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Preparation for the next General Chapter

Dear Confreres,

After the discussions we had last May in Fatima with all those responsible for the entities of the Congregation, in order to explore possible paths for the preparation for the next General Chapter, the general council and I, with the presence of Father Georges Madore, Father Battista Cortinovis and Sister Micheline Tremblay, csc, who will be the facilitator of the chapter, met in Rome recently to prepare the tools that will be able to help us in this process.

We are sending you **three documents** in view of helping each confrere and each entity to be a significant part of the path which the Lord asks us to take together, so that this time offered by the Lord may become a time of grace for each Montfort Missionary and for the entire Congregation.

1. ***PRAYER for the 2011 Chapter.*** For the Chapter to be a time of grace and discernment, we must ask, with all our heart and all our strength, the gift of the Spirit, and we must allow ourselves to be guided by him at every moment and in all the stages of the process.
2. ***LINEAMENTA – the preparatory document for the General Chapter of 2011.*** This is an instrument which we are placing in your hands and inviting you to read, to pray with, to discuss. We invite you also to respond to it, above all in the Delegation Assemblies and the first sessions of the Provincial Chapters, so that afterwards we may be able to prepare an *Instrumentum Laboris* (A Working Document) for the General Chapter of 2011. We await your contributions by **January 31, 2011**, the anniversary of the birth of our Father de Montfort.

3. **CONSULTATION on international projects.** The General Chapter of 2005 gave us Orientations which contained a master guideline, a “golden thread” which ran through all these orientations: **internationality**. In view of the 2011 Chapter, we are going to prepare a presentation and an evaluation of the path that we have made in the Congregation at this level. But we would like to have your reactions and comments on the route of internationality that we have undertaken in service to the life and mission of the Congregation during these years.

We would also like to be informed of the **precise dates of your chapters or assemblies**, so that we can tell our communities of older confreres and all the members of the Congregation about them, so that they may be able to carry in prayer these important moments in our communal history.

May Our Lady of the Rosary, in union with Father de Montfort, accompany our path of faithfulness to the call we received from the Lord.

Rome October 7, 2010
Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Fr. Santino Brembilla, S.M.M.
Superior General

Prayer to Mary

Hail Mary, admirable Mother of the Saviour,
whom Montfort loved and wanted to help others love.

Hail Mary, Virgin filled with holiness.
Send us missionaries faithful to the spirit of Montfort.

Hail Mary, our refuge and firm support.
Guide your missionaries during this capitular year.

Hail Mary, filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
Send us capitulants open to the Lord's will.

Hail Mary; I offer you my poor heart,
so that I may welcome with joy and freedom
the decisions of our General Chapter.

Amen

(This prayer is inspired by Hymn 90, from which it takes the first lines of certain stanzas.)



PRAYER

in Preparation for the General Chapter of 2011

(This prayer takes its inspiration from Psalm 106 (105), cited by Montfort in his Prayer for Missionaries (no. 18). This psalm summarizes the history of Israel by retelling the wonderful works of God, by recognizing the faults of the God's people, and by opening up to the future with trust in God. The prayer proposed here borrows some verses and the movement of this psalm.)

Acclaim the Lord, for He is good,
for his faithfulness is forever.
Praise be to you, Lord, for Montfort,
this apostle of fire
whom you have raised up to renew your Church.
Praise be to you for this true son of Mary:
in her school
he knew how to welcome fully the Incarnate Word.

We come before you
with our hesitations and our fears about
following him.
Forgive us, Lord.
We come before you,
with our conflicts and attachments.
Forgive us, Lord.
We come before you
with our lack of boldness and freedom.
Forgive us, Lord.

Look upon our desire to be faithful to Montfort,
to allow ourselves be lifted up by his true spirit.
In preparation for our General Chapter,
we entrust to you
each member of our community
that you may convert us.
We entrust to you the delegates to the General Chapter,
that you may open their hearts
to their mutual poverty and richness.
We entrust to you the future team of the Generalate,
that you may give them strength, wisdom and boldness.

Remember us Lord our God.
Gather us together from Europe and Asia,
from Africa and the Americas.
Give us one heart
ablaze like that of Montfort.
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
forever and ever.
Amen. [Alleluia.]

