



Gabrielite

News Bulletin

For Private Circulation Only



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Editor's Note

The 214th issue of the GNB contains news from 11 Provinces, 3 Formation Houses in India, 3 articles in the Partnership Section and two individual articles. Bro. Bernard Guesdon writes a short article on page 52 regarding the painting of St. Montfort, which is found on the cover page of this issue.

Under the title Casa Generalizia, the participants of the Spiritual Renewal Session for the Francophone Brothers share their two weeks of experience in Italy, and Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, the Secretary-General, reports a few significant events which took place in the Generalate, including the farewell to Father Luiz Augusto Stefani, former Superior General of the Montfortian Missionaries. On page 10, MCDS shares the report of their activities for the quarter ending June 2023. The Province of Thailand briefly shares Brother Martin's Royal Audience with Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, along with the 44th anniversary of the foundation of Assumption College, Samutprakarn, and the visit of Bro. Theophane Verayuth to China for the recruitment of the students. The Province of Ranchi shares the activities of their three institutions at Konbir, Simdega and Konbir Noatoli.

Many insightful thoughts are being shared by Bro. James P. K. of North East Province, in his report on the meeting of the Local Superiors and Heads of the Institutions on page 19. Montfort Sadan, the Provincialate of Pune Province, presently accommodates 7 student Brothers from different Provinces, who are pursuing their theological studies. They share their daily activities along with the visits, meetings and training programs held in the Provincialate. An interesting interview with Bro. Christian Bizon on page 25, presents his new living environment and shares his unique experience with the Cistercian Abbey of Bellefontaine in Bégrolles en Mauges. The Province of Spain reports the 6th Memorial Tribute paid to our Spanish Brothers, the Presumed Martyrs. The Province of East Africa reports the 2nd Provincial Chapter, the visit of Bro. James T. K. and the Perpetual Vows preparatory programme. The Silver Jubilee and the First Profession celebration of the Brothers are reported by Senegal Province.

The activities of *Istituto Ca' Florens Istrana* and the active involvement of Bro. Dionisio Santoro and Bro. Mathew Kavumkal in the mission can be found on page 35. Bro. Marreddy T. R. pictures beautifully his experience of participating in the World Youth Day 2023, held in Lisbon, on page 41. News under the Partnership Section reports the gathering of the Spanish Associates in two different places on June 10, a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and a brief report of Bro. Dionigi Taffarello about the RIAM, the international meeting held for the Associates of the 3 Congregations of the Montfortian Family.

I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all the people involved in the publication of the GNB_214. I thank Bro. Emmanuel P. J. for editing the English texts. We extend our sincere thanks to the translators, Bro. Marcel Chapeleau and Bro. Michel Mendy. My sincere thanks to Bro. Dionigi Taffarello for publishing news in the Partnership Section. A special word of thanks to Bro. Bernard Guesdon and Bro. Jean-Marie Thior for their constant support. We thank all the Provincial Superiors, Secretaries and News Reporters from the Provinces, who have contributed news items for the publication of the GNB.

Have a good reading!
Bro. Louis Anthonysamy, SG

**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SESSION
FOR THE FRENCH-SPEAKING BROTHERS**

**Theme: For a Consecrated Life, purified and cured of the ferments of perversity and vice.
(cf. 1 Cor 5:8)**

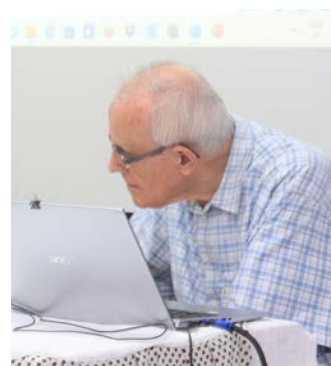
From July 31 to August 16, 2023, in Italy.

In the context of the Ongoing Formation, eighteen (18) Brothers from the Provinces of East Africa, Brazzaville and Kinshasa benefited from the contribution of resource persons who developed relevant themes to help the participants make the most of their Spiritual Renewal Session. They are: Bro. Bernard Guesdon, Archivist of the Congregation, Bro. Jean Marie Thior, Secretary General of the Congregation and Local Superior of the General House, Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, Vicar General of the Congregation, Bro. Paul Texier, in-charge of welcoming the visitors to the General House and Sr. Rose Mama Diouf of the Daughters of the Resurrection.

As a sign of hospitality, the Community of the General House organised a welcome ceremony on Monday, July 31, 2023, during which the Superior General extended a warm welcome to everyone. Afterwards, it was up to the participants to introduce themselves and briefly share their respective missions, as a way of getting to know each other well, in order to form one body and journey together. An aperitif and a simple

dinner brought the evening to a close.

On Tuesday, August 01, 2023, the Session was officially opened with a beautiful prayer led by Bro. Bernard Guesdon and Bro. Louis Anthonymsamy. Afterwards, Bro. Jean Marie Thior, the Local Superior of the General House, read out the practical Information about the house and the city of Rome. Then, Bro. Jean Paul Mbengue, in-charge for the Session, in his welcoming address, invited all the Brothers taking part in the Session to make the most of the contributions of this formation for the spiritual growth of each one, for his determination and effectiveness in responding to the needs of this World where the witness of the consecrated person is eagerly expected.



He stressed on the importance that the Institute in general and the Provinces in particular place on such a session. It is a costly Formation in terms of financial resources, energy and time spent in preparing it, he emphasised. He invited the Brothers, in order to be



purified and cured of the ferments of perversity and vice, to hear and allow themselves to be challenged by the repeated calls of Pope Francis to the World in general and to the Christian faithful in particular, in the ten years since he became Pope.

- The "geographical and existential peripheries";
- The Integral ecology (Laudato Si);
- The Worldliness;
- The Synodality;
- The Mercy;
- The culture of encounter (Fratelli Tutti 2020);
- The poor;
- The crisis (Health, education, environment);
- The Ideological, political and economic colonisation;
- The corruption.



After this exhortation, it was the turn of Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General, to deliver his profound message, punctuated by six points and a poem as a conclusion.

1) Formation has to be a constant and permanent concern.

A formation whose elements of religious life have to be oriented towards the edification of the Inner Man.

A formation whose fundamentals have to be based on four (4) pillars which are: The quality of spiritual life, the quality of intellectual life, the quality of community life and the quality of apostolic life. The four pillars should not be understood as sequential; they are interactive.

2) The stages undertaken by the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel.

Bro. John reminded us of some of the Orientations of past General Chapters, starting with the 29th General Chapter held in 2000 and ending with the 32nd General Chapter held in 2018. He also outlined some of the articles of the Rule of Life, the source of our mission.

3) The need for ongoing, appropriate Formation

Formation is meant to help us grow in wisdom and in the art of real life. The Holy Spirit is the Formator par excellence who inspires us in the fullness of our mission.

4) Walking together in the footsteps of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, who said to us in a very short formula: *"To God alone, through Christ Incarnate Wisdom, in the Spirit, in communion with Mary, for the reign of God"*.

5) The True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

6) The Love of Eternal Wisdom and the Wisdom of the Cross.

The message concluded with a poem entitled: "Take Jesus with you".

After the address delivered by Bro. John Kallarackal, we began to share three questions that had been put to us in preparation for the session. This sharing continued until the afternoon.



From 02 August to August 15, 2023, a series of lectures were given and visits were organised to some of the most significant historical sites in Rome. The themes were developed with pedagogy to the great satisfaction of the session participants who willingly decided to be the ambassadors of the content of the conferences in their respective Provinces. These themes are: "*The need for a new impetus for a better knowledge of the writings and life of Montfort*" by Bro. Bernard Guesdon; a) "*Availability and the Mission Ad Extra*" and "*Today, the Mission can only be understood as a shared mission with the laity*" by Bro. Jean-Marie Thior; "*The need for the Communities to be places of welcome that cultivate hope, peace and joy*" by Bro. Dionigi Taffarello; "*Living and transmitting Marian devotion in a renewed language and daring to set out like Father de Montfort, daring and creative, abandoning ourselves to divine providence on the road to mission*" by Bro. Paul Texier and "*New social communication technologies, threats and opportunities? For a proper use of these technologies at the service of personal and Community life and for the mission*" by Sr. Rose M. Diouf.

Each speaker, in his own style and according to the theme assigned to him, was able to re-energise the participants in the session. Drawing on human

experience, theology, philosophy and the Montfortian-Gabrielite heritage, the speakers aroused great interest among the participants. They were unanimously praised for their ability to adapt to the audience and keep them on their toes.

Another rhythm of life deserves to be highlighted in the Session Programme: The visits to religious and tourist sites, under the guidance of Bro. Paul Texier, who knew how to balance the historical narratives, dates, anecdotes and also moments of silence to enable the participants in the session to appreciate. It would be impossible to draw up an exhaustive list, which is why we have chosen to mention here some places that will remain indelibly etched in our memories: The four basilicas of Rome, and those of Loreto and Assisi.

On Monday, August 14, was held the concluding ceremony of the first part of the programme, which took place in Italy, followed on Tuesday, August 15 by the Assumption Mass in St Peter's Square in thanksgiving for all the blessings received from the Lord during our stay in Rome.

From the words of the Superior General, Bro. John Kallarackal, when he sent us on mission, we can retain

three exhortations taken from General Chapters:

- Committed to the same cause and called to be evangelisers and witnesses of God's love and compassion through our various apostolates in our respective entities.
- The experience of Paul's encounter with the Lord that Pope Francis highlighted in the general audience held on 9th October, 2019, when he said: "*Saul's encounter with Jesus begins with a journey that sees Saul transformed into Paul, the instrument chosen by God to bring the name of the Lord to all nations. In passing from blindness to sight, Paul begins to see the world in an entirely new way*".
- Two points from the bold statement made during the 31st General Chapter: "*We acknowledge that we, Brothers, are influenced by the dominant counter-values of our culture, which ensnare us in the dynamics of consumerism, superficiality, individualism and greed*".

Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel, we are called to a serious process of Spiritual Renewal which will lead us, as individuals and as a community, to reduce the distance between our documents and our life, in order to live a visible, credible and prophetic spirituality. For us Brothers of Saint Gabriel, this renewal means revisiting our charism and living it with the same enthusiasm, creativity and inventiveness as Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, Blessed Marie-Louise Trichet, Father Gabriel Deshayes, our collaborators and pioneers, while remaining faithful to the tradition handed down, but also to that adapted to the challenges of our time.

On Wednesday, August 16, 2023, we left the General House in Rome for France, where the second part of the Session will be dedicated to the footsteps of Montfort.

Bro. Félix Moussopa, SG (Province of Brazzaville)
Bro. Arsène Bwayomo Mbo, SG (Province of Kinshasa)



« ARRIVEDERCI » PADRE LUIZ AUGUSTO STEFANI !



A few hours before his return to Brazil, **Father Luiz Augusto Stefani**, former Superior General of the Montfortian Missionaries, was keen to honour the invitation of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, with whom he shared a dinner on Monday, August 21, 2023. He was accompanied by **Bro. Jean Désiré Rakotonandrasana** and Sisters **Angela** and **Albertine Solohery**, Daughters of Wisdom. Father Luizhino took the opportunity to highlight the wonderful collaboration between the three Congregations of the Montfortian Family, of which the last International Meeting of the Associates held in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre in August 2023 is an edifying example. On behalf of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, **Bro. John Kallarackal**, Superior General, presented him with two symbolic gifts:

1 - "*Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, companion in Evangelisation for the present time*" by Bro. Paul Texier, with the assurance that this book will accompany the new mission of Father Luizhino in Brazil.

2 - An icon of the Virgin Mary to remind Father Luizhino of Our Lady of the Road, whom Montfort prayed to so often in his life.

Father Luiz Augusto Stefano, with one heart, we say THANK YOU again for your simplicity and your joy of life. All the best with your readaptation in Brazil and your mission.



LEGAL RECOGNITION FOR THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF KOTTAYAM



Sr. Celin Jose, Sr. Merin & Sr. Jobin

After 41 years in Rome, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Kottayam have finally obtained their Legal Recognition before the Italian State. It was a long process, but it did not deter the determination of the Brothers of the Casa Generalizia and their collaborators, namely Bro. Dionigi Taffarello and Ms. Stephania Ciavattini. Armed with patience and dedication, and with a perfect grasp of the Italian administrative procedures, they succeeded in offering

"this beautiful gift" to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Kottayam, according to Sr Celin Jose in her words of thanks to the Superior General and all the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, the initiators of the Project. This Legal Recognition gives them, among other things, the possibility of issuing Letters of Invitation for their Sisters to be sent to Rome for mission. Sister Celin Jose is the Legal Representative.

VISIT OF BROS. MARREDDY & SANJU



On their way to World Youth Day, Bro. Marreddy T.R., from the International Community in Spain, and Bro. Sanju Armo (INH), stayed at the General House from Friday 28 July to Saturday 29 July 2023. They made the most of their trip to the capital of Italy by visiting some of the most important religious and tourist sites in Rome: The four Basilicas, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Circo Massimo, etc.

Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, SG
Omnium servus !

QUARTERLY REPORT - APRIL - JUNE 2023

Dear All,
MCDS deems it a privilege to share the report of our activities for the quarter ending June 2023.

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR):

All our four CBR centres functioned, with their regular activities including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, vocational skills training and monthly parents' meetings, with a short summer break of 15 days during the second half of May 2023. Apart from Monthly Parents meetings, Therapists facilitated individual Goal setting for the clients for three months duration with the active involvement of parents to follow up the pattern designated to them during the weekends and on vacations. Considerable progress has been observed as outcome results. Pre-employment training in hospitality, housekeeping and shop management for our Special Youth were conducted regularly.

One-day picnic:

MCDS Special Children and Youth along with their siblings and parents were taken for a 'One Day Picnic' to 'Palaar Urban Farms'. They thoroughly enjoyed their day coming in close contact with nature with lots of fun and games.

An annual survey by MCDS staff identified differently-abled underprivileged children and youth in the relocated areas of Ezhil Nagar, Kannagi Nagar, Old and New Perumbakkam. They were admitted in our centres for this academic year and we support them additionally in procuring Government ID Cards, Pension forms and other freebies.

One of our Special Youth undergoing vocational training at Vocational Rehabilitation Centre (Government of India), Guindy along with other Seven youths from MCDS, was selected for the Four Star Hospitality Group in Chennai with a monthly package of Rs.9000/- during the period of apprenticeship. MCDS and the Special Youth parents were overwhelmed upon hearing this and it paved the way for the other Special Youths in the near future.



Study Centres:



All our study centres resumed to function from 1st June, 2023. Children were very happy to be back to their centres as well as to meet their friends. They were involved in Drawing, Crafts, Sports and Cultural activities apart from their academic session.

MCDS organised a day-long "Holiday Activities" for the Study Centre students, in collaboration with the "Clay Finger Seven" organisation at MCDS Office Pallavaram. The camp was avidly pursued by the pupils with Paper crafts, paper costumes, action songs, storytelling, painting and balloon game activities. Brother George P. J., a counselling psychologist conducted an input session. Before returning to their locations, they had a pilgrimage to St. Thomas Mount. At the Hill Top, they enjoyed the panoramic view of the city and the airport.

Health Programme:



Clinic on Wheels with the Medical Team of a trained Medical Practitioner, trained Nurse, supporting staff and equipped with sufficient stock of free medicines reached out to more than Four Thousand and Five hundred beneficiaries in our predetermined areas in the Slums and Slum relocated areas during this reporting period. Patients with blood pressure and Sugar complaints wait for the arrival of our Ambulance for their regular quota of medicines.

Eye Screening and Spectacles Distribution:

In collaboration with the "India Vision Institute" (IVI), MCDS organized Eye Screening programmes for the underprivileged people in the relocated slum areas, benefitting nearly Three Hundred people. More than Two Hundred Spectacles were distributed to those with defective vision after the screenings by the 'India Vision Institute' between January and March 2023.



Tobacco Free Awareness:

SHG members with their families from Srinivasapuram & Pattinapakkam attended the 'Tabacco Free Awareness Programme' organized in association with 'TTK Hospital

Tailoring Skill Training supported by 'ABRAO GROUP':

The 'Fifth batch of tailoring trainees' successfully completed their six-month training and were issued official certificates at the valedictory function. For the first time all the trainees of this batch were presented Free Tailoring machine in recognition of their exceptional performance. The Sixth Batch started their training in mid-April in the presence of dignitaries. With a systematic schedule formatted and under the active supervision of experienced teachers the beneficiaries attend their training with eagerness and enthusiasm.

Senior Citizens' Forum:



All our Elders had their regular exercise, Yoga, Meditation, General Health check-ups and sharing of medicinal tips during this reporting period. After a short break for summer vacation, the Elders Centre reopened in June 2023.

Observation Visit:

Students of fourth-year Nursing along with their faculty from Mohammed Sathak College of Nursing visited our Chemmencherry Centre for an observation visit and to learn about our organization, various programmes, and therapies given to Special Children. They spent quality time with them.

Annual Evaluation and Planning:

As in the past, MCDS methodically Evaluated our performance of the activities last year using the SWOT analysis pattern. This exercise was followed by planning for the forthcoming academic year as a combined effort along with its staff.

We acknowledge and thank our funding partners, ABRAO Group, BW Designs, Astrotech Steels, Montfort Old Boys, Rotary Club of Madras North, Institute of the Brothers of St. Gabriel - Rome and generous persons of Goodwill for their continued support of the programmes carried out by MCDS for the downtrodden and underprivileged of the Society.

Bro. Joseph Louis, SG

BROTHER MARTIN HAS A ROYAL AUDIENCE WITH HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN ON JUNE 12, 2023.

On June 12, 2023, Bro. Martin had the audience with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on the occasion of Her visit to AU for the celebration of the 40th year Anniversary of Ruamchit Normkloa Foundation for Youth under the Royal Patronage. Each year this Foundation awards approximately 3,000 Scholarships estimated at about 11 million Baht for the poor youth for their studies all over the country. AU and St. Gabriel's Foundation also donate some amount of money to support this Foundation in its activities every year.



Brother Martin has a Royal audience with HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, SAMUTPRAKARN 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION



Rev. Bishop, Priests and Brothers Joined the Celebration.

On June, Monday 26th, 2023, Assumption College Samutprakarn celebrated the 44th Anniversary of its Foundation. The school was established in October 1978 with 15 teachers and 371 students. Now they have over 4,000 students. Formerly this school was named Assumption College Samrong. At present Bro. Dr. Monthol is the Superior and Director.

In the morning, Rev. Bishop Joseph Chusakdi presided over the Thanksgiving Mass with many priests. Many Brothers, parents and local government officials also attended to congratulate the school Administrators. After the Thanksgiving Mass, there was the Blessing of English Program's activity rooms and the ACSP Multi-Skills Center. We wish the school success for the years to come.



Rev. Bishop blessed the rooms



Start of the Chinese exhibition.

**VISITING CHINA TO RECRUIT STUDENTS - VERY SUCCESSFULLY !
DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 13-18, 2023 AND MAY 22-27, 2023**

Bro. Theophane Verayuth, the VP for Academic Affairs and the Head of Student Recruitments went to China with University Administrators to recruit students to AU and to introduce himself as the newly appointed VP to different University Administrators in China.

As a result, this academic year 2023, there are over 900 Chinese students arriving at AU to take some courses in Graduate Studies programs. On July 22, 2023 AU organized Welcome events for them, which aimed to foster strong community spirit among AU family and Chinese students in the Graduate Studies programs and the Thai-Chinese International College. The events of the day began at 10.00 a.m. and ran till 16.30 p.m. There were Arts Exhibition, stage performances, music from Chinese students and the College of Music, and dances. At the welcome lunch, all AU members including Administrators of AU and Chinese Universities, students and all personnel enjoyed a get-together lunch. It was really a successful event and bore the fruits of the recruitment. We hope that the Chinese Administrators and students will spread what they have seen and experienced to their friends when they return to China. Wishing them successful studies and may they be our good ambassadors when they go back to China.



Bro. Verayuth and the Chinese Administrators cut the ribbon to start the events.

Bro. Achin Tengtrakul, SG

GLIMPSES OF PROVINCIAL'S VISIT TO COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROVINCE





BURSARS' AND ACCOUNTANTS' MEETING

We had a Province-level meeting of the Bursars and Accountants on 12th and 13th Aug 2023 at Montfort Villa, Bhopal in which the Provincial, Bro. Thampy Alex, the new Provincial Bursar, Bro. Mani V. J. and the Chairman of the Finance Commission, Bro. Monachan K. K. were present beside the resource persons. The Bursars of all the 15 communities in India and the accountants of 06 institutions attended the same.

On 12th August the 1st session commenced with an appropriate prayer animated by Bro. Antony Samy. The resource person for the first two sessions was Mr. Arpit Rai, a well-known Chartered Accountant from Bhopal. He was educated at St. Xavier's Senior Sec. School, Barkheda, Bhopal. He has been the School Leader when he was in class XII. In the first session, he briefed us about Charitable Organizations and explained to us what is a Trust, Society and Section and company. It was followed by an explanation on GST (Goods and Services Tax) Applicability. Then he briefed us about GST Compliance. He also clarified Provident Fund, Professional Tax Compliance and Fee Reconciliation.

In the 2nd session, he explained to us the Major Roles and responsibilities of a Financial Officer such as Accounting & Financial Reporting, Budgeting & Fund Management, Investment & Asset Management, Risk Management, and Labour Cess.

The 3rd session was taken by the Provincial himself. He instructed us about the need to be highly responsible for the finances we manage.

On 13th Aug 2023 the sessions were handled by the Provincial, the Provincial Bursar and the Chairman of Finance Commission. The sessions of the 2nd day were meant only for the Bursars (Brothers).

At the end of the input sessions, we were given time to share the difficulties (if any) faced by us to make the accounts on time and to clarify doubts.

The meeting was concluded at 1.00 p.m. with lunch.

Bro. Mathew T. T, SG

MONTFORT NIKETAN, KONBIR

“An unhealthy mind, even in a healthy body, will ultimately destroy health.” – Manly Hall



A Seminar on health and hygiene was organized for girls of classes 6th to 9th on 4th and 7th of July. Dr. Sr. Jasintha was the resource person. The school had a pot painting competition for classes 6th to 10th and for classes 1 to 5 painting competition on the 14th. Each class was given a different theme on which they had to paint.

There was a Parents' meeting for class 10th students of the hostel on 15th July, 2023. The Hostel Management and the Parents were very much concerned about the study and discipline of the students, as they are going to appear in the Board Exams very soon.

“A Birthday is a time to reflect on the year gone by, but to also set your goals for the upcoming year.”



The Birthday of Bro. Amar was celebrated on the 28th July evening; many Brothers were present for the occasion from different sectors, as the following day there was a Province get-together.



Bro. Xavier Tete, SG

LACHRAGARH COMMUNITY, SIMDEGA



On 21 July, we had the Investiture programme at St. Vianney's High School. Bro. P. T. George was the Chief Guest of the programme. He motivated the students with his message as to how to be a good leader in the society.

On 25th July we had the International Cultural Exchange Programme at Montfort School, Lachragarh.



St. Vianney's High School Lachragarh Celebrated the School Day in a memorable manner.



On 4th August, we celebrated the School Day. All the teachers and students co-operated to organize the programme in a very systematic and disciplined way. The function began with the Holy Eucharist followed by a cultural programme and lunch. Fr. Aerik Kullu, the Parish Priest was the Chief Guest. He motivated the students with his inspiring words and encouraged them to be well-disciplined students to become successful people in life.



Bro. Stephen Jaria, SG

MONTFORT BHAWAN, KONBIR NOATOLI



We had a solidarity demonstration for the victims of Manipur. The Schools of Ursula, Montfort Niketan- English Medium, St. Joseph's Middle School, High School, Inter College and the hostlers and the Parishners of Konbir-Noatoli participated in it.

St. Joseph's Inter College Freshers' Day was celebrated. It was an exciting day for both groups. The seniors welcomed them in the traditional style of Chotanagpur. It was followed by a befitting cultural programme to accommodate the Freshers into the fold.

The Brothers' get-together was the mega event of the month. There were 46 participants. This time it was different. We had a Resource person who gave us very apt insights to question ourselves - 'Quo Vadis' (where are you going) Ranchi Province?



The thrust of the Resource person was to introspect, analyze, discover, question and appropriate. It was realised by group discussions and in common sessions assisted by him. The feedback was encouraging.

