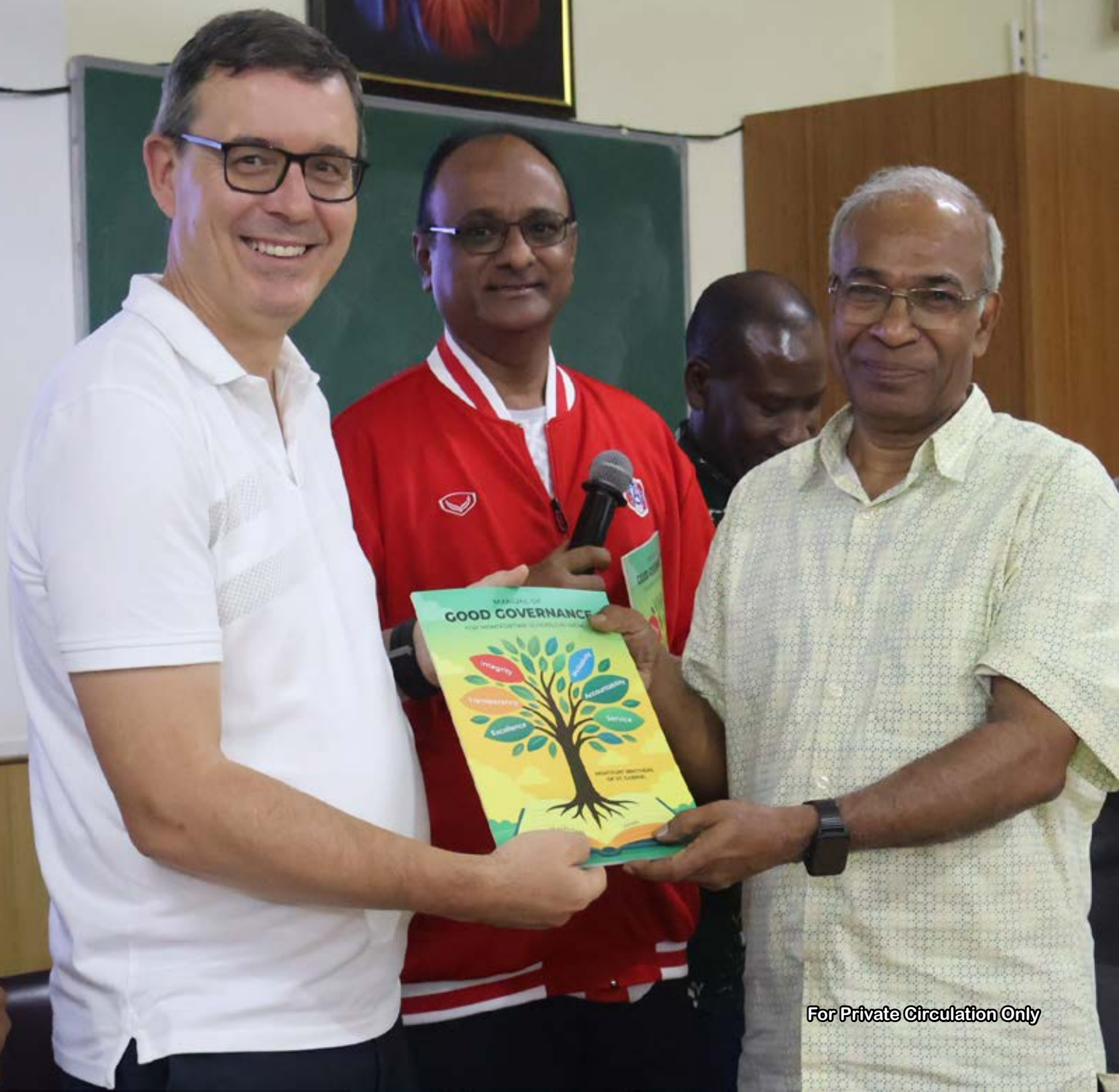




Gabrielite

News Bulletin

ISSUE : 218 December 2025



For Private Circulation Only

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THANK YOU

Proofreading :

Bro. Jimmy Kalapura, Bro. Jaico Gervasis and Bro. Linto Emmanuel

Dear Readers,

Kindly send the News, Articles, Photos from your respective Provinces latest by 10th March 2026.

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The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be published in March 2026.



Brother Dionigi, the Superior General, releasing the document on Good Governance brought out by the Education Secretariat under the leadership of Bro. George P. J. It was presented to the Provincial Administrations in India during the Formation-cum-Live-in Session for the Central Administration and Provincial Administrations of the Indian Provinces held in Bengaluru.





Formation Cum Live-in Session for the Central Administration & Provincial Administrations of the Indian Provinces

The Formation Cum Live-in Session for the Central Administration and the Indian Provincial Administrations of the Brothers of St. Gabriel was held at the Prerana Spirituality Centre, Bangalore, from August 20th to 24th, 2025. In all, we were 56 in attendance. In his welcome message, Rev. Bro. Dionigi Tafferello, the Superior General, welcomed the Provincial Superiors, Councillors, and Committee members for Evaluation. He recalled the mandate of the 33rd General Chapter, which prophetically recognised and denounced certain evils prevailing among us, such as manipulation and dishonesty in leadership consultations. He emphasised the importance of evaluating the impact of the 2020 Decree, addressing governance challenges, and discerning ways to foster authentic fraternity. He reminded the participants that leadership in Religious life is at the service of all Brothers, and for the good of all Brothers, not at the service of groups or factions. He invited us “to have the audacity to accept and denounce what is wrong in us, in our communities, in our mission, so that we become prophetic witnesses of our times”. He concluded

with a call to discern, to dare, and to embrace change, always trusting in God’s guidance and seeking the good of all.

The first three days sessions were animated by competent resource persons from the Prerana Jesuits Spirituality Center. Fr. Jossie D’Mello SJ spoke on Discernment in Governance. He explained the importance of Spiritual Conversation and Discernment in the process of decision-making and decisions taken. The insights shared were inspiring. He stressed that the community and its individual members must be animated and led through the dynamics of





and Provinces, and to develop “We Feeling”. The atmosphere of mutual transparency, trust, acceptance, appreciation, affection, attachment, with some ambivalence and anxiety about how far to go in transparency, and even some fear of rejection, and at the same time, there must be a "We Feeling". The members live and work as one, single body for the common mission, with a great deal of depth in sharing life, work, prayer, faith, joys, sorrows, pains, problems, successes, and failures.

dialogue, discernment, decision, inspiration, mandate, and accountability. All decisions in the community are to be arrived at after a prayerful reflection. Therefore, every community can foster spiritual conversation, and all provinces should have a proper process of discernment in place. The following guiding principles must be respected in our lives and mission.

- Communities must be mission-owned, not gossip-driven.
- The majority voice may not always be God’s voice.
- Discernment should be a daily practice in community life.
- Religious communities are not NGOs; they must remain rooted in their charism and identity. Religious governance encompasses spiritual, social, personal, and prophetic dimensions.

He invited the participants to reflect on their origins, their present realities as communities

Fr. Freddie SJ invited the Brothers to make the necessary quality transition from the functional vision that prioritises the management of works to the charismatic model and style. We need to go back to the roots of our identity as consecrated persons. We must have the desires and dreams of a world based on Gospel values and the charism of the congregation, and live according to them, through a process of interiorization, so that our world vision becomes the world vision of Jesus, and we live by the gospel values. Instead, we are led by purely individualistic and self-centred desires and dreams. Hence, the tension between the professed ideal and a life led by self-centred dreams and desires,

Ours is also a fragmented world riven by cultural, ethnic and racial conflicts, violence and war. Internationality demonstrates that people of different cultures and nations can live in fellowship and solidarity, peace and harmony, if they embody the values of the Gospel.

Practice transparency and disseminate as much information as possible, except for what is strictly personal and therefore confidential. Then, your administration will be more honest,





Conflict Management, Crisis-coping, Confrontation, Correction, Cure, Conciliation, Creativity, Confidence and Concelebration.

The third day's input sessions, led by Fr. Dion Vaz SJ, added greater significance as they touched the very core of our lives as lived today, with its challenges. He also very much dwelt on the themes of Vocation of Leader, inviting us to imitate the leadership of Jesus who had authority not control but to love. It was an authority of service, prophetic, creative, rooted in the Father. He also initiated a group workshop for the participants to discover the current crisis in Religious life in our provinces and the ways to surmount them. It was an eye-opener to realise that the challenges we face in our communities and provinces are often caused by challenges within rather than external challenges. "Religious life seems to be irrelevant today because the Religious have not taken Jesus seriously, and the same with the signs of our time" The best and urgent way to mend this situation of crisis is to return to Jesus and his Gospel. Create a fraternity rather than groups. Listen to God in the cry of the poor, to be with the excluded and not with those who exclude"

sincere and transparent. Hence, there needs to be good communication, both vertical and horizontal. Transparency is crucial in financial matters, with strict adherence to accounting and accountability. Dialogue, discussion, debate and discernment need to precede all decision-making.

Our Provinces must become Kingdom communities built up through (30 Cs formula): Contemplation, Communion, Compassion, Companionship, Care, Commonality, Co-responsibility, Communication, Consultation, Co-discernment, Compromise, Consensus, Commitment, Collaboration, Co-ordination,

The last two days were primarily spent in Spiritual Conversation with God and with one another in respective province councils, where each council worked out the strategic plan as a way forward. The sessions were opportune moments to discuss at length to discern the





genuinely uphold our spiritual values, many challenges in our communities will lessen, helping us unite as a cohesive body rather than just a group.”

The sessions were an invitation to return to the Montfortian Gabrielite charism of authentic spirituality, transparent governance, and impartial leadership, which will renew the vitality of the Montfortian mission and restore our identity as religious Brothers. We need to constantly remind ourselves of our common mission, our mutual belonging, and the shared goals and purposes of the province, which all of us strive to achieve in the best interests of our people and all our units. It was a feeling at the end of five days to perceive that something new the Lord is doing for us, Brothers, as we read in Isaiah 43:19.

aspirations, dreams and concerns of all the Indian Provinces and to make the needed course correction in our journey as religious Brothers.

Bro. Shine Alex, SG
Provincial Superior of Hyderabad

Brother Superior General, in his concluding remark, exhorted the participants that “If we wish to learn how to love those around us genuinely, the path is to cultivate, first and foremost, our love for God. Only a heart connected to the source of Love can welcome, forgive, and support. The further we move away from the God-centred source, the more difficult it becomes to be in communion with those who are journeying alongside us. If we renew and



Life at the Generalate: Appointments, Visits, and Transitions

Community news and highlights reported by Brother Sébastien Ndabunganiye, Archivist.

A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE GENERALATE.

Brother Jean-Marie Ndour of the Province of Senegal, recently appointed Secretary General and Procurator General of the Congregation to the Holy See, arrived at the Generalate on 30 May 2025 from France, where he was a member of the international community of Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre.



Along with Superior General, the Brothers, Fathers and Sisters of the Generalate community gave him a warm welcome during a fraternal ceremony held on 2 June 2025. He took up his duties on 1 July 2025.

