

# L'Écho Montfortain

No. 505 – November 2000 – English edition

## A Word from Father General

*“For me, St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort is a significant person of reference who has enlightened me at important moments of life. When I was working as a clandestine seminarian at the Solvay factory in Kraków, my spiritual director advised me to meditate on the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Many times and with great spiritual profit I read and reread this precious little ascetical book, with the blue, soda-stained cover.... Now I also thank the Lord for enabling me to experience... that when the believer accepts Mary into his life in Christ and the Spirit, he is brought into the very heart of the Trinitarian mystery.”*

To hear the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, say these words with heartfelt honesty and simplicity at a special audience, and then to see them printed in bold headlines across the front page of the *Osservatore Romano*, was the extraordinary conclusion to the Colloquium held in Rome 11-13 October on *Montfort's Trinitarian spirituality in communion with Mary*. The theological conferences, the apostolic and spiritual testimonies, the Eucharist concelebrated in St. Peter's Basilica by Mgr. Crescenzo Sepe of the Central Committee of the Grand Jubilee, Mgr. François Garnier of Luçon, Mgr. Ivan Dias of Bombay, Mgr. Frans Colimon of Port-de-Paix, with the presence of Mgr. Lelis Lara of Itabira-Coronel Fabriciano in Brazil and members of the Montfortian Family from around the world -- all that seemed to be distilled in the joyous and warm special audience for 500 of us in the Vatican's Clementine Hall. A word of sincere thanks must go to Fr. Battista Cortinovis, postulator of the Cause of St. Louis-Marie as Doctor of the Church, and to his collaborators, for having organized the Colloquium on short notice and yet having produced astonishing results.

However, Rome has not been the only place where the Montfortian Family has been boldly active in promoting St. Louis-Marie's cause. In India at the end of September a convocation was organized in Bangalore at the conclusion of the *Yesu Krist Jayanti*, the National Jubilee Assembly. I was honored to witness part of this assembly and then to receive some 23 Indian bishops and 250 people at Maria Bhavan to promote the cause of Montfort-Doctor. Memorable among the conferences was one by Fr. Jacob Thekkanath, of the National Biblical and Liturgical Center, about Montfort's insights on the Cross and Wisdom in the Indian cultural context. A few months prior to this, we received word that the Episcopal Conference of Colombia had voted unanimously to petition that St. Louis-Marie be declared Doctor of the Church.

But what does all this have to do with **you** - religious or lay member of the Montfortian Family? Postulators, colloquia and Roman dicasteries may seem very removed from your daily life, and I am well aware that many find yourselves indifferent or cool to the notion of Montfort- Doctor. For myself what matters in all this is not that an added title or honor be bestowed upon St. Louis-Marie. What matters is that Montfort's path of Christian living, his way of leading ordinary people to holiness and action as they grow with Mary to the fullness of their baptismal life --that this path might be a gift and a grace for the Church today around the world. We Montfortians --with our father and founder-- we have something valuable and powerful to offer to the Church. We have nothing to be ashamed about; we have much to learn and update in our own understanding of what St. Louis-Marie lived and wrote; we have unfathomed depths still to discover in his missionary and mystical experience of the love of Jesus in Mary. Whether or not Montfort receives the title *Doctor of the Church*, you yourself can become a better Montfortian, a man all afire with love for your brothers and sisters, a man consecrated by baptism and religious profession to become Christ. Whether or not Montfort receives the title *Doctor*, each of us should be able to truthfully say with John Paul II, *“Now I also thank the Lord for enabling me to experience... that when the believer accepts Mary into his life in Christ and the Spirit, he is brought into the very heart of the Trinitarian mystery.”*

## Official News Items

### ***First Professions***

On 31 May 2000, the following 7 confreres made their first religious profession in Bangalore (India): **Vijaya Anand Babu VALLE, Prem Kumar ANTHAPPA, Vinod D'MELLO, John Paul Raj VELLANKANNI, Innasspa Dhanaraj AROGYAPPA, Joji Antony KALARICKAL and Maria Arul Anand AROKIASAMY.**

On 15 August 2000, the following 10 confreres made their first religious profession in Bandung (Indonesia): **Valentinus MADUN, Leonardus BAYU CHANDRA KARTIKA, Marselinus LOBI, Samuel HURIT HAJON, Blasius BAGUNG, Blasius NGGOE, Kristianus Jumi NGAMPU, LEONARDUS (*Pingoang*), Yohanes Berchmans BA'I MARI, and Eduardus Yohanes MILO ROGA.**

Also on 15 August 2000, the following confreres made their first religious profession in Mbarara (Uganda): **Jacques LISENDJA SOMBAELENGI and Jean de Dieu BOKUMU ALAJO** (both from the Democratic Republic of Congo).

