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1712 – 2012
300th Anniversary of the writing of True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin



CONTINENTAL ASSEMBLIES

... Time for reflection, discernment and to look for the will of God for our evangelizing presence in each of the continents.

We invite you to use this time of reflection not only with the confreres, but also with lay associates who either collaborate in our mission or share our spirituality. It is important for our future that Montfort's spiritual experience be known and shared. Our last General Chapter invites us to make daring and courageous choices. Let us be inspired and enlightened by our charism and spirituality to do so.

Objectives of continental assemblies :

- In each continent: to evaluate the impact of our evangelical presence in fidelity to the spiritual itinerary proposed by Montfort;
- To discern together with the document of the General Chapter and look forward for the type of presence that we are going to promote in the light of our Charism and spirituality;
- Which services of evangelization are we going to drop and for what reasons? What bold and courageous choices will we undertake (Gen. Chapter 2011)?
- What do we require? What structures can help us in realizing these choices?

The fruits of these assemblies, given the diversity of realities and cultures, will be presented to the CGE: from 12-19 May 2013 at Fatima – Portugal.

The confreres invited to participate are the Superiors of the entities, accompanied by two confreres, unless circumstances demand that only one other come. Where it is deemed possible and desirable, the bursar could be one of these two confreres.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

CONTINENT	DATE	LOCATION
Europe	27 September – 1 st October 2012	Bergamo, Italy
Latin America - Caribbean	13-19 October 2012	Lima, Peru
USA - Canada	29-30 October 2012	Montreal, Canada
Africa - Madagascar	26-30 November 2012	Nairobi, Kenya
Asia - PNG	28 January- 1 February 2013	Bangalore, India



First Professions

On 31 May 2012, in Ruteng (Indonesia) : Paskalis (Kalis) GENCAR, Markus Laus (Oris) GOTI, Bronislaw Saryono (Royn) NASREDIN, Fredrikus Admajaya (Fredy) NDALUNG, Nikolaus (Niko) NGAGA, Saferinus NJO, Albertus (Mario) ROMARIO, Simonsius (Simon) SIBHA, Petrus (Us) SOLA DOPO.

Final Professions

On 7 July 2012, at Nantipwili (Malawi) : Francis Muhangi BUKARENKA, Felix Nefitale CHISAMBA, Jacob Ombidi OTIENO, Samuel Paul SATIELE.

Diaconate Ordinations

On 10 December 2011, in João Monlevade (Brazil): Mauri Sebastião RODRIGUES.

Priestly Ordinations

On 23 June 2011, in Nanga Pinoh (Indonesia) : Andreas SANTOSO.

On 28 April 2012, in Andraisoro (Madagascar): Achille RAMIANDRISOA LANTO TAHIANA, Alexandre FANOMEZANTSOA, Jean-Joël RANDRIANARIVOMANANA.

On 24 June 2012, in Pará de Minas, MG (Brazil) : Mauri Sebastião RODRIGUES.

Assistant Postulator General

On 2 April 2012, having obtained the consent of his Council, Fr. Santino Brembilla, Superior General, appointed to the post of **Assistant Postulator General** of the Company of Mary, **for the cause of Father Gabriel DESHAYES, S.M.M., Father Olivier MAIRE.**

Appointment of a delegated National Director for the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts in Italy

Father Santino Brembilla, Superior General of the Company of Mary, in conformity with the Statutes of the Association (art. 3 & 4), has appointed **Father Angelo EPIS** as the Delegated National Director of the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts for Italy.

New General Bursar

On the 26th March 2012, Fr. Santino Brembilla, the Superior General of the Company of Mary, with the consent of his Council appointed **Father James BRADY**, of the province of the United States of America, as the General Bursar of the Company of Mary. This nomination comes into effect from the 15th of April 2012.

Creation of an international team for Montfortian Spirituality in St Laurent-sur-Sèvre

During the meeting of the General Council of 5 June 2012, as a follow-up to the orientations of our General Chapter of 2011, Fr. Santino Brembilla, Superior General, set up, **at Saint-Laurent an international team for Montfortian Spirituality.**

This is made up of **Father Olivier MAIRE**, superior of this new community, **Father Benigno ZORRO** of the Province of Colombia and **Father Efrem ASSOLARI** of the Province of Italy. Together, they will be able to provide “*ongoing formation in Montfortian Spirituality for members of the Company of Mary and other members of the Montfortian Family, including lay Associates.*”

Erection of a second house of the International French-speaking Novitiate in St Laurent-sur-Sèvre

On 5 June 2012, because of the fact that there are 18 novices for the year 2012-2013, Fr. Santino Brembilla, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, erected in St Laurent-sur-Sèvre a house for the International French-speaking Novitiate.