LINEAMENTA - Preparatory Document for the General Chapter of 2011

I. SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEAM OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2011 GENERAL CHAPTER

From the end of the nineteenth century, the history of the Congregation has been marked by a great geographical expansion in the northern hemisphere as well as by a significant growth in numbers. Some entities then stressed a local rootedness through works springing from the Montfortian charism. Others invested resources and personnel in the mission “*ad gentes*” in the southern hemisphere, thus fulfilling a dream dear to Father de Montfort.

In recent decades, the entities of the “North” have experienced a rapid demographic decrease which has resulted in a weakening of the presence of the Congregation in view of the Montfortian mission. On the other hand, the Congregation took root in several countries of the southern hemisphere, creating there entities in full growth.

From these factors there emerges a concrete situation which could be described by the three following points:

1. The countries of the north are influenced by a process of secularization and globalization. Consequently, the Montfortian presence there is encountering new challenges which require new responses.
2. The entities of the south are growing. We must see to it that this growth is undertaken with a creative fidelity to the heritage of Father de Montfort, for a service of evangelization appropriate to their cultures and to the needs of their Churches.
3. Spread out in 25 countries, we are an international congregation, a gift of the Lord to his Church, in view of a **mission** which is at the same time **specific** and **incarnated in different countries**. From this flow two consequences:
 - it is important to deepen within us an awareness of this international character with its implications and to see in it a call from the Spirit.
 - it is also important to centre ourselves again in our original charism and to see how to incarnate it in today's world.

In line with these three points, we see that it is the MONTFORTIAN MISSION which calls us together and unites us in the Congregation.

- It is this mission which allows us to carry the dream of Father de Montfort, in a presence which is significant for humanity today.
- This is what enables us to continue our journey beyond difficulties.
- This is what clarifies and orients the formation of new candidates in order to transmit to them the joy of entering into the Congregation.

To be passionate about this mission – doesn't this mean to express once again our 'yes' to the Lord who has called us, and our 'yes' to the Congregation and to the people to whom He has sent us?

For all these reasons, we believe that the members of the next General Chapter must **reflect on our mission in order to discover how we can carry on with it in the world of today**, so that the Congregation might truly be at the service of establishing the Reign of Jesus through Mary. We believe that accomplishing this task will give us the necessary spark to continue the path of the Congregation in the years to follow.

II. THE DREAM OF MONTFORT

The dream of Montfort which we are called to live today

1. The dream of Montfort...

Montfort wanted missionaries sent together to evangelize, whose specific mission is to “renew the spirit of Christianity” (MR 56) by the “renewal of the promises of Baptism” (cf. L 5; PM; MR; LCM). This mission “a la Montfort” is equally characterized by the four notes: *evangelization, Mary, availability, acting together*. Four notes which Father de Montfort expressed already in his **Prayer for Missionaries**.

– *Evangelization*

Liberos: true servants of the Blessed Virgin who, like Dominic of old, will range far and wide, with the holy Gospel issuing from their mouths like a bright and burning flame, and the rosary in their hands, and bay like your watchdogs, burn like fire and dispel the darkness of the world like a sun ...

(PM 12)

– **Mary**

Liberos: who, through their authentic devotion to Mary [...] will crush the head of the serpent wherever they go; (PM 12). True children of Mary, your holy Mother, whom she has conceived and begotten by her love, [...] upheld by her arm and enriched with her graces (PM 11).

– **Availability**

Liberos: priests who are free with the freedom that comes from you, detached from everything, without father, mother, brothers, sisters, or relatives and friends as the world and the flesh understand them, without worldly possessions to encumber or distract them, and devoid of all self-interest (PM 7).

– **Acting Together**

Memento Congregationis tuae: it is to be a congregation, a gathering, a selection, a picked handful of predestined men to be chosen by you from among those who are in the world. [...] You are to select from all these fierce wolves, a flock of peaceful lambs, [...] from all these timid hares, a pride of bold lions. Lord, congrega nos de nationibus! Bring us together and unite us, so that all the glory may be given to your holy and mighty name (PM 18).

2. ... which we are called to live today

We take up again these four notes by trying to see how the dream of Montfort can be lived by us today.

– **Evangelization**

It means, on the one hand, to provoke a waking up to the spiritual life and to the Gospel. It must also involve offering ways of accompaniment to people to whom we have called out, in order to help them follow Jesus Christ. This work of awakening to faith and accompaniment is done according to a specific route offered by St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, in his pastoral practice as well as in his writings.

– **Mary**

Placing oneself within the faith of Mary, in her complete availability to the Word and in her love of Christ, the Montfortian understands his baptism, lives it and actualizes it in the presence of and under the maternal guidance of the one who has perfectly welcomed Wisdom Incarnate and who wants to continue to welcome him in us.

– **Availability**

This *instabiles* is not only, and neither is it above all, physical, but rather it is spiritual. It consists in “leaving” ways of doing and seeing in order to be attentive to the signs of the times and to the inspiration of the Spirit. It forces us to be these “clouds that sail high above the earth [...] moving, without let or hindrance, according to the inspiration of the Spirit” (PM 9).

– **Acting Together**

No one can incarnate the charism of Father de Montfort by himself alone. It is up to each member to contribute to the common mission, according to his resources and creativity, “always having something new to undertake” (Blain, no 337). Through our complementarity and our collaboration, we enable the world to welcome the Good News of Christ, presented and offered “a la Montfort.”

INTERIORISATION

What have we done to this dream in the face of the calls coming from the world?

What have we done to this dream...

- *Montfort, what have we done with your dream?*
- *Are we always these free men whom you dreamed about?*
- *Do we know how to become this gathering, this picked handful of men who work together beyond our differences?*
- *Are we always these burning fires of the Gospel?*
- *Is Mary for us this Mother who nourishes our faith and our boldness?*
- *Are we attentive to the signs of the times which point out to us the pathways of mission?*

in the face of the calls coming from the world ?

- *We lay people, we thirst for your spirituality!*
- *We Christians, we thirst to understand the Word of God for our lives today.*
- *We, the aging, we need to be renewed in hope in the face of sickness and death.*
- *We, Christians from the young churches, we need missionaries who are witnesses of the Gospel.*
- *We, the poor, we do not expect charity, but rather justice and respect.*
- *We who have deserted the church benches, we are searching for a meaning to our lives, a source to quench our spiritual thirst!*

III. PROPOSITION

Evangelization lived out as a call to begin and to continue an ongoing spiritual path according to the itinerary proposed by Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, such is our mission in the Church and the world of today.

Indeed, as evangelizers, we want to invite others to follow Jesus Christ, which implies at the same time inviting others to hear this call and accompanying those who try to respond to this call in the concrete situation of their lives. This journey unfolds beginning with a personal conversion to a more authentic baptismal life and continues toward holiness.

As John-Paul II reminded us, we are called as Montfortians to share our spiritual heritage with Christians of today, in particular the *consecration to Jesus through Mary*, “an effective means for Christians to live faithfully their baptismal commitments” (*Redemptoris Mater* 48).

This work relies on the dynamics of **enculturation** (cf. General Chapter 1993) and of **incarnation**. It is characterized by its **ecclesial sense** and its **missionary and apostolic zeal**. It also takes into account the complex dynamics of the person in his or her totality. Consequently,

1. **This proposition could be our line of action** for the years to come.
2. We would thus like **to rediscover our heritage and renew our pride** in sharing and carrying to the world the Montfortian charism.
3. We might be ready **to make choices which would tend to give preference to forms of apostolate** which favour this spiritual itinerary, always taking into account the concrete possibilities of our entities. For example:
 - popular preaching,
 - accompanying groups of lay associates,
 - the pastoral work of shrines and pilgrimages,
 - publications,
 - spiritual direction, pastoral services,
 - using the means of communication (traditional ones like reviews and magazines and/or modern ones like the internet), etc. ...

IV. QUESTIONS

1. Does this proposition express well the Montfortian mission for today?

- (For example: ○ Are there important elements missing?
 ○ Are certain expressions problematic?)

