

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MONTFORT

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A spiritual journey
proposed on the occasion of the Tercentenary
of the death of Montfort



Presentation

As in previous years, the General Council of the Montfort Missionaries proposes for the members of the congregation and its lay associates, a spiritual journey that may also be of use to the members and associates of the other Montfortian congregations. On the occasion of the tercentenary of the death of Montfort, it is fitting that this journey should be based on the person of Montfort himself. The journey is entitled: “In the Footsteps of Montfort”. It invites us in effect not to visit the “geographical places” but rather the “spiritual places” to find Montfort in them and to allow ourselves to be transformed by contact with him.

We offer you in this leaflet the various elements of this spiritual journey with a few suggestions for its use. We thank the three people who have worked on it: Father Jean-Louis Courchesne, s.m.m., Sister Claudette Danis, f.d.l.s., and Father Georges Madore, s.m.m. Special thanks also to Fr Paul Allerton who did the English translation.

AIM: to follow Montfort spiritually in order to rediscover him, to let ourselves be questioned by him, to submerge ourselves in his life, his faith, his love of Christ and Mary, his missionary zeal.

USERS: members of our Montfortian Congregations and their lay associates. Any person or group of persons interested in knowing Montfort better and following him.

METHOD: Engaging in a spiritual journey inspired by twenty-one events in Montfort’s life

COMPONENTS: Each module is made up of the following elements:

- a short presentation of an event in Montfort’s life
- a drawing representing that event
- a value to explore based on that event
- a quotation from Montfort’s writing expressing this value
- a biblical personage or event that sheds light on this episode
- personal integration through certain questions
- a short prayer of praise or petition, in the form of a ‘prayer for the faithful’
- Action-commitment: a concrete commitment

METHODOLOGY: we propose a two-weekly rhythm, starting 14 Septembre 2015 to 11 September 2016. But each individual or group can choose whatever rhythm they feel is more appropriate. The journey can be made in small groups or individually either for lay associates or religious. One can also use the proposed material to build his/her own personal retreat.

PUBLICATION: the 21 parts of the animation tool are being offered in the following formats on the websites **montfortian.info** and **montfort-tricentenary.org**:

- an A4 .doc format

and in the following formats in the form of independent leaflets:

- A5 .doc format

- A5 .pdf format

**The 21 events forming the spiritual journey
«In the footsteps of Montfort»**

EVENT	VALUE
1. Birth and Baptism at Montfort	The gift of life
2. Youth in Montfort, influence from his environment	Our roots
3. Departure for Paris	Ruptures that help us grow; surrendering to God's providence
4. Ordination in Paris	Priestly service
5. Arrival at the General Hospital of Poitiers	Being with the poor and serving them
6. Encounter with Marie-Louise	Friendships that accompany us and make us grow
7. Marie-Louise moving to the General Hospital	Radical call; being called to a mission that entails hard choices
8. Stay in <i>Rue du Pot de Fer</i>	Spiritual deprivation, desert, strong desire
9. End of writing of Love of Eternal Wisdom	Experiencing the love of Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom for me; answering to this love
10. Meeting with and calling of Mathurin Rangeard	Mathurin the catechist : helping faith to grow; expressing one's faith in a simple manner and proposing it.
11. Mission in Montbernage; Rosary entrusted to Jacques Goudeau	Rediscovering and reinventing the prayer of the Rosary
12. Pilgrimage to Rome and encounter with Pope Clement XI	Belonging to the Church; committing oneself to the renewal of the Church

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| 13. Pilgrimage to Mont St-Michel | Pilgrimage, symbol and element of our spiritual journey |
| 14. Lay disciples of Montfort: the Count and the Countess de la Garaye and the Marquis de Magnanne | Role and commitment of lay people in the Church and in Montfortian congregations |
| 15. Stay at St-Lazare | Community life |
| 16. The great missions | Evangelization |
| 17. Construction and demolition of the Calvary at Pontchâteau | The Cross of Christ and my own |
| 18. Writing of the Treatise on True Devotion | Consecration to Jesus through Mary as proposed and lived by Montfort |
| 19. New projects in La Rochelle | Pastoral boldness and creativity. Proposing the Gosepl to all, by all means possible |
| 20. Solitude at the Grotto of Mervent | Prayer, contemplation. Creation as a way to God |
| 21. Last mission and death at St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre | Living one's death in serenity and surrender to God |