On 8 September 2000, the following 4 confreres made their first religious profession in Lavaud (Haiti): **Marcel BELDORIN, Joseph TELCIN, Roberson PIERRE and Wid-Andy BÉNISTE.**

### ***Ordination to the Diaconate***

On 4 June 2000, **Nelson CABAÑERO** was ordained deacon in Makati, Manila (Philippines).

### ***Ordinations to the Priesthood***

On 15 July 2000, **Andrew Ulemu KAUFU** was ordained to the Priesthood at Ganya (Malawi).

On 12 August 2000, the following confreres were ordained to the Priesthood in Depok (Indonesia): **Martinus WIDYATMOKO, Antonius GATOT WIBAWA and Franciscus Borgias TRIHANDOKO.**

On 19 August 2000, **César Andrés GUTIÉRREZ RINCÓN** was ordained to the Priesthood in Choachí (Colombia).

On 25 September 2000, the following confreres were ordained to the Priesthood in Ruteng (Indonesia): **Siprianus Masjon KENEDY and Arnoldus SUHARDI.**

On 1 October 2000, **Delfim Teixeira AFONSO** was ordained to the Priesthood in Vila Nova de Paiva (Portugal).

### ***New Provincial Administration***

On 11 July 2000, during an Assembly of the Province of Gt. Britain and Ireland, **Fr. Frederick SCRAGG** was elected as the new Provincial of the GB/I province. Fr. General was present at the assembly and immediately confirmed the election. Also elected as Provincial Councillors were **Frs. Daniel McAvoy and Donald Macdonald.** The other two Councillors, who, according to the Statutes of the Province, are chosen by the Provincial, were later named as **Frs. Kieran Flynn and Desmond Connolly.**

## ***Daughters of Wisdom: New General Administration***

During their General Chapter, which took place in Ariccia from 23 July to 18 August 2000, the Daughters of Wisdom re-elected **Sr. Barbara O’Dea** as Superior General for a second mandate of six years. **Sr. Madeleine Cadour** (of France) and **Sr. Lilana dell’ Immacolata** (of Italy) were also re-elected for a second six year term. The other two Assistants elected were **Sr. Louise Madore** (of Canada – Ontario) and **Sr. Maria Isabel Mateus** (a Colombian Sister from the PEBA Province).

## ***New Superior of the General House***

**Fr. Giuseppe Carrara** (of the Italian Province) has been appointed Superior of the General House in Rome. **Fr. Angelo De Caro**, having completed two terms of office, has returned to the Italian Province and been appointed as parish priest of the parish of St. Josefa in the neighbourhood of the Scholasticate in the Via Prenestina.

## **Various News Items**

### ***3rd Centenary of the Priestly Ordination and First Mass of St. Louis Marie de Montfort – Celebration in Paris***

Following on the reminder of the 3rd centenary of St. Louis Marie’s Ordination in the last *Écho*, we can report that the members of the three Montfortian congregations in France, together with about a hundred parishioners of Saint-Sulpice and numerous friends from the Hospitalité Montfortaine and other institutes, set out to solemnly celebrate the event. Fr. Paul Roumanet, the parish priest, had announced the anniversary in his parish newsletter, and had kindly asked the followers of Montfort to lead the Rosary prayer which was to be said shortly before the evening Mass. One of the communities of the daughters of Wisdom in the Rue de la Tombe-Issoire lent their talents to this.

Fr. Pierre Groperrin reports: “Although he was prevented at the last minute from concelebrating with us, the Parish Priest asked his Sulpician colleagues, Frs. Paul Doc and Etienne Chaumier, to offer his excuses and represent the pastoral team. Fr. Provincial, surrounded by several confreres – some had not been able to make it – presided over the celebration and, in a homily adorned with many historical references, underlined the prime place given by Fr. de Montfort to the Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin.

“Members of our congregations, the Provincial Councils and Bro. Georges Le Vern, general assistant, as well as friends from other institutes and from the parish, played a part in the unfolding of this Liturgy prepared by Sr. Madeleine Véchambre, D.W., Bro. Michel Legal, S.G. Fr. Pierre Groperrin.

“N.B. Situated in the apse, this Lady Chapel is also today the Blessed sacrament chapel, where the weekday parish Masses are celebrated. Apart from the statue of Mary which towers over the altar, the only other statue in the chapel is that of St. Louis Marie. A plaque, with an inscription suggested in June 1999 by the three General Councils to the Provincial Councils meeting in Montfort, has now replaced the former one which was judged too brief. It reads:

***“St. Louis Marie de Montfort  
celebrated his first Mass  
in this chapel in June 1700.***

***His life and writings continue to inspire  
many of the faithful, among them the Daughters of Wisdom,  
the Montfort Missionaries, the Brothers of St. Gabriel  
and all the members of the Montfortian family.”***

## ***Comings and Goings at the General House***

Fr. General and Fr. Hub Louis attended the Provincial Assembly in Liverpool, England, which elected Fr. Fred Scragg as the new Provincial. Fr. Paul Allerton also attended as a member of that Province, and stayed on afterwards to take a holiday. Fr. General then returned to Rome, while Fr. Louis went to Holland for a holiday and to visit the three Provinces of Holland, Belgium and Germany. Fr. Jean-Louis Courchesne left at the end of July for his holiday in Canada. July also saw the arrival of our new Superior, Fr. Giuseppe Carrara, to replace Fr. Angelo De Caro, who left for a well-earned holiday before taking up any new post.

Fr. General attended the General Chapter of the Daughters of Wisdom from 23 July to 18 August. Meanwhile, a large number of young people, mainly from the United States, under the leadership of Fr. Roy Tvrdik, stayed at the General House during the World Youth Days between 15 and 22 August, along with a number of other confreres who came from the USA, Canada, Haiti and Congo to assist in the organisation of these days.

The end of August and the beginning of September saw the return of most of the members of the General House community, with the addition of Fr. Raja Rao Telagathoti (of India) who is finishing his Doctorate studies. At the end of September, Fr. General made a short visit to India to attend a conference on Montfort, Doctor of the Church.

October saw the arrival of many confreres and visitors for the Mariological Colloquium mentioned elsewhere, followed by the Extraordinary General Council. Then, by the beginning of November, the house had returned to more of its normal tranquil working pace.

## **Extraordinary General Council 2000**

The EGC met in Rome from 17-27 October. In his opening remarks Father General noted that exactly sixteen months before, 17 June 1999, we had celebrated the end of the General Chapter. During those sixteen months the Assistants or the Superior General had been present for every Provincial Chapter of Election or Assembly of the General Delegations. Out of the 15 provincials and superiors of general delegations at the EGC, 10 were new in their office. Father General thanked each one for having accepted the election or the choice of their confreres to guide and animate their entity, and for all the personal sacrifice and responsibility that entails. This first EGC of the mandate unfolded in a spirit of mutual trust and confidence, and that - Father General said - can only help in a wide variety of co-operative undertakings, be it in mission, formation, spirituality, economic planning or administration.

In a brief visit, Fr. Battista Cortinovis, postulator of the **Cause of Montfort-Doctor**, offered an update on the progress of this matter. Fr. Battista stressed his belief that new and active interest in Montfort and his spirituality produces changes in young and old entities. If, through the cause of the Doctorate, Montfort becomes better known around the world, it will make us work with more conviction and energy, will bring vocations, and will motivate specifically Montfortian apostolates. Efforts to advance the doctorate can be investments in the future. Fr. Battista also indicated that our focus now ought to be on contacting and providing information to Episcopal Conferences and bishops in order to request their support.