Father Orazio ROSSI was appointed **Novice-Master** for this second group in St Laurent. In close collaboration with Fathers Marco PASINATO and Jean-Marie Helpa RAKOTONDRAVAO, who are in charge of the 1st group of novices at the Maison Natale in Montfort-sur-Meu, Fr. Orazio will be able to benefit by the presence of the international community of St Laurent.

New Superior of the International Scholasticate in Rome

On 5 June 2012, Fr. Santino Brembilla, Superior General, with the consent of his Council, appointed **Father Luciano NEMBRINI** of the Province of Italy as Superior of the International Scholasticate in Rome, for term of three years.

Greater transparency and deeper trust

A **Meeting of Bursars from English Speaking entities** was held in Tagaytay, Philippines from February 27 to March 2, 2012. Participants came from Africa-Anglophone (2), Papua New Guinea (1), Indonesia (1), Philippines (4), DR Congo (1), India (1), the United States (1) and the General Administration (3). For five days they met at a retreat house outside of New Manila and shared, learned and prayed together. They were guided by the same dream and hope: to make necessary changes in our finances for a better stewardship of the goods of the Congregation. Facing the challenge of finances and the administration of goods is not easy in today's economic climate. Since the economic collapse of 2008 and the European crisis of 2011 the finances of the Congregation suffered tremendous losses. The direct impact has been felt in each of the entities, but most especially in the developing countries in which the SMM serve. This meeting tried to awaken all the participants to the drastic changes in mentality, administration and long-term stewardship that are needed for the Congregation to continue to serve its mission around the world. A workshop of five days cannot solve all the problems. But it is a giant step forward in our common sharing, greater transparency and deeper trust in the service of administering what has been left for the future. It showed us that we approach this problem from different perspectives, but all with the same goal: to go forward on a more solid financial pathway that will bring us closer together around Montfort's dream of becoming *Liberos* for the sake of the Kingdom.



From left to right in front: Francis M. TACIO (PH), Nirina Régnier RAKOTONDRAMANANA (PNG), Roy MILLANO (PH), Mr. Luigi VINCENTI, Théophile MOLEPELIA N. (CD), Oscar SAGWANTI (MW), Balaswamy KATA (IN), Sherwin NUÑEZ (PH)

From left to right in back-row: Fred SCRAGG (KE), Santino BREMBILLA, Miss Flor TABUT (PH), Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, Stefanus (Wiwid) SUKRISNO WIDODO (ID), James BRADY (US).

Meeting of Formation Personnel in Rome

From 4 to 14 March, formation personnel from the Scholasticates and Novitiates met together in Rome, at the house of the Brothers of St Gabriel, for a study course on the second volume of the new Ratio.

This was a very rich and inspiring meeting. The experience and the sharing of each of the confreres gave the assembly the possibility of studying the document in a more concrete and precise way. The two weeks they spent together helped the confreres to nourish the bonds between them and to grow for the continuation of their mission with joy and in a spirit of collaboration.

During this meeting, we experienced a very powerful time of communion and prayer with our confrere Prem Kumar from India, who suffered the sudden loss of his young sister. We continue to pray for him and all his family.



Top from left: Wim PEETERS (Philippines), Rafael S. LEPEN (Indonesia), Luigi GRITTI, Jean-Marie Weber COPPÉE (Haiti), Ernest AKHONYA MUKAVANA (Kenya), Stefanus SELI (Indonesia), Marco PASINATO (France), Santino BREMBILLA, Jaime O. CABREJO (Colombia), Alphonse WALDER (India), Avelinus AMPUT (Indonesia), George MADORE.

Bottom from left: Gregorius PASI (Indonesia), Antonius TENSI (Indonesia), Jorge Enrique GONZALEZ, Michel SAHAYARAJ (India), Reny J. PUNNAPPANAL (Philippines), Yoseph Dwi WATUN, José Angel JULCAHUANCA (Peru), Arnold SUHARDI (Italy), Kiki Bruno RANDRIANASOLO (Madagascar).

