



Gabrielite

News Bulletin

For Private Circulation Only



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EDITOR'S NOTE

It is my joy to bring before you the 208th issue of the Gabrielite News Bulletin. We have contributions from 11 Provinces. The initial pages cover the Golden jubilee celebration of Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, the Superior General, which was held at Casa Generalizia on 04th June 2022. The presentation on Brother Superior General would give us a glimpse of his life and his significant contributions to the Society of the Brothers of St. Gabriel.

The news report from Provinces of Trichy, Hyderabad, Delhi, North-East and Pune present the events such as the First Profession, Perpetual Profession, Vows Renewal of the temporarily professed Brothers and the summer camps for the candidates. On page 21, we have the article from the North-East Province, which recalls the history of the North-East Province from its inception, and gives us a report on the inauguration of the Province's Silver Jubilee celebration of its establishment.

News under the Province of Thailand narrates their Provincial Superior's 64th Birthday and the Meeting of the Superiors and Directors. The Provinces of the Ranchi and Senegal share the events from their institutions. Mission in Bertoua, Cameroon, reported by Bro. Guy Sirot. is fascinating as each Brother of the community describes his role and how he feels about his mission. On page 27 Brother Jean Armal tells his 60 years of missionary journey. Brother Mathew from Istrana, Italy, shares the activities of the centre and visits of the Brothers. We have news from Montfort Aruludhayam (Pre-Novitiate). Under the Partnership Section, we have three news items from the Province of Spain wherein the Associates share about the three meetings held in Zaragoza, Barcelona and Madrid. The visit of Sr. Anitha, the Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph's Congregation to the Casa Generalizia is found on page 39.

Article of Bro. Camille LUCAS on the theme "Saints Living among Us" briefs us about the history of the beatification process of the Spanish presumed martyrs, the state of the process now and talks about the persons who are involved in the work.

We thank Bro. Emmanuel P. J. for editing the English texts. We extend our sincere thanks to the translators, Bro. Michel Mendy and Bro. Marcel Chapeleau. Sincere thanks to Bro. Sébastien Ndabunganiye (Associate Editor) for coordinating the translation work and editing the French texts. A special word of thanks to Bro. Jean-Marie for proofreading the French version. We thank all the Provincials, Secretaries and News Reporters from the Provinces, who have contributed news items for the publication of the GNB. Thanks to Bro. Dionigi Taffarello for publishing news in the Partnership Section.

Have a good reading!

Bro. Louis Anthonysamy, SG

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BRO. JOHN KALLARACKAL



On the eve of the Pentecost, June 4, 2022, there was a festive atmosphere in the Community of the Generalate in Rome. Bro. John Kallarackal, the Superior General of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Perpetual Profession. The Eucharist, presided over by Bishop Stephen Chirapanath of the Syro-Malabar Rite, was the first moment of praise and thanksgiving to the Master of Life. The appropriate songs for the occasion, chosen by Bro. Bernard Guesdon and accompanied by Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, made it easy for everyone to pray or simply to participate actively.

Father Roby Joseph Augustine Alencherry, in his homily for the occasion, did not fail to highlight the generosity and ingenuity with which Bro. John Kallarackal puts his talents at the service of the Congregation and how he has left a deep mark on all those who have had the good fortune to meet him.

In his words of Thanks to the august assembly who accompanied him with its fervent prayers, Bro. John Kallarackal, after having given thanks to God, the Master of life, and having expressed his deep gratitude to his parents, his biological and religious family, recalled that a life given to the Lord makes one happy. The people encountered everyday through the different missions assigned are an opportunity for openness to others, for sharing experiences, for collaboration, for communion, for joy.



In the presence of around hundred participants in the Eucharist, Bro. Pratap Reddy recalled the different stages of the exceptional life of Bro. John Kallarackal.

A religious deeply attached to the Gabrielite family, a brilliant speaker, compassionate, warm and sensitive, Bro. John Kallarackal was a skilled Educator from 1970 until December 2005, when he was elected Assistant General. Six Years later, he was elected Superior General of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, a mission he continues to fulfil to this day.

Under the leadership of Bro. Michael Mathew and his team, an aperitif and an excellent festive meal prepared by the Society Refectio ended this time of rejoicing and celebrating!

If the celebration was successful in all its dimensions, it is due to the concerted efforts of all the Brothers of the General House, the Sisters of St. Joseph of

Kottayam, Father Jobins Manimala, our Chaplain, and Mrs. Stephania Ciavattini and Berhanu Abula, our Collaborators, without forgetting the determining and dynamic role played by **Bro. Sébastien Ndabungiye**, the MC of the day.

Bro. John Kallarackal, may the Queen of FIAT accompany you!

Bro. Jean Marie Thior, SG
Secretary General



THE PRESENTATION OF REV. BRO. JOHN KALLARACKAL

It gives us great joy to present a brief gist of Very Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, our Superior General's life, and his significant contributions to the Society of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, on the occasion of his golden jubilee of the perpetual profession.

Nestled in the southernmost tip of India, in the beautiful environs of God's Own Country, the picturesque state of Kerala, in the coastal district of Ernakulam, little Johnny was born to Mr. K.U. Anthony and Mrs. Mariam Anthony on the 3rd of March 1949. With a God-centred upbringing, surrounded by his siblings, four brothers and three sisters, he was led to the firm belief in dedicating his life to the service of God.

After his early schooling in Kerala, Very Rev. Bro. John's initial formation years under the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel began when he was barely 12 years old, at the scenic hill town of Coonoor, Tamilnadu, at St. Anthony's, where he did his Juniorate from 1961 to 1964. His Novitiate years followed immediately from 1964 to 1966 at Yercaud, Tamilnadu, and the final vows were taken on 3rd June 1972. Today as we celebrate the golden jubilee of this significant step in Brother's life, we thank God for His benevolence, blessings, and protection all these fruitful years.

Brother started his teaching career as early as 1970 and served in schools and institutions in the then state of Andhra Pradesh under the Central Province of the Montfort Brothers. While he worked relentlessly to bring change and quality education in each of the numerous institutions he served, numbering almost 10, he continued to update his own skills. He equipped himself with a string of degrees culminating in a Masters in Counsellor Education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, U.S.A. Very soon, by the year 2005, Brother John was elected Assistant General, General House, Rome. After this stint for six years, Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal was elected to the position of the Superior General of the congregation on April 13th, 2012 and reelected after six years for a second term. A supreme honour ordained by God Almighty to spread His unconditional love to all mankind.

Brother John's educational pursuits brought him great laurels as he topped all his exams with ease. Awards for being the Best Teacher and the Best Principal were bestowed on him at regular intervals. The Lifetime Achievement Award by the Andhra Pradesh Minority Educational Institutions and Broad Outlook Learner Teacher Award by Air India, Mumbai, are

just two of the many such honours. His expertise and experience elevated him to responsible positions in policy and decision making.

Very Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal is one who has always dreamed big and has not left a single stone unturned to make his dreams transform into reality. With grit, dedication, and self-discipline, he has led the congregation of the brothers effortlessly. He has created, restructured, initiated, and implemented several processes to improve the administration and expand the activities of the Montfort Brothers throughout the world. Noteworthy is the creation of the new missions in Malawi, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Uganda and the new Provinces of East Africa, merging the District of East Africa and the Sector of Kigali with a special focus on the development and sustainability of the Provinces in Africa and the Mission Sectors. He restructured the Provinces of Malaysia-Singapore, Yercaud and Trichy (India), creating three provinces of Bengaluru, Trichy and Yercaud. Being a lucid writer, he has communicated his thoughts on Education, Justice, Peace, Integration of Creation, Good Governance, Formation and Partnership and Network, etc. The International Communities in France, Canada and Spain were upheld and supported. Under his able guidance, a Montfortian Education Charter was published. These are but a few of his many accomplishments.

A gifted, compassionate, warm, and sensitive human being, Brother John has touched the lives of countless students, administrators, teachers, brothers, and friends worldwide. A committed teacher and brilliant orator, he leaves his audience spellbound with his eloquence and wit. Hard work coupled with determination has been the cornerstones of his success story. An exemplary communicator, he stays in contact with most of his friends, students, and acquaintances almost on a daily basis. A true leader, Bro. John has been a guide, philosopher, friend, and inspiration to all those who have had the privilege of knowing him.

As we celebrate yet another milestone in Bro. John's life, we ask our Almighty Father to help him grow from strength to strength as he labours in His vineyard. As recorded in Romans Chapter 8: Verse 28 of the Holy Bible, we believe that *'in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'*



WORDS OF THANKS



Good morning to you all. As we come to the end of this beautiful Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration, I am so overwhelmed with emotions of gratitude, that I am at a loss as to where to begin the next item on the sheet “*Parole di ringraziamento*”! Let me begin saying that I am truly humbled by your presence in such goodly numbers, because your presence is indeed a testimony to the love you hold in your heart for the Jubilarian as well as for the Congregation that has nurtured and nourished him to arrive at this stage of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Final Profession. United with each one of you present here today, and all those who join me in spirit, I have every reason to raise my heart in thanksgiving and sing with the Psalmist, **“What marvels the Lord worked for us: indeed, we are glad”** (Ps. 125:3).

I can imagine that a lot of planning and preparations have gone into making this day a memorable one, for me as well as for all those who join me today in thanksgiving. My sincere thanks go to each member of the Community of the Casa for his or her role, beginning with Bro. Jean-Marie, the Local Superior and the House Council. I can't thank Bro. Pratap enough for all the time and energy spent in putting together my life story, as a stimulating and picturesque presentation of the Jubilarian, which can truly carry the title, “To Sir will Love”. F. Bernard, our Liturgist, has been working on the selection of the readings and the hymns for days, along with our

musicians FF. Dionigi and Louis. The presence of His Excellence Msgr. Stephan Chirapanath, along with several priests and religious makes this celebration an ecclesial event. I had been trying to invite Msgr. Stephan to our Casa ever since his consecration as a Bishop, but Covid-19 played spoil sport. I must say a special word of thanks to Fr. Roby, who has been an integral part of our Community, until he was promoted to the post of the Parish Priest, for his beautiful homily, which included lots of kind words about me! Bro. Michael, with his team of Brothers and Sisters, has been doing a lot of running around to ensure that this Thanksgiving Mass is followed by a sumptuous festive dinner! I shall make the list short, lest the dinner gets cold!!!

