

Jesus Living in Mary

Monthly Newsletter of Formation & Information + N° 43, November 2021 + Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts



**«Rise and Shine,
Montfort in Asia-Oceania»**

p. 24

**Asia-Oceania Continental
Year, 2022**



Indabo za Mariya (The Flowers of Mary)



**By Brother Jean Chrysostome
Rurangirwa, SG
Director of the Association
Mary Queen of All Hearts in
Rwanda**

*Here is the annual report of the
spiritual group "Indabo za
Mariya" (The Flowers of Mary)
for the year 2020. This group is
part of the Association Mary
Queen of All Hearts.*

1. Brief history

It was following the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, «Mother of the Word», in Kibeho-Rwanda (from 28/11/1981 to 28/11/1989) that the «Indabo za Mariya» group was born. At Christmas 2004, a Christian from Kigali, Madame Emerita Mukayiranga, had the idea of making monthly visits to Kibeho, place of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary «Mother of the Word» and proposed her idea to others. Since then, pilgrimages have been organized to Kibeho, except during this period of Covid-19.

As the first members of the group were having a thanksgiving Mass celebrated for their first anniversary of the pilgrimages to Kibeho, Father Anastase Nzabonimana, then parish priest of their Parish of Kacyiru, advised them to find a Marian spirituality capable of strengthening their faith in this process. It was Father Anastasius himself who asked the Brothers of Saint Gabriel to accompany this group. After their preparation, twenty-six (26) members made their Consecration to Jesus through Mary according to the method of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, on February 26, 2006.

The «Indabo za Mariya» (The Flowers of Mary) spiritual group was established as the Rwandan Center of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts on December 8, 2009.

On February 11, 2010, Brother Jean Chrysostome Rurangirwa, Brother of Saint Gabriel, was appointed spiritual animator of the group.



2. Coordination

Emerita Mukayiranga is the coordinator (president) of the group.

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3. Formation

Emphasis on the following main axes:

- a. Call to live the vocation to holiness common to all baptized;
- b. Call to make “family” within the Montfortian charismatic family;
- v. Constant reminder of the major themes of Montfortian spirituality: Mission, Cross, Jesus Incarnate Wisdom, Mary.
- d. Pilgrimages;
- e. Message from Mary Mother of the Word delivered in Kibeho;
- f. Current ecclesial theme (Reconciliation, Laudato Sì; Fratelli Tutti);
- g. Preparation process for Consecration.

4. Requests:

- a. In order to get to know each other better, we would like to have formation visits to our Center, on the part of those in charge of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts;
- b. We should study how to promote mutual knowledge of the groups that make up the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts by exchanging each other's experiences;
- c. Consider a distinctive badge (emblem) for all members of the Association.

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5. Group activities in 2020

In general, the life of the spiritual group "Indabozza Mariya" (The Flowers of Mary) during this year 2020 has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even if some members claim to have taken advantage of the period of confinement to meditate and pray more on a personal level, it must be admitted that the community life of the whole group has been considerably affected by these difficult times caused by the Covid-19.

Among the activities disrupted by this pandemic are:

- a. The monthly pilgrimages that the group "The Flowers of Mary" made every last Sunday of the month to the Shrine of Our Lady of Kibeho.
- b. Physical meetings (general assemblies, meetings of various commissions, committee meetings, and others).
- c. The preparation of the Consecration to Jesus through Mary for the new members and the renewal of the Consecration for the old ones.
- d. Social activities within the group and outside (e.g. visiting patients in hospitals or homes, visiting members of bereaved groups or other social cases, etc.)

Even if these activities were handicapped in their normal and usual course, it must be recognized that the members of the group did not give up completely. At the social level, a minimum service was organized and carried out by small groups while respecting the measures taken by the authorities to avoid contamination and the spread of Covid-19. So there were visits to members who were in need.

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Even if these activities were handicapped in their normal and usual course, it must be recognized that the members of the group did not give up completely.

At the spiritual level, those responsible, especially spiritual (Chaplain, brother spiritual animator, president ...) tried to do everything possible to keep the group in the spirit of prayer, especially during the period of total confinement.

An example: One of the group's spiritual endeavors is therefore the pilgrimage that the group makes every last Sunday of the month to the Shrine of Our Lady of Kibeho. However, given the health measures taken by the country's authorities, including the restriction of travel, both abroad and within the country, the group could not continue to do (physically) these pilgrimages. Nevertheless, the group did not give up the beautiful habit of this common prayer. The commission in charge of spirituality made sure that this prayer / habit did not stop. Those responsible for this commission used social networks (in particular the Whatsapp network) to continue to maintain this link through prayer.

