Écho Montfortain

2023



Yearbook of the Company of Mary
(Montfort Missionaries)

No. 555

ÉCHO MONTFORTAIN 2023 no. 555
Yearbook of the Company of Mary (Montfort Missionaries)

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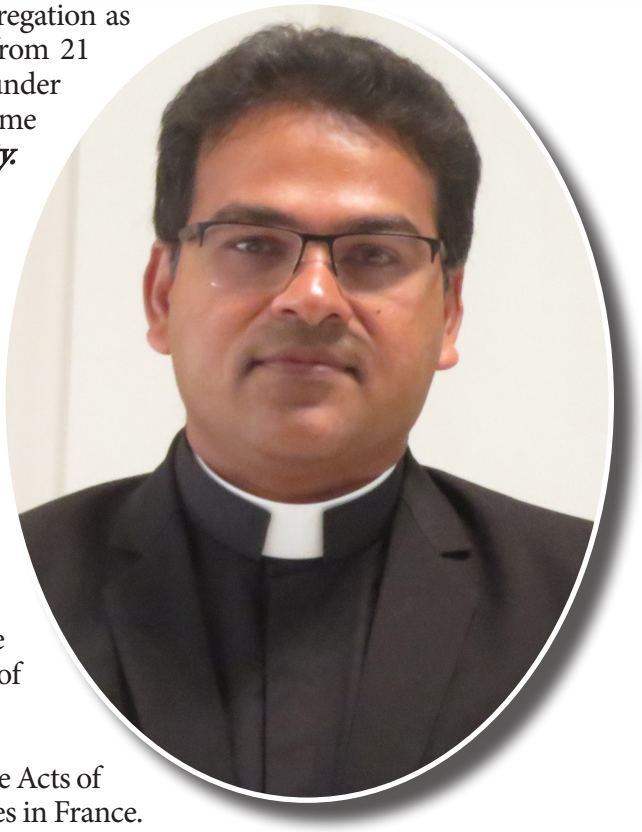
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Editorial

Joji Antony Paul KALARICKAL, SMM



The year 2023 has been very significant in the life of the Congregation as we had the 38th General Chapter. It has witnessed confreres from 21 countries across the globe, across generations, across cultures under one roof at the Retreat House of Passionist Fathers with the theme ***Dare to take risks for God and for humanity, our creative fidelity.*** It was a good mixture of old and young confreres. The average age of the capitulants was 53 years, one of the youngest in recent decades. After prayer and discernment on 9th May 2023 witnessed one of the most important moments of the Chapter. Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM was elected as the 24th Successor of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. In his first message to the congregation, he recalled the prayer that our Founder recited: "Gather us in from every nation. Bring us together and unite us and may all the glory be given to your holy and mighty name" (PM 18).

Écho Montfortain 2023 No. 555 (EM23) focuses on the General Chapter and the presentation of the new General Council. This edition offers five articles from the General Curia and the interview with the new Superior General. Vision and mission of each Commission are brought forth in this publication.

Apart from the Chronicles of the 38th General Chapter, it gives the Acts of the General Chapter and the document on the Montfortian places in France. The message of the Holy Father Pope Francis at the end of General Chapter 2023 adds novelty to this journal. We have eight articles on the anniversary section. 350 years of the birth of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort and the international meeting of Montfort associates in France.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of our Congregation in India. Besides the message from the Superior General and Vice Provincial, a brief history of Montfort Missionaries in India is also given. Interview with one of the founding fathers, Fr. Mario BELOTTI, SMM, from the Province of Italy and the different activities of the Jubilee carried out during the golden jubilee year are provided. Besides the official news and nominations, the statistics of the Congregation and the bibliographies are presented.

We remember nine of our beloved confreres who have gone before us to the eternal abode in this calendar year. Reading through their lives is truly an inspiration how God has made them fruitful to build His kingdom. Each one of them has contributed in different capacities wherever they ministered in the spirit of our Holy Virgin Mary and our blessed Founder. We commend them to the Merciful Father for the reward that he promised.

"Let yourselves be enveloped by her maternal embrace, and with the same tenderness, embrace one another. This will help you and the people you encounter to bring out and share the best of yourselves, and in the light of said sharing, to discern what the Lord asks of you for your future. Therefore, if you want to be brave and creative, make Mary's tenderness yours and give it to everyone, always! But tenderness is not a sweet to be bought; tenderness is sweet, but it is strong. Having a tender heart indicates strength in the heart to become tender. Do not forget that tenderness is one of God's three traits. God is close, tender and compassionate. Tenderness, compassion and closeness. Do the examination of conscience with this: "Today, was I close or did I defend myself a little? Was I compassionate or did I condemn half the world? Was I tender?". Uphold these three traits of God: closeness, compassion and tenderness." *(Message of Pope Francis to the participants of the General Chapter of the Company of Mary on 20 May 2023)*

I would really appreciate dear confreres, in giving your suggestions and feedback on this edition 2023. I wish and pray that the EM23 may inform and inspire our confreres about the vibrant growth of this little Company which is formed by the Holy Spirit for the reign of Jesus through the arms of our Blessed Mother.

Interview with the Superior General

Prem KUMAR, SMM

1. What is your first reaction as Superior General of the Company of Mary?

My first reaction as Superior General was to feel unworthy, unqualified and to feel apprehensive. These feelings arose when I started thinking of the role and responsibilities of the Superior General. Constitution no. 224 says: "Since the beginning of the foundation, the Superior General of the Company of Mary has been expressly seen by the institute of the Daughters of Wisdom and the Company of Mary as the legitimate successor of the Founder, Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort." I said to myself: "Who am I? I am just a person who is still struggling to live the footsteps of our Founder and now chosen as his legitimate successor." I feel that I am still far away from St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. However, to be chosen as "a legitimate successor of the Founder" is not a status or a title that I searched for, but it is a call given by God through the process of election, marked by the ambience of prayer. I did not promote myself or campaign to become a Superior General. I do believe that my election as the Superior General is God's entrusted mission given to me. When I ponder the role and responsibility in the light of God's call, I find serenity within me. I do believe that if God calls me for a mission, He will journey with me and will qualify me with some means to help me. Together with our Founder, I dare to say: "I have a Father in Heaven who never fails me" (letter 2) and Mother Mary who is always faithful supporting and taking care of me.

As the successor of the Founder, my role and responsibility is to accompany the Congregation to remain faithful to the charism of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort and to his spiritual heritage. This responsibility is first of all addressed to me as a person. It is a call to deepen my Identity as a Montfortian and to let myself to be formed by the charism and the spiritual heritage of our Founder.

2. What are the important aspects of the Congregation that you think need to be addressed during these six years?

In May 2023, we did successfully our 38th general chapter. According to our Constitution no. 236, the general chapter is the supreme extraordinary authority in the Congregation that gives orientations and necessary norms to which all must submit. The 38th general chapter has given us orientations for our life and mission as Montfortians through the Acts of the Chapter. The document of the Acts of the 38th General Chapter is the fruit of discernment, participation and communion for our life and mission as Montfortians. Therefore, it is important for us to read, re-read, ponder and implement in our respective places and missions. There are five important aspects that should animate each one of us, namely 1) identity: dare to be formed like Christ in the school of Mary; 2) evangelization: dare to incarnate the Good News; 3) transmission of Charism: dare to live and transmit together the fruitfulness of the Montfortian charism; 4) ongoing-formation: dare to encounter Christ in personal conversion and service, and 5) cultural-planning: dare to work together. If all of us as Montfortians, young and old dare to enter into the same dynamic oriented by the acts of the chapter, then I do believe we are able to do something great for God and for humanity. Our Greatness does not lie in the great physical projects we create and execute or in the huge number of membership, but in our courage to live out our identity personally and communally so that we are able to give a living evangelical witness to others. That is why our Founder says:

> *Fear not, little flock, because it has pleased your Father to bestow a kingdom on you"* (Lk. 12:32). *Fear not, although, humanly … You are only a little flock … Listen to Jesus Christ who tells you: 'It is I, do not be afraid. It is I who have chosen you'… But it is not enough to be just unafraid. God wants you to hope for great things from him and to be filled with joy by reason of this hope. … He has made you his kings and priests by the Christian faith and the priestly ordination he has conferred on you, and your voluntary poverty gives you an additional right to be called kings, for blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (Matt. 5:3). *Our Lord does not merely promise the kingdom of heaven in the future but states that, because you are poor in*

spirit, you possess it now. (Letter to the members of the Company of Mary no 1, 2, 5)

In fact, the acts of the chapter bring us back to our very identity as Montfortian; to the desire of our Founder to be *"Liberos" – "Totus Tuus" – "poor in Spirit".* Therefore, our Montfortian mission and life is not a professional gain or achievement, but a call, a way of life – a living evangelical witness.

3. What are the challenges that need to be addressed immediately in the company of Mary?

The five elements: identity, evangelization, transmission, ongoing-formation and cultural planning, mentioned in the acts of the chapter are for me the immediate challenges that we need to respond. When we ponder deeply, all 5 elements speak of one thing: how to live our identity as a consecrated person in the spirit of creative fidelity. In other words, how to live our consecrated life radically today. To be radical is to be like the roots that always freely seek the source of life. If our roots are always connected to the Source of Life and the source of our calling, we will be able to remain faithful to bear fruit in any situation, even in difficult situations. Just like what the prophet Jeremiah said: "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" (Jeremiah. 17: 7-8). Pope Francis, in his message to the capitulants and the Montfortian families reminds us that facing all challenges (individualism, relativism, hedonism, consumerism), Saint Louis-Marie left us a plan of life and action that is always up-to-date: to seek, to contemplate, to reveal Wisdom in the heart of the world and to denounce false wisdom" by following Mary's example and with her help (*Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Montfort Missionaries Participating in their 38th General Chapter on 20 May 2023*). The challenge for us is how to live this plan of life and action left by our Founder everyday of our life. This plan of life, I do believe, is a means for us that leads us to live our creative fidelity – our Liberos. That is why the acts of the chapter no. 17.7 says: "Ensure, in each entity, that each confrere could take time for his own spiritual renewal. Each confrere is invited to invest in community prayer and take at least 1 hour of personal prayer each day." Our life and mission should



become a witness of *"confessio Trinitatis", "signum fraternitatis" and "servitium caritatis".*

4. What do you expect from the members of the Congregation during this time?

I do expect each member of the congregation is able to implement the acts of the chapter according to his respective situations personally and communally. It would be good also to implement the spirit of the acts of the Chapter of 2023 in the light of the spirit of synodality, marked by three important aspects, namely communion, participation and mission. Besides, I was touched by the sharing of Pope Francis in our meeting recently (the meeting of Pope Francis with the USG and UISG on November 23, 2023). In his sharing, he mentioned two aspects of the Church, namely the Petrine aspect and the Marian aspect. According to him, the Petrine (masculine) aspect of the Church is too much emphasized today and we need to balance it with the Marian aspect (feminine aspect of the Church), by looking at the Church as mother like Mary. He mentioned Hans-Urs von Balthasar, great philosopher and theologian, when he spoke of these two aspects of the Church. I was really touched because I saw that St. Montfort has left us the

precious spiritual teachings that help us to exercise and to live this Marian aspect, particularly when St. Montfort spoke of the interior practices of the true devotion to our lady. St. Montfort said:

> *… here are some very sanctifying interior practices for those souls who feel called by the Holy Spirit to a high degree of perfection. They may be expressed in four words, doing everything through Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary, in order to do it more perfectly through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus, and for Jesus* (TD 257 and see TD 258 - 265).

The sharing of Pope Francis is, for me, an invitation or a call to exercise and live the interior practices left by our Founder. That is why at the end of the meeting, when I shook his hand, I told him: *"Grazie Santo Padre, sono stato davvero toccato dalla sua condivisione, sottolineando in particolare l'importanza dell'aspetto mariano della Chiesa, perché io appartengo alla compagnia di Maria".* I said to myself: "this is what we offer and contribute for the Church", namely presenting Mary in our way of living and doing mission. As Montfortians, it is not enough if we just teach or promote to the people about consecration, rosary, Mariology, it is important, but not enough. We need to take risk to go deeper by exercising the interior practices suggested by our founder in our given responsibility and in our daily life. For example, as a leader such as Superior in all levels, parish priest or pastor, we need to exercise our responsibility like Mary who is humble, inclusive, caring, listening etc… Balthasar said: *"Senza la mariologia il cristianesimo minaccia di disumanirzarsi inavvertitamente. La Chiesa diventa funzionalista, senz'anima, una fabbrica febrile incapace di sosta, dispersa in rumorosi progetti"* (*in Maria, Terra del Cielo, p 1066*). Let us dare to be formed like Christ in the school of Mary.

5. Do you have any message to those persons who follow our spirituality? Especially the Montfort associates, spiritual groups and other lay groups who follow the Montfortian Spirituality?

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to those who let their lives touched, inspired and formed by our spirituality. Their desire to satisfy their longing for God, through following and deepening our spirituality is a sign that our spirituality is a precious treasure for the people of God, the Church. For our founder, the goal of our spiritual quest is to live our fundamental call for holiness that we received from our baptism. That is why St. Montfort said clearly in the Secret of Mary:

> *Chosen soul, living image of God …, God wants you to become holy like him in this life, and glorious like him in the next. It is certain that growth in the holiness of God is your vocation. All your thoughts, words, actions, everything you suffer or undertake must lead you towards that end. Otherwise, you are resisting God in not doing the work for which he created you and for which he is even now keeping you in being.* (SM 3)

St. Montfort did not want our spiritual quest closed to our own self. What he wanted was to share the joy that we live with others. Paraphrasing the evangelical Beatitudes, St. Montfort said: "Blessed are those who understand these eternal truths. Still more blessed are those who believe them. Most blessed of all are those who believe them, put them into practice and teach them to others" (LEW 153). For me, the 3 important aspects, emphasized in the Synodality, namely communion, participation and mission are indeed well emphasized in St. Montfort's spirituality. The ultimate goal of St. Montfort's spirituality is to bring about the reign of Jesus in and through Mary. Let us journey together to bring about the reign of Jesus in and through Mary who lives in us.

6. Will you comment on the new missions in the Congregation?

The previous administration decided to open new missions in Mexico and Vietnam. The General Chapter of 2023 has mandated the superior general and his team to accompany these two new missions. I would like to share a little bit about these two new missions of the Congregation.

Mexico – the diocese of Ecatepec: We work in the diocese of Ecatepec, in St. Martin de Porres parish. The local ordinary, Bishop Oscar Roberto is very friendly and supportive in our mission. The people, particularly the parishioners are also very supportive and open. I have not visited Ecatepec yet, but Fr. Jesùs CUCHO, my council member, has visited and stayed in the parish for some time. The mission is very interesting and also challenging. The very challenging aspect now is personnel. Since October 2023, Fr. Jose-Luis Sandoval is working there. To help him, we have asked some confreres to stay with him for certain period of time, for example, one month

or three months. For our confreres who have showed their availability to help this mission, I want to thank you for your openness and also to thank the superiors of the entities who have supported this mission such as the provinces of Italy, Colombia and Haiti, and the Peru-Brazil delegation. Considering the situation of Fr. Jose-Luis – his age and his health, we do hope that in the beginning of next year or even before Easter 2024, we are able to create a new team for this mission. Therefore, I want to beg you, all superiors of the entities to collaborate in this mission by sending missionaries because we are really in need.

Vietnam: We started our mission in Vietnam by sending two confreres, namely Fathers Laurensius GAFUR (Laurens) from Indonesia and Lester from the Philippines in the middle of January 2023. Fr. Laurens GAFUR left for Vietnam on January 20, 2023 and Fr. Lester BONETE joined him a week after. They were welcomed by the Salesians fathers and brothers in the youth center at Saigon. Their first objectives are to learn the language and to get to know the situation well. After five months staying in Vietnam, in June 2023, Fr. Lester asked to return for good to the Philippines because he saw that the challenges were too big for him as a new ordained priest. Thanks to the Philippines who sent Fr. Ronald BARUELA as a replacement of Fr. Lester in November 2023. Fr. Ronald is now learning the language and Fr. Laurens, while continuing learning the language, has started to involve in Legion of Mary. They are using tourist visa. Consequently, every month or every 3 months, they have to leave the country and to re-enter. Fortunately, Cambodia is not far from Vietnam. Fr. Laurent has done few times to renew his tourist visa in the border between Vietnam and Cambodia.

From 22 – 28 August 2023, I, accompanied by Fr. Antonius TENSI, SMM, Provincial superior of Indonesia, visited Vietnam. I met with the bishop of the archdiocese of Saigon and visited some international communities of other congregations, such as Combonian community, SCJ novitiate community, Capucine community and two sisters' community. In our meeting with the bishop, he emphasized two things: "to work in Vietnam, you have to learn the language and to start welcoming the candidates." Besides, he also encouraged us to be involved in accompanying the Legion of Mary. That is why Fr. Laurens is now involved in accompanying the Legion of Mary. In each community that I visited I found candidates in their community. In the youth center where our two confreres are staying, the rector of the community told me that we can approach their students to make vocational promotion to them. He even invited me to share with them on the basketball court, after the rosary prayer to share about our congregation. In terms of the candidates, I see that there is a future for us in Vietnam. Fr. Laurens, with the help of a Salesian brother, made a brochure in Vietnamese to introduce our congregation to the young people. He recently participated in the vocational promotion gathering to attract and to invite young people to join us.

Observing the manifestation of faith of the people, I have seen the deep manifestation of faith. They are very faithful, prayerful, and generous. In my recent communication with Fr. Laurens, after discussing with brothers and sisters from other congregation, he proposed to start to stay in a rented house so that they can be more responsible and autonomous and ready to welcome young people to have a kind of *come and see program*. As of now, the Salesian community does not charge anything to them. They are really very generous and very accommodating. Staying in a rented house will be the next step that we need to take. I am proposing them to start to do it in June 2024 so that they have enough time to discern and to find the very safe place to stay. The safe place and ambience are very important to start a new beginning of our community. Briefly, I can say that though there are some challenges, our confreres are eager to continue our mission, renewing the faith of the people in Vietnam.

7. Do you have any plans for the mission in the Congregation?

My plan for our missions is empowering and strengthening them. I would like to invite all our missionaries to give sense of Montfortian life in our respective mission. Let us live and do our mission in accordance to our Identity as Montfortians. St. Montfort, our founder, left us precious treasures that serve as spiritual and pastoral means that can help us and the people of God to renew their spirit of Christianism. Let us together search, reflect and develop these treasures in accordance to our respective mission.

I do hope that the spirit of taking risk for God and for humanity: creative fidelity animates each one of us that brings renewal in our way of living personally, communally and in doing our mission. May our Mother Mary guide and protect us.



GENERAL CURIA

Official News and Nominations

from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Professions & Ordinations

First Professions

On 2 February 2023, in Analamalotra, Madagascar : Nirina Lucien RASOLONJATOVO.

On 31 May 2023, in Ruteng, Indonesia : Adrianus MORE, Agustinus Rudi Andre EFENDI, Dominikus Sryakus LARGUS, Edelbertus ENGGO, Edward Ariyavan Shailent DHEI, Emanuel FETO, Marianus Muda KERAY, Martinus De Pores WENDOS, Oswaldus GADU, Petronius TIBO, Philipus BAANG, Vitus Apriliandro PAN, Yonesmus Rikardus TURUT, Yosep Mariano Sebipor RIBERU.

On 31 May 2023, in Kanathi, India : Martino BIDDIKA, Teja KOMMU.

On 29 June 2023, in Paipa, Colombia : Diego Alexander CASTAÑO GAVIRIA (CO), Jean Marie CELESTIN (HT), Vitor GALVANIN ARAUJO (BR).

On 6 August 2023, in Mbarara, Uganda : Chancy MTERERA (MW), Charles IRAGENA (UG).

On 27 August 2023, in Kinshasa, Congo RD : Vincent TABUKU SAMAFU (CD), Yannick Siméon MUKOMO QUIRINIUS (CD), Gilchrist Jofred WEMWGAH (TG), Steeve Marie-Alfred NZIMBU LEMBADIKANI (CD), Guellord-Philippe EWANE DEDE (CD), Justin MAOMBI MIKINDO (CD), Tresor KASEREKA MUKITO (CD).

On 8 September 2023, in Analamalotra, Madagascar : Jean Roger RANDRIAMIANDRISOA, Lalao Rico Adelin RAZANAMPARANY.

On 8 September 2023, in Turgeau, Port-au-Prince, Haiti : Edner ELIAZAR, Jean Peterson PAUL, Olson MILLIEN, Sandy ETIENNE.

On 24 September 2023, in Santeramo in Colle, Italy : Alessandro AGRICOLA, Damian SLAWOMIR LULA, Mikolaj Maksymilian GOCEK.

Perpetual Professions

On 3 January 2023, in Bangalore, India : Anthony Peter HRUDAYARAJ, Prakash MARSHAL HORO, Martin SELVANAYAGAM.

On 17 February 2023, in Kisangani, Congo RD : Claude DISA MUTUNZI.

On 14 July 2023, in Balaka, Malawi : Amos Hope MAKINA, Alex MUHWEZI.

On 15 August 2023, in Malang, Indonesia : Lambertus Bernardus DONI, Ferdinandus NGAMBUT, Marianus NICHANDRA CEHA, David RABIM SEDA, Gregorius AVI, Fransiskus SAILTUS BEMBID.

On 8 September 2023, in Turgeau, Port-au-Prince, Haiti : Wildy DERVAL, Marc Kenry JASMIN, Ducano PIERRE.

On 27 October 2023, in Rome, Italy : Antonio BETTONI.

On 8 December 2023, in Kumbakonam, TN, India : Arokiya Jaya Ruban SEBASTIAN.

Diaconate Ordinations

On 4 January 2023, in Bangalore, India : Anthony Peter HRUDAYARAJ, Prakash MARSHAL HORO, Martin SELVANAYAGAM.

On 19 February 2023, in Kisangani, Congo RD : Claude DISA MUTUNZI.

On 27 April 2023, in Malang, Indonesia : Daniel DAGUR, Agustinus ASMAN, Hyronimus DOMINGGUS ARIO, Dominikus SIONG.

On 15 July 2023, in Balaka, Malawi : Amos Hope MAKINA, Alex MUHWEZI.

On 15 September 2023, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti : Wildy DERVAL, Marc Kenry JASMIN, Ducano PIERRE.

On 29 October 2023, in Rome, Italy : Antonio BETTONI.

On 9 December 2023, in S. Pudur, India : Arokiya Jaya Ruban SEBASTIAN.

Priestly Ordinations

On 14 January 2023, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti : Gilo MOISE, John PHILIPPE, Alex JEAN-PIERRE, Ekenley JEAN NOEL.

On 19 February 2023, in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo : Charles MUMBERE KIPUTSU.

On 1 April 2023, in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France : Eric MANIRAKIZA (BI).

On 15 April 2023, in Minglanila, Philippines : Armel COLLANTES, Samuel GONZALES.

On 27 April 2023, in Malang, Indonesia : Mathias Jebaru ADON.

On 29 July 2023, in Chipata, Zambia : Willson Masauso TEMBO.

On 15 August 2023, in Salazamay, Madagascar : Claude Aimé TOVOMALALA, Heriniaina Alain Frédéric RANDRIANASOLO.

On 8 September 2023, in Buna, Democratic Republic of Congo : Claude DISA MUTUNZI.

On 16 October 2023, in Ruteng, Indonesia : Daniel DAGUR, Agustinus ASMAN, Hyronimus DOMINGGUS ARIO.

On 23 November 2023, in Sintang, Indonesia : Dominikus SIONG.

On 26 November 2023, in Bangalore, India : Anthony Peter HRUDAYARAJ, Martin SELVANAYAGAM.

At the level of the General Administration

GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE COMPANY OF MARY: Rome, 1-21 MAY 2023
NEW GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
On 09 May 2023, the 53 Capitulants of the General Chapter of the Company of Mary have elected **Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM**, from the Province of Indonesia, as new Superior General.

On 16 May 2023, the Capitulants have elected the four General Assistants: **Father Marco PASINATO, SMM**, from the Province of Italy, **Father Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI, SMM**, from the General Delegation of Peru-Brazil, **Father Lonely Paul MASHONGA, SMM**, from the General Delegation of Anglophone Africa, **Father Prem KUMAR, SMM**, from the Vice Province of India.

On 18 May 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council (*Constitution, 229*), designated **Father Marco PASINATO, SMM**, as Vicar General.

Responsibilities:

	CONTINENTS	COMMISSIONS
Fr. Marco PASINATO	Europe	Formation
Fr. Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI	South America Mexico, Haiti	Spirituality, Montfortian Association
Fr. Lonely Paul MASHONGA	Africa, Madagascar North America	Mission, Evangelization
Fr. Prem KUMAR	Asia, Oceania	Communication, Justice and Peace

NOMINATION OF THE NEW PROCURATOR GENERAL
On 25 September 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed **Father Luigi GRITTI, SMM**, as the new Procurator General of the Congregation. His mandate is effective starting from 1st December 2023.

The Superior General and the Council are particularly grateful to the outgoing Procurator General, Father Balaswamy KATA, SMM, for the services rendered to the Congregation.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS AND VULNERABLE PERSONS
On 25 September 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council has appointed **Father Luigi GRITTI, SMM**, as the Contact Person for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons of the Congregation. His mandate is effective starting from 1st December 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE LAY ASSOCIATES

On 25 September 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed **Father Arnold SUHARDI, SMM**, as the Contact Person for the Lay Associates of the Congregation.

NOMINATION OF THE GENERAL BURSAR

On 14 December 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, and in conformity with our Constitutions (*Montfortian Today, 232*), has appointed **Father Balaswamy KATA, SMM**, as General Bursar of the Company of Mary, for a second mandate.

NOMINATION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

On 14 December 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, and in conformity with our Constitutions (*Montfortian Today, 232*), has appointed **Father Joji Antony Paul KALARICKAL, SMM**, as General Secretary of the Company of Mary, for a second mandate.

NOMINATION OF THE SUPERIOR AND VICE-SUPERIOR OF THE COMMUNITY AT THE GENERAL HOUSE

On 22 December 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, named **Father Joji Antony Paul KALARICKAL, SMM**, as Superior of the community for a second mandate and **Father Luigi GRITTI, SMM**, as Vice-Superior of the community at the General House, Rome.

At the level of the Entities

NEW ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROVINCE OF ITALY

On 5 January 2023, the Chapter of Province of Italy, in the presence of Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General, has elected **Father Angelo SORTI, SMM**, as Superior of the Province of Italy, and two of the four Provincial Councillors: **Father Luigi COLLEONI, SMM** and **Father Gianangelo MAFFIOLETTI, SMM**.

Father Angelo SORTI, SMM, Superior of the Province of Italy, in accordance with the Provincial Statutes, appointed the other two Provincial Councillors:
Father Domenico SEMINARA, SMM and **Father Giuseppe DAMINELLI, SMM**.

NEW ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF PERU-BRAZIL

On 26 January 2023, Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed **Father José Angel JULCAHUANCA PARIATÓN, SMM**, as Superior of the General Delegation of Peru-Brazil, for a second mandate of three-years.

The Councillors are: **Father Jesu Doss RAYAPPAN, SMM, Father Luis SALVADOR AVILA, SMM, Father Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI, SMM, Father Adner VIENA INUMA, SMM.**

APPOINTMENT OF THE CONTACT PERSON IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ATTACHED TO THE GENERALATE

On 3 July 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed **Father Richard MAGARARU, SMM**, as Contact Person in Great Britain and Ireland, the Local Community attached to the Generalate.

