

DAYS TO REMEMBER - JULY

Birthdays

04. Fr. Enrico

14. Fr. Edwin

21. Fr. George Antony

26. Fr. John Britto

Ordination anniversary

25. Fr. Sathish

25. Fr. Jude

Congregation Feast

28. Feast of Our Mother of Betharram



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SOCIETAS SACRATISSIMI CORDIS JESU *Betharram*

ST. MICHAEL INFORMATION LINK

SMILE

SACRED HEART VICARIATE - INDIA

01.07.18

OUR MOTHER OF BETHARRAM

At the shrine of Our Lady of Betharram, Saint Michael Garicoits received inspiration to found a new religious institute. Like him we shall find in the Virgin Mary a wonderful model of a life consecrated to God, *“always disposed to do what God wanted and willing to submit to all God did”*.

(Rule of Life 12)



Our Lady of Betharram, France (1503)

The Abbot Orsini wrote: “Our Lady of Betharram, in the diocese of Lescar, in the province of Bearn. This image was found, in the year 1503, by some shepherds, who, seeing an extraordinary light on the spot where the high altar of the chapel now stands, came up to it, and found there an image of Our Lady, for which they had a chapel built immediately.”

More commonly known as the Shrine of Betharram, it is located only 15 kilometers from the more famous Marian shrine at Lourdes. It used to be a very popular pilgrimage destination, as according to Saint Vincent de Paul, Betharram was once the second most popular place of pilgrimage in France. The river Gave, beside which the shrine is located, is the same river whose waters flow past Lourdes.

The shrine of Our Lady of Betharram is famous for no less than three miracles attributed to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

According to tradition, one day in 1503 there were some shepherds leading their flocks along the bank of the river Gave when they suddenly observed an extremely bright light coming from the rocks. When they drew nearer, they found a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin. Learning of the incident, the people in the nearby village of Lestelle decided to construct a chapel to house the statue. Due to space limitations, the chapel was initially planned for the opposite bank from where the statue had been found. Once the statue was placed there, however, they found that it would always return on its own to the other side of the river where it had originally been found. The faithful then understood that the Blessed Virgin desired that the chapel should be built where the statue had been found, and so it happened.

The next miracles occurred in the year 1616 when some peasants from the village of Montaut were returning home from the fields at the end of the day. A rushing storm suddenly appeared, with fierce winds that threatened Betharram. In fact, the laborers saw that there was a cyclone in the storm that beat against the great wooden cross that had been erected at the summit. The cross fell, but then was encircled by a radiant aura of dazzling light before standing again of its own to its former position.

The third miracle is the one after which the shrine is named. Apparently a young girl fell headfirst into the river when trying to pluck a flower along the bank. The water runs fast and deep in this area, and the girl was on the verge of drowning when she cried aloud to Our Lady of Betharram of the nearby shrine. The Blessed Virgin appeared standing on the bank holding the Divine Infant, who held a branch which he extended to rescue the girl. She offered a golden branch to the shrine as an ex-voto offering. A beautiful branch is 'Betharram' in the local dialect, and thus became the name of the shrine.

There were many other miracles, as at one point between the years 1620 and 1642 there were 82 documented miracles involving the blind who received their sight, the paralyzed who regained the use of the limbs, and those instantly cured of cancer, among other miracles.

Saint Bernadette Soubirous frequently visited the shrine of Betharram. In fact, the rosary beads that Bernadette used when praying with the Blessed Virgin during the first apparition at Lourdes had come from the Betharram shrine, and the priest that she was sent to after the apparitions was Saint Michel Garicoits, the priest of Betharram. He it was who alone believed Bernadette's accounts of the apparitions at Lourdes. He was canonized in 1947.



with the superior. Training is primarily oriented in line with our charism and we are extremely happy to see how these young men respond to their call faithfully and their openness to the timely corrections and guidelines. A disciplined lifestyle and various spiritual exercises help our candidates to keep the spirit of *En Avant*.

VICARIATE AT GLANCE

- MARIA KRIPA BEGAN THE ACADEMIC YEAR
- TIPTUR PARISH CELEBRATED THEIR ANNUAL FEAST DEDICATED TO MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
- FR. STERVIN AND DECAONS REEGAN AND SHAMON HAVE GONE TO FRANCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SESSION.
- SACRED HEART FEAST WAS CELEBRATED IN ALL THE COMMUNITIES.
- NEW ARCH BISHOP REV. PETER MACHADO VISITED SOOSEPALAYA PARISH
- ANNUAL RETREAT WAS CONDUCTED FOR THE PRISONERS IN SIMULAGURI
- ANNUL FEAST WAS CELEBRATED IN RAYAPURAM PARISH CHENNAI DEDICATED TO ST. PETER.

men, and who, in the face of these difficulties, know how to be humble, to live and to die. "(DS § 302). Brother Michael was a good friend and was available to everyone in everything, a perfect model of an elder brother. I knew that he is watching on our Indian mission from above because we stand on his sweat which he had shed for us. Though I felt sad at his departure, touching on his footprint strengthens me to walk ahead.