Bro. Jacob Panjikanan, SG



Province of North-East India

THE LOCAL SUPERIORS & HEADS OF THE INSTITUTIONS MEETING 2023

The Local Superiors and the Heads of the Institutions Meeting in the Province of Northeast India was held on the 8th, 9th, & 10th July 2023 at the Montfort Provincial House, Guwahati.

On the 8th morning, Bro. Richard Lalroliana led the Brothers in Prayer, invoking the almighty's blessings on the meeting and on each of the Brothers present on the occasion.

In his orientation address Bro. Provincial extended a warm welcome to the Resource Person of the day, Bro. Sunil Britto, CFC, and each one of the Local Superiors and Heads of Institutions who were present for this important meeting. He said that Pope Francis has invited the whole church to make a Synodal journey. A journey to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds and weave together relationships. He further said that this meeting need to awaken a dawn of hope among the Brothers of Northeast Province and inspire others with a vision of the future filled with the joy of the Gospel. In chapter three of the Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis talks about the stranger on the road, the Good Samaritan (Lk10:30-37), the man who became a brother to the other man who needed him most at that point in time. He challenged the Brothers present by asking "With whom can we identify ourselves? The Priest? the Levite or the good Samaritan"? This is a question each Brother needs to ask oneself, as we are preparing for the Provincial Chapter and the General

Chapter on the theme '*Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century.*' The Historical Jesus of Nazareth was a revolutionary – whereas the Jesus of the Christians has been defined and imprisoned inside our churches and institutions. It is good to ask ourselves, he said, "Are we Brothers imprisoned in the four walls of the Institutions or are we free to rush where the Lord is calling us to answer the cry of the suffering People. Like Moses was called by Yahweh to address the cry of the people of Israel, in Egypt.

In the 1st session, Bro. Sunil Britto CFC, explained the various Leaderships in Congregations such as Traditional leadership, Servant Leadership and Participatory Leadership. He followed it up with a presentation on 'different Levels of Listening' and said "In Listening from the Source, we tap into a transformative form of listening that emanates from the future, yearning for new possibilities to emerge. This type of listening remains open and receptive, connecting us to a motivating shift in our collective vision. By embracing this approach, we can expect significant changes to unfold within our communities". While speaking on 'Generative Listening' he touched upon various factors such as listening to all the words, listening with all the senses, listening to all the emotions, suspending judgments, and noticing our own feelings.

In the interactive session that followed the presentation, Bro. Britto answered many questions posed by the Brothers such as - the appointment of lay persons



as Principals in Montfort Schools, feminine energy within us and in our society - feminine leadership, and the point on listening to our own feelings etc.

The members were then dispersed for group discussion on a question on "How can I be a synodal member in my community?" which was followed by a presentation by each of the groups on their take on the topic given.

The Morning sessions with Bro. Sunil Britto concluded with a vote of thanks by Bro. Philip.

In the sessions that followed the Brothers listened to the plans of each commission shared by the conveners of the respective commissions, for the coming year and a report on the financial situation of the Province presented by Bro. Thomas Thannickal, the Provincial Bursar.

While all the communities presented their 'Community Projects for the year 2023 - 24' with their short-term and long-term goals, the Brothers came to understand how each community has planned to share their responsibilities, approach their apostolates other than the school, organize outreach programmes and Vocation Promotion Programmes. They also listened to the action taken by each community regarding ' Synodality, Laudato Si and the preparation of the community for the General and the Provincial Chapters.

The Brothers also spent a considerable amount of time reading and understanding the various rules and code of conduct of the 'Service Rules'.

Brothers spent time listening to Bro. P. J. Philip as he gave a presentation on 'School Administration' in which he pointed out that there is an increased awareness among educators of the need to integrate what is called as 21st Century skills in educational systems and emphasized that the need of the hour is that schools must focus on enhancing the skills required for successful adult life in the 21st Century. He further said that it is important that the students are able to think scientifically, mathematically, or artistically to face real-life challenges in an information and

technology-driven world and enhance their inherent potential.

Brothers were enlightened about the Implementation of Province Policies such Child Protection Protocol, IPC, NC PCR, Fire Safety, School Safety Check List, Disaster Management and new structures through Bro. Soosai's presentation.

On the final day, the Brothers spent time on the General Concerns expressed by some of the Brothers. They were discussed and clarified.

In the concluding session, Bro. Provincial pointed out that the most important role of the Local Superior is to be an effective animator and a supervisor who approaches his mission with a bird's eye view and understands the overall situation rather than micro-managing everything. He further said that this could be achieved if the Local Superiors create time by delegating responsibilities to collaborators, associates and partners as section-in-charges, Subject -in-charges, Vice - Principals, etc.

Another important factor that Bro. Provincial emphasized to the Brothers was 'Personal Health'. He said that their bodies are the only homes in the world that they have to live in till the end of their lives and are to treat each one's body as the temple of God. He said that if they do not take care of their bodies no one else would. He urged Brothers who have crossed forty-five years of age to go for check-ups on a regular basis.

He then expressed his gratitude to the Moderators, the Secretaries who have been serving quietly in the background and the Local Community for all the arrangements made. Bro. Provincial concluded the Local Superiors and the Heads of the Institutions Meet 2023 by thanking all the Local Superiors and the Heads of the institutions for actively taking part in all the sessions and making the Meet a grand success.

Bro. P. K. James, SG



25 GLORIOUS YEARS IN RELIGIOUS LIFE BRO. THOMAS THANNICKAL

The twice postponed Silver Jubilee of Bro. Thomas Thannickal was celebrated in a very homely atmosphere on the 8th of July 2023, with a thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration for the gift of Bro. Thomas to the Province of Northeast India, to the religious and people of God. It was an occasion to proclaim the marvels that the Lord has done in the life of Bro. Thomas for the past 25 years. It is a celebration of the quarter century of his life's journey as a Religious Brother. We celebrate the services he has rendered, and the graces that God has showered on everyone through his instrumentality. Brothers representing all the communities of the Province along with the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters from neighbouring communities made it a memorable event.



Bro. Provincial appreciated Bro. Thomas for his valuable contributions in supervising the repairs, maintenance and painting work in the Provincial House, the construction of the Cemetery, the works done at Barapani etc. He said that it bears testimony to his selfless hard work and dedication as the Bursar of the Province. He also commended Bro. Thomas for the interest he is taking to develop the land surrounding the Provincial House by cultivating vegetables and planting fruit trees and pointed out that his practice of the Laudato Si values and his love for the animals and birds are in line with the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi who called all the creatures as

his brothers and sisters and the trees, worms and the flowers as the face of God. The land that he takes care of, the fruits that he cultivates and the animals that he nurtures seem to respond to his love and care. He also mentioned the fact that Bro. Thomas also has lots of love for the domestic staff and has their welfare as a priority. He has a special love for the poor and the suffering people and works very hard in spite of his health.

Fr. Saji Anthony SSP, the main celebrant of the Eucharistic Celebration said that the Jubilee is a call from the Almighty for all of us to show a greater fidelity to the Lord and to move forward with enthusiasm and daringness to be true Montfortians. He further pointed out that such celebrations give each of us the urge to follow the star and let Jesus and his Good News become the new dawn of peace and reconciliation in our lives. While congratulating Bro. Thomas for 25 silver years of faithfulness as a religious, he wished him a long and fruitful service as a Montfort Brother in the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel.

After the dinner, Bro. Thomas expressed his gratitude to God, his dear parents and all his formators for helping him to achieve this mile stone in his life. He thanked Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, the Provincial Superior and Bro. P. K. James, Bro. M. A. Thomas and Bro. Tespul for making the day a special one for him. He also thanked all the Brothers from different communities and the fathers, Brothers and sisters for their gracious presence during his Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

Bro. S. Maria Soosai, SG



MONTFORT SADAN - PUNE

Community Life: A Growing Communion

This year we have seven Brothers doing theological studies at JD, Pune. The members are growing in the awareness that spirituality of communion implies the ability to see what is positive in others and cherish it. We are also learning to value each one as a gift from God and to know how to reach out to one another. We also become aware that a balanced celebration and lighter moments reduce the tensions in the community and the need to nurture warm, sincere, and trusting relationships. The community is aware that unjust criticism, calculated coldness, and gossip can harm relationships and fraternal communion. As the new academic year dawns, we became more aware that we are not perfect people but growing in maturity and wisdom every day.

EXAMINATIONS AND INTEGRATION

Bro. Pradeep Kumar completed his comprehensive exam on 3rd June 2023. Congratulations to Bro. Pradeep for he worked hard and did well in the comprehensive exam.

The seven Brothers who are doing their theological studies are appearing for the first-semester examination

now. Apart from studies they engage themselves in visiting the slums. During which they organise study classes, games etc... for the construction labourers' children. The Scholastic Brothers visit the catholic families being part of Small Christian Communities (SCC) in the parish. The Montfort Sadan Community has adopted a few families that the Brothers visit monthly.

VISITS AND VISITORS

On 14th July Provincial along with Bro. Shajan Anthony visited the missionaries in Uganda.

Montfort Sadan was blessed with many guests who graced us with their holy presence. We were fortunate to welcome Bishop T. Raja Rao, Bishop of Vijayawada; Brothers from the Province of Bangalore and Yearcaud, National Coordinators of Jesus Youth India, 38 formators of Various religious congregations in India etc.

MEETINGS, SEMINARS AND TRAINING

Montfort Sandan blessed with the presence of many people during May, June and July, 2023.

The Local superiors, Directors and Project Directors

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

On 09th June, 2023 there was a Holy Mass celebrated in the community to welcome and thank the Brothers. A meaningful prayer was organised. Montfort Sadan especially thanked Bro. Pradeep Kumar for his selfless service to the community for the last three years. We welcomed Bros. Thomas L. and Dileep D. A felicitation ceremony was organised in honour of Bro. Sujit and Bro. Jayant as they reached Montfort Sadan after their perpetual profession.



had the annual meeting on 30th June to 2nd July 2023. The Local Bursars of the community joined the meeting on 2nd July. The accountants and bursars of Maharashtra and Goa region had two days of training in *Acme. ERP* at Montfort Sadan Pune. The sessions enriched the leaders to make a Montfortian Prophetic presence in the mission.



On 23rd July, the Junior Brothers of the Province of Pune reached Montfort Sadan with curiosity and enthusiasm to participate in the first model chapter for the young Brothers. Bro. Jaico Gervasis, Provincial Superior explained to the Brothers the importance of the gathering, “what is a provincial chapter and the process etc.” It was a learning experience for the Brothers as they learned the process with practical sessions. Bro. William D’Mello and Bro. Linto were observers during the sessions. At the end of the meeting, the young Brothers came up with prophetic resolutions for their life. Brother Provincial Superior appreciated the Brothers for their positive and generous participation.



On 27th and 28th July, 2023 the Montfort Sadan community participated in the online discernment seminar organised by the Province. The Brothers appreciated the challenging sessions and the process were practised during the following days of community meeting. The community spent 5 days in discussing and reflecting on *Instrumentum Laboris*. The reflections were sent to the Provincial on 15th August 2023.



REPORT OF MODEL CHAPTER OF THE JUNIOR BROTHERS.... VENUE: MONTFORT SADAN, PUNE

Good wishes and greetings from Junior Brothers,

“Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century”

‘Let God In and Let God Out’

Jesus said to His Disciples, if anyone wants to become my follower, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. (Mt:16: 24-25)

Here I would like to pen down our Model chapter report. We, seventeen Junior Brothers actively took part in the model chapter along with Bro. Jaico Gervasis, the Provincial Superior, Bro. Linto Emmanuel, the Province Formation Director and Bro. William D’Mello, the Provincial Secretary. Brother Provincial introduced us to the theme by playing a prayer song which was relevant to the chapter theme. In short, he explained “what is a Provincial chapter and the process of conducting a chapter”; he also explained the purpose of the Model chapter and gave us few guiding lines. The Moderators were selected through a secret ballot. In the first session, the secretaries, tellers, timekeeper and the steering committee was formed. The president, Brother Provincial Superior urged us to keep the voice of God in our minds throughout the process of discussions.

The committee was formed as follows;

The President: Bro. Jaico Gervasis, Provincial Superior of the Province of Pune.