The Superior General thanked Brother Jean-Marie Ndour for his willingness to serve the congregation and expressed his gratitude to Brother Jean-Marie Thior, who, over the past seven years, has carried out his mission as Secretary General and Procurator to the Holy See with dedication and success.



STAY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM AT THE GENERALATE.



As part of the Year of Wisdom, Sister Symphose Rasonarivosalama and nine other Daughters of Wisdom came to Italy and stayed at our Generalate from 13 to 19 June 2025. During their stay, they were able to visit places of pilgrimage in Rome and Assisi, their community located on Via Merulana, and the Generalate of the Montfort Missionaries.

At the end of their stay in Rome, before returning to Paris, Sister Symphose Rasonarivosalama presented a statue of Marie-Louise de Jésus to the Superior General and the Generalate community as a token of gratitude for the welcome the Sisters had received.



DEPARTURES AND NEW ARRIVALS AT THE GENERALATE.



Brothers Bernard Guesdon and Paul Texier returned to France.

After 25 years of loyal service as Archivist of the Congregation, Brother Bernard Guesdon returned to his Province of France on 31 August 2025. Two weeks later, on 16 September 2025, it was Brother Paul Texier's turn to return to France, after 18 years of devoted service to the Generalate.

The Central Administration and the entire community of the Generalate remember the good times spent with our two brothers and are grateful to them for their presence and the various missions they carried out with dedication, which enriched not only the community of the Generalate but the entire Congregation.

On 3 August 2025, 30 August 2025 and 16 September 2025, the community of the Generalate officially welcomed Brother Linto Emmanuel (INP) (Assistant General Treasurer), Father Vinu (New Chaplain of the community) and Brother VALANARASU Joseph (INH) (student).

Father Vinu K. James replaced Father Jobins Manimala, who had been chaplain of the Generalate for four years. The latter returned to his home country of India on 10 September 2025, after successfully defending his doctoral thesis on 15 June 2025.

TRAINING SESSION IN ROME FOR PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS.

From 22 to 27 September 2025, the Provincial Superiors gathered at the Generalate for a week of training led by the Central Administration, a week of communion, prayer and exchanges between the Provincials and the members of the Central Administration. It was a training session rich in teaching, exchanges, sharing of experiences, mutual knowledge and fraternal communion.

The session ended in the main chapel of the Generalate with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Monsignor Romanus, Bishop of the Diocese of Iringa (Tanzania).

Bro. Sébastien NDABUNGANIYE, SG



Casa Generalizia - Community



Bro. Dionigi Taffarello
Superior General



Bro. Pratap Reddy
Vicar General



Bro. Jean Marie Thior
Assistant General



Bro. Dhanaraj
Assistant General



Bro. Varghese Mandapathil
Assistant General



Bro. Michael Mathew
Econome General



Bro. Jean Marie Ndour
Secretary General



Bro. Linto Emmanuel
Asst. Econome General



Bro. Louis A.
Communication



Bro. Sebastien Nd
Archivist



Bro. Valanarasu
Student



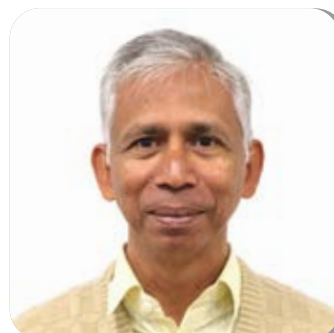
Bro. Jimmy Kalapura
Student



Fr. Vinu K. James
Chaplain



Fr. Antoine Pooda
Guest - Professor



Bro. Jaico Gervasis
Student



Formation of Provincials: 2025-28 In Pursuit of Montfortian Prophetic Dynamism

The formation session of the Provincials of the Brothers of St. Gabriel was held from 22 to 27 September 2025 at Casa Generalizia, Rome, with the participation of all Provincials and members of the Central Administration. The inaugural session was marked by a meaningful and inspiring prayer led by Bro. Pratap Reddy, Vicar General and Bro. Jean Marie Thior, Asst. General. The welcome address by Rev. Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, Superior General, was thought-provoking and set the tone for the week. He spoke on the Montfortian prophetic dimension, challenging the Provincials to embody a prophetic spirit in addressing the challenges of today's world. Emphasizing that leadership is a mission of service rather than a

pursuit of power, he underlined the importance of faith, consistency of life and dedication to God's will. The session provided an opportunity to deepen the understanding of leadership, foster collaboration among provinces and renew commitment to serve in the spirit of Jesus, Mother Mary, St. Louis de Montfort and Gabriel Deshayes.

During the session each Provincial Superior presented a short report on the state of his province, offering an overview that included communities, ministries, apostolic works and initiatives currently being undertaken. Alongside achievements and areas of growth the Provincials also highlighted challenges and opportunities within their respective contexts. These sharing provided a comprehensive view of the diverse realities of the Congregation and helped to showcase the richness of its ministries and apostolic engagements. The sharing fostered mutual understanding among participants, creating a space for dialogue, encouragement and exchange of ideas, thereby strengthening communion and collaboration within the Congregation.



The session featured inspiring inputs from members of the Central Administration,



beginning with Rev. Bro. Superior General, who emphasized the role of a Major Superior as one who has direct authority over Brothers and communities and is called to animate, direct and administrate in fidelity to the mission. He underlined the importance of cooperation among Provincials under the guidance of the Superior General and highlighted the three key dimensions of the mission entrusted to a Provincial Superior: the spiritual (*cura personalis*), the apostolic (*cura apostolica*) and the community (*cura communitatis*). In his address, the Superior General reminded the Provincials of their vital responsibilities in leadership. He highlighted that Provincials are called to promote the dignity of every member, to inspire courage and hope in times of difficulty, to keep alive the charism of the religious family and to accompany the Brothers in the journey of ongoing formation. He underlined the need for spiritual discernment and synodality to occupy a central place in leadership of Provincials, thereby creating an atmosphere conducive to dialogue, sharing, and co-responsibility. Provincials as leaders, he noted, must encourage the contribution of all, while remaining at the service of both individuals and the community. He also highlighted that patient discernment,

coupled with firm and timely decision-making, are indispensable qualities of authentic leadership.

One of the key highlights of the formation session was the presentation by Bro. Jean-Marie Ndour, Secretary General, on the Provincial's Companion. He provided a detailed explanation of the document and its practical applications, offering clear guidance for the effective exercise of leadership. The session was particularly valuable for Provincials serving their first mandate, equipping them with insights and tools to carry out their responsibilities more effectively.

As part of the program, the Provincials participated in sessions conducted by Assistant Generals responsible for key dossiers of the Congregation. Bro. Varghese Mandapathil offered reflections on Formation, emphasizing its central role in sustaining the spiritual and apostolic vitality of the Institute. Bro. Dhanaraj addressed Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), highlighting the Congregation's commitment to social justice and ecological responsibility. Bro. Pratap Reddy spoke on Education, stressing its role





as a primary apostolate through which the Brothers continue to make a lasting impact on society and the Church. Bro. Jean Marie Thior presented on Partnership, inviting Provincials to recognize and strengthen collaboration with lay partners as an essential dimension of the Montfortian mission. These sessions provided a comprehensive overview of their respective areas and renewed awareness of their significance for the growth, fidelity and effectiveness of the Congregation's mission.

A workshop conducted by Rev. Bro. Dionigi Taffarello offered an opportunity for deep reflection, critical thinking and collaborative discussion. The session addressed key questions regarding areas requiring greater attention, the strengths and challenges encountered in working with the Provincial Council and ways to enhance the animation and administration of the provinces. Emphasis was placed on fostering effective collaboration between the Central Administration and the provinces and identifying areas for improvement. The discussions provided valuable insights and practical guidance, enriching the learning experience and equipping Provincials to strengthen governance, animation and administration within their provinces.

The session conducted by Bro. Sebastian Ndbunganiye on Archives was highly enlightening. His passion and dedication highlighted the importance of preserving the Congregation's legacy and heritage, while offering practical suggestions for effective management and maintenance of archival materials in the provinces. Following this, Bro. Louis Antonysamy led a session on Communication, emphasizing the importance of effective communication, available tools and the challenges of keeping the Congregation informed. He also underscored the importance of social media and its effective use in the current context, highlighting its potential to enhance communication, engagement and the outreach of the Congregation's mission. Participants expressed deep appreciation for both sessions, recognizing the valuable contribution of Bro. Sebastian and Bro. Louis in fostering awareness, continuity and cohesion across the Congregation.

All the participants had the privilege of attending a session by Mr. Alessandro Pellizzari on the Vow of Poverty, offering a fresh perspective on this vital dimension of religious life. The day also included a session by Fr. Sebastian Jeerakassery SJ, on financial



management in religious congregations, drawing on the Jesuit approach. Both sessions provided valuable insights, encouraging Provincials to rethink and reorganize financial administration within their provinces and offering a broader understanding of the practical and spiritual dimensions of resource management. Additionally, Bro. Michael Mathew, General Bursar, conducted a session on financial management with a focus on the Central Administration, highlighting current challenges and sharing practical guidance for effective oversight which will be useful in managing provincial finances.

The formation session concluded on 26 September 2025 with an evaluation, the celebration of Holy Mass and an inspiring message by Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, Superior General. On 27 September, all participants had the exceptional opportunity to attend the General Audience with Holy Father Leo XIV, providing a fitting and memorable culmination to the week.

The sessions were carefully organised and the experiences, insights and inspirations gained are expected to have a lasting and positive impact on the leadership and mission of the respective

provinces. Overall, the formation session proved to be a highly enriching and transformative experience, offering valuable guidance, practical learning and opportunities for reflection, collaboration and renewal. It also provided the Provincials with the significant advantage of getting to know each other personally, fostering stronger bonds of fraternity and mutual understanding across the Congregation. The knowledge and experiences gained are anticipated to strengthen leadership, foster effective animation and enhance the mission of the Congregation across all provinces in the days ahead.

Bro. Satheesh K. Don, SG
Provincial Superior of Ranchi





The formation of the provincial bursars

Following the Formation of the Provincial superiors, the formation of the provincial bursars was held on 29th and 30th September 2025. The meeting was focused on financial management and governance within the provinces. Participants discussed common challenges such as limited resources, dependence on external funding, budget monitoring, and adapting to changing regulatory requirements.

Attention was also given to improving transparency, strengthening accountability, and ensuring clearer procedures for reporting and decision-making. Proposed solutions included better training for those responsible for finances, developing stronger management systems, and

encouraging collaboration between superiors and provincial bursars. The group emphasised long-term planning, ethical use of resources, and fostering a culture of responsibility in community and institutional management.



SG-MONTFORTIANS MEET MARIANISTS



On a bright Saturday morning, June 14, 2025, the Gabrielite General Council members traveled to the Casa Generalizia of the Society of Mary (the Marianists) for an informal meeting with their General Council. The meeting aimed at a fraternal exchange on various subjects related to each congregation and learn from each other.

The Marianists' Generalate is located a few kilometers from our house, right in the town, but extends into a large campus with beautiful trees, meadows, and gardens that create a green and spiritual ambience. The building is architecturally rich and well-equipped with all necessary facilities.

The meeting began with a meaningful opening prayer, followed by words of welcome from Fr. André, the Superior General of the Marianists. After brief self-introductions, we shared information about our congregation's origin, founder, charism, spirituality, mission, and global presence. The Marianists then took their turn to share similar details about their congregation. Members had ample time to interact and clarify their curiosities.

