

to prepare this General Chapter the General Council carefully organised a consultation both wide ranging and free, of all the members of the Congregation. The results of this consultation were to be classified judiciously so as to be a help in directing the work of the forthcoming Chapter (Art 4). When he announced the opening of the Chapter, the Superior General, Fr Mirande, wrote in the NEF: "It is meant to take the necessary steps for the updating of our Congregation according to the rules laid down by Vatican II. It is to be an updating not in seeking facility but truth, and a truth which must necessarily be demanding. It is meant to restore to our religious life its authenticity which can only produce the desired sign."

According to the rules laid down by "Ecclesiae Sanctae" the General Council drew up a plan which was both long and laborious:

At autumn 1966 a questionnaire on the chapters and contents of the Constitutions in use at that time was sent to all the religious of the Institute.

With the 250 replies (many of which were collective) and the 1 100 pages a synthesis of 44 pages was prepared and published in the NEF of September 1967.

In the light of the instructions from the grass roots, an inter-provincial commission met in July 1968 to prepare a rough sketch

of the Constitutions which would be used as a working paper for the Provincial Chapters and Assemblies to be summoned for the preparation of the General Chapter. This rough sketch 94 pages long appeared in the NEF.

Finally, in the months leading up to the General Chapter, the conclusions reached in the provincial Chapters and Assemblies were put together to form a unique text which was given to each capitulante Father. The General Chapter of 1969 is the longest in the history of Betharram. It opened on 7th July and finished its working sessions on the 11th August following. It then named the new Superior General – Fr Giovanni Trameri and proceeded with the final drafting of the new Betharramite Constitutions; these were promulgated ad experimentum for a period of 12 years, until their final approval by the Holy See on March 25th 1983. At this point in time, the Superior General, Fr Grech wrote: "The new Rule of Life says faithfully what we are, what we are meant to be in the Church and at its service. This text needs to be prayed and must become part of our life so that we may bear witness to what keeps us faithful because of our love of Christ."

by Roberto Cornara

To be continued ►

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75
2012



Societas S^{mi} Cordis Jesu
BETHARRAM

NEF

NOUVELLES EN FAMILLE
NOTICIAS EN FAMILIA
NOTIZIE IN FAMIGLIA
FAMILY NEWS

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

110th year
10th series, nr 75
14th October 2012

A WORD FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Fraternity in Community

In this issue

Page 3 • St Michael wrote...

Page 4 • Why not go?

Page 6 • Felix peregrinatio throughout
the Betharramite Thailand

Page 9 • 5 min with the community
of Paulinia

Page 11 • † In memoriam: Fr. José
Maria Ruiz

Page 12 • Bird's eye view of the
Congregation

Page 15 • A History of the
General Chapters of the Betharram
Congregation (9)

The object and aim of fraternity in community is to build up that union of hearts among individuals who are very different from every point of view. Such a union is possible only if based on faith in Jesus Christ, on consecration, spirituality and the mission. It is therefore a question of cultivating what makes us one: one Father, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism (Eph 4,1-7), one Word, one Eucharist, one charism, our founder Saint Michael Garicoits, one same patrimony, one glorious history, and even better, a future which we have to construct.

From this point of view, the differences are not so much a problem as a challenge; we are invited to accept, in a spirit of poverty, what the other person has and I haven't, and to share generously what I have and which the other person hasn't. That's what makes community an ideal life style to practise the commandment of love for the others which we try to practise as brothers and children of the same Father.

