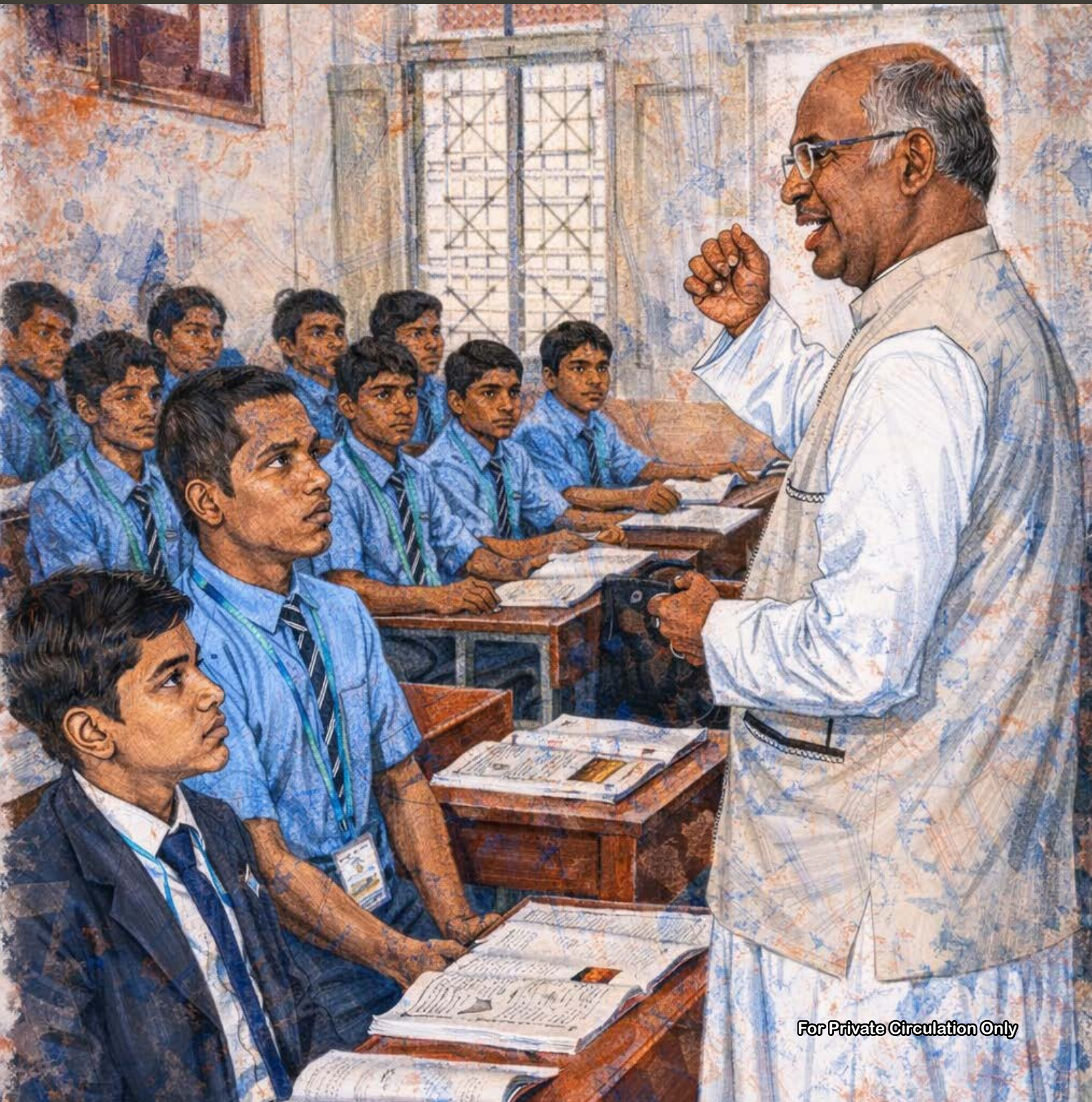




# Gabrielite

## News Bulletin

ISSUE : 219 March 2026



For Private Circulation Only

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**Dear Readers,**

**Kindly send the News, Articles, Photos from your respective Provinces latest by 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

**E- Mail to [sginfo@fsgroma.org](mailto:sginfo@fsgroma.org)**

**WhatsApp +39 3756666009**

**The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be published in June 2026.**



**Bro. Dhana Raj, Assistant General in charge of the Pune Province, visited the communities and institutions of the province from 06 January to 31 January 2026.**

**Photo: Bro. Dhana Raj is interacting with the students of the All Saints' High School, Hyderabad.**

# Editorial

This 219<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gabrielite News Bulletin features contributions from 13 provinces, the Vice Province of Madagascar, Casa Generalizia and the Istituto Ca' Florens Istrana. Thanks to the timely submissions, we have been able to publish this issue on schedule.

The articles from the various provinces highlight special events that have taken place over the past three months, as well as formation sessions held in the provinces. Many provinces have made an effort to provide comprehensive reports of their activities, offering readers a panoramic view of the provinces. The articles from the provinces of France and Spain, in particular, present meaningful experiences and testimonies of the Brothers. Articles from Casa Generalizia and the Province of East Africa cover the visits of the Superior General and the Assistant General. This issue does not feature a dedicated partnership news section; however, the Provinces of Delhi, Hyderabad, Yercaud, and Ranchi have shared updates on recent activities and formation sessions of the Montfortian Gabrielite associates.

You will find a must-read article by Bro. Jimmy George Kalapurayil, on page 10, in which he outlines the important steps we need to take to ensure the safety of the children in our care. He further highlights how, as Brothers responsible for the education of young people in schools and social action centres, we must safeguard and protect them. You will find a brief report on the annual meeting of the three Central Administrations of the Montfortian Family on page 9, reported by Bro. Jean Marie Thior.

I would like to thank all the Provincials and communication coordinators for contributing articles to this issue. Special thanks go to Brother Marcel Chapeleau for translating the articles from English into French and to Brothers Jean Marie Thior, Jean Marie N'dour, Jimmy Kalapurayil, Jaico Gervasis and Sébastien Ndabunganiye for proofreading the texts.

As we enter Holy Week, I wish you all a week filled with prayer and grace. I also wish you all a happy Easter. May the risen Lord bring peace to our world.

Bro. Louis Anthonysamy, SG  
In-charge of Communication

## The Superior General's visit to Nova Contagem, Brazil.

From 16 to 22 January 2026, Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, the Superior General visited the Nova Contagem community in Brazil, which has been under the direct responsibility of the Central Administration since 2022.

The Brothers showcased the wonderful work of Brothers Daniel Petiteau, Marcos Rodarte and José Valdir. The neighbourhood and the parish deeply appreciate their presence for their pastoral and social service, and for their witness of fraternal life.

The community's collaboration with the Montfort Missionaries is particularly significant, as they support the GAMO (Friends of Montfort) groups and promote Montfortian spirituality across various cities in Brazil.

The community also runs the CECOM (Community Education Centre), which offers training courses to the local population. It also collaborates with the Conference of Religious of Minas Gerais in the formation of religious candidates.



*Brother Marcos animates a meeting with the GAMO's group of Nova Contagem*



*The Nova Contagem neighbourhood where the community resides*



*Our Brothers in Brazil*



*Community house in Nova Contagem*



*Formation centre CECOM*

# Visit of Superior General to the District of South-East Asia

From 29 January to 11 February, Brother Dionigi visited the communities in Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines which are part of the District of South East Asia. Unfortunately, he was unable to visit the mission in Myanmar for security reasons.

The Superior General was able to experience the warmth and hospitality of the communities, as well as witness the significant work of our Brothers and Collaborators, who focus on helping the most vulnerable boys, girls and young people, in line with the educational tradition of Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel.

Congratulations to all the Brothers and collaborators who continue the mission of forming and educating the new generation with great energy and professionalism, equipping them with the tools they need to face the future. The Superior General also greatly appreciated the presence of some groups of associates, especially the group from Sabah, who embody the values of Montfortian spirituality with great enthusiasm.





## The Superior General's Historic Visit to Indonesia

Rev. Bro. Dionigi Taffarello made his canonical visit to Flores Island, Indonesia, from 12 to 15 February 2026. This visit marked the beginning of a hopeful new chapter for the Montfort Brothers in Indonesia. It began with a Holy Mass, followed by a carefully planned programme including fraternal dialogue with the Brothers, meetings with the local bishop and Montfort missionaries, and visits to land in Ruteng.

A significant moment was the meeting with the Vicar General and the Bishop's secretary, as the local bishop was unavailable. We discussed the possibility of starting an educational mission with them. He also met Fr Anton, the Provincial Superior of the Montfort Missionaries and the Daughters of Wisdom, thereby strengthening our bonds within the Montfortian family further.

As it says in Matthew 9:37, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest'. This scripture encapsulates the spirit of the Indonesian mission. Our dedication to the educational mission reflect the heart of the Montfortian Gabrielite charism, hope to add wisdom and faith to Indonesia's fertile soil. The visit to Ruteng held special significance, as Rev. Bro. Dionigi Taffarello saw the land where our educational mission will take root. God's providence continues to guide the Montfort Brothers into new territories, enabling us to expand our reach and serve more Indonesian youth and families.

Bro. Antony, SG





## Meeting of the 3 Central Administrations of the Montfortian Family.

The traditional meeting of the three Central Administrations of the Montfortian Family took place from 23 to 25 March 2026 at the General House of the Brothers of St. Gabriel.

The first day was dedicated to sharing news and experiences, a valuable opportunity to learn from others' successes, progress and setbacks. It was also an opportunity to strengthen

fraternal collaboration between the Montfort Missionaries, the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. In this context, particular attention was paid to Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre and Pontchâteau with a view to fostering greater collaboration and synergy between the three congregations, taking into account the human and financial resources available.





On the second day, the members of the central administrations had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Montecassino and Casamaria Abbey. It was a unique experience that combined prayer, history and sightseeing, with the invaluable assistance of guides who are passionate about monastic life.

monastery, a true masterpiece of Cistercian architecture.

The highlight was seeing how the monastery of Montecassino, founded in 529 by Saint Benedict, has endured through the centuries and adapted to each era without compromising its identity.



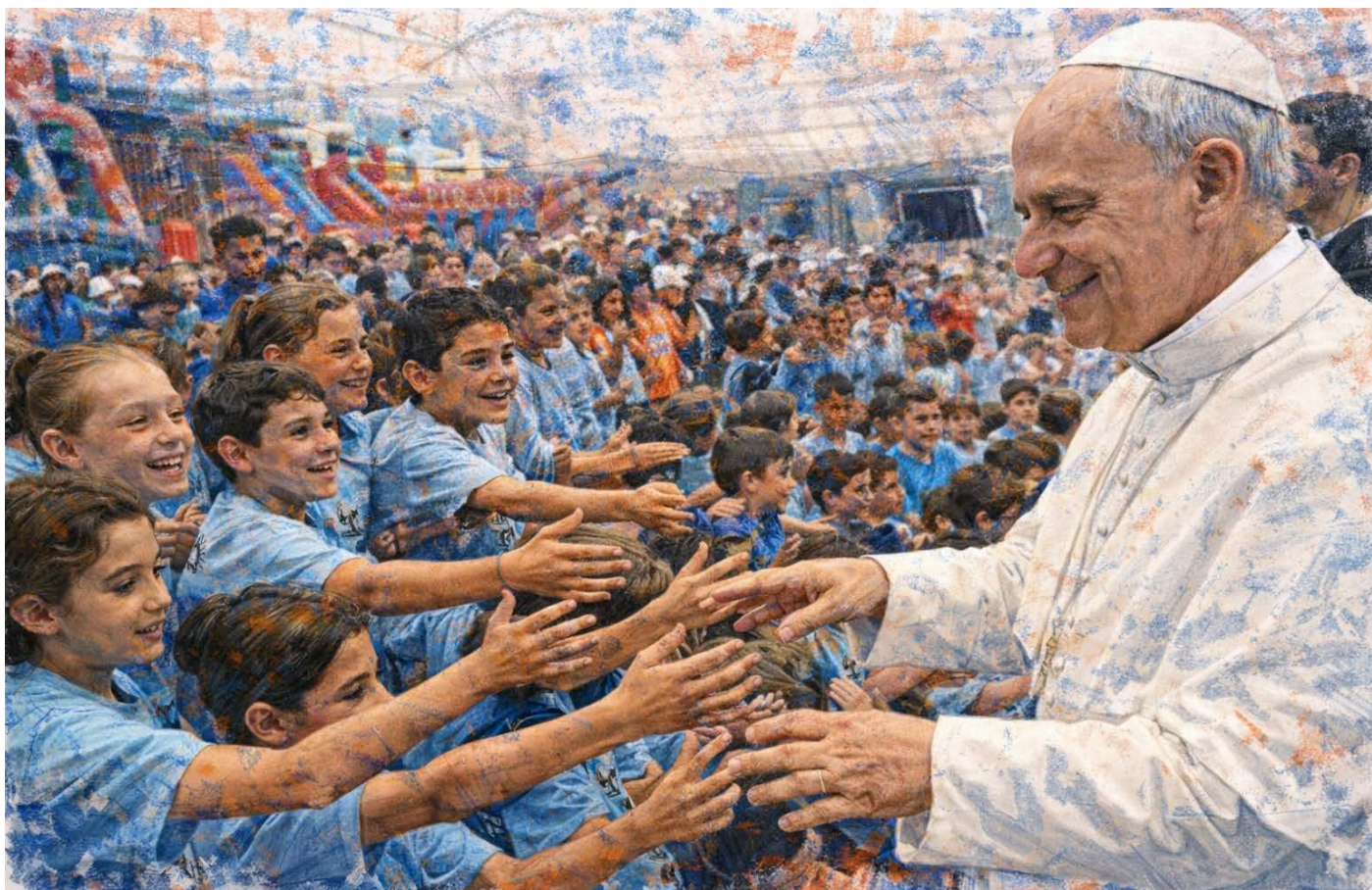
On the way back to Rome, a halt was made at Casamaria Abbey, which is less well known than Montecassino. The foundation of Casamaria Abbey dates back to the beginning of the second millennium, when a group of priests from Veroli, wishing to establish a Benedictine monastic community, began building a monastery on the ruins of Cereate, the birthplace of the Roman consul Caius Marius, from whom the name Casamaria, 'House of Marius', derives. Towards the middle of the 12th century, the Benedictine monks were replaced by the Cistercians, who, in a relatively short space of time, built the present

On the third day, we celebrated 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation and the patronal feast of the Montfortian family. Mass was presided over by Father Yoseph Putra Dwi, Superior General of the Montfortian Missionaries, followed by a festive meal. The 2027 meeting will be organised by the Montfort Missionaries.

Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, SG  
Assistant General.



## Safeguarding Perspective



Pope Leo, while addressing the ‘Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors’, on the 16th of March 2026, emphasised the importance of prevention of abuse. He stated, "Your mission is to help ensure that abuse is prevented. Yet prevention is never just a set of protocols or procedures. It is about helping to form, throughout the Church, a culture of care, in which the protection of minors and persons in vulnerable situations, is not seen as an obligation imposed from outside, but as a natural expression of faith." With this message, Pope Leo reiterated that safeguarding is not just having policies and protocols but requires the commitment to implement them.

**“ prevention is never just a set of protocols or procedures. It is about helping to form, throughout the Church, a culture of care. ”**

The responsibility for fostering safety and respecting the dignity of every individual does not rest solely on leaders, it is a collective task. Each person must play a crucial role in building and sustaining a secure environment for all. While it is easy to talk about these ideals, putting them into practice demands effort and intention. Openness to embrace these practices means embracing the golden rule, "Do unto others what you want them to do for you." By doing so, we nurture a genuine culture of care, where the protection and dignity of every person become a shared responsibility.

Our mission encompasses children, youth, and other vulnerable sections of the society. Ensuring their safety and well-being shall be the top priority in all our initiatives and programs. The prevention of abuse in all its forms is of paramount importance. Let us journey towards a better understanding of safeguarding and its scope.

## Understanding Safeguarding and its Scope

Safeguarding is a concept that is often not clearly grasped by everyone. For instance, I remember a conversation with a friend who asked, “Are you safeguarding the assets of the Congregation?” While the question was amusing and funny, it highlighted a common misconception about what safeguarding truly means. Safeguarding is about fostering a culture of safety and respecting the dignity of every person, with a particular focus on minors and vulnerable adults.

Vulnerability is an experience that affects everyone at different times and in various circumstances. Both the students and staff within our institutions may encounter vulnerability at different moments. It is our responsibility and their right to ensure that they are protected during these times. Providing protection is not simply a favour granted to them, it is an expectation and obligation that we must fulfill. Parents place a great deal of trust in us when they entrust their wards to our institutions. We must honour their trust by creating the right environment, one that ensures the safety, security, and well-being of all, while also respecting their rights and dignity.

**“ The responsibility for fostering safety and respecting the dignity of every individual does not rest solely on leaders, it is a collective task. ”**

This commitment forms the foundation of our safeguarding efforts.

Within society and institutions, power, position, and authority play significant roles. However, it is essential to recognise that true authority should not diminish human rights or freedom; rather, it should serve to enhance them. When power is misused or authority is abused, it leads to violations of people’s rights, dignity, and freedom. This reality highlights the importance and relevance of safeguarding in our context.

### Change of Mindset and Culture

Although we have, well established policies, protocols, and guidelines, there remains a significant gap between the documents and the reality. Many people assume that these rules are



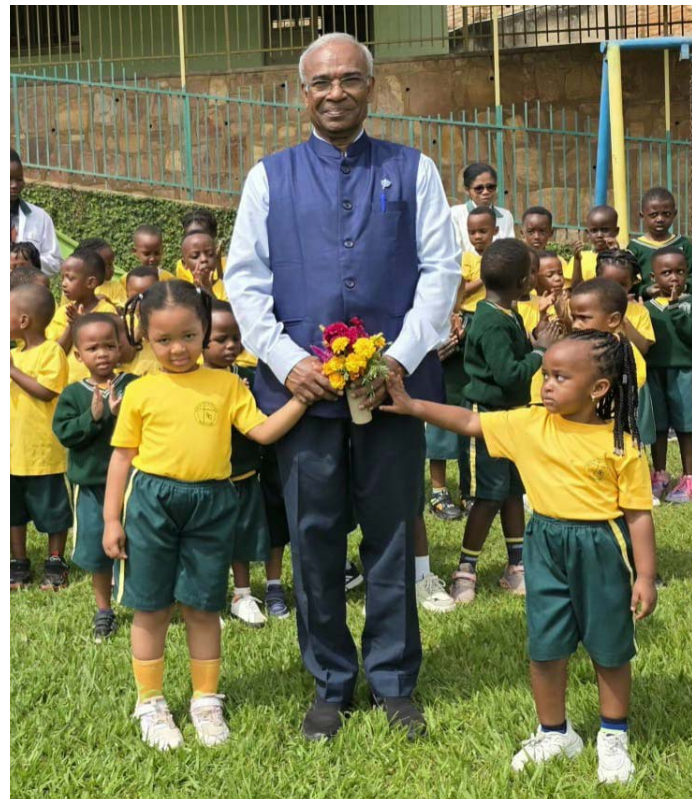
only intended for those who have done wrong, distancing themselves from responsibility. We sometimes fall into the pattern of playing the "good Cop, bad Cop"—quick to notice the faults in others, yet reluctant to acknowledge our own. This is why a shift in mindset and attitude is crucial. As the saying goes, "Be the change that I would like to see in the world." If each of us strives to live by the values of the Gospel such as compassion, justice, mercy and love and live by "Congregational Spirituality and Charism," I have no doubt to say that we will truly foster a culture of safety and security for everyone.

This commitment must be woven into our daily lives and mission, not just remain as paperwork in the office of the Provincial or Local Superior. The rules serve as reminders that we should relate to others with dignity and respect, honouring their rights and not violating them. We could routinely reflect and discern our own behaviour which might go against these rules, which could form the basis of our personal accountability. We also need to promote dignity and respect within our community by listening actively to a colleague, intervening when we witness disrespect, or simply offering support to someone in need. By taking these steps, we can bridge the gap between policy and reality, creating a safer and more respectful environment for all.

## Safeguarding Principles

There are certain core principles of safeguarding. These principles guide us forward in all that we undertake in our institutions. They assist us in our planning and in organising different programs. They are as follows:

**Best interests of the child:** All the programs and activities in our institutions must be undertaken ensuring the best interest of



the child. The environment, the people, the structures all intentionally designed to support their well-being. The welfare of the child is central to our mission and there should be no compromise when it comes to protecting their interests. When responding to incidents of abusive behaviour, it is essential to proceed with utmost caution, always keeping the child's welfare at the forefront throughout the process. Any violation of a child's rights must be addressed immediately. It is the moral obligation of institutional leaders to prevent such violations and to intervene swiftly whenever the rights of a child are threatened or compromised. This unwavering commitment ensures that the child's safety and welfare are consistently prioritized in every decision and action taken within our institution.

**Zero tolerance of abuse:** When abusive behaviours are reported or observed, prompt action is to be taken, any delay might be detrimental to the safety and security of the persons concerned. There is a tendency to conceal incidents of misconduct or wrongdoing to protect the reputation of individuals or the institution. It is here that clear policies, guidelines, procedures and protocols are in place to deal with such situations, while respecting the cultural context and civil law.

“

**The welfare of the child is central to our mission and there should be no compromise.**

”



**Respect for dignity:** Another important dimension of safeguarding is to respect the dignity of all persons. Irrespective of the age, profession and place all need to be respected and it is their right. Respecting the boundaries in relationship is a must in this process. A good awareness and understanding of this will create safe spaces in our institutions thus protecting the dignity of all especially those in vulnerable situations like children and vulnerable adults.

**Transparency and accountability:** They are part of the good governance in any system. The written Policy and Guidelines is made readily available to all in the language of their preference. Role clarity is an important factor specially those responsible for follow up actions and those under various leadership. Ambiguity can prevent them from realizing the goals set by the institution.

## Formation for Safeguarding

We have seen that Safeguarding is the responsibility of the institutions to make sure that their staff, operations and programs, do no harm to children and adults at-risk, nor expose them to abuse or exploitation. To make this a reality, there needs to be proper training and awareness programs organised for all stake holders in the mission. It is not just a one-time program but periodically organised so that all are reminded about their duties and responsibilities. The professional 'Code of Conduct' is signed by all the staff and understands the need to abide by them. There is greater awareness of the consequences when the rules are violated with emphasis on personal accountability.

Training and formation for safeguarding is to be given to all members of the Congregation.

Our formees are to be given good human formation, which can make a lot of difference in their outlook. "This formation be multifaceted and rooted in fundamental points as: divine motivation - that the person knows how to dedicate himself completely to God; the personalization of the journey - self-formation: through which the person forms himself in the exercise of the virtues; integral and harmonious connection - with all the other areas of the formation (academic, psychological, social); apostolic focus - reminding the candidates that they are to be Christ's apostles; gradual development- following the stages of the person's developmental process; and teaching the candidate that he should never feel completely formed" (Dr. Angela Rinaldi, PUG). All this leads the person to recognise his talents and to acquire self-acceptance to be himself while always ready to be formed all through life (continuous and ongoing formation).

“

**Safeguarding goes beyond being a mere obligation, it is a commitment to uphold justice and truth.**

”

## Conclusion

Establishing safe and supportive environments within our institutions requires a comprehensive, collective approach. All stakeholders must work together, uniting their efforts to ensure that these environments are secure, safe and nurturing. Collaboration is the cornerstone of success, as everyone brings unique perspectives and strengths to the safeguarding mission. Safeguarding goes beyond being a mere obligation, it is a commitment to uphold justice and truth. Acting as advocates for positive change, we must continually protect the rights and dignity of all, reinforcing our dedication to fairness and integrity in every aspect of our institutional life. **Are we ready?**

Bro. Jimmy George Kalapurayil, SG  
Officer Safeguarding.

# Province of Pune



## Seeds of Hope in the Pearl of Africa

### The Growing Mission of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel in Uganda

Uganda, often called the “Pearl of Africa,” is a land blessed with rich culture, deep faith, and vibrant communities. In this beautiful nation, the mission of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel from the Province of Pune has been steadily growing and bearing fruit. What began as a humble missionary effort has today become a meaningful apostolate that brings hope, education, and spiritual formation to many young lives.

Inspired by the missionary spirit of our founder, St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, the Brothers believe that education is one of the most powerful means of transforming society. Through dedication, prayer, and collaboration, the Montfortian presence in Uganda has grown into a promising mission that touches the lives of children, families, and local communities. Today the Uganda mission has two vibrant communities and three flourishing institutions: Montfort Mpala, Montfort Home Kyebando, and Pere Achte Senior Secondary School in Fort Portal. Each of these centres reflects the missionary zeal, sacrifice, and dedication of the Brothers serving there.

### Montfort Home, Mpala :

The Montfort Home at Mpala is one of the newest yet most promising centres of the mission. The community consists of two Brothers: Bro. Sandeep Marneni, who serves as the Local Superior, and Bro. Theophile, the Local Bursar. Their tireless dedication and missionary enthusiasm have played a significant role in bringing this mission to life.

A historic moment for the Mpala mission took place on 9th February when the newly constructed school building was solemnly inaugurated. The celebration was deeply meaningful and spiritually uplifting for everyone present. The building was blessed by





the Archbishop of Kampala, Archbishop Paul Ssemogerere, together with the Vicar General, several Priests, and Religious.

The ceremony was attended by parishioners, school staff, and the first group of students. The children and staff members were specially blessed during the celebration, marking the beginning of a new educational journey for the community.

Remarkably, the academic year began immediately the next day. The school currently runs classes up to Grade Three, and already 43 students have enrolled. The warm welcome from the local community has been encouraging, and the school is steadily gaining



recognition as a place of quality education and moral formation.

