

# Jesus Living in Mary

N° 41, September 2021

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



«Thank you,  
Olivier!»



Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France

# «Thank you, Olivier!»

*These words were pronounced aloud by Fr. Robert Chapotte, SMM, Vicar Provincial of France, at the end of his brief sermon at the funeral mass of Fr. Olivier Maire, on Friday August 13, 2021.*



*Fr. Olivier MAIRE (61 years old, 35 years of religious life), was assassinated on Monday, August 9, 2021. The news on this subject having spread widely on various social networks, this bulletin does not feel the need to include here various elements related to the assassination.*

*Suffice it to note that on Friday August 13, 2021, during his funeral mass, it was said that all the churches in the Vendée department sounded the death knell at noon. The actual funeral mass took place at 2:30 p.m., in the basilica of Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, during a "magisterial celebration" presided by Bishop Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, president of the Episcopal Conference of France. The mass which was broadcast live by KTO (Catholic television of France) was also attended, among others, by the French Minister of Justice, Éric Dupont-Moretti, without forgetting the bishops, priests and Montfortian Family and other elected and civil authorities.*

***Note that on August 9, the day of Olivier's demise, three Montfort Missionaries set foot on Mexican land to begin in the Diocese of Ecatepec, Mexico, the missionary presence of the congregation founded by Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort.***

***Death on the one hand, the presence of new missionaries on the other. The mission continues! Father Olivier is thus always on mission, of course in a different way from the one he did when he was on pilgrimage on this earth. His zeal, in the manner of Montfort, can in one way or another be embodied in this missionary work in Mexico.***

*Below you can read the biography of Father Olivier and the personal testimony of Brother Daniel Busnel. This Brother is a member of the Provincial Council of France; he not only collaborated with Olivier in the animation of the French Entity of the Montfort Missionaries, but also knew him personally and closely since they lived and work together in different communities. This text that Daniel himself read at Olivier's funeral mass is now available for our reading.*

*«At the table, I and the whole community will miss your jokes»*

**Daniel BUSNEL SMM, from France**



**D**

Disciple of Father de Montfort, Father Olivier drew dynamism from our founder to make charity his rule of life.

He owes his human equilibrium to his parents: his dad Gabriel working in precision watchmaking and his mother Claudine living at home.

Born on 19-11-1960 in Besançon (Doubs) and baptized in Villers le Lac (Doubs), Olivier was able to develop his numerous intellectual and artistic capacities.



**«Disciple of Father de Montfort, Father Olivier drew dynamism from our founder to make charity his rule of life»**

His secondary studies began at the École Notre Dame de Grâce (1st cycle), and at Pelousey (Doubs) from 1971 to 1975. The second cycle took place at the Institution Saint Jean in Besançon (Doubs) from 1975 to 1978. Then came the time for higher studies at the Faculty of Sciences of Besançon (Doubs) from 1979 to 1982.

His entire intellectual training path has been recognized by obtaining various diplomas:

1978: his BAC series D - 1982: License in Natural Sciences -

1989: License in Theology at the Centre Sèvres.

June 29, 1992, he obtained the Canonical Masters Degree of the 2nd cycle in Theology, with specialization in Spirituality (mention bien) at the Center Sèvres.

In October 1992, he was sent to the Gregorian University in Rome and on September 15, 1995, he obtained a degree in Psychology.

This course of intellectual formation was accompanied by a time of discernment.

1978-1979: a first formation period is offered to him with the Montfort Missionaries with the support of the Foyer de Charité de Tressaint (22).





Different activities will complete this time of discernment:  
 1979-1982: Student Chaplaincy, with Catechesis in a college and in the Parish of St Pius X in Besançon.  
 1982-1984: Rural Animator. - 1984: Cooperation Service at Bonneau in Haiti.  
 June 17 to August 18, 1988: Stay in the USA to learn English.  
 While pursuing his theological studies in Paris (Centre Sèvres), he resides at the home of the students of the African Missions of Lyon with a follow-up of discernment provided by our Montfortian Community, established at the Tombe Issoire (14th arrondissement, Paris).  
 He made his first profession at the Calvary of Pontchâteau on September 7, 1986 and his perpetual profession at Notre Dame du Chêne (Doubs) on September 9, 1989.  
 He was ordained a deacon on September 30, 1989 in Déols, by Bishop Plateau and on June 17, 1992, he was ordained a priest by Bishop Gayot, bishop of Cap Haitien, Haiti, in this basilica of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort.

«Olivier,  
 you have  
 remained a  
 simple  
 man»



## The Obediences:

Once ordained a priest, he continued to study theology at the Centre Sèvres at the end of 1988.

From June 17 to August 18, 1992, he participated in the International Montfortian Seminar: SIM, here, in St Laurent.

In 1996, he became a Formator and Master of Novices in Uganda.

On September 2, 2002, it is the return to France.

