



L'Écho montfortain

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A Holiday Atmosphere

The Echo in this month of July takes on a holiday atmosphere: few texts but lots of photographs inviting us on a journey, but especially on a mission...

This abbreviated Echo will allow our many collaborators and translators, male and female, to take a bit of a rest: Marian Claeren, Colette Déciron, Cristina Lazzarini, Mia Rummens, Magda Van Goidsenhoven, Daniel Busnel, Aurelio Rozo, Paul Allerton, Vincent Bégoc, Alfonse Bossard, Piet Goltstein, Alfio Mandelli, Miguel Patiño, René Paul. We thank them all from the bottom of our heart for their work which is hidden but very effective.

Certainly we continue to share our joys and our sorrows: the joy of professions and ordinations, the sadness we feel at seeing our confreres go to our Father's House. For the more courageous and studious among you, we offer a little bibliography, so as not to give up a good habit!

Echoing the life of the entities in our Congregation, we add the voice of the Church which invites us to celebrate the Pauline Year in the dynamism of Mission, and to listen to the *Instruction of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life* on "The Service of Authority and Obedience". I end these lines with the Prayer to the Blessed Virgin which concludes this Instruction:

*O sweet and holy Virgin Mary, with Your believing and perplexed obedience, at the announcement of the angel
You gave us Christ.*

*At Cana with Your attentive Heart
You showed us how to act responsibly. You did not wait passively for the action of Your Son but You anticipated it, making Him aware of the need and with discreet authority taking the initiative to send the servants to Him.*

*At the foot of the cross, obedience made You the Mother of the Church and of believers
while in the Upper Room every disciple recognized in You
the gentle authority of love and service.*

*Help us to understand that every true authority in the Church and in consecrated life
has its foundation in being docile to the will of God and help each one of us become in fact,
authority for others with our own life lived in obedience to God.*

*O merciful and compassionate Mother,
'You who did the will of the Father, ever ready in obedience',
make our lives attentive to the Word,
faithful in the following of Jesus, the Lord and Servant,
in the light and with the strength of the Holy Spirit,
joyful in fraternal communion, generous in mission,
prompt in our service to the poor,
looking forward to the day in which obedience in faith
will flow into the feast of Love without end.*

Fr. Olivier Maire, s.m.m.

Official News Items



First Professions

On 31 May 2008, in Bulacan (Philippines) : John Ronaldo ABULAG, Benjie NOTARTE, Arnel PAGADUAN, Michael Ave PARAISO.

On 24 May 2008, in Ruteng (Indonesia) : Lambertus (Lambert) AI, Laurensius (Lorens) GAFUR, Florianus (Flori) GARDIN, Hironimus (Nimus) HARJON, Arlusius (Hedi) HEDIHARTO, Rikardus (Rikard) NSALU, Ignatius Wahyudi (Yudi) PAWELING, Fransiskus Billy (Billy) SANDY, Filipus (Pipo) SUDARLIN, Rikardus Febriano Kiswanto (Ryano) TAGUNG, Martinus (Marten) TAMUR.

On 21 June 2008, in Mysore (India) : Robert Periyanygam, Francis Prasanth, Joseph Thambi.

Priestly Ordinations

On 31 May 2008, in Villavicencio (Colombia) : Hedinson Orlando HERRERA BEDÓN, Armando NOVOA PIRAQUIVE.

Inauguration of New Cathedral in Puerto Gaitán (Colombia), 30 March 2008

A Bishop in the Wind

With determined tread, Mgr Alberto Rozo, Bishop of Puerto Gaitán, makes his way towards his new cathedral... A very beautiful Montfortian image: his crozier, Christ the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep and goes to look for the sheep that has strayed, leads the procession; a cross which keeps precious guard over the Virgin sculpted by Fr. de Montfort, the staff of the pilgrim and the good missionary...



An Evangelical Gesture



In the middle of the Eucharistic celebration, the photographer has captured a Gospel gesture: the gift of water. A priest (whose name I will omit to safeguard his humility, but who normally takes photographs rather than is photographed!) presents to the Bishops a little water to drink... The living water promised by Jesus to the Samaritan woman? The water of the Spirit which we receive freely? The water given to the little ones in the Gospel? The gift of the water of Baptism, of our rebirth in Christ? Is not the cathedral the source of this?