2. Are we ready to make this a priority in our entity?

3. What would be the concrete consequences of this choice for our entity?

- (For example: ○ Some things to change?
 ○ Some works to leave?
 ○ Some projects to invest in?)

CONSULTATION on international projects

The General Chapter of 2005 placed an emphasis on international collaboration. The Chapter took decisions on several orientations that involved international projects to be coordinated by the Superior General and his Council. These projects have been a priority of the current General Administration.

Now, after almost six years, it is time to review the emphasis on internationality and on the projects undertaken in order to discern if this direction should be modified.

To this end, you are invited to have a conversation about international projects, with an emphasis on the following five questions:

1. *What is your general perception of the emphasis on internationality?*
2. *What is your general perception of the international projects undertaken in the past five years?*

International Apostolic Projects: several international teams were established to undertake apostolic projects.

3. *Should the approach to these efforts be modified? If so, how?*

International Houses of Formation: several novitiates and scholasticates have been instituted as international houses of formation.

4. *Should the approach to these efforts be modified? If so, how?*

Strengthening Montfortian Presence in Particular Places: several sites of Montfortian presence which had a very small number of Montfortians were strengthened by the addition of confreres coming from other entities. Other similar efforts are being planned.

5. *Should the approach to these efforts be modified? If so, how?*

We ask that you have a conversation in your chapter or assembly, and submit a summary of the mind of the group on these questions to the Secretary General by January 31, 2011.



First Professions

September 8, 2010, in Antananarivo (Madagascar): Cyrille Augustin MANJARIMANANA, Philibert RAKOTOARISOA, Clément RAANDRINIAINA.

Perpetual Professions

August 15, 2010, in Malang (Indonesia): Andreas SANTOSO.

August 21, 2010, in Kisangani (Democratic Republic of the Congo): Atubengulu Constantin ATALIPA.

September 11, 2010, in Bogotá (Colombia): Luis Manuel MORA RODRÍGUEZ, Carlos Alberto DIAZ SUESCA.

October 24, 2010, in Ambohimandroso (Madagascar): Ernest RAMANANJANAHARY LALANANDRASANA.

Ordinations to the Diaconate

August 19, 2010, in Malang (Indonesia): Andreas SANTOSO.

August 22, 2010, in Kisangani (Democratic Republic of the Congo): Atubengulu Constantin ATALIPA.

October 3, 2010 in Bogotá (Colombia): Luis Manuel MORA RODRÍGUEZ, Carlos Alberto DIAZ SUESCA.

Ordinations to the Priesthood

July 15, 2010, in Ruteng (Indonesia): Rafael Servianus LEPEN, Marselinus NGEBU.

September 19, 2010, in Toamasina (Madagascar): Paul-Émile RAKOTONJANAHARY.

CHANGE OF JURIDICAL STATUS FOR INDONESIA

On May 28, 2010, after consulting the Extraordinary General Council of May 2010, which gave its favourable recommendation, Father Santino BREMBILLA, Superior General, with the deliberative vote of his Council (cf. *The Montfortian Today*, n° 169) established the General Delegation of **Indonesia** as a **Vice-Province**. The change will become effective on January 1, 2011.

CHANGE OF JURIDICAL STATUS FOR CANADA

On May 28, 2010, after consulting the Extraordinary General Council of May 2010, which gave its favourable recommendation, Father Santino BREMBILLA, Superior General, with the deliberative vote of his Council (cf. *The Montfortian Today*, n° 169) established the Province of **Canada** as a **Vice-Province**. The change will become effective on January 1, 2011.

CHANGE OF JURIDICAL STATUS FOR GERMANY

On May 28, 2010, after consulting the Extraordinary General Council of May 2010, which gave its favourable recommendation, Father Santino BREMBILLA, Superior General, with the deliberative vote of his Council (cf. *The Montfortian Today*, n° 169) established the Vice-Province of **Germany** as a **General Delegation**. The change will become effective on October 14, 2010.

NEW COUNCILLOR FOR THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

On October 1, 2010, Father Santino BREMBILLA, Superior General of the Company of Mary, named **Father Callisto Augustine BALUWA** as Councillor of the General Delegation of Anglophone Africa.

