

Meeting with the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel from India



On Thursday, 23 March 2023, we had a chance to welcome and meet-up with our Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel from India, who came for a visit to Montfort Centre. The Montfortian Gabrielite Associates (MGA) Singapore President, Ambrose Chua and Ex-Co members were joining the dinner and fellowship with the brothers prior to the meeting.

The meeting started at 8 pm at Chapter Room in Montfort Centre. Attendees from Singapore were Br Dominic Yeo-Koh, Ambrose, Cynthia, Adi, Brian, Cecilia, Livia, Lydia and Harmoni. Attendees from India, were 11 brothers in total, from various part of India, coordinated by Br Paul Raj.

After the opening prayer, Ambrose started the meeting with the introduction of who we are and what we do, introducing Ex-Co members and Sub-Comm activities. Brian and Cynthia shared their experience in animating the “Wisdom is the Cross” retreat, which was conducted at Montfort Centre on 3-5 March 2023. It was interesting and humbling experience to see non-Catholic Christians came to the retreat with open hearts, wanting to learn more about St Louis-Marie de Montfort’s teaching. Discussion continued with Br Paul Raj’s question to Brian on Spiritual Direction course and journey that Brian was going through.

The sharing session continued with the Total Consecration organisation and experience. Adi shared how he organised the TCM batch 5 in 2022. Cecilia and Cynthia shared their experience and take away as facilitators in TCM groups, on journeying and bonding with the participants. Ambrose also shared the future plan to introduce Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary (TCM) to local parishes in Singapore, as parish renewal program.

The brothers from India shared their experience with us. How they meet regularly to learn about Montfort’s life and teaching. The MGAs in India have retreat regularly. In their meetings they share the reflection and witnessing. Every day, they pray the Total Consecration prayer and pray for vocations for the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel.

As Community Sub-Comm Head, Cynthia talked about the challenge to get participation from members in MGA Community event. In reply, Brother Irudayam shared their activities as MGAs India, through the schools MGAs praying for families and others. They also collaborate with the Legion of Mary in India, inviting them to participate in Montfortian activities. The team also has a dedicated MGA Formation Centre in North India, where they come together to pray, share their reflection on Montfort’s writing, spend 2-3 nights together deepening the unique way of living based on Montfortian spirituality. Their desire is to have the laity to animate Montfortian Experience retreats in the near future.

The meeting and sharing session with MGA brothers from India was a very fruitful exchange. Session ended at 9.10 pm as the brothers will have a morning mass and packed schedule the following day.



Assumption College Samutprakarn Thailand

Students and Teachers Participating in the Evening of Prayer with Montfort

During our recent Singapore “Immersion Education Program” from 28 March to 3 April, the students and teachers from Assumption College Samutprakarn had the chance to attend the monthly evening of prayer as our visit fortunately coincided with the last Wednesday of the month. Although relatively few of our students adhere to the Catholic faith, participation in prayer allowed all of our student group to personally experience the guiding faith whose principles underpin the founding of our school and its ongoing mission. For this we were truly grateful and we extend once again our sincere thanks to the Montfort Centre for making this possible.

- Teacher

I participated in the prayer session on the 28th of March with a total of 20 attendees from Thailand and approximately 5-6 other regular attendees. Prayer books were distributed, one book per person, and there were leaders to guide the prayers. In my opinion, praying during this session made me feel peaceful and more focused. The atmosphere was quiet, and we sat in meditation with our eyes closed, which made me concentrate and sent a lot of good feelings to me. This activity was considered a great experience to me. Although I am a Buddhist, the Catholic-style prayers created a different kind of atmosphere which fulfilled my life.

- Student



MGA Day of Reflection 2023



On Saturday, 1 April 2023, we held our 1st MGAs Day of Reflection for 2023. 23 Montfortian Gabrielite Associates attended the Day of Reflection including Br Dominic Yeo Koh and baby Harmoni. We had potluck breakfast to kick off the session, participants enjoying the local Singaporean breakfast and the sour-dough bread made by Yvonne.

Session started off with morning prayer led by Ambrose. First formation session after the prayer was presented by Brian, "Reflection on Garden of Gethsemane". Participants were given 30 minutes personal reflection time before group sharing.

Second formation session presented by Edward, on "Where are we in our consecrated life and how do we want to move from here". Edward highlighted that we are all called to holiness, and the importance of having the Word of God in our hearts in order for us to respond in accordance to the Father's will. Edward also reminded us on Montfortian Spirituality that is emptying ourselves, in order for us to be filled with the Spirit of Jesus. Edward mentioned the role of Mary, and allowing Mary to guide us in our faith journey.