Preparation for Perpetual Profession: A Graced Moment

“What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you” (1 Jn 1:3). This was John’s statement after he had experienced life in and with Jesus Christ who had called him to “come and see” (Jn 1:39). And so here I would like to share my experience during the programme of the Preparation for Perpetual Profession which took place in Nairobi – Kenya, from August to November 2011.

With the poor

The programme began on the 16th August 2011 and for one month we had concrete experience with the poor who live in the slums of Nairobi. I had my exposure at the “House of Hope”, which is a house for the physically and mentally challenged and some elderly men who are homeless, run by the Brothers of Charity. I used to go there and chat with these poor people, help the brothers in feeding some of them who were not in a position to do so by themselves and assisting others to get to their beds in the evening hours. I would go to the beds of those who are bedridden and pray for them and just stay close to them. I was deeply touched by the sufferings these people go through and I felt that St Louis de Montfort’s call and mission to minister to the poor is still very much needed today, even more than before. I mobilized the scholastics to give away some of their clothes they were not in need of and I collected a good number of them together with some shoes which I took, with a fellow- scholastic, to that house. I was so much challenged and moved by the love and compassion that the Brothers of Charity were showing to the needy they were taking care of.



Towards the Fullness of Jesus Christ

On the 9th of September our companion from the Philippines, Brother Rey Silverio, arrived in Nairobi and we welcomed him joyfully to the community. He also shared with us his experience from the Philippines. We began having the session on the 19th of September which was facilitated by Fr. Mario Belotti. The mood of the noviciate was back! The programme was well organized and the main theme that guided us for the following two months was “**Towards the Fullness of Jesus Christ**” which was taken from Ephesians 4:13. Each week had a particular topic that helped us in our reflections and sharing. The topics, for me, were arranged in an ascending order, like a ladder with seven steps. They were as follows: knowledge of self, knowledge of the world, the vows, priestly spirituality, formation in Montfortian life, knowledge of Mary and lastly, knowledge of Jesus.

The method used privileged personal approach in which questions were suggested for reflections, meditation and journaling. Then we would share in the group the fruits of our reflections. Each person was given enough time to share his experiences and express his feelings. There was much trust and openness in the group that led to very gracious sharing. The feedback from everyone was inspiring, challenging and motivating. There was great creativity from the group in sharing insights, exposing topics, and organizing prayers; all this made the programme very interesting. Due to the nice presentation by the facilitator, I was helped to appropriate the material with ease and the probing questions helped me to examine myself in depth. In addition to that, the personal experiences that I shared allowed me to personally claim what we were doing. I feel that I have gained a lot in the exercise and am more at home with who I am as a religious.

Apart from the inputs, reflections and group sharing, we also went on pilgrimages and picnics for spiritual, mental and physical rejuvenation. We visited a Benedictine Monastery in Nanyuki

(Central part of Kenya) where we had an inculturated biblical reflection. We found one of the monks who was so generous with his time and shared with us a lot from deep down his heart. We also went to the Subukia Shrine, officially named the “Village of Mary, Mother of God”, which is the National Marian Shrine in Kenya and is currently run by the Conventual Franciscans. We prayed the Holy Rosary, meditating on the Luminous Mysteries as we walked towards a big cross that was erected on a hill. Then we had the Way of the Cross as we moved to the top of a hill where there is a spring of water and a grotto of our Lady. We made our consecration at this place and then we came down to the friary for Mass. Talking with one of the priests staying there, he told us that their work was overwhelming because they had to attend to about 2000 pilgrims a day, but there were only six of them on the site. Seeing how passionately people have embraced Marian devotion, I felt so much encouraged to internalize Montfort’s teaching on True Devotion to Mary not only for personal interest, but also to share with others this precious teaching which our founder left to the Church. A visit to Aberdare National Park for a picnic was a fun moment. We also had a trip to the coastal city of Mombasa.

It would be unjust to end this section without mentioning the creativity of our companion Bro. Rey. Why do I say so? It is because during these trips we made he sacrificed a lot of his time and spent some



sleepless nights preparing for us nice meals and ensuring that they were well packed for our journeys. With his talent and creativity in cooking we had no need of going to restaurants for meals and he ensured that we were well fed.

Transforming wisdom

The retreat which we were given by Fr. Paul Arnel Lucero from the 13th to 18th November was very inspiring. It was based on the *Love of Eternal Wisdom* and he was inspired by Pierre Humblet’s book “*The Mystical Process of Transformation in Grignon de Montfort’s ‘The Love of Eternal Wisdom’*”. We reflected on the LEW on a mystical perspective and the “Hermitages” that we occupied at the retreat house were ideal for this experience. They were isolated, quiet and so peaceful that they offered us a very serene atmosphere for prayer. We ended the retreat and the programme of the Preparation for Perpetual Profession with Mass in which we renewed our consecration. At the end of the process I felt that it was a real mystical experience as Pierre Humblet says in his book mentioned above that, “Mystical experience can be described as the inescapable human experience of being seized to the core of one’s existence by ‘something’ or ‘someone’ [...] being touched at the deepest level in such a way that one is transformed by it and cannot go back to the ‘old self’ without a lasting sense of loss and/or unfaithfulness.” I feel that this transformation has truly taken place within me!

Many thanks to Father General and his council for the caring support accorded us to bring the process to fruition. I am so grateful to Fr. Mario Belotti for his tireless efforts to lead us through this memorable experience, and to Fr. Paul Lucero for accepting to guide us in the retreat. Sincere thanks too to the scholastics' community in Nairobi: may God, through our Mother Mary, bless you and reward you for your hospitality and for giving us the best environment for our process. To my companions, Rey, Samuel, Francis and Felix, I wish to say: You motivated me so much; in your midst I felt very strong because of your affability. May the Lord grant you your hearts' desires! With St Paul I say, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

Jacob Ombidi Otieno, S.M.M.

International Novitiate in the Philippines

Some extracts from our confreres to share their experiences as novices (2010-2011).

Understanding others as they are



First and foremost, I would like to thank God for having allowed me to have the chance of experiencing a nice and beautiful moment in an International Novitiate in the Company of Mary. It was indeed an intense period of initiation that allowed me to reflect on my own vocation, and experience life in the Congregation. It was a conducive environment that helped me to be introduced seriously to the reading of Holy Scripture, as a source of the spiritual life. Liturgy, prayer and meditation; Montfortian spirituality, apostolic Religious life, the history of the Company of Mary, the study of Constitutions and statutes. Hence, being formed in a Montfortian way.

It was also a moment that helped me to face a new reality. For instance, being with people of different nations, cultural background, personality and behaviour. I was helped to understand people and to grow because of that rich experience. I treasured that moment because I was helped to be open-minded and see things in other perspectives and understand others as they are. Community life reminded me of how the apostles received the Holy Spirit and despite being different, they lived together. It was indeed a nice experience to see people from different nations, cultural background, personality, and behaviour stay together.

Antony Daniel Chilolo, S.M.M.

Deepening our relationship with God

The whole period of novitiate was a moment of growing in my relationship with God through Mary. It was also a chance for me to grow in Montfortian life. It was very wonderful to grow in Montfortian Spirituality. By saying, "I am all yours and all I have is yours, O dear Jesus, through Mary, your holy mother", every day, I was helped to deepen my relationship with God through Mary. Montfortian Spirituality helped me to practice what I believe. It also helped me to share with others what the Gospel tells. I was happy and glad with the writings of Saint Montfort. His message helped me in different situations. For example, the *Letter to the friends of the Cross*, which encourages people to carry their crosses patiently and cheerfully, this helped me to understand more the love of God for his people. It helped me to understand what Montfort says, "I have chosen to be wedded to wisdom



and the cross for in these I find every good, both earthly and heavenly.” (Letter number 20 to Louis Marie’s mother). Our community was rich with different cultures and different characters. Each member of the community was unique and special. Each member had his unique talents and gifts.

Peter Alinafe Makina, S.M.M.

Patience and understanding

One of the very striking and memorable lessons I learnt in the Novitiate was the process of self-knowledge and going deeper into the heart of the spirituality and works of our founder, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, a spirituality which is centered on Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom of God, who came into the world through the Blessed Virgin Mary, and that through her, Jesus himself must reign in the world (TD #1).



What made my Novitiate challenging in terms of community life was the development of adjustment among every individual especially on the quality of teamwork or working together and the aspect of cultural differences since the community was composed of different nationalities. The Internationality of the community reveals great impact in the way each one has to relate, share, and respect one another. It really took time, with the help of our formators, to synchronize and appreciate one’s direction – leading to the building up of the community. Nevertheless, through the value of patience and understanding, the whole process was meaningful and helpful for my vocation. Recognizing the giftedness and uniqueness of every individual in the community led me to realize the value of being a missionary and the internationality of the Montfort Missionaries.

