



Gabrielite

News Bulletin

For Private Circulation Only

BRA - Brazzaville



CAN - Canada



ESP - Spain



FRA - France



**Provincial
Superiors
2022 - 2025**

Bro. Jean de Dieu Mandilou

Bro. André Roberge

Bro. Genaro Fresno García

Bro. Yvan Passebon

INB - Bengaluru



IND - Delhi



INH - Hyderabad



INE - Northeast



Bro. George Padikara

Bro. Thampy Alex

Bro. Shine Alex

Bro. Varghese Mandapathil

INP - Pune



INR - Ranchi



INT - Trichy



INY - Yercaud



Bro. Jaico Gervasis

Bro. Herman Bijay Lakra

Bro. Irudayam M.

Bro. Johnson S.

KIN - Kinshasa



PEA - East Africa



SEN - Senegal



THA - Thailand



Bro. Rufin Ndambu

Bro. Jimmy Kalapurayil

Bro. Etienne Souleymane Ka

Bro. Dechachai Sripicharn

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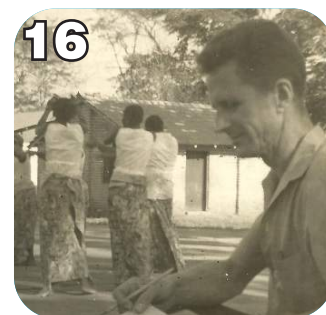


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EDITOR'S NOTE

As John C. Maxwell in his book 'How Successful People Think' says *"You've had experiences I haven't, and I've had experience you haven't. Put us together and we bring a broader range of personal history and therefore maturity to the table"*. I consider that the Gabrielite News Bulletin is one such place, where we share our experiences which are very unique and diverse.

This 206th issue of GNB begins with the report on the virtual celebration held on 2nd February 2022 on the World Day of the Consecrated Life, including the message from Brother Superior General. We have news from 12 Provinces, wherein you will find news about the various activities of the institutions, Formation programmes of the Brothers, Jubilee and Final Vows celebrations, and many more. On page 10 you will find an article written by Dr Nicola Gori on the 49 Spanish Brothers and their Chaplain (the presumed Martyrs).

The news from the Province of Brazzaville gives a special report on the two LEFORT Brothers, who were pioneers of the Province. News from the Province of France highlights the inter-Province collaboration by giving an introduction to the seven African Brothers, who are accommodated in the Province of France. News from the Province of Trichy brings immense joy as the Sri Lankan mission takes its wings with the opening of the school. We have the news reported from the three Formation Houses in India, and we have three news items under the Partnership Section. As usual, we have two pages dedicated to the Spanish martyrs.

We thank Bro. Emmanuel P. J. for editing the texts. We extend our sincere thanks to the translators, Bro. Marcel Chapeleau and Bro. Georges Le Vern. Sincere thanks to Bro. Sébastien Ndabungiye (Associate Editor) for coordinating the translation work. A special word of Thanks to Bro. James T. K and Bro. Jean-Marie Thior for their assistance.

As we are in the season of lent, let us seek the Lord through prayer and fasting. May peace prevail on earth.

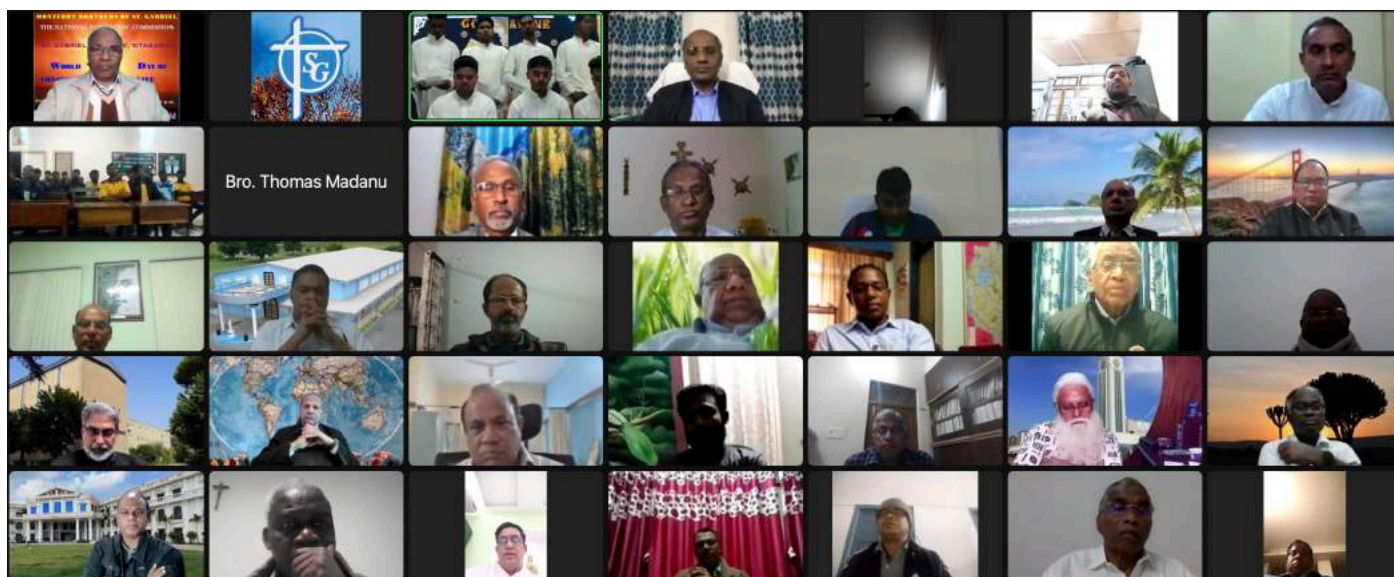
Have a good reading of the Newsletter.

Bro. Louis Anthonysamy, SG



On 28th February 2022, Bro. Dionigi Taffarello (Vicar General) and Bro. Jean-Paul Mbengue (Assistant General) met Mr. Carl-Henri Guiteau - Ambassador of Haiti to Vatican City.

WORLD DAY OF THE CONSECRATED LIFE



On 2nd February 2022, a virtual celebration on the World Day of the Consecrated Life was organized by the National Formation Commission of India in collaboration with the St. Gabriel's Novitiate, Sitagarha. Bro. Varghese M, the National Convener of the Formation in India and Provincial Superior of North-East India organized the entire event. There were nearly 300 participants including the novices from two novitiates in India.

The celebration started with the welcoming of the participants by Bro. James Ekka, the National Chairman of the National Council of India. Then, Bro. Paul Raj, the Principal of the *CRI Brothers' Institute, Bengaluru* gave an introduction about the World Day of the Consecrated Life and the life of the consecrated persons and he concluded his introduction by focusing on the challenges that are involved in living the consecrated life as Brothers. He pointed out the importance of nurturing and sustaining the Religious Brothers in the Church.

The novices from St. Gabriel's Novitiate animated the prayer service, inviting everyone to pray earnestly for the welfare of the Brothers of the Congregation and for all the consecrated persons of the world. The Gospel Reading was read by Bro. Sudhakar Reddy and reflection on the Gospel reading was given by Bro. Varghese Mandapathil. A Brother from each Province put forth their intercessory prayers to Jesus through Mary. Bro. Jean-Paul M, the Assistant General and in-charge of the Formation concluded the prayer service.

Bro. Superior General in his address, at the end of the gathering, thanked everyone involved in organizing the virtual celebration. In his address, he touched upon the background of the World Day of the Consecrated Life. Then, quoting Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, he exhorted the participants **“to look at the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.”** He congratulated all the Brothers who actively take part in the various activities of the Conference of Religious India (CRI) at the Diocesan and Regional levels.

The celebration concluded with the vote of thanks by Bro. Herman Lakra, the Provincial Superior of Ranchi Province.

Bro. Louis Anthonyamy, SG



Novices from St. Gabriel's Novitiate.

SUPERIOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE



The Pope wanted, especially the laity to realise that consecrated life is a gift to the Church.

Greetings to you all from Rome. It's certainly a joy for me to join you all on this joyous occasion of the 26th World Day of Consecrated Life. This year's celebration has a special significance because it is the 2nd day of the 2nd month in the twenty second year of the 21st century. Well before I think of a short message for the occasion, I wish to thank the National Formation Commission, under the leadership of Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, for this new initiative, and to the Formators and Formees of our St. Gabriel's Novitiate at Sitagarh, for looking into the organization of this online celebrations. In the same breath, I must also thank Bro. Varghese for his kind invitation, Bro. James Ekka, the National Chairman for his warm welcome, and to Bro. Paulraj, a member of the International Commission for Formation for putting things in perspective.

As Pope St. John Paul II wrote in his Message for the I World Day of Consecrated Life in 1997, there was a two-fold objective in instituting this special World Day of Consecrated Life. The first was to help the entire Church to esteem and appreciate ever more greatly, the life and mission of those who have consecrated themselves for the radical following of Christ, chaste, poor and obedient, through the evangelical counsels. The Pope wanted, especially the laity to realise that consecrated life is a gift to the Church. The second objective was, of course, for the consecrated persons themselves to renew their commitment every year, and to rekindle the original fervour with which they consecrated themselves.

In line with the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata* of Pope St. John Paul II of 25th March 1996, which is the origin of the institution of the

Bro. Superior General addresses the participants



World Day of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis went a step further and declared the year 2015 as a Year of Consecrated Life, with several specific programs organized by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life (ICLSAL), in different parts of the world, but mostly in Rome. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter of 21st November, 2014, had clearly spelt out the three aims of the Year of Consecrated Life, that we have been hearing time and again:

- 1) **To look at the past with gratitude;** that is to reflect on the origins and history of these charismatic families, in order to thank God who grants the Church a variety of gifts, which embellish her and equip her for every good work, through their varied ministries.
- 2) **To live the present with passion;** by asking ourselves frequently the question if Jesus really is our first and only love, as we promised when we made our vows first, and to ask ourselves whether we are faithful to the mission entrusted to us, and if our works and presence are in consonance with what the Spirit asked our Founders and Foundresses.

And 3) **to embrace the future with hope,** in spite of all the difficulties which the various forms of consecrated life are facing today, like the decreasing vocations, ageing members, economic problems, religious persecutions, difficulties related to globalization and internationalization, etc. During these moments of difficulties, the consecrated persons are called to practice the virtues of hope, the fruit of our faith in the Lord of history, who continues to tell us, as he told the Prophet Jeremiah, "Be not afraid... for I am with you".



World Day of Consecrated life Celebration. Generalate, Rome.

“ Where there are religious, there is joy

As I mentioned in the last Letter from the Superior General on 18th January, Pope St. John Paul II as well Pope Francis invited the consecrated persons to be “experts in communion”. I am sure that we are all familiar with Pope Francis’ favourite expression, “Where there are religious, there is joy”. The Pope exhorts us to find this joy first within our own communities, with mutual acceptance and concern, practising communion of goods, both material and spiritual, with fraternal correction, etc. Pope Francis also gives some practical suggestions to experience this communion within our communities or Institutes, that is to refrain from criticism, gossip, envy, jealousy, hostility, etc. I never get tired of quoting the Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore while addressing the consecrated persons: “There is so much of good in the worst of us, there is so much of bad in the best of us, that it ill behoves any of us to find fault with the rest of us”.

Pope Francis also invites the consecrated persons to be experts in communion between members of different Congregations, and to work together at the local and global levels on projects involving formation, evangelization, and social action. Our own 32nd GC has made a gentle reminder to us on this matter, “We are convinced of the necessity of working in communion with other members of the Church, with the Montfortian Family, with our Associates and Collaborators, with other people inspired by the Montfortian spirituality and with all people of good will” (3.5). In this context, I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to all those Brothers from the different Provinces who take an active part in the Conference of Religious at the diocesan and regional levels. Interestingly, the Congregation for Religious has chosen the three key words of the Synod of 2023 on Synodality of the Church, namely *Communion, Participation and Mission*, as the themes for the

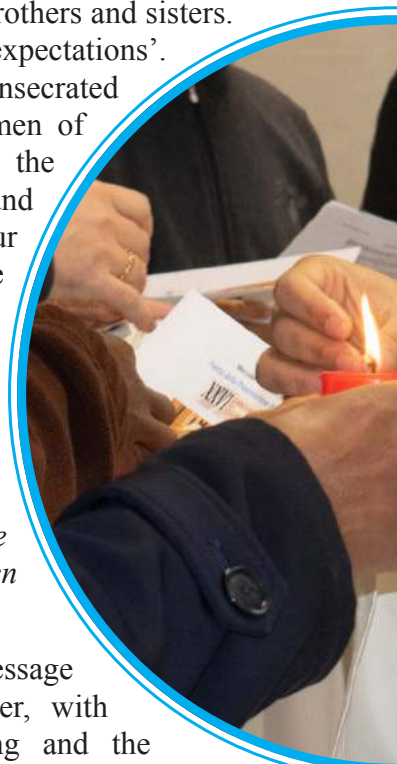
World Day of Consecrated Life in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Whenever I have an opportunity to address the priests and religious, I always remind them that the principal mission of all consecrated persons is to participate in the triple common mission of the Church, namely Evangelization, Witnessing and Human Promotion. Today, there is an extra emphasis on Evangelization and Witnessing. By evangelization, I mean announcing the Good News through our own life and labours, and inviting people to live as children of God. Secondly by witnessing, being witnesses not only of Jesus, who went about doing a lot of good, but also of Jesus, who withdrew himself from the crowd, who went up to the mountain and spent time in prayer, spent time seeking the will of the Father; being witnesses of Jesus who showed the inseparable union between the love of God and love of our fellow brothers and sisters.

There is what we call, ‘role expectations’.

People around us expect consecrated persons to be men and women of prayer, persons who radiate the joy of living the Gospel and living in communion with our own fellow religious. As Pope Benedict XVI beautifully put it, “It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but by attraction”. I am sure that we are all familiar with that oft quoted statement of St. Francis of Assisi, “Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words”.

There is no doubt that the message of our 32nd General Chapter, with the theme “Fraternal Living and the



Communitarian Dimension of the Montfortian Mission”, gives us enough resource materials to fulfil this call to the consecrated persons to be “experts in communion”, to be a part of the ecclesial journey we have begun towards a Synodal Church, with the three elements of communion, participation and mission. The document from Vatican reminds us that the principal characteristics of ‘*participation*’, the theme for the 26th World Day of Consecrated Life, are: **a sense of belonging**, an **attitude of attentive listening** to one another and the **style of co-responsibility**. The document reminds us in clear terms that “*synodality*



Let us commit ourselves to look at the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion, to embrace the future with hope

begins from within: from a change of mentality, from personal conversion, in our community, in the home, in the workplace, in our structures, extending into ministries and mission”. This is exactly what the ACTES of our 32nd General Chapter too speaks about: 1) “We are convinced that family spirit and a deep sense of belonging to the Congregation are essential for an effective mission together”

(3.2). 2) “We are convinced that effective communication leads to greater communion between us”

(4.2). 3) “We believe that a sense of belongingness, when sustained by an attitude of fraternal acceptance, appreciation and encouragement, can help us transcend our ethnic, cultural and linguistic differences”

(4.4). “We will involve every member of the Community in the planning, preparation and implementation of the life and mission of the local community” (4.4.1).

Therefore, as we celebrate the World



Day of Consecrated Life today, let us commit ourselves to look at the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion, to embrace the future with hope, and to be experts in communion, proving to the whole world that where there are religious there is joy, that God is able to fill our hearts to the brim with happiness, that the authentic fraternity found in communities increase our joy, and that our total self-giving in service to the Church and to our fellow human beings brings us life-long personal fulfilment.

Thank you and God bless.

Bro. John Kallarackal, SG
Superior General



Province of Thailand

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION



Memorandum of Cooperation For Informal, Non-formal Education Management among:

1. Non-formal Education Office by Learning Center for All Ages “Doi Kaew Sub-district, Baan Saan Fun Pan Suk” Thailand, represented Mr. Surasak Insrekrui in honorable position of the Secretary-General of the Office for the Promotion of Informal/Non-formal Education.
2. Brothers of St. Gabriel’s Foundation of Thailand, represented by Brother Dr. Dechachai Sripicharn in his Position as the Chairman of The Brother of the St.Gabriel’s Foundation of Thailand.
3. International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) Pax Romana Asia Pacific Philippines, represented by William Nokrek in his capacity as Asia Pacific Coordinator On November 30, 2021 at Baan Saan Fun Pan Suk, Chomthong, Chiangmai Thailand.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS GATHERING OF OUR BROTHERS



On December 25, 2021, all Brothers gathered at the Provincial House for the Gabrielite Christmas Family Gathering and there was a short Recollection when we listened to an inspiring talk by our Brother Priest, Rev. Brother Michael Thinaratana Komkris, who gave us a very motivating talk on: “Put his heart in our heart, put yourself in another’s shoes,” Share the love of God through our kind words

and deeds, especially those in our community. This was followed by the Christmas and thanksgiving Mass to thank God for all His goodness to us during the past year and then there was distribution of some New Year gifts from Rev. Bro. Provincial. It was time for all our Brothers to meet, relax and share the joy, happiness among ourselves. Thanks to Assumption College Bangkok, the Mother School which provided us a delicious meal, and gifts for all. Before going back to various communities, we sang a New Year Song and we were readied for the coming year mission entrusted to us.

THE FOURTH JUNIOR BROTHERS' CONTINUED FORMATION



From January 9-12, 2022, Rev. Bro. Dechachai our Provincial organized the Fourth Junior Brothers' Continued-Formation for our 14 Junior Brothers at the Personal Development Center, at Nakornrajchasma. The theme was : **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**, in order to strengthen their vocation in line with professional educators, including the basic knowledge of administration, team-work skills in running schools, ability to solve their unexpected problems, increase in self-confidence. He stressed that what is most important is to create the atmosphere of being together and working as religious educators. We expect that these 14 Junior Brothers would be the strong force of our Thai Province in the future, to come.

Bro. Achin Tengtrakul, SG



APOSTLES OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST



DR. NICOLA GORI
Postulator for the cause

Nicola Gori, a graduate in foreign languages and literature from the University of Florence, collaborates with the Chair of Spanish Literature at the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy and is a correspondent for L'Osservatore Romano. A passionate specialist in mystical authors, he has published numerous works in this field. He was involved in the cause of the Beatification and the Canonization of Carlo Acutis. He is presently the postulator for the Beatification of the Spanish Brothers of St. Gabriel and their Chaplain, presumed martyrs. Below is the first article he published in this regard: Apostles of the love of Christ.

The history of the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in Spain is marked by the sacrifice of 49 Brothers and their Chaplain. These are the presumed martyrs for whom a canonical process is in progress at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. These 50 Servants of God, led by Bro. Estanislao, baptized as Lorenzo Ortega García, the Provincial Superior, were victims of the religious persecution that affected Spain in the years 1936-39, but which had its roots in the previous decades with the advent of the Second Republic in 1931 and which found fertile ground in the Marxist and Anarchist ideologies that spread in Europe after the Russian revolution of March-November 1917.

It is quite clear that, if we look at the chronicles and testimonies of the life and apostolic activities of the Brothers, the only fault they are guilty of is that of having wanted to follow Christ more closely with the promise of the evangelical vows. They had chosen to become religious by following the vocation that would lead them to give themselves to others within the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, whose



They were animated by a particular Marian spirituality, that of entrusting themselves entirely to Mary and through Her to Jesus.

charism is inspired by that of St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, distinguished by a marked devotion to Mary.

These Brothers had decided to devote their lives to the service of the Education of Young people, working in various positions in the different Schools that the Congregation directed in Catalonia. They shared the talents that the Lord had given them and sought to walk the path of holiness within a Community.

If it is possible to find any fault with them, it lies solely and exclusively in their apostolic impulse to communicate the richness of Christ's love to others. In fact, they were animated by the desire to share their experience of faith with their Brothers, especially with the new generations.

They were animated by a particular Marian spirituality, that of entrusting themselves entirely to Mary and through Her to Jesus. As St. Louis Marie said, one of the main effects of true devotion to the Mother of God is that She comes to live in the soul in such a way that



it is no longer the soul that lives, but it is Mary who lives in it and who becomes, so to speak, the soul of the soul itself.

Our Servants of God made the following of Christ through Our Lady a definitive choice of life, which led them to total self-giving, making them worthy of martyrdom. The story of these Brothers is intertwined with that of a society that, with the advent of the Republic, wanted to impose an unbridled secularism in order to erase all reference to God. Atheism taken to its maximum expression found zealous executors in many sectors inspired by Marxist ideologies and the consequences were fatal for thousands of Christians, among them Bishops, Priests, Religious and committed Lay people. It was enough to belong to the Church in some way, even to be a simple member of Catholic Action, to immediately become an enemy of the new regime.



Witnesses of this were our Gabrielite Brothers, who proclaimed, with the sacrifice of their lives, the primacy of Christ over the world and all other realities.

When the Civil War broke out, religious persecution was already well advanced, and that July 18, 1936, was only the fuse that lit the fire of hatred and violence that burned under the ashes. Our Gabrielite Brothers tried to save what could be saved, because their only objective was to spread the Kingdom of God and that is why they did not participate actively in any political party. They were far from activism in any form. Their only action was apostolic. However, the mere fact that they existed and represented Christ and His Church was cause for exasperated hatred. No one could offer the slightest resistance to this. The only possibility in the face of persecution was to flee. But even this option turned out to be temporary and short-lived. When the different communities of the Congregation spread throughout Catalonia were subjected to cruelty and violence, with the destruction of sacred images, the desecration of churches and the confiscation of "compromising" documents, the Brothers spontaneously sought refuge in the house of friendly families. When the situation became increasingly dangerous for the safety of their protectors, some of them headed for the mountain forests. Unfortunately, the lack of food forced them



St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort (1673-1716)

to return to the inhabited places and there they found the zealous members of the Popular Front who arrested them. Others concentrated in the provincial community of Can Valls, at Sant Vicenç de Montalt. This choice was fatal, because soon the militiamen stormed the Formation House and, with the exception of the Gabrielite Brothers under 18 years of age and some of French nationality, they were arrested and taken to the gloomy prison of San Elias, in Barcelona city. From there, in November 12, 1936, they were taken to the cemetery of Montcada i Reixac and shot en masse.