Fr. Shaju Kalappurakkal SCJ

Shobhana Shaakha—Bangalore

Shobhana Shakha Community of Bangalore started its academic year 2018-2019 on June 5th with seven philosophy students and a novice. The details of the candidates as below;

	Name of the Candidate	Stages of Formation
1	Budu Murmuru (Emmanuel)	First Year Philosophy
2	David A	First Year Philosophy
3	Josemon Antu	First Year Philosophy
4	Le Ngoc Son	First Year Philosophy
5	Pham Gia Dung	First Year Philosophy
6	Tran Van Hong	First Year Philosophy
7	Nguyen Van Thang	Second Year Philosophy
8	Stephen R	Second Year Novitiate

The community is happy and blessed to have a candidates from different parts of India and abroad. The Shobhana Shakha community is more conducive to Multilingual, Multicultural and Multinationality; therefore our brothers experience a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. During this academic year our brothers get acquainted with the philosophical studies along with a concrete realities of life; for that purpose, they will have an experience of community life with a specific commitments to their individual and collective responsibilities as their initial apostolate. Their formation and training will be closely examined in consultation

The cross on the summit that the winds could not destroy was finally destroyed by the folly of man during the French Revolution. The property was unlawfully confiscated and the chaplains expelled.

Saint Pope Pius X was known to be devoted to Our Lady of Betharram. He offered her two magnificent golden crowns made up of branches woven together. This prayer accompanying the inscription stated: "May the Son and His Mother accept our gifts and by appeasing our hopes and desires may they keep for us one day the crown of glory which none can tarnish."

St. Thomas the Apostle of India

St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. His birth and death dates are unknown, but his feast day is celebrated July 3. He lived before the formal establishment of the Catholic Church but is recognized as the patron saint of architects.

He was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities.



At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

St. Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."

Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in

Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side. After verifying the wounds were true, St. Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus.

St. Thomas is also mentioned as being present at another Resurrection appearance of Jesus - at Lake Tiberias, when a miraculous catch of fish occurred.

This is all that we know about St. Thomas from the New Testament. Tradition says that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost this saint was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas."



According to tradition, Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck Thomas instead. Following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa while the rest were kept in what is now known as India. They can still be found within the San Thome Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India.

The relics taken to Edessa were moved in 1258 to Italy, where they can be found in the Cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy. However, it is believed that Saint Thomas' skull rests in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian on the Greek Island Patmos.

In art, Saint Thomas is commonly depicted as a young man holding a scroll, or as a young adult touching the resurrected Christ's wounds.

Saint Thomas was mentioned in several texts, including one document called *The Passing of Mary*, which claims then-apostle Thomas was the only one to witness the Assumption of Mary into heaven, while the other apostles were transported to Jerusalem to witness her death.

While the other apostles were with Mary, Thomas was left in India until after her first burial, when he was transported to her tomb and he saw her bodily assumption into heaven, when her girdle was left behind.

In versions of the story, the other apostles doubted Thomas' words until Mary's tomb was discovered to be empty with the exception of her girdle. Thomas and the girdle were often depicted in medieval and early Renaissance art.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BR. MICHAEL

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty (Ps: 91;1) is the image from the bible that comes to my mind when I remember about the great Rev. Bro. Michael Richards SCJ, the pioneer of Indian mission. My memory goes back to when I had met him in 1995 at Shobhana Shaakha. We used to call him as a 'tall brother' who walked with smile on his face and tools in his hand. Even though I had a chance to live with him only one year, it was a memorable year working with him in different fields and moving everywhere. The art of cooking and maintenance of building and farm, etc... are some of the key areas where brother Michael shared his expertise with everyone. Once he said to me, "It is our land and a new venture, take care of it always".



He was part of every activity, in the farm, construction and taking care of inmates and accompanied us as an elder brother. I was privileged to accompany with him in certain areas and learned a lot in spite of a short time in Shobhana Shaakha. People used to call him as a 'smiling brother' who were seen everywhere. It was very difficult for me to understand his language at the initial time but later he became a close associate in the course of time. Though he was fully engaged in construction and developments of the new mission house Shobhana Shaakha, he accommodated everyone without any misunderstanding or provocation. I was surprised to notice in him the way that he was mingling with the local people and getting things done in a good manner.

My last contact was with him in 2004 September at Olton Friary before I returned to India at the time of the completion of my pastoral year. He spent some moments with me and was so enthusiastic about the Indian mission and its progress. St. Michael Garicoits told us: "Who are those who do good in a community? Generous souls, disposed to pursue the divine work despite a thousand obstacles; who expect to find there, not angels, but men appearing as men and acting like