

PROCEDURE PROPOSED

1. With Marie-Louise of Jesus, I prepare myself to enter into a deep relationship with Jesus Christ, the Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom.
2. Reading of the text.
3. Contemplation of the action of Wisdom in the life of Marie-Louise who collaborates with the laity.
 - How is Wisdom manifested in the relationships Marie Louise has with the laity?
4. **With love and for love**, I set out under the gaze of Marie-Louise de Jésus.
 - How do I collaborate with the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom to deepen my spirituality?
 - Am I called to deepen my association with the Sisters who accompany us or with whom we are in relationship? In what way?
 - As a baptized person, how do I live more widely my commitment to work with priests and religious to promote baptismal life and to make Montfortian spirituality known in my environment?
5. Sharing in fraternity

Three-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the

Blessed Marie-Louise de Jésus to Saint Laurent



At the Marie-Louise school

Sheet II

The relationship of Marie-Louise with the laity

From her arrival at the hospital in Poitiers until her death, Marie-Louise always served the poor by working closely with the laity. She recognized in them the Providence that guides her in the decisive moments of the life of the Institute.

In 1719, in Poitiers, he met Jacques Goudeau at the Montbernage sanctuary restored by Father de Montfort. This man who was praying fixed his eyes on her and discovered the thoughts that disturbed her



He addressed her as follows: *"I see you in sorrow, madam, because you have left La Rochelle and the establishment you had begun has not lasted. You fear that it is your fault and that God will reproach you one day. Well, I know that there is a lady, Madame de Bouillé, who lives near St. Laurent. She is in a position to help you in the execution of this good work because she gives herself completely to all those who are proposed to her"*.

Marie-Louise is moved by Jacques' words in which she sees a light: St-Laurent! Father de Montfort's tomb!



After praying to the Holy Spirit, she wrote a letter to Madame de Bouillé whose heart was filled with gratitude for Father de Montfort who had healed her. This is a decisive day for the history of Wisdom! Madame de Bouillé did not hesitate to go on horseback to Poitiers to speak with Marie-Louise. She quickly grasped the deep desire of the de Montfort heiress:

This is the opening of a house of formation which will be the cornerstone of the radiance of the Wisdom. Both had the intuition that it could not arise in any other place in the

world than in St. Laurent, where Father de Montfort had placed his desire for hope in the hands of the Father.

However, the Bishop of Poitiers opposed the departure of Marie-Louise. Madame de Bouillé's intervention with the prelate was not enough. She had to turn to the Marquis de Magnanne, of whom she was a relative.



In 1714, the Marquis had heard Father de Montfort speak of the Congregation of Women Consecrated to Wisdom which was in Poitiers and which he already intended to bring to La Rochelle to encourage its growth. He intervened with the prelate who accepted the departure of Marie-Louise to Saint-Laurent on one condition: the marquis and Madame de Bouillé would organise a general assembly of the inhabitants of Saint-Laurent to agree to welcome the Daughters of Wisdom to their parish. A year of negotiation will be necessary to obtain this agreement.

From 1723 until his death in 1755, the Marquis watched over the growth of the two nascent Congregations (the Daughters of Wisdom and the Montfort Missionaries). He committed himself to them without limit, both materially and spiritually. He was truly the greatest benefactor of the Montfortian family. That is why we find his tomb very close to those of our Founders.

On April 28th 1759, Marie-Louise had one last thought for the poor. She sent for a young woman who was helping the poor in the parish. She recommended that she always take good care of the unfortunate and continue her service to them.

Thus, in the evening of her life, through the figure of this woman, Marie-Louise entrusted to the present and future lay people those with whom she had begun her great adventure with Montfort: the poor.

Her last words to them remain engraved in our memory: *"Never forget the poor"*.