Whenever I attend Jubilees and have to felicitate the Jubilarians, I never get tired of repeating that every Jubilee is an occasion to Recall the past, to Rejoice and Render thanks to God for all the marvels that God has worked in and through the Jubilarian, and to Renew and Recommit oneself to continue the journey with greater passion, with greater commitment, and with greater joy, as Pope Francis would put it. As I go down the memory lane, my heart wells up with sentiments of gratitude to God for all the marvels He has worked in me, in manifold ways. Despite all my limitations and weaknesses, I have always felt that God has been guiding me and leading me, even in the most difficult times. Frankly speaking, my sentiments today are that of Mother Mary, expressed in that beautiful Magnificat. “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant, and the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name. As our own Rule of Life beautifully puts it, today for me is a day **“to rejoice and to render thanks to God your Father for all the marvels He has worked in you and through you”** (cf. RL 1).

All those who have been a part of my life during the past 5 decades or more, will bear testimony to the fact that I always took time to invest in human relationships, and one of my oft repeated quotes used to be that of William James, “Human relationship is everything”. As he emphatically said, relationship is one word that characterizes the whole human existence, my relationship with myself, my relationship with others, my relationship with God, and my relationship with nature. Therefore, I feel confident to say that whatever





I am, or whatever I have become is to a great extent thanks to the love and affection I have received from my family and friends, the appreciation and good will I have enjoyed from my students and colleagues in the institutions I served, the encouragement and support I received from the Church and civil authorities, from the priests and religious in my places of apostolate. To each of them I say “thank you” from the bottom of my heart. I owe a special debt of gratitude to the Casa Generalizia here in Rome, the only community, where I have lived for more than 7 years. Needless to say that I have always received lots of cooperation from the members of the Central Administration and the priests, Brothers and Sisters and our dear collaborators of the Casa Generalizia, past and present. To each one of them I wish to say in the heart’s own language, thanks a million.

Before I conclude, I wish to use this opportunity to publicly acknowledge that whatever I am, and whatever I have become today, is thanks to the opportunities I received from the Congregation, and the abundant trust and the unconditional love I received from the members of the Congregation first, and from the hundreds of my friends and well-wishers, wherever I worked. I wish to end with a quotation from Stephen Grellet, a French Writer, which has been a guiding principle in my life: “*I expect to pass through this world, but once. Any good thing therefore I can do, any little act of kindness, I can do to my fellow creatures, let me do it now,*

let me not defer it or neglect it; for I may not pass through this world again”. Therefore, my renewed thanks to each one of you for your gracious presence with us today, and to all those who have contributed their little mite, to make this day a memorable one, a day of real praise and thanksgiving to God, for His manifold blessings in my life in the lives of all those who are dear to me, all those who have contributed to my growth. A special thanks to Bro. Sebastien, the MC, for keeping us all alert, and my sincere thanks, in anticipation, to our photographers, Fr. Jobins, our Chaplain, and Bro. Louis, the Communication in-charge, for capturing the memories of the events of the day for the future. Let me end offering my sincere congratulations to all those companions of mine, who made their Final Profession in 1972, which includes some familiar names like F. Claude Passebon, F. René Delorme, F. Pierre Girard, F. Michele Ciaffi and Bro. Jose Thottiyil. May God bless us all, and may He make us all instruments of His love and compassion always!

Province of Thailand

GIVING THANKS WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

On Saturday 23 April, the Community of the Provincial House, Thongloh organized a party on the occasion of Bro. Dechachai, our Provincial Superior's 64th Birthday. The Brothers From nearby communities joined this celebration to give our Provincial encouragement and to thank him for accepting the responsibility to lead the Brothers for the missions in Thailand for another term. We all joined Bro. Tinnarat, the main celebrant for thanksgiving Mass, to thank the Almighty God for sending Bro. Deechachai to be our leader. We wish him good health, strong faith and all the graces he needs to be a Good Shepherd. We promised him that we will support him and cooperate with him always.



Commemorating the Joyful Birthday of Our Provincial Superior



SUPERIORS' AND DIRECTORS' MEETING

On Saturday, May 28 and Sunday 29 May 2022, Bro. Provincial organized a live-in Seminar to provide orientation and direction for the new Superiors and the new school Directors on roles and missions of spiritual animation and administration.

On the first day Bro. Provincial shared his ideas on how to plan and implement Community Life Projects and about the Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Superiors. In the afternoon there was the follow-up on the chapter resolutions session. Participants also were given directives on financial matters, the

spirit of poverty, simplicity, competency and auditing systems.

On Sunday all attended the Mass of Solemnity of the Ascension together. Before leaving for their schools and houses, the Brothers were reminded to be witnesses of the Gospel values, to lead exemplary lives and to use IT with prudence and cost-effectively.

At the end, Bro. Provincial led prayers to ask God to bless all our Brothers and wish them success in the academic year 2022.

Bro. Achin T., SG

Province of Trichy

VOCATION CAMP AT MONTFORT JUNIORATE - PALAKURICHY



Summer months here in India are a vacation season especially for the school going children. Most of the parents make use of the vacation time for holidaying with their kids visiting their relatives, going for sight seeing trips to popular cities of tourist interest and historical locations. It is also a season for the Christians especially the Church leaders at the diocese or local parish and at various Religious congregations level to organize Summer Bible Classes, Vocation camps etc. Brothers of St. Gabriel in India too make use of this vacation to organize Vocation camps for a period of three or four days. This is usually organized by the Province

Commission for Vocation promotion. The Province of Trichy conducts such residential camps regularly each year in which many young boys participate.

This year too the vocation promotion commission of Trichy Province headed by Bro. Joseph Thomas organized it from 5 - 7 June 2022 in our Montfort Juniorate campus, Palakurichy. Altogether 27 boys attended the camp with lots of enthusiasm and interest. The various activities and input sessions on different topics were handled by our Bros. John Xavier, Packiaraj, Stevans and Chandru. Needless to refer to the involvement of Bro. Irudayam, the Provincial Superior and Bro. George Fernandez the convener of Formation Commission of the Province. Suitable candidates were selected after personal interview and close observations and understanding of the participants. The selected candidates will report to our Juniorate to continue their schooling from June/July. The members of the Vocation Promotion Commission certainly deserve our applause for their hard work and commitment. Congratulations to you dear Brothers.

ANNUAL RETREAT
&
RENEWAL OF VOWS

The young Brothers with temporary vows from the Province of Bengaluru, Trichy and Yercaud numbering about 26 Brothers excluding the Brothers writing their university exams gathered at the Divine Word Centre – Vadipatti, Tamilnadu for their annual retreat during which they are prepared for the renewal of their vows. The theme of the Retreat was “*Rooted in Nature and Fruitful to the World*”. The reflections and other spiritual activities were centered on Encyclical of the Pope Francis namely ‘Laudato Si’. The retreat was organized from 20-25 May 2022 and animated by a SVD priest Fr. Wilson. His sessions

and reflections were very inspiring and thought-provoking calling for challenging response from the individual Brothers and the community as well. The presence of all the three Provincials during the retreat days was an encouraging sign and motivation to the young Brothers. At the end of the retreat all of them renewed their vows and consecration. We thank and appreciate the three respective Provincials for their great interest evinced in organizing this program. Certainly, the young Brothers returned to their communities with renewed spirit and vigour.

Bro. Dhanaraj, SG

Province of Ranchi

MONTFORT HOME, PATNA

“Every Ending has a New Beginning”



On 2nd April, 2022 Loyola High School bid farewell to four of its staff members namely Mrs. Suchita Raphael, Mr. Ugra Mohan Thakur, Mr. Indar Bahadur and Mr. Yaduvanshi Ram. They were honoured for their selfless service and commitment. The institution will truly remember them for their hard work and dedication.



Loyola High School organized an orientation programme for its new batch of Class I students on 9th April, 2022. The students and the parents were briefed about the school campus and the activities conducted in the school.

MONTFORT VILLA, BAGAHA

Ever since the new academic session began on 4th April, 2022, the School campus was full of life. The students were so curious and eager to have regular classes and to meet their fellow students in the School.



We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Bro. Sudhakar Reddy on 30th April, 2022 with great enthusiasm.



Adding to this joyous occasion we also celebrated the feast of St. Montfort. Brothers, Priests, Sisters, family members and friends of our jubilarian were invited from far and wide to grace the occasion.

The celebration started with a thanksgiving holy Mass which was celebrated by most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura, Archbishop of Patna. Following the Eucharistic celebration, the festive atmosphere continued with a felicitation programme for the jubilarian. Students put up a short cultural programme which showed the life and journey of Bro. Sudhakar. The golden jubilarians Bro. P.J. Abraham and Bro. Calep Topno and silver jubilarian Bro. Pratap Kerketta also joined the occasion. They were also felicitated and honored for their selfless service and dedication to humanity. This was a very solemn and grace filled moment. The programme concluded on a good note followed by a delicious dinner.

Bro. Sunil Indwar, SG

We were blessed to have Bro. Herman Vijay Lakra, the Provincial Superior in our midst. He came on his Annual Visit to our community on 9th April, 2022. We had double joy at his arrival in our community as his birthday also fell on the same day.

The school bade farewell to the students of class 10 on 15th of April, 2022. For some of the students it was so painful experience and for some it was a moment of great joy and happiness. On behalf of all the students, one student was given an opportunity to share and express his beautiful memories of past ten years of



school life. We all wished them a bright future as they were preparing themselves to write their final exam.

Montfort's feast was celebrated in the school with great enthusiasm and zeal. A beautiful cultural programme was put up by the students. On the same day, the investiture ceremony was held in school, wherein, the newly elected members of School Cabinet were given various responsibilities after taking the oath in front of the school. All these were meticulously guided and

MONTFORT SADAN, KOLKATA

The foundation day of the school was celebrated on 4th April with the staff and a few students. Teachers organized the prayer service and cultural programme. Lunch was served at the end of the programme.



Bro. Markose along with his students came for an educational tour to Kolkata. They were accommodated in Montfort School. The children enjoyed three days of stay at Montfort Sadan.



The deaf and dumb students had their Class Initiation Programme on 6th April. The special education teacher gave an orientation programme for the hearing-impaired children. We have made it a completely free education including even their uniforms and stationary items. Bro. Johnson managed to get sponsors for their educational needs this year. At present there are 25 deaf and dumb students studying in Montfort School in different classes.



accompanied by the Principal and the Vice Principal of the school. Soon after the programme, we had Holy Mass in our chapel which was presided over by Fr. Finton Shah, the Vicar General of Betiah Diocese. Nearby Religious Communities were also invited for the feast day celebration.