Gener C. Pito, S.M.M.

Our goal is Jesus Christ

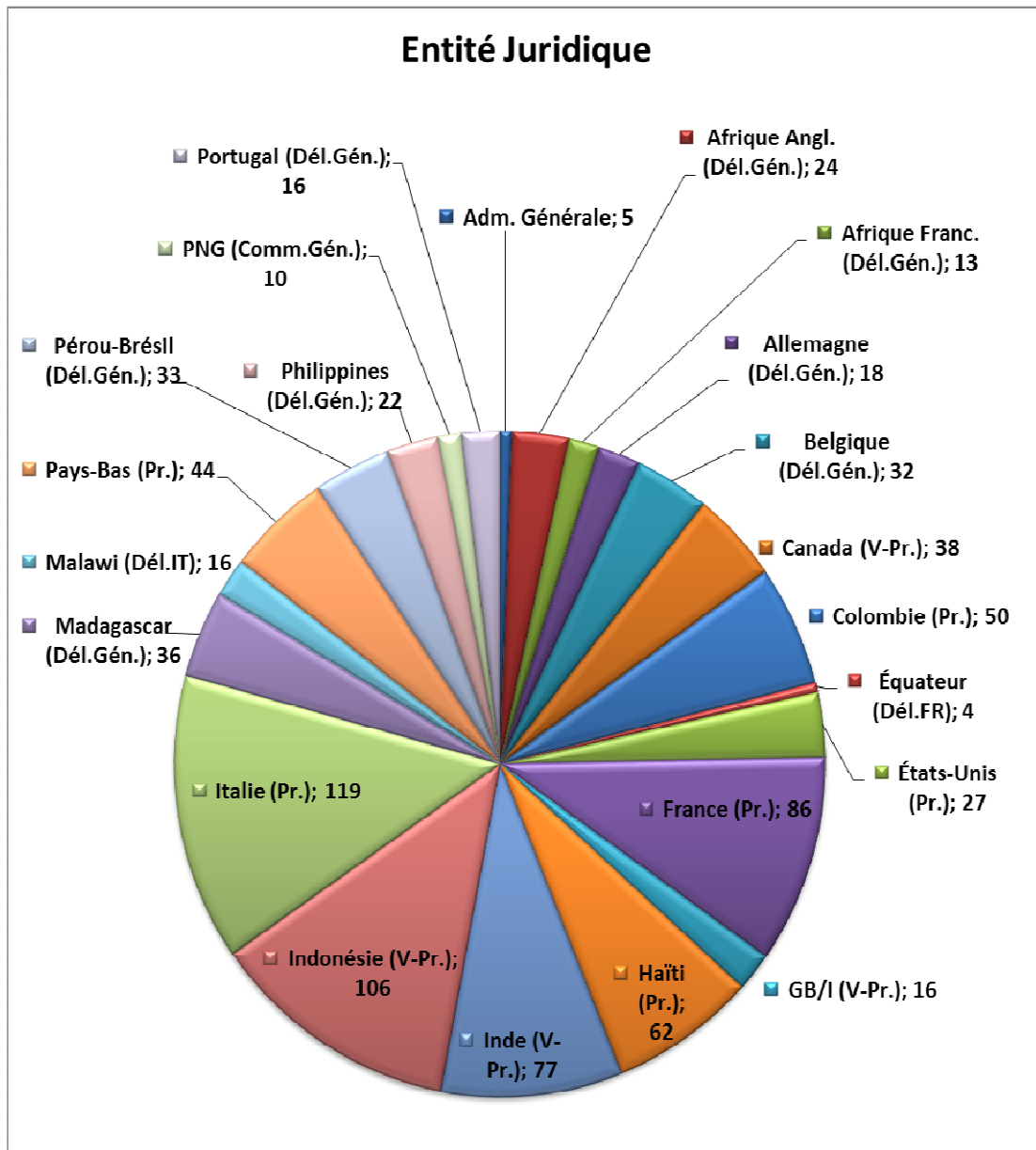
It is during my spiritual year (Novitiate) that I really came to claim my identity as one who is following Jesus Christ by following the example of our founder St. Louis Marie de Montfort. This spiritual year also helped me to understand deeply my personal spiritual journey toward Holiness. This was also a moment of grace in my life, in the sense that I had time to go deep into my personal life and reflect about my life as a whole. Formation helped me to develop more and more my relationship with Mary.



