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Volume 3 Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Message from Fr. General	1
Liberos ... To be free	2
My Experience in PNG	2
From Wisdom to Liberos	3
News Updates	4

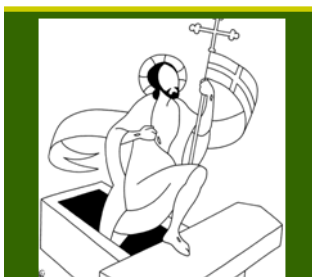
My dear confreres.

Greetings from Papua New Guinea.

March 24, 2014 marked an important day in the life of the SMM mission in PNG. We turned another page in the history of our mission. The first house for the SMM. Thanks to the kind gesture of the Daughters of Wisdom who offered their house to the SMM and the generosity of the Canadian province who helped us purchase the house.

It was indeed a joyful moment for the SMM community in PNG because of the presence of our superior general, Fr. Claude, provincial superior of Canada and Fr. Dwi Watun. We would like to bring you some of the events that took place during their visit.

Rozario Menezes s.m.m



I was filled with joy to see the enthusiasm and dedication of the Montfort Missionaries, who give their best to be close to the people whom the Lord has placed in their care



these remote villages.

My first impression was that to see the difficulties in which we carry on our missionary work: with high costs, long travels, lack of basic necessities, limited means to help these people

But beyond that I was filled with joy to see the enthusiasm and dedication of the Montfort Missionaries who give their best to be close to the people whom the Lord has placed in their care. Despite the fact that there is still much to do, I was impressed with the way people relate to our priests, their way of celebrating the events gave me an impression that our confreres are the shepherds of these flock.

I felt that Balimo could be made as a centre our activities and have a community of SMM there, since it is the centre of the local administration. There is a possibility of development and growth of the Christian community and also the possibility of joining the surrounding villages. Our religious community must have fraternal life, it should be a pastoral community, where the members can live together and venture into the mission, they have a place to share their missionary activities and find healing after their hard missionary labour. I saw that our missionary service reaches not only to the local people but also expatriates who work in this area: Filipinos, Malaysians, Indonesians, who are committed and enthusiastic Catholics who live away from their country, from their families and cultures and traditions. **Continued on**





Liberos..... To be free ... to become sons of Mary

The name of your newsletter is LIBEROS and the name of your new house in Kiunga is also LIBEROS. I find this very meaningful for your lives as missionaries in the diocese. Liberos has two meanings: to be free and to be a child. We are thinking about being a child of Mary and in living as a child of Mary we surely live as a child of God the Father and as a brother to Jesus, Son of God. If in his life a Montfort Missionary is a liberos as a child he then can be a free person as a liberos.



What stops us from being free is anything that keeps us away from God, from one another and from the people we serve. In our Diocesan Pastoral Plan we wrote that Mary walks with us our Journey of Faith. It would be a wonderful blessing for the Diocesan Church if all the Montfort Missionaries were always walking in the company of Mary. This is who we are after all: The Company of Mary.

It would be wonderful because then we could also be liberos, free men and fully committed to the plan of God for his people. We would then not be hindered by our own personal problems, our misunderstandings, our divisions, our little fights for power, our own different plan to suit our self interest, etc. With Mary who is so close to all her children we would then have the 'smell of the sheep' as Pope Francis wants his missionaries and his priests to be.

Dear brothers SMM, let us daily support one another in our pursuit of being Liberos, children of Mary and free persons.

+ Gilles, your brother.



What stops us from being free is anything that keeps us away from God, from one another and from the people we serve.

An apostolic community inspired by the spirit of Liberos is a community characterized by putting God's Wisdom in the center.

It is a community which is marked by its humility to listen to God's voice; to listen to one another, and to the cries of God's people.



My experience in PNG:

In his prayer for missionaries, St. Montfort expresses his dream for his missionaries to become "Liberos" - a free person inspired by the freedom and the wisdom of God. The blessing of the first SMM community which under the name of "Liberos" in the diocese of Daru-Kiunga makes the dream of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort is present. Consequently, this dream challenges all confreres working in PNG to journey together in the same spirit, in the same dream. It is indeed easy to speak of being Liberos when we are alone, but it is more challenging when we put into practice of being Liberos in an apostolic community. Establishing four apostolic communities (three in daru-Kiunga diocese and 1 in Port Moresby) marks a new step of our presence in PNG. This new step is God's invitation for us to go deeper in being Montfortian and doing Montfortian mission. It is an invitation to go out from our status quo, from being "single fighter". It is indeed an invitation to go deeper and to be humble.

Therefore, an apostolic community inspired by the spirit of Liberos is a community characterized by putting God's Wisdom in the center. It is a community which is marked by its humility to listen to God's voice; to listen to one another, and to the cries of God's people.

After visiting and listening to confreres and experiencing their missionary's works, I am aware that as a new beginning, there are challenges and even threats that we have to deal with, but there are also strengths in the entity. I do believe that this new endeavor will strengthen our identity as Montfortians and will make our mission bear much fruits.

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FROM WISDOM TO LIBEROS



This is Holy Ground,
You're standing on Holy Ground,
For the Lord is present
And where He is, is Holy!

The event of the official opening of this house under a new name is very significant for us all, the Montfortian family.
From WISDOM to LIBEROS.

