

BUT YES ... MONTFORT IS YOUNG!

JESUS LIVING IN MARY

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION
MARY, QUEEN OF ALL HEARTS**



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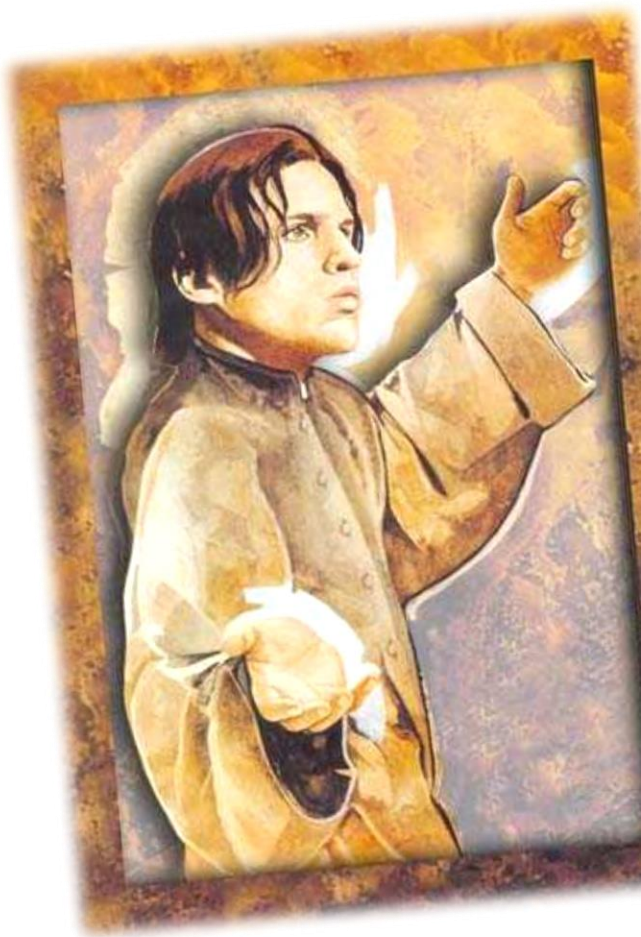
JANUARY 2019

**MONTFORT
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But Yes ... Montfort Is Young!

In some places, Montfortian Associates have difficulties in recruiting young people to become the members of the Association Mary, Queen of All Hearts. Some spiritual directors of this Association do not have much experience to translate the Montfortian inspirations to reach out to younger audience, with language and means specific to youth. Some Montfortian entities - even where members are still young at the age - almost never think of addressing themselves to young people to introduce them about Montfort and his spirituality.

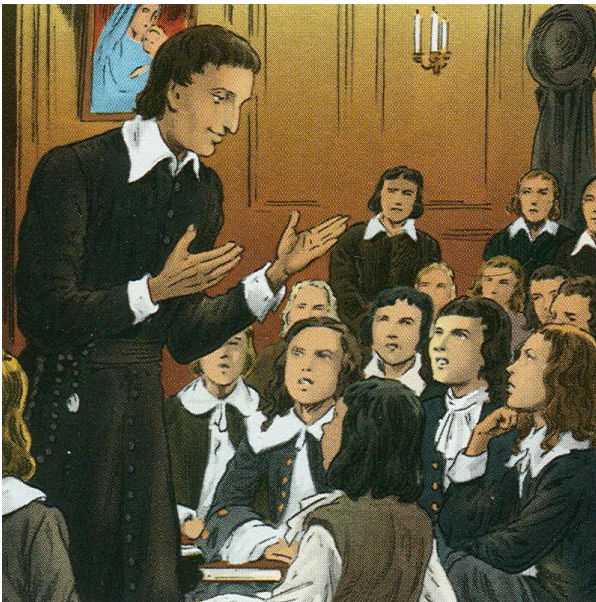


Would Montfort have become a business reserved for adults or theologians? We call him Father de Montfort or Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, as if he were not of an ordinary origin, like us, and therefore one of us, our brother, a familiar that one should call simply by his first name, Louis or Louis-Marie, or by his last name, Montfort. Devotion to his holy person should not keep him away from us, not even at the level of the appellation. If in some cultures words like 'father' and 'saint' move a person away from our sphere to make it inaccessible, in Christian language we must not be afraid to change these words with those expressing fraternity, intimacy, proximity.

Thank God, in other places, even if it is weak as a reality, there is the presence of groups of young people with missionary formation like Young Friends of Montfort and Montfort Youth, which gathers teenagers (schoolboys and high school students) and university students. Often these groups become a source of religious or priestly vocation.

But, are these young people making part of these Montfortians groups because they are attracted by Montfort or rather because they are motivated by the desire to meet among peers, regardless of the content of the training they receive? Whatever their motivation, cultivating Montfort among young people is something very reasonable!