At the end of the sharing, we felt closer to each other, realizing the many similarities between our families, such as Marian spirituality, educational mission, service to the poor, and

the fact that both founders established more than one congregation. We also discussed our strengths and weaknesses and how we respond to challenges. The sharing concluded with a thanksgiving prayer, followed by a fellowship lunch that showcased their hospitality, similar to ours. Their generosity and fraternity left a lasting impression on us Montfortians. Our visit ended with a photoshoot, capturing the joy and goodness of the experience. We look forward to their visit for another encounter and sharing in the near future.

Bro. Dhanaraj, SG



Province of Pune



Snehanilayam, Suryapet: A Living Witness of Love and Service



"Those whom the world rejects must move you the most."
– St. Montfort

Snehanilayam, Suryapet marked a historic milestone on 29th May 2025 with the inauguration of its new building, a radiant symbol of 45 years of compassionate service to the differently-abled,

poor, and marginalized. The event began with a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Karnam Dhaman Kumar, Bishop of Nalgonda, and attended by dignitaries, including Sri Tejas Nandlal Pawar, I.A.S., and several Montfortian Brothers.

Rev. Bro. Shajan Antony, Provincial Superior, Province of Pune reflected on the Montfortian spirit of service rooted in faith, announcing the expansion of services to include palliative

care, elderly support, and therapeutic centers. The celebration, enriched by heartfelt cultural performances including a moving Margam Kali dance by differently-abled women, concluded with a fellowship meal, embodying the Catholic spirit of communion.

Earlier in May, the Snehanilayam campus hosted a transformative summer camp titled "Serving with Joy", involving 16 young candidates (Pre-Novices and Scholastics) in a fortnight of spiritual formation and social engagement. Rooted in Montfortian spirituality, the camp focused on the holistic development of the candidates in the areas like spiritual, emotional,





physical, intellectual, social, and ecological. Sessions on Montfortian spirituality, reflections, daily Eucharist, and Rosary deepened faith of all. Manual work, interaction with residents, and games fostered humility, empathy, and joy. Creative activities, nature exposure, journaling, and leadership talks further prepared candidates for a committed lives of Gospel service.

Snehanilayam – a home for the aged continues to shine as a Montfortian home of mercy, inclusion, and empowerment, echoing the universal call of the Church: “To be the face of Christ to the poor, the broken, and the forgotten.”

Thank You

The Summer Camp nurtured the following aspects among the candidates

- Deepened faith and prayer life
- Hands-on experience in compassionate service
- Awareness of environmental stewardship
- Growth in creativity and leadership
- Strengthened emotional and social sensitivity



Province of Delhi



Seminar cum Renewal Programme of the young Brothers (17-23 May 2025) Montfort Villa, Bhopal.

A deeply spiritual and formative seven days seminar-cum-renewal of vows program was conducted for the junior Brothers, under the insightful guidance of Bro. T.T. Mathew, the Formation director of the Province, from 17 to 23 May 2025. We were 21 participants in total and Bro. Anand Minj (INH) joined us on the last day of the renewal programme. The event proved to be a powerful journey of reflection, re-commitment, and growth for all the participants. Throughout the week, the Brothers were led through a series of spiritually and practically enriching input sessions, personal reflections, and community-sharing experiences. Each day focused on key themes that are essential to religious life like poverty, chastity, obedience, fraternity, mission, and personal sanctity.

The inspiring inputs by Bro. T.T. Mathew, were drawn from personal experience. Guided meditations and silent prayer fostered deeper self-awareness and spiritual intimacy. The participants greatly benefited from the enriching activities, which included early morning Yoga sessions that helped us to relax and focus, an engaging English grammar session that enhanced our language skills, and thought-provoking book review presentations that encouraged critical thinking and reflective reading. These sessions were thoughtfully designed to support both spiritual and intellectual growth, contributing to the overall development of the young Brothers. The Renewal of Vows ceremony was held on the final day during the Holy Mass. It marked a heartfelt re-commitment to our religious vocation. These enriching sessions not only renewed

the Brothers' vowed life but also revitalized their spiritual zeal and deepened their sense of belonging to the Montfortian religious family.

Daily Holy Eucharistic Celebration: A Spiritually Nourishing Experience:

The daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Benny Thettayil, CMI and was accompanied by the melodious singing of our choir. Each Eucharistic celebration became a moment of deep communion, reflection, and renewal. Fr. Benny's profound homilies offered powerful insights drawn from Scripture and religious life. His words spoke directly to the hearts of the Brothers, fostering a deeper meaning of our vocation and the daily call to live the Gospel values authentically.

Book Review & Grammar Classes: Intellectual Enrichment:

As part of the seven-day seminar, the Book Review presentation by each participant and English Grammar sessions offered meaningful academic enrichment for all the junior Brothers. These sessions were thoughtfully integrated into the program to nurture both intellectual and linguistic development. The Book Review encouraged critical thinking, reflection, and sharing of insights, fostering the habit of concentrated reading and engagement with spiritual and formative literature.

The Grammar Classes helped sharpen our communication skills, which are essential tools for speaking, writing, and community life. It enhanced both clarity and confidence in



expression. These sessions complemented the spiritual and pastoral dimensions of the seminar, contributing to the holistic formation of the Brothers.

As part of the seminar, the junior Brothers were engaged in a reflective book review presentation on “The Power of Your Subconscious Mind” by Dr. Joseph Murphy. These sessions opened their minds to the immense potential of inner thoughts and beliefs, emphasising how the subconscious mind can shape one’s actions, attitudes, and faith journey. The discussions encouraged the Brothers to develop a positive mindset and trust in the Divine working within because “Your thoughts shape your reality.” “What goes on in your mind determines your world.” By focusing on positive thoughts, you can shape a better reality. Your thoughts can positively or negatively influence your health. By creating vivid mental images of desired outcomes, we can make them a reality. By focusing on the good things in our lives, we train our subconscious mind to recognise and appreciate abundance, leading to a more fulfilling life. Overcome negative emotions such as fear, anger and resentment by replacing them with love and forgiveness.

As educators, we were given another book to read and review, “Unveiling Extraordinary Educators” by Dr. John Parankimalil, SDB, which highlighted the inspiring lives and contributions of great educators. These sessions offered deep life experiences and insights, such as: “Teachers are the fire starters who ignite the eternal flame of curiosity in students.” Curiosity is not just a spark; it is a flame that lights your path of learning. “Compassion is the force that keeps humanity in balance.” (Dalai Lama) Compassion is learned by students through the example set by their teachers. Teachers help students to find themselves when they feel lost. “Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair.” Every hero’s journey includes setbacks.

Perseverance is the story of resilience and determination. Great teachers are at the heart of great education. Teachers who deeply care for the students stand out.

The above book review presentations provided a blend of intellectual stimulation and inspirational guidance, leaving a lasting impact on our personal and apostolic formation.

Session by Dr. Sr. Betty, OSB:



The session on understanding male and female sexual orientations by Dr. Sr. Betty had a profound impact on us. Through her extensive knowledge

of health, relationships, and personal well-being, she emphasised the importance of building healthy friendships and maintaining respectful boundaries. She explained to us how our brain receives information from the outside world through neurons and neural pathways. Neurons develop according to our belief system, environment, and other factors. Neural pathways are developed by repeatedly walking over them. When you watch a porn video, dopamine and serotonin hormones are released from the brain, which gives you some sexual pleasure. If a person watches it repeatedly, neural pathways are created in that line. As consecrated persons, we need to leave the 99 established pathways and pursue the one lost pathway, i.e., the pathway of Jesus, which means we must develop a contemplative mind by practising daily mindful meditation. Thus, you must break the old pathways by domesticating your brain and create new neural pathways by following the way of Jesus.

She further added that a single moment of sexual weakness can lead you to disaster. When



you come across a woman/lady, she is not an opportunity but a responsibility to treat her with dignity and respect. You must never cross your boundary. She also reminded us of the good reputation we have as Montfort Brothers and the importance of maintaining that reputation.

Her insightful session had a deep impact on us, especially in understanding the role and responsibility of being a good Brother in the congregation.

Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial superior of Delhi delivered a session on ‘The Joy of Being a Young Consecrated Montfort Brother Today’ and ‘Community Life’. He began by inviting the participants to reflect on their personal calling and the unique grace of being chosen as a Montfort Brother in today’s rapidly changing world. With real-life examples and personal experiences from his own journey, Bro. Thampy Alex emphasised that true joy in consecrated life comes not from seeking comfort or recognition, but from selfless service, deep prayer life, and fidelity to one’s vows. He spoke about the significance of community life as the ‘first mission field’ where Brothers are called to live out the Gospel daily through mutual acceptance, forgiveness, collaboration, and shared responsibilities.

He encouraged the young Brothers to actively contribute to community harmony by being transparent, responsible, and receptive to constructive criticism. Bro. Thampy also outlined the expectations of the Congregation from young Brothers today: to be dynamic in mission, well-rooted in spirituality, intellectually prepared, emotionally mature, and committed

to ongoing formation. He challenged the participants to become role models for future generations, living authentically and with missionary zeal. The session included moments of personal sharing, group reflection, and practical advice for balancing personal growth with community demands. Brothers expressed how the talk rekindled their commitment and gave them a clearer understanding of their role within the Montfortian family.

The seminar-cum-renewal programme concluded with a deep sense of spiritual fulfilment and brotherly unity. After seven days of prayer, reflection, and formative sessions, the renewal of vows was celebrated in a simple yet significant ceremony, where the junior Brothers publicly reaffirmed their commitment to the Montfortian way of life. The atmosphere was charged with gratitude and joy as the community witnessed each Brother recommitting himself to the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Following the ceremony, the Brothers gathered in the refectory for a fraternal celebration marked by warm felicitations, interactions, laughter, and heartfelt sharing. The sense of brotherhood was tangible, reminding everyone of the joy and strength found in community life. A well-prepared, delicious lunch was served, featuring local delicacies which were shared around the common table—a symbol of unity and togetherness. This summer gathering not only celebrated the renewal of vows but also reinforced the spirit of communion and mission among the young Brothers.

Bros. Fuldeep Jojo, SG & Blasius Tete, SG

Province of Bengaluru

Provincial Administration and Formation Activities 2025



VOCATION PROMOTION & CAMP:

This year, we organised a short Vocation Promotion Camp at Montfort Technical Institute, St. Thomas Mount, from 8 to 11 May 2025; 15 students attended the camp. Of these, 12 students were selected for Montfort Juniorate at Coonoor. We thank and appreciate Bro. Stephen Xavier A, the convenor of the Vocation Promotion Commission and his team of Brothers, for all their sincere efforts in recruiting candidates for the Province and for organising a meaningful Vocation camp. Reports of the camp were circulated in the Province's WhatsApp group to provide more insights and information about the programme.

On the Feast of the Annunciation, the Patronal Feast of the Congregation, during the Holy Eucharist, the new Provincial Administration assumed the responsibility for the animation and administration of our Province in the Montfort Nilaya Chapel. Several Brothers attended it. We, the members of the new Provincial Administration, have accepted this new role with the profound belief that authority comes from God, enabling us to serve others with the visage of God's own love (RL.53).





