# Jesus Living in Mary

Monthly Newsletter of Formation and Information

Association Mary, Queen of AU Hearts

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ALTAMURA, ITALY - REGIONAL MEETING

New Edition of the Writings of St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort in Italian

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Biblical Lighting

Luke 21: 5-19

by Pierrette MAIGNÉ

**Upheavals and Persecutions Announce the Day of the Lord** 

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, he said, "All that you see here - the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"

He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them!

When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.



"Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony.

Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.

You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.

By your perseverance you will secure your lives."



At the end of this liturgical year, the Church offers us a discourse of Jesus in the "apocalyptic" style that may be somewhat disconcerting.

"Apocalypse" is often understood in the sense of disaster while it means "revelation". So what is the Lord coming to reveal to us?

"All that you see here - the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Our world is passing, civilizations are mortal, the constructions of men, as glowing as they are, are not eternal: they are ascertainable facts, but what is most important is that God is always with us. If we put our trust in the fleeting things that are destined to disappear, in false values, we can live in fear but if we put our trust in God then we have nothing to fear.

Since the coming of Jesus, the place of the presence of God is no longer the Stone Temple but it's He who is the True Temple where the fullness of the Divinity dwells: the Word became flesh and lived among us.

"Teacher, when will this happen?" Question that dwells in the hearts of men of all times; as the Apostles we would like to know and false prophets are constantly playing with the fears of men in predicting disasters and end times. Do not listen to them, Jesus warns you, do not be misled.

«fear nothing whatsoever and sleep in peace in your Father's arms»



"Do not be terrified": whatever happens we are in the hand of God and it is to a trust that nothing shakes that we are invited, at every moment, in the daily life of our days. The Christian knows that nothing can separate him from the Love of God (cf Rm 8: 35-39).

"They will seize and persecute you": the disciple is not above the master; to be a Christian, to follow Jesus, to live the Gospel is often in contradiction with the values of the world and this exposes us to hostility, criticism, persecution. To be a disciple is to follow a paschal way, path of death and resurrection.

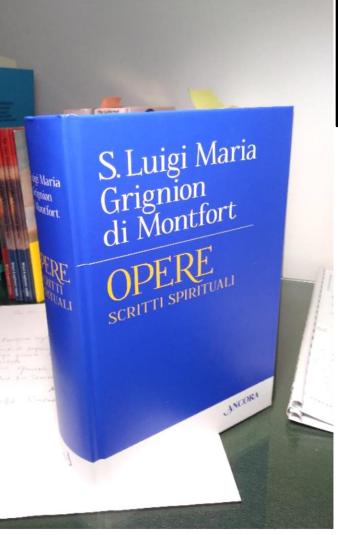
Let's stay the course, do not despair, God is at work today in our world. On this path we are not alone, Christ is the cornerstone on which we are built, the Holy Spirit is our strength and our defender.

So, let us follow Jesus ever closer, stay on the way; let's ask this grace through the Virgin Mary "Mother of Divine Providence" whose memory is celebrated by the Montfortian Family on Saturday, November 16 this year.

On this occasion we can reread the "Letter to the Members of the Company of Mary", n° 1-4 of Saint Louis Marie (in God Alone p. 431-436): "fear nothing whatsoever and sleep in peace in your Father's arms" (no. 4).



### Montfortian Spirituality





## Opere Scritti spirituali;

Traduzione, introduzioni e note: Efrem Assolari, Battista Cortinovis, Corrado Maggioni, Alfio Mandelli, Luciano Nembrini; Provincia Italiana Missionari Monfortani; Ancora Editrice; Milano; 2019; 748 pp.

n September 2019, a new edition of the writings of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion Montfort was published in Italian.

One of the striking novelties of this edition is the distribution of Montfort's writings in three parts, which we now show you in their entirety.

# PART I THE SPIRITUAL WRITER

THE LOVE OF ETERNAL WISDOM
TRUE DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
THE SECRET OF MARY
LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF THE CROSS
THE SECRET OF THE ROSARY
Supplement - METHODS FOR SAYING THE ROSARY





**LETTERS** 

LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF MONTBERNAGE
THE COVENANT WITH GOD
THE LITTLE CROWN OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
SERMONS (Selected texts from the Book of Sermons)
RULE OF THE WHITE PENITENTS
RULE OF THE FORTY-FOUR VIRGINS
PILGRIMAGE OF THE PENITENTS OF OUR LADY OF SAUMUR
RULES OF VOLUNTARY POVERTY OF THE EARLY CHURCH
DISPOSITIONS FOR A HAPPY DEATH

# PART III THE FOUNDER

PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES - MEMENTO ...
RULES OF THE MISSIONARY PRIESTS OF THE COMPANY OF MARY
LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY OF MARY
THE WISDOM CROSS OF POITIERS
ORIGINAL RULE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM
MAXIMS AND LESSONS OF DIVINE WISDOM
MORNING AND NIGHT PRAYER
FOUR SHORT MEDITATIONS ON THE RELIGIOUS LIFE
SAINT LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT'S WILL

« Here we speak not only of the doctrine of faith but also of the life of faith, and thus of authentic "Marian spirituality," seen in the light of Tradition, and especially the spirituality to which the Council exhorts us. Furthermore, Marian spirituality, like its corresponding devotion, finds a very rich source in the historical experience of individuals and of the various Christian communities present among the different peoples and nations of the world.

In this regard, I would like to recall, among the many witnesses and teachers of this spirituality, the figure of **Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort**, who proposes consecration to Christ through the hands of Mary, as an effective means for Christians to live faithfully their baptismal commitments.»

(John-Paul II, RM 48)



## St. Louis Marie de Montfort, Actuality of a Spiritual Master

The spiritual writings of the holy Apostle of Jesus in Mary are published in a new edition. – The "first-class theologian" for a "Marian Profile" of the Church. - The Writer, the Missionary, the Founder

#### by Battista Cortinovis



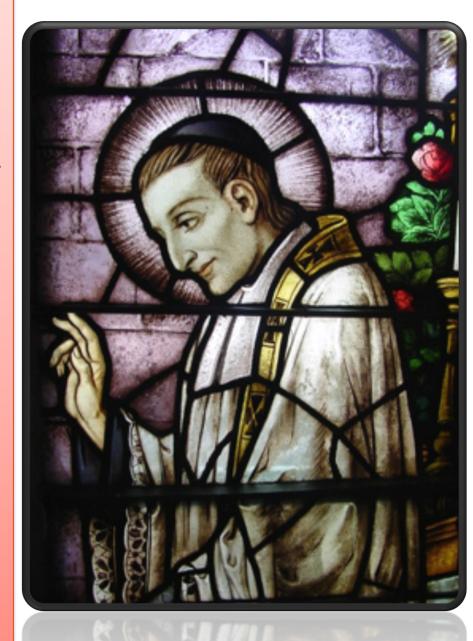
he Collected Writings of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, new edition, prepared by a Congregation founded by him, the Company of Mary, and edited by Ancora Publications, is now in bookstores, just out of the press. It is a collection of spiritual writings, including the lesser known. In this volume, you will not find the Hymns because they are published separately, given their considerable size.

The most universally known writing of Father de Montfort is his masterpiece, the True Devotion to Mary. The Secret of Mary, a kind of summary of the previous one, is also widespread for its simplicity and brevity. These two writings are translated into dozens of languages, divulged for two centuries; they are works of a Marian character that have helped to make Father de Montfort known as a great devotee of the Blessed Virgin. It is less easy to find his other writings, even fundamental ones, which anchor on one hand the devotion to Mary in its Trinitarian, Christological and ecclesial dimension on the theological level, and on the other which testify to the apostolic and prophetic sensibility of its author, great spiritual master of our time and for the future of the Church.

Until the Second Vatican Council, Montfort was known among priests because he was introduced as a spiritual writer during formation in seminaries and novitiates. Among the laity, there were elite groups, such as the Legion of Mary, who knew and disseminated his spiritual doctrine. At the academic level, Montfort has been quoted in Mariology only on certain theses, such as the universal mediation of Mary.

It is the Marian doctrine of Lumen Gentium chapter VIII that has revealed the real value of Montfort's theological thought. The content of this document is largely based on the intuitions of the author of the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin. And the post-council period developed its corollaries, not only Mariological, but also ecclesial and apostolic, doctrinal and ascetic-spiritual.

Then came the great figure of Pope John Paul II, with his example and his teaching, gave authority to the spiritual doctrine of Montfort. He presented him as a true spiritual teacher and a "firstclass theologian" and wanted to proclaim him a Doctor of the Church. His pontifical emblem, the "Totus Tuus!", a synthesis of Montfortian spirituality, has become the emblem of the interior life of the pope and proclaims a spiritual path proposed to the whole Church. Although John Paul Il did not succeed in proclaiming Montfort Doctor of the Church, he did however write in an official letter that the Montfortian doctrine, "reread and reinterpreted in the light of the Council, has retained its essensial validity" (no. 1).





Today, we can speak of a great actuality of the teachings of St. Louis Marie de Montfort in many ways.

His figure as a popular missionary above all, convinced witness of the Gospel, brilliant communicator, inventor of signs and religious symbols, preacher and writer with an incisive, fast and powerful style, still today, sculpts in the hearts of readers feelings that he lived and transmitted with an ardent soul. His writings are short, many have remained unfinished, but they all have great expressive strength, echoing the inner energy of their author and serving as a model for any apostle who proclaims the Gospel.

The framework of his doctrinal teachings is traced from the Trinitarian context, contemplated in the course of the history of salvation, with the central mystery of the Incarnation of the Word in Mary and its continuation in the mystery and the time of the Church. Christocentrism is constantly affirmed: Jesus Christ is the ultimate end of all devotion, Jesus Christ is the incarnate and crucified Wisdom, the Redeemer of the world. The pneumatological dimension is illustrated as in no other Western author of his time and the following century, till Vatican II. The figure of Mary and her role in the history of salvation are presented only in the light of the Scriptures, the devotion to her has only one goal: the authentic and perfect fulfillment of our baptismal vocation, as a duty and honor of every faithful called to holiness: layman, cleric, woman, man, of all conditions.

Then, the ecclesiology of Montfort is of great importance, of a prophetic value, largely still to be illustrated. If John Paul II was able to speak of a "Marian profile" of the Church, it is because "Mary, in a way, unites in her person and reechoes the most important doctrines of the faith" (LG 65).

Montfort, becoming aware and making known the presence and role of Mary, illuminates the very mystery of the Church in all its dimensions: the Church announces, calls to the assembly, celebrates the sacraments, serves in charity, walks toward the fullness of the Kingdom of God.

This last eschatological aspect, brought to light by current theology, is particularly relevant, according to Chapter VII of Lumen Gentium. Prophecy, fulfillment and perfection, the advent of the Kingdom, already and not yet ... the dynamism of the Holy Spirit, the fire and the wind, which renews everything.

Montfort uses his own language: he speaks of the "latter times", of the Church, our times, with great saints formed by the Holy Spirit in union with Mary and in Mary, while "more and more" the evil is vanquished and the Kingdom of God is approaching. Someone thought it necessary to find traces of millenarianism in these expressions, but Montfort's faith and theology are those of the Church, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



Another strong message that Montfort sends to the secularized society of our time, especially in Europe, where faith is reduced to the private sphere, provided that it still exists, and where the consensus on ethical values has disappeared, is the urgency for a new proclamation of the pure Gospel. He did it in his time and in his environment as a top priority. And he left us



inspired and disturbing texts to form the "apostles of the latter times", who go everywhere "like thunder-clouds flying through the air at the slightest breath of the Holy Spirit... with the two-edged sword of God's Word... These true disciples of Jesus Christ, imitating his poverty, his humility... will have...the blood-stained standard of the Cross on their shoulders. They will carry the crucifix in their right hand and the rosary in their left, and the holy Names of Jesus and Mary on their heart" (TD 57-59).

