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Incarnating God's Generosity to Everyone: Celebration of the Feast Day of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort in the Philippines

DAGUPAN CITY, Philippines – As a Christian virtue, generosity is the propensity of the mind and heart to offer oneself spontaneously, get through to others with attention and affection, and aspire for the collective welfare of others. Christian generosity is first and foremost an expression of God's goodness towards us human beings. By this, our humanness is preserved, our spirituality is enhanced, and we become more like Christ, whose generosity flows from His divine love. In fact, the epitome of God's generosity is Jesus' incarnation into the world through the virginal womb of Mary.

Embodying that same inspiration and in celebration of the Continental Mission Year 2022, the Philippine Delegation of the Montfort Missionaries, Daughters of Wisdom, Totus Tuus Journeyers, and the Association of Mary, Queen of All Hearts, initiated a gift-giving/feeding program in celebration of the feast of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort last April 28, 2022, in the areas of CALAJOAN, MINGLANILLA in CEBU, and in PANTAL, SALISAY, and BOLOSAN under the Chaplaincy of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort in Dagupan City, Pangasinan.

The gift-giving activity began simultaneously at 10:00 A.M. in the Chapel of St. Ferdinand in Pantal Centro, St. Joseph the Worker Chapel in Salisay, St. Ferdinand in Pantal West, and in the Chaplaincy of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort in Bolosan. Catechesis on the life of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort was given to children and adults alike. The program was enlivened with animations led by Montfortian Priests and seminarians, Daughters of Wisdom, and AMQAH

members assigned to each chapel. The chapels in Pantal West and Salisay catered the adults. The children were stationed in the chapels of Bolosan and Pantal Centro. Overall, 200 gift packs for adults and 200 gift packs for children have been generously shared. The children were given a loaf of bread, a slice of cake, a toothbrush, slippers, notebooks, and a comic book about St. Louis-Marie de Montfort's life. Adults, on the other hand, received a grocery pack, rice, a slice of cake, and bread. After receiving the gifts, they returned to their respective homes full of gratitude and happiness, bringing in them the inspiration to share what they have with others. The facilitators in each chapel were reminded to observe the prescribed health protocols due to the pandemic.

In a similar vein, the Montfortians in the Cebu community, in collaboration with the Daughters of Wisdom, the Association of Mary, Queen of All Hearts, and the Totus Tuus Journeyers, launched a feeding program for 150 children in Brgy. CALAJOAN, Cebu City, Philippines.

A fiesta Mass was held at 4:00 P.M. in the Chaplaincy of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort in Bolosan, Pangasinan. Rev. Fr. Norwyn V. BAYDO, SMM, Delegation Superior of the Philippines, presided over the celebration, which some Montfortian priests concelebrated. In his sermon, Fr. Baydo, mentioned three things to ponder: making disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them. These three points are a personal expression of gratitude to God, who is kind and generous in nature. The generosity of God moved St. Louis-Marie de Montfort to live out indefatigably and zealously that very missionary character manifested in his unwavering reliance on God's providence, docility to the Holy Spirit, and genuine devotion to Mary.

On the same note, at 6:00 P.M., Rev. Fr. Paul Arnel Lucero, SMM, presided over the fiesta Mass at Mary, Queen of All Hearts Chapel in Brgy. Lower Calajoan, in Cebu City, Philippines. Meanwhile, right after the Mass in the Chaplaincy of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort in Dagupan City, Pangasinan, the lay faithful gathered for the procession of the statue of Saint Montfort. After the procession, everyone partook the food that was served.

As we rejoice together in thanksgiving to God for giving us St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, a dynamic preacher, Apostolic Missionary, and loving slave of Jesus in Mary, may we be deeply inspired by his life of total surrender, docility to the promptings of the Spirit, and trust in Divine Providence as a testament to God's generosity in our lives. May our love for God be made complete. May this inspire us to reach out to others and walk the paths of the mission. May we always be cognizant of the presence of Jesus and Mary in our lives, thus bearing witness to the virtue of charity. May our actions and words aspire to convert everyone and inspire others to live for God Alone, for our humanness is preserved through gratitude; our spirituality is enhanced through generosity. May we rise and shine to become more like Christ, whose generosity flows from his divine love.

Glory to Jesus in Mary!
Glory to Mary in Jesus!
Glory to God Alone!

Bro. Lord Ansel Glenn BONGCAS, SMM