On October 31, 2002, he resided at the Foyer Montfortain at Calvaire de Pontchâteau.

In January 2004, he joined the Montfortian Community of the Tombe Issoire in Paris XIV.

On May 16, 2005, he was appointed Assistant General of the Congregation in Rome.

In 2011, he became Provincial of France followed by a second term in 2017.

It should be added that he has provided retreats and conferences on Montfortian Spirituality all over the world. He even wrote a book entitled: **"Grignon de Montfort, Wandering of the Pilgrim"** in collaboration with the Chabotterie of the General Council of the Department of Vendée.

Personally, I take the liberty of saying: Olivier, you have remained a simple man, very accessible, who does not make noise but who moves forward. Everywhere you went, even quickly, you marked people. In your retreats and conferences, you did not use "complicated words" but words that everyone could understand. All the testimonies show it.



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You know, Olivier, I will miss you because with you in the trips to South America where we visited the missionary teams, I translated you and when it came to conversations with people, you were able to pick me up with kindness to clarify a detail that I had forgotten or poorly translated.

At the table, I and the whole community will miss your jokes.

But we have to move forward without being discouraged, but you know that, I often say, you are not going to be paid for doing nothing in the Father's house. We are counting on you to give us the strength to continue what you started. And now begins the Montfortian Mission in Mexico. You have a lot of work on the board.

Gabriel and Claudine for having such a son, Jérôme and Stéphane you can be proud of your brother. Olivier, may the Lord welcome you and bless us:

**All to Jesus through Mary. ■**

«Everywhere you went, even quickly,  
you marked people»

# “Let us cross to the other side”

**Homily of Father Robert CHAPOTTE,  
Vice Provincial of the Montfort Missionaries, France**



«On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, “Let us cross to the other side”». Jesus invites his disciples to a new Easter. To cross to the other shore is to go towards the unknown ... Peter, the experienced fisherman, has already heard a lot about this other bank ... With these pagans, these unclean spirits! But he has confidence: he sets off followed by many other boats ...

For him, that day will not be like the others. Without knowing why, a violent storm like he has never seen before arises. Fear overwhelms him and his companions ...



And he wakes up the sleeping Jesus, crying: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus, awakened, said to him, after having silenced the storm: "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"

Go to the other side? Live storms? Olivier knew this. He was talking about it. He confessed his fears in many of these shores that his missionary life gave him the opportunity to discover in Uganda, Africa, Haiti in particular, and here in Saint Laurent sur Sèvre, this Monday, August 9.

Today, for him the other side, it was a new discovery of the Wisdom of God revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, it is peace, hope and charity. He discovered this Wisdom for himself, but like Father de Montfort, he wanted above all to consecrate his life to Him, to communicate Him to others. **Thank you, Olivier. ■**

"Why are you terrified?  
Do you not yet have faith?"

“He taught Montfort a lot and his love for the poor. But he did not limit himself to words”



**Brother Jean-Paul MBENGUE,  
Assistant General of the Brothers of  
Saint Gabriel**

*Father Luiz Augusto Stefani, Superior General, gave a very moving testimony at the beginning of the funeral mass for Father Olivier on August 13: "The death of Father Olivier provoked an explosion of solidarity. Never has the Montfortian family received so many messages". Fr. Reynaldo Bullas who runs the "Montfortian.info" site has a list of all the messages of sympathy and condolences that have come from a wide variety of people. They wrote their messages using the contact address on this site. Fr. Rey said that between the date of Fr. Olivier's death and his funeral, there was a huge spike in visitors to this international website.*

*In addition, among so many messages addressed directly and individually to Fr. Luizinho, to the members of the General Council and to the members of the Provincial Council of France, there are also individual messages addressed to the Montfort Missionaries, to the Daughters of Wisdom and to the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel. These messages of affection come from people who know that these three Congregations form the same Montfortian Family.*



What really interested me was what **Brother Jean-Paul MBENGUE** wrote, **Assistant General of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel: he wrote his message to me and to Sister Antonella.** Of course, I transmitted the message to Father Luizinho and Father Reynaldo.

I am not surprised, because Brother Jean-Paul, Sister Antonella and I - representing the three General Councils of the three Congregations of the Montfortian Family - have worked together to organize Montfortian International Formation (MIF). This session is a formation platform to deepen and share Montfortian spirituality by involving as participants Lay Associates from each of the three Congregations. **And since the launch of the MIF in 2017, Fr. Olivier Maire was involved as a resource person.**

