

Écho Montfortain, no 501, October 1999

A Word from Fr. General

Thanks to the prayers of the Montfortian Family all over the world and to the efforts and participation of so many confreres and capitulants, the 47th General Chapter of the Company of Mary was celebrated from the 31 May to 17 June 1999. The capitulants elected the Superior General and Council; they wrote a powerful and challenging Letter to the confreres about our Montfortian consecrated life, "*Open to Jesus Christ*" *Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom*, and they committed the Congregation to a process of conversion and transformation that would bring us to 2005 and beyond. Personally I have been convinced for the past three years that the Company of Mary needed to commit itself to a deepening and a rekindling of all that is at the heart of Montfortian consecrated life if we were to be the free and forceful missionaries that Montfort desired. The General Chapter has confirmed this and provided an undeniably Montfortian context of Incarnation, conversion, mission and transformation into Jesus Wisdom for all the hard work that lies ahead

One of the first major tasks that awaits the Superior General and Assistants over the next ten months is to participate in the election or nomination of nearly all the Provincials and General Delegation Superiors throughout the Congregation. Thus, France begins the series in October, then the Netherlands and Belgium in November, followed by Italy, Canada and the United States in January, Colombia in May, and Great Britain and Ireland in July. In between the General Delegations of Portugal, Madagascar, India, Philippines and Africa Formation will all have the nomination of superiors and councils. As you have carried the General Chapter in your prayer, please remember all these Provinces and Delegations in their discernment, that each entity might find the confreres best able respond to their local needs and to the Congregation's invitation to renew our consecrated life, "*Open to Jesus Christ*".

Over the coming six years I know that you will be invited to put into deeds the words you might hear about our identity as missionaries who are consecrated religious. However I also invite you to put into deeds some of the other decisions of the 1999 Chapter:

Montfort as Doctor of the Church: you have already received an initial letter from the three Superiors General of the Montfortian Family on this subject; you will soon be receiving more detailed information from the co-ordinating committee. Our founder has also been the guide, witness and teacher for thousands of people around the world in a way of holiness that is simple, sure and easy; that is anchored in solid Trinitarian, Christological, baptismal, Mariological and eschatological tradition. His world-wide influence on missionary zeal and on the deep holiness of ordinary people merit the recognition of the Church. In your places of ministry, contacts, influence, I urge you to translate into action this decision of the Chapter.

The Montfortian Laity: the Chapter invited the Provinces and Delegations to initiate or to continue with efforts to achieve an ever greater sharing of Montfortian spirituality and the Montfortian mission with lay people. This sharing might well include the possibility of making them "associate members". With wisdom and

generosity, with hearts open to the signs of the times, to the call of the Church (*Vita Consecrata* 54-56), and to the richness of our Montfortian spirituality, I urge you and your communities to translate into action this decision of the Chapter.

Montfortian History: The Chapter recognised the importance of historical research in the life of the Congregation, and encouraged the establishment of a mechanism which will facilitate this research, helping to exchange information among those in the Company who are currently engaged in studying various aspects of the history of the Company of Mary. The new possibilities of computer and electronic mail would allow communication among researchers in various countries, facilitate access to documents and avoid duplication of research. The living history of the Congregation is a heritage for us all, and so I urge superiors, archivists and researchers to translate into action this decision of the Chapter.

Parish Ministry: in order to avoid a danger of becoming enclosed in one's own world, no longer available for other pastoral needs; in order to keep a sort of equilibrium in representing the various aspects of Montfortian mission, the Chapter encouraged the superiors regularly to discuss and evaluate with confreres ministering in parishes the means they are employing to act in fidelity to Montfortian inspiration, to the four notes of Montfortian mission, to a Montfortian content to their ministry. If you are engaged in parish ministry, let your life and work be impregnated with the zeal and creativity of Montfort; may your proclaiming the Good News clearly show the role of Mary, clearly be undertaken together with your confreres and lay people, and clearly demonstrate that availability, that openness to move on that was so dear to Montfort's heart. I urge you and your communities to translate into action this decision of the Chapter.

