



L'Écho montfortain

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Rome, July 20, 2007 60th Anniversary of Montfort's Canonization

To all the members of the Montfortian Family

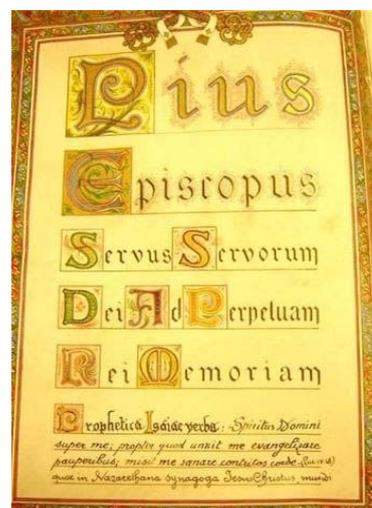
On the 60th Anniversary of the Canonization of Father de Montfort, together let us joyfully recall Montfort's missionary ardor and his dream of seeing true missionaries follow him. We suggest, on this anniversary of his canonization, that you look at his *Fiery Prayer* for Missionaries, the ardent prayer of a man consumed with love for God Alone and for his neighbor and who was passionate about apostolic life.

“What, then, am I asking for? Nothing for myself, but all for your glory. What, then, am I asking for? Something that you can, or even, I dare to say, must grant me...” PM 6

Let us emulate his boldness in our own prayer and not hesitate to tell God that *“He must grant us”* what we ask for since He is *“truly God!”*

“What, then, am I asking for?”

“Liberos: priests who are free with the freedom that comes from you, detached from everything, without father, mother, brothers, sisters, relatives or friends as the world and the flesh understand them, without worldly possessions to encumber and distract them, and devoid of all self-interest.” PM 7



“*Liberos: slaves to your love and your will, men (and women) after your own heart... who carry out your will to the fullest...*” PM 8

“*Liberos: men and women always available, always ready to obey you... like Samuel.*” PM 10

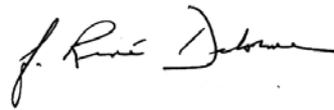
In our contemporary world where so many new slaveries ensnare us or overwhelm us, it's urgent that we hear Montfort's fiery prayer anew and make it our own, broadening it to include the whole Montfortian family and all those who live his spirituality so that we may be, now more than ever, the answer to this fiery prayer, disciples who are “free”, free of everything, completely available for mission so that “*the divine fire that Jesus Christ came to bring on earth may be enkindled.*” PM 17

And if Montfort's vocabulary and radical ideology disturb us, let us try to understand ever more deeply his desire and let ourselves be challenged by the two inseparable dimensions of his prayer: **apostolic freedom** and **complete trust in Providence**. Let us pray for this grace for ourselves and for all those who will follow us to transmit the Montfort charism, God's gift to the Church!

We suggest that you gather with members of your community or members of the Montfortian Family to pray together about Montfort's *Fiery Prayer* for Missionaries with Louis Marie's ardor and audacity.

Together let us ask for one another the grace to be “*Liberos*”.


