



Gabrielite

News Bulletin

For Private Circulation Only



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*At the sight of the innumerable needs of men,
called to live in the Kingdom,
pray the Master of the harvest
with the firm conviction that your prayer is already heard:
the Lord will send labourers
who will toil in the fields with you (RL. 18).*

It gives us great joy in knowing that many young men are coming into the fold of the Montfortian Family. Nineteen novices belonging to eight Provinces of India pronounced their first vows on 24th April 2021 and eighteen Brothers from five Indian Provinces pronounced their perpetual vows.

As we labour in the vineyard of the Lord to establish His kingdom through our charism, we are blessed with young men who are willing to shoulder the tasks ahead of us. We congratulate them and wish them a fruitful mission in their respective Provinces.

This issue of the magazine contains news from 13 Provinces. wherein you will find various activities that took place in their respective communities and institutions. Some of the news items cover the active involvement of the Brothers in reaching out to the people suffering due to Covid-19 by providing them material aid, psychological aid and by providing accommodation in their institutions for the health workers and Covid affected patients.

The activities and spiritual animation of the Motfortian Associates are covered under the section Partnership. In the final section, we have a hymn written by Bro. Emmanuel P. J seeking God's help to rescue humanity from the suffering of the pandemic.

We thank all the Provincial Superiors and the designated reporters who have played an active role in contributing news to GNB. We look forward to publishing news from all the 16 Provinces in the future.

We thank Bro. Emmanuel P. J for editing the texts. We extend our sincere thanks to the translators, Bro. Marcel Chapeleau, Bro. Rene Delorme, Bro. Jean-Paul Mbengue and Bro. Jean-Marie Thior. A special word of appreciation to Bro. James T. K, Bro. Jean-Marie Thior and Bro. Michael Mathew for their assistance. Have a good reading of the magazine!

Bro. Louis Anthonysamy, SG
&
Bro. Sebastien Ndabungiye, SG

FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR SR. JESSIN AND WELCOME TO SRS. MERIN AND CHRISTINA



The General House took advantage of the Celebration of the Liberation Day of Italy on 25th April to express its deep gratitude to Sr. Jessin, who after seven (7) years of loyal and generous services, has been transferred by her Superiors to a new Mission in India. The celebration was simple, warm and moving. Sr. Jessin, the woman with a slow and discreet pace, a permanent smile, hard-working, willing, full of creativity, filled with a human touch: an exceptional woman. These are the qualities that were highlighted during the farewell messages given by Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General, and Bro. T. K. James, Assistant General, with a SPECIAL THANKS.

All these qualities undoubtedly resulted from her family background and her strong awareness of belonging to the Congregation of St. Joseph of Kottayam. When we speak about St. Joseph, especially in this year dedicated to him, we are speaking of a model for all Christians to imitate. Being in the company of Sr. Jessin gives one the chance to witness how much she has appropriated the qualities of St. Joseph; indeed, she has transplanted it into her own life.

"Gratitude touches the heart and is pleasing to God and men" says a Hindu proverb. This is what Bros. Bernard Guesdon and T. K. James

wanted to express to Sister Jessin, through a song of the pirogue workers from RDC adapted for the occasion and a power point presentation retracing her stay in Rome. Sr. Celin Jose, the Local Superior of the Community of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Kottayam, emotionally expressed her thanks to Sr. Jessin for her generosity, her availability and all her commitments lived with great love. Sister Jessin, thank you so very much for all that you have done for the General House and especially for what you have been.

During the same ceremony, a warm welcome was extended to Srs. Christina Jose Preethy and Merin Kottayarikil. While Sr. Christina has to start intensively learning Italian for her studies, Sr. Merin is on her second stay in Rome and at the service of the Generalate. Have a pleasant stay in Italy, "Belpaese", whose richness and beauty of landscapes live up to its name: a beautiful Country that combines cultural and religious riches unique in the world, and remarkable landscapes.

At the end of the ceremony, Sr. Jessin thanked the Brothers, Sisters and Priests for this wonderful day which is now engraved in her heart.

Have a safe journey to India Sr. Jessin! Have a fruitful mission! We remain united with you in prayer and good memory.

**Bro. Jean Marie Thior, SG
Secretary General**



END OF THE YEAR **RETREAT** FOR THE **BROTHERS OF BRAZZAVILLE**

From 26th to 30th of December 2020, the Brothers and Pre-Novices met at the Center in Kinsoundi for their spiritual retreat. It could have been held a little earlier, but because of the corona virus pandemic, the schedule had to be changed. That retreat focused on: “The practice of the Vows in the light of the Code of Canon Law”. It was preached by Father Gélase Arnel Kema, professor of the Code of Canon Law at the Major Theological Seminary Cardinal Emile Biayenda and National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies (OPM). In his communication, Father Kema recalled that every religious is first of all a baptized person. Through baptism he is configured to Christ. The evangelical foundation of consecrated life is to be found in the special relationship that Jesus, during his earthly existence, had with some of his disciples, whom he invited, not only to welcome the Kingdom of God into their lives, but also to put their entire life at the service of that Kingdom, leaving everything, and closely



imitating Jesus' way of life. The religious freely undertakes to leave everything to follow Christ. And it is the Father who calls each one and sends him to imitate his Son, with the strength of the Holy Spirit. He lives in joy, which is the messianic gift par excellence, as Jesus himself promises: “so that my joy be in you and that your joy be complete”. Also, thanks to Mary's charity at the wedding feast in Cana, wine brings joy. It is the same for her visitation which brought joy to the family of Zechariah. Thus, following the example of the Mother of the Savior, the religious is called to give birth to Jesus by his testimony of life. And it is faith that makes Jesus visible. And, speaking of the Vows, Father Kema pointed out that the one who takes the Vows acquires a special status. Such a consecration raises questions for others. The question of the separation of members from the Institute was also addressed by Father Kema, with reference to the appropriate canons.

(Source: Province Magazine)



ONLINE ANNUAL RETREAT

Our Constitutions ask that each Brother take a break from his usual activities for an annual retreat. In addition, the Province Directory adds a few details for proper implementation.

In the midst of the 3rd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, squeezed into the Public Health ordinances, living in various health zones of different colours, how can we manage to fulfil such an obligation?

Last year, somewhat at the last minute, a project allowed everyone to experience, according to its environment, its personal rhythm, a moment of spiritual recovery. This year (2021), the Provincial Council had asked Brother Ronald BRISSETTE to propose different paths for the annual retreat. Some of them, like this MONTH WITH MARY from the newspaper LA-CROIX, presented documents that were difficult to reach, not very adapted to religious life. Another project: MARY IN DAILY LIFE gave too much computer research to be done, which was not helpful for a CALM prayer! Three others, well documented, would have required a long preparation in order to equip the confreres: Spiritual Retreats - Martin Hoegger; Mary, my secret | Deepening one's Faith (teachable.com); Personal recollection | Canadian Union of Ursulines (ursulines-uc.com). However, at the Provincial Council meeting, Brother René Delorme, Provincial Superior, presented a discovery! It was a 6-day



retreat based on Ignatian pedagogy: Online Retreat according to the Spiritual Exercises - La Xavière (xavieres.org).

