

NU-GEN-771
2021-12-09



Continental Mission Year 2022 for Asia and Oceania launched in the Generalate

ROME, Italy- Saturday, 27th November 2021, on the eve of the First Sunday of Advent, the Generalate community in Rome launched the Continental Mission Year 2022 Asia and Oceania.

The live streamed service was spearheaded by the Assistant General, Fr. Arnold SUHARDI, SMM, who is also responsible for the Commissions on Associates and Montfortian Spirituality, coordinated with the Communications Team and the members of the Generalate community in particular Fr. Richard DASS AROGYA, SMM who presided over the prayer service. The service marking the launch of the Continental Year 2022 started at 6:45PM Rome time. Despite the huge time difference between Rome and Asia - Oceania entities, hundreds of people followed the service through Facebook and You tube. Fr. Jailos Mpina, SMM, caught up with Fr. Arnold to clarify about the launch.

Fr. Jailos: *Padre, is the Continental Mission Year Asia and Oceania officially launched? May you clarify!*

Fr. Arnold: The launch of the Continental Mission Year Asia and Oceania has not officially been carried out. Only the Generalate community in Rome had carried out the launch, on Saturday, November 27, 2021. I thank Father Richard who presided over this service, to the Montfort Communications team who broadcast this event live and professionally, and to all the confreres in the Generalate who took part in this service even by helping to animate it.

Thank you for recording this event so that the confreres can follow it even after the service is held.

Entities in Asia and Oceania will officially open this event on Sunday, 23rd January 2022, in Manila with the presence of the superiors from India, Indonesia, PNG and the Philippines and of course the General Council. In addition to this official opening, in each entity there are also various openings at the community or region or state or island level throughout January 2022. All entities are preparing for that. The dates of implementation of various openings in each entity will be communicated to the General Council not later than 17th December 2021. They may not only pray and sing but also do talk-shows to share about Montfort and this missionary year and possibly other creative activities. We will find out all about it through their sharing after January 2022. All sharing will be published on a special website for this continental year: <https://www.montfortian.info/asia-oceania/>

After this launch, or even before, all entities will pray with prayer text for this continental year. Apart from that, they are also preparing one or two agreed events in each entity to translate in each entity what "Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia and Oceania" means. All these events and the date of their implementation will be submitted to the General Council not later than 17th December 2021. The theme song "Rise and Shine" is expected to be memorized and sung in each entity. It's great that all entities have provided animations for this theme song with dance moves that reveal how the words of this song are translated into dance. Fr. Anthony PEREIRA, SMM and Fr. Philip, SMM from India are each preparing songs to animate this continental year with Indian music. This is very enriching. In addition, various preparations for the canonical visit of the General Council in each entity and the implementation of the continental assembly in Malang, Indonesia, in early July 2022 continue to be carried out.

This continental year involves confreres and Montfortian Associates in each entity, combining Montfortian inspiration with the context of Asia and Oceania, revealing the synergistic Cooperation of General Administration and administration of each entity in Asia and Oceania. In addition, there is something extraordinary about the implementation of this continental year: the superiors in Asia and Oceania also cooperated until they sent a joint letter, last October 9, to all the confreres in Asia and Oceania about what to do for "Rise and Shine" on the continental level. This is great!

Fr. Jailos: *Covid-19 pandemic has and is still affecting us all, how do you plan to implement major activities to be carried out by entities?*

Fr. Arnold: Major activities involving the physical presence of superiors and entities are the Opening Ceremony in Manila, the Continental Assembly in Indonesia and the Closing event in Papua New Guinea in December 2022.

For the implementation of all that, we are ready for all eventualities. So far, everything has been prepared assuming the physical presence of the confreres. For example, for the Opening of the Continental Year on January 23rd in Manila, the members of the General Council who will attend are ready with their tickets to Manila, to attend in early January 2022. The arrival date takes into account the quarantine period as is the policy of the country. If this is not possible, we will look for other ways, for example, virtually. The same applies to the Continental Assembly in Indonesia: we are ready to carry out with a physical presence or virtually. The animation committee of this Continental Year meets regularly to discuss all the possibilities.

While Continental Year for Africa and Madagascar is still not over, now the entire Congregation is asked to turn its attention to the Montfortian Continental Year of Africa and Madagascar entities that exist in Asia and Oceania. The Company of Mary has four entities in Asia: India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. The theme chosen by the confreres in Asia and Oceania for their year of continental mission in 2022 is: "Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia-Oceania".

Fr. Jaiilos: *What else do you want to share with confreres?*

Fr. Arnold: I would like to extend my gratitude to the Generalate community for organizing the launch while I was in India. It is interesting that the lay associates are actively participating in the preparations of this Continental Mission Year. This continental mission year becomes a movement not only from our side of the Generalate but also to each entity in Asia and Oceania and the entire Montfort Missionaries congregation.

Communications Team
Rome