World Debt Relief: "Conscious of the crushing burden which debt repayment can place on the peoples of the poorest countries; united with the appeal of Pope John Paul II to nations and international financial bodies that the Jubilee Year 2000 be a true year of liberation and renewal: the General Chapter urges the General, Provincial and Delegation councils - and confreres in each entity - to do all in their power to join with other religious and non-religious groups in actively supporting World Debt Relief". Moved by the situation of confreres and their peoples in some of the poorest countries, moved by the passionate cries of the Holy Father for a Jubilee of justice and restoration, the Chapter asks us to become aware, informed and active in promoting a response to this crisis which robs the poor of their health and education in order to repay the wealthiest institutions or to line the pockets of corrupt officials. I urge you and your communities to translate into action this decision of the Chapter.

To conclude, allow me to call your attention once again to the Letter of the capitulants, "*Open to Jesus Christ*" *Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom*. Even as you await the four year process that will be presented to the Congregation, even as you await elections and changes in your province or delegation, I invite each of you: read this Letter. Perhaps even read it aloud, slowly, in community. Digest it. What in the letter affirms how I am living? What in the letter challenges how I am living? As I wrote in the presentation, "*This letter is composed of words, and if its challenges and calls remain only words, it will rest sterile and empty. At its core this letter is a call to every Montfortian for change and growth, for conversion and transformation... Far from settling for empty words, the letter challenges us to rebuild our house on the*

rock who is Jesus, so that our solidarity as brothers consecrated for the mission can become a clearer witness to the world... It is a call to become profoundly missionary by plunging ourselves unreservedly into the mystery of the Incarnation.”

William Considine, smm
Superior General

Official News Items

RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

With the agreement of his Council, the Superior General has made the following appointments:

- Fr. Ivo Libralato has been appointed Vicar General and Procurator General of the Company of Mary.
- In view of the unexpected illness of Fr. Gerard Smith, Fr. Jean-Louis Courchesne has been appointed General Bursar. He will be assisted by Fr. Paul Allerton, who will take responsibility for the book-keeping.
- Fr. Paul Allerton was appointed General Secretary.
- Fr. Miguel Patiño has agreed to continue as Archivist of the General House.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

The Superior General and his assistants have agreed to the following division of labour. Please note that any places not mentioned are naturally linked with the entities on which they depend.

Fr. Hub Louis:

- * The African entities: the Formation delegation, Malawi and the Congo.
- * The “Northern Provinces”: Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands (and the communities depending on the Netherlands in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Iceland).
- * The Province of Gt. Britain & Ireland.

Fr. Ivo Libralato:

- * The Provinces of Italy and Canada.
- * The General Delegations of Portugal and Madagascar.

Fr. Jean-Louis Courchesne:

- * The Provinces of France and the USA.
- * The entities in Asia-Oceania: the General Delegations of India and the Philippines; the Provincial Delegations of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Fr. Miguel Patiño:

- * The group Spain-Ecuador-Argentina (Delegations of the French Province);
- * The entities of Latin America: the Provinces of Colombia and Haiti; the Provincial delegations of Peru, Brazil and Nicaragua.

MONTFORT'S DOCTORATE

The Congregation for the Causes of the Saints has accepted the appointment of Fr. Battista Cortinovis as Postulator for the cause of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, as Doctor of the Church.

FIRST PROFESSIONS

- On 31 May 1999, in Manila (Philippines) : Roy S. MILLANO, Allan T. DANGEL, Noel A. LOMEDA, Norwyn V. BAYDO.
- On 2 June 1999, in Mysore (India); Maria Salath CHENNAI, James JOHNSON K.G.F., Anthony Raj CHINTHAMANI, Raja Ratna HASSAN and Peter Sebastian Raj MUGAIYUR.
- On 15 August 1999, in Bandung (Indonesia) : Emanuel Bonawentura NGATAM, Syrilus FON, Antonius Dwi WAHYUDI, Fransiskus Borgias GATOL, Christianus PUDALI, Siprianus JARDI, Yohanes Ixta DJAWA.
- On 15 August 1999, in Mbarara (Uganda) : Jean-Trésor KAFENGO TOSWEOKI (of the Congo).
- On 19 September 1999, in Santeramo in Colle (Italy) : Cristiano PERSIANI and Roberto PIZZAGALLI (of Italy); Carlos DE FREITAS (of Portugal).

PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

- On 6 January 1999, in Huaycán (Peru), José Angel Julcahuanca PARIATÓN.
- On 25 March 1999, in Uchiza (Peru), Giampietro BONANOMI.
- On 28 April 1999, in Manila (Philippines), Joseph Alan PASTORIL.
- On 29 June 1999, in Mysore (India), Rozario MENEZES, Varaprasad VARUGONDA and Joseph RAYAPPA.
- On 15 August 1999, in Bandung (Indonesia) : Yohanes SURI, Maria Laurensius ARISTHON, Avelinus AMPUT, Antonius GATOT WIBAWA, Martinus WIDYATMOKO, Siprianus MASJON KENEDY, Franciscus Borgias TRIHANDOKO, Arnoldus SUHARDI.
- On 8 September 1999, in Port-de-Paix (Haiti) : Nesly JEAN-JACQUES.

ORDINATIONS TO THE DIACONATE

- On 9 May 1999, in Manila (Philippines), Joseph Alan PASTORIL.
- On 4 July 1999, in Mysore (India), Rozario MENEZES and Joseph RAYAPPA.
- On 16 August 1999, in Bandung (Indonesia) : Yohanes SURI, Avelinus AMPUT, Antonius GATOT WIBAWA, Martinus WIDYATMOKO, Franciscus Borgias TRIHANDOKO, Arnoldus SUHARDI.

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

- On 24 April 1999, in Rome (at the scholasticate on the via Prenestina): Giovanni PERSONENI, Francesco FERRARI and Paolo ANDREOLETTI.
- On 29 June 1999 in Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Jean-Baptiste HENRI-FILS and Sully GUILLAUME-SAM.

VARIOUS NEWS ITEMS

Comings and goings at the General House

With activities recommencing and the arrival of some new personnel, the General House returned to its normal rhythm in September.

Fr. Miguel Patiño left for Brazil on 12 October. He is taking part in a meeting of the confreres in the entities of Latin America who are concerned with the co-ordination of activities in the fields of spirituality and mission. He will be returning to Rome on 26 October.

Between now and next July, there will take place the appointment or renewal of mandate of the superiors of eight Provinces and five General Delegations. This involves many visits on the part of the Superior General and his Assistants. Fr. General and Fr. Jean-Louis Courchesne will be in France from 15 to 26 October to take part in the Chapter of Election. Fr. General will leave once more about 13 November with Fr. Hub Louis, to assist at the Chapters of Election in the Netherlands (15-17 November) and Belgium (22-25 November). Fr. Ivo Libralato will be in Portugal from 8 to 18 November to assist at the process of nomination of the superior.

The Finance Committee will hold its normal meeting at the General House from 2 to 4 December. The Committee consists of Fr. Jean-Louis Courchesne, the new General Bursar, and Frs. Piet Goltstein, Paul Allerton and Matthew Considine. Fr. Fred Scragg, who is doing duty as the General Bursar until the end of November, will also take part in the meeting.

OUR DEPARTED BRETHREN

Fr. Mario BURATTI (1925-1999)

Died on 24 February 1999 in Bergamo (Italy), aged 74, with 54 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1944 and was ordained priest on 4 March 1950. Having gained a diploma in teaching, he spent many years in this field, in formation, vocations promotion and spiritual direction in various houses of the Province. He also worked in the same fields for the diocese of Verona. Besides this, he gave time to preaching and finally he was a chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom in Lovenno di Managgio, a post which he had to quit after only a short time to retire to Bergamo on account of his health.