Bro. Chandradeep Toppo, SG

On 23rd April, Bro. Johnson Lugun along with a few relatives of the newly professed Brother from North-East Province visited our Community in Kolkata. Though it was for a short time, they enjoyed their stay.

On 25th April, we celebrated the Birthday of our Superior Bro. Johnson V. George. The same day, afternoon, the teachers and students wished him and handed over beautiful cards and flowers. It was a magnificent moment for all of us to share the joy on that day.

The School campus has a variety of fruit trees including 36 types of plantain trees. In middle of April we had a community fishing activity at our canal. We thoroughly enjoyed the fishing day and later on prepared the sumptuous meal.

On 28th April, We celebrated the feast of our founder St. Louis Mary de Montfort.

On this auspicious day we had a meaningful Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Deepak Ekka, the Parish Priest of the Baruipur Church. In the afternoon we invited local Religious communities for Prayer Service and lunch along with our employees and in the evening, we invited the Priests to share warmth of joy by sharing delicious dinner.

The school is getting ready to welcome the first batch of Class XI students. The inaugural function will be held on 15th June, 2022. The Chief Guest will be the Principal of the prestigious St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.

Bro. Blacius Tete, SG

Province of Hyderabad

FELICITATION FOR THE FINALLY PROFESSED BROTHERS

On 4th June 2022, six of our Brothers took their perpetual profession in a Solomon celebration at St. Paul High School campus, Hyderabad. The province of Hyderabad is deeply honoured and greatly blessed to have young Brothers Namely, Bro. David Kujur, Bro. Maria Jayapaul, Bro. Pranaya Mareneni, Bro.Y. Show Reddy, Bro. Vishwasm and Bro. Pradeep Barla who have responded to God’s call with an apostolic spirit and said “Yes” to the Lord for

Life, Are ever ready to say “Yes” to the will of God. On 4th June 2022, Brothers of Hyderabad Province



felicitated His Eminence Cardinal Rev. Dr. Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad on his elevation as Cardinal of the church at St. Paul’s High School, Hyderabad.



*MANY ARE CALLED,
FEW ARE CHOSEN...*





RENEWAL OF VOWS

Junior Brothers of the Province of Hyderabad had their annual retreat and renewal of vows at Montfort Bhavan (Provincial House) from 14th April to 17th April 2022 on the theme “Fraternal Life”. Four days of intense preparation was coordinated by Province Formation Director Bro. C. A. James and Team.

During the session, Bro. Varghese Theckanath addressed them on the topic of “synodality”. He briefed them on the importance, purpose and

dimension of Synodality. They had the joy of listening to Bro. Bala Showry. “Some people don't love you no matter what you do and some people can't stop loving you no matter what you do”. Go where there is Love”. This beautiful sentence aptly sums up the life of Bro. Bala Showry. The renewal of vows took place on 17th April during the Holy Eucharistic celebration. They thanked all the Brothers who had inspired and enabled them to strengthen their vocation and helped them to respond to God’s call with commitment and dedication.

FRIST PROFESSION



Brothers of Hyderabad Province rejoice and render thanks to God with four young men who have made their first commitment on 23 May 2022 at Sithagarha Novitiate. We all congratulate and thank them for the generosity in which they have responded to God’s call and wholeheartedly welcome them to the Province.

Bro. Jayabalan, SG



Province of Delhi



FINAL VOWS CUM VOWS RENEWAL CEREMONY

28th May 2022 was a red-letter day in the history of the Province of Delhi as three of our Brothers namely Bala Joseph, Gregory Baa and Pradeep Xalxo made their perpetual profession and 19 of our Junior Brothers renewed their Vows. The ceremony began at 6.00 pm with entrance procession at Montfort Villa, Bhopal. Bros. Bala Joseph, Gregory Baa and Pradeep Barla were accompanied by their parents or close relatives and Montfort Brothers. It signified the precious gift of their sons to the service of the Lord. The Main Celebrant was **Mar James Athikalam**, the Bishop of Sagar. There were quite a few priests as con-celebrants. The choir was led by Bro. Dinesh Karthik and other 20 Junior Brothers. The anchors were Bro. Pankaj Awaya, SG (1st part) and Bro. Libin Joy, SG (2nd part).

After the entrance hymn and the procession Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial warmly welcomed the gathering, particularly Mar James Athikalam, the



Mar James Athikalam, the Main Celebrant and spoke a few words about the significance of the occasion when 03 Brothers will make their Final Profession and 19 Junior Brothers will renew their Religious vows. In his introduction Bro. Provincial stated, "In essence what we celebrate today as they pronounce their vows is an act of love for God who first loved them. Our Constitutions articulate how each vow is truly an act of Love of God: celibacy - "single hearted intimacy with God; poverty - "trusting dependence upon God" and obedience - "willingly surrendering oneself to God". In fact I would like to specifically ask our Brothers how they understand these evangelical counsels

before they pronounce them. In a world fraught with the global pandemic, with the overwhelming threat of global climate change and degradation of the planet, and the rampant use of violence caused by division and disdain, what do vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience proclaim?"

Giving a brief contextual interpretation of the vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience Bro. Provincial stated, "I would like to express that **vow of poverty witnesses to the value of giving from the abundance of our lives – an offering of our time, gifts, talents and possessions. It is not a giving up, but a taking only that which we need.** This vow reflects Gospel poverty that **demands that we work to change those forces of oppression that frequently condemn the poor to poverty.**

As the world witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic what does the vow of chastity mean for us? The **vow of chastity** for a religious connotes **total donation of self in love to God. The vow of chastity - single-hearted dedication to God is nothing if it does not release God's energy of love into our world and thus lead us to right relationship at every level with creation.**

The Latin root word of **obedience** means **to listen to, to pay attention to.** We are to pay attention to God. Of course, like the other vows the vow of **obedience also has a community character. We are invited to a shared search for the will of God not only in our own lives, but in the life of the community.** My discernment, my listening, **must be influenced by those on the journey with me.** Obedience is about mutuality not subordination. It is about communal discernment and decision-making. We do not give up our own power in obedience. **Together, we decide**

how we will use the power that is ours, the power of our particular charism to serve the contemporary needs of the world."

In conclusion Bro. Provincial exhorted the 03 Brothers who were going to make the Final Vows and the 19 Junior Brothers who were going to renew their vows with the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "May your first and supreme desire be to witness to the fact that God should be listened to and loved with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength". As Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, the consecrated persons the greatest gift we can give to the world is to be so in love with God that we become witnesses of that love to those with whom we live and to those whom we serve. That was what they committed themselves to be as they pronounced their vows that day.



In his homily **Mar James Athikalam** congratulated the 03 Brothers who were going to make Perpetual Profession. Quoting from the invitation card, he stated, "You are called to be a brother of Christ and a brother like Christ." It is very demanding as we are living in a world where priests and religious are maligned by the media and where people compete for power, position and money, he stated. In this context these three Brothers have decided to swim against the current; having chosen to be a brother of Christ and a brother like Christ. Quoting St. Augustine he added, "The greatest romance is to love Christ; the greatest adventure is to find Him." Referring to the Gospel reading he stated that the Lord of the Universe stooped down and washed the feet of his disciples and exhorted us to do likewise. In order to be a brother of Jesus, be prepared to serve. "I am for the other", keep this attitude in your heart, he urged. He also exhorted the Brothers to make the ordinary time an extra-ordinary one through love and service. The

quality of our religious life depends on the quality of this inter-personal time. According to **St. Teresa of Avila**, "It is only love that makes everything divine." He further added the words of **Pope Francis**, "Loving others is a spiritual force that draws others to God." Taking a cue from the statement of our **Founder Mar Athikulam** concluded his message saying, "If you can risk something, you will do great things for God."



The singing of the Litany of the Saints when the Finally Professing Brothers were prostrated in front of the altar was soul elevating.



After that Bros. Bala Joseph, Gregory Baa and Pradeep Barla made their Perpetual Profession and the 19 Junior Brothers renewed their Vows. Their vows were accepted by the Provincial in the name of the Church for the community of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel.

The rest of the Eucharist followed as usual. The Mass got over at 8.00 pm.

It was followed by a short felicitation for which the M.C. was Bro. Libin Joy. Bro. Provincial introduced Mar Athikulam to the assembly. Bro. Alok felicitated Bro. Bala Joseph. Bro. Amarjeevan spoke a few words in appreciation of Bro. Gregory Baa and Bro. Pascal Kujur congratulated and felicitated Bro. Pradeep Xalxo. Each one of them was given a shawl and a bouquet as a symbol of our appreciation. The two



newly professed Bros. Firoz Toppo and Nilesh Minj also were congratulated, felicitated and welcomed to our province with a shawl and a bouquet.

On behalf of the Finally Professed and the Junior Brothers Bro. Bala Joseph expressed his gratitude to the Main Celebrant Mar Athikulam, the Superior General, the National Council, the Provincials of the past and present, Bros. Dhanaraj, T.T. Mathew and John Xavier who animated the 40 days Final Vows preparation in Bangalore, their LSs, formators, Bro.

T. Alex, Bro. Monachan & community, Bro. Simon & community, the staff of St. Montfort School, the anchors Bros. Pankaj Awaya & Libin Joy and all the relatives and guests.

It was followed by cutting of the cake and a felicitation song. The whole programme concluded at 8.30 pm and everyone had a sumptuous fellowship meal.

Bro. T. T. Mathew, SG



SUMMER CAMP FOR THE FORMEES

After two years of much grey and darkness due to the pandemic, we thought of bringing the colour back to life by organizing some meaningful activities during the summer camp. The summer camp was held at Montfort Bhawan, Sardhana from 18th May to 10th June, 2022. The participants were 7 Pre- Novices and 5 Novices. Bro. Alex Diamond, Director, Montfort Bhawan, Bro. Rakesh Sharma and other college going Brothers (Brothers Rajan, Alok, Prem, Suraj, Fuldeep, Abinash and Bernard) were part of the organizing team.

The long 24 days of camp went off without any

boredom because of the exciting activities cum total involvement of the participants. During this camp, we did not want them to be trapped in doing mediocre activities, instead we tried to give them a holistic formation with various useful inputs by keeping their future formation in mind. I personally think that after two years of social distancing, restrictions and lockdowns, we are all craving for a return to more in – person interactions. Although some things have changed we did not want to give up and organized mostly group activities to experience the importance of coming together and learning lessons for life.