S. u. u.

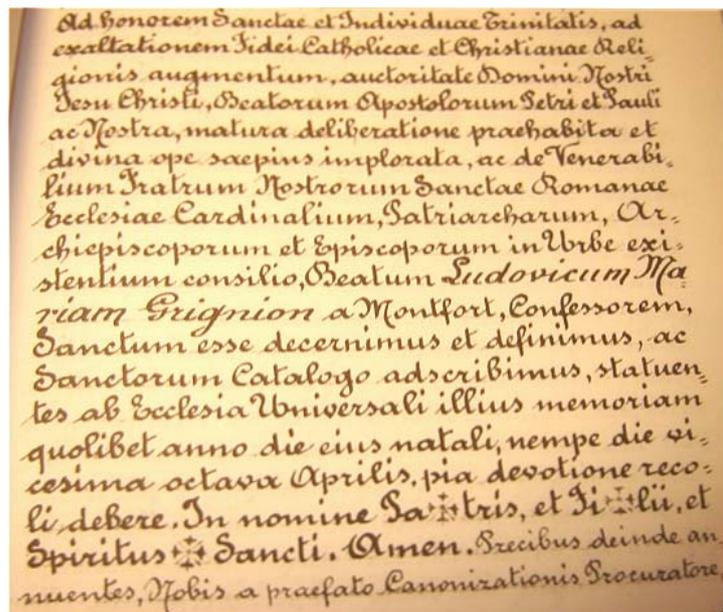




Fr. Santino Brembilla, smm

Br. René Delorme, sg

Sr. Louise Madore, fdl



Ad honorem Sanctae et Individuae Trinitatis, ad
exaltationem Fidei Catholicae et Christianae Reli-
gionis augmentum, auctoritate Domini Nostri
Iesu Christi, Deatorum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli
ac Nostri, matura deliberatione praehabita et
divina ope saepius implorata, ac de Venerabi-
limum Fratrum Nostrorum Sanctae Romanae
Ecclesiae Cardinalium, Patriarcharum, Ar-
chiepiscoporum et Episcoporum in Urbe exi-
stentium consilio, Beatum Ludovicum Ma-
riam Grignon a Montfort, Confessorem,
Sanctum esse decernimus et definimus, ac
Sanctorum Catalogo adscribimus, statuen-
tes ab Ecclesia Universali illius memoriam
quolibet anno die eius natali, nempe die vi-
cesima octavae Aprilis, pia devotione reco-
li, debere. In nomine Sanctae Trinitatis, et Spiritus
Sancti. Amen. Precibus deinde an-
nuentes, Nobis a praefato Canonizationis Procuratore



**MANGOCHI DIOCESE
IN MALAWI
GETS A NEW RABBI
RT REV. ALESSANDRO PAGANI**



Mangochi diocese has been waiting for two years to get a new bishop after the tragic death of Rt Rev. Luciano Nervi, smm, who died only 38 days after his consecration as pastor to this see. This was a great blow to both the Church of Mangochi and Malawi as a nation. As though his death was not enough barely two months later had his predecessor Bishop Alessandro Assolari, smm, dead also unexpectedly. Following these events the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, appointed Fr. Alessandro Pagani, smm, to head this see.

Fr. Alessandro, began his bishopric duties on 26th May 2007, in a colourful ceremony in which he was raised to the order of bishops.



The whole event began at very low tone because it could be read from the faces of the people asking a question “is this going to last?” This is so because many of the people who were there also attended to the consecration of Bishop

Nervi, smm, who died shortly after a ceremony like such and had also heard of the death of Bishop Assolari.

It was only when Fr. Pagani was called to come forward escorted by the Superior General of the Montfort Missionaries, Rev. Fr. Santino Brembilla, smm, with a cloth wrapped on his head and a long beard looking like a Rabbi that the mood changed into great joy.

Bishop Alessandro Pagani chose a motto for his bishopric, the Montfortian *Totus Tuus* giving the reason for this choice as from that day he belonged entirely to Jesus, to Mary, to the Church of Mangochi, to the Church of Malawi and to the Mother Church. Out of 70 years of his life, Bishop Pagani has spent 38 years in Africa serving the Churches of Malawi and Zambia. In both countries he has been known as an apostle

of Mary of the latter times. He was ordained in 1965 and now 42 years later he is re-ordained by the Apostolic Nuncio in Zambia and Malawi, Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, assisted by Rt Rev. Bishop Thomas Msusa, smm, of Zomba diocese and Archbishop



Tarcizio Ziyaye of Blantyre Archdiocese. He becomes the third Montfortian Bishop elected to the see of Mangochi.

The president of Malawi, Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, who was present at the ceremony exhorted the Church of Mangochi through Bishop Pagani to work for the development of the people and the country. In addition, Bishop Pagani was reminded that he has inherited a diocese that has a high percentage of Muslims which, is a challenge. He must work for interfaith dialogue or peaceful co-existence between the two faiths.

Let us pray for him and his diocese to the Lord for blessings.

Fr. Felix Mabvuto Phiri, smm

Unity in Diversity: “Congrega Nos de Nationibus”

Three hundred years ago Montfort prayed: “Gather us in from every nation!” (PM 18). This prayer became a very concrete reality when 14 confreres from 10 countries gathered together at the General House and formed themselves into a community called the *Montfortian International Community*. They came from Italy, France, the Netherlands, USA, Haiti, Brazil, Indonesia, India, Kenya, and Madagascar.

As a General House, this community is mainly filled with the “generals”: the Superior General, the General Councilors, the General Bursar, the General Secretary and the Procurator General. But, except for the Procurator General, these “generals” are rarely in the house because they always go around the world visiting the entities. Beside these “generals,” there are two important people in the house, namely, Bros. Desiré and Hervé. They give a very big contribution to the life of the community by their work in the garden, in the kitchen and by doing many other things in the house. But Bro. Hervé recently left for France at the beginning of February. And then, there are five confreres (Luizhino, Kasmir, Ernest, Paulin

and Reny) who have come to experience an international community life. These five confreres have as their main activity attending a course on Montfortian Spirituality with Fr. Battista.

