

Gabrielite News Bulletin

For Private Circulation Only



The new Central Administration members planted an olive tree during the 33rd General Chapter.

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THANK YOU

Translators : Bro. Marcel Chapeleau, SG and Bro. Michel Mendy, SG
Proofreading : Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, SG (French Version)

Dear Readers,

Kindly send the News, Articles, Photos from your respective Provinces latest by 01st October 2024.

E- Mail to sginfo@fsgroma.org

WhatsApp [+39 3756666009](https://wa.me/393756666009)

The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be published in October 2024.

- Bro. Louis Anthonyamy, SG
Incharge of communication

VISIT OF
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

TO FRANCE

From July 10 to 13, 2024, the members of the Central Administration made their first visit to France, a visit rich in Montfortian Gabrielite experiences. As a result of a Programme meticulously planned by Brother Yvan Passebon, Provincial Superior, with the help of the Provincial Administration, the Superior General and his Council were able to meet more than half of the Brothers of the Province of France.

Wednesday, 10 July 2024 (Afternoon)

The meeting with the Provincial Council of France and the Brothers of the Provincial House of Nantes was an exceptional opportunity to experience an important moment during which the Provincial Administration reflected, among other





things, on the ways and means to be fraternally present to each Brother, to be in tune with each Brother, to look reality in the face, to envisage the future of the Province of France with sincerity and hope. It's easy to say, demanding in daily life but exhilarating.

Thursday, July 11, 2024



The meeting of the La Hillière and Pontchâteau communities and the people responsible for the EHPAD left no one indifferent. Despite their advanced age and illness, the Brothers took part in the celebration of the Eucharist, and no doubt prayed in a very special way for the Central Administration.

The afternoon sharing time was organised for those who were able. It was an opportunity to admire the attention with which the Brothers follow what is happening in the Provinces. The pertinent questions raised during the meeting on the life of the novitiates, formation to fraternity, and the educational mission of the Brothers were sufficient evidence of the unfailing attachment and joy of belonging to the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. The meeting was magnificent and enriching for everyone.



Friday, July 12, 2024



The day was entirely dedicated to St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre. Firstly, the meeting with the International Community was organised in the morning.

If our ancestors' blood divides us, Christ's blood unites us (African proverb). In a society of confrontation, difficult cohabitation between different cultures, contempt for the weakest, Pope Francis tells us that the Religious are called to offer a concrete model of community that makes it possible to live fraternal relationships.



It could be said that these two assertions, in one way or another, coincide with the particular mission entrusted to the International Community of St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, the source of the Congregation. During the Community meeting, each of the members took the time they needed to take stock of their pastoral commitments, the advances and difficulties they were experiencing, and the new possibilities to be explored so that the International Community of St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre continues to fulfil its mission to the best of its ability. To achieve this, the community needs to be strengthened in numbers by Brothers from the African and Asian



Provinces. The minimum duration of presence in the International Community was the focus of attention at the meeting. This insistence on duration is intended to avoid eternal repetition with all its consequences.

Afterwards, the members of the ADC took part in the Mass during which the new General Administration of the Daughters of Wisdom committed themselves to serving their Congregation with selflessness and generosity. The new team comprises Sr Rani Kurian (India), Superior General, Sr Antonella Prestia (Italy), Sr Nadige Jean-Charles (Haiti), Sr Mary Immaculate Makina (Malawi), and Sr Lourdes Alonso (France), General Councillors.

Father Yoseph Putra Dwi, the Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries, presided over the Mass, accompanied by the members of his Council and other concelebrants.

At the end of the celebration, the three General Councils gathered around the tombs of St Louis-Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise de Jésus to pray, give thanks for the growing influence of these two great tireless apostles, whose apostolate was nourished by a profound life of prayer, an unshakeable faith in God the Trinity and an intense devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, and to immortalise the event with photos.

Finally, a fraternal dinner with the two Communities of St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre brought the stay to a close. It had been a special opportunity for the Central Administration to immerse itself in the reality of the Province of France.

In his vote of thanks, the Superior General highlighted all the efforts made by Bro. Yan Passebon and the communities visited to make the stay pleasant and fruitful.

-The Members of the ADC



An Interview with Bro. Dionigi Taffarello

The 33rd General Chapter on 16 April 2024 elected Bro. Dionigi Taffarello as the Superior General of the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel. The following text is an extract from the video interview made on 28 April 2024 at Casa Generalizia. It is aimed at knowing Bro. Dionigi Taffarello and to know about some of the priorities of his mandate.

What are your favourite memories of growing up in your home town or village?

I come from the north-east of Italy, from the region called Venice. My home town is Treviso and I spent my entire childhood in a small village called Paesé. I have very good memories with my family and a lot of friends from the neighbourhood where we often played together, especially during the summer holidays.

Even when I was a child, I was very much involved in the parish activities. I went to be an altar boy. I have a very fond memory of going to mass every Sunday morning at 6 a.m. with my mum. She was always available to accompany me because I had made the commitment to serve mass at 6 a.m. I only lived in the village of Paesé for 10 years. Later, I went to another village, where there was a house of formation for the Brothers of Saint Gabriel.

How has your family influenced your life, in particular your choice to become a Religious?

We were a Roman Catholic religious family, especially my mum was very faithful to prayer and had a lot of confidence in God and the Virgin Mary. So my religious life began especially with the support of my mum, dad and my brother. They were with me in different activities in the parish and my family always accompanied me in my Religious vocation.

They supported me always in a spirit of freedom. My mum had a dream of having a son, who would be a Religious or a Priest. I'm glad that I was able to communicate about my calling to Religious Life to my mum a few days before she died due to cancer. She was





really happy at the time to hear about my decision. After her passing away I had really taken the decision to say 'yes' to God's call by entering the novitiate.

What event or moment prompted your call to become a Religious Brother? Was there a special person who inspired you?

I had a desire to become a Priest or a Religious and I had the figure of the Priest as a real example and model of life. When I was 10 years old, during the catechesis classes in the parish, a Brother of Saint Gabriel met me, Bro. Giuseppe Bianchi. He was doing vocational animation in all the catechesis classes. At that time something really began to move in my heart even though I still didn't have a clear calling. When Bro. Giuseppe asked, if anyone was interested in deepening their knowledge of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel by entering the house of formation I said 'yes' with the consent of my family. My dad had a lot of doubts, but the parish priests said it would certainly be a good experience for me. They left me free to make my journey. Late Brothers Giuseppe Bianchi and Rocco Matasa accompanied me during the first years of my vocation and Brother Giuseppe accompanied me until my novitiate. He was also my novice master and he remained a person of reference and support for my vocation by his example, teaching and above all by his prayer.

What activities outside your Religious work bring you joy?

From an apostolic point of view, I always liked to do pastoral activity in the parishes. I was always in connection with the parishes and I committed myself a lot at the level of catechesis and youth ministry at the diocesan level. Sometimes it was tiring because it was additional work along with the other works that I had in the Congregation. It gave me a lot of joy to experience the different activities with young people and children. I took part in organising, World Youth Day at the diocesan level several times and those were moments of great joy.



What is the greatest strength of your congregation and how do you plan to use it as Superior General?

Our Congregation has a great history, tradition and a lot of potential, especially in the countries where the Congregation is developing. We also have a great tradition at the charismatic and spiritual levels. We have a lot of potential and resources in certain Provinces. The important thing now is to share these resources, whether they're economic, personnel or human resources. Sharing the strength we have will certainly help the Congregation to develop on a global level.

What is your vision for the future of your Congregation and what are your main objectives as Superior General?

There are a number of priorities that have emerged at the time of our 33rd General Chapter. One of the priorities is to create unity within each province. This unity must lead to greater interprovincial collaboration at all levels. There are certain provinces which have fewer economic resources and fewer personnel resources. The collaboration would ensure a presence in the western provinces. Another priority that I find important is to help each Brother and each one of us to rediscover and strengthen the values of Religious Life. There

are situations wherein we have lost these values. These values are important because it is the basis of our vocation and Apostolic ministry.

How does your faith in God and your spirituality influence your Religious Life?

I can say that I have a lot of confidence in God, otherwise, I would have not accepted this new responsibility as a Superior General. I know my limitations and weaknesses, but I am sure that the good Lord will support me and help me. I have had moments of crisis and difficulty where I even risked abandoning my Religious Life. But the first thing I did in those moments was to take time to be alone with God to reflect on my vocation. I have reflected on the reasons behind my vocation and the values behind my calling. I regained my strength and courage with God's help. Six years ago, when I was called to be Vicar General, it was a whole new experience. I needed God's help and he did help me and strengthen me.

How do you plan to manage conflicts or disagreements within the Congregation while maintaining unity and common goals?

Firstly I would rely on prayer, without the help of the Lord we can do very little. Secondly, to solve certain problems I count much on dialogue and listening.





It is necessary to start with listening, listening to the Brothers, to our laity, to our associates. Then we will find where is the problem, we will find the causes and the reasons for these problems. Later, with a synodal approach, we'll try to find solutions together. Imposing a solution from on high is not enough and often it is ineffective, if the people at the grassroots are not convinced to work together to solve the problems, there will not be any solutions.

So, I'm counting on working together with everyone on my council to work together to solve the problems. Sometimes it's a long and difficult road, but we have to try to do our best with the help of God and our founder Saint Louis de Montfort.

How will you support the spiritual growth and well-being of the Brothers as the new Superior General?

Spiritual growth is very important, but above all strengthening our Montfortian Spirituality. For that, I count very much on our associates and on our collaborators. I was in charge of partnerships in our Congregation for the past six years. The responsibility for the transmission of Montfortian spirituality was entrusted to the associates in several entities. We saw the immense potentiality and fruits that were borne by the associates. I believe as the Pope said, spirituality is not a treasure that belongs to us alone, but a treasure of the Church that we have to share with everyone in particular with our collaborators, and our associates. It is with them, we must spread Montfortian Spirituality more and more in our institutions, in the places of work, in the places where we live, and with the whole Church.





The Inaugural Ceremony of the "MAISON MÈRE" The Mother House of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel in India.

On 19th May 2024, the inauguration of the Maison Mère (Mother house) of the Brothers at Tindivanam took place. It was blessed by his grace Most. Rev. Dr. Francis Kalist, The Archbishop Bishop of Pondicherry & Cuddalore, Bro. Dhanaraj, the Assistant General, had Inaugurated the building. Many priests and Religious from the local parish attended the event, and a large number of Brothers from various parts of India were present for the occasion. His Excellency the Archbishop in his homily highlighted the importance of vocation to brotherhood and appreciated the Brothers' service in the education field.