What is striking is that there was not the slightest respect for legality. They were not tried by any court, they had no opportunity to answer the charges, they had no recourse to any constituted power. Their death sentence had already been written for a long time, because wearing the religious habit was already a crime in the eyes of the militiamen. What becomes clear is the absolute prevarication and the imposition of an ideology that denied the dignity of people in the name of a collective dignity, which was to be achieved even at the cost of eliminating those who did not resign themselves to the common thought and did not see it like that. The militiamen intended to build a new society on the basis of a common political and visionary identity, in which, absurdly, God was not only superfluous, but also an obstacle. It is rather curious to see how they tried by all means to erase religion from the hearts and minds of people, but the very fact that they fought a battle to this end indirectly admitted the existence of God. Witnesses of this were our Gabrielite Brothers, who proclaimed, with the sacrifice of their lives, the primacy of Christ over the world and all other realities. It is very interesting



to see how, according to the documents of the time and the testimonies provided, the attitude of the Servants of God in the face of martyrdom was one of trust in the Lord, of abandonment in Him, with the certainty that they did not fear the one who had the power to kill the body, but the one who could cause the body and soul to perish. During the last days of their lives, the group of Brothers arrested in Sant Vicenç de Montalt spent their time in prison praying, especially the Rosary, asking the Lord to give them the strength to overcome that terrible ordeal and even praying for their persecutors. They were led to the slaughterhouse like lambs offered in holocaust pleasing to God. Not even after the execution did they have peace, because the militiamen wanted to erase their memory by delivering their tortured bodies to the oblivion of the earth, without even giving them the dignity of a burial, but trying to erase their traces. Even the memory of their sacrifice would have been a sign of the presence of God, for to die because of faith is already an unavoidable testimony of the existence of a reality that transcends earthly limits and projects itself into eternity. Our Brothers are, therefore, the proof that the end of life in this world is not the end of

Painting that recalls the executions carried out by the groups of the CNTFAI in the Cemetery of Montcada i Reixac, where 49 Brothers and their Father Chaplain, coming from the prison of San Elías, were executed in odium fidei. The painting highlights the figure of the then Bishop of Barcelona, Manuel Irurita, who underwent the same fate.

everything, but the transformation and the beginning of a new adventure in friendship with God.

What remains of their witness? An indelible sign of divine primacy in life, proof that violence and blind hatred against the faith never have the last word and that these Brothers, most of whom killed in the prime of their youth, continue their mission from Heaven helping those who are still on the way on this earth.

Since I was appointed Postulator of the Cause of these 49 Servants of God and their Chaplain, I have seen that the faith of these religious people was truly great. Despite the diversity of their geographical origins, social backgrounds, ages and temperaments, faith was the glue that united them, and the desire to follow Christ was the force that nourished their daily lives. Those who follow the same path of consecration within the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel and all those who share the same Spirituality, even if only by attending the Schools they direct, whether as students, teachers or personnel employed in various functions, are today invited to live that same spirit of faith.

Just a few words to explain the current situation of the Cause. Once the entire diocesan investigation in Barcelona was handed over to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in the Vatican, the *Positio* is being finalized, that is, the document in which the testimonial and documentary evidence is summarized and elaborated. This *Positio* will be the basis on which historical experts, theologians, Bishops and Cardinals will evaluate whether the Servants of God can truly be declared Martyrs for the faith. To accompany the Process of the Cause, all the faithful can pray to the Servants of God so that through their intercession they may obtain graces and healings that will be presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.



Province of Canada

A long time ago, at the beginning of our history as a people, as a nation, someone wrote to us saying: "A PEOPLE WITHOUT HISTORY/STORIES". None of us currently here, on Quebec soil, can subscribe to such an assertion. Obviously, age and especially the pandemic have considerably reduced our daily history.

QUARANTINE:

We can imagine that each one of our Confreres from here and elsewhere also suffer from these restrictions imposed by Public Health Services. The 5th wave with the arrival of OMICRON considerably dampened our hopes. Since December 27, everything has been governed by decrees, even the churches had to close their doors once again. They check if we are vaccinated. A 3rd jab is to be taken and above all this famous mask is to be worn in public! The watchword is CAUTION, everywhere. Doctors treat our bodies over the phone and appointments, face-to-face, are very limited.

Our Confreres, confined at the Rest Home de La Salle, (the Infirmary of the De La Salle Brothers), where our Brothers are welcomed, have a lot to endure due to their isolation in individual rooms. Meals are delivered at everyone's door. Prayers are done via TV channel. According to the Public Health of the City of Laval, little by little, they can make a few steps in the corridor of their floor and, since a few days, they can go outside after getting authorization from the nursing staff. An aspect of our vow of obedience that we have to learn at the time of old age!

DEATH OF OUR BROTHER ROLAND JACOB:



It is in this context of confinement, of constraints, that our Brother Roland died. No one could visit him in the last days of his 103 years. Isolated, cured with kindness, well vaccinated, he had a small relapse of COVID which turned into pneumonia. One day he was fine, the next less; We must say that his deafness, together with the reduction of his intellectual capacities, isolated him more and more, but he prayed and prayed, with his eyes closed and a peaceful heart.

He was a man of relationship, so joyful in Community, but he had to live his last moments alone, isolated, cared for by the nurses. What an example for us, Gabrielite Brothers! A Missionary for most of his life, he was loved everywhere, he was respected. He is an example for each one of us as an educator, as a teacher, as a Confrere.

Brother Roland, your mother died while giving you birth and that is why you could say, with a zest of good humor, that you were eager to see her for the first time on the day of your death and get

to know the color of her eyes and her beautiful smile. When you arrived in heaven, two mothers were waiting for you, Mother Mary, and your own mother!

THEMATIC RECOLLECTION:

The theme of the Province of Canada for the year 2021-2022 is, "*Heart open to the Word, hands open to my Brother, to give an answer to the cry of the earth and to the cry of the poor*".

These two orientations guided the recollections of the Province. Last November, we pondered upon the theme of Ecology: The cry of the earth. The directives given by Public Health limited the number of participants

coming from different places. They shared in 2 groups on "*how to live an ecological conversion*". We wanted to identify clear behaviors, towards water, recycling, use of cars, purchase, clothes. Several participants were surprised and seemed to think that these choices should be taken up again in the local Communities.

We have not finished talking about it, again and again, and living it.

Every year, the Province publishes a large calendar, with large numbers (because of the age of the Brothers). It is illustrated with photos related to the theme of the year. It also offers, every month, sentences to fuel personal or common reflection.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER:



January 12 was the date chosen to gather the Capitulants of the Provincial Chapter. However, no meeting of more than 2 people was allowed at that time. By special authorization from the Superior General, the Chapter was held online using the ZOOM application. The first aim of the Session was limited to the choice (2nd round) of the Provincial Superior. The Moderator, Bro. Raymond Leroux, wisely allowed everyone to present his expectations, to communicate his vision for the future, to bring about simpler, even more limited management orientations.

A good sharing for almost one hour! In the afternoon, each one was busy completing his consultation form and giving it to the Secretary.

Thanks to the Animator and to Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, the Vicar General, who took part in the meeting from Rome.

HOPE:

As in several other countries, our leaders in the Government want to deconfine little by little, to reduce the restrictions that are too strict, so that we can breathe more easily.... Two years ago, at the beginning of the pandemic we used to say: "*It's going to be okay*", today we say: "*We're going to have to live with the virus!*".

Bro. Ronald BRISSETTE, SG

Province of Brazzaville



SYMPOSIUM ON CONSECRATED LIFE

The Consecrated Persons of the dioceses of Doumé and Bertoua organized a Seminar from February 4th to 6th. Eighty Religious Men and Women from about thirty Congregations took part in the meeting. We had an input on SYNODALITY, inviting the Communities not to isolate themselves, but to "walk together", with the local Church, by getting involved in diocesan projects and responding to the needs of the people. The Episcopal Vicar in charge of Religious Life reminded us of our sources, and that we must always "start from the Founder and the charism, gift of the Holy Spirit". Concerning "Faith, Justice and Peace", a Sister presented the Thalita Qum Movement for the protection and rehabilitation of women victims of exploitation, trafficking, and violence. Bishop Jan ODZA of Doumé-Abongbang diocese, presided over the Sunday Eucharist; He thanked the participants for having chosen his diocese for the meeting, and he expressed his gratitude to all the Communities for the good they are doing thanks to their good works.

Bro. Boulkaré ESSONO ESSONO, SG

PILGRIMAGE TO SANGMELIMA (CAMEROON)



At the beginning of January 2022, Bro. Ambroise Ndougou, the Provincial Superior, on his way to visit our communities, made a pilgrimage to Sangmélima (about 500 km from Bertoua) where our Gabrielite mission in Cameroon had begun. He could find the tomb of Bro. Gabriel LEFORT, called to his eternal reward in 1969. He took some time to meditate and to pray, on our behalf, for the rest of the soul of our Brother whose body reposes in Cameroonian soil. Bro. Ambroise thanked the Sister who, for 50 years, has maintained the tomb and kept in touch with Bro. Félix LEFORT, Bro. Gabriel's brother. The Provincial Superior will also study, in Council, the possibility of restoring the tombstone.



The Two LEFORT Brothers

Driven by the current events, wanting to respond to a duty of thanksgiving, we have associated in this page, the two LEFORT brothers, who were Pioneers in our Province, one in Cameroon and the other one in Congo-Brazzaville.



Brother Gabriel LEFORT (1926-1969): the Sacrifice of a Life Generously Offered

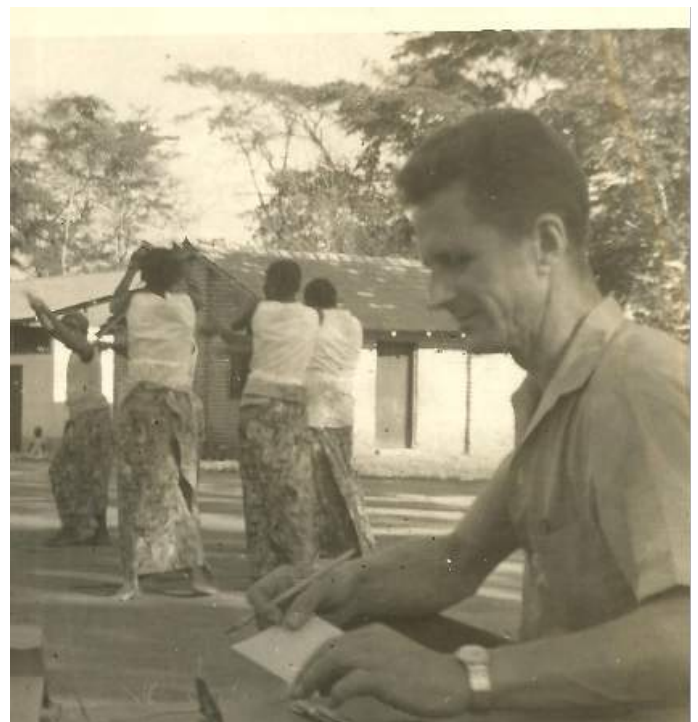
In May 1968, Bro. Gabriel, rich of his 20 years of experience as a Religious and a Missionary in France and Gabon, was appointed to a new Gabrielite foundation in Cameroon. St. Kisito Lower Secondary School of Sangmélima had been launched by the Spiritan Priests. At their request, from 1964 to 1966, two French Brothers (Bros Robert BAUVINEAU and Michel LEPICIER) taught there in lieu of military service, and from 1966 to 1968, Bro. André CHARRIER had taken over from the Spiritan Fathers the management of the Institution. In 1968, the Community was made up of three Brothers, including Bros Louis ARMAL and Gabriel. Endowed with a bright intelligence, artistic talents, a solid piety, he was a dynamic Religious, a cultured man, a devoted Confrere. Service to others was his second nature!