Secretaries: Bro. Rocky Fernandes, Bro. Thomas and Bro. Amalraj

Teller: Bro. Vijaykumar G. & Bro. Rocky M.F

Time Keeper: Bro. Vinod R.

Moderators: Bro. Edwin, Bro. Dilip, Bro. Richard and Bro. Nelson

All the sessions were monitored by the moderators. There was sharing of the heritage and the information of our senior Brothers (The life history of our senior Brothers in the Province and the inspiring events of their personal life as True Montfortians.)

The discussion on the questions were meaningful and fruitful. The members came up with constructive suggestions.

The president of the chapter reminded the assembly to seek the will of God to come to a constructive answer.

The outcome of the discussion on the above questions were quite good and interesting.

During the sessions the President of the Model Chapter intervened and guided the assembly to have a constructive discussion. The Moderators took utmost care that the discussion should not turn into arguments. The members of the chapter were enthusiastic to formulate right and creative solutions. The Committee members did their work responsibly. The observers gave their feedback and appreciation at the end.

After the fruitful discussion, the Moderator thanked all the members and the session ended with a prayer.

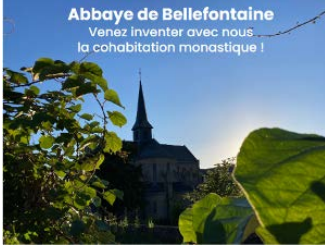
We thank God for everything from the beginning to the end of the chapter, where we could learn and share our thoughts for the betterment of the Montfortian mission as a prophetic presence in this 21st century for which we are called, and also, we take this opportunity to thank Brother Provincial for creating such a platform to share our views and other Brothers for their cordial support. I also would like to thank all the junior Brothers for their presence and for taking part in this Model chapter.

During the chapter, we prayed and showed our tribute to the late Bro. Yuju Francis. May God Grant him Eternal Rest!

May God Bless us all....

Bro. Rockey, SG

Province of France



Abbaye de Bellefontaine
Venez inventer avec nous
la cohabitation monastique !

Since 1st July 2022, Brother Christian Bizon has joined the Cistercian Abbey of Bellefontaine in Bégrolles en Mauges (49) as a resident. In

this interview, Christian describes his new living environment and shares his unique experience.

LP: Many readers of the "Lettre Provinciale" know Bellefontaine Abbey or have stayed there. Can you tell us a little about the history of this Abbey?

F. Christian: Bellefontaine has been a monastic settlement since the 11th century. The site is at the crossroads of three provinces: Brittany, Poitou, and Anjou. Its proximity to the ancient Roman road from Nantes to Poitiers and the presence of water springs encouraged Benedictine monks to pass through and settle here. During the French Revolution, the Abbey was sold in 1791, and the events of the "Vendée Wars" followed. On 3 May 1816, Father Urbain Guillet, a Trappist monk, bought the first part of the estate to re-establish Cistercian monastic life. The community underwent phases of expansion at the end of the 19th century, founding monasteries in Canada and again in 1972 in Benin. It also welcomed 3 brothers, declared "blessed", who gave their lives at Tibhirine.

The Abbey estate extends over 120 hectares, declared as "organic farming". Three partner farmers cultivate around 80 ha and the rest is maintained by the community (including 7 ha within the monastery grounds where the kiwi orchard is located), with woodland, meadows, an apple orchard, three springs, and numerous buildings.

LP: What are the Abbey's richness and potential in 2023?

F. Christian: The Abbey estate is very accessible, less than an hour from Nantes and Angers, and twenty minutes from Cholet. It's a protected, quiet

area with footpaths. In addition to the farmland, orchards, and garden, there are a number of well-maintained buildings, from the bread oven to a 100-seat conference room. In the reception wing, 7 fully equipped rooms with kitchenettes are available. There are worship facilities, a 500-seat church, and a 100-seat outdoor chapel, known as the Chapelle de Bon Secours, which was a hotbed of resistance during the French Revolution. What's more, a centuries-old way of life, animated by the Rule of Saint Benedict, can help people far beyond the monks in their search for a good, balanced life. That's why the welcome is so widespread. The guest house, where I provide my services, has 35 rooms with the possibility of listening and spiritual guidance. The daily liturgy at Bellefontaine is open and appreciated. A memorial to the brothers of Tibhirine, with a space for meditation, is currently under construction. The Abbey also has a good theological and spiritual library.

LP: But, like most Cistercian Abbeys in France, does the monastic community of Bellefontaine have any weaknesses? What weaknesses? And how do you deal with them?

F. Christian: Since the second half of the twentieth century, changes in society and in religious practice have led to a significant drop in the number of people entering monastic life, opening up another challenge for this place. The current demographic structure (15 monks with an average age of 76) means that the burden of work and responsibilities falls on a small number of brothers, resulting in an imbalance that affects the coherence of their way of life. For example, they are no longer able to take overall responsibility for their food chain, from the vegetable garden to the kitchen, whereas this has always been the case. The monastic community therefore needs to be supported and even replaced in the management of the estate and buildings. In addition, the health of the older brothers requires attention. Bellefontaine's economic model, which is currently based solely on commercial activity (with the agricultural base of the orchards) and hospitality, needs to evolve. Over a year

ago, the community began a process of reflection on this subject with two professional coaches in order to envisage the future of Bellefontaine.

The monks have decided to remain on the site of the Abbey, but to envisage a form of "monastic cohabitation", to be determined, with one or more partners, is yet to be found. So, on Saturday 25 March, at the invitation of the monks, over a hundred people came together for a wonderful day of meeting, sharing, and fellowship. Ideas came thick and fast. Some envisaged Bellefontaine as a "campus of transitions" towards a new world of ecology, solidarity, and spirituality. Others see the site as a place where the "Beautiful meets the Divine" in artistic and musical expression. Still, others see Bellefontaine as an ideal place to welcome people undergoing reconstruction or in need of hospitality... The final choice of partners will require time for the community to deepen its understanding and to discern.

LP: F. Christian, although you're not a Bellefontaine's brother, you've been working in the Abbey's "Welcome Center" for almost a year now. What does that mean today?

F. Christian: Since July 2022, under the responsibility of the hotelier brother, I've been at the service of welcoming people and groups. We welcome more than 200 people a month in Bellefontaine. Firstly, there are the individuals. From the priest or nun coming for their annual retreat to the person simply looking for a place of calm and serenity, to the pilgrim on his way to St. James, or the student preparing his plays. We also welcome many different groups: parishes, movements, confirmands, scouts, associations, and even promotions of students from higher education schools who come to live at the Abbey for a week as part of their curriculum.

LP: What qualities does this kind of hospitality require?

F. Christian: It's true that welcoming a wide range of people requires first of all an openness to the people who come along and who don't always fit the "format" of the typical retreatant. Welcoming diverse groups means having to make the "big leap" between a rather traditionalist group like the Knights of Malta and a more "agitated" group from Catholic Action Ouvrière. It also requires discernment not to allow yourself to be taken advantage of by those you meet. It's hard work, but it's rewarding because

so many people come to Bellefontaine to tell their stories, share painful moments in their lives, and simply find a sympathetic ear. Several monks provide this accompaniment service, which is even more important than the accommodation, but trained lay people are needed to support the monks who are getting on in years.

LP: And you, F. Christian, what has this new experience brought you personally over the last year?

F. Christian: I still don't fully appreciate how lucky I am to already be living in a form of "monastic cohabitation". For me, it's an essential help in structuring my daily life with an almost immutable timetable. I'm staying at the entrance to the Abbey, in a place planned for the future development of a "reception center", which will take over from the current porter, who is... 99 years old! I live in a beautiful environment that helps me to de-stress by walking the paths of the pretty Mauges countryside every day. Finally, and most importantly, the regular, high-quality liturgical prayer of the Bellefontaine community is a rock for me, a pillar on which I base my personal spiritual life. I haven't become a monk, but I have a bond with them that brings me a great deal of ... while respecting each person's call and gift.



*Father Abbé Jean-Marc Chéné,
Brothers Michel, and Christian*



6TH MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR SPANISH BROTHERS, PRESUMED MARTYRS

Sunday 30 July 2023 marked the commemoration of this memorial.

The celebration of the memorial followed the annual retreat of the Province which brought together Brothers and a few Laypeople from the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates.

The theme of the retreat was "Following Christ Today". The preacher, Father Justin Martinez, a Comboni Missionary, outlined the characteristics of Christ the Saviour, as portrayed in Sacred Scripture. Everything had been prepared for this celebration: the courtyard of the Martyrs had been decorated with flowers for the occasion... The day before, (on 29 July) we welcomed some family members of our martyrs Brothers.

It was on a beautiful and sunny Sunday of 30 July that we welcomed relatives of our martyred Brothers, our friends, associates, and collaborators.

The program started at 11 o'clock with a tribute to the Martyrs Brothers. All the staff members and personnel gathered with the community. After the welcoming address by Brother Provincial, a thanksgiving prayer was offered in praising God for the gift of martyrdom given to our 49 Brothers and their chaplain.

Readings from Tertio Millennio Adveniente n°37, Vita Consecrata n° 86, and the Gospel of John 15:18-21 reminded us of the significant gift our Brothers made for in following Christ till the end.

We offered a wreath of flowers to the martyred Brothers, evoking their names and recalling certain





virtues that characterized them. After the binding prayer, we all joined our voices asking the Lord to hear our prayers for our confreres.

Relatives of our martyred confreres were invited to bring a flower to the tombstone monument. The ceremony ended with a Marian song: "I want to say yes" that summarizes the life of our Brothers.

Brother Ángel Llana then gave us an update on the process of the CAUSE of beatification introduced in Rome.

He told us about the current postulator, Nicola Gori, and his enthusiasm and dedication in presenting the case. Brother Ángel also informed us about the protocol of the Historical Consultors of the Dicastery and their positive progress with the case.

He presented us with the enormous volume published with all the documentation under the title: **"STANISLAO ORTEGA GARCÍA E 48 SOCII E EMMANUEL BERENGUER CLUSELLA (P.N. 2578)"**. He added that the cause of beatification of our Martyrs Brothers was well advanced and he was optimistic that we would be able to venerate them soon.

The remembrance ceremony was followed by the Eucharist, presided over by Father Justino and concelebrated by Brothers Ángel and Faustino. It was with great joy that we prayed, sang, and acclaimed Christ, the first martyr who offered himself to the Father as a sacrifice for our salvation. All this in the hope that our Brothers will soon be recognized by the Church and venerated on the altars as other saints.

After mass, we enjoyed a fraternal meal sprinkled with Ribera del Duero wine. After lunch, we continued our conversation in the park, around the swimming pool, before bidding farewell to our guests, who left La Aguilera happy to have shared with us a day of commemoration of our courageous Brothers.

The whole celebration ended with vespers, dinner, and a walk-in our park. Praised by the Lord.

Bro. Genaro Fresno, SG





THE SECOND PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Second Provincial Chapter of the Province was held from 22nd to 25th July at Assumption Sisters, Moshi, Tanzania. The main focus was on, the Draft of the Rule under revision and the theme of the 33rd General Chapter, “Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century” and other proposals for the Province. The Chapter Preparatory Committee burnt the midnight oil in getting the preparatory documents for the Chapter ready. The secretaries of the Chapter did an excellent job in writing the minutes of the meeting on time. The moderators chaired the sessions with efficiency and clarity and thus we were able to accomplish the task at hand on time. There was good participation by the delegates in all the discussions and deliberations thus paving the way for good decisions. The presence of the Assistant General, Bro. T. K. James, was a blessing and his valuable guidance and interventions helped us to be focused and we felt united with the Congregation.

The presence of the Bishop of Moshi, Most Rev. Ludovick Joseph Minde, for the opening Mass and his message to be prayerful persons and to centre our life on the Gospel and the Charism of the founder, was quite inspiring. The Vice Chancellor of Mwenge University, Rev. Prof. Philibert Vumilia, who presided over the Holy Mass on the last day reminded us about our role as educators and the need to appreciate our vocation as Brothers. The panoramic and breathtaking view of Mount Kilimanjaro, the beautiful weather

during the days of the Chapter and the sumptuous food that was served by the Assumption Sisters helped us to have a memorable stay during the Chapter. All in all, we can say that the Second Provincial Chapter was an unqualified success, for which we thank God for his in numerous blessings and all the delegates and Brothers of the Province who contributed to this success.