Montfort is even intended for young people, for one simple reason: Montfort and young people have one thing in common. Literally speaking, Montfort is a young man! In terms of number of years, Louis-Marie de Montfort (1673-1716) died at age 43. It's an age that has nothing to do with old age. Generally, it is the age that - in the psychology of development - is considered a time full of vitality, full strength, passion, enthusiasm, zeal, fervor. It's the age to realize the story. Is not it said that life begins at forty? So to talk about Montfort to young people is to tell them about someone who knows them. Montfort becomes their friend or traveling companion.



Montfort knows the world of young people not only because he is about the same age as them, but because throughout his life, Montfort was interested in the training of young people. Let's not forget that he created and managed free schools for young people, in La Rochelle, for example. He taught catechism to young people, as in Paris. He became a spiritual director for young school children, as in Poitiers, Dinan, etc.

Moreover, during all his youth, Montfort had visions of young man. But in what spirit? We know that young age is the best time to

find an identity. Young people like to find meaningful lifestyles and look for examples. Sometimes this research process goes through difficult steps. However, towards the end of his studies at Saint Thomas Becket College in Rennes, Montfort came to a clear vision of his future: he already adhered to God's call to become a priest.

The cause of this attraction is because he was seduced by the charm of Jesus who, too, is still young. So young fascinated by another Young or Young who attracts another Younger! Is not this a natural law! In the part of "Christ, a Young Man Among Young People", the Instrumentum laboris of the Synod of Bishops on "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment", from October 3 to 28, 2018, states that « Youth is an original and exciting stage in life, that Christ himself went through, sanctifying it with his presence.... Therefore, Jesus is 'a young man among young people', and He wants to meet them and walk beside them, as He did with the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35). Today, He still wants to offer His entire self so that each young person may have life abundantly (cf. Jn 10 :10) » (no. 75).

In his intense search for a true identity, Montfort becomes convinced of the direction of his life, to the point of affirming that it is "God alone" the center of interest around whom he has developed all his projects. The word "God Alone", which is found almost at the end of each of his Hymns, is engraved on his tomb. It is the solemn proclamation of the deep meaning of his life and all his missions.

In his relationship with God, Montfort lived a particular lifestyle marked by total trust in God. Youth or Juvenil are the matrix of spiritual smallness: to be as little as a child to whom the Kingdom of God belongs first! Now, smallness speaks of the total trust in God, in his Divine Providence. Each page of

the biographies of Montfort evokes this trust in God who remains his "Father in heaven who never fails him". Montfort was the beloved son of Divine Providence. Behind his teaching on the Consecration to Jesus Christ through the hands of Mary, there is this attitude of spiritual childhood towards Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, with the help of the Virgin Mary. Now, smallness or childhood means youth, it is spiritual youth full of freshness, almost like the original innocence of the human being.

Pope Francis, in his book-interview with Thomas Leoncini entitled "God is young," says all that one must do before speaking (p. 61). To do that is to live! It allows us to speak from experience in a convincing and authoritative way. Montfort, before being a preacher, is a witness. He lived an exhilarating Christian life and that is why he can become a model of wisdom from an early age. But he is also a model for every person who goes on a journey, on an adventure on the path of wisdom, no matter

his or her age. Because Montfort is young, both in age and in spirit.



And you, do you live a youth full of joy and enthusiasm for the future? Do you have contacts with the world of young people? Do you speak to them about Montfort and his teaching?

Arnold SUHARDI, SMM



Prayer Intentions

Weeks 50 & 51



1-I entrust to you, St. Louis-Marie, and to you, Blessed Mother Mary, my conversion and that of my children and the whole family. Thanks my God.

2-I am young and I try to pray often Jesus. Prayers of thanksgiving to regain confidence in the future. Thank you.

3-Saint Louis Marie, come to my help, I suffer from loneliness, at time the loneliness is long ! Thank you.

4-Saint Louis-Marie Grignon Montfort, I come to entrust my children to free them from the influence of alcohol. Open for them a door leading to employment. Thank you.

5-Saint Louis-Marie Grignon of Montfort and Sister Marie Louise, I entrust you a whole family. Help them to find out the path of peace.

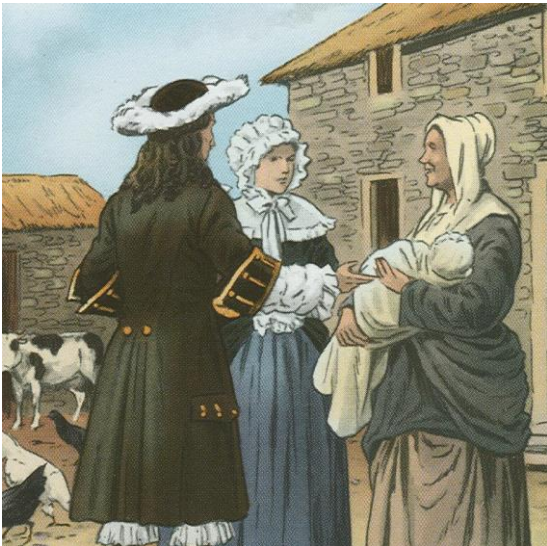
6-I thank Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort for all the graces received. I pray him every day. Thank you Lord.