Thus every last Saturday of the month (the day before the pilgrimage), the persons in charge of the said commission communicated to the whole group the program of the pilgrimage. Thus each member could follow this program at home, but in a new atmosphere of spiritual communion despite the distance. It was in union of hearts that the members spent the days of the last Sunday of the month (days normally dedicated to pilgrimages).

During this period of confinement (especially partial confinement), the "Flowers of Mary" group undertook other activities such as:

- a. Programs on «Pacis TV» (channel of the Catholic Church in Rwanda) hosted by members of the group.
- b. Teachings intended for the members of the group to keep them in the movement of prayer (teachings given by the spiritual leaders: the chaplain, the brother spiritual animator ...).
- c. Other communications, via Whatsapp, aimed at making up for the lack of regular encounters.
- d. At the level of the different parishes, the members were able to meet in prayer. The prayer intentions were almost the same in all the groups, namely: prayers for the sick (especially those of Covid-19), prayer for the whole world (especially for the eradication of the Covid-19 pandemic), without forgetting the universal intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

At the beginning of October 2020, there was a slight slackening in terms of travel (by bus) within the country which allowed some members of the group "The Flowers of Mary" to make a pilgrimage on October 7, 2020 (feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary), at the Kibeho Shrine. And since then, following the official opening of places of worship, other groups, in reduced numbers, have been able to resume pilgrimages as they do every Sunday.

Regarding the Consecration, it could not take place, as planned, but this was an opportunity for the new ones to better mature their preparation and their decision while continuing to prepare themselves internally.

Meetings with many members could not take place, but important communications were made via social media (especially Whatsapp). Committee meetings have been reduced but not completely eliminated. Committee members continued to communicate by telephone and met when conditions permitted. But it should be noted that currently, since the last months of the end of 2020, the situation has improved and small groups (e.g. the heads of commissions and the committee) can meet to discuss urgent matters.

Here we can cite the example of the meeting of 15 November 2020 with the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, in order to prepare the anniversary celebration of the apparitions of Kibeho.

In short, it is in these conditions that the members of the group «The Flowers of Mary» continue to carry out their activities by giving thanks to God for this glimmer of hope which looms on the horizon, while hoping that everything will fit into order, that this pandemic will be conquered and that they will again be able to have plenary meetings as before.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF «INDABO ZA MARIYA»: 2006: 26; 2007: 8; 2008: 11; 2009: 13; 2010: 10; 2011: 10; 2012: 6; 2013: 13; 2014: 9; 2015: 5; 2016: 3; 2017: 2; 2018: 12; 2019: 10.

Total: 138 members. ■







**By Father Jean Claude
RAMANDRAIVONONA,
Director of the Association
Mary Queen of All Hearts of
Madagascar**

Association Mary Queen of All Hearts in Madagascar

1. HISTORY AND MEMBERS

a). History

With Fathers Claude BOICHUT and Carlo BERTON, Mrs. Mi RAKOTOARISOA Robinson Claudine Romaine received help for her Christian journey in Andraisoro, Antananarivo. She had good preparation with the Fathers and could enter the Montfortian Association, thanks to the good support received from the Fathers. In 1990, she was under the spiritual direction of Father Claude Boichut.

1990 - 2000: We prepared ourselves spiritually, with several Montfort Fathers; among others with Father Carlo BERTON.

March 02, 2002: First meeting in Andraisoro with Father Crescent RAFAMANTANANTSOA. We were already 82 in number, 40 couples and two singles.

February 02, 2003: The Association had its first existence in Toamasina. It was therefore in that year, the month of September 2003, more precisely on September 8 to 14, 2003 that a General Assembly was held composed of the three Congregations, that is to say the Daughters of Wisdom, the Montfortian Brothers of Saint Gabriel and the Company of Mary, under the theme: "Together loving, living and proclaiming Wisdom". Members were increasing in number, but were not overly consistent. We have always kept this meeting date every two years, in September, and it is constantly set at the end of the Baccalaureate exam.

November 04 to 07, 2005: General Assembly in Antananarivo, at the Daughters of Wisdom. The chosen theme was: "The Role of the Laity in the Church and Poverty according to Montfort".

September 12, 2006: The commitment was more accentuated because eight members were present in Andraisoro. We had the first Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

September 03 to 09, 2007: General Assembly in Mahajanga, at the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel. The theme was "Christian Life and Wisdom, the Laity and the Cross".



September 14 to 21, 2009: General Assembly in Mahanoro at the Daughters of Wisdom. The theme was "Lord, teach us to pray - The Role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the History of the Salvation of the World".