The School had 404 students divided into 10 classes. The Brothers were helped by 9 Cameroonian teachers and 6 French ones. Bro. Gabriel, with his great delicacy, combined with an organizing energy, was in charge of the management of the School and the organization of festivals and entertainments, along with the animation of parish celebrations. He was a genuine leader!

With a gentle smile and complete availability, he knew how to welcome all those who came to meet him and thus, he quickly won everybody's sympathy and esteem.

One of his students speaks about his educational project: *"Not only did he prepare us for exams, he also made us men able to be successful in our lives. Unity, harmony, enthusiasm for work reigned with him."* He was a competent teacher. Nevertheless, the work was demanding, and Bro. Gabriel, due to his delicate health condition was victim of contaminated water. On April 29, 1969, he had to be admitted to the Central Hospital in Yaoundé (180 km away from Sangmélima) for jaundice with complications.

On May 12, faced with the worsening of the disease, the surgeon removed a liver abscess. Sr René Gérard, the nurse taking care of him, was very impressed by our Brother, *"so united to God"*; she was struck by *"his availability and his confidence that one meets only very rarely on this earth."* The surgery went on well, but after two days, a series of haemorrhages had overcome our already weakened patient. Bro. Gabriel breathed his last on Saturday, May 17, 1969, at 4:30 p.m. On the same evening, he was sent back to Sangmélima, and on the next day, Sunday May 18, at 3 p.m., Bishop NKOU presided over the funeral celebration along with 14 priests and more than 2,000



people. After the Celebration, all the people in tears, under the rain, led our Confrere to his last resting place in the small cemetery of the mission where he rests till now. *“The Archangel is in God”* (Bishop de la Moureyre).

Bro. Robert BAUD, the then Vice-Provincial of Gabon-Congo, who had accompanied him till the end, while he was in hospital, has written: *“His worries and the last desires he expressed were all about his School”*.

Brother Félix LEFORT (1927-2021): Director-Manager of the IJSB in Congo

Mission is a mystery that never ends. Brother Félix was so struck by the death of Gabriel, his elder brother, that he volunteered to replace him in Africa.

Bro. Félix had worked with deaf children for 22 years in Poitiers and 4 years in Orléans. Naturally, Bro. Camille LUCAS, the then Provincial Superior, appointed Bro. Félix to work for the Deaf students in Brazzaville, at the Institute for the Young Deaf of Brazzaville (IJSB) that was launched 50 years ago, on October 4, 1971, with 17 8-9 years old Congolese children, welcomed by Bros Marie-André NGANGA, Lucien ALLARD and Maurice NICOLET. For 10 years, Bro. Félix would be associated with the “founders” as Director of the Institute for Young Deaf.

The Director had to manage and organize the new Institution: school buses, canteen, training of specialized teachers, in short, all the logistical support of such an Institution.

In 1974, the Town Council of Brazzaville granted 4 hectare of land to establish a new educational Institution for young deaf students. Bro. Félix and his Confreres did not spare any effort: Clearing and levelling the campus, overall building plan, construction of 5 classrooms first, then workshops..., defence of the site coveted by people from the place, etc... The Institute was transferred to the new campus, in October 1976 for the Primary School and, in October 1979, for the vocational one. The first development of the Institute was due to the know-how, the dynamism, and the spirit of initiative of its Director, but, wonder of wonders, all the Brothers who offered their availability to start this humanitarian work on the Congolese soil, did so in unity, with humility and detachment. They all worked for the service of the Deaf Youth, their brothers, of their Religious Congregation, of the Church and for the Glory of God Alone. They did not take credit for themselves personally but transferred to their Confreres the success of this beautiful Work.



On 11/02/1978, Bro. Marie-André NGANGA is made an Officer of Congolese Merit



In 1982, Brother Félix reached retirement age. He became a member of the team that reopened the Novitiate in Brazzaville. He loved these 5 years that we spent together in the Novitiate. On February 10, 2021, a few months before his death, he wrote to me: *“Guy, my Brother, ... Young people are always on the move, or at least, they must be put on the move. I still remember the years when I was staying with you! »*

Bro. René Guy Sirot, SG

Province of France



This year, for the District of Madagascar, we can say that it was “*a year of the Lord’s favour*”, as the psalm puts it, especially since our Provincial Superior, Bro. Claude MARSAUD, was present among us. His presence was an opportunity to hold our Annual Assembly from December 27 to 29, 2021. It gave us the opportunity to focus on two major events:

- the first one was the Celebration of the birth of our Saviour. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated in union with the Church, in the Chapel of the Community of Majunga, for the Brothers and in the presence of two Daughters of Wisdom. A simple but very meaningful celebration. At the end of this Christmas Mass, Bro. Claude MARSAUD shared his meditation on the Crib, the Mystery of the Cross and the Eucharist.
- The second event was the Mass of Thanksgiving, at the Cathedral of Majunga, presided over by Bishop Gustavo, the Apostolic Administrator of

the diocese, for the Silver Jubilee of Religious Life of Bro. Ignace de Loyola. Two things struck me during the Celebration: The joy of the Montfortian Family gathered around Bro. Ignace along with his family members, and the careful listening to his witness of 25 years of life as a Religious Brother.

After two days of celebration and relaxation, we began our Assembly with a word of welcome by the Provincial Superior. He launched a clarion call and a strong exhortation to all the Brothers to be responsible of one another, of the mission entrusted to us by the Congregation, to be sincere, humble and simple in our Fraternal Life, to be clear and direct, to avoid the trap of lying, that can destroy our personal life as individuals and the life of the Community.

This Assembly of the Brothers had a special colour this year because it was a time of preparation for a new step forward in the development of the District of Madagascar. It is a matter of moving towards



From left to right: Bro. Henri Jonah (lighter shirt) in charge of Formation and Candidates at Mahajanga.

an even greater autonomy of the District for the Province of France, after 120 years of presence, is not more able to support, because of the ages and the health conditions of the French Brothers. After the Provincial Superior's address and the presentation of the proposals of restructuring of the entities prepared by the Central Administration, the Brothers could express their reactions, their fears about the prospect of change. They were somewhat reassured by the fact that there is a period of three years to move towards a new situation and that during that time, the support can be stronger than it is today. The Province of France will continue to financially assist the District as it has always done.

In a logical follow-up to this first part of our meeting, the Formation Commission shared the fruits of the meeting that took place in Antsirabe on November 1, 2021.

Here are some points to be remembered following this sharing and our discussion in Assembly: as a priority, the formation of Formators at each stage, the importance of deepening Montfortian Spirituality, the accompaniment of the Junior Brothers that is the first concern of the District, the strengthening of the unity of the Brothers in Madagascar, helping them to have a family spirit, a sense of belonging, of listening, of sharing, of frankness, of communication, of encouragement, of openness, of prayer, of acceptance, giving responsibility to Junior Brothers, helping the youngsters to bloom in their vocation.

During the sharing of the Formation Commission, the number of candidates in formation in our Communities was mentioned: in Fandriana, 9, in Majunga 16, in

Anstirabe, 6 Postulants, in Antananarivo, 2 first-year Novices, in Thiès (Senegal) 2 second-year Novices.

To properly accompany the Candidates during their formation (and even for our personal reflection as Brothers), we should ask them the following questions: "Are you happy at St. Gabriel? What makes you happy at St. Gabriel? What do you want to change in your life? How do you see your future at St. Gabriel? These questions were the nice conclusion to introduce us to the second day which was dedicated to listening to the testimony of a Sister from the Congregation of Saint-Maurice, a Congregation of Swiss origin on "*Protection of children and vulnerable adults*".

The Sister, at the beginning of her input, invited us to reflect on two abuses that can poison our lives as Consecrated Persons and harm our witness in our mission as Brothers in Education, that is, abuse of trust and abuse of power.

In our field of apostolate, the Sister invited us to learn to know how to manage the trust given by the Congregation, by everyone and towards everyone. Regarding power, she explained that "*Power can make men blind, deaf, and ruthless. To avoid that, power must be taken and considered as a service. Therefore, you must find a taste for the Gospel, have a gentle and humble heart.*" At the end of her testimony, she urged us to transmit the taste for Religious Life, so that the people to whom we are sent can smell "*the good smell of Consecrated Life.*"

Concerning the Commission for Education, our Assembly highlighted the importance of sparing some time to evaluate the year on the theme: "*The road to*



success", the new theme of this academic year for all the Institutions run by the Brothers. The Members of this Commission would like to go even further in achieving its objectives by specifying the efforts to be made for the good of every student and all the Institutions, by emphasizing: the ongoing formation of teachers, the use of books and manuals to be requested from the Mother-Province, the identification of one or more speakers on cybercrime.

After this session, the Finance and Development Commission reminded the Provincial Superior of the list of projects for the future that had been sent by the Communities. Finally, the Commission for Partnership and Associates presented the translation in Malagasy of the text of the Charter for Montfortian Gabrielite Associates (AMG), released for the Congregation. This document was distributed to each Community.

On the last day of the Assembly, during a Eucharist of Thanksgiving animated by our candidates, nine Brothers renewed their Vows, confirming their desire to serve God and their brothers and sisters in humanity.



Sharing, at least a little, what was the substance of our District Assembly, is a great joy. We recommend ourselves to your prayers. May our fidelity as Missionary Disciples of Jesus, our only Law and our Life, bear much fruit. We are sure that Mary, our Heavenly Mother, will continue to accompany us, along with Louis-Marie, Marie-Louise and Gabriel.

Bro. Antoine Levao SG,
District Superior



The nine Brothers after renewing their vows

Front row from left to right: Bros Benjamin, Julien, Toky, Lantonirina

Second row from left to right: Bros Henri Jonah, Gilbert Paul, Célestin, Haja, and Romain

OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS WELCOMED IN FRANCE



SEVEN AFRICAN BROTHERS WELCOMED IN THE PROVINCE OF FRANCE! *But Who are They?*



Currently, on the French territory of the Province of France, we welcome seven African Brothers. This is undoubtedly a record! The Provincial Letter invites you to get to know them better. They agreed to introduce themselves briefly.



I am **Michel Wend-Kuni KIENTEGA**, born on September 29, 1990, in Burkina Faso. I am from Mouhoun Region, located in the Northwest of the country, with Dédougou as its capital. Burkina has about 20 million inhabitants with about sixty local languages.

The most common are: Mooré, Dioula and Fulfuldé. French is the official language. I am the eldest of a family of 8 children. KIENTEGA Thomas is my father's name and my mother's KONCOBO Marceline.