Living together in one community with confreres from all over the world is very interesting. There are a lot of differences which make the community very colorful: different languages, different cultures, different foods, different attitudes and different moods. But these differences are the beauty and the richness of the Congregation. Having and understanding one common language is impossible but we can manage the situation. As the community is situated in Italy, we presumed that God understands Italian better, so we agreed to have our Mass and other community prayers in Italian. We have three TV rooms to accommodate three main language groups of the community (Italian-French-English). In the dinning room we experience Pentecost everyday. We speak many languages but we can finish our meals happily in peace because everyone tries to contribute in laughing together, even when someone does not really understand the story. Living together with confreres from different entities is difficult but enriching. It needs a mutual understanding but gives a mutual enrichment.

Special emphasis should be given to the course with Fr. Battista. The five confreres who attend his sessions expressed their admiration to this former General Councilor and former Provincial of Italy. He has great knowledge in Mariology and Montfortian Spirituality. As his students come from five different countries without a sufficient understanding of the language, Battista managed to use a simple Italian in his lessons. However, having only one teacher for a whole year gives also some disadvantages. At times, when he was busy with other works or business, the class was canceled. Without denying the capacity of Battista, perhaps it could be better if we listen to various sources. For Fr. Battista himself, for sure, being the only presenter can be very tiring.

The idea of the General Administration to establish this special experience is undeniably excellent. We have learned a lot during this year. We learned a lot from the simplicity and humility of Father General and his Councilors. Our admiration to Fr. Battista is not only for his intelligence, but also for his wisdom and maturity. Saying “thank you” is actually not sufficient to express our gratitude to the service of Bro. Desiré and other personnel who work for the community. Gathering young confreres from different entities brings a lot of change to the community, and with this change comes the challenge of making everyone feel at home. It is a change and a challenge worth continuing and improving.

Fr. Kasmir Jumat, smm



50th Anniversary of the presence of the Montfort Missionaries in Ginosa



GINOSA

Writing about Ginosa, Pliny the Elder speaks of a very ancient town: the proof of this is given by a considerable amount of archaeological material: coins, ornaments, tools of great value to museums. The history of Ginosa has seen its occupation by Romans, Byzantines, Lombards, Saracens, Normans and Spanish. The historical centre of Ginosa, with its "gravines", which are deep natural trenches cut into the tufa, preserves caves and monolithic churches of inestimable value. Today, Ginosa has about 25,000 inhabitants; its soil is very fertile and, with its vines and its vegetable gardens, it stretches as far as the sea, where a suburb, Marina di Ginosa, has sprung up, renowned for its unpolluted sea, and decorated with the famous blue flag of the European Union.

The 50th anniversary of the presence of the Montfort Missionaries in Ginosa, a commune of the Province of Taranto in Puglia, is about to be celebrated.

The local council, together with its various organisations and associations, has set up an honorary Committee, under the presidency of the Mayor, Luigi Montanaro, which has drawn up a calendar of events, meetings, exhibitions and concerts, designed to emphasise, if there is any need for this, the commitments and work carried out by the Montfort Missionaries in our town.

The Montfort Missionaries first came to Ginosa on 5 May 1957, sent by the Superiors of the Congregation through the intermediary of the Pontificia Opera Assistenza. The main aim of their mission was the spiritual care of the people living in the remotest parts of the countryside around Ginosa. At that time, this countryside, as was the case in many areas in Southern Italy, had recently been "divided up" by the agrarian reforms: so it happened that the peasants, from then on, found themselves living in small country houses or large farms, which depended on the last big estates. The Montfort Missionaries, with the famous Aermacchi motorcycles placed at their disposition by the POA, went into these situations each Sunday to celebrate Mass.

After a few years, their activity was extended to the parishes, which thus became centres for gathering and training the youth, and forums for ideas, associations and new undertakings, which over the years became rooted in people's mentalities and in the social fabric, contributing to the moral and cultural growth of the whole region.

There have been many Montfortians who have exercised their apostolate here with passion, commitment and zeal. The very roads, churches and houses of Ginosa could today tell the simple yet extraordinary story of the encounter of many generations of the people of Ginosa with Montfortian spirituality, shot through with a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin. And today, the town of Ginosa is conscious of its duty, which is also a pleasure and an honour, to offer a sincere thank-you to the whole Montfortian family.

Let us make mention, among all the various events of this anniversary celebration, of those which are nearest to Montfortian spirituality. Following the example of Montfort himself, the bishop of our diocese, Mgr. Pietro M. Fragnelli, has blessed the erection of a great cross on the highest point of our town, the Belvedere of the Northern perimeter road, to dominate and protect this amazing land which stretches through caves and monolithic churches right to the sea.