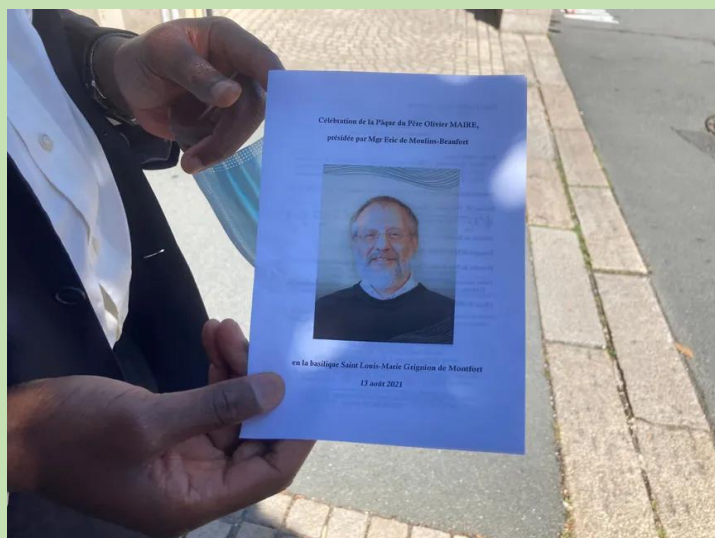


*In his message written on August 10, 2021, Brother Jean-Paul, who was then in Spain to visit the communities of the Brothers, wrote: **"May he rest in peace and light! I think, think and think again! Sacred Gospel! Sacred life following Christ! If the logic of the Gospel isn't foolishness, then I don't know what it is. Foolishness? yes, a madness, but the foolishness of love which is not lost in considerations but which acts. Father Olivier was consistent with himself. He taught a lot about Montfort and his love for the poor. But he did not limit himself to words"**.*

*Then, on August 14, the day after Father Olivier's funeral, still from Spain, Brother Jean-Paul wrote to express his feelings - representing the community of Brothers in which he was present - after having attended the Mass of funeral broadcast by KTO.*

*With his permission and in the spirit of the Montfortian fraternity, this message from Brother Jean-Paul can be read below. Thank you, Brother Jean-Paul, for the expression of solidarity, fraternity and friendship in the Montfortian Family.*

**Arnold SUHARDI SMM, from Rome**



Hello.

We are in La Aguilera (Aranda de Duero, Spain) on Friday 13/08/2021. It's 2 p.m. lunchtime. We try to eat quickly because at 2:30 p.m. the funeral mass of Father Olivier Maire, SMM will take place. I feel a little worried about the link to connect, which I quickly raise by inviting those who wish (all) to just type KTO in Google and there you are.

Thank you to God and to the organizers of the funeral for Father Olivier Maire.

It was very dignified, very prayerful, very moving. It was the first time that I saw the Basilica of Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre in this light, lit with all its lights, haughty and beautiful, splendid. What a crowd! although, I suspect, everyone had to be vaccinated. What tributes, in particular that of Father Luizinio! I had to withdraw more than once to wash my face at the sink. Olivier deserved this well.





Below, just a few words heard at the table:

- "What an event! It was grandiose"

- "It was very well done, it was very beautiful"

"All the gestures had their meaning, nothing was to chance"

"We can't do better"

"And brother Daniel in his natural, in sports clothes! He is the one we know"

"His testimony is beautiful too"

"Brother Yvan also did that well"

"What about the family sticking their elbows around Olivier's coffin!"

"There was even the Minister of the Interior, the gentleman with the beard. No, I corrected, rather the Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals"

"The choir was not left out. It was really very beautiful"

"The hymn of the «absout» was still a bit long, I think"

"It was perfect"

"Almost, because the microphone on the TV messed up every now and then."

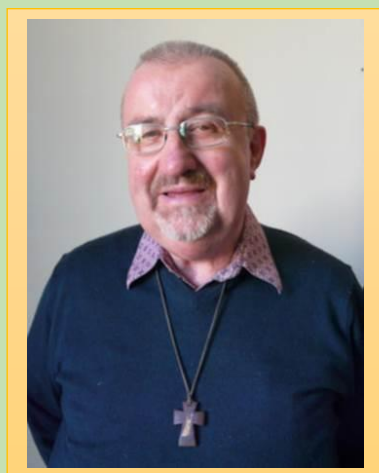
There, it was a bit of our thanksgiving to God this evening for his servant Olivier as well as for the wonders that He never ceases to accomplish. May His Name be blessed forever.  
May the soul of Father Olivier rest in peace through his mercy!

Happy Feast of the Assumption.

**Jean-Paul ■**



## "Very young, Olivier had already read the works of Father de Montfort"



**Fr. Pierre Bonhommeau,  
SMM, from France**

Testimony of a Montfort Missionary who has followed Father Olivier's experience for 42 years

### **Priority was given to Olivier to take his time before committing freely**

In 1977, Father Anthime Caron, provincial in office, asked me to come to Paris to collaborate in the establishment of a Montfortian formation community at «80 rue de la Tombe Issoire» in the 14th «arrondissement».

This structure will gradually become a reference for Olivier before deciding to come to the Montfortians. Thus, Oliver will freely participate in sharing weekends organized by this community of discernment while giving himself time for personal dialogue.

In July 1981, he made himself available to show us around his home region of Doubs. It was the occasion to be warmly received by his family.