Historically, Tindivanam is a very significant place to the Montfort Brother of St. Gabriel. The pioneers from France to the mission in India (Bro. Denis, Bro. Martin and Bro. John Baptist) landed in Pondichery on 11 September 1903. They

started teaching at the Petit Seminary High School in Pondichery. On January 6, 1904, Bro. John Baptist came to Tindivanam which is 40 KM away from Pondichery. Later, he started the St. Joseph's Industrial School in Tindivanam.

- Bro. George I, SG



Montfortian Prophetic Presence: Celebrating Milestones and Advancing Catholic Education in Thailand.



Brothers attended the Provincial Chapter.

From Monday evening, October 16, 2023, to Friday afternoon, October 20, 2023, the Province of Thailand convened the 21st Provincial Chapter at the Gabrielite Provincialate, Bangkok, on the topic “Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century.” Bro. Pratap Reddy, the Assistant General representative from the Central Administration, was among us. Altogether, 50 Brothers participated, including 21 Capitulars.

We started our Provincial Chapter with the Holy Hour and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, led by Bro. Amnuay Y., our Brother-Priest.

The purposes of this Chapter were :

- To prepare for the 33rd General Chapter.
- To study the “Revision on Rule of Life and Constitutions”.
- To study and to discuss the documents related to 33rd General Chapter.
- And to recover and renew ourselves through meditation and prayer.

On the 20th afternoon, the committee invited experts from RIS School to give a talk on “Child abuse and safeguarding” with some exercises on the topic. We profited greatly from this half-a-day meeting.



The Holy Hour and invocation of the Holy Spirit.



Some exercises about child abuse and safe guarding.



The two Brothers renew the vows in front of the Holy Communion

On Saturday, 4 November evening, all our Brothers came together at our Province Cemetery, Sriracha, to commemorate our departed Brothers. There are 82 Brothers buried in this cemetery. Fr. Yod Senaraksa, the Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart Church, presided over the ceremony. After the mass, we paid respect to each one of them by placing flowers over their tombs.



Group photo after the celebration.



Fr. Yod S. presided the Mass for the departed Brothers. Bro. Provincial read the names of the 82 departed Brothers.



Bro. Provincial gave vote of thanks to those who came for the celebration.

Sunday, 05th November morning, we had the celebration of our two Brothers who are 50 years in Religious Life, namely : Bro. Anant Prichavudhi and Bro. Sunant Yotharaksa. Both of them professed the first vows on April 28, 1973 at the Eachinkadu Novitiate, India. His Excellency Bishop Silvio Siripong, the Bishop of Ratchaburi Diocese presided over the ceremony with many priests, parents, relatives, teachers, friends came to support and give them encouragement. On this occasion we, Thai Province had the honour of having some Brothers from abroad joining both the celebrations with us.

On Saturday, November 11, 2023, Assumption University Celebrated a Holy Mass in Felicitation of the 90th Birthday Anniversary of Bro. Martin Komolmas at Suvarnabhumi Campus. At 10:00 a.m. His Excellency Cardinal Meechai presided the Mass with other Cardinal, four Bishops and together with more than one hundred priests. We had the honour of their presence from over 1,300 guests, including men and women Religious.

Lunch and reception was arranged at John XXIII Conference Center and CL Building.



Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission Apostolic Nunciature, conveying his message.

Bro. Martin P. started his Rector position on August 25, 1979. He developed AU in all areas, especially the construction of many modern buildings, Academic developments, and personnel systematically. His only aim was to achieve the status of a Catholic University with Academic Excellence. He was the Rector of AU until October 31, 2002, for a total of 23 years.

After the ceremony, Rev. Msgr. Daniel Tumiel, Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission at the Apostolic Nunciature, conveyed to Rev. Bro. Martin the Message of appreciation from the Apostolic Nuncio, H.E. Archbishop Peter Bryan Wells.

We too honoured the 3Ms of the Thai Catholic Church : Cardinal Meechai, Bro. Martin and Sr. Myriam (former Superior of Saint Paul de Chartres) who laid the Foundations to the Catholic Education of Thailand.

Cardinals, Bishops, Priest, Brothers and nuns participated in the Ceremony.

On November 27, at Hua Mak Campus, university personnel and workers celebrated the Loy Krathong festival ceremony to preserve Thai heritage and culture, which their ancestors observed for over 700 years. They enjoyed the night very much under the full moon.



The 3Ms, Cardinal Meechai, Bro Martin and Sr. Myriam



Bouquet of thanks from Rev. Bro. Provincial to Rev. Cardinal Meechai for coming to preside over the ceremony.



Loy Krathong at Suvarnabhumi Campus



Loy Krathong at Hua Mak Campus



On June 17, Father Paul Ekkarak, the head of the Bangkok Archdiocese Education Commission, visited Saint Gabriel's College to discuss cooperation to raise Catholic Education standards among Catholic schools. We discussed all areas of school management, including the problems of dropouts and the number of students in some of the schools. The discussions were productive.



Bro. James received the plaque of honour from the Princess.



Purposive Discussions Towards Sustaining High Catholic Educational Standards in Thailand

On Friday, April 26, 2024, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn awarded honourable mention of the ASA Conservation Award for Architecture and Community Heritage Conservation 2020-2021 to MARTIN DE TOURS building Saint Gabriel's College, Bangkok, which was selected by the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage.

- Bro. Achin Tengtrakul, SG St. Gabriel' College.

Inauguration of the Second Residence in Mpala, Uganda.

Celebrating Milestones in the Mission of the Pune Province in Uganda

On 8th May 2024, The inauguration of the second residence of the Brothers in Uganda took place, it marked an important milestone in the mission of the Province of Pune in Uganda. The event, graced by the presence of Rt. Rev. Paul Ssemogerere, the Archbishop of Kampala, Bro. Jaico Gervasis, Provincial Superior of Pune, Mr. Charles, Parliament Member in Uganda, Mr. Matia Lwanga, District Governor, Mr. Ronald Kalema, Mayor of Katabi Town Council, Bro. Bosco and Bro. Albert from East Africa Province, Bro. Linto and Bro. Joseph P. T from India, and other dignitaries, were present for this occasion.

It is a significant day as one year after the 350th Birth Anniversary of our Founder, St. Louis Marie De Montfort, the first residence of the Brothers was

inaugurated in Kyebando on 31st January 2024. The inauguration of the Brothers' residence here in Mpala coincides with the 340th Birth Anniversary of Blessed Marie Louise Trichet, the cofounder of the Daughter of Wisdom, as well as the feast of Mary Mediatrix of all graces.



The reflections on our missionary journey, which began in the western France has brought us to Uganda now, we recall the missionary dynamism instilled in us by Father Gabriel Deshayes. The mission in Uganda by the Province of Pune is the result of the decisions taken during our 32nd General Chapter, where we were called to expand to newer territories.



The decision to establish a presence in Uganda was further solidified by the warm welcome that we received from the local dioceses, particularly from Archbishop Ssemogerere. We are too grateful to all those who played a role in making these endeavours possible. In particular, the local Parish Priest, Fr. Joseph Kirumira, and the Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and members of the parish and town councils who welcomed us with open arms.

fund. It was a collaborative effort that involved the dedication of many individuals, including the local Superior, Bro. Sandeep Marneni, and the Architect, Mr. Arthur, who worked tirelessly to ensure the completion of the residence.

- Bro. Sandeep Marneni, SG

The project was made possible through the support of the former Superior General Bro. John Kallarackal along with his team and the financial aid from the Province of Canada through the Romain Landry



Province of Bengaluru



When a baby is born into a house, the whole household and the neighbours rejoice over the addition of the new member to the family. In the same way, the addition of a new members brings great joy to everyone. After a gap of 3 years, the Bengaluru Province was blessed with 3 First Professions: Raul Silda and Roque Mark Serrano from the Philippines pronounced their First Vows at Mororogo, Tanzania on the 11th of May, while Jeeva Antony from Coonoor made his First Profession at Sitagarha on 12th May 2024. We rejoice and thank God for these three young Brothers and pray for their perseverance.



The two newly professed Brothers from Phillipines with the Archbishop and other Brothers

city communities. He is part of the community at Montfort CBSE School, Theresapuram.



Bro. Jeeva, newly professed Brother with the Provincial Administration

A felicitation programme was arranged on 24th May 2024 at Aklan, Philippines for Bros. Raul Silda and Roque Mark Serrano in which the local Arch Bishop along with a large number of friends and well-wishers of the Brothers participated.

Bro. Jeeva Antony was accorded a formal welcome on 01st June 2024, at the Provincial House, with the participation of the Brothers of Bengaluru



Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, Asst. General being felicitated on his Birthday



On Wednesday, 22nd May 2024, the Superior General of the company of Mary visited the Provincial House accompanied by the Provincial Superior and Provincial Bursar. He joined us for a fellowship meal.



the poor have to be seen and experienced by those around us. It was an occasion for us to express our firm solidarity with him in his august task as a member of our General Administration in Rome. We wished him well and pledged our prayers and support for the success of his new mission.



Bros. Sireel Pradhan, Eugin D., Amit Dung Dung and Praveen A. renewed their Vows on 7 June 2024 at the Provincial House after a period of meaningful preparation.



The Annual Meeting of the Local Superiors, Principals, and Bursars was held on 15 and 16 June 2024 at the Provincial House. Bro. Varghese Theckanath facilitated the sessions, exposing the various challenges ahead in practising the 33rd General Chapter theme "Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century."

Rev. Bro. Dechachai Sripicharn, the Provincial Superior of Thailand, visited us on 27 June 2024 and was warmly welcomed by the Brothers of Bengaluru city Communities. He also briefly visited Lake Montfort School and Wisdom Montfort International School. Inter Province Collaborative Mission in the Philippines between the Provinces of Thailand and Bengaluru are being explored. While the two Provincials held discussions, the details are yet to be worked out. We hope and pray that this collaboration will soon become a reality.

The meeting was also an occasion to welcome Bro. Dhanaraj, the Assistant General responsible for Bengaluru Province. In his message to the Brothers, he stressed the importance of our credibility as Montfortians adhering to the teachings and values of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Our options for

- Bro. M. P. Antony, SG



Report on Inauguration - 27th June 2024

Welcome by Arthi & Boys Town Band.



Montfort Child Development for special children is a prophetic initiative following our pioneers, St. Louis Montfort, Fr. Gabriel Deshayes and in consistent with the charism of Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. Montfort Child Development Centre – Montfort Nilayam inaugurated on 27th June 2024 on the birthday of Helem Keller, a legend and model for the rights of differently abled persons. This is indeed an attempt to empower and develop differently abled children in collaboration with government or NGO's particularly the vulnerable and economically backward ones of our society. We are happy and privileged to collaborate and work with Helen Keller Institute, Secunderabad which is a pioneering institute for the differently abled in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. We have started with speech therapy and occupational therapy with the help of Helen Keller Institute.