RENEWAL OF VOWS BY BROTHERS WITH TEMPORARY VOWS:

The three-day vows renewal preparation programme for the Junior Brothers commenced on May 9, 2025, at Montfort Nilaya, Bengaluru, with a meaningful opening ceremony. The theme for the programme was "Joy of Being a Young Consecrated Brother Today." The sessions covered diverse topics including: Review of Our Life - a sharing by the Junior Brothers; Identifying Areas of Growth and Change; An update on the Rule of Life and Constitutions; A Junior Brother is a Consecrated Person for God: Joys and Challenges, The Joy of Being a Young Consecrated Person in the Church and the World Today; Expectations of Junior Brothers from Senior Brothers and the Community and Called by God to Love and Serve as a Young Consecrated Person in Today's World. Each session was enriched by insights from resource persons, our Brothers and members of other Congregations. The Junior Brothers were also introduced to Know Your Companion prayers, mindful meditations and Marian prayers, which added spiritual depth to their preparation. The renewal programme culminated as our seven Junior Brothers renewed their vows for one more year on May 11, 2025.

SUMMER CAMPS FOR CANDIDATES:



From May 1 to 31, 2025, a Summer Camp was organised for Class 12 completed Juniors and Pre-Novices at the Montfort School for the Disabled, Belagola. The camp commenced with a simple inauguration ceremony, and a prayer service on May 1, attended by the Brothers of the Belagola Community. The candidates were given various intellectual and spiritual activities. Mrs. Gunashree conducted English classes, while Bro. Arulanandam G. led sessions on vocation and discipleship. Bro. Paul Raj A. guided them on formation and vocation, Bro. Lawrence A. shared insights into the Life of St. Montfort, Bro. Eugin D. conducted sessions on Prayer and Bro. Praveen A. shared the Life of Pre-Novitiate and Novitiate. The camp also included daily prayers, the Holy Eucharist, book reviews, storytelling, essay writing, memory tests and a quiz on St. Montfort's life. Recreational activities, such as games, creative projects and a picnic to Mysore, were also part of the program.

Province of North East India

Carrying Forward a Vision: The Inspiring Mission of the Montfort Brothers in the Diocese of Tura



Introduction

In the heart of Northeast India, the Diocese of Tura has become a beacon of inclusive education and compassionate service, thanks to the tireless work of the Montfort Brothers. In a recent video message, Mgr. Jose Chirackal shared his deep connection with the Brothers and the profound impact of their mission, which began with a simple but powerful dream: to serve children with physical disabilities in remote villages.

visits, encountered children with physical challenges, including those who were visually impaired, hearing impaired, or mobility restricted. Moved by their plight, he envisioned a centre dedicated to their education and development. To realise this vision, he acquired a large plot of land and invited the Montfort Brothers to carry forward this noble cause.

The Birth of the Montfort Centre for Education

In the early 1990s, Brother Thomas Moore arrived in Tura and began supervising the construction of what would become the Montfort Centre for Education at Danakgre in Tura town. Initially staying in the bishop's house, he led the foundation work for both the residential quarters and the school itself. His dedication and leadership laid the groundwork for a legacy that continues to thrive.



A Bishop's Dream Becomes a Mission

The story begins with the first Bishop of Tura, George Mamalassery, who, during his pastoral

To strengthen the mission, the Diocese also invited the Daughters of St. Francis de Sales to join the Brothers in their ministry, both in the school and in parish activities. A parish was later established within the campus to cater to the spiritual needs of the children who could not travel far to attend Mass.



A Tragic Loss and a Legacy of Hope

Mgr. Chirackal recalls with deep emotion the tragic passing of Brother Thomas Moore, who died in a road accident en route to a new parish. His sudden death was a profound loss to the community, which had come to admire and love him deeply. A large funeral was held in his honour, bearing witness to the lives he had touched.

Expansion and Growth

Despite the tragedy, the Montfort Brothers continued their mission with unwavering dedication. They launched a diploma in special education and later a full-fledged special education program, equipping many students to serve across India in inclusive and disability-focused education.

The Diocese later entrusted another school at Jongkha, near Rishipara parish, to the Brothers. Originally underdeveloped, the school flourished under their care and experienced significant growth, including the inauguration of a new extension in the presence of Brother Giss and Mgr. Chirackal.

In addition, the Brothers assumed the responsibility of running a village school at Bolchiri, a remote area with difficult access. Despite the challenges, the Brothers make daily trips to ensure that quality education reaches

even the most isolated communities. Recently, sisters have also been invited to reside in the village and support the school.

Three Institutions, One Mission

Today, the Montfort Brothers run three major educational institutions in the Tura Diocese:

1. Montfort Center for Education at Danakgre
2. Montfort School at Jongkha
3. Village School at Bolchiri

These institutions are not only centres of learning but symbols of dedication, compassion, and transformative service.

Gratitude and Blessings

Mgr. Chirackal concluded his message with heartfelt appreciation for all the Brothers— Brother Josh, Brother Michael, Brother Joe, Brother Soosai (The current Provincial Superior), and many others who have continued the education mission with great commitment. Their work stands as a living testimony to the values of faith, education, and service.

“May God bless the Montfort Brothers and their activities in the Diocese of Tura and also in the region and elsewhere in the world.” – Mgr. Jose Chirackal.

Province of Hyderabad

"In Your light Lord, we see light"



The Summer Camp for Pre-Novices & Novices of the Hyderabad Province, held at St. John's High School, Gannavaram from May 6th to June 14th. It was a spiritually enriching and intellectually stimulating program designed to nurture the minds and hearts of young candidates. Bro. Valanarasu and Bro. Jimiraj were the directors of the Camp, and they prepared a well-structured program which balanced prayer, study, manual work, and recreation. The camp fostered personal growth, ethical formation, and spiritual harmony. Sessions on basic prayers, Scripture, expressive English skills, leadership skills, and Montfortian spirituality were conducted by committed Brothers and teachers, instilling values of discipline, Brotherhood, and service. Daily Eucharistic celebration, Marian devotions, and spiritual reading provided opportunities for deeper reflection and faith development. Special classes in music and creative arts allowed the candidates to express themselves artistically and develop new talents, adding a joyful and vibrant dimension to the camp experience.

The camp also featured hands-on learning through sustainable living sessions and work experience at Prakruthi Nilayam, Nuzvid, where

candidates engaged in eco-friendly practices and learned the importance of caring for creation. We celebrated the World Environment Day, by planting saplings and actively took part in segregating plastic waste, promoting environmental awareness. In addition, activities such as storytelling, book and movie reviews, debates, essay writing, and a picnic enriched their learning and confidence. A day of recollection with Fr. Thomas offered moments of silence, confession, and spiritual renewal. A heartfelt word of thanks to the St. John's Community Brothers for their warm hospitality, support, and collaboration throughout the program. The Summer Camp 2025 was a grace-filled and formative experience. The young aspirants departed with a deeper understanding of religious life, enriched skills, and renewed spiritual zeal. Their feedback reflected joy, transformation, and a desire to journey forward with the Lord. As St. Louis-Marie de Montfort encouraged, we hope these young men continue to "Love God alone, serve God alone, and give glory to God alone."

Bro. Valanarasu J, SG

Province of Thailand



450 teachers Thai and foreigners join the Seminar between May 13-15

Life and Mission of the Brothers in Thailand

On 28 and 29 of April, the St. Gabriel Foundation of Thailand organised the 7th St. Gabriel's Foundation Staff Games for all the supporting staff working in all our schools, including Assumption University. The Assumption College Sriracha hosted this family gathering. The Director, Brother Pisutr Vapiso, the Director, the Brothers, teachers, and all personnel provided excellent service to all the participants. They host these types of activities every year before the start of the academic year. From these sports and games competitions, making them known to each other results in cooperation among them, which is the main purpose of these activities, not winning or losing. There were about 1,000 participants, including Brothers and school administrators.



The Brothers joined the annual retreat.



The Brothers renewed the vows this year.



Bro. Dr. Surakit and St. Gabriel's College administrators gave the congratulatory gift to Bro. Pisutr ACS Director.



Lightning the torch for the opening



Rev. Brother Provincial addressed the opening message

The Feast of St. Montfort was celebrated on 28 April at the Montfort Chapel in the Assumption University of Thailand. His Excellency Archbishop Francis Xavier Vera, the

Archbishop of the Bangkok Diocese, presided over the Eucharistic celebration, accompanied by 30 priests, and delivered an encouraging sermon to our Brothers. Then, Brother Sirichai, the University President, gave words of thanks and a souvenir to the Archbishop. Brother President also delivered a wonderful speech about the life and charism of our Founder, reminding the assembly to follow the teachings of Montfort so that we may not forget to share them with the people around us. The day ended with a brotherly sharing of Chinese lunch.



Priest, Brothers, Sisters, Au Administrators joined the function to celebrate Montfort Chapel.

St. Gabriel's College Education from a renowned century to a Glorious Century



“From a Renowned Century to a Glorious Century” was the theme of the annual seminar for the 450 teachers, Thai and Foreign teachers of St. Gabriel’s College, which was held from 13 to 15 May 2025. We were privileged to have three professors from Assumption University as the resource persons.

During the seminar, we looked back at what made St. Gabriel’s College successful over the past 104 years, focusing on its performances and following the steps of our Founder, St. Louis de Montfort. What can the people of this generation do to continue and create the Glorious next century.

During this seminar, we used the Organisation Development System, with brainstorming from parents, alumni, and teachers as our guide.



Brother Sirichai presents the Archbishop with a bouquet.

Province of Yercaud



We are delighted to share with you some of the significant events that have recently taken place in our province.

To begin with, we joyfully welcomed the newly appointed Provincial and his Councillors. The installation ceremony was held on March 25, 2025, marked by a meaningful Eucharistic celebration led by Rev. Fr. Michaelraj Selvam, Vicar General of the Diocese of Salem. It was a grace-filled moment of prayer and blessing, witnessed by Brothers from various communities, along with Priests and Religious.

In preparation for this important event, the New Provincial Administration participated in a one-day orientation session on March 24, 2025. The session was animated by Rev. Fr. Benjamin OCD, who spoke on the theme: Montfortians Moving Forward with Prophetic Dynamism.

He emphasised the transformative power of a prophetic vision—one that challenges leaders

to act with courage, integrity, and a deep sense of divine purpose. Fr. Benjamin encouraged the new administration to embrace their responsibilities with both commitment and spiritual fervour.

Vocation Camp:



“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”

- Matthew 9:37-38

Gone are the days when India was a flourishing hub of religious vocations. While certain states once saw a vibrant influx of vocations, those stories are gradually becoming a thing of the past. Year after year, we are witnessing a steady decline in new vocations.

In light of this reality, a vocation camp was held at Montfort School, Yercaud, from May 6 to May 8, 2025. Out of the 15 candidates who attended the camp, 11 were selected for the Juniorate.



Renewal of Vows:

The preparation for the Renewal of Vows for the Junior Brothers was held at St. Louis Villa on the 23rd and 24th of May 2025. The theme for the programme was “The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it”. The two-day programme was animated by Rev. Fr. John Paul C.Ss.R. In his sharing, he emphasised the importance of personal prayer, community life and guided the Brothers towards greater clarity in their vocational journey. The renewal programme concluded with the celebration of Holy Eucharist, during which 10 of our Junior Brothers renewed their Vows.