Fr. Roger GOUASDON (1921-1999)

Died on 28 February 1999 in Port-au-Prince (Haiti), aged 78, with 54 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1944 and was ordained priest on 28 September 1947. He spent 51 years of his priestly life in Haiti, where he died suddenly. He worked in various parishes, as well as starting that in Rivière-Mancelle. Everywhere he showed himself mindful of social and material needs, and so was a great help to many development projects, as well as taking care of the training of Christian leaders. At the time of his death, he was assistant to the superior of the scholasticate.

Fr. Jef SOMERS (1917-1999)

Died on 21 March 1999 at Brunssum (Netherlands), aged 81, with 60 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1938 and was ordained priest on 13 February 1944. A specialist in French, he taught this language in the

Apostolic School until its closure in 1969. Until 1980, he continued his teaching in two other minor seminaries, accompanied many pilgrimages to Lourdes and helped in Summer in various parishes in Germany. He also worked for many years in the Archives at the General House.

Fr. Gaspard Martin KLERKX (1914-1999)

Died on 26 March 1999 in Kontich-Kazerne (Belgium), aged 84, with 64 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1934 and was ordained priest on 21 December 1940. First of all he was a teacher in the Apostolic School at Rotselaar for four years. After that, he was appointed to Kontich-Kazerne, where he spent the rest of his life. He was first a curate, then later parish priest from 1952 until 1990. He was also the superior and bursar of this community, which was his home until his death.

Brother MICHELE (Giacomo Pesenti) (1929-1999)

Died on 27 March 1999 in Redona-Bergamo (Italy), aged 70, with 51 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1948. His career spanned several communities: among others he was a member of the community in Loreto where he devoted himself to work in the fields. Later, for ten years he was the driver for the scholastics in the via Prenestina. And we must not forget the fifteen years he spent in Ginosa, where, on top of his services to the community and parish, he paid special attention to the poor and sick in the "Casa Famiglia".

Fr. Giacomo COMINELLI (1925-1999)

Died on 1 May 1999 in Bergamo (Italy), aged 74, with 52 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1947 and was ordained priest on 28 February 1953. For a dozen or so years he was assistant to the master of novices, with special responsibility for the young coadjutor brothers: both novices and young professed. After this he stayed in Bergamo for twenty years, dividing his time between the ministry and the duties of bursar. After some time as chaplain to La Sagesse, he returned to Bergamo, where he organised the house for the sick confreres and was its superior for six years. Afterwards he spent eight years as parish administrator in Cerete Alto, then for a short time was responsible for the ministry to the sick in Sarnico.

Fr. Gérard-Marie DESCHAMPS (1919-1999)

Died on 11 May 1999 in Nicolet (Canada), aged 79, with 57 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 15 August 1941 and was ordained priest on 7 March 1947. With a diploma in spirituality from the Angelicum and the Gregorian, he spent his whole life in preaching, especially to religious. During the last years before his retirement, he helped in the Shrine of Mary Queen of All Hearts (Montreal) and for a few years was chaplain to the Sisters of Providence and the Daughters of Wisdom. He retired to Nicolet in 1993.

Brother JEAN DE MONTFORT (Gilbert Ralaisolo) (1922-1999)

Died on 17 May 1999 in Antananarivo (Madagascar), aged 77, with 51 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 15 August 1947, thus becoming the first Malagasy Montfortian. He was always working side by side with his priestly confreres in carrying out various tasks in the work of evangelisation, often concerning himself with the material side of things. It was primarily the Bishop's headquarters in Tamatave which benefited by his presence. He was a true specialist in making people

welcome and rendering service. As he was well-known even in the state administrative circles, many dossiers passed through his hands. From 1994 onwards, his failing health forced him to reduce much of his activity. For the last five years, he lived in Salazamay.