The Interior



One's gaze is carried naturally to the altar, then to the tabernacle, both window and sun, then finally to the Risen Christ. Father de Montfort, shown at the right of Christ, seems to be still exhorting Christians, committing them to renew their Baptismal promises and to embrace a true devotion to the Blessed Virgin (whose image is seen to the left of the Risen One). The Christians of Puerto Gaitán feel at home in their cathedral, their new family home.

The Exterior



In front of the new cathedral, children ride around on their bicycles, a man and woman walk by, holding hands, the itinerant sellers have taken up their places... The new cathedral is now a part of the landscape, a part of ordinary life... The Church in the world.

'International' Novitiate in the Philippines

Father Reni, from India, has been for one year assistant of Fr. Richard, Novice Master in the Philippines. He shares with his experience in this international novitiate together with four Novices from the Philippines and three from India.



As I look back over the past few years from now, I have been widely exposed to different cultures and nationalities for the good of my own formation and of a broader understanding of what the world is all about. Though doubts were many in my mind I could explore the richness of the various cultures and nations as wide as the continental exposure. I have *learned* a lot from my experience far and wide and also *learned to unlearn* what has been right until then when I came in contact with broader realities of life. I strongly feel that there is no better or worse culture to count upon but to integrate and to learn upon... It all depends on one's "openness" to other cultures and the *assimilation* and *accommodation* point of view. The little miracles of life takes place when we learn to accept people and cultures as they are.

In 2006 when I finished my studies on Counseling and Christian Leadership in London, I was told to go to Rome for a year of exploration on Montfortian Spirituality. It was a very exciting and unexpected opportunity given to me to learn more about our Founder and his Spirituality with Fr. Battista Cortinovia. Later in month of March 2007 when Fr. Santino and two of his General Councilors returned to Rome from India I was told that I have another surprise waiting! Later I came to know that I am going to explore yet another year in a different land and culture, an interesting country like Philippines. I was really surprised and wondered about all the plans of God for me! Struggling to discern between the Will of God and my own choices...

I arrived in the Philippines on 16th June 2007 with lots of hope and excitement for the formation of the young novices and for a year of practical experience in the novitiate along with Fr. Richard. I have heard about Philippines years ago from our confreres who had been here earlier. A land consists of many islands with lots of coconut trees, where fish and pork

are in plenty. Of course the “merienda” time is the best of all for me! I keep my stomach full all the time. I feel very much at home with the people and the local customs here. They too reward me with lots of encouragements and cordiality.

The molding and shaping of the future missionaries in the Montfortian framework is an interesting process. It is here in the practical field that I learn more than what I could teach our youngsters here. The internationality adds colors to our community living here in Philippines, but it also challenges at times to take greater risks for the sake of the Kingdom. What I appreciate most is the gentleness and the happy faces of our Novices who are ready to respond to the call of Mission in the Order of the Poor Company of Priests of Mary, after the inspirations of that priest from Montfort. Our novitiate Process is an intensive but integrated Programme. The aim is to prepare each of them for the future mission of the Congregation. The process is slow but it can be consistent. The life and the Spirituality of our Founder are given their prior importance. The weekly integration day and the IC sessions once in a fortnight give more credibility to our process here. Ultimately we are hoping that the Spirit of the Lord knows how and what is the best for each one’s formation. I along with Fr. Richard wish each of our Novices God’s grace that they may reach until the final day of their formation which leads them to the future mission in the Congregation of Montfort Missionaries.

Finally as I reflect upon the expose, explore, and experience aspect of being here in the Philippines, it is highly fruitful and much rewarding in spite of the initial struggles and difficulties between the cultures and personalities. Let’s hope that the authentic and autonomous dialogue would keep us going in the same direction where we are all aiming at, which is nothing but the Montfortian Mission in its fullness. I sincerely pray that there may be many more exposures and explorations in our Montfortian religious life which can always lead us to a greater experience of God’s presence in each of us.

Fr. Reni Joseph, s.m.m.

YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT SEVERAL MONTFORTIAN WEB SITES AROUND THE WORLD

In India : www.smmindia.org

In Italy : www.monfortani-missioniparrocchiali.it

In Italy : www.cuorinaviganti.it/home.html

In Great Britain and Ireland : www.montfort.org.uk

India: Course for the “young priests” in Mysore



From 16 to 21 June, there took place in Mysore a course for the young priests of the General Delegation of India. The reflections were led by Fr. Olivier Maire on the theme of the Montfortian Mission and its discernment. Our young confreres had the joy of finding themselves once again in the magnificent halls of their “minor seminary”, filled with memories, but also open to the future... In the photograph, we can see 12 of the 15 participants: Frs. Anand Babu, Vinod D’Mello, Moses Abraham, Balaswamy, John Mary Nicholas, Ravi Joseph, Maria Salath, Sebastian Raj, Olivier, Br Roshan Pinto, PP. Raja Ratna, Johnson James, Ronald Dhason. Frs. Mohan, Francis and Shibi are not in the photograph.

