



L'Écho montfortain

English Edition

n. 549

April 2015

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Homage to Very Rev. Father Marcel GENDROT, S.M.M.

Superior General from 1969 to 1981



Father Marcel Gendrot was born in Quedillac (Ille-et-Vilaine) on 13 June 1921 (he loved to play on the French words, saying that he was not born "*en vingt / en vain*" - in twenty / in vain), the son of M. François Gendrot and Sidonie Sicot. He was the last of six boys to be born to them. His elder brother Jean-Baptiste was to become a Ploermel Brother (the two brothers together were to do a lot of work transcribing the homilies of Father Gabriel Deshayes). Marcel was baptised on 14 June 1921, the day after his birth. His elder brother Louis was his godfather.

His primary schooling "was that of the young people in the country" as he said himself: "You learn very quickly to help each other and to share in the joys, the concerns and the labours of the family." Then a Montfort Missionary (was it

Father Lejanou?), encouraged by Marcel's two aunts who were Daughters of Wisdom, came to Quedillac and spoke with him, not without ulterior motive, about the Montfort Missionaries. Marcel spoke about it with his mother, who left him free to make his choice. But the curate in Quedillac, his spiritual director, was not of the same mind:

- "I'm going to go to Pontchâteau," said Marcel.
- "No, Châteaugiron!" exclaimed the curate (the diocesan minor seminary)
- "Pontchâteau!" replied young Marcel...
- "No, Châteaugiron!" replied the curate...

It seemed useless to resist, but that was not counting on "Providence" and on the determination of little Marcel: a short time after this exchange, God called the poor curate to himself (badly-treated appendicitis), and the way was clear... Marcel entered the Apostolic School of the Calvary in Pontchâteau in 1933... This little fact seems to me characteristic of Father Gendrot... Marcel loved his studies but also anything to do with clock-making and the mechanical... In 1939, he entered the Montfortian novitiate in Chézelles (Indre-et-Loire): it was the beginning of the War; there were 12 French and twelve English novices... the twelve English arrested by the Germans found themselves in Drancy – fortunately no one was dead! Marcel made his first vows on 8 September 1940 in Chézelles. From 1940 to 1946, he was at the scholasticate in Montfort-sur-Meu for his studies in philosophy and theology... Then there was a period of military service in Rennes and Dinan. Afterwards he returned to Montfort-sur-Meu, where he made his perpetual profession on 15 March 1946, and was ordained sub-deacon the following day by his Eminence Cardinal Roque, Archbishop of Rennes, who also ordained him to the priesthood on 15 June 1946 in the Cathedral in Rennes.



Scholasticate at Montfort-sur-Meu, 4 March 1943

His first obedience saw Father Marcel sent as a teacher of philosophy to Chézelles for a year: 1946-1947. Then he left to study philosophy in Rome from 1947 to 1949 at the Dominican University (the *Angelicum*), where he obtained a doctorate in philosophy with a thesis on "*The problem of prudential truth*" (cf. *Echo Montfortain*, August-September 1949).

From 1949 until 1958, Father Marcel was professor of philosophy in Montfort-sur-Meu, with a brief interruption to make his “third year” in Celles-sur-Belle (1 August to 1 November 1955). He was not lacking in missionary daring in launching the “mission camps” for the scholastics.



Rome, 1949

On 22 April 1958 he returned to Rome as the Procurator General (representing the Congregation before the Holy See); he was to quickly become also the superior of the General House. In 1964, he was elected Assistant General. His numerous functions and occupations did not prevent him from bringing to a successful conclusion the publication of the *Œuvres Complètes* of St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, which appeared in 1966; a tremendous work! Then in 1967 he published “*Les Chroniques de Sœur Florence*”, the first volume in the collection “*Documents et Recherches*”, which was to provide the essential texts of our Montfortian history and the “source” biographies of St Louis Marie de Montfort and of Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus.

On 19 March 1969, Father Marcel Gendrot was elected Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries, the successor of St Louis Marie de Montfort. He was also the Superior General of the Daughters of Wisdom. He was to be Superior General for two terms of office until 1981. Starting on that 19 March 1969, Father Gendrot was the “*Très cher Père*”. It needed a man like him to be superior general in those troubled and difficult times of the post-Council period, and especially post-May 1968...

During his two terms of office, the Cher Père was to visit all the Montfortian communities of the Congregation, which at that time numbered two thousand members; and all the communities of the Daughters of Wisdom, who numbered more than five thousand... An indefatigable traveller and journeys that would leave behind many anecdotes and photographs... Visits that would “reinvigorate” the confreres around the world... he would never cease breathing out this spirit “in Montfort’s way”... He would never cease to spread abroad his indefatigable energy (maliciously, it was said of Father Gendrot that he could do at least three things at the same time: write a letter on his typewriter – not the famous “Hermes” that he had had to leave behind at Chézelles –, say his Rosary and recite his breviary while he

was on the train...). His holidays were taken up with doing “the footsteps of Montfort”, and with receiving pilgrims and visitors to the Cave of Father de Montfort in Mervent (where he would stay with other confreres underneath the chapel). We owe to the tenacity of Father Gendrot our presence in India and in Eastern Europe (the former Yugoslavia). A portion of France in Italy, his Roman activities earned him the honour of becoming a *Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur* on 10 October 1979.