The topics covered, day by day, include a written document (pdf) supported by audio documentation (mp4). The topics are according to Ignatian methodology (1st point, 2nd point, 3rd point) but this is hardly noticeable (heard). Everything is simple, easy to listen to, easy for personal prayer, practical, well connected to daily life, free in time because it is adapted to the individual rhythm. Two instructions per day, of 30 minutes each, a possibility of pondering over what has been presented, when one wants to. This is what was proposed to the confreres, each of whom received all the printed texts for these 6 days.

In a communiqué, each of the local communities was invited by the Provincial Superior to construct its daily schedule for the duration of at least 5 days. The only obligations were common prayers, a Marian celebration, and a community meeting. One fraternity of two Brothers lived the experience together for the listening time; another let each one decide on his own time of meditation with the text; a third proposed one community meeting per day. Among the original local initiatives, we must highlight a daily meditated rosary at the end of the morning at the Provincial House; this same local community also scheduled a celebration at Le Repos Saint-François d'Assise cemetery.



DEATH OF BROTHER GEORGES CROTEAU



The death of our confrere has shaken many people. Still active in pastoral work with adults and young people taking part in World Youth Days, Brother Georges had his own way of

bringing people to Jesus. In times of pandemic, faced with the constraints imposed by Public Health for religious assemblies in different zones, the Provincial Council had, in consultation with the family of the deceased, proposed a visit to the Garneau Funeral Home (Trois-Rivières) for a short period of two hours before the body was cremated. The members of

Bro. Georges' family could not attend mostly because of the pandemic affecting the area where they live.

All the confreres of the Trois-Rivières region celebrated the life of Brother Georges Croteau, accompanied by Brothers René Delorme and André Roberge, who had come from Montreal, by Mesdames Hélène Périgny and Dolorès Arcand, cooks in our two communities of Trois-Rivières, and by Mr Marc Zongo, a resident at the house on Viger Street. Two short hours of prayers, exchanges of memories, accounts of fraternal deeds and gestures, reminders of his pastoral action with the faithful, students, pilgrims, and parishioners.

The ashes are kept for future funerals, at the time of deconfinement. Young people from the WYD attended a mass that was celebrated in the Sanctuary of Notre-Dame-du-Cap.

103 YEARS, IT'S A CELEBRATION!



On May 26, Brother Roland Jacob added a candle (the 103rd) to his birthday cake.

A life as a religious educator, here and elsewhere; a joyful, fraternal life; a quieter life now, because of deafness and shorter moments of full attention. He still doesn't understand why the Lord leaves him with us! But we know: because his example of a simple life, day after day, trusting in Mary, is a wonderful testimony for all of us. Happy birthday, Brother Roland.

Bro. Ronald Brissette, SG

SANT GABRIEL TV

This year, as part of the Community Service, the Sant Gabriel Televisió project has been launched. One day a week, the fourth-year ESO pupils, broadcast via their own You Tube Channel, twenty to thirty minutes of news, covering a wide spectrum: issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, relevant information about the school, the Municipality, short reports of general interest, interviews on the fields of cooperativism, associations, equality, etc.

A team each has been created in classes to function, emulating the way professional channels work, assigning roles and responsibilities like those of editors, writers, programme directors, and production teams. The material is prepared and recorded, with the help of a chroma system, during class time and in the school's auditorium.

The project, which produces very interesting results, is based on two main axis: the first is to



carry out an activity that serves and informs the entire educational community and the second is of a purely pedagogical nature, consisting of ensuring that the pupils are solely responsible for the execution and preparation of the programmes. Not to mention the indirect content that is worked out, in the field of languages, in order to create and write the content.

Sant Gabriel Televisió, from its inception, is designed to remain in the daily life of the school. We hope that it can become a reality that covers more subjects and, why not, more time, even of an optional nature.

Xavier Juanals and Carlos Garnacho
(Source: Province Magazine)





EASTER IN SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT SCHOOL

From Thursday, 18 March 2021, the children of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort School, in Frossay, could gradually embark on a journey that would lead them to Easter.

Every morning, in a very visible place near the schoolyard, a new visual representation stimulated the children's interest: it was a "silent" but "expressive" silhouette which was accompanied by "the question of the day".

That visual representation, which was under permanent construction, would ultimately be nine meters wide and two meters high. The objective was to encourage the children to share among themselves, both on the playground and in the classroom, concerning the "discoveries" they made every day.

"The question of the day" invited each one to keep on searching and to imagine what would come out on the following day. It was in the form of a riddle referring to a Gospel passage which gave meaning to the new visual they would see the next morning.

All the children, teachers and members of the educational team lived this approach to Easter with interest. While the drawing got bigger and bigger, the question of the day was a constant source of motivation: "Will I find the answer?" Every day, I e-mailed the pictures and "the question of the day" to the parents.

The main moments of the process were: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter day.

A celebration, with the parish priest, had been prepared and was to take place near the visual representation on Tuesday, 6 April. However, it had to be delayed to a later date because of the pandemic.

But the words of appreciation from parents, children and members of the educational team encourage us to go on and renew such a kind of experience.

Visual representation was made by Bros. Jacques VALLET, Jo ALLAIN, and Mr. Tony GUIBOUIN, former parent of a pupil.

Mrs. Lucie ROULEAU
School Director



PROVINCE OF BENGALURU

INAUGURATION OF THE JUNIORATE OF BENGALURU PROVINCE



The historical event of the Province of Bengaluru, the Inauguration of the Juniorate took place at St. Antony's School, Coonoor on 30th January 2021. The Provincial Superior Rev. Bro. George P.J, officially inaugurated the Juniorate block in the presence of the Brothers and staff who have gathered for the occasion and welcomed the Juniors, showering his blessings on them. The 118 years old Library Building of the school is transformed into Montfort Juniorate.

COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

AT MONTFORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, CHENNAI

After about 10 months of lockdown due to Covid Pandemic all the 4 centres of Community Rehabilitation have resumed their operations with effect from February 2021 with regular activities like Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Vocational skills training and Monthly Parents meeting.

Health Programme:

Clinic on Wheels with Doctor, along with support staff and equipped with sufficient stock of medicines reached out to more than Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty beneficiaries in the slums and slum relocated areas during this Quarter.

Eye Screening & Spectacles Distribution:

As in the past, MCDS along with India Vision Institute conducted Eye Screening. About Eight Hundred people benefitted through this Free Eye Screening Camp. Free Spectacles were distributed to those with defective vision in March 2021. More than two hundred people benefitted through these camps.



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

AT MONTFORT COLLEGE, BENGALURU



Montfort Institute of Advanced Studies and Montfort College students joined together and celebrated International Women's Day on March 08, 2021. The three women guests who came over for the occasion addressed the gathering highlighting the roles played by women in shaping the world of today. Students from the College made the program a beautiful one through their dance and melodious singing.

INAUGURATION OF THE 200M SYNTHETIC TRACK

AT MONTFORT SCHOOL,
ST. THOMAS MOUNT, CHENNAI

On 13th March 2021 was yet another red-lettered day for the school. The prestigious 200m Synthetic Athletic Track was inaugurated through an imposing event. The Provincial Superior Rev. Bro George P. J. presided over the function along with guests of honour and chief guests. This new facility is the first of its kind in Chennai and among all the Montfort schools in India.



PARENTS' SYMPOSIUM AT MONTFORT SECONDARY SCHOOL, SINGAPORE



Montfort school values the importance of strengthening the partnership and engagement with the parents of the students, to improve the students' well-being and learning. During the term, the school had provided them with practical information and parenting skills to support their child's learning. Because of the limitations of COVID-19 Safe Management Measures (SMM), the symposiums were held virtually. The symposiums were very well-received!

MONTFORT DAY CELEBRATION

AT MONTFORT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AKLAN,
PHILIPPINES

On 29th January, Montfort Technical Institute commemorated the birth of the man behind the successful mission, St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort. The day was filled with virtual contests: Online Quiz Bee, Coffee Painting, Spoken Poetry and Poem Recital, and Worship Song. Montfort Technical Institute is a powerhouse of wit and talent. All the students took an active part in all the competitions. The Award Ceremony was held at Martirez function hall at Montfort Technical Institute on February 1, 2021.

On 31st, January, Brothers and Candidates gathered in full strength in Montfort Technical Institute community to celebrate Montfort's Birthday. The day started with a Volleyball match between the Brothers and Candidates which, was won by the Brothers. It was followed by a simple lunch. In the evening beloved Bishop Jose Corazon Talo-oc, celebrated Holy Eucharist to pray for the wellbeing of our Brothers and for the success of all our missions around the world. We happily ended our day with a sumptuous dinner.

(Reported by Bro. Jenny Kuriakose, SG)

COVID TASK FORCE COUNSELLING HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC

A news item given in the front page of 'Times of India', on 24th May 2021 was titled, Northeast likely to be next Covid hotspot.



The world is currently facing the second and deadly wave of Covid-19. Though the number of

people infected are growing less, the number of people affected physically and mentally by this Pandemic are increasing at an accelerating rate. Understanding the seriousness of the situation the North East India Regional Bishop's Council (NEIRBC- comprises of 7 states of North East India) called for a meeting of the secretaries of various commissions, the Executive members of the North East Regional Conference of Religious in India and the representatives of NGO's working in the region for an online meeting to discuss on 'What can the Catholic Church do in this present scenario?'

In response to the suggestions received in the online meeting, the North East India Regional Bishop's Council (NEIRBC) set up a Regional Central Team to care for the safety and the wellbeing of the victims of the pandemic in the North East and to provide emotional and psychological support for them during the second wave of Corona Virus Pandemic.

As a member of the Regional Central Team, Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, SG took up the responsibility entrusted to him by the NEI Covid Task Force, to identify trained Counsellors in the Northeast Region and form a team of counsellors who will provide psychological support to the people of the region, affected due to stress and other emotional difficulties. The NEI COVID TASK

FORCE counsellors are divided into different teams based on language they are comfortable with and the time when they are available to give online psychological support to the people affected due to stress and other emotional difficulties during this pandemic.

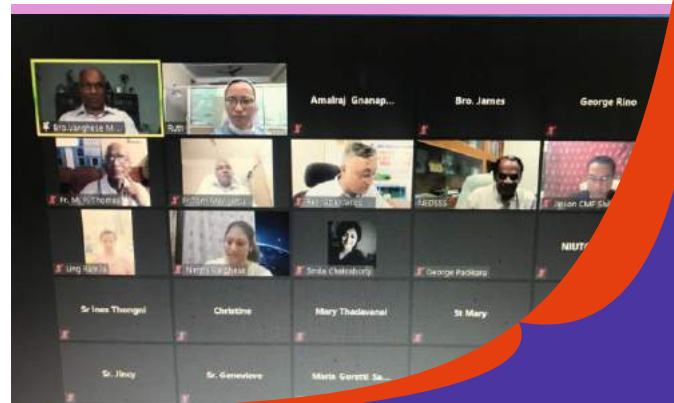
As of now the number of trained Counsellors with specialization in different areas who have responded to the call of NEI task force coordinator, Bro. Varghese Mandapathil and volunteered to provide Mental Health support to the people of North East India stands at 50. A Team of five Senior Counsellors headed by Bro. George Padikara of the Province of Bengaluru, forms the 'Supervision Team' who will supervise the work of the Counsellors.

An online Zoom meeting titled 'Introduction and Orientation for NEI Covid Task Force Counsellors' was hosted on the 26th of May 2021 at 5.30 p.m. by the Coordinator so that all the counsellors get to know the task they have volunteered for.

On the 27th of May 2021 an online training session on 'Online Counselling for the NEI Covid Task Force Counsellors' was hosted by Mr. Paras Sharma, an expert on online counselling.

The Counselling help is scheduled to start by the 1st week of June 2021.

Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, SG





THE BROTHERHOOD - A SERENE PATH TO SOLEMNITY AND DIVINITY

Bro. Udai Kumar Kaipeng said yes to the call of God to dedicate his life to God and to the service of His people by making his first Profession on 24th April 2021 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Echinkadu, Yercaud. It is a matter of great joy for the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of North East India, the Diocese of Agartala, and the parents of Bro. Udai Kumar Kaipeng.

Bro. Udai Kumar Kaipeng is the first Montfort Brother from the Kaipeng community and the first Brother from the Diocese of Agartala. He completed his schooling from Montfort School Champaknagar and joined the Juniorate at Montfort School Chabua. Later he completed his pre-Novitiate at Sathyamangalam, Tamilnadu and his two years of Novitiate in

Yercaud.