In an international Novitiate efforts should be made to try and understand the uniqueness of each human being. Ethnocentrism should not be encouraged in religious communities. We must all have a focus on our goal, who is Jesus Christ. We must widen our conscience from tribal, or from national conscience to planetary conscience, in that case we will be helped to live positively even in an international environment. I thank God for the opportunity he gave to me to undergo the novitiate program. All that happened during my spiritual year strengthened my life as a religious.

Pemphe P. Kalanga, S.M.M.

SMM Statistics on 31-12-2011

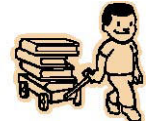


"Entité Juridique" (31-12-2011)	P.	F.	S.	Total
Adm. Générale	5	0	0	5
Afrique Angl. (Dél.Gén.)	13	1	10	24
Afrique Franc. (Dél.Gén.)	8	1	4	13
Allemagne (Dél.Gén.)	17	1	0	18
Belgique (Dél.Gén.)	27	5	0	32
Canada (V-Pr.)	28	10	0	38
Colombie (Pr.)	48	1	1	50
Équateur (Dél.FR)	4	0	0	4
États-Unis (Pr.)	24	2	1	27
France (Pr.)	67	19	0	86
GB/I (V-Pr.)	13	3	0	16
Haïti (Pr.)	51	0	11	62
Inde (V-Pr.)	55	0	22	77
Indonésie (V-Pr.)	34	5	67	106
Italie (Pr.)	108	6	5	119
Madagascar (Dél.Gén.)	22	5	9	36
Malawi (Dél.IT)	14	2	0	16
Pays-Bas (Pr.)	37	7	0	44
Pérou-Bésil (Dél.Gén.)	25	2	6	33
Philippines (Dél.Gén.)	12	1	9	22
PNG (Comm.Gén.)	9	1	0	10
Portugal (Dél.Gén.)	13	1	2	16
	634	73	147	854

"Lieu de Travail" (31-12-2011)	P.	F.	S.	Total
Allemagne	24	1	0	25
Argentine	2	0	0	2
Bahamas	3	0	0	3
Belgique	24	4	0	28
Brésil	12	1	1	14
Canada	36	10	0	46
Colombie	48	1	1	50
Congo (CD)	5	2	0	7
Croatie	4	0	0	4
Équateur	6	0	0	6
Espagne	2	0	0	2
États-Unis	29	2	0	31
France	62	19	0	81
GB/I	14	3	0	17
Haïti	37	0	11	48
Inde	44	0	22	66
Indonésie	28	5	67	100
Italie	97	6	0	103
Kenya	2	0	16	18
Madagascar	19	4	9	32
Malawi	22	4	4	30
Nicaragua	4	0	0	4
Ouganda	1	0	0	1
Papouasie	9	1	0	10
Pays-Bas	34	5	0	39
Pérou	22	2	6	30
Philippines	15	1	3	19
Portugal	10	1	0	11
Rome	14	1	7	22
St-Martin	3	0	0	3
Zambie	2	0	0	2
	634	73	147	854

"Nationalité" (31-12-2011)	P.	F.	S.	Total
Allemagne	16	1	0	17
Angleterre	11	1	0	12
Angola	0	0	2	2
Belgique	17	3	0	20
Brésil	2	0	3	5
Canada	31	10	0	41
Colombie	48	1	1	50
Congo (CD)	7	1	4	12
Croatie	4	0	4	8
Ecosse	3	0	0	3
Équateur	1	0	0	1
Espagne	4	0	0	4
États-Unis	22	2	0	24
France	69	19	0	88
Haïti	50	0	11	61
Inde	58	0	22	80
Indonésie	39	5	67	111
Irlande (IE/NIR)	1	1	0	2
Italie	134	9	1	144
Kenya	1	0	2	3
Madagascar	17	6	9	32
Malawi	7	1	5	13
Nicaragua	2	0	1	3
Ouganda	1	0	2	3
Pays de Galles	0	1	0	1
Pays-Bas	50	9	0	59
Pérou	13	1	3	17
Philippines	12	1	9	22
Portugal	12	1	0	13
Suisse	1	0	0	1
Zambie	1	0	1	2
	634	73	147	854

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L' Écho Montfortain

Viale dei Monfortani, 65

00135 ROMA (Tel: +39 06.30.50.203)

echo.montfortain@gmail.com