Young postulants in Mysore



A glimpse of the community of the postulancy in Guru Mandir (Mysore). Among the young postulants can be seen Frs. John Mary, Olivier and Michael Sagayaraj. Some of the candidates are finishing their secondary studies, while others are making their pre-novitiate. The General Delegation of India also has two other houses of formation for the postulants of the « first year » : one in Kumbakonam (*Montfort Nivas*), Tamil Nadu, for the candidates coming from Andara Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, and one in Pallikere (*Montfort Nilayam*), Kerala, for those from Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

“The Service of Authority and Obedience”

Instruction published on 11 May 2008

by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

“Service”, “authority”, “obedience” are words not much in fashion and not very popular today just as they were not yesterday, “when we see how the world, not excluding the world of ecclesiastics, is bent on doing its own will... doing only what suits them because such is their good pleasure” (St Louis Marie de Montfort; *Rule of the Missionary Priests of the Company of Mary [MR]*, no. 19). So the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life is issuing us with a real challenge!

This text is intended to lead us along a true road of **seeking God** and **liberation**. As free men, we can set out to seek God on the road of the Gospel and place ourselves at the service of all in love. The one who seeks God first of all sets himself to listen to the Word: the Word of God and that of our brothers and sisters. This listening is wisdom (cf. Prov 1:8) and leads to the love of God and of our neighbour (cf. Deut 6:4 and Mk 12:29-31).

In the service of love, authority and obedience build up **community life** in harmony and communion, and the dynamism of mission. There can be no fraternal life or community without dialogue and so without mutual listening which is, in all truth, the welcoming of the other in the gift he makes of himself.

The service of authority and obedience places us on **the path of mission**: like Jesus himself, and the apostles, we are sent. On the path of mission, obedience is listening and a response to the calls addressed to us (cf. also MR nos. 6-7).

The text of this Instruction is developed in three main parts, like the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II, *VITA CONSECRATA* (25 March 1996):

- I. “Consecration and Search for the Will of God”: *Confessio Trinitatis* (VC)
- II. “Authority and Obedience in Community Life”: *Signum fraternitatis*, sign of communion in the world (VC)
- III. “In Mission”: *Servitium caritatis*, consecrated for Mission (VC)

Our relationship with God, our “contemplative” life (I) nourishes our community life (II) and launches us on the paths of Mission (III).

Happy reading!



MONIQUE CHAVANNE

Aux Carrefours de la Sagesse, Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, Marie-Louise Trichet et leurs Disciples ; Collection Témoins de la Foi chrétienne ; Éditions du Soleil natal ; Etréchy ; 164 pp.

OLIVIER MAIRE, S.M.M.

Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort. L'errance du Pèlerin, de la Bretagne à la Vendée ; Éditions *La Maison d'à côté* ; second volume of the series « Vendée, terre de mémoire » ; Conseil général de la Vendée ; 2008 ; 88 pp.

Plus DVD :

Grignion de Montfort un aventurier de Dieu ; Éditions *La Maison d'à côté* ; 2008 ; A film made for the exhibition « De Richelieu à Grignion de Montfort, la Vendée au XVII^e siècle » (2005).

GEORGES MADORE, S.M.M.

Bernadette et Lourdes ; Éditions Novalis ; Ottawa ; 2008 ; 151 pp.

RENÉ BERTHIER

MARIE-HÉLÈNE SIGAUT

Szaleniec Ewangelii Święty Ludwik-Maria Grignion de Montfort ; translated by Jadwiga Kułak-Pełka ; Éd. Wydawnictwo Serafin, Kraków ; 2008 ; 48 pp.

JACQUES ARBEAU

A translation into Polish of the comic-strip « Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, un 'fou' de l'évangile », (Univers-Media, Paris 1982).

L'Écho Montfortain

Viale dei Monfortani, 65

00135 ROMA (Tel: +39 06.30.52.332)

echo.montfortain@gmail.com