Welcoming the New Academic Year:

With hearts full of hope, we step into the new academic year, our minds eager for knowledge and our spirits ready for renewal. This new beginning offers each of us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the values of discipline, learning, and spiritual growth that define our community.

The campus has once again come alive with the joyful energy of students returning, faculty re-engaging, and new faces joining our journey. The start of an academic year is more than just a change in timetable; it is a time of fresh purpose and renewed vision. It is a moment to reflect on our calling, align our efforts with our mission, and walk together in faith.

Let this new academic year be marked by openness to growth, zeal for learning, and a deepening of our commitment to the values we hold dear. With God’s guidance and the support of one another, we can look forward to a year of transformation, achievement, and grace.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Poondi:



The Brothers of the Province participated in a one-day pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Poondi on 7th December 2025, as organized by the Administration. The pilgrimage was a meaningful occasion of fraternity, prayer, and renewal of Montfortian spirituality and Marian devotion, inspired by St. Louis de Montfort.

The programme began with the arrival at Ariyalur and an opening prayer, followed by a common journey to Poondi. At the shrine, the Brothers took part in the Holy Eucharist and renewed their consecration to Our Lady. The Rosary and Eucharistic celebration were prayerfully animated by the designated Brothers.

After the Eucharist, the Brothers shared lunch and returned to Ariyalur, where the programme concluded with tea and a final blessing before dispersing to their respective communities. The pilgrimage was a grace-filled experience that strengthened brotherhood and deepened devotion to Our Lady of Poondi.

Bro. Robert, SG



Province of Ranchi

Faith in Action: a summary of the latest initiatives in Ranchi province.



The Ranchi Province continues to deepen its commitment to religious formation and holistic education across South Asia. Recent initiatives in India and Bangladesh demonstrate a vibrant blend of spiritual renewal, historical remembrance, cultural celebration, and academic excellence, offering inspiring examples of how faith can engage with social development.

Honouring a Courageous Missionary Journey

A commemorative event took place in November 2025 in the village of Andharkotha, Bangladesh, to mark the 120th anniversary of a historic journey of faith. Local communities gathered to commemorate the audacious decision of their ancestors, led by missionary Fr. Angelo Mazzoni, who crossed from India into Bangladesh in search of "new pastures" for the flock.

A monument now stands in Andharkotha, symbolically recounting their decision to settle in dense forests under difficult conditions to preserve unity and nurture the community's life.

This memorial serves not only as a historical marker but also as an enduring testimony to missionary courage and perseverance.

Mission Today: We present our report on the challenges and opportunities experienced in Andharkotha.

The Andharkotha mission in Bangladesh continues to face pressing modern realities. Many local families remain landless and rely on daily wage labour. The Ranchi Province considers itself to be in a "cocoon stage" in this region. Brothers are dedicated to learning the local language and carefully discerning the most effective ways to serve the people.

Current efforts include establishing a formal Society in the country and acquiring additional land to expand educational opportunities. These steps signal the potential for long-term pastoral and social development.

A celebration of Global Harmony was held in Hazaribagh.

At Montfort School, Hazaribagh, the Annual Parents' Night, "Glimmer Night 2025," underscored the Province's commitment to global harmony. The theme, "One World, One Family", was elegantly conveyed through an Arabian fantasy setting, emphasising unity in diversity.





A variety of performances, including Hawaiian dances and a world-themed grand finale, celebrated the universal rhythm of love and the importance of cross-cultural harmony among students and families.

Developing the Potential of Young People through a Strong Academic Curriculum

Intellectual development remains a core priority. The Montfort National Olympiad provided a forum for students from various institutions to engage with their studies, fostering a sense of curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. The Olympiad fosters teamwork, healthy competition, and a spirit of collaboration, all vital to preparing young people to participate meaningfully in an increasingly globalised world.

Celebrating Tribal Heritage in Jharkhand

At Montfort School, Lachragarh, Jharkhand, Diwas was celebrated with joy and cultural pride. Students from various tribal communities, including the Santhal, Munda, Oraon, and Ho, presented a range of traditional attire, dances, and speeches. By honouring local heritage, the institution fosters respect for cultural identity and strengthens the sense of community among students.

Recognising excellence in education in Patna is of the utmost importance.

Loyola High School, Patna, is firmly established as a leader in the educational landscape. It recently hosted the Patliputra Sahodaya Teachers' Award Function, honouring more than 500 teachers for outstanding service. The Regional Officer of the CBSE presided as Chief Guest, and the school also engaged in high-level interactions, including courtesy visits to the Chief Minister of Bihar. These initiatives underscore the mounting influence of Montfort institutions on educational policy and regional development.

Acknowledgment

This article was drafted using NotebookLM and ChatGPT, based on source material from the Ranchi Province News Bulletin – December issue. The final text was reviewed and corrected by Bro. Louis.



Province of Senegal



Visit of the Superior General

The Superior General visited the communities of the Province of Senegal, with the exception of those in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, from 29 March to 16 April 2025. At the end of his stay, taking advantage of the convening of the present session of the council, he gave an account of his visit. He began by welcoming the fact that the council was being held at the end of his stay in the province. He then shared his impressions and assessment of the visit and concluded by thanking the outgoing Provincial Superior and his council for their excellent work during their two terms of office and congratulating the new Provincial Superior and his council, who were recently elected, to whom he wished every success in their work. Regarding his assessment of the visit, we note three points: satisfaction, shortcomings, and points for attention.

On the first point, he expressed his joy of having visited the Province. It is important for him to get to know the Senegal sector and to appreciate the work and apostolate of the Brothers. He was

delighted to find a good fraternal atmosphere, good collaboration, and Brothers who are happy and committed to the mission.

He noted that the congregation wields significant influence in the country and is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. He also welcomed the good reputation of the schools run by the Brothers, the development of their structures, which generate substantial income for the Province, and the constant increase in their capacity. In terms of the apostolate, he congratulated the Province for its strong missionary commitment and involvement in the mission in Guinea and Burkina Faso. The Province is also very much involved in the missionary momentum of the Congregation. The Brothers of the Province are willing to undertake other missionary experiences. Regarding finances, he noted significant progress. He encourages the Province in its pursuit of greater financial autonomy through the implementation of highly dynamic projects. He appreciates the existence of commissions, which allow the Brothers to participate actively in the life of the Province.

In terms of shortcomings, he regrets not having been able to meet the staff of the establishments and the students, who were on holiday. He found the visit programme very intense and the stay in some communities very short. He deplored the existence of poorly executed or unfinished work in some communities, which causes flooding.





He recommends that the Province, at the community level, give more power to the local Superior to supervise the young people in his community, to avoid overloading them with pastoral commitments, which can have negative consequences on community life.

In terms of apostolate and mission, he invites the province to invest in technical schools; to create centres for young people with disabilities to make our schools more inclusive; to do more to facilitate and improve living conditions in mission countries; and to take care of existing structures.

For the animation of the provincial commissions, he asks the JPIC commission to collaborate with the Education commission to draft a charter on the protection of minors and vulnerable

persons in schools and boarding schools, and to ensure its implementation. He asks the Formation commission to organise more formation sessions. And he asks the Partnership Commission to work more with associates and collaborators.

Regarding the functioning of the Province, he thanks the province for its involvement in the animation of the novitiate. Finally, he proposes limiting Provincial councillors' terms of office to two (2) consecutive terms to give others the opportunity to serve as councillors. It is very often the same Brothers who are elected to the council. This proposal could be debated in the Provincial chapter and be the subject of a capitular decision.

He thanked Brother Jean Marie Thior for preparing his trip and his stay in the province so well.

The Province thanks the Superior General for the time he spent meeting and sharing with each brother. This time of listening was greatly appreciated because it shows the importance of communication between those who govern and those who are governed. It wishes him every success in his mission as leader of the congregation.

Bro. Patrice MBENGUE, SG





Blessing of the new residence of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in Kisangani

Blessing of the new residence of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in Kisangani

Your Excellency Monsignor Marcel Utembi,
Metropolitan Archbishop of Kisangani,

Dear priests, religious men and women

Dear members of the Montfortian Family,

Dear confreres of the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel

Mr Michel IBANDELA, architect & contractor

Dear guests in your various capacities

Good morning and welcome to Saint Gabriel.

It is with immense joy and deep gratitude that I speak today, on this memorable day, on the

occasion of the blessing of the new residence of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel here in Kisangani.

This is an opportunity to lift up our hearts to the Master of Life who has watched over the construction of this house, for 'unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain'. Therefore, to give thanks to God, I would like to repeat with you the beautiful words of our founder Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort: "Let us bless the Lord forever for his blessings. May his name be praised forever."

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Monsignor Marcel UTEMBI, Metropolitan Archbishop of Kisangani, for his paternal presence, his pertinent and valuable advice, his encouragement, and his manifold support. I also say THANK YOU to him for agreeing to preside over this blessing ceremony for the Brothers' house and for

imploing many divine graces upon each and every one of us. Your Excellency, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This moment is not only the opening of a new place of life, it is also the realisation of a dream, the fruit of a vision and patience, a long journey that began in September 2011 with the arrival of the first Brothers in this beautiful city of Kisangani, steeped in history. These were Brothers Boniface NGWEY LUBEMBO and Rufin NDAMBU. Since then, many Brothers have succeeded one after the other, all passionate about the educational mission, thus contributing to the proclamation of the Good News by serving the Church and society. May all the Brothers who have served in Kisangani find here my gratitude for all the services rendered with faith, self-sacrifice, perseverance and passion.

Dear guests,

This residence has come into being thanks to the collaboration of several people, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude:

To the Superior General and the Central Administration of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, who, through their various services, financed the construction of this residence.

To the ecclesiastical and civil authorities who facilitated the administrative procedures for the construction.

To the engineer Michel and his team for this beautiful work carried out with finesse and love. Please give them a big round of applause.

To elderly Brothers Barthélémy and Julien, who oversaw the work with all that it required in terms of time and energy.

To the choir, who helped us to pray with their beautiful and skilfully performed songs.

To the members of the Montfortian family, who supported us in various ways.

Thank you to all of you here today. Thank you for your keen sense of collaboration, your closeness to the Brothers, and your prayers for the fruitfulness of the Brothers' mission here in Kisangani. May all this be repaid to you in many graces. Thank you.

Bro. RufinNDAMBU MUKE, SG





FOOD SUPPLY IN KINSHASA SCHOOLS: ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR BETTER EDUCATION

1. Introduction

School meals are much more than just the distribution of food; they are a fundamental pillar of children's physical and cognitive development, directly influencing their ability to learn and their educational success. In Kinshasa, the Congolese megalopolis, the issue of food provision for pupils is particularly acute, given the socio-economic challenges affecting many families.

This article aims to analyse the current state of food provision in Kinshasa schools. We will explore the daily realities of students, the various actors involved, the major obstacles to be overcome, and opportunities for improvement. The objective is to provide a comprehensive picture of the situation and propose concrete ways to ensure better school nutrition, which is essential to the well-being and future of young people in Kinshasa.