Each provincial and general delegate presented a brief report on the follow-up in his entity of the General Chapter priority, **our Montfortian Consecrated Life**. Efforts and participation vary from place to place, but in every entity serious and long-term efforts are underway. Striking were the echoes on how confreres were discovering how Consecrated Life intersects and illuminates other aspects of SMM reality - e.g. apostolic community, Montfortian spirituality, baptism, vocations, radical apostolic choices and risks to engage ourselves alongside the poorest. It also seems to have a positive impact on our sense of belonging to the congregation.

The EGC studied revised Statutes for the **Association Mary Queen of All Hearts** (cf. Const. 59-61 and Statute 2), giving them new clarity and élan in light of Vatican Council II and the new Code of Canon Law. These revised Statutes will now be presented to the Congregation for Consecrated Life. Father General noted that even more important, we must support one another on

## Participants in the EGC

### General Council

Fr. William Considine, *Sup. Gen.*  
Fr. Ivo Libralato, *Vic. Gen.*  
Fr. Hub Louis  
Fr. Jean-Louis Courchesne  
Fr. Miguel Patiño

### Provincials

Fr. Edmund Jäckel (*Germany*)  
Fr. Jo Gelissen (*Belgium*)  
Fr. Wilfrid Bergeron (*Canada*)  
Fr. Adolfo Betancur (*Colombia*)  
Fr. Gerald Fitzsimmons (*USA*)  
Fr. Jacques Arrouet (*France*)  
Fr. Frederick Scragg (*GB/I*)  
Fr. Joseph Philor (*Haiti*)  
Fr. Daniele Carraro (*Italy*)  
Fr. Charles Voncken  
(*Netherlands*)

### Superiors of General Delegations

Fr. Claude Sigouin (*Africa-Formation*)  
Fr. Alphonse Walder (*India*)  
Fr. Claude Boichut (*Madagascar*)  
Fr. Arie van der Hulst  
(*Philippines*)  
Fr. Antonio Pereira (*Portugal*)

### Support staff

Fr. Paul Allerton (*Secr. Gen.*)  
Bro. Marcel Barreteau, fsg  
(*Translator*)  
Fr. Piet Goltstein (*Administrator of the Montfort General Fund*)

regional, continental and congregational levels to do everything possible to provide solid and serious nourishment for those who seek to walk the way of holiness proposed by St. Louis-Marie. Also touching Montfortian spirituality, the EGC discussed the future shape and focus of programs of ongoing Montfortian formation, such as **the SIM (Stage International Montfortain)** and **the CIM (Centre International Montfortain)**. The exchanges underlined the need for effective, solid ongoing formation that was also realistic, practical and creative - especially as regards available personnel. It is encouraging to note that three young confreres from Asia have already begun their **specialisation in Rome in Montfortian spirituality**, and that next year some from other parts of the SMM may join them.

With the presence of Fr. Piet Goltstein, administrator of the Montfort General Fund in Belgium, the EGC reflected on Poverty in the life of Montfortians today, offering suggestions for a coming Circular Letter of the Superior General on this topic. Presentations and discussion on the state of the **Montfort General Fund** and the **Sharing Fund**, as well as future projections for helping older confreres in developing entities and assisting in essential ministries, were helpful for the medium and long-term financial situation of the Congregation.

The members of the EGC reflected on the upcoming **Meeting of Formators from 4-25 February 2001**, and also on current efforts for vocation promotion in the entities. Father General urged the superiors to give time and attention to the persons, programs and progress being made in their entity in this vital area for the life of the SMM. All confreres are urged to pray for the success of this meeting and to open themselves to an active interest in the future of the Congregation.

That future was touched upon in quite specific ways in reflections on Structures and **change of Status** for several entities. The EGC gave its advice and accord for the General Council to proceed at the appropriate times for various changes of structure in Europe, Africa, Latin America and

Asia. As each case unfolds, more precise details will be made known. A proposal to create an **international team of confreres** (young and not so young!) resonated in many hearts, especially as it addressed the need to announce and share our spiritual heritage with lay people of today. It seemed to enflame a desire to work together with confreres of various nations - despite possible opposition from the civil society and culture - to create something truly new, open to the needs and hopes of peoples of today. Related to this, Father General again stressed that scholastics and young confreres must **learn other international languages**. Any realistic hope of international co-operation - initial or ongoing formation, spirituality, regional or general administration - will be built on persons who speak more than one international language.