NEW COUNCILLOR OF THE VICE-PROVINCE OF INDIA

On 5 July 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed **Father Gnana Prakash DEEPCHANDRU, SMM**, as Councillor of the Vice-Province of India, replacing Father Prem KUMAR, SMM.

NEW ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF GERMANY

On 5 July 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed **Father Gerd-Willi BERGERS, SMM**, as Superior of the General Delegation of Germany, for a second mandate of three years.

The Councillors are: **Father Francis Xavier ANTONY, SMM**, and **Brother Johannes BOSSMANN, SMM**. The mandate of the new administration is effective from 1st September 2023.

NEW ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

On 3 October 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council (*Constitutions, 215*), has appointed **Father Jacob Ombidi OTIENO, SMM**, as Superior of the General Delegation of Anglophone Africa, for a mandate of three years.

The Councillors are: **Father Samuel Paul SATIELE, SMM, Father David NIWAGABA, SMM,** and **Father Peter Alinafe MAKINA, SMM**. The mandate of the new administration is effective starting from 18 October 2023.

NEW COUNCILLOR OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF PERU-BRAZIL

On 5 October 2023, Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, has appointed **Father Giovanni BIGONI, SMM**, as Councillor of the General Delegation of Peru-Brazil, replacing Father Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI, SMM.

At the level of Formation Houses and Missions

CLOSURE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE MONTFORTIAN MISSION IN SPAIN

On 4 January 2023, after having examined the request of Father Paulin RAMANANDRAIBE, SMM, Superior of the Vice-Province of France, Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, (*Constitutions, 171 and 249-250; Canon 638 § 3*), authorizes the closure of the Community of Torrejon de Ardoz and the Montfortian Mission in Spain.

ERECTION OF THE HOUSE OF THE SPECIAL NOVITIATE OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF PERU-BRAZIL AND APPOINTMENT OF THE NOVICE MASTER

On 23 March 2023, Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council and by virtue of the powers attributed to him by Law (*cf. Constitutions, 142*), erected the House of the Special Novitiate of the General Delegation of Peru-Brazil at Jiron Pacasamyo 566, Lima, Peru and authorized the beginning of the Novitiate on 25 March 2023 for the duration of one canonical year.

On 23 March 2023, Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General, with the consent of his Council (*Constitutions, 145*), appointed **Father Giovanni BIGONI, SMM**, as Master of Novices at the House of the Special Novitiate of Jirón Pacasmayo 566, Lima, Peru.

NEW NOVICE MASTER FOR THE NOVITIATE OF THE VICE-PROVINCE OF INDIA

On 28 April 2023, Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General, in accordance with our Constitutions (*Constitutions, 145*), and with the consent of his Council, named **Father Judis Valan JEROME, SMM**, as Novice Master for the Novitiate of the Vice-Province of India. This nomination is effective starting from 30 May 2023.

At the level of the Holy See

PLENARY INDULGENCE DECREE: 20 JULY 2023 - 20 JULY 2024

On 14 July 2023, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants the Plenary Indulgence from 20 July 2023 to 20 July 2024, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Canonisation of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort (*Decree, Prot. N. 02098/2023-390/23/I*):

"The Apostolic Penitentiary, to increase the piety of the faithful and the salvation of souls, by virtue of the faculties granted in a very special way by God the Father Most Holy in Christ our Lord, to Francis, Pope by Divine Providence, paying attention to the explicit requests made above by the Reverend Fr. Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General of the Company of Mary of Montfort, on the occasion of the solemn celebrations in honor of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, which will take place from 20 July 2023 to 20 July 2024, from the heavenly treasures of the Church, this Apostolic Penitentiary graciously grants the Plenary Indulgence, obtainable under the usual conditions (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff). Indulgence that can be extended to the Associates and other lay faithful who are truly repentant and inflamed by charity; indulgence that they can likewise apply for suffrage of the souls of the faithful in Purgatory, by also visiting any church of the said Congregation in the form of a pilgrimage and there devotedly taking part in the jubilee rites or at least applying themselves for a suitable period of time to pious meditations, and concluding with the recitation of the Our Father, the Symbol of Faith (Creed) and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort.

The elderly and all the infirm, who are unable to leave their homes for a serious cause, can likewise gain the Indulgence, provided their spirit be detached from all sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as they can, the three usual conditions, if they are spiritually united in the jubilee celebrations in front of some sacred image and offer to merciful God their prayers and pains or the hardships of their lives. Therefore, where access to divine forgiveness through the keys of the Church becomes easier for pastoral charity, this Penitentiary vigorously requests that the priests of the Company of Mary of Montfort, with a solicitous and generous heart, offer themselves to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and to frequently administer Holy Communion to the sick. This Decree is in force this time only. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary."

APPOINTMENT AS NEW PATRIARCH OF LISBON, PORTUGAL

On 10 August 2023, **Monsignor Rui Manuel SOUSA VALÉRIO, SMM**, former Bishop of the Diocese of the Armed and Security Forces of Portugal, was appointed as the new Patriarch of Lisbon by His Holiness Pope Francis.

Presentation of the General Council

Joji Antony Paul KALARICKAL, SMM

General Chapter 2023 saw a new team, with the mix of expertise and youthfulness, contemplative yet dynamic, working together in the footsteps of the poor apostles as our beloved Founder Father de Montfort wished to take forward the mandate that he had left behind. Led by Rev. Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM (Indonesia), the team comprises of Fr. Marco PASINATO, SMM (Italy), the Vicar general, Fr. Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI, SMM (Peru-Brazil), Fr. Lonely Paul MASHONGA, SMM (Anglophone Africa) and Fr. Prem KUMAR, SMM (India). Below is the Curriculum vitae of each confrere, reading through each of them will definitely help one to have better knowledge of the General Administration. God's blessings to the entire team!



Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM was born in Jakarta, Central Java, Indonesia on 16 July 1970. He pronounced his first vows on 15 August 1992 and was ordained on 21 June 1998. He speaks Bahasa Indonesian, English, French and Italian. He has been involved in the following ministries :

- 1997 - 1998 : Diaconate ministry at Immaculate Virgin Mary Parish, Putussibau, Indonesia
- 1998 - 1999 : International Montfortian Institute
- 1999 - 2000 : Socius at the SMM novitiate in Bandung, Indonesia
- 2000 - 2004 : Licentiate in the Institute of Religious Life in Asia, Manila, Philippines
- 2004 - 2009 : Novice Master of the SMM novitiate in Ruteng, Indonesia
- 2009 - 2011 : Superior of the SMM Indonesia
- 2011 - 2017 : General Assistant of the SMM
- 2017 - 2020 : On-going Formation at the Institute of the Integral Human Formation of Montreal, Canada
- 2020 - 2023 : Rector of the SMM Scholasticate, Indonesia
- 9 May 2023 : Elected as the 23rd Superior General of the Company of Mary

Fr. Marco PASINATO, SMM



was born on 21 October 1966 in Vigasio - Verona, Italy. He made his first profession on 5 October 1986 and his final vows on 12 October 1991. He was ordained priest on 4 April 1992. Italian is his mother tongue, but he also speaks French, English, Spanish and a little Croatian. He holds a licentiate in Biblical theology from the Gregorian University in Rome (1993) and a Diploma in Psychology from the school of formators affiliated to the Gregorian University, Rome (2004).

As a young priest, he was appointed vicar of St. M. Kolbe Parish in Rome (1992-1993) and in August 1993, he moved to Verona where he worked as animator for vocations and pastoral care for Youth. Simultaneously, he was teaching the Bible at the Diocesan Seminary and Institute of Religious Science (1994-1999). In 1999, he was nominated as Superior and formator of the Scholasticate in Rome (1999-2005). He was then retransferred to Verona as the person-in-charge for Postulancy (2005-2008).

In 2009, he was one of the participants at the International Montfortian Institute (IMI). In Sept 2009, he began in Paris the Formation Year for the Responsible persons of Novitiate (AFRN) and was nominated Novice Master for the International French Speaking Novitiate in Montfort-sur-Meu from 2010 to 2017.

He was elected as provincial Councillor of Italy (2000-2006) and France (2011-2017). He participated in the General Chapter of 2005 as a Delegate of Italy and in the General Chapter of 2011 and 2017 as a Delegate of France, when he was elected as one of the General Assistants. Being confirmed as one of the General Assistants during the last General Chapter 2023, he was appointed Vicar General. In the general administration, he is responsible for the Montfortian Entities in Europe and the Director for the Commission of Formation.

Fr. Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI, SMM



was born on 14 March 1973 in Lima, Perú. He made his first profession on 20 July 1996, his final vows on 12 November 2000 and was ordained priest on 07 September 2002. His mother tongue is Spanish and he speaks Portuguese, a little English and he understands Italian and French. After his ordination, he was a vicar of St. Andrew Parish, Huaycán, Lima, Perú (2003-2006). He was the vocation promoter of the Peru-Brazil delegation.

In 2007, he participated in the international missionary experience in the USA. He was sent to Sao Paulo, Brazil (2008-2011) to accompany as president of the "Sitio Agar" project, a home for children and adolescents without families and who were born with HIV. In 2012-2016, he was

vicar of St. Andrew Parish, Huaycán, Lima, Peru. In 2012, working in the mission, he began his studies in psychology at the U.I.G.V. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology in 2015. In 2017, he holds a licentiate in clinical psychology from the same university.

In 2012-2023, he began a service as spiritual director and formator of the priests of Rachel's vineyard retreats, to accompany people who have lived an abortion experience. In 2018- 2021, he was sent vicar of the parish "The Visitation of Our Lady" for work with youth ministry, the sacrament of confirmation, the liturgy, and the ministers of the Eucharist. In 2018-2020, he worked as an educational psychologist in the care of students and parents at St. Joseph of Cluny School. In 2018-2023, he was sent as chaplain of the maximum-security women's prison in Lima. In 2019-2023, he began his service as director of the Montfortian spirituality center in Lima and the "Maria" bookstore, visiting the parishes for the preparation for the consecration to Jesus for Mary. In 2020-2023, he was elected counselor of the Peru-Brazil general delegation.

In 2019-2023, he was called by the Archbishopric of Lima to accompany the seminarians of the Archbishopric of Lima as a psychologist. He also accompanied, as a psychologist, some religious communities with group work and individual therapy. In 2020-2023, he was elected coordinator of the spirituality dimension of COORLAC and he was elected advisor for youth ministry, deanery II, of the archdiocese of Lima. In 2020, he began his master's studies in marriage and family psychology at U.P. University and graduated in 2022. In 2022-2023, he worked as an educational psychologist in the care of students and parents in Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey School.

In 2023, he was elected counselor of the Peru-Brazil general delegation. As a General Councillor, he is now in charge of the Montfortian Entities in Latin America & Caribbean and in charge of the Commission on Spirituality and the Commission on Montfortian Associates.



Fr. Lonely Paul MASHONGA, SMM

was born on 19 September 1977 in Chikwawa District, Malawi. He made his first profession on 15 August 2004, his final vows on 13 December 2008 and was ordained priest on 18 July 2009. His mother tongue is Chichewa and speaks English.

He was appointed in charge of Vocation Promotion and Pre-postulancy from September 2008 till August 2013. Later, he was appointed as the formator of Postulancy from 2013 to April 2015. While being a formator of postulants, he taught African Philosophy, African Traditional Religion, and Oriental Religions at Inter-Congregational Seminary (ICS),

now called Inter-Congregational Institute in Balaka, Malawi. He served at Sitima Parish as curate and later acting Parish Priest from 2009 to October 2011. Fr. Lonely Paul did his Licentiate in Spirituality and Religious Formation at Tangaza University College in Kenya from 2016 to 2018.

In April 2015, he was asked to join the International Novitiate in Manila, Philippines where after one year, he was called back to Africa to be the Formator of the English International Scholasticate in Nairobi, Kenya from 2016 to 2019. In October 2018, he was elected as the Superior of the Anglophone Africa General Delegation and was re-elected for the second term in October 2021. From November 2021, he served as a Parish Priest of St. Louis Montfort Balaka Parish in Malawi until September 2023 when due to the new appointment as a General Councillor during the General Chapter of May 2023 had to move to Rome.

Fr. Lonely Paul is in charge of the Montfortian Entities in Africa and Madagascar, North America and Canada, and the Director of the Commission on Mission.

Fr. Prem KUMAR, SMM



was born on 28 December 1977 in Mysore, India. He made his first profession on 31 May 2000, his perpetual profession on 20 July 2009 and was ordained priest on 14 January 2010. His mother tongue is Kannada, and he speaks English, Italian, Tamil , Telugu and understands Konkani.

He worked in Jesuit mission as vicar of the parish and social work from 2010 to 2013, in the place called Raichur, Karnataka. He worked as vicar of the parish in Mata Sagara, Chikmaglur from 2013 to 2014. He obtained his Masters in Social Work at St. Aloysius college, Mangalore from 2014 to 2016. He worked as the Administrator of Montfort Social service centre in Bangalore from 2016 to 2019. He did his Licentiate in systematic/ dogmatic theology in Gregorian University, Rome from 2019 to 2021.Then, he became the Rector of the Montfort Minor Seminary (Guru mandir) at Mysore and during that time, he also served as the provincial councillor, vocation promoter and communication in charge of the Vice Province of India. While serving as the Rector of the Minor seminary, he was elected as one of the General Assistants.

In the General administration, he is responsible for the Montfortian entities in Asia and Oceania and the Director of the Commissions on Communication and JPIC (Justice and peace).

Presentation of the General Commissions

All Councillors

The General Commissions, appointed by the Superior General, assist the General Council in the implementation of the General Chapter 2023 according to the Document of the Acts (GC23_Acts). They are consultative structures and interconnected in their action. Members will be chosen from among people both confreres and the laity of good reputation and with competence in areas of interest and tasks which are entrusted to the commission. Members may be representative of various geographic areas and cultures.

COMMISSION FOR FORMATION

Responsible:
Fr. Marco PASINATO, SMM

Vision

The Commission for Formation assists the General Council in its task of giving impetus to formation as a "continuous process of personal growth and conversion" (cf. GC23_Acts, 16). In particular, it will contribute in monitoring the formation programs of the Entities, the process of implementing the guidelines of the Ratio Formationis and the process of promulgation of the Local Ratio.

Mission - Activities

1. Monitoring the Ongoing and Initial Formation Programs

The Commission will review and give its feedback or recommendations to the General Council on ongoing formation programs (cf. C 158.2; GC23_Acts, 17.3), including the accompaniment of young confreres (cf. GC23_Acts, 17.4) and initial formation programs of the Entities, sent periodically to the General Administration (cf. C 158.3).

2. Process of Implementing the Ratio Formationis

Ratio II contains norms and guidelines for ongoing and initial formation that must be implemented at all levels of the SMM. The Commission makes itself available to help the General Council in animating this process of implementation at the General level, but also at the Entity level.

3. Process of Promulgation of the Local Ratio

The Ratio promulgated on August 15, 2022 asks each Entity to promulgate a Local Ratio. The Commission will help the General Council in the task of approving the Local Ratio of each Entity (cf. Ratio II, Introduction 3.4):

(1) by preparing "Guidelines for a Local Ratio" to be made available to the Entities.
(2) by examining each draft of the Local Ratio sent to the General Council, giving the General Council its opinion and any corrections to the text or suggestions.

COMMISSION FOR MISSION AND EVANGELIZATION

Responsible:
Fr. Lonely Paul MASHONGA, SMM

Vision

In faithfulness to our Constitutions, and responding to the Acts of the 38th General Chapter, members in the commission for the mission are called upon to dare to take risks for God and for humanity and to dare to incarnate the Good News as we serve the cries of the people today in the different continents and cultures (cf. GC23_Acts, 9).

Montfortians called to go out to meet people, to be with them, to learn from them, to make an analysis of our concrete reality, and to make networking teams among ourselves, with collaborators, local churches, and with other entities (cf. GC23_Acts, 10).

Mission

1. Continuous personal and communal reflection/

interiorization process, putting our apostolates into perspective (RM 60, 62);

2. Authentic way of living the four constitutive and inseparable elements of Montfortian Mission: Evangelization, Mary, Availability, and Acting together (cf. C.63b, RM 65).

Activities

- Analyze how entities are carrying out the mission (their way of accompanying the faithful, hospitality, social and pastoral activities, what means they are using in evangelization, involvement of the laity in mission).

- Encourage, support, and offer guidance to all our confreres and lay faithful with us to live our varied ministries according to the Vision of our Spiritual founder, St. Louis-Marie de Montfort.

SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION

Responsible:
Fr. Luigi GRITTI, SMM

"The Church loves all her children like a loving mother, but cares for all and protects with a special affection those who are smallest and defenseless. This is the duty that Christ himself entrusted to the entire Christian community as a whole. Aware of this, the Church is especially vigilant in protecting children and vulnerable adults." (Francis, As a Loving Mother, 2016).

Vision

A community that works actively to create a safe environment for all, where the dignity of each person is acknowledged, promoted and protected.

Mission – Activities

1. Continue to promote a structural change within the Congregation to foster a consistent culture of care and safeguarding and prevent all types of abuse.

- Assist the Superior General and his council with tasks and challenges that may arise in this area
- Work with entity superiors and confreres to ensure local commitment and responsibility
- Coordinate educational programs at various levels and with various means.

2. Provide expertise and technical support in the following areas:

- Creating and maintaining a safe environment
- Policy development and revision
- Ongoing training of confreres at various levels
- Responding to safeguarding allegations and concerns
- Offering care and support to victims and survivors.

3. Work with the Advisory Board for the assessment of allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct.

COMMISSION FOR SPIRITUALITY AND MONTFORTIAN ASSOCIATES

Responsible:
Fr. Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI, SMM

Vision

The Company of Mary and the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts (AMQAH) are increasingly walking together in deepening the spirituality of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort and in missionary works.

Mission

1. Strengthen and create spaces for relationship, communion and coordination with religious groups and associations that know or wish to know the richness of our spirituality (cf. C 59, 61).

2. Propose at the level of the entire Congregation to organize meetings and training sessions to deepen the richness of our spirituality, which is part of the Montfortian identity. Encourage entities to do the same at the entity level (cf. GC23_Acts, 8.2).

3. Encourage entities to publish, republish and make known the writings of our founder and the documents of our spirituality which help our spiritual growth and the establishment of the reign of Jesus Christ, through Mary, in the Holy Spirit (cf. CG23_Acts, 15.5).

4. Encourage entities to spread with greater commitment and creativity the total consecration to Jesus through Mary, using various methods and means, for example current social media (cf. CG23_Acts, 7).

Activities

- Continue to revise the French version of the "Oeuvres Completes".
- Prepare a manual for preparation for consecration (GC23_Acts, 8.1).
- Assist the General Administration in amending the AMQAH Statutes.
- Assist the International Director of AMQAH in appointing national or regional directors.
- Hold meetings at the international level of Montfort Missionaries, AMQAH directors and associates from each country to talk about Montfortian identity and share about Montfort's charism (cf. GC23_Acts, 8.2; 15.1).
- Request regular reports on formation and missionary activities of each national and regional center of the AMQAH.
- Carry out visits to each national and regional center of the AMQAH.
- Communicate with "Concilium Legionis Mariae" in Dublin.

COMMISSION FOR COMMUNICATION

Responsible:
Fr. Prem KUMAR, SMM

Vision

To help the General Council in its transmission of charism "let us dare to live and transmit together the fruitfulness of the Montfortian charism", a call to appropriate our charism in a typical lifestyle, inter-cultural and inter-generational witness so vivid that impacts the life of the people (cf. GC23_Acts, 13).

Mission

1. The commission for communication will use the means of communication to transmit our charism in the congregation (cf. GC23_Acts, 15.1).

2. Communication commission which has the office at the general house builds the relationship between the entities and shares the uniqueness of our Montfortian missionary life, culture, traditions and spirituality in order to be more effective in our living as Montfortian and to show our creative fidelity towards humanity.

Activities

- Strengthen the local communication team through the activities and sharing of their experiences of their mission and life while broadcasting their effectiveness in the mission.
- Share the Montfortian heritage to all through the modern way of communication.
- Create app that would give the information and diffuse the Montfortian Spirituality to all targeting the young people who are close to the modern communication.
- Share our work with others and inspire others to be innovative in their mission work.
- Encourage to create local communication system so that we can reach out to all people.
- Encourage to make short video and reels about the Spirituality of the Founder to reach to the young.
- Awareness about sharing the news and views of the confreres and people to whom we render the service.
- Involve the Associates in the communication.

COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & INTEGRATION OF CREATION

Responsible:
Fr. Prem KUMAR, SMM

Vision

We aim to integrate contemplation and action in order to transform the world in the spirit of the gospel through lives that witness justice, peace and care for the integrity of creation. Let us dare to incarnate the Good News (cf. GC23_Acts, 11.4). As Montfortian there is a need to get involved in the social pastoral activities and social organisations to give new life to the commission for justice, peace and integrity of creation in each entity.

Mission

1. We aim to help our confreres and associates to explore and make known the church's call to live the Gospel vision of justice, peace and integrity of creation.

2. We focus on the needs of people who live in extreme situations of need and those who are excluded, marginalized in the places where we serve.

3. The commission helps to promote the *"Laudato si"* action plan, by engaging religious in developing global plans that integrate values of nonviolence in the creation of an integral ecology in each of our entity.

Activities

- Participate in the international programmes of JPIC and update the confreres through the seminars, workshops and activities.
- Establish and strengthen the local entity commissions towards JPIC.
- Participate and empower the local people of our mission work and our lay associates wherever we work.
- Create awareness among the confreres in the entities.
- Introduce the commission and the activities in our website

COMMISSION FOR FINANCES

Responsible:
Fr. Balaswamy KATA, SMM

Vision

Help the Congregation to journey together in communion and in solidarity with one another with a spirit of synodality and co-responsibility.

Mission

1. Assist the General Administration in implementing the decisions of the General Chapter, Extraordinary General Council and the Ordinary General Council on investments and other financial matters.

2. Help the Congregation to move forward financially strong in a spirit of solidarity, accountability and transparency.

3. Accompany the entities to strengthen their financial system.

4. Accompany the entities in the management of their temporal goods towards their self-sufficiency (resource mobilisation) with the help of the local experts.

Activities

- Assist the General Bursar in implementing the decisions of the General Chapter 2023:
  a) Up-date and implement the Directory of the Temporal Goods (cf. GC23_Acts, 19.1);
  b) Prepare statutes for the management of the IMA Fund (cf. GC23_Acts, 19.6a);
  c) Plan financial resources needed for the management of the Congregation for next six years (cf. GC23_Acts, 18).
- Assist the General Bursar in fulfilling his duties, like reviewing of the financial reports and budgets of the entities and offering an accounting program.
- Give suggestions to the General Council on investments, resource mobilisation and other financial matters of the Congregation.
- Plan an ongoing formation for the bursars.
- Link with the Organisations who can help different projects of the Congregation.

Meeting of the three General Administrations of the Montfortian Family

Jean-Marie THIOR, FSG

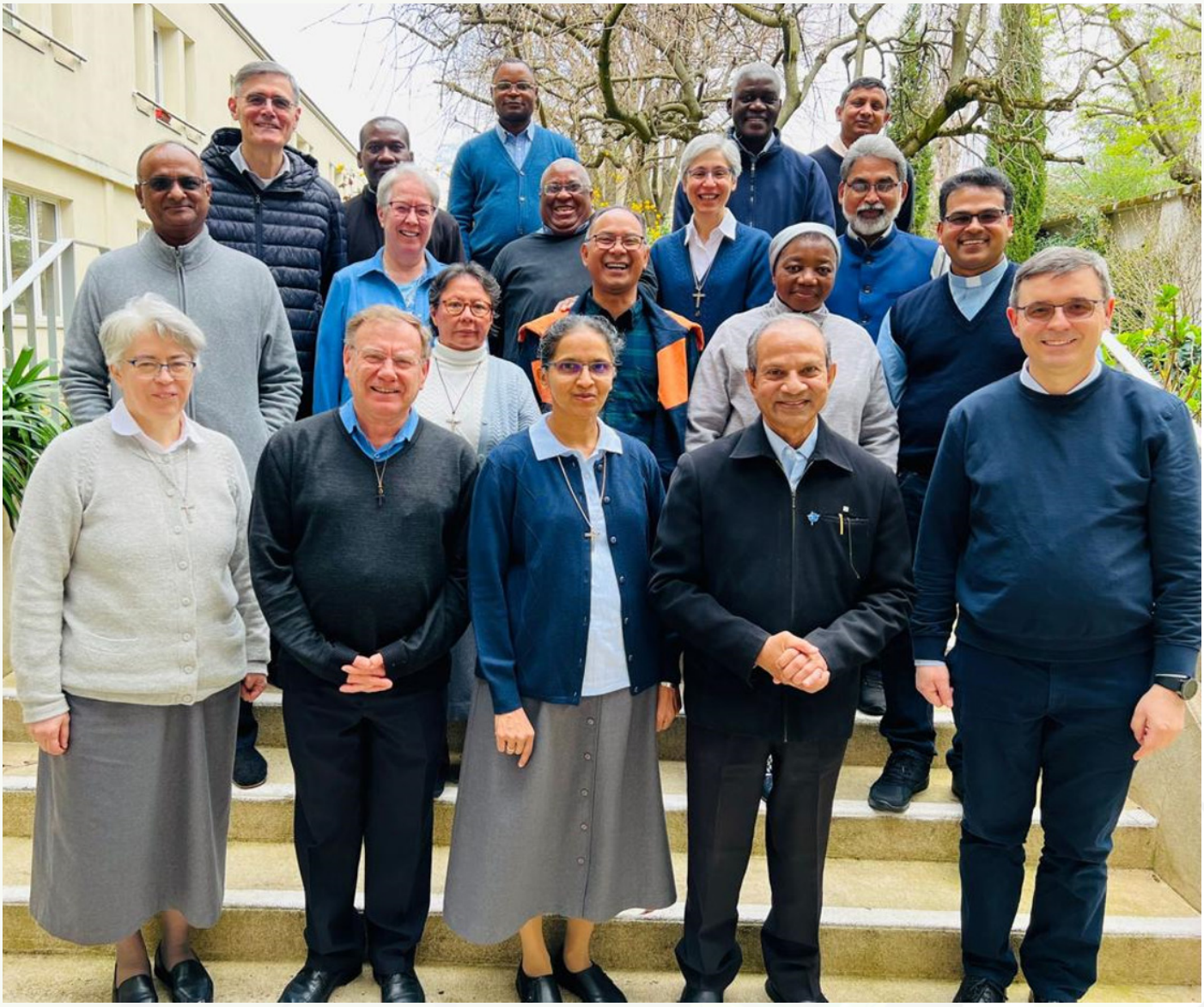
In the language of human resources, it is well-known that for a sense of belonging to develop, there has to be, in the first place, regular contact between individuals, so as to create links. Through these contacts, people share the same reality, common values and sometimes also similar objectives. The traditional annual meeting of the 3 Central Administrations of the Montfortian Family fits in with this logic, as illustrated by the latest edition, which was held from Friday, March 24 to March 26, 2023, in Paris, under the leadership of the Daughters of Wisdom.

After the warm welcome from Sr. Rani KURIAN, Superior General of the Daughters of Wisdom, the verification of the documents and the approval of the Agenda, Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries, and Bro. John KALLARACKAL, Superior General of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, stressed on the importance of the meeting, inviting the participants to deal with the points on the Agenda with a sense of hope, audacity, serenity and abandonment to the Divine Providence.

