

Jesus Living in Mary

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

An Association Center

MONTFORTIAN ASSOCIATES IN UGANDA, EAST AFRICA



By Fr. Ernest Akhonya Mukavana, SMM
Director of Associates, Uganda

Father Ernest, the author of this sharing, is a Montfort Missionary from Kenya. After having worked in the diocese of Mbarara, Uganda, in recent years, he has been appointed this year as Master of Novices for the General Delegation of Anglophone Africa, in a Novitiate House also located in Mbarara.

In this article, he describes the beginning of the establishment and continued development of the Association «Mary Queen of All Hearts» in Uganda. This cannot make us forget the first involvement of Isabella and Paula Duncan from Portugal who had worked in Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

1. Brief History of the Associates in Uganda

Recent years have seen a great and lively interest “... to establish and spread the reign of Mary in souls so as to enable Jesus Christ to reign more perfectly there”.

This has led to a big presence of people joining our Association of Mary Queen of all Hearts. These Christians living with a reality of being pilgrims, have set:

“... to obtain the gift of wisdom in order to know, love and practice the truth of our faith and to lead others to Christ” (The Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Saumur, no.1) through Mother Mary.



“” Isabella and Paula are Portuguese who were living in Uganda by then. They had been exposed to this spirituality in their country of origin before and were consecrated.

The founding of these Associates in Uganda was made possible in 2012, through the initiative of Isabella and Paula Duncan in collaboration with the Montfort Missionaries in Mbarara. The biggest group is in Kampala.

Isabella and Paula are Portuguese who were living in Uganda by then. They had been exposed to this spirituality in their country of origin before and were consecrated. When they noticed that many people were interested in the Montfortian Spirituality, especially his teaching on the True Devotion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they set to teach them by availing the book of the True Devotion to Mary. **They obtained the approval of the local Ordinary, the Nuncio to Uganda at that time and contacted the Montfort Missionaries who supported them in this course.** Isabella made the PowerPoint slides out of the book True Devotion to Mary, which are still in use to this day (with minimal modifications).

“” The founding of these Associates in Uganda was made possible in 2012, through the initiative of Isabella and Paula Duncan in collaboration with the Montfort Missionaries in Mbarara. The biggest group is in Kampala.

After Isabella had left Uganda, this work remained in the hands of Paula who carried it on with great zeal and love.

She taught and witnessed the consecrations in various parishes and institutions, such as Christ the King – Kampala, Mbarara, St. Augustine – Seeta, and institutions such as Makerere University, Kyambogo University and schools such as Nsambya girls.

She worked hard and ensured that members were able to access the book of True Devotion to Mary and the 33 days preparation teachings and consecration formula.

She did this by sacrificing her own resources to import the books to Uganda, and selling them at zero profit. She made the chains and bought a beautiful image of Our Lady of Fatima which she used during the consecrations.

In 2016, Paula had to return to Portugal. It was then that the Montfort Missionaries went more to Kampala to meet and teach the Associates. In 2018 another group was started in Mbarara by Fr. Ernest Akhonya and Fr. Innocent Mwanoka (who had just finished his theology course at Hekima College-Nairobi). This group comprises of people from Mbarara and the surrounding districts.

These two groups (Kampala and Mbarara) make one Association.

2. The development of members from year to year and how many members as a whole are there currently

This development is marked through formation on the Montfortian Spirituality that ensures that the members have a deep knowledge of the Spirituality they have committed themselves to and how they live it. And also there is an active involvement of the members in the spread of this Spirituality.

We know there are many who are consecrated. But at the moment we can talk of about 400 members.

3. The current coordinators are:

- a. **Arthur Mugoya** (chairperson – on study leave- in Australia)
- b. **Katherine Nabyonga** (Vice chair and acting chairperson)

4. What formation activities are provided to the members?

- a. Lessons on the life and Spirituality of Montfort, brief history of the congregation, history of the foundation and the place of the associates in the congregation.
- b. Pilgrimages.
- c. Pastrol activities.
- d. Gatherings for prayer and recollections

Current members of the Montfortian community in Mbarara, Uganda:
Fr. Oscar, Ronald, Felix, Edward, Fr. Ernest, Fr. John Mary, Luka, Abbas



5. What are the missionary or apostolic activities carried out by the members both individually and especially collectively on behalf of the group, also in cooperation with the Montfort Missionaries?

