

Monthly Newsletter of Formation & Information - Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts

Biblical Lightings

"Repent, and believe

in the Gospel"



By Pierrette MAIGNÉ

FEBRUARY 21, 2021 Sunday, 1st Week of Lent - Year B



GOSPEL GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK (MK 1, 12-15)

Jesus had just been baptized. At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

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Of all the Evangelists, Mark is the shortest, but he gets to the point. In 4 verses he tells us about the temptations of Jesus in the desert, the beginning of the preaching and the call of the first disciples.

This text is offered to us by the liturgy on this first Sunday of Lent 2021.

First of all let us note that it is the Spirit who pushes Jesus into the desert after his Baptism by John the Baptist where this voice of the Father was heard: «You are My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased». It is inhabited by this assurance of the presence of God that he will be able to live this time in the desert.

In the Bible, the desert is both the place of trial and the place of encounter with God: "I will lead her into the wilderness and speak persuasively to her" (Hos. 2:16).

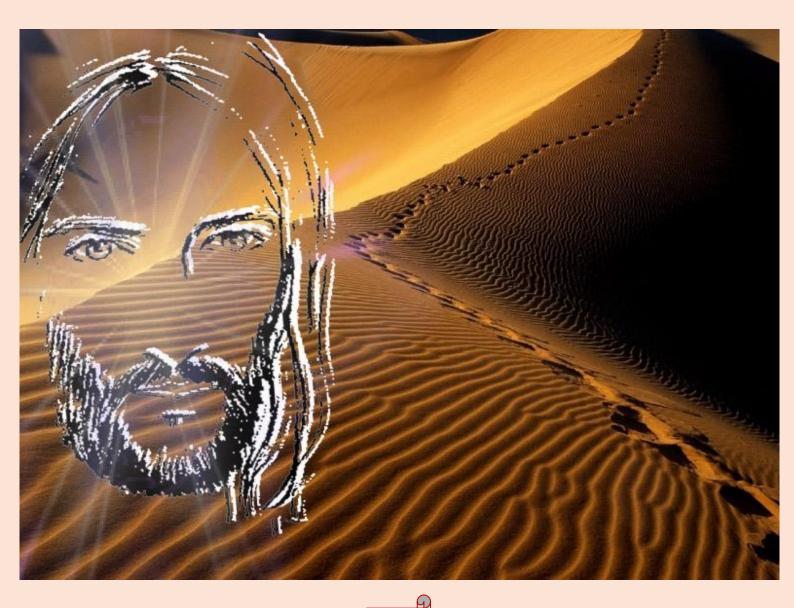
By going to the desert, Jesus remakes the route of the people of Israel, like a new Moses he accomplishes a new exodus; moreover the number 40 is very symbolic:

- 40 days is how long the flood lasts.

- The people will spend 40 years in the desert before reaching the Promised Land

- 40 days is the time that will take the prophet Elijah to cross the desert to reach the mountain of God, Horeb (1R. 19, 8)

- 40 time to let ourselves be transformed, to let ourselves be nourished, to let ourselves be re-created by God, this is the time of our Lent.



Mark does not describe temptations to us, as if to suggest that temptations are internal, and that the main thing to get through them is to stay united with God, for he alone conquers evil. He lived among wild beasts and the angels served him: thus is realized this refound harmony with nature predicted by Isaiah 11:6-9 the wolf will dwell with the lamb ... fulfillment of the messianic promises. With Jesus, new times are established.

The story continues with the beginning of the preaching of Jesus and after the arrest of John the Baptist, as if to mark the continuity of the announcement.

Jesus proclaims: there is something powerful about this verb, Good News (this is the meaning of the word Gospel) is made to be said and said with assurance and not whispered because it is intended to touch hearts. This is the time of fulfillment: the Greek word Kairos is used, this word means a favorable moment, an opportunity to be seized. Yes, the Reign of God is very close since Jesus begins his ministry which is to reveal to us the Love of the Father and to be reconciled with Him. Hence this call to conversion, to abandon everything that distances us from God in order to

welcome this gift that God wants to give us and to live this Covenant with him.

God invites us, he proposes to us, may this Lent be for each of us this favorable moment when we will hear this voice saying to us: "You are my beloved son".

Have a good Lent in the strength of the Spirit! ■



Consecration

Living as ^{By Dola Dhanush} Nissionary Disciples

You have been baptized, you have become a Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ. But for what? You pray every day, go to church for Mass on Sundays and even daily Mass. But is that enough? You are active in public life, maybe even involved in a political party, but are all these activities based on a strong relationship with Jesus?

Montfort proclaims what the real purpose of the Christian life is and that in it there is no dualism between holiness and mission, for he wants to form a holy and missionary Christian.

