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ONE HOUSE, TWO COMMUNITIES

We are taking this opportunity in the "Echo Montfortain" to give some news about the community of the General House.

Quite a few Montfortians forget that the General House, with the Superior General and the General Administration, is first and foremost a community of missionaries, Fathers and Brothers, at the service of the congregation in various types of work. In fact, at present we have two communities in the General House. In response to an urgent need in favour of international formation, we have also the International Scholasticate community, which includes also those Montfortian confreres who are undertaking specialised studies in Rome. The present article will speak of the community of the General Administration.

Our community, like all Montfortian communities the world over, seeks to put into practice the fundamental principle desired by Father de Montfort, to be found in our Constitutions: in the community, "Charity is out-going. It is the source of mutual growth and development... in all things... it is the fundamental norm governing our relations with one another" (S 18).

The mission of the community of the General Administration is realised through sharing in the mission of the entire Church: to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ Wisdom, placing each person, their gifts and talents, among *"those charged with certain tasks less directly apostolic, which prove to be necessary to the life of the Company"* (C 63).

We have been gathered from different parts of the world, which makes our community truly international. We come from Canada, the United States, France, Haiti, Holland, Italy, Brazil and Madagascar, to exercise various functions for the

same purpose: to welcome people with kindness and joy, especially our own confreres, because our house, like other Montfortian houses, is a place where *"All confreres are to be made welcome... and none is to be looked upon as a stranger"* (S 15), and we want to make it ever more welcoming, as a sign that we are disciples of Jesus Christ. So welcome, everyone, to our community.



Here now is some information on what the members of our community do:

Every day we meet together for prayer, and from time to time for community meetings.

Brother Jean-Désiré-Rakotonandrasana does lots of things in the service of the community (maintenance of the property, transport, cooking, etc.).

Brother Gilles Paquette devotes himself to uniting the Congregation through taking responsibility for communications and developing new ways of spreading the reign of Jesus through Mary on the 6th continent (the Internet).

Father Adriano Dalle Pezze is our General Bursar, ever attentive to our expenses and good relations between our entities.

Father Joseph Philor, General Assistant, brings a depth to the life of each of us.

Father Olivier Maire, the General Secretary, keeps us up-to-date in our Montfortian knowledge through his responsibility for the archives.

Father Matthew Jenniskens, General Assistant, keeps us well up-to-date with various events taking place.

Father Don La Salle, the Vicar General, the Superior General's right-hand man, has the knack of handling several dossiers at the same time.

Father Santino Brembilla, the Superior General, a born leader, makes himself all things to all men in great simplicity.

Father Luiz Augusto Stefani, the superior of the house, tries to coordinate all these various elements by his openness and delicacy.

The General House is also blessed with the presence of three very important women. Cristina Lazzarini is our very meticulous Secretary. She speaks good English, French, Russian, and of course Italian.

Mary Echegaray, the *mulier fortis* of the Gospel, displays surprising energy in keeping all the nooks and crannies of the house clean.

Francesca Picelli, who since a long time, washes with devotion, our clothing.



Finally, let us remember that on 6 March, in a celebration of the Mass, the Montfortian family celebrated 40 years of priesthood for our Superior General, Fr. Santino, and 25 years of priesthood for the superior of the house, Fr. Luizinho. Everyone played their part in making this a memorable feast. We are proud of our differences, which enabled us to give thanks with joy to God for our beautiful international community.

Rome, 11 mars 2011

Luiz AUGUSTO STEFANI, SMM
Superior of the general house



Official News Items



First Professions

On 12 December 2010, in Paipa (Colombia): José Rodrigo BRONCANO ZEVALLOS (Peru); Sandro Gabriel CANO ACUÑA (Colombia); Oscar Antonio CÁRDENAS GONZÁLES (Nicaragua); Adner VIENA INUMA (Peru).

Perpetual Professions

On 11 December 2010, in Andraisoro (Madagascar): Nicaise Marie RAKOTONDRATELO; Doris Sullivano TOMBAOSA; Denussein Johanson TSIMIASA.

Ordinations to the Diaconate

On 12 December 2010, in Andraisoro (Madagascar): Nicaise Marie RAKOTONDRATELO; Doris Sullivano TOMBAOSA; Denussein Johanson TSIMIASA.

Ordinations to the Priesthood

On 15 December 2010, in Vizhapallam (India): Francis Xavier JOSEPH.

On 17 December 2010, in K. K. Patti (India): Philip Arockiaraj ANTHONY SAMY.

On 18 December 2010, in Erukancherry (India): John Lawrence MARIA SUSAI.

On 30 December 2010, in Thomayar Palayam (India): Madalai Muthu SELVARAJ.

On 4 January 2011, in Magge (India): Esak CHINNAPPA.

On 19 January 2011, in S. Pudur (India): Amalraj Madhivanan KULANDHAISAMY.