The **next EGC** will take place in **Bangalore, India in October 2002**.

## Mariological Colloquium in Rome

An International Colloquium of Mariology was held in Rome 11-13 October 2000, just before the Extraordinary General Council. It was organised by the *Associazione Mariologica Interdisciplinare*

*Italiana*, and sponsored by the Central Committee for the Great Jubilee of Year 2000, the French Embassy to the Holy See, the International Marian Pontifical Academy and the Pontifical Academy of the Immaculate. Its title was “*Saint Louis Marie de Montfort: Trinitarian Spirituality in Communion with Mary*”. It was presided by Mgr. François Garnier, Bishop of Luçon (the diocese where Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre is situated) and H.E. Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, President of the Central Committee for the Great Jubilee of Year 2000. Among the principal speakers were Fr. Patrick Gaffney, S.M.M., Fr. François Léthel, O.C.D. and Mgr. Francesco Lambiasi, Bishop of Anagni. The Colloquium ended with a Eucharist celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica, followed by a special Audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The following day, the *Osservatore Romano* featured this audience on its front page, while inside a whole page was devoted to the Pope’s address at the audience, and a presentation by Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, Archbishop of Genoa, of the new edition of the *True Devotion* just published by Edizione Monfortane in Rome. This would seem to suggest a strong interest on the part of the Roman Curia in the Doctorate sought for St. Louis Marie.

We give here the greeting offered by Mgr. Garnier, Bishop of Luçon, to Pope John Paul at the start of the audience, and the Address of the Pope to the participants in the Colloquium.

### **Mgr. Garnier’s Greeting**

Holy Father,

You are the friend of St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort! We all know that. On 19 September 1996, I had the pleasure, as Bishop of Luçon, to welcome you to Vendée and to accompany you to the tomb of this great saint. We prayed there with you.

Today, you see before you some representatives of the immense Montfortian family with their major superiors. They have come from France, Italy, Argentina, but also from the United States, Canada, India, the Philippines, Brazil, Madagascar and Haiti...

We have just experienced together the 8th International Mariological Colloquium. It highlighted what you yourself have known for a long time, that is, the relevance, the fruitfulness and the originality of St. Louis Marie’s spiritual teaching. In a way which is very simple and popular, yet very sure and profound, he entrusts us to Mary, so that, with her, we might discover in a better and quicker way, Christ, the Trinity, the Church, the importance of Baptism and the urgency of the mission and the service of the poor.

With all who are here; with all those whom they represent in the entire world; with Cardinal Etchegaray, who has been presiding over our work and has given us his “very simple but very firm support”; with more and more bishops and the immense multitude of the poor who are loved by God; with also, no doubt, “little Thérèse”, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, since their spiritual teachings are so close and complementary; with all these I share an intense desire to see St. Louis Marie recognised as a “Doctor of the Church”.

Holy Father, thank you for welcoming us: we sense that we have in yourself the most discrete, yet the most effective promoter of our cause, and we thank you with all our heart.

### **Papal Address**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters!*

1. I am pleased to welcome you today during the Eighth International Mariological Colloquium on the theme: “*St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort: Trinitarian Spirituality in Communion with Mary*”. An affectionate greeting to you all: the organizers, moderators and participants. I extend special thanks to Bishop François Garnier of Luçon for his cordial words expressing the sentiments you all share.

Today’s meeting recalls the one held here in Rome in 1706 between my venerable predecessor Clement XI and the Breton missionary, Grignon de Montfort, who had come to ask the Successor of

Peter for light and strength in the apostolate he had undertaken. I also remember with gratitude the pilgrimage to the tomb of this great saint in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, which Providence allowed me to make on 19 September 1996.