He describes the goal of Christian life in words that have an apostolic-missionary tone. For example, quoting Saint Paul, Montfort says: "We labour only to make all men perfect in Jesus Christ" (TD 61), so that "my dear Lord, will reign more than ever in the hearts of men" (TD 113). The perfection of others in Jesus Christ is part of my purpose in life. The reigning of Jesus in the hearts of others is part of my mission in history. The salvation of souls, by introducing Jesus to them and bringing them to Him, is part of my responsibility as a baptized person.



This is normal but we don't always realize it. Didn't the Apostle Paul say: "If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!" (1 Cor 9:16).

This is the joy of the gospel. That's why Montfort said: "If there is anything in death that gives joy, it is to have worked for the salvation of the neighbor" (S 195). Therefore, we should work with joy in living and proclaiming the gospel.

"IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN DEATH THAT GIVES JOY, IT IS TO HAVE WORKED FOR THE SALVATION OF THE NEIGHBOR" (MONTFORT, S 195)

«In the Acts of the Apostles we read that the first Christians "ate their food with glad and generous hearts" (2:46). Wherever the disciples went, "there was great joy" (8:8); even amid persecution they continued to be "filled with joy" (13:52). The newly baptized eunuch "went on his way rejoicing" (8:39), while Paul's jailer "and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God" (16:34). Why should we not also enter into this great stream of joy?» (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 5).



To be credible missionaries, we must live the holiness of our lives in a process which is constant towards the "transformation" of ourselves in Christ (TD 119). **The holy life itself is missionary in itself. Montfort aspired to form holy missionaries by proposing the «Consecration» as a Christian lifestyle.** He said: "I can now state with conviction that I have never known or heard of any devotion to our Lady which is comparable to the one I am going to speak of. No other devotion calls for more sacrifices for God, none empties us more completely of self and self-love, none keeps us more firmly in the grace of God and the grace of God in us. No other devotion unites us more perfectly and more easily to Jesus. Finally, no devotion gives more glory to God, is more sanctifying for ourselves or more helpful to our neighbour" (TD 118). Holiness and missionary are inherent in the dignity of our baptism.



This is relevant to everyone being baptized regardless of their status: lay, religious, priest, etc. In Montfort spirituality, these two things - being holy and being a missionary - are inseparable from each other, they are one! This Montfort spirituality, which is based on baptism, is holistic in nature: it concerns the person in the totality of his being, with all the dimensions of his life. **This is Montfort's project: to form "true apostles of the latter times" (TD 58) who "will be like thunder-clouds flying through the air at the slightest breath of the Holy Spirit" (TD 57).**

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS:



«In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients.

The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. **Every Christian is a missionary to the**

extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples".

If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: "We have found the Messiah!" (Jn 1:41). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritans come to believe in him "because of the woman's testimony" (Jn 4:39). So too, Saint Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, "immediately proclaimed Jesus" (Acts 9:20; cf. 22:6-21). So what are we waiting for?» (Papa François, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120).

Missionary Sharing

MY MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE

TESTIMONY WRITTEN by Sister Desneiges Giroux, Daughter of Wisdom, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

My adventure started during my Perpetual Profession in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre on August 22, 1965.

At that time, I expressed my desire to our Mother General, Sister François du Christ, to go and work in mission "Ad Gentes". For four years I prepared for my future missionary life in Argentina as I desire, but Providence decided otherwise. Instead of flying to South America, I took the plane to Papua New Guinea. I was heading into the unknown! «The Spirit blows where He wills and when He wills» (cf. John 3:8).

The culture of Papua is very different from that of Canada. It's like putting a dress inside out! It is a varied ancestral culture that manifests itself in the multitude of local languages, in its beliefs, in its dances and songs as well as in its tribal art. It is a rather traditional and animistic people where missionaries are called to share with them the Good News "that God has always existed in their tribes with a loving and merciful presence". It's time for evangelization!

I had the pleasure of teaching for five years at primary school in Kiunga, where it was founded in 1959, and also in Daru, the capital of our Western Province. At the school for catechists, I provided a year of training with Papuan men and women who are called to evangelization in their respective villages. To respond to a request from the parish priest, Father Claude Sigouin, Montfort Missionary, I taught catechesis at various levels in primary schools as well as at a secondary school in Kiunga. However, a need at the pastoral level was felt in the Parish of Saint Gerard. With a team, I was working to found a pastoral center in order to plan necessary and varied services. I therefore accepted the responsibility of animator and trainer with pastoral agents to serve the parish comprising the center and 7 fascinating and dynamic villages along the FLY river.