On 25 January 2011, in Gokunte (India): Richard Dass AROKIASWAMY.

On 27 January 2011, in Labbipet (India): Naga Vara Aswani Kumar MADDALA.

On 2 February 2011, in Kanjurmarg (India): John Kennedy GASPAR.

On 12 February 2011, in Tuta (Colombia): Carlos Alberto DIAZ SUESCA.

On 27 February 2011, in Kibibi, (Dem. Rep. of Congo): Atubengulu Constantin ATALIPA.

On 26 March 2011, in Choachí (Colombia): Luis Manuel MORA RODRÍGUEZ.

The Experience of Internationality in Canada



*WELL INTEGRATED IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE SHRINE, I
HAVE DISCOVERED A NEW LIFE.*

*Jean Claude RAMANDRAIVONONA, SMM
Madagascar*

I have been in Montreal, Canada, in the community of the Shrine of *Marie Reine-des-Cœurs* since September 3, 2009. It is an international community, and so it is multi-cultural. Each continent is represented. The differences in age are very important: this year from 36 to 86. Everyone participates in the activities of the shrine, from time to time with the Montfortian Associates. My priorities, like those of five other confreres and a diocesan confrere, are my studies. They are mostly dealing with integral human formation, in the actualization of vital human forces by looking again at significant lived experiences. It is from this perspective that I share with you my experience of internationality.

Well integrated in the community of the shrine, I have discovered a new life. In fact, it is a new experience in the midst of different cultures. At the beginning, I had difficulty getting into it, but as I go along, I have been able to involve myself calmly in this life. Seeing the differences in character, cultures, ways of living and thinking, I have tried to go along while keeping what belongs to me as my culture. I even dare say that it is not easy, but with a lived motivation, I was able to bring my contribution as a Malagasy (Malgache) in the community, as the others do the same.

Personally, living internationality is a richness: in it I see, as in every community, the differences which nourish a life of universal love, and that enriches fraternal life.

Taking seriously my progress toward ongoing physical and psychological autonomy has enabled me to live this. All of it is not easy, but if one has not yet tried it, one cannot say that it is impossible. And Fr. de Montfort has said: if you do not take risks for yourself and for others you will not do anything for God. I am staying with my objective: to live well my chastity, my obedience and my poverty, which I have almost lost, in my decision and efforts to channel my urges – be they sexual, hostile, or the urge to possess things – with the tools which the Institute for Integral Human Formation of Montreal (IFHIM) has given me, and it is there that true fraternity is found, which is the basis of a mission in freedom and truth according to the will of God. I see that this objective, which I am in the process of living and will continue to live, is the backbone of my life as a Christian, a religious and a priest.

With my formation and my experience of internationality, I continue to draw faith hope and charity from the source. May my time be employed well by using the tried and appropriate means every day. And I see that it requires me to choose and to renounce in my life, in order not to lose sight of my religious and priestly life. What I mean is the sense of belonging to the congregation, of course, with discernment and judgment, to progress to a life of reciprocal, concerned and universal love. And as I discovered in my personal charism: the cross accompanies me in all that; it is for my purification in view of my salvation and that of others. And so it is necessary for me to have and to live fidelity and perseverance in order to surpass obstacles. I have also learned not to make decisions in moments of great emotion (neither joy nor hostility), nor to decide from a feeling of obligation, but rather in freedom and the commitment in which I have given myself to respond to my vocation and to live my desire

according to the desire of Fr. de Montfort. I have greatly appreciated forming the quality of a representation different from me, which is the guarantee of the quality of representation of my peer group and others, my confreres, my entity and so my Congregation, all the while being in the Church, with the Church and for the Church.

I have experienced three pathways that lead to freedom, to life and to my future: 1) to see the other as a person and not as an object; 2) to want the good of the other over my own, but not to the detriment of my own good; and 3) to do unto others what I want others to do unto me. And the engine of all that is LOVE which has its three facets: reciprocity, concern and wisdom – or UNIVERSAL LOVE.

To conclude, this experience allows me to continue with zeal our EVANGELIZATION, my missionary life of WORKING TOGETHER, and my AVAILABILITY. Now I am in the process of also exercising my leadership in the context of the objective of the IFHIM.

Many thanks, for the availability of the Vice-Province of Canada, above all for the welcome of the confreres at the Shrine of *Marie Reine-des-Cœurs*. Despite my limits, I continue to work with the tools given by the IFHIM and by your example, taking account of the challenge of aging. Your generosity is unforgettable for my growth, all of you who are my confreres throughout the entire world. I carry you all in my heart, with my prayers.



***A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION ON INTERNATIONALITY
IN LIGHT OF MY FORMATION AT IFHIM***
Jean-Trésor BAFENGO TOSWEOKI, SMM
Congo Dem. Rep.

I have been a member of the team of confreres here in Montreal who are following an ongoing formation course at IFHIM since September 8, 2010. It is a formation which aims at a personal formative work in order to be available to help others – in brief, to speak or act from your personal experience. In this small article, I want to share with you what I discovered concerning the importance of ***significant bonds*** in our communities and the importance of the ***sense of welcome*** to bring out in each confrere a spirit of belonging in the Company of Mary.

I have been touched in the seminar on the Process of Integral Human Formation, given by Denise Amyot and assisted by Amarilis, which enabled us to see the role of a mother toward her child of 1 to 3 years old. The fact that the mother is interested in the child at this age, develops in him or her, during his or her entire life, a sense of belonging to the family.

From that, I am convinced that international communities will only be possible or will only become a reality when the confreres who live in them cultivate a spirit of welcome so that each confrere, whether he is from the North or the South, the West or the East, feels welcomed and treated as a unique person, so that each member of this community might be able to develop a sense of belonging to our family which is the Company of Mary.

So it is, at the beginning of this New Year of 2011 and a capitial year for us, I send you all my best wishes, the fruit of some feedback for the letter of our formator, Marie-Marcel, with Greetings for Christmas 2010 and the New Year of 2011.

“What each of you has received as a gift of grace, put at the service of others, as good stewards of the grace of God in all its forms.” (1Peter 4 :10)

Dear confreres,
I wish you, for the year 2011 which is beginning,
not to succeed in all your endeavours,
but to receive and welcome
in your hearts and lives,
Jesus Christ, Incarnate Wisdom,
day after day and step by step,
the love of God which gives meaning to our existence.

I wish that you do not submit to any failure,
but to welcome as an unmerited gift
the strength which allows you to remain standing
despite the heavy burdens of our world today.
I do not wish you peaceful days,
but the ability to allow yourselves to be disturbed by others,
to welcome the one who is different
as a confrere.

I do not wish that you have answers to all the questions,
but to know how to receive the questions of others,
to carry their suffering, their cares,
their traumas, ...
in order to be among them as a father, a brother, in solidarity,
a bearer of sharing and peace.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,



***THIS EXPERIENCE OF FORMATION HERE HAS ALLOWED ME TO
WORK ON THE INTEGRATION OF MY ENTIRE PERSON***

*Ivan Salgado GONZÁLEZ, SMM
Colombia*

In my opinion, one of the most demanding and most important tasks in our formation houses is accompaniment. For a few years as a formator with postulants in Colombia, I saw that I needed other tools in order to help the candidates to build their lives. I needed to deepen further, because I had the impression that sometimes I did not have clear answers for their questions; I did not have the tools to help them develop as real human beings: their situations regarding sexuality, the dynamics that were contrary to their vocations, their traumatic situations, etc. And it is difficult to live that and also to recognize it. Sometimes we prefer to continue in uncertainty with ourselves and with our young people. For my part, I did my best, and also I always asked my superior to give me a formation experience in order to help me.

Now I am at the Institute of Integral Human Formation of Montreal, and I can assure you, with humility, that if someone comes to me to be accompanied, I will know what to do immediately, beginning with what the person is going to share with me. This experience of formation here has allowed me to work on the integration of my entire person, in order to become freer and happier in my life choice as a Montfortian, and it also gives me better tools to be with people in their need, in their concrete situations to offer them a good pathway for growth. With all my heart, I thank everyone who has made this experience possible.



OBJECTIVE REACHED AND MISSION ACCOMPLISHED"

Rozario MENEZES, SMM

India

I came to Canada as a stranger to the country, the language, and the culture, but I was not a stranger to the Montfort Missionaries. For many years I wanted to encounter these missionaries, because I heard echoes from the people concerning these missionaries in the mission in Papua New Guinea, where I have worked since 2000. It was there that the missionaries sowed the seeds of evangelization and Montfortian spirituality in this remote part of the world.

Arriving in Montreal was like a dream come true for me. To meet these zealous missionaries reignited in me the fire of missionary zeal and the passion for the mission which I hold so dear to my heart. But I was not here to visit or to admire; but I came here with a clear objective – to “prepare myself to be a formator” so that the seed sowed by these missionaries would continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

To come to a strange country, to learn a new language, to adopt a new culture and most especially the weather conditions (the winter of 2008 was the worst in 40 years. I often heard someone say that “we are going to have a snow storm.”) – that was not easy. Because my “objective” was clear, I was able to survive the winter, to learn a new language (I came here with only one word in French – “Bonjour” with a big smile) and to get accustomed to the culture of Quebec. It was a struggle.

In the three years of my formation, I learned many things which are going to stay with me for the rest of my life and my mission. If I could put it in a single word, the formation program at the Institute (IFHIM) taught me to “be human” and to see others as “persons.” Before learning to help others in formation, I became able to help myself. I have been in a position to work on the different aspects of my personality, which include: traumatic experiences which I experienced, my false representation, my hostility, my counter-forces, my affectivity, my relationships with women ... And the list goes on.