After these heartening words, the meeting continued in an atmosphere that was both professional and fraternal. Each Congregation in turn presented its progress, the absence of it, its short-term and long-term projects, its challenges and strategies. For the **Daughters of Wisdom**, the sharing focused on the following points: the Process of preparing the Council of Congregation for the Year 2023, the Spirituality Committee, the new Friends of Wisdom Committee, the changes in the Statutes of Malawi and the United States of America. The **Brothers of St. Gabriel** shared news from the Congregation (19th Council of the Institute, Theme of the next General Chapter, new foundations in Sri Lanka and Uganda, Cause for the Beatification of the Spanish Brothers and their Chaplain, presumed martyrs), Circular Letter No. 2 on Partnership, the Spiritual Renewal Session for the French-speaking Brothers, and the Formation Session organized by *Siamo Tutti Fratelli*, the diversified Activities of the Secretariat for Education, the JPIC Conferences in May 2023 at Dakar, Senegal, and in October 2023 in Hyderabad, and the revision of the Rule of Life and the Constitutions. The **Montfort Missionaries** shared about the Preparation of their 38th General Chapter, the Montfortian material and spiritual heritage, the Missionary Projects of La Maison Natale, the Calvary of Pontchâteau, Le Marillais, La Maison-Longue in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, the new foundations in Mexico and Vietnam, the Formation Houses by Language groups, and the various challenges to be met.

Each sharing was followed by a time for varied exchanges, rich in content, with many concrete proposals and multiple objectives: to inform, to make people aware of the realities specific to each Congregation, to widen the space of its tent, but above all to strengthen the links and collaboration within the Montfortian family, particularly in its common Projects such as the Centre of Evangelisation at Le Calvaire in Pontchâteau, La Maison-Longue at St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, the Maison Natale in Montfort-sur-Meu, and so on. All these discussions gave rise to both enthusiasm in view of the convergence of analyses on common subjects, and concern about the limited human and financial resources available to ensure the continuation of the Montfortian presence in France.

During the Eucharistic Celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, all the above-mentioned Projects were brought to prayer in the Chapel of Notre-Dame de la Médaille Miraculeuse, rue du Bac, Paris, a major pilgrimage site which attracts many faithful from all over the world. St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort undoubtedly rejoiced to see his sons and daughters celebrating their Patronal Feast Day at the feet of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, and through her intercession, entrusting their joys and sorrows, their anxieties and concerns to the Lord, because *"nothing is impossible for God"*. (Lk 1:37).



Meeting of the three general administrations of the Montfortian family in Paris, France.

The meeting was extended to the West of France, where time was spent on the Calvaire de Pontchâteau Project, a "radiating Centre of Evangelisation", the fruit of an alliance initiated by the Montfortian Missionaries and the diocese of Nantes, and now involving the pastoral care of two other Montfortian Congregations: The Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of St. Gabriel. A large-scale project punctuated by the sound of the Montfortian trumpet: *"If we don't risk something for God, we don't do anything great for him"* (Montfort, Letter No. 27). Hence, the invitation to the Montfortian family to dare to cross the threshold with discernment, confidence, imagination and generosity, and to allow themselves to be taken on board, and be surprised by this project for the Calvary of Pontchâteau, described as *"an expression of Father de Montfort's genius for nourishing the faith of thousands of Christians, to the point of building together a holy mountain on the plain of La Madeleine. The Calvary of Pontchâteau bears witness to Montfort's missionary drive, full of creativity, organisational skills and zeal under the banner of the cross".* It's an ambitious project, and one that will require a number of bridges to be built and crossed methodically.

A visit to the Way of the Cross, the Calvary, the Church and a festive meal brought the meeting to an end. The warm atmosphere that prevailed all through confirmed the excellent relations existing among the members of the Montfortian Family.

Visit to Vietnam

Antonius TENSI, SMM



A visit to a family of a friend of a Scalabrinian father.

I had the privilege of visiting Vietnam from August 20 to 25, 2023 with Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM, Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries. It was a short but impressive and enriching visit, especially to get to know Vietnam better, understand its mission context, as well as the challenges and opportunities for doing mission there. I am grateful to the SDB community for welcoming us into their community and to Fr. Lorens, SMM who prepared the agenda of the visit. During the four days, we had the opportunity to visit five religious communities, two lay families, met with the Archbishop of Saigon and visited two Marian shrines. Through encounters, dialogues, listening to the sharing of life and mission experiences, listening to the input of those we met, all that really helped us to get to know and understand Vietnam better and ways of doing mission in the country.

We arrived at Ho Chi Min Airport in the afternoon, where Fr. Lorens was waiting for us. After enjoying dinner at one of the cafés, we rushed to the SDB community where we would stay for a few days. Fr. Lorens ordered a ride and we had already gotten into the car but then the poor communication, due to language barrier between the driver and Fr. Lorens, forced the driver to leave us behind and ask us to get out of the car. Finally, we had to order another online cab which eventually took us to the SDB community. The driver was very friendly despite the limited communication among us. It was not a pleasant experience, but I learned a very important lesson that

mastering the local language is a must, likewise the importance of knowing local customs and habits in order to relate and communicate well with others.

On the first day, August 21, we visited the SCJ community and met Fr. Halim. He prepared a short recollection material for us as an introduction to the dialogue. I was very impressed because he also prepared a handout containing a sharing about mission in Vietnam which contains 12 guidelines for doing a mission in Vietnam, of course according to his experience for at least 15 years back. Fr. Halim believes that mission in Vietnam is possible as long as you have clear planning and goals, the courage to take risks and be creative. The meeting ended with lunch with the SCJ novices and postulants. In the afternoon, we visited the Comboniani missionary community. Our visit was much awaited by Fr. Pepe (an Italian missionary) and Fr. Moses (a Filipino missionary). Sharing the ups and downs of missionary experience and receiving candidates from these two priests was very touching and inspiring. From them, I learned that missionaries in Vietnam need perseverance, resilience and flexibility to adapt to often unpredictable situations. In the evening, we visited the MBC community of sisters. The sisters prepared a Vietnamese dinner for us. We heard a lot of information and shared experiences from Sister Vero, the community leader from Indonesia and their formator.

On the second day, we visited the Marian pilgrimage site in town of Our Lady of Fatima. I was impressed by the large number of pilgrims with their unique prayer and practices of Marian devotion. I had the impression that tender devotion and closeness of the people to Mary in Vietnam is very strong and alive. Not far from this pilgrimage site, we visited the OFM Cap community, a small community of two missionary priests from Indonesia and 3 candidates. This congregation sends their candidates who have been prepared in Vietnam for the next formation process in Medan, Indonesia. *"Mission in Vietnam is not easy. The most real challenge is the process of obtaining a visa that must be renewed every month for people from Southeast Asian countries, and the state policy that does not allow foreign missionaries in the country. But there are always solutions. We must be wise at reading the situation, updating information particularly from existing missionaries' network and lay Catholics. One more thing is to try not to break the state rules and try to relate well with the neighbours, especially state officers. In difficult times, they could be our great helpers,"* added these two passionate priests.



In front of the Cathedral of Saigon with the General Superior of Scalabrinian missionaries.

In the afternoon, we visited the community of Guardian Angel Sisters. This congregation has strong ties with former superior General Gabriel DESHAYES, SMM, and so the Montfortians are no strangers to them. Interestingly, the sisters have a program called English Club. One of the ways to practice English is to hold regular English Masses, a creative way of combining social service and evangelization at the same time.

On the third day, we visited the SVD community, met the Superior General of SVD who was on a canonical



Meeting with the Archbishop of Saigon.

visit and a member of the General Council who had also worked in Vietnam. We also heard a lot of sharing from the local Superior of SVD, Fr. Fabio who is from Indonesia and two other formators, one from Indonesia and the other one from the Philippines. We heard a very rich life sharing from these missionaries including their experience of being evicted from one of their rented formation houses because one of their candidates got into trouble and had to deal with the authorities. Fortunately, they had a safe house, "a centre" owned by one of the dioceses outside the diocese of Saigon that they could use it on a rental basis. Thus, for me, collaboration and good relationships with fellow priests, parishes and the local diocese have been a very helpful and effective tool. In the afternoon, we visited the SDB provincialate community. The hospitality of the community, the dialog with the provincial and his council members and the assurance of this congregation to help and support the Montfort Missionaries was very encouraging. I would always remember this saying from one of the SDB priest, Fr Huan: *"Here, the government knows everything except God."* It expresses how the government is in control of everything, their eyes are everywhere. However, he said that we could still find our possible ways to continue the mission.

We began our journey on day four by offering a special Eucharist for the SMM mission plan in the Indonesian language. After breakfast, we met with the Archbishop of Saigon at his residence. He is a warm and supportive person. He explained to us that one possible way for us SMM to do mission in Vietnam is accompaniment of the Legion of Mary wherein we could slowly diffuse our Marian spirituality. In fact, Fr. Lorens himself has been regularly attending meetings with the Legion of Mary together with a diocesan priest who is the director of the Legion of

Mary of the Archdiocese of Saigon. The Archbishop also underlined the importance of finding candidates as early as possible as to guarantee the continuation of our presence in Vietnam. In the near future, I believe that getting in touch with the Legion of Mary could be an effective entry point for our mission work in the country, including the possibility to get vocations.

From the Archbishop palace, we were picked up by the SVD priest who generously willing to bring us around for a sightseeing. We were able to visit some interesting places there, such as Saigon cathedral, and the Marian shrine of Me Nui Chui in Dong Nai province two hours away from Saigon. Again, I was amused to see group of pilgrims reciting the rosary in typical Vietnamese style. On our way back to Saigon, we managed to visit two families, the acquaintance of Fr. Fabio, SVD. Indeed, it was a pleasant encounter. I could sense a typical of Vietnamese catholic family, their hospitality, their expression of faith and love for the Church.

I learned that building up a close and warm relationship with the people gives strength and enthusiasm to live and do mission work in Vietnam. Truly, Vietnamese Catholic people are very friendly and generous toward priests and religious. What a consolation, somehow this is a good asset in carrying out the mission in this beautiful country. After thanking the SDB community and exchanging a small souvenir during breakfast, we finally left for the airport and returned to Jakarta.



The Main Chapel of SCJ Novitiate community with Father Halim, SCJ, Magister.



Welcomed to the OFM Cap Community.

GENERAL CHAPTER 2023



Chronicle of the General Chapter

Efrem ASSOLARI, SMM

1 May

The 38th General Chapter of the Company of Mary opened this morning in the splendid setting of the retreat house of the Passionist Fathers in Rome. After the innumerable round trips to Fiumicino airport by Brother Désiré and the other members of the Generalate, we were almost complete this morning. The opening Mass, presided over by Fr. Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, began with a procession from the large cross installed in the courtyard of the house. There was intense prayer and great emotion at the call of the participants. The day was then characterized by the execution of the procedures necessary for the smooth running of the Chapter. In the afternoon, aided by well-prepared videos, the Superior General and the General Assistants presented a REPORT of the activities of these six years, placing special emphasis on the initiative of the different continental years and the work of the various committees. Although the weather did not help us, what characterized this day was the joy of BEING together: meetings among colleagues; already experienced capitulants; recruits a little lost and curious... but all eager to "DARE TO RISK FOR GOD AND HUMANITY, OUR CREATIVE FIDELITY".

2 May

The morning opens with the visit of Fr. Pier Luigi NAVA, SMM, Italian currently under-secretary of the Dicastery of Consecrated Life. With his very lively speech, he offers us orientations for our congregational journey in fidelity to the Church and to our mission in the challenges of today. Then, we are inundated with figures, graphs, statistics, and so on as the general bursar presents the financial situation of the congregation and of the entities. Flooded also by the "abundant" rain that God pours on Rome these days... but in the middle of the rain, we see Fr. Santino BREMBILLA, SMM who joins us after having lived a memorable day yesterday at the Calvary of Pontchâteau with the inter-diocesan pilgrimage to ask the Lord for the gift of vocations. There is no lack of vocations in Africa and Madagascar, as the superiors of the Anglophone and Francophone delegations and of the Malagasy Vice Province assure us and bear witness to it. They introduce us to their very lively and interesting entities. The day ends with the Eucharistic celebration presided and animated by the Province of Colombia. At 9:00 p.m., we also participate in the Rosarium-Montfort-EurHope by zoom.

3 May

To say all that Fr. Angelo VITALI, SMM, made us relive with his testimony of commitment to the poor, young drug addicts, AIDS patients and in prisons, is impossible. This demand from young people: "tell us about death" which hammered our colleague all night, will hammer us too! Likewise, the video-testimony of Br. Antonius VAN NOYE, SMM, from Brazil. Two punches in the stomach that do not prevent us from discovering with joy how much attention to the poor, like Montfort, is not lacking. At 11:30 a.m., the presentations of the entities resumed. Canada, USA/Nicaragua and Peru-Brazil: entities which, while suffering from the decrease in the number of Missionaries, do not hesitate to take risks due to the very complicated socio-political situation. The description of the situation in Nicaragua is moving. The confreres also had to give up their presence at the chapter because of the current situation. In the afternoon, after Ecuador, Colombia and Haiti, which raised

many questions, we cross the oceans to India, which this year commemorates the 50th anniversary of its foundation, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and finally the Philippines: they have in common the young age of the members, the vivacity and imagination of their presence and above all the attention to Montfortian spirituality and to the formation of Associates.

4 May

This morning, we continued our tour through the entities of old Europe with its wealth, but also with its poverty, its fears and its uncertainties. A common reality among the seven European entities is the presence of oversea confreres from Madagascar, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, the DRC, Haiti and Malawi. The communities have helped to become a hope for the Congregation. Everywhere we note the desire above all to continue to propose the path of holiness of our holy founder. Although the facilitator, Fr. Jean-Claude, OP, "stamped his foot" for the delays that were accumulating, he did not dare to interrupt the presentations as they were so exciting and beautiful. In conclusion, two videos on the experiments started in Mexico and Vietnam. The afternoon began with an attempt at a synthesis by Fr. General and his four assistants who prepared us for the priority choice of subjects to be tackled in the coming days in the workshops. Divided into linguistic groups, we chose the list of topics to explore.

5 May

Today was characterized by work in small groups formed around the thematic priorities. This allows me to describe the general development nowadays. The first appointment is in the chapel of the house of the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 am. A half-hour prayer of adoration is led each day by an entity. At 8:00 am excellent and plentiful breakfast. At 9:00 a.m., first session preceded by a short prayer and the reading of the messages that our lay associates have sent to the Chapter. We work until 12:30 p.m. with a mid-morning coffee break. At 1 p.m., lunch followed by a siesta (not obligatory, but highly recommended… and appreciated). In the afternoon, 3:00 p.m. Marian prayer and resumption of the work in the assembly or group at the same rhythm as in the morning. At 6:30 p.m. the work ends to prepare the Eucharistic celebration at 7 p.m. always animated by an entity and presided over by the respective superior. During the celebration, the moving memory of the confreres of the same entity who have died since the last General Chapter. At 8:00 p.m., dinner then free time… but not for everyone: the presidency council, the secretaries, the reporter and others still work hard to make sure everything goes well. I forgot: today during the Marian prayer a big black cat visited us… perhaps the descendant of the lions of the nearby Colosseum?

6 May

Here we are on the Saturday of our first week at the General Chapter. The first part of the day, until lunchtime, is still used to work in five workshops. After the prayer of the Rosary animated by the Indonesian group, we meet in general assembly for the report of the groups. But we realize almost immediately that it is difficult to interact about the contents of the reports, because some are presented in English, others in French and in the contents there are several repetitions. It is proposed to print the reports in French and in English and to give a copy to each participant of the Chapter so that he can work calmly in order to give more constructive feedback. Many are preparing to visit the center of Rome to seek inspiration and thus continue next week's work with dynamism and creativity. Have a nice Sunday.

8 May

Today, the work of the General Chapter resumes after a magnificent day of very sunny break which allowed visits and small pilgrimages. Some changes in the flow of work, as we prepare for the election of the Superior General scheduled for the next day. After the morning prayer and breakfast, at 9 am, it is the celebration of the Eucharist, animated by the three delegations, Dutch, Belgian and German. During the Mass, they remembered thirty confreres who died in

their entities since the last chapter. At 10:30 a.m. in plenary, Fr. Jean Claude presented the modalities for the election of the Superior General. Accepted by the assembly, we divided ourselves according to the groups already constituted the previous days to trace a profile of the new general team and the main objectives and challenges entrusted to them. Once shared in assembly the results of the work of the five groups, Fr. Jean Claude invited us to issue an exploration vote on two names of candidates on a ballot paper. The Facilitator, together with the former Superiors General, Fr. CONSIDINE and Fr. BREMBILLA, scrutinized the ballot papers and approached the confreres who received votes to test their availability. At 3:00 p.m. three names in alphabetical order and without the number of preferences received are displayed. From this moment, we entered into a climate of prayer and reflection in view of the canonical election of tomorrow. May the invoked Holy Spirit assist us and above all may he be listened to.

9 May

This day is characterized by the achievement of one of the goals of our General Chapter: the election of the new superior for the next six years. But let's go in order. It is the Vice-Province of Canada that leads the prayer. As usual, we meet for Eucharistic Adoration at 7:30 p.m. After breakfast, our brother Bishop Mgr. Rui VALERIO from Portugal. Given the importance of the day, the Eucharistic celebration is brought forward to 9 a.m. and it is Msgr. Rui who presides by animating us with a beautiful homily. Just enough time to end the celebration and immediately Fr. Jean Claude LAVIGNE invites us to prepare for the vote which will take place in the chapel itself, presided over by the bishop. Everything is ready: presidency table, board, pens, small papers, presedent, scrutineers... Let's start. With the seriousness that such a gesture requires, but also with a lot of serenity and a lot of emotion for those who are participating for the first time at such a moment, the voting and the polls begin. And vote after vote as the bells of Rome toll the *Angelus*, Msgr. Rui announces the election. It is Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM from the province of Indonesia, who accepts. The singing of the *Regina Coeli* and the *Totus tuus* closes the mystical part of this day. We meet at 1 p.m. with a solemn meal. What awaits us at the Generalate where we will go at 5 p.m., we do not know, but we will certainly not do penance since the agenda of the chapter says "Barbecue". We are in the hands of Brother Désiré.

10 May

After the intense day of yesterday concluded with the barbecue at the General Curia, today we resumed our work. The prayer is led by the Indian confreres who are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the foundation this year. The assembly, on the other hand, is presided over for the first time by the new Superior General, Fr. Dwi. Father Jean Claude helps us to continue our work which is done most of the time in small groups. Mass at 7 p.m. closes our day. After dinner, an additional meeting takes place between the moderators of the groups and the steering committee to advance on the contributions that will result in the acts of the Chapter.

11 May

Today again, we lived a very intense day which passionately involved all the members of the chapter. Putting aside the work on the "Acts of the Chapter", the assembly received three very engaging informations: 1) The work of the commission "For the protection of minors and vulnerable persons". Fr. Wismick presented the work accomplished during the last six years in continuity of what has already been done in the previous administration. He concluded by urging the assembly on a concrete proposal: in the general curia there should be an office that helps the Superior General (last responsible) in this field. 2) Fr. Luizinho illustrates the steps in view of the new foundation in Vietnam. A very propitious, albeit difficult, situation. Currently, there are two confreres who, with a tourist permit, are learning the language and becoming familiar with the local reality. 3) Fr. Marco presents the situation of the Vice-Province of France to raise

awareness of the need for "Montfortian places" not as mere guardians of historical monuments, but rather as poles of irradiation of our spirituality. It must be said that the discussion on these three realities was very passionate and engaging but also very respectful of the different points of view. After dinner at the suggestion of the General, an evening of community recreation by viewing slide shows on the representations of Montfort all over the world.

12 May

Today's agenda is not going according to plan, but according to new developments that have arisen along the way. But let's go in order. Fr. Dwi opens the session with a festive announcement: Fr. Bill CONSIDINE, former Superior General, celebrates today the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Best wishes! Fr. Jean Claude then invites us to vote on the proposals prepared by the presidency committee on the topics discussed yesterday. In particular, the foundation in Vietnam and the office in the General Curia to assist the protection of minors and the vulnerable. Then, at Fr. Dwi's request, the capitulants from Europe meet with him for more than an hour: he wants to meet them and listen to them. It will be the same for the capitulants of the other continents, so whoever is not concerned remains free. The same thing happens in the afternoon: Fr. Dwi first meets the capitulars from Africa and Madagascar, then from the Americas and the Caribbean. For everyone else, free time. We meet again for the Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. I forgot to mention that an excellent cake and champagne accompanied Fr. Bill's party.

13 May

Memory of the Apparition of the Virgin Mary at Fatima. It is our Portuguese confreres who animate the prayer times of the day. At 9:00 a.m. Fr. Dwi announces the birthday of our precious secretary Fr. Louis-Paul SAINT-LAURENT, 52 years old. Best wishes. The morning is spent almost entirely in plenary assembly. Fr. Bala, Bursar General, presents the project under study for the creation of an Aid Fund for formation activities in the Congregation: IMAF (International Montfort Aid Found). Lively and passionate questions and reflections on the subject. As the debate lasted a long time, Fr. Jean Claude gives us the draft of the document which will become the final text of the Chapter and invites us to study it personally until lunchtime. After the Marian prayer, workshops for an exchange on the text delivered in the morning. At 5:00 p.m., Father General met with the capitulants from Asia and Oceania and thus concluded the exchanges with the representatives of the different continents. The celebrated Mass commemorates Our Lady of Fatima. And…surprise at dinner: pizzas and pastries. We then continued with a bottle of Porto... Good night and good Sunday.

15 May

After a day of break, the third week of work for our Chapter begins with the approval to move forward with the project of the IMA Fund to give substance to what was discussed on Saturday. Immediately afterwards, the draft of a letter addressed to all the confreres was given, in which the particular role of our Montfortian presence in France, in the places where Montfort lived and worked, was underlined, as as a source of renewal, study and radiance of our Montfortian charism. The invitation addressed to all entities and individuals is to pay attention and interest to these beautiful realities. The letter was discussed in linguistic groups and then again in the assembly. We thus come to the third subject of the morning: the preparation for tomorrow's day with the election of the four confreres assistants of Fr. General. We continue this work also in continental groups according to bring out the challenges of each continent and the characteristics of the general assistant in charge of accompanying this continent. We thus arrive at the personal expression of the candidates with an indicative vote in which it is possible to put 5 names. Father Jean Claude, helped by Fathers Bill and Santino, does the counting and verifies the availability of the most voted to be elected. After dinner, Fr. Dwi summons us to the chapel to read

the six names voted and available to be councilors. Let us remain in prayer, entrusting this important moment to the Lord and to the Blessed Virgin. And tomorrow we vote. I forgot! Today was the birthday of Fathers Guelord ASEME and Charles LETA and so we received more good pastries. Amen.

16 May

The General Chapter experienced another important day today: the choice of the four confreres who, together with the Superior General, will animate our Congregation for the next six years. Prepared with care spiritually but also technically, the election took place in an atmosphere of fraternity and serenity, also respecting the criteria that have emerged in recent days. The elected confreres are: Fr. Jesùs Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI of the Peru-Brazil delegation; Fr. Marco PASINATO of the Province of Italy, former Assistant General; Fr. Lonely Paul MASHONGA of the Anglophone General Delegation; Fr. Prem KUMAR of the Vice Province of India. Best wishes to them for a good teamwork with Fr. Dwi. With the succession of votes, we arrived at lunchtime! We then met for the Marian prayer at 3:00 p.m. at the end of which an afternoon of rest was announced to us, except for the Superiors of the various entities who met with the new General Council to deepen the strategy of accompaniment as the whole Congregation to the Montfortian mission in France. The president of the Eucharist, brought forward at 6:30 p.m., is Fr. Richard MAGARARU belonging to the GB/I community, assisted at the altar by the members of the newly elected General Council, as if to signify his support for the smallest Entity of the Congregation. The dinner, preceded by the aperitif and concluded by the cake and the traditional photo, allowed us to congratulate the newly elected.

17 May

At the beginning of our day, Father General rightly reminded us that the Chapter does not end with the election of the new Council! So, let's get to work! Fr. Jean Claude LAVIGNE, our facilitator, takes the reins and immediately puts us to work. First of all, we approve the letter of the capitulars to all the confreres on the attention that we must pay to the Montfort Places in France, a spiritual and material heritage to be preserved and valued in our mission. The reading of the final document which will become "The Acts of the Chapter" then begins. Part by part is read, commented on with proposed changes. So, we arrive at lunchtime. In the afternoon, the same work resumes. It is up to the steering committee to make the final draft, which will then be voted on definitively. Father Dwi then wishes to meet with his new team, the group of the outgoing administration. The cordial meeting continues and is very fraternal and fruitful. Today the prayer is led by the confreres from Papua New Guinea. The Eucharist is presided over by Fr. Aloisius BANGGUR … but the chronicler did not understand anything of what he said because of the consequences that we are still paying after the attempt to build the Tower of Babel! Although a bit prolonged, he must have satisfied the assembly with his speech, given the laughter that accompanied the whole homily!

18 May

Directed by our leader, Fr. Jean Claude, who does not give up, the morning was busy to complete some work: we can clearly see that the conclusion of the chapter is imminent. First, the definitive version of the "Letter from the Capitulars to all the confreres" is voted on and signed by everyone. We then go to the vote, part by part, of the "Acts of the chapter". Fr. Lavigne reminds that it is always possible to propose amendments, but this must be a written proposal, presented to the Superior General and signed by at least three people. Indeed, after the final positive vote, several motions for change were put forward. The Fr. General with the Council of Presidency will evaluate them. The third task that occupied us at the end of the morning was a message to send to our associates and lay collaborators: we perceived their closeness during our Chapter also thanks to the daily reading in assembly of their messages coming from various parts of the world. I think the recommendation "to leave selfishness at home" will stick in our minds. In

the afternoon, each linguistic group prepares a video message for the laity. The work of Fr. Jailos MPINA, who has often been with us these days, collecting photos, news and other information of the Chapter to be published on the congregation's website, has been very effective. At 5:00 p.m., the new general team meets Fr. Dwi for the first ordinary council. Well done!

19 May

We are really at the end and Saturday and Sunday will be special days. After the prayer, Fr. Jean Claude draws the map of these three days and invites us to live them fully as we have done so far. Father General presents the amendments he has received and they are voted on: some are accepted and others are not. A mandate is given to the Superior General, who according to the Constitutions must issue them, to integrate what has been said and approved. Then some confreres intervened by expressing their emotions and thanks which go to everyone, in particular to the group of translators and to Fr. Jean-Claude LAVIGNE. After a secret ballot required by the Constitutions, the Superior General solemnly pronounces the closure of the Chapter of 2023. We thank the Lord for all this and… see you next time.

20 May

A day full of emotions. First of all, when we met the parents and the family of Fr. Olivier MAIRE. Some members of the General Administrations of the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of Saint Gabriel arrived. Around ten o'clock, we went up to the Clémentine Hall in Vatican where the Holy Father spoke to us, recommending that we dare like Montfort and gave us three instructions: hospitality, creativity and tenderness. The memory of Fr. Olivier and the meeting with his parents were still full of emotion. Back at the Passionists of Saints Giovanni e Paolo, we prepared for the celebration of the installation of the new General Administration in the afternoon. We went to the Basilica of San Bartolomeo on the Tiber Island where Bishop Rozario MENEZES, SMM, presided at the Eucharist and received the profession of faith of the new Superior General. At the end of the celebration, Fr. Olivier's parents donated to this Basilica, which preserves the memory of the Martyrs of the 20th and 21st centuries, a book of the Liturgy of the Hours of Fr. Olivier. The return was a bit complicated, but in the end, we all got together for a fraternal dinner.