As for the parish priest, he was in charge of administering the sacraments, celebrating the Eucharist, organizing meetings with people and meeting their human and spiritual needs. Accompanied by pastoral workers, I meet the Papuans of these same remote villages to bring a comforting presence, to organize meetings and to continue the formation of catechists.

I was heading into the unknown!



In 1982, after 27 years of evangelization and the formation of our young local Church, the time came for a renewal of the parish with a program entitled "New Image of the Parish". It was a new journey in which the whole parish was involved with enthusiasm and a beautiful collaboration. Our goal was to create small basic ecclesial communities in all villages to develop and exercise pastoral services. This program encompassed devotion to the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ and of the Christian people. Papuans welcomed with an open heart the role of Mary in their life.



Jacob, Sr Desneiges fdls, Cecilia, Gabriel



Father Claude Sigouin, smm, parish priest

After 22 years of missionary presence, where **I gave a lot but also received a lot**, I left this beautiful country where I was very happy in community and in my ministry with the Papuans in collaboration with the religious personnel, namely the Daughters of Wisdom, the Montfortian Fathers and Brothers and the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel and the committed lay people. It was a unique and fantastic experience!

Since then, the face of the Western Province and of the diocesan Church has taken off! Having as guide and pastor, for 25 years, Msgr Gilles Coté, Montfort Missionary, the diocesan Church walks in faith to build unity in diversity. Surprising progress is manifested in all human, pastoral and social aspects.

In July 1991, I returned to Canada for three years of study in psychoeducation at the «Institut de Formation Humaine Intégrale de Montréal». Following this training, in response to an unforeseen and surprising call, in September 1994, I flew to the Philippines to exercise for 13 years, new ministries in the service of the Church. Unsuspected avenues open up for me. I faced several challenges that brought me great joy. «The Spirit blows where He wills and when He wills» (cf. John 3:8). As a first challenge, I became responsible for vocational awakening for our Congregation. A second, equally important, was that of offering integral human formation to our sisters and novices as well as to all the female and male, apostolic and monastic congregations in certain regions of the Philippines from north to south and from east to west..

Since 1991, our Generalate called on all the entities of the Congregation to establish "Friends of Wisdom" where possible. It was in 2002 that I launched an appeal to the laity to form such a group in order to further expand our Montfortian family. Since the people of the Philippines are very religious and involved in multiple organizations and various church movements, I organize three different groups to accommodate their availability. A first group provides monthly meetings fueled by a presentation on Wisdom and a particular commitment.

The 2nd group participates in our assemblies during liturgical and Marian celebrations ensuring a presentation on Wisdom and the 3rd presents itself at our meetings of circumstances according to their program.



Group of Friends of Wisdom-Philippines



2003, Friends of Wisdom on pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, St. Laurent - sur- Sèvre, France

«I faced several challenges that brought me great joy».



• The Spirit blows where He

wills and when He wills (cf. John 3:8)



"Together, let's love, live and proclaim Wisdom."

This is the mission of the **Friends** of **Wisdom** who live the spirituality of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort with the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. There are hundreds of them around the world.

While living in the Philippines, I was invited to different countries to ensure integral human formation as well as to animate retreats in Nairobi among the Montfortians, in Malawi for the Daughters of Wisdom, in Papua for our novices and in Taiwan for the Theresian Institute. Later, from Rome, I lead a retreat for the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in the religious province of Singapore-Malaysia.

Life was in full swing and I was so happy to share all that I have received with men and women religious as well as priests and lay people. To see the human and spiritual growth in the participants is a source of great joy for me.

In the summer of 2007, from the Superior General, Sister Louise Madore, I had the request to now have my foothold in Rome to continue the training which extends to 12 countries! «The Spirit blows where He wills and when He wills» (cf. John 3:8). In October 4, 2007, on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, I took the plane to Rome. I lived in an international community where the Generalate community is also found. My mission: "To be at the service of formation marked by our spirituality in priority for the Daughters of Wisdom and according to the needs of the entities." In addition to the Montfort Missionaries and Brothers of Saint Gabriel, other congregations and lay groups availed of my formation services. The entities served were : Belgium, France, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. I also worked in Rome for the Wisdom Year group.

During 8 beautiful years, that is to say for 2 mandates, I had the pleasure of meeting our sisters Daughters of Wisdom, young and old, the Montfort Missionaries, the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, other Congregations and well-committed lay people.

In September 2015, after 46 years of mission, I packed my bags to return to my beautiful home-land, Canada. I continue the animation in 2 different Centers, one for the elderly and the other for groups of young students. I meet people of different generations and different nations, a source of enrichment and joy for all of us.

In March 2018, I launch 2 groups of Friends of Wisdom from various cultural backgrounds but of Canadian nationality. It's a colorful array including Haiti, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Burkina Faso and Canada of course. We are happy, they tell us, to live the spirituality of Montfort in order to love, live and proclaim Wisdom together.