*This testimony comes from Fr. Pierre Bonhommeau, a Montfortian confrere who undoubtedly knew Fr. Olivier very closely. Father Pierre, who had been the Provincial Superior of the Province of France for several mandates and Assistant General of the Montfort Missionaries, was not only someone who followed the path of formation and mission of Father Olivier but who also lived often in community with him.*

*Together they lived, prayed, worked and laughed. This closeness in the Montfortian fraternity is very much felt in this testimony written with a deep reflection on the life and work of Fr. Olivier. Good reading.*



### **Family roots**

This presence in family, with caring parents and the presence of his two young twin brothers: Jérôme and Stéphane will always remain for him a place of human balance. He will be able to involve his parents in his mission to make them discover some of his places of life in Haiti and Uganda.

While he was present in Haiti during the earthquake of January 12, 2010, we had to wait four days before receiving a first communication from him. Ten of our young confreres have died. When I saw him again at the airport, he was deeply marked by the disappearance of these young confreres with whom he shared life. His parents had the happy initiative of coming to Paris to pick him up and immediately plunge him back into the emotional warmth of the family environment.

During his funeral in Saint Laurent, his parents told me again that Olivier had remained very discreet about this event. Prayer and family affection certainly allowed Olivier to deepen his confidence in Life.

### **Support of a Missionary Church**

The accompaniment of a young person in vocational discernment requires collaboration with various instances of the Church. Olivier was able to participate in the chaplaincy of the University of Besançon led by Father Jean-Pierre Grallet who will become Archbishop of Strasbourg from 2007 to 2017.

The parish of St Pius X in Besançon will offer him a first initiation into catechesis for children. When he arrived in Paris in 2004, this commitment will be developed in the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary in the 14th arrondissement. His presence, both active and discreet, was appreciated by the lay team with whom we worked together.

Another instance of the local church will allow him to discover the importance of free listening to people. The Catholic Action for Children (L'Action Catholique des Enfants - ACE) will lead him to re-read the experiences of these young people from working-class backgrounds who agree to work as a team. This benevolent listening will make Olivier discover the expectations and values lived by these young people. The regular meetings between ACE officials allowed him, he told me, to discover that the mission begins with patient and silent listening to the people he meets, a path of incarnation that Jesus experienced until the age of 30 in Nazareth.

**« Prayer and family affection certainly allowed Olivier to deepen his confidence in Life »**

## **Openness to the Fraternity without Borders, by learning languages**

If Father Olivier had astonishing ease in communicating Father de Montfort's message in our communities around the world, it is because of his ease in speaking in English, Italian, Creole and even German.

Not having learned English during his schooling, he had to start with the lowest level. During a trip to the USA in August 1978, he was able to benefit from a first initiation in a language school in New York for a fortnight. Sharing this experience with him, I recognize that his center of interest immediately focused on the presence of the Haitian community that he joined every weekend.

In addition, having to prepare exams in Greek and Hebrew according to the requirements of the Jesuit University of the Centre Sèvre in Paris, Olivier, during this first initiation to the English language, gave priority to the fraternal life of the community particularly welcoming American style.

Of course, because of his different assignments, he will then take the time to learn English and Italian with mastery. As for Creole, he will listen to the children of Haiti who will become his teachers during his Cooperation Service offered by the French government as a replacement for military service.

**«He recorded the behavior or the words of one or the other with a spontaneity that always surprised me»**



## **Importance of humor in community life**

To make life in community easier, it is good to be able to relax together. Holidays have always allowed us to find ourselves outside the usual framework of life. During these meetings of a few days, nothing escaped Olivier's malicious gaze.

Also, Olivier, through his humor, knew how to restore all its realism to pastoral activity without being trapped by the statements of confreres with strong personalities.

He recorded the behavior or the words of one or the other with a spontaneity that always surprised me. This was beneficial for all and allowed us to free ourselves from the rigid behaviors of the "superego". His most faithful memory continued to fuel our conversations in 2021.



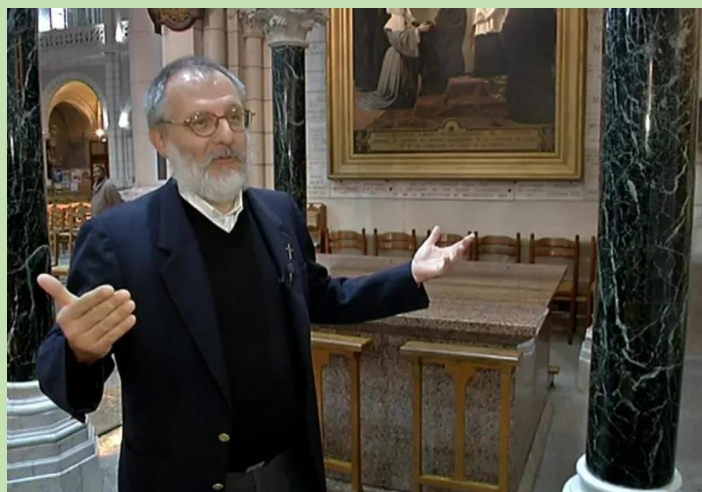
### **Presence with people in the ordeal**

From the start of his training, Olivier was asked to join, for a month, a structure for the elderly in order to become part of a team of hospital staff. Competently, he was able to perform the maintenance and cleaning services required for the well-being of suffering people.