The apostolic activities we are involved in are built on charitable participations.

a. We visit the sick, prisons; and individuals are involved in more activities like visiting homes of the elderly and the needy.

b. To spread the Montfortian Spirituality in institutions of learning and Parishes.

c. To live and be a witness of this Spirituality in whatever reality of life that is appropriate to each member.

d. To seek to deepen our knowledge on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the effects of the Montfortian way of consecration.

This association in Uganda has a well-organized work program agenda or well-scheduled routine activities.

Current members of the Montfortian community in Mbarara, Uganda:
Fr. John Mary, Edward, Abbias, Ronald, Fr. Ernest, Luka, Felix, Fr. Oscar





In the photo: Ms Paula Duncan while working in Uganda with the associates

6. Challenges faced

- a. The biggest challenge is the pandemic that we are living in now. This could not allow us to work on the schedule and fulfill it.
- b. there are many people who have been directly affected. We have lost some members through this pandemic.
- c. lack of books
- d. We rely on the good will of the parish priests to give us a free space for learning, teaching and operations, especially in Kampala.
- e. The proper register of the consecrated members was not kept from the very start of the Associates especially in Kampala. They are very many who are consecrated but only few can be located and be followed.

We are so grateful for the blessings that God has given to our Associates. In this group we have the clergy and the religious as well. ■

Deepening and Sharing

THE DAYS OF SPIRITUALITY IN LORETO

A small seed that has sprouted into beautiful fruit



By Fr. Alfio Mandelli SMM, from Italy



“” It is a particularly significant place, as a living reference to the mystery of the Incarnation that Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort himself had placed as the foundation of his own spirituality.



What you are about to read is a unique and constant initiative on the way in which Montfortian Spirituality is explored and shared in an openness that includes all movements or groups and all those who live the spiritual proposal of Montfort, in the Christian life, or who want to know it, explore and experience it. It is an annual activity launched by the Italian Province in Loreto which includes a contextual study of the life and teachings of Montfort, fraternal sharing, various sacramental celebrations and the renewal of Consecration to Jesus through Mary in the Holy Spirit.

The author of this sharing is Father Alfio Mandelli, one of the driving forces behind this initiative. He is also known as the author of the book on preparation for consecration with the title: "TOTUS TUUS. Month of Preparation for the Montfortian Consecration" published by Edizioni Monfortane. It is quite possible that this sharing is a source of inspiration for the birth elsewhere of a creative and contextual initiative that various Centers of the Association can lead at the local, regional or even national level. Good reading.

1. Genesis of the "Days" of Spirituality in Loreto

The initiative of the "Days of Spirituality" was born from the proposal of a few Confreres engaged in the accompaniment of groups of people consecrated according to the spirit of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort.

The first meeting was held in Loreto, from October 8 to 10, 2004. Since then, the "Days" are celebrated regularly every year until 2019. While the September 2020 meeting has been canceled due to problems of organization conditioned by the pandemic.

The choice of Loreto as the permanent venue for the Days is not accidental.

- It is a particularly significant place, as a living reference to the mystery of the Incarnation that Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort himself had placed as the foundation of his own spirituality.

- In addition, tradition has transmitted the visit of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort to the Holy House of Loreto, in the year 1706, on the occasion of his pilgrimage to Rome, to meet Pope Clement XI there.

- Finally, Loreto is a place very dear to the Province of Italy of the Company of Mary, because it was the seat of the Novitiate from 1933 to 1935 and especially of the Scholasticate from 1935 to 1961. In the Basilica of the Holy House many Italian Confreres were ordained priests.

2. The objectives of the Days

The initiative, born with the aim of offering to the Montfortian Marian groups present in Italy, and to the individual laity who live the Spirituality of Consecration taught by Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, presents the opportunity to meet, to know each other, to share experiences, to deepen the content of the Montfortian proposal and to rediscover the beauty of his baptism and the joy of belonging to Jesus through the hands of Mary.

The Days aim to increase the feeling of belonging and the bond of the laity with the Montfortian Family, thanks to the presence on those days of many Confreres, Daughters of Wisdom, young people in formation, as well as, if possible, the Superior General. or the members of his Council and the Provincial Superior.

It is proposed to encourage a greater sharing with the laity of the treasure of our spirituality and their active involvement in the sharing of spirituality and in the mission. Not only, therefore, recipients and users of the initiative of the Days, but also active members, all share together the project of evangelization according to the Marian way indicated by Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort. The Days are an opportunity to respond to the task of preparation and formation of lay animators.

Another objective is to make the Confreres of the Province of Italy aware of the Marian dimension of Montfortian Spirituality and mission, exhorting them, as well as the communities present in the region, to commit themselves to accompanying the groups and the laity towards Consecration to Jesus through Mary.





3. The participants in the Days and their origin

There has been a gradual increase in the number of participants in the Days; we went from around fifty in the first years, to 450 in the 2019 edition.

This growth can be explained by the intensification of the spreading of the Spirituality of Consecration by the Montfort Missionaries in Italy. Indeed, the itineraries of preparation for the Montfortian Consecration, proposed and animated in ever new geographical areas of the country, have multiplied considerably. In this way, the number of consecrated lay people increased and accepted with joy the proposal to participate in the Loreto Days as an important annual moment in their spiritual journey.

Geographically speaking, the participants in the Days now come from all over Italy. Most of them belong to groups that have followed the journey of preparation for Consecration.

Many of them, after the Consecration, applied to be registered with the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts, then becoming members.

There are also participants who come from the Friends of Wisdom groups of the Daughters of Wisdom, the Consecratio Mundi Movement and the Arch of the Virgin Mary Institute. Finally, members of the Legion of Mary, of the Renewal of the Spirit, of Padre Pio's groups are faithful to this Montfort meeting.

4. Thematic itineraries of the Days

The Themes of the Days have been chosen from year to year, in the light of the progress of the Universal Church, of the Italian Church and by drawing on the contents of Montfortian Spirituality.

For example, the Year of Faith, announced by Benedict XVI, spontaneously guided the choice of the theme for the Days in 2012: “Crossing the Door of Faith with Mary”.

Thus, the Year of Mercy, desired by Pope Francis and the Tercentenary of the death of our Founder, dictated the theme of the Days of 2016: “Montfort, Marian Witness of Mercy”.

The 2008 Synod of Bishops on the Word of God inspired the Days of 2009 entitled: “With Mary at the Heart of the Word”.

On the other hand, the 2015 Days around the theme: “In the house of Mary. Montfortian Consecration to the Heart of the Family”, referred to the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family celebrated that year.

The 2011 National Eucharistic Congress proposed the theme of the 2010 Days: “The Marian Fragrance of the Eucharist”.

More strictly “Montfortian” Themes have been developed; they are for example: “With Mary at the Source of our Baptism” (2014), “Give me your Heart - True Devotion, a Spirituality of the Heart” (2017), “With Mary, Disciples of Jesus” (2018) and “O Mary, obtain for me the True Wisdom of God” (2019).

For the 2020 edition, taking into account the continental year "Montfort Eur_Hope", Hope has been chosen as the thematic horizon. We hope to be able to offer it again in Loreto from September 10 to 12, 2021!



Here is the full list of themes:

- 2004: "So that your Kingdom come, that the Kingdom of Mary Come"
- 2005: With Mary towards the Fullness of the age of Christ
- 2006: Living and precious Stones for heavenly Jerusalem
- 2007: The Beatitudes: Path of Conformation to Jesus Christ through Mary
- 2008: With Mary, at the School of Crucified Wisdom
- 2009: With Mary, at the Heart of the Word
- 2010: The Marian Fragrance of the Eucharist
- 2011: The Spiritual Journey with Mary
- 2012: Crossing the Door of Faith with Mary
- 2013: With Mary, on the Paths of the New Evangelization
- 2014: With Mary, at the Source of our Baptism
- 2015: In Mary's "House". Montfortian Consecration to the Heart of the Family
- 2016: Montfort: "Marian" Witness of Mercy
- 2017: "Give me your Heart". True Devotion a "Spirituality of the Heart"
- 2018: With Mary, Disciples of Jesus
- 2019: "O Mary, obtain for me the True Wisdom"



During the Days, the themes are explored mainly through catechesis. Over the years, the field of speakers has widened, also drawing on the skills and wisdom of other people, priests, lay people, outside the Montfortian circle which might seem narrow.