The Centre was blessed and presided over by his Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad. Showers of blessings was sung by Bro. James Pasala & young Brothers.



Montfort Child Development Centre – Montfort Nilayam inaugurated by Rev. Bro. Pratap Reddy, Vicar General, representing the Congregation from Rome, and in the presence of our esteemed Guests of Honour Bro. Shine Alex, Provincial Superior of Hyderabad, Sri. Ummar Khan, Founder- Chairman, Helen Keller Institute.



Preparation for the Renewal of Vows of Junior Brothers

The 18 Junior Brothers from the Province of Delhi, along with Bro. Anand Minj (INH) and Bro. Blasius Tete (INR) and Bro. Mathew T. T., the Province Formation Director (PFD), gathered at Montfort Villa, Bhopal, from 23rd - 26th May 2024. The programme commenced with a prayer animated by Bro. T.T. Mathew. At the end of the inaugural prayer Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior addressed the Junior Brothers and explained to them the purpose of the seminar cum recollection. Then Bro. T.T. Mathew discussed with the group the proposed time-table and it was accepted.

Religious Brotherhood:

Every day, Bro. T.T. Mathew took the 1st session on 'Why Religious Brotherhood?'. It aimed to alleviate the confusion in the minds of a few junior Brothers regarding their vocation to Religious Brotherhood and its relevance. He quoted, "The secret of a fulfilling life is to ensure that one's personal good always contributes to the larger good." He explained that 'Brother' is basically a relation. Hence, brotherhood is basically a relationship towards other human beings, and it has been the quest of the human community for many centuries. As Religious Brothers we stand for the basic equality of all human beings, i.e., the fatherhood of God and brotherhood/sisterhood of all human beings. Any authority in the community/Church is understood

as service (Mk 10:42-45; Mt 20:25-28) and not for domination.

A Religious Brother is someone who heeds the cries of the poor, the marginalised and the suffering in society. Brotherhood thrives on a shared experience of humility and service. A Brother embodies the spirit of selflessness, ever ready to extend a helping hand to those in need, reflecting the words of Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Genuine brotherhood depends on our ability to actively respond to the pleas of the downtrodden and the afflicted.

These sessions served as an eye-opener, enabling us to grasp the profound significance of Brotherhood within the Church. We gained valuable knowledge about what it truly means to be a 'Brother'.

Health is Wealth; A Holistic Approach:

Bro. T.T. Mathew taught us yoga every morning from 5:30 to 7:00. The sessions helped us become physically and mentally fit. They emphasised the importance of holistic well-being. These sessions invigorated our bodies and fostered mental clarity and concentration.



Gautama Buddha on the Power of Thought:

Bro. T.T. Mathew shared with us Gautama Buddha's profound teaching, "All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts and made up of our thoughts. If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, suffering follows him as the wheel follows the hoof of the beast that draws the wagon..... If a man speaks or acts with a good thought, happiness follows him like a shadow that never leaves him," It resonated deeply within us throughout the seminar.

Meditation for Inner Peace:

Each evening, our PFD, Bro. T.T. Mathew had organised guided meditation sessions, fostering a sense of communion with the Divine and empowering us to pray and become masters of our minds.

Learning to Fly, Inspiration for Leadership:

We embarked on a journey of self-discovery by reviewing the book "Developing Wings to Fly: Life Lessons for the Youth," by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. We utilised PowerPoints to present our findings and insights from the book. The insights received from the book equipped us not only to become effective leaders but also to serve as an exemplary motivators, particularly for the youth of our society.

Renewal of our Commitment:

On the morning of May 26th, Bro. T.T. Mathew led us into an insightful session that rekindled our understanding of the evangelical counsels (Chastity, Poverty and Obedience). His reflections were centred around the Word of God. This session provided us with invaluable perspectives on these core values, strengthening our commitment to them.

During the Eucharistic celebration on 26th May at 12:00 noon we renewed of Vows in the presence of the Provincial, Bro. Thampy Alex, Bros. T.T. Mathew, Joseph Gabriel, John Bosco, Jeet Francis and Gregory Baa.

A Transformative Experience:

Overall, the seminar cum preparation for the renewal of our Religious Vows transcended a mere gathering of junior Brothers. It was an intensive program that nurtured our spiritual growth and overall well-being. The rigorous three-and-a-half days' program instilled in us valuable theoretical as well as practical lessons that will serve as a guiding light on our future endeavours as Montfort Brothers.

Gratitude and Conclusion:

At the end of the Mass, on behalf of the entire Junior Brothers, Bros. Atish Bage and Nilesh Minj expressed heartfelt gratitude to our Provincial Superior, Bro. Thampy Alex, Bro. T.T. Mathew (PFD) and Fr. Benny Thettayil, CMI for their steadfast support and guidance in empowering us throughout this program. Our sincere appreciation was also extended to Bro. V.J. Mani (LS) for his remote preparations in this event, Bro. Fuldeep Jojo for providing us with all material needs despite extreme heat outside, the senior Brothers for their love & concern, and the supporting staff of Montfort Villa for providing us with delicious meals.

- Bro. Prakash Tirkey, SG



Basic Course for Scout Master / Guide Captain Training Camp

Basic Course for Scout Master / Guide Captain Training Camp was held from 22nd to 28th April 2024 at Montfort Villa, Bhopal. There were 47 participants in the training camp, of which 31 were Scouts (including 14 Junior Brothers) and 16 Guides. The participants were trained by 9 Staff. The event was organised by St. Montfort Sr. Sec. School, Patel Nagar, Bhopal, by the initiative of Bro. Thampy Alex, Provincial Superior, under the leadership of Bro. Monachan K.K., the Principal of the host school, and Bro. Joy Thomas, Convenor, Education Commission, Province of Delhi.

On 21st April 2024, Mr. Rajesh Mewade, ASOC (Assistant State Organising Commissioner) conducted Self-Learning Modules for a day. It helped the participants to be aware of the forthcoming camp training schedule.

Mr. Kunal Mishra, President Scout and Himalayan Wood Badge (Scout) from Indore was part of the Camp on 24th April to train the participants in Signaling. It was enriching to listen to him as he explained about the nuances of the signal and its characteristics. On 27th April, the participants were taken to the Tribal Museum and Bhopal Lake as part of the Camp Hiking.





On 27th April evening, we had a grand campfire. A good number of distinguished guests were present namely Shri Rajeev Jain, State Commissioner Rover, BSG (Bharat Scout and Guide), Bhopal, Shri B.L. Sharma, State Training Commissioner, Scout BSG, State Headquarter, Bhopal, Shri Rajesh Mewade, ASOC, Bhopal. There were Religious Brothers and Sisters who made the evening more significant.

Acknowledgments for Successful Training Camp

We extend our sincere gratitude to Bro. Thampy Alex, Provincial Superior, and his dedicated team, including Bro. Joy Thomas, Education Commission Convenor, and Bro. Monachan K.K., Principal of St. Montfort Sr. Sec. School, Bhopal. Their support, along with that of all the principals from our schools, was instrumental in sending our Brothers and teachers to the training camp.

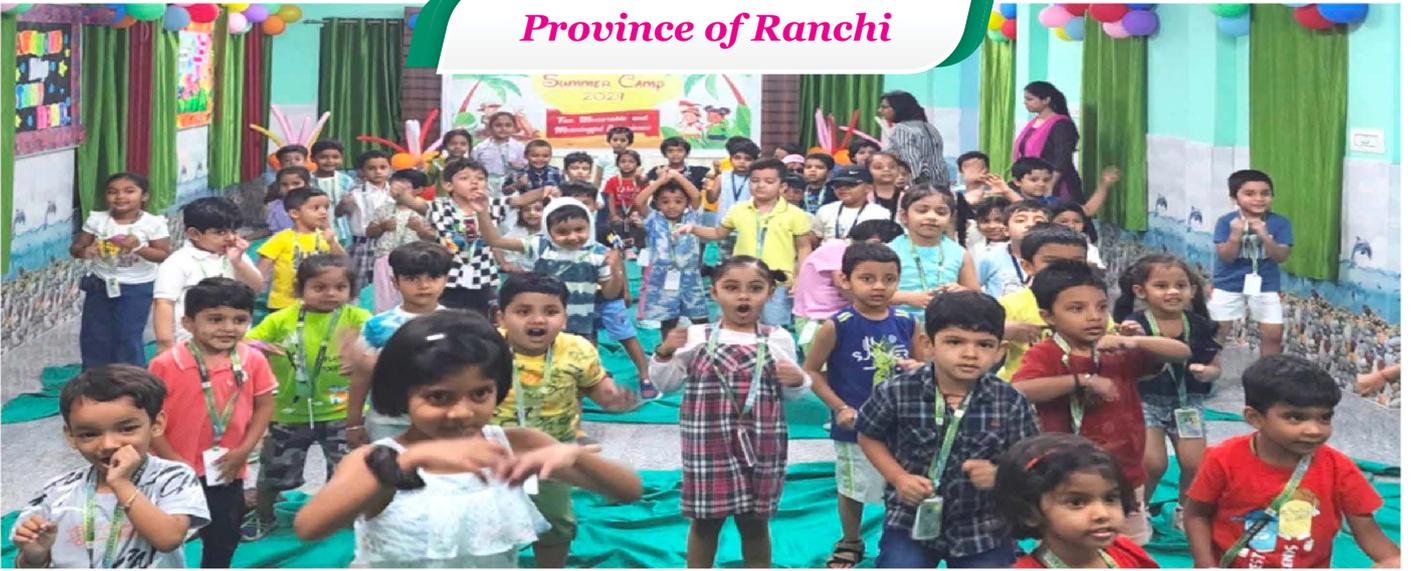
Special thanks go to Bro. Mani V.J., Bro. Raju Lakra, Bro. N.T. Cyriac, Bro. Antony Samy, Bro. Gregory Baa, and Bro. Bala Joseph for their generous support and encouragement throughout the camp.

We are also grateful to the camp staff for their outstanding contributions: Bro. William Kerketta, ALT (S), Ms. Asha Singh, LT (G), Mr. P.R. Pandey, ALT(S), Mr. Sanju, H.W.B, Mr. Anujay, Advance (S), Mrs. Savita, Advance (G), and Mrs. Asha Rani, Pre-ALT (G). Their wonderful accompaniment was pivotal to the camp's success.

Lastly, our heartfelt thanks to all the young and energetic Scouts and Guides for their active participation, making the training camp a memorable and fruitful event.

- Bro. Alex Diamond, SG

Province of Ranchi



On 17th May 2024, was the last working day of our school before the summer vacation, and we bid goodbye to Bro. Sunil Indwar, who worked with dedication at Loyola School for the last seven years. Three layers of farewell programs were organized in the school. "Bhabhini Bidai" was accorded to Brother for his dedicated service to the school.