Adjacent to the Mpala community lies a beautiful 4½ acres of land at Kigero, located close to Lake Victoria and near Entebbe International Airport. This land has great potential for future development, especially for establishing a secondary and senior secondary school.

In a moment filled with hope and prayer, Bro. Dhanraj, Assistant General, laid the foundation stone in the presence of the Brothers and the Parish Priest. This symbolic act marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Montfort mission in Uganda.





## Montfort Home, Kyebando :

The mission at Kyebando is another vibrant centre of Montfortian activity in Uganda. Here the Brothers run a primary school with boarding facilities, which has quickly become a beacon of hope for many families seeking quality education for their children.

The dedicated efforts of Bro. Jayanth Reddy, Bro. Andrew, and Bro. Sebastian K.M. are clearly visible in the development of this institution. Through their commitment and hard work, the school has grown significantly within a short period.

The number of students has increased from 50 to nearly 250, reflecting the trust and confidence that the local community places in the Montfort educational mission. Parents appreciate the school not only for its academic standards but also for the values and discipline imparted to the students.

Another encouraging development at Kyebando is the beginning of the formation programme. At present, one young candidate has begun discerning his vocation to Religious life, and several others have shown interest in joining in the future. This is a hopeful sign that the mission is not only educating children but also nurturing future vocations.

With its growing student population and the beginning of local vocations, Kyebando is steadily becoming a strong pillar of the Montfort presence in Uganda.





## **Pere Achte Senior Secondary School – Fort Portal:**

A significant milestone in the Uganda mission is the establishment of Pere Achte Senior Secondary School in Fort Portal. This institution was acquired through the combined efforts of the Province of Pune with the support of the Romain Landry Board in Canada and the Generalate in Rome.

The school is a well-established senior secondary institution with boarding facilities for both boys and girls. With more than 350 students already enrolled, the institution serves a large number of young people from the surrounding communities.

The campus includes approximately 20 acres of land along with a residence for the Brothers. This spacious environment provides immense opportunities for further development of the educational mission.

The need for quality education among poor children in the region is great, and the presence of the Montfort Brothers in Fort Portal is both relevant and transformative.

A major administrative milestone has recently been achieved as the land titles for the property have been received, and the process of transferring them to the mission's company is underway. This important step secures the future stability and development of the institution.

## **A Mission Blessed by Faith and Dedication:**

The mission in Uganda has deeply touched the hearts of many who have visited and witnessed its progress. Several Brothers have expressed how their perception of Uganda changed



after seeing the balanced, well-organized, and steadily growing mission.

The success and steady growth of the mission are the fruits of the dedicated efforts of many Brothers: Bro. Jaico Gervasis, Bro. Joseph M., Bro. Sandeep Marneni, Bro. Jayanth Reddy, Bro. Sebastian K.M., Bro. Andrew, and Bro. Theophile. Their commitment, sacrifice, and missionary zeal continue to strengthen and expand the Montfort presence in this blessed land.

This mission would not have been possible without the generous support of the Generalate in Rome, the Romain Landry Board in Canada, and the constant encouragement and assistance from the Province of Pune and the East Africa region, as well as many benefactors and well-wishers.

Indeed, the Uganda mission stands today as a testimony that when faith meets dedication, the mission blossoms bringing hope, education, and transformation to countless young lives.

Guided by the spirit of St. Montfort and the missionary charism of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, the mission continues to grow with confidence in God's loving providence. Let us continue to pray for the mission in Uganda, that it may flourish further and serve many more generations in the years to come.

**For more details:** [www.montfortbrothersuganda.com](http://www.montfortbrothersuganda.com)



# Province of Delhi



## Retreat cum Winter Seminar for Junior Brothers

The retreat for the junior Brothers was organised at Montfort Villa, Bhopal, from 27th Dec 2025 to 1st Jan 2026. We were 25 participants. It was a spiritually enriching experience that helped the participants to renew their minds and hearts, in the light of the scripture:

"Renew your mind, and you will discover God's will for your life"(Rom12:2).

The retreat commenced on 27th Dec 2025 noon with a solemn Mass, which set a sacred tone for the days that followed. This was followed by an introductory session in which the Provincial Superior Bro. Thampy Alex, who introduced the retreat animator Fr. Dev Francis, SJ and emphasised its purpose and significance.

Then the retreat animator led the participants into a deeper understanding of the meaning,

aims, and importance of the retreat, highlighting both its special benefits and the discipline it requires.

Each day of the retreat was carefully structured with two main sessions that focused on self-reflection, prayer and spiritual renewal. The sessions were meaningful, engaging and well organised, enabling the participants to actively involve themselves in the process.

The retreat concluded meaningfully on 1st January 2026 noon with a thanksgiving service for the blessings of the past year and a joyful welcome of the New Year 2026. The retreat ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks proposed by Bro. Prakash Tirkey, SG who expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the retreat.

Bros. Suresh Ekka & Vijay Minj, SG

## "SILENCE THE MIND, AWAKEN THE SPIRIT."

Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self, to the Self.

The practice of yoga formed an integral part of the daily routine. Brothers participated whole heartedly in the morning yoga sessions, which were guided by Bro. T.T. Mathew (PFD).

These Yoga sessions greatly contributed to physical relaxation, mental clarity, and spiritual focus.





The seminar for the junior Brothers commenced on 2nd January 2026. The seminar sessions were informative and formative, providing valuable insights for personal growth and community life. Classes by Brother TT Mathew helped us to rediscover and know how to read a new book in a proper way. Every participant reviewed the book, 'How to Give a Speech' by Gary Genard. The book review presentations, with the help of PowerPoint slides by the junior brothers, clearly illustrated how to become an effective speaker. We learnt from the book the four ways to captivate any audience, following:

- 1) Make eye contact
- 2) Enjoy yourself when you speak
- 3) Smile
- 4) Energise your voice.

Another useful thing we learnt from the book is how to deal with sceptical audiences and Resistance.

The first two sessions by Sr. Dr. Betty, OSB were on how to domesticate our life based on Neuroscience. Quoting Mt 6: 5-8 she explained to us the importance of daily mindful meditation in our life as consecrated persons. She added that we get 75% of information from outside through our eyes, 12.5 % through

our ears, and the rest of 12.5% through our skin, tongue, and nose. Therefore, we close our eyes during mindful meditation and it helps us to concentrate, get into our inner self, and get connected with God. We need to get disconnected with our sensory world in order to pray well. The human body has an estimated 86 billion neurons in the brain. By our earlier habits we have created certain neuron pathways and they got strengthened/established. That is why we behave in a particular way.

She further added that through mindful meditation we have to remove the established neuron pathways and create new pathways in order to change our behaviour. In order to highlight her point, she stated, "When you plant a sapling, you need to put a fence around it. Otherwise, the cattle will destroy it. When it becomes a tree, you can tie an elephant on it." Here the seed is the motivation, the fence is the discipline. The religious discipline helps us to rewire the damaged brain. The cattle are the distractions. What causes the damage are the bad habits, addictions, unhealthy relationships, etc. The grown tree is a spiritually matured person. Such a person cannot be distracted.

When you rewire neural pathways, you are putting a fence around the sapling. When we have divinity within us, people will be attracted to us.



On the following day Sr. Dr. Betty dealt with mid-life (35-40 years) and its challenges. Mid-life is a transition period; some call it a crisis period. Carl Jung calls it 'a second life.' The crisis a person experiences at mid-life is closely related his/her past life. In mid-life there is a need for recognition and appreciation. Till middle age we work for success. After middle age we look for meaning in life. She underlined, "If you can bring a smile on the face of another, your life is meaningful." Our identity is nothing but the sense of belonging to Christ. It is not our power or position that gives us genuine identity. They are temporary. She further stated that if we introspect our life, we will realise that miracles are happening in our lives every moment/day. Therefore, let us live each moment of our lives joyously with gratitude.

It is one's identity crisis that leads a person to addiction. The conviction, "I am a child of God" gives me self-esteem and identity. These sessions were enlightening and motivating.

The seminar was concluded on 6th January noon with the Holy Mass offered by Fr. Benny Thettayil, CMI. At the close of the seminar heartfelt vote of thanks was proposed by Bro. Rahul Tirkey, SG.

Overall, the retreat and the seminar proved to be a spiritually uplifting and enriching experience. It strengthened the Junior Brothers in faith, renewed their commitment, and inspired them to continue their journey with renewed zeal, deeper awareness, and a stronger sense of purpose.

## Founder's Day Celebration & MGA Meeting



**T**he MGA meeting and prayer service was held at Montfort Inter College, Lucknow in observance of Founder's Day, on 31st January 2026 commemorating our founder St. Louis Grignon de Montfort. The gathering began with prayer and reflection on his life, spirituality, and unwavering devotion to Mary. Members reflected on his mission and teachings, drawing inspiration to deepen their faith and commitment to service.

During the meeting, members also engaged in a meaningful discussion on organising a charity programme. Plans were proposed

for the distribution of collected items to the needy, emphasising compassion, outreach, and practical service to those in need. The discussion highlighted the importance of translating faith into action and serving the less fortunate in the spirit of St. Louis de Montfort.

The programme concluded with a time of fellowship, as members shared tea and snacks, fostering unity, warmth, and mutual encouragement among all present.

Mrs. Ashna Paulose

# Province of Bengaluru

## Highlights from the Province of Bengaluru

The Inauguration and Blessing of the Montfort Auditorium of Lake Montfort School, Bengaluru was held on 8 November 2025 at 9:15 a.m., marking an important milestone for the school. The programme began with a solemn Holy Mass and Eucharistic celebration. The formal inauguration was led by Bro. Jenny Kuriakose, Provincial Superior of the Province of Bengaluru. In his address, he emphasised the significance of creating spaces that inspire creativity, foster character formation, and support the holistic growth of students. His message reinforced the school's ongoing commitment to excellence and value-driven education. Following this, the auditorium was blessed by His Grace, Most Rev. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bengaluru. He commended the school's vision and dedication, expressing the hope that the new facility would become a centre for learning, culture, and community development. With its modern design and advanced amenities, the Montfort Auditorium stands as a symbol of progress and aspiration.



honoured by the presence of notable guests, including Mr. Mayilvahanan, an International Athlete, and Mr. Arasu, a World Champion in Bodybuilding, alongside Bro. Jesuraj SG, the Local Superior of the Pallavaram Community. Bro. Stephen Xavier, the Principal, warmly welcomed all attendees, while the events were efficiently coordinated by Mr Sukesh Menon, an alumnus of Montfort School Yercaud, and Dr M. S. Nagarajan, the Regional Sports Director for Special Olympics Bharat.

On 4th September, Montfort School, Alandur celebrated Teachers' Day with great joy and gratitude at Montfort Higher Secondary School, Alandur. The management honoured all our teachers with thoughtful gifts. A special lunch was arranged as a token of appreciation for their dedicated service. Our students warmly welcomed their teachers with love and enthusiasm, making the celebration truly memorable and meaningful.



The 14th Unified Sports Meet, hosted by the Montfort Community Development Society and Montfort Inclusive School, was held on November 22, 2025, at the Montfort School Playgrounds in St. Thomas Mount, Chennai. This event highlighted the essence of inclusivity, uniting over 280 special children from various organisations such as VidyaSagar, Abhyas, Kare, NIOS, and the four centres of MCDS (Montfort Community Development Centre): Semmenchery, Kannagi Nagar, Srinivasapuram, and Old Perumbakkam. The gathering was



The Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Bro. Thomas Thottiyil was well organised and deeply meaningful. Around 350 people joined us in this joyous celebration, including fellow jubilarians, relatives, Brothers from different provinces, Montfort fathers and sisters, religious fathers and sisters, staff from the schools where Bro. Thomas served, his students, well-wishers, and friends. This made it a meaningful moment of thanksgiving and reunion. The presence of the following jubilarians, Bro. John Kallarackal and Bro. Jose Thottiyil and Bro. Gabriel Lakra, and Bro. Joseph T. V. truly enriched our celebration and inspired us all with their faithful witness of religious life.

On 30th September, Montfort ITI, Chennai celebrated the Ayudha Pooja (ritual blessing of tools and work instruments) with great devotion and unity. As part of the celebration, all tools and machinery were thoroughly cleaned and decorated, symbolizing respect and gratitude for the instruments of our work. A Holy Mass was offered by Fr. Justin Tejas MSFS, invoking blessings for the well-being of all staff and students. It followed by Hindu traditional rituals, prayers, and offerings. The event beautifully reflected the spirit of harmony and togetherness among everyone on our campus, honouring both profession and faith.



The 10th Annual Sports Meet of Montfort CBSE School, Pondur was celebrated with great spirit and enthusiasm on 9th September at our school, highlighting the values of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. The event was distinguished by the esteemed presence of the Chief Guest Dr. C. Sylendra Babu, IPS (Indian Police Service, Retired), and Guest of Honour Dr. Vijaya Suresh, along with our Principal, Vice-Principal, and the Montfort Brothers.

