

Vocations Fair 2023



The Montfortian Gabrielite Associates (MGA) participated for the first time in the Vocations Fair on Good Shepherd Sunday, 30 April at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul from 9.30am to 5.30pm. More than 10 religious groups set up booths on the Church's compound to bring to the awareness of their fellow Catholics the vision and mission of their organisations. On display were books and writings of the founder, pamphlets, and prayer cards, among other informative and promotional materials. Thirteen MGA members signed up for the fair and they took turns to engage the people who came to the booth to enquire about the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel and the MGA movement.

People who visited the booth seem to have some knowledge of the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel. but know very little about the MGA. It was a golden opportunity for the Associates to share with them their calling and the mission of the movement, and how their spiritual life had been strengthened and enriched by living the spirituality and mission of St Louis Marie de



Montfort, the founder of the Montfortian family. The Associates also took the opportunity to share Montfort's Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary and to promote the various Montfortian Experience retreats and courses at the Montfort Centre. The Associates' testimony and sharing were very much in line with Pope Francis' Vocations Theme of Grace and Mission. Having been touched by God's grace, the Associates endeavored to live out their vocation by participating in the mission of Father Montfort in making Jesus and Mary better known, loved, and served.

Being the day of prayer for vocations, each group was given a half-an-hour slot to lead in prayer for vocation. The MGA, for its part, chose to pray the Little Crown of Mary with scripture reading, reflection, and intercessory prayer led by its president Zerah Goh. It was indeed a day well spent sharing with fellow Catholics their beautiful vocation to live more deeply the Gospel values following in the footsteps of St Louis Marie de Montfort.

Vocations Fair '23
Church of Saints Peter & Paul, 225A Queen Street

Thinking of your Vocation?
Vocation



Prayer Sessions
(at Chapel of the Incarnation)

- 10am - 10.30am Redemptorists Brothers
- 11am - 11.30am Cenacle Sisters
- 12pm - 12.30pm Religious of the Good Shepherd
- 1pm - 1.30pm Lasallian Brothers
- 2pm - 2.30pm Discalced Carmelite Friars
- 3pm - 3.30pm Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel
- 4pm - 4.30pm Daughters of Saint Paul

Talk Sessions
(at Beatitudes)

- 10.45am - 11.15am Discalced Carmelite Nuns
- 11.45am - 12.15am Redemptorists Brothers
- 12.45pm - 1.15pm Diocesan Seminarians
- 1.45pm - 2.15pm Cenacle Sisters
- 2.45pm - 3.15pm Daughters of Saint Paul
- 3.45pm - 4.15pm Society of Jesus

[Sunday, 30 April 2023, 9.30am to 5.30pm]