21 May

The last day is opened as usual with Eucharistic Adoration from 7:30 to 8 am, followed by breakfast. At 10 a.m., we all gathered in the chapter house to welcome Cardinal João BRAZ DE AVIZ, Prefect of the Dicastery for Consecrated Life, accompanied by our Fr. Pier Luigi NAVA, SMM. The wait is prolonged because of the roman traffic and the cardinal does not arrive until 10:45 a.m., the time of the Eucharistic celebration. But the cardinal does not give up an exchange with us. Very interesting and stimulating exchange, which shows us a new mentality for our life of consecration. We prepare the closing Mass, always presided over by the cardinal. Brother John KALLARACKAL, superior general of the Brothers of St. Gabriel with Bro. Dionigi TAFFARELLO, his vicar, and the Mother general, Sr. Rani KURIAN with the whole council of the Daughters of Wisdom. And then Final group photo. We are very late on the roadmap and this obliges Fr. Vito of the Passionists to intervene and interrupt the moment of the aperitif to go for lunch. And immediately after lunch, even the weather becomes sad: clouds, water, thunder and lightning… accompany the departures: some to the Curia, some to the airport, some to Termini station! But for all: "Abundant rain, you have poured O God, invigorate your exhausted inheritance…! Thank you, thank you, thank you very much to everyone for this wonderful family experience. God bless the new administration. May the Blessed Virgin and Father de Montfort accompany each one in his steps back to his mission and give us the courage to "dare to take risks for God and for humanity".















A Glimpse of the General Chapter 2023















Acts of the 38th General Chapter 2023

Dare to take risks for God and for humanity
Our Creative Fidelity

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of love and peace,

The 38th General Chapter, for me, was indeed a blessing. It brought together confreres from 21 countries all over the world. Looking at this reality, I recall the prayer that our Founder, St. Louis-Marie de Montfort recited: *"Gather us in from every nation. Bring us together and unite us and may all the glory be given to your holy and mighty name"* (PM 18). In line with the prayer of our Founder, in the private audience with the Capitulants and the Montfortian Family on May 21, 2023, Pope Francis emphasized three important values that have marked our journey as a Congregation, namely hospitality, internationality, and tenderness. I could feel that these three values have animated this Chapter which created an ambience of fraternal union and sense of belonging.

The song *"Animés de l'amour"*, sung during the commemoration of our deceased confreres, reminded me that the very source of our fraternal union is God's Love. This union of love goes beyond death. The love of God is a life-giving, energizing force that binds us all together as one family. Saint Paul says: *"… Neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come … shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8: 38 – 39). The presence of our deceased confreres that we commemorated in our daily Masses helped us to see the past with joy and pride for their fidelity to their vocation. And, the presence of the parents of Fr. Olivier MAIRE and his siblings on the installation of the new administration which took place in St. Bartholomeo Church, dedicated to the New Martyrs of today, deepened our fraternal union of God's love. Their humble gesture of offering the breviary of Fr. Olivier MAIRE to be put in the Church reminded me of our families and siblings who have offered each one of us for God's service. Our faith and vocation were born from this very basic Christian community, namely family. We need to be grateful for their willingness to let us work in God's vineyard.

The General Chapter was indeed a time of humble prayer and of thanksgiving, a time of attentive listening and sharing, a time of fraternal discussion and discernment, a time of evaluation and of planning. Thanks to Fr. Jean-Claude LAVIGNE, O.P., our animator, who helped us to make this Chapter meaningful, and also to the interpreters who allowed us to be able to express and share during the assembly without any barriers. The presence of young confreres who participated actively created an intergenerational dialogue in this Chapter that has brought hope for the future of our Congregation. And, the constant presence of lay people through

their inspiring written messages, their prayer and their support were a source of great joy for all of us.

I was reminded of the return of the seventy-two disciples narrated by the evangelist Luke. They had been sent out on a mission and now they came back to Jesus joyfully proud of what they were able to achieve. We all remember the reaction of the Master: *"Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, rejoice that your names are written in heaven."* (Lk 10:20). Jesus did not want to curb the enthusiasm of his disciples, but to help them go to what is essential. He wanted them never to forget that there is in heaven a God who loves them, who accompanies them, who takes care of them.

Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort understood this lesson. Writing to his uncle in a moment of great distress, he opens his heart and shares his deepest conviction: *"I have a Father in heaven who will never fail me"* (L 2). I believe it is this awareness that gave Montfort the courage and the strength to overcome opposition and obstacles and so be the great missionary he was.

This certainty should also animate each one of us as we continue our life and mission as a Family, as a Congregation. If we feel within us the strength of the love of God and we deeply trust in him and in his Providence, we will be able to take risks and so do great things for him and for our brothers and sisters.

As you will see, in the Acts of this General Chapter, the Capitulants reintroduced some of the themes already present in the document of the last Chapter. We felt we all need more time to continue working on those areas of our lives and do so with greater commitment and determination.

As I begin my service for the Congregation, I am convinced more than ever that our fidelity to Christ and to Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort has the power to free within ourselves and in our communities new energies and new strengths. So, as I entrust this document to each one of you, I encourage you readily to plan for its implementation at various levels. I also urge you to continue to let the Holy Spirit work in you, to be imaginative and creative and together to look for better ways and for new ways to accomplish our mission in the church and in the world. St. Montfort continues praying for us that we be *"Liberos, men who are free but still in bondage to your love and your will; men after your own heart who without taint or impediment of self-love, will carry out your will to the full …"* (PM 8). The Holy Spirit, who is the protagonist of our life, guides us where God wants us to be, not to where our own ideas and personal tastes would lead us.

May the Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom and our Mother, accompany us all. May Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort and the Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus be our witnesses and our intercessors.

Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM
Superior General

Rome, 19 May 2023

THE ACTS

1. As Montfort Missionaries, we are called to take risk for God and Humanity with the attitude of creative fidelity to Christ, to the Church, to our Charism, and to the cries of the people today in the different continents and cultures.

2. In this General Chapter, we are opening again the map of our journey as Montfortian where God challenges us with an important question: where are we now? This is the fundamental question that helps us situating ourselves to find ways to look for the future with faith and hope in the Providence of God.

3. The last General Chapter (2017) gave us guidelines and directions where we had to go. And to a certain extent, we are faithful to carry on the fruits of this Chapter in our respective entities. However, there are some aspects that need to be deepened and also to be articulated facing the new realities and challenges in the Church and in our society today.

4. Therefore, in these present Acts, we reemphasize some important aspects that appeared in the last Chapter and try to incarnate them in the spirit of creative fidelity in our life and mission. As Montfort Missionaries, we are called to read, to interiorize personally and communally, and put into practice in our respective missions and apostolate this new document.

5. We identify five important topics that really touch the following questions:

- *Who are we as Montfortian?* (Identity)
- *What do we want to achieve*? (Evangelization and Transmission)
- *What are the means to put into practice the responses to these questions?* (Ongoing Formation and Culture of Planning together).

We encourage all the confreres to commit with us once more in the ongoing work of deepening these themes and for their implementation.

I. IDENTITY

Let us dare to be formed like Christ in the school of Mary.

6. Father de Montfort reminds us that our identity is to be missionaries in the path of the Incarnate Wisdom (cf. Constitution 2). To embrace the desire of our founder expressed in his Prayer for Missionaries, we commit ourselves, during the next six years, to work together in creative fidelity in order to respond to the call of the Church and to the signs of time in a spirit of synodality.

7. It is also a call to offer the way of consecration to Jesus incarnate Wisdom through Mary as the chosen mean to live the baptismal promises.

8. In order to put into reality, the above objectives we need to:

8.1 Set up a team at the level of Congregation to gather the various practices and rites of celebration of the consecration in order to unify the essential elements of it and produce an official edition.

8.2 Organize several sessions on our Montfortian identity at all levels (general, entity and local).

8.3 Concerning the external sign of our identity (Constitution number 76), each entity will discern according to its context.

II. EVANGELIZATION

Let us dare to incarnate the Good News!

9. As Montfort Missionaries, we are called to take



General Chapter 2023

risks bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the poor, by living out authentically the four aspects of Montfortian mission: evangelization, Mary, availability, acting together.

10. As a Congregation with spirituality of Incarnation, we are called to go out to meet the people, to be with them, to learn from them. It is an invitation to make an analysis of their concrete reality so that we are able to recognize the needs of different groups. It is also an invitation to make networking teams among ourselves, with collaborators, local churches and with other entities.

11. In order to put into reality the aforementioned objectives, we need to:

11.1 Create and accompany small Christian communities by offering catechesis for the renewal of Church.

11.2 Go to places where people already come together like sanctuaries, shrines, pilgrimage centers, etc and paying special attention to hospitality.

11.3 Create welcoming communities by opening our doors to all, especially to those on the existential peripheries.

11.4 Get involved in social pastoral activities and social organizations and then give new life to the Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in each entity.

11.5 Learn how to evangelize by using music, images, films, and all means of digital communication.

11.6 Carry out with laity itinerant missions.

The General Chapter has decided to give a mandate to the Superior General and his council to continue to accompany the confreres present in Vietnam towards a foundation of Montfortian Mission in this country.

It also decided that if candidates from Vietnam and Mexico come forward, a process of dialogue be undertaken in view of their formation between the General Administration and the Entities in the region.

III. TRANSMISSION OF CHARISM

Let us dare to live and transmit together the fruitfulness of the Montfortian Charism.

12. As Montfort Missionaries, we have to be aware that our Charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit and a commitment to respond in the constant need for a renewal in the Church and in the society.

13. It is a call to appropriate our Charism in a typical lifestyle (in a personal and communitarian ways), inter-cultural and inter-generational witness so vivid that impacts the life of people.

14. It is also a call to dare new experiences of transmission, in a spirit of constant listening to Montfort, to the cries and hope of people to whom we are sent. This will lead us to find a new language adapted to the contexts and cultures of those we wish to serve.

15. In order to implement these objectives, we propose to:

15.1 Entrust to the commission of spirituality, the responsibility to animate the transmission of our Charism in the Congregation. This commission will seek the collaboration of the whole Montfortian family and where it is possible will use the modern means of communication.

15.2 Set up a strategic plan to strengthen the Montfortian presence in the vice-province of France, with the accompaniment of the General Administration, in order to deepen and spread our Charism (cf. *Letter of the Chapter to all Confreres*).

15.3 Organize, under the leadership of the General Administration, continental meetings of young missionaries to share their experiences and develop vocational animation projects and a transmission of the Charism to the youth.

15.4 Each entity promotes meetings to deepen and to share our Charism involving the confreres as resource persons.

15.5 Each linguistic entity or territory is responsible for publishing or republishing documents on Montfortian spirituality.

IV. ONGOING FORMATION

Let us dare to encounter Christ in personal conversion and service.

16. God calls us, as Montfort Missionaries, to an ongoing process of personal growth and conversion. The invitation is to live an authentic religious life daily by taking a personal responsibility in incarnating the Gospel in the spirit of Montfort.

17. In order to put into practice the above objectives, we need to:

17.1 Further our commitment in the areas of ongoing formation by working to the implementation of the newly released Ratio II. An important part of this will be the creation of a local Ratio that may take into account the cultural context of our entities and the needs of local communities.

17.2 Create in our communities an environment of reconciliation and collaboration. Resources are available to help us (eg. Ratio I and II; writings of Father de Montfort, Church documents…).

17.3 Encourage superiors to value the talents and skills confreres are endowed with, and cultivate them by offering specific programs of training and formation in view of a more effective service to the community itself and to the Church.

17.4 Plan an accompaniment of young confreres during their first five years in ministry. The support and the life experience of older confreres will prove as precious treasure.

17.5 Confront the life experience and the writings of Montfort in a regular and systematic way.

17.6 We give special attention to safeguarding of minors and vulnerable persons, by adopting a compassionate attitude towards those who suffered any forms of abuses. The superior makes sure that each confrere appointed for this ministry within the entity receives an appropriate training and give awareness to the confrere.

17.7 Ensure, in each entity, that each confrere could take time for his own spiritual renewal. Each confrere is invited to invest in community prayer and take at least 1 hour of personal prayer each day.

The General Chapter has decided to create a physical office for the protection of minors and vulnerable persons in the Generalate. And authorize the Superior General and his council to hire a person who would be a secretary to work in this office according to their discernment of the needs. All the entities of the Congregation will share the cost according to their income.

V. CULTURE OF PLANNING

Let us dare to work together.

18. "Without planning, we plan to fail". We are invited to create a culture of planning, monitoring and evaluation on the level of the individual, the community, the entity and the Congregation as a whole. Planning will allow us to better manage our resources such as human, material, spiritual for a better response to the needs of the Church and the humanity for God alone.

19. To reach this target, we propose to:

19.1 Read and implement the "Administrative Directory" and the "Directory of Administration of Temporal Goods" of the Congregation.

19.2 Have a regular accompaniment of the entities by the General administration (including Extraordinary General Council – EGC – every 2 years) face to face or by video-conference.

19.3 Have a culture of transparency and accountability in all dimensions of our life, at all levels: individual, communities, entities and General Administration.

19.4 Develop plan of activities on the level of personal, community, entity and Congregation including seeking advice from lay experts if needed.

19.5 Monitor the commissions and evaluate their effectiveness for the mission of all the entities.

19.6 Evaluate and review the convention dealing with exchange of missionaries between entities.

The General Chapter has decided to create the International Montfortian Aid Fund – IMAF- to reach financial security of the Congregation and mandate the General Administration for its implementation.

> ***If you don't take risks for God, you won't give anything worthwhile.***
>
> Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort
> Letter 27

Let us dare to protect the patrimony of the Montfortian Places: Heritage of all, heritage for all

The Capitulants of the General Chapter 2023

"What, then, am I asking for? Liberos: men as free as the clouds that sail high above the earth, filled with the dew of heaven, and moving, without let or hindrance, according to the inspiration of the Spirit…" (PM 9)

Dear Confreres,

This year, we celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the birth of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort – a man in whom the life and spirit of God burned so much that they have inflamed the hearts of Christian people literally around the world. But our holy founder had roots, personal and missionary experiences deeply rooted, incarnated, in specific places – the calls, the moments of grace and trials, the moments of growth lived by our holy founder are rooted and incarnated in specific places: villages and cities, places of contemplation, parishes and hospitals, in contact with the habitants of all these locales.

Montfort lived in openness and fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an astonishing missionary creativity towards his brothers and sisters. He led them to undertake concrete commitments to the poor and to a profound holiness: the baptismal life lived in all its richness stimulated by the maternal influence of Mary.

Our Montfortian Family is blessed to still have at its disposition a spiritual, material, historical and cultural heritage constantly actualized, thanks to all those who went before us, having the heart to preserve them for us. Many people and groups from all over the world when they arrive in the places where Saint Louis-Marie lived and worked have experienced wonderful moments of renewal, discovery, sharing and wonder! To gather and pray at the tombs of Saint Louis-Marie and Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus and their lay collaborator the Marquis de Magnanne, to walk in the footsteps of Montfort, is a source of inspiration and renewal of our dynamism for so many laity and religious of the Montfortian Family.

This possibility to know closely the life and missionary journey of Saint Louis-Marie, to be immersed in it, can truly set afire and inflame the imagination, the heart, and the life of those already captivated by Montfort. It allows them to taste and let others taste the beauty and tenderness of a God who becomes incarnate in the fragility of his brothers and sisters.

Our Montfortian roots, our Montfortian heritage is a far other thing from a museum or a relic of the past. The Montfortian heritage in France has need of confreres there on the ground, who preserve, welcome, and share the marvels of the missionary life of Saint Louis-Marie. They will succeed in doing this by working together with ardour to be faithful to the Gospel, and to be creative in the mission of the Church today so that they will be able to raise up new vocations.

The Montfortian Patrimony in France: heritage of all and for all

There are indeed in France the buildings of the Montfortian Places: Saint Louis-Marie's birthplace in Montfort-sur-Meu; the Calvary of Pontchâteau; the Motherhouse and Basilica in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sevre. All these Montfortian Places require animation which especially includes welcome, celebration and actualization of the mission **à la Montfort**, and diffusion of Montfortian spirituality. Montfortian associations with many members ask to be accompanied.

What heritage, what breath of the Spirit springs forth from these three places?

The Maison Natale in Montfort-sur-Meu enfolds the cradle, the beginning of the natural and spiritual life of Louis-Marie Grignion; nearby is the chapel where he was baptized and his family's residence during his childhood. It is from here that he took the surname "de Montfort."

The Calvary of Pontchâteau: witnesses to Father de Montfort's genius to nourish the faith of thousands of Christians even to the point of building together a "holy mountain" on the plain of the Madeleine. Even today, the Calvary of Pontchâteau is a "shining pole of evangelization", with activities provided by an international presence of the whole Montfortian Family, composed of Daughters of Wisdom, Brothers of St. Gabriel, Montfort Missionaries, many volunteers, and the presence of a home for the reception of fragile persons. In September 2021, the Parish was confided to the Montfortians. The Calvary of Pontchâteau witnesses to the mature missionary spirit of Montfort, full of creativity, organization and zeal all under the standard of the Cross.

Saint-Laurent-sur-Sevre, the unexpected place of the death of this great missionary, encompasses the Basilica, the Parish and the Spiritual Centre. Saint Laurent has become another birthplace, a place of pilgrimage, the motherhouse, a source for deepening and radiating Montfort's spiritual heritage.

It is good to take into account all the other places where Father de Montfort lived and undertook his missions, such as Poitiers, La Rochelle, Mervent…

Very few French confreres remain in active ministry. To keep these buildings empty without people to animate these Montfortian Places would extinguish the life that they can bring us. We are all children or grandchildren of France. Thanks to the French missionaries, through their life witness and their apostolate, many people have tasted the fruitfulness of the Montfortian charism and spirituality everywhere. We are the fruits of their missionary boldness. It is our turn to take up the relief with international teams. It is for us to work together so that it may always be possible for the confreres of every entity, for generations to come, and for the entire Church, to partake of this patrimony.

Resolutions

As Montfort Missionaries, participants in the 38th General Chapter, we ask each entity to consider these Montfortian Places as their very own heritage, in order to assure the missionary presence for today and the future.

It is urgent to send confreres to ensure our enduring missionary presence, with a specific preparation and a close accompaniment, while evaluating the experiences of each community.

It belongs to the General Administration to coordinate and discern the adequate collaboration, in dialogue with the entity of France and the other entities, in order to have living and missionary communities in our Montfortian Places. Therefore, the Chapter gives mandate to the new General Administration in the spirit of dialogue to plan and to implement a short, medium and long terms strategy to sustain the material and spiritual heritage of France that belongs to all of us.

"In our time, the witness of Saint Louis-Marie can help us base our Christian existence on faith in the living God, on a warm relationship with God and on a solid ecclesial experience..."

Letter of Saint John Paul II to the Montfortian Religious Family, 1997

Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Montfort Missionaries participating in their 38th General Chapter

At the end of the 38th General chapter on Saturday, 20 May 2023, we, the 53 Capitulants, along with Montfort brothers, Montfort sisters and lay associates, had the opportunity to meet His Holiness Pope Francis during which he delivered His message at the Clementine Hall in Vatican.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome!

I am pleased to meet you on the occasion of your 38th General Chapter, on the anniversaries of the birth and canonisation of your Founder. Celebrating more than three centuries of life and service, you have chosen the motto: "Dare to take risks for God and humanity. Our creative fidelity" as the theme of your work. It is true that it is not a mummified fidelity; it is creative! They are words that well recall the values that inspired Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort at the beginning of your story.

He lived in a time marked by demanding challenges for the Church and society: it was called the "era of rationalists and libertines" and at the same time, the "crib of Jansenism". Faced with these provocations, Saint Louis-Marie asked himself, first of all, what might be their common root, and he identified it as people's excessive trust in the wisdom of the world at the expense of the primacy of the Wisdom of God. For this reason, he threw himself into the intense activity of preaching, with creativity and without fear, also finding misunderstandings within and outside the Church. This is what always happens. And he never gave up, continuing to preach and foster love for true Wisdom, through devotion to Mary, until his death, which came when he was only 43 years old, during a mission in Vandea. You bear witness to the fruits of his courage: present in 33 countries, with more than 700 religious, together with the *Brothers of St. Gabriel*, the *Daughters of Wisdom* and the *Lay Associates*. This is beautiful!

Even today, there is no shortage of pastoral challenges: for example, the individualism that keeps each person closed up in his or her own small world; the relativism and hedonism that make pleasure and self-interest the measure of every decision; the consumerist selfishness which makes the heart of the rich wither and which creates unjust inequalities to the detriment of the poor.

Faced with all of this, Saint Louis-Marie left you a plan of life and action that is always up-to-date: "to seek, to contemplate, to reveal Wisdom in the heart of the world and to denounce false wisdom" (cf. *Regola di vita*, Introduction), and this by following Mary's example and with her help. I would like to highlight three values of yours that I hold to be important and timely: welcoming, internationality and tenderness.

The Gospel shows us Mary as she who, in order to welcome Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, within herself, courageously accepted completely changing her life, her routines, her dreams and her decisions. Thus, she cared for and gave to her brothers and sisters the love she received, in Nazareth, on Calvary and in the Upper Room, where, in the light of Easter, she humbly shared in the life of the first community. Welcoming — which is the first thing I would like to talk about — was a fundamental dimension in Mary's existence and in her mission. Following her example, I urge all of you, too, to practice it in your homes and towards the people God entrusts to you. Our world is in great need of welcoming and in welcoming, it needs creativity, which can make us close to everyone, even in new situations that require urgent responses. To welcome with an open heart in order to receive.



Meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Clementine Hall in Vatican.

For you, this value is enriched, as your presence here shows, with the colours of internationality, multiculturalism and intergenerational dialogue. In a recent document, you wrote that the living face of Saint Louis-Marie today has, in you, "strong hints of Europe, with lovely accents from the Caribbean, from Latin America, from Africa and Asia" (Letter of the Capitulants to the Confreres, Rome, 20 May 2017). It is true, this is quite musical. That is what it's like, and it is rich with the smiles, tears, ears and mouth of all the sisters and brothers scattered throughout the world (cf. ibid). And perhaps a canonist might say to you: "But this is unnecessary, this is not a canonical definition of what an institute is". It is a lively definition, and I like this. It is a beautiful image of an evangelical community, a true gift for all! Treasure it, nurture it and disseminate it with your witness.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that the virtues we discussed flourish on every level when people feel loved and respected. Montfort taught this to us by showing us the tender arms of Mary, who welcomes everyone as her children (cf. *Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, no. 48). Let yourselves be enveloped by her maternal embrace, and with the same tenderness, embrace one another. Tenderness. This will help you and the people you encounter to bring out and share the best of yourselves, and in the light of said sharing, to discern what the Lord asks of you for your future. Therefore, if you want to be brave and creative, make Mary's tenderness yours and give it to everyone, always! But tenderness is not a sweet to be bought; tenderness is sweet, but it is strong. Having a tender heart indicates strength in the heart to become tender. Do not forget that tenderness is one of God's three traits. God is close, tender and compassionate. Tenderness, compassion and closeness. Do the examination of conscience with this: "Today, was I close or did I defend myself a little? Was I compassionate or did I condemn half the world? Was I tender?". Uphold these three traits of God: closeness, compassion and tenderness.

Father Olivier MAIRE, a Montfort Missionary, bore witness to this. He died for having welcomed into the community a man who had erred, a very problematic person, to whom however, he wanted to give a roof and hope for the future. His generosity and courage cost him his life, because of a crazy and inexplicable gesture, and while I embrace his parents and relatives, here present, I invite all of you to cherish his example: He welcomed a brother, forgiving his past and embracing him without calculating, wanting only to give him love, with tenderness. We have so much need to learn to love like this, to grow in this love, to be close, compassionate and tender.

This is why last year I chose to consecrate the Church and the entire world, especially Ukraine and Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And I ask you, who are the Company of Mary, to renew this act of entrusting and this supplication. May the Heavenly Mother help us all to search, with courage and creativity, for paths of forgiveness, dialogue, welcoming and peace for all humanity. I bless you from my heart and I ask you, please, to pray for me.

ANNIVERSARIES

Echo of the Jubilee of the 350th Anniversary of the Birth of Montfort

Claude MARSAUD, FSG

Brother Claude MARSAUD, FSG, local superior of the international community of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, shares about his joy experienced and his reflections during the Jubilee of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Montfort in his native village, on January 29, 2023.

"What a great initiative by the Montfortian Missionaries, the Montfortian Hospitality Center and the parish of Montfort-Sur-Meu, to have proposed that Sunday, January 29, 2023, be particularly marked by the 350th anniversary of the birth of Louis-Marie Grignion.

The heart of Montfort-sur-Meu was invaded, from the morning by a procession of cars and a few coaches carrying Montfortians from the congregations, hospitality and friends from all over the greater region and even from other regions. What a joy to come together from very different backgrounds! What a surprise and pride for the inhabitants of Montfort, to see themselves joined on this day, at home, and to welcome us first to the birthplace of Louis-Marie then in the church and for the whole day!

