



To All Confreres: Peace of the Risen Christ!

The group formed by the General Administration to discern the possibility of opening a mission in Vietnam held an initial meeting in San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan, Philippines from April 06 to 11, 2018. It was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani, our Superior General. The members of the discerning group are Rev. Fr. Rozario Menezes, the General Councilor-in-charge of the Commission for Mission who worked for 17 years in Papua New Guinea, Rev. Fr. Jose Luis Sandoval who was one of the founding fathers of the Philippine Delegation, Rev. Fr. Kasimir Jumat, former Provincial Superior of Indonesia, Rev. Fr. Richard Magararu, the Delegation Superior of the Philippines and Rev. Fr. Arnel Pagaduan, the Vocation Director in the Philippines.

Fr. General started the meeting by presenting the fruit of the discussion of the General Council of exploring new places for Montfortian mission. The group is convinced that we should not be confined only in places where we are established already but to search for new places where we can spread our Spirituality and to attract new vocations.

Many congregations nowadays are aiming at Vietnam as a fertile ground for evangelization, like Father De Montfort who desired to go to Canada where all missionaries during his time wanted to go for foreign mission. It has been a tradition in the congregation to open missions in countries that are having challenging situations like Colombia, Indonesia, India, Africa, Papua New Guinea and others.

Along the process of discernment, several challenges were recognized by the group like the cultural differences and language. However, after the sharing we had with the Vietnamese nationals and missionaries who worked in Vietnam, the group is more optimistic with regards to the mission in Vietnam. The reasons are, though minority in number, the piety and the religiosity are very strong among the Catholics; there is a high possibility of getting vocation; the people have great devotion to the Blessed Virgin; the long existence of the Legion of Mary; the generosity of the local Catholics and the experiences of other religious congregations in Vietnam; the presence of support groups among the religious who are working in the country and the help of the bishops and priests. The ordinations of some locals from other congregations and sending them to foreign missions is also a sign of hope for the Church.

With this in mind, the whole group is filled with courage and determination to support the plan of having a mission in Vietnam. Readiness and availability was freely expressed by the members of the group to take risks in view of the high possibility of spreading Montfortian Spirituality and of getting vocations. As a fruit of this meeting, Fr. Rozario, Fr. Jose Luis and Fr. Arnel were assigned to do the first visit to Vietnam on September 03 to 20, 2018.

The group and the General Administration are now asking for prayers, continuous support, and assistance from confreres from the different entities to make this mission possible.

It is your work, great God. Make your divine purpose a reality... (PM 26).

God Alone!

*Père Luiz Augusto Stefani
Père Rozario Menezes
Père Richard Magararu
Père Jose Luis Sandoval
Père Kasimir Jumat
Père Arnel Pagaduan*