For me, St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort is a significant person of reference who has enlightened me at important moments in life. When I was working as a clandestine seminarian at the Solvay factory in Kraków, my spiritual director advised me to meditate on the *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. Many times and with great spiritual profit I read and reread this precious little ascetical book with the blue, soda-stained cover. By relating the Mother of Christ to the Trinitarian mystery, Montfort helped me to understand that *the Virgin belongs to the plan of salvation*, by the *Father's* will, as the Mother of the *incarnate Word*, who was conceived by her through the power of the *Holy Spirit*. Mary's every intervention in the work of the regeneration of the faithful is not in competition with Christ, but derives *from* him and is *at* his service. Mary's action in the plan of salvation is always Christocentric, that is, it is directly related to a mediation that takes place in Christ. I then realized that I could not exclude the Mother of the Lord from my life without disregarding the will of God-the-Trinity, who wanted to "begin and complete" the great mysteries of salvation history with the responsible and faithful collaboration of the humble Handmaid of Nazareth.

Now I also thank the Lord for enabling me to experience what you too have had the opportunity to study at this colloquium, i.e., that when the believer accepts Mary into his life in Christ and the Spirit, he is brought into the very heart of the Trinitarian mystery.

2. Dear brothers and sisters, during your symposium you have reflected on Trinitarian spirituality in communion with Mary: an aspect which is characteristic of Montfort's teaching.

He does not, in fact, offer a theology without influence on practical life, nor a Christianity "by proxy" without the personal acceptance of the commitments stemming from Baptism. On the contrary, he invites us to an intensely lived spirituality; he encourages us to make a free and conscious gift of ourselves to Christ and, through him, to the Holy Spirit and to the Father. In this light, we understand how reference to Mary makes the renewal of our baptismal promises perfect, since Mary is indeed the creature "most conformed to Jesus Christ" (*True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, n. 120).

Yes, the whole Christocentric and Marian spirituality taught by Montfort flows from the Trinity and leads back to it. In this connection, we are struck by his insistence on the action of the three divine Persons in Mary's regard. God the Father "gave his Only-begotten Son to the world only through Mary" and "wishes to have children through Mary until the end of the world" (*ibid.*, nn. 16, 29). God the Son "became man for our salvation but only in Mary and through Mary" and "wishes to form himself and, so to speak, incarnate himself every day in his members through his dear Mother" (*ibid.*, nn. 16, 31). God the Holy Spirit "has communicated his unspeakable gifts to Mary, his faithful Spouse" and "wishes to form elect for himself in her and through her" (*ibid.*, nn. 25, 34).

3. Mary therefore appears as the place of the love and action of the Persons of the Trinity, and Montfort presents her in a relational perspective: "Mary is entirely relative to God. Indeed, I might well call her the relation to God. She exists only with reference to God" (*ibid.*, n. 225). For this reason, the All-Holy One leads us to the Trinity. By repeating "*Totus tuus*" to her every day and living in harmony with her, we can attain an experience of the Father in confidence and boundless love (cf. *ibid.*, nn. 169, 215), docility to the Spirit (cf. *ibid.*, n. 258) and transformation of self into the likeness of Christ (cf. *ibid.*, nn. 218-221).

It sometimes happens that in catechesis and exercises of piety "the Trinitarian and Christological note that is intrinsic and essential to them" remains implicit (Apostolic Exhortation *Marialis cultus*, n. 25). In Grignion de Montfort's vision, however, Trinitarian faith totally pervades his prayers to Mary: "Hail Mary, well-beloved daughter of the eternal Father, admirable Mother of the Son, most faithful spouse of the Holy Spirit, glorious temple of the Blessed Trinity" (*Methods for Saying the Rosary*, n. 15). Similarly, in the *Prayer for Missionaries*, addressed to the three divine Persons and focused on

the last times of the Church, Mary is contemplated as "the mountain of God" (n. 25), the place of holiness that lifts us up to God and transforms us in Christ.

May every Christian make his own the doxology that Montfort puts on Mary's lips in the *Magnificat*: "May our one true God / be adored and blessed! / May the universe resound / and everyone sing: / Glory to the eternal Father, / glory to the adorable Word! / The same glory to the Holy Spirit / who unites them with his love in an unspeakable bond" (*Canticles*, 85, 6).

As I implore for each of you the constant help of the Blessed Virgin, so that you can live your vocation in communion with her, our Mother and model, I cordially give you a special Apostolic Blessing.