During the camp, a few classes on English language speaking and writing skills, Good Manners, importance of silence, life in the Novitiate and Pre-Novitiate were explained. We helped them to make time to learn something new and pursue the talents developed earlier. As physical and mental well-being goes hand in hand, we made them understand the importance of physical activities which lead to a healthy and balanced life.

The following competitions were organized: Group Singing, Solo Singing, Group Dance, Solo Dance, Drawing, Fancy Dress, Mime, Extempore, Basketball, and Badminton. All the participants along with Brothers were part of Church activities during the camp, especially took part in the choir on Sundays. On 5th June, we were part of “Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church - Diocesan Synodal Celebration” in Meerut. The take-away from the gathering was that without having the divine assistance and fresh outpouring of the Spirit we may not be able to have a SYNODAL CHURCH as dreamt by Pope Francis.

Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior, visited us on 9th June and spent quality time with the participants. He appreciated the organizing team and encouraged all the participants to become great Brothers with lots of enthusiasm and dedication. He further requested them to be aware of themselves as they are about

to enter into an important stage of formation. His presence was a boost to the entire camp as he inspired us all to go ahead with a positive frame of mind.

The camp ended with the concluding ceremony on 10th June. Bro. Balla Francis was the Chief Guest for the same. He enlightened all of us by sharing the importance of vocation, silence, health, and self-discipline. I assume that the camp had a lot of positive vibes and I personally felt that our participants left for Novitiate and Pre- Novitiate with much optimism. Their feedback about the camp was so encouraging and an eye-opener for the organizing team too.

Bro. Alex Diamond, SG

Province of North-East India



A BOLD STEP TO FOLLOW CHRIST

Bro. Tespul said yes to the call of God and has dedicated his life to the service of God and His people by making his first Profession on 23rd April 2022 at St. Gabriel's House, Sitagarha Novitiate, Jharkhand. It is a matter of great joy for the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of North East India, the Diocese of Nongstoin, in Meghalaya and the parents of Bro. Tespul.

Bro. Tespul is the **first Religious Brother** of his hometown Laitlawsmai, St. John's Parish and the Diocese of Nongstoin in Meghalaya.

He joined the Juniorate at Montfort Chabua, in the year 2017, completed his schooling at Montfort Centre of Education, Tura, and joined Aruludhayam for his pre-novitiate in the year 2019. Later he completed his Novitiate at Sitagarha, Jharkhand and is now serving at Montfort Hr. Sec. School, Champaknagar, as a Brother.

On the 15th of May 2022, the Catholic community of Laitlawsmai village felicitated Bro. Tespul in the presence of the Sisters of Holy Cross, Village Headman, Leaders of St. John's Church and more than a hundred villagers. We hope and pray that many more young men of Laitlawsmai and other villages in the North east, will be encouraged to follow the footsteps of Montfort by joining the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel to serve the needy in the Northeast India.

We pray that Bro. Tespul will have a fruitful mission experience as a member of the Province of Northeast India in the Congregation of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel.

Bro. Udai Kumar Kaipeng, SG





Every person in their reflection on life, especially the young people of today, may ask, "Can a person truly give himself completely to God? Is it possible to be faithful to a vocation in Jesus Christ forever?" And we know the answer is "yes," not so much because of us but because the grace of God calls us and sustains us, making this possible; the will and plan of God is for people to do so. He knows the sacrifice of which we are capable. It is to this self-giving, self-sacrificing love that God calls us

Three young men responded to God's call to be Brothers in the Church to serve the Lord and His people through Religious life. Bro. Jino Narzary, Bro. Polycary Mashli and Bro. Sandeep Lyngdoh chose to be Montfort Brothers forever by consecrating themselves to God by pronouncing the three vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience, as members of the Institute of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, in the Province of Northeast India.



The ceremony of Perpetual Profession started with a concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration presided over by His Lordship Most Rev. Joseph Aind, the Bishop Emeritus of Dibrugarh. The family members of the

Three Brothers, a good number of Priests, Brothers, Sisters, staff, students and invited guests took part in the Programme. Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, the Provincial Superior, Province of Northeast India, accepted their vows and welcomed them as permanent members of the Province.

During the felicitations Bro. Jino Narzary, Bro. Polycary Mashli and Bro. Sandeep Lyngdoh and their family members, His Lordship Most Rev. Joseph Aind, the Bishop Emeritus of Dibrugarh and the distinguished invited guests were all honoured with the *Kamosha* as a mark of acknowledging their valuable presence on the occasion.

Addressing the perpetually professed Brothers, Bro. Provincial invited them to follow Jesus their Master, in the footsteps of St. Montfort their founder. He told them that he can't promise them a bed of roses but daily crosses, rejections, persecutions and hardships - the cost of discipleship. He asked them to be leaders like Pope Francis and invited them to live with simplicity, courage, love for the poor and ability to think out of the box.

The Brothers, who made the perpetual profession, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who accompanied them during the course of their religious life leading up to their perpetual profession and everyone who were instrumental in making this celebration a grand success, in their speeches.

The function came to a conclusion with a fellowship meal for everyone present.

Bro. S. Maria Soosai, SG



SILVER JUBILEE OF PROVINCE OF NORTHEAST INDIA

On 9th May 1948, India became a Province and Bro. Eleazer became the First Provincial Superior.

The Central Administration decided to divide the Indian Province into three Regions namely; South, Central and North. These regions came into existence on 1st June 1967 with Bro. Antony Francisco, Bro. Vincent De Paul and Bro. John of Sacred Heart as Regional Superiors of South, Centre and North Regions respectively. The three regions became independent Provinces on 1st June 1975 with Bro. Anselm as the Provincial of South, Bro. Vincent de Paul as the Provincial of Centre and Bro. Ambrose as the Provincial of North.

During the tenure of Bro. Anselm, Most Rev. Denzil D' Souza, the then Bishop of Silchar Diocese, invited the Montfort Brothers to take over the schools that were run by the Holy Cross Congregation (who were asked to leave the country by the Government of India) in Mizoram.

On 9th June 1975 Bros. P. J. Abraham, Devasy Madavana, K. V. Mathew, C. J. George, K. U. Mathew and Cyriac Pulickal travelled to Mizoram along with the Bishop. They took over the administration of St. John's school at Kolasib and St. Paul's school at Aizawl. In 1978 with taking over the administration of St. Peter's Chhingchhip, Mizoram was made a District under the South Province and it was later renamed as the 'District of North East' in the year 1986.

On 10th May 1998, the Province of North East India was inaugurated during a colourful function, in the presence of Rt. Rev. Lumen Monteiro, priests and religious of the Diocese of Dibrugarh and the people of the area, at Chabua. The Province then

was comprised of 31 Brothers in nine communities administering 8 schools in five states of Northeast India. The Provincial House was at Guwahati, Assam.

Since then, the Province has progressed steadily under five Provincials leading up to its Silver Jubilee year 2022, with 43 Brothers in 13 communities serving at 15 schools, spread across 5 states of Northeast India.

The Silver Jubilee celebration of the establishment of the Province was inaugurated on 21st May 2022 along with the Perpetual Profession of three of our Brothers. The lighting of the lamp by His Lordship Most Rev. Joseph Aind, Bishop Emeritus of Dibrugarh, in whose Diocese the Province was inaugurated, Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, the Provincial Superior, Bro. Thomas Plathottam, the first Provincial Superior, Bro. K.V Mathew, one of the pioneers who came to Northeast in the year 1975 and Sr. Omana representing the Associates and Collaborators marked the beginning of Silver Jubilee Celebrations. It was followed by a Concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration to thank God for the providential care and the manifold blessings He has bestowed upon the Brothers, students, staff, parents and the people of Northeast India for the past 25 years through the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel.

The Jubilee year presents a great opportunity for the Brothers to renew the zeal, enthusiasm and re-discover the 'Missionary Dynamism' that ignited the pioneers to take the message of Jesus and the spirituality of St. Montfort to the remote corners of Northeast, especially to the five states that the Montfortian Legacy has been spread by them since the time they set foot in this region, as they march towards their golden Jubilee in the years to come.

Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, SG

GABRIELITE SCHOOLS OLYMPIC DAYS, SENEGAL



The Education Commission of the Province held its second event of the year on 20, 21, and 22 May at Saint Gabriel College in Thiès, Senegal.

The event consisted of sports competitions opposing all Gabrielite Schools in Senegal. Thus, for three 3 days, students from seven 7 schools

including Collège du Sine (Fatick), Saint-Gabriel (Thiès), René Merceron (Mbour), Saint François d'Assise (Tivaouane Peul), Saint Louis Marie Grignion (Malika) and the CTA (Saint Montfort Technical Center) gathered and shared unforgettable moments competing in various sports organised for each level and cycle. The theme chosen for these Sports days was: "Gabrielite, through sport, all together for a more just and fraternal world".

Primary school students competed in football for boys, relay for girls, sprint for both boys and girls, and long jump for girls.

Middle School boys competed in football, sprint, and triple jump, while girls faced each other in handball, relay, sprint, and triple jump.



Triple jump men Winners' Podium

For secondary school students, we focused on team sports such as football and basketball for boys and handball and basketball for girls.

Bro. Patrice MBENGUE, SG

Primary school football winners



Province of Brazzaville

ON MISSION IN BERTOUA,
CAMEROON

The beginnings. In response to the request of the Archdiocese, three Brothers arrived in Bertoua at the end of August 2002. Monsignor PIRENNE, the local Archbishop welcomed them and introduced them to their new mission: Bro. Pierre SAPOU was in charge of rural agricultural development while Bro. Apollinaire MUKANU was assigned the responsibility of Foyer Saint-Jean Boarding school.

Bro. Ambroise Désiré NDOUGOU was posted at Teerenstra Middle School, and a few months later, Bro. Hubert GUERINEAU was appointed as a teacher at the Major Seminary.

In 2006, the boarding school Foyer Saint-Jean was replaced by a primary school under the leadership of Brother Hervé MALANDA, the first Headmaster. The school opened on 4 September with 80 pupils divided into 3 classes.

Over the past 15 years, 30 Brothers have been working at Saint Gabriel. The school has experienced significant growth with the creation of a Middle school in 2012 and the opening of the High school in 2020. Today, the complex Saint Gabriel School welcomes 1,200 students.