At the end of this activity, it was the team of hospital workers who expressed the wish to keep him with them. **Indeed, Olivier has always been an expert in cleaning.**

This presence with the elderly will mobilize Father Olivier during his stays in St Laurent with our Montfortian confreres. He will go so far as to watch during the night such and such a confrere at the end of his life. During the COVID ordeal, he will mobilize the international community to serve the dishes.

Also, he was able to make himself present to the young people of Uganda in prison. Regularly, he visited them and shared their life until being imprisoned with them during the hours of his visit. To regain his freedom, he had to appeal to the guards with a little fear, he told me, of being forgotten by them because of their occupations.



**«This allowed me to say to him sometimes: “Olivier, you are really a contemporary of Father de Montfort”»**

## **Deepening of the Spirituality of Father de Montfort**

Very young, Olivier had already read the works of Father de Montfort. To facilitate another approach to Father de Montfort's itinerary, it was suggested that he spend several months in the Foyer de Charity of Tressaint. In this place, he benefited from a stable community life inspired by the spirituality of Father de Montfort. Also, during this period, he was able to go for short stays in our communities of elder confreres in order to be accompanied by Montfort Missionaries offering him to discover different aspects of Montfortian Spirituality.

Father Olivier appreciated the European meetings of the Montfortian Family (REM) from Spain and Marseille. Also, from June 17 to August 18, 1992, he participated in the International Montfortian Seminar (SIM) in St Laurent.

**We all know the interest Father Olivier had in the historic places where Father de Montfort carried out his mission.** He regularly provided this to our young people on formation courses in France. "Following in the footsteps of Montfort" and showing visitors "the Long House" of Saint Laurent, became for Olivier a privileged occasion to communicate his attachment to Father de Montfort. This allowed me to say to him sometimes: "Olivier, you are really a contemporary of Father de Montfort".

Now, despite his real difficulty in controlling his mail, we can reach him in complete freedom through prayer. He will now be able to listen to our requests and our expectations because everything will become for him: a source of interest.

**All to Jesus through Mary. ■**



# OPENING OF THE MONTFORTIAN MISSION IN THE DIOCESE OF ECATEPEC, MEXICO

By Arnaud KWIZERIMANA, from Rome



*On the feast of the Assumption of Mary Body and Soul in Heaven, August 15, 2021, the Montfort Missionaries officially opened a new missionary adventure, precisely in the diocese of Ecatepec, Mexico. For this reason, three Montfortian missionaries have been present therein by Monday, August 9, 2021, the same day Fr. Olivier Maire was found murdered in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. Montfortian spirituality and Montfortian vocations (religious and lay) are on the new horizons with their new missionary presence.*



**Ecatepec, MEXICO** – This mission was launched by Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani, Superior General, at the start of his mandate since the meeting of the brand new General Council of the Company of Mary, which took place last September 24 to October 6, 2017, in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France.

In the minutes of this meeting, it would write "It has also been informed that the General Administration will build a new project in other countries like Vietnam, Korea, Mexico, etc. "

To carry out this plan, three confreres were invited to be part of a visiting team in Mexico in order to gather the necessary information on this possibility.

They are Fr. Gonzalo TABARES BUILES, SMM, Fr. Harry Antonio FLORES MORALES, SMM and Brother Jean Désiré RAKOTONANDRASANA, SMM. At the same time, several Montfortian entities helped to carry out this visit and this mission financially.





This team visit was formed before May 2018. One of the dioceses visited by this team and which expressed its availability to welcome the presence of the Montfort Missionaries was the Diocese of Ecatepec. The bishop of this diocese, Mgr Oscar Roberto DOMINGUEZ COUTTOLENC, M.G. (Missionary of Guadalupe), sought to better discover what and who are these Montfort Missionaries. When he understood the charism of this Congregation, he expressed his will to continue a fraternal dialogue within the framework of a discernment for the presence of the Montfort Missionaries in his diocese. Bishop Roberto, assisted by Fr. Leonardo Barragán Solís (pastoral vicar) and Fr Luizinho, assisted by Fr. Wismick (Vicar General), conducted numerous communications and virtual meetings in order to achieve this missionary presence in Mexico.