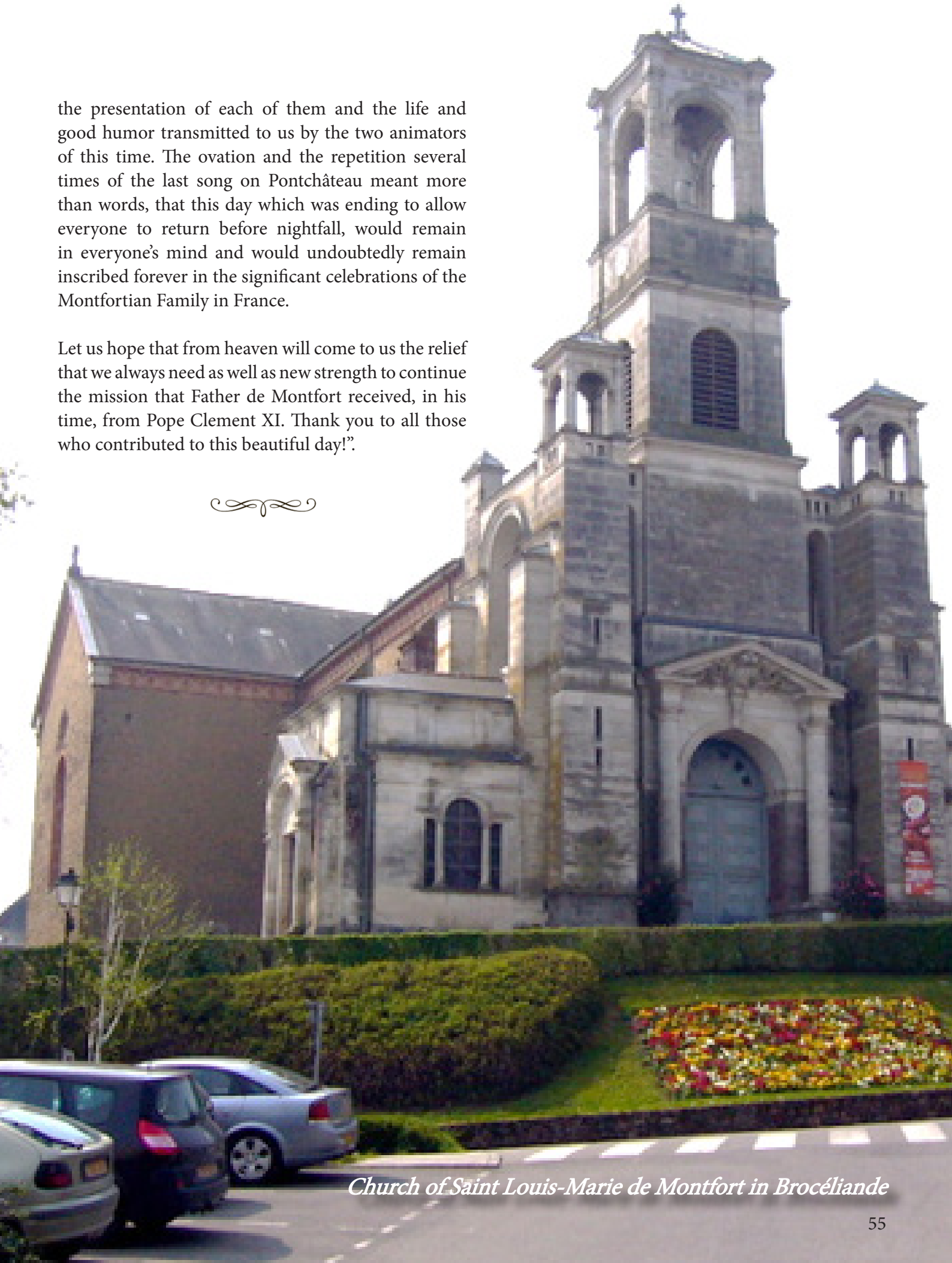
At 10:30 a.m., the church of Saint Louis-Marie in Brocéliande was well filled, even if the temperature inside was cool... Carrying some banners and relics of Father de Montfort, a procession made up of members of various constituted bodies: Daughters of Wisdom, Brothers of Saint-Gabriel, members of the hospitality, members of the parish, numerous priests and deacons, came forward, accompanied by music and the entrance song: "Jubilee, shout for joy, Acclaim the thrice Holy God!". This song thus set the right tone for this beautiful and great day. Throughout the celebration, the words, the spiritual accents, the aspirations, the gestures and the prayers of Montfort himself resonated through the liturgical texts, the comments, the songs and of course the remarkable homily that Archbishop Pierre d' ORNELLAS gave us. More than a homily, it was a meditation, à la Montfort, on the Mad Love of God for humanity and for each one of us. So many quotes from our good Father de Montfort. We would have thought he was in our midst! The Montfortian Family represented in our assembly was perfectly in tune with what was proclaimed, meditated on, given by our archbishop.

At the end of the homily, if no one dared to applaud, during the short time of meditation that followed, one could feel that everyone had heard the message: that of the Love of God inseparable from that of that every missionary must transmit, as Father de Montfort knew how to do in response to the title and the mission he had received from Pope Clement XI. "Live your Baptism and be missionaries of the Gospel through the Love of God who makes you live" could sum up in a few words the beautiful exhortation we heard.

At 3:00 p.m., the pilgrims of the day were offered the opportunity to experience an original festive time with the proposal of songs from parts of hymns by Father de Montfort, set to music by Father Willy and interpreted and accompanied by an orchestra and singers from Pontchâteau. An hour of happiness through the beauty and variety of songs, through

the presentation of each of them and the life and good humor transmitted to us by the two animators of this time. The ovation and the repetition several times of the last song on Pontchâteau meant more than words, that this day which was ending to allow everyone to return before nightfall, would remain in everyone's mind and would undoubtedly remain inscribed forever in the significant celebrations of the Montfortian Family in France.

Let us hope that from heaven will come to us the relief that we always need as well as new strength to continue the mission that Father de Montfort received, in his time, from Pope Clement XI. Thank you to all those who contributed to this beautiful day!".



Church of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort in Brocéliande

International Meeting of Montfortian Associates 2023

Dionigi TAFFARELLO, FSG



All participants in the gathering with the flags of their respective countries of origin.

The RIAM (International Meeting of Montfortian Associates) was a dream forgotten in the drawers of the three central administrations, which had been waiting for a long time to be realised. This decisive step had to be taken to deepen the journey of strengthening the Montfortian charismatic family. The need was now felt to bring together the lay associates of the three Montfortian congregations so that they could get to know each other, forge links and share experiences. In other words, the aim was to encourage greater collaboration and synergy between the three congregations and their respective movements of associates. In short, to make the associates feel part of one big family, the Montfortian family.

The project was 'pulled out of the drawer' in March 2022, at the annual meeting of the three central administrations in Rome. The idea was to offer a similar experience to the RISL (Rencontre Internationale Saint Laurent) which had taken place 10 years earlier, but this time on a global scale rather than just a European one. In order to monitor the implementation of this project more directly, the three ADCs delegated the councillors responsible for the partnership dossier: Sr. Pierrette BWAMBA, FDLS, Fr. Arnold SUHARDI, SMM and Bro. Dionigi TAFFARELLO, FSG.

After deciding on the venue, the dates and the criteria for selecting the participants, we had to set up a committee in France to take charge of all the

organisational aspects of this meeting. We must all acknowledge that Providence was with us in putting together an extraordinary team, made up of lay associates and religious from the three Montfortian congregations. It is remarkable to note the generosity with which the members of the committee responded to the call to work on this project, and even more extraordinary to see their enthusiasm and dedication in bringing this arduous and complex international meeting to fruition. There was no shortage of challenges and difficulties. In order to face and overcome them, everyone gave the best of themselves with faith so that this beautiful and important project of the Montfortian family could become a reality.

After months of meetings and preparation, some 170 associates and religious from the three Montfortian congregations, coming from 36 different countries, met at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre from 7 to 12 August 2023 to spend a week in formation, getting to know each other and visiting some Montfortian places. Unfortunately, almost 30 other members were unable to attend due to the enormous difficulties encountered when applying for visas. The disappointment of all those, especially from Africa, who were unable to attend despite having done their utmost to obtain visas, was clear to see.

The theme of the meeting was: "Missionary disciples in the Montfortian family". The first day was devoted in particular to getting to know the programme for the week, giving the participants all the technical and organisational information they needed to make the most of the week, and getting to know each other through the testimonies of some associates from the three congregations. In the afternoon, Father Jean-Claude LAVIGNE, OP, presented the theme "Synodality in the Montfortian family" and helped the participants to enter into the atmosphere of reflection of the week.

The second day was devoted to discovering the places where Montfort grew up, namely the houses where he was born in Montfort-sur-Meu and Iffendic, and the hermitage of Saint Lazare. The day ended with a celebration in the church of Cesson and a crossing of the famous bridge that Montfort crossed to go to Paris, while everyone was invited to see what they could give



Logo of the "International Gathering of Montfortian Associates", August 6-13, 2023.

up to be more faithful to the example of Jesus.

The third day began with a talk by Father Marco PASINATO, SMM, on "Montfort and Baptism", followed by group work. In the afternoon, the participants, divided according to their congregation, met up with their General Assistants for a time of sharing and getting to know each other. Immediately afterwards, guided tours were given of the most important sites in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. The day ended with a very moving and intense moment of prayer. On the second anniversary of the assassination of Father Olivier MAIRE, SMM, everyone gathered in the Basilica of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort for a prayer vigil during which the many martyrs in the history of the three congregations were remembered. For our congregation, the 49 Spanish brothers killed in 1936, the 7 Belgian brothers massacred at Buta in the DRC in 1965 and Brother Joseph DOUET murdered at Kataco in Guinea Conakry in April 2008 were presented.

On the fourth day, it was time to visit Poitiers, the



Participants in the meeting room – "Salle Jean Grolleau" - at the Saint Gab' School, Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre.

cradle of the Montfortian family. Brother Maurice HÉRAULT presented the theme "Lay people and Montfort in Poitiers", highlighting the important role played by many lay people in Montfort's mission and in the life of the Montfortian congregations.

The fifth day was dedicated to another very important place in the history of Montfort: the Calvary of Pontchâteau. The researcher André MARTIN presented the theme "Montfort and the involvement of lay people in Pontchâteau", describing the important role played by lay people in the construction of the Calvary and the various renovations that have taken place over the course of its history. In the afternoon, the new evangelisation project led by the three congregations on the site was presented. The aim is to make Pontchâteau a centre for evangelisation and the spreading of Montfortian spirituality. The visit ended with the celebration of the Way of the Cross, which took place indoors due to the rain.

The sixth and final day was marked by four important moments:

- the presentation of the theme "Saint Louis de Montfort and the Bible" by Sr. Anne Marie DAVID, FDLS;
- the intervention of Maria Jesús RAMOS and Gemma Justo MEDRANO, associates of our Spanish province, who, in presenting the theme "Missionary disciples on the path of synodality", gave a testimony to the marvellous collaboration between laypeople and brothers in Spain, especially in the school world;
- group work divided by continent to reflect on how to increase collaboration between the associates of the three congregations in the different continents;
- a festive evening, where everyone was able to share the culture and traditions of their own country, in a joyful and fraternal atmosphere.

At the end of the week, everyone gathered in the Basilica of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion for the send-off celebration presided over by the Bishop of Luçon, Mgr. François JACOLIN. It was an opportunity not only to thank God and our founders for this wonderful experience, but also to express, with great emotion and gratitude, our deepest thanks to all those who worked to make this project a reality:

- the organising committee made up of Mr. Eric JOYEAU (coordinator), Mr. Claude TIGNON, Ms. Marie-Line TIGNON, Ms. Véronique FRINAULT, Ms. Sylvie ABRAHAM, Sr. Marie Laure PAILLET, FDLS, Sr. Dorothée



Eucharistic celebration at the Temple, Pontchâteau.

HARUSHIMANA Militant of the Blessed Virgin, Father Eric MANIRAKIZA, SMM, Brothers Claude MARSAUD, Maurice HÉRAULT and Guy BERTRAND, FSG ;

- the interpreters: Daniel BUSNEL, SMM, and Brother Michel MENDY, FSG, Father Marco PASINATO, SMM, Brother Dionigi TAFFARELLO, FSG;
- the many volunteers in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, Poitiers, Montfort-sur-Meu, Cesson and Pontchâteau who offered their invaluable help in welcoming and accompanying the participants;
- the parish community of Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre and the Collège Saint Gabriel and Saint Michel for their warm welcome and hospitality.

I can say that the objectives of the meeting were fully achieved, thanks also to the active involvement of all the participants, aware of the great opportunity that was offered to them and of the important responsibility of passing on what they had received in their place of mission. It is certain that another great step has been taken on the road to building the Montfortian Charismatic Family.



Meeting of participants in English groups, to see the possibility of cooperation at the linguistic level.



Meeting on the basis of a congregation with which a participant is affiliated, represented by the participants associated with the Brothers of Saint Gabriel: the brothers and the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates.

“Maison Natale”, a beautiful story that continues

Marco PASINATO, SMM

Montfort-sur-Meu. Mrs. Andrée BOURÇOIS-MACE (1899-1987), a woman of letters, born in Montfort-sur-Meu, died in 1987, once wrote: “I will tell you which city I love best in the world. It is a very small town with walks shaded by lime trees. It has a small, sleepy, brown river where you can see small roaches gliding in squads among the water lilies...” In Montfort you can indeed find the freshness of the water since the town was built at the confluence of the Meu and the Garun. . Near an old mill flows a magnificent and impetuous weir. You can walk in the shade of its parks and woods. The Brocéliande forest begins on the outskirts of the town. Montfort-sur-Meu benefits from a rich heritage with, among others, the St Jacques Abbey, which became an Agricultural Technical Training Center and the remains of the ramparts with the 14th century Papegaut Tower.

The heart of all this as in a setting, an old house where, on January 31, 1673, Louis GRIGNION, who would become St Louis-Marie de Montfort, was born. Ms. Anne LEFEUVRE, neighbor, one day while taking out an old photo of Rue de la Saulnerie, gives us her precious testimony: “I keep a memory of the Birthplace being a native of Montfort and even in Rue de la Saulnerie. The silhouette you see in the photo was that of my father, who was a carpenter by profession. I remember that in front of the Birthplace there was a gate and even a small house.”



“Maison Natale” facade.

It was the grandfather of St Louis-Marie – Eustache GRIGNION – who bought it on July 5, 1650, but it was probably built in the 16th century under Henri IV. It was an inn and was inhabited by soldiers of the League. These buildings were sold by Guillemette FORGET, daughter of the former cabaret owner. The house was in ruins, with no floor, just the ground floor. Eustache GRIGNION therefore bought a first small house with 2 rooms: the entrance and the "natal room". This house stopped at the first wall, at the foot of the current staircase which did not exist. Being a "Royal Notary", appointed by King Louis XIV, for the entire Montfort region, Eustache GRIGNION had a clientele; moreover the family grew... When he had enough money, he bought a second small house – number 13 – and he made it his "Study". Later, he bought a third one - number 17, which does not belong to us - he had the roof removed, since there was no floor, cleaned everything and had an upper floor and attic built. This is the current silhouette of the house: the main recessed part and two small wings which extend to the right and left of this part.

Grandfather Grignion therefore lived there with his wife and children. When she died, the grandmother divided her property between her children. She gave this house to her eldest son Jean-Baptiste who was a lawyer. He married in 1671, Jeanne ROBERT, daughter of a councilor of the city of Rennes. In 1672, a first little boy was born, who died at the age of 5 months, a common occurrence at that time. On January 31 of the following year, 1673, a second boy was born, little Louis. It is he who will become Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort. In 1675 Jean Baptiste GRIGNION sold the house to his brother Félix to live in Bois-Marquer in Iffendic. During the Revolution, the house left the Grignion heritage. It passes from hand to hand… almost always notaries like the DIERAS. At the end of her life, Mrs. Diéras, who was mayor of Montfort sur Meu, gave the house to the Diocese of Rennes. In 1962 Father Joseph LEGRAND, Parish Priest of Montfort, bought the House from the Diocese.

In 1968, the birthplace and the back room were purchased by the Company of Mary. In 1973 restorations of the "natal room" and the facade. Each Montfortian Congregation gives 2000 dollars. In 1975, purchases of the other house, n. 13, by the three Congregations in the name of the Company of Mary. 1976 – 1977: restoration of the whole



Facade of the "Maison Natale" with gate and small house



Father Marcel GENDROT, SMM offers Pope John Paul II a volume of "Le Sang des Grignion".

by the architect Mr. Yves PERRIN. In July 1977 arrival of 4 Daughters of Wisdom: Sr Dominique, Sr Françoise, Sr Edmond, Sr Marie-Alice. 1978, May 25, purchase of the old Gendarmerie by the 3 Congregations, in the name of the Company of Mary: this building will be called "La Providence". The two buildings, "Maison Natale" and "Providence", thus formed a unit capable of satisfying the dual purpose: a place of prayer and reflection and a place for welcoming pilgrimages and visits.

In 1978, June 18, arrival of Fr. Gustave BOSCHET, SMM. In July 1978 arrival of Sr Renée, FdlS. And July 1980, September 1982: arrival of Brother François GARAT, FSG. In 1980-1981 Development of the 2nd floor of "La Providence". In 1980, arrival of Father Marcel SIBOLD, SMM, author of the two volumes "Le sang des Grignion", on the history of the family of Saint Louis-Marie and his Birthplace. September 1982: arrival of Sr. Agnès SALAUN, FdlS, of Fr. Emmanuel GUIL, SMM who remained until 1992 and of Br. Louis DOUSSET, FSG. In February 1987 Sr Reine FdlS from the Montfort-sur-Meu Hospital moved to the "Maison Natale". In 1990, arrival of Sr Marie Thérèse, FdlS and Fr. Jean LE GUEN, SMM who remained until 1992. In 1993, development of the 1st floor of "Providence". In 1997, arrival of Fr. Marcel GENDROT, SMM who remained until 2007; in 2000 arrival of Fr. René PAUL, SMM and in 2004 of Fr. Paul LEMARIE, SMM. In 1999, on December 6, departure of the Sisters of Wisdom: Sr Marie Thérèse, Sr André and Sr Suzanne.

In 2007, first international community project, with Fathers Efrem ASSOLARI (Italy), Emmanuel GUIL (France), DOMINIC Joseph (India) and Miguel DOLCE (Haiti). In 2010 the Congregation of Montfort Missionaries opened a French-speaking International Novitiate, with Fathers Marco PASINATO (Italian),



Rue de la Saulnerie, historical photo (cf. Ecomuseum)



"Maison Natale", detail of the ceramics of Father Alessandro LEIDI, SMM.



"La Providence" (Former gendarmerie).

Jean-Marie RAKOTONDRAVAO (Malagasy), and French Fathers Emmanuel GUIL, Jean-Paul BECK and Jean LE GUEN. Between 2010 and 2020 other confreres followed one another for the formation of a total of around 80 novices: Bro. Nirina REGNIER, SMM (Malagasy) Fr. Jackson FABIUS, SMM (Haitian) Fr. Jean Joël RANDRIANARIVOMANANA, SMM (Malagasy). In the years 2022-2023, the Maison Natale will be emptied for major restoration work and brought up to standard. In 2023, at the request of Mgr. Pierre D'ORNELLAS, Archbishop of Rennes, the Montfort Missionaries arrived in the parish of Saint Louis-Marie in Brocéliande. A new Montfort community at the service of the Parish: Fathers André LAUNAY, SMM and Willi SELMAN, SMM, of Indonesian origin, settle in the presbytery of Montfort-sur-Meu. The community also provides reception and visits to the "Maison Natale".



Maison Natale, miniature taken from the book "Le Sang des Grignion".

Message from Father Superior General

Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM

My dear confreres, lay associates, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our presence in India is indeed a moment of grace. It is a moment of joy to give thanks to God for all the blessings that He has been showering upon us as an entity and a moment of renewing our commitment and our way of living and doing mission as Montfort Missionaries in India. Saint Paul says, "The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building (1 Cor. 3: 8 – 9)". Saint Paul's remarks remind us of so many people (confreres, lay people, priests and religious) who have been hand in hand journeying and working together to spread the reign of Jesus through Mary in the footsteps of our holy founder Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort. For them, as co-workers in God's service, we give thanks to God for their availability, their hard work and commitment, and their total dedication.

In our rule of life, our Founder, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort clearly said that the purpose of our mission is "to renew the spirit of Christianity among the faithful" (RM 56). For me, to renew the spirit of Christianity implies to renew the spirit of humanity. Consequently, our mission is not an exclusive mission, only for the Christians, but also for those who are in need, particularly the poor, the marginalized, the neglected and abandoned. Your choice of Mission in India to the least of the society is indeed in line with the desire of our Founder. Your selfless service amidst the limitations of the place and poverty of the people and your total dedication to the spreading of the Good News in Parishes and in remote mission areas has brought the light of Christ to the least of the society. It is indeed a prophetic witness that you have shown to our society.

In his message to the participants of the 38th General Chapter of Montfort Missionaries, Pope Francis highlighted three Montfortian values which are for him important and timely: *welcoming, internationality (inter-cultural) and tenderness*. The Holy Father emphasized that these virtues must be treasured, preserved, cultivated and spread. In this special occasion, I would like also to invite each one of you to embrace and incarnate these

virtues into our way of living and witnessing. These virtues are the precious spiritual heritage that our founder shared with us.



50 years of presence is a God given grace that invites us also to go deeper into ourselves as Montfortians – as an Entity. It is a call to renew our spirit as consecrated persons. We will be able to continue to renew the spirit of Christianity in our mission if we, as human and consecrated person, enter into a process of renewal personally and communally. To enter into a process of renewal, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort left us a plan of life and action that is always up-to-date: to seek, to contemplate, to reveal the *True Wisdom* in the heart of the world and to denounce *false wisdom*, by following Mary's example and with her help. I do hope that seeking, contemplating, and revealing the True Wisdom *with, through and in Mary*, our Mother marks our way of living and celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our presence in India.

Finally, I gladly join with you my dear priests and brothers in thanking and praising God for the past 50 golden years of blessings he has showered upon our Entity. I pray that this celebration becomes a launching pad of renewing our way of living and doing mission for the sake of God's kingdom.

May Mother Mary guide and mold us to become more and more like her son, Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom and Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort continue to inspire us to have good missionaries in the Company of Mary for the service of the Church, for the service of the Gospel.

Congratulations and God bless you all!

The Message for the Golden Jubilee Year of India

Peter MASCARENHAS, SMM

"It is through the most Blessed Virgin Mary that Jesus Christ came into the world, and it is also through her that he will reign in the world," says St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, our founder, and it is through the blessing of Mother Mary that the Montfort Missionaries were led to India in 1973. It is a land, where one experiences the divine milieu in cities and villages alike. It is a land of temples, churches, mosques, gurudwaras, pagodas and so on. The prayer of our founder, St. Louis-Marie de Montfort is realized in India with the establishment of SMM communities. Now, we are completing fifty years of our presence in India, the land of different spiritualities and cultures.

Today, we thank God for the establishment of SMM in India. In gratitude, we fondly remember the hard work of the then Superior General and Italian Missionaries. They sowed the seed of the Montfortian Spirituality in the year 1973 and today, it has grown into a sturdy tree with its roots deep into the Indian soil. It is good to remember that the missionary legacy of our Congregation is still playing an important role in forming the identity of Indian Montfortian Missionaries.

We are grateful to God for the pioneers, who responded to God's call with the words 'Here I am.' We can hear an echo of Abraham's response as 'father of Faith'. They left their motherland and moved to a strange land to spread the Gospel with specific vision laid down by our founder St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. It was a herculean task to spread the Good News in the land of gods and goddesses, saints and sages, myths and legends, more so with diversity and ethnicity.

Since its inception in 1973 to date, Indian Montfort Missionary Foundation has grown by leap and bounds. During the last five decades, we have experienced the providential hand of God in various initiatives. It is by the grace of God that the Vice Province has grown from strength to strength through the selfless service of our pioneers and our confreres. The Indian Foundation now occupies a place of pride at the global level. It has 2 Bishops and 70 priests and many aspiring young men which is a sign of God's gracious blessings on our province. Our entity stands tall and proud, with our students under formation, trained to venture into the mission of the SMM. We are involved in different ministries such as pastoral, social and educational. Besides these ministries, our members are also working in the remote areas of South India and other parts of the world.

The Jubilee Theme: "Gratitude to God Alone" brings us together with the diversity of our cultures. This attitude of gratitude has helped us in our commitment to the Lord and to the Society. The Jubilee celebration is the right occasion for us to evaluate, how deeply our Montfortian spirituality is rooted in Indian soil as response to the needs of the Indian Church. It also invites us to reflect whether it witnesses the Wisdom incarnate and the Blessed Mother.

The key elements of our Montfortian Missionary Journey are: a) It is **Spiritual**; therefore, it involves seeking the Will of God and integrating our life of faith and walking in the footsteps of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort and in the spirit of Mary our Mother. b) It is **Contextual**, which exhorts us to be at the service of the poor and the tribal with unconditional love. c) It is **Transformational**, in which we are called to live as apostles and as prophets through our apostolate and commitment to bring about transformation in society.



Logo of the Golden Jubilee Year of India.

To celebrate 50 glorious years of achievements, we have planned various events:

- **Jubilee Prayer** and a **Logo** to guide us through this whole year and a **Jubilee Calendar** to display the pictures of various activities done through the years in our Vice Province.
- To have **Montfortian Retreat** to continue our spiritual journey with the whole Montfortian Family.
- An **International Level Symposium** inviting eminent speakers to enlighten and enrich our spirituality and mission.
- **An Audiovisual Presentation of the History of the Montfortian** presence in India and the publication of the Souvenir to mark the Golden Jubilee year.
- We also plan to organize **The Marian Pilgrimages** to mark the Jubilee year with the spirit of Mother Mary.
- And finally, we planned to have a simple, yet solemn **Golden Jubilee Celebration in the month of November 2023**.

'When we honour the past, we energize the future and the present becomes a celebration.' The Golden Jubilee could well be called the Year of Gratitude because we have so much to be thankful for. Through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the blessings of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, let us march towards the future. Mission continues...

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence: The Golden Jubilee Milestone in the Vice-Province of SMM India

Arul Jose Nashwin ARULMONI, SMM



Father Mario BELOTTI, SMM, one of the founding Fathers with the Bishops, two General Assistants and the Provincial.

In a momentous occasion, the Vice-Province of India commemorates its Golden Jubilee, marking five decades of unwavering dedication, growth, and service. This milestone stands as a testament to the collective efforts, resilience, and achievements of the community over the years. The journey began fifty years ago with a vision to make a positive impact on society, and today, as we celebrate this Golden Jubilee; it is an opportune time to reflect on the remarkable path that has been traversed. From humble beginnings to a well-known congregation, especially in South India, the Vice-Province has evolved in countless ways.

In the realm of social service and education, the Vice-Province has been a beacon of hope and support for numerous individuals. The impact is not just measured in numbers but in the lives touched and transformed. Spiritual enrichment has been at the core of the Vice-Province's mission. The spiritual legacy cultivated by the inspiration of our founder St. Louis-Marie de

Montfort over the past fifty years continues to inspire and guide the community forward.

As we celebrate this Golden Jubilee, it is also an occasion to express gratitude to all those who have been part of this incredible journey – the pioneers, leaders, members, and the community at large. Their collective efforts have shaped the Vice-Province into what it is today.

Golden Jubilee Retreat: A Journey of Spiritual Renewal

As the anticipation for the Golden Jubilee built, members of the Indian Vice-Province embarked on a transformative retreat led by Fr. Mario BELOTTI, SMM. The retreat held from November 10th to 15th and then from November 19th to 24th, served as a crucial stepping stone toward the celebrations that awaited.

Fr. Mario, a revered figure known for his wisdom and dedication, offered spiritual insights woven with Montfortian teachings and biblical quotes. The retreat provided a sacred space for deep contemplation and self-renewal, preparing the hearts and minds of the Montfortian Family—consisting of fathers, brothers, and sisters—for the significant milestone ahead.

His return to India after 41 years was a momentous occasion, and his powerful insights resonated with the participants, encouraging them to reflect on their unique paths of life and spiritual journeys. The retreat set the tone for the Golden Jubilee, fostering a sense of unity and commitment among the participants.

Golden Jubilee Celebration: A Glorious Milestone

On November 25th, the Indian Vice-Province celebrated its Golden Jubilee in the presence of esteemed bishops, including Rev. Bp. Peter MACHADO, Archbishop of Bangalore; Rev. Bp. Francis SERRAO SJ, Bishop of Shimoga; Rev. Bp. THOMAS Antony Swamy, Bishop of Chikmangalore; and Rev. Bp. Raja Rao TELANGATHOTI, SMM, Bishop of Vijayawada. Distinguished guests, such as Rev. Fr. Marco PASINATO, SMM, Rev. Fr. Prem KUMAR, SMM (general councilors of SMM), Rev. Fr. Mario BELOTTI, SMM (one of the founding pioneers of SMM India), and Rev. Fr. Gregorius PASI, SMM, Vicar of the Indonesian SMM province, graced the occasion. Indian confreres working in the USA and Germany also represented the event. Several provincials from different congregations, priests in and around the diocese of Bangalore, and religious sisters and brothers were present to mark this auspicious occasion.

The event was a splendid gathering, highlighting 50 years of dedicated service, commitment, and spirituality within the Montfortian family. A solemn Eucharistic celebration, cultural programs, and the presentation of a special Golden Jubilee souvenir added layers of significance to the day.