Students presented a series of colourful and energetic performance, including mass drill, umbrella dance, and bamboo drill, showcasing their coordination and dedication. An inspiring address by the Chief Guest encouraged the students to pursue excellence with passion and perseverance. The event concluded with the prize distribution ceremony, celebrating the achievements of the young athletes.

Children's Day at St. Antony's School, Coonoor, celebrated on 13 November 2025, was a delightful reminder of the joy and innocence that students bring into the school each day. Teachers joined together to present exciting programmes, songs, and entertaining skits, filling the day with laughter and cheer. The smiles on the children's faces captured the true essence of the celebration.



# Province of Hyderabad



*Spiritual Retreat for Montfort Gabrielite Associates (MGA)*

**A** Two-Day Spiritual Retreat for Montfort Gabrielite Associates (MGA) was held on 29–30 December 2025 at Montfort Bhavan, Hyderabad, with 22 participants from various Montfortian institutions of the Hyderabad Province.

The retreat began with prayer and a welcome by Bro. Shine Alex, Provincial Superior. Enriching sessions by Mani Mekkunnel, Bro. Lambert, and Bro. James C.A. focused on themes such as Identity and Mission, Montfort – Prophet of Our Times and Montfortian Spirituality.

Rooted in the theme “To Jesus through Mary,” the retreat deepened Marian devotion and inspired participants to live the Gospel with renewed faith and commitment. The programme concluded with a visit to Boys Town community, accompanied by Bro. Yesu Prabhakaran, making the retreat a grace-filled and spiritually enriching experience.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association Meet

The 4th Alumni Association Meet of the Hyderabad Province was held on 18 January 2026, bringing together alumni, educators, and leaders in a spirit of unity and gratitude. The programme began with a Guard of Honour by the School Cabinet, followed by the Flag Hoisting Ceremony, prayer song, and a welcome dance by the students of Boys Town High School.

The dignitaries present included Bro. Shine Alex, Provincial Superior; Bro. Yesu Prabhakaran, Convenor of Montfort Associates & Partnership and Director of Boys Town Institutions; Bro. Show Reddy, Principal of Boys Town High School; Bro. Lawrence D’Souza, Director of Montfort Integrated Educational Centre; Dr. K. Alex, Controller of Examinations, St. Joseph’s College, Tiruchirappalli; Mr. Akula Krishna Rao, Co-Founder & COO of Effiasoft Pvt. Ltd.; and Mr. Christopher, President of Boys Town Alumni.





The programme included inspiring addresses, felicitations to heads of institutions, and sector-wise video presentations from Montfort institutions of Vijayawada, Nagpur, and Hyderabad. Cultural performances by students and alumni added colour to the celebration. The gathering concluded with the message of the Provincial Superior encouraging continued commitment to the Montfortian mission and values.

### Roots to Skies – Leadership Workshop

The Provinces of Pune and Hyderabad jointly organised a Two-Day Leadership and Legacy

Building Workshop on the theme “Roots to Skies” on 1–2 March 2026 at Montfort Bhavan, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad.

Each Province selected 16 Brothers for this formative programme. Through interactive sessions, discussions and reflections, the workshop helped participants deepen their self-awareness, leadership qualities and commitment to mission. The programme offered a meaningful opportunity for growth and equipped the Brothers to face future challenges with confidence and faith.





## MONTFORT CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

**M**ontfort Child Development Centre (MCDC) for Children with Multiple Disabilities, was initiated by our late Bro. Mathew Kuplikat and taken forward by Bro. C.A. James with full support given by the Provincial Administration of the Province of Hyderabad. It is a prophetic venture following the examples set by St. Louis De Montfort, Fr. Gabriel Deshayes and in line with the charism of Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. This mission is indeed an attempt to empower and develop differently abled children, particularly the most vulnerable and economically backward ones of our society, in collaboration with the Government and NGOs. We are using the Montfort Nilayam infrastructure and facilities for this new mission.

### MCDC Inauguration:

Montfort Child Development Centre was inaugurated by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Antony, the Archbishop of Hyderabad, in the presence of Bro. Pratap Reddy, Vicar General, Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Bro. Shine Alex, Provincial Superior of Hyderabad along with other dignitaries on the 27th June-2024. MCDC was run initially in collaboration with the Helen Keller institute for persons with disabilities.

### Therapeutic Services:

The Centre has 47 children, aged between 3

to 13 years, as regular attendees. They avail different therapeutic services; Speech Therapy, Physio Therapy, Occupation Therapy, Hydro Therapy, Nature Therapy, Group Therapy and Special Education. At present the Centre is fully supported by the Province of Hyderabad.

### Various Activities Organised In MCDC:

#### Parents, Staff, Management Interactions:

Parents, Staff and Management Interactions were regularly conducted to listen, evaluate and plan the future programs and activities. The improvements, challenges and ways to move forward were discussed and faced in a collaborative venture.

#### Awareness Seminar:

An awareness and empowerment programs for management, staff, parents and care takers were arranged to motivate on health, hygiene and nutrition matters of children and families with the disabilities. The importance of home management and collaboration was highlighted.

#### Jubilee of Justice:

The Jubilee of Justice was celebrated to make the people aware of the jubilee year and justice in the society. Caring for the vulnerable and minorities.

## Celebrations:

Important days and festivals of different religions are observed for the socialization skills, communication skills and life skills, and in order to encourage a multi-religious culture in our campus.

## Visitors:

We are happy to welcome visitors to our Centre to experience various services and activities; to learn from our special children, the contributions they can make when they are given opportunities and training, and to receive the blessings of our special children.

## Certificate of Registration:

Montfort Child Development Centre is now recognized and approved Centre for the service of Differently Abled Children by the Government of Telangana, India. We thank God for the

Certificate of Registration, obtained on 6th October-2025.

## Thanksgiving Day:

A Thanksgiving Day was organized to express our gratitude to God, the donors, collaborators, parents and Helen Keller Institute with whom we worked in solidarity for the benefit of children with disabilities. Thanking everyone for all the blessings and the achievements of the Year.

We are grateful to God for these wonderful special children to whom we can offer opportunity, training and other services to bring out their potentials and respect them as children of God. Collaborating with parents and societies to bring out best for them. As a result of our effective early intervention, children are enabled to attend regular schooling and to lead better lives.



# Province of Thailand



*After the completion of the games, all join hands to Sing Auld Lang Syne to close the day.*

## Yearly Gymkhana at St. Gabriel's College, November 27–28, 2025.

**A** sound mind in a sound body, Bro. Martin Komolmas, the Director of St. Gabriel's College, officially declared this name for the day while working at St. Gabriel's College in 1965 as the College Day. Some people called the day the "National Day of St. Gabriel's College." No one will miss the day, parents, Alumni and students. All enjoy the day very much, including the Brothers. Students use their initiative in decorating the stands, nine of them with nine different colours. Dancing and singing are practised before the College Day for months to compete with each other. Children do not tire of working till late at night. The days ended with different trophies awarded to different colours. But what they learn and profit most is unity, learning how to work together, and perseverance till the end.

"If you don't love your neighbour as yourselves, don't say you love God," a senior Brother told me before he died. On November 15, 2025, Bro. Achin Tengtrakul with 20 workers and personnel from Administrative Department joined together and went to Bethani Aged Center, visiting 75 old women under the care of Camillian sisters at Ban Pong, Ratchaburi.

They distributed the necessary food and daily living materials to them.

All these materials were donated by teachers, parents and students to bring joy and happiness on Christmas Day. We also gave them a special lunch; they sang songs for us with joy.

Their representatives expressed their thanks in tears, for they are not forgotten by the people.

Before departing the centre, Fr. Peter, a Burmese student of AU, gave them blessings. We were back with joy and happiness.



*The sisters received the donations and materials from the personnel.*



The governor of Kanchanaburi, an old student of St Gabriel' College, presided over the opening ceremony.



Receiving donations and gifts from different charitable persons.

From 5 to 6 December 2025, the Alumni Association organised the “Alumni Medical Doctor Volunteer program” in Kanchanaburi. This program is organised every year in different places. Students who prepare to pursue further study in medicine join the program.

This year, about 100 alumni who are medical doctors from different hospitals joined; they are ophthalmologists, dentists, internal medicine doctors, and orthopaedic doctors, etc.

Parents, Shops and Alumni donated many important pieces of equipment for hospitals, to the activity, such as beds for patients, medicines, oxygen tanks, blood pressure testing equipment, pulse oximeters, etc., all worth more than a million baht.

Thousands of people in the different villages came for the service for free of charge; some got new spectacles, had their teeth extracted, etc.; they were given free meals for two days.

We are grateful to the kind-hearted people who share what they have with those who have less. May God bless them.

From 16 to 18 January, The librarian social service club of St. Gabriel’s College, 17 teachers, workers, and our young Bro. Sirichai Phangrak participated in an activity at the government school “Prakob Vittaya” in Samutsongkram district, about 120 km from Bangkok.

The objectives are to uplift the standard of the school library and to encourage the students in this school in the habits of loving to read and write. Teachers also carried with them books and educational materials that are scarce. The head of the school and the teachers are very happy to have them so they can teach and achieve better results.

The workers and teachers understood what we taught them, sharing what we have with those who don’t have, following our founder’s example.



Teachers and Personnel help developing the library of Government School on Teacher's Day



*Junior Brothers who attended the session.*

## Thailand: Igniting Missionary Zeal – 2nd Junior Brothers’ Formation

BANGKOK – The Province of Thailand held the 2nd Junior Brothers' Continued Formation Seminar from 12th to 13th, of January 2026, at the Gabrielite Provincial Centre. Themed "Missionary Abroad: A Journey of Faith and Transformation," the event was facilitated by Fr. Joseph Yuthana Withayanunlak (TMS).

Opening the session, Bro. Dr. Surakit Srisrankulwong (Provincial Superior) called on the Brothers to embody the spirit of 'Liberos' remaining free from worldly attachments to serve the needy. Drawing from his mission experiences in Taiwan, Fr. Joseph urged the 15 Junior Brothers to move beyond being mere "administrators" to becoming "Bearers of Hope" through genuine cultural immersion.

Reflecting on the session, participants recognised that their religious vocation is shifting from management to "Incarnation"-

immersing oneself in a new culture and reality. They acknowledged that while leaving their comfort zones and families is challenging, it is a necessary path to spiritual maturity and a concrete expression of trust in God's providence. This formation has reignited the missionary zeal within the Province, preparing the Junior Brothers to respond generously to the call of mission beyond borders.



*After Farewell Ceremony*

On January 21, 2026, the teachers of Standard 12 (Class 105), organised a farewell ceremony for 319 students at St. Gabriel's College.

St. Gabriel's College ranked Number 1 in Thailand considering academic performance, and many other areas.

There are about 4,500 students under the care of our Brothers. We wish them to be successful in future studies in areas they are interested.

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



*Brother Provincial gave words of encouragement to junior Brothers*

# Province of Yercaud



## MGA Meeting

The MGA meeting was held on 23 January 2026 at Tindivanam, bringing together around 40 teachers and 10 Brothers from our institutions. Bro. Thomas Selvam served as the resource person for the meeting. In his insightful sharing, he emphasised the significance of value-based education in today's educational context. He encouraged educators to go beyond academic instruction and to focus on the holistic formation of students. He particularly highlighted the importance of teachers relating to children with empathy, patience, and compassion, thereby creating a nurturing environment where students feel respected, understood, and motivated to grow not only intellectually but also morally and spiritually. His reflections prompted thoughtful discussions among the participants, leading to the emergence of several practical suggestions for strengthening the value-oriented character of our institutions.

**As an outcome of the meeting, two important suggestions were put forward:**

1. Introducing and actively promoting the practice of the Legion of Mary in all our Institutions.

2. Ensuring that Catholic students of our institutions visit orphanages and old age homes in the neighbourhood at least once a year.



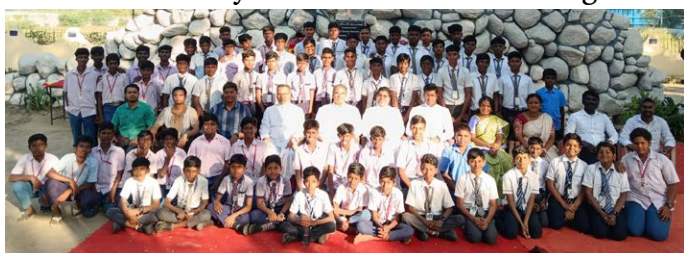


## Seminar for Catholic Students on the Life and Spirituality of St. Montfort

A one-day seminar was organised for the Catholic students of Classes VIII and X from all our schools on three different dates and at three different venues. The seminar were held on the 6th of February in Tindivanam, the 21st of February in A.N. Mangalam, and the 27th of February in Santhome, Chennai. This initiative aimed to deepen the students' understanding of Christian values and to introduce them to the inspiring life and mission of St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

The seminars were organised and animated by Bro. Thomas Selvam, who engaged the students through a variety of lively and interactive activities. His sessions helped the students to understand the life, mission, and spirituality of St. Montfort in a meaningful and practical way. He presented the life of St. Montfort as a powerful example of dedication, faith, and service to God and humanity. He highlighted Montfort's deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and his commitment to spreading the message of the Gospel.