## Our Departed Brethren

### Fr. Jacques LIMPENS

Died on 21 August 2000 in Heerlen (Netherlands), aged 80, with 58 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1941, and was ordained a priest on 16 March 1947. He began his priestly life as assistant Provincial Bursar, and afterwards served in a number of roles, including teaching, working in the Marian Apostolate in Holland, and being rector of a hospital. For some time he worked in the General House in Rome, and also spent time in Iceland. Most recently he helped in the home for the elderly in Valkenburg.

### Bro. Roch LACOURSE

Died on 30 August 2000 in Nicolet (Canada), aged 78, with 60 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 19 September 1939. For 35 years thereafter, he served the Canadian Province of the Montfort Missionaries, as a farmer, gardener, baker or house manager in Nicolet, Montfort and Papineauville. Then, for the last 25 years of his life, he served faithfully as concierge and sacristan in the parish of Marie Reine des Coeurs in Montreal, until he became ill and had to retire to Nicolet.

### Fr. Leonardus van WINDEN

Died on 7 September 2000 in Voorschoten (Netherlands), aged 69, with 45 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1954, and was ordained a priest on 28 March 1960. He spent the whole of his priestly life in the service of the mission *ad gentes*, first of all in Malawi, where he worked for 14 years in Thunga and Phalombe, then for 26 years in Brazil, first of all in the diocese of Linz, then in São Paulo, where especially he gave himself in service to the poor. Having moved to João Monlevade at the beginning of this year, a serious illness was diagnosed, and he returned to Holland, where he died shortly after celebrating the 40th anniversary of his priesthood.

### Fr. Bernard KIEWE

Died on 13 September 2000 in Valkenburg (Netherlands), aged 77, with 52 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1948, and was ordained a priest on 28 March 1954. He spent practically the whole of his priestly life in the service of the Holy Land Foundation, a biblical open-air museum, in Nijmegen. For 16 years he gave guided tours of the museum, as well as travelling all over Holland and Flanders to bring the biblical message to the faithful. Then he was managing director of the Foundation from 1970 until 1988, and stayed on as acting superior and bursar until moving to Valkenburg in 1996.

### Fr. Giovanni DOLCI

Died on 19 October 2000 in Bergamo (Italy), aged 64, with 42 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1958, and was ordained a priest on 22 February 1964. Parish ministry characterised his priestly life. After spending just two years at the minor seminary in Redona, he was appointed to the parish in the Via Cori, Rome, where he stayed until 1980. Later he served in parishes in Valleambrosia di Rozzano (Milan), and the dioceses of Pavia and Imperia. His sudden death took everyone by surprise, even though he had not been too well for the past year.



### **Fr. Johannes UMANS**

Died on 29 October 2000 in Birkenrød (Denmark), aged 76, with 53 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 8 September 1947, and was ordained a priest on 15 March 1953. He was greatly interested in ecumenism, and spent the whole of his priestly life in Denmark, first in Roskilde, later in Taarstrup, then back to Roskilde, where he stayed until 1993. His last few years of life were spent as chaplain in the Benedictine Sisters' nursing home in Birkenrød. He also served as *Judicialis* in the Diocese of Copenhagen. He was the last Montfortian to remain in Denmark.

### **Bro Jean-Yves HÉBERT**

Died on 1 November 2000 in Nicolet (Canada), aged 67, with 48 years of Religious Profession. He made his first vows on 7 October 1952. Most of his active life as a religious was spent as a bee-keeper and gardener in Upper Melbourne and Papineauville (P.Q.). For two years he was at the scholasticate in Vanier (Ont.), but then he was struck down by the beginning of a long illness, the multiple sclerosis which finally made him totally dependent on others. Yet for thirty years he bore this affliction with serenity, patience and abandonment to Divine Providence, an example to all his confreres, until finally a peaceful death put an end to his suffering.

## **Seasonal Blessings**

As we enter the season of Advent, and draw near to the closing of the Great Jubilee Year 2000, we wish all the readers of the *Écho Montfortain*, members of the great Montfortian Family around the world, a blessed Advent and Christmas, with joys in abundance, and a peaceful and fruitful close to what has been an extraordinary year for the Church and for the Montfortian Family.