



### **Montfortians of Portugal in Assembly**

**FATIMA, Portugal** - On January 3 and 4, 2023, all the members of the Company of Mary in Portugal held an annual meeting at “Casa Montfort” (Fátima). It was precious time for reflection, prayer, conviviality, sharing.

The main objective of the days was to assess the progress made and outline proposals and objectives for the future. This year, in addition to the sharing of community experiences and the Portuguese Delegation, special emphasis was placed on the next General Chapter (May 1-21, 2023) of the Montfort Missionaries, which will take place in Rome and for which a Delegate from Portugal was elected to participate with the Superior of the Delegation.

Since this meeting was also a time for reflection, it included a conference by Fr. Joaquim TEIXEIRA, OCD, who presented an interesting and innovative parallelism between Saint Thérèse of Jesus with her “Moradas” and St Louis-Marie de Montfort with the True Devotion and the Secret of Mary, on the figure of Mary, emphasizing that the paths intertwine and that there are many links that can be valued and that allow us to understand that there is a greater relationship among the saints than we don't think sometimes. Some enlighten others. The Montfortian Mgr. Rui VALERIO, SMM also shared with the group a very relevant and in-depth reflection on synodality in the Church, intertwining the historical dimension and the present. There was also the pleasant visit of Fr. Manuel PEIXOTO, SMM - residing in the Elderly House for Clergy of Leiria-Fátima Diocese - who concelebrated at the Eucharist of thanksgiving and at the fraternal lunch. Msgr. Manuel PELINO joined the community to share the time of conviviality in which the most recent birthdays of Mgr. Rui VALERIO, Fr. Amílcar TAVARES and Fr. Luis Manuel FERREIRA, were honored.

*Fr. Luis Manuel FERREIRA, SMM*