This then is the experience of ecclesial communion, the treasure of the Church which she must share with the world today. It is true that the Church is a mystery

of missionary communion. The Church is really the house and school of communion as Pope John Paul II used to say. And religious communities, at a time when the number of religious is waning, can still be such special places where the spirituality of communion is alive and put into practice. Here are some of the characteristics of this spirituality of communion, some of which have been drawn from Novo Millennio Ineunte No 43: contemplation of the Trinity as mystery of communion in the image of which we were created. Consequently we respect every human being living near us. We see in them a reflection of the brother with whom we are called upon to construct the unity, the same commun-

ion. This is why our brothers in faith are not indifferent to us and we are responsible for each of them by embracing their joys and their sorrows. This is also why we consider each brother as a gift from God and that what is best in him we consider to be a gift from the Lord to us through him. This urges us to become bearers of our brother with all that constitutes his life, and to accept him as a positive value without which I would not be any better.

This makes us avoid anything which could go against our brother coming from our heart: rivalry, ambition, suspicion, jealousy (Rule of Life 96). The spirituality of communion even includes forgiveness, and renounces the revenge coming from



CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS OF BETHARRAM

9 - The 1969 General Chapter

The implementation of Provinces in the organisation of Betharram was of capital importance and the results were decisive for the future development of the Institute itself. This was to put an end to the monolithic unity of the Congregation after 100 years of existence and to open the way for the decentralisation of the Congregation which had become necessary for better



Ivory Coast

government. It also resulted in a definite plan for the promotion of vocations, so that in a few short years the number of religious had grown considerably; the spirit of St Michael was also taking shape in each of the cultural realities of the Congregation.

At the same time the renewal of the missionary spirit was plain for all to see; something in which the whole Congregation or one or other of the Provinces was actively engaged. After abandoning the mission to China with the expulsion of the missionaries in 1951, a new mission was opened at Chiang Mai in the north of Thailand. In 1959 the French Province launched the Betharramite mission to Ivory Coast, in reply to the urgent appeal from Pope Pius XII in Fidei Donum. Sometime later in 1986 the Italian Province was opening a new mission at Niem in the Central African Republic. In Argentina there were missions in poor rural zones in

the Argentinean hinterland or in Bolivia from the 1980s onwards. It is to be noted that if previously missions ad gentes were carried out by the Congregation it was now the new Provincial realities which brought home the message.

During the years following the creation of the provinces everything was now centred on the Vatican Council which had imposed on the Church and on each of its institutions a general revision of their identity and their activities. In the course of this renewal and in the light of the Council, each religious institute was required to renew its institutions and to update its Constitutions. The Motu Proprio "Ecclesiae Sanctae" dated 6 August 1966 set down the rules which were binding on the Religious Congregations: in order to promote the renewal specific to each Congregation a General Chapter was to be held within the next two, or at most, three years. In order

OCTOBER	14	55 ans de profession	P. Firmin Bourguinat
	15	Feliz cumpleaños Happy birthday	P. Osvaldo Caniza Fr. Wilfred Poulouse Perepadan
	19	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Javier Irala Cabrera
	20	Buon compleanno	P. Aurelio Riva
	21	Buon compleanno	F. Severino Urbani
	22	Buon compleanno	P. Romano Martinelli
	23	Happy Birthday Buon compleanno 45 anni di professione	Fr. Terence O'Malley P. Raimondo Perlini P. Mario Bulanti
	27	Happy Birthday	Br. Andrew Athit Nyomtham
	28	Feliz cumpleaños	P. Tarcisio Vera P. Sebastián García
	29	Bom aniversário	Ir. Davi da Silva Lara
NOVEMBER	30	Joyeux anniversaire Feliz cumpleaños	P. Pierre Monot Mons. Claudio Silvero Acosta
	2	Feliz cumpleaños Bom aniversário	P. Carlos Escurra Cantero Ir. Wagner Ferreira
	5	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin
	6	Bom aniversário	P. João Batista Ribeiro
	8	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Firmin Worou Ogoubé
	9	Joyeux anniversaire	P. Jean-Baptiste Olçomendy
	12	Buon compleanno Feliz cumpleaños	P. Carlo Luzzi P. Constancio Erobaldi

the depths of our being when someone harms us. Since we can consider ourselves victims or executioners we must practise mutual forgiveness if life is not to become hell (Rule of Life 104). In days gone by we used to practise this by observing the rules of the community. It was something easy in bigger communities. But today it is impossible to practise such values if there is no mutual respect and if an agreement hasn't been reached among the small number of the community.