I passed my Primary School Certificate (CEP) in 2004, the First Cycle Study Certificate (BEPC) in 2008 and the Baccalaureate in 2011. I met the Brothers of St. Gabriel in 2008 at St. Gabriel Higher Secondary School, Dédougou, where I studied from 9th to 12th Grade. After the Baccalaureate, I went to Katakou in Guinea Conakry for the Postulancy from September 2011 to June 2012, then to the Novitiate from September 2012 to July 2014 in Congo Brazzaville. I took my first Vows there on July 3, 2014.

After my first Profession, I went back to Senegal for a formation in Pedagogy at the Pedagogical Training Centre (CFP) in Mbour from October 2014 to June 2015. After my formation I was appointed to one of our Schools in the Suburb of Dakar where I taught at the primary level from October 2015 to August 2020. Then I went to France, in September 2020 to study Theology at the Western Catholic University in Angers. I am a Member of the Community of Rue Desjardins, Angers.



My name is **Nicéphore TINE**. I was born on February 5, 1989, in the Region of Thiès to the east of Dakar. I am the seventh child of eight siblings! On August 14, 2001, during a celebration in my parish, listening to Bro. Alphonse TINE (who died in 2016) playing the guitar, my heart was filled

with joy, and I decided to become a musician. I had no idea that the guitarist was a Religious! I shared my deep desire with my teacher, François TINE, who happened to be Brother Alphonse's elder brother. He in turn informed his younger brother about my desire. He immediately invited me to participate in a camp for candidates organized in Fatick on the same year (2001). At the end of my studies, I went to Guinea Conakry for my Religious Formation as a Postulant and to Congo Brazzaville for the Novitiate until my first Vows in 2013. Committed to a Congregation whose charism is teaching, the Provincial Superior sent me for a year of Formation in Pedagogy at the Pedagogical Training Centre in Mbour, where I had the joy of teaching for three years. This experience continued in the suburbs of Dakar for three more years at the St. Francis of Assisi Institution (Tivaouane Peulh). In 2017, I passed my Teaching Aptitude Certificate, the last diploma, in theory, to be a teacher. Since September 2020, I have been studying in France at the Catholic Institute of Paris, Faculty of Philosophy. I am a member of the Angers Desjardins Community.



My name is **Bro. Mélance MIFURUGUTO**. I was born on January 7, 1977, in Burundi. I belong to the Province of East Africa. The local language of my country is Kirundi. I am the 5th child in my

family. Both my parents have passed away. I have a bachelor's degree in English Education.

I met the Brothers of St. Gabriel thanks to the Militants of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi). I took my first Vows on October 4, 2008. From 2009 to 2014, I lived in the Community of Kigali in Rwanda: as the reception officer, assistant bursar of the Sector of Kigali. I also took care of the herd of cows and the banana plantations in the town of Nyamata in Rwanda. During this period, I also studied at the National University of Rwanda. I passed an English degree. In 2014, I was the Local Superior, in charge of Formation, at the Community of Gitega in Burundi. From 2014 to 2018 I went back to Rwanda. I taught at the Centre for Young Deaf-Mute Students in Butare from 2016 to 2018. I stayed at the Novitiate of Morogoro in Tanzania from 2018 to 2021, I taught Religious Life, Holy Scriptures, French, English and History of the Church. I am now in France at Gabriel Deshayes International Community in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. Two days a week, I go to the Catholic University in Angers.



My name is **Jean-Marie NDOUR**. I hail from Senegal, from the parish of Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc, in Fatick. I first met the Brothers of St. Gabriel at the primary school of Bicole, my native village. I became a Brother of St. Gabriel in September 1986, 35 years ago.

I got a doctorate in French language and literature, option: French literature, at the University of Dakar. I took part in a formation given by the International Montfortian Institute (IMI) in Rome for resource persons in Montfortian Spirituality, and a Formation in Spiritual Accompaniment (FAS) at the Jesuits' Formation Centre in Lyon.

As far as apostolic and professional activities are concerned, I have an experience of ten years as a teacher, eight years as a Principal, and seven years as a Provincial Superior.

Currently, I am a member of the International Community, at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. At Bro. Yvan PASSEBON's request, the Board of Directors of St. Gabriel Hr. Sec. Sch. asked me to teach French and African literature to students of the Institution. Every

week, I also go to St. Gabriel LSS, in Haute-Goulaine for courses in Religion and Human Formation.

It is a real pleasure for me to find, once again, friends, collaborators, Brothers from the Province of France, who have greatly contributed to my formation as a student at the Catholic University of Angers from 2014 to 2019.



The few articles, testimonies and translations published in the Gabrielite Magazines and bearing the name of **Michel MENDY** also carry the recognition of the little one who hails from Dakar Region (Senegal), who was trained at the Minor Juniorate of Fatick (1995-1999), at the Major Juniorate of Thiès (1999-2002) and at the Novitiate (2002-2004).

Since my first Profession in 2004, along with the Brothers, in the footsteps of St. Louis-Marie, I go on with my "Sequela Christi".

Senegal saw my first pastoral steps: professor, teacher, accompanying youth movements in Thiès, Fatick and Mbour. Guinea Conakry, my country of mission, hosted me twice from 2009-2011 and more recently from 2019-2021. As for France, it offered me my best days as a student (2015 to 2019): a stay rich in learning, experience, and discovery!

As for my new assignment in Pontchâteau, I consider it as a return to basic Montfortian sources, an opportunity to put the fruit of my formation (translation and interpretation) at the service of the Church and of the whole Montfortian Family. Through Community Life, along with Brothers, Montfort Missionaries and Daughters of Wisdom; Through hospitality and pastoral animation, I intend to bring my little stone to the revitalization of the Calvary of Pontchâteau which is very dear to us!



My name is **Bro. Etienne Malick GUEYE**. I come from the Region of Thiès, in Senegal. It is the second region of the country, mainly populated by Sérères. The Brothers of St. Gabriel are present there. In terms of local

languages, I speak Serer "Ndut" and Wolof which is one of the National Languages. I come from a small and modest family. My father and my mother have already joined the heavenly Father's Abode. I did my primary studies at the School of Notre-Dame de Mont Rolland where the Brothers were once present (they are no longer there). I got my *primary certificate* there. Then, I studied at LSS of Sine in Fatick (6th to 9th grade) where the Minor Juniorate had just been opened. I got my *certificate of general education* there. After the LSS of Sine, I enrolled at St. Gabriel's HSS in Thiès (9th to 12th grade). I passed my *A level exam* there. After the "bac", I went to Brazzaville for the Novitiate. It was the beginning of the International Novitiate. I took my first Vows in 1992 and my Final Vows in 1998. I had to register at Cheikh Anta Diop University, Faculty of Science and Technology of Education and Training (FASTEF) where I got the *Certificate of Aptitude for the Functions of Assistant Teacher*. Since my early childhood, I have heard of the Brothers of St. Gabriel because they were running the school in my village. But it took quite some time before I got in touch with them. In the 1980s, I got closer to them and my vocation started from there. Then, I joined the Congregation when I entered the Minor Juniorate. Before coming to France, a few years back, I worked as an Administrator in many schools.



My name is **Bro. Anicet NSINGIZIMANA**. I have studied Religious Sciences and Theology at the Western Catholic University (UCO) in Angers for four years, from 2017 to 2021. Now, I am back in France for another program: A training in Spiritual

Accompaniment which will take place in Lyon. This comes after my vacation in Rwanda, my country of origin, where I spent two months, from October 20 to December 19. My holidays were an opportunity to meet my family and especially my mother who is living alone with her granddaughter. It was really a pleasant moment. Rwanda is well known as a country where we speak only one language: "Kinyarwanda", right! But in my village, we are happy to speak

another language "Oluciga" which is my mother tongue. When I use it with my family of 10, I feel like a Breton in Brittany!

I give thanks to God who allowed me to enrich my religious and professional capacities. I began teaching even before starting my formation in Religious Life in 2002. Thanks to the Gabrielite charism, my experience broadened to the field of teaching hearing impaired students, in Rwanda and Burundi, for six years, from 2005 to 2011. Then, I continued this experiment by studying for a bachelor's degree in Science of Education. Finally, a master's course in Religious Sciences and Theology that is just over. They are aimed at fulfilling a program for the formation of Candidates who want to journey in our Congregation. These studies will soon be completed by a formation in Spiritual Accompaniment that I undertake from January 10, 2022, in Lyon (Châtelard). Dear Brothers of the Province of France, thank you very much for your prayers and your fraternal support. May the way I am treading be a genuine continuation of what you fulfilled in the Lord's Vineyard.

Source: Provincial Circular



Province of Yercaud

PONGAL CELEBRATION

Pongal, the festival of harvest was celebrated on the 11th January, with grandeur in respect to the Sun God. All were dressed colourfully in traditional attire to start with a prayer dance and extended it to fun filled games. While sweet Pongal

was cooking in a mud pot, everyone danced around in a festive mood making the day sweeter. As farmers harvested their crops, we harvested happiness and memories.



ABDUL KALAM'S WORLD RECORD

On 21st January, the students of Montfort School took part in the State Level Abdul Kalam's World Record Yoga performance with the criteria being that yoga be performed blind folded for 15 minutes. The participants were awarded a certificate and a trophy and our school won the Best Performance Award.

A VIDEO RELEASE

A musical video "ONE EARTH" was released by Montfort School, which brings about awareness on saving Mother Earth. It articulated the need of the hour visually as to step into the hearts of the viewers and encompass their benevolence for mother earth, as much as Mother Nature has had to us humans.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January by the Montfortians, as not just as another red letter day, but with spirit of patriotism through a mime and detailing on the history of the Republic Day. It was made lively with games for those present.



ST. MONTFORT'S BIRTHDAY

The birthday of St Montfort was celebrated on the 31st of January, with piety and pride by the Brothers and teachers of Montfort School. A holy mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Jobi, the Novice master of Holy Cross Brothers and a special lunch was provided.



GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

Vishwanath R. R of Montfort School made an attempt to set two Guinness world records. He tried to create the most cricket bat touches in one minute using a ball and longest time to control a cricket ball with the edge of a cricket bat for a record time of 59.47 minutes. He made to 332 touches in a minute, while the previous record hold 283 only.

Bro. George, SG



Province of Ranchi

MONTFORT NIWAS, CUTTACK

There was public awareness campaign by NCC and Scout & Guide students on various important days. The students made placards, drawings and slogans to spread the awareness on various issues.



The students of class X have done well their 1st Semester Board Exam in the school. New Admissions for PreNursery, Nursery, Preparatory and other classes are done. Bro. Principal is busy in asking the teachers to prepare a proper syllabus for next academic in advance and he is in constant touch with teachers for the improvements in the academic standard of the school.

Candidates along with Brothers from *Montfort Vidya Deep* made a visit to our community on 29th December. They spent three days in visiting historical places and *Puri Beach*. Bro. Thomas John was so kind and generous to sponsor the sight-seeing for the MVD House. FSI Sisters conducted the Fun Games for Candidates on 31st December and prizes were distributed by Bro. Gilbert Pinto. Thus, New Year 2022 was welcomed with bonfire and *adivasi* dances.