On 23rd May the Catholic community of Lungkam village felicitated Bro. Udai Kumar in the presence of Rt. Rev. Lumen Monteiro, the Bishop of Agartala, the Parish priest, Fr. Valentine SVD, of Khumulung Parish, the Sisters of MSMHC, Champaknagar and the Brothers community at Champaknagar, Tripura. We hope and pray that many more young men will be encouraged to follow the footsteps of Montfort by joining the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel to serve the needy in the Northeast India.

May the Grace of our God the Father almighty, our Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Blessed Mother Mary and Saint Montfort, guide Bro. Udai Kaipeng as he embarks upon his new journey as a Montfort Brother to be at the service of the humanity.

Bro. Peter Vedanayagam, SG



REVIEW MEETING OF HOLISTIC EDUCATION

Revue meeting for the Primary, High School, Junior College and Degree college staff was held online from 8th to 12th December for all the Institutions in the Province. It was a new experience for the staff, listening to the teachers of different institutions and learning from each other.

LS, BURSAR, HM, AND DIRECTOR MEET



The Local Superiors, Bursars and Directors meeting was conducted at Little Flower High School, Hyderabad for the institutions in Telangana and Andhra and for the institutions in Goa and Maharashtra the meeting was conducted at the Stephen High School for the Deaf, Mumbai.

FIRST VOWS, RENEWAL OF VOWS AND FINAL PROFESSION

The first vows for the Novices were held at Montfort School, Yercaud on 24th April 2021. Two Novices from the province of Pune made their First Profession. On 12th May 22 Junior Brothers renewed their vows after two days of Preparation in their respective communities. After a month and a half of preparation for Final vows at Montfort Niwas, the Provincial House of the Province of Ranchi, 4 Brothers made their perpetual profession on 23rd May 2021.



RETREAT AND SEMINAR FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS

A two-day seminar was arranged for the Catholic students in the Province at their respective institutions by a team of Brothers of the Province.



FATHIMA ITC - KAZIPET

On 31st January we had a Prayer service in honor of St. Montfort and the biography of St. Montfort was shared with all the staff and students. Long awaited exams of the NCVT were completed and for the first time the Government has introduced CBT (Computer Based Test) method for conducting the Exams.



MONTFORT HOME, KAZIPET



Yoga classes

Bro. T. T. Mathew (Delhi Province) taught the art of practicing yoga and meditation from the 13th to the 20th of February. He helped juniors to bring together physical and mental disciplines to achieve peace in body and mind. Yoga and meditation helped them to be flexible and kept them relaxed. He also took spoken English and motivational classes for the Juniors.

Provincial's visit

On 22nd January, 2021 the juniors were welcomed officially to the Montfortian family by Bro. Jaico Gervasis.

(Reported by Bro. William R. D'Mello, SG)

PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD

A DAY OF JOY FOR AMITNAGAR FAMILIES OF BALLARSHAH

Montfort ITI, Ballarshah and Saint Chavara Kalaniketan, Bamni made an enchanting effort serving over 100 support requiring families in Amitnagar, Bamni reaching out to each of

them with grocery items at Kalaniketan Park in Montfort I.T.I. campus on 11th June, 2021. We thank Bro. Bala Showry, the Provincial Superior of Hyderabad Province, all the Brothers of the Province and our programme organizers for helping us with the resources to reach out to the people in need. This small village of Bamni was affected very badly due to the 2nd wave of Covid -19 in India. Many have died in their houses as they could not afford the expensive treatment.

Bro. Marreddy T. R, SG





PROVINCE OF RANCHI

MONTFORT SCHOOL & M.V.D, HATHIAGONDA

Montfort school started its new academic session on the 12th of April 2021.

Online classes are going on through Zoom App regularly. On 10th April, Montfort Vidya Deep, Hathiagonda, Ranchi was invited to Nawatar Community by Bro. Subhod Kachhap, the

Local Superior for a get-together. The juniors had a good time with the Brothers in sharing the community life and enjoying the presence of the Brothers. After a delicious supper they returned to community the following morning.

On 11th April, a friendly Cricket match between Ranchi sector Brothers V/s C.R.I. Brothers (Those who were preparing for their final vows) was organized at M.V.D. The Brothers enjoyed the match as well as the outing.

Montfort's feast was celebrated in a simple way on 28th April 2021, keeping in mind the present Pandemic situation. Montfort Sisters and some of the staff from Montfort school, Hathiagonda were present for the Holy Eucharist and had breakfast together.

Bro. Bipin Beck, SG

RECOLLECTION

In preparation for a meaningful Easter celebration, half a day of sector level recollection was organised on 28th March, at St. Aloysius School community. All the Brothers of Ranchi sector gathered together and collectively reflected on the theme "Sowing the seed of Life".

The recollection talk was delivered by Rev. Fr. Fabian Kullu, the professor from St. Albert's Theological College, Ranchi. His talk mainly focused on "You take care of the sowing. God will take care of the growing."

(Source: Province Magazine)



BROTHERS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Montfort Brothers are lending their infrastructures for covid-19 relief works. Civil Authorities of Manapparai town approached Brothers of St. Antony's Boys Town School, requesting them

to use the playground as market. Brothers have permitted them to use the playground. A prominent hospital in Trichy sought help from Campion School to accommodate their front-line covid workers such as Doctors, Nurses and Technicians. The school has given their boys hostel for the purpose of their rest and isolation. Similarly, Montfort School, Anakkara has given its Primary School building for the accommodation and for the treatment of covid affected patients.



RENEWAL OF THE VOWS

The spread of covid 19 and lockdown made it difficult for the Junior Brothers to come together for their retreat and



renewal of the Vows. However, they all joined for the annual retreat online, conducted by Bro. Paul Raj and renewed their Vows in their respective communities.

COVID-19 SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU, INDIA

The second wave of covid has devastated the state of Tamilnadu. Good many Religious, Priests and Bishops have lost their lives. It is needless to mention the amount of suffering and agony of the people who lost their dear ones. Quite a few children have become orphans and quite a lot of them lost their Bread-winner at their homes.

Bro. Irudhayam. M, SG
Provincial Superior

India has come to stand still due to the second wave of Covid 19. The death ratio is increasing in thousands day by day. Hospitals are overflowing with patients. Ordinary people are struggling without jobs. The news papers and TV channels are filled with negative news. There is a surmounted amount of fear is created among the people of India. As Jesus says in the Gospel of St. John 16:20 “Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy”, let’s hope and pray that soon all this suffering and pain will pass and people will enjoy peace, joy and good health.

FIRST VOWS



The Brothers of the province of Yercaud are very happy to welcome two young and energetic Brothers namely Bros. Mariyan Christopher and Patric Alwin who said YES to God’s call and pronounced their first vows on 24th April 2021. The first profession mass was celebrated in a simple and prayerful manner keeping in mind safety of the people during this pandemic time. The Eucharist Celebration was animated by his Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Singaroyan, Emeritus Bishop of Salem Diocese at Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud.