After small group sharing on second formation topic, the group gathered for final group sharing. A briefing was then done on other upcoming programs and information. The day of reflection was finally concluded with prayers. All participants prayed Ave Maris Stella and Prayer to obtain Divine Wisdom.



Mervent Meetings

Group 1 by Cecilia

My group consists of Linda Leong, Wendy Yeo and Sharon Lee. Since we are living in the vicinity of Toa Payoh and Bishan, Linda has kindly offered her place at Toa Payoh for our meeting. We had our meetings on Thursdays from January to March at 8pm.

We are very thankful for the committee to suggest this new approach in holding meetings at homes and meeting quarterly at Montfort Centre. This has really saved a lot of time and easier accessibility as verbalised by Wendy.

With the format given by Ambrose, we were able to follow the readings, response and commitment smoothly.

The group was very open with their personal sharings, expressed the challenges they faced and reflected on the way that will help them to change.

What is my vocation in the world? What is God's plan for us?

We are called to be disciples for the Lord and go forth to evangelise. As cited in True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, God's plan is my transformation into the likeness of Jesus Christ. So in and through Jesus Christ, we can both strive toward personal perfection and announce the reign of God to our neighbour.

We felt that we ourselves need to transform oneself. Not be afraid of changes, allow the Holy Spirit to empower us, want to love and it is our choice to be a "slave of love for the Lord".

We end each session by praying the "Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin Mary" and the prayer to Mary by St Louis-Marie de Montfort.

Group 2 by Livia

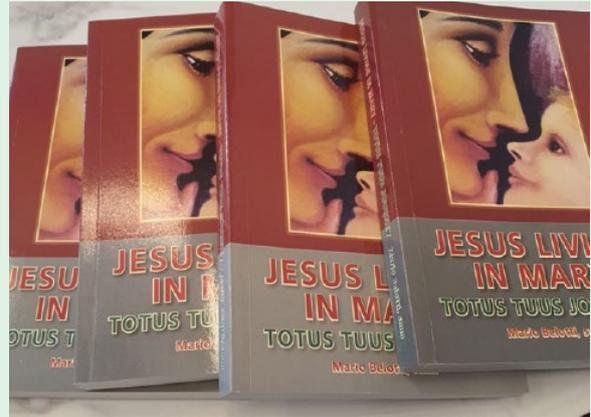
Mervent Meeting Group 2 consists of Jenny Ong, Teresa Chia, Denise Galistan, Henry Tan and Livia S. Group 2 held its first session in 2023 on a Saturday, 25th Feb at Jenny's house. We used the book "Totus Tuus Journey" by Father Mario Belotti, SMM. In the first meeting, we went through Stage One: facing reality; my vocation in the world. After a brief introduction of each other, we went through the reading and comment, then we shared our personal reflection; our own call to respond "personally and collaboratively" to God's plan.

Teresa was very kind to get the books from Montfort Centre for our group members.

The second meeting was held on 25th March at Teresa's house. We were still in Stage One: Facing reality. This time we looked at False Wisdom, distorting the truth. We all were touched by these 3 points:

- Feeding on God's Word precedes finding material bread.
- Trusting God precedes human doing.
- Possessing God precedes having things.

We enjoyed our sharing very much and learned from each other. We end our session by praying the Little Crown of Mary, and we also enjoyed our snacks and makan.



Montfortian Experience Lenten Retreat: Wisdom is the Cross



On 3-5 March 2023, Montfort Centre Singapore organised the Montfortian Experience Lenten Retreat: Wisdom is the Cross that spanned 3 days 2 nights. The retreat drew 15 participants who were called to share in Jesus' suffering in his Cross. Joining the retreat as well, was a visiting priest of the Company of Mary, Fr Jefriandi Jedabu, SMM from Indonesia.

This retreat was facilitated by Montfortian Gabrielite Associates (MGA), Brian and Cynthia

who are husband and wife. Through some prayerful activities, the retreatants were invited to look back on the crosses in their life and to name their crosses. In the group sharing sessions, they were able to listen and be present to each other. The final night was concluded with an adoration of the Cross session led by Br Dominic Yeo-Koh. The retreatants were asked to lay down their candles on the Cross and said a little prayer.

The Cross used in the adoration session was hand made by Matthew Poh, Montfort Centre Operations Officer. On the last day of the retreat, Matthew shared about how he was transformed in Christ through the making of the Cross. Many of the retreatants also shared how they found the retreat enriching. They learned that true wisdom is not to be found in the things of this world nor in the souls of those who live in comfort. It is none other than in the cross will we find Him.

“He has so truly incorporated and united himself with the Cross that in all truth we can say: Wisdom is the Cross, and the Cross is Wisdom.” - Love of Eternal Wisdom 180



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Saturday
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Registration: montfortcentre.org/events-1/the-heart-of-living-2023