Montfort is the apostle and missionary, who today proposes to lay people and men and women religious, the priority of evangelization "so that the face of the earth is renewed and the Church is reformed" (PM, 17).

Therefore, to think of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort only as a "devotee of the Virgin" means not to know him. It is therefore important to broaden the reading and knowledge of his writings well beyond the most popular Marian texts.

This new edition of the Writings presents Montfort's revised spiritual writings for translation, renewed for various introductions, presentations, notes and indexes. The Montfort Missionaries intended to offer an "authorized edition", in the face of manipulations or falsifications of Montfort's own thought, as it is sometimes possible to hear or read it.

Therefore, translations favor the literal meaning, compatible with a good command of the Italian language. Moreover, given the nature of a volume that differs from the separate editions of Montfort's individual writings, we wanted to stay closer to the original manuscripts, for example by preserving the Latin passages of the text, translated immediately into footnotes. The same goes for the biblical quotations, mentioned only in the note and translated according to the 2008 version of the Italian Episcopal Conference (IEC).

In the first part of the volume have been placed the major works of Montfort as a "spiritual writer", the best known to the public and of greater interest for his specific spirituality. In its second part, Montfort "missionary" is presented with his historical personality, his methods and his preaching style, from his apostolic writings. The third part, rather remarkable in its breadth and originality, is that of Montfort "founder", with the founding texts of his Congregations.

The general introduction of the Writings, presents to the beginning reader the whole of the figure of Montfort and his spiritual teaching, and is preceded, from the opening of the volume, with the Letter of Pope John Paul II on December 8, 2003 addressed to the men and women religious of the Montfortian Family; it is the most authentic and most official recognition of the theological and spiritual value of the doctrine of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort in the Church today.

This article by Father Battista will be published on the magazine "Vita Consacrata", Ancora Publications, in the January 2020 issue.



### Interview



# The Mary Queen of All Hearts Association in Congo is composed of men and women of faith and responsible »

Interview with Fr. Frédéric BOLUMBU, SMM

The following is an interview with **Fr. Frédéric BOLUMBU WANGELA MBOKOLO, SMM**, National Spiritual Director of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts (AMQAH) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Parish Priest of Saint Paul Apostle of Kibibi, Councilor of the Delegation, Member of the Commission of Mission of the Company of Mary.

## You started the AMQAH in Kisangani towards the end of 2017. How is it developing now?

Thank you very much, Fr. Arnold, for giving me this opportunity to speak about the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was after our session of the Montfortian International Formation (MIF) in France, that in November 2017 I started to gather some volunteers to start the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts in DR Congo. Many of them were members of a group of faithful I was already accompanying in the **Group of Pilgrims of Hope**. A group of members responded favorably to my call; so we started the Association in Congo.

This is a group of the faithful committed in the faith to follow Jesus through Mary. It was exactly on December 8th of 2017 that we started the formation of the laity. Note that at the end of the formation concluded by the Montfortian Month, of the 38 members who have followed the formation, 32 have made their Montfortian Consecration to Jesus Christ, Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, through the hands of Mary since the 8th of December 2018.

And today the formation continues first with the Consecrated Montfortians (laity), then with those who were delayed and finally those who came to join the Association. Possibly, for this group, some will renew their Consecration and the others will make their Consecration on 25th of March 2020, feast of the Annunciation of the Lord.

For more than a month, I have beside me Brother Jean-Louis WENZA who works with me as Deputy Director, in the formation of the laity. But already before him, there is Father Jean-Claude MBINZA and Father Constantin ATALIPA who have always intervened for the formation of our laity.