As I worked on the aspects which touch my own personal life, I have also learned how to help others. As I have accompanied people in different walks of life, I have been able to see that others have also lived in their personal life the same changes that I have made.

During the summer of 2010, I was invited to go to Bangalore, India, to give a session to the seminarians who were preparing for their perpetual vows. Working with them, I saw the importance of this human formation. I could see that the brothers have been able to give an orientation and a sense of their lives as missionaries. They have been in a position to make their

decision with a deep sense as Montfort Missionaries, having a clear “objective” and seeing clearly their “personal charism” as well as the “charism” of the Congregation.

This formation has also given me a chance to learn how to work as part of a team, how to attain a common goal, having a common vision for a “collective project”, how to accompany candidates in formation, how to help people who have traumatic experiences ...

Finally, I could say: “Objective reached and mission accomplished.” Now I am eager to “live the experience” as well as “to share my experience with others.” I am grateful to the Congregation, who had confidence in me, and above all to Father Santino and his council.

I cannot end my story without saying a big thank you to the confreres of the Canadian Province, especially the members of the house at the Shrine of Marie Reine-des-Cœurs and the Montfort Associates.



A PATHWAY TO REDISCOVER CONFIDENCE

Luís Maria MARTINHO DA SILVA, SMM
Portugal

The best way to speak about the formation I am receiving at the Institute of Integral Human Formation of Montreal (IFHIM, see www.ifhim.ca) is to speak of the journey I am in the process of making – a journey to rediscover confidence and to recognize all the colours of my life, to embrace them, to enter into them, like a rainbow, making a covenant with myself, with God and with the others in the group.

I am really grateful to him, and to my superiors in Portugal, for this formation and for this experience I am having. It is so rich that I consider it to be a real gift, a real grace for my 25 years of priesthood and for my future in the Montfortian community, in service to young people and families, for whom I have a special dedication.

What has helped me regain confidence? Certainly I cannot say everything here, but I will say what has been essential.

At the beginning, during the “Open Doors” (the welcome during the first days), I could identify, I saw myself very much in the witnesses that I listened to from other students in the second and third years and also from the professional staff. I said to myself, “I have the same problems that they had or have. I want to grow like those who are in the process of growth. So I really want to embrace this formation, this path, this experience for myself and through myself, with my personal commitment and with the help of the professional staff (almost all of them are psychotherapists who have also followed this formation) and with the help of other students, companions on the journey”!

Little by little, very strong bonds have been created among us. Trust in them and in me has increased. My openness to others and my commitment also has been growing.

The connections, the unity and the coherence among all the seminars (courses or topics) and the professional staff have helped me very much, because the insistence on the same things, and through different perspectives, have convinced me to experiment, to see and to perceive the good results. Experiencing and feeling better about myself and others – little by little that has given me the courage to continue to do it, to involve myself, to persevere.

The other very decisive experience to rediscover trust has been that of searching and finding references within myself. With the help of the formation and the entire approach which has been very well foreseen in the different seminars, I have discovered many values that I have, values that I can and want to share with others, in connection with the sense of universal love which I have given to my life. I have come to this discovery by looking at the facts of my entire life, through which I have been engaged in building my unique and sacred history.

I have found these interior references essentially in my personal charism, in the charism of my (our) Founder – Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort – and in the Word of God. It has been very decisive for me to have discovered that the charism is in my person and not in my works, with the help of Marie-Marcelle (the Director of the Institute), during three days on charism.

I have discovered that I am a person who dares to love, taking initiative, risking new paths of evangelization with my presence in the context of young people and families. I discovered the incarnated love of my Founder toward Jesus with the poor, during his entire life (the well known “Open to Jesus Christ!”). I discovered the concrete and involved love of the Good Samaritan. Seeing the connection between my Founder, the Good Samaritan and myself, I concluded that I have much to give in my involvement with others. I discovered that, for me today, the poor of Montfort and the Gospel are young people (and their families), who lack Christian values and who have been at the origin of God’s call and my response to be ready to follow him.

Now I sense the need to deepen these internal points of reference, to grow in interiorization. That means, to grow in renewing my internal points of reference (my personal charism, the charism of my Founder and the call of God through young people), with a view to continue giving myself with enthusiasm and an ever renewed joy.

In the end, to have discovered the strength-synthesis of love in my life, in the life of my Founder and in Jesus, has been the real key to rediscovering confidence!

All formation helps me very much to welcome my humanity, to become a person on his feet, to understand that I will be able to help others to be humanized and upright persons to the extent that I will be a humanized and upright person myself. In this sense, and also from an invitation from the one accompanying me in my process in the Institute, I am in the midst of discerning and thinking about deciding to continue this formation by doing the second year, with the approval of my superiors.