«When he understood the charism of this Congregation, he expressed his will to continue a fraternal dialogue within the framework of a discernment for the presence of the Montfort Missionaries in his diocese»



The decisive stage of this discernment will be the meeting of the Extraordinary General Council (EGC) which will take place, via zoom, from May 1 to 9, 2021. On this occasion, Fr. Wismick JEAN-CHARLES was responsible for presenting to the participants the evolution of discernment for this missionary presence in Mexico. On the last day of the meeting, the assembly was called to vote on several topics/mission including the mission to Mexico.

After the close of the Extraordinary General Council on May 17, 2021, Fr. Luizinho wrote to the Superiors of Provinces, Vice-Provinces and General Delegations to remind them of what had been discussed during this EGC. Regarding Mexico, Fr. Luizinho wrote that **"almost all of the Superiors expressed themselves favorably for the continuation of the 'implantation phase' in Mexico"**.



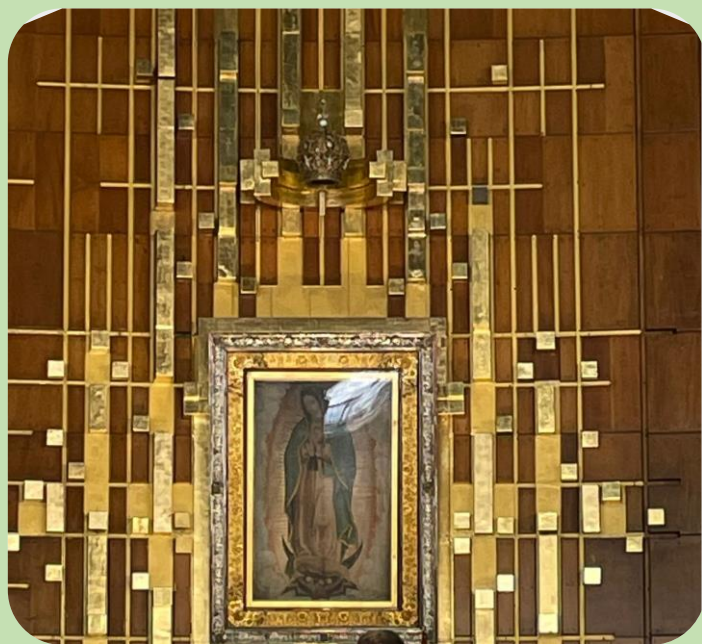
Subsequently, on July 26, 2021, Fr. Luizinho wrote to Fr. Gonzalo TABARES BUILES, SMM, to Fr. Harry Antonio FLORES MORALES, SMM and to Brother Jean Désiré RAKOTONANDRASANA, SMM, to thank them for the effort they provided, the information they gathered and the encouragement they expressed. All this has helped the General Administration to make its current decisions, with the support of the Extraordinary General Council.

Fr. Luizinho also announced to all three that the official opening of this Montfortian presence would begin on August 15, feast of the Assumption of Mary, at the cathedral of Ecatepec de Morelos. He also announced that the team that would be sent there is composed of Fr. José Luis SANDOVAL ROMERO, Fr. Love JOSEPH and Fr. Francesco CASTRIA. According to the plans laid out, the opening Mass of this mission would be presided by the Bishop of Ecatepec, Monsignor Oscar Roberto Domínguez Couttolenc, M.G.



On July 27, 2021, Fr. Luizinho also wrote another letter, this time addressing the superiors of all the Montfortian entities. He that on August 15, we will have the official opening of the Montfortian presence in the diocese of Eandcatepec, Mexico. Fr. Luizinho further announced that there will be two main stages in this Solemnity of the Assumption. The first being the celebration of the Eucharist in the cathedral church in the morning and the second, a pilgrimage to the "Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe to entrust the Virgin Mary with this new foundation" a 5 o'clock in the afternoon.





After the opening of the missionary presence on August 15, our three pioneer missionaries will stay at prayer and reflection with Fr. Jorge Enrique GONZÁLEZ VÁSQUEZ, Provincial of Colombia, during a week of integration and planning in this missionary work that has already started. They will also visit the parish of Saint Martin de Porrès, which diocese had plans to entrust to the Montfort Missionaries too. After this planning period, it was decided that the parish priest would be Fr. Francesco; the superior of the community would be Fr. José Luis and the treasurer of the community would be Fr. Love JOSEPH. According to the plan, on Sunday August 22, there will be a handover of the parish priest's office. After which, the team will begin to walk with the parishioners in the dynamics of the local Church of Ecatepec.





As part of this missionary presence in Mexico, it should also be noted that, on May 14, 2021, Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani also erected a diocesan center for the diocese of Tampico, Mexico, the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts. The Spiritual Director appointed for this Association is Fr. Joël Alanís Tinoco. While the vicar is Fr. Juan José Aguilar Fabián.