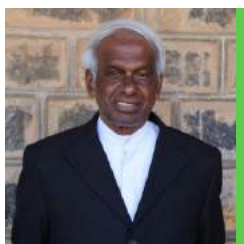
MONTFORT ANBAGAM

“By wisdom a house is built and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.” – Proverbs 24: 3-4.

'Montfort Anbagam' a new Brother’s residence in St. Mary’s Hr. Sec. School, A. N. Mangalam was inaugurated on 26th of April 2021. His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Singaroyan, Emeritus Bishop of Salem Diocese blessed the house and Rev. Bro. Wilfrid S.G., inaugurated it.



DEMISE OF BRO. JACOB EZHALIKATT



We are saddened by the demise of one of the greatest personalities of our Congregation Rev. Bro. Jacob Ezhalikatt. Due to his ill health he breathed his last on 28th of April 2021. A Brother, who was filled with positivity in his words and deeds. He rendered his significant services to the Congregation as a Formator, as an Educationist, as a Psychologist, as an Administrator and two terms as an Assistant General. Let us raise our hearts in thanksgiving for the wonderful person of Bro. Jacob Ezhalikatt to our

congregation. May he enjoy eternal rest in the heavenly abode and intercede for all of us.

Bro. Arockia Robert, SG

ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY



AU STUDENTS HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS WORLD PEACE ETHICS AWARDS

Six AU Students from Schools of Arts, Music and Engineering distinguished themselves in the 12th World Peace Ethics Contest and won top prizes for the first time.

On April 1st 2021, the World Peace Ethics Club (World-PEC) represented by Dr. Petcharat Lovichakorntikul, Director of World-PEC presented the 12th World-PEC Contest 2021 Awards to 6 AU students at the Hua mak campus of Assumption University. The purpose of this award presentation is to recognize top awardees of the 12th World Peace Ethics Contest for Young People who are

remarkable in their competences in the Ethics test, which reflects that young people can learn and understand ethical values with inner peace and can forward this to their family, society, and country. Finally, it can create love, harmony, and true peace.

Bro. Achin Tengtrakul, SG

The Oxygen Hub
A Refreshing Point |

A PLEAD FOR MOTHER NATURE

*“Nature is everywhere but seldom we care,
All the bounties of the Nature we share.
There is plenty for everyone's need,
But many exploit it for their greed.
All we care is exploit the Nature for our need,
Rarely any one comes forward with a positive deed,
The Mother Nature bleeds and bleeds.
It is high time that we bow now,
And act accordingly.”*

Keeping in view the Promotion of Greenery in the Campus, we have created an **Oxygen Hub**, which is well known for its lush green plantations along with some of the rare plants procured from different places. We have given Special Attention in planting Oxygen Generating plants. Some of the plants which has attracted attention among the students and the

parents are *Zamia Furfuracea* (cardboard Palm), *Kimberley Queen* (Indoor Fern), *Maranta leuconeura*, *Colocasia esculenta*, *Setaria*



Palmifolia, Moses Cradle, Asparagus fern, Lily turf, Arrow head plant, Cordyline pink Diamond, Mother in-laws tongue, Canna paniculate, Umbrella tree, Dragon tree, Areca Palam, Pygmy date palm, Cherry laurel, hostas plantain lily, Ficus benjamia,.etc.

The Oxygen Hub area is spread around Ten thousand sq. ft. It not only attracts students, parents and teachers but also a good number of birds and small animals (squirrel, polecat, mongoose, etc.). In the mornings and evenings, we can hear a lot of chirping which is very soothing and comforting to everyone who passes by. All through the Summer Months the birds are provided with cool drinking water. It's a pleasure to watch them drink and bath merrily and enjoy a cool feel. That is what Our Holy Father Pope Francis invites each one of us to Nurture and Care for Our Mother Nature in his



Encyclical ***“Laudato si”***.

Group of parents, students and teachers often love to pass their leisure time around the Oxygen Hub and enjoy the refreshing air. Some of them even love to take their selfies and arrest the moment forever and ever. Our teachers along with students quite often hold their academic and co-curricular activities near the Oxygen Hub, Promoting awareness about **Nature and Protection of Our Mother Earth.**

Bro. Benny Thekkemuriyil, SG

St. Gabriel's Hr. Sec. School Jabalpur.



ISTITUTO CA' FLORENS ISTRANA - ITALY

CENTRE OF THE ADOPTION AT A DISTANCE



We are two Brothers here at Istrana. We have three main activities.

1. The education apostolate of our Congregation through the adoption at a distance programme. Through this programme we help to promote education and formation of poor children in India,

Philippines and in lately in Tanzania. This project was started in the year 1980 and it continues successfully and fruitfully all through the years up to date.

2. The second activity is to provide our localities: 4 halls, chapel, play grounds and buildings available to prayer groups, various formation groups like formation of young married couples, groups of scouts, ongoing formation of animators of scout movement, fishing in our lake, providing games possibilities to sport groups, preparation for the First Communion and Confirmation of Parish children. Many Priests prefer to bring them to our Institute for the final preparation because we are helpful to them.

3. The third is to provide and accompany spiritual formation to many young and old people who are connected with us.

We have two Marian Prayer groups and also monthly retreat for the benefactors of

the adoption at a distance. In addition, we promote First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and first Saturday devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary with the faithful who come are connected with us. Bro. Dionisio Santoro helps five Parishes of Istrana with the celebration of one or more masses and the confessions.

Recently Bro Dionigi Taffarello, Vicar General and Bro. Michael Mathew, Bursar General had a chance to visit our Institute and take part in some of our activities.

There are people who regularly and daily take part with us in the prayers and in the Holy Mass in our community. We prepare many people for the Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary exactly as taught by our Founder St. Louis Mary Grignon de Montfort. We do the preparation every year from January to March and conclude on the 25th March with the celebration of the Consecration.

Even during the Covid-19 period, following the covid protocol, small groups of faithful were participating in all our prayers and celebrations. Now many groups start coming following all the prescribed health regulations. In fact, during the Covid restriction period, our community was a real Oasis of peace for many faithful.

Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG



June 2021



SACRED HEART NOVITIATE

EACHINKADU

Your Evangelical Brotherhood is a favoured sign of the Kingdom and a source of hope for the Church and the world. (RL-51).

It was a scarlet day for the Montfortian family when nineteen Novices belonging to eight Provinces of India pronounced their first vows on 24th April 2021 at Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud. On account of the Covid pandemic restrictions, there was a small assembly but had a meaningful Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rt. Rev. Singaroyan, the Bishop Emeritus of Salem.

The Parish Priest of Yercaud and the Priests from Religious communities of Yercaud concelebrated the Holy Eucharist.