NEW ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF GERMANY

On October 7, 2010, Father Santino BREMBILLA, Superior General of the Company of Mary, with the consent of his Council, named Father **Hermann Josef JÜNEMANN** as Delegation Superior of the General Delegation of Germany, for a mandate of three years. The councillors of Father Hermann Josef Jünemann are **Father Rudolf FRITZ**, and **Father Rayappa JOSEPH**.

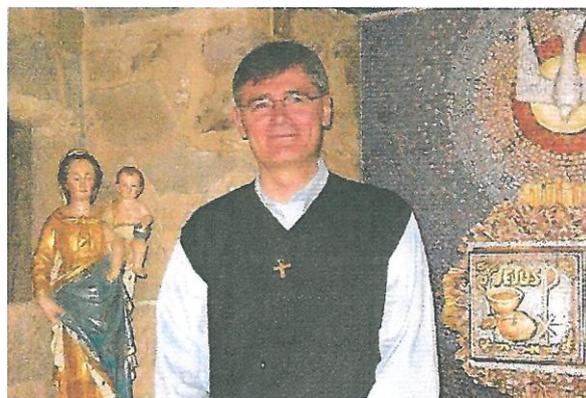
NEW COUNCILLOR FOR THE PROVINCE OF ITALY

Father Luciano NEMBRINI, Provincial Superior of the Province of Italy, with the consent of his Council (August 17-18, 2010), named **Father Gerolamo BELLINI**, Councillor and Vicar of the Province of Italy.

A Novitiate is Set Up in Montfort

(Édith Castel, "Église en Ille-et-Vilaine", no. 181, Monday 28 June 2010)

Next July, the congregation of the Montfort Missionaries will open a novitiate in Montfort-sur-Meu, in the birthplace of its founder, Father Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort. The project is here introduced by Father Marco Pasinato, the Superior of the coming novitiate community.



Église en Ille et Vilane: Why have you chosen this place over any other for the novitiate?

Father Marco: The congregation has four novitiates corresponding to the four languages of our mission: French, English, Spanish, Indonesian. The choice of Montfort for our French-speaking candidates is in line with a wish to make a return to the sources of the congregation. Today, young men coming from Italy, Croatia, Portugal, the Congo and Madagascar are knocking at the door of the congregation. Before they start out to study philosophy and theology in view of an ordained priestly ministry, they need to make contact with the places where Father Louis Marie Grignion was born, where he was baptised, and where he lived. The choice of the house where he was born also has another aim: to recall the memory of our founder through the house of formation, which is also responsible for welcoming pilgrims, of whom about 4000 visit every year.

How many young men are you expecting for this first year?

We will begin with Africa: three young men from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and one Malagasy. They will spend twelve months here before going back to their own countries to begin their studies properly so called.

What is the content of this novitiate year?

It is first of all a foundation year for the spiritual life, which will enable the young men, through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and spiritual direction given by the one in charge of the novitiate, to root themselves in Christ. It is also an opportunity to discover the Marian and missionary spirituality of Father Louis Marie Grignion, and to deepen their knowledge of the history of the congregation and the particular aspects of the Montfortian Mission, through study and meetings with passing missionaries: priests, religious and lay-people. But the young men will also have contact with the local life, through certain stages which will bring them into contact with disadvantaged or sick people, whether in retirement homes, rest-homes for people in distress and parish activities.

As the Superior do you have a team working with you?

The community in Montfort comprises five priests, three French, one Italian and one Malagasy. We have an international milieu because of the composition of the team, the food - the Friday galette will sometimes be replaced by pizza or pasta - but also in prayer. Each day we come together to pray the Rosary in different languages: English, French, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Créole, Breton... and we will add the native languages of our young men: Malagasy, Swahili, Lingala. The time of apprenticeship in relationship with Jesus and Mary, doubles as a time of apprenticeship in missionary languages.

R.I.S.L. 2010

Report on the 4th International Meeting of the Montfortian Family in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, 3 - 7 August 2010

"Listen. Come to me. I want to make you happy!" This was the theme of this 4th Meeting. Yes, we did listen, we did go to Him, through Mary, and we felt HAPPY!



French, Belgians, Italians, Portuguese, Brazilians, Spanish, Croats, Poles, Canadians, Congolese, Indonesians, inhabitants of Madagascar and yet more countries, around 350 people in all (priests, religious and lay-folk) gathered in St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre to pray, sing, feed themselves, refresh their faith and the Christian commitment of their Baptism, share with others their discoveries and their experiences, in short to listen to what God (the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit) had to say to them with or without the help of the Blessed Virgin, during these days!

It was much more than convivial, very fraternal and dense. Fr Olivier Maire, smm, Sr Lourdes Alonso, fdl, Cardinal Godfried Danneels, Archbishop Emeritus of Malines-Brussels, and Mgr. Alain Castet, Bishop of Luçon, gave us exceptional conferences relating to the theme of the meeting and to the "Wisdom" so dear to Fr. de Montfort.

How to answer this call from Wisdom through Mary?

Everyone found themselves faced by themselves, faced with a choice of life to be followed and to be spread as a missionary. But they also felt themselves surrounded, borne up, encouraged. They were no longer alone in following their way or borrowing another. Even the children who were there were taken in hand according to their ages. The evening sessions, the sharings with Montfortians in the world, the various presentations, all contributed to making this meeting so successful.

On 6th August, in the morning, six coaches carried everyone to Pontchâteau, a real "holy land" where Fr de Montfort had built a Calvary.

This was one of the highlights of the meeting, and seemed to incorporate a number of coincidences. We were celebrating in 2010 the three hundredth anniversary of this Calvary – Personal time to visit the sites and pray – a picnic all together in the "Temple" – a procession for our group with an invitation to join in some powerful gestures (the Word, the Blessed Virgin, the water of Baptism, the Way of the Cross and personal commitment). – It was a Friday – It was the Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor – The paradox of the connection between the Good News and the Cross.

Afterwards we took the coaches back to St Laurent in a spirit of meditation and repose – another successful day.

The meeting ended the following day...

Everyone was sad to leave the group, but happy about the graces received and reassured on their own way of Life.

Sabine Sneessens

“Listen; come to me; I want to make you happy” 3-7 August 2010

To begin this review of the magnificent session at St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, I would like to give thanks to Mary and her divine Son for the exceptional grace of having experienced this international gathering. I experienced moments of incredible communion with the people who share our beautiful Montfortian spirituality; moments of listening, of sharing and of prayer.



I believe it is impossible to have such an experience and dwell on what we have experienced without making a concrete application to my daily life and to the heart of my pastoral work. The first conference, by Sr Lourdes Alonso fdl, impressed on me very much this desire for Wisdom: who is She, what does She invite us to do? Wisdom takes the initiative, it is She who seeks us out and waits for us and invites us to meet Her. I love no. 66 of LEW: “she runs... she climbs... she comes... she goes into the public squares and calls out, ‘I am calling you, it is you I am seeking: Listen, come to me; I want to make you happy!’” To go out of myself, to welcome Wisdom in my life, to pray to Her... To welcome her in Mary and through Mary is the happiness to which Wisdom leads me.

Since my return from Saint-Laurent, I am even more attentive to these calls of Wisdom, to her graces that she gives me each day. During the sessions I lead and my preparation for accompanying others, I have taken up the practice of reciting three Hail Marys that my heart and my mind might be open and available to Wisdom as a guide and support, and that the hearts and minds of the people to whom I am sent might also be available to experience a moment of closeness with Christ, Incarnate Wisdom.

A second very important moment that resonated very much with me was the conference of Cardinal Daneels which offered us 20 counsels, twenty obligatory ways to become happy in following Christ. These secrets reside at the heart of the mysteries of the Rosary. It is delightful and good to pray the Rosary with these keys to hand. I enter into this mystery of the Annunciation with the good fortune of saying “yes” to God, even if I do not know how this will come about... This gives me the grace of detachment, the grace to abandon myself to this promise of Christ: “I will be with you always... do not be afraid.”