In following this path of formation, I feel connected to each one of you, aware that we all need to renew ourselves always in order to be faithful to our vocation, to our religious and matrimonial consecrations, to be happy always. I think also of all the people who are a part of my sacred history: parents, catechists, formators, priest-mentors, friends, confreres, young people, children, old people, families ... In this sense, I share with you this prayer which unites me with you all and with God:

“MY SACRED HISTORY:
THE GIFT ENTRUSTED TO MY LOVE”
All powerful God from whom comes every perfect gift,
Plant in our hearts the love of your name;
Strengthen our bonds with you, to develop what is good in us.
Look upon us with concern, to protect what you have made grow.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*MY PRESENCE AT THE SHRINE OF MARIE REINE-DES-CŒURS
IN MONTREAL*

*Joseph LAROSE, SMM
Haiti*

In April 2008, the Province of Haiti, together with the Generalate in Rome and the Canadian Province, asked me to work at the Shrine of Marie Reine-des-Cœurs in Montreal. I had an assignment at the Minor Seminary of Saint Pius X and at the College of Notre-Dame de Lourdes in the Diocese of Port-de-Paix. I accepted the new assignment, all the while asking the Lord how I would be able to contribute to that kind of pastoral work, since I did not really know what was involved in a shrine. The following days were a time for me to meditate and to trust in what God wanted from me in this new obedience in Quebec.

In October of the same year, I arrived in the Canadian Province. Without delay I was ready to start work with the team that was already in place at the shrine. The rector at the time, Fr. Gilles Dallaire, s.m.m., introduced me as an affiliate to the pastoral direction team. I learned to discover the spiritual reality of the shrine through pastoral activities as well as through the help of Montfortian associates and pilgrims of all ages. Their fervour allowed me to understand what a shrine is, above all a shrine according to the path of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. Beyond this panorama, I also explored the spiritual approach proper to the Canadian Province, that is, to live a profound communion through the perspective of team work with brothers and priests, without forgetting lay co-workers. It is about valuing individual talents. So, I have progressively been imbued with the same desire as they have: to make known the spirituality of Father de Montfort, as a richness to explore and to be explored by those who desire to encounter it.

I was able to experience the multi-ethnicity of Quebec from the perspective of the Church. The people with whom I was able to speak allowed me to see that the Church really has multiple faces in the different cultures evangelized and present in Quebec. On the occasion of meetings concerning the shrines of Quebec, I also understood the distinctiveness proper to each shrine as a place of renewal and interior formation. This ensemble of distinctive aspects represents for me the diversity of charisms in this vast field which is the Church.

In addition, my debut at the shrine was enhanced by the sense of fraternal communion as well as the awareness that God was accompanying me in this experience which I did not choose. I deepened an intimacy each day with the tenderness of His Love. Personally, the Shrine of Marie Reine-des-Cœurs offers me another possibility to pray and to live in a more intense silence. I love to stay in the Chapel of Montfort whose architectural and sacred surroundings suggest that silence is also a form of presence. That makes me revive the spiritual atmosphere I previously knew at the Foyer de Charité Sainte-Marie, at Canapé-vert, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The pastoral activity of the group working together at the shrine is impressive. The Montfortian Associates are, in my opinion, the extension of the great Montfortian richness. They are like the pillars. They are like an arm of the shrine. They support the vitality of the shrine through their devotedness and their availability for different services. My involvement among them constitutes for me a way of discovering their interior richness by their sharing of Montfortian spirituality.

My regular presence in the confessional is a privileged way to deepen the sense of divine forgiveness and to realize the benefits in it as much for me as for others. The crowd of people demonstrate that the world does not satisfy all our needs here below. It is also the sign that the Sacrament of Reconciliation comforts and convinces penitents that God is merciful.

The liturgies, which are impressive as well as numerous, are occasions to live my encounter with Christ, Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom. The number of participants in the Sunday offices and daily Masses are always the sign that faith transcends the difficulties and the tumults of the moment experienced by the Church. For me, this reality, embodied in the presence of numerous pilgrims, finds expression in the search for God through the sublime sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The spiritual accompaniment which I provide is another great task whose benefit is expressed in the spiritual fruitfulness of the person accompanied. It makes evident an active listening. It allows the individual to “go the extra mile in his spiritual journey,” as I like to say. For me, this means to let God speak to the person through my sense of listening. It gives the individual the opportunity to encounter God in another way, through my language, despite myself.

All together, my presence at the shrine is an experience in which God alone knows the reason and the goal. I rejoice in it despite the energy which it demands. My priesthood finds there a sense of obedience and availability all the more since my mission, if I may call it that, is strengthened with the trust of the Provincial Council and the care of the new rector, Fr. Jean Guy Richer, s.m.m.

Finally, my presence at the Shrine of Marie Reine-des-Cœurs makes me live continually what I like to proclaim: God keeps his word. He walks with us. Following the example of this shrine, I pray that the Lord may inspire the foundation of other shrines which act like a loud-speaker making Jesus Wisdom known in the places where our Montfortians carry out their mission.
Montreal, 31 January 2011, on the feast of the 338th anniversary of the birth of Fr. de Montfort



BOOSTER...

The meaning of a life

1. “Traveller, what do you see?” The epitaph of St. Louis de Montfort poses a bold and direct question. The response describes in a striking way the life and the spirit of our founder: a man consumed by the love of God, on fire with the message of the Gospel, alive with a tender devotion to Mary. For Montfort, this epitaph describes the significance of a faithful journey fulfilled.

2. From the Waters of Baptism to an Apostolic Life.

The epitaph points back to the journey of Montfort’s life. The path that led Montfort to this tomb began at another tomb: the baptismal font where Louis Grignion died with Christ so as to rise with him. This pathway led him to take seriously the promises of his baptism and to live them to the full. The years of his development led him to respond to a call to a ministry in which he read the signs of his own times and invited his brothers and sisters to renew the promises of their baptism continually and without compromise, and to allow those promises to shape their lives.

Montfort made a baptism to a life in which he Jesus more perfectly. As he Montfort discovered God’s in the mystery of the Wisdom made flesh in Mary He found in Mary the model of movement toward us and a the way to her Son. As a mystic contemplate God’s plan of it. The fruit of Montfort’s illuminated his message as a he became a master of sure wisdom, and a preacher imagination and creativity.

**EACH OF US HAS A
UNIQUE
PERSONALITY, A
UNIQUE LIFE
HISTORY. BORN IN A
SPECIFIC TIME AND
PLACE, IN
DIFFERENT
CULTURES, WE SEEK
TO FOLLOW JESUS IN
THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THE POOR APOSTLES.**

pilgrimage from the waters of sought to be a disciple of walked this pilgrimage, overwhelming love expressed Incarnation, in Jesus, Eternal and come to live among us. human response to God’s mother who could show us he devoted himself to salvation and Mary’s role in contemplation nourished and preacher of the gospel. Thus doctrine, a guide to spiritual overflowing with zeal,

3. The apostolic journey of St. Louis Marie was a participation in the Paschal Mystery.

An overview of Montfort’s life, especially after his ordination, makes us see how he grew and let himself be moulded by the Spirit in the different trials and “crises” which he went through – “I am like a ball in a game of tennis” (L 26). He lived through so many failures, misunderstandings, rejections. These events were for him so many deaths and resurrections, grains of wheat fallen on the ground. Let us recall some examples.

His period of inactivity at Nantes, the first disillusion frustrating his missionary fervour as a young priest, enabled him to clearly articulate his deepest desires and feelings (L 5). From his description of the state of his soul, we get some hints about what his life will be, and we can already foresee the birth of the Company of Mary.

The difficulties and failures encountered in Poitiers and in Paris between 1703 and 1706 (misunderstandings with his former friends and spiritual directors, dismissals from hospitals, being banned from preaching, expulsion from the diocese of Poitiers...), provoked in him doubt

about his apostolic orientation. This “crisis” drove him onto the road to Rome and to the feet of the Holy Father, where he received confirmation of his missionary intuitions (RM 56).

Upon his return to France, he worked with the missionary team of Monsieur Leuduger for a time... before they asked him to leave. This new failure led him to the hermitage of Saint-Lazare, where he formed the first “Montfortian” community, and it gave him the freedom to be himself in becoming an apostolic missionary according to his own style (RM 50).

Two years later, he accomplished his missionary masterpiece: the Calvary of Pontchâteau. A once in a lifetime undertaking! He success was his failure! His Calvary was his cross! With everything collapsing, he remained firm in trial and came out of it victorious... Paradoxically, what should have broken him and destroyed him gave him a greater apostolic maturity. “Lifting high the cross at the depth of his heart, even higher than the one on the hill of the Madeleine, Montfort dreamed only of continuing the work of the missions... ”¹ He was impelled to go elsewhere, with “the bright and burning flame of the holy gospel in his mouth and the holy rosary in his hand” (PM 12).

An appeal to continue a mission

4. Montfort was a man who set out on the roads to proclaim the message of God’s love. He invited Christians to deepen their faith, and he devoted himself to renew the face of the Church. “Traveller, what do you see?” It is fitting that his epitaph is addressed to a traveller, someone on the move. For Montfort, this epitaph marks the meaning and motivation of his life. Do we, his disciples, read in these words an appeal and a challenge which motivate us? Are we not travellers and pilgrims seeking to read the signs of our own time, and to respond to those needs with our own gifts and limitations? In the midst of our failures and successes, we too participate, like all Christians, in the paschal mystery; we die and rise with Jesus (cf. PM 25). And since our own particular vocation is to live this mystery in the footsteps of Montfort, his epitaph poses questions to us: Do you dare to continue the route of the one who finished his journey here? Do you believe that for you, Montfort’s disciple, his tomb can be a womb, a place where one is born and reborn as a Montfortian?