The dioceses of Tampico and Ecatepec are 459 km apart which is about a 6-hour by car. Mrs. Juana Margarita Flores Orduña, coordinator of the Association of Tampico, had the pleasure of attending the celebrations which took place on August 15 in Ecatepec. She is the one who shared all the photos of these celebrations for our newsletter. **Mrs. Margarita messaged me in WhatsApp: “The Fathers are very happy with our Bishop of Ecatepec. I think it will be a good mission. The Fathers who have arrived have a big heart”.**

The missionary presence in the Diocese of Ecatepec is proof that Covid-19 has failed to freeze all existing plans and initiatives. The Holy Spirit, missionary Spirit, breathed. We can certainly thank our three missionaries who heeded the call of such adventurous announcement of the Good News in Mexico. Thank you also to Bishop Oscar Roberto, to the priests and parishioners of the diocese of Ecatepec for their availability and the warm welcome they show to the missionaries.

**What should not be forgotten are of course the laity and the Montfortian Family who participate in the “Latin American Rosary” and who pray together every Sunday, via zoom.** This group prayed very faithfully for the purpose of this missionary presence in Mexico. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Joseph, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus interceded for this beautiful mission. To you, Fr. José Luis, Fr. Francesco and Fr. Love, good work! ■



**Missionary Sharing**

**DRINKING WATER PROJECT**

**By Fr. Aloï BANGGUR, from Kiunga, PNG**



*Fr. Aloï is the Superior of the General Delegation of Papua New Guinea (PNG) of Montfort Missionaries. His passion for improving the quality of life of the all the faithful living along the "Fly River" pushed him to make a real project for them, while keeping a missionary concern to animate the entity such as by being attentive to the formation of candidates and by sharing the spirituality with the Associates.*





**Kiunga, PNG** - After almost 40 years of living along the "Fly" river that flows on the border between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, refugees from West Papua, Indonesia, can now get water for their daily needs, especially for drinking and cooking food.

This "Fly" river is a river where the copper and gold companies in this region dump their toxic wastes, so that there is hardly any life along this river. These companies have been dumping their poison here for the past 30 years.

As parish priest of St Gérard parish, which is the cathedral of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga, I was asked to make a proposal to the "Australian Aid" "incentive fund" to help build water tanks in these 7 refugee villages. Praise be to God, the request for help was granted. So we got down to business. In three months, my parish team and I completed these projects.

Seeing the results, people are proud that they can now consume clean water. They thanked the Montfort Missionaries for the effort and work deployed to help them obtain drinking water.



I visited these villages by the end of July 2021. Each time I came around the region, I bless these springs and reservoirs of water, people dance while giving me gifts in the form of bags and chickens. After happy visits to these villages, their offering of chicken certainly comes to good use in improving our community menu.

Apart from blessing these water reservoirs during my visits to these villages, we also celebrated thanksgiving mass that was followed by baptizing 32 children ; blessing the marriage of 5 couples ; and celebrating the first communion of 22 young people. These are days of grand celebrations.



I can say that to serve this populations along the "Fly" river, would require a strong missionary force, from that of the pioneer missionaries ; those who can brave the distances between the villages that are very far apart knowing that this places can only be reached by using an "outboard motor". There are no roads or paths. Missionaries assigned to this apostolate must be vigorous missionaries and ready to overcome all obstacles and barriers. For it is about serving a people who live in the middle of the forest and very isolated from everything, especially from the noise of the city, and their main means of subsistence is fishing and hunting in the forest...





After having assured my service near the faithful in the middle of this jungle, on July 30 I flew to the capital of this country, Port Moresby, because by such a time, August 1, three scholastics of this entity will be renewing their vows. They are Bienvenu, Majoric and Michel. This event took place in the parish of Morata, with the full support of the parishioners, the Montfortian Associates and the parish priest, Father Moko. Big thanks to Father Roy Millano and Brother Nirina for being their formators at Montfortian House, Bomana.





**On this occasion, I also had the opportunity to personally meet the Montfortian Associates there, to listen to them and encourage them to live the missionary-spiritual life that Father De Montfort offers them.**

To my readers, I wish you all happy work, united in prayer with Father de Montfort. ■



## "TTJ - Grotto"

By Dola Dhanush, from Rome

*Last July 25, 2021, the Filipino community, who meet every Sunday to celebrate Mass in the gardens of the Generalate of the Montfort Missionaries in Rome, launched the preparation for consecration for interested participants.*

**ROME, Italy** - This preparation for Consecration was a desire of Fr. Reynaldo 'Rey' Bullas Jr., SMM, who is the spiritual guide of this Filipino community. Fr. Rey is the link between the "community of the Generalate" and the "Filipino community". He shared his wish to his fellow Filipinos. Thus, during the meeting on July 25, about twenty people expressed their willingness to enter into the process of preparation for consecration.

In this first meeting, several matters were explained to orient the participants. This orientation included defining consecration and its purpose; how to prepare for the consecration; books and methodology to be used, among others. And of course, St. Louis-Marie de Montfort - who he is and his mission; his proposed process toward consecration. Apart from these preliminaries, many other practical things were discussed so that the participants would feel comfortable in their journey to consecration that they will soon undertake. To facilitate communication between the participants, a WhatsApp group named "TTJ - Grotto" was created to mark the beginning of joining the process together, and to have this medium that will necessitate giving information to the group, such as the reading materials to be used during the process.