Fr. Arthur PAQUIN (1910-1999)

Died on 2 June 1999 in Nicolet (Canada), aged 88, with 66 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 22 August 1932 and was ordained priest on 12 March 1938. Apart from some brief periods spent teaching, in the novitiate, a parish, or as vocations promoter, his first forty years of ministry were devoted essentially to itinerant mission preaching. From 1975 onwards, he was chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom (6 years in Nicolet, then 19 years in Vanier). He extended this work with visiting the sick and the old. He knew by heart the Hymns of Montfort, and his love for our Founder was contagious. His failing health forced him to retire to Nicolet last December.

Fr. Joseph DURAND (1932-1999)

Died on 8 June 1999 in Cholet (France), aged 67, with 43 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1955 and was ordained priest on 10 February 1963. His first ten years of ministry were spent as a missionary in Madagascar. Returning to France as a result of ill health, he was nevertheless to have a remarkable career: in the dioceses of Nantes and Limoges, he worked in the parish, and in missionary leadership, before becoming procurator for the missions. Then he joined the community of La Gardiolle, where for eight years he was in charge of very extensive parishes in the neighbourhood. In 1998, he decided to go for a rest to St-Laurent before continuing his ministry; and it was there that he died.

Fr. Maurice BURQUE (1905-1999)

Died on 20 June 1999, in Trois-Rivières (Canada), aged 93, with 74 years of Religious Profession. For the past twelve years, he had been the most senior member of the Congregation by profession. He made his first vows on 15 August 1924 and was ordained priest on 2 February 1930. He began his ministry as a teacher in the Apostolic School at Bay Shore (U.S.A.), then at the scholasticate in Eastview (Canada). Having obtained a doctorate in philosophy at the Gregorian University in Rome, he returned to Canada to devote the greater part of his time to teaching in the scholasticate, either Moral Theology or Philosophy. From time to time he engaged in some preaching, and rounded off his life as chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom and to aged persons. He retired to Nicolet in 1983.

Fr. Hermann HINSE (1915-1999)

Died on 24 June 1999 in Nicolet (Canada), aged 84, with 64 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 22 August 1934 and was ordained priest on 17 February 1940. He was a teacher in the minor seminary in Papineauville (1940-1956), then later in the scholasticate (1956-1963). After this he was a chaplain to Religious Sisters, before spending some years as a curate in a parish and chaplain to senior citizens. He had been living in Nicolet since 1973. He occupied himself with the library and the archives, but was noted for the great attention he paid to the sick confreres, whom he would visit with his proverbial discretion.

Fr. Bas van IERSEL (1924-1999)

Died on 7 July 1999 in Nijmegen (Netherlands), aged 74, with 54 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1944 and was ordained priest on 28 March 1950. The greater part of his life was devoted to the Bible. Having studied exegesis in the Catholic University of Nijmegen, he was a course leader, Professor and finally the Dean of this institute. He was a renowned specialist in the Gospel of St. Mark, but he always refused to be limited by what he had already written or taught, since he believed that there was always something new to discover. He was always able in his own way to bring something new to the Good News.

Fr. Joseph WAREING (1921-1999)

Died on 2 August 1999 in Blackpool (England), aged 77, with 55 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1943 and was ordained priest on 19 March 1947. A major part of his life was devoted to formation. For 16 years (1947-1963) he was a teacher at Montfort College (Romsey), where he was also superior for a time. Later he returned there for a further 5 years. He was also superior of the scholasticate, where he taught Moral Theology. From 1977 until 1993, in collaboration with the Daughters of Wisdom, he organised and directed retreats in the Retreat House at "Sandymount". Then he went on to work for several years in a parish, before being appointed chaplain to the Daughters of Wisdom, a few months ago.

Fr. Elio GAMBARI (1913-1999)

Died on 17 August 1999 in Bergamo (Italy), aged 86, with 67 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 1 October 1931 and was ordained priest on 20 February 1937. A Doctor "*in utroque jure*" of the Lateran University, he was professor of Moral Theology and Canon Law and spiritual director at the scholasticate in Loreto. In 1946, the Congregation for Religious requested his services: he became the assistant under-secretary of this Congregation in 1972, and retired in 1976, while continuing to render many services to this Roman dicastery. He also held a diploma as an advocate of the Rota. The greater part of his life was devoted to the Religious Life, by means of study, teaching, conferences, articles and books. He was a much sought-after adviser to many Religious Congregations. He also found time to be the General Procurator of the Company of Mary and a professor at the University of Propaganda.