At that moment, we made the decision that each Congregation should receive such an assembly and not just the Daughters of Wisdom and the Montfortian Brothers of Saint Gabriel. We therefore noticed the lack of interest shown in our meetings on the part of the congregation of the Company of Mary. So comes the Assembly in Anivorano, at the pastoral place of the latter, in 2011.

September 5 to 12, 2011: General Assembly in Anivorano at the SMM. The theme was: "Montfort Charism and Spirituality. The Cross according to Montfort".

August 28 to September 04, 2013: General Assembly in Fandriana, at the Daughters of Wisdom. The theme was: "Baptism according to Montfort, the present faith and sects, Christian life and poverty". The Superiors of the three Congregations were present, it was the first time.

2015: Tercentenary.

September 05 to 12, 2016: Closing of the tercentenary in Mahajanga, place of work of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, during which there were 6 new members of Tamatave who presented themselves for Consecration: three coming from the Parish of St. Thérèse in Salazamay and three from Sacred Heart in Antanambao V, without forgetting the renewal of the Consecration.

The themes are divided according to the age of the participants: Mercy, Montfort Spirituality and the Biography of Father de Montfort... If, at the beginning, the commitment of the priests or the Fathers of the Company of Mary was very weak, after Mahajanga, there was renewed interest and participation multiplied with serious engagement. As a result, the membership has increased, especially in Andraisoro.

For the year 2019, the General Assembly could not be carried out, because of the school program in Madagascar; but an Assembly of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts (AMQAH) should be noted: it took place in Salazamay, Toamasina, from October 29 until November 1, 2019, on the occasion of the perpetual vows of two Montfortians.

So from October 29 to November 01, 2019: Montfortian gathering for the laity or the AMQAH in Salazamay, Toamasina. It was officially at that time that the Association was recognized under the name: «Association Mary Queen of All Hearts» (AMQAH) or «Fangavagna Montfortana Malagasy» (FMM).

March 21, 2020: The arrival of COVID-19.

b). Members at this time:

Andraisoro: 20; Antsobolo: 50; Toamasina: 52; Brickaville: 19; Maromamy: 16.

Total: 157 members.

The Statutes are already drawn up, but we have to wait to explain them to all the members, because of covid-19, and specify the list of members.

2. ACTIVITIES

- a. Formation
- b. Details of the identity of the Association;
- c. Knowing and understanding Montfort;
- d. Deepening of Montfort's works such as: TD, LEW, SM;
- e. Connecting the AMQAH with the Church (local parish);
- f. Re-insistence on the life of Baptism, Mary and the Cross;
- g. Recollection during peak times;
- h. Rosary among members, in turn, once a month;
- i. Especially for Andraisoro and Antsobolo, adoption of a pilgrimage movement, with a long walk and a common rosary, during Lent, always ending with the Stations of the Cross;



j. Engagement pastoral, comme la catéchèse, pour chaque membre ;

k. 2004-2007: Catéchèse et approvisionnement en nourriture aux prisonniers. Mais malheureusement, cette catéchèse a dû être arrêtée à cause de l'accessibilité limitée et difficile au sein de la prison. Mais l'activité d'équipement et approvisionnement a pu continuer. Et pour le moment, seule la maison de charité est en bénéfice, même durant ce covid-19 ;

l. Soutien apporté aux jeunes postulants d'Andraisoro-Antananarivo par une cotisation mensuelle et aussi par des opérations de renforcement de caisse, annuellement, pour Toamasina, pour les pré-postulants.

m. Meilleure volonté possible de la part de chacun : par exemple, la justice exige de réagir contre la corruption et d'aider les gens à savoir la vérité sur les méfaits la prison. Il y a aussi la CARITAS. Dorénavant, on soutient les jeunes Montfortains en formation (postulants) à Antananarivo ;

n. Rassemblement à l'occasion d'un événement très marqué, tel que les vœux perpétuels, la prêtrise ou le diaconat ;

o. Union dans le deuil ou la joie ;

p. Pendant le covid-19 :

- ° Sensibilisation à distance sur l'Association et la vie en tant que chrétien(ne) ;
- ° Unité dans le malheur ;
- ° Séances de préparation pour les membres se préparant au renouvellement et aux engagements directs ;
- ° Célébration des fêtes, d'une manière simple, pour chaque entité ou groupe ;
- ° Contact à conserver soudé, malgré les éventuelles impossibilités ;
- ° Correspondance soutenue par les nouvelles et informations, de même la relation avec le directeur spirituel.

3. PROJECTS IN THE FUTURE

a. Meeting of representatives of each province; it is already under development;

b. Edition and publication of the book "Following Jesus Christ with Mary", translated into Malagasy;

c. Editing and publication of the Statute containing the list of members; while waiting to have, at the same time, the explanations for the members.