Our bishop also presided at a solemn Concelebrated Mass on 6 May, in the presence of so many Fathers who have spent some part of their priestly lives here in Ginosa. Great emotion was felt also in the church at the recalling of those missionaries who have died. They, too, were present with us in their town of Ginosa. After the Mass there was the unveiling of five ceramic panels reproducing in low relief the eagles, doves, deer, lambs, lions and bees of the Prayer for Missionaries composed by Montfort: wonderful metaphors for the true Montfortian in the mind of the Founder. The panels are the work of the artist Lia Antonucci, and are set up in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. Also, a statue of Montfort was erected in the town square opposite the parish church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which was appropriately renamed St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort Square.

Throughout the year, there will be other events, among which the most important will no doubt be the priestly ordination of a native of the town, Francesco Castria, due to take place on 20 October. To sum up, the relationship between the Montfortian family and our town becomes ever deeper, especially now that the mayor of Ginosa, interpreting the enthusiastic feelings of all the citizens of the town, bestowed honorary citizenship on all Montfort Missionaries, on 5 May, in the person of the Superior General, V. Rev. Fr. Santino Brembilla. Thanks to Montfort, thanks to the Montfort Missionaries!

Vincenzo Cantore

The following is a list of all the Montfortians who have worked in Ginosa:

Fr. Achille Valsecchi, Fr. Serafino Corali, Fr. Francesco Cogliati, Fr. Francesco Pagnoncelli, Br. Michele Pesenti, Br. Lucio Bressan, Fr. Angelo Cominelli, Fr. Elia Crotti, Fr. Arnaldo Corradin, Fr. Paolo Bergamini, Fr. Severo Agostinelli, Fr. Sandro Carrara, Fr. Angelo Calabrese, Fr. Enrico Lazzarino, Fr. Umberto Teolato, Fr. Santino Epis, Fr. Salvatore Gargiulo, Fr. Santino Brembilla, Fr. Francesco Ferrari, Fr. Giovanni Manzoni, Fr. Maurizio Del Prato, Fr. Libero Vitali, Fr. Giovanni Rota, Fr. Romano Piumelli, Fr. Pietro Ruggeri, Fr. Mario Adobati, Fr. Ercole Mengoli, Fr. Giorgio Crippa, Fr. Domenico Di Liberatore, Fr. Pietro Brozzoni, Fr. Alfonso Libralato, Fr. Fabio Locatelli, Fr. Valentino Barić, Fr. Claudio Bonomo, Fr. Domenico Pedullà, Fr. Lino Teolato.

And the following is a list of the Montfortians who work in Ginosa now:

Fr. Gilberto Magni, superior and parish priest at the Cristo Risorto Parish, Fr. Luigi Colleoni, parish priest at the Cuore Immacolato di Maria Parish, and Fr. Andrea Pesenti, parochial vicar.

Building a Stronger Network of Montfortian Presence: a Forum for the Entities of the North

Next Steps (June 2007)

[What:] After listening to the feedback sent in by the various entities of the North, the General Council proposes: **a gathering to explore the future of Montfortian Presence in the North**

I - by strengthening our commitment to Montfortian presence, in the different (and possibly new) forms it may take among our confreres of various ages, as a treasure to share with the Church and the world.

- **Listening to the voice of God** in our daily life...
 - **Sensitive to the needs and changing conditions of the world** of today...
 - **Aware of the hopes and the limits** that we face...
 - **Reflecting on the heritage we have received** in our living of Montfortian spirituality...
 - **Conscious of our communion with one another** as an international congregation...
1. What motivates us in our life and mission as Montfortians together?
 2. What is the significance of Montfortian presence in the North?
 3. What kind of future do we imagine in the entities of the North?

II - by focusing on some specific, concrete opportunities for collaboration as a Montfortian network in the North.

In particular, we want **to examine four areas of mission activity** in which there could be some realistic collaboration with one another and with lay people, which could strengthen the quality of our presence and mission in particular places.

Those areas are:

1. **Communities of Evangelization and Montfortian Life** (at some existing sites).
2. **Forms of Popular Preaching and Pilgrimages.**
3. **Publications and Communications:** using the written word and other media to communicate Montfortian Spirituality.
4. **Formation.**

We hope the gathering will be followed up by some **ongoing efforts at collaboration in order to strengthen the Montfortian network** in the North (without ignoring the relationship of northern entities to the other entities of the Congregation).

We will leave aside issues that are closely related to the particular social and legal contexts of each entity and are best dealt with on a local level.

[When:] This gathering will take place in Saint Laurent sur Sèvre in April 2008. *(Dates to be determined)*

[Who:] Participants will include **those who are interested** in entering into this process, such as entity superiors and some representatives involved in these areas.