«I meet people of different generations and different nations, a source of enrichment and joy for all of us».



Like Mary at the Visitation, Montfort who traveled the world and Marie-Louise who left us love so that we could in turn be «troubadour», I wanted to bring Christ-Wisdom to the people to whom I have been sent so that "all may have abundant life" (RV # 1c) ■

«We are happy, they tell us, to live the spirituality of Montfort in order to love, live and proclaim Wisdom together».



2016-2020, Sister Desneiges Giroux, DW, leads a workshop at the «Centre Pauline Charron» for the elderly.



Sister Desneiges Giroux, DW with a little girl in Indonesia.

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Sister Desneiges Giroux with Sister Rani, now Superior General. Photo taken in India.



Indian style welcoming rite by Shiny Joseph, DW



Sister Desneiges Giroux, DW with a group of Filipino Friends of Wisdom in a slum in Manila in the Philippines.

It's time for evangelization!

"The Belarusian people suffer with Christ and sacrifice themselves in the struggle for the Truth"

BY EUCIKAVA DARIA, FROM BELARUS



In this passionate spiritual sharing, Daria talks about two things that at first glance are similar but are fundamentally different, although not contradictory. On the one hand, she recounts her encounter with the "Consecration to Jesus through Mary" taught by Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, on the other hand she reports on the "Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary" by the "Conference of Catholic Bishops in Belarus" following the instructions of Mother Mary during her apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. One can get the impression that these two consecrations are the same thing by the fact that we use the same word "consecration" for the two acts.

Yet the "Consecration to Jesus through Mary" taught by Montfort, as the complete renewal of the promises and commitments of baptism, constitutes Christian life itself, and is therefore permanent, holy, full of tenderness and centered on Jesus alone; it has exterior practices, interior practices considered the most sanctifying, and practices that are carried out in conjunction with Holy Communion.



Whereas the "Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary" is an act of devotion (in the form of prayer or celebration) which is accomplished at a given time and in a certain place. This practice, although it can be classified as one of the exterior practices of the whole Christian life that Montfort teaches - just like the prayer of the Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin, the Magnificat and the Rosary - remains distinct from the one of the exterior practices taught by Montfort called the "Consecration to Jesus through Mary" as slaves of love, one of the consequences of which is that we are encouraged to multiply the good works whose values are entrusted to Jesus through Mary, since this exterior practice taught by Montfort requires about 30 days of preparation, and annual and even daily renewal.

We now see on the internet the creativity of some people who offer materials that can be used to prepare for 33 days to celebrate "the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary". So, it is a kind of mixture between what Montfort teaches and what Mary recommends at Fatima.

However, in the Consecration taught by Montfort, Mary is seen as a person in her totality, body and soul, in the eternal mystery of Christ and the mystery of the Church (cf. Lumen Gentium, chapter VIII) which is not only symbolized by her "Immaculate Heart". When Montfort speaks of the heart, he refers to the heart of a person who consecrates himself or herself to Jesus through Mary, because it is in this heart that Jesus will reign (TD 38, 113), thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit who collaborates with Mary, "the Queen of all hearts" (TD 38).

Now, if the "Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary" is experienced as very powerful in the renewal of life and of the world, what can be said of Consecration to Jesus through Mary, which is an art of Christian life lived by "the greatest saints, souls richest in grace and virtue" (TD 46) since the Holy Spirit produces in them Jesus Christ and produces them in Jesus Christ (cf. TD 20)?



Praised be Jesus Christ!

I am writing to you from Belarus, a very beautiful country with blue lakes. My name is **Daria**. I belong to the parish of St. John the Evangelist of Minsk. I met Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort ten years ago, when I took in my hands a small book in the Russian language. This book had a mysterious title "The Secret of Mary." But at that time, I have thought that this teaching was of a very great piety and its author was a man with an inaccessible holiness and unadapted to our time. This book has been dormant on my shelf for a very long time. But God has his time for each seed sown.

One day, when saying goodbye to me before entering the convent of the Carmelite Sisters, my friend advised me to consecrate myself to God through the hands of Mary, according to Saint Grignion de Montfort. She explained to me: "Then all your prayers will belong to the Blessed Virgin Mary and she herself will choose the right intention in your prayers, because the Mother of God knows for whom to pray at the right time".

In August 2020, in my country, there were tragic events. It is possible that these events remain in history as a simple "white revolution" because of the color of the strips that people put on their wrists during the elections and the peaceful protests against electoral falsifications. The cruelty with which power has put down these popular uprisings has left a mark similar to drops of blood on our white strips. Worn on the wrist, the white-red-white flag like the holy shroud of Christ crossed out in the middle by his very holy blood - is it not our national flag that has been banished by power in 1995?