Fr. Arnold TROCHER (1931-1999)

Died on 14 September 1999 in Montreal (Canada), aged 67, with 43 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 15 August 1956 and was ordained priest on 25 March 1961. Returning to Haiti at the end of his formation years, he was a teacher in the College of Notre-Dame-de Lourdes (Port-au-Prince), a curate in Gros-Morne, chaplain to the Cité Militaire (Port-au-Prince). After some time working in a parish, he was twice the director of the Minor Seminary of St. Pius X in Port-de-Paix. His career was interrupted by many periods spent in Canada, because of his health, but even then he did not fail to exercise his ministry. It was in this country which so often welcomed him and cared for him that he bade us goodbye.

Fr. Eugène SCHEPERS (1917-1999)

Died on 23 September 1999 in Heusden (Belgium), aged 82 with 62 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1937 and was ordained priest on 9 April 1944. After two years in the Congo, he returned to Belgium to take a degree in pedagogy, then returned to the Congo where he was inspector of schools in the diocese of Isangi. In 1964, the rebellion forced him to return to Belgium. He

worked for a time in Iceland before taking up definitive residence in Belgium. He was master of novices in Kessel-Lo, then chaplain to the Poor Clares in Genk. He retired to the community in Genk in 1994.

Fr. Jean-Marie AUDUSSEAU (1925-1999)

Died on 6 October 1999 in St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre (France), aged 74, with 55 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1944 and was ordained priest on 19 February 1950. After specialist studies, he taught Scripture for eleven years in the scholasticate at Montfort-sur-Meu (1954-1965). Feeling called to the monastic life, he then spent three years with the Cistercians (1965-1968). Afterwards he spent practically the rest of his life (28 years) in Marseilles, working for the labourers, immigrants and outcasts, while at the same time putting his knowledge at the service of ongoing formation for committed Christians, priests and religious. For the past few years he was the spiritual guide of the Montfortian Secular Institute.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Diccionario de Espiritualidad Monfortiana, Centro Mariano Monfortiano, Santafé de Bogotá, 1998, 1316 pages. A Spanish edition of the *Handbook of Montfortian Spirituality*, brought out thanks to the remarkable work of Fr. Pio Suarez and his collaborators. The printing, on Bible paper, is practically identical to the typical edition in French published by Novalis.

Montfort : *O Segredo admirável do Santo Rosário*, Centro Mariano Monfortino, Junqueira, 1998, 293 pages. A translation made in Portugal of the *Admirable Secret of the Rosary*. Preface by Fr. Manuel Vieira.

Vida e Obras de São Luís Maria Grignon de Montfort, Edições Monfortinas, João Monlevade, 1999, 82 pages. A Portuguese adaptation, made in Brazil, of a book by Fr. Louis Pérouas. Introduction by Fr. Luiz Stefani.

Montfort : *Le Secret de Marie*, Médiaspaul, Montréal, 1999, 120 pages. An edition of *The Secret of Mary* from the manuscript copy belonging to the Daughters of Wisdom. It is a pocket-sized “popular” edition. The Latin texts have been omitted and slight modifications made. It includes an introduction by Fr. Gilles Dallaire and self-reflection boxes inserted into the text. A revised preparation for the Consecration is added at the end. Some footnotes have been added to facilitate its reading.

MONTFORTIAN FAMILY

General Chapters

Brothers of St Gabriel

6-28 April 2000

General House – Rome

Daughters of Wisdom

23 July – 18 August 2000

Ariccia – Italy

Our Sisters and Brothers in the Montfortian family are relying on your prayers and your interest during these key events.