



## Meeting of Associates in Montreal

**CANADA** - On Saturday, December 16, 2023, the festive Christmas meeting of the associates took place in Montreal, where the Fathers from the Sanctuary were invited.

Initially, the associates paid tribute to the Fathers, expressing gratitude for their tireless work in facing challenges to maintain the dynamism and vitality of the Sanctuary. They assured the Fathers of their collaboration and support in their mission at the Sanctuary.

During the event, Father Doris TOMBAOSA, SMM spoke on the theme: *Christmas with Father de Montfort*.

He first presented the context in which Christmas was celebrated in Brittany in the 17th century, emphasizing the divinity of the Child rather than his humanity. Then, he demonstrated that in the book "The Love of Eternal Wisdom" (ASE), Father de Montfort developed the theme of the Incarnation and addressed the theme of Christmas in ten Canticles (C. 57 to 66).

Father Doris generously introduced us to the richness of these Canticles, which were previously unknown to us. This teaching was a significant discovery, providing a new source of information and meditation. It revealed another aspect of Father de Montfort.

Father Doris revisited these Canticles, placing them in their context and highlighting the figurative and oratorical style of Father de Montfort, making them understandable, contemporary, and restoring their full meaning.

The conversation was recorded by Father RANDRIANANDRASANA Freda and is available on the Sanctuary's website and YouTube channel.

After the vote of thanks, the Christmas dinner took place – a festive and fraternal gathering where a toast and delicious dishes awaited after the meal blessing.

Precious moments of exchange, listening, and embracing one another enriched and strengthened our belonging to the beautiful family of Montfortian associates of the Sanctuary.

We parted by exchanging wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy new year 2024 filled with health and joy, continuing our journey accompanied by Mary!

*Lise Lamy,*

*Associate*