary Our Lady, died in Betharram in her 100<sup>th</sup> year of age on May 12<sup>th</sup>.



Follows on  
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5 min with...

altar boy, I met Fr Joao Batista during the celebrations of the feast of St Michael Garicoits. In his homily that evening he spoke of the young Saint Michael who used to climb mountains to find God, a brave and courageous boy. As I was fascinated by his story, I asked him at the end of the Mass to enter the seminary. Some days later I became a junior seminarian. Our days were divided between prayer, sport, work and relaxation. I liked everything I did. "It was not that we did much, as doing the will of God". We learnt discipline and a sense of responsibility. These were years of growth which formed my character and made me a better person. Certain friends in the minor seminary today are fathers: Quito, Vicente, Henri and Paulo Cesar... I admire and respect them greatly. After some years, I left the seminary, but I never left Betharram.

***In fact you worked for the vice Province...*** - Indeed I did! I began by helping Fr Sebastiao in the parish of Passa Quatro. In 1989 I rejoined the College of St Michael when it ceased to be state funded and became totally independent. At first I was assistant to Fr Michael Callerot, then I changed role as a teacher from 1996 to 2003. It was then that Fr Mauro Ulrich invited me to take on the administration of the College up to the time I replaced him. From that time I had more direct contact with the Provincial Council to the point of establishing the Vice Province in Brazil.

***What does your contact with the congregation bring to you as a Christian, a husband and a father?*** - My wife and sons share my attachment to Betharram, they rejoice in their joys, they become anxious in their difficult times, they feel themselves connected, as they take part with the members of the family of Betharram. Whatever I have, whatever I am, I owe to this family which has welcomed me. All the opportunities, all the tasks which they have given me, I have accepted with the *Ecce Venio*, more from love than any other motive, I have tried to devote myself completely to it, without going back, without any conditions and without any reward in a spirit of humility

ences of generation, style, and temperament or how we regard the world and the mission are not partitions, from the moment that, in the silence of our personal "upper room" we come to see the history of the real love the Father has for each one of us. This produces a movement of self control in the face of anger, or judgement. St Michael knew the other fellow was just like the earth trodden by the Lord Himself, calling for respect and profound obedience.

I also noticed to what point, like St Michael, I have been called upon to accept unexpected missions. The first one is the most vivid for me. When I first arrived as a young Brother at the College of Betharram, having had a difficult adolescence, I said to myself that I would not volunteer for the 13-15 year olds. The first thing I heard Father Carricart say was: "We had thought of you for the 13-15 year olds!" The Lord who knows me better than anyone knew that I would be happy there... And actually, they gave me lots of joy! And this is how I discovered the meaning in depth of the word obedience. It wasn't just a matter of "Walk or die" but rather "*Listen to the Lord's voice! Lend the ear of your heart, you who wants happiness. Reply like a faithful actor of his gentle will!*" (French song). For me, these words of St Michael have become a rule of life: "God likes to be answered with joy and in everything he suggests it's always the heart that he asks for. Such a Master deserves that one is happy to belong to him." (M.S.p.195) Similarly, renouncing self esteem isn't dying but rebirth of a new dimension of one's own life, with other possibilities... obedience to a way of life as I am being asked is an act of faith.

Something which impresses me in the man is his longing for a heartfelt religion, full of joy, of life and of the freedom of the Spirit of the Father and the Son. This was what he always aimed to achieve principally in his friendship with one or other individual. Michael Garicoits was a



sensitive soul for whom friendship was a great happiness. (See some of his letters to Sr Zephyrin St Blaise or Sr Saint Jerome) What I like about him is his quest for the link between those who give a whiff of eternity to all life's trifles, who help in sharing and give a fresh impetus to life. He wrote: "To be a man, a Christian, a religious and priest of Betharram". This order of words is not just literary style but an awareness of the consistency of human existence in all its dimensions.

He was a man of great freedom who became the apostle and partisan of the pastoral and spiritual renewal of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, because he let himself be guided by the Spirit of Christ in a spiritual experience which was constantly fed. He spent a long time before realising the exact nature of God's will for him. Having chosen his way, he helped me to discover the real face which Christ wants to reveal to each one of us. If I leave Christ free his face will fill me with joy and make my life ready for service. St Michael, a real leader on the way up to the Ascension, suggests to each one to be influenced and enriched by the presence of Christ. He took flesh of our flesh to show us to what point we were love and desired by his Father, and borne along by Love. "It pleased God to be loved". "My God, you have loved me, you have done so much for me, and you long for my love". For the past ten years, thanks to this personal programme, I have discovered that the most important for me is to keep to this secret spot in my life where Christ is already present, where he meets up with me to give me a taste of the real joy, which will produce the best results in those whom I shall be called upon to serve.

"With the whole of my being I feel the urge to advise you to live in the joy of the Lord and to let it be evident in all your dealings. God has his eye on you to purify you, to protect you and to shower you with all his gifts. In the light of this watchful eye, nothing, not even my sins will discourage me... practising and preaching a piety enli-

By following the example of Saint Michael which it seemed to us important to recall, we had not sought privileged positions nor pleasant or prosperous places.

We have been asked to take on the responsibility of a parish at Zarqa, 30 km from Amman, a large town of about 600,000 inhabitants, with four parishes, two of the Latin rite and two of the Oriental rite. Ours is called the Holy Apostles. It is important to bring hope. God's ways are often difficult to fathom. One thing is sure; we don't need to enclose ourselves in the security of what we have, but to follow the new paths of the Spirit. The road is there. The path is clear. The light depends on our responsibility and our engagement. May St Michael intercede for the future community that it will be a sign and living witness of the Gospel in its spirit of availability and simplicity. Such is our wish and our prayer.

Graziano Sala, SCJ *Sup. provincial of Italy*

## 5 MINUTES WITH... Ednaldo Guedes

*Nef - Ednaldo, how do you come to know Betharram?* - I have difficulty in recalling my first contact with Betharram. All I know is what my mother told me: when I was a baby, very small, quite unwell, a Father of Betharram consecrated me to our Lady of the Beautiful Branch at the foot of the statue which is found at the entrance of the College of St Michael, and placed me under her protection. For me it is clear: from that time Our Lady has stretched out her saving branch, and I have never lacked her support! Several instances during my childhood brought me to the College of St Michael and to the Fathers of Betharram amongst whom were the amusing Fr Michael Callerot and the sportive Fr Joachim Soares.

*What memories do you have of your years of formation in community?* - On the 14th of May 1979 when I was an

As the coordinator of the college of Passa Quatro and assistant bursar of the Vice Province, Mr. Ednaldo César Guedes is both a precious and discreet collaborator of Betharram in Brazil. Through him, we can listen to the numerous laity who are committed to our mission in their daily life.



## Ways of God, a road for men

Sometimes dreams come true. Divine Providence gives signs of light which take us on unexpected, original and new paths. This is the case for the community which is going to start at Zarqa in Jordan, next September. For some time Providence has been leading us to a new foundation within the mother church of Jerusalem.

The presence of Fr Elie Kurzum and the recent ordination of two Jordanian members of our society, Fr Boutros and Eyad, have prompted us to change Betharram's outlook concerning our presence in the Holy Land. The problem was: should we limit ourselves to our present foundations or should we look to the future, by asking the old foundations in Europe and in the provinces and vice provinces of the congregation to take charge of the communities of Bethlehem and Nazareth? In fact by decision of the General Chapter in 1999 Bethlehem is (and should become ever more) an international community, particularly destined for initial and permanent formation. In accord with the general superior Fr. Gaspar we chose to look to the future and give a sign of hope.

The proposal of the Latin Patriarch Jerusalem, his beatitude Monsignor Michael Sabbah, and the assistant bishop, Monsignor Fouad Twal, was not unexpected. On different occasions the Patriarch himself had thanked the priests of the Sacred Heart for their service given to the local church: not forgetting that the clergy of the patriarch had been formed over a period of many years by the priests of Betharram who had devoted themselves to working in the seminary at Beit Jala and in other new and diverse ministries.

On our side we assured the patriarch of our total availability and expressed our joy in making ourselves available and at the service of the Church of Jerusalem.

vened by faith, trust, and love of God and devotion to the neighbour and everything relating to it." (D.S. p. 135)

After 20 years of Religious Life, I find that I still have a lot to learn, to discover and to undertake. In all things the secret, as St Michael found out, lies in constantly seeking the Lord's will and putting it into action. The reality of religious life in France in general, and in our Province in particular is not easy. One can be discouraged trying to find solutions on one's own. Again St Michael tells me that it is in seeking the answer, that is Christ, in the centre of my life, that my way ahead will be clarified and will be opened up before my eyes.

Philippe Hourcade, SCJ

## Saint Michael's sons scattered far and wide

On May 14<sup>th</sup> we shall be celebrating the feast of Michael Garicoits. To recall to mind and celebrate a saint has meaning only in so far as admiration becomes imitation. "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" says St Paul. In his room where he spent his convalescence and conversion, St Ignatius wondered "If they did this or that, why not me?"

St Michael experienced such intuitions deeply. He longed to be able to go out to the needy, in the fields, the villages, with the young. Inspired by the Master of the interior life he dreamed of "assembling men, available like Jesus, and ready to respond to the slightest call!" And he acted: he founded the school at Betharram and several others. He multiplied Parish Missions. He heard the call for help from the Church in Argentina on behalf of the Basque immigrants who *were making money but losing their souls*. On 31<sup>st</sup> August 1856 the *Eitincelle* with eight Betharramites on board weighed anchor in Bayonne, and in 2008 the American Mission is still alive.

**SAMPRAN**  
**PROJECT**  
**2008**

Saint Michael had a spirit of humility, obedience and love; he also had a deep sense of service to others. He wanted these virtues, found in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be the mark of his early community. "The Betharram priests felt drawn to be of service, to imitate Jesus and to help others to experience the same happiness." (Manifesto of 1838)

As time went by, this spirit became well embedded: at the call of Pope Pius XI, some Betharramites left for China where they laid the foundations of Tali diocese. After 30 years presence they were driven out during the Maoist regime and after all sorts of incidents, they finally arrived in Thailand.

The seed sown here has yielded fruit; the Church of Chiang Mai and all the Thai Betharramites are growing under the watchful eyes of their elders and the energy of the young, who little by little are assuming their rightful place. All are carrying on with the Mission, convinced that even our crosses are pathways to the God of joy.

Today our Father Saint Michael must surely look down on his children scattered far and wide from the Sanctuary of Betharram to the utmost bounds of America, from Africa to South East Asia. No doubt he must surely recognise himself in each of the missionaries in Thailand; they are no longer called Guimon, Chirou or Harbustan but Subancha, Arun or Chanchai. They are his youngest sons whom he entrusts to us as he says: *Accompany them, support them, and help them to pursue the adventure started in Betharram!*

Bruno Ierullo, SCJ

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATION

### Congregation

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**Concerning China** ■ Benedict XVI has declared the 24<sup>th</sup> May a day of prayer for the Church in China, on the occasion of their National pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Sheshan (Shanghai). This initiative began on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007; in an open letter, the Pope encouraged Chinese Catholics to rise to the challenge of secularism and materialism in spite of persecution. On the Eve of Corpus

Christi our Superior General invites all religious and lay associates to pray for Church unity and for a new era of Mission for Betharram in that vast country.

### Province of Italy

**Our Lady of the Wayside** ■ The month of May this year will be dedicated particularly to promoting vocations in the communities of Italy, marked by the symbolic act of taking a statue of Lady of Betharram as they pray for vocations from Lissone (from 4 till 11 May), to Bormio (11-18), then to Milan (18-25), and Parma (25 May-June 2). After the pilgrimage of the Italian Province to Lourdes-Betharram, this *peregrinatio Mariae* will be an opportunity to encourage everybody on their journey of faith.

### Province of the Rio de la Plata

**At the school of Father Etchecopar** ■ Mass on April 13th marked the end of the novena for the beatification of Fr. Auguste Etchecopar. The community of Adrogué, the regional noviciate for South America, took this opportunity to deepen their spiritual experience of the Servant of God, and recall his filial love towards Saint Michael and the Congregation. As Br Rodrigo, a Brazilian novice, put it: "May this example of fidelity teach us to be humble, happy and faithful Betharramites".

### Vice-Province of Thailand

**An Akha blessing** ■ On April 26th a new chapel was blessed in Pang Klang, not far from Chiang Rai - This northern part of Thailand has been a privileged place of mission for Betharram with the Akha people for more than 30 years. Between paddy fields and forests rises the chapel built by the faithful themselves, a place where they gather every Sunday. After the ceremony led by Fr. Alberto Pensa, the celebration continued with lunch and traditional dances till 4 pm, all in an beautiful atmosphere of fervour and simplicity, according to the customs of the Akha people, who came in large number to this event.

**Priestly Ordination** ■ Fr Gabriel Phonchai Sukjai will be ordained at Chiang Mai on 7th June. Let us rejoice in the Lord and remember him in our prayers.



*Saint Michael  
Region*



*Fr Etchecopar  
Region*



*Blessed Miriam  
Region*