Such unanimity can be checked in the community project since all the religious took part in its composition; that's how the concrete method of observing the Rule, the orientations of the universal and local Church are decided upon. In this way the community project becomes a means of outdoing the individualism to which we are all prone and of adopting the necessary means of practising evangelical fraternity and of accomplishing our mission perfectly.

The Community Project should include all the little points as well as the bigger ones which go to construct fraternity. To begin with the Superior of the Community must, as far as possible, involve all the brothers, each according to his possibilities and talents. At the same time, it is good to state exactly what we want to live out and what we want to do: times for prayer, times for silence, moments of reflexion to deepen a theme, our meetings, sharing experiences of faith, mission and relaxation (Rule of Life 103), all of that can be realised by the adaptation of our life project with that of the community.

Today, a community without a community and apostolic project cannot become a fraternity; it will live scattered, incapable of overcoming individualism, not sharing with the brothers what is essential for a life of faith and finally incapable of living out the mission as a team.

Gaspar Fernández Pérez, sci



St Michael Garicoits wrote...

Let's be generous with God and God will be generous with us. Giving generously and with an open heart but with the regret of giving so little, saying "we are worthless servants". That's what it means to be generous with God. Let's apply ourselves to this generosity in all our activities and sufferings, and God will help us each day to be more capable and better prepared to receive the spiritual gifts and powerful graces in greater abundance; on this point there can be no difficulty! And so, let's depend on God in so far as we are generous with him; and as long as we are generous with him, there can be no doubt about the grace and glory which have been promised us. (M 377)

Why not go?

Even though the month of July 2013 seems a long way off, it is a good idea to start preparing now for the participation of the young Betharramites at the meeting at Passa Quatro and then at the World Youth Days (WYD) in Rio de Janeiro.

It is a project which must be launched and supported. So as to achieve this, methods must be found so as to enable as many young people as possible to be present; thought must be given to motivations and the content of the meeting so that it is a real journey of faith and that as a result of a meeting with Jesus Christ, it will become an unforgettable Church experience, in the footsteps of St Michael and following his example.

Here are some practical bits of advice for the participation of the young at this meeting for the 150 anniversary of the death of St Michael and the World Youth Days.

Each community (parishes, colleges, groups) has been asked to prepare the groups (the contents) making use of the material which will have been sent about the 150 anniversary of the death of St Michael (NEF) and on the suggestions coming from the different dioceses.

1. The two meetings: first of all the meeting of the young Betharramites who will be meeting to share what the image of St Michael means to

them (on the occasion of his death); this meeting will take place at **Passa Quatro from 19th – 22nd July 2013**. The second one for the World Youth Days will take place at **Rio de Janeiro from 23rd – 28th July 2013**. All the young people from our communities must have **arrived in San Paulo** by 18th July at the latest. They can plan their **return from 29th July in the afternoon**.

Each group must appoint a responsible who will accept to inform Fr Graziano Sala SCJ (sala.graziano@betharram.it), or Fr Sebastian Garcia scj (sebastiangarciascj@gmail.com), **the time and date of their arrival, the airline by which they will arrive in San Paulo (Brazil), in order to organise the transfer from the airport to Passa Quatro**.

2. From 19th – 22nd July the young people will be received by the "Fr Auguste Etchecopar" Region and especially by the Vicariate of Brazil at **Passa Quatro**. The Betharramite community is here in this town because of a college and because they are responsible for the parish. The young people will live in close contact with the cultural and social reality of the people; there will be times for meetings and sharing organised around the personality of St Michael, in this year when we are remembering

held the first meeting in the retreat house of Catapiá (Paraguay). It was attended by two young men from Ciudad del Este, four from San Joaquin and one from Curuguaty. After settling down and getting to know each other through some games, the group consecrated the first day to reflecting on vocation as a call. Then they had the opportunity to attend the Holy Eucharist in Caacupé (the national shrine of Paraguay) before spending the rest of the day in studying the spirituality of our religious family.