There is also a space to listen to life stories and testimonies. Particular attention is paid to the celebrations and moments of prayer (Eucharist, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Montfortian Consecration), animated by the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts, Regional Center of Trinitapoli (Province of Barletta-Andria-Trani).

At the heart of the Days, the renewal of the Consecration to Jesus Christ through the hands of Mary is set like a precious stone, in the evocative setting of the “House of Yes”, of the “Totus Tuus” pronounced by the Incarnate Word and by the Virgin of Nazareth.



5. The "after" Days

The Days have become a meeting awaited and desired by those Consecrated to Jesus through the hands of Mary. After Loreto, they return to their respective parishes and groups or simply to their homes, full of the spiritual experience they have had.

The Days, which mostly coincide with the start of the new pastoral year, normally mark the resumption of the journey of the Montfortian Marian groups, then are punctuated throughout the months by strong moments of catechesis, prayer and service.

After the celebration of the Days, attention was paid to giving continuity to the experience, in particular through:

- the preparation of monthly sheets on the theme of the Days, to be used in groups and by consecrated persons individually, for reflection, study and prayer;
- the drafting and periodic sending of a newsletter. From now on, it has been decided to send the monthly formation and information bulletin "Jesus Living in Mary", Italian edition, edited by Fr. Arnold;
- the proposal, through social media, of moments of catechesis and spiritual formation for the members of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts, also shared with all Consecrated Laity.

In addition, in recent years, it has seemed useful to implement the opportunities for meeting Consecrated lay people in Italy, at the zonal level. Hence the choice to offer, especially in Northern and Southern Italy, a one-day gathering organized in the style of the Loreto Days.

Of course, there are still open questions, which mainly concern the broader aspect of the spiritual accompaniment of the laity on the "Marian path" indicated by Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort.

More precisely, for the Days of Loreto, it is a question of ensuring that they are more and more the point of arrival and departure of the journey of groups and individual Consecrated lay people.

The Days must be part of a more global project of accompaniment of the laity in Montfortian Spirituality which foresees the preparation of itineraries for Consecration and for the deepening of their Marian experience. Finally, that they become a laboratory for the active valorization of the laity and be more and more an important expression of the Province of Italy of the Montfort Missionaries as such. ■

“” The Days have become a meeting awaited and desired by those Consecrated to Jesus through the hands of Mary.

These photos were taken from: <https://www.monfortani.it/risorse/foto/>
XVI Giornate di spiritualità mariana monfortana - Loreto 13-15 settembre 2019

Vocational sharing

“Jesus Christ is everything
that you can and should
wish for ...”

By Fr. Peter Makina SMM, from Malawi



I am **Peter Makina** from Malawi. I am a priest of the Montfort Missionaries and I was ordained in 2016.

The Montfort Missionaries came to Malawi in 1901. They were among the first Missionaries to settle in Malawi. These Montfort Missionaries came from Italy, France, the Netherlands and England.

As soon as they arrived in Malawi, they founded schools and hospitals, but above all they announced the Gospel to the people. **Like Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, the Montfort Missionaries taught catechism. The rosary was always in their hands wherever they went. Their closeness to people allowed many people suffering from various diseases, the poor, orphans and widows, to find hope.**



For a long time, the Montfort Missionaries were confined to the south of Malawi where they founded several parishes. Recently the parishes of the Montfortians were entrusted to the diocese; we only have four left. As there were not many schools in Malawi, the Montfort Missionaries established nursery, primary and secondary schools. They also built hospitals. As Montfortain Missionaries, we work in Spirituality Centers, we spread the Gospel through the media and we work in parishes.