January 31, 2019

Louis-Marie's birthday

Louis Grignion was the son of the Gentleman Jean-Baptiste Grignion, Sieur of la Bachelleraye, Advocate in the Baillywick of Montfort-la-Cane, in the Diocese of Saint-Malo in Brittany, and of Jeanne Robert.



He was born in the month of February 1673, and was baptised in the church of St. Jean in Montfort. He was given the name Louis, to which he added the name Marie when he received the Sacrament of Confirmation, having always had a great devotion to the most worthy Mother of God.

From his earliest days, he showed signs of what he was to become one day; for he was still only four or five years of age when he was speaking of God, and going up to his mother when he saw her saddened to console her and exhort her to suffer with patience.

He was the eldest of two brothers and six sisters. While still a child he developed a closer friendship with his sister called Louise than with the others, because he found her to be more ready to accept the sentiments and practices of piety which he wanted to inspire in her: and though they were both still children, he did everything he could to draw her away from the ordinary amusements of youth: he would call her away in secret, but with insistence, from her little companions, to lead her to pray to God, and if she showed any reluctance, he would give her little presents, and he would tell her: "My dear sister, you will be very beautiful and everyone will love you if you love God."



She would then immediately go with him, and, following his example, would encourage her little companions to recite the Rosary with her, and, in order to get them to agree to say it every day, he would give them the most beautiful and the best things he had.

The greatest joy they could give him was to speak with him about God, or to tell of their desire that he speak to them of him. At length, when this dear sister was older and would be encouraged by her brother's desires to give herself to the practice of some virtue or other, he did not know what caresses to use to express his joy to her.

So the young Grignion, like Tobias, kept the Law of God from his infancy, *Legem Dei*

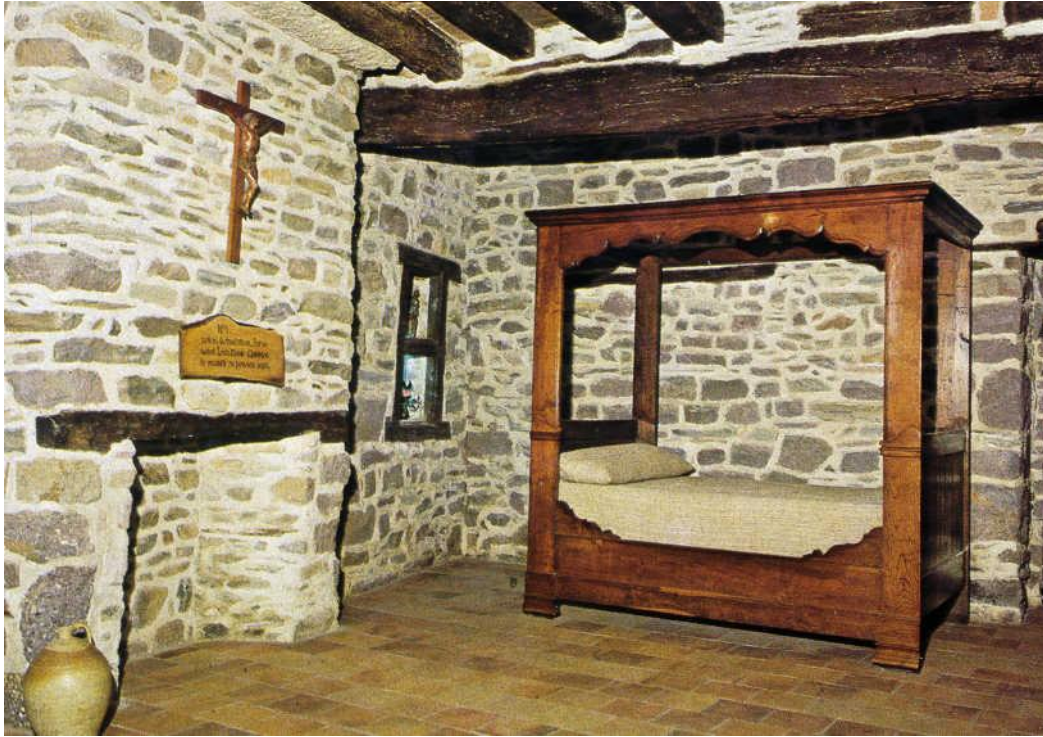
puerulus observabat (Tobit 1:8). Withdrawing from the company of young people of his own age, and from worldly people, so as to avoid their distractions, he would retire to some corner of the house, to give himself to Prayer and to recite his Rosary before a little picture of the Blessed Virgin; a practice which he kept up at a later age.

(Source: Joseph GRANDET, *The life of Monsieur Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort*, Rome, 2006, p. 31-32).

“From his earliest days, he showed signs of what he was to become one day”



House of Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort
In Montfort-sur-Meu,
in the department of Ille-et-Vilaine, in the region of Bretagne, France



January 31, 2019

Louis-Marie,
Happy birthday!