

SG 23-2021
Rome, 25th March 2021

**Message to the Montfortian family
on the occasion of the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

Dear brothers and sisters,

I did not want to write another "Circular Letter" on the occasion of the Feast of the Annunciation. I think the message of the letter of the 19th March could be extended to 25th March.

The second part of the book of our Constitutions begins with "a Montfortian Inspiration". I really like this section which is a real inspiration in order to understand ourselves and assess our mission as Montfortians in the world. On this solemnity of the Annunciation, let us be inspired by this affirmation: "In fidelity to the founder's charism, our religious and Marian consecration expresses itself in a life that is prophetic, inciting renewal in the Church and in the world" (C 7). May the certainty, especially in us, that our religious-missionary life is at the service of fraternity be renewed.



The world is wounded by endless pain. Faced with the reality we are living in today, how can we not remember the prophet Jeremiah when Israel was experiencing a terrible drought: "If I go out into the fields, I see people killed by the sword; and if I enter the city, there are diseases of famine. For both prophet and priest wander through the land they know not" (Jr 14,18). Perhaps the renewal that the world and the Church needs today is a word of hope and the prophetic gestures of fraternity. It is also a special attention to the most fragile because of age and sickness, a real brotherhood that brings bread to those who are hungry and a word of comfort to those who cry.

I would like to recall what I had already written on fraternity in the letter of 19th March: "Like Saint Joseph, a Montfortian religious must be a specialist in the art of fraternal welcome. Clearly, when we "welcomed" the vocation to Montfortian consecrated life, as a road to achieve holiness, we assumed a community lifestyle as an integral part of our charism and our spirituality. The fraternal community must be the place of meeting, of prayer, of listening and, in the most difficult moments of life, when complicated historical circumstances fall upon us, the community ought to be the home where one can count on a friendly embrace and some words that can lift up our spirit and hope." (Circular Letter March 19)

With Saint Louis Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus, let us live intensely the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation. With a renewed spirit and with necessary prudence, let us become as close to one another, as the Lord wanted to be close to us.

Receive this greeting as a gesture of proximity,



Father Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM
and members of the general administration