Vicariato di Thailandia

Former students, old friends ► I On September 9th Fr. Mongkhon organized a gathering of Betharram former students at Garicoits house. After the Holy Eucharist and a community meal, 10 Betharram

Alumni, our young brothers in formation and some of our neighbors, a meeting was called to tackle different items: past experience lived in the Seminary; how to live a more committed Christian life; how to make the charism of St Michael known to a wider public; ways of encouraging and supporting vocations for Betharram; ways of generating some income for the Betharram community; plan to establish a Betharramite lay association in Thailand. As per tradition, they wound up the event with a charity football match.



► Follows from p. 11

getting him to tell us his latest exploits. He had a very high pitched voice, but when he developed Alzheimers and his memory failed him, he took to singing all the tangos which he had learned in his youth. He loved his community and knew how to communicate his enthusiasm. He was called upon to be superior during the years when the Holy Spirit was spreading a new air in religious life. He opened the doors of his parish (The Immaculate) to the diocese and accepted the implementation of the pastoral plan. During his time the house was full of young people; what a marvellous time! Those were the days when the young had to be begged to go home because it was late! They probably found a family atmosphere in the parish and in Father Jose the father figure who

was often missing in their own families. There were times when he was a trifle distracted; one particular occasion he was leading a funeral procession, met another procession and ended up in the Jewish cemetery rather than in the Catholic one. He was both shy and reserved and was wont to say that as parish priest he was worth neither more nor less than the others. He well known to all consequently they came in crowds to pay him their respects the day of his funeral. Dear brother, today I don't feel like cracking a joke, but I have lots of joy and goodness to share, as you taught me how to do. You are now with our Heavenly Father, I ask you to send me your blessing. Thank you and Adieu!

Giancarlo Monzani, scj

Region St Michael & Vicariate of Ivory Coast



Focus on formation

► The Vicariate welcomed the Regional Superior, Fr Jean-Luc Morin, the Fathers Jean-Dominique Delgue (Regional Vicar for France and Spain), Tiziano Pozzi (Regional

Vicar for the Central Africa), Br Angelo Sala (religious-in-charge of formation in Central Africa) and Fr. Simone Panzeri (priest-in-charge of formation in Italy). The group had a sharing with the formators of the Vicariate of the Ivory Coast (Frs Laurent Bacho, Sylvain Dansou, Omer Koutouan) and the Regional Vicar of the Ivory Coast, Fr. Hervé Kouamé, on the occasion of the meeting of the Formation Team of the Region and the Regional Council.

On September 14, our brothers Elisée Mambo Sika, Hyacinthe Ali Konan and Marius Angui Huberson made the final vows in the Parish church of Saint Bernard in Adiapodoumé. Congratulations!

Vicariate of the Holy Land

Under the protection of the apostle ►

On September 21, feast of St. Matthew, the ceremony of admission to the novitiate took place in Bethlehem for Firmin-Evasié, Joseph and Abib, with their novice master, Fr Jacky Moura. During this ceremony some articles of the Rule of

Life, concerning formation, were read out and the text of the "Spiritual Doctrine" was handed to the novices. May our prayers support them!

Vicariate of Argentina-Uruguay

At the Regional Home House ► On September 8th, as a tribute to Fr Gaspar Fernández Pérez, the Superior General, the communities of Buenos Aires, La Plata, Rosario, Martín Coronado, Adrogué and Barracas gathered in the Regional House.