2. Conceptual Framework and Importance of School Nutrition

School feeding refers to all programmes and

practices aimed at providing nutritious meals to pupils during school hours. It is part of a broader framework of food and nutritional security, ensuring that every child has access to sufficient, healthy and balanced food. School canteens, where they exist, are key mechanisms for providing this support.

The benefits of adequate school meals are numerous and well documented:

Improved concentration and academic performance: A well-nourished child is more attentive and learns better.

Reduced absenteeism and school dropout rates: School meals can encourage children to come to class and stay in school.

Combating malnutrition: Whether it is undernutrition (stunted growth, deficiencies) or emerging forms such as overweight and obesity linked to poor diet.

Promoting good eating habits: School is an ideal place for education on nutrition.

Around the world, various models of school feeding programmes have proven their effectiveness, demonstrating that well-designed programmes can transform the lives of students and communities.

3. Current situation of school feeding programmes in Kinshasa

The reality of food provision in Kinshasa schools is very heterogeneous, reflecting the socio-economic disparities in the city.

Types of schools and common practices:

In most public schools, canteens are virtually non-existent. Pupils are largely dependent on meals prepared at home, which are often insufficient or unbalanced. Many buy their food from street vendors set up outside the schools.

Private schools, on the other hand, may offer canteen services, but their quality and cost vary enormously, making them inaccessible to the majority.

Some religious or community schools may sometimes benefit from specific food aid programmes, often set up by NGOs or community initiatives.

Food sources and quality: Food brought from home often reflects the economic constraints of families. As for street vendors, they mainly offer products that are low in nutritional value: doughnuts, bread, sugary drinks, peanuts, etc. The nutritional quality is often poor, with vitamin and mineral deficiencies and excessive sugar, fat and salt intake. Food safety is a major

concern; hygiene in preparation and sales areas, as well as food storage conditions, are often poor, increasing the risk of foodborne illnesses.

Perceptions of stakeholders: Pupils often express a desire for more varied and substantial meals. Parents are aware of the importance of nutrition but face severe economic constraints. School administrators and teachers recognise the impact of hunger on students' concentration and sometimes attempt isolated initiatives, but lack the resources and a structured framework. Street vendors, although playing a subsistence role, often operate without supervision or training in food hygiene.

4. Stakeholders Involved and Challenges Encountered

Several actors are involved, or should be involved, in the issue of school feeding in Kinshasa:

Government actors: The Ministries of Education, Health and Agriculture have interdependent roles. However, there is a glaring lack of clear public policies and budgets specifically allocated to school feeding. Local entities have a limited role in monitoring or providing support.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and associations: They sometimes carry out one-off actions to distribute meals or raise awareness of nutrition, but their initiatives often remain fragmented and depend on external funding.

Private partners: The private sector is not very involved in large-scale school catering, with the exception of a few wealthy private schools.

There are many challenges and constraints:

Chronic lack of funding.

Inadequate infrastructure: Lack of equipped kitchens, dining halls and adequate storage systems.

Unqualified or non-existent staff: Lack of training in nutrition and food hygiene.

Widespread hygiene and sanitation problems.





Absence of a clear regulatory framework and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Insufficient awareness of nutritional issues among communities.

5. Recommendations and Outlook for the Future

To improve food management in Kinshasa schools, a multisectoral and coordinated approach is imperative:

Strong Public Policy Development: It is crucial to develop and adopt a national school feeding policy, with a specific and sustainable budget allocation. Strengthening the capacity of control institutions is also essential.

Improving Infrastructure: This involves the construction or renovation of school canteens with appropriate kitchens, dining rooms and storage facilities.

Skills Development: Training staff (cooks, canteen managers) in nutrition, hygiene and management is essential. Nutrition education programmes must be integrated into the school curriculum for students and extended to parents and teachers.

Developing Strategic Partnerships: Collaboration between the government, the private sector, NGOs and local communities is key. Actively involving parents in the management of canteens can strengthen ownership and sustainability of programmes.

Promoting Innovative and Local Approaches: The use of local agricultural products to supply canteens should be encouraged, thereby creating opportunities for Kinshasa farmers and strengthening the local economy. Innovative financing models, including differentiated parental contributions and public-private partnerships, should be explored. Pilot programmes can be set up in targeted schools to test models before rolling them out more widely.

6. Conclusion

Food provision in Kinshasa schools is a complex challenge, but one that is essential for the future of Congolese youth.

Current gaps in infrastructure, funding and regulatory frameworks significantly limit students' access to healthy and balanced nutrition.

However, opportunities do exist. By adopting proactive policies, investing in infrastructure, building capacity and forging strong partnerships, Kinshasa can transform the school nutrition landscape. An integrated approach, linking nutrition to education and local agricultural development, is the way forward. It is time to act in order to ensure that every child in Kinshasa has the energy to learn, grow and reach their full potential.

Bro. Déogracias IKASA, SG

Province of Spain

Montfortian Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 2025



From May 31 to June 1, 2025, the Veteran Gabrielite Montfortian Associates of Barcelona, Spain, made a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Approximately 72 people, if not more, participated in this unique spiritual and community exercise.

The bus left Saint Adrian at 5:30 in the morning, then made a short stop to pick up the group waiting on the other side of Besós near the provincial house. Let's say that the actual departure began at 5:45. Yes, indeed, 72 pilgrims, packed into a bus, wanted to mark the spiritual dimension of their journey from the very beginning, with a prayer led by Brother Genaro, the provincial. He entrusted all the planned and undoubtedly unplanned activities into the hands of the Lord and his mother, the Virgin Mary.

This introductory prayer set the tone for finally embarking on a spiritual and personal journey and entering into the dynamic of the pilgrimage. Arriving in Lourdes around 1:00 p.m., the pilgrims immediately headed to the reception area to drop off their luggage.

The organising commission, with its proven experience of several years in organizing this

pilgrimage, had planned everything in advance, and the program was followed precisely to allow everyone to have an inner experience. As is often said, a pilgrimage is an inner journey that facilitates the revitalisation and re-energising of faith in God, as well as confrontation with oneself for spiritual transformation. It is in this sense that the pilgrims, each in their own way, with one heart and one soul, were open to





God's surprises in order to live an extraordinary experience and allow themselves to be moulded by the Virgin Mary, the mould of God, forma Dei.

Officially, the Marian torchlight procession, which took place at 9 p.m., was the first activity as a group, together with other pilgrims who had come from all over to experience a moment of faith and Marian devotion.

The next day, Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., the Montfort pilgrims gathered at the crypt

located on the rock of Massabielle cave, where the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette in 1858 (between the upper Basilica and the Rosary Basilica) to participate in the Eucharist celebrated by Father Sylvain, a Barnabite priest and vicar of the parish of Saint Adrian de Besós, who was also part of the Montfortian pilgrimage group. The group from Barcelona had the great joy of sharing some of the highlights of this pilgrimage with the small group from La Aguilera, in the company of Brother Faustino, including the Mass and the Way of the Cross.

In his homily, the priest invited the pilgrims to let themselves be guided and accompanied by the Virgin Mary, because, he said, when the Virgin Mary makes a request or intercedes on behalf of someone, her Son grants it. This was a beautiful message to the pilgrims, to say that the pilgrimage to Lourdes is an exceptional opportunity to seek the gentle maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that her Divine Son may pour out the graces and gifts necessary for each and every pilgrim. A short but meaningful homily that invited us to live the Christian life, focusing on love, faith, and joy. In short, a homily that reminded us of the importance of prayer and the presence of Christ in the life of each and every one of us.

Immediately after the Eucharistic celebration the pilgrims, followed on foot to experience another highlight of the day, the Way of the Cross on Espéluques Hill in the company of the Virgin Mary and Saint Bernadette, to connect with the sufferings of Jesus by reenacting his death in the hope of sharing in his resurrection and eternal life.





It should also be noted that not all pilgrims were able to make the same Way of the Cross. The group was divided into two: those who were able to climb the hill of Espéluques, located above the sanctuary, which was the larger group, and another group with reduced mobility, no doubt due to age and illness, who preferred a Way of the Cross in a shaded area along the Gave River, which took place in a natural environment near a stream, offering an atmosphere conducive to reflection and meditation.

The Way of the Cross is on the Espéluques hill, which is 1,500 meters long and has 15 stations, marked by 115 life-size statues in patinated cast iron.

Finally, to conclude this journey of faith, the pilgrims gathered at the Lourdes grotto on the other side of the river, directly opposite the original grotto, to implore the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to offer thanks, and to entrust her their return journey to Barcelona.

All in all, let's say that this pilgrimage was a success, because everyone's participation was witnessed and appreciated, and more notably, the unreserved involvement of the organising committee. Hats off to Pascual, Raquel, Luis, and all the other committee members who facilitated this spiritual renewal, allowing everyone to deepen their Marian devotion. At the Montfort School, pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that deepens Marian devotion. Following the example of Elizabeth, who was filled with joy, gratitude, and faith when she met Mary, the pilgrims, at the end, were convinced of the closeness of the Virgin Mary in their journey of faith, did not hesitate to bear witness, sing, and dance to truly express their joy and gratitude for all that had been accomplished and for all the graces received.



Bro. Robert Stanislas, SG

Chaplain to the young singers for 29 years!



*Brother Michel Florance,
Angers Desjardins Community*

"Happy to be young singers,

*Brothers in your love, we want, Lord, to serve you
by singing the glory of your Name.*

May our song be a call to those who seek you.

*May our lives reflect what we sing and bear
witness to your tenderness towards mankind.*

May your grace in our hearts sustain our efforts.

Make us, Lord, artisans of peace."

This is the prayer of the 'Pueri Cantores' that I had the joy of singing as chaplain of the 'Petits Chanteurs de la Cité' for 29 years.

Who are the 'Petits Chanteurs de la Cité' ?

Today, following a move, they are students at the Sainte Cécile La Salle Secondary School located not far from the community of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel on Rue des Fours



The choir in liturgical dress.

in Chaux. When the choir was first formed, they were students at the La Salle Cathedral secondary school, located near Angers Cathedral in the Cité district, hence their name.

How did I end up in this choir?

In 1991, while I was teaching at Saint Augustin School, a project was launched to have primary school children (CE 2, CM 1, CM 2) sing together in the same programme with the aim of giving a big concert at the end of the year. This led to the creation of the Chant'Ecole Association, led by an enthusiastic and inspiring choir director.

We got to know and appreciate each other, and I was surprised when he came to the community to ask me to become chaplain to the children's choir he had created at La Salle Cathedral College. After much thought and hesitation, I accepted and began my mission in September 1994.



The choir in concert dress.



What did this mission consist of?

To begin with, I would say that singing is just a means of learning to live together, to build together, to surpass oneself with and for others. I quote Philippe Baraqué, who produced the film 'Les Choristes': "It is not so much the singing that is sacred, it is the bond it creates between people." From there, my role was educational and spiritual:

- Educational: promoting team spirit by paying attention to each individual, listening to any minor tensions that may exist in order to calm them down and try to resolve them. This was done in close collaboration with the choir director in order to create a fraternal atmosphere and encourage mutual aid, tolerance and forgiveness.