Bro. Vincent Madhanu, SG

Province of Delhi



BLESSING OF STATUE OF ST. MONTFORT & INAUGURATION OF SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

The chant of silver bells is always an eagerly awaited event as the dreams of many visionaries and the sweat of many craftsmen who untiringly toiled to web the efforts into achievements to shape it into what it is today. God Almighty has showered his blessings upon St. Montfort School, Bhopal for the last 25 years. It was the prestigious occasion of the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee year of the School. The one of a kind, such a day of gratitude, appreciation and thanksgiving was celebrated by **St. Montfort School, Bhopal** on 6th January '22. There were much colours flying around and the campus was vibrant with a mood of celebration.

It was indeed a special day for the Montfortians as the occasion drew unparalleled enthusiasm for the management, staff and students. The memorial Park was inaugurated and the statue of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort was unveiled on that day. The park was beautifully embellished with balloons, flowers and decorations. The event commenced by welcoming the guest of honour Rev. Bro. James Ekka, the Provincial Superior, and other distinguished

guests followed by invoking the blessings of God through a prayer song. The blessing ceremony was conducted by Rev. Fr. Naiju, CMI from *Poornodaya*. God Almighty has showered his blessings upon St. Montfort School, Bhopal for the last 25 years. The auspicious day of the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee was indeed a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving. The day was well spent walking back past 25 years of struggles, achievements, and looking forward to what more the School can accomplish in the days to come. The visionaries and the architects of this great temple of learning were remembered with affection and thanked from the depths of our hearts for carrying forward the legacy handed over in the footsteps of St. Louis De Montfort.

We had the Silver Jubilee Inaugural Eucharistic Service on 29th January 2022 in the Primary section premise. This auspicious occasion was graced by Most Rev. Dr. Leo Cornelio SVD, Archbishop Emeritus of Bhopal by hoisting the Jubilee Flag near the statue of the Founder, in the newly erected Jubilee Park and Rev. Bro. James Ekka lighting a lamp representing

25 years of the school's phenomenal growth. He also released the title of the Silver Jubilee Celebration, 'YASHARJAN' and declared the celebration open.

The grand celebration was followed by a celebration of the Holy Eucharist as an act of thanksgiving by Most Rev. Dr. Leo Cornalio, SVD, Rev Fr. Devis Varayilan, CMI, our Parish Priest and all other guest priests present for the celebration.

Most Rev. Dr. Leo Cornalio, Archbishop Emeritus of Bhopal was specially felicitated by Rev. Bro. James Ekka, the Provincial Superior. The former Principals who were present, other honourable and distinguished dignitaries, Provincial Superiors of various Congregations, senior most teachers of the school and senior most staff members of the school were honoured and recognized for their contributions in nurturing the school since its inception in 1997.

All good things come to an end, so did the inaugural

ceremony of the silver jubilee. The programme came to a close with the proposal of vote of thanks by Rev. Bro. Monachan K.K., the Principal. The list of individuals, communities, well-wishers, acquaintances, and collaborators who were to be thanked seemed pretty long, which only showed the goodwill and support the Institution has earned and is enjoying through its conscious efforts, dedicated and diligent service in caring for the needs of the place and people. He also made a special mention of and acknowledged the role of Bro. Binu Cherian and his team, for meticulously planning, organising and carrying out the Silver Jubilee programme in a flawless way. The programme was concluded on a high note with the vigour of Silver Jubilee Anthem. And at the end of the programme delicious dinner was served. Everyone dispersed into the cold night with pleasant memories.

Bro. Dinesh Kujur, SG

ANNUAL RETREAT AND SEMINAR FOR THE JUNIOR BROTHERS

The six days of Annual Retreat was conducted for junior Brothers of Delhi Province from 27th December 2021 to 2nd January 2022. The retreat was held at *Poornodaya* (CMI) campus. 23 Brothers attended the Annual Retreat. The animator of the retreat was Bro. K. M. Mathew. The theme of the retreat was "Love nature, enrich the world and glorify the Almighty God" based on *Laudato si*. The schedule of the retreat was as follows: Each day started with the dynamic meditation, Eucharistic celebration followed by Sessions. We had three sessions every day.

At the beginning of the retreat Bro. K. M. Mathew spoke about negligence and not being accountable to the responsibility which is entrusted to us. We even find it in the community. Bro. K. M. Mathew talked

about the inner conflict that hinders our relationship with Christ, not only with Christ but also conflicts within the community and the people around us. Further, he spoke about how to grow in positive thinking and get rid of negative thoughts. We, the junior Brothers were happy to have this annual retreat and we could experience God's love, joy and peace in our life. We had been reflecting over the Word of God and on the articles of Rule of Life.

Soon after the retreat from 2nd January evening, we began our Seminar. We were asked to analyze and work upon our thinking patterns and emotions. Bro. K. M. Mathew gave us tips to prevent negative thoughts. We had a book review presentation after which we shared about our emotions, community life, and who we were. The resource person made us watch online talks on YouTube from which we could imbibe a lot of information and ideas to practise in our day-to-day life. It was based on what emotions we carry and where our body stores emotions. We were enlightened by these online talks and benefitted much from this seminar. All the junior Brothers felt glad, joyful. We thanked Bro. K. M. Mathew our PFD (Province's Formation Director) for his efforts, to enlighten and inspire us by his wisdom and experience.

Bro. Rajan Bilung, SG



Province of North-East India



FINAL PROFESSION & JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

It was a momentous occasion on 20th December 2021, at the Provincial House, Guwahati, when Bro. Daniel decided to accept his call, follow Jesus perpetually in the footsteps of St. Montfort in the congregation of Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. Bro. Martin Joseph and Bro. M. A. Thomas celebrated their Diamond Jubilees while Bro. Thomas Plathottam and Bro. M. S. Kuriyan celebrated their Golden and Silver Jubilees respectively thanking God for all the divine graces that He bestowed on them and the wonders He has done in their lives.

The presence of many Montfort Brothers, Diocesan Priests, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters from various Congregations, Montfort Associates and the near and dear ones of Bro. Daniel and the Jubilee Celebrants, made the celebrations delightful while spreading joy



and happiness through the festivities.

The Jubilarians in their speeches relived some of their rich and rewarding experiences as Brothers in the Congregation. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of these veterans to the growth of the Province of Northeast India and thank God for the gift of these wonderful Brothers to the Montfort family.

A sumptuous dinner for all those who were present for the occasion brought the memorable felicitations to a close. We are thankful to Bro. Maria Soosai, the members of the Guwahati community, Sisters, Associates and members of the staff who ensured that the programme was memorable.



Province of Bengaluru

MONTFORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, CHENNAI

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR):

All our four CBR centres had their regular activities like Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Vocational Skills Training and Monthly Parents Meeting during this reporting period. Individual Goal settings for three months were drafted for Special Children at Chemmencherry and Kannagi Nagar. Parents were updated and advised about their ward's progress in order to follow-up the pattern designated to them. Considerable progress has been noticed in the outcome results.

We have continued our Pre-employment Training for our Special Youth in Hospitality, House Keeping and Shop Management and the process is on for attaching them with an agency near their Community areas.

Visitors from St. Joseph's College, Pilathara, Kerala, had a one-to-one exposure time with the Special Children. They learnt about the different issues faced by them in their day today life.

All CBR Centres celebrated Christmas with joy and enthusiasm, following COVID protocols.

Special Children and Youth of Chemmencherry and Perumbakkam along with their parents actively participated in the Awareness Programme organized by 'Child Line'. They were taught with banners and charts about 'Good and Bad Touch'.

Study Centres:

All our Eight Study Centres in the relocated Slum areas with their regular strength attended Evening Study Centres. Children were visibly happy to be back at their centres. They were involved in Drawing, Crafts, Sports and Cultural activities apart from their academic sessions. Study Centres joined with CBR Special Children and Youth for the Child line Awareness in their respective areas keeping COVID proto call.

Health Programme:

A Clinic on Wheels with the Doctor and a trained Nurse, along with support staff and equipped with sufficient stock of free medicines reached out to more than five thousand and one hundred beneficiaries during this reporting period.

Eye Screening and Spectacles Distribution:

As in the past, MCDS in collaboration with "India Vision Institute" (IVI), organized Eye Screening programmes

for the Transgenders at Triplicane. Twenty-five people benefitted by this intervention during this quarter ending December 2021.

One hundred and twenty-five pairs of Spectacles were distributed to those with defective vision after the screenings by 'India Vision Institute' between October and November 2021.

Mental Health Awareness:

A Mental Health Awareness Programme each was organized for the General public as well as Self-Help-Group Women during this reporting period and three hundred and twenty-one underprivileged people in the slums and relocated slum areas of Chennai were benefitted. This programme was organized in association with 'The Banyan' and "The Chennai Counsellors Federation" to commemorate 'World Mental Health Day.

Women Empowerment Programme:

Regular monitoring of accounts for the SHG (Self-Help Group) groups and monthly meetings were held in all the Federations, namely Adyar, Thiruvanniyur South Mada, Valluvar Nagar, Kannagi Nagar and Chemmencherry.

The 'Third batch of Tailoring Course' trainees, supported by 'ABRAO GROUP' had their Workshop session during this reporting period. An External Resource Person from Garment Factory spent quality time to teach the intricacies in cutting and stitching patterns.

Trainees were taken for an Industrial Visit to Export Garments Factory, "White House" Pudahupakkam, near Kelambakkam for exposure visit. They were given orientation about the organization, various welfare schemes for the staff. They were then taken inside the unit, where they learnt about different materials, Cutting and Designing by Automatic machines, Quality checking, Stitching patterns and Final Packing of the product. It was an eye-opener for the trainees who want to join the Garment Factory.

They were actively involved in the Christmas celebrations organized for them. They were visibly happy and enjoyed the evening.

Bro. Joseph Louis, SG



The month of December brings cheer and love and invites us all to share and explore life through lots of activities. We began our Christmas celebration on 10th December 2021. Students were preparing Christmas tree, Santa Claus stars and Christmas Greeting cards from used materials from their home. It was happy to see the interest of the student's participation and coming out with colourful and very creative things. PIN Students participated in the Twin City United Carol Competition 2021 organized by Little Flower High School, Abids. Our children tried their best in singing carol songs and organizing committee gave a special Christmas gifts (Cakes) to all the students.

We celebrated our Pre - Christmas meet on 18th of December. Students put up a beautiful programme and a Play on Nativity. Bro. Raja Durai Selvan S, the Director in his message invited everyone to spread the message of love and joy wherever we are and in whichever the situation we are placed. Bro. Shajan Antony along with his students and Dr. Ashish joined the celebration and congratulated all of them for their involvement in the celebration. Special Christmas gifts were given to the staff and helpers. The joy of Christmas was celebrated with the neighbours by sharing cakes and greeting cards.

Bro. Raja Durai Selvan, SG



Province of Trichy

TITS BITS FROM PROVINCE OF TRICHY

We are back again to you folks with our Tits Bits news. Please stay updated.

Unmute... use chat box... Switch on your video...these phrases have become synonymous at this juncture of education through online or better called Virtual classroom learning. The Covid pandemic and its variants have pushed out our children from the four walls of the classrooms. Everyone was caught unaware as the change popped up so sudden. However, the stakeholders proved themselves resilient and faced the new normal with ease. Living through the current pandemic people at large have learned very many creative skills and well adjusted to the unknown. I would like to present to you some of the novel ways how our teaching fraternity and students involved in the art of teaching and learning.