In these parishes we have Christians with different experiences. Some people are very good. They know how to welcome people. Most of the time people are poor. There are orphans, widows, sick people and broken families. And we are called to give hope to all these people. We are called to help them realize that they, too, are children of God. It was the vocation and the mission of Saint Louis-Marie himself who most often preferred the poor and the needy.

But how can we give hope to these people with different experiences? Normally we have the celebration of the Eucharist in parishes. Then we visit people in their homes. To the sick we bring the Eucharist and the Word of God. To orphans and widows, we bring the word of hope.

How did I meet the Montfort Missionaries?

There were Montfort Missionaries in my parish. But they left the parish to the diocesans. They had done a good job. The Marian Spirituality that they had established in the parish was still bearing fruit. It was always an inspiration for me to see someone celebrate Mass.

The words of Saint Louis de Montfort inspire me a lot. In his book, *The Love of Eternal Wisdom*, he wrote: **“Jesus Christ is everything that you can and should wish for. Long for him, seek for him, because he is that unique and precious pearl for which you should be ready to sell everything you possess”** (LEW 9). Why have these words become so important to me?

I grew up with my mother, and in 2001 she passed away. It was a difficult time for me as she was in charge of my tuition fees. With prayer, I realized that God can do great things because some people have come to help me.

“” In the parishes where I work, I like to visit the sick, be with young people and celebrate the Sacraments. Just like St. Louis-Marie who was available to everyone, I do my best to be available to anyone who is in need.

When I entered the seminary of the Montfort Missionaries, we were five young people. After a year, my friends left and I was left alone. It was another difficult time for me, because I asked myself a lot of questions, for example: "Is this my way"? Why have my friends left? But with prayer, God guided me and I became a religious and a priest.

These two experiences, the departures of my mom and my friends, have helped me realize that when we seek God, when we desire God, God can do great things. He is a good Shepherd who never abandons his children.

This is the gift of love received from God through the Montfort Missionaries. This is why I gave myself totally to the service of God and to the service of my brothers. In

the parishes where I work, I like to visit the sick, be with young people and celebrate the Sacraments. Just like St. Louis-Marie who was available to everyone, I do my best to be available to anyone who is in need.

Thanks everyone. May the Lord bless you and may we all seek and desire God. ■



Missionary Project

PROVIDENCE AT WORK

IN THE SMM CEBU MISSION UNDER MARY'S INSPIRATION



**By Fr. Paul Arnel
Lucero, SMM, from the
Philippines**

Father Paul, commonly known as Father Dodong, author of this article, is Master of Novices in Manila. He is currently in the area of the Montfortian mission in Cebu. Father Dodong himself is a former superior of the General Delegation of the Philippines.

This experience wants to underline the importance of the spirit of sharing for the realization of a "miracle". May this beautiful dream of which he is going to speak to us, that of the realization of the Sanctuary of Mary Queen of Hearts, come true.

The covid-19 pandemic has caused a lot of changes and adjustments in the Philippine Delegation. One, the International Novitiate could not embark for a new batch of international novices due to the candidates' inability to travel to the Philippines.

After finishing the 2019-2020 Batch of International Novices on August 1st, our Delegation Superior, Fr. Norwyn Baydo, SMM gave me a temporary assignment. In the middle of September, he asked me (together with Bro. Ronald Baruela and later on Bro. Armel Collantes, both scholastics) to travel to Cebu and attend to the spiritual needs of the people who are living nearby our Montfort Mission Community in Lower Calajo-an, Minglanilla, Cebu.

Since our arrival, we have been able to continue our mission like celebrating the Sacraments such as of Penance, of Anointing of the Sick and of Holy Eucharist, taking care of the poor by distributing food to the indigent children. All these celebrations were challenging because of the serious threat of the deadly virus.

Thus, we always had to observe rigid health protocols. In the celebration of the Holy Mass for instance, the new normal was to get the names and contact information of every person who come for the Eucharistic celebration, checking each one's body temperature as they enter the compound, always wearing facemasks and face-shields during the celebrations, use of alcohol, proper social distancing, etc.



