

## In the Foot Steps of St. Michael

Michael Garicoits was a Basque, from the French region of the Pyrenees. He was born on the 15th April 1797 in the hamlet of Ibarre. Michael was ordained a priest on the 20 December 1823 and was appointed curate at Cambo not far from Bayonne.

It is interesting to note that while Michael was still studying for the priesthood the Bishop asked him to teach at the junior Seminary at Larressore. Here St. Michael was very much loved by the pupils and staff at the seminary. So it was not surprising that after two years as curate at Cambo Fr. Michael was sent to Betharram to teach Philosophy. Betharram situated at the foothills of the Pyrenees, is an ancient shrine of Our Lady.

When in 1833 the Bishop closed his seminary at Betharram Fr. Michael was left to care for the shrine and its many pilgrims. This all owed Michael to fulfill his dream, to start a congregation of Priests and Brothers. The task of this congregation, which was dedicated to the Sacred Heart, was to evangelize the people through missions and to teach the young a Christian way of life. The ideal Fr. Michael placed before his Congregation was the very programme of the Sacred Heart: When entering this world, He said "Here i am, Oh god to do Your will"(Heb. 10:5-7).

Betharram is eight miles from Lourdes and is situated on the same river. "When Fr. Michael learnt the details of the apparitions from Bernadette he immediately recognized their reality. This is in contrast to most Bishops and priests of the area who did not recognize the apparitions for long time. Despite his personal certainty Fr. Michael remained discreet and prudent. He did not go on pilgrimage to Lourdes until the Bishop recognized the apparitions on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1862.

Did Michael's understanding of Our Blessed Lady's designs at Lourdes come from his great love and devotion to Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother? Many times during the day Fr. Michael could be seen saying a decade or so of the rosary. St. Michael died on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1863 at 3 o'clock in the morning. This was the time he used to start his day by saying the whole rosary of Our Blessed Lady.

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Word From the  
Regional Superior

St. Michael Information Link

# SMILE

Face 1

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Smile 1



NEWS BULLETIN OF  
SACRED HEART VICARIATE OF INDIA

The  
Faith  
fullness  
of  
Christ  
and  
the  
Faith  
fullness  
of  
the  
Priest

Pope.  
Benedict XVI

## BORN TO SERVE

A deacon is someone who serves. He fulfils in a special way the example of Jesus who said that 'the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve'. At the last supper Jesus gave compelling witness to this by washing the feet of his disciples.

It is not fashionable among people today to want to be called a servant; they would much rather be called 'boss' or 'leader'. But it is in service that we find our true destiny, and realize our calling. God put us on this earth to serve our brothers and sisters, with all our talents and all our energy. In doing this we build up his kingdom here on earth.

A deacon does this by serving God's people with his attentiveness to the poor and the weak, by making it easier for them to know god's love and mercy. He serves with his explanation of the scriptures, with his attention to the sick and with his liturgical ministry.

But in the family of Betharram there is an additional dimension. It is part of our family spirit or charism to be close to the needy, however defined. And a deacon in the family of Betharram will always remember this. St. Michael our founder never stopped being a servant of those on the edges, right to the end of his life, and even if one of our deacons were one day to become a pope he would never cease to be a servant.

May god fill our new deacons with a true spirit of service.

Fr. Austin SCJ

## Mission News

Betharram has a World wide mission around the world. In India we have began our Mission work in the North East Region of India, especially in Assam. Fr. Shaju is entrusted with this mission.

Bros. Jesu Raj, Yesu Dass and Rojo do their Regency in the North East along with MSFS Fathers.

We too have taken up the 'Tuition' (Evening Classes) for the poor children in Jyothi Nagar. Bro. Valan and Livin do their best service along with our junior brothers. Last month they had organised Health Camp and Educational Camp for the same.

Our Fathers and brothers go to the various Parishes for their mission, not only that but also we do the social mission in the Old Age Home, Among the AIDS patients and working with Jesus Youth.

Our novices Bro. Bistis, Antony and Jacob do their ministry in Ramamurthy Nagar Slum in Bangalore. They too take evening classes for the poor and desolate children.

## Desk of the Editor

Dear Friends in the Heart of Jesus,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. They were not extra ordinary people rather we are ordinary people who have done the will of God in an extra ordinary way. This was possible for them only because they allowed themselves "TO BE A PENCIL" in the hand of the Lord. Dear friends, PENCIL has three main functions; (i) It has to be sharpened (ii) It has to leave itself in the hands of the other in order to be useful (iii) It has to imprint its mark on the object. If these three functions are not fulfilled, then it is no more called to be a pencil.

In the same way, this little leaflet/newsletter comes to sharpen our missionary thrust, creative mind, communion among the community members, our commitment and dedication. It also functions as a bridge between the members of the congregation and the lay Betharramite friends to know each other better and to put ourselves at the service of one another. It is done only to show that we are just in this world to imprint the gospel values as the mark of Christ's disciple. When these three functions are fulfilled, then I am sure that we achieve the purpose of this newsletter. Let us support each other in whatever way we can so that we reap the purpose of it in its fullness.

I am happy to head this editorial team and I thank Bro. Arul and Bro. Livin for their hard work in making this newsletter a reality today.

May the good God bless you all

Fr. Stervin S Fernando scj.

## Betharram A Banyan Tree

The seed of Betharramite Charism sown in the cardiac of St. Michael, the Holy Spirit displayed itself to the world in 1835, when the first community was formed in Betharram with just Six members. Charism by essence is Charismatic and never static, So too the Betharram. The members of this Beautiful branch have spread across the countries contributing in the profound mission of the church in a tranquil manner.

In India too, there were just handful of brothers, when Betharram opened its first door in Bangalore and in Mangalore in 1995 and 1999 respectively. Today, it has become a Banyan Tree to be reckoned: 7 Priests, 3 Deacons and a dozen brothers in formation.

Betharram is poor, small, simple yet beautiful, because it is what Jesus is. Despite this, the Sacred Heart of Jesus was richer than the Universe itself, so too the Heart of Betharram. Because Betharramite has the very programme of the Heart of Jesus. The Banyan of Betharram is pregnant with richness of Charism, personnel, disponibility and altermess for spiritual operation. Any such braced daring bird can always hover over it, make the nest in it but only to fly in the sky of dynamic missions of the Branch.

## Vicariate Calender

Nov. 1. Ordination to Diaconate to Bros. Valan, Subesh, Britto.

Dec. 10. Vicar's visit to North East of India

20. Ashram Experience of Our Novices in Mysore.

30. Arrival of Fr. Austin and Bro. Andrew

and General assembly of Indian Vicariate in Bangalore

**Priesthood is the  
Love of the Heart of Jesus**

Maria Vianny

