

## PROPOSAL FOR REFLECTION

1. With Marie-Louise de Jesus, I prepare myself to enter into a deep relationship with Jesus Christ, the eternal and incarnate Wisdom.
2. Take up again in fraternity the card 2 of the formation course to situate the event of Marie-Louise's arrival in St. Lawrence.
3. Read the text of the card and let my questions come in.
4. Contemplate the action of Wisdom in the life of Marie-Louise of Jesus and share our reflection
  - What challenges me in this event in Maria Luisa's life?
  - What face of Wisdom is revealed to me in this event?
4. ***With Love and for love***, I set out under the gaze of Marie-Louise de Jesus.
  - What calls echo in me in the face of this event in Marie-Louise's life?
  - In what way are they inviting me to change my way of living my mission as a baptized person and as a friend?

## Three-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the

Blessed Marie-Louise de Jésus

to Saint Laurent

At the Marie-Louise school

Sheet I



On this tercentenary of the arrival of Marie-Louise of Jesus at Saint-Laurent, we propose to you, in conjunction with the Daughters of Wisdom, a journey that invites us to contemplate the founding event of the Montfortian Family in order to thank the Lord, to nourish ourselves and to bear witness to him. Pope Francis invites us to do so in his Apostolic Exhortation, **Gaudete et Exsultate – The call to holiness**; *"I wish to evoke so many unknown or forgotten women who have sustained and transformed families and communities with the power of their*

*testimony. This should inspire and encourage everyone to give the best of themselves to progress towards this unique and inimitable project that God has willed from all eternity for each one of us. With Love and for Love, let us put ourselves in the school of Mary Louse...*



## The arrival of Marie-Louise de Jésus at

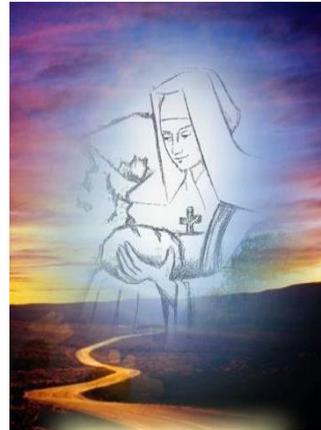
**Saint-Laurent-sur Sèvre,**

**June 1720**

Marie-Louise de Jesus was deeply saddened when she learned, after several days, that Father de Montfort had died on April 28, 1716, during a mission he was giving at St-Laurent sur Sèvre. She was only thirty-two years old at the time and lived in La Rochelle surrounded by some sisters who taught the poor girls of the city.

What to do after the death of the spiritual guide? There is only a small embryo of a Congregation.

As a disciple of Montfort, she trusted in Providence and held on to the prophetic words of St. Louis Marie, who assured her that she would be at the head of a Congregation dedicated to eternal and incarnate Wisdom. She patiently waited for God to show her the way to follow.



In 1719, he returned to Poitiers. But very soon he realised that the conditions imposed on her by the administrators of the General Hospital were not conducive to the establishment and development of the young Congregation. Perplexed, she went to pray to Mary, Queen of Hearts, in the small chapel of Montbernage in Poitiers. There she met Jacques Goudeau, the weaver to whom Montfort had entrusted the daily prayer, and shared with him her concerns. He referred her to a pious and generous benefactor, Madame de Bouillé, who was once served by Montfort himself. *"She loves Father de Montfort very much"*, said Jacques, *"and often goes to pray at his grave"*.

A light comes on: Father de Montfort's tomb... Isn't it the ideal place to establish the Congregation of Wisdom? The ardent benefactress overcomes all resistance. She buys an empty house in St. Laurent, called the Longhouse. She offers it to Marie-Louise who arrives at the eighth of Corpus Christi in 1720. The Mother House of Wisdom operates for several years in conditions of extreme poverty (the bedding, the wardrobe, the maintenance are extremely miserable. Some days the sisters eat only black bread).

It is the Bethlehem where Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate, wants to be born in hearts.

Because of this bold gesture, living in the most precarious conditions, but always deeply rooted in the mystical path of Montfort, Marie-Louise de Jésus is at the origin of the foundation of the cradle of the three Montfortian Institutes.

