

News from the General Council



Rome – Casa Generalizia

Cover photo: Members of the General Administration in the Chapel of Via Romagna (Rome).

Dare to take Risks for God & for humanity

SG 42-2023

Rome, 23 December 2023

Dear Confreres,

Animated by the Acts of the 38th General Chapter, the new general administration team had gathered together physically for the first time in the General House, Rome from September 25 to October 7, 2023. We started our meeting by posing an important question: “What style of governance do we offer to the Congregation?” This question brought us to get in touch with the spirit of our Congregation and with the ecclesial context of today in which on October 4, Pope Francis officially opened the first session of the 16th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality.

Constitution No. 161.8 says: *Good administration takes into account the principles of subsidiarity and co-responsibility. It promotes a mutual sharing between all levels, higher and lower, which permits us to analyze situations, specify objectives, plan and organize the means of action toward decision and concrete implementation. Above all good religious administration springs from an interior attitude. It is necessary to be conscious of this to grasp its role and applications in Religious Life.*

Moreover, the Constitution says: *Good administration exercises authority, at whatever level, without being autocratic, but as a service to individuals and communities, following the example of Jesus himself, who made his apostolic group into a family where*

all see themselves first of all as brothers and sons of the same Father (cf. Mk 9:33-37; Mt 18:1-5; 20:27 ff; 23:8) (C161.c).

It is very clear that the spirit of the Congregation is in line with the spirit of the ecclesial context of today. Pope Francis says: *the synodality expresses the nature of the Church, her form, her style and her mission (Discorso al Sinodo della Diocesi di Roma, 18/09/2021)*. In this context, synodality should become “*an ecclesial habitus*” that brings renewal and dynamism for the Church’s life: communion, participation, and mission. As a congregation, the spirit of synodality, marked by co-responsibility, unity in diversity, and complementarity should become our “motor” that moves us because we are an integral part of the Church.

To live the spirit of synodality, we the general administration team would like to exercise our way of living and giving service to the Congregation, by empowering the participative and co-responsible leadership in all levels (local community, entity, and general administration) of the Congregation. It is important to underline that our participative and responsible leadership is not the same as democratic leadership. Our leadership approach is more charismatic and prophetic than democratic. This approach implies our humility to enter into a multifaceted dialogue or closeness, namely dialogue with God, with the charism of the Congregation, with ourselves, with the ecclesial and social context, and with others, particularly those who are journeying with us. In this context, a deep listening attitude is important. In other words, the approach of charismatic leadership is first of all based on the process of communal discernment and not on the majority principle. The Discernment process always involves being guided along the way, being enlightened and drawn by the Holy Spirit through entering into the profound multifaceted dialogue: sharing and listening. This profound multifaceted

dialogue serves as a means to help us to live the spirit of the acts of the General Chapter 2023: Taking risk for God and for humanity: our creative fidelity.

To exercise the spirit of synodality as a new team, we invited Fr. Jos van Den Bergh to help us to enter into deep listening: listening to who we are as a person and as a montfortian; listening to one-another in the light of God's call to each one of us. This process of listening has strengthened our fraternal bond, by accepting and appreciating one's strengths, capacities, limitations, and one's needs. This awareness helped us to understand the importance of journeying together in the spirit of communal discernment, complementarity, unity in diversity, and co-responsibility. This awareness was expressed in the process of taking up the entrusted responsibilities such as commissions and entities. There was participation and communion in accepting the given responsibilities. Each member of the general council participated actively in taking up the given responsibilities, considering his talents and capacities and also the capacities of others. Each member of the council felt "liberos" in accepting the given responsibilities.

To live the spirit of participation, complementarity and co-responsibility, the general administration of 2023 – 2029 creates 7 commissions, namely:

1. Commission of formation;
2. Commission of Mission and Evangelization;
3. Commission of Spirituality and the Montfortian Associates;
4. Commission of Communication;
5. Commission of JPIC;
6. Commission of Safeguarding;
7. Commission of Finance.

It is important to underline that each commission is interrelated with one another because each commission represents an important aspect of the identity and the life of the Congregation. Based on this, the objective of the commission is to help the general administration team to animate the life of the Congregation. In line with this objective, during the ordinary general council meeting, held in Rome from 11 – 16 December 2023, all the responsible commissions shared and deepened their vision and mission. In the spirit of openness and complementarity, we are able to formulate and present the vision – mission of each commission [cf. Echo Montfortain no. 555 (2023)].