MONTFORT VALLEY SCHOOL - MURIKKENTHOTTY, KERALA

Montfort Valley School came out with their creative way of teaching values to the students through virtual classroom. One of their teachers wrote, “Virtual learning platform is a revolution in the field of education and people unite to achieve the common goal of enlightenment. Golden Verse and Thought for the Week: These two events in the school show how much importance the management and the staff are giving to value based education.

'Golden Verse of the Day' is a 50- 60 seconds of video presentation on a daily basis based on verses from the holy scriptures, quotes of famous personalities, proverbs etc. in order to refine and purify the minds of the viewers especially our student community. From the beginning of the academic year till date, we present golden verse as an exclusive programme with the full participation of students.

In the same way, once in every week each class is given an opportunity to exhibit the hidden and innate talents of children through the platform 'thought for the week' in a virtual manner. Students perform different cultural and other activities by exploiting the platform. Many of our schools likewise, showcased their students' creative skills and wide angle imagination with the right use of technology and electronic gadgets for their education.

CHARITY DRIVE BY MONTFORT SCHOOL:

This year, Montfort School, Sundaranadapu - Sivagangai took up the initiative of spreading joy, love and happiness through a Charity Drive in a small way to bring smile on the faces of the poor and needy. Community Brothers, team of teachers and students reached out to the less privileged and extended their support by providing stationary, clothing and groceries. The smile on their faces brought great cheer and contentment to all.



February 2022

SECTOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:

During the Christmas season keeping up the good tradition our Brothers gathered in their respective sectors for their ‘Sector Christmas Celebrations’ . Each sector team plans out the event schedule and executes it. Eucharist, Carols, Nativity play, Christmas message by one of the Brothers etc. find their rightful place in the celebration. Of course, the final item will be the obvious Santa moving around distributing the Christmas gifts to the Brothers culminating with a sumptuous fellowship dinner. The same event finds

its colorful expressions at the school level with the students taking the center stage in the celebration. Such celebrations bring out the best of feelings of Brotherhood, and the true spirit of Christmas which is JOY and Good tidings!

MONTFORT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, JAFFNA - SRILANKA



The Grand opening of Montfort International School, Jaffna - Srilanka was well organized by the management in the presence of Rt. Rev. Bishop Dr. Justin Bernard Gnanapragasam, who has been instrumental for the emergence of our mission. He emphasized the hurdles and tribulations that Montfort Brothers encountered during the process of construction of this magnificent structure. His gracious presence and encouragement doubled our joy and energy.

There were Priests, Brothers, Sisters from various congregations and a large gathering of the public were present for the programme. They were all astounded by our hard work and enthusiasm we put

in. Everyone present congratulated and appreciated our hard work and efforts. At present, we have well-furnished class rooms, prayer room, computer lab, activity rooms for our kids.

We are deeply indebted to the Cluny sisters for their selfless services, untiring hard work who journey with us in all walks of our mission in Jaffna. We value much their collaboration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the Brothers in particular Rev. Bro. M. Mariannan, s.g. (Former Provincial) and Rev. Bro. Dr. M. Irudayam, s.g. for entrusting us with this great responsibility. Once again, we thank all the pioneers who toiled hard in the initial stage to bring up the Institution. It was a long awaited dream which came into reality on 19th January 2022.

Bro. Dhanaraj, SG



HEAD QUARTERS OF ADOZIONI A DISTANZA

We welcomed the New Year 2022 with the celebration of the Holy Mass in our chapel with the participation of our lay friends. The number of participants was limited as we had to keep the rule of distance one from the other.

On Saturday 8th January and on Saturday 22 January, we had prayer meetings conducted by Bro. Mathew Kavumkal. During this meeting we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary, meditation on the Word of God, detailed study of the Treatise on the True devotion taught by our Founder St. Louis Mary Montfort, and preparation for the consecration to Jesus Christ the Incarnate Wisdom through the hands of Mary, Mother of Jesus. The Consecration is scheduled for the 25th March 2022.



We were honoured by the visit of Rev Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, Vicar General and his two friends Luigi Nuzzo and Gabriele De Lena from Vasto. They showed great interest in our project of helping poor children in India, in Philippines and in Tanzania. They visited the Offices of the Adozioni a distanza. As a good fruit of this visit, Luigi Nuzzo joined the big family of benefactors deciding to help a poor girl belonging to a poor family with seven children. May God bless him.



On Sunday 9th January, the Indian Catholic Community was welcomed here for the monthly Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite in the Malayalam Language. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. John Poochakkattil.



On Sunday 16th January, Bro. Mathew Kavumkal conducted the monthly Spiritual Retreat for the Benefactors of the Adozioni a distanza. Every seat available in the chapel was occupied by the benefactors. After the Holy Mass, celebrated by Brother Dionisio Santoro, the whole group took part in the lunch prepared for them. On the same day afternoon, the spiritual and psychological ongoing formation of the young couples animated by the Carmelite Father Adolfo Scandurra O.C.D. was held in our Institute. Some of these families are also benefactors of Adozioni a distanza directed by Bro. Mathew Kavumkal.



The month of February is also filled with spiritual activities. On Wednesday 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, when the Universal Church celebrated the “Day of the Consecrated”, we had the Holy Mass in the morning in our Chapel with some faithful lay people. In the evening there was a solemn celebration in the Parish Church of Ospedaletto of Istrana. It was a celebration “ to honour Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, Bro. Dionisio Santoro and 4 Religious sisters”. The Mass was celebrated by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Treviso, Monsignor Giuliano Brugnotto. Four Priests including Bro Dionisio Santoro concelebrated with the Vicar General. The Church was full with the faithful for the celebration. (Due to the rule of distance Covid-19 prescribed by the Government) many faithful could not take part in the celebration and they remained outside) It was a very touching ceremony. Many of our friends took part in the celebration.



On Saturday 12th February, the Montfortian prayer group “Regina della Pace”, animated by Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, had its third prayer meeting of the year. It prepares the faithful for the consecration scheduled for Saturday 25th March 2022 with a Solemn Liturgical Ceremony.

On Sunday 13th February, the Indian Catholic Community had their monthly Community celebration of the Mass in Malayalam Language. At the conclusion of the Mass a short general meeting of the community was conducted to elect the new Office bearers for the next one year.

On the same day, Sunday 13th February afternoon, the Carmelite group of young couples had their ongoing

spiritual psychological formation guided by Father Adolfo Scandurra and his team of experts of family formation. It was a very beautiful sunny day and more than 120 people took part in the programme. The children had a dozen young voluntary educators to follow them up in other smaller halls. The programme was successfully concluded with the celebration of the Holy Mass in the splendid Montfort hall of our Institute.



We Brothers are very happy that our Institute is bubbling with various spiritual and formational activities. We are also happy that many people come and obtain or receive spiritual benefits from our community by taking part with us in the community prayers and in the celebration of the Holy Mass every day and on special occasions as described above in the article.



Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG



Sacred Heart Novitiate

Christmas Celebration

“A king is born...’Christmas is the time of the years which brings glad tidings of great Hope, Joy, Peace and Love.”

On 25th December the journey of our joy began by uniting ourselves to God, all the brothers and Novices devotedly participated in the Vigil Mass at Montfort School and followed by cake cutting. After which we had a campfire and sharing of the gifts.

Community Experience

To create a new atmosphere in our hectic schedule, we the 23 Novices of 6 Provinces had gone to our own provinces to have apostolic activities in the different communities. During the community experience, we were guided and helped by the Brothers to grow in maturity. It was a great joy for us to know the lifestyle of Brothers living in the communities and their involvements in the mission.

Montfort’s Birthday

“The spirituality of life is drawn from personalities, the gravitational force of spiritual life is focussed on immortal souls.” We celebrated the Birthday of our founder, St. Louis Marie Grignion De Montfort on 31st January 2022 with much pomp and splendour. To mark the day’s importance, we had morning and evening prayers animated by the Novices. We enjoyed ourselves a lot by playing different games conducted

by Brothers. We ended the day by sharing a luscious dinner.

Retreat

From 7th to 12th February, we underwent five days of retreat on the theme “*Inner Healing*”. It was preached by Sr. Nirmala. She enriched and enlightened us with her talks on self-healing and experiencing God in our daily activities. We were guided through various forms of prayer, to realize the working of the Holy Spirit within us. Sister prepared us to have a good confession. It was a wonderful experience to discern the will of God in the context of a close and personal relationship with Him.

Canonical Year Entry

“God promises to make something good out of the storms that bring devastation to your life.”

On 12th February we entered into the Canonical year with a meaningful prayer service. Bro. P. T. George, the Novice Master welcomed Bro. Johnson, the Provincial of Yercaud, Bro. Dominic Savio, the Principal of Montfort School and 23 Novices. Bro. Johnson on behalf of all the Provincials admitted us into the canonical year.

Novices
Abhilash and Charles



Pongal Feast

We celebrated the feast of Pongal on 14th January in the Novitiate in a Tamil-traditional way by praying, preparing Pongal outside the house, feeding our animals and birds, playing games with our friends, sharing the Pongal with our neighbouring communities, and by sharing the banquet with our helpers together as a family.

Monthly Recollection

The monthly recollection on the theme 'Compassion in community life' was preached by Fr. Mike SJ on 15th January. All of us on that day received the sacrament of reconciliation and participated in the Holy Eucharist.

Republic Day Celebration

On 26th January, the 73rd Republic Day of India was celebrated. Fr. Avinash the Parish Priest of Sitagarha was our chief guest for the function. We celebrated by hoisting the National Flag in the Parish Church followed by a short and a meaningful programme.

Month-end Birthday Celebration

We celebrated the Birthday of our founder St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort along with the other birthday celebrants (December and January) on 31st January in a grand manner. Priests, Brothers and sisters from neighbouring communities were our invited guests for the prayer service, cultural show and festal dinner.

Completion of Canonical year

Novices gloriously and meaningfully completed their Canonical year with a small recollection in silence and solitude, special prayer, Holy Mass and Dinner on 2nd February. Fr. Chacko, SJ, presided over the Mass and prayed for and blessed the Novices. In the

evening, we also participated in the online prayer service organized at the international level on the World Day of the Consecrated life.

The Current academic programs of the novices

Fr. Jayakumar SJ, took three days of classes to the novices on the 'Tally program'.

On 20th January, novices made a group presentation in the class on the Methods of Praying the Rosary.

On 28th January novices gave their group presentation in the class on Prayer for Missionaries.

On 1st February novices finished their group presentation in the class on one of the writings of Montfort called "Friends of the Cross"

Bro. Paulose Mekkunnel gives classes currently to the novices on the History of Congregation and History of the Indian Provinces.

Bro. Director takes classes for the novices at present on the Constitutions of the Congregation.

Dear Brothers, we are 17 novices belonging to 7 Indian Provinces and are at the fag end of the novitiate period. We will have our profession retreat preached during holy week from 7th April to 15th April by Fr. Edward SJ and after which we are going to profess our First Vows on the 23rd April, 2022 and Rev. Fr. Anand Jojo, the Bishop of Hazaribagh will preside over the Holy Mass on that day.

Reported by Bro. Arokiya Raj, SG

Montfort Aruludhayam (Pre-Novitiate)



“If you have a strong purpose in life, you don’t have to be pushed. Your passion will drive you there.”