We ask entity superiors who are interested in participating to communicate their intention to attend by September 30, 2007. They are also invited to submit names of some confreres (and some lay people?) from their entities who would be open to participate in this gathering.

The Presence of Lay People

Do you think that the presence of lay people for part of this gathering would be helpful? If so, who would they be (e.g. lay people with what kind of involvement in the mission of the congregation?). Are there lay people from your entity who could participate in the gathering?

In addition to entity superiors, the list of other participants will then be determined in order to insure a representation of various entities and areas of experience, with a view to maintaining a reasonable number of participants (i.e. not too big or too small a group) to ensure a fruitful discussion that can lead to concrete outcomes.

[Why:] See the summary of responses from the entities on the following pages.

Summary of Responses Regarding a Forum for the North

10 Entities Responded:

Belgium	GBI
Canada	Holland
Croatia	Italy
France	Portugal
Germany	USA

Openness to a Forum?

There is a general openness to such a Forum, provided it is practical, respects the diversity of the entities and can lead to some concrete results.

Confluences

- Desire to focus on concrete possibilities, rather than remaining general and abstract
- Look for modest but effective forms of collaboration
- Need to accept present limits with a sense of serenity, but also with hope
- Collaboration on Publications and other media
- Some interest in a collaborative formation program
- Some interest in the Montfortian Places
- Sharing of information and ideas for Parish Missions, Shrines and Pilgrimages

It seems like care for ageing members is going relatively well. Due to different health care systems and systems of social aid, there is not much need to deal with this issue together.

Hesitations

- Diversity of languages and cultures
- Different legal systems, health care systems
- The Forum might be all talk and no action
- Just talking together will not lead to solutions

Central issues

- Sharing Montfortian Spirituality
- Formation
- Collaboration with Laity
- Collaboration with other Entities
- Collaboration on Publications
- Sharing on concrete projects: preaching popular missions, shrines, pilgrimages
- Structures

Forum for the Entities of the North

Imagining the Future of Montfortian Presence in Your Entity

1 - The Need for a Forum

Yes

Germany

Portugal

France – it is good for us to be open to the realities of the other provinces.
We need to accept the current reality with respect and serenity.

Italy

Holland – despite differences we can learn from each other.

Canada – at the next CGE.

Yes (*juxta modum*)

Belgium – given the difficulties of language, diversity of cultures, local churches, etc., it is better to have regional gatherings of confreres and laity on specific issues *ad intra* and *ad extra*.

USA – there are more differences than similarities among the entities.

GBI – there is much diversity. The forum needs to be more than just talking.

2 - Focusing our Montfortian presence and mission with a smaller number of SMM:

Germany – involvement of Indian confreres.

Belgium – collaboration with laity... We need to discover new forms of evangelization, not just a prolongation of present activity. We need to distinguish between international communities and international working teams.

France – most of us are retired.

Holland – the witness of fraternal living even as we age and grow smaller in number is important. There is a possibility that others could come from elsewhere to Europe, but we should not plan for them. We should leave room for their creativity. We should also consult the other members of the Montfortian Family.

Italy – We are focusing on more specific missionary activities that promote our spirituality and the formation of the laity, as well as the mission *ad gentes*.

Collaboration with laity:

Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Canada, France (e.g. the Montfortian Pilgrimage, Associates), Italy (in a limited way right now, but not so much as co-workers... we need to explore better means of collaboration), GBI.

Collaboration with other entities:

- Canada – Shrine in Montreal.
- France – international community... welcoming confreres for French language study.
- GBI – not just with other northern entities.
- US – beginning an international team.
- Italy & Portugal – no, not now.

Open to Accept New Vocations:

- Germany, Portugal, Canada, Italy, US (we need a better means to do this), GBI.
- Holland – We should not simply accept candidates to join the present structures – can we recruit for a specific apostolic goal... for something new?
- Germany – for vocations, we should have a community near a university.

3 - Care for Ageing Confreres:

- Germany – young and old living together.
- Canada – personal contact of provincial is important... older confreres remain active.
- France – the ministry at St. Laurent.
- US – There are different systems of healthcare, social systems, etc.
- Holland – caring for senior members is a major use of our time.
- GBI – We need to re-define the involvement of the ageing confreres. What does it mean to be “active”?

4 - Promoting Montfortian Spirituality:

- Belgium, Portugal, Croatia, Canada: – Work with lay people.
- Germany – we need to re-discover our spirituality.
- France – see the questions posed in their report – what are we transmitting? We also need to use modern media, e.g. DVD's, internet.
- Croatia – focus on publications.
- France, Italy – We need to prepare young members to spread Montfortian spirituality.
- US – use of an international team.
- GBI – We should pool our experience and talent. We can learn from what others have done and are doing now. We should remember to revive the SIM.
- Holland – Could be good to have a revitalized presence in France, but it is not an absolute need for maintaining Montfortian presence (cf. Citeaux).