Besides creating commissions, the general administration also shares responsibilities through visiting and accompanying the entities, namely Europe, Africa - Madagascar, Asia-Oceania, North America, and Latin America, Mexico and Haiti. Fr. Marco Pasinato is responsible for Europe; Fr. Paul Lonely Mashonga is responsible for Africa – Madagascar and North America; Fr. Prem Kumar is responsible for Asia – Oceania; and Fr. Jesús Leopoldo Cucho Puchuri is responsible for Latin America, Mexico and Haiti.

Based on our Constitution no. 232, we have re-appointed Fr. Balaswamy Kata as the general bursar and Fr. Joji Antony Paul Kalarickal as the secretary general. We also appointed Fr. Luigi Gritti as the procurator general replacing Fr. Balaswamy Kata. In the spirit of continuity and good governance, in our council meeting, we came to a common understanding that during the six years mandate, it is necessary to prepare some confreres to take responsibility as general bursar, general secretary and also procurator general in the future.

To empower the participation, communion, and accompaniment of the entities, the General Chapter have mandated the General Administration to plan for the Extraordinary General Council (EGC) meeting every two years through online (zoom) or face to face meetings. We have decided to have the first EGC meeting in 2025 and the second EGC in 2027. We propose that one EGC meeting will be on line and the other one will be face to face meeting. We want to ask the participation of each superior of the entity to suggest the mode of the first EGC meeting: on-line or face to face meeting. The general secretary will send the form of consultation to each superior of the entity to help the general administration to decide the mode of the first EGC meeting in 2025. We do hope that in March 2024 we can make a final decision concerning the mode of the first EGC meeting.

It is important also to mention that starting in 2024, there will be an assembly or Provincial Chapter in some entities. We hope you have a good preparation for your assembly or your Provincial Chapter. We would like to invite you to live and exercise the spirit of synodality in the light of the acts of the General Chapter 2023.

“Taking risks for God and for humanity: our creative fidelity” is indeed an invitation to each individual Montfortian, young and old wherever we are. It is an “*élan vital*” that should animate each one of us. Let us journey together inspired by the same spirit so that we as Montfortians can do great things for God and for humanity in our way of living and doing mission. Let us live our renewed call to the prophecy of hope in this New Liturgical Year – by living the spirit of synodality in implementing the Acts of the General Chapter.

Let us be formed like Christ in the School of Mary. Let us listen to what our Founder St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort invites us:

Let us, then, confide everything to the faithful Virgin Mary, binding ourselves to her as to a pillar that cannot be moved, as to an anchor that cannot slip, or, better still, as to Mount Sion which cannot be shaken. Thus whatever may be our natural blindness, our weakness, and our inconstancy, however numerous and wicked our enemies may be, we shall never go wrong or go astray or have the misfortune to lose the grace of God and that infinite treasure which is Eternal Wisdom (LEW. 222)

We wish you all a meaningful and fruitful Christmas celebration. Let us bring Jesus, the Incarnate Wisdom who lives in us with Mary, in Mary, through Mary, and for Mary in our respective mission.

Virgin most faithful, make us in everything so committed a disciple, imitator, and slave of Jesus, your Son, incarnate Wisdom, that we 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.
(cf. LEW 227)

Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM
Superior General

Responsible for Commissions

Formation

Fr. Marco PASINATO

Mission and Evangelization

Fr. Paul Lonely MASHONGA

Spirituality - Montfortian Associates

Fr. Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI

Communication and JPIC

Fr. Prem KUMAR

Safeguarding

Fr. Luigi GRITTI

Finance

Fr. Balaswamy KATA

Responsible for Entities

Asia - Oceania

Fr. Prem KUMAR

Africa - Madagascar

Fr. Paul Lonely MASHONGA

Europe

Fr. Marco PASINATO

North America: USA - Canada

Fr. Paul Lonely MASHONGA

Latin America, Mexico and Haiti

Fr. Jesús Leopoldo CUCHO PUCHURI

Appointments

Person of reference for Lay Associates

Fr. Arnoldus SUHARDI

Person of Reference for Protection minors and Vulnerable adults

Fr. Luigi GRITTI

General Secretary

Fr. Joji Antony Paul KALARICKAL

Person of Reference for the community of the United Kingdom

Fr. Richard MAGARARU

Bursar General

Fr. Balaswamy KATA

Procurator General

Fr. Luigi GRITTI

Superior of the General House

Fr. Joji Antony Paul KALARICKAL

Legal Representative

Fr. Balaswamy KATA

CALENDAR 2024

3 – 4 January	Assembly in Portugal Fr. Dwi & Fr. Marco
8 - 12 January	Spiritual exercises to the Delegation of Peru – Brasil: Fr. Marco – Fr. Jesus
15 – 18 January	Assembly of Peru-Brasil and visitation Fr. Dwi, Fr. Jesus and Fr. Marco
20 January – 5 February	Provincial Chapter of the Colombian province (election) 22 – 27 Jan and visit: Fr. Dwi and Fr. Jesus
The end of January or the beginning of February	USA – Assembly
5 – 10 February	Meeting with Bishop Oscar, Ecatepec Diocese in Rome
14 February	Ash Wednesday
15 – 29 February	Provincial Chapter of the Indonesian Province – election 18 – 25 Feb and visit: Fr. Dwi & Fr. Prem
19 – 22 February	Visiting the UK community: Fr. Marco & Fr. Bala
19 – 24 February	Assembly in Ecuador : Fr. Jesus
3 March	The meeting of the 3 General Administrations,

	(DW, SG, SMM) at SG general house, Rome
4 – 8 March	General Finance committee
5 – 15 March	Visiting India: Fr. Dwi – Fr. Marco – Fr. Prem
18 – 23 March	Ordinary General Council meeting focusing on Finance
24 March	Palm Sunday
31 March	Easter Sunday
2 April Rome	Mass in the General Chapter of Brothers La Mennais Brothers: Fr. Dwi
4 – 11 April	Ordinary General Council Meeting: focusing on the discernment process for those who are applying for perpetual professions
8 April	Annunciation
13 – 29 April	14 – 20 April : Pilgrimage in Lourdes (all administration general and Fr. Arnold) and Visiting France – Fr. Dwi – Fr. Marco
24 – 26 April	Visiting Belgium – celebrating the feast of Montfort in Genk: Fr. Dwi and Fr. Marco
28 April	France: Celebration in St. Laurent: Fr. Dwi
1 May	The closing ceremony of the General Chapter of Brothers of Saint Gabriel – Rome

2 – 17 May	Assembly and Visiting India : Fr. Dwi and Fr. Prem
4 – 5 May	Spiritual exercise for the lay people in Germany : Fr. Marco
21 – 24 May	USG Meeting – Assisi Fr. Marco
3 – 12 June	OGC meeting
13 – 20 June	Visiting Brasil : Fr. Dwi and Fr. Jesus
24 June – 15 July	The General Chapter of the Daughters of Wisdom: Angers – Fr. Dwi
16 July	Assembly of the Netherlands : Fr. Marco – Fr. Dwi
22 – 27 July	Visit Vietnam: Fr. Dwi and Fr. Prem
1 – 8 August	Visit Mexico: Fr. Dwi & Fr. Jesus
11 – 17 August	Madagascar: Pilgrimage and ordination: Fr. Dwi and Fr. Paul
16 – 22 August	France – St Laurent s/S Spiritual Exercises Daughters of Wisdom: Fr. Marco
20 August – 9 Sept	Assembly – installation and Visitation: Africa Francophone Fr. Dwi & Fr. Paul
16 – 21 Sept	Colombia – Meeting of young Priests of COORLAC

19 September – 3 October	22 – 28 September: Assembly Africa Anglophone and visit: Fr. Dwi & Fr. Paul
7 – 12 October	OGC meeting
14 – 22 October	Assembly of the Philippines and visit: Fr. Dwi and Fr. Prem
1 – 11 November	Visit Canada: Fr. Dwi And Fr. Paul
12 - 20 November	15 – 18 November Provincial Chapter of Haiti – visitation: Fr. Dwi & Fr. Jesus
20 – 22 November	USG Meeting: Fr. Prem Kumar
19 November – 2 December	21 November: Assembly Madagascar – installation of the Superior and his new team : Fr. Paul – Fr. Marco
5 – 8 December	Assembly and installation new team – Belgium
10 – 28 December	Visiting PNG
January 2025	Assembly and Installation - Portugal

