SG 35-2017 Rome, 13 May 2017 Our Lady of Fatima

## Letter to the older Confreres of the Company of Mary: Brothers and Fathers

Near the Coliseum, where so many disciples of the Gospel witnessed their faith in the person of the Risen Christ, we see, reflected in your life, the Hope and the Joy of your commitment to God, by making yourselves "servants" of all humankind.

Dear Confreres,

You made yourselves close to the poor and the marginalized, to the workers and those excluded from society, to those whom the world despises. In your missionary life, wherever you went, you endeavored to announce the Kingdom of Jesus through Mary, by your life and your words. You wrote articles, books. You spent time listening to people's anxieties and sufferings; you counselled and offered the pardon of a God of Mercy. You have been pioneers in opening new ways and places of Mission. You helped building welcoming places: small chapels, schools, bridges... You defended human rights and lent a helping hand to the young formators of today.

I embrace each one of you and take you in my prayer.

## May our communities of older confreres always be places radiating Montfortian heritage, places of Fraternity and Hope.

At the beginning of this new mission entrusted to me by the Lord, as expressed by the vote of the capitulants, I come to you, humbly asking for your prayers. I too, commit myself to pray for you every day.

Courage, dear brothers, the Mission goes on.

## Happy feast of Our Lady of Fatima

## In Jesus, Mary and Louis-Marie de Montfort

Fr. Luiz Augusto STEFANI, S.M.M. Superior General