4. CHALLENGES

a. Gathering of members, in one place, for better sharing. We know that a financial problem could surely hamper this project;

b. Increase the number of members, knowing moreover that the strict directives of the Bishops prevent the double integration of members of another Association.



5. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- a. Financial problems and difficulties in finding regular meeting times;
- b. The relationship between laity and religious, at the time of festivals and the development of programs and meetings;
- c. Low level of meetings between members, due to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- d. In certain activities, the motivation of the members decreases, for example for the recitation of Lauds, every Saturday morning. It is always the same, among the most active, who are present and participate in it;
- e. Communication problem in activities, resulting in a tie-break, depending on the difference in living standards and knowledge between people;
- f. Membership motivation issue for some new members.



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Increase the number of members, knowing moreover that the strict directives of the Bishops prevent the double integration of members of another Association.



6. SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

We already have some as in Tamatave, but not yet confirmed. Elsewhere for Antananarivo: Andraisoro has one, already active, unlike that of Antsobolo who is still in theological studies (scholastic). For Maromamy and Brickaville: there is nobody. But the Father Director, Father Jean Claude, is still active for the whole.

7. DESIRES

- a. International training
- b. Relationship corresponding to the same language inter-country
- c. Edition of our book: " Following Jesus Christ with Mary" translated into Malagasy as well as the Statute containing our list. ■



Missionary Sharing

THE JOY OF BREAKING, SHARING AND LIVING THE WORD OF GOD



By Fr. Bala Showri, SMM

The author of this article, Fr. Bala Showri, is an itinerant preacher proclaiming the Good News, relying on Divine Providence for his livelihood. In this sharing, this Indian Montfort Missionary expresses his love for the Word of God which among other things reveals to him the mystery of the Incarnate Word living in the Blessed Virgin. His writing is like a sermon, filled with the moving fire of the Holy Spirit.

On eagles wings I have been carried with the sight of His majesty and simplicity, glory and beauty. Thrilling presence of God, his love and peace did I savour from the very day he called me to be an instrument to His mission and Kingdom. I started my spiritual journey with the hunger and thirst I had for God. Because of that I took a single step of a thousand miles from my home town in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh to the city of Bangalore in Karnataka, Southern India. The Deccan Plateau is surrounded by hill ranges, ghats and lakes in the midst is the Garden city of Bangalore (the «Deccan Plateau» is the large plateau in southern India between the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats). The city was graced by many enlightened spiritual teachers and masters who shared their enlightened and liberative experience to the seekers of God who came to the city.

In early 1974, I entered the Seminary of the Montfort Missionaries, at Maria Bhavan, Bangalore, to respond to God's call. To welcome me were the ardent and hardworking Italian visionaries and Montfort missionaries: Fr. Attilio Corna SMM, Fr. Michael Angelo Corna SMM. Later joined us were Fr. Mario Belotti SMM and Fr. Isidoro SMM. To guide young men in their spiritual quest in the Company of Mary joined another simple, gentle, humble and holy priest, Fr. Donald Macdonald SMM, from the province of Great Britain.

It was in my novitiate that Fr. Donald, my novice master, sowed the seed of the incarnate word in my heart. Every time he would begin his spiritual discourses by a prayer based on scripture from Isaiah 50:4. It reads, “The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.” The word had to take root and grow in me.

After my Ordination, I was at the service of the congregation and the local church in ministering the people of God. While I was the Rector in 1994 at Guru Mandir, Mysore, I made myself free to attend a retreat at Potta in Kerala.



The retreat was totally based on the Holy scripture, the word inspired me, the power and the message led me to reach out to the many corners of Southern India. The fire of the Holy Word and the Holy Spirit was burning within me.

The words of St. Louis de Montfort from the Prayer for Missionaries constantly kept coming to my heart and mind. St. Montfort says in PM. 17, “... when you breath your spirit into them, they are restored and the face of the earth is renewed. Send this all-consuming Spirit upon the earth to create priests who burn with the same fire and whose ministry will renew the face of the earth and reform the church.”

From that very day I started to proclaim what the Lord had done to me in word and deed in Jesus Christ through the hands of Mary and in the footsteps of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. Hence forth, I started walking the path of an Itinerant preaching missionary.





In the book of the prophet Amos, 8:11 we read, **“the time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send the famine on the land; not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but a hearing of the words of the Lord.”**

The growth, the development, the problems and the suffering of people at the global scenario worldwide has changed since the 1970s till date, the technology and development has changed but the dynamics is the same. Since the beginning of the human race, there is a great longing of hunger and thirst for God’s Word.

I have worked in the Diocese of Mysore for 10 years, in the missions in the Diocese of Kurnool for 10 years, in the Diocese of Srikakulam for 5 years. I gave service to the congregation at Mysore for 3 years and with the support of Bishop Raja who was then the Provincial Superior of the Montfort Missionaries, I continued my itinerant preaching mission in the Dioceses of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.



According to the gospel narratives, energy goes out from Jesus when he heals the sick and casts out demons. Light radiates from his body and clothing when he is transfigured on Mount Tabor. And with a burst of energy he dies: “Crying with a loud voice he yielded up the spirit” (Mark 15:37). This same energy appears clearly in the Acts of the Apostles and the Pauline Letters where the Spirit is manifested in gifts of healing, prophecy and wisdom which flow forth from charismatic people. But the greatest energy and the greatest gift is love (1 Corinthians 13:1). God is love (1 John 4:8). The Word is love. The Word is life-giving and loving energy.

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the technology and development has changed but the dynamics is the same. Since the beginning of the human race, there is a great longing of hunger and thirst for God's Word.

I travelled on the missionary journey to proclaim Jesus the Lord to the people in towns and villages in season and out of season, in good times and hard and trying times during this pandemic, nothing can hinder the word, “Nothing can separate us from the Love of Christ” (Rom 8:39); with the power of the Risen Lord Jesus and His Word, which is a living and creative.

It is likened to **a lamp and a light** (Prov. 6:23; Ps. 119:105), to **a living and incorruptible seed** (1 Peter 1:23), to **rain and dew** (Deut. 32:2), to **honey** (Ps. 119; 103). In the eastern Christian tradition it is **“Vital Energy”**.

Mary, our mother with her complete and total ‘YES’ and surrender to the will of God, praises and glorifies God in the Magnificat. First, Mary sings about a **MORAL LIBERATION** in which God blesses the humble. Jesus said, “Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised.” Mt 5:5. Second, Mary sings about a **SOCIAL LIBERATION** in which God blesses the poor. Jesus said, “Blessed you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.” Lk 6:20. Finally, Mary sings about an **ECONOMIC LIBERATION** in which God blesses the hungry. Jesus said, “Blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be satisfied.” Lk 6:21.





St. Montfort says, “Our Blessed Mother Mary, the Paradise and the Echo of God” (SM 19,21). Mary gave us the Son of God, the Incarnate Word to be the answer to our thirst and hunger for God which brings liberation and freedom from our desires, struggles and needs. In this wonderful journey, I experienced and do testify. If you need peace, hope, joy, love, freedom, healing and strength, it is only JESUS the answer and no other name.

I have seen in my parish missions, in my itinerant preaching in communities, families, street corners and one to one faith sharing that: Jesus to the lost, he is life; to the confused, he is the truth; to the weak, he is power and strength; to the disturbed, he is peace; to the lonely, he is love, healing and comfort; to the hungry, he is the bread of life; and to the thirsty, he is the source of living water. He is the HOLY ONE OF GOD; and the mother Church invites us to “A UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS” (LG.40), and be THE LIVING TRANSPERANCIES OF JESUS.



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If you need peace, hope, joy, love, freedom, healing and strength, it is only JESUS the answer and no other name.



Since Jesus gave us an example (Jn 13), let us come and serve our God as scripture says, “You shall be holy to me; for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the people, that you should be mine” (Leviticus 20:26). God has separated us because the Lord says, “YOU ARE PRECIOUS TO ME, I LOVE YOU”. (Isaiah 43:4). DON’T GIVE UP AND WAIT COMING TO GOD. God loves you, no matter where you are and what is your state, COME TO JESUS. In whatever we do for GOD ALONE, God himself says, “MY PRESENCE SHALL GO WITH YOU” (Ex 33:14).



St. Louis-Marie de Montfort says, “Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest and the most perfect way of approaching Jesus and will surrender themselves to her, body and soul, without reserve in order to belong entirely to Jesus.” (LEW 212). Our dear Mother Mary is with us on our spiritual journey and she says, “DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU” (Jn 2:5). READ, STUDY, AND PRAY the Divine Word (DV.25). Jesus is the Author of all graces. RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION. FREQUENT THE ADORATION OF JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

The Fathers of the Church call Mary, the tabernacle of Divinity. RECITE THE FAMILY ROSARY: “A family that prays together, stays together”, says Fr. Patrick Paton.

God assures us, “Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” Isaiah 41:10).

I wish you well, to do all things well, like Jesus (Mk 7:31-37); walk the extra mile. With St. Paul, the lion of God, I profess, “I believed, therefore, I have spoken” (2 Corinthians 4:13). God bless you. ■



Appointment

MEETING WITH THE BISHOP OF
TAMPICO, MEXICO, AND
APPOINTMENT OF SPIRITUAL
DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION
MARY QUEEN OF ALL HEARTS



By Margarita Flores Orduña (Mexico)



Fr. Joël, Mgr José Armando and Mrs. Margarita.

