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Day 1 of the Continental Assembly for Asia and Oceania

MALANG, EAST JAVA, Indonesia - The Continental Assembly 2022 began on 4th July 2022, with the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Arnold SUHARDI, SMM. He said, in his homily, that it was the grace of God that brought us together.

The session began at 08.30 am. Fr. Arnold welcomed the participants.

"It is historical moment and a qualitative leap. We are going to experience the richness of Montfortian togetherness. This gathering gives an opportunity to experience brotherly love among Montfortians", he emphasized.

The Superior General, Fr. Luiz Augusto STEFANI, SMM, addressed the gathering. He began his speech, thanking the Indonesian Province for a warm welcome and participants for the availability. Fr. General said that the Continental Assembly has been decided long ago. It is a space for co-existence, exchange of experiences and a special moment to live the fraternity *"without borders"*. Continental Assembly 2022 is a dream of Montfort, "Small & Poor Company" being realized.

There were four presentations.

Fr. Rafael Servianus LEPEN, SMM spoke on the richness and diversity of cultures and the emergence of major religions in Asia, especially India and China which gave birth to world's major religions. We, Montfortians, are called to live in this context and be a witness.

"Apostolic Exhortation in Asia Oceania" was presented by Fr. Robert PERIANAYAGAM, SMM who said amidst the religious pluralism and cultural diversity we are called to live a witnessing life.

The Logo of Continental Mission Year in Asia and Oceania (CMY) was explained by Fr. Francis Prasanth ENASAPPPA, SMM. The prayer for the Assembly was composed by Fr. Peter MASCARENHAS, SMM who said that it is an inspiration from Montfortian zeal.

In a moment of integration, the participants were given time to read the inspiring message of Superior General and encouraging letter of the superior of the entity.

Sr. Valarine, DW addressed the gathering about the Daughters of Wisdom's Continental Assembly. She spoke of re-configuration of the entities, which paved way for more communion and enrichment of resources.

The day ended with Rosary and dinner.

Communications team - Indonesia