VISIT OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL

Bro. James T. K., Assistant General, in charge of the Province visited us from 13th July to 1st August, 2023. Since the time was short, he could visit only our mission in Kenya and Malawi other than attending the Provincial Chapter held at Moshi, Tanzania. He also visited the new mission in Uganda, from 17th to 19th July, the initiative of the Province of Pune.

We also profited from the time to have a Provincial Council Meeting with him during the Chapter days. We sincerely thank him for his visit to our mission and his words of encouragement and appreciation and his advice.



Bro. James T. K. is welcomed at Zomba Mission, Malawi



PERPETUAL VOWS PREPARATORY PROGRAMME

The Perpetual Vows Preparatory Programme began at Montfort, Kola, Morogoro, Tanzania, on the 1st of August. The community under the leadership of Bro. Sebastien Ndabunganiye, took pains to get the place ready for welcoming the Brothers for this programme. The programme began with a day of recollection, Holy Mass and an orientation programme. There are 9 brothers who are attending the two-month-long preparatory program. The Bishop of Morogoro, Most Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, visited us and gave his message to our Brothers. He reminded the Brothers about the four pillars of Religious life: the evangelical counsels, apostolate, prayer and community life. On one of the weekends, the Brothers visited the Montfort

Novitiate community at Mikese and they were given a warm welcome by the staff and the novices. It was in fact a pilgrimage, a journey back to the house that formed them. The Preparatory Programme will conclude with a retreat on the 27th of September. The Perpetual Vows ceremony will be held on the 30th September 2023 at Montfort, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Archbishop of Blantyre, Malawi, Most Rev. Thomas Msusa, SMM, has consented to preside over the Eucharistic Celebration. We request your valuable prayers for our Brothers getting ready to make their Perpetual commitment. A warm welcome to each one of you to this celebration and of course to an African Safari. Karibu!

Bro. Jimmy George Kalapurayil, SG





Province of Senegal

SILVER JUBILEE AND 1ST PROFESSION

On Saturday 4 August 2023, the Province of Senegal celebrated with joy and thanksgiving the silver jubilee of the 1997 and 1998 batches of its Province and the first profession of the 2nd year novices of the Provinces of Kinshasa and Senegal and the Vice-Province of Madagascar.

For the 1997 jubilee class, these were Brothers Etienne Souleymane KA, Rémy NDONG, and Gervais SAMBOU, and in a union of prayer for the late Brother Alphonse TINE. For the class of 1998, we have Brothers Jean Grégoire COLY, Adrien MAR, Paul Michel NDOUR, and Joseph Saloum TINE.

As for the first vows, we have three Senegalese: Cyprien Ludovic Banco CAPELE, Victor Modou DIOUF, and Pierre Pascal NGOM; two Congolese from Kinshasa: Dieu Merci and Grâce, and for the Vice Province of Madagascar, we have Henri Germaine and Jean-Marc.

The religious ceremony took place in Sainte Anne Thiès cathedral. The Eucharist was presided over by Father Joseph GUEYE, the parish priest who is also the former student of the Saint Gabriel College and the classmate of the Jubilarians of the batch 1997. After the introduction to the Mass, the message from the Central Administration, written by Brother Jean-Paul MBENGUE, Assistant General in charge of Africa, was read. This was followed by a presentation of the missionary journey of the Jubilee Brothers. In his homily, he expressed his joy at attending and presiding over this ceremony marking the jubilee of his promotions. He congratulated them on their long and fruitful journey in the footsteps of Christ, urging them to remain faithful to their commitments and wishing them many more jubilees of consecration. At the end of the mass, Brother Jean Grégoire Colly, on behalf of the jubilarians and the professed, and the

Provincial Superior, on behalf of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, took the floor in turn to thank the assembly, the liturgical actors and the various commissions for all the efforts made to ensure the success of the religious ceremony and the organization of the festivities.



Renewal of the vows by the Jubilarians

MISSIONARY ITINERARY OF OUR JUBILARIAN BROTHERS

CLASS OF 1997

BRO. ETIENNE SOULEYMANE KA

Brother Etienne Souleymane KA, originally from the parish of Saint Benoît l'Africain in Mbodiène, was appointed as a teacher in Salémata from October 1997 to December 1998. After the closure of the Salémata community, he joined the Mbour community for training at the CFP. After training at the CFP, from 1999 to 2000, he was posted to Fatick as a teacher at the collège du Sine, where he passed the Certificat d'aptitude pédagogique (CAP). From 2001 to 2006, he was head of the René Merceron Institution in Mbour.

From 2006 to 2009: he was sent to France to study. After three years, he obtained a Master's degree in Education.



Temporary professions at the altar

Upon his return to Senegal in 2009, Brother Etienne took in charge of Collège du Sine Middle School until 2011.

From 2011 to 2017, he joined the Malika community as director of the Institution Saint Louis Marie Grignion until his appointment as Provincial Superior, a post he currently holds.

BROTHER RÉMY NDONG

Brother Rémy is from the Parish of Notre Dame de la Purification in Joal. After taking his vows, he was sent to Saint Peter's College in Dakar to teach English.

From 1998 to 2003, Brother Rémy taught English at Collège Saint Gabriel. After the college community, he joined the Juniorate community in 1999.

From 2003 to 2007 Rémy took a Master's degree in English at the Catholic University of Angers in France. On his return to Senegal, he joined Thiès, where he was an English teacher, deputy director of the Juniorate, and director of Saint Gabriel College.

Since 2019, he has been assigned to the Mbour community as headmaster of the René MERCERON Institution.

BROTHER GERVAIS SAMBOU

Brother Gervais is from Mlomp. His home parish is Sacred Heart. After his vows, he was assigned to the community of the Technical Centre from 1997 to 2006 as a teacher and then director of the centre. In 2002, he obtained his BTI in Electrical Engineering from the CFPT Senegal/Japan. The following year, in 2003, he obtained a DTS in Computer Maintenance. In 2006, he passed his BTS in Automation at CFPT. From 2007 to 2008, he was assigned to the Thiès campus. From 2009 to 2013, he was transferred to Dédougou in Burkina Faso as a teacher. From 2013 to 2020, he was sent to Thailand for postgraduate studies. On his return to Senegal in 2020, he was appointed director

of the Saint Montfort Technical Centre in Médina, a post he currently holds.

CLASS OF 1998

BROTHER JEAN GRÉGOIRE COLY

Brother Jean Grégoire COLY comes from the parish of Saint Joseph de Soutou. He began his life as an apostolic religious in the Fatick community from September 1998 to July 2000. In this jubilee year, he studied Theology at the Université Catholique de l'Ouest de la France, in Angers. In 2004, he returned to Fatick as head of the Juniorate. From September 2005 to October 2010, he lived in the railroad city, where he was in charge of the large Juniorate, the novitiate, and the pre-novitiate in the Lazaret district.

October 2010 saw the start of the ad extra mission to Guinea. Three years later, in September 2013, it was time to serve at the novitiate in Brazzaville, which unfortunately lasted only one year. Then it was back to Thiès to serve the novitiate until September 2019. Back on the road again for mission ad extra, still in Guinea from 2019 to 2021. Then to Abidjan, in Côte d'Ivoire, at the Saint Miguel scholasticate from September 2021 to the present day.

BROTHER ADRIEN MAR

Brother Adrien, originally from the parish of Sainte Jeanne D'ARC in Fatick, was sent after his first vows to the teacher training centre in Mbour. After this year of teacher training, he was assigned to Saint Joseph's school in Ndiébel, where he obtained his teaching certificate (CAP). In 2001, he left Ndiébel for a year of Portuguese immersion in Lisbon. From 2002 to 2006, he was sent to Guinea Bissau to teach at the Maria Montessori school. From 2006 to 2008, he worked as a teacher at the René Merceron community in Mbour. In 2009, he returned to the missions. He was first sent to Dédougou in Burkina Faso as a teacher, then to Manga as a founding member of the community and headmaster of the Saint Gabriel private secondary school. He held this position until 2018. On his return

to Senegal, he joined the Saint Gabriel de Thiès secondary school community as a teacher and head of the Kër Dioubo boarding school. At the same time, he began training at FASTEf in Letters - History - Geography. Since 2021, he has been a member of the Tivaouane Peul community and a teacher at the Institution Saint François d'Assise.

BRO. PAUL MICHEL NDOUR

Brother Paul Michel NDOUR comes from the Conversion Saint Paul parish in Djilasse. After his 1st vows, he was assigned to the Saint Pierre community where he taught English.

From 2000 to 2002 he was sent to Canada to study psychology. On his return to Senegal in 2002, he was assigned to Saint Gabriel College as a teacher until 2007. From 2007 to 2008, he joined Saint Pierre School group as a teacher. From 2008 to 2009, he underwent a formation at Mater Christi Religious Training Center Training Center in Burkina Faso. From 2009 to 2010, he was appointed novice master in Thiès. From 2010 to 2013, he was sent to Brazzaville as a formator at the novitiate. From 2013 to 2014, he was posted to Guinea Conakry as head of the postulancy. From 2014 to 2020, he returned to Thiès as head of the postulancy. Since 2020, he has been at the Tivaouane Peulh community, where he is Prefect of Discipline.

BRO. JOSEPH SALOUM TINE

A Montfort Brother of Saint-Gabriel by the grace of God and originally from the Parish of Saint-Pierre Julien Eymard in Kouadiadiène, situated halfway between Thiès and Tivaouane, Brother Joseph, after his first vows, was assigned to the community of Keur Montfort to teach Mathematics and French at the Saint-Montfort Technical Centre in Fass. At the end of this first year of religious life, he was sent to Collège Saint-Michel in October 1999 for training in accounting and management. There, in July 2001, he graduated with a Brevet de Technicien Supérieur in Accounting and Management.

Joseph was then posted to Fatick as a member of the training team, keeping the registers at Collège du Sine and teaching a few hours of classes. He spent three (3) years there before being invited to move to Dakar to continue his studies.

From October 2004 to July 2007, while teaching mathematics and introduction to labour law at the center where he took his first steps in teaching, he continued his training in evening classes at the Ecole Supérieure Polytechnique de Dakar. He obtained, in turn, the accounting certificate, the legal certificate, and the economic certificate, which constitute a Higher Diploma in Accounting.

In July 2008, having just completed his fourth year of teaching at the CTA in Fass, he joined DP Audit et Conseil for a one-year internship. In July 2009 he was appointed headmaster of the Institution Saint-Louis Marie Grignon de Malika, which opened its junior cycle in October with two (2) classes: a 6th and a 5th. Two years later, in June 2011, he was appointed Provincial Bursar of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. He then joined the Provincial House, where he will remain until 2019.

In September 2019, he was posted to the CTA community in Fass and resumed his studies at the ESP, this time for a master's degree in CCA (accounting, control, and auditing). In October 2020, he will be posted to Collège Saint-Pierre du Grand-Dakar as headmaster. He will stay for two (2) years, after which the congregation will hand over management of the college to the Archdiocese of Dakar. During this time, he will continue to serve as provincial bursar, finally leaving on 1 July 2022, after eleven (11) years of service.

Since October 2022, the community of Malika responsible for supporting the new economy in its work. He also gives catechism classes in the first and last years of secondary school, at the same time as taking evening classes, still at the ESP in Dakar.



Brothers of St. Gabriel



Bro. Etienne Souleymane KA



Bro. Jean Grégoire, SG

Bro. Patrice Mbengue, SG



ADOZIONI A DISTANZA

Istrana Community

In Istrana, we are two Brothers: Bro Dionisio Santoro and I, Bro. Mathew Kavumkal. We both are always here rendering all possible services to individuals, small groups and large groups. We are very much engaged in spiritual matters of the prayer groups, First Friday devotions, First Saturday devotions, and Sunday Mass for the faithful who come to our Institute for Mass. Bro Dionisio has also his appointments in 5 different Parishes as per the needs which are indicated periodically by the Parish priest. I continue to follow up with the students who are being helped in India, the Philippines, Tanzania, Kenya and the benefactors who help us to help the children at a distance.

