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My dear confreres, friends and family.
Greetings from Papua New Guinea.

On September 16, Papua New Guinea celebrates its 39 Independence day. PNG has come a long way since the Independence in 1975. I see it as a JOURNEY, journey of a country with its varied cultures and languages, trying to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of people of all walks of life. We as the community of Montfort missionaries have become the part of this journey, answering the needs of the people, specially the spiritual aspiration of the people entrusted to us by our Lord.



PNG is a Christian country and our Christian life is a journey because it is a call to follow Jesus. "Follow me, I will make you fishers of men". Jesus also said to Peter "Do you love me more than these others...when Peter answered him in the affirmative, then Jesus says, "Follow me" (John 21,19). When we begin to follow Jesus it is like journeying into the unknown. St. Paul, in his writings slightly modifies the image of a journey. For him Christian life is a **race** – a long arduous journey, taken under pressure, in which the winners receive a crown (2 Tim 4,7)

If we accept that Christian life as a "race" then it calls for a discipline, which earlier was called 'asceticism' (*askesis* = discipline). Often asceticism conveyed unhelpful negative meanings, which then generally lead people to adopt negative attitudes towards the world, people, sexuality and the like. Asceticism is a process of self-discipline, which enables Christians to lead authentic and effective lives as believers. Self-discipline can be described as a *systematic programme of freeing ourselves from influences such as pride, self-centredness, lack of enthusiasm, lack of consideration and love for others*. These are barriers not only to spiritual growth but also to the growth of a nation.



Do we know where we are going ? Here are some indications that the journey paradigm offers us: Before setting out on any journey, it is wise to *get hold of a map*, which will indicate how to get to the desired destination. The *map in question is the shared experience of those who have undertaken this journey before us and passed down to us their wisdom, knowledge and encouragement*. this *journey is not an individual one. It is a corporate, communitarian one*. It is meant to be a supportive matter, where the *weak help the strong*. If life is a journey, then it is also a struggle. Because Jesus himself asks us to go by narrow path.

Self-discipline can be described as a systematic programme of freeing ourselves from influences such as pride, self-centredness, lack of enthusiasm, lack of consideration and love for others.

True enough, we as SMM have started a journey, we know what we want, sometimes we have no means to get there, we have the wisdom of those who have trod the path before us, we have the encouragement from those who are taking a similar journey, but we need to keep in mind that we are not alone in this journey, we lean on each other to get the desired results.

If life is a *journey* and a *race*, then it is also associated with **prayer**. Sometimes we feel that our prayers are not answered, but it is important that:

- even if I do not see light, I believe in the light;*
- even if I do not experience forgiveness I believe in pardoning;*
- even if I do not experience love, I keep loving*
- and even if I do not see God, still I keep believing him.*

Let us continue our journey along with our fellow brothers and sisters of PNG, supporting each other and praying for each other.

May God bless Papua New Guinea. **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY - PNG!**

Rozario Menezes s.m.m

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Hilton

Hilton is a young man from Rabaul, after finishing his grade studies he worked in different places, like bank, department of health ... Presently he is at Liberos house Kiunga, undergoing formation. He is very helpful to the confreres in their ministry, helping them for parish out reach programs. We wish Hilton all the best as he prepares himself to me a Montfort Missionary .

MY LIFE WITH SMM

When I first came to Kiunga, the place was very hot for me. I thought that all the time for rest of my life it will be hot like that. But as the time went by, I realized that weather changes in Kiunga, now I am getting adapted to the situation. While living in Liberos, Montfort Formation Centre, I came across many new things and also learned real things for both spiritual and the physical life. Like taking part in Church activities and having every Monday to Friday morning mass with the brothers and sisters. I have some more to mention but they are too many.

The very important thing that I have experienced in my life is the time factor. Everything is scheduled accordingly by means of prayer, work, eating and so on. Another thing that I have experienced is the food. Even in the school that I attended last year or in my home I did not eat three varieties of food (protein, protective and energy) as breakfast, lunch or dinner but first time in my life. I am able to sit at the table and eat well with my good fathers.

I am very happy with Montfort Missionaries Congregation. Therefore, I will stay within this missionary congregation and as a young man. I will follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Whether it is bad times and good times, I will stick to my God, to my mission and I will die with it.



Luke Kombas

Luke is from Wabag, in the Highlands region, at present he is upgrading his marks to be able to continue his further studies.

He is a young and energetic man, good at gardening, has grate love for the nature. Very friendly , when he found out that he can not continue with his marks, he immediately decided to go home and upgrade his marks and come back and join us. He will be writing his exams in 4 weeks time, let us keep him in our prayers.

I AM BEING FORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF GOD

It's few months after leaving my home and being welcomed by my new family brings joy and peace in my heart. It is a new experience, a new door I am entering, a choice I am making. The atmosphere inside is very flexible – self initiative encouraged with great importance stressed in time management, discipline. It is all well balanced with prayer, work, study, sports and rest.



Kiunga has a special style of shaking hands; After we shook hands, I let loose my grip... but his grip was still concentrating around my small finger, so I paused without realizing I repeated the gesture, he acknowledged with a smile. But then this time my small finger got tangled and locked between his two folded knuckles and was pulled off with “pop” sound – accompanied with rolled thunders and laughter breaking the silence.

“Well bro, WELCOME! This is KIUNGA!”

Protecting the Vulnerable

From 2-6 June, 2014, SMM delegates from different entities gathered together for a meeting to be educated in order to come up with the plan of action for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The week was lead by Fr. Luigi Gritti, Mrs. Monica Applewhite, Fr. Gerard Fritzsimmmons and others. Representing the General delegation of PNG, Frs. Masjon and Rozario attended the meeting. During the meeting we learnt about the ways in which we can work with the victims and offenders, we were given a brief history, as well as ways in which we can prevent the abuse. We were also given a draft policy to go through, which could help us to come up with our own policy for the use in PNG.

We are asked to come up with a policy to help us prevent abuse from happening, responding in case of abuse and to take responsibility to protect the vulnerable. We will be having a meeting in November at Kiunga to discuss and to come up with a policy of our own.

WISDOM BROUGHT US TOGETHER

In July 2014, the Montfortian family gathered together for a week long retreat at Kiunga. Sr. Helen Alice DW wrote a little article to share with us the WISDOM experience.

Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, Indonesia, Canada, Congo, England, Malawi, India and Philippines!!!!

Can we imagine more international than this?

Wisdom brought us together, Brothers, Sisters and Fathers, to share our stories, listen to the Word of God, re-discover the message of our founders and walk as one along the road of transformation.

What a nice and enriching experience!

Our theme was challenging: "Wisdom transforms" and the 4 means to acquire Wisdom, proposed by Montfort for our spiritual journey, Ardent Desire, Continuous Prayer, Mortification and True Devotion to Mary, a long process we need to integrate in our daily life.

Three words come to my mind as I re-read this beautiful experience: Simplicity, Faith and Joy.



Means to acquire WISDOM

4 means to acquire Wisdom, proposed by Montfort for our spiritual journey, Ardent Desire, Continuous Prayer, Mortification and True Devotion to Mary, a long process we need to integrate in our daily life.



Simplicity: a same and unique desire united us: to be more and more rooted in Christ Wisdom through Mary. And there was no one pretending to be above the others or more knowledgeable than his/her companions. Today, I can witness that simplicity is not only the best characteristic of the Daughters of Wisdom but the trade mark of the whole Montfortian family.

Faith was revealed in the beauty of our celebrations and prayer times. It was like one heart totally given to Christ Wisdom and called to deepen this vital relationship with "God Alone".

Joy was everywhere: in the beauty of the creation even if it was raining....., in the smiles of each participant, in the final celebration and the social night but mostly Joy was there, deep in our hearts because of the infinite Love of Jesus-Christ Wisdom for each one of us.

Yes! How beautiful it was to be together and sing God's praises through our beloved mother Mary.

I cannot forget this first experience in PNG and I do not have enough words to thank God for bringing me there.

I keep in my heart and prayers all the people I met and I hope that Wisdom will bring us together again!

Kiunga July 15, 2014

Sr. Helene Alic DW



I cannot forget this first experience in PNG and I do not have enough words to thank God for bringing me there.
Sr. Helen

In response to the invitation of Superior General and his council to be in “solidarity” with the confreres of the Northern entity of our congregation, who will be meeting in October at Nemi,

My dear Father General, members of the General council, superiors and delegates of the Northern entities of the Montfortain family.

I greet you all in the name of all the confreres working in the Mission of Papua New Guinea.

We thank Father General for inviting us to be in solidarity with you all, praying, “that the Holy Spirit may show us new ways forward where we see only walls!”

First of all our thoughts go to all the former missionaries who have paved the path on which we tread. We thank God for them all, for their hard work, inspiration, guidance and witnessing life, which has enabled us to continue on this missionary journey.

When I think about our former missionaries who have worked in the mission countries like PNG and many others, I think about the ‘mandate’ that Jesus gave to His disciples before His Ascension; “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).” We are called not to gaze at the sky, as the disciples had done, rather we are bidden to be Jesus’ witnesses, until He comes again. When I see what the Missionaries of the northern entities have done in the past and continuing to do at present, they did not gaze at the sky, but took the mandate of Jesus seriously becoming witnesses throughout the world.

Else were Jesus said, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt: 28:18-20).”

The work of Jesus is over and He has completed His part, so also our former missionaries from the Northern entities have done what best they could and we in turn are given the baton to run and finish the race successfully, and hand over the baton to the others so that they in turn run the race well.

The missionaries working in Papua New Guinea are praying for you, asking the same Holy Spirit to overshadow you as He did to our Mother Mary. Like Mary, the Holy Spirit may enable us to say “yes” to the will of God for the future of the entities and the Montfortian family as a whole.

Once again, we want to say thank you to all the Missionaries who have given and those who are continuing to give their life, inspiration, courage and wisdom and not to forget resources that the Mission of Jesus may continue in other parts of the world.

We wish you a successful meeting; we accompany you with our prayers. May Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus and Father Gabriel Deshayes, intercede for us and may Mary our Blessed Mother accompany us and help us to accept the “will of God.”

On behalf of all the confreres serving in PNG,

Fr. Rozario Menezes s.m.m



What is making news in the General delegation of PNG.

1. Fr. Alois arrived back from his holidays at the end of August, we welcome him back and wish him fruitful ministry. Fr. Leo had gone to Indonesia for medical attention, he is due to come back at the beginning of September. We thank you for accompanying him through your prayers.
2. We are still waiting for the arrival of Fr. Lawrence From Indonesia, he has his work permit he is waiting for the visa to enter PNG. We welcome Fr. Lawrence to PNG and to the SMM community.
3. Bishop Gilles Cote, Fr. Roshan Pinto and Fr. Rozario Menezes were part of the annual Mission Appeal in USA, they are returning towards the beginning of September, after successful mission appeals. We thank Fr. Jose for working hard to organize the appeals and we are specially grateful to the confreres of USA Province for being kind to us in many ways. Thank you for being part of our mission here in PNG.

We wish you all very happy feast of the **NATIVITY OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER MARY.**
Please continue to pray for us as we always do for you.