General House, October 1971: Departure of Mgr Frehen, SMM, Bishop of Reykjavik

After his second term of office as superior general, Father Gendrot was appointed Secretary General of the Union of Superiors General in Rome (1 January 1982), while at the same time being a member of the pastoral team in a Roman parish (*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin*). In 1989 he was appointed Apostolic Visitor and Pontifical Commissioner for three years in a Congregation that was experiencing difficulties (the *Oblates of the Virgin Mary*).

Then on 28 December 1991, it was time to return to France. He was appointed superior of the Mother House of the Holy Spirit on 1 January 1992; he was to remain as “*superior of the Holy Spirit*” for two terms of office. Having returned to France at the end of 1991, he quickly returned to Rome for the Beatification of Sister Marie-Louise of Jesus, having been the postulator of her cause (in May 1993). Whether it was for Blessed Marie-Louise or for any other Montfortian causes, Father Gendrot was always able to surround himself with a team of Daughters of Wisdom (a hearty thanks to them!)... His first sojourn in Saint-Laurent would see the restructuring of the House, several volumes of the collection “*Documents et Recherches*”, and incessant visits to the Cave of Mervent...

From September 1997 until February 2007, Father Marcel Gendrot lived in the *Maison Natale* in Montfort-sur-Meu. The “*Maison Natale*” is a little like his baby! How much energy did he not spend for the birthplace of our Founder? I daren’t open this chapter, for it would need a whole book; “a thick volume”, Father Gendrot would have said.

Becoming more and more blind, Father Gendrot courageously left the “*Maison Natale*” for the Mother-House, yet leaving behind a wish: “that this *Maison Natale* may be more and more a house of prayer, of welcome, a missionary house”... His wish was granted: the *Maison Natale* is today our international Novitiate.

His “retirement” to the Mother House was like the rest of his life: very active; but an action always guided by contemplation... Visits to the “*Maison Longue*”, long hours in the confessional in the Basilica, etc. He never missed an inter-Montfortian celebration, whether in the basilica or elsewhere. He was always anxious to be there. His super-active presence was inspired by an intense life of prayer, and especially by the Rosary; this was, without a doubt, his secret of holiness (“O salutary advice! / O marvellous secret! / To become perfect, / Say a rosary a day.” H 89, 25).

Totally dedicated to Jesus through Mary, Father Gendrot left us on 8 December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, while the community was joined in prayer and adoration to renew our Montfortian Consecration to Jesus through Mary:

“I renew and ratify today through you my baptismal promises. I renounce for ever Satan, his empty promises, and his evil designs, and I give myself completely to Jesus Christ, the incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after him for the rest of my life...”

This day, with the whole court of heaven as witness, I choose you, Mary, as my Mother and Queen. I surrender and consecrate myself to you, body and soul, with all that I possess, both spiritual and material, even including the spiritual value of all my actions, past, present, and to come. I give you the full right to dispose of me and all that belongs to me, without any reservations, in whatever way you please, for the greater glory of God in time and throughout eternity.

Virgin most faithful, make me in everything so committed a disciple, imitator, and slave of Jesus, your Son, incarnate Wisdom, that I may become, through your intercession and example, fully mature with the fullness which Jesus possessed on earth, and with the fullness of his glory in heaven.” Amen!

Fr. Olivier Maire, S.M.M.



April 1981, “In the Footsteps of Montfort”



First Professions

On 1st August 2014, in Bulakan (Philippines) : Eugene ESCARIO (PH), Emil Verson MARLIN (PH), Von Ryan MARTINEZ (PH), Timothy Gabriel BANDA (MW), Petro CHILUMPHA (MW), Fortune GONDWE (MW), Lovemore Alexander MASACHE (MW).

On 28 September 2014, in Montfort-sur-Meu (France) : Onesphore de l'Enfant Jésus KUKWIBISHATSE NDAYIZEYE (BI), Jean-Louis ESEMBE (CD), Joseph IDI ILUNGA (CD), Léandre Jadis KATHOLUBA ABEDICAN (CD), Charles MUMBERE KIPUTSU (CD), Nikola KRAMARIĆ (HR), Josip MAGDIĆ (HR).

On 4 January 2015, in Paipa, Boyacá (Colombia) : Néstor Fabián ARAQUE CÁCERES (CO), José Gregorio CRUZ GARCIA (PE).

Perpetual Professions

On 15 August 2014, in Quezon City (Philippines) : Benjie NOTARTE, Arnel PAGADUAN.

On 15 August 2014, in Malang (Indonesia) : Timoteus Jefriadi (Jefro) DAMAN, Yohanes Jefriandi (Jeje) JEDABU, Bartolomeus (Dias) RAGA, Leonardus (Ardus) TARDI, Johan Baptista (Joan) WAJA.

On 28 September 2014, in Zagabria (Croazia) : Zrinko Petar NIKOLIĆ, Miro RAVLIĆ, Nikola TANDARA, Kristijan ŽLENDER.

On 5 October 2014, in Reggio Calabria (Italy) : Antonino PENSABENE.

On 12 October 2014, in Lisbonne (Portugal) : Miguel Quissua QUISSOLA, Carlos Miguel José VIEIRA.

Diaconate Ordinations

On 17 August 2014, in Malang (Indonesia): Timoteus Jefriadi (Jefro) DAMAN, Yohanes Jefriandi (Jeje) JEDABU, Bartolomeus (Dias) RAGA, Leonardus (Ardus) TARDI, Johan Baptista (Joan) WAJA.

On 7 September 2014, in Makati City (Philippines) : Benjie NOTARTE, Arnel PAGADUAN.

On 25 October 2014, in Zagabria (Croazia) : Zrinko Petar NIKOLIĆ.

On 8 November 2014, in Rome (Italy) : Nikola TANDARA.

On 15 November 2014, in Bergamo (Italy) : Kristijan ŽLENDER.

On 30 November 2014, in Lisbona (Portugal) : Miguel Quissua QUISSOLA, Carlos Miguel José VIEIRA.

On 7 December 2014, in Ginosa (Italy): Antonino PENSABENE, Miro RAVLIĆ.

Priestly Ordinations

On 13 September 2014, in João Monlevade (Brazil): Alexandre ALVES DE AZEVEDO, Guilherme BRANDÃO FERREIRA.

On 25 March 2014, in Makati City (Philippines): Benjie NOTARTE.

New Administration for the Vice–Province of Canada

On 12 December 2014, the Superior General, his Council voting in favour, appointed **Father Claude SIGOUIN** as Superior of the Vice-Province of Canada for a second term of office of three years, starting on 24 February 2015. His Councillors are: **Father Wilfrid BERGERON**, **Father Jean-Guy RICHER**, and **Father Louis-Paul SAINT-LAURENT**.

New Administration for the Province of the United States

The Assembly of the Province of the United States, held on 13 February 2015, in the presence of Father Luigi Gritti, representing Father Santino Brembilla, Superior General, elected **Father Matthew CONSIDINE** as Superior of the Province of the United States for a second term of office of three years. His Councillors are: **Father Francis PIZZARELLI**, **Father William CONSIDINE** and **Father Gerald FITZSIMMONS**.

New Councillor for the General Delegation of Papua New Guinea

On 13 March 2015, the Superior General, his Council voting in favour, appointed **Father Joseph Vinod D'MELLO** Councillor of the General Delegation of Papua New Guinea, in place of Brother Nirina Régnier Rakotondramanana.

New Councillor for the General Delegation of English–speaking Africa

On 13 March 2015, the Superior General, his Council voting in favour, appointed **Father Andrew Ulemu KAUFU** Councillor of the General Delegation of English-speaking Africa, in place of Father Paul Lonely Mashonga.

New Administration for the Province of Haiti

The Provincial Chapter of Haiti, held from 21 to 22 April 2015, in the presence of Father Santino Brembilla, Superior General, elected **Father Jean Jacques SAINT-LOUIS** as Superior of the Province of Haiti for a term of office of six years. His Councillors are: **Father Syriaque CINÉ** (Vicar Provincial), **Father Wilner DONÉCIA**, **Father Jean-Marie Weber COPPÉE** (Provincial Secretary) and **Father Jackson FABIUS**.

Formation Committee

During the General Council of 12 December 2014, it was decided to have a Formation Committee at the service of the Congregation. This Committee consists of: **Father Jorge Enrique GONZÁLEZ VÁSQUEZ** (Vicar General & Coordinator), **Father Pierre BONHOMMEAU** (General Councillor), **Father Jos VAN DEN BERGH** (Belgium), **Father Thomas POTH** (USA), **Father Luigi GRITTI** (General Councillor), **Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN** (General Councillor).

Finance Committee

During the General Council of 13 December 2014, it was decided to have a Finance Committee at the service of the Congregation. This Committee consists of: **Father James Paul BRADY** (Bursar General & Coordinator), **Father Matthew CONSIDINE** (USA), **Madame Josiane PELTIER** (France), **Father Luigi GRITTI** (General Councillor), **Father Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN** (General Councillor).

New Superior for the General House

The Superior General, with the favourable vote of his Council, has appointed **Father Joseph Raja Rao THELAGATHOTI** as local Superior of the community of the General House, for a term of office of three years, starting on 6 January 2015.

New Formation Personnel in the International Scholasticate of Nairobi

On 13 March 2015, the Superior General, with the favourable vote of his Council, appointed **Father Samuel Paul SATIELE** as *Socius* in the International Scholasticate in Nairobi, Kenya.

Appointment of Novice Master and *Socius* in India

On 13 March 2015, the Superior General, with the favourable vote of his Council, appointed **Father Reny Joseph PUNNAPPANAL** Novice Master, and **Father Judis Valan JEROME** as *Socius* in Sneha Bhavan, Kanathi, India.

New Formation Personnel in the Latin-American Scholasticate in Lima

On 9 March 2015, the Superior General, with the favourable vote of his Council, appointed **Father Giovanni BIGONI** as *Socius* in the Latin-American Scholasticate in Lima, Peru.

International Community in Saint Laurent

On 15 March 2015, the Superior General, with the favourable vote of his Council, appointed **Father Georges MADORE**, of the Vice-Province of Canada, and **Father Paulin RAMANANDRAIBE**, of the Vice-Province of Madagascar, to be members of the International Community of Montfortian Spirituality in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France.

The Next Steps for the Congregation

The letter of the Superior General of December 2014 (SG 35-2014)

Dear Confreres, at the end of this year 2014, I want to share with you some aspects of our present mission:

TERCENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF FATHER DE MONTFORT: The course of the year of Consecrated Life is going to be combined with the tercentenary of the death of our Holy Founder. Each entity is in the process of drawing up a programme that can help the confreres, the Montfortian family, and our lay associates, to ensure that this anniversary might be a moment of fruitful return to our roots, so as to respond with creativity to the calls of humanity today in the various corners of our world. There will be significant moments:

- **The opening: 24 May 2015 in the Basilica in Saint-Laurent.** This date also commemorates the 300th anniversary of the first vows of the Montfort Brothers, and, by that very fact, the embryo of the development of the Brothers of St. Gabriel.
- **A colloquium at the University of Angers in June 2016,** to explore and celebrate the spiritual heritage of Montfort for today for all those who draw their inspiration from the spirituality of Saint Louis Marie.
- **A session on our Charism from 7 to 10 September 2016 in Saint-Laurent** for all the superiors of Entities of our congregation, led by Sister Marie-Marcelle Desmarais, director of the Institute of Integrated Human Formation of Montreal (IFHIM), which will give us the opportunity to experience **the closure of the tercentenary on 11 September 2016 in Pontchâteau**, having explored the relevance of the charism of Father de Montfort in our own lives, and the lives of our entities, for the Montfortian mission in today's world.

www.montfort-tercentenary.org



Opening celebration of the Tercentenary

in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre

Sunday 24 May 2015

There will be a non-Eucharistic celebration at 15:00 in the Basilica, in the presence of Mgr. Alain CASTET, Bishop of Luçon, Father Santino BREMBILLA, Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries, Sister Louise MADORE, Superior General of the Daughters of Wisdom, Brother John KALLARACKAL, Superior General of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, and many members of the three Montfortian congregations, together with many people linked with the Montfortian family, and Christians from the parishes where Father de Montfort passed through... With the participation of young people from the Musical Institute of the Vendée. This celebration will be broadcast in the Basilica and in the houses of La Sagesse; it will also be re-broadcast by Internet on the website of the Diocese of Luçon.

THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE: On 30 November, we have just begun the year of Consecrated Life that Pope Francis wanted the universal Church to celebrate. Allow me here to recall the objectives given us by the Pope:

1) The first objective is to look on the past **with gratitude**: when I visit the elderly confreres of the congregation, I often think of the great mission that each of them has accomplished in fidelity to the charism and in view of the building of the Reign of Jesus through Mary. In thanking in a very special way our confreres who are now sick and elderly, I want also to thank each of them for having been a part of that fruitful history which assures continuity for the charismatic mission that Father de Montfort accomplished in the Church of his day.

2) This year calls us to live the present moment **with passion**: Pope Francis invites us to make the Gospel our daily “vademecum”. Often, I make the point in my visits to the various entities that if we return to the radicality and coherence of the Gospel, our lives become attractive once more. This is also a way of rediscovering the specific nature of the Montfortian mission in today’s Church, and a means of creating fraternity in our congregation on the international level, and also in the whole of humanity.

3) Embracing the future **with hope** is meant to be the third objective of this year: as the Pope clearly says, we too are very conscious of all the weaknesses of our congregation. But we also wish to abandon ourselves into the hands of Mary, our Mother: we wish to renew our consecration to her Son through her hands, and to entrust to her especially all the young men of our congregation that she might form them according to the heart of Father de Montfort, so as to continue the great mission of proclaiming the Good News wherever the Spirit of God calls us.

OVERVIEW OF THE CONGREGATION: We have now started the second part of our ministry of leadership of the congregation on the part of this general administration that was elected by the General Chapter of 2011: “*Totus Tuus... Thy Kingdom come*”. That Chapter asked of us that “over the course of the next six years, we want to allow God to come in us, among us, and, through us, in the world”, and again, the Chapter said that: “Faced with all the options, each entity will dare to make courageous and audacious choices”.

We experience today in the congregation, we note that several entities have made steps in this direction, in the choice of new missions in line with our charism and in international and inter-cultural collaboration. It is very important to take note of these courses and to evaluate these projects. The first step we have programmed to this end is the meeting of the Extraordinary General Council.

- **Meeting of the E.G.C. in Loreto from 1 to 10 October 2015:** we hope this will be a time of grace, a time of discernment to throw light on the ways of the Lord for our “little and poor Company”. It will be the occasion for sharing with all the Superiors of the Entities the fruits of the meeting in Nemi; we want to propose also an evaluation of the international experiences regarding formation and mission; and it will be the time for beginning the preparation of the next General Chapter of 2017.
- **After the E.G.C.,** we would like the whole congregation to set about prayer and discernment, and research in community meetings, to prepare together the capitular assembly that should be marked and illuminated by the experience of the tercentenary year of the death of Father de Montfort. Father Jean-Claude Lavigne, a French Dominican, has accepted to be with us during the EGC, so as to accompany us during this overview and to animate our next General Chapter.
- We have arranged our **General Chapter in Rome, at the Passionists’house on the Monte Celio, from 1 to 20 May 2017.**

Fr. Santino Brembilla, S.M.M.