The Golden Jubilee celebration not only honoured the past but also ignited a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to the Montfortian mission. The legacy of the Indian Vice-Province continues to shine brightly, inspiring generations to come in the spirit of love, service, and devotion. The Golden Jubilee is indeed a glorious milestone, marking the enduring strength and vitality of faith within the Montfortian community.

Ordination of Deacons: Peter Anthony, SMM and Martin Selvanayagam, SMM

The spiritual journey continued with the ordination of Deacons Peter ANTHONY and Martin SELVANAYAGAM to the priesthood on November 26th at Maria Bhavan, the Scholasticate community. This sacred ceremony was witnessed by a devout congregation comprising 60 priests, religious brothers and sisters, laity, families of the ordinandi, and Montfortian friends. The Holy Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Most Reverend Dr. Raja Rao TELANGATHOTI, SMM, enriched the experience for all in attendance. Dr. Raja Rao eloquently expounded on the profound importance and meaning of priesthood, deepening the spiritual significance of the ordination.

The transition of Deacons Peter ANTHONY and Martin SELVANAYAGAM into the esteemed role of the priesthood was described by many as both a blessing and a privilege. The shared spirituality and sense of community during the ceremony created an



Confreres from the Vice-Province of India.

atmosphere of unity and celebration. Post-ordination, the congregation gathered for a sumptuous meal, reinforcing the bond of fellowship among the attendees. This shared meal symbolized not only the nourishment of the body but also the spiritual nourishment gained through communal worship and shared faith.

The ordination was further commemorated with vibrant photo sessions, capturing the spirit of the event in lively snapshots. These photos serve as lasting mementos, encapsulating the joy, unity, and shared spirituality of this momentous day.

Session on Formation by Fr. Marco PASINATO, SMM – Post Preparation

In the wake of the Golden Jubilee celebration and ordination in India, Fr. Marco PASINATO, SMM initiated an exclusive two-day session on the Ratio II document. This distinctive gathering exclusively included superiors and administrators within the Montfortian formation house. Conducted on the 27th and 28th of November, this specialized session delved deep into the intricacies of the Ratio II document, tailored specifically for the roles of formators. The focused nature of the sessions allowed for in-depth discussions and personalized guidance, ensuring a direct impact on those actively involved in the formation process.

Fr. Marco's expertise took center stage as he engaged with formators, providing insights into the effective utilization of the Ratio II document in their roles. The discussions transcended theory, addressing the practical challenges and responsibilities that formators encounter in their day-to-day interactions with the formees. Fr. Marco's guidance extended beyond the document itself, offering a nuanced understanding of Montfortian spirituality and charism, along with practical strategies for implementation.

This focused approach underscored the pivotal roles formators play in shaping the future of the Montfortian family within the Vice-Province of India. As a result, the Montfortian formation program led by Fr. Marco has significantly benefited the formators, who, having celebrated the Golden Jubilee, now carry a renewed commitment to their crucial roles in guiding the next generation of Montfortians. Heartfelt thanks are extended to Fr. Marco for his keen interest, valuable inputs, and steadfast guidance for the confreres in charge of formation. The session served as a fitting continuation of the spiritual preparations leading up to the Golden Jubilee, ensuring that the legacy of commitment and service within the Montfortian family continues to flourish in the years to come.



Father Peter MASCARENHAS, SMM receiving the Papal Jubilee Blessing from Father Mario BELOTTI, SMM.

Conclusion

Looking ahead, the Golden Jubilee serves as a launchpad for new aspirations and endeavours. The Vice-Province remains committed to its founding principles while embracing the opportunities and challenges that the future holds. The next chapter is poised to build upon the rich legacy, ensuring that the journey ahead is as impactful and transformative as the last fifty years.



Father Bala SHOWRI, SMM, one of the first Indian confreres with the Assistant General, Father Prem KUMAR, SMM.

As we reflect on these transformative moments, we are reminded that the Golden Jubilee is not just a commemoration of the past but a call to embrace the future with renewed vigor and dedication. The Montfortian legacy, built on love, service, and devotion, continues to shine brightly, inspiring all to carry the torch forward in the spirit of Montfortian spirituality. The Indian Vice-Province stands united, fortified by the events that unfolded during this momentous celebration, ready to embark on the next chapter of its sacred journey.

In conclusion, the Golden Jubilee celebration is not just a reflection of the past but a celebration of resilience, growth, and the enduring spirit of the Vice-Province of India. As we stand at this juncture, let us carry the torch of service, education, and spirituality forward, lighting the way for the generations to come.



From the Golden Jubilee Mass celebration.

Brief history of Montfort Missionaries in India

Anthony PEREIRA, SMM

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." (Lao Tzu). Fifty odd years ago, a journey of the Montfort Missionaries to India, began in it its search to fulfill the dream of our Founder Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, who desired to work in and among Christians and those who wish to open themselves to the love of Christ and Mary.

The Beginnings (1969 -70)

The journey of a thousand miles began in the year 1969. Upon the invitation of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Yercaud, the SMM during the term of Fr. Marcel GENDROT as Superior General, responded by their first visits on 5th and 28th December by Fr. Wilgred JUKKA and Fr. Frank SETZER, who stayed at Yercaud, in Tamilnadu and went about visiting North and South India. It was on 9th October, 1971, after long discussions, the General Council requested the Italian Province to initiate this new venture. On 17th of the same month, then Provincial Superior of Italy Fr. Patrizio ZULIANI joyfully communicated to Fr. GENDROT his desire to take up the Indian Foundation.

General Administration's Visit (1973)

The journey of a thousand miles continued in 1973, by the visit the Superior General's Team made to GOA, and met the Archbishop Raul GONSALVES. From Goa's Major Seminary Rachol, two Theologians who showed their desire to join the SMM were picked up. A Diocesan Priest too later joined them. The General Team then proceed to Bangalore, KARNATAKA and recruited three Philosophers from St. Peter's Seminary. All the above recruits along with one more Philosophy finished candidate were sent to Rome for Studies and Novitiate.

It was during this same year, two members from the Italian Province Fr. Attilio CORNA, SMM and Fr. Michelangelo CORNA, SMM make their visit to India.

The Pioneers (1974)

The journey of thousand miles now had become a reality in 1974, and so the two Missionary Priests, when they arrived the second time, stayed at NAVAJEEVAN HOUSE, with Bro. Bureau F.S.G at Kengeri. From there they temporarily took up residence at Dharmaram College, a seminary of the CMI FATHERS, for the next 4 years. During this time, they set forth recruiting Student candidates, Fr. Bala SHOWRI, SMM being the first among them.

The Pioneers were joined by two other Italian Confreres – Fr. Mario BELOTTI, Fr. Isidoro TOMASONI (1975-77), and two Newly Ordained Indian Confreres – Fr. Norbert LOBO and Fr. John FERNANDES (1976). In their presence they got themselves organized doing Vocation Promotion, Pastoral services in nearby City Parishes of Christu Prabhalaya, St. Patrick's, and St. Mary's Basilica. As Chaplains they reached out to the Religious sisters for confessions, recollections and retreats. They got themselves also socially involved in the caring of the Lepers of the Bangalore City at Sumanahalli and contributed to its progress. As candidates started increasing, the Pioneers were on their heels to plan a living home for the Montfort



Italian Pioneer priests with Indian formées.

Missionaries.

The First Home of the Montfort Missionaries (1978)

A property of about 4 Acres were purchased from the CMI Congregation. The work of a Study House for Seminarians began, and on the 8th of September 1978, the Structure was blessed by His Grace the Archbishop of Bangalore, Pakiam AROCKIASAMY, and inaugurated by the Superior General Fr. Marcel GENDROT in the presence of his Team, the Provincial of Italy – Fr. Ugo PACCAGNELLA, and Member representatives from England, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. The house was named MARIA BHAVAN. The religious from around the surroundings joined in this Celebration. The house accommodated the Scholastics, Novices and the Postulants. At the end of September two confreres made their Final Vows – Fr. Norbert LOBO and Br. Michael KAROTTUTHAZHATHU.

The Journey Onwards (1979)

Two new Confreres joined from the Province of Great Britain – Fr. Donald Mac DONALD (1979) and Fr. Kieran FLYNN (1981). Both of them collaborated in our Entity's Formative journey in the Novitiate at Maria Bhavan, Bannimantap and the Montfort Farm.

The first Indian priests with the Pioneer Fathers



Standing from left:
Fr. Michael. K. J., Fr. Michaelangelo CORNA, Fr. Superior General Marcel GENDROT, Archbishop Pakiam AROKIASWAMY of Archdiocese of Bangalore, Fr. Leclerc, Fr. Attilio CORNA.

Sitting from left:
Fr. Vavasori, Fr. Mario BELLOTTI, Fr. Isidoro TOMASONI, Fr. Norbert LOBO, Fr. John Lourdes FERNANDES.

After the arrival of those who completed their Studies and Novitiate, two were ordained to Priesthood after their Final Vows – Fr. Peter SWAMY, Fr. Joseph Raja Rao on 7th June 1980. The pioneers approached the Bishop of Eluru diocese Bishop John, who willingly welcomed them to open a Mission station at Karkaipeta, Amalapuram, in East Godavari of Andhra Pradesh. Fr. Anil KUMAR joined Fr. Mario BELOTTI in a new Apostolate to work in the Mission belt of India.

The Formation of Candidates – Opening Houses

As Vocations increased a need was felt to open New

Houses of Formation. The Novitiate was shifted from Bangalore to Mysore in June 1980. It began in a rented house at Bannimantap. A property was purchased at the foothills of Chamundi (1981) and a Farm House was built in which the Residential Novitiate was held. It was named MONTFORT NIWAS. Just about then a new Priest was Ordained Fr. Michael K.

Another house but this time for Postulants was purchased from the Notre Dame Sisters (1982) who began residing since then. During this period (1982) the Italian Missionaries had to depart from the country. It was a sad and a shocking departure, as the Indian entity were left with 5 Priests, 15 Scholastics, 5 Novices, 20 plus Postulants. It is during this period that the Mission Station had to be closed down (1984). The focus was then placed on stabilizing Formation.

Our Wheels are still Rolling – Handing over to Pioneers in India (1984)

After the departure of the Italian Confreres, our Indian Pioneers Fr. Norbert LOBO, Fr. John FERNANDES, Fr. Peter SWAMY, Fr. Joseph Raja Rao, Fr. Michael KAROTTUTHAZHATHU, took up the responsibility of moving ahead. Under the direction of the General Administration, the Assistant General, Fr. Rene PAUL nominated Fr. Kieran FLYNN (1982) to take over the charge to support and continue the work well begun.

In 1984, another chapter began in the history of the SMM in India. Fr. Anil KUMAR was nominated the New Regional Superior for India. Since then our wheels have been rolling. In all these years, we have responded to the Mission call of the Gospel and the Mission call of Father de Montfort. We have moved from the Regional to the Delegation and from the Delegation to being a Vice-Province. We have grown in numbers. All that has been done, and is being done, is with enthusiasm, dedication, and love for the Charism and the Congregation.

We as Montfortians have promoted and promoting the Renewal of the Church through our Retreats, Renewal, Sessions, Pastoral Services, Supportive Collaboration with other Organization, Diffusing Spirituality through Publications, Animating Religious & Diocesan Vocations, reaching out in Charity to the Poor Girls in Education, Uplifting the Tribals of Saura and neglected Communities and animating the Associates. The best of our contributions has been in supporting the International Entities in various corners of the World – PHILIPPINES, MOZAMBIQUE, PNG, GERMANY, THAILAND, MALAWI, ENGLAND, USA, FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, PERU-BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, NICARAGUA, AUSTRALIA.

Our Gratitude to the Pioneers

"People who end up as 'first' don't actually set out to be first. They set out to do something they love." (Condoleezza Rice). Our Pioneers who landed in India at the behest of the Montfort Brothers, responded to by the SMM Congregation and supported Province of Italy, took bold step in responding to the call of the hour. All in the respective capabilities and love for India, collaborated with each other to fulfill the dream of Father de Montfort. We are grateful to all of them for their commitment, availability, example and witnessing. In their preaching, teaching and service they have been prompt, sacrificing, simple, untiring Missionaries. They will be always cherished and their memories pondered, for opening a new chapter of the INDIAN ENTITY. Some the Lord has called them in his abode, while others continue to offer their unconditional services to the Congregation and the Church. We thank Almighty God for the generous their availability and love for the Congregation. "They certainly set out to do something they loved". May Mary our Beloved Mother who accompanies us through her Company, continue through the intercession of St. Louis de Monfort, "to protect and guard his Holy Church".

An Interview with Fr. Mario BELOTTI, SMM

Prem KUMAR, SMM

1. How did the mission in India begin? Who were the first missionaries?

The beginnings of our mission in India date back in the early 1970s. A great promoter was the then superior general, Father Marcel GENDROT, SMM who was repeatedly invited by the Brothers of St. Gabriel. After some negotiations, the General Administration decided to launch the project and asked the Italian Province to provide the personnel. In fact, three confreres had been contacted for the purpose, two fathers, Attilio CORNA, Michelangelo CORNA and a deacon, Mario BELOTTI. The first two, at the end of August 1973, were asked to be on an explorative trip to India. For three months, they were hosted by the Brothers of St. Gabriel in a house located in Kengeri. Before Christmas, they returned to Italy to submit their findings to the superiors and to discuss with them some concrete possibilities to start the foundation which, in fact, took place in mid-1974. Meanwhile, I was ordained to the priesthood and I joined them at the end of July of the same year.

For four years, the first community rented fifteen rooms within the big campus of the CMI seminary of Dharmaram College. Only in 1978 did we have the opportunity to enter our first newly built residence, Maria Bhavan. Meanwhile, we were blessed with a number of seminarians. The first two batches were sent to Italy for their novitiate and theological studies. Then, in 1979-80, two houses were opened in the historic city of Mysore, one for the novices and one for the postulants, while the residence in Bangalore became our scholasticate.

In January 1981, our first mission station was opened in Amalapuram, in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Pioneers were Fathers Mario BELOTTI and Augusto CARVALHO. Meanwhile, from Europe and in different times, three other confreres joined the foundation: Fathers Isidoro TOMASONI (Italian), Donald Mac DONALD and Kieran FLYNN (both British).

2. How was your experience as a person working for the first time in distant land?

I was 26 years old, genuinely curious about Eastern world and spirituality. My experience remains memorable especially for my direct involvement in five sectors: (1) The ministry of vocation animation, which often allowed me to travel through the Indian sub-continent and to interact with the different facets of its rich and complex culture. (2) The ministry of preaching retreats to religious men and women and of giving catechetical instructions to the adults. (3) The diffusion of the Montfortian spirituality and the animation of Marian groups such as the Legion of Mary. (4) The service to the poorest, especially leprosy patients and abandoned children. (5) The pursuing of a Master in "Theology in Indian Context", which offered me the opportunity to place my Western Christian upbringing in dialogue with the Eastern Christian world as well as with the ancient writings of the Hindu tradition.

3. What are the cultural challenges you experienced during your stay in India?

The first challenge I faced upon landing in India was the need to improve my knowledge of the English language. At school, I learned French and only during my theological studies did I decide to learn a little English on my own. I was so eager to begin my ministry that I spent the first three months focusing almost exclusively on the practice of reading, writing, and speaking in English. Another challenge was whether I should learn a local language, and if so, which one? Bangalore was a cradle of multi-ethnic communities. I finally decided to start learning Kannada but didn't get beyond the Kagunita stage, mostly because the medium most required of me for both preaching and teaching was English. Furthermore, when I began to converse a little in Kannada, circumstances forced me to leave the country (late 1982). A third challenge was to let go of my prejudicial mindset while exposing myself to various aspects of Indian culture and spirituality. A fourth challenge involved addressing the sense of inadequacy that for a long time assailed

me while accompanying young people in their formation process.

4. When you visited India recently, you were very emotional at seeing places and people. What touched you most?

In fact, I was very moved to realize how the initial uncertainties of our foundation ultimately translated into the actual existence of a substantial group of enthusiastic brothers. God has proven once again that He can work miracles through our frail hands. But what touched my emotion most deeply was seeing again, after 41 years, the Sumanahalli site (the rehabilitation center for leprosy patients), where, twice a week, I treated and dressed the wounds of our patients. There I couldn't control my emotions and burst into tears.

5. Do you feel satisfied now after seeing the mission?

Of course, although I know that much is asked of the Indian Montfortian entity in terms of growing in number and of missioning with a more harmonious and collaborative spirit in the midst of diversity.

6. What are the changes you've found during your visit to India?

When I left India, at the end of 1982, Bangalore had three million inhabitants; now the city has grown to thirteen million. Places and streets that in those days were familiar to me are now completely unrecognizable. The entity of the Montfort Fathers has grown from three formation houses and a mission in Andhra Pradesh to a group present in various states of the country and operating mainly in missionary contexts with particular attention to the poor. I'm impressed by the spirit of availability of many a confrere who render their services abroad especially in poor countries like Papua New Guinea or in continents like Europe and North America where the local Montfortians are almost reduced to the bone. My hope is that more positive changes will become visible in the quality of their work as well.

7. This year is the Golden Jubilee of the foundation. How happy are you seeing the progress of the Vice province?

As happy as I am to see progress structurally and



expansively, I hope that the Golden Jubilee year will free the spirit of the Vice Province to take greater risks for God and humanity, reawakening the faith and passion with which the first stone was laid, and trust in the Providence of God regarding the future.

8. What is your message to the Indian Vice Province?

A great professor of moral theology, Bernard Haring, who taught me in Rome in the 1970s, a few weeks before I left for India, told me: "I am happy that you have been assigned to work in India, it is there that the future of the Church is". My message to the confreres of the Indian Vice Province is that they never lose hope in the midst of storms of any kind and that they continue to trust that the Spirit is blowing strongly on their side.

9. What is the one thing you feel proud of the Indian Vice Province?

I feel proud to perceive a positive apostolic "anxiety" in the spirit of many young confreres who wish to translate their zeal into projects that concretely respond to the current needs of the Church, in line with the charism of Saint Louis de Montfort. I also feel particularly proud to hear the testimony of Indian bishops who speak very well of the Montfort Fathers.

NECROLOGY



Father Franjo HAASE



Birth:
17 February 1930
in Wuppertal-Elberfeld, Germany

First profession:
08 September 1954
in Meerssen, Netherlands

Ordination:
27 March 1960
in Oirschot, Netherlands

Death:
19 February 2023
in Marienheide, Germany

Franjo was born Franz-Jozef Haase on February 17, 1930 in Wuppertal-Elberfeld (DE). He went through his humanities in three stages: first from 1946 to 1948 at the Wuppertal gymnasium; second from 1948 to 1951 at a college in Menden; and third, he came into contact with the Montfortian Fathers and finished his humanities at the minor seminary in Rheydt (DE) from 1951 to 1953. He was then 23 and had lost a lot of time before starting these studies due to the circumstances of the Second World War.

After the humanities, Franjo entered the Montfortians in Meerssen (NL) and took his first vows there on September 8, 1954. Like almost all candidates from Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands, he then went to Oirschot (NL) to study philosophy and theology, taking his perpetual vows there five years later on September 8, 1959. He further completed his studies of theology and was ordained priest on March 27, 1960.

First, he served an internship as a chaplain in Bonn until 1962. Then, he got permission to leave for Congo as a missionary and became a teacher in Opala. He returned from Congo in November with the group that suffered the violence of the rebellion and had to return to Europe. For a longer period, he remained associated with the community of Rheydt. During that period, he had treatment for recovery from a kidney disease until 1967. Meanwhile, he expressed his desire to remain connected to the Belgian province as a missionary in Congo. From 1967, he was back in Congo, in Lokutu, until 1975. First for a year as a teacher in the teaching training and then as director of the catechist center.

Returning from Congo in July 1975, Franjo, after some rest, became a chaplain in Baumberg, diocese of Cologne (1977 to 1978), and from 1978 until his retirement in 2005, he was parish priest in Langenfeld. He continued to live in the rectory, hosting the family of a former pupil of the catechist center in Lokutu.

Bit by bit, Franjo became frail and could no longer care for himself properly. But the family continued to help him as long as this was possible for them. Then, early last year 2022, we sat together with someone from the family, someone from the parish council of Langenfeld, and the superior of the German confreres. Together, we took the decision to transfer Franjo to the residential care center in Marienheide, close to our German community. There he received good care and regular visits from our confreres. He was taken to the clinic a week ago because he was no longer eating and drinking. The end was approaching and after a committed life, he died on 19 February 2023 at 4 am.

Jos VAN DEN BERGH, SMM

Father Pierre-Marie GUIOT



Pierre-Marie was born in Pontchâteau on November 6, 1943. His parents Anselme and Tiges GENEVIÈVE were farmers. He was one of 12 children. He was baptized at Saint Guillaume on November 7 and confirmed on May 28 in the same church. He did his secondary education at the Calvaire school in Pontchâteau. He made his first religious profession in Chézelles on September 15, 1965.

His scholasticate took place in several places. Philosophy was from 1965-1966 in Montfort and 1966-67 in Celles sur Belle. His military service was from July 1 to November 1, 1967 in Madagascar. He took up Theology in 1968-1969 in Dreux and in 1969-1970 in Lyon. He carried out his missionary experience in Bolivia from 1970 to May 1973 and he resumed his studies in Lyon. In October 1974, he left for Bolivia for the second time and returned on March 25, 1975 to Colombia to finish his theological studies from 1975-1977 in Bogotá.

On June 28, 1976, he made his perpetual profession in Villavicencio, Colombia, and the next day, he was ordained deacon by Bishop Garavito. He was ordained priest at Saint Guillaume in his parish by Mgr. Vial, Bishop of Nantes on 8 January 1977.

In the meantime, he carried out special studies, anthropology and linguistics at La Salle University in Bogotá from July 1975 to January 1977. He received his obedience for Argentina and left by boat on 15 October 1977. On 1 November 1977, he began his parish apostolate in Weisburd province of Santiago de Estero in northern Argentina.

Furthermore, in 1982, he was appointed to Fiorito in the province of Lomas de Zamora, for popular missions and from 14 February 1984 to 25 February 1988, he was appointed regional delegate. In 2018, he received the news of the closure of the delegation in Argentina as parish priest of Santa Cruz (Buenos Aires) and returned to France to Pontchâteau where he was appointed chaplain of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in la Hillière, Thouaré-sur -Loire.

Some testimonials:

The Brothers of Saint Gabriel:
We were fortunate to be able to benefit for several years from the active presence in his ministry of Father Pierre-Marie GUIOT, who had to take it upon himself to put himself at the service of elderly people, while his missionary soul and heart called internally to preaching and action.

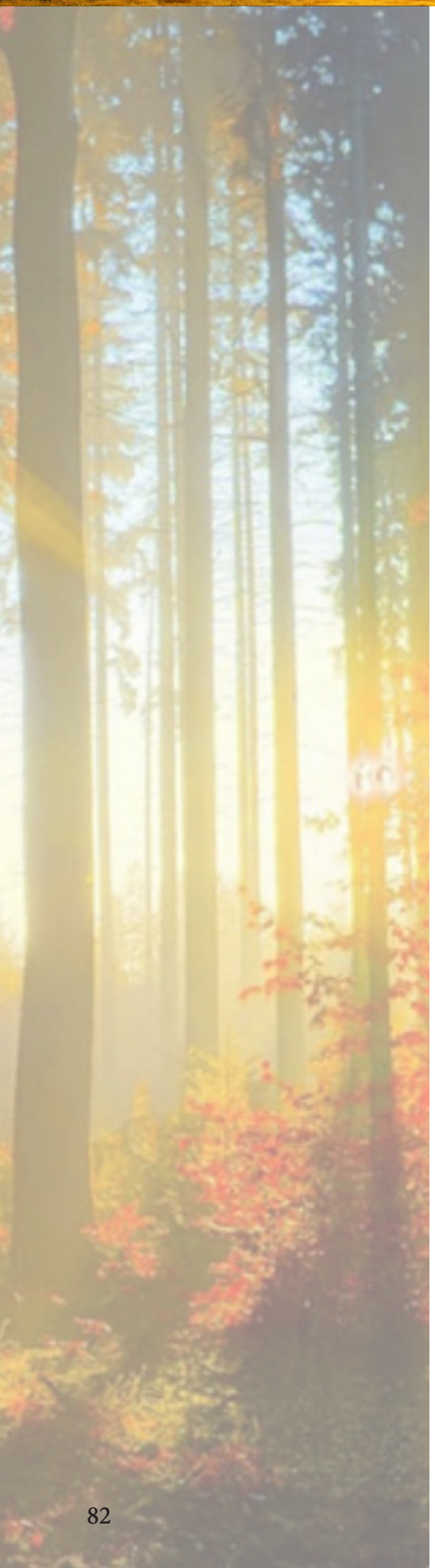
Birth:
06 November 1943
in Pontchâteau, France

First profession:
15 September 1965
in Chézelles, France

Ordination:
08 January 1977
in Saint-Guillaume en Pontchâteau, France

Death:
25 February 2023
in Pontchâteau, France





We were able to benefit from his lively, expressive homilies, proclaimed with conviction and fervor. We were also able to enjoy his very energetic way of celebrating and his changes of tones which woke up those who could sometimes be tempted to fall asleep.

He was a man of conviction and who followed his ideas through, straight to his guns. He told us that he had never been so happy in his life as a missionary among the elderly.

From Argentina:
"Let us rejoice", was one of your favorite phrases with which you greeted us and you said that you would like to be remembered by people as an Apostle of life and I would add joy. Thank you for your explosive laughter and the sacred cry of Let us rejoice.

You knew how to tell us about St. Louis-Marie and the consecration to Jesus through Mary with your powerful voice and a lot of passion. The creation of small chapels dedicated to the Virgin around 80 in families and neighborhoods. You were always ready to respond to people's requests with all simplicity and availability.

Your homilies were rigorous, very deep and human. Always attentive to lend a hand to those most in need. We lack words to say everything you did for Fiorito. You were our father, our brother, our friend, you were one of us. Thank you for your life testimony. We are sure the Virgin Mary will receive you with a "Let us rejoice". Enter into the glory of your Lord.

Daniel BUSNEL, SMM

Father André LOUESDON



André was born here in Bréhan on 10 June 1929 at 23 rue des Trois Moulins, and it was in this church where we are gathered today that he was baptised on the day of his birth and confirmed on 30 April 1941. It was also in this same Notre Dame church that the funerals of his parents, Eugénie and Gabriel LE GUERNIC, his sister Anne and his brother Raymond were held.

During his childhood, he attended primary school here before entering the minor seminary at Ploërmel. He chose to join the Montfort Missionaries and, at the end of his novitiate, he made his first profession on 8 September 1951 at Celles-sur-Belles. He then continued his formation at the major seminary in Montfort-sur-Meu for seven years (1951 to 1958). He made his perpetual Profession on 15 September 1957 at Montfort-sur-Meu (Ile-et-Vilaine) and was ordained a deacon on 21 December of the same year. He was ordained by Monsignor Albert-Marie GUIOT, Bishop of Port-de-Paix (Haiti) on 16 February 1958 in Montfort-sur-Meu.

His first appointment was for pastoral work in Paris from October 1958 to June 1959. He lived in rue du Commandeur in the 14th arrondissement. He was then sent to Josselin as a missionary from 1959 to 1963, and to Mont de Marsan (in the Landes) from 1963 to 1965. After that, he spent a year studying at the social institute in Lyon (1965-1966), a sabbatical year.

