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MONTFORTIAN YEAR (2022 - 2023)

180th Anniversary of the discovery of the “Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin”
75th Anniversary of the Canonization of Montfort
350th Anniversary of the Birth of Montfort

Dear

Spiritual Directors of the Centers of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts
Montfortian Associates
Superiors of the Montfortian Entities
Confreres Missionaries of the Company of Mary

“Long live Jesus, long live his cross”

The term “Montfortian Year” has been discussed in various media and tackled by numerous people in different locations. It is used in connection with certain anniversaries or certain events in the life of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort (1673-1716): 75th Anniversary of his Canonization, 20 July 2022 and 350 years of his Birth, 31 January 1673. One can equally add another event that is just as interesting: 22 April 2022 is the 180th Anniversary of the discovery of the “Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin”. As we know, this book was discovered 22 April 1842 in the library of the Motherhouse, “Saint-Esprit”, at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre. Therefore, I have chosen this date to send you this letter.

To let all these events be celebrated in a meaningful way, certain communities in the Montfortian Family have announced various initiatives which they will realize in the course of these two years. Also, an ad hoc program equally ought to be devised by the General Administration of the Missionaries of the Company of Mary.

For this reason, we have consulted numerous parties by posing this question: “In today’s world, still in the grip of the pandemic, what projects can we undertake to mark these two special moments during the years 2022-2023? Can you propose some concrete projects to us, capable of bearing fruit, that will mark the future of the Congregation?”

From such consultations, the goal was to consolidate all the ideas that might circulate at the heart of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts. In the responses to this consultation, we notice one clear insistence: “We could announce a **Year of St. Louis de Montfort** or a **Montfortian Year**”.

We present to you here below all the ideas we have received from the consultations we conducted. All these suggestions are sent out to all the national and regional Centers of the Association, as well as to the Montfortian Entities. It is for you to research possible efforts, choosing one or two activities appropriate for your existing context. As such, these propositions are only models and types that could be useful to the entities...

Here are some diverse suggested activities:

VISITS

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Visit of all the Centers of AMQH, regional or national, by the Director General or his Delegate during this Montfortian Year. These visits can be done as well by the national director in the various regional or local Centers of the country or entity.

RESEARCH AND EDITIONS

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Appeal to the main themes linked with the virtues and attitudes of our spirituality and see first how Montfort himself lived them.
2	Certain themes can be chosen by the Spirituality Commission and proposed to all the entities to write an article to be published on the occasion of these two events.
3	Local information Bulletin for the associates that could be shared with other entities.
4	Publication of priestly witnesses linked with the spirituality of Montfort, with short extracts from their spiritual writings: e.g. Luigi Orione, Annibale M. di Francia, A. Stepinac, G. Alberione, Silvio Gallotti, Ante Antic, Cardinal Newman, Wyszynski, Jean-Paul II in the book “Gift and Mystery” where he speaks of his vocation, Deskur, Franzi, Laurentin, etc.... the recommendations of the popes.
5	Publications, insertion of articles in “Avvenire” and “Osservatore Romano” at the beginning of these anniversaries, with insistence on the pastoral pertinence of Montfortian spirituality.
6	Guide for a knowledge of Montfortian spirituality for priests and bishops. A small manual would be useful, perhaps on the model of the one of Bossard, even with some images which explain in a simple way certain particular expressions of Montfort, taking inspiration from the Dictionary of Montfortian Spirituality.

MISSIONS

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Resume parish missions in line with pastors who would be favorable to this suggestion. .
2	Reproduce the great missionary services of our Founder and the first community.

3	Realize the first Marian mission in Albania.
4	Each entity can organize an itinerant mission to mark these two events.
5	Form a JPIC Commission in all the entities.
6	We think that actions inspired by Saint Louis-Marie can be realized, for example, those involving a renewal of Baptism and its promises
7	Missionary spirituality, a consequence of Baptism: at the patronal feasts of our communities, around novenas, we will realize missionary activities in preparation for each feast.
8	Promotion of works of charity in the Associations, Groups or Montfortian parishes, creating a reflection on what would be the works of charity in which Montfort would commit himself today.

RETREATS AND PRAYERS

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Envisage a spiritual retreat for those already engaged in the diffusion of Montfort's spirituality. .
2	Develop novenas of prayer.
3	<i>Triduums</i> of prayer
4	An annual calendar of specifically Montfortian celebrations.
5	Celebration of the "birth" of each entity.
6	Program retreats at the Maison Natale.
7	Pilgrimages Pilgrimage: In the footsteps of Montfort (associates, Montfortian fathers and brothers).
8	On the dates mentioned, pray the Holy Rosary, meditate on the writings of Saint Louis-Marie, celebrate Mass, and venerate his relics at the end.
9	Elaborate itineraries for celebrations with the Relic of Montfort, that they might be pathways for consecration where Parish missions have been preached

TEACHING – DEEPENING

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Conferences
2	A Montfortian Marian Congress or a Colloquium could be organized at the regional level (continent or nearby countries) to propagate the so rich spiritual treasure that Saint Louis-Marie has left to the Church. This would also be an excellent occasion for members of various groups or individuals, inspired by this spiritual richness, to get to know one another better.
3	The writings of Montfort can be translated into the local languages, at least one.
4	A seminar on Montfortian spirituality can be organized, once or twice in this year, in all the entities or by continents.
5	Conferences on the life of Father de Montfort and Montfortian Spirituality.