Annual picnic day of the Prayer Group



Every year the Montfortian Prayer group guided by Bro Mathew Kavumkal, takes joy in spending a full day at Ca' Florens for the celebration of the Mass and for dedicating the day in joyful conversation and in various games. The principal part of the picnic day, naturally after the Mass, was the grilled meat served for lunch under the Linden (tigli) avenue of our Institute. The fresh shade of the trees accompanied by the fragrance of the linden tree flowers made the picnic really enjoyable and healthy.

Feast of the ploughing with ancient tractors



As Istituto Ca' Florens has extensive agricultural land, an organisation of owners of ancient and special types of tractors for ploughing make a two-day feast in our Institute. Even this year also they organised a wonderful fest. There were 165 tractor owners who registered to take part in the Feast with their Tractors of any and every type. They also installed food stalls on the Linden Avenue of the Institute. People were drinking and eating and enjoying all the time.

At the conclusion of the activities of ploughing with tractors, they had a sumptuous lunch in the big hall "Sala Montfort". It was a great success for the number of participants and for the mite and pleasant climate God has willed to donate on that day.

Summer heat does not stop prayer and Word of God



The group of the Association of St. Joseph, conducts regularly brotherly meetings, reading of the Word of God, meditation and sharing of spiritual and human experiences. The beautiful trees and their shade make people and groups come to Ca' Florens for their spiritual transformation and to improve their knowledge of the Word of God.

Pilgrimage of the Catholic Indian Community

The Indian Catholic Community living in the Venetian Region has their centre of meetings and celebrations at Istituto Ca' Florens. It is because Bro Mathew Kaumkal had taken an interest in gathering them in one family for meetings and for religious celebrations from the very beginning of the presence of Indian Catholics in this region. Nearly 45 years back Bro. Mathew Kavumkal was the only Indian living in his region.

As part of the Community's annual programmes, it makes an annual pilgrimage to one of the many spiritual sanctuaries. This year the group decided to make the pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of "Madonna della Corona": "Our Lady of the Crown" which is in the Diocese of Verona. The sanctuary Church is half-hewn into the rocks and built on the vertical slope of tall mountains surrounded by stunning natural beauty and splendid valleys through which flows the river Adige. The group started from Ca' Florens at 7.30 and reached the destination at 10.30. At 11 there was Holy Mass celebrated for the group. After the Mass and private devotions, all had their packet of lunch. All the members were happy for having chosen to visit this Sanctuary. At the conclusion of the day's programme, all returned to Ca' Florens where they consumed their packet of dinner and returned home happily.

Celebrating the Graduation of the benefactor's daughter



One of our close friends Pavan Dino requested us to allow his daughter Giulia to celebrate her successful conclusion of University Graduation in our Institute in a very simple way. Naturally, we allowed her to celebrate with her family and friends. Bro Dionisio and I took part in the celebration. They are very good and cooperate with us. They also help the poor students through the association run by Bro Mathew Kavumkal. Our sincere congratulations to Giulia and her family members and to her friends.

Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG

Visit of Ranchi Provincial Superior:

On 19th June the Provincial of Ranchi, Bro. Herman Lakra, visited us. He enlightened us through his talk on “Community Life”. He helped us to prepare ourselves to face the challenges of living in the community as Brothers and to grow together in Christ by loving each other and sharing the charism of our founder.

Arrival of Bro. Yesudass

On 21st June we welcomed Bro. Yesudass, a new staff to the novitiate with a flower bouquet and welcome song. We had a short prayer service that evening and we prayed for Bro. Yesudass and for the success of his new mission.

Guest Lecturers:



We are blessed with the Jesuit fathers who are doing their tertianship (For Jesuits, Tertianship is the third (tertiary) and final period of formal training before taking final vows.) in St. Stanislaus College. They are very excited and energetic to share their knowledge with various formation houses on the campus as part of their mission experience. We were very privileged to have some of them to empower us with their knowledge and wisdom. They have already completed classes on Community Life, English and Holistic Living and Health.

Visit of Bro. Pratap Reddy, the Assistant General:



Bro. Pratap Reddy, The Assistant General paid a visit to our Novitiate on 14th August 2023. His prophetic presence doubled our joy. We experienced the fraternal love and his transformative presence helped us to strengthen the bond of our community. The prayer service was organized by the novices on the theme “An embodiment of an attitude of abundance and Montfortian Prophetic Presence”. Bro. Pratap Reddy’s visit to our Novitiate doubled God’s blessings and filled us with positive energy.

Visit of Major Superiors:



Bro. K.M. Joseph, The National Formation Director; Bro. Irudhayam, The National Chairman & Provincial Superior of Trichy Province, and Bro. Johnson, the Provincial Superior of Yercaud Province visited our Novitiate and helped us to grow closer in the likeness of God and oneness with Mary. The talk of Bro. K.M. Joseph touched us spiritually and he wished us to become the great Brothers in the society. Bro. Irudhayam interacted with us and explained to us about the Montfortian Prophetic Presence in the 21st Century and motivated us to be prepared for the upcoming God’s mission. On 24th Aug 2023, we organized a special prayer, We sought God’s intervention in each of our lives.

Bro. Mathew. K.M, SG



The yoga classes:

Initially, we prioritized attending Yoga classes with our Director leading the practical sessions. The classes offered us a wealth of knowledge regarding yoga, including various postures and techniques for building physical strength. This discipline is essential for human well-being, as it can alleviate physical pain and difficulties. Through rigorous practice during the classes, we further expanded our understanding of yoga. We are delighted to have gained inspiration from these sessions, and we have made a habit of practising yoga every morning.

The Community Meeting:



On June 30 we had our first community meeting from morning to afternoon. We discussed the past month's experiences and upcoming programmes too. We shared our problems and difficulties and then we tried to bring out some changes and decided to do better

than the previous month by following the rules and regulations. The community meeting was the first of its kind for most of the pre-novices, it enabled us to come closer and enjoy the process.

Birthday of Bro. Binu Mathew:



Our Director, Bro. Binu Mathew's birthday was celebrated on July 28 in our Montfort Aruludhayam community. We had a special birthday prayer conducted by one of the pre-novices, Ajit, followed by an amazing cultural programme where we got to showcase our talents. It was a wonderful event, and everyone appreciated it. Our Director gave a valuable birthday message and good wishes to all of us for our future life. Later, we had a delicious dinner and watched a Malayalam movie, making it a perfect end to a great day.

Independence Day:



We celebrated Independence Day grandly on August 15 with a march-past (parade) and flag hosting. The chief guest for the day was Bro. K. V. Thomas.



First Book Review Presentation:



On August 21, we began our preparations for our first book review and by the 24th August, we had successfully completed it. Each of us delivered an excellent presentation, though we recognized that there was room for improvement in our confidence level and teaching abilities. Our moderator, our Director, facilitated the event, and we all had a great time.

Monthly Recollection:

On 26th August, we had a half-day monthly recollection. The theme of our monthly recollection was “Forgiveness”. Bro. Binu Mathew, our director, gave a session on forgiveness, followed by adoration and confession. At noon, we had a Holy Eucharistic celebration. We concluded our half-day monthly recollection with lunch; all of us benefited and prayed for each other and made use of the monthly recollection.

Bro. Binu Mathew, SG

Inauguration of the New Batch of Novices:

On the 1st of June 2023, amidst the hushed whispers and the gentle drops of rain, a profound sense of reverence filled the Sacred Heart Novitiate, as the day of the inauguration of the new batch of 15 Novices from five Indian Provinces arrived. On this day the Sacred Heart Novitiate was adorned with the presence of Bro. Irudhayam, the National Chairman and the Provincial Superior of Trichy, Bro. Johnson, the Provincial Superior of Yercaud and Bro. George Padikara, the Provincial Superior Bengaluru. The flickering candle procession from Marian Grotto, thought-provoking message by Bro. Irudhayam and a prayer service conducted by Bro. Rajashekar, the Socius, exuded an aura of solemnity and devotion to the event.



For four years, Bro. P.T. George dedicated himself to nurturing the spiritual growth and development of countless novices who sought solace and enlightenment under his tutelage. His unwavering commitment in the path of compassion, humility, and devotion has left an indelible mark on all who have crossed his path. The staff and the novices expressed their gratitude in the form of special prayers, songs, felicitations, and speeches.

Welcoming the new Novice Master:



On 29th of June 2023, surrounded by an atmosphere of anticipation and respect, the novices, along with the outgoing Novice Master and the staff members, gathered to welcome their Novice Master Bro. Paul Raj. He with a wealth of

experience and wisdom, was chosen to take on the significant role of nurturing and guiding the novices on their spiritual journey. The event commenced with a traditional procession led by the novices, a meaningful prayer service and a vibrant cultural programme. The outgoing Novice Master, graciously handed over the responsibilities to his successor.

Farewell for the outgoing Novice Master:



On 3rd July, a poignant and emotional ceremony was held at Eachinkadu Novitiate, as the community bid farewell to their beloved Novice Master, Bro. P.T. George. The event marked the end of an era as the esteemed mentor, who had been a beacon of wisdom and guidance, prepared to pass on the torch of leadership.

Classes:

We had Classes on **Vocation to Discipleship** dealt by Bro. Arulanandam and Good Manners, Self-Confidence and Personality Development by Bro. P.T. George. At present, we have English grammar classes by Bro. Rajashekar and Introduction to the Bible by Bro. Arulanandam and introduction to 'Prayer' by Bro. Paul Raj.

SSGY FETE:

The Novices had been given an angelic task to sell the Raffle tickets for the Fancy Fete Social Service Guild, Yercaud. The Novices accomplished their task with a sense of love and compassion towards the needy. It had been a great experience for the novices as they sold Raffle Tickets for the cause and also got an opportunity to explore Yercaud.

Birthday celebration:



On 9th of July, we gave a small cultural programme in order to exhibit our love and concern for Bro. Rajashekar, the Socius, on his birthday. The programme began with the special prayer, cultural programmes and concluded with the table fellowship.

Andrew Marak, Novice

OBRIGADO PORTUGAL (THANKS PORTUGAL)

A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND UNITY AT WORLD YOUTH DAY, LISBON -2023

The World Youth Day (WYD), known as Jornada Mundial de la Juventud (JMJ), unfolded its grandeur in the picturesque city of Lisbon, Portugal. It was an honour and a privilege for Bro. Sanju Armo and me to be part of this transformative event. Allow me to recount my profound journey of faith and camaraderie amidst the diverse congregation of young souls from around the globe. The echoes of celebration and elation continue to resonate within me as I reflect upon the radiant memories of JMJ 2023.

cast his radiant presence, leaving an indelible mark on WYD's narrative.

Pope Francis



Pope Francis, a living embodiment of saintliness, captured our hearts with his gestures and the charismatic resonance of his voice. His compassion flowed through every word and movement, healing and inspiring us. His divine presence graced the holy sites of Fatima, Lisbon, and Cascais. His prayers kindled hope, love, and healing among us, infusing our hearts with comfort and determination.



Most of the participants at WYD came from a multitude of Spanish-speaking nations, including Spain, Colombia, Peru, Chile, and more. Hence, it was no surprise that Pope Francis chose to convey his messages in Spanish. Building upon the legacy initiated by Saint Pope John Paul II, Pope Francis

August 2023

The sacrament of confession



The sacrament of confession held an eminent place at WYD. Over 100 confession booths, crafted with eco-friendly materials by prisoners, welcomed the spirited engagement of youth. Priests of various languages, including Hindi, were available for confession, reflecting the global unity of faith. Pope Francis himself extended absolutions to three fortunate souls, illuminating the transformative power of renewal.

The Way of the Cross



The poignant Way of the Cross, a hallmark of every WYD, unfolded at the Hill of Encounter in Eduardo VII Park. Each station beckoned us to meditate upon fragility, mental health, violence, solitude, and the imperilled state of creation. Global artists artistically depicted these challenges, evoking emotions, and prayers. The iconic cross and the image of the Virgin Mary stood as poignant symbols, underscoring the historical significance of these events.

The Vigil and Concluding Mass

The crescendo of WYD culminated in the Vigil and Concluding Mass at the stunning shores of the Atlantic Ocean in Campo de Gracia. A sea of fervent youth, estimated at 1.5 million strong, immersed themselves in prayer and adoration. The resonating melodies of the orchestra and choir, led by Joana, lifted our spirits



to heavenly realms. The harmonious convergence of 200 musicians and 300 singers created a sublime symphony of spiritual celebration.