They prayed together the Morning Prayer, in the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, as a thanksgiving on the anniversary of the approval of the Congregation by The Holy See. Each community brought a candle in front of the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of the light received during the day. Then Fr Gaspar introduced the theme of the day "From the Heart of Christ to the Heart of the World", before a time of sharing. After that, the groups of the Vicariate, presented the different projects and they underlined the need of working through the internet. Most of the religious present shared with Fr Gaspar about their daily experience in the pastoral ministry.

Vicariate of Paraguay

Towards the youth ► On September 8-9, the vocation promotion team (Fr Crispin, Br Sixto, Fr Alberto and Br Osmar

the 150th anniversary of his death. The Superior General. Fr Gaspar Fernandez Perez, and the Regional Superior, Fr Gustavo Agin, will share this experience with the youth.

From 23rd to 28th July in the second part of the trip to Brazil they will participate in the WYD in **Rio de Janeiro** with the Holy Father, Benedict XVI and all the other young people from the whole wide world.

3. Further information on participation at this Congregational and Church event (cost, inscriptions) will be sent to Regional / Vicariate Superiors by an official letter from the Superior General, so that they can pass on the information to all the communities.

4. It is obvious that the local community is principal actor in the promotion of this experience. We pray



that each religious will be aware of the responsibility which is his to pass on the information, to encourage the young and not abandon them to their own devices, but by accompanying them and finding within themselves the means and resources to make their participation possible.

The route is now open! Goodbye and see you soon in Brazil!

Graziano Sala, scj

Note from the General Council: Next Congregation Meetings

Council of the Congregation . From January 21 to 27, 2013: The Superior General, the General Council and the Regional Superiors.

The Formation Team . From January 28 to 31, 2013: Frs. Laurent Bacho, Sylvain Dansou Hounkpatin, Guido García, Chan Kunu, Gianluca Limonta, Jacky Moura ; Fr Simone Panzeri and Fr Stervin Selvadass have also been invited to take part in this meeting.

Team for the Recyclage Session in 2015 . From February 1st to 6th 2013: Frs Jacky Moura, Gustavo Agin, Andrew Ferris, Gianluca Limonta and Graziano Sala.

In memoriam

On September 16 **Mrs Donatella Pesenti** died after a short period of illness. She had been for almost 20 years the housekeeper in a Betharram community in charge of the Shrine "Our Lady of Caravina" (Italy). She was a lay betharramite, member of the "invisible monastery" and she supported our missions. We entrust her to the Risen Lord.

On September 21, after a short period of illness, **Mrs Maria Sala**, aged 87, died at Desio (Italy). She was mother of Br Angelo Sala scj, of the community Saint Michael at Bouar (Central African Republic). We express our sympathy to Br Angelo and his family and we entrust his dear mother to the Lord.

Felix peregrinatio... throughout the Betharramite Thailand

IN A RECENT VISIT TO THAILAND FR. DOMINIC INNAMORATI WAS WELCOMED INTO THE FORMATION HOUSE OF SAMPRAN. WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN FORMATION, HE SHARED A REFLECTION ON SAINT MICHAEL AND ON VOCATION HISTORY OF EACH ONE.

It was a privilege to see the developments in our Mission since my last visit in 2005.

At the new seminary in Sampran of Ban Garicoits I met 17 hard working and dedicated students under the direction of Fr Jirapat and visited the former house of Bam Betharram now a Junior Seminary of about 30 students under the direction of Fathers Subancha and Hiran. Instead of living and studying at St Josephs, they now cycle there just for classes.

From Chiang Mai I experienced some of the life and work in our parishes and missions. At Phayao there are about 20 junior candidates preparing to go to the Minor Seminary in Bangkok looked after by Fr Viravit who is on his own, but helped by the Sister Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, co-founded by Fr Paillas, a former General. Travelling further North there is at Ban Pong, a most impressive work begun and run by Fr Pensa, the Holy Family Centre which provides education and training in tailoring skills such as dressmaking and embroidering etc for girls and young women. Amid the beautiful mountains, fruit and teak plantations, one can see the workshops, assembly

hall, classrooms, dormitories, and priests house amid the lawns and flowers surrounded by rich vegetation; there one feels a sense of peace and industry. One soon notices the caring and family atmosphere, and the pride of the 200 girls from the Ahka tribe not only from Thailand but even Burma or Myanmar in being part of this welcoming Centre.