ROY T. BENNETT

We are happy to highlight some of the noteworthy events that had occurred during the last two months.

CLASSES:

GROUP THERAPY

The Group Therapy class was conducted by Rev. Bro George Padikara on 3rd January. In group therapy, we were taught about confidentiality and the importance of community life. During class, we shared our lifelines and also expressed our difficulties. Rev. Bro. George helped us to find the emotional solution within ourselves. It was an enriching experience for us. Thanks to Rev. Bro. George Padikara.

SPIRITUALITY OF MONTFORT

Montfort Spirituality class was taken by Rev. Bro. Binu Mathew, our Director on 11th of January, 2022 “Spirituality is not the renunciation of life. It is the art of living fully”. We came to know about the spirituality our founder St. Louis Marie de Montfort and his love for Mother Mary.

PONGAL CELEBRATION:



“The day for farmers and it’s the day for the Sun.”

The festival of the harvest was celebrated on 15th January 2022 in a festive mood. The programme highlighted the importance of the farmers and their dedication towards feeding mankind. Sweet Pongal was prepared by Trichy Province pre-novices; when the milk overflowed from the new earthen pot every one shouted “Pongalo Pongal”. Various games and competitions were conducted by them. At the end of the programme, pre-novices were served delicious Pongal and sugar cane, which was a real treat for everyone. Montfort School community Brothers also participated the Pongal festival with us.



3rd BOOK REVIEW:

We presented our 3rd Book Review on the 7th of February. It helped us to enhance our knowledge, understanding, listening, speaking skills. It was an opportunity and effective self-learning methodology to improve our confidence level and self-esteem.

Saroj Xess

(Pre- Novice)



Formation Visit for the Montfortian Associates

This Montfortian educational trip between 17th-19th January 2022 to Xavier Learning Center in Chiangrai and to Montfort Secondary School Chiangmai for the twofold purposes:

1. To learn from the Jesuit the way they think and run their institute;
2. To gain partnership and cooperation for future Montfortian activities with Montfort School.

We arrived safely at XLC at 21.00 p.m. with a warm welcome by the Superior of the Community FR. Thomas S.J., and his assistant. They led us to the place where we would stay overnight and told us about the Program tomorrow.

The next day we started our day with Mass with the students who are from the hilltribes areas around the Northern Provinces of Thailand. They are altogether 80 in number and receive free quality education from

the Jesuit. Three conditions are laid for admitting them:

- They must be from the poor family
- With determination to succeed and
- The Intent to work for the betterment of their society

At 08.30 a.m. we had the meeting for Orientation and discussion. It lasted for two hours followed by the visit of the buildings and surrounding. At noon we left for Montfort school. It took four hours to reach there. On the way we had our own dinner so that when we would not create any trouble when we reached there.

Next morning, we started our new day with Mass at the Bishop House nearby led by Bro. Director of the School, Bro. Surakit. We then went to the school to have our breakfast followed by visiting the compound. We had meeting with the Teachers-

Students who are involved in Montfortian Movement at 08.30 a.m. The meeting as usual greeted by Bro. Surakit, the Director followed by brief introduction of the purpose of this visit by Bro. Phiranant. Then the meeting proper began with an invocation of the Holy Spirit and Marian Prayer led by SG student. The meeting went on smoothly in an atmosphere of active participation and discussion. The meeting ended at 11.30 a.m. with real establishment of friendship and partnership to join hands in moving together towards the greater spreading of Montfortian Charism for the Glory of God.

We left Montfort school at 12.30 a.m. with our heart filled with joy for the warm welcome offered by the school and collaborative effort that we will receive in the future.

Bro. Nicholas Numkanisorn, SG





Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

On 1st October we started the Novena to our Lady of the Rosary and on all Fridays of October the members gathered for Holy Rosary and Intercessory prayers and a Marian Talk by Rev. Brothers and Fathers. On 29th October we concluded with a Grand High Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Ashwin Kumar, SMM, a Montfort Priest from Bengaluru, during which our Provincial Superior participated in the celebrations and graced the occasion. There was devout participation by all the members and this month-long prayers and reflections on Mary Mother of God have increased our affinity and faithfulness to her.

Hour of Grace

On December 8th we commemorated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the members gathered in prayer during the Hour of Grace for Prayer. Psalm 51 was recited thrice followed by the Holy Rosary after which we had personal prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Preparations for Christmas

On 16th December, Rev. Fr. Thomas SVD, administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the members of MGA at school. This was an initiative to help the members to have a fitting preparation for the coming of our Saviour.

On 21st December a Christmas Open Fund Collection from the members of MGA, to Sponsor a meal for the inmates of the old age home run by the Brothers of the Missionaries of Charity at Little Mount was done. Few of the members of MGA from our school, visited the home and handed over the collections to the Brothers.

The second term from October to December 2021 was a short term. Due to the incessant rains in Chennai the month of November was more Online. However the teachers and students actively engaged themselves in all the competitions, activities both online and offline throughout the term making every experience a learning process.



Let 's catch up! 1st Meeting of Montfortian Gabrielite Associates. Province of Spain

On Saturday 27th November the meeting of the Shared Mission Associates of the Province of Spain was held in Barcelona and La Aguilera (Aranda). The Madrid associates had to postpone the meeting to 18 December because of a heavy snowstorm.

It was the first meeting in person since the beginning of the pandemic and although some were unable to attend for various circumstances, for those of us who were able to attend, it was a joy to see friendly faces again without the barrier of the computer screen.



At the meeting we discussed the following topics:

The Charter of the AMG

The pandemic prevented the presentation of this document that is so important for all of us, the result of the work of the International Partnership Commission and the Central Administration. Its presentation served as an excuse for us to tell the story of the road travelled to reach this document that guides, regulates and unifies our associative movement in all the Provinces.

Status of the cause for the beatification of our Martyr Brothers, victims of the faith during the Spanish Civil War



Since receiving the Nihil Obstat from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to begin the diocesan phase on March 8th, 2005 and until its closure on June 16th 2007, there have been several circumstances that have delayed the process more than expected. At the meeting these difficulties were explained and we were informed of the appointment by our Superior General, **Br. John Kallarackal**, of the new **Postulator, Mr. Nicola Gori**. He is a layman and journalist of L'Osservatore Romano and, among other well-known causes, he has handled that of the young Italian Carlo Acutis, the teenager who died in Italy on 12th October 2006 and who became known for his passion to bring the Word of God through the Internet. Our Superior General has also appointed **Brothers Camille Lucas and Angel Llana** as Vice-postulators outside Rome.

Bro. Faustino Besa, Provincial, informed us of the celebration of the 18th Council of the Institute, from 4th to 20th October, which took place for the first time in the history of the Congregation by video-conference. In the pursuit of the objectives derived from the decisions of the 32nd General Chapter –which took place in April 2018– the Brother Provincial highlighted the progress in the Gabrielite Shared Mission, between Laity and Brothers, from the educational action in the school.

The Gabrielite Shared Mission is making its way in all the Provinces not only because of the need, but also because of attentive listening to the Spirit of the Lord, who calls us to collaborate in diversity from the same baptismal consecration. We continue to make our way in this marvellous mission that we carry out together, Brothers and lay people, because **TOGETHER WE ARE MORE!**

Shared Mission Formation Team



THE 49 BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL AND THEIR CHAPLAIN

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





Balbino MORENO PASCUAL
Brother José Oriol, 22 years old
Born in Pinilla de los Moros
(Burgos)

His youthful presence, tall and attractive, attracted attention, but more so his religious personality, formed in the purity of Saint Gabriel.

Of good character and pious. He stood out in his studies in the Formation House. He attained the title of National Master with outstanding grades.

During his time in the Valls School he was called for military service which he served in Vitoria in 1935.

He was beloved by his students and especially by the Community Brothers for his jovial temperament. He was an animator in the times when it was difficult to overcome the challenges that reached them from the outside.

With great difficulties he managed to arrive from Valls (Tarragona) to Can Valls (San Vicente de Montalt) on the 19th of July of 1936 where the other Brothers of the Schools began to seek refuge.

When the militia arrived on the 7th of November 1936, he, accompanied by another Brother, tried to escape from the danger by fleeing through the door to the park when various militia detained them by firing shots.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother José Oriol grant us, Lord, his joyful spirit and his willingness in the bands of religious obedience.



Bonifacio REVILLA TEMINO
Brother Adolfo, 22 years old
Born in Madrigalejo del Monte
(Burgos)

He was a youth of Franciscan simplicity with the softest smile of a religious saint, always willing to “do good deeds” dedicating himself to the simplest tasks of laundering and sorting of clothes.

His vision was poor and weak due, in part, to glasses of the wrong prescription. The eye doctor had advised him to read and write the least amount possible and to eat well; for this reason he was assigned manual tasks. In addition, his legs were weak and his feet swelled easily.

He was somewhat ill but performed his task well within the limitations of his strength.

He was of a friendly nature and a pleasant demeanor. Pious and very courteous. He had a permanent willingness to be of service to others.

He had no qualms about sacrifice and thereby calmly accepted the most glorious of martyrdoms.

À few days after being imprisoned in the secret police headquarters of San Elias in Barcelona, he was executed with the rest of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel before the wall of the cemetery of Montcada.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Adolfo grant us, Lord, his Franciscan simplicity and his permanent disposition to help others.

A Gracious Encounter. Lk. 1 : 39-45

1. The Word stunned Mary to awe
That Elizabeth would bear
In her senile days a son
The Frontrunner Baptist, John.
2. A divine story unveiled
Of two brave women faithful
Called to bear sons lead who will
The mission fill, thus be hailed.
3. Elizabeth found no phrase
In praise of Mary's own grace
Their hearts burned, melted ablaze
To light up world's destiny.
4. Suffered she Elizabeth
Shame and pain all youthful years
She bore a child not such years
Her dreams in time bloomed afresh.
5. Eliz shared Mary's feelings
Rich but lowly grateful hearts
Mary's greetings caused a thrill
In John in his midtier home.
6. Mary served Eliz full term
Of childbirth and natal care
So too she serves her Son's Church
Gently as though a Light House.

Bro. Emmanuel P. J.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS December 2021 – February 2022

BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL

Bro. Arul Amal Soosaiah
Bro. Roland Jacob
Bro. Louis-Marie BARRÉ
Bro. K. M. THOMAS
Bro. Eugène ARCHAMBAUD

COMPANY OF MARY

Fr. Anthime CARON
Fr. Hubert KLEIJKERS
Fr. Noël COLLAUD
Mgr Gérard-Joseph DESCHAMPS

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Sr. Simone-Marie MORISSET
Sr. Anne-Marguerite
Sr. Candide Morin
Sr. Marie Stella Bernier
Sr. Marie-Anna St-Laurent
Sr. Marie-Madeleine DAGUZÉ
Sr. Anne-Marie LE PORT
Sr. Mary MICHAEL
Sr. Bernice GIBSON
Sr. Teresa Bertilla
Sr. Bénigna Lord



Dear Readers,

**Kindly send your News, Articles, Photos of happenings
in your respective Provinces latest by 15th April 2022.**

E- Mail to sginfo@fsgroma.org

WhatsApp +91 9445800156

The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be released in April, 2022.