Collaboration on publications:

Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Croatia, France (use other media as well, e.g. internet... collaboration with laity is important), Italy (also collaboration on pilgrimages), US, GBI – very important.

5 - Formation (need for collaboration, a common program):

- Germany – periodic Montfortian formation, with theology and philosophy studies locally.
- Belgium – Formation should also be linked to the apostolate. We need to engage lay people in the process.
- Portugal – yes.
- Canada – yes, perhaps also have inter-congregational formation within the Montfortian Family.
- France – we have benefitted from the collaboration with Italy.
- Italy – yes, despite the problem of language.
- US – yes, especially for novitiate and theology. We need to analyze past successes and past problems.
- GBI – yes, but also remember the need for local inculturation as part of formation.

6 - Structures:

- Germany – a European province.
- Belgium – needs to be a flexible process responsive to diminishing numbers. The Generalate needs to oversee this.
- Belgium, US – We need to do research into what other congregations have done.
- Portugal – perhaps establish some commissions for Europe.
- Canada – more flexible structures, especially in the choice of provincial and counselors.
- Italy – unification.
- Holland – not one government for many provinces. There are too many differences.

7 - Other Concerns:

- Belgium – The Forum should foster a sharing of lived experience. Take into account the process of mourning involved in the diminishment of entities.
- Canada – as the North diminishes, so do the finances for the South. Stress the importance of transmitting Montfortian heritage to the newer entities. Sharing on itinerant mission and pilgrimages could be fruitful.
- Holland – look at new forms for the future of religious life.

Great graces of Lourdes

The second part of April was very fulfilling. We lived our reality of being Christians (pilgrims) by going to Lourdes for the 59th Montfortian pilgrimage. We were six in number



from the Generalate. We stopped in Paris for some few days. We had the opportunity to see the much famed Paris. We lived in an atmosphere of presidential campaigns and elections. Pleasant too, we had a religious encounter. These were very important days for us, young Montfortians. We saw and walked the path of Montfort in Paris. We visited *St. Sulpice* and prayed in the chapel where Montfort said his first mass. We visited the *Église Saint Louis de la Salpêtrière* where Montfort served too. We saw the place where stood the General

Hospital for women (*Hôpital de la Salpêtrière*) in the days of Montfort; the Sorbonne area and the Jesuit College. Well, who were we to resist the desire to visit Notre Dame de Paris, The Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Montmartre, and the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal among other places!

Going to Lourdes was in a mode of its own. We went by bus. It took us 12 hours. This allowed us to see and get a feeling of the French countryside. We prayed the rosary together and we saw the places where Montfortians have worked previously.

Our arrival in Lourdes was greeted with an atmosphere of feeling very welcome. It was joyful to join the other confreres and other members of the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of St. Gabriel. Here we formed a lively community of the Montfortian family.

More than this we joined the big number of Pilgrims and together we lived and we tell the story of Lourdes. We became part of the life of Lourdes. There were over 7000 Montfortian pilgrims who participated in the liturgical and devotional celebrations. We were penitents (as was captured by this year's theme- Penance) who lived the healing forgiveness of our Father. It was truly graceful to live Lourdes in its fullness. We encountered God of surprises. Maybe in Lourdes we experienced miracles in very simple ways. How do you explain the presence of the so many sick people who take part, the numerous volunteers who with energy, peace, and love are always available and willing to help? For me this was the first 'miracle' I witnessed in Lourdes.

Our main area of interest was the youth. We joined a group of young people who had come in from different places of France as pilgrims. Some had come for the first time while others knew the place well. We journeyed with them, listening to their stories as they listened to ours. We joined the team of animators who directed various activities and events done mostly around the youth camp. We were so privileged that we



were given a guided pilgrimage in many places. We followed the path of Bernadette, seeing her birthplace, the *Cachot*, the old presbytery, etc. Wow! It is very revealing to look back at the environment in which she was born and lived then and what Lourdes is today! We saw the baths and were encouraged to wash ourselves (for restoration and strengthening of our courage). Here abounds tales of healing experiences.

We participated in following the *Way of the Cross* with the sick youth in the hills, in confessions and celebrating the Eucharist. We helped to move the sick to the places of prayer. At a communal level, we joined in the celebration of the Eucharist especially of the opening ceremony, the International Mass, and the closing ceremony with Mgr Sankalé. With him, we too joined in the communal celebrations of the wonderful procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessing of the sick. The Marian Celebration (Torchlight procession) was very beautiful. As you move with the others, you feel so warmed and illumined by the light of Christ, reminding us of being the 'Light of Christ' in the world. These communal events never overshadowed the available opportunity for personal prayer. Many places, (be it at the Grotto, at the Crypt, in the Basilicas and chapels etc), were readily conducive for this exercise.



