



**MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL
OF THE MONTFORT MISSIONARIES
TO THE PARTICIPANTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF
MONTFORTIAN ASSOCIATES (IGMA)
SAINT LAURENT-SUR-SÈVRE, AUGUST 6-13, 2023**

Malang, Indonesia, August 6, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters participating in the gathering of the Montfortian Family,
Greetings of peace and love of Christ from Indonesia.

Happy Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus. It is no coincidence that you begin your Montfortian family gathering at this precise moment. It is indeed a moment of grace. As Saint Peter said in the story of the Transfiguration: «Lord, it is good that we are here...». I believe that the same feelings that I may have felt come through in your meeting. This Montfortian family gathering reminds me of the prayer of our Founder, Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, in his Prayer for Missionaries n° 18, who says: «Lord, *congrega nos de nationibus*, gather us in from every nation. Bring us together and unite us and may all the glory be given to your holy and mighty name!». How beautiful it is that this Montfortian gathering echoes the desire of our Founder, expressed in his prayer. Before the tomb of our Founder and of Blessed Marie-Louise of Jesus, we can express what Saint Peter expressed: «Lord, it is good that we are here...».

It is indeed wonderful to see people from different parts of the world, inspired by the same Montfortian spirit and charism, coming together as one family. In our world marked by war, division, sectarianism, socio-cultural discrimination, our Montfortian gathering becomes a sign of hope that could bring the spirit of renewal in our world today. It corresponds to the objective of our Founder in the accomplishment of the mission, namely to renew the spirit of Christianity. For me, renewing the spirit of Christianity is nothing other than renewing the spirit of humanity.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the three Congregations, to the lay associates of the three Congregations, to the lay collaborators, to all of you who are committed and who have worked very hard to make this international Montfortian gathering possible.

Although I am not with you physically, I am with you psychically and spiritually. I pray for you and for the success of the gathering. I wish you all a meaningful and fruitful meeting and sharing. May the luminous face of Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate, illuminate our hearts and our souls so that we experience the renewal of our Christian spirit. May our Mother, Mary, accompany us with her maternal care and love to form us to become more and more like her Son, Jesus our Lord.

Good fraternal meeting and good sharing.
Per Mariam ad Jesus!

Fraternally,
Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma Watun, SMM
Superior General