As I said at the beginning, the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts in Congo is made up of men and women of faith and responsible. They have a coordination team which is headed by Mr Jean-Marie LIESE (Coordinator), Ms Josephine MUBIHILA BAUMA (Deputy Coordinator), Mr Léon LONGANGE and Ms Edith BADJONOTO (Treasurer) and Mr Crispin KANTAR and the other (Councillors).

There is a whole structure within the Association that I will try to present to you in the next publication. But, I want to point out here that there are people who are chosen as "focal points" to strengthen communication and cohesion among members.

# In May of this year, if I am not mistaken, you and the Associates organized a popular mission. Could you tell us more about this?

Yes, from May 15 to 18, for four days, the Associates, together with the Montfort Missionaries and Montfortian Aspirants, in the Montfortian Formation House, organized a popular mission whose central theme was "Mary, the short and perfect way" with the aim of sharing our spirituality with the Christians of Kisangani. This central theme was divided into five sub-themes:

- a. Mary in the project of God (by Father Frédéric BOLUMBU, SMM)
- b. Mary, our teacher in the Christian apostolate (by Mr Augustin KAYA, Montfortian Associate)
- c. Mary, our intercessor, the image of Cana and Rebecca (by Deacon Aimé KAMANDA, SMM)
- d. Let's take Mary home, Mary at the foot of the cross (by Mr Alexi BAUMA, Montfortian Associate)
- e. Sons and Daughters of Mary, let's imitate her virtues (by Father Jean-Claude MBINZA, SMM)



As you see, these sub-themes were preached by lay people and Montfort Missionaries. A Mass had closed the popular mission. But it was preceded by a torchlight procession. Note that the participation was good, we can see that in the pictures. The whole organization was the work of the Associates.

At the beginning of each day, we recited the entire rosary (led by the Associates), there were some accompaniments and confessions (by the priests) and the preaching of the day that was interspersed with religious hymns.

## What are the projects or programs of work of the Association in Kisangani in the years to come?

Aside from the projects of the years to come of the Montfortian Associates in Kisangani, Associates usually meet twice a month: the second and third Saturdays.

The second Saturday is dedicated to formation and the third is dedicated to prayer, this is a day of prayer. It starts at 14:00 and ends at 18:30. It is called "HERMITAGE"

The projects of the years to come are certainly many, but we will prioritize.

- a. Participate actively in all the missionary activities of the Montfort Missionaries
- b. For evangelization, have some musical instruments
- c. We plan to recruit several young people: girls and boys
- d. Organize missionary weekends and popular missions
- e. Help Montfort Missionaries in the organization and management of the daily life of the entity (if possible).



There is new progress now. It is in Lomé, Togo, where some of our Confreres come from, among others Brother Ignace, who has just formed a team with the aim of developing the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts in the country. Team members are normally members of the Legion of Mary.

Even if you are named for the DRC, I think that Togo is part of your territory (General Delegation of Francophone Africa) of animation because we have Confreres who come from there. How do you see this development? Do you have a few words to encourage our friends in Togo?





Certainly, it is a news that is my joy, because it is the Spirit who continues to blow. I would like to collaborate with them even from a distance; by modern means of communication that we have: E-mail address, whatsapp, etc. If one day we can plan a visit to their place in Togo it will be a good thing, too.

Therefore, being a work of the Holy Spirit, this will not die. From now on, I will try to speak with Brother Ignace so that he gives me some precision concerning this Mary Queen of All Hearts group in Togo. May they continue in this way and we will help them from a distance. May the Virgin Mary accompany us all.



Moreover, in Kinshasa, in the Diocese of Kisantu, if I am not mistaken, there is also a group, which has existed for a long time, that lives the spirituality of Father de Montfort. You told me once that you visited this group. Could you tell us the story of this group? What do you think about building a communication bridge with this group?

This group does exist in the Diocese of Kisantu. For the record, this group was founded by a certain "TATA ANDRE", who had read the writings of Father de Montfort several years before. He himself lived and shared Montfortian Spirituality with the people of his area. According to the testimonies received, he was a charismatic man and with a strong Marian devotion. I visited this group of Montfortian Associates of Kisantu three times. For the first time, before my ordination, I accompanied **Brother Cléophas LUBUTUKU**, **Montfort Brother of Saint Gabriel**, who went to preach them a recollection. A second visit, also before my ordination, I went there to prepare the group for three days for the renewal of their Consecration. And the third time, I was invited by the group after my priestly ordination for a Mass of Thanksgiving in Kisantu. It was a big celebration well organized by the members of the group.

Today, it is important to follow this group. We can do this by collaborating with the **Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel who are in Kinshasa.** They must certainly have links with the group of laity who live the Montfortian Spirituality in Kisantu. So it's a job to do. We must then dare, Father de Montfort tells us, to do great things for the Lord.

#### Farther Frédéric BOLUMBU, SMM



# The Members of the Coordination Team of the Fraternite Mary Queen of All Hearts in Lomé, Togo



From right to left: Hubertine BARANDAO, **Marcel BATCHO (Coordinator)**, Modestine ABENA, Modeste AKAKPO, Laurentia LAWSON, Emeraude VODJOGBE, Maurice AFANDONOUGBO and Véronique MESSAN..

### Sharing

# Renewal of the Consecration to Jesus through the Hands of Mary, in Preparation of the First Vows



#### by Salvatore Scalese, SMM

ess than a month ago, on September 21, 2019,
Antonio, Mario and myself, had the joy and the grace
to renew our Consecration to Jesus through the
hands of Mary in view of the first Religious Vows in the
Company of Mary. I still remember very well how the
Santeramo Community participated at that moment with
great emotion.



I made my Consecration to Jesus through Mary, about four years ago, on June 14, 2015, and I believe it was for me one of the most important and beautiful days of my life. But on the eve of my First Profession, I must admit that this renewal of Consecration to Jesus through Mary had a much deeper and more meaningful meaning.

I truly believe that this Consecration is a special gift of the grace that the Lord gives to each one of us and to the Church. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort declares that this Consecration to Jesus through the hands of Mary is "a perfect renewal of the vows and promises of holy Baptism" (TD 120). So, on September 21, 2019, I understood, as much as possible, the importance and the truth of the words of Father de Montfort.



Through Baptism, we know that every Christian becomes a son of God, a son fully loved by the Father who, from that moment, becomes his support, his refuge and his strength, all disposed for him, a Father who recognizes him as his son himself, since He himself created us with his wisdom. In this renewal, I felt fully loved by the Father, but with a special presence: Mary!

Reading the formula of Consecration, I was familiar with this text and I knew that these words are very difficult to pronounce because of the feeling of respect they arouse, but I had the courage and joy to pronounce them because I knew who I was confiding to. I was a bit like a child learning to walk and struggling to take the first steps, yet this child has courage because he knows that there is a mother and a father who look at him, who are attentive on his way, who are ready to reach out as soon as they see that their child is about to fall.

I was struck by the words of a Father who, during the spiritual exercises of preparation for the Vows, told me these words very simply while listening to my sharing: "When you want to make a gift to your dad, you know that you can not give him a valuable gift because you do not have much, so your father leans toward you, he himself gives you what you need to make this gift a reality, he knows very well that all he has given you is his, but he is nevertheless full of joy to see that his son gives him all that he has received, and this is the Consecration you will make in a few days ... ".

I lived this moment of Consecration by thinking back to the beauty of these words that gave me the courage to pronounce my Totus tuus to the Lord.



Knowing that one totally belongs to a person without any reserve, today is not very easy to admit. Does not Montfort call those who do with this full and complete Consecration to the Lord through the hands of Mary, "slaves of love"? The Provincial, Father Mario Belotti, who presided at this moment of renewal of my Consecration as a slave of love, said: "... to show an absolute dependence, without reserve, it is a gesture of love. There can be no higher or greater, deeper gesture of love. That is why we call it slavery of love ... I am a slave of love. The one who lives true love is not ashamed to say, "I feel myself a slave of love."

I can only testify that this way that the Lord has chosen for me attaches me fully united to him: It's Jesus himself who, on the cross, entrusted me to his holy Mother even before I pronounced my Yes, but he wanted me to make this gesture in freedom and simplicity.



« am a slave of love. The one who lives true love is not ashamed to say, "I feel myself a slave of love."»

I end with Psalm 131, which summarizes all that I wanted to share in my reflections:

"Yahweh, my heart is not haughty, I do not set my sights too high. I have taken no part in great affairs, in wonders beyond my scope. No, I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a little child in its mother's arms, like a little child, so I keep myself."

#### Mews

#### THE FRUITS OF THE REGIONAL MEETING

his is a sharing related to a symposium organized by the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts with the Montfort Missionaries, which took place on Sunday, June 16, at the SANCTUARY OF GOOD WAY, in Altamura, Bari, Italy. The theme was: MARY, THE REAL TREE THAT BRINGS THE FRUIT OF LIFE. The speakers of this thirteenth Marian Regional Symposium were: Manes ROSALBA (expert in Holy Scriptures), Father Massimo MANCINI, Father Angelo SORTI, SMM, Father Eugenio PERICO, SMM and Father Giovanni PERSONENI, SMM. The journalist Safiria LECCESE also delivered her testimony.

#### by Anna Maria da Martina Franca



#### ALTAMURA, BARI, Italy -

At the end of our life, we will be judged on love ... and we should think about filling our suitcase, but with as much love as possible ... with the love of Christ, distinguishing it from love and the clichés of the world.

As Jesus says, "we must live in the world but not of the world" (John 17: 16). It is therefore a question of bringing the truth where it is not, of leaving our ghetto where we think that it is possible to preserve us from the pagan world which surrounds us. The Christian brings Christ and the truth where it is not known. This must be done without fear, but with the strength of faith, without counting on our own strength but only on that of Christ who died for us on the cross, forgiving his executioners and truly believing in his resurrection. It is not a beautiful story with a happy ending, it is the victory of Christ's love over death.



Consecration helps us in discernment, as prayer, and therefore in living according to the truth of the Gospel by pursuing the path to the virtues of Mary, the only way to Christ.



Meeting each year at the Regional Symposium makes us think about the foundations of Consecration. This makes us understand that Consecration is not static, but dynamic. The consecrated person gets up and goes without delay, to evangelize with the power of the faith, like Mary who goes quickly to her cousin with the grace of God and not with the anxieties of the world.



Mary, the true tree that bears the fruit of life, is the example to follow to fill our suitcases of love, to make known to as many souls as possible, the way that leads to Christ and finally to live an eternity of glory and praise to God. This is the greatest desire that should be in the heart of every baptized person.

At the end of these spiritual retreats, after catechesis, songs and prayers, our heart is filled with joy; it is a feeling far less fleeting than the happiness of the world, it is eternal as a gift from God. We understand that we can not keep everything for ourselves but that we must share it with others, especially those who are further away. We realize that the purpose of Consecration is to be on the move to make the path of Mary the true tree that bears the fruit of life ...

We feel in each of our hearts the desire to continue to meet Christ and to make him meet our loved ones, those we love, those who have hurt us and those who have suffered from our evil in the past. For every gift of God enriches only if it is shared with our brethren, as pure as we have received it. We can not keep it within ourselves because our heart is too small to contain it and if we did not share it we would risk falling into pride and selfishness, feelings that are certainly not Christian.



Mary invites us in these times in which we live, in full paganism, to cease to groan and to testify by our life, in prayer and with the great grace of God. Mary is among us, she is the tree of life that leads us to Christ Jesus; and we, the Consecrated ones, can not forget that we are his heel and his feet that go fast, without delay.

Praised be Jesus Christ !!!!

#### INDONESIA: "Unity in Diversity"

#### by Dola de SOL-ABAB

ANDUNG, Indonesia - The Indonesian Province of Montfort Missionaries had the honor of welcoming Father Luiz Augusto Stefani from August 3 to 31, 2019. This is his first visit to this country known with its motto: "unity in diversity".

The Father is not only Superior General of the Company of Mary but also International Director of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts.



Of the 17.000 islands, small and large, inhabited and uninhabited, the Montfort Missionaries work only on three islands: Kalimantan (Borneo), Java and Flores.

In each community or city where the Father visited, the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts and Montfort Youth were present and involved with enthusiasm.



Where the Association and the Montfort Youth are not yet established, parishioners and friends of Montfort Missionaries were present to participate in various events at the time of the reception, during his presence on the spot and at the time of his departure to other cities or localities.



In general, everywhere, Fr. Luizinho has been honored according to local customs when hosting an important guest. During the days of his presence in one place, the Montfort Missionaries, Associates, members of Montfort Youth, parishioners and Montfortian collaborators organized sharing meetings.



Fr. Luizinho also took the time to speak with the confreres with perpetual vows, the scholastics, the novices and pre-novices, the associates and the parishioners. He also held small meetings with each member of the Provincial Council who works on an island.

He finally had private conversations with some members of the Province.





It was a visit filled with sharing and special discovery for him. In addition to all this, everywhere was organized evening entertainment for fraternal conviviality in family spirit. Generally these evenings were concluded with a common meal.



The enthusiasm and involvement of the members of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts and Montfort Youth during Fr Luizinho's visit underscored the spiritual and missionary relationship that exists between them and the Montfort Missionaries.

#### WITHOUT THE ASSOCIATES, SMM IS NOT COMPLETE!

#### by Dola de SOL-ABAB

**TANANARIVE, Madagascar** - Just days before the arrival of Pope Francis in Madagascar, on September 6, the confreres of the Vice-Province of Madagascar organized a retreat and an annual assembly. Fr. Felix and Fr. Arnold of the General Council were there to preach the retreat and attend the annual meeting. They were present in Madagascar from August 23 to September 2, 2019.



On this occasion, Fr. Felix and Fr. Arnold also had the opportunity to meet the members of the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts of the Andraisoro Region, Tananarive. At this point, each participant was able to share the story of his or her entry into the Association and how he (or she) has evolved so far. Fr. Felix took the floor to talk about the situation of the Association in the General Delegation of Anglophone Africa. While Father Arnold spoke about the general situation of the Association around the world.



Two things came back constantly in the discussions: formation in Montfortian spirituality and participation in the Montfortian mission, namely the proclamation of the Reign of Jesus through Mary.

Father Felix declared on this occasion that, without the Associates, the Missionaries of the Company of Mary would not be complete!



# GAMO and the Latin American Continental Gathering 2020

#### by Dola de SOL-ABAB

**PASSOS - Brazil** - In the second half of September and the first half of October 2019, Father General, Fr. Luizinho, SMM, on leave in his home country, Brazil, took the time to visit Passos, where there is a Grupo Amigos of Montfort (GAMO).



During the meetings, in the presence of the members of GAMO, adults and teenagers, he notably shared the situation of Montfortian Associates in several countries and the missionary activities of each Montfortian group.



These activities can be lived or performed in each Associate's home parish and in society. In particular, he encouraged them to get involved with people in need, people living in poverty.

On this occasion, they also discussed the Latin American continental gathering to be held in Sao Paulo in July 2020.

## Prayer

#### **VERY GENTLE VIRGIN MARY**

#### by Elli-Mac.



Put peace in our hearts,
Put peace in our souls.
Put peace in our thoughts,
Put peace in our lives.
May we be worthy of your infinite goodness.

Guide our hearts,
Guide our souls,
Guide our thoughts,
Guide our lives.
May we, finally, go to you more serenely.

Open our souls,
Open our hearts,
Open our thoughts,
Open our lives;

May we be overwhelmed by all your love. Extend to us your immense mercy,
In order to be worthy to access this Promised Land
And rest there forever.





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