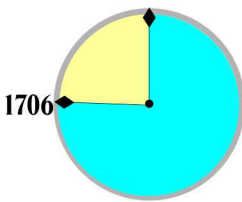
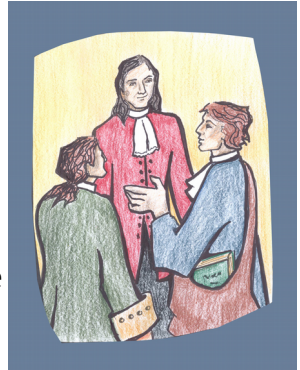


## 14. EVENT: Lay-folk who followed Montfort: the Count and Countess de la Garaye, and the Marquis de Magnanne.

- **DATE** : 1706 - 1714
- **PLACE** : Dinan, Rennes
- **VALUE** : The role and commitment of lay people in the Church and in the Montfortian congregations.
- **THE STORY** :



Claude and Marguerite DE LA GARAYE: they married in 1701. The hunt, dances, pleasure: “they were led astray by grandeur.” Following an accident suffered by the Countess, what were they to make of their lives? When Louis Marie met them, during the mission, they were already taking in the poor; Claude had studied medicine and chemistry, and was distributing his remedies. His wife was caring for eyes... They invited Montfort to their château, to give a retreat there to the beggars they were lodging there... After the death of Sylvie, Claude’s sister, in 1710, their whole life was dedicated to the poor... It was they who got the Daughters of Wisdom to come to take charge of the hospital they would by then have opened in their stables.

“In the Spring of 1714, M. de Magnanne was staying in Rennes with his friend, M. de Bedouët d’Orville, to whose house he had come seeking a little comfort and diversion. He immediately became interested in some projects for charitable schools, which were occupying the diocesan authorities. He contributed to the purchase of a house for a female teacher in the Rue Haute; then he bought, out of his own pocket, the Maison du Verger, with the hope of starting there a school for young girls...

“But the climax of the encounters M. de Magnanne had in Rennes was the series of spiritual conversations which brought together some extraordinary souls: M. d’Orville, the Count and Countess de la Garaye, the exquisite Madame de Pontbriand, the Count’s sister...

“What is to be said of the arrival, at one point or another, among such a group of the man of God, Louis Marie de Montfort? The winds of trial might be unleashed; but the ‘good friends’ held on to one another... and Louis Marie pushed these souls, full sail, towards new horizons.” (*Le*

● **FROM MONTFORT'S WRITINGS:** (*Letter to the People of Montbernage, 1-2, 6*)

March 1706

God alone

Dear people of Montbernage, St. Saturnin, St. Simplicien, La Resurrection, and others who profited from the mission which Jesus Christ, my Master, has just given you, greetings in Jesus and Mary. Not being able to speak to you personally, since holy obedience prevents me, I take the liberty of writing to you on my departure, as a father writing to his children, not to teach you anything new, but to confirm you in the truths I have already taught you. The Christian and fatherly love I bear you is so great that you will always have a place in my heart as long as I live and even into eternity. I would rather lose my right hand than forget you wherever I may be, whether at the altar.

Remember, then, my dear children, my joy, my glory and my crown, to have a great love for Jesus and to love him through Mary. Let your true devotion to your loving Mother Mary be manifest everywhere and to everyone, so that you may spread everywhere the fragrance of Jesus and, carrying your cross steadfastly after our good Master, gain the crown and kingdom which is waiting for you. So, do not fail to fulfil your baptismal promises and all that they entail, say your Rosary every day either alone or in public and receive the sacraments at least once a month.

I ask you all, in general and individually, to follow me with your prayers on the pilgrimage which I am going to make for you and many others. I say, "for you," because I am undertaking this long and difficult journey in dependence on the Providence of God to obtain from him through the prayers of Mary, your perseverance. (...) My dear friends, pray also for me, that my sinfulness and unworthiness do not hinder what God and his holy Mother wish to accomplish through my ministry. I am seeking divine Wisdom; help me to find it.

● **LIGHT FROM THE BIBLE:** (*Luke 10:38-42*)

In the course of their journey Jesus and his disciples came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha, who was distracted with all the serving, came to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving

all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered, 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, and it is not to be taken from her.'

*(1 Corinthians 1: 4-7. 13-14. 27)*

Brothers and sisters, there are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good.

We were baptised into one body in a single Spirit, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as free men, and we were all given the same Spirit to drink. And indeed the body consists not of one member but of many. Now Christ's body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole.

#### ● **PERSONAL INTEGRATION/SHARING**

- Everywhere he went, Montfort called lay people to carry on his ministry. What aspect of the Montfortian charism of lay people might they pursue today?
- How do I see the mutual support between lay people and priests and/or religious:
  - As a lay person, how have I been helped, accompanied, nourished by the presence of one or more religious?
  - As a religious, how have I been helped, accompanied, nourished by the presence of lay people?
- As a lay person, what aspect of Montfort attracts me in particular?

#### ● **PRAYER/CELEBRATION**

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the many gifts of the Spirit among Montfortian religious and lay people.

- For the common grace of our Baptism, which makes us all one body, praise to you, Lord.

Praise to you, Lord.

- For the gifts you give to our Montfortian family, both through its lay as well as its religious members, praise to you, Lord.

Praise to you, Lord.

- For the bonds that unite us in the same search for Christ, Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, praise to you, Lord.

Praise to you, Lord.

- For the call you have given us to be bearers of the Gospel message, wherever we are, with all that we are, praise to you, Lord.

Praise to you, Lord.

- For the friendship that unites us, for the mutual acceptance of our differences, praise to you, Lord.

Praise to you, Lord.

- **SYMBOL:** a symbol of Pentecost—perhaps 12 small lamps, or some representation of Pentecost

- **COMMITMENT:**

- Organise a meeting between associates of the Montfortian congregations and their members.

