

Vatican City, May 20, 2023

Holy Father,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking the time to meet with us at the end of our 38th General Chapter. At this moment, we feel like Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort who, welcomed by Pope Clement XI in Rome, with his desires and his anxieties as a young missionary in search of the best way to serve God, received confirmation and the orientation from the Successor of Peter for a mission of constant renewal in the Church and in the society of his time.

What we entrust to you today is the fruit of these days of discernment during which we decided “to dare to take risks for God and for humanity” in order to remain creatively faithful to our missionary charism. We want to do this as the Montfortian Family also in the name of our lay friends and in communion with the bishops of the five continents where we operate.

In this year when we celebrate the 350th anniversary of the birth of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, Holy Father, you too can see that the face of the Montfortians, starting with mine, is now characterized by great cultural diversity, proof that the message of Saint Louis-Marie, fiery missionary, continues to inspire young people from all latitudes to risk their lives for God and his Kingdom! We are happy to share that among our vocations in the world, we welcome recently for the first time some young Polish confreres who, following Saint John Paul II, want to be children of Montfort with his "*Totus Tuus*" and we also hope that the two new foundations in Mexico and Vietnam will soon rejoice us with vocations to the service of the mission. A delegation of our young people will be with you in Lisbon next summer to witness that by risking for God, at school of Mary, is never lost!

This is what our beloved confrere, Fr. Olivier MAIRE, testified recently, by shedding his blood to welcome a person rejected by society, and we have the pleasure of accompanying here today, Holy Father, the parents of the Fr. Olivier and his family from France to thank you for your delicate closeness in the days following his tragic departure to the house of the Father.

We promise you, Holy Father, to pray for you and for the intentions that dwell in your heart as Shepherd and Guide of the Church. And we ask you to bless our religious family and our mission.

*Fr. Dwi WATUN, SMM
Superior General*