With the Associates of Drummondville, Canada, we have decided for this year in our meetings to centre ourselves on these keys to happiness. Each month we look at the mysteries of the Rosary, observing and making our own these keys to our reading. For myself, during the month of Mary, I will be leading the parish recitation of the Rosary with this teaching of Cardinal Daneels in mind. I want to share this richness with all those who, as a parish, live through this beautiful month which is the month of Mary.

I also want to thank the Montfortian community for giving me the opportunity to experience these moments which will be with me for the rest of my life. I firmly believe that Montfort is with us in reciting this ardent prayer that our community might be more and more aflame with Wisdom Incarnate, with Mary Mediatrix of All Graces, and that it might carry out this magnificent mission of spreading more and more this love of Wisdom, of the Gospel and of Mary our Mother.

Nicole Dutrisac,

*(Nicole Dutrisac, a Montfortian Associate since 1996,
I have been involved in the pastoral care of adults for 10 years)
Drummondville, Canada*

The Loreto days, 2010: The Marian perfume of the Eucharist, kept safe in the heart.

Living by the Eucharist...so as to live like the Eucharist

The 7th Days of Montfortian and Marian Spirituality were held in Loreto from 17 to 19 September 2010. Close to the shrine of the Holy House, some 270 participants gathered from various regions of Italy: lay-folk and religious, groups or individuals, all brought together by the same interest in the spiritual proposition of the Consecration to Jesus through Mary of Fr. de Montfort. “The Marian perfume of the Eucharist”: these few meaningful words summed up the journey set forth by means of teachings and celebrations such as the renewal of our Montfortian Consecration.



It was only a few years ago that I made contact with Montfortian spirituality. Two and a half years ago I set out for the first time to read the writings of St. Louis Marie one after the other, and was immediately fascinated and attracted by his inspired words, his mystical dimension, the “enchanted secrets” of the well-cultivated garden in which you meet all the beauty of Mary, of Jesus in Mary, and of your own life.

Until now my journey has been a personal one, even though I was guided step by step by correspondence with a Montfort Father; the consecration to Jesus through the hands of Mary came to me in a natural and spontaneous way as a practice which allowed me to express – first of all to myself – the total belonging of my existence to Jesus and the desire to move forward in the spiritual life in the school of St Louis Marie de Montfort. I renewed my consecration several times, at the end of Mass, always in a personal way, and alone, hidden in Mary for Jesus alone!

My presence in Loreto was the first opportunity offered to me to come into contact with the community aspects of the Montfortian way, through sharing with the other participants who had the same basic identity.

On top of this, this experience also became an opportunity to involve my family in a direct way in my journey of faith: thus my husband, our two children of six and eight years, and my mother, all of whom accompanied me to Loreto, were kept expressly informed. The working out of this "journey" was not something obvious; yet it was something I was determined about. Several questions left us perplexed, but in the end all obstacles disappeared. My husband understood that for me it was so important: not only did everything seem easily realisable, but the experience was lived with enthusiasm. The warm welcome we received from the Montfort Fathers once we were there, the equally excellent lodging arrangements and the atmosphere of Loreto, all contributed to making us all feel at ease, while the members of my family were able to give free rein to their own interests and occupations.

As for me, It was with great joy that I received in my heart the precious gift of these Days, during which I was able follow the conferences eagerly, take part in the prayers and community celebrations, and visit the Basilica of the Holy House. I had never been there before! It was a unique feeling to be drawn so often to this place as though by a lover (Mary, "a sacred lover", as Fr. de Montfort calls her in *The Love of Eternal Wisdom!*), to stay there meditating on the mystery of the Incarnation, so central to the thinking of Fr. de Montfort, to want to pour myself into the womb of Mary and there be submerged so as to be shaped in her divine mould.

Certainly, the themes of the various conferences delivered passionately and filled with new things, pushed back the limits of my horizons, giving me a more complete vision of the meaning of the Eucharistic mystery. Now I can continue to live the Eucharist in the marvellous way taught us by St Louis Marie in *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, but also I can live each day "like a Eucharist", "as an offering and a sacrifice of praise"; and "from the Eucharist", our "food for the journey", as this was put during the congress, and all of this through the hands of Mary, the "Eucharistic woman".

The renewal of Consecration on the Basilica square, the prayerful reading of the "Prayer for Missionaries", the celebration in the crypt with some beautiful passages from the Gospel, the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the exposition of the holy relics, were moments of community sharing that I recall with emotion.

On my return home I took up again the texts of Fr de Montfort with a joyful alacrity of soul, because I find that what was said to us in the teachings is absolutely true, namely that the *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin* has to be reflected on continually, day after day, stopping at a few sentences, or even just at one phrase, because that presents us with pearls that we have not yet brought into the light. I also very much appreciated the fact of finding the various teachings on the internet. I think it is really useful to be able to use the internet to meditate on these texts as we have time.

Now that the daily rhythm of life has resumed, my wish is to be able to continue to taste what we experienced in a concentrated form during those days in Loreto, seeking to keep hold of what touched my heart and spirit the most, so that this might become the "spiritual vessel" from which daily drops of the "perfume of Mary" might be distilled.

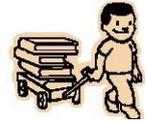
There is one more aspect that gave me great pleasure; and that is that this experience was found to be important for the members of my family who also breathed an atmosphere of intense spirituality, so that now, as a family, there are so many occasions to continue to make Loreto and its fruits a living reality.

Raffaella

Comings and goings – General House

September 2010 - February 2011

06 Sept.	Arrival of Fr. Arnold Suhardi from Indonesia (superior of the international scholasticate).
11 – 15 Sept.	Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani: Brussels (general bursar's office).
13 Sept.	Bro. Niko Narimo Usodo returned to Indonesia.
15 – 22 Sept.	Fr. Olivier Maire to Zagreb (canonical visit).
15 Sept.	Return of the Scholastics and Fr. Manuel Vieira.
23 Sept.	Return of Fr. General from Reggio Calabria.
26 Sept. 01 Oct.	Fr. Georges Mađore et Fr. Battista Cortinovis (preparation for the general chapter).
26 Sept.	Return of Fr. Mathieu Jenniskens from Eindhoven (retreat, pilgrimage, provincial chapter meeting).
09 – 18 Oct.	Fr. Mathieu Jenniskens to Brussels (Pilgrimage to Fatima).
10 – 25 Oct.	Fr. Olivier Maire: Southern Italy (canonical visit).
10 Oct. – 16 Dec.	Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani: Brazil (vacation, celebration of 25 years of priesthood).
10 – 23 Oct.	Fr. Adriano Dalle Pezze, Fr. Joseph Philor, Fr. Gerd Euteneuer: Haïti (Projects).
13 – 14 Oct.	Fr. Donald LaSalle: Cologne-Bonn (Assembly of the German Delegation).
14 – 17 Oct.	Fr. General: Brussels (visit to the Belgian Delegation).
17 – 28 Oct.	Fr. General: France (first session of the provincial chapter).
26 Oct. 04 Nov.	Fr. Donald: Philippines (assembly of the Philippine Delegation).
29 Oct. 01 Nov.	Fr. General: Zagreb (inauguration of the new house).
02 – 23 Nov.	Fr. General and Fr. Joseph Philor: Peru, Brazil and Argentina (meeting of Latin American formators and superiors).
04 – 12 Nov.	Bro. Gilles Paquette: Paris (meeting for RISL).
22 – 30 Nov.	Fr. Olivier Maire: India (provincial chapter).
13 Dec. 29 Jan.	Fr. Don: United States (liturgy conference and provincial chapter).
31 Dec. 16 Jan.	Fr. General: Canada (first session of the vice provincial chapter).
21 – 26 Jan.	Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani and Fr. Adriano Dalle Pezze: Lima (meeting of bursars from the south, French).
15 – 19 Feb.	Fr. Luiz Augusto Stefani and Fr. Adriano Dalle Pezze: Manila (meeting of bursars from the south, English).



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SR. CHANTAL RABIER, FDLS
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L' Écho Montfortain

Viale dei Monfortani, 65
00135 ROMA (Tel: +39 06.30.52.332)
[**echo.montfortain@gmail.com**](mailto:echo.montfortain@gmail.com)