Loyola Montessori Nursery section held a summer camp for the kids from 20th to 22nd May, during which 70 students participated. It was the first attempt of its kind. Along with Nursery teachers, four more experts were called in to organise the summer camp.

We had a small get-together with a few neighbouring Jesuits, to say good-bye to Bro. Sunil Indwar on 15th June. On 17th June Bro. Sunil Indwar left the Loyola community and he was accompanied by Bro. Anup and Bro. Roshan to Hathiagonda.



Bro. Sudhakar Reddy was live from Rome to express his gratitude to Bro. Sunil for his dedicated contribution to Loyola.



Loyola community welcomed Bro. James T. K. after his return to the Province from Rome. He served as the Assistant General of the Congregation for the last 6 years in Rome.

Bro. Johnson V.J. joined the Patna community on 10th June and is on his mission already. We extend a hearty welcome and wish him all the best in his new mission over here in Patna.

- Bro. John Herman Ekka, SG



At the **Calvary of Pontchâteau**
Path of **consolation**
Memory of the **little ones**



Presentation of the Association: Mary, Mother of Mercy

In France today, one in two pregnancies is not carried to term (abortion, miscarriage, etc.). When the life of a baby visits a woman's body, nothing is the same. Whether the passage lasted a few days or several months, whether the death was accidental (miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy) or deliberate (abortion, late-term abortion), the woman undergoes a physical and psychological transformation.

In the face of this situation, the Association Mother of Mercy offers a compassionate and anonymous listening and accompaniment for people who face the question of abortion. This is done with a deep respect for their history and for the situation they are in (loneliness, anguish, fear of the future, etc.). We can offer prayer meetings, counselling and different sorts of support.

Since 1991, the association Mother of Mercy has also provided support for women suffering from perinatal bereavement. The suffering of fathers and mothers who have suffered the loss of a child can be too much to bear. It's so good to have the opportunity to talk about it! Because anxiety stems from what you don't say, not from what you say.



Icon of the Mother of Mercy association.

"Mother of Mercy" is a fraternity of over 3,000 people whose mission is to alleviate or comfort any suffering connected with the acceptance of life "from its beginning to its natural end". Its volunteers welcome, accompany, listen, pray, and fast, supporting women, men, and couples confronted with the issue of welcoming life or mourning the loss of an unborn child.

For whom?

Mother of Mercy is for everyone: women, men, and couples whose suffering is manifested in depressive episodes (like the baby blues), anxiety, rebellion, isolation, guilt, disconnection from God.

The Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, is the one who invites everyone to let themselves be covered in her mantle of tenderness and looked upon with love by God the Father. It is in her that we can place all our refusals, fears, and doubts when it comes to accepting Life as a gift.

Mother of Mercy offers special listening and support during a five-day, silent "Stabat" session. It includes teaching and meditation, creative workshops, prayer vigils, and individual, personalized counseling. This allows participants to express the suffering or guilt associated with these wounds and to vent their grief under the gaze of divine mercy and tenderness. At the end of these sessions, life returns to the heart of each person, who finds themselves as transfigured by God's mercy and ready to bear witness to the power of His love.

The Ways of Consolation

Why a Way of Consolation?

Inspired by Saint John Paul II and encouraged by Pope Francis' desire to make the Lord's mercy known to all, the Mother of Mercy had the idea of creating a place of remembrance to honour the memory of unborn children left without a grave.

This is a form of apostolate whose aim is to enable people whose maternity or paternity has been wounded to express their suffering, and to meet God who wants to "console us, forgive us and give us hope". (Pope Francis)

In France, there are 4 *Chemins de Consolation*: the 1st was created at the Sanctuary de la Ste Baume



Statue on the path of consolation in Pontchâteau

in 2016, the 2nd at Montligeon in 2018 (here the first names are on a register), the 3rd at La Garenne-Colombes at Saint Urbain Parish, to be completed in 2019, and the 4th at the Calvaire de Pontchâteau.

Why Pontchâteau Calvary?

It was important that it was in a place where there was a religious community that could welcome and listen to the people who passed through.

A priest from Nantes suggested the Calvaire shrine because it's also a place of pilgrimage where St Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort was at the origin in the early 18th century. His mission was to evangelise and help the poorest people in his region; he was a man of great compassion.

So, we went there in 2019 to meet the community. And Father Santino Brembilla (SMM), who was particularly touched by this apostolate, wanted, in collaboration with Mother of Mercy, to offer a Way of Consolation to help people begin the mourning process and to be accompanied in affixing a plaque in the name of the child who was never born.

This Way of Consolation is situated outside the sanctuary so that people who are far from the faith can come and meditate freely.

And what's so beautiful here at the Calvary of Pontchâteau is the cooperation between the Montfort Family (the Daughters of Wisdom welcome and can accompany people who wish to have a plaque placed), the Sycomore, Village Saint Joseph, with their residents who make the plaques in mosaic (the colour of



Blessing of the Way of Consolation in Pontchâteau on Sunday 24 September 2023 by Mgr Laurent Percerou, Bishop of Nantes.



The name tags with the child's name, are placed at the foot of the altar at the foot of the altar during the Eucharist.



The first name tags, with the child's first name, are fixed on the wall dedicated to them at the foot of the cross.

which is chosen by the parents) and Mother of Mercy, who is in contact with these families and coordinates the request.

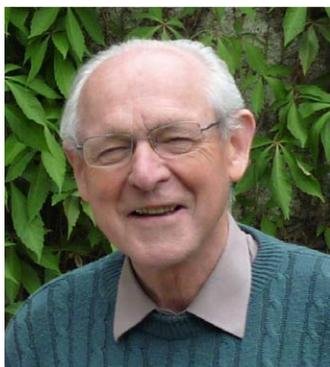
When the plaque is ready, we call the parents to suggest a date (a Marian feast day) when a Mass will be celebrated for the baby and the family, and they attend the placing of the plaque, which takes place after the Mass.

This stage allows the child to have an identity thanks to the pre-name, and Life circulates between Heaven and Earth to restore the whole family, which is a real consolation. It allows parents to begin the mourning process and to be

in prayerful communion with their little ones. One witness said:

"People are transformed and appeased after the plaque is placed. Some brothers and sisters laid a white flower for their little sister who is in Heaven, and the whole family is restored and consoled".

To do a "Stabat" session to go further in peace-making, to be reconciled with themselves and their history, under the tender gaze of God. It's five days of silence, a time for inner journeying, with teachings, individual accompaniment, liturgy, and free time... Laurence Biton, member of Mother of Mercy.



F. Jean Friant,
Brother of Saint-Gabriel
Calvaire de Pontchâteau

My experience with **Mother of Mercy** Experience during a *stabat* session



During a "Stabat" session, I experienced a very great moment of grace. I witnessed the Lord's action. And I tell myself that I was very fortunate to be able to experience such a moment. In fact, as a Brother, it was unthinkable. I was neither a retreatant nor a companion. I wasn't a priest to intervene, especially in the sacrament of reconciliation. I was unique in my state, a true witness.

Father Santino Brembilla (SMM) and I came here because we wanted to have a Way of Consolation here at Calvary. Magali de Larminat, from Lorient, who is in charge of the "Stabat" sessions, and Laurence Biton, from Nantes, who met us here to talk about this project, wanted us to take part in a "Stabat" session to understand the experiences which were being lived in the association Mother of Mercy.



I repeated to myself that we must never judge people, because sometimes they have experienced unthinkable situations. And we also have to give thanks to God for all the love we have received from our families and our parents.

The other very moving vigil was the last one, on Thursday evening, entitled: "Offering Children to God". The mothers had prepared bunches of flowers, which they brought to the vigil before the Blessed Sacrament, lighting a candle for each child that had not been born, either through miscarriage or abortion. I admired these women who, in front of everyone, took 1, 2, 3, or even 5 candles, lit with the Paschal candle, and placed them in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

At that moment, they recognised their children and gave them a name. There were a lot of tears. Many had written a little poem for their child. Throughout the session, they had been invited to let themselves be forgiven by God, even if they had committed a reprehensible act, and also to let themselves be forgiven and loved by their children who, in God, could only forgive and love them. It was a time of resurrections! It was the true Gospel! To be able to publicly acknowledge one's fault and, above all, to be reconciled with God and their children who had not been born here on earth. I especially



It was a very intense moment that combined a retreat with a formation session in accompaniment, particularly for clergy and would-be counselors in accompaniment. This formation was conducted by F. Paul-Marie Cathelinais, a Dominican friar from the Saint Nazaire region, and spiritual director of the association "Mother of Mercy".



appreciated the insights provided by the lay members of Mère de Miséricorde. It was a moving teaching especially as she admitted to having had an abortion on Emmanuel during her studies:

I didn't know how to welcome my child when I was young. I left the hospital alone, guilty after what was presented as a banal choice with no consequences... God came looking for me. He waited patiently for me to open my heart to him. Don't be afraid of your misery, just let me love you. He didn't like the serious act I had committed. He wanted to give me his forgiveness and he had borne that sin on his Cross. Talitha Koum! Arise Dominic! Choose life again! And I began a journey of resurrection. "All your sins are forgiven" thanks to the sacrament of reconciliation.

God's love goes so far as to transform our sins into riches. He turns misfortune into an opportunity to love better, a tear that allows the divine light to shine through. This is the anchor on our path to holiness.

Thou has turned for me, my mourning into joy: thou has cut my sackcloth, and has compassed me with gladness: "Let not my heart be silent; let it rejoice in you and give thanks to you without ceasing, O Lord my God" (Psalm 29:12-13).

I also recall this Italian woman, a Paris university professor, with whom I spoke at our last meal. She had just acknowledged aborting 3 children. At the last vigil, in front of everyone, she lit 3 candles and gave a name to each of her children. She was a happy, liberated woman.

I was then personally invited to help set up the Way of Consolation here at Calvaire. This took three years, culminating in the inauguration on 24 September 2023.

To give the Way a Montfortian tone, a small team of six people, religious and lay, searched through the canticles of Father de Montfort for phrases in keeping with the biblical words on each of the eight panels of the Way. On a final panel, we used this phrase taken from Hymn 164, composed by Father de Montfort on the Calvary of Pontchâteau.

She said: "Oh, that in this place we could see sea watches! For me, this phrase is still relevant today.

We regularly have a highlight, when the new nameplates are unveiled. This was the case again on 31 May, to mark the Feast of the Visitation. There were 15 mosaic plaques, made by the residents of Saint-Joseph village, each bearing the first name chosen by the parents. It's always a moving moment!

FIRST PROFESSION CEREMONIES ST. MONTFORT NOVITIATE MIKESSE

On the 11th May, 2024, at St. Nicholas Parish, Mikese, Morogoro, Tanzania witnessed the solemn celebration of the First Profession of 9 Novices from St. Montfort Novitiate, Mikese. Two novices were from Philippines and the rest were from the Province of East Africa. Fr. Salvinus Kwembe, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Morogoro presided over the Eucharistic Celebration. Bro. John Britto Antonyamy, the Sector Superior of Philippines, the delegate of the Provincial Superior of Bengaluru Province, received the vows of the Novices from Philippines, while Bro. Jimmy Kalapurayil, the Provincial Superior received the vows of the Novices from the Province of East Africa. There were over 500 people who participated in the celebration along with a number of religious men and women. Brothers' representatives were there from all the communities of Tanzania and Kenya. After the Eucharistic celebration, the newly

professed were felicitated and meals were served for all. The message of the Superior General was read out by the Provincial Superior and he exhorted the newly professed to be authentic religious and Montfortian Prophets in the 21st Century. All in all, it was a grand, colorful and long celebration. Hats off to the Novice Master, Bro. Anicet Nsingizimana and Bro. Alexis Nibigira, the Socius for their hard work and planning. Indeed, the Congregation is blessed to have 9 more members and it is a moment to render thanks to God for calling these young men and their readiness and enthusiasm to respond to his invitation in their lives. Let us continue to accompany them by our prayers and may the Holy Spirit lead them and strengthen them.

- Bro. Jimmy Kalapura, SG



1. GABRIELIST SCHOOL OLYMPICS IN SENEGAL

The Province's Education Commission held its second Gabrielite Olympics on 4 and 5 May at Saint Gabriel College in Thiès. The aim was to organise sports competitions between the various Gabrielite schools and schools under Gabrielite supervision in Senegal. For two (02) days, pupils from six (6) schools: *Collège du Sine (Fatick)*, *Collège Saint Gabriel (Thiès)*, *René Merceron (Mbour)*, *Saint François d'Assise (Tivaouane Peul)*, *Saint Louis Marie Grignon (Malika)* and the *Saint Montfort Technical training centre in Médina, Dakar* came together to enjoy some unforgettable moments of sport, with various competitions by level and cycle on the programme. Saint Peter School was not part of this second edition.

The theme for these sports days was: *"Gabrielite, united by sport, let's protect our environment"*.

1. Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m., with all the delegations present at *Place des Nations* in Saint Gabriel College. After welcoming delegations present and setting up the various schools, we gathered for the Flag-raising ceremony.

Brother Maurice Birane DIOUF, Principal of Saint Gabriel College, then delivered the opening address on behalf of the Province, welcoming all participants to the event.

In his address, Brother Maurice also invited participants to make this sporting event an experience of joy, and respect promoting sports values of fair play, discipline, and respect for adversaries ...

He finally invited everyone to be vigilant about the cleanliness of the site and the good use of the facilities made at the disposal of the delegations. After these opening words, we began the various competitions on the Saturday morning.



Welcoming address by the Principle



Welcoming of delegations



Flag-hosting ceremony

2. Competitions

The programme included individual and team sports activities by level and by cycle.

2-1- Primary School competitions

The Primary School Students competed in disciplines such as

- Football (boys)
- Relay (girls),
- 50m Sprint (boys and girls)
- and Long jump for girls.

Here is the final winners' podium following the competition:

a) For football (boys)

- 1st Saint Francis of Assisi Institution
- 2nd Saint Louis Marie Grignon Institution

b) Girls' relay

- 1st Saint Francis of Assisi Institution
- 2nd Institution Saint Louis Marie Grignon
- 3rd René Merceron Institution

c) 50-meter Dash

- Boys

- 1st Saint Louis Marie Grignon Institution
- 2nd Collège du Sine
- 3rd René Merceron Institution

- Girls

- 1st Saint Francis of Assisi Institution
- 2nd Saint Louis Marie Grignon Institution
- 3rd Collège du Sine

d) Long jump

- Boys

- 1st Saint Louis Marie Grignon Institution
- 2nd Collège du Sine
- 3rd Saint Francis of Assisi Institution

- Girls

- 1st Saint Francis of Assisi Institution
- 2nd Saint Louis Marie Grignon Institution
- 3rd Collège du Sine

2.2 Primary football winners' Elementary girls' speed podium

Middle school podium

a) Boys' football

- 1st Saint Francis of Assisi Institution
- 2nd Saint Gabriel College

b) Girls' handball

- 1st Saint Gabriel College
- 2nd René Merceron Institution

c) 60-metre Sprint

- Boys

- 1st Saint Gabriel College
- 2nd René Merceron Institution
- 3rd Saint Francis of Assisi Institution

- Girls

- 1st René Merceron Institution
- 2nd Saint Francis of Assisi Institution
- 3rd Saint Gabriel College

d) Girl's relay

- 1st René Merceron Institution
- 2nd Saint Louis Marie Grignon Institution
- 3rd Saint Gabriel College

e) Triple jump

- Girls

- 1st Institution Saint Louis Marie Grignon
- 2nd Institution Saint François D'Assise
- 3rd Institution René Merceron

- Boys

- 1st Institution Saint François D'Assise
- 2nd Institution René Merceron
- 3rd Saint Gabriel College

High School

High School Students (both boys and girls) competed in football and basketball.

a) Football

- 1st Institution Saint François D'Assise
- 2nd Institution Saint Louis Marie Grignon

b) Basketball

- Boys

- 1st Saint Gabriel College
- 2nd Saint Louis Marie Grignon Institution

-Girls

- 1st Saint Gabriel College
- 2nd René Merceron Institution

Closing ceremony

We closed our sporting competitions on Sunday 5 May at 1 p.m. It was an opportunity to welcome the Provincial Superior, the guests, the Main Sponsor of the event and all sponsors and to present the trophies.



Winners - Middle school Football



A word from the Provincial



Saint Peter's Delegation

In his closing address, the Provincial thanked all those who had supported us in making the event a success. He also thanked and congratulated all the organisers: Brothers and the team of sports teachers who had spared no effort to ensure that this year's event was a success. Brother Etienne (the Provincial) expressed his gratitude to the delegation from the Saint Peter School who had come to help organise the event. He then congratulated all Schools and participants, praising the spirit of the fair-play competition which animated the players, children and all the winners. He encouraged those who lost to persevere in their efforts.

After these words, we proceeded to the presentation of the trophies. The winners of the team sports (football, basketball and handball) received a cup, a ball and a set of shirts. The runner-ups received a ball and a set of shirts.

In the athletics disciplines, the top three finishers received their traditional medals (gold, silver and bronze).

- Bro. Patrice MBENGUE, SG

Canonical visit of the Provincial to the Communities in Guinée Conakry

From 17 to 23 March 2024, the Provincial Superior made a canonical visit to the communities of Guinea. I accompanied him on this visit. For days, we shared the daily life of our Brothers on mission in Guinea. It's a demanding day-to-day existence, given the enormous amount of work that needs to be done continually to ensure a healthy and serene living environment in which everyone can flourish. It's a great mission that we owe to the missionaries, but also to our partners who support us: Saint Gabriel Solidarité for the construction of poultry houses that contribute to the self-financing of the boarding schools and the payment of the development workers' salaries, the Fonds Romain Landry for the construction of the development workers' residences in Kataco and Katacodi, the GAC (Guinea Alunina Corporation) for the borehole that supplies water for Katacodi Institution. We have to recognise that these achievements have contributed greatly to improving conditions, but they are insufficient to meet the immense basic needs of the missionary Brothers.

We were very moved by these difficult living conditions. That is why I am making this communication to share with you some of the needs of our brothers.

Identification of the needs

Looking at the reality of the country, one is tempted to say that Guinea is a country with problems, so numerous are they and they affect almost every sector of life. However, as we can't intervene everywhere, let's focus on those that are the daily suffering of our brothers and sisters, to offer them a minimum of comfort.



Brother Janvier and his group

a) Water

Although dubbed "the water tower of West Africa", thanks to its many sources and the fact that most of West Africa's rivers have their source there, Guinea struggles to provide this vital resource to all households. To get water, people have to drill boreholes themselves or draw water from ponds to meet their needs. Our communities are not left out and regularly experience this situation. Although our communities and boarding schools have solar-powered boreholes, it is impossible to have access to this precious liquid 24 hours a day. Heavy use and/or over-use of the facilities explain the lack of water and the recurrence of technical breakdowns. Taps don't run all the time, and having water throughout the house is a luxury. What's more, water chores are very common: you have to walk a long way to fill the jerry cans so that you have a supply. To drink, the Brothers buy packs of water in sachets of dubious origin and manufacturing conditions. If the communities are to be self-sufficient in water, the community facilities must be separated from those of the boarding school and the school. Each structure should have its own borehole and facilities. This would reduce the overuse of the only existing borehole.

b) Electricity

The electricity network is almost non-existent. Only the major towns have an electricity line. For lighting and other electricity needs, most households have solar panels. Our communities are no exception. They too are in this situation. What's more, our solar installations are used by the community, the school and the boarding school. Overuse drastically reduces their lifespan and the amount of lighting needed, especially at night. The



With the Ourous community

boarding school boarders find it extremely difficult to study properly at night. Pupils sitting exams are given priority for their evening studies. In addition, there is a lack of lighting in the outside courtyards. It is very difficult to get around at night because of the lack of lighting. It is important to reinforce the existing network to ensure safety, improve working conditions and limit the overuse of solar panel installations in our communities.

c) Household poverty and low school attendance rates

You only have to visit the households around our communities to be convinced of this reality. In this area, many families live in precarious conditions, which means that children's schooling is relegated to second place. This sad reality easily explains the low numbers in schools and boarding schools, and the low level of school fees. School fees have to be reduced if there is to be any hope of having many pupils. To this must be added a lack of interest on the part of parents in sending their children to school. The case of Ourous is a clear example of this. The Ourous boarding school has 17 boarders for a quarterly payment of 300,000 FG, i.e. nearly 25,000 FCFA. How can the borders and the premises be properly maintained with these

meagre financial resources? Tuition at Ourous primary schools costs 20,000 FG or almost 1,500 FCFA.

The same question could be asked here. Even if the salaries are paid by Saint Gabriel Solidarité, can the revenue fully cover all the running and maintenance costs of the structure? And very often the payment of these school fees by the parents poses a problem. Priority is given to physiological needs (eating, drinking) and financing traditional events (circumcision, excision, funerals, initiation, etc.).

In light of this analysis, we can see that the Province's missionary expansions are facing enormous difficulties. The case of Guinea is only a pretext. To those we have listed, we can add those of Burkina Faso. We are well aware of the importance of the Brothers' presence in these mission lands, and it would be a shame to see these foundations die. It is important to set up a solidarity to perpetuate, make viable and make more attractive our missionary foundations.

- Bro. Patrice MBENGUE, SG



Visit of the buildings for Scout Boys



The great hall of Katakodi



A group of students from Katakodi cooperants' residence



From Katakodi katako



Preparation for Final Vows

After the two previous editions held in Brazzaville in 2018, and in Senegal in 2022, the third edition of the preparation for Perpetual Vows took place at the Centre Spirituel Theresianum in Kinshasa with the theme "Brothers, prophets of hope". The session began on Monday 1 July 2024 in the capital of DR Congo.

The 45-day session held in Kinshasa will be marked particularly by the presence of a Portuguese-speaking confrere (Brother Joseph Valdir from Brazil).

The opening ceremony was focused on a beautiful exhortation by Father Camille SAPU, a Sacred Heart priest and President of the Conference of Major Superiors (Cosuma) of the Ecclesiastical Province of Kinshasa, a prayer illuminated by the symbolic light of the candle representing Christ.

This was followed by the introduction of each participant and the reading of various messages from the Central Administration:

"You are beginning a formation session in preparation for the celebration of your perpetual vows the day after the 33rd General Chapter,

the theme of which was: Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century."

The series of themes that will be explored over the coming weeks will undoubtedly help you to live this session of preparation for perpetual vows with determination and passion, and I would also like to offer you my sincere congratulations for risking something for God in the way St. Montfort and as for the provincial administration: "Let us entrust this third edition of the session of preparation for perpetual vows into the hands of Mary, our Mother, of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, our Founder, of the very fortunate Marie-Louise de Montfort, of the Church of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus, Marie Clémentine Anuarite Negapeta of Father Gabriel DESHAYES, our Brothers Martyrs of BUTA, and all our Brothers who have joined the house of the Father. Let us remember that the choice of the different themes and the content of the session is in line with the central themes of our charism and our spirituality. The centrality of Jesus Christ the Saviour, the Church and its current concerns, the consecrated life, the vows, Montfortian education, the place of the Virgin

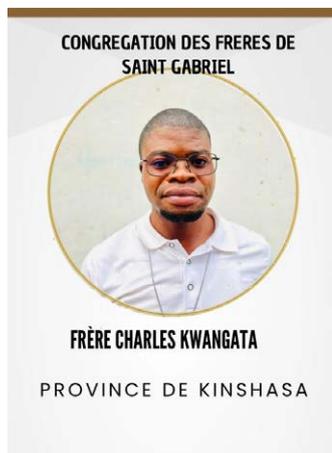
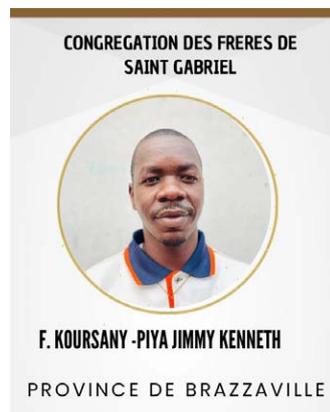
Mary in the life of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, and so on.

The edition of the Brothers Prophets of Hope has twelve (12) participants including:

The Province of Brazzaville two (2) candidates,

the Province of Kinshasa four (4) candidates, the Province of Senegal three (3) candidates, the Vice-Province of Madagascar two (2) candidates and the sector of Brazil one (1) candidate.

- **F. Rufin NDAMBU, SG**





Adozioni a distanza

Our Institute is bubbling with numerous activities. I will present you with some of the activities. First of all, our community is enriched with the addition of Bro. Onesphore from Burundi of the East African Province. Just the day after his arrival, he was welcomed by the City Mayor Maria Grazia Gasparini and by our friends. He is learning the Italian Language. He is taking part in all the activities of the community. His cherished hobby is to maintain a vegetable garden. He is good at mingling with the various groups coming to the Institute.

The Bishop of Treviso visits the Indian Community in our Institute

The Bisop of Treviso Msgr. Michele Tomasin spent a full day in our Institute. He took the occasion to visit our community, the Indian catholic Community

living in the Treviso area. The Brothers and the Catholic Indian Community together welcomed the Bishop. After his arrival, there was a meeting with the Brothers and the leaders of the Indian Community. Then, there was a solemn celebration of Mass in the Malayalam Language. Bro. Mathew Kavumkal officially welcomed the Bishop and the Indian Catholic Community to the community of the Brothers. The Bishop delivered his homily in Italian. After the Mass the entire community moved to the Montfort Hall where a sumptuous indian lunch was ready for all. The Bishop cut the cakes and distributed them to all. At a certain moment, the Bishop started serving food to the faithful. It was a wonderful day for all. It was a day of heavenly blessings on all of us.





The Nursery School Appiani of St. Joseph of Treviso conducted its Annual day with parents, students, and teachers in our Institute. About 700 people took part in the celebrations. Civil and religious authorities were also present on that day to make the day memorable. The organisation was wonderful. All were provided with a good Italian lunch. The presence of the Mayor and assistant Mayor of Treviso city increased the glamour of the day.



A one-day Conference on the new frontier of Medicine (MEDICINA QUANTISTICA E LA NUOVA FRONTIERA) was conducted in our Institute. The Montfort Hall was full of participants, mainly Doctors from nearly all parts of Italy. There were also guests who delivered their illuminating information.



The Indian Christian Catholic Community of Cavaso del Tomba Italy



On Saturday, 15th June, the Catholic Community of Syro-Malankara rite celebrated their Patronal Feast of Saint John the Baptist. The people of the area followed the celebration with great admiration and curiosity. The procession was animated by the music band of the city and was performed in the presence of Mayor Dott. Gino Rugolo, with his Counsellors, the presence of Fr. John Poochakatt, Fr. Benedict Kurian from Rome and the special guest of the evening Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG and with the presence of a large number of faithful gave a splendid and living witness to Jesus, Christ the Son of God. Bro Mathew animated the assembly by the proclamation of the Word of God.

Marian Pilgrimage to the Madonna di Pinè di Montagnaga of Trento.





The prayer group “Regina della Pace” with the spiritual Director Bro Mathew Kavumkal, made the annual pilgrimage to the Marian Sanctuary of Madonna di Pinè di Montagnaga in the Province of Trent (Trento). The Montagnaga complex celebrates the five apparitions between 1729 and 1730 to a shepherd girl named Domenica Targa. We took part in the celebration of the Holy Mass, adoration of the Holy Eucharist and we listened to the detailed description of the story of the Sanctuary given by the Parish Priest of the Church. We also visited the Monument to the Holy Redeemer, a 20th-century work in neo-Renaissance style containing the Holy Staircase and the wooden Crucifixion group. We had our lunch in the Pilgrim hall of the Sactuary. On our return we stayed at Istituto Ca’ Florens for the dinner and for sharing the spiritual experience of each one. The pilgrimage was really very spiritual and joyful. We enjoyed the view of the Valsugana from the hill where the Monument to the Redeemer is located.

30th June, our Institute was fully occupied by the farmers who celebrated the feast of tractors and ploughers. The celebration continued with the participation at a sumptuous lunch organised by the organisers in the Montfort hall of the Institute.

Our cook Teresa has been selected to receive Pension



Mrs. Teresa Nunziata, our cook has completed her years and days of service in our community, which has enabled her to receive a life-long pension from the 1st July 2024. So, she terminated her service on Friday, 28th June. Now, we do not have a cook. We have been searching for one, but we have not yet found a person adapted for our needs. Now, yet another difficult job of providing satisfactory food in the community has fallen on me. God’s ways are wonderful. Five years back, a lady met me seeking a job. At that time we did not have any work to give her. But I had taken her name and phone number. Suddenly the request of the lady came to my mind, and I searched for her name and phone number. I found the number and phoned to her. I asked her to meet me along with her husband. They came. She is having a part-time job. She is willing to abandon that job and help us starting from 1st August. Thanks be to God.

Annual Celebration of Tractors at Istituto Ca’ Florens



The agriculturists of the Veneto Region come together every year in our institute with their tractors of every type and model. They demonstrate the ploughing techniques with their tractors and ploughers. More than 150 farmers participated in the event. Therefore, on Saturday 29th and Sunday

-Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG



Greetings from Montfort Aruludhayam Pre-Novices.

I am happy to share the recent events and developments in our Montfort Aruludhayam family.

Our community has been blessed with a new team of formators: Bro. Marreddy, the Director; Bro. Manoj, the Administrator; and Bro. Richard, the Socius. We are also delighted to welcome 35 new Pre-Novices from eight Indian Provinces into our fold.

First Community Meeting

On June 1st, we held our first community meeting, a heartwarming occasion for all of us to get acquainted. This gathering allowed us to share our family backgrounds and cultures, fostering a sense of closeness and companionship. It was a beautiful start to our journey together, strengthening our bond as brothers as we march forward to achieve our goals.

Inauguration of the Academic Year 2024-2025

"Transformation for the Prophetic Brotherhood"

We embarked on our new academic year on June 8th, 2024, under the inspiring theme "Transformation for the Prophetic Brotherhood." Our joy was amplified by the presence of Bro.

Irudhayam, the National Chairman, and Bro. K.M. Joseph, the National Formation Director, with Provincials from neighbouring regions.



Irudhayam inaugurated the new scholastic year by lighting the lamp. In his message, he emphasised the importance of learning and speaking in English, urging us to seize the valuable opportunities before us. Bro. K.M. Joseph highlighted the essential role of prayer in our lives,

underscoring its significance in our formation for the Prophetic Brotherhood. We wholeheartedly embraced his guidance and committed ourselves to a life of prayer and devotion.

Inauguration of the Theme and the Logo



Classes and Formation



Bro. George Padikara inaugurated the theme of the year, encouraging us to be ardent devotees of Mary like St. Montfort. He urged us to remain faithful to our prayers and spiritual activities. Following this, Bro. Johnson, the Provincial Superior of Yercaud, inaugurated our new community logo. Each element of the logo symbolises the various missions entrusted to us during our formation and future endeavours. In his message, he encouraged us to contemplate the elements depicted in the logo. Our inauguration day concluded with a moving prayer service, where we dedicated ourselves to our master, Lord Jesus Christ.

Transformation at Aruludhayam goes beyond mere change; it involves the holistic development of our character in spiritual, emotional, physical, intellectual, and social dimensions. Here, we are enhancing our speaking and reading skills, cultivating our talents in games and musical instruments, and deepening our prayer life through the Holy Eucharist, rosary, adoration, meditation, and reflection on the word of God. Monthly recollections and various celebrations enrich our experiences, helping us cherish each moment and find joy in our journey.

We are also adapting to the local climate and food, learning spoken English, and benefiting from the various classes provided by our Brothers. We are profoundly grateful to our superiors for their tireless efforts and guidance.

With enthusiasm and zeal, we eagerly anticipate the upcoming events and the growth they will bring to our Montfort Aruludhayam family.

**Sinson Ouseph
(Pune Province)**



Come and see what God has done, His awesome deeds for mankind! -Ps 66: 5

Fraternal greetings from the Novices and Brothers of Eachinkadu Novitiate to all the readers of the Gabrielite News Bulletin. With the graces and blessings of God, we wish to share His love and light we have experienced through various activities of our novitiate life.

I. Formation House:

We have our monthly recollections, focusing on different themes. For June 2024, the theme was "Celibacy for the Kingdom." This recollection served as a source of strength, helping us dive into the new semester with a renewed spirit. It encouraged us to look into ourselves and engage in prayer with a serene mind and heart. Fr. Robert, OCD, guided us through the theme with his insightful talk, and we concluded our recollection with the sacrament of confession and the Eucharistic celebration.

1. Community Meetings

Every month, we have our community meeting. For the month of June 2024, we had a community meeting that provided us with the opportunity to express ourselves. During the meeting, we shared our thoughts on the role of celibacy in our lives. We examined various aspects of life in the Novitiate, offering suggestions for the betterment of our community life. We also discussed the agenda for the new academic year. We were delighted to see that all our suggestions for the community were addressed and implemented, bringing us great satisfaction and fulfilment. It is very important to note that the community meetings are animated by the novices themselves. We have been trained to animate the community dialogues and other programs.

2. Novenas And Feasts

We have been spiritually guided by our Novice Master to follow the footsteps of our founder, St. Louis Marie de Montfort. In our spiritual journey, we conducted a one-week Novena leading up to the feast of St. Montfort. It all concluded with a celebration of the feast on 28th April. The novena days were filled with reflections and readings from our founder and on our founder. In the same manner, we had a three-day novena in honour

of the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Since our novitiate is named after the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it was also an occasion to prepare for the feast of our novitiate. These spiritual experiences have strengthened us spiritually and shaped us to be steadfast in our inner journey and our path to reach Jesus through Mary, following the footsteps of St. Montfort.

3. Faith Formation Model Classes

Faith formation classes and catechism were the fundamental foundation of the Montfortian charism. As novices, we are introduced to these classes to become excellent faith formation teachers, following the footsteps of our founder. Last few weeks, we practised giving model lessons on different topics, corrected our mistakes, and improved our presentations. Now, we have started giving faith formation classes for the students of Montfort School in Yercaud. This initiative provides us with a great opportunity to enhance our catechetical skills and develop teaching methods to help the young. Brothers are present in the classrooms, evaluating our teaching methods and providing feedback. Day by day, we are building a strong foundation to become effective catechism teachers and skilled organisers in the future.

4. Acting on the Acts of 33rd General Chapter

All the novices were given a copy of the Acts of the 33rd General Chapter. We are going through it and trying to become familiar with it. Next month, we will have our monthly recollection on the Acts of the 33rd General Chapter and find ways and means to act on it and put it into practice. We were also happy that some of our suggestions were taken into account in the discussions of the 33rd General Chapter.

II. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN THE NOVITIATE

We have had classes on various subjects, and we continue to study some important subjects, such as the Constitutions and our Rule of Life, Spirituality and Christian Spiritual Masters, Evangelical Counsels, Spiritual Reading, French and Tamil language learning classes, etc.

1. "Mission ad Gentes"



From June 5th to 11th, we had classes on "Mission ad Gentes" taught by former missionary Bro. George Fernandez. He helped us understand the vital role of a Brother as a missionary in foreign lands, emphasizing the importance of overseas missions that have been the foundation for many Provinces today. We, the novices, are ready for the overseas mission. His classes inspired us to embrace the life of a missionary and strengthened our missionary vocation.

2. Personal Growth Sessions



Mrs. Anusuya, a psychologist, came to conduct classes on Personal growth. Her sessions helped us to understand the "mathematical way of life." This approach taught us to add values to improve self-esteem and personal growth, channel our anger in an assertive way, subtract sadness, multiply our understanding of ourselves, and divide our time by taking 30-60 seconds of silence when worried before responding. These classes will be remembered and cherished for a long time. It also has improved our self-understanding and self-esteem.

3. Integration of Formation and Technology



We are also happy to share with you our attempts to integrate our formation with the technology. Our novitiate has added an Interactive panel for the classroom, laptops and an iPad for learning purposes. We also have drawn up some dos and don'ts for the utilisation of these gadgets by the novices. The novices manage these gadgets' maintenance and keep a record of their usage, etc. We know that we will use these gadgets more frequently once we are in the mission fields. Hence, we are seriously learning to use these modern means of communication intelligently and prudently. We are happy that our formators are guiding us in the integration of these new technologies with our formative process.

Thus, the life and activities in our Sacred Heart Novitiate have been flowing like a river into the ocean. We have been interacting with many people who have visited us and thus learning from them. We thank God for each other, for the lovely ambience in the novitiate, and for our formators.

We pray often for the whole congregation, for all the Provinces, and for more vocations to our institute. May God bless all the members of the new Central Administration, all the Brothers of our congregation, and Montfortian Gabrielite Associates. We are growing more and more in the likeness of Jesus, our loving elder Brother.

T. Sharath Reddy, Novice.



On our way to our shared mission, we create ties



Province of Spain

To share what we are and not only what we do, to discover each other, to create links, to foster communication and communion and to close our training courses this year, the Brothers, associates and collaborators from the areas of Catalonia and central Spain met on 15 June. The former at Can Xic (Sant Celoni) and the latter at the College-Seminary of La Aguilera (Aranda de Duero).

A beautiful day in both Catalonia and Aranda de Duero provided the setting for the joy of this meeting.

In Catalonia, fifty-four veteran associates enjoyed the countryside, pleasant discussions, a fun raffle of a ham, animated by Raquel Torres, that raised a little money to carry out other actions, and a

succulent and gigantic paella organised, as usual, by the associate Luis Clemente, which delighted everyone. During the Eucharist, presided by Brother José María Vicario, everyone thanked the Lord for the wonders he had worked in everyone.

In the central area of Spain, around thirty people including Brothers, veteran associates from Madrid, Aranda and even Jaén and collaborators-teachers from both schools, enjoyed a very interesting and enjoyable talk by Mr. Máximo López, a specialist in the History of the Douro, on the congregations that, over the centuries, had been established in the area. This was followed by the Eucharist presided over by Brother Ángel Llana and, as they say here, ...from the Mass to the table, where not only food was shared but also relaxed conversations on a variety of subjects.

In the afternoon, Brother Ángel Llana, vice-postulator of the cause for the beatification of the Brothers martyrs of the faith, updated everyone on the current state of the process.

It was a good day and the scenery of the Seminary Centre of La Aguilera contributed, as usual, to everyone feeling relaxed and at ease.

How important these family moments are!

- Training Team for MCG



Shared Mission, Common Formation



This school year 2023-2024 has been rich in events, meetings, and themes that particularly appeal to us, as Montfortian Gabrielites. This prepares us for implementing in our lives the message of the recent 33rd General Chapter, Brothers and Laypeople in respect to each one's unique vocation. In addition to regular meetings of the different Associate groups, there are also special meetings that involve us as a Province.

In our Province, every year we organise two meetings of formation and celebration during which all the Brothers, associates, and collaborators take part in the shared training, reflection, and dialogue, and celebrate their faith together.



For the first joint formation on 18 November, we had a total participation of 59 people. The morning of this day was devoted to working on Circular No. 2 of the former Superior General, Brother John Kallarackal: Brothers and lay people together at the service of the Montfortian mission and charism. We focused on understanding the concept of association in the context of a shared mission. Through a participative dynamic, we analysed the state of our association and identified the relationships to be fostered between all the members. We then reviewed the history of the Association in the Congregation up to the last major event this summer, the RIAM (Rencontre Internationale Montfortian). In the afternoon, after a fellowship meal, we reflected on the heritage of our predecessors in the mission of our Province. Each person's name was attached to a string





representing the course of the history of the Province. Each name evoked the moment when the person was connected to this history of ours. Later, several members recalled that moment and the reason for their involvement. But what was missing from the cord was the time that had passed since the beginning of the history of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in the Province of Spain, in 1903.

The content of these origins was complemented by the projection of a video recounting this chapter of history. The narration continued until 1936 when many of our Brothers gave their lives for their faith. When the video was shown, participants' faces were filled with emotion as they shared moments that wove their own stories while linking them to the history of the Province.

A heritage has a much wider scope than its literal interpretation because learning about our roots gives us a better understanding of where we come from and who we are today. It helps us to build a stronger, more collective identity.

And, of course, knowing our history will prevent us from losing or distorting our references and deviating from the ideal that has always animated our mission: to evangelise through education in the hope of creating a fraternal community of children of God.

All of us, Brothers and lay associates and collaborators, sharing the charism inspired by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, are committed to an educational project that aims to promote justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

During the second Joint Training session on 16-17 March, we discussed the Global Compact for Education.

Gonzalo Violero García, Technical Secretary of the REDES association, which brings together 55 organisations involved in development cooperation, was present to inform us about this Pact. His presentation and the videos we watched on the message of Pope Francis and other experts led to dialogue, the sharing of good educational practices, and the proposal of new initiatives to become fully part of the Global Compact for Education.



We must emphasise the times of reflection, common prayer, and Eucharistic celebration, which strengthen the bonds between us and reinforce us as a fraternal community, helping us to move forward in our shared mission.

Two pilgrimages In the footsteps of Montfort

From the 1st to the 5th of May, the members of the Leadership Teams of the Province of Spain went on a pilgrimage to Montfortian places.

After two years of formation, getting closer to the charism, spirituality, and educational tradition of our Institution, we thought that a more dynamic way to connect with it and to complete the formation was to immerse ourselves in some significant places of our history.





La Scala Santa, the Temple of Jerusalem, and the ancient chapel with the Crucified Christ made by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Finally, we walked along the long Way of the Cross until we reached the Calvary.

of Saint-Lazare - a mission where Louis Marie stayed for a year - and had our photograph taken next to the oak tree where he used to meet those who came to talk to them about Jesus and Mary.

On Thursday 2 May, accompanied by Associate Pierrette, after a Eucharist in the parish church of Montfort-sur-Meu, presided over by three Montfortian Fathers, we visited the birthplace of St Louis Marie, Le Bois Marquer in Iffendic and its church. In the afternoon we went to the hermitage

On Friday, May 3rd, Marie-Laure, DW, was waiting for us in Poitiers to show us the General Hospital, the church where the family of Marie-Louise de Jésus used to go, and the Montbernage district. She spoke to us of the mission carried out there by Father de Montfort in 1705, of Jacques Goudeau, and the mission carried out by the Daughters of Wisdom a few years later. What an impact was made on us by the small premises in which they started their mission. After a pleasant meal, we enjoyed a visit to Poitiers Cathedral and Saint-Jean Baptistery.