Photo of Daria taken in Minsk in spring 2020.

The tragedy of the first days has brought about a great mass change and has united all the people. It seems that history has created a spiral and makes the cruelties of Soviet terror return to our streets with only one difference: today the injustice and the lie of the country's powers are too obvious to the people. People have come to realize the need to let go of old demons of communism, to lie and speak out against the violence of the present day.

«I met Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort ten years ago, when I took in my hands a small book in the Russian language. This book had a mysterious title "The Secret of Mary."»

Human chains of repentance of several kilometers, marches with the prayer of the rosary, meditation in burial places of the victims of communist terror, Christians of different faiths everywhere took part in these actions. Some Catholic bishops have also spoken very strongly to defend the people and condemn unjustified violence. The holy Masses and the sermons of the Bishop of Minsk were so crowded that the square in front of the church was packed. Catholics and Orthodox, Protestants and Atheists, old people and young people prayed, cried and sang together ... My country was demonstrating as if it had woken up.

Despite all the bans, threats, arrests and imprisonments, people continued to demand freedom and justice, to gather for prayer in the central streets, holding in their hands placards with extracts from Sacred Scripture, crosses and icons. At that time, the words of St. Grignion de Monfort became prophetic for my people: «... they will not spare or heed or fear any man, however powerful he may be. They will have the two-edged sword of the word of God in their mouths and the bloodstained standard of the Cross on their shoulders. They will carry the crucifix in their right hand and the rosary in their left, and the holy Names of Jesus and Mary on their heart. The simplicity and self-sacrifice of Jesus will be reflected in their whole behaviour» (True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, 59).

«And me, mother of several children, what more can I do to save my people?»

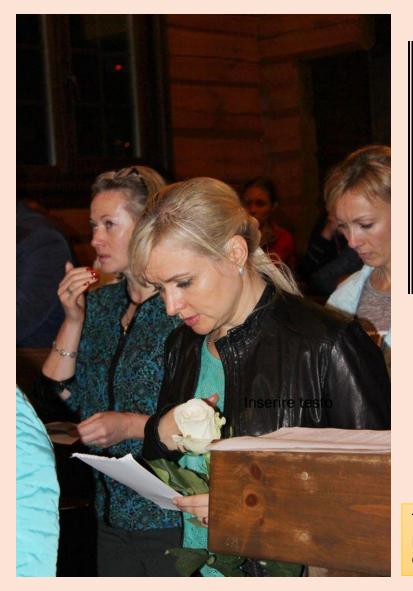


The act of Consecration to Jesus through Mary in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, October 7, 2020.

Who could have imagined that these words would come true so literally!

Today the Belarusian people suffer with Christ and sacrifice themselves in the struggle for the Truth. I understood that my prayer, my fast are insufficient to help those who suffer in prison, those who are fired from their jobs, expelled from their homeland, deprived of citizenship like our Archbishop Tadéouche Kondrousévitch, those who are forced to go into hiding police structures, those who mourn their dead ... And me, mother of several children, what more can I do to save my people?

At one point, in the "chat" of our parish group, someone repeated the testimony of Brother Ouladzimir Vaytsiakovitch, member of the Legion of Mary. In his testimony he said: "If there is a sufficient number of souls consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, like St. John Paul II, Satan will leave our country and the Holy Spirit will reign over our earth".

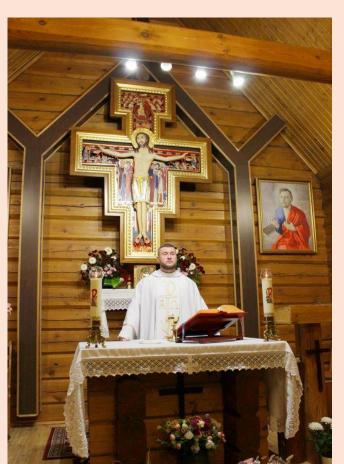


"When that time comes wonderful things will happen on earth. The Holy Spirit, finding his dear Spouse present again in souls..."

The act of Consecration to Jesus through Mary in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, October 7, 2020.

Now Saint Grignion de Monfort also predicted the same thing: **«When that time comes wonderful things will happen on earth. The Holy Spirit, finding his dear Spouse present again in souls, will come down into them with great power. He will fill them with his gifts, especially wisdom, by which they will produce wonders of grace...That day will dawn only when the devotion I teach is understood and put into practice**» (*True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin,* 217).

> Father Aleg Chpéts, the superior of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist (parish of Daria) cele-brates solemn mass on October 7, 2020.





Archbishop Tadéouche Kondroucévitch prays the rosary in front of the remand center (August 2020).