The presence of parents and relatives of a few Brothers, Brothers from the neighbouring communities and the participation of Religious from Yercaud made the ceremonies more vibrant. The melodious singing of the Choir of Holy Cross Novitiate and the Staff choir of Montfort School ICSE, Yercaud made the liturgy more meaningful.

After the Eucharistic celebration, the dignitaries and the newly professed Brothers were felicitated at the Montfort School dining hall and which culminated in a sumptuous fellowship meal.



The Novitiate community expresses its gratefulness to Bro. Johnson S., the Provincial Superior of the Province of Yercaud for receiving the vows of Brothers of Seven Provinces and for his guidance and encouragements throughout the past two years. Bro. Lambert received the vows of Brothers of Hyderabad Province on behalf of the Provincial of Hyderabad Province.

Bro. Dominic Savio and the Brothers of the Montfort School Community made all the arrangements for the profession at Montfort School Campus.

The newly professed Brothers have gone for their home visit and will be joining their respective communities soon.

Bro. Anthony Sunil, SG



ST. GABRIEL'S HOUSE SITAGARHA

The Novices were kept very busy in their learnings of various aspects.

On 16th of March Rev. Bro. Lambert visited Novitiate to take classes on Psalms and introduction to Spirituality. The classes, his lifestyle and his experience as a formator enabled, encouraged and enhanced the Novices holistically.



On 4th April Brothers from neighbouring communities joined the novitiate community for the Easter celebrations.

On 8th April to 11th April, the Novices presented their 3rd book review.

Bro. Arockiaraj the Novices master has been inspiring the Novices with his classes and with his constant accompaniment. He has been encouraging them in every way possible to make them committed religious. Bro. Rahul has

been taking classes on various topics and helping the Novices to excel in their learnings. Bro. Kuldeep, the administrator who has been

rendering his services to the Novitiate amidst the pandemic is notable.

The Novices are keeping well and have been equipping themselves in various formative aspects of the Novitiate programme. The two weeks of change in programme had helped them enormously to excel in their skills and intellectual calibre.



Bro. Rahul Reddy, SG

MONTFORT ARULUDHAYAM (PRE-NOVITIATE)

Classes:

Starting from 7th of April, the pre-novices had several classes on the topics like Spirituality of St. Montfort, Sex Education And Life Satisfaction In Adolescence, Table Manners and Celebrating Brotherhood. All the classes were taught by Bro. Binu Mathew, The master of Pre- Novices.

Ugadi Celebration:

On the 13th of April, Ugadi festival was celebrated. The pre-novices from Telangana and AP have organized this festival with fun games, Prayer service and supper prepared by pre-novices.



Book Review:

The 4th Book review was held on the 29th and 30th of April. Pre- Novices presented their book review through PowerPoint presentation. Bro. Joni Rajan and Bro. Pakiyanathan from neighbouring community were invited for the book review.

Annual Retreat:

From the 5th to the 9th of May, Fr. James from Sathiyamangalam preached the Annual retreat. He enlightened the Pre-Novices through his classes, prayers and homily.



PREPARATION FOR FINAL VOWS IN INDIA

“It is by God's grace that I am what I am” (I Cor 15:10).

As per the decision of the National Council, we had a preparation of 45 days (1st April -15 May 2021) for the Brothers of Indian provinces. They were



admitted to the Final Vows at Montfort Niwas, the Provincial House of the Province of Ranchi. It was organized under the able leadership of Bro. Paulose Mekkunnel (R) assisted by Bro. T.T. Mathew (D). There were 18 Junior Brothers (Delhi -05, Hyderabad - 05, Pune- 04, Ranchi – 02 and Trichy - 02) who participated in it.

During the inaugural session, Rev. Bro. Herman Bijay Lakra, the Provincial of Ranchi, welcomed all of us warmly on behalf of Rev. Bro. James Ekka, the National Chairman and on his own behalf, to the province of Ranchi and particularly to Montfort Niwas, Kanke.

During these 45 days of preparation for the Perpetual Vows, the animators saw to it that the participants make a thorough study of our Rule of Life and Constitutions, and the document on 'Identity and Mission of Religious Brothers in the Church'. The Other topics covered were: Final Vows as the Great Covenant of our Life - A commitment to live with Jesus and like Jesus for the Kingdom of God - Montfortian Charism, Spirit and Spirituality – our Inheritance, Post Vatican II understanding of Religious Brothers based on Vita Consecrata, Spirituality of Jesus-Brother = Spirituality of

Montfort Brothers = Spirituality of the Kingdom of God, Prayer as Means to sustain and Grow in Consecrated life, and Psycho-spiritual Integration. We concluded the program with 08 days of retreat.

We had an hour of Yoga practice daily from 1-10 April. With the advent of COVID and some of us getting infected, we had to cancel the practice of it as a group. Bro. Herman Bijay Lakra, the Provincial of Ranchi, with the help of the Brothers of the community, took extreme care of those Brothers who were tested COVID positive by getting them admitted in Fr. Leven's Hospital, Mandar, Ranchi, followed them up, and prevented its further spread. We place on record our deep appreciation for the Provincial and all the members of Montfort Niwas community.

We are also thankful to the resource persons like Bro. Varghese Mandapathil SG, Bro. Jaico Gervasis SG, Bro. Paul Raj SG, Bro. J. Arokiaraj SG, and Bro. Jacob Panjikaran SG, for the sessions they took according to their expertise.

Fr. Ignatius SJ, has been our Chaplain for 45 days. He made himself available according to our time-table and requirement. His reflections on the readings of the day were appropriate and inspiring. We appreciate his services.

During the oral evaluation the participants were very appreciative of the fraternal attitude, availability, service mindedness and simplicity of all the Brothers of Montfort Niwas, Kanke community. It was very encouraging for our Junior Brothers to see and experience such a fraternal community. Hats off to all the members of Montfort Niwas community!

Bro. T.T. Mathew, SG





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MGA MEETING

AT MONTFORT INTER COLLEGE, LUCKNOW

A Meeting of the Montfort Gabrielite Associates along with the Brothers was held on 2nd Feb 2021 at the Brothers' residence. It began with a prayer said by Bro. T.T. Mathew. Then he showed us a short movie on St. Mother Teresa, who was passionate for the suffering humanity as the theme of the meeting was "Montfortians, Passionate for God and Passionate for Humanity". Bro. T. T. Mathew presented the theme to us for 45 minutes. He explained clearly to us the different meanings of the word, 'passion' with appropriate examples, positive and negative passion, Jesus, the icon of Divine passion, Montfort's passion and the Passion of Montfort Brothers/ Montfortian Associates. He motivated each one of us to introspect and see what is our passion today? How strong is our passion especially our divine passion? Finally,

he exhorted us to be passionate in whatever we do because it is our passion and commitment for a cause that can make us outstanding. Thus, the meeting was very fruitful and educative. We are thankful to Bro. T.T. Mathew for the input session.