We had only one day left and we devoted it to the cradle of the Montfortian family in St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. We cannot explain in words the emotion that overwhelmed us as we felt that we were at the origin of our educational mission.





We stayed at the Spiritual Center of the Daughters of Wisdom. The community and Sr. Consuelo, who acted like a mother and who was both firm and tender, welcomed us warmly. We had the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist under the ciborium which houses the tombs of Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort and Marie-Louise of Jesus, together with the Brothers of the International Community of Saint-Laurent. We spent the whole day with all the community. Sister Lourdes Alonso, Provincial of the Daughters of Wisdom in France who came especially to be with us. We were able to visit the Chapel of Wisdom and admire the marvels of the building. Brother Jean-Marie Ndour explained to us the history and work of Gabriel Deshayes and took us around Saint-Gabriel (Educational Complex).

We finished our pilgrimage with a manifesto of commitment to our mission as leaders of educational communities. And we toasted with an amaretto brought from Rome, where the General Chapter had been held.

The Gabrielite Shared Mission Formation Team

MANIFIESTO DE LOS MIEMBROS DE LOS EQUIPOS DIRECTIVOS EN PEREGRINACIÓN A LOS LUGARES MONTFORTIANOS



Hemos venido a beber de nuestra fuente y, tras esta experiencia de peregrinación, manifestamos:

- Que el conocimiento de nuestras raíces nos impulsa a ser testimonio de los valores montfortianos gabrielistas, amando y sirviendo al otro, con especial atención a los más vulnerables.
- Que la pasión debe formar parte de nuestras vidas para mover, liderar y llevar a cabo con alegría nuestra misión educativa.
- Que es necesario tejer relaciones auténticas para construir juntos una verdadera comunidad fraterna.

Por ello, es nuestro deseo ser continuadores de nuestro carisma y espiritualidad en misión compartida, religiosos y laicos.

En Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre a 4 de mayo de 2024



Content of the manifesto:

We have come to drink from our source and, after this pilgrimage experience, we declare:

- That the knowledge of our roots impels us to bear witness to the Montfortian and Gabrielite values, loving and serving the other, with special attention to the most vulnerable.



- That passion must be part of our lives to move, lead, and joyfully carry out our educational mission.
- That it is necessary to weave authentic relationships to build together a true fraternal community.

Therefore, we desire to be continuers of our charism and spirituality in shared mission, religious, and laity.

Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

On May 11 and 12, some 70 senior associates took part in the annual pilgrimage in Lourdes. Mr. Pascual Miñano, who is an associate, was responsible for organising and coordinating the pilgrimage.

We got up early on the 11th to devote the afternoon to religious activities in the shrine: the blessing of the sick with the Blessed Sacrament, procession, and adoration in the crypt of Saint Pius X. In the evening, we took part in the candle light procession, carrying our large crucifix and the Gabrielite Banners.

On the morning of the 12th, we filled the bottles with Lourdes water and celebrated the group Eucharist. This year our celebration was presided over by Father Egid (Barnabite of San Adrián). The liturgy was very moving, with texts from the Ascension (a solemnity for the Spanish) and the Ave Maria de Lourdes. After Mass, we split into two groups and walked the Way of the Cross.

Before waving goodbye to our Lady at the Massabielle grotto, a large group recited the rosary. After lunch, we headed back to Barcelona. During the return journey, we shared personal experiences, recited the rosary, and Shared gifts drawn at random. Everyone went home happy to have honored the Virgin, Ave Maria.





International Meeting of Montfortian Associates, St. Laurent sur sèvre - A testimony.

Province of Bengaluru

As it was mentioned in the fore note of the Montfort International Meeting of Associates quoting the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis.

“Communion and encounter between different charisms and vocations is a path of hope. No one builds the future by isolating himself depending on his own strength, rather builds the future by recognising himself in the truth of a communion through encounter, dialogue, listening and mutual aid therefore preserving ourselves from remaining to oneself”.

The two weeks program starting from 1st August at MSC, Bengaluru until the final celebration at the Basilica of St. Montfort at St. Laurent was an enriching pious experience which I personally have had for the first time. I have certainly attended retreats in the past, but this experience was something very different.

The preparatory sessions on the purpose of MGA, the detailed explanation of the MGA Charter by Bro. Paulose, Biographical exposition of St. Montfort by Bro. K M Joseph were eye openers for me personally as I got to know St. Montfort more.

If the sessions in Bengaluru were the theory classes which set the momentum, then what happened at St. Laurent, Montfort sur Meu, Cesson Bridge,

Pontchâteau and Poitiers, were the Practical classes. I was able to have an instant connection with what I saw and listened to, because my mind was very well prepared during the preparatory sessions.

Having worked in a Montfort Institution for the last 20 years, I had a basic knowledge of who St. Montfort was and his devotion to the cross and the Virgin Mary. However when actually visiting the place of his birth, his birth house at Montfort sur Meu, the Cesson bridge where he started his mission, and especially the calvary at Pontchâteau made me understand why even after 350 years we still hear the voice of St. Montfort.

When the Universal Catholic Church is currently in the path of synodality, the meeting point of the 3 congregations: the Company of Mary, the Daughters of Wisdom and the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel was indeed a historical moment. I have always been a destiny’s child and whatever has happened in my life was always by chance and not by choice, and for the fact that I was chosen to be a part of it, I thank my God to have destined me this opportunity.

The Holy masses I participated everyday, the Marian prayers, the Renewal of my Baptismal vow, the way of the cross and the calvary experiences in all the places, the pilgrimage to Lourdes and the

fellowship shared with each other irrespective of where we come from with no barriers of language and culture made me realise my connection with Jesus my redeemer and Mary, the path to that redemption both as a catholic, more importantly as a Montfortian Associate. Now, I feel that I have a bigger responsibility to spread this Montfortian Spirituality in my own simple ways.

I extend by gratitude to my Provincial Superior Bro. George Padikara and my Principal Bro. Stephen Xavier for choosing me to represent my Province, for this spiritual experience. I also express my heartfelt thanks to Bro. Herman Lakra for meticulously planning and organising this memorable event for us along with visits to Paris and pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine. Sincere thanks to Bro. K. M. Joseph, Bro. Paul Raj and Bro. Britto for all their contributions in making this experience more purposeful. I also take this platform to thank our Central Administration especially Rev. Bro Dionigi and all the Brothers and Staff of St. Gabriel school,

for inviting us and treating us with great hospitality all through the stay at St. Laurent.

My heartfelt thanks to each one of the Brothers and all the members of MGA for your warmth and care throughout the trip. I am sure I have made friendships for life. We may not be able to keep in touch regularly, however the solidarity we share in common as Montfort Gabrielite Associates will definitely keep us going.

Thank you.

Mrs. Monica D' Souza
Montfort Mat. Hr. Sec. School.
Chennai.



THE 49 BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL AND THEIR CHAPLIN

MARTYRS OF THE RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION DURING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR IN 1936



Lucinio MONEDERO DÍEZ
Brother Zacarias,
21 years old
Born in Cardeñajimeno (Burgos)

Having finished his Scholasticate he was sent as a teacher to the Viladecans School. His ease for learning and his desire to serve the Lord made him very loved amongst his Brothers. He was greatly helped by the encouragement and understanding of his Director Brother Mamertin.

With a distant look he must have often thought of heaven, and there he arrived having barely seen the miseries of this life in the martyred Spanish land. He was a pious youth with the sign that characterizes the Brothers of Saint Gabriel which is a tender devotion to the Holy Virgin. Within the community he was admired for his religiousness, always attentive to any detail of brotherly charity and service. He was always willing to lend a hand to anyone that would ask.

His Director, Brother Augusto José wrote of him in 1934: "Brother Zacarías has an external conduct that is entirely consistent both in his spiritual exercises as in his daily work in the Viladecans bouse. He takes equal care of the class with all his good intentions and wisely dedicates his free time". When the religious persecution arrived he fled through the mountains until reaching Can Valls where the other Brothers were.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Zacarías grant us, Lord, his willingness to the brotherly service and his spirit of piety and king devotion to the Holy Virgin.



Manuel ARNÁIZ SÁENZ
Brother Domingo Maria,
32 years old
Born in Vitoria (Alava)

Assigned to the Valls School he offered himself heart and soul to the teaching he imparted to the class of youngsters that he taught with great willingness and success, never letting anyone see anything but good will with respect to his vocation and perseverance. Young and intelligent, he was gifted with common sense.

For his capabilities and his human qualities he soon wins the friendship of his students and their parents. He soon becomes one of the intellectuals of the School. He is a scientist that has great success teaching chemistry to the High School students.

Serious about his profession, he is at the same time jovial and friendly with both his Brothers and students. His piety seems honest and he is consistent in his community exercises and performs his classroom duties with great enthusiasm and willingness.

In July of 1936 he was named Director of the Juniorate of Can Valls. He imparted to the teachers an almost draconian discipline. He demanded much of learning and had to suffer somewhat, but managed to convince us of his religious educational proposals, garnered from his experience. He maintained the normal schedule until the last moment that the house was assaulted and ransacked by the militia.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Domingo María grant us, Lord, his strength and gentleness and his conscientiousness of his duty.



Plum tree – Outgoing ADC



Olive tree – Delhi



Plum tree – East Africa



clementine – Senegal



Citrus – Bengaluru



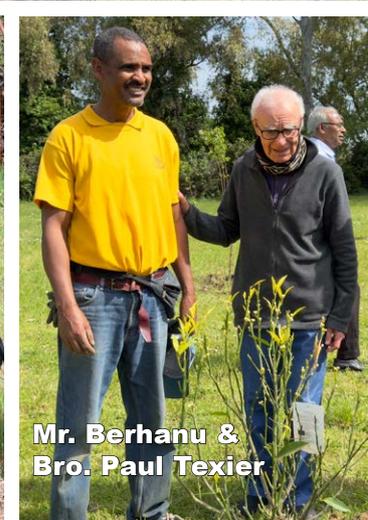
Citrus – Yercaud



Plum tree – Hyderabad



Orange tree – North East



Mr. Berhanu & Bro. Paul Texier



Orange tree – Kinshasa



Orange tree – Brazzaville



Pear tree – Trichy



Lemon Tree – Canada



Apricot tree – Ranchi



Olive tree – SJC



Lemon tree – Madagascar



Persimmon – Thailand



Olive tree – Spain



Clementine – France



Olive tree – Pune



Olive tree – SJC