On the feast of the Assumption I arrived at Mephon founded about 50 years ago by the venerated Fr Seguinotte as the first training centre for catechists in Thailand. My arrival for the Patronal feast of the Assumption saw hundreds Karens in tribal dress with priests, sisters and students processing through the trees and beside the streams to the Church for Mass. Fr Suthon asked me to present the first communion certificates. Many of our priests and orders of Sisters had come to celebrate this joyful and prayerful Mass which concluded with a feast of Thai food for all amid the gardens and trees.

To experience life in a mountain mission I was driven to Huay Tong where I was welcomed by Fathers Chayot and Chokde. Two things surprised me; the altitude of the Parish and the hard work

Father José María RUIZ

Rivera, 7th July 1930 ~ Montevideo, 11th September 2012

Our brother, Fr Jose Maria Ruiz, returned to the Father's house on 11th September 2012. He was born 7th July 1930 in Rivera, a town north of Uruguay. From the age of nine, in Montevideo, he accepted the invitation to be a Betharramite priest and religious. His vocation matured at the Apostolicat at Barracas, in the Novitiate and Scholasticat at Adrogué. He was ordained priest in 1954, but in order to celebrate his first Mass at Montevideo he had to go via Asuncion for the frontier between Argentina and Uruguay was closed. The first years of his ministry were spent at the San Jose College in Buenos Aires, where he taught literature after his diplomas. Soon afterwards he was named Director of the college of the Immaculate Conception, Montevideo, a post he held for five years. He was then appointed to be in charge of the Parish of the "Basques". He assured the same mission at Atlantida; he finished at Montevideo in 2008, the year in which sickness prevented him from assuming any other activity.



Enrique Gavel, scj

FRIENDLY PORTRAIT

Fr. Jose Maria Ruiz was mad about books. Every day he used to go to the book shop of the St Paul Sisters – as though it were a magic experience, there to admire the novelties. He could spend hours there, looking for a hidden treasure; then he would come back home leaving a few pesos behind or maybe a debt to be paid later. Thanks to this "felix culpa" of his the community library was the richer for all the theology books, literature, and support materiel for catechists and for the animation of youth groups. He wasn't just satisfied with buying books, he was a reader also! He could always be seen with a book in his hands. Sitting in a corner he would spend hours with Leonardo Boff, Juan Luis Segundo, Etty Hillesum or Edith Stein, Casaldaliga, St John of the

Cross and Cafrune (the Argentinean singer-composer of folk music) and plenty others besides. He was widely read but this didn't take from the simplicity of his preaching. He used to say "The homily is only two little tales and a conjunction." This is why he had great affection for Mamerto Menapace (prior of the monastery Los Toldos, writer) and was inspired by him for all his activities: catechism, meetings with the youth, community discussions. He had a happy disposition, a smile for everyone, a reflection or joke to make for more laughter. During community meals he would tell of his exploits and happy occasions, of the people and Fathers he had known. He used to enjoy teasing Fr Talamillo (a Spanish Betharramite with a lively spirit) **Continues on p. 13 ►**

country? - In Brazil the whole Church is aware of the importance of the WYD. It is going to be a golden opportunity of being aware that the presence of the youth must be more meaningful, warmer and more committed in the Church and in society. Every Brazilian diocese is already launched in the event by greeting the Cross of the Young with the image of Our Lady by way of preparation for the occasion.

To be faithful to the graces of the WYD, the dioceses suggest meetings and vigils as a preparation in the parishes and especially for the youth. A week's mission to precede the meeting with the Pope is being organised. The youth from abroad will be welcomed at this mission which will be based on three basic themes: prayer, solidarity and culture.