- Spiritual: the primary mission of a choir of young singers is a mission of the Church, that of animating liturgies and singing the praises of God. The 'Charter of Children's Choirs' states: "The choir is one of the places where children can discover Christ and begin to love him." This means that the choir is open to all: baptised, unbaptised, Muslims and other religions. Everyone's journey is respected. Moreover, in the specific charter of the Pueri Cantores, Article 3 states: "You are a seeker of God."

To implement these objectives, I introduced them to the liturgy by explaining the different moments and rites of a Eucharistic celebration. I took the time to read with them the biblical texts they heard during Mass, explaining their meaning to help them understand them better. I also tried to show them how we could live out the Word of God among ourselves through concrete actions. I also emphasised the witness

they give through their behaviour and their way of singing the praises of God.

Photos from the tour of the Netherlands

I also prepared them for the presentation of the cross, which is a voluntary commitment within the

Pueri Cantores, by making them reflect on the meaning of this cross, inviting them to express their motivations and making them aware of the commitment they were making.

Their activities?

Apart from rehearsals (an average of five hours per week), the Petits Chanteurs lead a Eucharistic celebration two to three times per quarter and give about ten concerts per year.

Every two years, they go on a fortnight-long tour abroad: with them, I have discovered Norway, Spain (several times), Quebec, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and the Czech Republic. I took part in two national conferences (in Lyon and Lourdes) and an international conference in Paris with over 5,000 participants. They also sing in different regions of France during ten-day tours during the spring holidays.

A few moments that stood out for me...

At the end of a Good Friday celebration that we had led in a parish in Angers, a Petit Chanteur came up to me to say that the celebration had touched him so deeply that he wanted to prepare for baptism. I should add that several Petit Chanteurs have asked to be baptised during their studies.

During one of our concerts, at the insistence of one of her friends, a young mother suffering from severe depression came to listen to us. At the end of the concert, deeply moved, she said to her friend, 'They have given me back my zest for life and my joy.'

During one of our tours in Manigod (Savoie), a young singer of the Muslim faith explained her faith to the whole choir and answered all their questions for an hour. Afterwards, she asked to receive the cross to show her commitment, but it was not possible to give her this cross. I telephoned the national chaplain to ask for advice. So she began the Eucharistic celebration without the alb, which was given to her instead of the cross after she explained her decision to the entire parish assembly. What a wonderful testimony!

In conclusion

34 years of existence and a healthy electrocardiogram! Such is the choir of the Petits Chanteurs de la Cité, with whom I have shared my life for 31 years now.

What oxygen allows this choir to beat to the rhythm of youth, if not that of music, friendship and sharing? What a joy to see these children

and young people blossom, discover themselves, gain confidence, open up to others, break down the barriers that can separate them, and all this thanks to singing!

Throughout its history, through the animation of liturgies, concerts given, tours in France and abroad, I have discovered an enthusiastic and generous choir, open to other cultures, eager to share its love of singing and its joie de vivre. May I confess that it has helped me a great deal through difficult times, doubts about my mission as chaplain, and that it has pushed me to deepen my understanding of the Word of God in order to pass it on to them. I have received their attention and respect in listening to this Word as a gift from God. I am infinitely grateful to them.

Three years ago, I passed on my mission to a committed lay adult, but I continue to sing in this choir, which is now part of who I am.



Presentation of the Cross of the Young Singers



Brother Michel leads the annual retreats for the brothers of the province; here at the Chaillé les Marais retreat in 2022.



Nothing can stop us from singing

A place where every child becomes the hero of their own story; Each child, through their voice and actions, seeks to build themselves up, to explore new horizons in search of adventure and freedom. The choir is a space where each child can express themselves freely, feel valued, and grow in confidence, surrounded by their peers and role models.

Our mission: a space to flourish

Beyond the walls of the school, far from daily routines, the choir offers a safe and caring environment.

Here, every child can express their inner thoughts, explore their potential, and give meaning to their journey. Through the beauty of music, meaning shapes a guiding principle that combines lasting bonds, passions, and convictions.

Enabling every child to find their place

The outside world does not always give children the means to express themselves freely. Regardless of background, academic results or age, we all have inner convictions that guide our actions and determine our identity. Unfortunately, these ideas are sometimes confined to silence. We believe that every child deserves a place where they can feel heard and understood thanks to the support of adults. We rely on the universality of music to facilitate exchanges and drive their development.

Three missions:

Human

Musical

Spiritual

Website: <https://petitschanteurs-angers.fr/>



Dans ma vie de frère...

La Musique

F. René, could you introduce yourself in a few words?

I was born in Saint-Jean-de-Monts and I am a true maraîchin! My parents and I lived in the 'Breton Vendée marshlands'; that's what we called the region where I grew up in Saint-Jean de Monts: there is the beach, the forest, the village and the marshlands, with very different landscapes. The marsh is the countryside. It is a marsh that stretches from Barre de Monts to Saint-Jean-de-Monts (photo). In winter, we were surrounded by water and travelled by boat, flat-bottomed boats, and our parents took us to school in the morning to reach the road; We had to be very careful, because it could be dangerous, especially for the little ones... they mustn't fall into the water... but as they say: 'Every good marsh dweller has fallen into the water!'

I made my first vows in 1949, so I have been a brother for 76 years! That's quite a long time... I haven't travelled much: I stayed in Vendée,

Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres, I have always stayed in the region.

I have been a teacher all my life, which means that I only taught in primary school, where I also taught music. But I even gave music lessons up to A-level to students who took music as an option. They were often students I had had in primary school, who continued with music in secondary school, sixth form and even university; I followed them by teaching them music. The pupils came on their days off, in small groups, not individually. But I had the joy of following these pupils from primary school to university: it was incredible!



*The Breton marshlands of the Vendée,
the birthplace of Brother René!*



*Brother René at the organ
in Challans in October 2005*



Brother René Burgaud playing the flute

What instrument did you teach?

The recorder, but the whole range of flutes: soprano, alto, tenor and bass; the pupils started with the small one, the soprano, then very quickly moved on to the alto because many classical works are written for the alto flute. In primary school, the youngest children used the soprano flute, which is the starting flute, but they very quickly moved on to the alto. Some took music as an option in their school-leaving exams, playing the alto flute and presenting, for example, a movement from Handel's Sonata in A minor. Accessing classical works required a good level of skill. As a teacher, it was a real joy for me to see these young people so attached to music... and to their teacher!

Was the flute your favourite instrument?

Yes, I practised the flute a lot. After the straight flute, I even learned the transverse flute; the transverse flute is very pleasant! But I mainly played the keyboard, in this case the organ, which also allowed me to study harmony. Thanks to this training, I harmonised a number of existing melodies. As an organist, you create harmonisations, and the same goes for

improvisations. It's part of the organist's job! It's one of the charms of this instrument and this profession.

So you studied too?

From the age of 12, I started playing the keyboard for several years, especially the harmonium. When I reached the first year of secondary school, I studied harmony. At the brothers' school, we were predestined to be teachers and we were taught harmony with the words: 'This will be useful to you at school and in the parishes to accompany songs and compose...' I even kept a harmony book and I still remember the basic rules: no successive fifths, no successive octaves... these are all good memories for me!

Music has been present throughout my career; in the parish, I was in charge of the choir and I trained the organists, since I was an organist myself. When I retired in 1991, that's when I really had time to play in the parishes. I don't play anymore, but when I arrived in Thouaré, I played for a while, then I stopped...

As I said earlier, I started learning to play the keyboard on the harmonium; we didn't have pianos in our homes, only harmoniums; pianos came later.

With the harmonium, you had to use the pedal, which is called the expression pedal... It was quite an art to pedal the harmonium depending on whether you had to play piano or forte... You had to pedal according to the nuances... It's tricky, you have to master the pedals so that the sound is continuous; the pipe organ is still better! At the brothers' house, we started learning the harmonium at the age of 12; we had five or six harmoniums in a corridor.

At the age of 12, did you already know that you were going to be a brother?

Yes, I joined the brothers in Saint-Laurent at the age of 11 after my certificate. The recruiting brother, Brother André Corsini, explained the life of a brother to us, showed us photos and asked the question: Are you interested in becoming a brother? 'NO', "MAYBE" and "YES"; we had three possible answers. We were very young, it's true, but that was the custom. And I put "YES" straight away; I remember telling my mother about it when I got home and she said to me, "You could have put 'maybe' anyway.. '

Many young people wrote "maybe", but I immediately wrote 'yes", and I could sense that my mother was a little critical of me for doing so... For me, it was clear: I had received an inner calling and I couldn't imagine doing anything else.

My brother Louis, my older brother, followed the same path... there were two of us in the same family. At that time, parents accepted it. Minor seminaries no longer exist, but at that time it was common!

Were there any musicians in your family?

I was the only one in the family who played music. When I was young, I loved to sing. I would even sing on my way to school because sometimes it was a long walk... I've always loved to sing. There were seven of us children: five boys and two girls, but I was the only one of my kind!

Joining the Brothers allowed me to learn music, otherwise I would probably never have become a musician. I was able to develop this talent, in a way.

It was in line with my tastes and sensibilities...



2024: The brothers of the La Pamprie community during the visit of Mgr Percerou, Bishop of Nantes, Br. Claude Passebon, Br. Jean-Marie Giraudeau, Mgr Percerou, Br. René Burgaud, Br. Gilbert Dugast



The Great Organ of Notre-Dame Church in Challans

Did you compose hymns for the congregation?

Not really. I wrote a few songs, but very few. I mainly harmonised existing melodies; it was necessary in order to play and accompany the songs.

Do you think there is a link between music and spiritual life?

Yes, of course there is a close link. The pieces I accompanied on the organ were always hymns,

spiritual songs, so the music became prayer. It's the same in the liturgy: when I improvised, it was an inner feeling that was expressed in the form of prayer and also to encourage the congregation to pray.

Music has always been part of my spiritual life, and it has become an integral part of my vocation as a brother. In this way, I was able to put what I had received at the service of young students from outside the community.

Did you found a parish choir in Mauléon?

Yes, I founded the 'Alauda' choir in 1981 in Mauléon. There were 100 of us and a children's choir, which also played the flute; in fact, we were a whole ensemble.



We gave a few concerts and organised a few tours abroad. I also led the parish choir in Le Pin in 1968 and in Mauléon from 1977 to 1983, both in the Deux-Sèvres department. The choir was called Alauda, which means lark in Latin. Incidentally, this choir still exists today, in a different form of course... Those who are in it today tell me, 'It's not like it was in your day!'

We had a repertoire of Christian songs, but also secular songs and instrumental music.

When did you retire?

I ended my career in 1991. At the time, I was in Parthenay. During my retirement, I continued some of my activities: I had singing students, a small group, and I went to some primary school classes to teach music.

I went to Le Poiré-sur-Vie and Challans, where I accompanied the church choir and sang... I stayed in Challans for a long time. It was in 2013 that I arrived in La Pamprie. Music has always been present in my life, and as part of my life as a brother, it has always been a spiritual lever, like a spring! Now, at 95, I've turned the page... I no longer play, but I'm making way for younger people.

I listen to music from time to time, a little organ, but now at my age, I've moved on to other things; now I remember... it's a way of giving thanks. There comes a time when you have to stop, I am 95 years old after all...!