These seminars were a good initiative by our Provincial, Bro. Domnic Savio, whose vision is to instil the values and spirit of St. Montfort among Catholic students. The seminars were also aimed to inspire young students to discern their vocation and to consider joining the congregation in the future, so that they may work in the vineyard of the Lord following



the footsteps of St. Montfort. The enthusiastic participation of the students and the meaningful sessions made the seminar both enriching and memorable for everyone involved.

## Young Missionaries

With gratitude to God, we rejoice that two of our young Brothers, Jagadesh and Arun Akash, have generously responded to the missionary call this academic year by joining our South Pacific Mission in Fiji. Bro. Jagadesh left India on 12 November 2025 and is now serving in Savusavu, while Bro. Arun Akash departed on 22 February 2026 to begin his missionary service in Suva.

Their readiness to leave their homeland and embrace an unfamiliar land is a beautiful witness to the missionary spirit of our congregation. Trusting in God's providence, they have chosen to walk the path of service, bringing the message of hope and love to the people they encounter.

May the Lord accompany them in their journey, strengthen them in their mission, and make their lives fruitful in service. May their generous response also inspire each of us to renew our own vocation and live it with deeper faith, zeal, and missionary courage.



Bro. Jagadesh



Bro. Arun Akash



## Financial Insights

A two-day seminar on, “Effective Financial Management and Strategic Budget Planning”, was conducted for the Local Superiors and Bursars from 7th to 8th March 2026 at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud. The programme was efficiently organised by Dr Vijayakumar R, Dean, School of Commerce, Accounting & Finance and Mr Suku Thomas Samuel, Head, Department of Management from Kristu Jayanti Deemed to be University, Bengaluru. The seminar proved to be highly engaging and enriching for all the participants. The sessions were thoughtfully designed and conducted in a lively manner, incorporating group activities, discussions, and healthy interactions that encouraged active participation.

During the seminar, the resource persons addressed several significant themes relevant to the financial administration of educational institutions. The topics included NEP (New Education Policy) and the Evolving Educational Landscape in India, Accounting and Financial Essentials for Educational Institutions, Strategic Budget Planning and Management, Navigating Financial Governance and Risk Management, and Sustainable Financial Planning for Educational Institutions. Each session provided practical insights, tools, and frameworks that could be applied in institutional settings. The resource persons shared their expertise

with great clarity and enthusiasm, offering valuable financial guidance and innovative ideas for effective financial administration. Their inputs helped the participants gain a deeper understanding of responsible stewardship, transparent financial practices, and long-term sustainability in institutional management. The seminar concluded on a positive note, leaving the Local Superiors and Bursars inspired and better equipped to carry out their financial responsibilities with greater confidence, accountability, and strategic vision.

## Silver Jubilee



The Montfort Community Tribal School celebrated its 25th Annual Sports Meet on September 14, 2025, with immense enthusiasm and full participation. The event was graced by Mr. S. Annadurai CLS, Director, Tribal Welfare Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, as the Chief Guest.



The school grounds buzzed with excitement as 486 young athletes showcased their talent in track and field. The day began with the Chief Guest's arrival, followed by a spectacular Guard of Honour and a spellbinding march past. Mr. Annadurai later remarked that the march past was as impressive as those by the Armed Forces. Proud parents and the public cheered the students as they competed for Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

In his address, Thiru. Annadurai was full of praise, calling the entire event "thrilling" and suggesting a new word was needed to describe the quality of the Silver Jubilee Sports Meet. He specifically appreciated that every single student participated. He acknowledged the 25 years of uplifting work by the Principal, Dr. Bro. George KJ, the Brothers, and teachers. The Chief Guest also made an earnest plea to parents, urging them to prioritise their children's education, especially for girls, noting that "educating a girl is to uplift the entire family." The inspiring celebration of sportsmanship concluded with the National Anthem.

## Diamond Jubilee

Montfort Academy Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Mylapore, Chennai, joyfully marked a significant milestone in its history as it celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with deep gratitude to God. The Diamond Jubilee Holy Mass was solemnly celebrated on 23rd January 2026 at the Montfort Indoor Stadium. The



Eucharistic celebration was reverently presided over by His Lordship Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius, Bishop of Dharmapuri Diocese. Brothers, Staff, Students, and Well-wishers gathered in prayerful devotion to thank God for sixty years of blessings, guidance, and service rendered through the Montfortian mission of education. Inspired by the vision of St. Louis Marie de Montfort and guided by the motto "God Alone," the celebration became a profound moment of thanksgiving and spiritual renewal.

As part of the jubilee celebrations, the Diamond Jubilee Annual Day was held on 30th January 2026 at the Montfort Indoor Auditorium. The programme was presided over by Bro. Dominic Savio S.G., Provincial Superior, Province of Yercaud.

The evening featured vibrant cultural programmes presented by the students, showcasing their talents and reflecting the rich Montfortian spirit. The celebration also included the distribution of prizes to students in recognition of their academic excellence and achievements in co-curricular activities. The entire celebration was organized under the guidance of Bro. Amalraj N., Principal and Correspondent, along with the Staff, and Students. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations thus stood as a joyful testimony to God's providence and to the enduring Montfortian legacy of forming young minds in faith, wisdom, and service.



# Province of Ranchi

## Major Activities of MGA Unit of Loyola High School Patna



Glad to mention that throughout the year, the MGA – Patna Unit actively promoted spiritual growth, creativity, service, and community bonding, living the Montfortian spirit of holistic education.

The academic year began in July with the introduction of Bro. Arogyam K. as the new Animator, marked by spiritual reflection and an inspiring address that set a positive tone for the year.

In August, senior MLC students engaged in life skill activities such as envelope and paper-bag making, promoting creativity and self-reliance. Junior students were introduced to the life and mission of St. Louis de Montfort through interactive sessions.

September witnessed a solemn Holy Rosary Prayer Service with active participation from students, parents, and staff, strengthening unity and faith.

On 8 November 2025, the MGA organised the Holy Rosary and Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Ignatius Topno, preparing the community for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

December concluded with a Community Service and Christmas Outreach Programme, highlighting compassion, sharing, carol singing, and fellowship.

## Christmas Celebration at Montfort School and Montfort Vidya Deep



On 20 December, Montfort School Ranchi organised a Christmas gathering in which the first-year candidates actively participated. This event served as a valuable learning and exposure experience for them. On 21 December, the Montfort Vidya Deep community participated in the parish Christmas gathering, strengthening bonds with the wider faith community.

The community celebrated the Christmas Vigil with devotion. On Christmas morning, the choir members attended the church liturgy, while the others prepared a solemn and festive Christmas lunch. The day concluded with a joyful community dance, adding warmth and happiness to the celebration.

## Parent -Teacher Meeting & Award ceremony at St. Aloysius' High School

On 22 December, a special Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) was organised at St. Aloysius' High School, Ranchi, by the Education Department on the school campus to strengthen collaboration between parents and the school. A large number of parents attended the meeting, along with a government representative, reflecting the importance of the occasion. During the programme, students who secured top ranks in their respective classes and those

who maintained 100% attendance throughout the academic term were awarded certificates in recognition of their dedication and academic excellence. In a meaningful gesture, the parents of these students were also honoured on the stage, acknowledging their constant support and encouragement in their children’s educational journey.

### **In-house Seminar on “Happy Classroom” at Montfort School Bagaha**



An in-house seminar was successfully organised on 9 January 2026 on the theme “Happy Classroom: How and Why It Is Required.” The seminar highlighted the importance of fostering a positive, joyful, and learner-friendly classroom atmosphere to promote effective teaching and meaningful learning. Special emphasis was given to practical strategies that help teachers to create inclusive, engaging, and emotionally supportive classrooms. The seminar was highly interactive and outcome-oriented, motivating educators to adopt innovative teaching practices and build classrooms that are joyful, inclusive, and academically productive.

### **Republic Day Celebration 2026 at Lachragarh High School Ground**



The 77th Republic Day of India was celebrated with great pride and patriotic spirit on 26th January 2026 at St. Vianney’s High School

Ground, Lachragarh. The occasion was special as five institutions joined together for a combined celebration, reflecting unity, discipline, and national spirit.

Students from the participating schools presented an impressive March Past, whose synchronised steps and disciplined formations showed respect for the Constitution and national values. The program also included patriotic songs, dances, and short presentations highlighting India’s heritage and freedom struggle, which were appreciated by the audience.

The Chief Guest, Fr. Rajesh Kerketta, Parish Priest and Dean of Lachragarh, delivered an inspiring message stressing constitutional values, unity, discipline, and the role of students in nation-building. The celebration stood as a symbol of cooperation among institutions and concluded with a renewed sense of patriotism and responsibility.

### **St. Montfort’s Shines at ‘Get Set Innovate’ 2026**



St. Montfort’s Senior Secondary School, Kolkata performed exceptionally well at the Get Set Innovate 2026 Robotics Competition, held at Modern High School International on 3rd February 2026. The team—Krishanu Poddar, Rohan Mondal, Mayukh Marick, and Swarnava Saha—secured the Runner-up Trophy in the Maze Solver category and also demonstrated impressive skills in Robo War. Competing with leading schools from Kolkata, the students displayed innovation, teamwork, and technical excellence.

Bro. Herman Lakra, SG

# Province of Spain



**Every season has its own duty and beauty. Similarly the Province of Spain too has its own duty and beauty.**

**A**s I have been living in Spain for 6 months, I'm so glad to share my most cherished experiences and share some of the events that have taken place in the province of Spain. I came here at the end of August, I could still remember how Bro. Genaro, the Provincial of Spain, joyfully received me and picked me up from the airport. I was there in the Provincial House (Curia Provincial), Barcelona for a couple of weeks. The Brothers were so warm and welcoming, even though I didn't understand anything they said, but they were able to cherish my presence, and I was too.

On 7th September 2025, Bro. Genaro dropped me in Colegio San Gabriel, Madrid. Initially, we were four Brothers in the international community. Bro. Dionisio, the superior of the community, was recently transferred to the residence of Our Lady of the Vineyards of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in Aranda de Duero due to medication. Bro. Alfredo (the Bursar) and Bro. Jean Paul and I are members of the community. I'm so glad to be part of the community. Brothers have been encouraging me to learn Spanish as early as possible. I have now

completed my B1-level Spanish course. Now I feel a little more confident communicating with people. Now I am going to school to interact with staff and students who are so lively and energetic. They are always ready to help me, especially the staff who are so friendly and kind.

The lay associates and collaborators here are so vibrant and active. They are having a wonderful collaboration with the Brothers. I have witnessed that they take many initiatives to carry out spirituality of Montfort in our schools in Spain. They very often come together to share their faith, to participate in pastoral activities, and to discuss how to get the students to be





rooted in faith. That's something we need to appreciate, admire, and encourage them for rendering their service to the growth of the Montfortian mission in Spain.

I had the privilege of attending the 1st Session of the 20th Provincial Chapter of the Province of Spain on the 10th & 11th of October 2025, at Curia Provincial, in Barcelona. Some of the Brothers due to their age and poor health were not able to be present and those who wished to participate in the Chapter through video-conference were offered the possibility. After the participants had been introduced and welcomed by Brother Provincial, then he gave the floor to the Vicar General, Bro. Pratap Reddy, who, on behalf of the Superior General and his Council, conveyed his greetings to the Brothers and those of the Central Administration and renewal for the life and mission of the Province. We also had a session with lay associate members and collaborators who were expressing their vision, knowledge, ideas and suggestions for implementation of the 33rd General Chapter for its own development and growth in the context of the Province of Spain. It was something new for me, and I had a wonderful experience of participating in the chapter. Since the chapter could not be concluded, the 2nd Session of the 20th Provincial Chapter of the Province of Spain was carried out on 9th January 2026, at the Provincial Curia, in Barcelona. It was conducted both online and offline due to the Brothers' availability. And it was successfully concluded.

GABRIEL - SANT ADRIÀ, (Barcelona international community) came over here to spend their Christmas holidays. It was a great time of unity, joy and cheer. We too had a lovely companionship of Bro. Lawrence who belongs to

the congregation of Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We went to Navacerrada where it was snowing. It was a one-day outing where we had a great time experiencing snow and doing some fun activities. We too had the opportunity to visit Toledo (a historical place) which is one of the oldest cities of Spain. It was so exciting and where we could spend time together with the Brothers.

It was so sad to lose Bro. José Luis Pérez Herrero on 23rd Nov 2025. The funeral was attended by many family members, Brothers, friends, and admirers. A group from LA ERA of Peru also joined the ceremony in online. Bro. Ángel presided over the funeral mass and Bro. Faustino, Fr. Josechu (his nephew), and other priests from the local area con-celebrated. We too lost Bro. José Paniego Rivero, on 27th November 2025. The funeral Eucharist was on the 28th in the chapel of the San Gabriel School in La Aguilera. He was later buried in the Gabrielist Brothers' cemetery in La Aguilera. We shall continue to pray for the repose of the souls of these two Brothers.