As a religious community are you involved in this project? - Of course, we are! Our commitment goes in the direction of the initiatives taken by the archdiocese which has already organised the event. In the parish we have already started inviting the young and it is widely discussed in meetings of religious, in parish councils, and other groups.

At present you community is accompanying an aspirant. This is a big responsibility; does it demand greater efforts for Vocational Pastoral?

- The Vicariate of Brazil is actually undergoing an important reform. Until last year Paulinia was the formation house for aspirants of which Fr Paulo Vital was director. From next year in the new project for the Vicariate the aspirants will be housed in Passa Quatro.

Strictly speaking there is no formation house for aspirants this year. But we have an aspirant:

Leonardo Ferreira, who for the moment is living with us. Our commitment to vocations consists in helping in his formation.

Since last April, Paulinia and Vila Matilde (at San Paulo) constitute a single community. How did you organise things so as to make sure of your community life? - Actually we are focusing on our community life in Paulinia where we are three: Fr Aurelio Riva, Fr Gilberto Ortellado and Leonardo Ferreira, a aspirant. We have decided this year to live together in the seminary (last year a Father was living at the seminary with the aspirants, and those working in the parish were living in the parochial house.) For those of us living in Paulinia our community times are: Morning Prayer, meal times, meeting to share the Word of God and our life style. Once a month we all, of the whole community, meet at Vila Matilde or maybe here.

What are your plans for the near future? - Our plan is precisely to have the right conditions for a proper religious community with Vila Matilde. We are at the beginning of something new: a community constituted of Fathers serving here at Paulinia and those at Vila Matilde (Fr Wagner, Fr Luiz Henrique, Brother Pedro and Br Victor Torales). We have decided to meet together at least once a month. Little by little we are building our community project and must remember, by the way, on-going formation and sending our accounts to the Vicariate. On this point we have great hopes! We ask the Lord to help us to construct a community which prays, is united, is renewing itself and is missionary, a community which is a sign of the Kingdom of God in the parishes in which we are present.

of priests and Sisters who have to visit numerous settlements in the forests and mountains inaccessible except by narrow and steep tracks through gushing streams. The main mission had an elementary school where we chatted to the teachers all known to Fr Chayot. Walking round the village he stopped at some wooden houses and introduced me to many friendly villagers. Travelling considerable distances was not confined to this Parish but to all others under the care of our Fathers. One cannot but admire the zeal of the first missionaries over 50 years ago who covered vast distances on foot or by horse. Before climbing to Huay Tong we called at the town of Chomtung where Fr Ponchoi and a Brother looked after the Parish, the farm and about 12 teenage boys with the Mephon Sisters whom I found weaving cloth and who looked after the same number of girls. I noticed a Thai boxing ring between the buildings. In the lovely Church is a newly made statue of St Michael Garicoits as a young priest in bronze; the best I have seen.

I suppose I was fortunate in being in Thailand for the Queen's birthday which is also mothers' day. So I saw mothers feted in their families and prayed for in the Seminary. It was a most interesting experience living in the Seminary at Sampram and witnessing the devotion, prayer and hospitality.

I was asked to speak about St Michael as seen through his correspondence on two occasions which I was delighted to



P. Dominic Innamorati, scj

do and to witness the sharing, faith and commitment of these young men. As Fr Tidkam said they are our future.

When I left I had a traditional farewell with speeches by the one of the Brothers and the Superior and a presentation of flowers. I saw the all-embracing love of the Sacred Heart in so many aspects of the dedicated mission of both priests and brother students in their eagerness to go forth into the future where Vietnam, Burma and China beckoned. Ecce Venio!