Brother Wagler, as financial manager of the school, you have the opportunity to meet all the families of the students. What do you observe?

Many families have limited resources, but considering education a priority, parents undertake considerable efforts to pay their children's school fees. And given the situation of public high schools, they prefer to sacrifice themselves and offer their children Catholic school education. I would like to mention that, thanks to the Brothers of Canada, about 60 disadvantaged families benefit from sponsorship and secure their

children's fees.

In their desire to help us, parents have established a Parent-Teacher Association (APEE), which helps the school carry out a number of low-cost projects. For example, a few weeks ago heavy rain destroyed 25 meters of the school's fence and the school was unable to repair the damage. The Association immediately took on the task and completed the reconstruction within week.

Brother Jimmy, your role of General Supervisor brings you into contact with all the students of the School. Is this a chance for you?

Yes, contact with students is a source of encouragement and motivation for me.

My responsibilities as supervisor make me encounter students every single day... Often, in the course of a conversation, or when they burst out in anger or cry in despair..., I can sense the difficulties they face, in their families, with their teachers, and among themselves.

Your activity field is vast: cleaning offices and classrooms, maintaining the courtyard, supplying drinking water, printing monthly evaluations, supervising sports activities... Which feelings drive you when carrying out all these services?

For me, it is a fundamental duty to be at the service of the community that we form, to maintain a healthy and pleasant environment for the good functioning of the School. It is important to take care of and provide for the basic needs of the people. We have 6 sports teams, both men and women, 2 football squads, 2 handballs teams, and 2 others in volleyball. During competitions, I accompany them, because I like sport, but above all because of the need to supervise and encourage our students.





Brother Joseph, you welcome all the teachers every day and you participate in the Board of Directors of the College. Can you tell us how you feel?

The College is run by a Passionate Sister assisted by a Council composed of lay people and Brothers. I can confirm that there is good collaboration between the Administration of the College and the Brothers: The Brothers are always consulted before a decision is taken. I have good relationships with the teachers: I can talk to them and even suggest some remarks which they accept quite readily. And finally, we have a club where teachers and staff meet up every two weeks for a meal. It is a convivial gathering appreciated by all, a convivial place, where relations are strengthened and developed in a family spirit.



Brother John Paul II, you worked as a teacher in the Central African Republic, in Congo, and you still teaching in Cameroon now. Are teaching methods the same in all three countries?

Well, each country has its own particularities and applies different pedagogical approaches. In all these three countries, the large number of pupils, the lack of educational materials (books and other didactic supports) make teachers adopt the so-called "traditional" method. This is a method in which the teacher, chalk in hand, explains the lesson on the blackboard and the pupils follow attentively. The pupils copy the lesson, learn them by heart and then reproduce them word for word.

In Bertoua, the school has two sections-an English-speaking section and a French-speaking one, each has got its specific curriculum.

I myself teach a fifth-grade primary school class which counts 75 children. They attend full-time school from Monday to Friday. Classes begin at 7.30 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Each day is divided into three sessions with two half-hour breaks. We utilise a "competence-based approach " to teach the children. The teacher and pupils work together to pool their knowledge around a focus of interest.

Brother Boulakare, you are the Coordinator of the School. You are the one responsible for relations with the State School authorities and the Diocesan Secretariat of Catholic Education. Is that an easy task?



As far as collaboration with local education authorities is concerned, the relationships are good. We work with the District Inspector and the departmental and regional delegates. They accompany us in the ongoing formation of teachers and provide a certain amount of financial support. On the other hand, with the Diocesan Secretariat of Catholic Education, we have minimal collaboration. They rarely visit us and There is no teacher-training program. In addition to that, some state subsidies are collected but not allocated, and there is no pedagogical supervision for the school.....

Since 2017, you are in "Saint-Gabriel School ". Can you tell us about your experience?

Our school is a bilingual complex: it includes a primary school, a secondary school, a high school, a French section, and an English section. I have to organise and manage the functioning of the whole complex. Thanks to God, things are working pretty well. The different departments of the complex coexist in harmony. This work requires leadership qualities: lucidity and discernment, subsidiarity or sharing of responsibilities. Such management also involves a sense of humanity and compassion to bring peace, reconciliation, and guidance toward the common good of the community...

This year, our biggest project is the purchase almost 4 hectares of land, on which the Saint Gabriel School Complex is built. This project is led by the Province and the Central Administration with financial support of the Brothers of Canada. It is a great step forward!

None of the six Brothers of the community chose Bertoua, but all of us want to be faithful to those who "sent" us there.



Bro. Guy SIROT, SG

Province of France

60 YEARS IN SENEGAL A MISSIONARY HEART! BROTHER JEAN ARMAL TELLS



In January 2022, the Provincial Letter started with the headline: "African Brothers welcomed in France", and the cover page featured beautiful photos of smiling brothers. Even though you did not see me in the photo, I am one of these Brothers from Africa enjoying the warm welcome of the mother Province. In fact, I have spent more than 60 years in Africa; a long stay in the land of Teranga which perhaps justifies my title of "Sénégalois". Because of health issues, I could not prolong my mission of accompanying our youngest Brothers in Senegal, with the title of "sénégalois" perhaps...

The family name ARMAL is the one that appears at least twice in Gabrielite archives in Africa: Louis, the eldest among the siblings, and Jean the fourth of the list of five boys. Two of them preceded us in heaven. Louis who died at 68, had spent 14 years in Gabon and Cameroon. He was recruited by Bro. Jean Gaucha and Bro. Michel Falaiseau at the time he was studying at the Sacred Heart Primary School in Luçon.

In 1945, I joined the juniorate of La Tremblaie. It was just 4 years after my brother Louis entered. Louis and I followed a classic formation course: la Tremblaie, Saint-Laurent, le Boistissandeau except that I had an extension of 6 months formation at the novitiate of la Hillière.



*Bro. Jean ARMAL
at Thiès in 1961*

I started teaching in 1955 at Saint Augustin in Angers. Afterwards, I took 27 months of military service, including 1 year in Algeria.



Jean ARMAL at 8 years old



Louis ARMAL at 12 years old

On my return from military service, I stayed for a semester in Saint-Varent in Les Deux Sèvres, then I went to Oakland, London where I completed my A-level.

It was there, in London, that the Provincial asked me to go to Senegal as a missionary in 1960 and as I was free, I accepted. Given that my brother Louis had already been in Gabon for several years, my father and mother were affected by this separation. However, they were happy because we regularly wrote to each other.

I joined the pioneers Brothers in Senegal: Gustave MONNERON, Clément REMAUD, Jean QUERVILLE, and Marc THOMAS. Coming from London, I first worked as an English teacher, but as I had "strings to my bow" to take on other positions. I was also entrusted with music, drawing, and practical work classes... not mathematics! In 1962, I took my perpetual vows in the church St. Anne's Cathedral in Thiès. In December 1967, I was asked to return to London to improve my English, but the journey ended in France with long a long stay in Rome for the second novitiate. There, began the turning point of my missionary life: By chance, I read Pope Paul VI apostolic letter "Africae Terrarum" released on 29 October 1967. In this letter, the Pope viewed the

mission "not only as a priority but an extreme urgency for Africa, the training of young people in agricultural development". This was a "turning point" for me! Bro. Gustave, the then-District Superior, suggested that I joined the mission after appropriate training.



In Bambey, Senegal, the young people of our training center had a slogan they used to chant while working: "joy and songs".

We seized the opportunity to put the encyclical into practice. We went to Bambey, Senegal, to take over a small agricultural training center following the launch of new government guidelines for post-primary education. Private Catholic schools had to comply with the new regulations. While waiting for some facilities and accommodation to be built in Bambey, I was appointed interim Headmaster in Montrolland (15 kilometers in northern Thiès), shortly before the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception took the school in charge. I was the last Brother of saint Gabriel to serve as headmaster in the Montrolland school which counted 13 classes. Brother Arthur ROBIN- was in charge of teacher-training formation and pedagogical supervision- visited schools of all surrounding villages. From these rural schools, five Brothers of Saint-Gabriel, including Brother Jean-Paul MBENGUE and Brother Robert THIAW, were recruited.

This was followed by 8 years in Bambey with Bros. Bernard RICOLLEAU and Georges POUPLIN. We had trained about fifteen young students, some of whom came from Montrolland.



In Salémata, the building of the Agricultural and development training center was made possible by donations from Misereor, a charity German charity run by the Catholic Church.

Located on a small farm, our centre was the only establishment in the region that hosted the major training courses in agriculture. In addition to agricultural training, we offered courses to reinforce basic primary education with regular reading practice. The center was blessed with orchards, small livestock, oxen, and donkeys for traction.

The proximity of the agricultural research center was valuable to us; we appreciated the assistance of its staff who took great interest in the formation of our young farmers.

In Bambey I was able to witness how the construction of a beautiful church helped revive the life of a parish. In 1978, I went to Salémata near the frontiers between Senegal and Guinea Conakry. I stayed alone for a year, and before Bro. Gustave MONNERON joined me. Salémata was a brand new parish, daughter of the parish of Kédougou, and granddaughter of the parish of Ourous in Guinea (see. map p. 7). The apostolic



The Parish apostolic teams of Salémata, Ourous and Koundara

team was composed of a Spiritan father and brother, some Franciscan Missionary of Mary nuns, and two Brothers of Saint Gabriel. Br. Jean PLOUX joined me after Bro. Gustave was posted back to Dakar. We lived in deep harmony and fraternal communion with each other, especially in pastoral work, catechesis, nursing, primary school, and agricultural training.



The catechists are attentive to the words of the instructor Brother Jean ARMAL, during the visit to the fields!