Bro. Genaro, the Provincial of Spain is making very frequent visits to the communities especially meeting the elderly Brothers and knowing their difficulties and caring a lot about their health. And he takes a lot of effort to keep them healthy and happy. At present the province is preparing for the forthcoming 20th Council of the Institute at Casa Lestonac, Madrid which will be held from 24th April to 10th May 2026. Your prayers are needed for the well being of the Brothers of Spain and for the success of the council of the institute.

Bro. Royal Augustine, SG

# Province of Senegal



## Marcel Paravy School in Kédougou: History, Challenges and a New Beginning Under the Guidance of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel

Located in the eastern region of Senegal, specifically in the town of Kédougou, the Marcel Paravy School has for several decades been a cornerstone of Catholic education and human development. True to its educational mission inspired by Christian values, this institution has educated generations of children, contributing not only to their academic success but also to their moral and spiritual development.

The academic year 2025–2026 marks an important milestone in the school's history. The school is part of a renewed drive towards a more equitable, inclusive and innovative education. This drive has gained particular momentum with the arrival, in October 2024, of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, notably Brother Grégoire Wagane GNING and Brother Maurice Gora NDIONE, whose commitment has helped to restore hope to the educational community.

However, to fully understand the significance of this renewal, it is worth revisiting the history of this school, its origins, the people who built it, the challenges it has faced and the prospects that lie ahead today.



*Sr. Marie Pascal Udrisard*



*Father Marcel Paravy*

### I. The origins: the visionary work of Father Marcel Paravy and Sister Marie Pascal Udrisard, SJA.

Marcel Paravy School owes its existence to the vision and missionary commitment of Sister Marie Pascal Udrisard and Father Marcel Paravy, whose names it bears today.

Driven by a deep faith and a firm determination to promote education as a means of development, they realised very early on the importance of educating young people for the future of local communities.

In a context marked by limited access to education, particularly in remote areas such as Kédougou, the establishment of this school represented a true work of evangelisation and human development. Sister Marie Pascale

Udrisard and Father Marcel Paravy saw education not only as a means of instruction, but also as a path to liberation, dignity and social transformation. Thus was born a school founded on solid principles:

- **Respect for human dignity,**
- **The promotion of the Christian faith,**
- **Academic excellence,**
- **Service to the community..**

Very quickly, the school became an important educational centre in the region.

### II. The role of religious congregations and laypeople in the continuity of the work

Following the founding period, several religious



*The Bassari Community, the Majority Ethnic Group in the Area*



*Daughters of Christ the King meeting with the community*

congregations contributed to the management and running of the school.

These were the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Annecy and the Daughters of Christ the King. Their presence ensured the continuity of the original missionary spirit, despite difficulties linked to limited resources, geographical isolation, tensions with the diocesan authorities, material challenges, etc.

These congregations brought:

**Educational rigour,**

**Solid spiritual formation,**

**A structured organisation of school life.**

However, at certain times, the baton was passed to lay headteachers and teachers. They played a decisive role in the school's survival and continuity.

Their commitment, often carried out discreetly and under difficult conditions, prevented the school from closing.

Despite their goodwill, they faced numerous challenges:

Gradual deterioration of the infrastructure,

- **Insufficient teaching materials,**
- **Lack of financial resources,**
- **Gradual loss of the initial dynamism...**

Gradually, the school began to show signs of fragility.

### **III. A school weakened but still standing**

Over the years, the Marcel Paravy School found itself in a worrying situation. Some classrooms required urgent renovation, equipment was inadequate, and sports facilities were virtually non-existent. Teaching materials were limited and the lack of IT equipment hindered the modernisation of teaching.

Despite these difficulties, the school continued to operate and to welcome a significant number of pupils.

For the 2025–2026 school year, it has 959 students, including 187 in pre-school and 772 in primary school. These figures demonstrate families' enduring trust in the school. However, behind this apparent stability, there was an urgent need for renewal.

For many families were worried about the school's future, the teachers were losing hope, and the school seemed to be struggling to move forward. It was, to borrow an expression from one of the former headteachers, a 'limping' school.

### **IV. October 2024: the providential arrival of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel**

It was against this backdrop that a decisive event occurred: the arrival of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in October 2024. The Congregation of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, known throughout the world for its commitment to education, agreed to take over the running of the school at the request of Monsignor Paul Abel Mamba.

Two Brothers were sent on mission. They were Brothers Maurice Gora NDIONE (Local Superior) and Grégoire Wagane GNING (Headmaster). On their arrival, they found a school facing numerous difficulties.

## V. A new dynamic bringing hope

Since their arrival, a gradual transformation has taken place.

### 1. Restoring confidence

One of the Brothers' first successes was to restore confidence among teachers, students, parents and the whole community. Through their fraternal presence, their willingness to listen and their organisational skills, they created a new atmosphere. Thus, families regained hope. The school has regained its soul.

### 2. A clear and ambitious vision

The Brothers have defined a clear vision: to make the school a leading institution in the region. This vision is based on several key areas:

- Improving the quality of teaching,
- Renovating the infrastructure,
- Promoting reading through the establishment of a school library,
- Integration of digital technology,
- Human and spiritual formation,
- Promotion of integral ecology..

### 3. A collective effort

The Brothers understood that success cannot be achieved alone. They therefore encouraged teacher participation, parental involvement and collaboration with partners, whilst also engaging former pupils. Gradually, a family spirit took hold.



*Brother Grégoire and Brother Maurice, the day after Senegal's coronation*

## 4. The launch of innovative projects

Several initiatives were launched:

- The promotion of reading,
- Raising awareness of ecology,
- The organisation of cultural activities...

These actions contribute to the child's holistic development.

## VI. A school looking to the future

Today, the Marcel Paravy School is entering a new phase in its history. The prospects are promising: renovation of the buildings, purchase of computer equipment, improvement of learning conditions, and the spiritual development of the students.

It is clear that the Marcel Paravy School aims to educate responsible, competent and committed citizens. This mission is rooted in the Christian educational tradition inspired in particular by Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Founder of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel.

## Conclusion

The history of the Marcel Paravy School is one of steadfast faith, courageous perseverance and unshakeable hope. Founded by Sister Marie Pascale and Fr. Marcel Paravy, it has weathered many trials, experienced moments of glory and also times of vulnerability. Yet it has never ceased to believe in its mission.

The arrival of Brothers Grégoire Wagane GNING and Maurice GORA NDIONE in October 2024 marked a decisive turning point. They found a school in decline, but their faith, courage and determination enabled them to revive it. Today, thanks to their commitment and the collaboration of the entire educational community, the school is being reborn.

It is regaining its dynamism, its mission and its hope. More than just an institution, it has become a place of transformation and, even more so, a great family. With God's help, its future is taking shape with great promise. Glory to Jesus through Mary! Glory to God alone!

*Brother Grégoire Wagane Gning, SG with the collaboration of Sister Fidelma Fidmaguire*

# Province of Kinshasa

## 1. Presentation of the Exhortation from the Bishops of the National Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Cenco) to Consecrated Persons

On Tuesday, 2 March 2026, at the headquarters of the National Episcopal Conference of the DR Congo held a conference led by Bishop Donatien SHOLE, Secretary General of this major institution of the Church in the DR Congo.

The purpose of the conference was to present the exhortation of the Bishops of the national Episcopal conference to Consecrated Persons. This exhortation, entitled “Witnesses of Hope and Builders of Synodality (Acts 1:8)”, was made public following their 63rd Plenary Assembly and the conclusion of the Jubilee Year 2025, held last week.



Education Pact and National Educational Reforms in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”. Over four days, these managers of Catholic state-subsidised schools, who had travelled from all the ecclesiastical provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, reflected on the harmonisation of Catholic educational initiatives with the reforms underway, in the light of the African Education Pact.

The session also addressed issues relating to disciplinary procedures, merit-based recruitment, the management of transfers and postings, pensions, deaths, and the regularisation of staff who are or will be on fixed-term contracts.

On behalf of the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO), Father Georges Kalenga, First Deputy Secretary-General, emphasised that these consultations represent a key opportunity for joint reflection to ensure the smooth running of Catholic state-subsidised schools, within a Church committed to actively contributing to the building of a prosperous Congo through education.

## 3. Diocesan Day of Missionary Childhood, 2026

All the Catholic state-subsidised schools under the Mont Amba sub-coordination gathered at Saint Alphonse Parish in Matete on 21 January 2026 for the Eucharistic celebration of the Diocesan Day of Missionary Childhood.

The theme of the day was: ‘Children help and evangelise other children in humility, following the example of Jesus Christ’.



*Brother Ephrem Willy is present at the Conference*

## 2. The Episcopal Commission for Christian Education opens the Consultation Session for Managers of Catholic Contract Schools in Kinshasa

Thursday 12 February 2026, at the Nganda Catholic Centre, the Episcopal Commission for Christian Education opened the strategic consultation session bringing together provincial and diocesan coordinators as well as resident advisers from the Catholic Contract Schools (ECCath), under the theme “The African



Bishop Edouard NTSIMBA, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa, presided over the Eucharist. In his homily, Bishop Edouard explained to the students that “Jesus, the Son of God, was born as a little child in a humble manger and humbled himself to the point of giving us life out of love. Humility is not humiliation but a way of life in which God dwells without encountering the obstacle of the ego. Humility gives children the courage and strength to love.”

#### 4. Justice And Peace Commission Archdiocese Of Kinshasa



Gathered for a training session at the LINDONGE Pastoral Centre from 14 to 15 January 2026, the members of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa strengthened their understanding of the commission’s objectives, mission and scope of action.

Following this training, the Archikin JP leaders decided to launch the AREC project within their educational programme in 120 schools across all networks in the city of Kinshasa and at universities, appointing a coordinator for each sector. Brother Ephrem Willy MANGALA was elected as the contact person and coordinator for Catholic state-funded schools and the schools of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel.

What exactly is AREC? It is a project to support the strengthening of civil society’s commitment and capacity for active participation and sustainable, high-quality electoral observation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As clearly stated in the fourth objective of the Archdiocese’s Justice and Peace Commission: “To promote citizen participation on issues related to governance, human rights, security, civic and electoral education, political participation and development”. Leaders are called upon to raise awareness among pupils, parents and staff at their respective schools regarding civic and electoral education and social cohesion. Especially during this period of war in the east of the country.

#### 5. Announcement of the results of the first-term 2026 examinations at Saint Alphonse College / Matete

This ceremony to announce the students' grades began with a prayer, followed by the national anthem and a few words from the Rector, before the Director of Studies proceeded with the formal announcement.



## 6. A Cry from the Heart: For the Students of Primary Schools 1 and 2 Kinda in Matete

To people of good will, during this Lenten season, have mercy on these students who are learning whilst sitting on the floor.

It is no secret that in the DR Congo, the government declared primary education free of charge without providing the necessary support measures. The consequences are numerous; to name but a few:

- **Overcrowded classrooms,**
- **Children sitting on the floor, etc.**



*Pupils in the 2nd and 3rd years of primary school*

The aim of primary education is to teach children to read, write and do arithmetic.

In such conditions, how can a pupil read, write and do arithmetic properly?

Faced with this inhumane situation, we cry out from the heart: come to the aid of these pupils.

Bro. Ephrem Willy MANGALA, SG

## 7. Let's protect our eyesight: a personal account and practical advice

My name is Brother Patrick Lukoki Mbala. A general nurse by training, I am currently specialising in eye care (ophthalmology), in line with our province's guidance.



During my visit to Bota Mona School in Kikwit, an institution dedicated to people living with visual impairments, I had the opportunity to examine several children. This experience allowed me to observe a wide variety of eye conditions:

- Open-angle glaucoma and closed-angle glaucoma
- Congenital cataracts
- Strabismus
- Blindness
- Allergic, bacterial and viral conjunctivitis (the third form is often overlooked)

It is important to note that not all pupils at Bota Mona are blind. Some may regain functional vision through surgery, medical treatment or appropriate optical correction. After the operation, the student may also regain their vision.

Bro. Patrick MBALA, SG

# Province of Trichy

## Montfortian International School, Allaipiddy, Jaffna, Srilanka

We continue our dedicated education mission in Allaipiddy, Jaffna, serving children and youth with commitment and zeal. Montfortian International School joyfully began the new academic year on January 5, 2026, with the opening of Grade 6. The new academic year commenced with a prayer and blessing ceremony, followed by a grand welcome for the students as they entered a new phase of learning.

On January 14, the school celebrated the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal, in a simple yet meaningful manner. The day began with a prayer and colourful decorations throughout the school premises. Students actively participated in fun games, while the traditional Pongal was prepared and blessed by Bro. Mariapragasam, the pioneer and founder of the school. The celebration concluded with the children enjoying the sweet Pongal and returning home with great joy.



The school also celebrated St. Louis Marie de Montfort's birthday on January 30, 2026. The celebration began with a Holy Mass at the school, presided over by Fr. David Manuvel Pillai. Later, the students watched a special film on self-discipline. The celebration ended with a cake distribution to the children.