Afterwards, he received obedience for Toulouse, St Hilaire (in connection with Poitiers) in October 1966, and became superior in 1969. Then, he was sent to join the missionary team of the West of France, which was in Auray in 1972. He worked in the Pont-Scorf sector, residing in Guidel. He was appointed to Pontchâteau to be in charge of the Montfortian Pilgrimage to Lourdes. He was also appointed head of catechetics in the diocese of Vannes. He was appointed parish priest of Arzal in 1983, Ile Bouchard in 1986, and Val de Vienne in 1994. He was then appointed to the Calvaire de Pontchâteau in 1997, as director of the Montfortian Marian Fraternity. In 2003, he was sent to the community of the Chartreuse d'Auray as superior until 2021, when he came to Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre for his convalescence. But he asked to return to the Kerlaouen EHPAD on 10 November 2021. And while he was in hospital in Pontivy, André went to celebrate the Last Supper at the Father's house on Holy Thursday, 6 April 2023.

So, what are we to remember? Father André was born in this country and reborn in this same country; he belongs to his family and his congregation. He left his family without abandoning them...

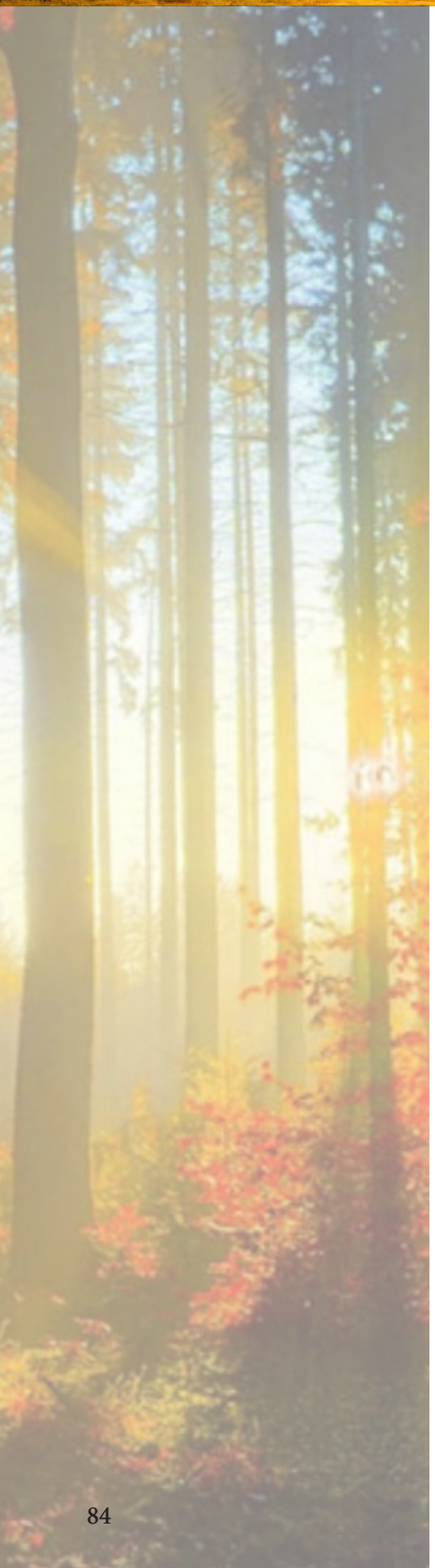
Birth:
10 June 1929
in Bréhan – Loudéac, France

First profession:
08 September 1951
in Celles sur Belle, France

Ordination:
16 February 1958
in Montfort-sur-Meu, France

Death:
06 April 2023
in Pontivy, France





André is a son of the country, a man of relationships and service. André wrote to our Provincial: *"I find myself here in a land of acquaintances... here, at home, we take care of these occupants... and there are animations. The members of my family, nephews and nieces, are a great comfort to me. At my table are, among others, a Cistercian monk and a diocesan priest from Vannes, with whom I worked in catechetics..."*. André loved his family, which is why he came here to the EHPAD to be with his sister Anne and to attend Mass every day.

André is a disciple of Father de Montfort, an available Montfortian missionary who never forgot his roots, and who had always kept the link with the Congregation. He never ceased to give me news of self, and in his last letter, he asked that the feast of Father de Montfort, on 28 April, be celebrated in the Pontchâteau community. He said that he had followed on YouTube the ordination of Father Eric Manirakiza at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (Vendée) on 1 April. You had dedicated your life to the service of the Church and our congregation, the Company of Mary. In all your letters to me, and at our last meeting in hospital, you told me how much you enjoyed sharing the itinerant missions you carried out in the West of France. In your last letter, you expressed your gratitude to the diocese of Vannes for not forgetting you, even at the EHPAD in Brehan, where you did a great service by celebrating Mass every day.

André, you didn't like to be inactive and you threw yourself into new activities. Your smile, your humour, your zest for life and your creativity did a lot of good for the people you worked with. You were always working on something, and you were constantly learning and updating yourself on different subjects as part of your ongoing formation so that you wouldn't lose your footing as you got older.

In fact, those who lived with André found in him not only a cheerful and approachable man, a devoted Montfortian who was attentive to others, but also a man of prayer who listened to the word of God and was faithful to the mission that the Father had entrusted to him.

May the Lord receive you into his house with his light and peace. And may the Virgin Mary and Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort accompany you in your passage to eternal life. Now you can go home, but don't forget your family and your confreres. Thank you for your missionary example to people from all walks of life.

Paulin RAMANANDRAIBE, SMM - Daniel, BUSNEL, SMM

Father Yohanes SURI



Father Yohanes SURI was born in Bomanu (Bajawa District, Flores Island, Indonesia), in the Archdiocese of Ende, on 20 August 1968. He was baptized at Mater Boni Consilii Parish in Bajawa on 25 August 1968 by Father Nico PAREIRA, Pr. In the same parish, he received his first communion on May 23, 1989, and the Sacrament of Confirmation on 16 June 1983.

He went to Junior State High School in Bajawa from 1983-1986. He continued there to Regina Pacis Senior High School from 1986-1989. After finishing high school, he decided to live his vocation as a candidate for the priesthood and joined the Preparatory Course at St. Paul Junior Seminary, Mataloko, Central Flores in 1989-1991. After completing this course, he applied for admission to the SMM and began his two-year novitiate in Bandung, West Java, on 4 August 1991.

He professed his first vows as a Montfortian in Bandung on 15 August 1993. In 1992, he had already begun his philosophical and theological studies in Bandung at Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, and graduated in 1999. As a scholastic, interrupting his academic studies, he underwent his Pastoral Orientation Semester in the parishes of Benua Martinus, Lanjak, and Badau (Sintang Diocese, West-Kalimantan) from July to December 1995. He made his Perpetual Profession in Bandung on August 15, 1999. Two days later, he was ordained a deacon on August 16, 1999 by His Exc. Alexander DJAJASISWAJA, Bishop of the Diocese of Bandung. He practiced his diaconate at St. Paul's Junior Seminary in Mataloko, the place where once he had started his vocation journey as a candidate for the priesthood. On May 28, 2000, he was ordained a priest in the Holy Spirit Parish of Mataloko (Archdiocese of Ende) by Mgr. Abdon Longinus DA CUNHA, Pr.

After his ordination to the priesthood, from July 2000 to May 2002, Father John, as he was called, was the Socius in the SMM Novitiate in Bandung. As a formator, he was known to be very friendly and open to the novices.

In 2002-2003, he was appointed as vicar of St. Montfort Parish in Poco, Ruteng Diocese. Then from mid-October 2003 to June 2007, he was the Parish Priest of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Mendalam, Sintang Diocese. After that, from July 2007 to mid October 2010, he was appointed as the Parish Priest of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, at Lebang, Sintang Diocese. From mid October 2010 until June 2013, he was the Parish Priest of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Putussibau, Diocese of Sintang. From July 2013 to July 2014, he attended a Pastoral Course in

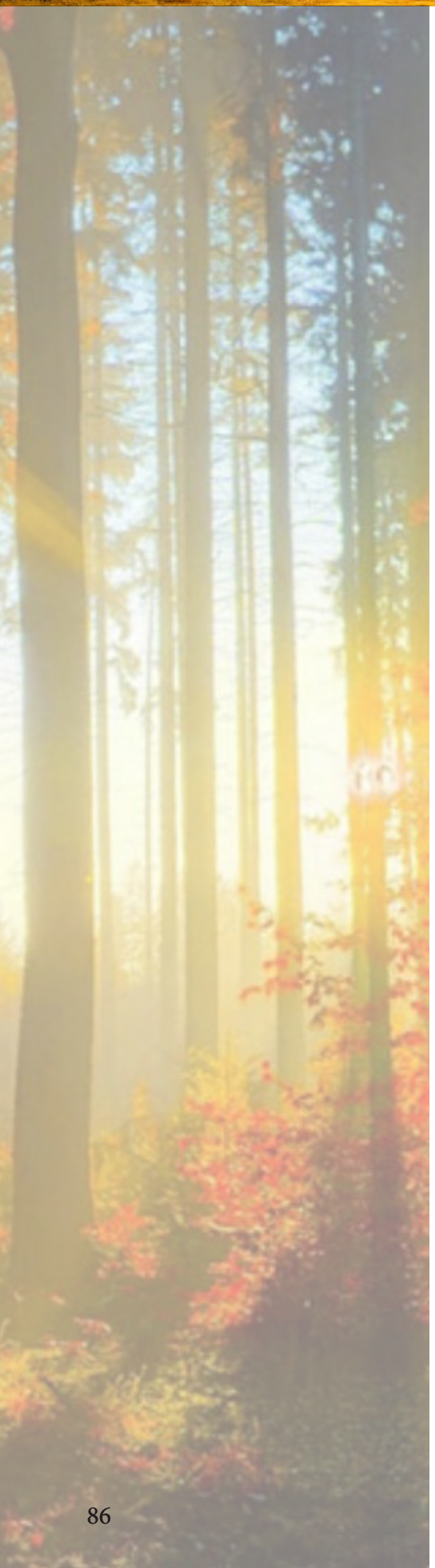
Birth:
20 August 1968
in Bomanu, Bejawa, Flores, Indonesia

First profession:
15 August 1993
in Bandung, Indonesia

Ordination:
28 May 2000
in Mataloko, Flores, Indonesia

Death:
17 April 2023
in Nggorang, Labuan Bajo, Indonesia





the Philippines. From 24 August 2014 to 28 December 2016, he was the Parish Priest of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Mbeling, Ruteng Diocese. Mbeling Parish was previously managed by diocesan priests and then handed over to the SMM and Fr. John became the first Montfortian parish priest to serve in Mbeling.

As a priest, he spent most of his ministry working in parishes. As a parish priest, he was known to be very friendly and close to the people. He was a man who loved music, dancing, and playing soccer, which made him indeed more known and close to the people. He was also a firm and principled man, which made him a shepherd much loved by his people.

Mbeling Parish was his last parish of ministry because that is where he was struck by a massive brain hemorrhage in early December 2016. Because his condition was quite severe, from 28 December 2016 - June 2017, he was brought to Bandung for further medical treatment and stayed at the SMM Provincialate Community in Bandung. After his condition improved, from June 2017 to 2022, he lived at Montfort Seminary in Malang. Because his health began to improve, in April 2018, he was appointed as a spiritual director of the scholastics in Malang. However, not long after, he suffered stroke after stroke, forcing him to be confined to a wheelchair. Finally, in 2022, he moved to Nggorang-Labuan Bajo and lived in the La Sagesse community, a special house for sick and elderly Montfortians, where he was faithfully taken care by Bro. Ero KUNTARA, SMM.

For about seven years, Fr. John struggled with his illness. However, what is impressive is that amid his suffering, he always showed enthusiasm, joy, and hope. Day by day, his condition continued to decline. Finally, at the age of 54, with 29 years of religious profession, on Monday, 17 April 2023, he was called back to the presence of the Creator. He was then buried at the Montfortian Cemetery in the SMM Novitiate Complex in Ruteng on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Antonius TENSI, SMM

Father Valentino BOSCO



After a long stay which lasted almost six months at the "Don Luigi Palazzolo Institute" in Bergamo, Fr. Valentino BOSCO. He was born in Treviglio (Bergamo) on March 31, 1940. After completing his secondary studies with the Passionists, as well as the novitiate, he arrived in our congregation at the beginning of the 1960s. Repeated the novitiate in Via Prenestina on September 29, 1964, he made his religious profession. These were the years of the Council and the post-Council lived in Rome with freshness and much excitement at all levels. Father Valentino breathed deeply the renewal taking place in the Church and this was always reflected in his life. In a booklet prepared on the occasion of his ordination, we read these words: *"This is what I am for you: a prophet who in the exuberance of his priestly first fruits wants to "contaminate" you and make you fall in love with God, oh heart of the world, a servant who claims to enter the heart of the story that takes place between you and God: this is what Jesus wanted."*

We can say that his life was devoted almost entirely to the formation of candidates for consecrated life and the priesthood in our congregation: first at the apostolic school of Redona, then at the high school in Rome, then at the Novitiate of Santeramo, then again in Rome in the Scholasticate community. These assignments were interrupted by periods of preaching in our parishes or missionary communities. He also was provincial councilor and provincial secretary. But the emphasis has always been on formation. The publications he left with "Ed. Ancora" and "Ed. ElleDiCi" bear witness to this. Especially the last book from 1999 *"It's a matter of the heart. The spousal dimension of consecrated life".*

He tried to react in every way to the health problems that had accompanied him for so many years with an alternation of more serene moments and others more difficult. But in this very situation at Villa Montfort, he never stopped reading, studying, participating in community life through his interventions and suggestions. With a feeling of gratitude for what he was and did for our Italian Montfort Province, we entrust him to the mercy of the Lord. Rest in peace.

Angelo SORTI, SMM

Birth:
31 March 1940
in Treviglio (BG), Italy

First profession:
29 September 1964
in Rome, Italy

Ordination:
09 March 1968
in Rome, Italy

Death:
21 June 2023
in Bergamo, Italy





Father Joseph GUILLOUZIC

If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and does not die, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit", said Jesus. This verse from John's Gospel sums up Joseph's life. I would like to make my presentation in three points.

Vocation (1926-1953)

GUILLOUZIC Joseph Marie was born on 17 December 1926 in Grand-Champ (Morbihan), the son of Jean and Marie-Anne LE GOÏC, farmers. Joseph was the eldest of four children, one girl and three boys, all of whom died. Émile, the youngest, became a priest in the diocese of Vannes. Joseph joined his parents at the EHPAD de la Sagesse on 28 June 2023, at the age of 96, including 76 years of religious life and 70 years of priesthood.

Baptised and confirmed at Grand-Champ, he entered the Minor Seminary of Sainte Anne d'Auray, where he was attracted to the missionary life because he had an uncle who was a missionary in Mauritius. He joined the Montfort Missionaries and took his first vows on 8 September 1945 in Chézelles (Indre et Loire). He did his military service from 1948 to 1949.

Then, at the end of his formative years, he made his final vows on 15 September 1952 in Montfort-sur-Meu, was ordained a deacon in Rennes on 5 October 1952 by Cardinal ROQUE and was ordained a priest in Montfort-sur-Meu on 22 February 1953 by Bishop HARDMAN, Vicar Apostolic of Zomba (Malawi).

His desire to go on mission came true, as his first obedience was the mission to Madagascar. He left by boat from Marseille on 15 September 1953 and would remain in Madagascar until 2011. The Montfortian missionaries had already been present there since 1933, and this year, 2023, marks the 90th anniversary of the Montfortian mission on the big island.

Mission à la Montfort (1953-2011)

The study of the Malagasy language was the first challenge from November 1953 to April 1954. Joseph was one of the missionaries who had a good command of the language of the country, especially the dialect of the east coast (Betsimisaraka).

Afterwards, Joseph worked in various mission posts in the diocese of Tamatave from 1953 until 1982: as curate, parish priest and director of the diocesan seminary. He also played an important role in the life of the Montfortians in Madagascar as bursar, community superior, formator, provincial council and delegate to the general chapter. Driven by his missionary zeal, Joseph did not stay in just one place or mission post. Like Father de Montfort, he travelled the eastern coasts of the country, experiencing the trials of the mission: the mission in the bush and in town, rain and shine, walking or riding, pirogues, cyclones and floods... He was proud to give an account of his journey, the various anecdotes; and to claim that he had experienced abandonment to Providence, because you have to accept what there is, what people offer during the tours and visits to the Christian communities.

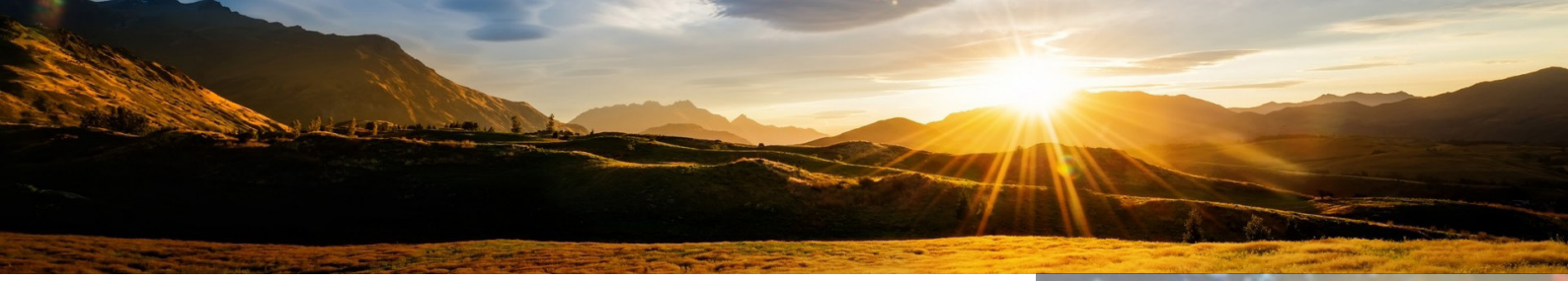
On 20 December 1982, it was another mission. Joseph left the diocese of

Birth:
17 December 1926
in Grand Champ, France

First profession:
08 September 1945
in Chézelles, France

Ordination:
22 February 1953
in Montfort-sur-Meu, France

Death:
28 June 2023
in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France



Tamatave to open a community in Antananarivo (the capital), the aim being to open a house of formation. He agreed to take charge of a small church on the outskirts at the time, which has now become a parish entrusted to the Dehonians.

Concerned about the future of the Company of Mary, he succeeded in acquiring the first plot of land for the first house of formation: the postulancy and novitiate and later, a second plot of land for the scholasticate. He built our houses in Antananarivo. In fact, he was at the origin of the Montfortian presence in two parishes in Antananarivo: Andraisoro and Antsobolo. For Joseph, vocational promotion is linked to the mission. And formation is in view of the mission, because he has encouraged young people to take part in the pastoral work of the parish. But what are the results?

We, Malagasy, who are here today can all bear witness to what Joseph has done for the education of young people. And I am one of the fruits of Joseph's labours; he was one of my formators at the postulancy. Many people today have many memories of him: the depth of his homilies, his joy in celebrating an event together, but also his sober and simple lifestyle. Very close to people, especially the poor and the little ones, Joseph was very generous, very helpful; but he was also demanding and dared to say what he thought.

In short, after 58 years of missionary life, Joseph knew the history of Madagascar: from colonisation to independence in 1960, the different regimes and the life of the Church. And in May 2011, he decided to return to France for good. He came to live in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre.

At the retirement home (2011-2023)

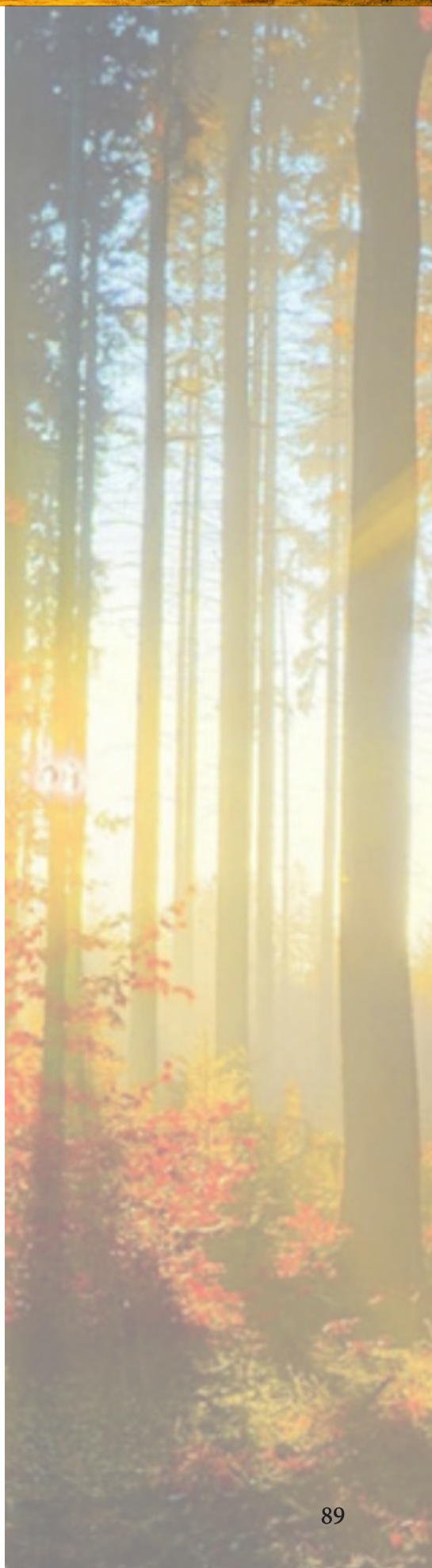
Arriving at Le Saint Esprit, tired, Joseph recovered very quickly, adjusting to the rhythm of life at the home: being with nuns and lay people. But he didn't cut his ties with Madagascar, because he followed the news from here.

Open to all, Joseph has forged links with the residents and staff. Very regular and faithful to his rhythm, he has been able to provide a few services in the house: washing dishes, tables, sacristy and presiding over Mass. Smiling and calm, Joseph is sociable. He was able to occupy his time with activities that were within his reach.

In short, Joseph knew how to accept lowering himself in every way: to serve humbly every day, to come down from the first floor to the ground floor, then to go to the EHPAD; today, he is going to come down even further into the earth.

Joseph, your life is like this seed that has been sown and fallen to the ground, a life all given, and fulfilled, it has produced, and it will produce again. Thank you for watering it with your prayer. The Malagasy Montfortians owe you a great deal and we say to you "thank you very much, *misaotra betsaka*; goodbye, *mandrampihaona*!

Paulin RAMANANDRAIBE, SMM





Father Raoul DESHAIES



Birth:
01 October 1937
in Ste-Gertrude, Canada

First profession:
15 August 1958
in Poisson Blanc, Canada

Ordination:
22 February 1964
in Québec, Canada

Death:
13 July 2023
in Montréal, Canada

Father Raoul Deshaies was born on 1 October 1937 in Sainte-Gertrude, Quebec, in the diocese of Nicolet. He made his first profession with the Montfortians on 15 August 1958 and his perpetual Profession on 15 August 1963 at Lac Poisson-Blanc. He was ordained a priest on 22 February 1964 in the chapel of the Quebec Cathedral by Mgr Laurent Noël, Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec.

In 1964, he resided at the Saint-Jean Scholasticate in Eastview (Vanier) and studied Missiology at St-Paul University in Ottawa. From September 1965 to February 1966, he was curate at Notre-Dame de Lourdes parish in Vanier. It was during this same year that he fulfilled his missionary dream. His superior had asked him: If you had the choice between becoming a teacher, a preacher or a parish priest, which of these positions would you like to hold? List your choices in order of preference. Father Raoul remembers writing: 1. mission in Papua, 2. mission in Papua, 3. mission in Papua. And so it was that in 1966, lugging 50 crates of medicines and construction tools, he found himself 20,000 km from Montreal in the heart of Oceania on Papuan territory. First as head of mission in Kiunga, then in the mountainous mission of Bolivip.

Father Raoul worked for 12 years organising dispensaries, setting up schools, building houses, visiting people in the most remote villages and building an airstrip to receive the aid needed by the mission plane. In 1975-76, he returned to the country for a year of study in pastoral theology with the Dominicans. From 1976 to 1978, Father Raoul returned to Papua as parish priest of Bosset near the Fly River. “It was one of the most interesting experiences of my life,” he said on his final return to Canada. From 1978 to 2001, Father Raoul lived at the Provincial House on Louis Riel.

He was involved in mission promotion in parishes and schools in Quebec and Ontario and was director of the “Maison d’accueil” at the “Sanctuaire Marie-Reine des Cœurs”. He was superior, bursar, provider and responsible for the maintenance of the provincial house. For 5 years, he served as part-time chaplain at the “Foyer Rousselot”.

In 2021, along with his confreres, Raoul reluctantly left the Louis Riel provincial house, which was to be sold. He took up residence at the “Sanctuaire Marie Reine des Cœurs” as a retiree. His health had been deteriorating for several months, but Raoul accepted his condition without complaint. His extraordinary abandonment edified all who visited him. Three months before his death, he was transferred to palliative care at the Santa Cabrini hospital. He wanted no extraordinary care, kept his sense of humour, and abandoned himself totally into the hands of Jesus and Mary, whom he looked at and spoke to constantly.

The people in charge of his care were amazed to see him so serene, content and grateful for all the services he received, resigned without ever complaining. Many times, he says that the Lord will only ask him 3 questions: Did you love him? Did you love me? Did you let yourself be loved? These three questions left him peaceful and abandoned, ready to appear before his God.

Doris Sullivano TOMBAOSA, SMM

Father Fracilus PETIT-HOMME



Fracilus PETIT-HOMME, legitimate son of Fracilus PETIT-HOMME and Accelia NERVIL, was born in Lanon- Haut Moustiques in the commune of Bassin-Bleu on 11 March 1942. He was baptized on 28 February 1943 in the Haut-Moustiques chapel. He made his First Communion and Confirmation in 1952. A student at the College of Notre Dame de Lourdes, he was in the college's first graduating class.

He joined the Montfortians in Montreal, where he made his novitiate and pronounced his first vows on 15 September 1964, made his perpetual profession on 28 September 1969 and was ordained a priest on 15 September 1970 by Mgr. Remis AUGUSTIN.

From 1970 to 1981, he worked in Jean-Rabel and Anse-a-Foleur. From his first obediences, he was part of the itinerant missions' team and also spent time on specific studies.

As a retreat leader, he preached retreats to religious communities and diocesan clergy both in Haiti and abroad. He also preached missions at the Mary Queen of Hearts Shrine in Montreal for several years.

From 1981 to 1984, he was elected provincial of the Montfort Missionaries in Haiti. After his first term, he was appointed director of the Montfortian Scholasticate. During his time at the Scholasticate, he took the opportunity to write his work entitled "The Church in the People's Struggle for Survival"(*L'Église dans le combat du peuple pour la survie*).

In January 1987, he was again provincial of the Montfort Missionaries. During this mandate, he was elected president of the Haitian Conference of Religious. Despite his many obligations, he never stopped carrying out his mission as an itinerant preacher.

After his second term as provincial, he worked alongside his elder brother in the Archdiocese of Cap-Haitien, the late Mgr. François GAYOT. From the Archdiocese of Cape Town, he accepted to offer his service in his home diocese as parish priest of the cathedral of Port-de-Paix and also Vicar General of the said diocese.

During his time as parish priest, he encouraged the faithful of the cathedral to build the presbytery and complete the choir of the Cathedral

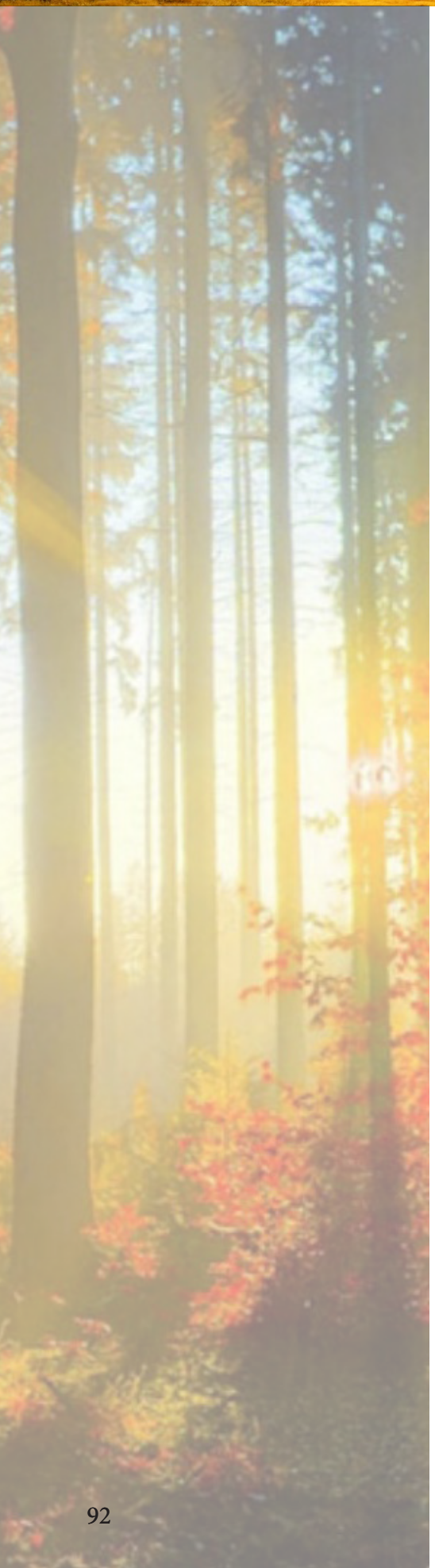
Birth:
11 March 1942
in Bassin-Bleu, Haiti

First profession:
15 September 1964
in Chézelles, France

Ordination:
15 September 1970
in Bassin-Bleu, Haiti

Death:
01 December 2023
in Miami, USA





of the Immaculate Conception, which had been started by one of his predecessors, Father Jules BONENFANT.

Having worked in this diocese for a relatively long period and also in an ecclesiastical context leading to the advent of the first non-Montfortian bishop, the late Mgr. Antoine Paulo, he handed in his resignation to the new bishop of Port-de-Paix.

A devoted and tireless Montfortian missionary, he asked the then Provincial and his council, Father Joseph PHILOR, for permission to go and exercise his pastoral mission in the diocese of Orlando in Florida. He became a collaborator in a parish in Tampa and then in Winter Heaven, where he carried out his pastoral mission until his retirement.

During his time abroad, Father Fracilus dreamed of retiring to his native village of Haut-Moustiques. Unfortunately, he was struck down by cancer and had to remain in Florida for treatment until Friday, 1 December 2023 when he died of this terrible disease.

On this day when our brother, Fracilus PETIT-HOMME, has fallen asleep in the peace of Christ, we entrust him to the love and mercy of God, our Father, in the faith and hope of eternal life. Requiescat in Pace!

Jean-Jacques SAINT-LOUIS, SMM

Father Amato PRISCO



At the beginning of the Christmas holidays, Fr. Amato PRISCO was born in heaven. A few days ago, he celebrated 91 years, having been born on December 6, 1932 in Trecase, in the province of Naples, to Giovanni and Candida AGNELLO. He entered the apostolic school of Redona in 1945 and remained there until 1952 when he left for Castiglione Torinese for the novitiate year. From there, after his first Profession on September 8, 1953, he moved to Loreto to study philosophy and theology. In the scholasticate of Loreto, the stages of preparation for Perpetual Profession and the priesthood follow one another. In the Basilica of Loreto, he was ordained priest with eight other brothers on February 21, 1959 by Mgr. Gaetano MALCHIODI.

The first years of priestly ministry were spent first in Arona for the pastoral year; then to the provincial house of Circonvallazione Appia in Rome as a priest studying pastoral theology. But he was soon transferred to Reggio Calabria, first to the Community of the Rosary, then as a formator at the emerging apostolic school. A stint in Santeramo as a POA missionary is also reported.

In 1962, a big step towards Peru: on June 10, he left by boat with Father Felice RIVA. His stay will last approximately 20 years in different Peruvian residences. He will also have the role of local superior on several occasions.

Returning to Italy in 1982, he joined the community of Naples where he remained until 2018 serving the church of Naples in our parish. He was also superior of the community on several occasions. Little by little, he became the point of reference for the many Peruvians and Latin Americans who emigrated to Naples and Campania. Everyone remembers the passion and joy that arouses in the organization of Our Lady de "los Milagros" Feast.

In 2018, he left Naples and arrived in Bergamo, at the provincial house where he helped in the different chaplaincies. Then, when his strength diminished, in 2020 he joined the "Villa Montfort" community of elderly confreres.

Father Amato was very attached to the Italian province: abundant and precise correspondence with his superiors, expressed his opinions, asked for information, rejoiced in the choices and achievements. We often notice in his writings a touch of irony which has never abandoned him, even in recent times when with a joke, perhaps half in Spanish, he expressed his idea and minimized the situation. The passion for evangelization and for the Montfortian family is also found in the numerous articles prepared over the years for the magazine *"L'Apostolo di Maria"*, with a detailed and current description of events, places and people. Thank you, Fr. Amato, for your humble and jovial presence. We entrust you to the Lord through the hands of Mary. And you pray for us.

Gianangelo MAFFIOLETTI, SMM

Birth:
06 December 1932
in Trecase (NA), Italy

First profession:
08 September 1953
in Castiglione Torinese (TO), Italy

Ordination:
21 February 1959
in Loreto (AN), Italy

Death:
22 December 2023
in Bergamo (BG), Italy

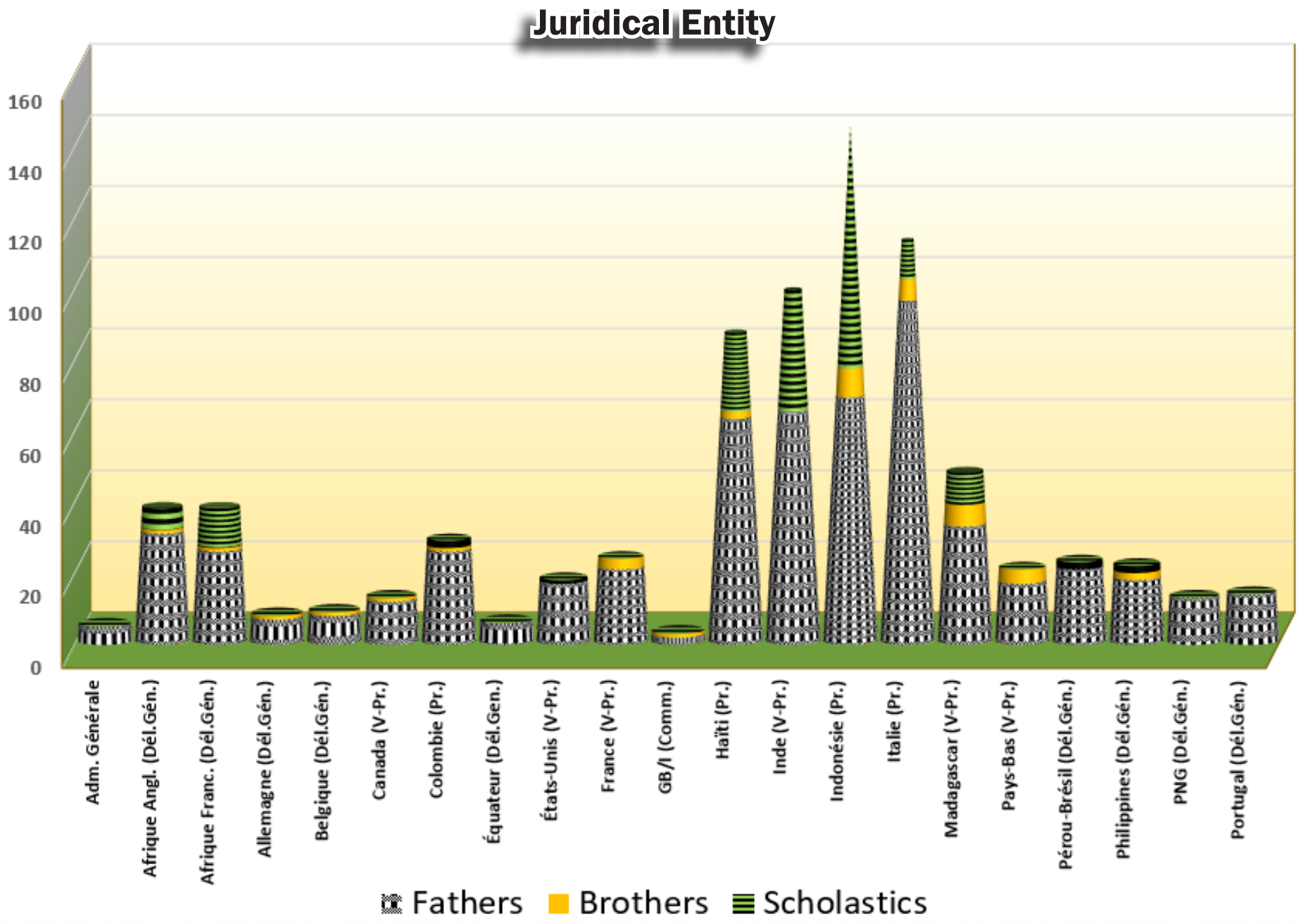


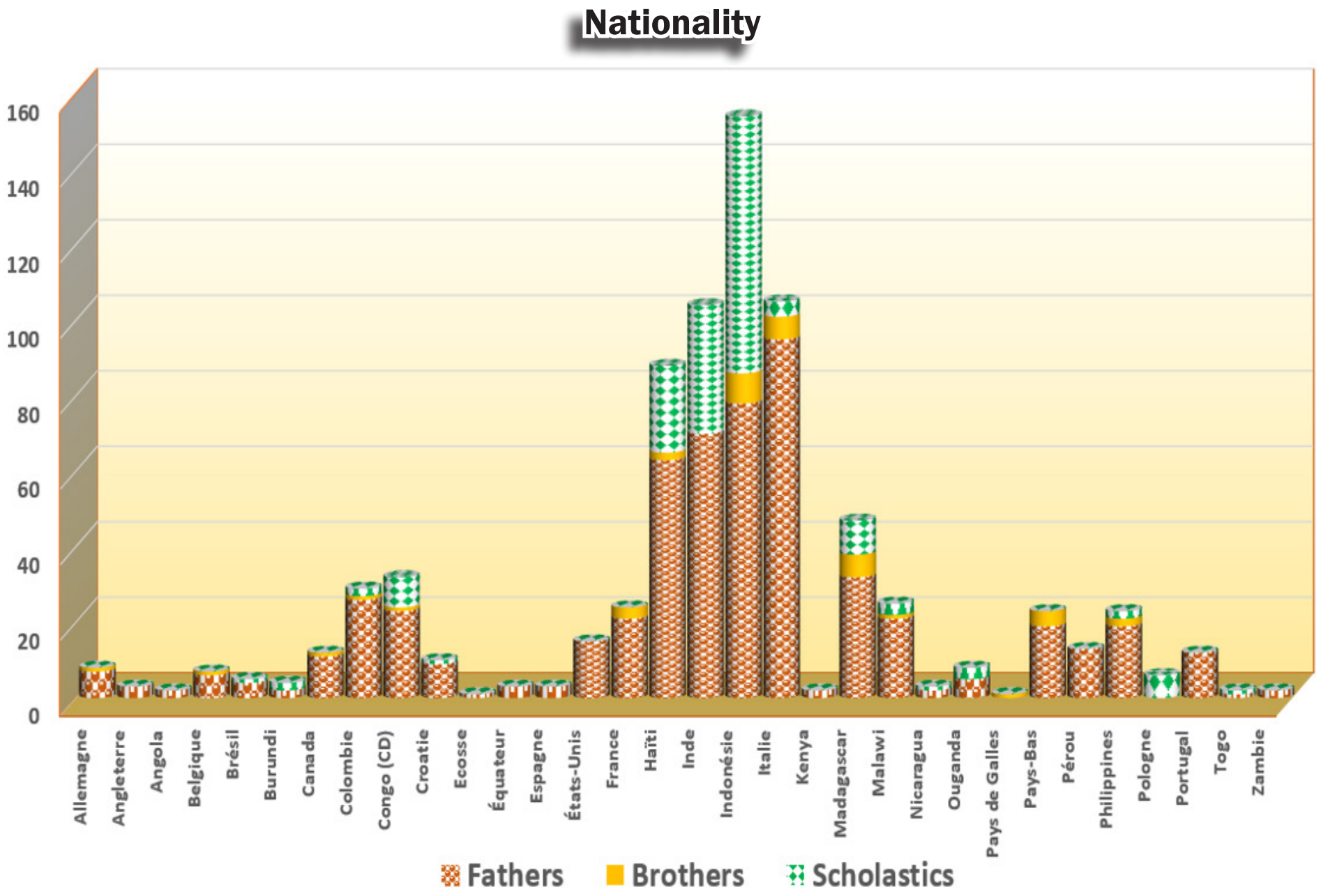

STATISTICS
as of 31 December 2023

Juridical Entity	F.	B.	S.	Total
Adm. Générale	5	0	0	**5**
Afrique Angl. (Dél.Gén.)	31	1	6	**38**
Afrique Franc. (Dél.Gén.)	26	1	11	**38**
Allemagne (Dél.Gén.)	7	1	0	**8**
Belgique (Dél.Gén.)	8	1	0	**9**
Canada (V-Pr.)	12	1	0	**13**
Colombie (Pr.)	26	1	2	**29**
Équateur (Dél.Gen.)	6	0	0	**6**
États-Unis (V-Pr.)	17	0	1	**18**
France (V-Pr.)	21	3	0	**24**
GB/I (Comm.)	2	1	0	**3**
Haïti (Pr.)	63	2	22	**87**
Inde (V-Pr.)	65	0	34	**99**
Indonésie (Pr.)	69	8	68	**145**
Italie (Pr.)	96	6	11	**113**
Madagascar (V-Pr.)	33	6	9	**48**
Pays-Bas (V-Pr.)	17	4	0	**21**
Pérou-Brésil (Dél.Gén.)	21	0	2	**23**
Philippines (Dél.Gén.)	18	2	2	**22**
PNG (Dél.Gén.)	13	0	0	**13**
Portugal (Dél.Gén.)	14	0	0	**14**
	570	**38**	**168**	**776**

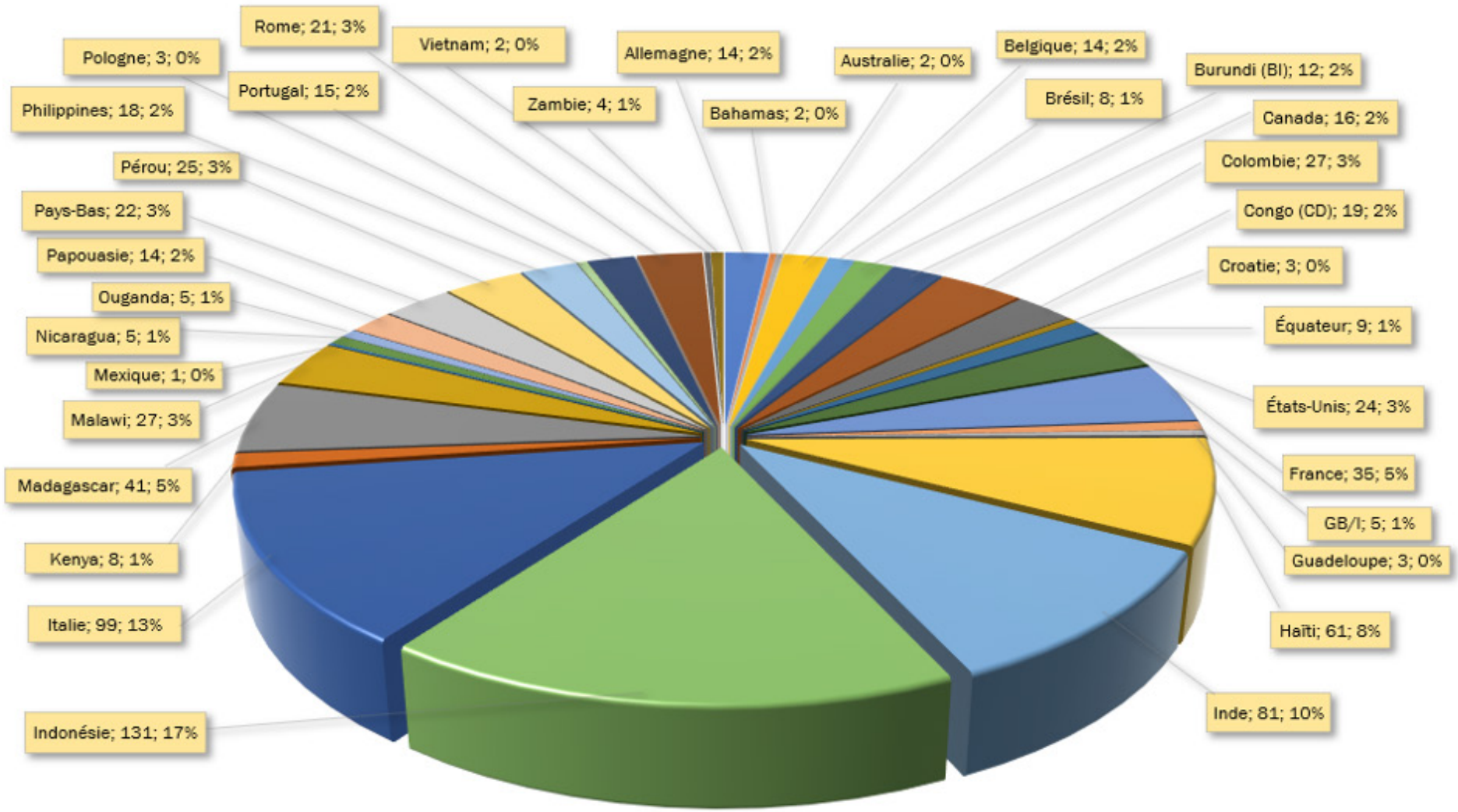
	Place of Work	F.	B.	S.	Total
1	Allemagne	13	1	0	**14**
2	Australie	2	0	0	**2**
3	Bahamas	2	0	0	**2**
4	Belgique	13	1	0	**14**
5	Brésil	7	1	0	**8**
6	Burundi (BI)	5	0	7	**12**
7	Canada	15	1	0	**16**
8	Colombie	26	1	0	**27**
9	Congo (CD)	16	1	2	**19**
10	Croatie	3	0	0	**3**
11	Équateur	9	0	0	**9**
12	États-Unis	24	0	0	**24**
13	France	31	4	0	**35**
14	GB/I	4	1	0	**5**
15	Guadeloupe	3	0	0	**3**
16	Haïti	41	0	20	**61**
17	Inde	47	0	34	**81**
18	Indonésie	55	8	68	**131**
19	Italie	84	4	11	**99**
20	Kenya	4	0	4	**8**
21	Madagascar	28	4	9	**41**
22	Malawi	24	2	1	**27**
23	Mexique	1	0	0	**1**
24	Nicaragua	5	0	0	**5**
25	Ouganda	4	0	1	**5**
26	Papouasie	12	0	2	**14**
27	Pays-Bas	19	3	0	**22**
28	Pérou	16	2	7	**25**
29	Philippines	14	2	2	**18**
30	Pologne	3	0	0	**3**
31	Portugal	15	0	0	**15**
32	Rome	19	2	0	**21**
33	Vietnam	2	0	0	**2**
34	Zambie	4	0	0	**4**
		570	**38**	**168**	**776**

	Nationality	F.	B.	S.	Total
1	Allemagne	7	1	0	**8**
2	Angleterre	3	0	0	**3**
3	Angola	2	0	0	**2**
4	Belgique	6	1	0	**7**
5	Brésil	4	0	1	**5**
6	Burundi	2	0	2	**4**
7	Canada	11	1	0	**12**
8	Colombie	26	1	2	**29**
9	Congo (CD)	23	1	8	**32**
10	Croatie	9	0	1	**10**
11	Ecosse	1	0	0	**1**
12	Équateur	3	0	0	**3**
13	Espagne	3	0	0	**3**
14	États-Unis	15	0	0	**15**
15	France	21	3	0	**24**
16	Haïti	63	2	23	**88**
17	Inde	70	0	34	**104**
18	Indonésie	78	8	68	**154**
19	Italie	95	6	4	**105**
20	Kenya	2	0	0	**2**
21	Madagascar	32	6	9	**47**
22	Malawi	21	1	3	**25**
23	Nicaragua	2	0	1	**3**
24	Ouganda	5	0	3	**8**
25	Pays de Galles	0	1	0	**1**
26	Pays-Bas	19	4	0	**23**
27	Pérou	13	0	0	**13**
28	Philippines	19	2	2	**23**
29	Pologne	0	0	6	**6**
30	Portugal	12	0	0	**12**
31	Togo	1	0	1	**2**
32	Zambie	2	0	0	**2**
		570	**38**	**168**	**776**

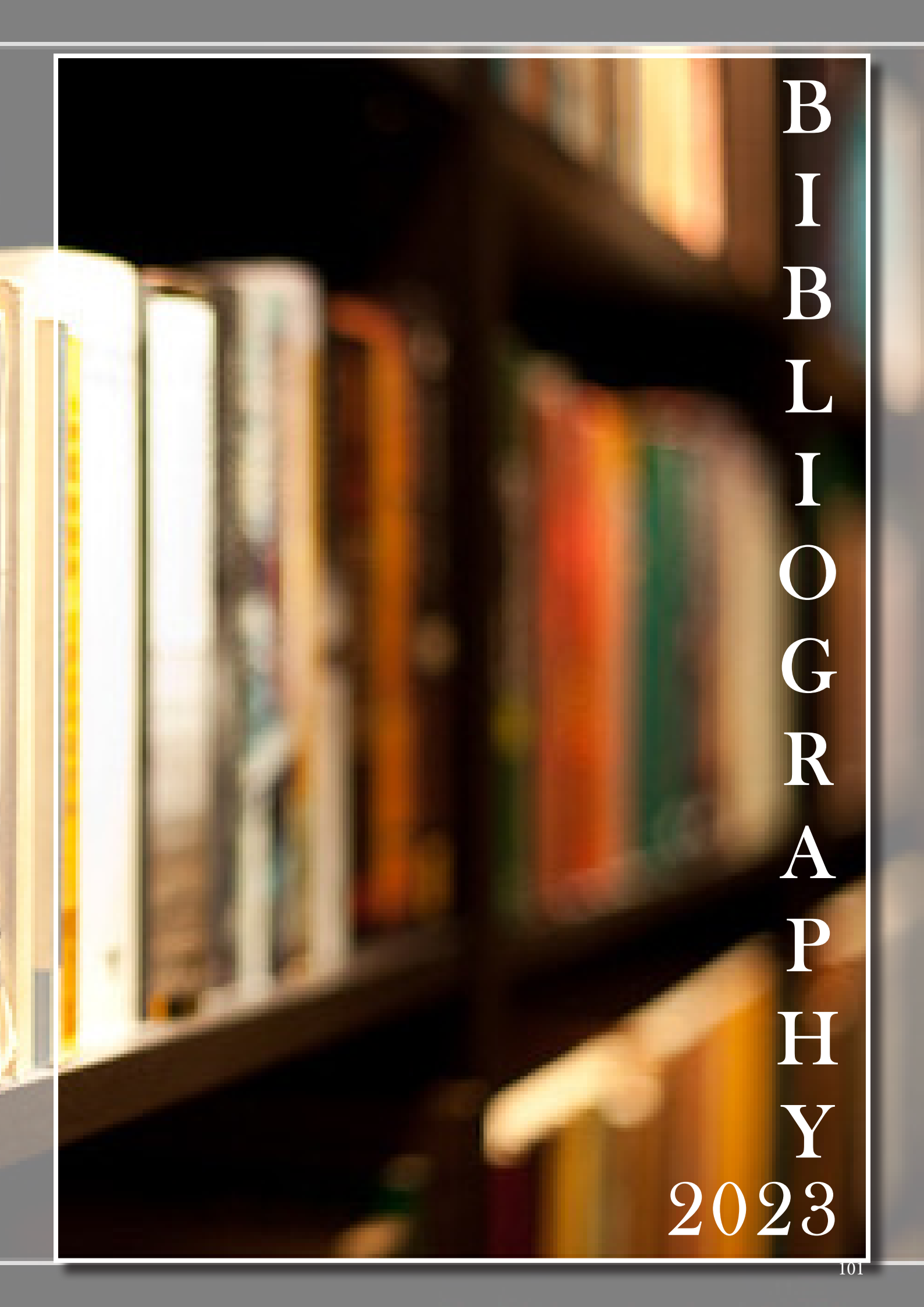

Juridical Entity
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Adm. Générale
Afrique Angl. (Dél.Gén.)
Afrique Franc. (Dél.Gén.)
Allemagne (Dél.Gén.)
Belgique (Dél.Gén.)
Canada (V-Pr.)
Colombie (Pr.)
Équateur (Dél.Gen.)
États-Unis (V-Pr.)
France (V-Pr.)
GB/I (Comm.)
Haïti (Pr.)
Inde (V-Pr.)
Indonésie (Pr.)
Italie (Pr.)
Madagascar (V-Pr.)
Pays-Bas (V-Pr.)
Pérou-Brésil (Dél.Gén.)
Philippines (Dél.Gén.)
PNG (Dél.Gén.)
Portugal (Dél.Gén.)
Fathers
Brothers
Scholastics


Nationality
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Allemagne
Angleterre
Angola
Belgique
Brésil
Burundi
Canada
Colombie
Congo (CD)
Croatie
Ecosse
Équateur
Espagne
États-Unis
France
Haïti
Inde
Indonésie
Italie
Kenya
Madagascar
Malawi
Nicaragua
Ouganda
Pays de Galles
Pays-Bas
Pérou
Philippines
Pologne
Portugal
Togo
Zambie
Fathers
Brothers
Scholastics

Place of Work




De rand



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Community of the General House

Rome, December 2023



Sitting from left:
Fr. Marco PASINATO, Fr. Prem KUMAR, Rev, Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN,
Fr. Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI, Fr. Lonely Paul MASHONGA.

Standing from left:
Fr. Joji Antony Paul KALARICKAL, Fr. Richard Dass AROGYA SWAMY GOKUNTE, Fr. Benjie NOTARTE,
Fr. Louis-Marie Montfort Vladymir SOUFFRANT, Fr. Apolinaris Dari BANI (Anar), Fr. Luigi GRITTI,
Fr. Balaswamy KATA, Fr. Arnold SUHARDI, Fr. Fidelis BOLO WOTAN, Fr. Serge Orry OCGENOR,
Fr. Hironimus EDISON, Bro. Jean Désiré RAKOTONANDRASANA, Bro. Albino CRESCENTI,
Fr. Alexander SWAMY NATHAN, Fr. Jailos Augustine MPINA.



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