6	Ongoing formation of young priests (having less than 5 years of priestly ordination) at least in each continent.
7	International workshop (perhaps continental) or formation sessions for the lay coordinators to give them the means to successfully carry out their mission
8	A targeted public event in each entity: its size will be no doubt limited by conditions caused by the pandemic in each place, but it would be worth considering... because the very essence of a canonization implies presenting the one canonized to the whole Church as a model worthy of being followed. Can we encourage each entity to envisage, during these coming anniversary years, planning and putting into action at least one program or one event destined to present our Founder and his spirituality to the larger public? In certain places, that would not necessarily require the creation of new programs, but simply the amplification of existing efforts. Likewise, perhaps it is not necessary to create a super-ceremony, but the accent could be placed on the promotion and clear sharing of our spiritual patrimony and our commitment in each place of ministry.
9	Deepened initiatives (days or spiritual exercises) for priests, religious and bishops on the spirituality of Montfort. .
10	Public diffusion of a popular biography of Montfort, (you can choose the one judged most appropriate from among those existing) accompanied by images and color photos.

MEETINGS

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Organize a meeting between the two commissions (commission for Montfortian Associates and commission for Montfortian Spirituality) to clarify together the current reality of our world and put forth some required instructions, in 2022. That should be done in the summer time or a favorable moment.
2	A worldwide assembly in Rome or France, for some representatives of each entity, at the close of these two Montfortian moments, which would not prevent celebrating together during the summer of 2023.

ARTISTIC - CULTURAL EVENTS

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Stage productions about the life of Father de Montfort.
2	Present exposition panels (history of Montfort's life).
3	Organize football tourneys for young people, girls and boys
4	Lay art experts could design or make an animated film or a book on Saint Montfort for children.
5	Daily detachable calendar, with a very short phrase for each day.
6	Furnish videos of the Cantiques or about Montfort and diffuse them via YouTube.

EVENTS IN CERTAIN CONTEXTS

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
1	Establish a center for spiritual formation (Marian).
2	Establish a pharmacy.
3	Establish a medical center which could be managed by the associates themselves.

PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES

N°	POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES	NOTES
1	Pursue the cause of our martyrs from the French Revolution	In the light of the coming anniversary of the canonization of Father de Montfort, as well as that of the tragedy of the murder of Father Olivier MAIRE, while remembering others, like Father Jean-Marie VINCENT who was also a victim to the violence of our society, it would be most appropriate to pursue the cause of the beatification of our martyrs from the time of the French revolution.

We know that, in the different Centers of the Association and different Montfortian Entities, many initiatives have been, are and will be undertaken to give meaning to all the above events. All that deserves a special support. Consequently, we are equally aware that announcement of the results or these consultations might be too late for some people. However, this list of suggestions, in one way or another, can broaden the horizons of those who read it on how these anniversaries can be celebrated, in part because they come from different countries with different contexts of the people who have generously offered their proposals. After all, an initiative could also be launched after 2023, where this list of suggestions could be useful. Moreover, it might happen that certain members of a Center or an Entity are not aware of the above three events relating to Saint Louis-Marie. This letter can thus equally be considered as information for them.

For all the initiatives that will be chosen to be put into operation, we would like to share with you here our vision.

 **Who and What?** Every level of the Center or Administration, or even each community, even to the individual level, ought to decide the activities to carry out, in function of the different situations and conditions in which we live and work today. To determine an activity, we must, for example, think: what would Louis-Marie like to receive as a gift for these events of his life, and what can I do, I or my Center or my Entity as a sign of fidelity? As to the type of activities, you can certainly take inspiration from all the ideas described above, but you can also give birth to new ideas and initiatives that are your own.

 **Time.** We do not say that this “Montfortian Year” will begin 31 January 2022, because that date has already past, or that it will close 31 January 2023. Rather, we are basing ourselves on the **“Montfortian Year” that spreads over two years: across all of 2022 and 2023.** These two years will be a “powerful time” for us all: a year to rediscover the pertinence and actuality of Louis-Marie in the Church and world of today, a year of affirmation of our Montfortian missionary identity, a year of rebirth for a missionary commitment that is more and more credible.

✚ **How.** Based on the responses to the above consultation, we can offer the following reflections to respond to the question: how do we celebrate all these events?

- *First*, “These celebrations ought to be treated as a unity”.
- *Second*, “It is important that, while celebrating these events in union with the two other Congregations, we do not lose focus on what is proper to us as the Company of Mary”. De facto, we will share all these initiatives with the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. From their sides, they have surely launched initiatives to mark the above events that are directly linked to us as a family. Where it is possible, we would even like to encourage a collaboration on the local level by communities of the three Congregations, in the realization of an activity in the synodal spirit.

✚ **Goal.** All the initiatives that will be selected and launched will encompass the aspiration of St. Louis-Maire de Montfort: “... that in the near or distant future the Blessed Virgin will have more children, servants and slaves of love than ever before, and that through them Jesus, my dear Lord, will reign more than ever in the hearts of men” (TD 113). And above all, that all these anniversaries be times of grace for all of us in the Church.

Dear brothers and sisters, you already know that during the year 2022, we are supporting all the activities tied to putting into action the **Continental Missionary Year of Asia and Oceania**. The theme of this Continental Year, “Rise and Shine! Montfort in Asia and Oceania”, could surely apply to all of us, wherever we might be. Why not? Montfort exists not only in Asia and Oceania, but everywhere the mission extends. With our Montfortian confreres and associates of Asia and Oceania, we know that our “Rise, Shine!” is linked to Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, even beyond 2022. Saint Louis-Marie will accompany us all during these “Montfortian Years”. Happy Feasts.

Very fraternally in Jesus, Mary and Montfort,



Fr. Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM
Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries
Director General of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts