



## 2 MAY

Father Jim Brady, General Bursar, presented his financial report, giving the revenues and the expenses, and the related challenges. He talked about the following challenges:

- Learning to share our material resources and our resources in personnel
- Breaking the dependence syndrome and striving for financial self-sufficiency
- Training confreres for the management of our goods and asking for help from competent lay people
- Having a simple lifestyle, in coherence with our vow of poverty
- Dealing with the cultural challenge in places where a priest is expected to bring financial help to his family.

The days that followed were for presentations of our Entities, workshops and general assemblies. These all tried to precise the challenges we are confronted with. We can summarize our work from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May in four phases.

### FIRST PHASE :

**WHO ARE WE?** (Knowledge of the Montfortian way of life: status, projects, challenges...)

We come from more than 20 different countries. Each Entity is the product of its culture, of its history, and of its challenges. It is important to take time to know one another, all the more since 40% of the Capitulants are in a Chapter for the first time.

#### Getting to know the Entities...

- Posters, made before the Chapter, described the Entities, its history, its work, and its present-day challenges.
- Each Capitulant, took time to look at the posters and noted down what drew his attention as well as the questions that he wanted to ask to the Delegates of a particular Entity. The Delegates, in general assemblies, brought answers to the questions that were asked.



#### Entities of Asia

PNG, India, Indonesia, Philippines

Important aspects:

- Serving the poor and a growing number of confreres
- Living and communicating together with the confreres of other Entities of Asia
- Political challenges
- Lack of infrastructures
- Inter-religious dialogue
- Helping Christians to go from devotion to an authentic Marian spirituality.

### **3 MAY**

The day began with some information regarding some modifications to our Constitutions concerning the term of office of the Superior General and of his Assistants, and on some elements of our structures. And then, we continued our work on the Entities.

#### **South America**

##### **Haiti, Colombia, Peru-Brazil, Ecuador**

Important aspects:

Relationship with the poor. The place for lay people. The place for itinerant ministry. Working together. Going beyond borders. Reviewing our approach concerning vocations.

### **4 MAY**

#### **Getting to know the Entities: Northern Entities**

##### **Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, United States**

There is a need to revitalize the Montfortian mission through formation and through a greater number of international Montfortian communities. To build trust, sharing finances and expertise with the young Entities requires transparency and accountability.

##### **Italy, France, Portugal, Canada**

- Need to continue the life of the Entities in meaningful manner through international collaboration
- Need to have another type of relationship with lay people
- Preaching and itinerant mission
- Having a community constituted of missionaries, brothers, sisters and lay people
- Openness to accept confreres who are capable of taking responsibilities

At the end of the day, we proposed a modification to the Chapter calendar, in order to delay the process of discernment and of election of the Superior General till 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May. That modification was approved.

### **5 MAY**

#### **Getting to know the Entities: Entities of Africa-Madagascar**

Anglophone Delegation of Africa (Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia)

Francophone Delegation of Africa (DRC, Burundi, Togo)

Madagascar

Common aspects and challenges of Africa:

- Vocational accompaniment and accompaniment of young confreres
- Lack of resources in view of becoming self-sufficient
- Collaboration between the Entities of Africa and Madagascar



<b>SECOND PHASE: DISCOVERING THE CHALLENGES THAT THE CONGREGATION FACES NOWADAYS</b>
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Fr. Lavigne: Difference between a problem and a challenge: the challenge calls for a positive reaction instead of being merely the acknowledgement of a difficulty.

6 sharing groups, three Francophone ones and three Anglophone ones

30 challenges came out of the workshop discussions. They deal with the following aspects: spirituality, lay people, formation, management of material goods, community life, challenge of internationality, welcoming cultural differences, evangelization challenge...

## **6 MAY**

We started the day with the official launching of the translation in Pidgin (common language in PNG) of True Devotion by Montfort.

### **Presentation on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons**

Fr Luigi Gritti present it us a report of what has been done concerning that question. He referred us to the program prepared by the Generalate: *Protecting the Vulnerable*. Each entity has to elaborate a policy on that. Some have finished, others are still working on it. Others still have been authorized to use the policy of their diocese. Fr Gritti invited us to go from a reactive approach to a proactive one.

Then, a presentation followed on a project called « Seed-Communities ». These would be constituted of young confreres who would go in the Northern Entities, not to « save » existing works, but to relaunch the Montfortian charism in a new way.

### **Governance**

The Assembly then reflected on the type of governance needed by the Congregation. We first listened to the testimonies of the two Superiors General who are present at the Chapter, Fr. Bill Considine and Fr. Santino Brembilla.

This was followed by a period of sharing in workshops. Emphasis was put on the following elements:

1. Formation to leadership and formation for formators
2. Assistants not always residing in Rome
3. Co-Responsibility
4. Constant process of communication
5. Need for a participatory management.

## **7 MAY**

### **Workshops on present-day challenges, taking present realities and the Lineamenta into account**

The Facilitator, Fr. Jean-Claude, explained the work to be done in groups. The proposed exercise did not insist on the number of adherents for a particular challenge, but it rather showed the intensity of adhesion. Each team received a precise number of “tokens”, and attributed them to the challenges that it considered more urgent. We were given a list of the 30 challenges that came out on the preceding days. The result of that exercise was given on the following Monday.

Mass followed, presided by Bishop Quesnel Alphonse s.m.m., bishop of Fort-Liberté in Haiti. In his homily, he pointed out how the good shepherd must give all that he is for his sheep. After mass, Bishop Quesnel had dinner with us.

Barbecue at the Generalate

## **8 MAY**

Challenges for which there was more adhesion when the exercise with “tokens” was held:

- # 28 Personal and community conversion
- # 4 Challenge of evangelization of today’s world according



to « Montfort's way of doing »  
# 2 Challenge of formation and of accompaniment  
of young confreres, in a Montfortian spirit

# 1 Challenge of transmission of the Montfortian  
heritage (spiritual and material)  
# 10 Challenge of a better governance, adapted to  
the realities of each Entity and of each community  
# 15 Challenge of the on-going formation



### **THIRD PHASE: TRANSFORMING THE SELECTED PRIORITIES INTO CONCRETE PROPOSALS**

We worked in groups. We had to opt for the challenge we were interested in, and we had to share lived out experiences concerning that same challenge. We spelled out the convictions that came out of those challenges or priorities and saw how to transform them into concrete projects.

#### **9 MAY**

Presentation and reactions concerning the 6 selected priorities.

#### **10 MAY**

### **FOURTH PHASE: ELECTION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL**

Today, we began the process of discernment for the election of the Superior General according to the following phases:

- Informal meeting to spell out the desired profile of the next Superior General
- Team sharing (6) to precise that profile
- Fr. Jean-Claude presented those six profiles
- New teams were organized; those new teams had to suggest four names
- In the assembly: each in turn, the candidates were invited to leave the room. During their absence, each confrere who wished to do so shared his knowledge of the candidate: experiences, qualities, etc...
- After supper, there was an hour of prayer in front of the Holy Sacrament

#### **11 MAY**

**Election of Fr Luiz Augusto Stefani as 22<sup>nd</sup> Superior  
General of the Company of Mary (see Bulletin of 11 May)**