5. We are not clones of Montfort; we cannot expect to simply repeat his words or mimic his actions. Neither are we Montfortians interchangeable parts of a machine. Each of us has a unique personality, a unique life history. Born in a specific time and place, in different cultures, we seek to follow Jesus in the footsteps of the poor apostles. Our specific response to Christ has drawn us on pilgrimage together. Our pilgrimage, unique though it may be, has been inspired by the example and insights of Montfort and his followers.

Looking upon the striking example of Montfort’s life and ministry provokes us to look also at ourselves. Do we dare ask others the same question about ourselves who follow in the footsteps of St. Louis today? Do we dare ask those among whom we live and minister, “What do you see?” Would their response paint a portrait of a Montfortian of today, someone carrying on Montfort’s tradition of evangelisation, of concern for the poor, of seeking after Jesus living in Mary? By marking out for ourselves a path of conversion and ongoing formation we will elicit responses in which Montfort would recognize himself.

*WALKING TOGETHER...
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE POOR APOSTLES
FORMATION IN MONTFORTIAN LIFE
VOLUME 1*

Comings and goings - General House

February 2011 April 2011

03 - 15 Feb.	Fr. Mathieu Jenniskens (Malawi, delegation assembly)
28 Jan. - 14 Feb.	Fr. General (visit at Nairobi + Malawi, delegation assembly)
01 - 28 Mar.	Fr. Mathieu (Eindhoven for minor operation)
27 Feb. - 04 Mar.	Frs. Georges Madore, Battista Cortinovis (Rome, to prepare the general chapter)
09 - 26 Mar.	Fr. Ronald Dhason (Rome for meeting of accountants)
20 - Mar. - 3 April	Frs. Joseph Philor, Gerd Euteneuer (Haiti, follow up of projects)
26 - 31 Mar.	Frs. General and Olivier (Reggio Calabria, Italy Province Assembly)
11 - 17 April	Fr. Olivier and Br. Désiré (Lourdes pilgrimage)
01 - 21 May	GENERAL CHAPTER