The agricultural training was also conducted in about 20 villages. I was in charge of open-field agriculture during the rainy season. We worked with the means and tools that came at hand including equipped carts with brakes, which were very useful in this hilly country. We utilized different methods such as oxen-



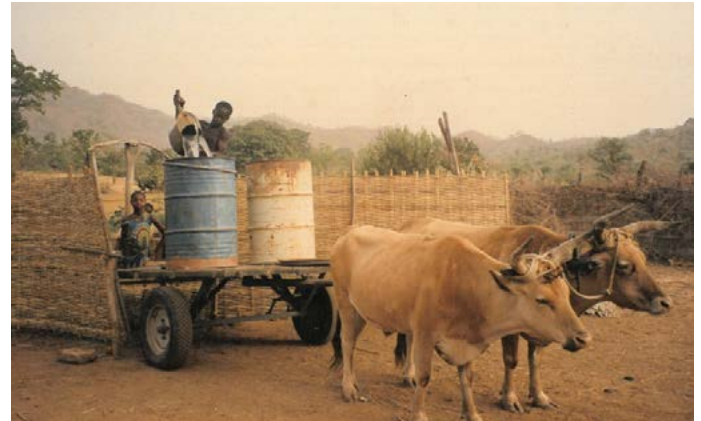
In Salémata, transportation of water from the school garden!

ploughing fertilization at the minimum profitable level, and cereal crop rotation for rice, sorghum, maize, vegetables, groundnuts, soya, and mungo (a type of bean). We also used harrows, seeders, hoes, and composted stable manure... The crop straws were collected and used as fodder and litter for composting. The work was carried out in a festive atmosphere with children singing while working... During the dry season, we had different activities ranging from manure shed construction to educational gardens. The harvest was shared in proportion to the time of work recorded by the monitor. As Schools were closed during the rainy season, I went from one village to another to work with the children on the crops.

I stayed in Salémata for 18 years to carry out this training. Our most successful students (5 or 6 pupils at least) were taken to the boarding school in Kedougou, which is 80 km far from Salémata. After about fifteen years, with the opening of several schools in Kedougou, the boarding school could no longer receive the pupils from Salémata. It was, therefore, necessary to consider starting a school that could help the children progress and prepare for their integration into the regular school system when they reach middle school.

At the time, this project was not viable for the diocesan educational service for financial reasons. The building of this school (two classrooms, reception huts, and a

library) was realized thanks to the financial support of the German government. We received some books from a donator working at the French cultural center in Dakar.



F. Jean ARMAL and Br. Gustave MONNERON in Salémata in 1992.



Freed from the constraints of the Senegalese national education system, we could organise ourselves more freely and offer students an environment-centered pedagogy. We had the support of the regional education inspector of Tambacounda who approved and welcomed our methodologies. He said: " At last, here is the training school we needed! Curiously, our Bishop dreamed of an official school: the only valid one according to him! This type of school which the Bishop wanted was out of reach at that time. For our Bishop, the training we offered was not adapted to rural schools ...This led to tensions which caused the departure of Brothers from Salémata at the expense of the children and their parents. They were obliged to find another school. After several years, a new informal school was opened. It was called the parents' school.

After 18 years in Salémata, I joined the community of Ourous, Guinea Conakry 40 kms from Salémata



F. Jean ARMAL, Director of the Mother Teresa center which opened in 2008 to welcome children in extreme precariousness and offer them: housing, food, space, attention, studies.

Bros. Joseph DOUET and Jean PLOUX had been invited by Mgr Sarah, a native of Ourous who later become Cardinal. Bro. Jean PLOUX took over the local schools in the Bassari and Coniagui region. Bro. Joseph DOUET opened a training centre in agriculture and craft. It was 5 years of exciting mission work in rather difficult conditions. In addition to the harsh labour that physically affected us, we also experienced misunderstandings and tensions with some people

even with our young Parish Priest who was a Guinean native.

The attitude of the young people toward the mission and their unreadiness to collaborate reflected Sékou Touré's 35 years of Marxist dictatorship: mistrust, opposition to anything foreign, and certain laziness. The number of our students decreased going from 15 to 7. We supported the 7 students helping them to resettle in the village working as farmers and carpenters. Our community was reduced to 3 Brothers: two Senegalese and myself. We enjoyed neither running water, TV nor telephone. We had only a solar panel to lighten the house!



... broken down car in Malika... it takes a little time to wait for the repair... Patience is required!!!

In 2002, I was called back to Fatick, Senegal for 1 year to work as a secretary at Collège du Sine. Then I moved to Ndiébel during



Bro. Jean ARMAL at the school of Malika



School children in Malika



At the Tivaouane-Peulh carpentry workshop

the school year to replace the headmaster who went for his studies. I also did secretary work, but Ndiébel was different from Fatick. It is a remote rural area located a bit far from Kaolack. Fortunately, I was in contact with the agricultural training center where our brothers worked before. Bro. Bernard HERVE and Guy GODET were in charge of a small primary school with boarding facilities.

In 2008, after 6 years, I was approached by Mr Patrick PADIOU who wanted to launch, with Brother Provincial Jean-Marie Thior, a carpentry workshop and a small boarding school for "social" children in Tivaouane-Peulh in the greater suburb of Dakar. I was 74 years old when I became "papa" of first of 7 boys then of 16 boys of 6-8 years old who went to school in Malika 8 km away. Great experience of family life! Two boys had their baccalaureate in 2021, one of whom is now postulant at Thiès.



Bro. Jean ARMAL on his departure from Senegal in July 2021

In 2013, with the construction of the *Saint François d'Assise* institution, Senegalese Brothers took over and I joined Thiès for work on mimeography then, support for postulants and such. Factotum of the novitiate postulancy! This was until my old heart forces me to temporarily return to France for a repair!

Many Brothers said to me, when I mentioned my possible return to Senegal: "You are old, you have to leave room for the young!" Alas, there are already four younger Brothers who occupy their place in the community vault of Thiès. Where will another 88 year old, over 60 year old from Africa be found to be available to his younger Brothers to encourage them to look to the future with confidence and patience. Because we have a patient God, to whom I owe so much, even if, for Him, I was only an ordinary worker at his house, at the mission.

And here I am, since July 2021, welcomed by the Province of France to the community of elders of Machecoul, within reach of doctors, Nantes hospitals and ... pharmacists! While waiting for a return from exile, if such is the will of God... and of the doctors!

In Salémata, the building of the Agricultural and development training centre was made possible by donations from Misereor, a German charity run by the Catholic Church.

Province of Pune

Retreat and seminar for Catholic students of our Institutions in the Province:

A two-day seminar was arranged for the Catholic students of our Institutions of classes 8th to Degree at respective institutions by a team of Brothers of our Province.

Junior Brothers Insertion Programme:



The team of Brothers of the Province were exposed to Social realities at different centres. A batch of 6 went to Gopalapuram Village under the leadership of Bro. Monson Kuriakose. Another Batch went to Don Bosco Social centre, Goa. The community at Calangute arranged for the stay for the Brothers and coordinated the Programme. The Brothers were exposed to the realities of life situations and many schemes that are run for the socially disadvantaged people.



First vows:

The first vows for the Novices was held at St. Gabriel's House Sitagarha, on 20th April 2022. Bro. Ankush Gudia of Pune Province was one among the

other Novices from 8 Provinces of India. The main Celebrant was Rev. Anand Jojo, Bishop of Hazaribag.

Renewal of Vows:



A five-day preparation programme was arranged for the Juniors Brothers of the Province at Provincialate, Montfort Sadan, Pune for the renewal of Vows. The Programme was planned with 3 days of input sessions and 2 days of Reflections and Retreat. 16 of the Brothers Renewed their Vows. The Programme was arranged by the Provincial Superior assisted by Bro. Linto E. PFD.

Perpetual Profession:



45 Day long programme for preparation for final vows was organised by the National Council at Bangalore for the 16 Brothers of Indian Provinces under the guidance of Bro. Dhanaraj and team. Three of the Brothers of our Province namely Bros. Pradeep Kumar V., Bala Pradeep M. and Rajashaker Y. took part in the preparation Programme. They along with the 6 Brothers of the Province of Hyderabad committed to the Lord forever on 4th June, at St. Paul's High School, Hyderabad. The celebrations were attended by a large number of relatives, well-wishers and Brothers of the Provinces. The Arch Bishop of Hyderabad, the Cardinal Designate Most Rev. Poola Anthony was the main Celebrant.

ADOZIONI A DISTANZA

The Activity of Adoption at a Distance in India, Philippines and Tanzania.

As the power and spreading of Covid-19 declined gradually, our mission of Reception of groups and our own spiritual and educational activities are increasing rapidly in number and quality. The people are finding our Institution really an oasis of peace and joy.

We were blessed by the joyous visit of Bro. Claude Passebon who is offering his assistance at the *Centro Religiosi* in Albano Laziale, Roma. He is an ever-smiling jolly brother.



Bro. Mathew has the hobby of looking after a very small vegetable garden. Lastly it is bigger and more extensive. Nearly all the necessary vegetables of every kind are being grown here and that we eat fresh biological vegetables. Our freezers are full of it. His Hobby produces plentiful valuable fruits too. Thanks be to God.



Groups of Agesci and Scouts are our regular guests. Recently we had the presence of don Graziano and Agesci and Scouts of Treviso-Paese and of Spinea.



Bro. Dionigi Taffarello and some friends from Vasto made us a visit in connection with the proposal of selling away of our property at Istrana. The Vicar General of the Diocese of Treviso, don Giuliano Brugnotto and other people from Treviso also were present in the meeting.





The Indian Catholic Syro-Malabar community has its regular Holy Mass celebration in our Institute. They also had celebrated the International Mothers' Day.



On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 June we had an annual closing ceremony of about 400 dancing students. These were really marvellous days of dancing for students, their teachers and their parents. The programme was conducted outside in the meadows and the spectacular avenue of limes trees (tigli).



The prayer group "Regina della Pace" has its regular biweekly prayer meetings and recently they arranged a picnic at Ca' Florens with their children. They had

arranged a sumptuous lunch with a number of grilled food items. Bro. Dionisio and Bro Mathew Kavumkal shared the joy of the group.



As a regular event of the Association of the Adozioni a distanza, we have a day of Spiritual retreat on the third Sunday of every month. Benefactors of the nearby Provinces like Treviso, Vicenza, Padova and Venezia take part in the retreat. During the retreat we have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the liturgical morning prayer, holy Rosary, catechesis on the word of God, adoration, short video on the life of students we help, holy Mass and lunch. During the lunch, the benefactors have the possibility to talk about their experience of helping the children through our Association.

Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG



Montfort Aruludhayam (Pre-Novitiate)

We are very much excited and privileged to describe the events that occurred in the month of April, at Aruludhayam.

FIVE DAYS OF RETREAT:



We started our Annual Retreat from 4th April to 8th April. Fr. Pon Ruban, SJ animated the retreat. He inspired us on various topics such as Following God’s Call, Discernment of Spirits, etc. We spent our time with the Lord in silence. We had a good confession and we are all worthy to be called as the Children of God.

PILGRIMAGE TO VELANKANNI:



On 9th April we started our pilgrimage to Our Lady of Velankanni Church and we attended the Eucharistic Celebration. On our return, we visited few communities such as Montfort School, Kattur Community , Champion School, St. Antonys School Manapparai, Technical Institute, St. John’s Farm, Ayan Poruvaai and Montfort Scholasticate. We had

a warm welcome in all the communities. We are grateful for their hospitality.

BOOK REVIEW:

We had our 4th Book Review presentation from 19th April to 21st April. Through the book review, we enhanced our skills in reading, writing, speaking and developed self-confidence.

MONTFORT’S FEAST DAY:



We celebrated the feast day of our founder on 29th April. We had a grand celebration as it was also our farewell day. It was an amazing program for us. We invited the Priests, Brothers and Sisters of various communities. We also invited the family members of our supporting staff. We had a befitting prayer service and a cultural programme. All of them congratulated and conveyed their regards to us. We finished our celebrations with a sumptuous dinner.

FINAL DAY:

The last working day of our Pre-novitiate programme was on 6th May 2022. The past ten months of our stay were enriching & satisfying to everyone without an exception. We are all grateful to the Brothers of Aruludhayam Community namely Bro. Binu Mathew (Director), Bro. Rohit (Socius) and Bro. Arun (Administrator) for their commitment, hard work, guidance, support, concern & love.

Jeeva Antony (Pre-Novice)



SHARED MISSION PROVINCE OF SPAIN



"[...] a new thing is being born, do you not feel it?" (Is 43:19)

On 2 and 3 April, a meeting of Brothers, associates and collaborators was held at the "Santos Ángeles" Spiritual Retreat House in Zaragoza to discuss the theme: The charismatic family: sharing the mission is to become co-responsible for the mission.

Given the moment of restructuring that our Province is going through, we needed to reflect on how to share the responsibility of the educational mission, and to advance in the discernment of structures that allow this co-responsibility.

To motivate and energize the theme of the meeting, we had the presence of María Belén Blanco Rubio, a member of the Shared Mission Team of CONFER (Spanish Confederation of Religious), where she coordinates the team that advises and accompanies

the Institutes of religious men and women in the journey of the Shared Mission.

After this intervention, the Brother Provincial, Faustino Besa, informed and placed us all in the context of our Province. He informed us of the decision of the Brothers to give continuity to our educational mission with the co-responsibility of the laity.

On Saturday afternoon, there was time for an exchange on what had been discussed, and to make progress in the discernment of the structures that allow for co-responsibility.

On Sunday morning, the lay people presented the results of these reflections, followed by a presentation by Brother Jean Paul Mbengue, Assistant to the General Council, on "United for an ever stronger

Shared Mission". He encouraged Brothers and lay people to show our witness as happy adults in our vocation, from which we have to announce the Good News as Montfort did.

He motivated us lay people to form ourselves and others, to carry *Laudato Si* as a compass, to humanize from what we are, baptized Christians, and from the personal relationship with Mary as a privileged way for this mission.

He encouraged the Brothers that their life should always be an expression of the absolute priority of their choice of God.

Finally, Br. Dionigi Taffarello addressed a few words to us in which he gathered the main ideas of the meeting. He urged us to maintain our identity

as an irreplaceable richness in our mission of evangelization. And he urged us to walk the path of this new stage together and in synodality.

After the closing of the meeting, we celebrated the Eucharist. During the celebration, we solemnly renewed the Promise of Adhesion to the Gabrielite Shared Mission; some made it for the first time. The COVID-19 pandemic had interrupted this very emotional moment for all the associates.

To the joy of this meeting, in which we were able to look at each other face to face and heart to heart after such a long time, was added the joy of the presence of the Brothers of the Central Administration who, with their guidance and suggestions, encouraged us to continue on this path of the Shared Mission, now more together than ever.





AGMONT meeting in Barcelona

Marian Spirituality in Saint Louis M^a Grignion de Montfort

On 30 April, at 6 p.m., the first face-to-face meeting of AGMONT (Montfort Gabrielite Associates) was held at the Saint Gabriel School in Barcelona, to attend the conference programmed by the Montfort Foundation: *Marian Spirituality in Saint Louis M^a Grignion de Montfort*.

The speaker, **Fr. Francisco Javier Recabaren**, a priest of the Brotherhood of the Sons of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, of the Archdiocese of Toledo, shared with us, in very simple words, the personal experience he had, during his postulancy in Chile, of the need for Mary in the life of the Christian, when he prepared his Consecration to Mary before coming to Spain. And he did so with the book of St. Louis M^a Grignion de Montfort, *The Secret of Mary*, in his hands.

He confessed that the first thing that struck him about the book "*The Secret of Mary*" is how it reflects the missionary spirit of St. Louis, and how the Saint wanted everyone to know this secret, to guide souls where to walk, where to look, so that they could find the source of spiritual life. And he stated that the one to look to, undoubtedly, is Mary.

And the second thing he stops to consider is the word

secret, which for him suggests something intimate, reserved for a few; but he quickly clarifies that secret does not mean that it is something reserved for a few VIPs, but that only a few discover it, because a secret is more difficult to perceive than a message. A secret is a shortcut; and a shortcut is difficult to know, because it requires knowing very well the place and the streets where one walks. The greatest difficulty in knowing the secret, according to Montfort, is the lack of humility, because people, in general, prefer more sublime things. To discover the secret we have to be humble of heart, to know that we are poor instruments of our Mother.

He explained that the book *Secret of Mary* has a theoretical part where theological foundations are presented, to state the truths of the Church, and a second practical part that orients our life.

Why is Mary necessary? Because, as the Church confesses, she is the Mother of God, the Virgin, Assumed into Heaven and Mother of the Church.

St. Louis puts Mary at the centre of the spiritual life. She is the way by which the Son of God came and through her we can go to the Father. The Son of God was not only born in Mary, but also from Mary. What



Brotherhood of children of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart- Fr. Francisco Javier Rocabaren- Second row- third from the left



Eucharistic Celebration-1-AGMONT-Barcelona.

does this mean? That Mary is at the centre of God's plan of salvation for man. God wanted it this way and wants it this way for us. This is in harmony with the Catholic faith. The Christian does not carry out his salvation, it is the Spirit of God who does it. But God likes to involve his children in his work. He always seeks the participation of the human being.

God works through us when we pray, in what we do day by day. God's grace is absolutely necessary and God gives us all sufficient grace; but in order to obtain the grace necessary to be saints, we must find Mary, for it is to her that God, by giving her Son, gave all the graces. And He wants us to walk to heaven not only hand in hand with Christ, but with a Mother.

This is why St. Louis tells us that, just as Jesus came into the world through Mary, so at the end of time it will be Mary who will help the Christian people to see the light again, to bring back the Son of God.

Mary becomes more and more present through apparitions and in the writings of the popes. An example of this is Mother Teresa of Calcutta, for it is Mary who helps her to understand that she must give herself completely to the poor when Jesus tells her: "I'm thirsty!"

In the face of these truths, Fr Recabaren says that we can make a few considerations:

1- That we must keep the Virgin Mary present in our hearts. That she should be our natural place or, according to the images used by Father de Montfort, our orchard, our garden... That we should look at her as Saint Louis looks at her, as our refuge in the storms.

2- That we must give ourselves entirely as slaves to Mary in order to reach Jesus. A slave has no salary and no other life than that of a slave; he is not like a servant who asks for a salary for his services. The slave gives himself completely, but it is a slavery of love, because devotion to Mary makes the soul truly free. For St Louis, God's command is lived in Mary. It is to place everything in her hands. It is a total self-giving which goes hand in hand with baptism. This slavery deepens, digs into and seals our baptism. In Mary, baptism is lived radically. And it is not only spirituality that is given to her, but also the most concrete and everyday things, knowing that our whole life is in her hands.

3- That by looking at Mary, the star of the seas, and in Mary, who is the good administrator of God's gifts, we are transformed into souls like her. The souls who have consecrated themselves to Mary have a special seal.

Thus, this devotion consists in doing all things with Mary, in Mary, through Mary and for Mary, because she is the only one chosen by God to unite souls to Jesus. Mary makes our soul live in Jesus and Jesus in our soul.

Just as through Mary God came into the world in humility and self-abasement, could it not also be said that through Mary He will come the second time, as the whole Church expects Him to do, to reign everywhere?



After these reflections by Fr. Recabaren, we celebrated the Eucharist, thanking God and our Mother for having allowed us to have again a personal meet-p. And finally, we gave free rein to our joy in the relaxed conversations we had in the school dining room, while we enjoyed some canapés and toasted to the happy and long-awaited reunion.

MCG Formation Team



Madrid - Montfortian family-associates meeting

On the 23rd April, at St. Gabriel's College in Madrid, the group of associates - Montfortian Family held the meeting scheduled for this month. Brother Ángel Llana began the event by recalling the feast of Saint Louis, his labour in the French society of his time and the transcendence of his foundations for the future of society in many countries of the world.

Afterwards, those present were invited to share their experiences during the three intense days of Holy Week religiosity, their participation in the religious

ceremonies and how they affect our way of living and acting.

Then, in the same room, the Eucharist was celebrated and the group shared their faith with joy.

As the 28th, the feast of Montfort, is a working day, after the Eucharist, associates and Brothers celebrated a festive meal in the Community dining room, followed by a pleasant after-dinner conversation.

Jesús Gómez, associate MCG



Casa Generalizia



VISIT OF SR. ANITHA.



On Sunday, June 12, 2022, the Community of the Generalate had the joy of welcoming **Sr. Anitha**, the Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph's Congregation, who was on a Canonical Visit to her Sisters in Europe. **Bro. John Kallarackal**, Superior General, took this excellent opportunity to express our Congregation's sincere thanks to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Kottayam, who with generosity and efficiency render many services to the Brothers of the Generalate. Everyone who has interacted with the Sisters recognises how they have made their own the conviction of St. Theresa: "*God is in the pots, in the kitchen*", a reminder that God is present in our midst in the simplicity of daily life, in the humblest of tasks.

good health, happiness, success and prosperity, in facing the challenges of her tasks of animation and administration of their Congregation, and entrusting her to the paternal protection of Saint Joseph, their celestial Patron.