MONTFORT MISSIONARIES COVERED-COURT-TURNED-PLACE-OF-WORSHIP

Initially, we only had a few people who come for the Holy Mass which was held inside our small community chapel. But as the people who come for the Sunday Eucharist grew rapidly into hundreds, we had to use our spacious basketball covered court. The community used their creativity to make the place a decent one by using recycled curtains and boards as an “altar tableau”, securing more monoblock or plastic chairs, and decorating the area with some ornamental plants. Even with our best creativity however, the place was still less dignified for the celebration of the Holy Mass. **Thus, we initiated last December a project to make a better altar tableau. By the grace of God and with the support of many of our generous friends, our dream came true. By Christmas time, we successfully made a simple, native (made of bamboo), yet very solemn altar tableau in our “covered-court-turned-place-of-worship”. It was our gift to the newly born Jesus inspired by our Blessed Mother!**

While we were having the Misa de Gallo (9 days of dawn Masses in preparation for Christmas), we got a very special sign from heaven. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, after Mass, a couple approached me to inquire if I was willing to receive a statue of our Lady which was initially donated to a particular parish but apparently it was not accepted for unknown reasons. And I immediately said : “Absolutely, Yes, I will accept!” **We were in great awe to see a very beautiful Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, a perfect replica of the Statue at the Capelinha in Fatima, Portugal.** What a powerful sign from Jesus! “Son, here is your Mother.” (Jn. 19:27).



As the weeks and even months passed, in March 2021, we got the inspiration to further improve the place of worship and make it even more a worthy place for the solemn celebration of the Holy Mass. We initiated a new and bigger project (an ambitious one!), i.e. tiling (putting of ceramic tiles) the concrete floor.



True, people in the neighborhood are generally poor but they are generous. Interesting to note: the scores of youth who volunteered, the sacristans who worked for free as construction helpers and mothers who prepared food for lunch to the workers. In one of our Masses, we highlighted our belief in the power of sharing, no matter how small. We expressed it the phrase of the “multiplication of the tiles and cement,” just as we have the “multiplication of the bread and the fish” in the Bible (Mt 14:13-21). **We believe in miracles. And miracles do happen when people share their blessings and Jesus blesses their generous act of giving.**

This expensive project totally depended on Divine Providence again, the first big project we started without any budget at hand. An architect and two civil engineers offered their professional service for free. **Many church-goers and members of the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts joined together to do some solicitations from prospective donors and benefactors. Personal and friends of the congregation also shared what they could afford.**



“” This expensive project totally depended on Divine Providence again.

Lastly, every Mass attendee likewise gave any amount their limited resources allowed them to generously give. It was touching to hear a mother who approached me after Mass saying that all his family could share was an amount to buy for one tile, which is about two dollars. She’s like the widow in the Gospel who gave all she had for a living (Mk. 12:41-44).





“” We gave to Jesus what the people generously shared and like the miracle of the multiplication of loaves, the Lord also blessed the people’s gifts and a miracle happened.



After four months of continuous work and sharing of resources, trust in Divine Providence and inspiration from the Blessed Mother, we are now at the culmination of this project of the tile installation on the floor of the covered-court-turned-place-of-worship. We got more than what we dreamt because not only the floor was improved but also surroundings.

Without doubt, this project is a testament of the power of God, manifested in sharing whatever limited resources each one has, in this time of great financial difficulty due to the pandemic. We gave to Jesus what the people generously shared and like the miracle of the multiplication of loaves, the Lord also blessed the people's gifts and a miracle happened.



As of now, we do not know what's next in the plan of God and what Mama Mary will inspire us (her children) to do. We can see that His Providence continuous to work by touching more people to support the dream of further improving the place. Who knows, this place will become one day, a "Little Shrine of Mary, Queen of All Hearts." Let's see what will unfold before our eyes in the coming weeks and months ...

It is exciting! All because we have a God, a Father in heaven who will always provide, a Mother who continues to inspire us to do what Her Son tells us and an elder brother Louis-Marie, our model of doing mission. All for the greater glory of GOD ALONE. ■



Natural disasters on Adonara Island and Lembata Island, in Eastern Indonesia

By Dola Dhanush, from Indonesia

In the first week of April 2021, a natural disaster occurred in "East Nusa Tenggara" (Indonesian: Nusa Tenggara Timur -NTT) Province, Indonesia. In particular, the people of Adonara Island and Lembata Island have suffered great suffering. This disaster also affected the eastern part of the island of Flores and several other islands in the same province.

This natural disaster takes the form of a tropical cyclone named "Seroja". This tropical storm brought with it enormous rains that resulted in flooding, "flash" floods and landslides.



This cyclone and rain occurred surprisingly on Sunday April 4, 2021.

Based on data compiled from various sources, on April 7, 2021, it was said that 124 people died, 129 people were injured one way or another, 74 were missing and over 13,000 people became refugees.

In addition, it was said that 688 houses were heavily damaged, 272 were moderately damaged and 154 were slightly damaged.

The cyclone also caused severe damage to roads, bridges, power lines and waterways, leaving many villages isolated and struggling to receive aid.



Various photos of the damage caused by cyclone "Seroja" on April 4, 2021.





For the refugees, “public kitchens” were immediately set up everywhere. The search for missing victims has been hampered by the lack of adequate equipment. For isolated villages, aid had to be distributed by helicopter.

The President of the Republic of Indonesia, several ministers concerned in his cabinet, the governor of the Province of NTT went there to see the first aid that could be provided to the victims. President Joko Widodo visited the disaster site on April 9, 2021, by helicopter.

Help came from various parts of the country. The Montfort Missionaries, for their part, in collaboration with the Montfortian Associates in various towns, also collected aid to be distributed to disaster areas. This assistance came in several waves.

The performer on the ground for the distribution of aid was Father Obet, SMM, who works as Vicar at the Parish of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, in the Diocese of Ruteng, West Flores.



Humanitarian donations for the victims of Adonara Island and Lembata Island through the coordination post (Posko), Montfort Missionaries (SMM), Indonesia.

Father Obet and the truck that delivered the aid to various destinations: from the western end of the island of Flores to the eastern end of the same island, then through the island of Adonara and the island of Lembata.



Coordination Center for Aid provided by the Diocese of Larantuka.



The boat trip from Larantuka, a town at the eastern tip of Flores Island, to Adonara and then to Lembata.



The aid provided mainly consisted of basic necessities such as rice, noodles, dried fish, milk, cooking oil, soap, clothes, blankets, medicines.

So far, the residents, who suddenly became refugees, still need help. The most urgent is the psychological support of the residents so that they can assimilate this traumatic experience. Of course, we cannot forget the possibility of aid for the reconstruction of houses and social facilities (roads, electricity, water) and public facilities (schools and health infrastructure) as a basis for the future.■



The President ordered the relocation of flood victims to Lembata and Adonara.



President Jokowi saw with his own eyes the victims of the "flash" floods in Lembata and Adonara.

BECOME A CLEAN GLASS WINDOW

Priestly ordination of David Giapunda Mukwabadi and Josip Magdić, Montforti Missionaries, in Rome

By Arnaud KWIZERIMANA, from Rome, Italy



On Saturday July 10, 2021, the Congregation of Montfort Missionaries had two new priests. The newly ordained were David Giapunda Mukwabadi, from Congo RD, and Josip Magdić, from Croatia. They were ordained in the parish church of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, in Rome, by Cardinal Angelo Comastri.

The first reading they chose is from the prophet Jeremiah 1: 4-9 where the prophet tells the story of his vocation and mission.



The second reading is taken from the letter of the Apostle Paul to Ephesians 4: 1-7,11-13, where Paul says that it is Christ who **«gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists ; while others as pastors and teachers. Still others to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ».**

This reading from Paul to the Ephesians is certainly very appropriate because it explains how Christ enriched his Church. This reading rings even more wonderfully in the hearts of those who are in contact with the writings of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, the founder of this missionary congregation. The reason is that, it speaks of the ultimate goal of growth in the Christian life. In several of his writings this “apostolic missionary” repeatedly quotes the words of the apostle Paul above: **«we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ».**

Then the Gospel reading was taken from the Gospel of John 10, 11-16, where Jesus said, **«I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep».**



In his homily, Cardinal Angelo Comastri commented on Mary's “yes”. He also spoke of the need for holy priests in our world, such as the priests met by Blessed Charles de Foucauld. These priests helped Charles de Foucauld to meet God, through Jesus Christ. All this led to a radical change in his life, and even to be ordained a priest. All this helped him to live his life and his singular mission, in a coherent way.