Dominic Innamorati, scj

... the community of Paulinia - Brazil

IN THIS ISSUE WE CONTINUE THE PRESENTATION OF THE DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES OF THE CONGREGATION. IT IS NOW THE TURN OF THE COMMUNITIES OF PAULINIA AND VILA MATILDE IN SÃO PAULO: SINCE LAST APRIL THEY FORM ONE COMMUNITY. THE RELIGIOUS WERE READY TO ANSWER OUR "CHALLENGING" QUESTIONS AND THEY CAME UP WITH ANSWERS NOT TURNED TOWARDS THE PAST BUT SHOWING THEIR COURAGE TO FACE THE FUTURE ...



Fr. Gilberto, Leonardo and Fr. Aurelio

Nef: How did Betharram come to be in Paulinia?

- "The wind blows wherever it pleases; you hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going." (John 3, 8). It was during one of those movements of the Spirit that the General Council, during its meeting in January 1983, named as Vice-Provincial for a second mandate Fr Joseph Mirande. At the same time the novitiate community was installed in Paulinia. The first Betharramite religious to arrive in Paulinia was Fr Paulo Vital, with the seminarians Helio and Paulinho. On 22nd January 1983 they rented a house in the town centre. Those early years were hard. But the local population, the parish priest of the

Sacred Heart Parish and the Daughters of the Cross were very generous and helped us a great deal. Some time later the town council gave us a present of a piece of land in the quarter called "flamboyant" where the seminary was built. Eventually the Parish of Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch was constructed at the same time as the Parish Hall and in 1992 came the construction of the church. That briefly is the story of Betharram at Paulinia.

Formation was therefore at the origin of that foundation?

- Right from the start the Vice-Province wanted to open a novitiate. It was obvious that situated near such an important

town as was Campinas, Paulinia was a special spot for formation and it is still that today. Later on, with the opening of the Parish of Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch, our field of activity grew.

Paulinia is a modern town with all its vices and virtues?

- Of course it is a modern town seeing that it is only 45 years old. Already it has a population of 90 000 and continues to grow; new quarters are developing here and there, as well as residential quarters which are very characteristic of our town. It is a town where you will find the poor, the rich and the wealthy. Here you have Petrobras (the largest oil refinery in Brazil) and several other petro-chemical industries. Drug and alcohol related problems which destroy lives and families are to be found in the suburbs!

The Parish of Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch is recent too?

- Yes it is. It was opened in the Archdiocese of Campinas in 2001. There are six communities of which the principal church is "Our Lady of the Beautiful Branch". It is a city parish marked by many religions and consumerism which is typical of people living in mixed towns. It is sunk in the reality of people employed by Petrobras and the petro-chemical industries and in the reality of drug trafficking but also in family situations and the youth.

How can a community spirit overcome the division of the parish?

- We try to make our parishioners understand that the parish is the community of communities according to Church teaching and according to the Pastoral Project for the Church in Brazil. Consequently, the faithful with their leaders and the Pastoral superiors in each community know that they

are working not only for their own community but also for the entire parish. This is being clearly understood here in Brazil, thanks to the contributions and reflexions from the documents from Aparecida.



Yours is a very large parish; are you not afraid of being scattered?

- That cannot easily happen; we always meet for meals, for coffee breaks, for moments of relaxation or to watch TV and, of course, at prayer times. We exchange a lot on our religious life, on our experiences as well as on our Pastoral activities. We don't feel that we are scattered!

Do you get much support from the lay people?

- Thank God, the laity here is well organised, united and available. Religious services are well attended. By nature and by mentality the Brazilian people are very religious. The laity helps us greatly in our mission and ministry. They are a constant and lively presence in the life of the parish.

Recently you hosted a meeting of Betharramite laity from the entire Vicariate!

- Yes, we did! But all the religious of the Vicariate collaborated in this meeting! Some of them directly by suggesting topics or by organising the meeting; others indirectly by their prayers or by making sure that the laity from their community were able to attend. We are sure that it was a grace-filled moment and we think that this is how all our Brethren saw it.

In 2013 Brazil is going to host the World Youth Days; what does this mean for the youth of this