Tampico Tamaulipas, May 2021

Dear sisters and brothers, receive a cordial greeting.

I am Margarita Flores Orduña, Montfortian Associate, I appreciate the opportunity to share with you the visit to our Bishop Mgr José Armando Álvarez Cano, bishop of the Diocese of Tampico, to deliver the letter of greeting from Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani, Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries, and the book of the Complete Works of Father de Montfort, which Father Jorge Enrique Gonzalez and Father Gabriel Riveros SMM kindly sent to us. It's such a precious gift!

We had a small talk with our Bishop to tell him about the happy news of the forthcoming foundation of the Company of Mary in the Diocese of Ecatepec, hoping that evangelization in Mexico will bear many fruits through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. "Welcome" Fathers José Luis Romero Sandoval, Father Francesco Castria, Father Joseph Love (SMM) in the Diocese of Ecatepec.

Our Bishop saw fit to appoint Fr. Joel Alanís Tinoco as spiritual director of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts and Fr. Juan José Aguilar Fabian as vice-spiritual director.

We thank God for this. We also thank Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God, for all the graces received, hoping to remain faithful lay people in the service of the Church in the different ministries that each one exercises, thus deepening a path of Montfortian spirituality.



Fr. Joël and Bishop José Armando.

Dear Father Luiz Augusto thank you for all your support and always count on our prayers. Thank you also to Father Arnold Suhardi, thank you for your service to the consecrated Montfortian Associates of our Diocese.

Fraternal greetings,
Margarita Flores Orduña ■

Mrs. Margarita and Fr. Juan.



On October 11, 2021, Mrs. Margarita informed the Montfortian Associates of the Parish of the Good Shepherd of the Diocese of Tampico of the receipt of their certificates of Consecration. In the photo there is also Father Zeferino Acuña Betancourt.



Letter from the Superior General of the Company of Mary
or of the International Director of Montfort Associates

Rome, November 25, 2021



**Fr. Luiz Augusto
STEFANI, SMM**

«Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia-Oceania»

Asia-Oceania Continental Year, 2022

Dear Confreres and Montfortian Associates,

The Continental Year for Africa and Madagascar is still not over. During visits to the countries of this continent, the members of the General Council witnessed the enthusiasm of the Montfort Missionaries in missionary life. Their participatory liturgy with hymns, music, dances, clapping, etc., flows and confirms the divine life in those who take part in the various celebrations we have attended.

All the welcomes, meetings, dialogues with various people we met in this continent awakened not only in us who visited but also in the confreres and people there the spirit to walk together towards a brighter future amid various challenges that exist.

Still keeping to heart the warmth of this Continental Year of Africa and Madagascar, **now the entire Congregation will be asked to turn its attention to the Montfortian entities that exist in Asia and Oceania.** On these two giant continents, the little Company of Mary has four entities: **India, Indonesia, PNG and the Philippines.**



Our Members in Asia and Oceania

Although India and Indonesia are the two big entities in this Company, they are small in their continent or even in their country when compared to many other Congregations. This smallness is certainly understood here in terms of the number of members and the impact of the very «discretive» apostolic work that these entities have.

In a situation like this, Montfort's words are sure to cheer up our confreres in these two continents. «"Fear not, little flock, because it has pleased your Father to bestow a kingdom on you" (Lk. 12:32). Fear not, although, humanly speaking, you have every cause for fear.... » (Letter to the Members of the Company of Mary, 1).



According to current statistics, at the time this letter is written, it can be said that **India** has 65 priests, 2 bishops, 35 scholastics, 4 novices and 4 pre-novices. While **Indonesia** has 71 priests, 1 brother in perpetual vows, 2 scholastics in perpetual vows, 66 scholastics in temporary vows, 4 brothers in temporary vows, 15 novices and 16 postulants. **Papua New Guinea** for its part, has 12 priests, 1 bishop, 1 brother in perpetual vows. To be more precise still, it must be said that in PNG missionaries come from various entities: 5 confreres come from India, 7 confreres from Indonesia, 1 missionary from the Philippines and 1 missionary from Madagascar. Today, this General Delegation has 5 postulants; 3 scholastics of temporary vows, 2 of which are sent by the General Delegation of French-speaking Africa. The **Philippines** has 18 priests, 1 brother in perpetual vows, 2 scholastics in perpetual vows and 5 scholastics in temporary vows. We can say that the presence of candidates in each of these entities ensures the prospect of healthy growth. This gives hope for the future to the whole Congregation.