Now at my age... I surrender! When the 'Moment of the Great Passage' comes, well, it will come...! You have to trust... there are always difficult moments in life, but you have to surrender... The older I get, the more I surrender!



Istituto Ca' Florens Istrana



The principal activity of our community is “Adozioni a distanza,” with the help of people of goodwill, to assist poor and needy children in India, the Philippines, Tanzania, Kenya, and Burundi.

To maintain regular contact with our benefactors, we organise monthly spiritual retreats for those who support the children through our “Adozioni a distanza” project. Every third Sunday of the month is dedicated to the spiritual retreat of the benefactors. During the Retreat of the Month of May, we celebrated the Birthday of Rev. Bro Dionigi Taffarello, our Superior General who was with us on that occasion. The spiritual retreat starts in the morning at 9:30 and continues until 11:30. From 11.30 to 12.00 there is a break. At 12.00, the Holy Mass is celebrated. At 13.00 starts the sharing of the lunch, which may last two or more hours.

Birthday of Bro. Onesphore Haviarimana was celebrated in a fitting manner in our Community. The celebration was with three



Brothers: Onesphore, Bro Dionisio Santoro and me Bro. Mathew Kavumkal

Annual Feast of the Indian Community



The Indian Syro-Malabar Community celebrated their annual solemn celebration of their Patronal Feast on Sunday 8th June in the premises of Istituto Ca' Florens Istrana. Four Priests concelebrated the Mass and Fr. John Poochakatt directed the choir for the liturgical celebrations and the procession. The climate was very good. All the participants were offered an indian lunch. The Syro-Malankara community and the Jacobilte Community took part in the celebrations with the Syro-Malabar community.

Annual Day of CURSILLOS

The annual Day of the benefactors of long-distance adoptions who belong to the movement of the Cursillos of Christianity. Perhaps you know that the word “Cursillo” means “little course” in Spanish, and it usually lasts three days to present what is fundamental in Christianity: Christ, the Church and the life of



The Annual Day of the I.P.A.B. Nursery School of Treviso.



The organisers arrived on Saturday for the massive preparation to welcome approximately 300 people, including children and parents. Volunteers, Alpini, Nuns, and people of goodwill worked tirelessly to make this end-of-school-year party a success. The Lord gave them a beautiful, mild and sunny day. Holy Mass, numerous activities with children, lunch, and various games - the whole day was filled with satisfaction for everyone, including those who worked for the children's benefit.

While I was talking to them, one of them told me that the School has the purpose of welcoming pre-school children on weekdays, providing for the development and ensuring harmonious growth, in mutual respect, of the child's personality, assistance, preparation for attending compulsory school, and integrating the work of the family. Congratulations to everyone.



Month of May 2025

Again, Birthday Celebration! Our Institute is an ideal place for celebrating Birthdays. The Indian Community has celebrated the 18th Birthday of Cristina, daughter of Shibu Vallooran. It was an international celebration. Their relatives, from all over the World, were present at the celebration. It was really a sign of a brotherly and family-like close relationship and cooperation.

grace. This presentation features a narration of life experiences designed to stimulate and guide individuals in a community context. Then they attend Mass together, pray together, have lunch together, and share experiences of Christian life. Two priests from Padua had come for Mass and to animate the group. We Brothers gave them all the necessary assistance.

Brother Onesphore had offered to stay with them to get to know them and provide them with necessary help. In fact, it was his first meeting with them.

For about ten years, this group has dedicated June 2, a national holiday, to its annual meeting or assembly, always held at the Ca' Florens Institute, the Centre for Long-Distance Adoptions.



PILGRIMAGE



The Montfortian Prayer Group “Queen of Peace”. We have had this Prayer group at Ca’ Florens for about 30 years.

I have been given the privilege of serving as the spiritual animator of this group. Every year, this group makes a pilgrimage to a sanctuary or another. This year, they chose to make the pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of the Madonna dell’Olmo di Thiene. Due to unforeseen circumstances, health issues, and the death of a relative, some participants were unable to attend the pilgrimage. An expert from the sanctuary explained everything about the sanctuary to the group. They attended Mass, made sacramental confession and prayed to obtain a plenary indulgence. It was a day filled with grace and blessings. Naturally, they had a fraternal and shared lunch.

Hospitality to two groups of Senior Citizens:



Our Institute offers hospitality to two groups of elderly people. One group is the elders, who are generally self-sufficient, and the other group is not self-sufficient. Every week they are engaged here on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers and specialists follow up on these groups. Our Brother Dinisio Santoro also takes part in the activities of these two

groups. He finds the activities of the groups useful and helpful to engage time in a useful and interesting way.

Annual Assembly of the Benefactors



The Annual Assembly of the Benefactors plays a vital role in nurturing the enthusiasm and dedication of all those who support our mission. It is a privileged moment to renew our shared commitment to promoting progress in the world through instruction, education, and the human formation of poor and needy children. This year, around 150 benefactors from different parts of Italy gathered for the event. The assembly opened with prayers for all benefactors and for the children entrusted to our care—those whose lives are being transformed through education and love.



The presidential address of Bro. Mathew Kavumkal followed, offering words of gratitude, inspiration, and renewed vision. A particularly meaningful moment was the presentation of a new book recounting the rich experiences of one benefactor during several visits to India and the Philippines alongside Bro. Mathew. The book, titled “Anime Colorate”—“Colourful





Souls”—captured the hearts of all present, and every copy was sold immediately. The proceeds were entirely dedicated to purchasing tailoring machines for a new tailoring centre at Birsa Munda High School, located in a remote forest area where Bro. Markose carries out his remarkable mission.

The programme continued with the touching video testimony of a young woman whom our organisation accompanied from primary school all the way to completing her B.Sc. in Nursing. Her story is but one example among thousands of students who, thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, have completed their studies and now work around the world, earning dignified salaries and contributing positively to society. The spiritual heart of the assembly was the celebration of the Sunday Mass, presided over by Don Mario Vanin, giving thanks to God for the countless blessings received.

At the conclusion of the intense and grace-filled morning, the benefactors were welcomed into the Montfort Hall for a richly prepared fraternal



lunch. A dedicated group of benefactors had volunteered to cook a generous and delicious meal for everyone—a gesture that was warmly appreciated by all.

Bro. Mathew Kavumkal expressed heartfelt thanks to each participant, to all who contributed to the preparation of the assembly, and to the animation group “We Sing in the Name of Jesus” for their joyful and uplifting presence.

Visit to Birsa Munda School and Inauguration of the Tailoring Centre



Immediately after the assembly, we sent help to purchase 20 new tailoring machines, and truly good and efficient machines were acquired. Benefactor Dei Rossi Giuseppe and I then planned a journey to that region to inaugurate the new tailoring centre and to visit a number of poor students living in remote villages, often without even the minimum essential comforts of human life.

Our visit became a moment of deep joy. We inaugurated the centre for the happiness of the students and their parents, who welcomed this new opportunity with gratitude and renewed hope. Even the Panchayat President and the Panchayat administrators took part in the short but highly meaningful ceremony, dedicated to promoting true progress.

With this initiative, we have offered the children and their families one more possibility to



develop their talents, to build a better future, and to experience the dignity that comes from education, skill, and opportunity.



Meeting the Disabled at Kazipet, Telengana
 One full day was dedicated to being with the disabled in a home set up for them at Kazipet, Fatimanagar. The most important thing for me was simply to be with them: to spend time with them, to help them during their meals, to bring joy into their lives, and to make them feel that they are truly wanted and deeply loved. Each one of them was gifted with a new bedsheet as a small sign of care and affection.

Meeting the Lepers at Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh



Another day was dedicated to visiting the lepers of the Bhimavaram area in Andhra Pradesh. These are people whom nobody wants, people whom others are afraid to meet or even to touch. I spent one full day with them and for them. I touched them, greeted them warmly, spoke with them, and tried to make them happy. Each one received a small bag containing 5 Kg rice, dhal, sugar, salt, and cooking spices. They were very happy and thanked me sincerely for the love shown to them and for the time dedicated to them.



A Visit to the PIN School, Hyderabad
 Every time I visited Hyderabad, ever since 2001, I considered it a joyful duty to visit the PIN School and to encourage the Brothers and teachers to be courageous and committed in continuing the challenging task of running a group of small schools in the slum area near Chaderghat Bridge, Hyderabad. My joy has always been to sow seeds of joy and courage, to show love and affection to the children who have a sincere desire to benefit from the education offered in these small schools.

Bro Mathew Kavumkal, SG



THE 49 BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL AND THEIR CHAPLIN

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



Rufino OCHOA PÉREZ
Brother José María, 39 years old
Born in Erenchun (Álava)

Having completed his Scholasticate he was sent to teach to San Sadurn in 1915. In the year 1920 he was reassigned to Valls, and during 15 years, this was his apostolic assignment as teacher of Literature and Philosophy and as Director in 1928. He was one of the supporting columns of that center that served as a model, from where so many men emerged who honored him for his knowledge and virtue.

In 1935 he was named Master of the Novices and in 1936 Director of the Scholasticate. He stood out from the first day on as Spiritual Director in the religious learning of the students that were being trained who cared for him dearly and respected him greatly. It sufficed to watch him up close in order to note that he was a good religious person in all aspects and that at the same time he was a literary person too. He never avoided effort and disliked when others did not give their utmost, always wishing for a serious effort, an excellent manner with which to educate generous hearts.

His politeness and gentleness of manner made him stand out and be appreciated. We grew greatly watching him pray. During the Can Valls assault in October of 1936, he was the one that accompanied the militia throughout the house to register it. He was able to calm them and avoid a real tragedy. In the last assault to the property in November, he animated the pupils telling them: "Better to die than to commit a mortal sin..."

Martyrdom: Common narration

Through Brother José María, grant us Lord, his courtesy and the kindness of his manners, his deep religious spirit and his courage in the face of danger.



Salvador PIGEM ROSET
Brother Martirián, 39 years old
Born in Bañolas (Gerona)

During his three years military service in Burgos, he remained very interested in persevering in his vocation. His confessor, a Jesuit priest, often relayed a very good impression he had of him. He taught with great success in Castelló de Ampurias, in San Sadurní de Noya and in San Adrián de Besós. He was an excellent religious person, well encased in the Gabrielite spirit.

He was Director of the Juniorate of Can Valls, an expert meteorologist; clever about nature, he excelled in artistic tasks and drawings of nature, as well as in photography. He was joyful and always had many things to tell, but above all he was a religious person who knew how to adapt to the circumstances and had a great deal of brotherly charity.

He was gentle and fatherly with the juniors and his spiritual speeches and lectures were amenable and adapted to the youthful audience that listened to him with rapture. When explaining the life of the Christian Martyrs he trembled with emotion. Without a doubt he envisioned that he too would forcibly become a martyr of Christ. He would have been able to save himself with his family's help but he chose to remain with the group of Brothers and succumb to their same fate. He tried to defend his students before the militia on the last day of his life, confronted with the assault by those of the anarchist F.A.I (Federación Anarquista Ibérica).

Martyrdom: Common narration

Through Brother Martin grant us Lord, his joyful spirit, his brotherly charity and his generosity and gentleness in his relations with the young ones.



"To Jesus through Mary"

- St. Louis Marie de Montfort