The European and North American entities meeting

“Being aware of the present and preparing for the future”



Superiors of European and North American Entities met **in Nemi-Rome from October 1 to 4, 2014**. The objective was journeying together as one family reflecting on the Montfortian presence in Europe and North America, and so prepare for the future.

In his letter of convocation, Fr. Santino, Superior General, made a strong connection between the meeting and the imminent occasion of the Tercentenary of the death of our Father Founder: “... *we want to continue our preparation of this anniversary by moments of interiorizing the message and lived experience of his spiritual journey given in heritage to us as well as by looking at the reality of the Montfortian presence in our countries – all the while asking ourselves what the Lord desires for the future.*”

The meeting was indeed a moment of grace and of discerning. We pointed out both the strengths and the challenges of our presence in Western countries in the light of the spiritual heritage of our Founder, St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort who invites us to entrust present and future to God’s Providence.

The meeting was even more special because of the presence of some lay people who, in different ways, have been connected to our family. Out of 35 participants, 8 of them were lay people: 1 from Belgium, 1 from USA, 2 from Great Britain, 2 from France and 2 from Italy. Their presence brought hope for our future in Europe and North America. In a very concrete and personal way they told the participants that the spirituality of St Louis of Montfort is a gift for the whole Church and it’s still actual and important for many people today. Their presence was a precious gift to us all. The discussion was rich and frank and marked by openness and a fraternal spirit.

We thank Sr. Micheline Tremblay, from the Congregation of the Holy Cross, who helped us facilitate the flow of the meeting and to Bro. Roger Bossé, from the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, our interpreter, who made it possible for the participants to communicate and interact more easily. We are grateful to all those who offered their prayers for this meeting, which made it meaningful and fruitful.

Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma Watun, S.M.M.

Minimum standards in dealing with cases of abuse of minors and sexual misconduct with adults

On October 7, 2014 the Superior General issued a document entitled “*Minimum standards in dealing with cases of abuse of minors and sexual misconduct with adults*”.

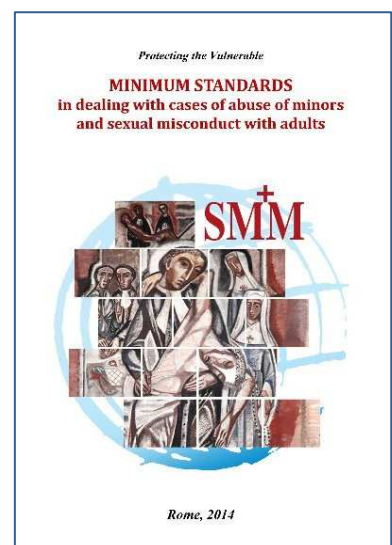
The purpose of the document is to provide our Congregation with a basic common approach to deal with situations of abuse of vulnerable people and also to prevent such cases from happening. It will also serve as a common basis for each entity to work towards developing their policy and procedures.

The document was developed on the basis of the recent practice of the Catholic Church inspired by the teaching of Pope Francis and of his predecessors, as well as the best practices of other religious congregations.

A first version of the *Minimum standards* was presented to Superiors and representatives of all entities during a **formation meeting held in Rome in June 2014**. It was discussed by the confreres and reformulated on the basis of the suggestions made on that occasion.

Presenting the document to the congregation, Fr. Santino Brembilla stressed the necessity to continue working together towards a better understanding of the challenges posed by abuse in the Church. He also asked for the collaboration of all confreres: “*The task ahead is very demanding and it is of paramount importance for the future of our Congregation. I therefore demand the full collaboration of each superior and of each confrere in meeting the requirements set by these standards. I ask the superiors to make sure that all confreres in their entities have access to this document and understand its scope and relevance*”.

The elaboration of this document is part of a three-year plan designed by our congregation to help each entity come up with a policy for the protection of the vulnerable, as mandated by our 2011 General Chapter.



A MONTFORTIAN “CHARISMATIC FAMILY”¹ ?

Our Montfortian Associates

Welcoming the initiative of the Association of members of all the General Curias, called **AMCG-Charismatic Family**, throughout the 12th March 2015 in Rome, we took part in the second meeting on the theme: “**Sharing our charism with lay people**”.

Last year, on 12 November, there had already been a first meeting, initiated by some members of religious institutes, when at least ten different experiences were shared on the relationship between religious and lay people. The contributions made showed that, on the one hand, there are institutes which, for several years, have offered to both religious and the laity a well defined structure, and, on the other hand, there are other institutions that are still in the process of creating structures in the interior of this reality recognised as “charismatic family”.