God was providentially showing me the direct way to salvation: I had to be totally consecrated! But practically how to make this Consecration? The obstacle was to find the texts of the 33 days of preparation according to Father of Monfort, in Belarusian language. The only thing I found was Father Frederick William Faber's translation of **«33-dniowy okres** ć**wicze**ń **duchowych do Aktu Ofiarowania si**ę **Jezusowi Chrystusowi przez Maryj**ę» in Polish language and the original of the book in English. I have a third cousin who lives in Australia and is very concerned about our home-land; as soon as she learned that this practice of Consecration existed, she got excited at the idea and decided to start the preparation right away by inviting all of her friends to do the same. For this she translated into Russian the introduction to meditations of the book in English, 1862 edition, mentioned above.

On the website dedicated to the apparitions of Our Lady in Medjugorje, we found texts for daily meditations in Russian. With these texts it was possible to start the preparation. I also tried to suggest that we organize a special group in my parish for this. A few people responded to my invitation, and later still others ... I saw that people wanted to seize every opportunity to help free the land from the power of the evil spirit. To my astonishment, the participants became more and more numerous, there were even priests whom I did not know, other parishioners from the neighborhood. I was telephoned from "Radio Maria" and offered to talk about the meaning and purpose of preparation for Consecration. **I told all I knew about this practice so little known in our country.**



"If a greater number of people had the possibility of adhering to this practice of Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary according to the Montfort method, the Kingdom of God would spread over our earth!"

The responsibility scared me, but it was clear that it was God's work and that I was only His weak instrument.

Through joint efforts, we have translated the daily prayers and the act of Consecration to Jesus through Mary into Belarusian. And behold, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the first group passed the preparation period. The Consecration took place on October 7, on the solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary. After having pronounced the solemn formula of the act of Consecration in our parish, the participants testified to the strength and the fruitfulness of this time of preparation, the particularities and the importance of the lived experience of this moment ... I felt that this was not the end, but rather a first step on the path of spiritual renewal for us. If a greater number of people had the possibility of adhering to this practice of Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary according to the Montfort method, the Kingdom of God would spread over our earth!

I started to look for possibilities to create a website where everyone could find the necessary information and commit, at any time, within 33 days of preparation. It also had to be in a language understandable to all Belarusians. In comparison to Polish where this pious practice is very well known and where there are several variations of the 33 days of preparation, and even 33 days of online retreat, there are very few people in Belarus who, more or less, know St. Grignion de Monfort. Moreover, it seemed to me very unlikely to find someone who would wish to translate texts of the Saint and would be interested in the propagation of Montfortian spirituality. So we suggested that I speak to another legionary, Nathalie Dorochkévitch.



Outside the remand center, Archbishop Tadéouche Kondroucévitch prays with people who have gathered to protest against the illegal arrests. (August 2020).





The Church of Saint Simon and Saint Helena in Minsk. Prayer for the victims, the detainees and the massacred during the protests against the falsifica-tion of the elections (September 2020).



Representatives of different Christian denominations, Judaism and Islam gathered at the Church of Saint Simon and Saint Helena to pray for the Fatherland -August 2020.

Great were my astonishment and my joy to learn that Nathalie was the only translator of the texts of Montfort in Belarus and that, precisely, she planned to prepare the texts for the preparation for the Consecration to Jesus through Mary, according to the method of her favorite saint! **God therefore planned everything: in His time, He gave everyone the inspiration and the grace necessary to coordinate this matter!**

In less than a month, Nathalie translated the book by Brother Jacques Hubert SG, "The Little Way of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort". She has also prepared a thematic site with common references for daily meditations. All I had to do was invite the participants for a new group likely to prepare for the Consecration according to the Montfortian method.

On November 5, more than one hundred people began the preparation for the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, which took place on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, on December 8, in order to obtain graces for our suffering country. Seven people from this group belonged to our parish and they recited this act of Consecration after Mass in our church.

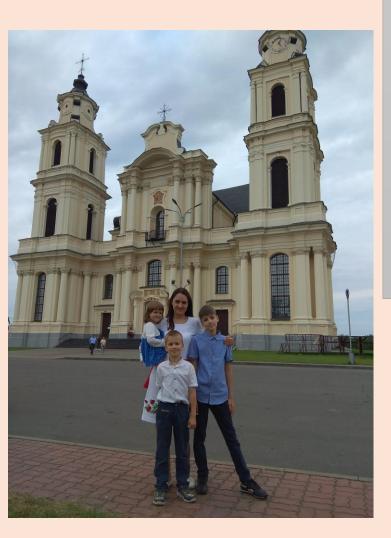
«I started to look for possibilities to create a website where everyone could find the necessary information and commit, at any time, within 33 days of preparation».



The interfaith prayer to stop violence by government forces against peaceful protesters -August 2020.



"The responsibility scared me, but it was clear that it was God's work and that 9 was only His weak instrument"



Coincidentally, the head of the Conference of Catholic Bishops in Belarus has decided to consecrate the country, on this solemn day, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. "Through you, O Immaculate Mother of God, at the foot of the altar of Merciful and Almighty God, we present [...] our repentance for the sins of the people, as well as the offering of our prayer for deliverance from the coronavirus epidemic and also for an imminent end to the socio-political crisis." These words of the Belarusian Act of Consecration were recited on December 8 in every church in the country.

I too was there with my parishioners and, on this day, I solemnly consecrated myself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, asking for the grace of repentance and conversion for my people, so that the reign of God may take place in every soul.

I take this opportunity to ask you to pray for the Belarusian people, so that we can spread the works of St. Grignion de Montfort, for the conversion of lost souls, for the sincere devotion to the Blessed Virgin on the way to salvation of souls, so that Our Lady, Queen of Belarus, spreads the kingdom of her Son on our land which is so thirsty for peace.

God bless you!

With my feelings of gratitude and respect,

Daria. 🔳

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Daria with her children at the National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Boudlsave, Patron Saint of Belarus, in July 2020.

News

"True Servants of the Blessed Virgin, like Saint Dominic"

By Fr. Giovanni M. Personeni, SMM

"True servants of the Blessed Virgin, like Saint Dominic" (cf. PM 12). These are the words of Montfort, in the ardent prayer for missionaries, which came to our minds when we got to know Father Gildo Sacco more closely.

We have here the beautiful testimony of this Dominican friar who has wished to consecrate himself to Jesus through the hands of Mary, according to the spirit of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, joining the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts, like so many priests, particularly loving of Mary, in the course of history. A moving testimony for the particular situation of illness that does not allow him to walk, but also for his deeply Marian priestly soul.

BARI, South Italy – I am **Fr. Ermenegildo Domenico M. Sacco**, a Dominican friar, and I exercise my ministry in the Pontifical Basilica of Saint Nicolas. On September 27, I had the grace to live with Fr. Giovanni M. Personeni and two other of my Dominican brothers, the great moment of my particular Consecration to Jesus through Mary, in the manner indicated by St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. It is a story of love and providence that, before seeing myself involved, has involved the founders of our religious institutes: Saint Dominic and Saint Louis-Marie. The reality which unites these two ramparts of faith is precisely the devotion to the Blessed Virgin and also the pious practice of the Holy Rosary. The initiation of this pious practice has been attributed to Dominic and his order; the Virgin then, appearing to Brother Alain de La Roche, promises innumerable benefits.



Personally, I have seen in Saint Louis-Marie, who was also associated with the Dominican order as a tertiary, a follower and a propagator of this divine work of the Holy Rosary. So I, Dominican Friar, with my own Consecration to Mary, believe to embody, in an unworthy way, the affection that Saint Louis-Marie felt towards the Blessed Virgin Mary when he became a tertiary. Here are the fruits of the Spirit that unites the whole world in prayer.

In my religious life, Mary supports me and helps me. She consoles me to be able to continue living my life as "wounded in my body": **in Mary I find a sure support to climb the Mount of Calvary every day, in prayer as in life, to die with Jesus and in Jesus, to be reborn every day for Jesus.** The chain received after my particular Consecration is meant to be a sign of certainty, both in moments of joy and in times of suffering, when I see myself chained, so as not to forget that at my side, there is always the confident, maternal and serene presence of Mary. With this little testimony coming from my heart, I hope to be able to transmit the joy of my faith above all to those who do not believe.

Finally, I would like to thank Fr. Giovanni M. Personeni for the moments of grace and wisdom lived in the catechetical meetings. May the Lord bless your days and give you the strength and perseverance to bring, with Mary, the light of the Incarnate Word to each man.

Fr. Ermenegildo Domenico Maria Sacco, OP ■

CONSECRATION OF NEW MEMBERS

of the Association Mary, Queen of All Hearts, West Java Region

By Fr. Jeje, SMM



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BANDUNG, Indonesia - The act of Consecration is the culmination of the "Totus Tuus Journey" (preparation for Consecration) by our lay associates, members of the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts (AMQAH). The desire to be able to consciously renew the vows of baptism before God is the reason why this consecration is the most awaited moment.