Lourdes left its stamp on each one of us through its own unique experiences. Individually each was graced to reach out to other hearts. Together we experienced God around and with Mary, who with Bernadette, we say, she is a smile of God. Each has a story to tell. It was truly a moment of great graces. Special thanks to the General Curia that organised this encounter. I appreciate the presence of Fr. Olivier who took us through the path of Montfort and made sure we were well disposed to make this pilgrimage in France. Lastly but not least, I acknowledge the humble and hospitable nature of our confreres in Paris- the Provincial in conjunction with the community of La Tombe-Isoire. They truly made us feel at home. Thank you.

Looking back, I draw wisdom from Father Montfort when he says:

“If they make the pilgrimage in this way, I am sure they will be seen to be worthy of God, of angels and of men; and they will obtain from God through the intercession of his Blessed Mother great graces not only for themselves but for the whole Church of God.”
PS 13.

Fr. Ernest Akhonya Mukavana, smm

NATIONAL MEETING FOR MONTFORTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Bogotá, 19-20 May 2007

Colombia

A number of events took place in our Province in April, May and the beginning of June:

The first assembly lasted 3 days, and on the 4th day, 28 April, we celebrated the feast of St Louis Marie de Montfort and also paid our respects to the brethren who are celebrating this year the anniversary of their religious life or priesthood.



On 13 May, in the National Park of Bogotá, in ongoing support for the efforts of a million Colombians who recite the Rosary daily for peace in our country and the release of kidnap victims, we celebrated Mass and said the Rosary. The National Meeting for Montfortian Spirituality, of which we give a brief resume below.

On 26 May and 2 June, in Bogotá and Villavicencio, we took part in the launch of the book *“One Hundred Years in Colombia, Building the Future (1904-2004)”* by Fr. Aurelio Rozo. Between those two dates, we had the joy of celebrating the Priestly Ordination in Acacías, of the deacon John Ramiro Quintero, on Pentecost Day.

In preparation for the next Latin-American Meeting on Montfortian Spirituality, with the theme, *Consecration and Mission*, Bogotá organised, in the premises of the Institute and College of Wisdom, **the first National Meeting on Montfortian Spirituality**, taking the same theme.

The meeting was prepared by Fr. Orlando Castro, the director of the Spirituality Centre of Mary, Queen of All Hearts, and by a team of Daughters of Wisdom and lay-people together with Fr. Édmer Iván. This first meeting can be seen as successful, due to a number of positive factors: 70 out of the 200 delegates who came from fifteen places where the Montfort Missionaries and the Sisters have a presence, nearby places such as Bogotá and Soacha, as well as more distant places like Villavicencio, Acacías and Medellín, and even Popayán and the Vichada, were given free lodging in different houses. All the Montfortian places in Colombia were represented. This is a very positive indication of interest and participation. The teachers from the Colleges of Wisdom in Bogotá, Villavo and Acacías were very much involved in the preparation and the unfolding, and also in the plans for ongoing work. There could not have been a better organisation of the running of the meeting in the general assemblies as well as in the groups, and of the celebrations, musical animation and meals. The place where the meeting was held was particularly well suited and assured a joyful, fraternal and prayerful atmosphere. The whole contributed to greater unity among ourselves who share the same spirituality: Wisdom, Marian and Missionary. We became more aware of the necessity of sharing with the people God has entrusted to us, this spirituality, as well as evangelisation and catechetics. It must be said that we were hoping

for more with regard to our spirituality. This thirst is a good sign!

We were all touched and challenged by the lively presentation, clear yet deep, pedagogical yet synthetic, given us by Fr Jaime on the four points that, according to the New Testament, make a person a Christian. He underlined the central importance of baptismal consecration. To provide a basis for the theme, we listened to begin with to a great presentation by Diego Roldán on the Colombian situation, and at the end to a presentation by Sister Luisa of the Incarnation, on the central mystery of our spirituality, with audiovisuals – a much appreciated presentation. A very lively and well-led group, comprising Montfort Missionaries, Sisters and lay people, gave us a wide view of the Montfortian evangelisation in Colombia. The conclusion of the meeting on Ascension Day and the opening of **the 5th Conference of the Hierarchy of Latin America and the Caribbean**, ensured that the closing celebration and its homily would be centred on our identity and our Christian vocation, and that this latter should flow out of a serious and more effective commitment to a new evangelisation, with Missionaries who look to the heavens, but with their feet planted on the earth after the example of Father de Montfort.