This group was named "TTJ - Grotto" because the book used to prepare them for consecration is entitled "Totus Tuus, A Marian Way to Christ-Wisdom". This book is authored by Fr. Claude Sigouin, SMM and Fr. Mario Belotti, SMM. "TTJ" means "Totus Tuus Journey", which refers to a spiritual process or interior pilgrimage in the experience of consecration to Jesus through Mary. Also, in our garden, there is a "Grotto" of Our Lady of Lourdes which was built during the last mandate of Fr. Santino Brembilla, SMM as Superior General. In front of this grotto is a tent where this Filipino community meets regularly. This tent is shaded by very bushy trees which provide a feeling of comfort in this summer.

It is under these shady trees that the participants of the preparation for the consecration end their weekly meeting by savoring a "Halo-halo", a familiar local dessert to Filipinos. Halo-halo, which is also written "haluhalo" is a Tagalog word meaning "mixture". It is a cold dessert, popular in the Philippines, made from crushed ice, evaporated milk or condensed milk, and a variety of ingredients including sweet peas, coconut strips, sago, sliced and boiled tareces of preserved fruit (based on internet description).

**"This preparation for Consecration was a desire of Fr. Reynaldo 'Rey' Bullas Jr., SMM, who is the spiritual guide of this Filipino community."**



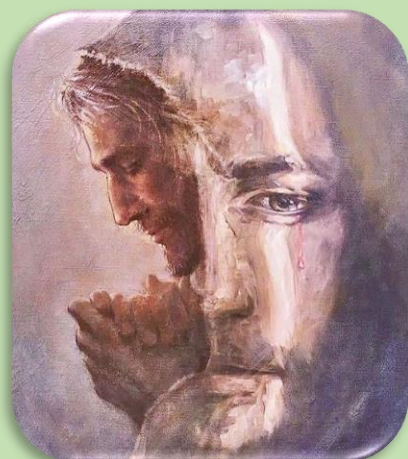
The participants are very motivated and ready to embark the Totus Tuus Journey. There has been an existing friendship among them like a family and now, this Filipino community is taking a step together towards a new spiritual path in the 'TTJ-Grotto' which brings about a nice comfortable feeling journeying together, keeping the bond stronger.

If all goes well, their consecration day will take place on Sunday, September 12, 2021. Good preparation! Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, pray for all of us. ■



“This devotion is a smooth, short, perfect and sure way of attaining union with our Lord, in which Christian perfection consists.” (TD 152)





# "Open to Jesus Christ"

By Pierrette MIGNÉ

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

**Sunday, 25th Week in Ordinary Time - Year B**

## **Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark (9, 30-37)**

*They left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about `it.*

*He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise."*

*But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.*

*They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"*

*But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.*

*Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."*

*Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them,*

*"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."*



In this passage from Mark that the liturgy offers us this 25th Sunday in ordinary time, we can distinguish 2 words of Jesus that Mark has grouped together. It does not seem to have any relation between them and yet it is the whole mystery of Easter expressed and how it is for us to live, following the example of Jesus.

Jesus for the 2nd time announces his passion: the Son of man will be delivered. It is indeed men who will deliver Jesus to the Roman authorities: Judas to the high priests. But they will thus accomplish the mysterious plan of God, who through the death of his Son on the cross wanted to reveal to men how far his love goes. To Israel who is often unfaithful to the Covenant, God responds with faithful love. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Yet the disciples do not understand. It is not as such the messiah that they expected. Only the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit will enable them to enter into this deeper understanding of God's purpose and to become his messengers and witnesses.

Following this announcement, that is after the first, Jesus now gives a teaching to his apostles on how to follow him and how to be a true disciple. He had already done so after the first announcement in Mark 8, 34 etc.

Jesus invites his disciples to be humble and not to seek places of honor. The disciple is the one who imitates the master. We can think of the last gesture of Jesus in Saint John with the washing of the feet. To follow Jesus is to be a servant.

To illustrate his point, Jesus makes a gesture with that of the child whom he places in the middle. This is contrary to the mores of the time, when the child was not considered. Let us remember the episode where the disciples rebuked the children and want to keep them away from Jesus.

The 'child' represents the poor, the excluded, the rejected in society ; the one who is not considered. Jesus emphatically teaches his disciples that to welcome a child is to welcome Christ.

**This is what Saint Louis Marie understood so well and put into practice all his life. When carrying a poor person on his back he cried: "open to Jesus Christ"**

**I am writing this article on the day that followed the funeral of Father Olivier Maire- he who was killed by the poor man that he welcomed as a faithful disciple of Saint Louis Marie and of Jesus Christ. Fr Olivier is martyr of charity. ■**