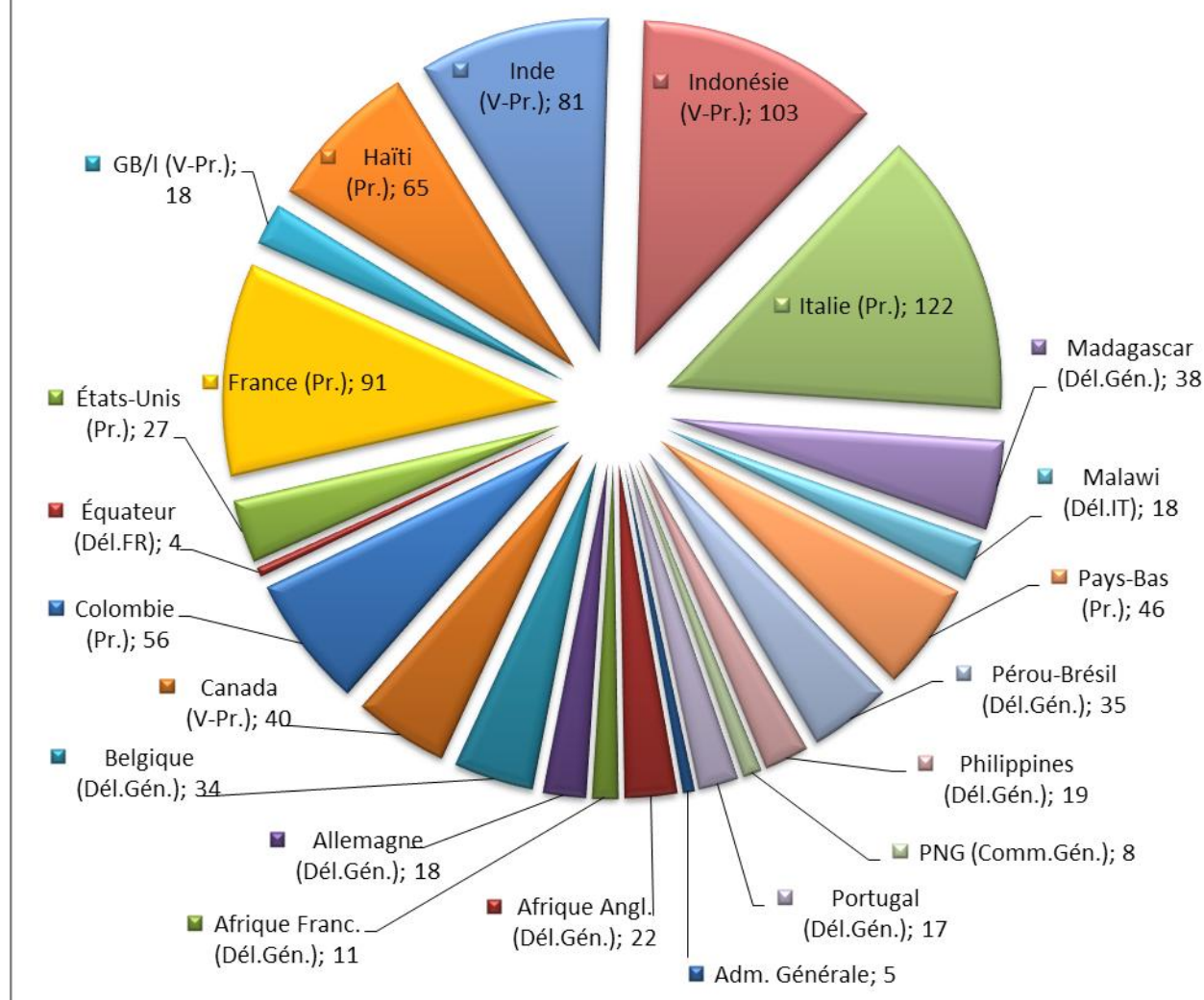


SMM Statistics on 31-12-2010

"Lieu de Travail" / "Place of Work"	P.	F.	S.	Total
Allemagne	23	1	0	24
Argentine	1	0	0	1
Bahamas	3	0	0	3
Belgique	25	5	0	30
Brésil	12	1	0	13
Canada	36	9	0	45
Colombie	49	2	2	53
Congo (CD)	7	2	1	10
Croatie	4	0	0	4
Équateur	6	0	0	6
Espagne	2	0	0	2
États-Unis	34	2	0	36
France	68	21	0	89
GB/I	14	3	0	17
Haïti	33	1	9	43
Inde	44	0	29	73
Indonésie	29	5	63	97
Italie	102	6	0	108
Kenya	2	0	11	13
Madagascar	19	4	12	35
Malawi	24	4	0	28
Nicaragua	4	0	0	4
Ouganda	2	0	0	2
Papouasie	8	1	0	9
Pays-Bas	34	6	0	40
Pérou	24	2	10	36
Philippines	14	1	3	18
Portugal	12	1	0	13
Rome	12	2	7	21
St-Martin	3	0	0	3
Zambie	2	0	0	2
	652	79	147	878

"Nationalité" / "Nationality"	P.	F.	S.	Total
Allemagne	16	1	0	17
Angleterre	13	1	0	14
Angola	0	0	2	2
Belgique	18	4	0	22
Brésil	2	0	3	5
Canada	32	10	0	42
Colombie	50	2	3	55
Congo (CD)	7	1	2	10
Croatie	4	0	4	8
Ecosse	4	0	0	4
Équateur	1	0	0	1
Espagne	4	0	0	4
États-Unis	23	2	0	25
France	75	21	0	96
Haïti	53	1	11	65
Inde	53	0	29	82
Indonésie	39	5	63	107
Irlande (IE/NIR)	1	1	0	2
Italie	140	9	1	150
Kenya	1	0	2	3
Madagascar	14	6	12	32
Malawi	7	1	3	11
Nicaragua	2	0	1	3
Ouganda	1	0	2	3
Pays de Galles	0	1	0	1
Pays-Bas	52	10	0	62
Pérou	13	1	3	17
Philippines	12	1	6	19
Portugal	13	1	0	14
Suisse	1	0	0	1
Zambie	1	0	0	1
	652	79	147	878

Entités Juridiques SMM au 31-12-2010



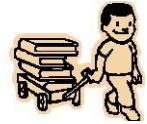
"Entité Juridique" / Juridical Entity	P.	F.	S.	Total
Adm. Générale	5	0	0	5
Afrique Angl. (Dél.Gén.)	14	1	7	22
Afrique Franc. (Dél.Gén.)	8	1	2	11
Allemagne (Dél.Gén.)	17	1	0	18
Belgique (Dél.Gén.)	28	6	0	34
Canada (V-Pr.)	30	10	0	40
Colombie (Pr.)	51	2	3	56
Équateur (Dél.FR)	4	0	0	4
États-Unis (Pr.)	24	2	1	27
France (Pr.)	70	21	0	91
GB/I (V-Pr.)	15	3	0	18

"Entité Juridique" / Juridical Entity	P.	F.	S.	Total
Haïti (Pr.)	53	1	11	65
Inde (V-Pr.)	52	0	29	81
Indonésie (V-Pr.)	35	5	63	103
Italie (Pr.)	111	6	5	122
Madagascar (Dél.Gén.)	21	5	12	38
Malawi (Dél.IT)	16	2	0	18
Pays-Bas (Pr.)	38	8	0	46
Pérou-Brésil (Dél.Gén.)	27	2	6	35
Philippines (Dél.Gén.)	12	1	6	19
PNG (Comm.Gén.)	7	1	0	8
Portugal (Dél.Gén.)	14	1	2	17
	652	79	147	878

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