At the end of the mass, in order to encourage the two new priests, the Cardinal who is “high priest emeritus of Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican” said that a holy priest is invisible, he is transparent like a clean glass window. If the glass window is visible, it means it is dirty.

By this He did not further explain what he meant to say. Such comparison to a window, is open to various interpretations. But we think the message he wanted to convey is that , through any priest, people should be able to see Christ clearly. **Because Christ lives fully in him, he can shine Him brilliantly towards others, he becomes an “other Christ”, in Latin, an “alter Christus”.**

While this is an interpretation, I hope there is nothing wrong with hoping and praying that such a beautiful thing can come to life in the life of David and Josip who have been ordained ministerial priests. And may the lives of all of us who have become priests keep all the purity of our Baptism. ■



«The Almighty has done great things for me: he has lifted up the lowly»

August 15, 2021
**Solemnity of the Assumption of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**

By Pierrette MAIGNÉ

Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke (Luke 1: 39-56)

Mary set out
and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of
Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant
leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a
loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does
this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting
reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be
fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me and
holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every
generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He
has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the
rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he
has remembered his promise of mercy, the
promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever."

Mary remained with her about three months and
then returned to her home.

For the feast of the Assumption, the Church invites us to meditate on the text of the visitation. Let us dwell on a few sentences from this text.

Mary set out and traveled to the hill

country in haste to a town of Judah: the grace that Mary received at the Annunciation, she does not keep for herself; she sets out to share it with those who are able to receive it: Elizabeth and John the Baptist. The meeting of the two mothers is even is much more the meeting of the two children: Jesus and John the Baptist, whose mission Mary and Elizabeth serve.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting: it is the voice of Mary that provokes the «leaping for joy» of John the Baptist, and Elizabeth becomes a prophetess.

Elizabeth cried out in a loud voice: to utter a loud cry is a verb which is used for liturgical acclamations in the Temple. We are in the midst of revelation, in the midst of the liturgy. The Holy Spirit reveals to her the presence of Jesus in Mary.



‘How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’

These words of Elizabeth are strangely similar to those of David at the coming of the ark of the covenant: «How can the ark of the LORD come to me?» (2S.6: 9). The ark stayed three months with Obed-Edom, Mary will stay three months with Elizabeth. The whole tradition has drawn the parallel between Mary and the ark of the Covenant: just as the ark contained the presence of God, Mary who bears Jesus within her is the new ark of the Covenant. If we compare the two texts of the visitation with the transfer of the ark of the covenant, we notice 3 points in common. They are : the journey through Judea ; the manifestation of joy ; and the three month-long stay. The message is clear. The ark that is Mary begins her revelation and the Maker is the Holy Spirit. I invite you to read Psalm 132 which sings of the transfer of the ark of the Covenant.

Blessed are you who believed: this is the first beatitude addressed to Mary and she celebrates her faith in the Word of the Lord.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: Mary's response is a song of thanksgiving, she celebrates the Lord. She does not hold back the praises of her cousin for herself. Rather, she celebrates the deeds of God like Miriam the prophetess (Ex 15,20...), like her predecessors: Deborah (Jg.5) Anne (1S.2, 1-10) Judith (Jdt.16).



All generations will call me blessed: Mary's humility does not stop her from proclaiming what she sees as the works of God.

The Almighty has done great things for me: Mary recognizes and confesses what God is accomplishing in her.

Holy is His Name: we can speak of a profession of faith of Mary.

Let us listen to what Saint Louis-Marie tells us: **«Mary was created only for God...Mary is the wonderful echo of God. The more a person joins himself to her, the more effectively she unites him to God. When we say "Mary", she re-echoes "God". When, like St Elizabeth, we call her blessed, she gives the honour to God»** (Secret of Mary 21). ■



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