

Jesus Living in Mary

Monthly Newsletter
of Formation &
Information



Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts

Montfort Missionaries in the Diocese of Lae,
Papua New Guinea (PNG)



*With love, we can do everything,
Without love, we do nothing.
Love is the one thing necessary,
The summary of all good,
The divine imprint,
The essence of a Christian.
I must love, I must love
God hidden in my neighbor.*

(Montfort, Hymn 148:2)



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MONTFORT MISSIONARIES

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"Peace be with you!"

APRIL 18, 2021

By Pierrette MAIGNÉ

3rd Sunday of Easter
Year B

Luke 24: 35-48



Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?"

Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them,

"Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things".

Luke in this passage tells us about another apparition of the Risen One. This passage follows the narrative when Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus was not recognized by the Apostles.

Peace be with you. These words will be pronounced by Jesus at each apparition. This peace is the sign of the Messianic era. This peace is announced by the angels at the birth of Jesus. It is also in the mouths of the crowd at the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Despite the wish for peace, fright and fear prevailed within the Apostles. In response, Jesus offers them a word and a gesture.

But was it just fear? Joy was present yet mixed with fear and disbelief. Again, Jesus offers them a word and a second gesture.

In order to be recognized, Jesus offers peace and he lets himself be touched by them and then, he eats with them.

Then comes the long discourse of Jesus and like to disciples of Emmaus, Jesus rereads the events by showing them through the Scriptures the fulfillment of the plan of God: Everything that has been written about Me must be fulfilled.

To recognize the Risen One, we must go through an understanding of the plan of God which has been accomplished through history, moving from observing to understanding.

Faith is not sentimentalism but faith that is with reason and thoughtful adherence to Revelation. It is based on the testimony of the Apostles and on the Word of God.

Jesus wants to bring them into the fuller plan of salvation - the plan of God which is revealed in the Scriptures.



To enable one to know the meaning of crucifixion and resurrection is to grasp more in depth, the relationship between the events and the saving plan of God.

Thus, these Apostles were "opened" to see these events as Jesus entrusting them with a mission. They who were witnesses of His preaching and the forgiveness of sins. For it is to all nations and not just to Israel that this message is intended to. Jerusalem only becomes the starting point for the radiance of the Good News' to the whole world.

This witnessing entrusted to the Apostles and to the whole Church is our mission today as Baptized for the reign of Christ; "the Kingdom of God may come" as we ask it in the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us - the Our Father. ■



And he said to them,
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suffer and rise from the dead on the third
day and that repentance, for the forgiveness
of sins, would be preached in his name to
all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things”.



“If you don't take risks for God, you won't give anything worthwhile” (Letter 27)

Missionary Experience with “Wisdom Year”

Sr. Mary Immaculate Makina, FdIS

After being in charge of implementing the Wisdom Year program in Rome and Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre, Sister Immaculate is now returning to her home entity in Malawi for a new mission in the field of formation of Daughters of Wisdom. What follows is a reflection on what exactly she has experienced during her service in the Wisdom Year.

I am **SISTER MARY IMMACULATE MAKINA**, belonging to the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. I am a Malawian and I am happy to share with you my missionary experience with Wisdom Year for which I was responsible for over a 6 year period.

During my mandate I had the privilege of accompanying 6 groups with a total of 50 sisters from different countries, such as Madagascar, Haiti, DRC, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Papua New Guinea, Malawi, Argentina and Italy. I was assisted in the first year (2014 – 2015) at the Generalate House in Rome by Sr. Maureen Seddon from GBI, followed by Sr. Berthe Léa Razanarisoa from Madagascar for 5 years at the Mother House at St. Laurent sur Sèvre, France.



“ My task as a formator was to also foster the integration of the Orientations of the General Chapters 2012. “Widen the Space of your Tent” and 2018, “Love Without Borders” .



Wisdom Year has been in existence for 30 years and is a formation programme which was put in place by the General Council in 1990. The idea came about at the General Chapter of 1988 when some sisters recently committed in the Congregation presented to the capitulants a project for an International Meeting of the young sisters in order to get to know each other, to reflect spiritually and to talk about the future. On October 10th 1990, the first Wisdom Year was commenced in Rome. Sr. Thérèse Normandeau from Canada was the first accompanist of the 9 participants coming from 9 countries.

The programme for Wisdom Year takes place over a 10 month period commencing with a 3 month period for language immersion in either French or English. French is the main language of communication during the formation programme.

Living in an international community with spiritual accompaniment and input, the participants are enabled to become immersed in Wisdom spirituality in all its dimensions and to participate in various courses in relation to human and spiritual development. Pilgrimages to significant places in the lives of the Founders and also to Lourdes also form part of the programme.

My task as a formator was to also foster the integration of the Orientations of the General Chapters 2012. “Widen the Space of your Tent” and 2018, “Love Without Borders”. It also included the building together a community of love, one that is truly rooted in Wisdom’s way, a way that leads to “a deep personal and communal conversion...” (Acts of the general Chapter 2012) in the spirit of our Founders.



This was accomplished through: organisation and planning of the programme, liaising with guest speakers, weekly accompaniment, giving sessions, animating the group, being a link between the General Council, making decisions in consultation with the General Council, liaising with the Entity Leaders and the local communities of the Montfortian family, firstly in Rome and then in France.

The above quotation of St. Louis Marie de Montfort to Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus, *“If you don't risk anything for God, you will not do anything great for Him”* has guided my life and mission and has given me peace, joy and serenity in my heart enabling me to take risks and challenges in life for God, trusting in His divine providence.

During those years of service I lived the different events of the Generalate House and the important changes like the moving of the Wisdom year programme to the Mother House as well as the lockdown due to the Coronavirus. It was a time of adjustment and re-organisation, a time which I lived with courage, commitment and trust in divine Providence.

“ I thank all the participants over the years for their love, patience, respect, openness, support, trust and confidence, all of which gave me courage and strength to remain faithful to the mission entrusted to me.

THE MISSION WHICH HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED TO ME WAS NOT MY MISSION, BUT GOD'S MISSION. IT WAS THROUGH THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT that I was able to journey and accompany the Sisters from different countries, background and cultures and in a milieu that was not my own. I depended on God's power and providence, trusting totally in God alone. I thank all the participants over the years for their love, patience, respect, openness, support, trust and confidence, all of which gave me courage and strength to remain faithful to the mission entrusted to me.

Today, like Mary, I sing magnificat for the many graces and blessings received during my service and for the mission accomplished with generosity, love and dedication.

Life without challenges is not worthy living. The challenges faced were mainly of language and adaptation to people, food and climate. I started my mission with very little knowledge of French. It demanded on my part the spirit of humility, patience and courage to forge ahead and not to give up. It was not easy sometimes to adapt and collaborate. Each person has their own way of thinking and doing things according to their background, upbringing, education and cultural experiences. Despite all this, I experienced the joy of unity in diversity and that differences were not barriers to true love but were a means to growth in patience and respect for each other. It has been a process of give and take in order to live in harmony, peace and joy with others.



Although Father Louis Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie Louise died 300n years ago, their spirit and presence have been and continue to be very much alive in my life. I have been deeply touched by their lives and their words of wisdom. They are the ones from whom I obtained inspirations and insights and they are a source of wisdom for me. I have related to them as a child to its parents listening to and following what they tell me through their inspiring words and actions. **I HAVE OFFERED PRAYERS THROUGH THEIR INTERCESSIONS, ASKING FOR WISDOM AND FOR ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTIES, DOUBTS AND FEARS. I HAVE RECEIVED THE RESPONSE LIKE A LIGHT, A GUIDING STAR IN MY HEART, WHICH GUIDED AND GAVE ME COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE TO TAKE UP RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS WHICH WERE CHALLENGING.**



Lastly, I would not have accomplished my work without the help, support and encouragement of many people, A big “thank you” goes to the General Council both past and present, Sr. Maureen Seddon, Sr. Berthe Léa Razanarisoa, all the speakers, the Sisters at the Mother House , the Entity Leaders and Sisters, and all the participants over the years for placing their trust and confidence in me. I did my service with humility, joy and freedom of mind because of their constant support and prayers. May God bless you all! ■

Religious and their hospitality

By Marian Claeren

The following is a sharing from Marian Claeren from the Netherlands. She recently retired from her post at the Dutch Provincial Secretariat. Her work there allowed her to become familiar not only with the confreres of this entity but also with the Congregation in general and all its missionary work and even to be in contact with its spirituality.



My name is **MARIAN CLAEREN**, born in 1954 in **EINDHOVEN (THE NETHERLANDS)**, the city, which became big, thanks to Philips and the DAF car factories. When I turned 16, I was allowed to join the Youth Choir in our parish. It was in the 1970s, after Vatican Council II. Much became possible, such as the use of one's own language in the liturgy. We sang songs by Huub Oosterhuis, contributed to the liturgy, and often used texts by Phil Bosmans, smm.

In the choir I met the man I married in 1974. We had 4 children, 3 sons and 1 daughter. I found it difficult to pass on my faith to the children and after the birth of the youngest I started studying Theology. The lectures were given on Friday evening and Saturday morning. We, 1 man and 4 women (one married to a former Montfortian!), drove up and down together to Tilburg twice during the weekend, until we heard that it was possible to spend the night in a monastery and so we arrived at a community of the Brothers of Tilburg. WE RANG THE BELL, THE LARGE WOODEN DOOR OPENED AND THERE WAS ONE OF THE BROTHERS, WITH A DRINK IN HIS HAND. HE GAVE US A WARM WELCOME! THAT WAS MY FIRST REAL INTRODUCTION TO MONASTIC LIFE AND ESPECIALLY THEIR HOSPITALITY! IT NEVER LET GO OF ME.

At university I met two Montfortians: Charles Voncken and Wiel Logister. They gave subjects on Canon Law and Introduction to Theology. I did voluntary work in the parish, from Preparation of Communion to presiding the Word Celebration and Communion Services.



With all the children at primary school I looked for work, preferably among Religious and got a job at the Communication Department of the KNR (Conference of Dutch Religious). There I met Father Voncken again, who regularly asked to make a press release about the activities of the Montfort Center "Op Weg", in Oirschot.

In 1998 I was looking for work in the Eindhoven area, but there were no vacancies. Two years later, the then Provincial Superior Father Voncken telephoned me, they were looking for a secretary and so I started on May 1, 2000 with the Dutch Provincialate of the Montfort Missionaries.



In 2015 sister Hubertina Hamans Fals celebrated her 60 years of profession. The staff at that moment in the convent of Vroenhof, where sister Hubertina lived at that time, played an act, dressed as false missionary sisters and sang for sister Hubertina. Names from the left: Marlies, Elly, sr. Hubertina, Marleen, Marian, Monique.

And then Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort came into my life. I must admit that his style was against me, too devout and distant. His words did not touch me, like the texts of Huub Oosterhuis, a well-known Dutch (former Jesuit) theologian and poet, for example. When words touch my heart, they won't let go.

The Vatican Council II has had a major impact in the Netherlands and caused a division among Catholics into conservative and progressive, including in the dioceses. In my belief, Montfort and his writings belong to that conservative side. In my opinion, the Dutch Province had also taken some distance from it. It was difficult to talk to people who take Montfort's lyrics literally.

The Chapter in 2011 talked about the future of the Dutch Province, about its heritage and about the celebrations of 300 years of the "True Devotion" in 2012 and the anniversary of Montfort's death in 2016.

The newly elected Provincial Superior, Peter Denneman, asks his predecessor, Wiel Logister, for an idea. He replied: «At this very moment we can make our voices heard about the True Devotion, let them hear what our meaning is. If you look at Montfort's purpose and you want to connect with our world, you may have to move the Trinity towards the end.

Finally, the Gospel is also a representation of the Paschal way of experiencing. That gives a different picture. As Montfortians, we now have a chance to attract attention». This idea has received a lot of support and advice. The Provincial government was to seek a connection with our world and the True Devotion.

And so, it happened, mainly because of Peter's perseverance and thanks to the talent of Wiel, 4 beautiful books have been published and 2 CDs. In 2013 the 1st book was published under the title "Touched by the Humility of God". Written in the language that does touch me, close to my heart. In 2014, the second book "In the footsteps of the Crucified Jesus" (after the "Friends of the Cross") is published and in 2016, "The Charity of God makes me sing" about the Hymns of Montfort. A number of Hymns have been adapted and put on CD. In 2019 the last book "Mary and Marian Devotion in the Hymns of Montfort" was published. With another CD there.

“ I will not forget the Montfortians. I was just allowed to step into their lives and be a part of it. A miracle!



A picture together with Wim Peeters, on October 8, 2015, I don't remember at which occasion.



This was in may 2007, when I was with Mia Rummens, then secretary of the Belgian vice-province and the Financial Commission, in Rome.

The Hymns are sung at all Montfortian gatherings, and funerals. Especially the text of the Hymn 148 - "Hymn on Charity" - in which Montfort sings: "I must love, I must love, God hidden in my neighbor" has touched my heart and has become my motto. You really do not need more, to give hands and feet to the gospel: «I love God hidden in my neighbor, that is my duty. »

And now I am in the 3rd period of my life. I retired after 20 years with the Dutch Province. A strange idea! I still have to get used to it and it is not easy. I want to do volunteer work, but I can't do that now because of corona virus. I wanted to visit Montfortians, like Ben Faas and Simon Kuyten, but yes, they have passed away. So, I sit alone at the table at home writing an article for «Jesus, Living in Mary».

Better times are bound to come. I will not forget the Montfortians. I was just allowed to step into their lives and be a part of it. A miracle!

That first meeting with the Brothers of Tilburg brought me to a special world and I feel honored to be a part of it. ■

MY MISSIONARY JOURNEY IN LAE DIOCESE, Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Fr Vinod DMello SMM

The following is a sharing from Father Vinod DMello, a Montfort Missionary, who works in the Diocese of Lae, PNG. This hardworking missionary previously served in Daru-Kiunga Diocese and in Port Moresby Archdiocese.



On 15th December, 2018, a new chapter opened in the history of Montfort Missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

With Bishop Rozario Menezes S.M.M. being elected as the Local Ordinary of the Catholic Diocese of Lae, our Montfortian Mission in Papua New Guinea has been extended to the people in the Diocese of the Lae.

On 29th June, 2019, I began my missionary journey in this Diocese which is situated in the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea. Bishop Rozario Menezes S.M.M. entrusted me with the responsibility of taking care of St. Michael Parish, Eriku and to coordinate the Pastoral Work in the diocese.

Here are a few experiences that strengthened my missionary journey during this one and a half years as I am working in this diocese.



1. EVANGELIZATION

We are in the phase of preparing our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. We, as a Diocesan Team of Pastoral Animation were giving awareness about the Diocesan Pastoral Plan in 21 parishes of the Diocese during 2020. This is to prepare the people to welcome and live this Diocesan Pastoral Plan, as individuals and as a communities.

When we were giving awareness, I was stunned with the faith of the people at St. Finbar Parish, Mandok. It is one of Islands among the Siassi Islands. They are very strong Catholics and own their Catholic Faith. There is no other denomination or sect or religion present on this island.

I was speaking with one of the Church elder, how do you keep up your faith amidst influences and challenges from other denominations or sects or religions and modern culture. The Church Elder said that whenever one of us marry a person from other churches and comes back to the Island, we ask the partner of the other church to become Catholic. If the person rejects, we (the community of Mandok Island) tell politely the Catholic member of ours along with its partner from other church to find another Island immediately as they cannot continue staying here as it is a Catholic Island.

The Church Elder continued saying that there were also people from other denomination and sects who wanted to put up their church buildings on this island. The community never allowed them to and invited them to become Catholic. If they rejected, they were asked to immediately leave the island.

The people of Mandok Island are very poor. There is no electricity or mobile network on this island. The island is thickly populated and hence they have to go to another island to make garden for their food. They go to another island where there is a possibility of getting water for consumption. They have to go to a completely different island to find fire wood to cook their food. Even for the basic services of education and health they have to go to two different islands. A canoe with its paddles is the common means of transport to meet all their basic needs. When the sea is rough, they cannot travel and hence they remain without food for days.



Bishop Rozario Menezes S.M.M.



Fr Vinod DMello SMM

“ One of the greatest lesson I learnt from the people of St. Finbar Parish, Mandok is that on our journey of evangelizing people, we ourselves get evangelized. I got evangelized by the strong faith of this people and their dependence on the providence of God.

Even though the life is very challenging, their faith is very strong. Every day, in the evening, the whole community gathers to pray together in the Church. Every Sunday the Church is full for the Holy Mass.

One of the four pillars of Montfortian Spirituality is evangelization. One of the greatest lesson I learnt from the people of St. Finbar Parish, Mandok is that on our journey of evangelizing people, we ourselves get evangelized. I got evangelized by the strong faith of this people and their dependence on the providence of God.



“ As St. Louis Marie de Montfort rightly says that one of the greatest and best practice of devotion towards Mother Mary is the prayer of the rosary. I learnt how rosary can be a powerful weapon to bring many lost souls back through our Blessed Mother Mary to her Son Jesus in my ministry.

2. DEVOTION TO MOTHER MARY

The Coat of Arms of Bishop Rosario has the motto: To Jesus Through Mary. Many Catholics of the Diocese of Lae have a very strong devotion towards Mother Mary. Whether they are rich or poor, in their good or not so good times they never forget to carry their rosaries with them and pray it regularly. To strengthen this Devotion towards Mother Mary, Bishop Rozario has requested all the priests in the diocese to pray the rosary every day before the Holy Mass.

Inspired with this, St. Michael Parish youths (the parish where I am working) along with parents and children have formed a group which gathers every Saturday at the Parish Grotto in the evening at 7 p.m. and pray the 20 mysteries of the rosaries at once. While they pray, they offer the intentions very specially for the sick and the dying and special intentions from the community. Many healings have taken place, some of the broken marriages are been rectified and they were instrumental in bringing peace within disturbed families.

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“ Many Catholics of the Diocese of Lae have a very strong devotion towards Mother Mary.

Day by day, as I continue my ministry in this Diocese, the life situations, the faith and the living witnesses of the people help me to journey more and more closer to our Lord Jesus and His beloved Mother Mary. It also helps me to share this devotion with the people in my ministry and help them to know and love our Lord Jesus and Mother Mary more and more, in the Holy Spirit. I am grateful to Bishop Rozario Menezes S.M.M. for giving me an opportunity to be part of and to work in the Diocese of Lae. ■



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"Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2)

Ouladzimir Vaytsiachivitch,
Minsk, Belarus



Ouladzimir, a Legionary of Mary, shares with us his meeting with Bishop Kasimir Vélakaciélets, the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Minsk-Mahileu in Belarus. It was a meeting for the possibility of establishing the Association Mary Queen of All Hearts in the country. This took place last February 1, 2021.



In life, there is a time for everything.

A time to sow and a time to reap. The sower, would always want to plant the grain at the most favorable season.

By so doing, the grain grows faster. And harvest time, will be at its best.

After a long day, I have kept this sense of joy that has been within me and this is because, a joyous event took place in our country. A great victory was achieved. Today, we met up with Bishop Kasimir Vélikaciélets, the new Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese Minsk-Mahileu.

We visited him in order to seek his permission and blessing **to launch the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts in Belarus.** Long have we have been waiting for this very important occasion to happen for the good of our country. We are more than thankful that this is now achieved. This was yesterday's dream.



As soon as the Pope confirmed the new Apostolic Administrator, we were convinced that the time of the Most Holy Virgin 'had arrived' for all of us. For it had been so long a that we had been 'sowing seeds' to the launch of this Association.

It is only now that we have started to realize it. Is it not the right time?!

Our new bishop is a man who always had his rosary in his hand. My brother priests will testify that he is a very simple man. I too have seen this in our bishop. Anyone who comes near him will find no barriers. He is one you could talk to as equal, even with his position in the hierarchy.

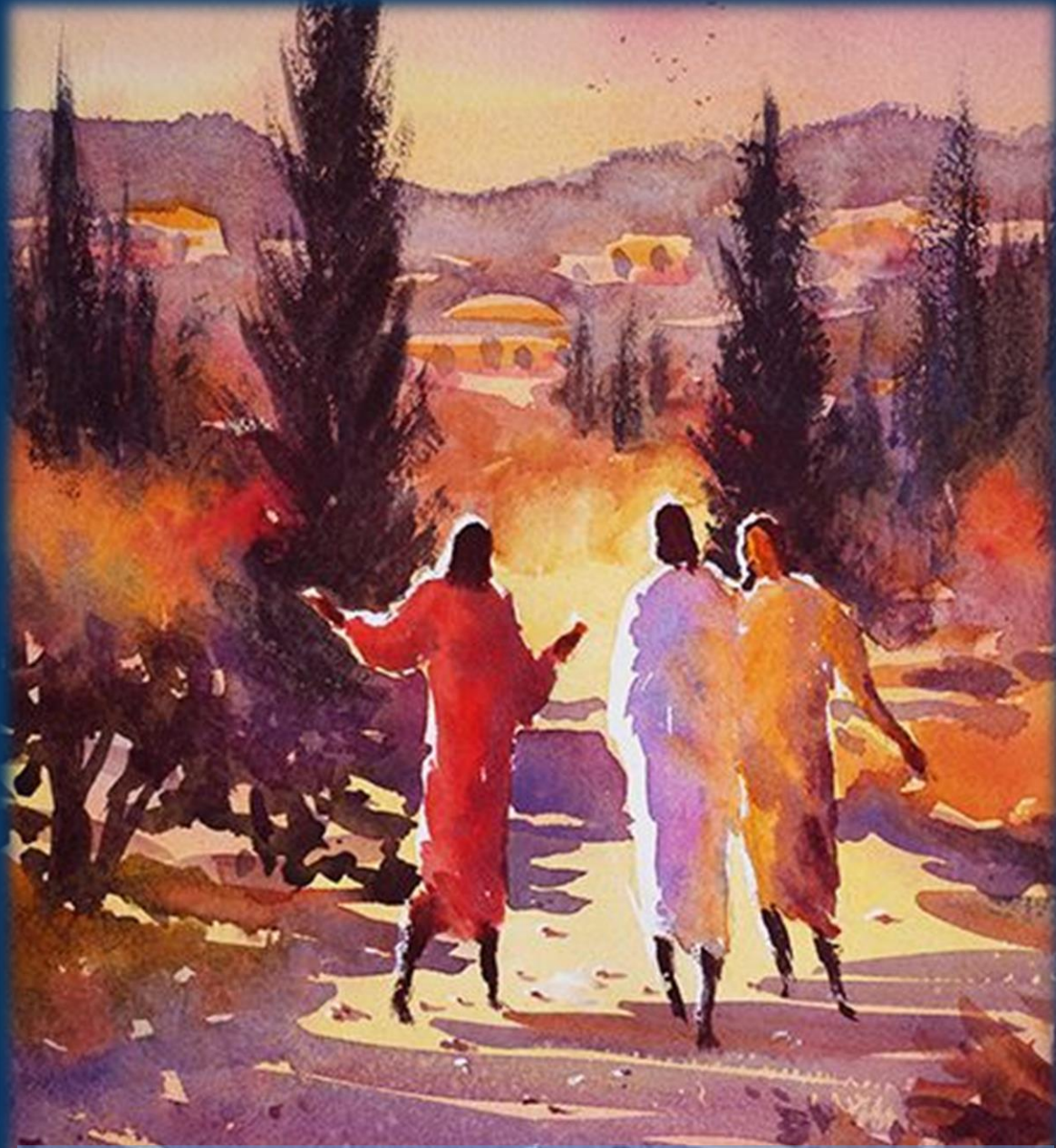


Anybody who knew him can tell that he spends several hours on his knees to pray holding the rosary in his hand. To add, he is a member of the Dominican family. Where His Excellency is, Mary is also and so flows the many blessings from God.

Today, I am overwhelmed by the blessings! Monsignor told us that today was just the first meeting of other meetings that will follow after. This moment has come when Mary, through the Association will start a great mission in Belarus. We have waited a very long time, I say it again! And finally this is the day the Lord has made. A blessed day!

We thank the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin!!! The land of Belarus and its people thirst for the presence of Mary. Many souls want the Mother of God to reign here. Through her faithful servants, the Holy Spirit will renew the face of this earth. Amen! **"Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2).** ■

“If there is anything in death that gives joy, it is to have worked for the salvation of the neighbor” (Montfort, S 195)



April 28, 1716 - 2021
The 305th anniversary of the death of
Paul Oman Father de Montfort