The aim of the meeting in March was to reflect together on the actual expectations of the Pope for the year of Consecrated Life. This is the invitation made by Pope Francis:

“...around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a larger family, a ‘charismatic family’, which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality. (...)”²

Father Fabio Ciardi, OMI, made us aware of the forcefulness of the call of Pope Francis to promote the vitality of our charisms, insisting on the mission shared with the laity. Our charisms are not simply a patrimony or property of the religious, but all our charisms have a vitality that calls us to go further. The fruitfulness of charisms is shown in their capacity to be expressed in many forms in the Church (religious of both sexes, lay people). On this point Father Ciardi invited us to re-read the discourse of the person who was at the time Mgr Jorge Mario Bergoglio to the Synod on consecrated life (1994). In this discourse, Mgr Bergoglio had spoken of the danger of institutes becoming like sects giving in to the temptation to close in on themselves and become auto-referential. The letter of Pope Francis (21/11/2014) for the Year of Consecrated Life, with its explicit references to charismatic families, encourages us to go beyond any kind of self-sufficiency and beyond frontiers. Here we have an horizon that is very open, in which we have to find out: How can we express the charism in lay clothing today? There is a great need to involve the laity, that they might communicate the charism of the Founders. This is the hour of charismatic families in the Church (...)

Another interesting topic was that of the *‘identity card’* for each charismatic family. Father José Pastor Ramirez, SDB, presented us with the identity card of the Salesian Family which was approved in 2012. The Salesian Family brings together and harmonises thirty institutes and associations that claim the charism of Don Bosco. This identity card, by which all recognise themselves as one family, has great value and responds to the most essential needs so

¹ This expression "charismatic family" taken from the letter of Pope Francis on the year of Consecrated Life is a new concept, the intention of which is to invite us to consider that the charism of each religious family is a gift of God for the whole Church, including the laity.

² *Apostolic Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to all Consecrated People on the Occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life*; III. The Horizons of the Year of Consecrated Life; no. 1; Vatican, 21/11/2014.

that the charism of Don Bosco might be ever more fruitful in the Church and in our world. The participants were given a copy of this wonderful identity card. (...)

Father Lorenzo Agosti, FMI, presented for us the project of the “Pavoniana” family. A project came to birth in the 1980s and, with the Church as communion as its starting point, succeeded in creating its own identity card. He emphasised the concern for the vocation of the laity at the heart of the “Pavoniana” charism, and noted the fruitful contribution of both religious and laity in their charismatic family. There are degrees of belonging among the lay-folk of the “Pavoniana” Family: co-operators, associates and active members. There are actually a number of dynamics, initiatives and common missions within the framework of the same spirituality. Father Lorenzo also distributed the foundation document of the “Pavoniana” Family.

Professor Donatella Acerbi, a lay woman on the general coordination Council of the Pallottine Family, shared with us a beautiful testimony on the charism of Saint Vincent Pallotti incarnate among lay people. (...) This charism received from Saint Vincent Pallotti gave birth to the Union of Catholic Apostolate in 1835. In this charismatic family, there are religious, both male and female, and lay people. After Vatican II, these three groups committed themselves together to establish and give a legislative foundation to the whole body of this family. Their new statute was approved by the Church in 2008.

During the time for dialogue, there were some interesting questions raised:

- The formation of lay people;
- The reception and real situation of charismatic families in different geographical zones of the world;
- The acceptance of the charismatic dimension of the Church, the People of God, in the context of *Lumen Gentium*.

We noted a common denominator: that charismatic families are developing in all parts of the world, and it seems that, in this area, there is a creative process of no return, in which we will be involved more and more as a luminous sign of the fruitfulness of the charisms of our Founders.

We welcomed with a lot of enthusiasm the presence among us of the Superior General emeritus of the Comboni Missionaries, Father David Glenday, who is currently the secretary general of the Union of Superiors General (USG). He encouraged this initiative of AMCG-Charismatic families, and advised us to involve the sisters as soon as possible, while making himself available to facilitate this initiative in whatever way we might consider most appropriate.

As for the AMCG-Charismatic families, we agreed to retain three meetings: March and May in the morning, and “two days” in November. This year, the meeting planned for 16 May has been cancelled because it coincides with the meeting that the Pope will be having with the religious of the diocese of Rome. So there remains the meeting planned for two days, 6 and 7 November 2015, with the possibility of inviting the female religious and the lay people of our religious families.

As you can see, this was a moment of grace and also a call to each entity to take initiatives that will help us to move forward in this direction.

May the relationships that Father de Montfort had with Marie-Louise of Jesus, with Brother Mathurin (the first lay associate?), with the Marquis de Magnane and with many other religious, both male and female, and with lay people, be a source of inspiration for our own creativity during this year that Providence is offering us in bringing together the tercentenary of his death and the Year of Consecrated Life ... as well as the Year of Mercy.

Fr. Jorge Enrique Gonzalez Vasquez, S.M.M.

Course of Preparation for Perpetual Profession (PPP) in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre



Back, left to right: Amos Jean, Philibert Rakotoarisoa, Bernadel Calixte,
Front, left to right: Clément Raandrianiaina, Cyrille Augustin Manjarimanana, Janin Cephacile.

Henri Aloterembi Koli-Te-Kwalo

Martin Boliti Kombozi

Adner Vienne Inuma

Montfortian International community in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France, whose members are Fr. Efreem Assolari and Fr. Arnold Suhardi, – with help of other confreres - are now accompanying the third group of Course of Preparation for the Perpetual Profession (PPP).

It's held from 25 March to 18 June 2015. The participants of the preparation **from Madagascar** are Philibert Rakotoarisoa, Clément Raandrianiaina and Cyrille Augustin Manjarimanana; **from Peru**, Adner Vienne Inuma; **from Haiti**, Janin Cephacile, Bernadel Calixte and Amos Jean; and **from the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, Henri Aloterembi Koli-Te-Kwalo and Martin Boliti Kombozi.

This accompaniment of young confreres is not the first for our small community. Each time we have had different individuals representing different places in their journey to assimilate the spirit of montfortian formation by use of different themes, sessions, and direct contact with montfortian places which are visited in the course of preparation.

Last year, 2014, from the 1st of July until the last day of August, there was the second group composed by young confreres who did their philosophical and theological studies in Rome. They were Miro (Maria Montfort) Ravlić, Nikola Tandara, Zrinko Petar Nikolić, Antonino (Maria) Pensabene and Kristijan Žlender from Italian Province and Carlos Miguel José Vieira and Miguel Quissua Quissola (both are from Angola) from Portugese Delegation.

The first batch was Benjie Notarte and Arnel Pagaduan from the Philippines and Dieudonné Bomalose from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The course was started on 17 of February and finished on 11 of May 2014.

In the year in which the Montfortian Family celebrates the tercentenary of the death of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, may the Risen Lord renew us in His Holy Spirit to be ardent missionaries in the footsteps of the poor apostles.

Fr. Arnold Suhardi, S.M.M.



OUR DECEASED CONFRES OF THE COMPANY OF MARY

whose obituaries you will find in the next edition of
« In the House of the Father... »

August 2014

			<i>age</i>	<i>profession</i>
1	Fr. Tarcisio MIOTTI	Bergamo (Italy)	88	67
8	Fr. Jean-François PAUL	St Laurent s/S (France)	82	61
18	Br. Antonio RONTAUROLI	Bergamo (Italy)	79	60

October 2014

4	Br. Jean KERFOURN	Cholet (France)	74	55
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November 2014

1	Fr. Boniface FILS-AIMÉ	Gros Morne (Haiti)	90	70
14	Fr. Vito PAGNONCELLI	Bergamo (Italy)	88	68

December 2014

1	Fr. Alphonsus (Fons) WALTERS	Neuen (Netherlands)	76	55
8	T.R.P. Marcel GENDROT	St Laurent s/S (France)	93	74

January 2015

10	Fr. Theodorus HUSTIN	Schimmert (Netherlands)	91	69
16	Fr. José Ramón RAIGOSO HERRERA	Choachí (Colombia)	98	78
22	Fr. John Frederick MATTHEWS	Thornton (England)	88	69
26	Fr. Louis SALAÛN	St Laurent s/S (France)	82	62

February 2015

10	Fr. Attilio CORNA	Bergamo (Italy)	91	71
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March 2015

3	Fr. Laurent PROULX	Trois-Rivières (Canada)	92	72
21	Fr. Aleginio VACA ÁVILA	Villavicencio (Colombia)	80	61

April 2015

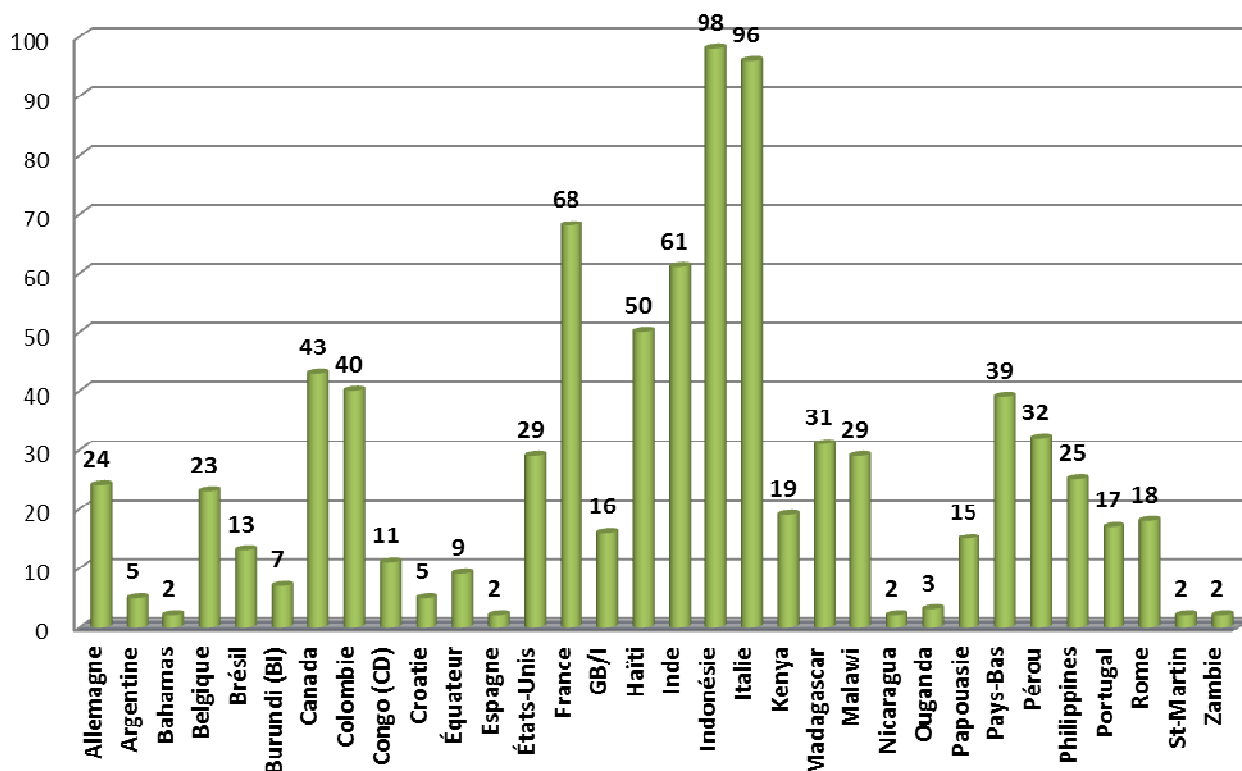
12	Fr. Adrianus STOLK	Valkenburg a/d Geul (Netherlands)	92	70
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May 2015

3	Fr. Roland GAILLOT	St Laurent s/S (France)	90	71
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SMM Statistics on 31-12-2014

SMM par "Lieu de Travail" au 31-12-2014



"Lieu de Travail"	P.	F.	S.	Total
Allemagne	23	1	0	24
Argentine	5	0	0	5
Bahamas	2	0	0	2
Belgique	18	5	0	23
Brésil	12	1	0	13
Burundi (BI)	1	0	6	7
Canada	35	8	0	43
Colombie	37	1	2	40
Congo (CD)	6	1	4	11
Croatie	4	0	1	5
Équateur	7	0	2	9
Espagne	2	0	0	2
États-Unis	27	2	0	29
France	54	14	0	68
GB/I	13	3	0	16
Haïti	38	0	12	50
Inde	49	0	12	61
Indonésie	45	6	47	98

"Lieu de Travail"	P.	F.	S.	Total
Italie	89	3	4	96
Kenya	2	0	17	19
Madagascar	21	3	7	31
Malawi	22	4	3	29
Nicaragua	2	0	0	2
Ouganda	3	0	0	3
Papouasie	14	1	0	15
Pays-Bas	34	5	0	39
Pérou	21	2	9	32
Philippines	13	1	11	25
Portugal	13	1	3	17
Rome	11	2	5	18
St-Martin	2	0	0	2
Zambie	2	0	0	2
Total	627	64	145	836

SMM Statistics on 31-12-2014

"Entité Juridique"	P.	F.	S.	Total
Adm. Générale	5	0	0	5
Afrique Angl. (Dél.Gén.)	19	1	15	35
Afrique Franc. (Dél.Gén.)	8	1	16	25
Allemagne (Dél.Gén.)	16	1	0	17
Belgique (Dél.Gén.)	19	5	0	24
Canada (V-Pr.)	26	8	0	34
Colombie (Pr.)	40	1	1	42
Équateur (Dél.FR)	4	0	1	5
États-Unis (Pr.)	21	2	1	24
France (Pr.)	55	13	0	68
GB/I (V-Pr.)	10	3	0	13
Haïti (Pr.)	51	0	14	65
Inde (V-Pr.)	64	0	14	78
Indonésie (Pr.)	51	6	47	104
Italie (Pr.)	101	4	9	114
Madagascar (V-Pr.)	22	5	7	34
Malawi (Dél.IT)	12	2	0	14
Pays-Bas (Pr.)	35	7	0	42
Pérou-Bésil (Dél.Gén.)	29	2	4	35
Philippines (Dél.Gén.)	13	1	12	26
PNG (Dél.Gén.)	13	1	0	14
Portugal (Dél.Gén.)	13	1	4	18
	627	64	145	836

"Nationalité"	P.	F.	S.	Total
Allemagne	15	1	0	16
Angleterre	11	1	0	12
Angola	0	0	2	2
Belgique	13	3	0	16
Bésil	5	0	1	6
Burundi	0	0	1	1
Canada	27	8	0	35
Colombie	41	1	1	43
Congo (CD)	7	1	15	23
Croatie	4	0	8	12
Ecosse	2	0	0	2
Équateur	1	0	1	2
Espagne	4	0	0	4
États-Unis	19	2	0	21
France	55	13	0	68
Haïti	51	0	14	65
Inde	68	0	14	82
Indonésie	57	6	47	110
Irlande (IE/NIR)	0	1	0	1
Italie	124	7	1	132
Kenya	2	0	0	2
Madagascar	21	6	7	34
Malawi	10	1	10	21
Nicaragua	2	0	1	3
Ouganda	3	0	4	7
Pays de Galles	0	1	0	1
Pays-Bas	43	9	0	52
Pérou	14	1	3	18
Philippines	14	1	12	27
Portugal	12	1	2	15
Suisse	1	0	0	1
Zambie	1	0	1	2
	627	64	145	836



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