A special moment for the school community was the visit. Bro. Dhanaraj, Assistant General, Bro. John Britto, Provincial Superior, Bro. Joseph Y., Bro. David, Provincial Councillors and Bro. Mariapragasam arrived in Jaffna on February



19 and they were warmly welcomed by the Montfortian community.

A grand welcome programme was held on February 20, during which the Superiors addressed the students and shared inspiring messages that encouraged them on their learning journey. The guests appreciated the high standard of the programme presented by the students and were impressed by their academic progress and discipline within a short period of time.

The programme concluded with classroom visits by Bro. Dhanaraj, followed by lunch with the teachers and a staff meeting with the Superiors. During the meeting, the teachers were encouraged to uphold the Montfortian spirit of commitment and a student-centred approach to education.

Later that day, the guests visited Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin B. Gnanapragasam, the Bishop of Jaffna, who warmly welcomed them and expressed his gratitude to the Montfort Brothers, especially the Province of Trichy, for extending our educational mission in Jaffna. The presence of the Montfort Brothers continues to be a blessing for the Church and society in Jaffna.

We have begun a new missionary presence in Mullaithivu, responding to the educational needs of the region. This mission is an extension of the Montfortian educational service already active in Jaffna. This initiative is carried out



by us with a strong commitment to serve the poor and marginalized. We aim to provide quality education and human formation for children and youth. On February 21, the new Brothers' Residence in Mullaithivu was blessed and inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Ganapragasam, Bishop of Jaffna and Bro. Dhanaraj in the presence of number of Priests, Sisters and well-wishers. A special appreciation to Bro. Maria Pragasam for all the troubles taken to accomplish this project. The ceremony was simple but very meaningful and an expression of solidarity and fraternal support. We pray that this new mission in Mullaithivu may grow and bear abundant fruits for the Church and society.

On February 22, the community undertook a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, expressing our deep devotion to Mother Mary, who guides our life and mission.

Some of us are well aware of the cyclone that hit Sri Lanka in the first week of December, 2025, and its devastating effects across the country. The entire country came to a standstill for about a week, including the suspension of road traffic,

which is the essential means of transportation in Sri Lanka. The entire country suffered heavy losses. This cyclone has been exceptionally devastating, the worst experienced in nearly four decades. It has claimed around 500 lives, with over 500 people still reported missing. While media reports provide limited coverage, the ground realities are far more distressing.



In response, we Brothers, joined hands with diocesan-level relief efforts. Contributions from the diocese, deaneries, parishes, religious communities, schools, congregations, and voluntary organisations, both in cash and in kind, have enabled to reach out to the affected families. The situation is improving.

Requesting your prayers and fraternal support for the success of our mission in Sri Lanka.

Brothers from Jaffna



# Province of France



## My new mission at the Pontchâteau Calvary!



*Brother Melance Mifuruguto,  
Pontchâteau Community*

**B**rother Melance Mifuruguto, originally from Burundi, is a Montfortian religious in the Congregation of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. His vocation has led him to serve in several East African countries, notably Rwanda and Tanzania, where he had enriching missionary experiences.

Since 2021, he has joined the Brothers of the Province of France; initially in the Gabriel Deshayes International Community in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, where he remained for four years; he currently lives in the community at the Pontchâteau Calvary, where the three Montfortian congregations are joined together: the Montfort Missionaries, the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of Saint Gabriel.



*In Pontchâteau, prayer and fraternal life.*

His journey within the Montfortian Family is guided by a spirit of service, fraternity and fidelity to the spiritual heritage of Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort.

### My day at the Village Saint Joseph in Pontchâteau:

Every Thursday, I go to the Village Saint Joseph in Pontchâteau, a welcoming place where we focus on the essentials of life, where we share our lives with others as best we can, and where mutual support is the guiding principle. I love going there, of course, because the residents are welcoming and we spend quality time together.

The day often begins with Mass, a moment of peaceful prayer. Then we have lunch together; the meals are prepared on site by the residents, and during the meal, we chat a little about our lives, laughing and sharing as if we were part of the family. We are all gathered to talk, to share our lives, without judging one another, simply being there for one another.

During the day, I help out as much as I can; for there's always a whole list of things to do: picking apples, gardening, repairing things and also, sometimes, listening to the people there, chatting with them or helping someone. Everyone helps as best they can, within their own capabilities. The aim is to support daily life here, to build bonds that foster trust and connection. It must be said that in Saint Joseph's Village, people have often had particularly

difficult lives. They have often experienced loneliness, sadness, family trauma and misfortune. Here, they can settle down, talk to one another and be respected. Together with the other volunteers, I try to understand them, to show them that they belong here, that they are loved and that they are an integral part of the community.

Going to the Saint Joseph Village isn't just about volunteering. It's about meeting people, a sense of fellowship, and so much more. We work, eat, laugh and chat together. It reminds us of what really matters: being there for one another, knowing how to welcome each other, and ensuring that everyone can find happiness and hope.

### Support and guidance for volunteers

After spending just over a month in Pontchâteau, I am gradually discovering life at the sanctuary, its richness, and above all the commitment of the volunteers. I quickly realised that without them, nothing would really be possible: their availability, their generosity and their faith bring the sanctuary to life every day.

I have been asked to look after these volunteers, to support them in their work, and to get to know them better. It is a task I embrace with joy,

but also with humility, as I am still new here. I am therefore making progress step by step, making the most of every encounter to get to know each person better, to listen, observe and understand their roles, their motivations and their needs. For me, supporting the volunteers is not just about organising or coordinating. Above all, it is about forging a human and fraternal bond. I try to seize every possible opportunity to interact with them: a word exchanged after a service, a brief moment of sharing, a coffee, or listening attentively when I sense tiredness or concern. All these small gestures are ways of gradually building trust. I would also like everyone to feel recognised for what they do. Recognition may be small – a thank you, a personal gesture, a smile – but it is fundamental. It tells each person: “Your presence matters; what you do is significant.” I am aware of the time this will take. Building connections does not happen in a matter of weeks, especially in a vibrant and diverse place like Pontchâteau. But I am confident that this daily closeness, this patient and sincere listening, will forge strong and fraternal bonds. My hope is that, little by little, the volunteers will feel not only useful but also supported, listened to and loved in their work. Together we will nurture a vibrant, united and happy community in the service of the sanctuary.





## A retreat on the theme: ‘The Gospel and Work that Connects’

The Diocesan Service for Integral Ecology organised a three-day retreat on the subject. ‘The Gospel and Work that Connects’, from 27 to 29 September 2025, at the Maison Saint Donatien in Derval, Loire-Atlantique, in which I had the great joy of taking part.

This retreat allowed everyone to ground themselves in gratitude, and we all left renewed in hope, with a desire to live out our commitments to the world. Personally, over the course of these three days, I was able to experience the process of ‘work that connects’ with gentleness and trust, in the expert hands of our facilitators, whilst reflecting on the link with the Gospel and the presence of Jesus at the centre, who suffers with us and carries the world with us.

### The group of retreatants during the walk, ‘connected’ to the Living One

We were able to experience what is known as a mindful and sensitive walk, involving:

- opening our eyes and hearts to ‘our connection’ with the Living One,
- realising our interdependence with the Living One over millions of years,
- the need to care for ourselves, for others and for God,
- a return to being rooted in Creation with God, who speaks to us,
- becoming aware of the importance of raising awareness among our fellow believers to receive this immense gift for which we are responsible. I really enjoyed this experience!

We experienced great joy: the unique experience of fraternity offered by the diocese’s integral ecology service, three days to connect with God, with others, with Creation, and with ourselves! From the outset, we assessed our various ways of committing to Creation, the way we care for it, and ‘living together’; three themes that we gradually linked together and applied in a concrete way to our vocation as prophet, sacramental priest and servant-king-gardener of Creation. Thanks to this foundation nourishing our journey together or in small fraternities, we followed a path with varied activities across four stages: gratitude, sorrow, reflection and action.

Day 1: We chose to enter into a dynamic of grace on the day of our pilgrimage – in step with creation – (walking several kilometres through the countryside with God’s gaze) where we traversed the 4.6 billion years of Earth’s history, which is also our own history.

Day 2: At the foot of the Cross, we laid down all our cries of sorrow for the world, proclaiming our fears, our powerlessness, our anger, our sadness: “Take, Lord, and accept!”

Day 3: To commit to righteous action, to take the right course of action, means deciding not to turn a blind eye to injustice. It means behaving in accordance with one’s principles, even when this requires courage or involves stepping outside one’s comfort zone. Such an approach demonstrates a genuine harmony between thought and action, whilst highlighting a strong sense of ethical responsibility. To act justly is to reject the ease of indifference in order to give tangible form to one’s beliefs.

Every action, however insignificant, contributes to building a fairer and more humane world. A sincere word, an act of solidarity, a decision taken in the interest of all: all these actions, taken together, contribute to changing society. Choosing justice is not about seeking glory, but about working honestly for the common good and for individual dignity.

# Province of East Africa



## The Visit of the Assistant General Bro. Varghese Mandapathil and the General Bursar Michael Mathew in the Province of East Africa

### A. Butare Community

With a great pleasure we Butare Community would like to express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation for the recent Canonical visit of Bro. Varghese, the Assistant General, and Bro. Michael, the General Bursar. They were accompanied by Bro. Nicodeme Sinamenye the Provincial Superior on 31 Jan 2026. His visit commenced in the Butare community a few hours after landing in Rwanda, with a warm welcome from all Brothers and Candidates, along with various items and presentations.

Brother Assistant General took an initiative the following day to meet all the Brothers, Teachers, and students. He shared with us the inspiring words. He encouraged the Students to take their studies seriously, to cultivate discipline and to grow not only academically but also morally and spiritually. Their words of wisdom motivated





*Assistant General with Butare Candidates*

students to pursue excellence and be responsible citizens in the future.

During his meeting with Brothers, Bro. Varghese gave each Brother an opportunity to share his views on the growth of our community as well as the challenges we face in our daily mission. All Brothers openly shared their great ideas, including the general challenges and the way forward.

The Assistant General with Provincial Superior and General Bursar had an opportunity to attend the Holy Mass at the Shrine of Kibeho on 2nd February 2026 and later the same day they were hosted by the Bishop of Butare Diocese for Religious conversation.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all Community Brothers specially the Superior of the Community Bro. Peter Clever for his tireless and wonderful organisation for the conducive visit of Bro. Varghese. More Appreciation to Bro. Nicodeme, the Provincial Superior, for accompanying the Assistant General on his Visit to our community.

Bro. Nicholas Masaku, SG

## **B. Kigali Community**

Visit of the Assistant General, Brother Varghese Mandapathil and Bursar General, Brother Michael Mathew to Montfort Nursery School of Kigali.

The Bursar General, Brother Michael Mathew, visited our school, Montfort Nursery of Kigali, on the birthday of our Founder, Saint Louis de Montfort (31/01/2026). He appreciated the maintenance of the school and gave messages of encouragement. The Assistant General, Brother Varghese Mandapathil, visited Montfort Nursery School of Kigali on 6th February 2026. He was warmly received by the pupils upon his arrival at the school.

During the visit, Brother Varghese commended the administration for the dedicated leadership and the significant efforts made to cultivate an



environment where children are both active and thriving in their academic pursuits. He also extended his appreciation to the teaching staff for their exemplary commitment to their duties.

In discussions regarding the school's future, the head teacher proposed expanding the institution to include a primary level. This request is driven by positive feedback from government and parents, who have expressed great satisfaction with the quality of education and pastoral care provided. Furthermore, this expansion would provide a seamless academic transition for students, effectively addressing the challenges parents currently face in securing suitable primary school placements after their children complete Nursery.

### **c. Visit in Burundi:**

#### **1. Visit to Bujumbura Community and School**

Bro Varghese Mandapathil visited the mission of Burundi from 10th to 15th, February 2026. He was warmly welcomed by the Brothers, staff members, and students in the Bujumbura Community. We were grateful for the many blessings we received during his canonical visit. He was very happy to witness Burundian culture of good hospitality, love, Concern and Burundian cultural dance.

The visit of Assistant General Bro. Varghese was very significant to our communities in Burundi and the school. He gave us advice and encouragement, and he invited the teachers of Montfort School Bujumbura to strive for quality education. During his visit, Rev Bro. Varghese invited students to study hard, to be Bright students and not to be distracted by worldly things.



He emphasised good discipline in the class and mutual love and collaboration between students. He appreciated how the mission is being taken care and the communion between Montfort Brothers and other Congregations of our parish. He realised that demand for the Montfort School in Bujumbura is high, and classrooms are not enough to accommodate all students seeking admission to our school. He invited the Brothers to organise a seminar on Laudato Si for the students so that they may know better how to care for the Environment.

Bro. Reverien Iteriteka, SG

#### **2. Visit to Gitega Pre- Novitiate Community**

On 12 February 2026, the Pre Novitiate community had the great joy of welcoming the Assistant General, Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, who was accompanied by the Provincial Superior.