Furthermore, based on the latest data, there are 17 Indian Missionaries who work outside their home country and there are 2 people who are preparing to go to Germany. Then there are 15 Indonesian Missionaries who work outside their home country, and there are 3 people who are ready to go respectively to Portugal, Papua New Guinea and possibly Vietnam. I am certain that, in the discernment leading to the new mission in Vietnam, the first founding missionaries will come from these continents, one person who has been reserved in Indonesia is already a real hope. Let us pray for this intention. Finally, there are 3 Filipino Missionaries who are currently working outside their home country. From this we can see that these entities are offering a real contribution to the international mission of our Company.

Among the confreres from Asia and Oceania who are currently abroad, there are several who are pursuing further studies in the context of future ministry: 4 from India and 3 from Indonesia. Then there is 1 from PNG and 1 from the Philippines who are preparing for further studies. This is without mentioning some of the confreres who are doing further studies in their respective countries. These will all be necessary for future leadership succession.

Then, with regards to **Montfortian Associates** it can be said that **India** has 60 registered members; while **Indonesia** has 335 members; **PNG** has 32 members; and the **Philippines** has 99 members without counting all the countless people who consecrated themselves. This Montfortian spirituality sharing is part of Montfortian mission to these two continents which shows a thirst for a deeper spiritual life.



Place and Type of Mission Work

With regards to Missionaries in perpetual vows working in their entities in Asia and Oceania, it is good to know more clearly where they are and what they do.

In **India**, confreres on perpetual vows can be found in the Vice-Provincial administrative house, in houses for initial formation (minor seminary, pre-novitiate, novitiate, scholasticate), in a social home for underprivileged children, in two schools and on coffee plantations; the rest work in parishes.

Still in India, there is a Marial Center, which also works in conjunction with sharing the Montfortian spirituality with Montfortian Associates. In addition, there are also confreres who are involved in itinerant preaching and become spiritual animators for various ecclesiastical groups.



In **Indonesia**, the confreres serve in the administrative field of the Province, apart from letting themselves available as spiritual guides for various ecclesiastical groups. There are many confreres who work in the field of formation (two minor seminaries belonging to the dioceses, community of aspirants, postulant-novitiate, scholasticate) and in parishes. They can also be found in the two categorical missionary communities «à la Montfort».

This entity pays attention to sharing spirituality through Montfortian Associates locally called «Kerabat Santo Montfort» (KSM).

In **PNG**, almost all the confreres can be found in parishes, even the Superior of the entity administration of the PNG Delegation General is still a parish priest. This is important for their financial autonomy.

Now they also have a formation house located in the country's capital, Port Moresby. This entity has just started to open itself up to share the Montfortian spirituality with the laity.



In the **Philippines**, the spread of the Montfortian spirituality is very prominent in the work of the confreres. There were certain confreres who were assigned to it, but all the confreres who serve in other fields are actually involved. They all work together in a solid team of very dedicated lay people.

Apart from this special area, confreres are found in houses of formation, in parishes and in the administration of the General Delegation of the Philippines.

It should be specifically mentioned here that **in India, Indonesia and the Philippines there are some Missionaries who continue their missionary work by carrying the cross of their health.**

Sick confreres continue to receive the attention of the responsible of these entities in order to find the best solutions for the restoration of their health.

It is certain that their missionary life emanates from prayers offered in struggling silence, from willingness to be cared for, from smiles and patience.

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Thus «Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia-Oceania» is an encouraging cry, which pushes for a Montfortian presence in these two continents to be prophetically meaningful



How to «Rise and Shine»?

After seeing the number of members, the type, map, and extent of the work of the Montfort Missionaries in these two continents, the question is: how to make their presence meaningful to the environment in which they live? This meaning has to do with the contribution, precisely a distinctive contribution, that their missionary presence might provide.

To get there it is important for the Missionaries in these two continents, along with their Missionary Associates, **to be true to their distinctive identity**. It is this sense of self-identity that radiates a unique light to their surroundings, while being aware that the Montfortian identity is dynamic precisely because of its contact with the local context in each country.

So «Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia-Oceania» which become the theme of this Continental Year is not a «big story» that is boastful in nature. The basis for this «Rise and Shine» is «self-oil» (read: self-identity) which will be faithfully lived by the Missionaries in this region along with their Montfortian Associates. And that light will not radiate widely and infinitely by reaching all corners of these two giant continents, but locally, in places that are within reach of these Missionaries and Montfortian Associates.

Thus «Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia-Oceania» is an encouraging cry, which pushes for a Montfortian presence in these two continents to be prophetically meaningful.

In this continental calendar year, there appear to be several special opportunities to reflect on this theme in more depth: firstly, **on the official opening of this Continental Year in Manila on January 23, 2022**, then and especially on the **Continental Assembly which will take place in Malang, Indonesia, on 4 -13 July 2022** and finally at the **official close of this Continental Year in one of PNG's places in December 2022**.