This time, it is six of our brothers and sisters, members of AMQAH of West Java Regional Center (Lidwina Y. Winly, Vincentia N. Herliana, Irene L. Kumalasari, Maria G. S. Tandra, Christine A.D.M and Ady T. Kresnawan) who experienced this moment of joy. This consecration was very special in the history of the historical development of this regional center. Why? Because in addition to having chosen December 8 to coincide with the celebration of the Immaculate Conception, the celebration took place in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic. This pandemic required that the ceremony of the consecration of the members of AMQAH was very simple. There was no guest. No family and no other AMQAH members attended. Those who witnessed and heard firsthand the act of Consecration of the six Montfortian Associates of AMQAH were the confreres of the community of Gunung Kencana and the West Java Regional Council of AMQAH

The celebration of Consecration was presided over by Father Anton Tensi, SMM, Provincial. In his reflection, he underlined the reason and the purpose of the Consecration to Christ through Mary: **the way to become a voluntary servant of Jesus through Mary, in the Holy Spirit.**

Good continuation in your pilgrimage of life, with Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort! ■

Hymn of Father de Montfort



SNARES OF THE WORLD

FIRST SNARE: GAMES OF CHANCE



 Games in themselves are not wicked, They contain nothing lethal, In fact, it is just the opposite: They are a recreation Without effort, without strain, A fitting relaxation, Enabling us to work the harder When such labor's necessary.

2. Games God has not forbidden, If played at time and place That do not offend His Wisdom, So we can gently relax, Innocently have fun, Enliven our neighbor, Chasing away sorrow, Troubles and sadness.

3. Some saints, even though quite serious, Have at times played games,
As their biographies relate; Inspired by the Spirit,
Their charity invented them;
But they were games most innocent,
Charitable and compassionate,
Full of grace and glory.

4. Games must have certain qualities
For them to give God glory
And be salutary:
Games of chance you must avoid,
For sooner or later the soul is lost,
Games of mind are the best;
God rejoices in His servants
Who play, hoping to please Him.

5. Games should not be passionate, But, gentle, prudent, moderate, Played at fitting times, Without argument, full of grace, Without trickery, full of honor, Simply, without addiction, Without malicious purpose, Charitable and honest.

6. In place of cards and diceChoose checkers, chess,Or the like;Do not play without stop,But only at certain times and places,And play with those who are God's friends,For then, not only may you play,But perhaps you even should.

7. Yet how many games are forbidden!
How many people have been lost
Not even noticing their vice!
Games of chance are subtly used
By the devil and the doomed,
To make us lose the precious time
God grants us to gain heaven
By doing deeds of righteousness.

8. O time, O gift of Spirit Blest,
O price of Jesus' Blood divine,
O immensely precious time!
Players at cards or dice
When you die, a thousand regrets
Having wasted so much time
In your games and useless hobbies,
And never doing penance.

9. If the damned in hell
Had an hour you squander,
Would they copy your stupidity?
You would see them weeping, moaning,
Fasting, filled with mortification.
Ah! what would they do if they had time?
As they would, so use it well
For the time you're still alive.

10. A player is always troubled,
Anxious, moody, so upset,
All depending on his luck;
He loses, by his crave to win,
Charity for his brother;
He seeks only to trap him,
Surprise him, trick him,
Barring nothing.





11. How many sins commits a player, Through his hands, his mouth and heart, Almost without thinking!Blasphemy, oaths,Shouts and fits of anger,A thousand disguised lies,A thousand clever, cunning thefts,Filled with hatred and revenge.

12. A player, in fact becomes his game, He is no longer for himself or God But for the game that consumes him.All his delights, his whole soul And body are in the game; It is only for the game he lives, The game alone captivates him. It is his cruel chain.

13. A player thinks he'll win some good, But as often as not, his own is lost, As experience always proves.
Money won at games of chance, Cannot be seen as blessed by God, Sooner or later it's used for evil.
The saints call it a theft, And of all, the sneakiest.

14. A player who loves gamblingIs a clever thief of Satan,And such a thief in point of fact,That from his own children he would steal,And even from poor wife and family,Holding all possessions as his own.He dies clutching others' goods,O deplorable disaster!

15. Toward God, he is full of coldness,
Too full of laziness and boredom
For the good of his own soul;
Mass lasts far too long,
Sacraments neglected;
Wicked, hardened, lazy,
He drifts along from game to game
And then from games to hell.

16. Players are the tinderboxes,The do-nothings, and the scandalmongers,In every republic;They reveal every kind of sinBy teaching idleness.These public games and pokerMake many people perish,It is a public loss.

17. Kings have condemned gamesWith punishment severe,Fitting for a subtle plague.Councils by their laws,The holy fathers in their writings,Hurled anathemas at games of chance.Yet everywhere throughout the worldThe deadly venom spreads.

18. Deceiving world, be gone,
You will not rule me
By your games so diabolical.
Never any part of you!
Woe to your games of chance!
Woe even to all the players!
In order to avoid their fall,
I never follow their example.

GOD ALONE .

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