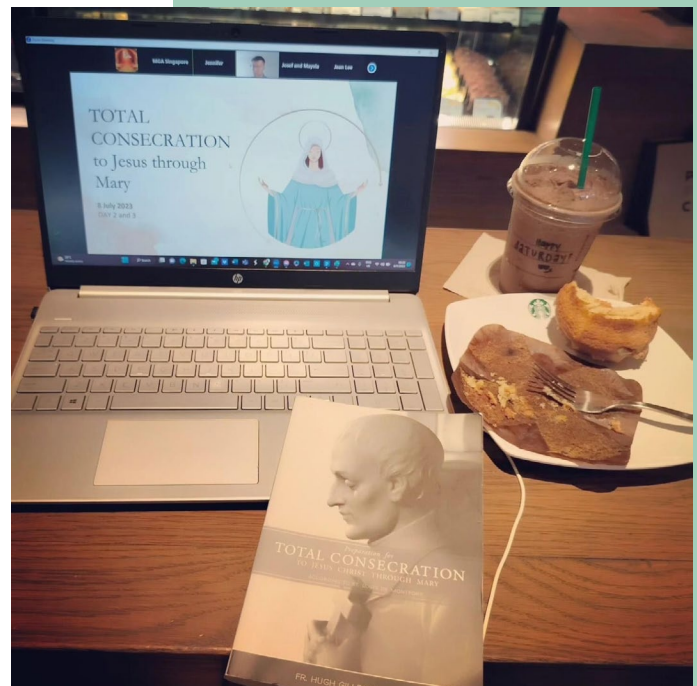
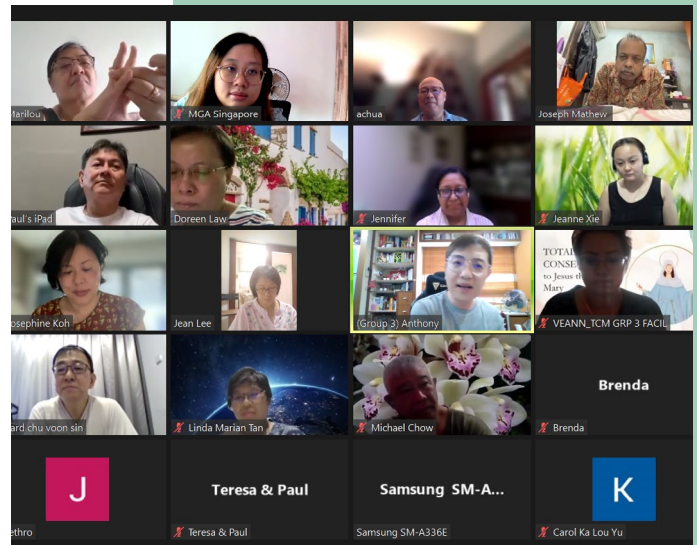
with representatives from:

- Canossian Sisters • Cenacle Sisters • Daughters of Saint Paul
- Discalced Carmelite Nuns & Friars • Franciscan Friars • Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
- Infant Jesus Sisters • Lasallian Brothers • Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel
- Redemptorist Brothers • Religious of the Good Shepherd
- Saint Francis Xavier Major Seminary • Society of Jesus • Verbum Dei Missionaries

Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary 2023-2024

Christian life is nothing less than a participation in the life of Jesus Christ and through baptism we belong completely to Christ. Hence, holiness is the common vocation of all Christians. Therefore one must deepen, renew and express in the faithful living of one's baptismal promises on a daily basis. However, a step like this is a step that one must prepare himself or herself to take. This process as proposed by St. Louis Marie de Montfort is known as the Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary.

The preparation journey of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary (TCM) for the 6th batch of about 20 participants was started on 24 June 2023. Throughout this 9-month journey, they are going through two main movements: emptying themselves of the spirit of the world and filling themselves with the spirit of Jesus Christ. Some of the sessions are conducted at Montfort Centre, while some are online through Zoom. This preparation process will end with a Total Consecration retreat in mid-2024.



Mervent Meetings

Group 3 by Ambrose

Aptly named “Mervent Meetings” after the cave in the forest of Mervent-Vouvant where St Louis Marie De Montfort would retire in 1715 to mediate, our Mervent group meets regularly on the first Saturday of every month.

We have not given our Mervent group a name but there are 5 of us. Simon, the oldest and de facto leader because of his many years of association with the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel, Wendy and Ben long serving Montfort Gabrielite Associates (“Associates”) with a wealth of knowledge and experience and last but not least, Pauline and myself, newbies who joined the Associates in 2020.

We are doing the readings from the book “Jesus Living in Mary” written by Mario Belotti, smm. The book, a new manual that guides us through the Totus Tuus (“I am all yours”) Journey has each session organized into 3 parts “Call”, “Response” and “Commitment”. It is ideal for those who wish to foster a deeper Christian awareness in communion with Mary. Not only are we asked to listen to the call but to respond and act.

Although we never lack a thought or reflection to share, we discipline ourselves and try to end after 2 hours so that members can go to their next appointment. Pauline once commented that she likes the format of the Mervent group meetings. A small group of believers coming together allows a relaxed environment to pray, reflect and ask questions.

We have come to know each other better over the course of the last few months and the regular meetings have helped further our friendship and desire to live as true disciples of Christ.



The Heart of Living

On 20th May 2023, Montfortian Gabrielite Associates (MGA) Singapore held the Heart of Living session, the first face-to-face session after the Covid-19 pandemic. It was held at CANA, and the theme for this session was "St Louis Marie de Montfort: A Prophet for Our Times" as we celebrate the 350th anniversary of St Montfort's birth.