The extension of this recognition to the Sisters can also be seen in the light of St. Paul's teaching: "*Do everything without recriminating or arguing*" (Phil 2:14). This is another way of saying that they carry out their mission through their own personal example and witnessing.

An exchange of symbolic gifts between Bro. John Kallarackal and Sister Anitha was followed by a fraternal festive meal with all the Brothers and the Sisters.

The second significant moment of this Visit was the presentation of an icon of Saint Joseph, to symbolize our prayerful wishes to Sr. Anitha for

Bro. Jean Marie Thior, SG
Secretary General

SAINTS LIVING AMONG US!



F. Camille LUCAS, SG

Community of
Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre

Blessed among us!

Heaven is full of Blessed people: our parents and relatives, our brothers, and a great multitude of unknown individuals whose deeds, achievements, and loving gifts are remembered with emotion and are celebrated in God. Among them, there are some who are "put on the altars", as the saying goes, because the Church wants to honour a life of a hundred virtues or the death of a martyr, as a reflection of God. As Pope John Paul II said, we Christians who are poor and indigent, have great need of these witnesses.

As far as I know, the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel do not have a single blessed Brother recognised by the Church in its ranks. Nevertheless! St. Louis-Marie de Montfort provides us with consoling expressions in his Embraced Prayer: "Beloved, in whom you, Wisdom, take your pleasure", and in another expression: "Your Congregation, it is your work, great God! It is true that Montfort adds conditions that were likely set out to moderate any enthusiasm: absolute fidelity of the "liberos detached from all things", and apostolic zeal "all on fire". Someday in the future - Let us rejoice!

In the future that I cannot determine, we as a Montfortian Family will perhaps be able to invoke the 49 Blessed Brothers Martyrs of Spain whom we ask the Church to "put on the altars" under the title of "Blessed Estanislao and his Companions Martyrs". It is a matter of faith and cautious growth, and also of perseverance. The procedure has been in progress officially since 1999, just after the Council of the Institute in Begues (near Barcelona). This happened in the land that witnessed the suffering of our martyrs, and then, in the wake of the decision taken the same year by the Superior General with the consent of his Council.

Who is this Brother Estanislao? He was the first Spanish provincial, appointed in 1935 to succeed our French poet



Brother Hermogene. Br. Estanislao, died under the murderous bullets, in hatred of the faith, one year later, with 38 of his confreres, along the wall of the cemetery of Montcada, in Barcelona. He was 37 years old. Ten others already died in other parts

of Catalonia on nearby dates. In this case, the Church does not beatify groups of people, but rather each individual baptized person; this is why our brothers' beatification is being requested under the title "Brother Estanislao and his Companions Martyrs".

Where do things stand with regard to the beatification process?

The diocesan phase of the process has gone very well in Barcelona and the closing ceremony was held on 16 June 2007 in the church of San Paulino in Nola (Barcelona). The documents were immediately transferred to the Cause of Saints (Vatican) and opened on 4 December 2007. Since then, there have been four postulators, which is a lot for ongoing work. All of them have ceased their functions as postulators for personal reasons.

However, in November 2021, the Superior General, together with his Council, had to renew the postulatory team. He appointed a lay Italian Mr. Nicola Gori as principal postulator. Mr. Gori is a reporter for L'Osservatore Romano and has a degree in foreign languages and literature from the University of Florence, where he collaborates with the Faculty of Literature and Spanish Philosophy. In 2020, he was the one who conducted the beatification of the young Carlo Acutis, the "apostle of the Eucharist".

With such a man, we feel sure that our Cause will move forward. He has almost completed writing his Positio. This is the document in which the testimonial and documentary evidence is written and argued in black and white. This Positio will be the basis on which experts: historians, theologians, bishops, and cardinals, will evaluate whether our 49 Servants of God can really be declared "for the faith". To accompany this process, all the faithful can now pray to God to obtain, through their intercession, graces of healing, conversion...

What is the role of the two Vice-Postulators? Mr. Gori is in fact assisted by two Vice-Postulators: Hno Ángel LLANA (Spain) and Bro. Camille LUCAS (France).



- We understand that in Spain, Bro. Angel who is Spanish is entrusted with documenting and researching the details of the life and virtues of the Brothers which are still needed to support the cause of beatification.

- But is this function relevant in France? I was surprised when Bro. Vicar asked me to take it on. When I asked him about the specific role I should play, he replied that I needed to: "Promote the visibility of this cause and encourage prayer" in the areas of the congregation where French is spoken. This role is considered important to Mr. GORI, who by the way speaks perfect French.

So I looked for ways to meet this demand while taking into account my age, and I asked myself the reasons for involving the Francophone part of the Institute. I gathered information and took notes; and the result was an illustrated booklet, written in French, for the French-speaking Brothers. This was because the French Brothers had also been at work in Spain since 1903. They also suffered persecution precisely in this very rough of Catalonia where they were based. They nearly died there. Finally, only one was martyred, the first to fall, and the oldest too (51 years old). His name was Brother Adrien-Joseph (Frédéric Salarié), born in Cremps (Lot). So Spain, France, and the whole of the Congregation that was involved.

Each community of French-speaking confreres will receive a booklet, with a short prayer inside. The booklet provides details of this article and aims at awakening interest in this cause, which is somewhat shrouded in a "secret" of the Church, and of course, at encouraging prayer through the intercession of our presumed martyrs.

Each community of French-speaking confreres will receive a booklet, with a short prayer in it. The booklet describes this article in detail. The aim of this article is to awaken interest in this cause, which is somewhat shrouded in a "secret" of the Church, and of course to encourage prayer through the intercession of our presumed martyrs.

Questions... The writing of this brochure, which I did without any pretension, as well as its reading too, raise many questions in the face of so much suffering.

We are in the 20th century! So what does civilisation mean? Does consciousness become optional, for example when it comes to imposing one's mental algorithms...? Do life and conscience really matter when you see the banality with which our brothers were killed in Spain in 1936, without any trace of evidence? We know almost everything about the disappearance of our Brothers in Catalonia, but little about their last moments. Put simply, what kind of faith (or doubts) in Jesus crucified is capable of leading our world in search of meaning? Does our society really have a good compass?



Clemente RUIZ DE ALEGRÍA
Brother Teófilo, 21 years old
Born in Gauna (Álava)

A young Basque of a joyous and good character, honest and energetic, generous and enthusiastic. He was possessed of wit and original banter and allowed himself very amusing jokes, like sliding a silver coin below the door of the Brother Director, in order to soften the bad mood resulting from a problematic day in the San Sadurní de Noya school.

And with this carefree and intelligent character he made bad moments that announced bad news be forgotten.

"He is pious and displays evidence of good will. He receives regularly the sacraments"

In a letter to his family he wrote: "The situations of religious politics worsen every day. Goodbye, until heaven". And he was right, the young martyr.

This young Brother learns a great deal at the side of an expert Director in the Valls School within an environment of brotherly charity, true to the Gabrielite spirit.

The Spring of 1936 was for the Valls community very troubled and awkward when faced with an ever ending series of inspections by the Second Republic.

The Revolution caught up with him in Valls. He sought refuge in the house of some friends who took him in out of charity. After hiding some days he arrived at Can Valls with quite a few difficulties.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Teófilo grant us, Lord, his good character and his spontaneous and healthy joy.



Constancio MARÍNA MORENO
Brother Julio, 25 years old
Born in Cerratón de Juarros (Burgos)

He studied in London to prepare himself to be a missionary in Thailand, although later his project was never realized. He demonstrated a great steadfastness in his learning. He was a good Mathematics and Science teacher in the Juniorate.

Sometimes he was said to be a 'rascal', in the best sense of the word, due to his easygoing nature during some moments of the day and his manner of judging events and the character of the juniors, different to that of the other Brother Teachers.

He also taught at the School of Arenys de Mar. His military service was performed in barracks in Barcelona. A man of faith and tender devotion. Faithful to his religious duties and punctual to the community acts. He suffered a great deal at the start of the times of the Republic.

A passionate follower of Science and current accounts we enjoyed his lessons and teaching style. He was enthusiastically preparing to undertake higher studies. He was a punctual man and humorous among his fellow Brothers. The challenges the Brothers had to overcome in Can Valls since the start of the Civil War weighed heavily on him.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Julio grant us, Lord, his fidelity in the compliance of his religious duties and his conscience for work well prepared.

Lord prevail and hold me close

Alleluia Lord you rose
From hades to heaven
Walk with me on my way home.

Stay with me Oh! Lord Divine
For you love me unto life
Lord you are my good Shepherd
A sheep be not held in harm.

Stay with me Oh! Lord Divine
Amid troubled times of gloom
Frail am I in words and deeds
Like those you chose left you lone.

Stay with me Oh! Lord Divine
When mayhem prevails with death,
Amidst clouds of war and crimes
Forced to flee ones home and hearth.

Stay with me Oh! Lord Divine
When in loss of health and cool
Awful sense of pain prevails
No one seems inclined to help.

Stay with me Oh! Lord Divine
Friends too leave, when left alone
Silence clouds my head and heart
Lord prevail and hold me close.

Stay with me Oh! Lord Divine
Men around me weep and whine
For no job or means to live
Such are hard and fearsome fates.

Stay with me Oh! Lord Divine
As you did at Emmaus
Stirring faith and urge to live
Make me a true disciple

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS May 2022 – June 2022

BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL

Bro. Roger Le PIMPEC
Bro. Jose Varghese
Bro. Michel BRETHERMÉ
Bro. Didier GADONNA
Bro. Charles BOUSSION

COMPANY OF MARY

Fr. Luigi VAROTTO

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Sr. Nelly DEROUBAIX
Sr. Augusta Maria di Gesù
Sr. Clémence GARDNER
Sr. Cecilia Moreno Valbuena
Sr. Lilian CLARK
Sr. María Gabriela Acevedo García
Sr. Marie-Thérèse TEMPREAU
Sr. Élisabeth de l'Incarnation
Sr. Pier Daniella dell'Eucaristia
Sr. Teresa de Jesús Cárdenas Leon
Sr. Gabriella della Sapienza
Sr. François-Marie de l'Eucharistie
Sr. Alberte LALONDE

A close-up photograph of several bright pink flowers with five petals each, set against a blurred green background. The flowers are the central focus of the image, with some in sharp focus and others slightly out of focus.

Dear Readers,

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

E- Mail to sginfo@fsgroma.org

WhatsApp +91 9445800156

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