We will live all this in the **spirit of synodality. Togetherness, communion, participation and cooperation are some of the keywords of this synodal mentality.**

Hopefully all of this can be applied by the Montfort Missionaries and Montfortian Associates in preparing and carrying out this Continental Year of Asia and Oceania. This fits with the fact that, in the Church calendar, we will be in the middle of preparation and even implementation of the Synod on walking together, «synodality», in October 2022.

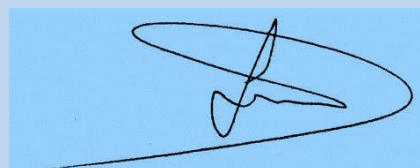
The words of encouragement in the development of the Synod also serve for us: «Walking together, and reflecting together on the path traveled, the Church will be able to learn, from what she will experience, what are the processes that can help her to live communion, to participate and to open oneself to the mission».

Finally, let us unite our hearts and minds with our confreres and our Montfortian Associates in Asia and Oceania as they seek to consolidate and renew their presence and missionary zeal in these two continents. May all people in Asia and Oceania let God be present and reign in their hearts.

May the «Secret of Mary», the preparation for the reign of Jesus Christ, be more and more revealed by the Holy Spirit to the people of these two continents.

I wish you all a happy entry into Advent which will begin this Sunday 28 November. Advent is a promise, a time to wait but it is certainly more than a hope. Because the Lord has truly come and invites us to follow him resolutely. We hope that this Continental Mission Year that we are about to begin, gives us strength to live the missionary desire of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort to be a missionary without borders to the peripheries. We can live this ideal in our context in Asia and Oceania. It's not impossible that we could put these words of Thomas Merton: «In Asia I hope to find anything or someone to help me move forward. I don't know if I will finish my days here, and that is not the most important, well, the most important thing is to always respond to the will of God». Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus always pray for us all.

My greetings in Jesus living in Mary,



Fr. Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM
Superior General ■

Website:

<https://www.montfortian.info/asia-oceania/>



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Biblical Insights

«Jesus is king when he gives his
life, he is king by serving
and the cross is his throne!»



By Pierrette MAIGNÉ

NOVEMBER 21, 2021
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE
UNIVERSE - YEAR B



Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John (18, 33b-37)

*Pilate said to Jesus,
"Are you the King of the Jews?"
Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own
or have others told you about me?"
Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I?
Your own nation and the chief priests handed
you over to me. What have you done?"
Jesus answered,
"My kingdom does not belong to this world.
If my kingdom did belong to this world,
my attendants would be fighting
to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.
But as it is, my kingdom is not here."
So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"
Jesus answered,
"You say I am a king.
For this I was born and for this I came into the
world, to testify to the truth.
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my
voice."*

On November 21, we celebrate Christ the King of the Universe and, in this year B, the Gospel that is offered to us is that of John 18: it is a passage from the story of the Passion.

In the Gospel, in fact, we find few affirmations of the Kingship of Christ. Jesus speaks of the Kingdom but he does not call himself king, especially not king of the Jews, a title worn by the last kings of Israel and which therefore takes on a political character.

The mention of the Kingship of Jesus in this passage resonates only in the mouth of Pilate who asks him the question: are you the king of the Jews? In response, Jesus does not expressly assert himself as king, but speaks of his kingship.

In this short passage the terms king, kingdom come up six times, indicating that everything revolves around this question of royalty.

What then is the kingship of Jesus? Jesus begins with a negative definition: my kingship is not of this world. Indeed the kingdom announced by Jesus in the Gospel has nothing to do with our kingdoms of the earth, its values, its system, its splendor, its obviousness and its wanderings. He does not impose himself as King but he proposes himself as such to those who are willing to welcome him and who thus become subjects, witnesses, of this Kingdom of which the Beatitudes speak to us.



What is "His kingdom"? His kingdom is the truth! For a Jew, the truth is God himself. The word truth has the same root as our word "amen", it is solid, sure! we belong to the truth, it does not belong to us, we let ourselves be taken by it, we trust it.

If Jesus agrees with his kingship, he recalls at the same time the meaning of his mission and the conditions of reception which are faith and listening to the Word.

Jesus is king when he gives his life, he is king in serving humanity and the cross is his throne!

His kingdom is a kingdom of life, of love, and it is eternal.

To celebrate Christ the King is to recognize that we have to receive ourselves from God, that our life does not belong to us or those of others, but that it is up to us to live as children of this kingdom that Jesus came to reveal to us. How? By becoming more and more servants of our brothers and sisters. ■



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