Towards the end of the meeting we planned for the next meeting and its nature. It has been agreed upon that the members of MGA will come together every month for prayer and that on alternative months they will reach out to the less privileged.

We concluded the meeting at 4.30 pm with sumptuous refreshments offered by our respected MGA animator, Bro. Joy Thomas.

Mrs. Cecilia Francis
Secretary



MAM SINGAPORE - MONTFORTIAN ASSOCIATES COMMUNITY BUILDING DAY

On 6 February 2021, twenty Montfortian Associates, together with its spiritual director Bro Dominic, gathered for a morning of community building at Boys' Town.

The event started with a breakfast, where the



associates took the opportunity to catch up with one another to interact and share latest news, for it has been more than a month the group last came together to celebrate Christmas. This was followed by a Kahoot game, made up of 21 questions to test how much they know about one another and their founder, St Louis Marie de Montfort. The associates had fun learning more about the life of St Louis Marie and knowing one another a little more. The next activity took on a more serious note. Associates in group of 4-5 were given 2 jig-saw puzzles related to events in the life of Montfort with a short background description and a question for

reflection sharing. The group first needed to piece together the jig-saw puzzle to form a picture, then read the short description, reflected on the question given and then shared with one another, first within the small group, then to the big group.



The event culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Boys' Town Chapel. In his homily, the celebrant, Fr Edward Seah, drew on a parallel between the life of St Paul Miki and his Companions (Feast of the Day), with that of St Louis Marie de Montfort in witnessing to the

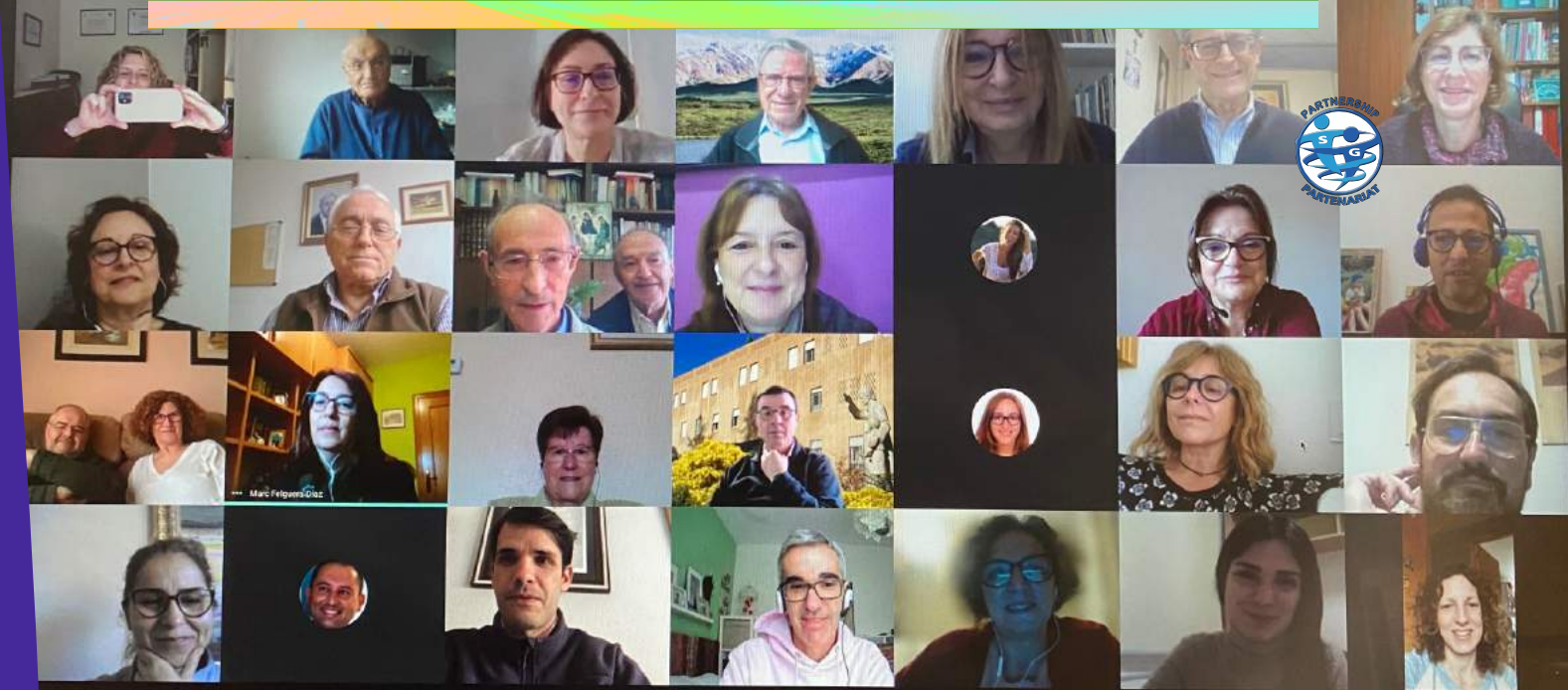


Gospel despite persecution and challenges especially from those in authority. Fr Edward praised the associates for their commitment to the mission of witnessing, in the footsteps of St Louis Marie de Montfort.

He encouraged them to forge ahead courageous, trusting in Divine Providence to live and spread the spirituality of St Louis Marie de Montfort, and to make Jesus and Mary better known and loved. The day ended with a lunch at about 12.15pm. It was a day well spent in the company of fellow associates.

Outreach Sub-committee of the Montfortian Associates Movement





REMAINING SERENE IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULTIES MONTFORT AND CROSS

ONLINE FORMATION MEETING FOR ASSOCIATES AND COLLABORATORS

PROVINCE OF SPAIN

On Saturday 20 February, the associates and collaborators of the Province of Spain held a virtual meeting, simultaneously in Catalunya and Madrid-La Aguilera areas, to reflect on how to face the problems and difficulties that life presents to us, taking St. Louis Marie de Montfort as our model.

The dynamics of the session consisted of a review of the information previously sent to the participants and a joint reflection.

Thanks to the study of neuro-linguistic programming by José Luis Sandoval Romera, a Montfort missionary, we learned the strategies

that Montfort used to face the "crosses" that he experienced, as a consequence of: his radical way of following Jesus, his abandonment to Providence, his pressing call to live the Gospel and the demands of baptism.

Our founder's aim was to please God, an eight-step process:

Montfort taught others to live each day as it came in order to live in peace, because fear and tension cause passivity and anxiety.