So that the meeting might not be just a passing event, all the groups engaged in a final task of planning and evaluation, which will be taken up by the central committee, and which will serve as an ongoing accompaniment for the participants, and a help in preparing the next meeting, which is scheduled for 2008 in Acacías. To push forward this project, we set up a leadership team comprising Frs. Orlando and Édmer Iván, two Daughters of Wisdom and three teachers.



MEETINGS:

The message of Grignion De Montfort to the priests of the 21st Century, by Cardinal Ivan Dias

On 24 May 2007, in Dublin (Ireland), at a seminar in “New Evangelisation: priests and laity. The great challenge of the new millennium”, Cardinal Ivan Dias, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, presented his reflection on the importance of Grignion de Montfort’s message in helping the priests of the 21st century on their way to holiness. “Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort show us how to know, love and serve Our Lord with Mary as our Mother, Model and Guide”

For further information:

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=9628&lan=eng>

Meeting on Montfortian Spirituality for Lay Associates from Latin America.

July 7-14 in Lima (Peru).

For further information: [<montfortperu@hotmail.com>](mailto:montfortperu@hotmail.com)

Montfortian Month

July 16 – August 13 in Lima (Peru).

The theme will be “Consecration and the Montfortian Mission”.

For further information: [<montfortperu@hotmail.com>](mailto:montfortperu@hotmail.com)

60th Anniversary of Montfort’s Canonization

20 July 2007 : The Superior Generals of the three Congregations send a letter to all the members of the Montfortian Family; for this commemoration a Celebration is proposed.

For further information:

<http://www.montfort.org/English/index.htm>

Third International Meeting at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre

August 7-11 in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (France).

The theme will be “Do Not Be Afraid to Take Mary into Your Home”.

For further information:

<http://www.risl.net>

Official News Items



First Professions

On 24 May 2007, in Ruteng (Indonesia) : Priskardus Hermanto CANDRA, Timoteus Jefriadi DAMAN, Yohanes Kurniawan DJAWA, Frederikus EGE, Yohanes HARING, Yohanes Jefriandi JEDABU, Bartolomeus RAGA, Emanuel SARONG, Fabianus SELATANG, Leonardyan SONTANI, Wilhelmus SYUKUR, Leonardus TARDI, Johan Baptista WAJA.

On 31 May 2007, in Manila (Philippines) : Santiago CASING, Jason HEBREO, Loed JALANDONI, Regolo MONEVA.

Ordinations to the Priesthood

On 15 April 2007, in Gros-Morne (Haiti) : Marcel BELDORIN, Wid-Andy BÉNISTE, Robertson PIERRE, Joseph TELCIN.

On 19 May 2007, in Ambohibary (Madagascar) : Jean-Marie Helpa RAKOTONDRAVAO.

On 27 May 2007, in Acacías (Colombia) : John Ramiro QUINTERO CASTAÑEDA.



Various Notices

Father Corrado MAGGIONI, smm, of the Province of Italy, previously Assistant in the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, was named Office Chief for the same Dicastery on May 8, 2007.



SAINT LOUIS-MARIE GRIGNION
DE MONTFORT

Uburyo nyakuri bwo kuba inkoramutima ya Bikira Mariya ; Kigali ; 2006 ; 266 pag. (*VD en langue Kinyarwanda – Rwanda*).

SAINT LOUIS-MARIE GRIGNION
DE MONTFORT

Pjesme – Molitve II. O Kršćanskim Krepostima ; Montfortska duhovnost br. 10 ; Apostolatski Centar « Sav Tvoj » i Samostan Misionara Monfortanaca ; Zagreb ; 2006 ; 65 pag. (*Divers Cantiques en langue Croate ; traduction du P. Milenko SUSAC, smm et de la Prof. Senka BURIC*).

CORRADO MAGGIONI, SMM

Il Vangelo di Maria ; Testi poetici di Bianca Gaudiano ; Edizioni dell’Immacolata ; Borgonuovo ; 2007 ; 100 pag.

BATTISTA CORTINOVIS, SMM

La vita, gli scritti, la venerazione ; Editrice Shalom ; Collana *I Santi* ; Camerata Picena ; 2007 ; 248 pag.

STEFANO DE FIORES, SMM

Ecco tua Madre ! Un mese con Maria ; Edizioni Città Nuova ; Roma ; 2007 ; 229 pag.

JOSÉ AURELIO ROZO G., SMM

Cien Años en Colombia Construyendo Futuro (1904 - 2004). Compañía de María - Misioneros Monfortianos ; Ediciones Monfortianas ; Bogotá ; 2007 ; 312 pag.

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