Additional performances



Additional performances enriched the spiritual tapestry, including an enthralling presentation by the Indian group "Jesus' Youth Band." The youth rejoiced in the musical performances, transitioning seamlessly from jubilation to earnest prayer. As night embraced us, films on environmental stewardship and youth concerns graced the screens, amplifying the Pope's message. Personal vocation stories and the testimonies of fellow religious seekers united us in shared purpose.

We, the Montfort Brothers, fervently shared our calling within the Church, fostering connections and understanding. The nights were short but purposeful, as sleep took a backseat to the significance of these moments. The breath-taking drone display, depicting the theme of WYD 2023 - 'Rise Up' - left an indelible mark on our hearts and minds.

The arrangements:

Undoubtedly, the meticulous arrangements, overseen by both government and police, were commendable. Though a few cases of dehydration emerged due to

the summer heat, the local municipality ensured clean temporary toilets and ample drinking water. Security forces, both on sea and air patrol, safeguarded the event with unwavering dedication.

The esteemed presence of Portugal's President Marcelo Nuno Duarte Rebelo added weight to the occasion. Cardinal Manuel José Macário do Nascimento Clemente, the Patriarch of Lisbon, earned praise for orchestrating a meticulously planned event. A pleasant surprise awaited us the following day as Pope Francis appointed Bishop Rui Manuel Sousa Valério, SMM, a Montfortian Bishop, to succeed Cardinal Clemente due to retirement.

Conclusions

In a resounding culmination, Pope Francis extended gratitude to all, announcing South Korea as the host for WYD 2027. He beckoned the youth to Rome for the Jubilee Year of Youth in 2025. This announcement brought pride to Asians, particularly South Korean youth.

This experience, a treasure of a lifetime, refuses to fade. The euphoria of sharing moments with fellow youth from across the globe lingers within me. Each facet of WYD has irreversibly changed my perception of faith, turning my world upside down. This divine opportunity to fortify my faith alongside others is a gift from above. The euphoria of encountering Christ among the youth is etched forever in my heart.

My heartfelt gratitude extends to Bro. Jenaro, the provincial superior of the Spain Province, and Bro. Shine Alex, the provincial superior of the Hyderabad Province. Their benevolence and support granted us this extraordinary opportunity to partake in this global marvel. Our lives are now richer with unforgettable moments and cherished memories. Their guidance and encouragement have been priceless, and instrumental in realizing this remarkable journey.

Bro. Marreddy T.R. , SG





LET'S CELEBRATE THE ENCOUNTER!



Communion is the relationship between people with a common spirit.

Sharing the mission is more than just sharing a place, tasks, responsibilities... "Shared mission" is a process of communion. For this reason, on 10 June, in the Province of Spain, we brought about the meeting in two places:

- La Aguilera- Aranda de Duero, for those from Madrid, La Aguilera and Roa.
- Can Xic, in Sant Celoni-Barcelona, for all the Brothers, associates and collaborators of our centres in Catalonia who could attend.

The aim of the day was simply to create bonds among us. To seek those moments of friendship, dialogue, communication and integration that are so necessary to create communion. It was about sharing who we are, not just what we do; and, we confess, we enjoyed it very much.

At La Aguilera, around 11a.m., 35 people were welcomed, including teachers, members of the Montfortian Family group (some came from far away) and Brothers of St. Gabriel. After a coffee and a small welcome buffet, a Eucharist took place in the school chapel, presided over by Brother Ángel Llana. It was a very "Montfort-style" Eucharist. The readings

of the day were proclaimed and several moments were reserved for the participation of the assembly in thanksgiving and petitions. The Eucharistic Prayer was also the subject of dialogue. All in all, it was not a very liturgical celebration, but it was a very participative and moving one.

Around 1 p.m., the group went to the tasting room of the Cave Saint Gabriel where the teacher Alicia Vitores, led a didactic tasting of several wines from the area, including ours. This activity was really interesting and enjoyable. The impressions gathered were very favourable. Moreover, there was no one better to conduct it than the teacher Alicia, who is also the official wine taster of the Ribera del Duero Regulatory Council.

Afterwards, a simple but delicious meal was shared and after a long after-dinner conversation, some took a walk around the school grounds, others visited the winery and, perhaps encouraged by the morning tasting, were encouraged to buy some of the wines produced there.

Although the gathering ended at 6.30 p.m., some people extended it until 8 p.m. because of the good atmosphere that could be felt there.

At Can Xic, a house in the middle of nature that the

Brothers have for meetings, in the municipality of Sant Celoni, halfway between Barcelona and Girona, the day was filled with sunshine and the joy of those who came, around 35 people, including Brothers, associates and collaborators, some with their families.

Some played petanque, others basketball, others went for a walk, the barbecue specialists prepared the meat and we all chatted and discovered ourselves in a very

different atmosphere to that of our daily work.

In both places we were in communion. Because communion is the relationship that takes place between people with a common spirit: our founding charism.

MCG Team Province of Spain





PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - AGMONT, 2023



From May 20 to 21, 2023, Grignion de Montfort Association (AGMONT) of Spain organized a pilgrimage to Lourdes. It must be said in passing that this pilgrimage was the first since the end of the barriers of COVID 19.

Around 90 people participated in this pilgrimage. It was a personal, family and community faith journey, a meeting and sharing, a spiritual search. It goes without saying that Lourdes is a privileged place to renew one's spiritual strength in prayer; a place of renewal, of comfort, of inner healing. Lourdes is also an extension of the joy experienced by the pilgrims of Israel: "What joy when they said to me, we will go to the house of the Lord " (Ps 122:1). In short, it's a place of thanksgiving for the wonders of God through Mary, in Mary and with Mary.

who had the privilege of welcoming the manifestations of the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, in 1858, at the age of fourteen.

Lourdes, a journey of faith and charity lived with the Lord through Mary

Two buses were contracted for two groups. The first one left from Saint Gabriel College in Sant Adria and the second from Saint Gabriel College in Besos de Barcelona. Around 5:15 a.m., the departure to Lourdes began, in a spirit of prayer and fraternity. One could say that the pilgrims experienced Psalm 34, 9 which says: "*taste and see how good the Lord is*". One could easily read the joy of living fraternity, conviviality and friendship in a Montfortian spirit.

In Lourdes, all the pilgrims were lodged in the same hotel called PEYRAMALE. Several spiritual activities were organized to allow the pilgrims to live moments of profound interiority with the Lord Jesus and his Mother, the Virgin Mary. We can mention among others the Marian procession at 9:00 p.m.,



The Montfortian Gabrielite Partners Group de l'Espagne (AGMONT), by reviving the tradition of making a Montfortian pilgrimage each year, allows its members and friends to enter into a communion of faith and charity, with other people coming from all corners of the world, in the footsteps of Bernadette Soubirous





with a huge crowd coming from everywhere, well organized, rich in symbols. Before that, the group participated in the prayer of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 p.m., in the Basilica of St. Pius X (known as underground), another moment of intimacy with Christ.

Sunday was marked by three main events: the Eucharistic celebration, the Way of the Cross and the Rosary. As for the Mass, the homily of Brother Jose Maria Vicario held the attention of the group, focusing on three points: Willing, Awake and Funny. A short homily, precise and clear, but above all challenging. This was followed by the Way of the Cross, located on the hill of Espéluques, led by Brother Genaro Fresno. For those who were not able to make the ascent, they were offered another itinerary of the Way of the Cross, more suitable for their age, led by Brother Eugenio. Finally, these exercises of piety were concluded with the recitation of the rosary at the place called: « Across the Gave »

Lourdes, thanksgiving to God for his wonders

The Montfortian Gabrielite Partners Group and friends took the opportunity to give thanks to God, who allowed this trip to Lourdes to be realized, for the spiritual renewal, for the encounter with the Blessed Virgin Mary, who finally directs us to her Son Jesus Christ. Reading the faces of all those who participated in this pilgrimage, one could observe the overflowing

and bright joy in their hearts. And finally, this joy was expressed by the exhibition of some dance steps to the rhythm of "Amigos para siempre". Yes, like King David, who dances for joy because of the love of God (2 Samuel 6,14), the pilgrims did not want to miss this opportunity to dance and give thanks to God for the marvels of conviviality and friendship, but above all for the moments of joy, peace and understanding experienced during these two days. Yes, joy makes you dance, it is contagious and it weaves bonds for life.

Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's

After giving thanks to God for the beauty and goodness of this pilgrimage, it would also be fraternally appreciated to say thank you to Caesar; we think of the organizers of this pilgrimage: Mr. Pascual Miñano, Mrs. Raquel and all the others who have worked night and day in pure discretion for the realization of this spiritual journey in Lourdes. We could say that you have been for the group that Simon of Cirene, who helps Jesus to carry his Cross. You have allowed and helped the pilgrims to live through Mary, in Mary and with Mary this experience of faith and charity in Lourdes.

To Jesus through Mary, Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort

Bro. Robert Stanislas, SG





RIAM 2023 - AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE FOR THE MONTFORTIAN FAMILY



The RIAM (International Meeting of Montfortian Associates) was a dream forgotten in the drawers of the three Central Administrations, which had been waiting for a long time to be realised. This decisive step had to be taken to deepen the journey of strengthening the Montfortian charismatic family. The need was now felt to bring together the lay associates of the three Montfortian congregations so that they could get to know each other, forge links and share experiences. In other words, the aim was to encourage greater collaboration and synergy between the three congregations and their respective movements of associates. In short, to make the associates feel part of one big family, the Montfortian family.

The project was 'pulled out of the drawer' in March 2022, at the annual meeting of the three Central Administrations in Rome. The idea was to offer a similar experience to the RISL (Rencontre Internationale Saint Laurent) which had taken place 10 years earlier, but this time on a global scale rather than just a European one. In order to monitor the implementation of this project more directly, the three ADCs delegated the councillors responsible for the partnership dossier: Sr. Pierrette Bwamba, FDLS, Fr Arnold Suhardi, SMM and Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, SG.

After deciding on the venue, the dates and the criteria for selecting the participants, we had to set up a committee in France to take charge of all the

organisational aspects of this meeting. We must all acknowledge that Providence was with us in putting together an extraordinary team, made up of lay associates and religious from the three Montfortian congregations. It is remarkable to note the generosity with which the members of the committee responded to the call to work on this project, and even more extraordinary to see their enthusiasm and dedication in bringing this arduous and complex international meeting to fruition. There was no shortage of challenges and difficulties. In order to face and overcome them, everyone gave the best of themselves with faith so that this beautiful and important project of the Montfortian family could become a reality.



International Meeting
August 2023

After months of meetings and preparation, some 170 associates and religious from the three Montfortian congregations, coming from 36 different countries, met at Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre from 7 to 12 August 2023 to spend a week in formation, getting to know each other and visiting some Montfortian places. Unfortunately, almost 30 other members were unable to attend due to the enormous difficulties encountered when applying for visas. The disappointment of all those, especially from Africa, who were unable to attend despite having done their utmost to obtain visas, was clear to see.



The third day began with a talk by Father Marco Pasinato, SMM, on *"Montfort and Baptism"*, followed by group work. In the afternoon, the participants, divided according to their congregation, met up with their Assistant Generals for a time of sharing and getting to know each other. Immediately afterwards, guided tours were given of the most important sites in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre. The day ended with a very moving and intense moment of prayer. On the second anniversary of the assassination of Father Olivier Maire, everyone gathered in the Basilica of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort for a prayer vigil during which the many martyrs in the history of the three congregations were remembered. For our congregation, the 49 Spanish Brothers killed in 1936, the 7 Belgian Brothers massacred at Buta in the DRC in 1965 and Brother Joseph Douet murdered at Katakou in Guinea Conakry in April 2008 were presented.



The theme of the meeting was: *"Missionary disciples in the Montfortian family"*. The first day was devoted in particular to getting to know the programme for the week, giving the participants all the technical and organisational information they needed to make the most of the week, and getting to know each other through the testimonies of some associates from the three congregations. In the afternoon, Brother Jean-Claude Lavigne, OP, presented the theme *"Synodality in the Montfortian family"* and helped the participants to enter into the atmosphere of reflection of the week.