Louis-Marie's belief in God's Providence is a great help to all of us who need to respond to the demands of this complicated world and, at the same time, to avoid stress. This belief, abandoning ourselves to Providence, far from making us resign ourselves, will make us always more active in the search for alternatives and solutions and at the same time happier.

During the time of reflection that followed, brothers and laypeople gave their opinions on the subject, their life experience in the face of difficulties, the strategies that they found most difficult to carry out...

The joy of seeing each other again and the dialogue we were able to establish, which enriched us all, makes us look forward to the next meeting on 17 April.



*The formation team for the MCG
Province of Spain*



TO THE ENCOUNTER WITH WISDOM IN SCRIPTURE JOINT FORMATION OF BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE



PROVINCE OF SPAIN

On 27 February, the first of the two videoconferences planned for the joint formation of Brothers and Lay People of the Province of Spain was held, to which 33 people connected from different parts of the country.



After the opening prayer, the Provincial introduced the speaker, Sr. Lourdes Alonso, Daughter of Wisdom, who presented the theme: **To the encounter with Wisdom in Scripture which is, "like a lover's letter to her beloved to win his affection" (LEW 65).**

Sister Lourdes explained that for Montfort the Word of God was the centre of his life, of his writings and of his missionary activity; and that his whole spirituality depended on his continuous meditation of Holy Scripture.

Biblical Wisdom is the unifying element of St Louis Marie's spirituality.

A better understanding of the biblical spirituality

of wisdom will help us to understand that Montfort is neither an illuminati nor an eccentric, but, in reality, Fr de Montfort:

- was passionate about God
- who meditated on Scripture (passionate about scripture)
- and who, having been captivated by what he discovered of the figure of Wisdom in the Bible, acquired new lights to contemplate Jesus of Nazareth in a specific way, and decided to imitate him literally.
- And hence his decisions, gestures, concrete customs...

Sister Lourdes showed us the slow evolution of the theme of wisdom in the Old Testament. Thus we saw how wisdom appeared as a...

1. In the book of Proverbs and throughout biblical wisdom literature it is a human quality;
2. after Exodus, it is understood as an attribute, a quality of God himself;
3. in the Book of Wisdom, chapter 9, it is stated that it is a gift of God to be asked for;
4. and in the last period of the O.T., wisdom is presented as personified in a female figure.
5. Then we look at five major blocks, where Montfort is based to live on attitudes which do not appease the behaviour of the world and of the society in which he lived: Proverbs 8, 1-21 / Proverbs 8, 22-35 / Proverbs 9, 1-6 / Sirach 24, 1-22 / Wisdom 9, 1-18 / Wisdom of Solomon 9, 1-22.

On Saturday, **March 6**, we met again for the second part of this joint formation. After a summary of the contents of the previous session, Sister Lourdes Alonso presented **Wisdom in the New Testament** where:

I Jesus behaves like a teacher of wisdom

. It is presented implicitly and explicitly as the very wisdom of which the OT speaks.

II The different meanings of Wisdom are also found in the New Testament:

1. The human Wisdom valued in OT. is also in the New: as a human quality and divine trait that are related to the pursuit of happiness and that do not always coincide. And we speak of false wisdoms. The place of absolute and extreme confrontation between the wisdom of men and the Wisdom of God is the cross of Jesus.

2 - True wisdom is in God and is a gift from God and is always related to the Spirit.

3 - It manifests itself in Creation, Salvation and enables man to receive the revelation of the plan of salvation and to act according to God's will.

4 - Christ is for the faithful the source of true Wisdom, which comes from God.



In short, Montfort:

- ✓ **recognized in Jesus of Nazareth the traits of Wisdom spoken of in the Old Testament and tried to reproduce these traits in his life.**
- ✓ **And how does this help us in our Montfortian life? What are the consequences for those of us who live Montfortian spirituality?**

A better understanding of the figure of Biblical Wisdom helps us:

- **enrich our contemplation of Jesus of Nazareth** because it draws our attention to some particular aspects of his life and message, of his person, of his ministry, of his way of living among human beings... of a particular way of living as a christian... of situating oneself in the world and in the Church.
- **understand Father de Montfort better and live better with his spiritual intuition today in the world that is ours and in the context that is ours too.**

CONCLUSION:

Acquiring Wisdom is the goal of Montfortian spirituality. St. Louis Marie transmits it to the people in the language that was accessible to them: the renewal of the baptismal promises, living the promises of Baptism. It is a parallel way of presenting its primary intention, that of acquiring true Wisdom.

In the dialogue that followed, especially on the part of the lay people, the gratitude to Sr. Lourdes for bringing us closer to a key theme of Montfortian spirituality in an accessible and clear way was evident.

*The formation team for the MCG
Province of Spain*

THE CROWN OF THORNS

Chorus: Rescue us Oh Lord God From the grip of Corona.

1. The deadly Corona has life stifled
To an awful level crippled
Men are on the run in panic
Have to wear a torgid tunic
All those serving in the medical field.
2. The deadly Corona has life stifled
The wheel of Corona has ground hard
The second take has ruined homes
It left behind death terror in hearts
The tears of those alive have no dearth.
3. The deadly Corona life has stifled
Life has become cruelly singled out
Units of groups severely curtailed
Life has become socially introverted
Freedom has come under curfew.
4. The deadly Corona has life stifled
Children are cornered to suffer
Deprived of school, play, friends and moves
Derailed in mind, their future has bleaked
The deadly crown has in full go blared.
5. The deadly Corona has life stifled
It has dawned on men that they are trifled
Of Divine anger for crimes on the deprived
Men have lost the sense of sin and crime
Corona has turned them up to pray.

Bro. Emmanuel P.J, SG

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS APRIL - JUNE, 2021

BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL

Bro. Leonard Yut Satissarat
Bro. George Lourdhuraj L
Bro. Georges Croteau
Bro. Émile BULTEAU
Bro. Jacob Ezhanikatt
Bro. Gabriel JODET
Bro. Félix (Paul) LEFORT

COMPANY OF MARY

Fr. Paul RAZAFITSIAROVANA
Bro. Jean BOVENS

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Sr. Michel de la Croix
Sr. Jean-Marie de la Providence
(Marguerite ROSSARD)
Sr. Lorenza Maria (Nembrini
Amabile)
Sr. Irène MAINGUY
Sr. Jeanne Marie Tsiafindra
Sr. Shigi CHACKO
THACHECHERIL

Dear Readers,

Kindly send your News, Articles, Photos of happenings in your respective Provinces latest by 31st August 2021.

E- Mail to sginfo@stgabrielinst.org

WhatsApp +91 9445800156

The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be released in September, 2021.



Photo Courtesy : Bro.Benny Thekkemuriyil