The visit began with a warm and vibrant reception given by the Postulants and followed by welcome Mass attended by numerous priests, religious men, and women who came to welcome our major superiors. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Father Henry, a Montfort Missionary priest, together with diocesan priests who came to join us in that Thanksgiving Mass. The celebration was animated with joyful singing of the postulants and cultural expressions that reflected the deep faith and hospitality of the local Church community. The large number of consecrated persons and clergy present were a visible sign of communion and support for the mission of the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel in Burundi mission.





After the Mass, we shared a fraternal meal, providing an opportunity for deeper interaction and fellowship. At this moment, the Assistant General addressed the invited guests and expressed his sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and the richness of the local culture he had experienced since his arrival. He shared how deeply touched by the joy and unity he witnessed among the religious communities and the clergy.

In his message, he encouraged the priests, religious men and women present, particularly the Montfortian family and those who live the Montfortian spirituality, to allow this spirituality to be deeply rooted in their mission and daily lives. He reminded them that the Montfortian charism calls its members and collaborators to live a life of prophecy, witnessing to the Gospel with courage, humility, and dedication in the service of God's people.

He also took the occasion to congratulate the Brothers in the Burundi mission for the good work they are carrying out in various apostolates. He appreciated their commitment and the positive impact of their mission in forming our future Brothers and providing good education to the students in Burundi, and encouraged them to continue serving with zeal and fidelity to their vocation.

### 3. Visit to the Archbishop of Gitega Archdiocese

The following day, 13 February 2026, the Assistant General and the Provincial Superior paid a courtesy visit to the Archbishop. During the meeting, they shared reflections on the collaboration between the Church and the congregation of Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel in serving the people of God. Particular attention was given to the important work the congregation is doing in the education of children with hearing impairments, which has become a valuable contribution to the mission of the local Church.

The Archbishop expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to the congregation and the Provincial administration of the province of East Africa for their dedication and the spirit of collaboration between them.



He acknowledged that the presence and work of the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel in the Archdiocese of Gitega continue to be a great help to the Church, especially in responding to the needs of vulnerable children through education and pastoral care.

The visit of the Assistant General in Burundi was therefore a moment of encouragement, communion, and renewed commitment for us as Brothers and all who participated, strengthening the bonds within the Montfortian family and inspiring everyone to continue living their mission with prophetic faith and generosity.

Bro. Eugene Rushema, SG  
In-Charge Pre-Novitiate

## II. Provincial's Visit to the Novitiate: A Moment of Grace and Renewal

The novitiate community joyfully welcomed the Provincial superior during his official visit. His presence was a source of encouragement and joy for the entire community, especially for the novices and formators.

The visit began with a warm welcome from the community. In the evening, a joyful celebration was held to mark two important milestones: the 14th anniversary of the Perpetual Vows of Bro Nicodème, the Provincial Superior, with Bro. Anicet, the Novice master, and the 4th year of Priestly Ordination of Fr Patrick Bwakira of the Camellian priests at St Nicolas parish. The night celebration was simple but meaningful, filled

with gratitude to God for the gift of vocation and faithful service.

The following day, the Provincial and the community at large attended the Holy Mass at the parish. After the Mass, the Provincial had a personal meeting with the novices. This meeting provided a safe and open space for the novices to share their experiences, joys, and challenges in the Religious life. The Provincial listened with care and offered guidance, encouragement, and fatherly advice.

Later, a common meeting was held with the first- and second-year novices. During this session, the Provincial spoke about the importance of formation, community life, obedience, missions, 33rd general chapter directives and faithfulness to one's vocation. The novices were encouraged to grow in simplicity, discipline, and trust in God.

The Provincial also met with the team of formators to discuss matters related to formation, accompaniment, and the ongoing growth of the novitiate community. The meeting was marked by openness, reflection, and shared responsibility for the formation mission.

Before the visit came to an end, the community gathered for a photo session, capturing joyful memories of the Provincial's visit. The visit concluded with heartfelt words of thanks, blessings, and a warm goodbye.

By Collins ALOO, Novice.



# Vice Province of Madagascar

## Belobaka: A Rediscovered Property, A Project Coming to Life



*Bro. Didier and Bro. Jonah*

**Majunga, Madagascar** – After many years of illegal occupation, the 33-hectare Belobaka property has finally been returned to the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. This recovery marks the beginning of a new era for the congregation in this region of Madagascar.

### Investments for the future

Thanks to the generous support of the Province of France, Saint Gabriel College in Majunga and several benefactors, major development work has been carried out on the site. The property now boasts essential infrastructure:

- A perimeter fence
- Fish farming facilities
- A modern pigsty
- A livestock barn
- Sanitary facilities with showers. These facilities not only enable the community to be self-sufficient but also serve as educational resources for the formation of young people.

Practical training – Active participation in various farm tasks, enabling the acquisition of agricultural skills and an appreciation of manual labour  
Apostolate – Involvement in parish

catechesis, a first experience of proclaiming the faith

This initiative in Belobaka illustrates the vitality of the Congregation of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in Madagascar and its commitment to the youth of Madagascar. The combination of human, spiritual and vocational formation offers young trainees a framework conducive to their vocational discernment



# A simple yet committed community life



## BELOBAKA

The day-to-day management of the property is handled by two Brothers who live in modest conditions. Their accommodation consists of a small multi-purpose room serving as a bedroom, kitchen and dining room. They demonstrate their commitment and closeness to the local people.

They are supported by local staff as well as trainees, who are accommodated in a specially fitted-out shed. This space serves as a dormitory and a chapel, thus facilitating the community and spiritual life of the group.

### A multifaceted apostolate

The two Brothers divide their time between several complementary missions:

**Farm management** – Administration and development of agricultural and livestock activities.

**Mentoring trainees** – Spiritual guidance and personal development of young candidates.

**Parish ministry** – Leading services and the liturgical life of the local parish



## The formation of future Brothers

The Belobaka estate currently hosts nine candidates who are completing a ten-month internship, a preparatory stage before entering the postulancy. This period of formation is structured around several key areas:

**Teaching** – Religious education classes at Saint Gabriel College in Majunga, located 12 kilometres from the estate.

### Academic training

– Improvement of spoken French with Father Marie Victor, a Dominican friar, and learning writing skills with a former teacher from Saint Gabriel College.

### Spiritual formation

– In-depth exploration of the life of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel and study of the spirituality of the founder, Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort.



# Istituto Ca' Florens Istrana

## Inauguration of a Tailoring Centre at Birsa Munda High School, Jharkhand



We have started helping the poor students of the tribal and underdeveloped areas of Jharkhand by supporting their educational expenses. While accompanying them in their studies, we discovered that some students are not able to continue to higher studies for various reasons, especially because of economic difficulties.

Precisely to help these and other children find a path for their future, we decided to donate 20 tailoring machines and establish a Tailoring Centre at Birsa Munda High School. This centre will offer the students an opportunity to learn a practical skill that can help them earn a livelihood and support their families.

My friend Giuseppe Dei Rossi and I personally went to the place, where we donated the 20 tailoring machines and inaugurated the Tailoring Centre in the presence of the Panchayat President and other local authorities. The occasion was marked by great joy and gratitude.

## Indian Catholic Community in the Venice Area (Veneto)



The Christian community in the Venice area of Veneto - comprising the Syro-Malabar Community, the Syro-Malankara Community, and the Jacobite Orthodox Community - was born and has grown as one united family through the initiative of Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, together with a diocesan priest, Don Toso Canuto of the Diocese of Treviso, during the episcopal ministry of the late Bishop Paolo Magnani.

Since then, the community has continued to be blessed by the pastoral care and encouragement of his successors: Bishop Andrea Mazzocato, Bishop Gianfranco Agostini, and now Bishop Michele Tomasi.

Under the guidance of Bro. Mathew and the collaboration of an Indian priest, the community has been growing rapidly and vibrantly. Every month the faithful gather at Ca' Florens for the celebration of the Holy Mass in the Malayalam language. It is a devoted and lively community that continues to grow steadily in faith, remaining firmly rooted in the Word of God.

## Spiritual Retreat of the Benefactors



Our mission of supporting poor students in their education and formation is deeply rooted in spirituality and in the Word of God. The regular sharing of the Word and the spiritual orientation of our educational project inspire many benefactors to participate in the monthly spiritual retreat organized by our Community. During these gatherings, the benefactors come together for prayer, reflection, and spiritual nourishment. The retreat concludes with the celebration of the Sunday Holy Mass, which strengthens our communion in faith and mission.

After the Mass, the benefactors joyfully take part in a fraternal lunch with the Community. This moment of fellowship offers a valuable opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas, and offer suggestions for the growth and improvement of our mission in service of the poor and needy students.

## Visit of the Superior General and His Assistants



Our Community of Ca' Florens was blessed by the welcome visit of Rev. Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, Superior General, together with the Assistant Generals, Bro. Jean Marie Thior and Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, and Bro. Michael Mathew, Econom General.

During their visit, they took part in the community prayers, the celebration of the Holy Mass, the prayer group meeting, the First Saturday morning adoration, the morning prayers and Mass, and the breakfast with the participants. They also participated in the Sunday Mass, celebrated in the presence of some faithful from outside.

The visit of the Superiors brought great joy, encouragement, and renewed enthusiasm to the Community. Their fraternal presence was a true blessing for the Community of Ca' Florens.

## Visit of the Taffarello Family

Knowing that our Superior General, Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, was visiting our community at the Istituto Ca' Florens, his brother and sister, together with their families, made a pleasant surprise visit. They came bringing pizza, making the gathering joyful and memorable, especially as it coincided with the celebration of International Women's Day.



It was a truly fraternal and joyful occasion for everyone. The visit created a warm atmosphere of sharing and friendship, allowing us to spend some beautiful moments together as one family. During this time, we also had the opportunity to speak about our apostolate of helping poor children through education.

The members of the Taffarello family have been supportive of this mission and take part in our charitable activities. They expressed their satisfaction and joy in seeing the positive outcomes and fruits of this apostolate, which continues to bring hope and opportunities to many children in need.

## International Women's Day 2026



Women's Day was celebrated with a spirit of gratitude and fraternity by the Indian Community at the Istituto Ca' Florens in Istrana on Sunday, 8 March. It was a moment of prayer, reflection, and appreciation for the precious gift of women in the family, in the Church, and in society, entrusting all women to the blessing and protection of God.

Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG  
<https://www.adozioniadistanza.net>



# THE 49 BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL AND THEIR CHAPLIN

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



**Sergio GAZTAMINZA FERNÁNDEZ**  
**Brother Matias, 40 years old**  
**Born in Erenchun (Alava)**

He was blood brother of Brother Eugenio, and very alike in their efforts. He entered the congregation already older, beyond 30 years of age. He was a strong and robust man. He always showed himself as a true Israelite, pious and affable with anyone that he dealt with. He could be assigned any task and he was always very willing to complete it.

He was the one that took on the heaviest work in the farm and the vegetable garden along with Brother Celestino. A good religious person, pious and generous with his work and always willing to offer his services in the little free time he had. His good will easily caused him to be too demanding of himself and of others.

While working he had a minor injury to which he attached no importance. However the injury worsened and became tetanus, then an incurable disease and very painful. He was given the last sacraments since it was believed Brother Matías was leaving us. Thanks to the holy serum, which was applied to him in great quantities, a few days later he began to improve.

Without feeling sorry for himself and handling his illness with heroic patience, he withstood everything in amends for the sins of the world. In the convent it was said that it was the Holy Virgin, of whom he was a great devotee, who cured him.

**Martyrdom:** Common narration

From Brother Matías grant us, Lord, his permanent and good disposition to his work, his kindness and his devotion to the Holy Virgin



**Sergio MARTÍNEZ ALONSO**  
**Brother Constancio, 26 years old**  
**Born in Quintanilla Pedro Abarca**  
**(Burgos)**

He had taken very seriously his Gabrielite vocation and had undertaken his studies with great interest and the strength of his charisma for teaching, preparing himself for the academic title with academic moderation. His first assignment was to the school in Valls that had attained at a Provincial level a prestige attained by no other institution. He was encouraged and sustained by a profound piety, a tender devotion to the Holy Virgin, and a profound respect for the priests that presided over the Parish, where he worked and collaborated with the Catechism and other parochial activities.

From Valls he moved onto the new school in San Adrián de Besós in a working class neighborhood of the industrial belt of Barcelona and where he offered his services to the children of the workers. His Director in San Adrián, Brother Juan de Avila, wrote of him that he was a religious person that was very uplifting for his piety, his constancy and his good spirit.

Having returned to Valls it was there that he faced the revolution which forced him to seek refuge with a family and soon after to reach with great difficulty the Provincial House of Can Valls looking for a greater security according to the wish later expressed by Brother Estanislao, Provincial.

**Martyrdom:** Common narration

From Brother Constancio grant us, Lord, his deep piety, his constancy and patience in his work as an educator.

**"All true children of God have  
God for their father and Mary  
for their mother"**

**- St. Louis Marie de Montfort**