The second day was devoted to discovering the places where Montfort grew up, namely the houses where he was born in Montfort sur Meu and Iffendic, and the hermitage of Saint Lazare. The day ended with a celebration in the church of Cesson and a crossing of the famous bridge that Montfort crossed to go to Paris, while everyone was invited to see what they could give up to be more faithful to the example of Jesus.

On the fourth day, it was time to visit Poitiers, the cradle of the Montfortian family. Brother Maurice Hérault presented the theme *"Lay people and Montfort in Poitiers"*, highlighting the important role played by many lay people in Montfort's mission and in the life of the Montfortian congregations.



The fifth day was dedicated to another very important place in the history of Montfort: the Calvary of Pontchâteau. The researcher André Martin presented the theme *"Montfort and the involvement of lay people in Pontchâteau"*, describing the important role played by lay people in the construction of the Calvary and the various renovations that have taken place over the course of its history. In the afternoon, the new evangelisation project led by the three congregations on the site was presented. The aim is to make Pontchâteau a centre for evangelisation and the spreading of Montfortian spirituality. The visit ended with the celebration of the Way of the Cross, which took place indoors due to the rain.

The sixth and final day was marked by four important moments:

- the presentation of the theme *"Saint Louis de Montfort and the Bible"* by Sr Anne Marie David, FDLS;
- the intervention of Maria Jesús Ramos and Gemma Justo Medrano, associates of our Spanish province, who, in presenting the



theme *"Missionary disciples on the path of synodality"*, gave a testimony to the marvellous collaboration between laypeople and Brothers in Spain, especially in the school world;

- group work divided by continent to reflect on how to increase collaboration between the associates of the three congregations in the different continents;
- a festive evening, where everyone was able to share the culture and traditions of their own country, in a joyful and fraternal atmosphere.



At the end of the week, everyone gathered in the Basilica of St Louis-Marie Grignon for the send-off celebration presided over by the Bishop of Luçon, Mgr François Jacolin. It was an opportunity not only to thank God and our founders for this wonderful experience, but also to express, with great emotion and gratitude, our deepest thanks to all those who worked to make this project a reality:

- the organising committee made up of Mr Eric Joyeau (coordinator), Mr Claude Tignon, Ms Marie-Line Tignon, Ms Véronique Frinault, Ms Sylvie Abraham, Sr Marie Laure Paillet, FDLS, Sr Dorothee Harushimana Militant of the Blessed Virgin, Father Eric Manirakiza, SMM, Brothers Claude Marsaud, Maurice Héroult and Guy Bertrand, FSG ;
- the interpreters: Daniel Busnel, SMM, and Brother Michel Mendy, FSG, Father Marco Pasinato, SMM, Brother Dionigi Taffarello, FSG;
- the many volunteers in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, Poitiers, Montfort-sur-Meu, Cesson and Pontchâteau who offered their invaluable help in welcoming and accompanying the participants;

- the parish community of Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre and the Collège Saint Gabriel et Saint Michel for their warm welcome and hospitality.
-

of passing on what they had received in their place of mission. It is certain that another great step has been taken on the road to building the Montfortian Charismatic Family.

I can say that the objectives of the meeting were fully achieved thanks also to the active involvement of all the participants, aware of the great opportunity that was offered to them and of the important responsibility

Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, SG



A STAMP COMMEMORATING THE TRICENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF SAINT-LOUIS-MARIE GRIGNION DE MONTFORT, ISSUED ON 23 February 1974



1974 - Stamp commemorating the **Tercentenary of the birth of Saint-Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort**, designed by **Jacques Combet** (1920-1993).

In **1974-1975**, at the request of Brother **Romain Landry**, Superior General, and his Council, Brother René Guibert updated the exhibition room at the Generalate. Working as a teacher in Chinon (France), he came to Rome several times during his school holidays. Brother **René Guibert** was inspired by the stamp designed by Jacques Combet to highlight Saint-Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort and his influence. Until a couple of years ago, there was still **Jacques Combet's Tricentenary stamp** to the right of the fresco.

The following page shows photos taken in **1974-1975** at the Generalate, showing, **Brother René refurbishing the exhibition room**.

In **1990**, Brother Jean Friant, Superior General, and his Council asked Bro. René Guibert to update the exhibition room. But the fresco was not touched. In the following updates in **2000 and 2012**, the fresco was always left intact.

Bro. Bernard Guesdon, SG

In 1969, on the occasion of the first session of the special General Chapter, Bro. Gaston NIJS (Bernardin) had the idea of putting up an exhibition-room at the Generalate. He made a good job of it, but time flies... We had to up-date Bro. Bernardin's work. Bro. René GUIBERT (Province of St. Laurent) proposed a new plan to present the Institute to the visitors. Twice he spent his holidays in Rome, so as to implement his ideas. Here are a few views of the room such as it is now.



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Rome -1974-1975 Bro. René Guibert

1975 - Section dedicated to Saint-Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort



1974-1975 - Fresco by Brother René Guibert highlighting Saint-Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, inspired by the work of Jacques Combet in 1974 ...

THE 49 BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL AND THEIR CHAPLIN

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



Laurentino SERNA PÉREZ
Brother Timoteo,
27 years old
Born in Urbel del Castillo (Burgos)

Another man of God. He partakes of religious knowledge and human and popular knowledge.

He was a lover of jokes, with a Cervantine maturity. At the same time he was a good teacher who was very effective in the school results.

He was brimming with intelligence and friendliness with all persons, but particularly with all his religious Brothers, very much appreciated for his manner and conversation that were always friendly and joyful. His secret, no doubt, was his great devotion to the Holy Virgin.

He had a special predilection and caring for juniors of Can Valls due to the fact that he used his summers to help the teachers of the juniors, relinquishing his vacation time, staying to help the students and at the same time lightening the load of those teachers that did not have vacation time.

While in San Adrián de Besós, he was arrested on the Bogatell Street when he accompanied his students to their houses after School. The police mistook him for a revolutionary. He was arrested and taken to a jail until the Superiors could help him and enable his release. He was joyful of having suffered something for Christ.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Timoteo grant us, Lord, bis overwhelming friendliness bis patience in enduring the impertinence of others and bis interest in vocations.



Lorenzo ORTEGA GARCÍA
Brother Estanislao, Provincial,
37 years old Born in Atapuerca
(Burgos)

He was a native of Burgos, noble and fine, full of fortitude and dignity, of an extraordinary simplicity and sensitivity. In his request for the perpetual vows he wrote: "I dare to promise to work with dedication...to be a real religious Gabrielite". The education and human preparation of Brother Estanislao was selective, from his Christian family to his Gabrielite education, cultural and competent.

He was Master of the Novices and later Provincial Superior, his appointment as the first Spaniard in this category coinciding with the establishment in 1935 of the autonomous Spanish Province. He has left us various writings and numerous letters from his time as Provincial addressed in particular to the Superior General and the General Assistants.

He had a an exquisite musical sensitivity, and was the director of the choir and a good organist. He was the spiritual soul of all the Spanish Brothers. A living testimony to all the Castilian virtues.

In the years 1935 and 1936 he had to visit all the schools to inform himself of the sad events and to encourage everyone to remain faithful to their vocation and religious ideal. A courageous and steadfast leader of the Martyred Brothers in the jail of San Elías.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Estanislao grant us, Lord, bis strong and prudent spirit, bis extra ordinary simplicity and bis sense of responsibility.



THE ONSET OF GOOD TIMES

The tides never tire to tide
The waves don't waver to wear
The king of these is the time
It enchants everyone's life
Life is full of weal and woe.

The times ways are infinite
Like the massive waves that tide
Both change like the monsoon sky
Casts spells of doom and damage
Often lets who suffer die.

The human like rolls in time
It holds sway on mystic lines
Never can one smother time
Nor can one defer its grind
Hence we are on God's own rhyme.

Men often speak of bad times
In terms of ones misfortunes
In case of death, loss of wealth
Diseases that tilt total health
In hope and trust one finds rest.

Life is a roller-coaster ride
The ups and downs are time-bound
The hits and tilts are often wild
The mind is dazed, body stunned
Yet these too pass, the good prevail.

The time is a precious gift
It can fill the heart of good
It manned in faith and trust
If love be the thrust of life,
Service, the sole mission bright.

Bro. Emmanuel P.J., SG

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS August 2023

BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL

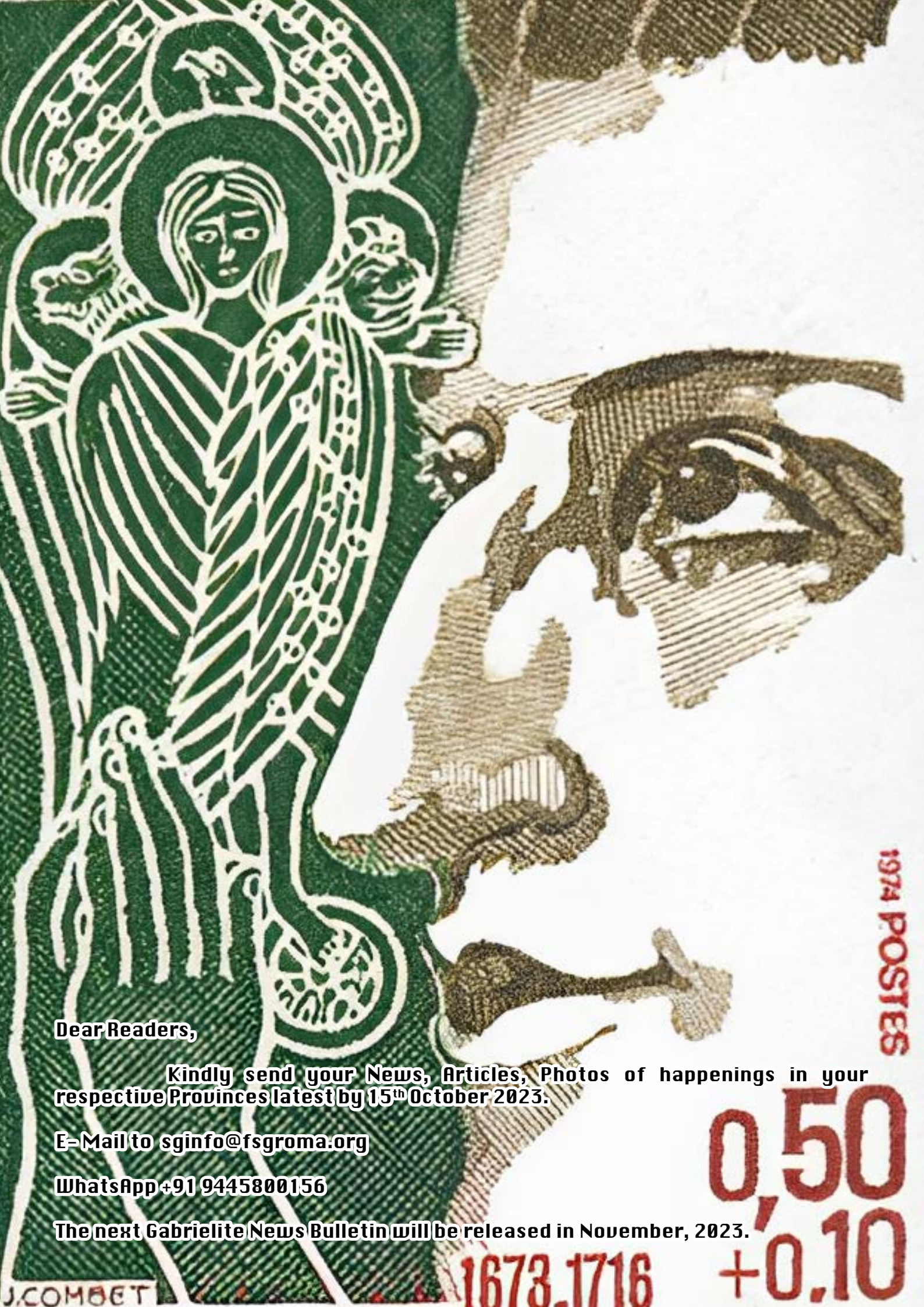
Bro. Yuju Francis

COMPANY OF MARY

Fr. Raoul DESHAIES

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Sr. Maria Pia dell'Immacolata



Dear Readers,

Kindly send your News, Articles, Photos of happenings in your respective Provinces latest by 15th October 2023.

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The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be released in November, 2023.

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