The session began with Praise & Worship, led by our MGA Aloysius Adi Pratama. Together with Adi, participants sang 2 songs with a little ice breaker and introduction to get to know each other.



Zerah Goh delivered a talk on St Louis Marie de Montfort as a prophet for our times. He elaborated on how St Montfort's spirituality of a perfect devotion to Mary is especially needed for the renewal of our Church and our lives as disciples of Christ today.

After a 15 minutes break, 13 participants who came to the session were divided into three small groups to help deepen what they have just heard.

In this occasion, our MGA Formation Sub-Comm Head, Edward Chu shared on the preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary (TCM) journey, timeline and other details. Ambrose Chua, MGA President, also shared more on other MGA activities.



After the sharing by the MGAs, a number of the participants gave their testimonies on how Mother Mary touched their hearts. Br Dominic Yeo-Koh gave a closing remark on Mary being full of grace.

Overall the Heart of Living session was a very fruitful session with more people knowing more about St Montfort's spirituality of a perfect devotion to Mary. The session was ended at 5.30 pm with a prayer to obtain Divine Wisdom.





Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have light and life." (John 8:12)

Members of Montfortian Gabrielite Associates (MGA) Singapore meet in our small groups by geographical location of residence once a month but all members come together in communion once every 3 months for faith formation. We share the word of God and reflect on the writings of St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, bond over activities and a meal.

On 12 August 2023, 14 members came together for a day of recollection and candle making workshop animated by our President Ambrose and Vice President Cynthia and to celebrate the upcoming Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a community.

Ambrose shared that the word candle comes from the Latin word "to burn" and that candles have been used in worship for millennia.

I also learnt the symbolism of candles: in processions, the significance of the Pascal Candle, how candles are snuffed out by putting the light to the ground when someone is ex-communicated indicating that he/she is cut off from the light of Christ.

When we light a candle for someone who needs it, it is a physical act of that constant prayer before God and an acknowledgment of the Light of Christ who reigns in all situations.

It is not possible for us to become a beacon of light for others without receiving the light of Christ first; without recharging ourselves with Christ. As at the Annunciation, Mary allowed herself to become an instrument to bring the light of Christ into the world. Everything about Our Lady, in complete humbleness and humility, pointed to the Savior. In complete obedience to the Father in heaven, she became the light bearer.

Members were invited to reflect on these 3 questions and then shared our reflections in small groups:

- What stops me from being the Light of Christ?
- What challenges do I face?
- As a community what can we do to help each other?

The day ended with lunch and it was really nice seeing the members from the other groups whom we do not meet regularly. We had fun making candles and bringing them home as a reminder that we are all called to become the light of Christ in this world, just like Montfort did as he followed Jesus!





Montfortian Experience Retreat: Via Maria

Do everything through Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary, in order to do it more perfectly through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus, and for Jesus. (TD #257)

T.W.I.F. (through, with, in, and for Mary) was the main message for the participants of the Montfortian Experience Retreat: Via Maria. The weekend stay over retreat was facilitated by Montfortian Gabrielite Associates, Adi and Lydia. During the retreat, the seven retreatants were invited to pray with the virtues of Mary, leading to opening their Spirits as Mary did.

Spiritual direction sessions were provided for the retreatants who request for one. Br Dominic Yeo-Koh, Zerah Goh and Brian Ooi made themselves available to be Spiritual Directors on this retreat.



**MONTFORTIAN
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MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE RETREAT


Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Loss and Grief is an inevitable part of life. However, today's world is challenged on how they can support those who mourn their losses in life. In the face of death and loss, things can seem to be so messy. Grieve is not about forgetting but remembering the losses in our lives. To be able to mourn is a great gift from God. This retreat will be a sacred time and healing space to understand and work at our Losses in Life, for blessed are those who mourn.

8 – 10 SEP 2023

7 PM (Fri) - 1 PM (Sun)

Montfort Centre

 624 Upper Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 678212



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