If we go back to our roots, we can connect to a similar event in the life of our founders, in 1720 Marie Louise had established the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom at St Laurent in the Long House, in 1723, she left this house already too small, to the Brothers of the Holy-Spirit, (now Montfort Fathers) less numerous and often absent on their preaching missions, to establish herself and her sisters at the Chene Vert a much bigger house, across the

road where the Brothers were living.

Wisdom House has been our first house of formation, some of our Melanesian sisters have been prepared to become Daughters of Wisdom and made their first profession there. It is very significant that this house is now becoming the first house of formation of the Montfort Fathers.

In this house was our Oratory, where we prayed, sang, shared, celebrated joyful and sad events. This house was a Home, where we lived as a family, played and shared meals together and with many invited friends and parents. This house was also surrounded by our peaceful Garden, we would sit there and admire the beauty of creation, feel the quiet of the evening, listen to the singing of the birds and the croaking of the frogs, share the joys and difficulties of our busy days in our different ministries.



This was WISDOM HOUSE... today, it is becoming LIBEROS HOUSE!

This house was dear to our heart, we carry with us a lot of wonderful memories, our sadness was replaced by joy when it was taken over by our brothers for formation.

We pray that you live the ideal proposed to you by Montfort: LIBEROS:

Men free, detached from everything, but in bondage to God's love and will,
Men after God's own heart, moving according to the inspiration of the Spirit
Free men, always available, always ready to be on the move for God,
Liberos: true children of Mary, nurtured and upheld by Her, enriched with Her graces.

Then you will be blessed, you who have been chosen with such care to dwell in this

LIBEROS COMMUNITY!

With all our affection and best wishes for a bright and fruitful future.

Sr Pierrette Gagnon DW

LIBEROS...

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from everything, but in
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But what I carry deep within my heart, is the reality of most Christian communities in different villages : many families with many children left to themselves. No schools, no health centres, no ties to the country's life What will the future of these people be? Missionary presence is therefore even more urgent and necessary. I wish other young confreres could join those already here to strengthen and expand our presence to announce to the people the Word of salvation, that Jesus came to love all persons specially the poorest. The people of these villages still share their happiness and smile in spite of sufferings.

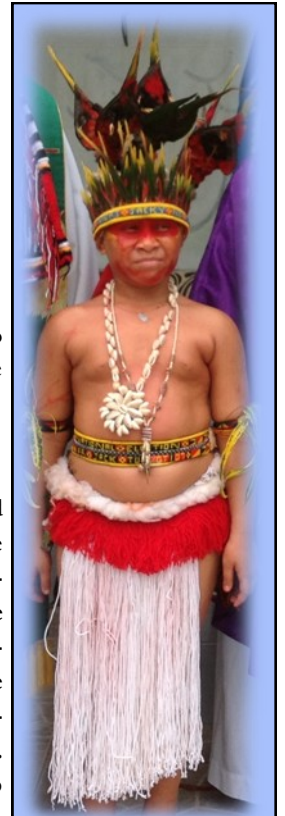
Fr. Santino Brembilla s.m.m

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Finally, I would like to thank you my dear confreres for your sacrifices and your availability to give service to God's People. For me, you are indeed great missionaries. Now, it is a time for us to go deeper. Let us make the dream of Montfort fully alive.

Yoseph P. Dwi D. Watun, SMM

General delegation of PNG would like to say thank you to Father Santino our Superior general and Fr. Dwi Watun for their visit to the delegation. We specially want to thank them for their presence among us during the blessing of our new house Liberos. A very special thanks to Fr. Claude, the provincial superior of the vice province of Canada, for officially blessing the house, your presence brought us joy, you represented all those missionaries who worked strenuously to build up the Montfortian mission to form it what it is today. We are committed to follow their foot steps and become witness to Christ following the footsteps of Father de Montfort. We extend our thanks to the Daughters of Wisdom for their constant support, encouragement and inspiration, and to the Brothers of St. Gabriel for standing by us in our mission. We request you to journey with us to bring Good News to the people whom our Lord has entrusted to us. Tenk yu tru...



What is making news in the General delegation of PNG

1. We are grateful to the Indonesian province for sending the missionaries to PNG, we are waiting for Fr. Lawrencious who will be joining us soon, welcome to the land of unexpected.
2. During the visit of our superior general, we reflected upon forming more communities, where confreres can stay together and carry on their missionary work. At the moment we have three communities, one in Port Moresby another at Kiunga and the third one at Daru. We are planning to have another community in Balimo, from where we can reach out to the people living in remote villages of Bamu and other villages. We request the provinces and delegation to send some missionaries so that we can transform our dreams into reality. We are grateful to the vice province of India and Madagascar, general delegation of Philippines and Indonesian province for their support. SMM stands for "Send More Missionaries" because we need to reach out to people who are waiting for us.
3. We are blessed with two more vocations, please pray that God will inspire more young people to answer His call. We are grateful to the Canadian vice province for accepting to help our formation program, they have planted the seed of faith in PNG, we are grateful they are ready to help it grow and bear fruit.
4. We wish you all a fruitful Holy week and a blessed Easter, may the Risen Lord invigorate us with the JOY of the Easter and help us spread this JOY to the people whom we serve.

The Lord is RISEN Alleluia! HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL.