

# Gabrielite News Bulletin

For Private Circulation Only



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## THANK YOU

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**Dear Readers,**

**Kindly send the News, Articles, Photos from your respective Provinces latest by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

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**The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be published in March 2025.**

- Bro. Louis Anthonyamy, SG  
Incharge of communication



## WHY HAS POPE FRANCIS CALLED FOR A JUBILEE IN 2025?

**O**n 11 February 2022, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Pope Francis issued this letter announcing the Jubilee of 2025:

The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church. Ever since 1300, when Boniface VIII instituted the first Holy Year – initially celebrated every hundred years, then, following its biblical precedent, every fifty years, and finally every twenty-five years – God’s holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas. Down the centuries, millions upon millions of pilgrims have journeyed to these sacred places, bearing living witness to the faith professed in every age.

The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 ushered the Church into the third millennium of her history. Saint John Paul II had long awaited and greatly looked forward to that event, in the hope that all Christians, putting behind their historical divisions, could celebrate together the two thousandth

anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity. Now, as the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable the Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness.

A significant step on this journey was already taken with the celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which allowed us to appreciate anew all the power and tenderness of the Father’s merciful love, in order to become, in our turn, its witnesses.

In the last two years, not a single country has been unaffected by the sudden outbreak of an epidemic that made us experience first-hand not only the tragedy of dying alone, but also the uncertainty and fleetingness of existence, and in doing so, has changed our very way of life. Together with all our brothers and sisters, we Christians endured those hardships and limitations. Our churches remained closed, as did our schools, factories, offices, shops, and venues for recreation. All of us saw certain freedoms curtailed, while the pandemic generated feelings not only of grief, but also, at times, of doubt, fear and disorientation. The scientific community quickly developed an initial remedy that is gradually permitting us to resume our daily lives. We are fully confident that the epidemic will be overcome and that the world will return to its



usual pattern of personal relationships and social life. This will happen more readily to the extent that we can demonstrate effective solidarity, so that our neighbours most in need will not be neglected, and that everyone can have access to scientific breakthroughs and the necessary medicines.

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity. Here I think in particular of the many refugees forced to abandon their native lands. May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. As the Bible teaches, "The sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food" (Lev 25:6-7).

The spiritual dimension of the Jubilee, which calls for conversion, should also embrace these fundamental aspects of our life in society as part of a coherent whole. In the realization that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep (cf. Gen 2:15), may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the coming Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too. Growing numbers of men and women, including many young people and children, have come to realize that care for creation is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will.

As is customary, the Bull of Indiction, to be issued in due course, will contain the necessary guidelines for celebrating the Jubilee of 2025. In this time of



preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it.

Prayer as the expression of a single "heart and soul" (cf. Acts 4:32), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread. Prayer that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart. Prayer as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity. In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God's grace and to make the "Our Father," the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples.

I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to accompany the Church on the journey of preparation for the grace-filled event of the Jubilee, and to you and your co-workers, with gratitude, I cordially send my Blessing.

Pope Francis Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 February 2022, Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes.

**Source: The Province News Letter (n°206), province of France.**





## SAN MICHELE AWARD, 2024 EDITION

**O**n September 29, 2024, the award San Michele (Saint Michael) was presented to five personalities who, more than others, have contributed to the prestige and development of the city of Vasto, through their Activities and work in the fields of culture, art, science, work, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

The ceremony took place at the Palazzo d'Avalos-Vasto, where the five were awarded the San Michele 2024, the prestigious award that for almost thirty years has been presented to those whose works have made the city great.

The event was organized, as usual, by the Cultural Association di San Michele, under the patronage of the municipal administration and in collaboration with Loredana Eventi. Those attending the ceremony paid special tribute to the founder of the Association and creator of the prize, the unforgettable Professor Elio Bitritto.

### Statues & Certificates were then awarded to:

- Dr Stefano Cieri, for his outstanding achievements in the field of sports journalism;



- The agronomist Filippo Menna, for his passionate and tireless work in the field of charity and voluntary work;
- Dr Mauro Sambrotta, in recognition of his distinguished career as a senior officer in the national police force;
- Professor Luigi Schips, in recognition of his high level of professionalism and competence in the scientific field;
- The Reverend Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, in recognition of his generous commitment to the youth of Vasto. The members of the cultural association took this opportunity to express their support to Bro. Dionigi in his new mission as the Superior General of the Brothers of St. Gabriel;



Bros. Dhanaraj, Michael Mathew and Mathai M. V. represented the community of the Generalate at this beautiful ceremony, which honored the commitment of our Superior General to the town of Vasto, where one of our communities has been established since 1951.



**Bro. Jean Marie Thior, SG  
Servus Lampadarius**



## VISIT OF M<sup>GR</sup> BRUNO FORTE



On Friday, October 4, 2024, the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, Mgr Bruno Forte, Archbishop of Chieti Vasto, Abruzzo, visited our Generalate and shared lunch with the community. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet this bishop, who is known, among other things, for his many writings.

His books represent an important theological contribution and have made him a well-known figure, particularly at international conferences and events. In keeping with the theologian's vision, they are grouped into three main areas: the symbolism of faith, the dialogue of love and the poetics of hope.

On the first theme, Mgr Bruno Forte dedicated several works on ecclesiastical symbolism. Faced with the rise of totalizing reason, he developed a philosophical, theological and even poetical approach to moving from the crisis of the self

as subject to welcoming the other. To do this, he referred to the greatest theologians and philosophers like: Heidegger, Bultmann, Rahner, Levinas and Mounier.

Bishop Bruno Forte took the opportunity of his visit to express his deep gratitude to Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, who for many years has spared no effort to contribute to the human, spiritual and intellectual growth of the youth of the Archdiocese of Chieti Vasto, Abruzzo.

**Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, SG  
Servus Lampadarius**





## WELCOME CEREMONY FOR BRO. SÉBASTIEN NDABUNGANIYE

The community of the Generalate officially welcomed Bro. Sébastien Ndabunganiye of the Province of East Africa, the new archivist, on Sunday, October 06, 2024. It was a simple ceremony during which the Superior General began by expressing his deep gratitude to Bro. Sébastien for his availability to provide this service to the Congregation.

Then, to encourage Bro. Sébastien in his new mission, the Superior General enumerated some of the qualities required of an archivist: a keen sense of organization, discretion and a sense of confidentiality, an interest in research, the ability to summarize, and a command of languages. Those who have worked with Bro. Sébastien recognize that he has these qualities and skills. Finally, he reminded Bro. Sébastien that the archivist plays a very important role in safeguarding the Congregation's patrimony.

The ceremony continued with an aperitif preceded by a message from the Vicar General, who encouraged Bro. Sébastien in his noble task of managing the 'darkroom' where he will have to sort, restore, classify and conserve. A guardian of memory!

He then wished a fruitful mission to Brother Sébastien, who will take up his post on 01st January, 2025, after a period of coaching by Bro. Bernard Guesdon.

A festive meal of culinary dexterity brought the event to an end.

**Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, SG**  
**Servus Lampadarius**







**T**his interview was done through specific questions given to Bro. Varghese Mandapathil, The Assistant General in charge of the Province of East Africa. From 01 to 18 November Bro. Varghese Mandapathil visited the communities of the Province of East Africa in Kenya and Tanzania. The interview was aimed at knowing the experience of Bro. Varghese's first visit to PEA and sharing the reality of the mission of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in these countries.

**How has your first visit to the Province of East Africa been so far? Any memorable moments you'd like to share?**

My maiden visit to the province of East Africa was a memorable experience. I am impressed by the 'Great African spirit' of brotherly bonds in the communities, vibrant spiritual culture, and the celebration of life and spirituality through music, art, and dance.

**What are your impressions of the Brothers' work and community life in this province?**

The Province of East Africa is a young and vibrant province with 40 Brothers with Temporary vows. Even the finally professed Brothers are comparatively very young. Most centres are in rural or semi-urban areas, reaching out to the less privileged. They are happy as a community and are focused on their mission in general.

**In your view, how is the mission of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel making a difference in the lives of the people here?**

The education mission and the Brothers' involvement in forming the student's character in the boardings, as most of the schools are residential in nature, is impacting the lives of the students in our institutions.



**What do you see as the major challenges faced by the Brothers in this province?**

Training and equipping the young Brothers to take up responsibility is one of the main challenges the Province is facing. It is also an opportunity to empower the young Brothers and prepare them for the future mission.

Another challenge is to make the communities self-sufficient financially. This will require that the Brothers work hard to impart quality education so that the number of students in the institutions increases substantially to make it financially viable.

**What words of encouragement would you give to the Brothers of East Africa to further enhance their mission?**

I appreciate the great missionary work being done in Tanzania and Kenya. I wish that they begin a few more 'Primary schools' that will help them to be financially self-sufficient. They also need to carefully monitor the existing schools to ensure that they improve the educational standards in these schools and attract more students so that the schools become financially viable.

**What new opportunities or areas of growth do you foresee for the Province of East Africa in the coming years?**

The Brothers are doing well in promoting vocations in the Province. There are a good number of candidates and first professions in the Province. They are doing well in taking care of the initial stages of formation. It is important to ensure quality over quantity in the initial stages of formation.

**How can the work being done here inspire or contribute to the global mission of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel?**

The Brothers in Tanzania and Kenya (I visited only these two countries) are trying their best to make the Montfortian Education Mission in these countries special and growth-oriented. They focus on Holistic child-centred education, which aligns with the Global education mission of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel.





## **CANONICAL VISIT OF BRO. DHANA RAJ, ASSISTANT GENERAL, TO MONTFORT SCHOOL, SATHYAMANGALAM.**

On 05<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Bro. Dhana Raj, Assistant General, accompanied by Bro. George Padikkara, Provincial Superior of the Bengaluru Province, made their canonical visit to Montfort School, Sathymangalam.

A special assembly was organised in honour of the major superiors, during which they delivered an inspiring message to the students. Bro. Dhana Raj subsequently addressed the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard students preparing for their board examinations. He motivated them with four key takeaways: hard work, sacrifice, perseverance, and focus.

During his visit, Bro. Dhana Raj also inspected the classrooms and engaged in a staff meeting, encouraging the teachers to demonstrate greater commitment and unity in their service as educators. He also met the Brothers of the community individually.

The visit was a valuable opportunity for the school community to receive guidance and inspiration from the major superiors.

### **Bro. Sebastian Antonysamy, SG**





## ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY OF THAILAND (AU) EXECUTIVE TEAM HOLDS STRATEGIC MEETING IN ROME

A delegation of professors from Assumption University, Thailand, led by Bro. Sirichai Fonseka, SG was on an academic tour in France. The group visited several universities to foster academic collaboration.

The visiting delegation, comprised of Bro. Sirichai Fonseka and five professors were in the Generalate of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. They met Rev. Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, the Superior General and Bro. Jean Marie-Thior, the Assistant General. The primary objective of the visit was to explore the possibilities for collaboration between the Central Administration and Assumption University (ABAC), including a proposal to send Master's degree students for one-week academic excursions in Rome, this excursion will combine academic sessions with cultural immersion.



### Bro. Louis Anthonymsamy, SG





## "Enriching Lives Through Mindfulness, Connectivity, and Transformative Teaching: Lessons from Bro. Susairaj"

Everyone you meet has something to teach you'. This is very true with the person of Bro. Susairaj, who, through his seminar, taught us many valuable things for our personal lives as well as our lives as a teacher. The topics he dealt with were very enriching and inspiring.

**Connectivity:** All of us are interconnected and part of each other. Connectivity is a necessity in a classroom as we can improve the learning capacity and build up confidence and self-esteem by being connected to the students, valuing their values, learning, and recognising and developing their skills and talents. We need to liberate, transform and empower them for a better future.



**Mindfulness:** It is a window to God. We need to celebrate the Divine, the Sacredness within us, around us and in all our activities by mindfulness. We must not destroy it by our ego and selfishness.

### **Mindfulness helps us to:**

- to create a way to stop and go
- to do everything in the presence of God
- to affirm that Divine power and self-effort can work miracles in our lives and in the lives of the students.
- To activate the SIM-Self Internal Mentor and bring about change in me, as I am the only person who can change me.



**The exercises to keep us mindful are very easy to practise:**

**Walking:** Helps to have connectivity with the earth and nature

**Breathing:** It is life-giving and healing

**Gardening:** It enables co-creative relationship

Cooking with love: Food can heal us and bind us together in loving friendship

**Cleaning:** It purifies us, the surroundings and our mind

**Simplicity:** It leads us to be simple in our thoughts, words and deeds

Contemplative Prayer: One who is deeply rooted in the Love of God can free himself/herself from fear, anxiety and guilt

**Death:** The Sufis say, 'Nothing is possible in love without death'. Every day, something in us dies, and there is rebirth and renewal. Nature is eternally young because she is always dying.

**Seeds:** The seeds are a metaphor for the hidden potential in us and the students. We should nurture them through consistent self-motivated effort, care and patience.

**Breathing:** In the hustle and bustle of modern life most of the time one is drawn to stress. Conscious breathing exercises facilitate spiritual connection, healing and inner peace. It harmonizes the mind and body and can treasure breath as a divine gift of life. One is led to relaxation, inner freedom, and to be one's best. Breathing exercises and mindfulness are of great help to focus on, as there are situations in our day-to-day life that make us tensed, and we project it in our class and into our teaching. Practising these two things can keep us calm and quiet.

The only way to do a great job is to love what we do. We need to put more love into our teaching and in our relationship with our students. With a Personal Passionate Presence we can make our teaching more effective, interesting and inspiring. A teacher is a transforming presence. The aim of education is to enable students to understand the world around them and the talents within them so that they can become fulfilled individuals and active, compassionate citizens.

Personalities: The topic of personality was an eye-opener for all of us.

**Tips to improve student-teacher relationship**

- Affirm and validate
- Reassure them about social situations
- Suggest a new classroom design
- Encourage class participation
- Build in alone time
- Invite their friends over
- Give them a wait time

We appreciate the way he presented the various topics with so much enthusiasm, focusing on us, and making sure that all of us followed the sessions with full attention.

We Thank Bro. Soosairaj for spending his precious days with us. God bless him. We also thank Bro. Maria Pragasam for availing Bro. Soosairaj to be with us and all the other Brothers for their goodwill and cooperation.

**Sr. Elsa, Mission Superior of Jaffna (St. Joseph's of cluny).**





**Welcome and Congratulations Dr. Sumith P.**

**W**elcome and Congratulations Dr. Sumith P. for being elected as the President of the Confederation of the Alumni Association of St. Gabriel's Foundation. The welcome party to congratulate the new President was held at the Lord Jim Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Friday, June 28.



**77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Montfort's Canonization**

**O**n Saturday, 20 July 2024, at Provincial Center, Soi Thong Loh, many of our Brothers, Priests and Montfort Associate members attended a Holy Mass to celebrate the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Montfort's Canonization by Pope Pius XII and at the same time we took this opportunity to wish Rev. Brother Michael Ludovico Tinnarat for his 60th anniversary of his first Vows Profession and the 50th Anniversary of his Priesthood Ordination.

We thank Brother Tinnarat for his wonderful work in all areas of our missions. He also did much for the Catholic Church in Thailand for many years. May God grant you all the necessary graces you need, and may you have good health and a long and happy stay with us for the years to come.



## Scholarships to employees' children



On July 26, the Saint Gabriel's Administrators gave 32 Scholarships to employees' children on the occasion of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Anniversary of King Rama 10 at St. Mary Building, St. Gabriel's College, Bangkok, witnessed by the co-administrators and parents.

## Feast Day of Our Lady of Assumption



On August 15, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Assumption, Assumption University celebrated its patron feast, but this year it was special. The University Administrators organised the Installation Ceremony for the new President of the University. Rev. Brother Dr. Gabriel Sirichai Fonseka, replacing Rev. Brother Dr Albert Lawrence Bancha Saenghiran who was in this

position for many years and already completed the term as specified by the rules of the duration of the presidentialship. The ceremony was inside the Chapel of St Montfort, witnessed by Brother Peter Dechachai Sripicharn, the provincial superior, the members of the University Council, Brothers, Faculty members, Alumni and students.



The University Council President Chairman, that is, Brother Provincial , read the appointment document of approval by the Provincial Council and the University Council members. Then, the new President read the Oath of Office, followed by the speech by the new President, the Presidential gown was placed on the President by the Provincial, and the document of his appointment was handed to the new President .

We wish that the new President will successfully accomplish his leading role as the Good Shepherd,





leading his sheep to a desired destination, fulfilling the University 3E's Identities, and more and more students will be attracted to Assumption University.

After the Installation Ceremony, there was the Crowning ceremony of Our Lady of the Seat of Wisdom by the new President and all of us prayed to our Lady of Thailand the prayer of dedication, under her care. The day ended with a Chinese dinner for all who attended the events.



**- Bro. Achin Tengtrakul, SG  
St. Gabriel' College.**





### Annual Retreats



This year's annual retreats were held at the provincial house in September and October. The first retreat was from 26 September to 1 October. Twenty-three Brothers attended the first retreat, while Twenty Brothers were in attendance for the second retreat.



**“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary”.**

On the occasion of National Library Day on 12th August, the school hosted an exciting 'Book Fair' that transformed the campus into a heaven for book lovers. The event was organized to promote among students the joy of reading. The fair featured a wide array of books spanning various genres, including fiction, non-fiction, Children's Literature, etc. Elite Books Publishers set up colourful stalls, which attracted students, teachers and even parents.

### MCDS – PALLAVARAM, CHENNAI

#### Community Based Rehabilitation:

Each of the four community-based rehabilitation Centers, located in Srinivasapuram, Perumbakkam, Kannagi Nagar and Chemmencherry, had its usual activities going on, such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy, training in practical skills, Weekly house visits by the trainers to the client's houses and monthly parents' meetings.

Independence Day celebrations were held at Srinivasapuram, Kannagi Nagar and Chemmencherry. Our special children and youth actively participated in the function, which was held in full public view with guests from all walks of life.



## Montfort School (CBSE) Theresapuram Recognized for Excellence in Technology Integration

Montfort School has been honoured with the prestigious Eldrok India K-12 Award for excellence in integrating technology into education. The award recognises the outstanding leadership of Bro. Antony samy, the school's Principal, whose vision and dedication have propelled the institution to new heights. This achievement highlights the school's commitment to innovation and quality education.

## Montfort Counselling & Educational Services (MCES)

Chennai, October 2024 – Mobile phone addiction is emerging as a significant concern among Indian adolescents, with alarming rates of excessive screen time and overdependence on devices. In response to this growing issue, Montfort Counselling & Educational Services (MCES), under the initiative of Bro. P.J. George, has been at the forefront of efforts to prevent mobile phone addiction among students. Since August 2022, MCES has been conducting school-based psycho-education seminars aimed at creating awareness and providing tools to combat this pervasive problem. So far, over 22,000 students from 70 schools across 16 States have participated in these impactful seminars.



## MONTFORT SCHOOL – CBSE, D.G.PUDUR



### TEACHERS' SEMINAR

**"Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together."**

The Sahodaya Movement launched by the CBSE is a coming together of like-minded heads of educational institutions and teachers with a consistent desire and will to make the educative process an enriching, expanding and lifelong process for the child. KSSC Seminar was organized



by Spectrum Life School, Namakkal on 31st August 2024. Mentors of Montfort School participated to enhance their teaching skills. The teachers were segregated department-wise. In each department, they discussed question paper settings, curriculum, practicals, evaluation, key topics in subjects, topic-wise questions of importance and the weightage of the questions/topics. They also discussed CBSE instructions for internal, theory and practical examinations.



**LAMOS'24**  
**Lake Montfort School:**

Under the azure canopy of a crisp morning sky, Lake Montfort School, unfolded its much-awaited Annual Spectacle of athleticism and camaraderie, celebrating its 27th ANNUAL SCHOOL SPORTS DAY, on 12 July 2024. The day commenced with a dignified procession with the School Band marching forward ESCORTING our esteemed Chief Guests, Special Guests, Brothers of the Community and the Helm of Affairs whose presence is a testament to the honour and prestige of this cherished tradition along with the School Pupil Leader and the Assistant School Pupil Leader.

The air resonated with a soul-stirring PRAYER SONG, a harmonious prelude to mark the vibrant start of the event. It was followed by a WELCOME DANCE by the students. The WELCOME ADDRESS was an extend of gracious welcome to the Chief Guest Shri. R. SHIVAKUMAR, EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR, Special Guests, Mrs. Philipe and Mrs. Vinutha from France, followed by FELICITATION by the Director and Principal, Bro. Jenny Kuriakose.

The grandeur of the day started with the rolling of the drumbeats, synchronized swing of arms and the sound of thudding feet: the spectacular MARCH PAST, a sight to behold, as contingents representing the four houses paraded with discipline and pride. Swearing to the OATH was to live up to the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the honour of the school and the glory of sports. The symbolic passing of the OLYMPIC TORCH, carried by the young athletes with unwavering

determination, ignited the flames of aspiration in every heart.

As the sun began its descent, THE CLOSING CEREMONY embraced us with a profound sense of achievement and unity. Trophies gleamed under the sun's golden rays, honouring those who had conquered the challenges of the day with grit and grace. MONTFORT HOUSE emerged victorious followed up by FATIMA HOUSE as the runners up.

In the twilight's embrace, memories lingered, a mosaic of moments where friendships were forged, limits were pushed, and spirits soared, we concluded another chapter in the annals of Lake Montfort School's legacy, a testament to our commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but also the holistic development of our students. With hearts brimming with pride, we look forward to the next chapter of triumph and unity at our school.

**Retreat for Catholic Students:**



" You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart, declares the Lord." -Jeremiah 29:13-14

Disclaled Carmelites which offered a reunion with God that rendered us to experience His grace and compassion.

Retreats are an inner calling to step away from one's routine and to reconnect with God. On 31August 2024, Lake Montfort School organised its yearly Spiritual Retreat at the School Chapel for the catholic students. The Retreat was guided by Rev. Fr. Ivan Leo Sanctis, a priest from the Order of

The spiritual journey was a blissful opportunity that deepened the students to know Jesus better and strengthened their faith. It was a day that brought students and staff together in a unified commitment to faith and spiritual growth.

## EUREKA QUIZ COMPETITION:



**"In every competition, there are no winners or losers, only learners."**

students, Gayathiri M. and Benedict A. of class 10 participated in the final round of the competition, which was held on September 14, 2024, at Little Flower School, Hyderabad. It was an enriching experience for the students, offering valuable insights and opportunities for growth.

On September 4, 2024, Montfort School, Sathyamangalam, participated in the fourth EUREKA QUIZ COMPETITION 2024, organised by the All-India Association of Montfort Schools. Two

## MONTFORT SCHOOL – BELAGOLA

### Blessing ceremony of Boy's Hostel Bedroom –Belagol

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, will be remembered in the memories of MSD forever! The students and staff were thrilled to mark a new milestone. The MSD boys' hostel was expanded with the addition of a new bedroom, blessed by Rev. Fr. Vincent Fernandez, Parish Priest of Hulikere, and ceremonially inaugurated by Rev. Bro. John Berchmans, who cut the ribbon and declared it open.





**“Live news teaches you some incredibly strong lessons: that every day is a new day, and it's never too late to fix something.”** Nancy Dubuc.

It is my privilege to pen down a few important activities that occurred in Loyola campus during the month of September.

The “Hindi Day” was celebrated on 2nd September, 2024, a special occasion that reminds us of the beauty and significance of our national language, Hindi.

The students, with the help of their teachers, put up a beautiful programme to mark the day's importance. They reminded the students that Hindi is not just a language; it's a bridge that connects us to our culture, history, and each other. It is one of the most spoken languages in the world, and it reflects the rich traditions and values of our country. India is a diverse country with many languages and cultures. Hindi Day encourages us to respect and appreciate this diversity while promoting unity. It teaches us that while we may speak different languages, we can still come together as one nation. The Principal, in his closing address, inspired the students, saying

that language is a powerful tool that connects us to our roots. Through Hindi, we have access to an incredible wealth of poetry, stories, and songs that have shaped our society.

On September 5th, our school celebrated Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm and reverence, honouring the dedicated educators who shape the students' future. The event was organised by the students, showcasing their gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable contributions of our teachers. The celebration kicked off in two slots with a vibrant cultural program, led by the students with the help of their teachers. The auditorium was adorned with colourful decorations and a banner that read, "Thank You, Teachers!" As the students took to the stage, the atmosphere buzzed with excitement.



The program featured a series of delightful performances. Students presented heartfelt speeches, expressing their admiration for their teachers' hard work and dedication. This was followed by captivating dance performances, melodious singing, and a skit that artistically depicted the daily life of a teacher, leaving the audience in splits.

Our esteemed Principal and Vice-principal addressed the gathering, thanking the teachers for their relentless efforts and commitment to nurturing young minds. They emphasized the importance of their role in building a strong foundation for the future and encouraged students to show respect and appreciation not just on Teachers' Day, but every day.



As a token of appreciation, each teacher received a gift from Rev. Bro. John Herman Ekka, the Secretary of Loyola School. The joy on their faces was a testament to the deep respect and love we hold for educators. The event concluded with a refreshing South Indian refreshment break, where the teachers mingled and munched, sharing smiles and laughter. The celebration was a wonderful reminder of the bond between teachers and the management. A bond built on trust, respect, and shared aspirations.

On September 7th, the Patliputra Sahodaya School Complex organized a glittering teachers' award function on the Loyola campus. The

educational community gathered at the elegant school auditorium for the much-anticipated Teachers' Award Function, an evening dedicated to honouring the remarkable contributions of educators who inspire, empower, and transform lives. This splendid event brought together the CBSE Regional Officer, teachers, administrators, and dignitaries from various schools, creating an atmosphere of celebration and gratitude.



On September 14th and 16th, the Conference Hall buzzed with enthusiasm as teachers gathered for a groundbreaking Teachers' Workshop conducted by Rev. Bro. Thomas Selvam, Principal and Local Superior of St. Antony's Hr. Sec. School, Coonor.

The two-day seminar aimed to equip teachers with modern pedagogical tools and techniques, fostering a collaborative environment for professional development. As the seminar wrapped up, attendees left with renewed motivation and a treasure trove of resources to inspire their teaching. The success of this workshop underscores the importance of continuous professional development in nurturing exceptional educators who shape the minds of tomorrow.





## LOYOLA MONTESSORI SCHOOL – PATNA

**Celebrating Blue:** A Day of Creativity and Learning  
On 27th September 2024, Loyola Montessori School, Patna, celebrated Blue Colour Day to promote awareness of colours and foster creativity among students.

The celebration featured various engaging activities, including:

1. Dress Code: Students were encouraged to wear blue attire, creating a vibrant atmosphere throughout the school.
2. Colouring Activity: Each student received a colouring sheet featuring a picture of a whale. This activity not only allowed students to express their creativity but also educated them about marine life and the significance of the colour blue.

### Teachers' Day Celebration

On Teachers' Day, our school celebrated with a special tribute to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, honouring his educational contributions. The event began with a floral tribute, where students and



staff laid flowers at a portrait of Dr. Radhakrishnan. This was followed by a symbolic candle-lighting ceremony to reflect the enlightenment and guidance provided by teachers. Students performed songs and readings expressing their appreciation. The celebration concluded with heartfelt thanks to all educators for the dedication and impact.

### Assessment and Engagement Report: September 2024



The first assessment for the academic year was conducted in September 2024, evaluating student performance across key subjects. A Parent-Teacher Meeting was held on September 28, 2024.

The meeting facilitated discussions on student progress and strategies for support at home. Continued collaboration between parents and teachers is essential for enhancing student outcomes.

**Bro. Barnabas Minj, SG**





The MONTFEST 2024, themed "Environment Sustainability in the Digital Age," aimed to provide a platform for the students to express their creativity, foster cross-school collaboration, and enhance their cultural awareness in tune with the theme of the event. The event exhibited participation of more than 400 students from 13 schools, and the performances and competitions were met with widespread appreciation from all attendees. The event was organized by St. Aloysius School, Ranchi on 26th and 27th October, 2024.

creativity in students and the role of cultural events in their holistic development. A special musical performance by the host school added a touch of vibrancy to the ceremony, setting the tone for the rest of the festival.

The festival featured a wide range of literary and cultural competitions, designed to challenge and engage students at multiple levels. A total of 13 events were conducted over the course of two days based on the theme of the fest. These included:



The festival was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Bro. Herman Bijay Lakra, the Provincial Superior of Ranchi Province. The inaugural ceremony began with a traditional welcome dance performed by students of the host school, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the importance of nurturing

**a. Literary Competitions**

Debate, Story Telling, Extempore, Drawing & Painting, Collage Making, Elocution.

**b. Cultural Competitions**

Group Dance, Solo Dance, Group Song, Solo Singing, Skit, Mime, Mono Act.





A total of 13 schools participated in the festival, with over 400 students competing in the various events. The competitions were well-attended by teachers, parents, and students, as well as members of the local community. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation throughout the festival.

The judging panel for the competitions comprised esteemed personalities from various fields, including literature, performing arts, and visual arts. These experts evaluated the participants based on criteria such as creativity, presentation, technical skill, and originality. The judges were highly impressed with the level of talent and dedication displayed by the students.

The valedictory function on 27th of October was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, the Provincial Superior in the presence of the large gathering of the Brothers, Fathers, Sisters, special invitees, participants, teachers, parents etc. The non-competitive performances during the valedictory function added an extra layer of entertainment to the event as it blended with the local flavour.

At the closing ceremony, the winners of each event were announced, and awards were distributed by the Chief Guest, Head masters and Principals of various schools and other eminent invitees.



In a dazzling display of creativity and intellect, the Montfest 2024 culminated in an unforgettable finale. Schools from across the Province gathered to showcase their talents, but it was the champions who truly stole the spotlight. With a remarkable blend of eloquence and artistic flair, St. Montfort School, Kolkata triumphed over fierce competition, earning the prestigious title through their captivating performances and insightful presentations.



The Montfest provided a platform for the students from different schools and cultural backgrounds to come together and share their talents. The diversity of performances, ranging from traditional folk dances to modern spoken word poetry, highlighted the richness of cultural expression.



Claiming the 1st runner-up position: St. Aloysius School, Ranchi demonstrated remarkable skill and passion. Their contributions, ranging from thought-provoking debates to stunning artistic expressions, resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a lasting impression that highlighted their commitment to excellence.

Not far behind, the 2nd runner-up: Loyola School, Patna also shone brightly in this vibrant celebration of culture and literature. Their creative interpretations and spirited participation added to the richness of the event, proving that talent knows no bounds.

This competition was more than just a contest; it was a testament to the power of words and the arts to inspire and connect. As the champions bask in their well-deserved glory, the runners-up remain motivated, ready to rise and shine even brighter in future endeavors.

The awards were presented in recognition of the hard work, creativity, and talent demonstrated by the participants. The fest fostered a spirit of healthy competition, with students from different schools

congratulating one another on their achievements. The feedback received from both participants and guests was overwhelmingly positive. The participants commended the organization of the programme and the high standard of competitions and arrangements. The judging panel also lauded the quality of the performances and highlighted the importance of nurturing such talents.

The Montfort Literary and Cultural Festival (MONTFEST 2024) was a resounding success, fulfilling its objectives of fostering creativity, cultural exchange, and friendly competition among students. The event provided a rich and immersive experience for all involved, encouraging students to develop their talents and embrace cultural diversity.

The organizing committee, Brothers from St. Aloysius Community, staff, and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the festival ran smoothly, and their efforts were greatly appreciated by participants and attendees alike. Congratulations to all the organizers for the wonderful show. The festival has truly set a benchmark for literary and cultural events in our schools.

- **Bro. Johnson V. George, SG**



# MONTFORT SCHOOL AND MVD, RANCHI



**O**n the 5th of September, our school celebrated Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm and reverence to honour the hard work and dedication of our teachers. The event took place in the school assembly ground, which the students beautifully decorated to mark the occasion.

The program began at 9:00 AM with the welcoming of our respected Principal, Vice-Principal, and all the teachers. The Head Girl and Head Boy of the school delivered a heartfelt speech, expressing gratitude on behalf of all students for the tireless efforts made by the teaching staff.

**Cultural Performances:** The celebration was filled with various cultural performances put together by students from different grades. It began with a melodious welcome song performed by the school choir, followed by a classical dance performance that left the audience spellbound. Students also

enacted a short skit bringing smiles and laughter to everyone present.

**Speech by Mr. Ashwini:** Addressed the gathering, emphasising the significance of Teachers' Day, celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a distinguished teacher and the second President of India. Sir highlighted the vital role that teachers play in shaping the future of students and encouraged both students and staff to continue working together to maintain a conducive learning environment.

**Games and Interaction:** To lighten the mood, some fun games were organised for the teachers, such as a balloon-breaking and filling water bottle competition. The friendly competition between the teachers was met with enthusiastic cheers from the students. This segment allowed both students and teachers to interact in a more informal and fun setting, strengthening the bond between them.



Vote of Thanks: The event concluded with a vote of thanks from the School Captain, who expressed sincere appreciation to all the teachers for their dedication, patience, and guidance. The event wrapped up at 12:00 PM with the distribution of refreshments and a common dance.

Overall, the Teachers' Day celebration was a memorable and successful event, reflecting the deep respect and gratitude students have for their teachers. It served as a wonderful reminder of the essential role teacher's play in nurturing young minds and building a brighter future.

Candidates also joined the Teachers Day celebration at school to learn and enjoy the performances by little ones; they also wished brothers in the evening with songs to mark the Teachers Day celebration. "The choir begins with a soft, soothing tune, reflecting the warmth and respect we feel for our teachers. To convey their deepest thanks for our tireless efforts, patience, and commitment. Notice how each word is filled with admiration for our role in shaping their futures."

As the weather is cool and pleasant and the lawn welcomes us for open-air meditation, we have yoga on our lawn once a week.

Students from Konbir Naotoli were here after their tireless journey from Bhurgoonda after their Kabadi match on the 14th of September. We had a common birthday celebration for candidates to enrich and inspire them to know their worth of being a Brother and the gift of life. The month

came to an end with lots of tests and fun filled experiences.

Overall, September was a month that symbolized change, renewal, learning and reflection, with significant cultural, environmental, and historical relevance around the world.

**Bro. Berchmans Toppo, SG**





## MONTFORTIAN GABRIELITE ASSOCIATES, CHABUA

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller**

The MGA Charter calls us to transform humanity into a fraternal community of God's children, embodying the vision of Vasudeva Kudumbakam (the universal family of God). On September 23, 2024, the associates from Montfort Chabua, North-East India Province, embraced this mission by visiting 'The House of the Destitutes in Tinsukia.

A dedicated team of 31 compassionate individuals, including five staff members and 26 students, united in their commitment to stand with those marginalised by society, fulfilling the call to be present with the poor. A generous contribution of rations and assorted snacks from the staff and the students of classes II to XII were given to the residents, significantly alleviating the daily struggles of the home's inhabitants.

This visit transcended mere charity; it became a transformative experience for the students. One

student shared, "This visit opened my eyes to the struggles others face. I realised how blessed I am and the importance of sharing what I have." Another reflected, "Life can be brutal for so many!"

As they interacted with the inmates, the students witnessed the harsh realities of abandonment due to neglect, illness, disabilities, and psychological trauma. This exposure nurtured empathy, kindness, and a deeper sense of social responsibility.

Bro. T. J. Jose arranged transportation for the goods. Special thanks to Ms Maria, Mr Javed, Mr Deeptanil, and Ms Dikshita for their financial support. Sincere gratitude goes to Mr Francis, Mr Jacob, Mr Christopher, Ms Bharati, and Mr Kanak for guiding and assisting the students during this meaningful journey. May Saint Montfort inspire us all to bring about positive change in our society!

**Bro. Jose Thekkedam, SG**



# MONTFORT CENTRE FOR EDUCATION MONTFORT INNOVATION TIME - 2024



The D-Day dawned on Saturday, 7th September 2024, and the nearly 300 young boys and girls of Montfort Schools at Abhayapuri, Guwahati, Jonglapara, Bolchugre and Tura, gathered at Montfort Centre for Education, Tura. The eager eyes and the friendly interactions had a tale to tell, a story of friendship and joyful exchanges.

Montfort Innovation Time, as the expression suggests, is a gathering of Class VIII students of a few Montfort Schools for a One-day session on Innovation, Creativity, Communication, Team Work etc.

The day began with a short Campus Visit, which started at the tomb of the late Bro Thomas More, the Founder of Montfort Centre. We invoked the Blessings of God on everyone present through the intercession of Saint Thomas More.

The participants were happy to see the many facilities available for the education of the disabled and the commitment of the Brothers & staff towards their well-being.



At 8.30 a.m., a formal inauguration of the programme was held.





Soon, all the participants were divided into six new groups with boys and girls from every school. This facilitated the interaction, and the competitions began among the groups newly christened as Montfort Idols, Montfort Stars, Montfort Icons, Montfort Knights, Montfort Eagles and Montfort Legends.

The action then moved to the vast playfield where several activities like Fun with Words, Catch Me if You Can, Passing the Ring etc. were held. The competitions brought in a lot of planning, teamwork and friendly interactions, and the team spirit had a ring of passion and cooperation.

The Prizes at the Closing ceremony and the variety of combinations for the photo session had a tale of its own. Saying goodbye seemed difficult for quite a few students. It was not strange to see a silent sob, a tear as the curtain came down on M. I. T 2024.

The efforts of the Organizing team led by Bro Devid Tirkey, Tyngshain Nongsiej and Anand Kumar need special mention. The meticulous planning and the able support of the community made the event a memorable one. The presence of the Brothers & the staff who accompanied them added to the smooth conduct of the programme. All is well that ends well. Hats off to everyone

**Bro. P. J. Philip, SG**





# A Montfortian Outreach Programme Tripura, India



**M**ontfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of North East India, with an aim of alleviating the suffering of the poor, the needy and the marginalized, financed an outreach programme in the village of Gandatwisa in Tripura, through Montfort School Community at Champaknagar. On 19th November, 2024 three members of the staff from Montfort Hr. Sec. School, Champaknagar, Bro. Polycary Mashli, Mrs. Ibarilang Iacais and Mr. John Jadurai, (who are also Montfort Gabrielite Associates) accompanied by Fr. Amalraj, the Parish Priest of Gandatwisa, Fr. Praveen, the Principal of St. Arnold School and Bro. Rajesh set out to the villages of Gandatwisa, Hati Matha and Nairwho. They distributed three hundred and sixty warm blankets to the people who were affected by the recent floods in those villages and carried forward the charism of the Montfortian legacy.

The villagers expressed their gratefulness to the Institute of the Brothers of St. Gabriel Society, Province of North East India and the Brothers of Montfort School Community at Champaknagar for initiating and financing this outreach programme aimed at alleviating their suffering they endured due to the unexpected floods.

**Bro. K. J. Jose, SG**





## MEETING OF BROTHERS, ASSOCIATES AND COLLABORATORS

On 12 and 13 October, a total of 44 Brothers, associates and collaborators from the Province of Spain met at the House of Spirituality of the Religious Sisters Angelicas in Zaragoza to present the proceedings of the XXXIII General Chapter of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, which was held from 3 April to 1 May at the Generalate in Rome.

The assembly asked for the assistance of the Holy Spirit with the song *Veni Sancte Spiritus* and then our Provincial, Bro. Genaro Fresno, first explained to us what a General Chapter was, its development and its meaning for the Congregation; and then he focused on the theme and motto of this XXXIII General Chapter.

For the explanation of the theme, THE MONFORTIAN PROPHETIC PRESENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY and the motto, LISTENING AND ACTING WITH AUDACITY, Brother Provincial made use of the seven grouped signs that appeared in the logo, which define the spirit in which the Chapter wanted to work, and which also define the horizon of the religious Institute beyond the Chapter.

After this explanation, he introduced us to the new Central Administration that had been elected to animate and guide the Congregation for the next

six years and to face the challenges ahead.

The Bro. Provincial then showed us the minutes of the Chapter, where priorities and strategies, grouped into four themes, were agreed upon by the capitulant Brothers to be prophetic witnesses of our time.

We made a selection of priorities and strategies applicable to the Mission that we share. Following that selection, we prioritized some of them; and Brothers, associates and collaborators worked as a group on concrete actions to implement them. Finally, we met again in assembly to discuss them together.

To the intense and exciting work sessions we added moments of conviviality. The days of the meeting coincided with the celebration of the 'Feast of Our Lady of Pillar of Saragossa', which commemorates the apparition of the Virgin Mary to the apostle James the Great - around the year 40 AD -, whom she encouraged to continue preaching in that place. This is the first apparition of the Virgin while she was still alive in Jerusalem. We visited the Basilica and enjoyed the offering of flowers to Our Lady of the Pilar, as well as the singing and dancing of the Aragon people and devotees of the Virgin.

Another of the best moments was the celebration of the Eucharist, presided by Brother Ángel Llana Obeso, with a very Montfortian theme: Divine Wisdom. We all participated with the readings and the songs and some associates and collaborators from Madrid even staged the reading of the Gospel of the Rich Young Man.

The meeting satisfied everyone and this was expressed in the faces, gestures and words of all those present. We will continue with enthusiasm to make Montfortian prophetic presence a reality in the 21st century.

**MCG Formation Team  
Province of Spain**



# Montfort School, Thindivanam

## Motivational Seminar Programme for Grades-X, XI, XII



On July 4, 2024, students from Grades X, XI, and XII participated in a motivational seminar. Dr. Sultan Ahamed Ismail, a distinguished resource person and teacher specialising in soil biology and ecology, inspired the students with his talk on "Will To Win: Inspiration without Perspiration is Frustration."

Following this, Mrs. Kavitha Dhanraj, a professor and clinical psychologist from Chennai, engaged the students in discussions about the mental health and well-being of adolescents, addressing the challenges of teenage life. It was a truly enriching opportunity for senior students to enhance their current lives and to focus on their dreams and goals.

## Educational Development Day

Our former Chief Minister Kamaraj's birthday is celebrated every year on July 15th as Educational Development Day. The students of class XI-A1 conducted the class assembly on the topic "Importance of Education." They enacted a skit that illustrated his life journey. The students delivered a remarkable speech on Kamaraj.



## Annual Sports Day



The 31st Annual Sports Meet was held on July 19th, 2024, in our school arena.

The Chief Guest of the day was Dr. C. Sylendra Babu IPS (Retd.), former DGP and Head of the Police Force.

The chief guest gave an inspiring and interactive speech to the students and also presented his books to those who answered his questions. He stressed the importance of giving priority to sports and games. He greatly appreciated the students who participated in the March Past and congratulated the Master of Ceremony students who led the events.

The event started with a prayer song. The students executed the March Past with great elegance. Our students exhibited their talents through an array of performances, including Yoga, Pyramid, Aerobics, a mesmerizing Mass Drill, and a Finale on nurturing human relationships and respect.



# Montfort School, Chengalpattu

Our school Scouts and Junior Red Cross (JRC) students, participated in the rally organized by LIONS CLUB on 1ST of JULY focusing on the theme “No Drugs”. This rally aimed to raise awareness about the danger of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the students. The participants carried banners and chanted slogans, spreading the message of staying away from drugs and leading a positive life. This event highlighted our commitment to foster a safe and healthy environment for all students.



# Montfort Academy, Mylapore Chennai



**11th July 2024**  
**Reading Skill Enkindled.....**  
**A Library on Campus**



An alumni of our school Mr.Santhosh is a young entrepreneur who is zealous on resurrecting the reading skills which were lost during the Covid pandemic in the student community. He explained to the students the importance of books and encouraged them to read books & procure the same in a stall which will serve as the greatest asset.

The students were very excited to view all the books

ranging from dictionary, encyclopaedias, comic books, literary works of Shakespeare, on positive thinking from Robin Sharma , Malgudi days and the list is endless. Many ardent students also purchased the same.

**12th July 2024**  
Generosity Abounds.... Alumni at work The Alumni of our Institution generously contributed to the School fees of deserving students. Our Principal, Rev.Bro.Martin, gladly accepted this gesture of our Alumni members who handed over the cheque to the parents. Long live the Montfortian Alumni Association.



## St. Francis', Bhopal

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder, let us kindle the flames of hope, peace and joy in our hearts. May this be a time of enlightenment and dispelling darkness from our hearts and minds! Let us embrace the spirit of Christ and continue to live a life of joy, hope, peace, kindness and love.

### Children's Day Celebration:

On 14th of November, our school celebrated children's day. This event was marked by a cultural program and inspirational messages by the staff through singing, dancing and drama performances much to the amusement of the students.

### Visit of Vicar General, Rev. Bro. Pratap Reddy:

On 27th November we the family of St. Francis' School, was overjoyed and filled with excitement as we welcomed our Vicar General, Rev. Bro. Pratap Reddy along with Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior on a special visit to our school. During the visit Vicar General interacted with students, and the members of the staff. In his address he mentioned about the progress of the students and the institution. The Vicar General was very happy to see our relationship with the local Priests and Religious as we had come together in the evening as one family.

### Parent Teacher Meeting:

The school conducted the PTM on 5th of December. This meeting offered both teachers and parents to provide detailed feedback on children's

performance, academic achievements, and areas that require additional attention.

### Speech Competition:

On 8th of December the speech competition was conducted for the classes of 6th to 8th on the topic, 'Cyber Crime'. All the participants articulated with confidence their views and ideas on cybercrime.

**Exams:** As Albert Einstein once said, "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." On 9th December Pre-board examination of classes 10th and 12th and the 2nd Unit Test for other classes commenced. Examination is part of every student's life. It helps them to develop knowledge and insights.

**Christmas Celebration:** On 23rd of December we celebrated Christmas with the students and teachers. Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality. Christmas is the melody of love and the New Year is the symphony of hope.

Together, they compose the beautiful music of a life well-lived. May the spirit of Christmas bring peace to your heart, joy to your soul, and love to your life and may the New Year be a journey of growth and happiness! We are sending you all prayerful wishes or a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!



## Celebrating The 2024 World Cleanup Day September 20, 2024

Students from Saint Montfort secondary school didn't miss out on this opportunity to clean up our planet, our common home', in partnership with various human rights and environmental associations and citizens' movements on Saturday 21 September 2024.

The purpose of this event was to combat urban pollution and encourage zero waste.

The day began with a presentation by Brother Ephrem Willy MANGALA, College Principal, on the basic concepts of the environment and some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The students then spent the whole morning cleaning the classrooms, the school playground

and the gutters at the entrance to the Collège, as well as collecting plastic bottles and rubbish abandoned on the Boulevard in front of the Limete Town Office. Thanks to all the pupils and supervisors for their motivation and commitment.

**Bro. Ephrem Willy MANGALA, SG**



**Brother Ephrem Willy MANGALA, during his presentation.**



**Students and teachers packing up plastic bottles.**



## **A NEW ERA IN GABRIELIST FOOD EDUCATION**

### **A Necessary Global Approach**

Improving diet, increasing physical activity, and reducing sedentary behavior are critical health priorities for individuals and populations across various living environments.

To address these challenges, it is essential to implement a range of strategies within a health promotion framework, as defined by the WHO in 1986. Given that the determinants of food consumption and physical activity are multifaceted (Figure), interventions must operate at the level of public policy and the environments in which individuals live. Such an integrated approach not only proves more effective but also ensures a balance between individual and collective responsibility in health promotion. This equilibrium emphasizes both the adoption of responsible individual behaviors and the creation of environments conducive to health-promoting practices. Under these optimal conditions, nutrition education can achieve its intended impact on both individuals and communities.

In the context of nutritional education, the Church plays a pivotal role, striving to facilitate swift and meaningful progress toward realization.

### **The Church's Role in Food Education**

Ecclesiastical involvement necessitates the active participation of all members. As integral members

of the Church, the Brothers of Saint Gabriel are called to a dual responsibility: first, as Christians fulfilling their evangelical mission, and second, as educators. This dual role requires them to understand the complexities of modern food systems and master the foundational principles of nutrition education.

### **Foundations of Nutrition Education**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), public health policies adopt a broad approach to nutrition, encompassing both dietary intake and energy expenditure through physical activity. However, education is more than merely disseminating information. Nutritional education is a comprehensive, ongoing process of learning and developing knowledge, interpersonal skills, and practical competencies. This empowers individuals or groups to make informed decisions about their dietary and physical activity habits.

Effective nutritional education relies on positive, non-stigmatizing communication. It is participatory, respectful of individuals' values and cultures, and must remain accessible and equitable, avoiding the perpetuation of social health disparities.

### **Activities in Nutrition Education**

Nutrition education extends beyond teaching about balanced diets or the health benefits of physical



activity. It involves engaging communities to explore their perceptions, barriers, and motivators regarding dietary and physical activity behaviors. This collaborative approach recognizes and builds upon existing knowledge while encouraging the acquisition of new skills.

A diverse range of activities can be tailored to specific target groups (e.g., children, teenagers, pregnant women, the elderly, or vulnerable populations) and settings (e.g., schools, workplaces, leisure centers, homes, or care facilities).

### **These activities address all aspects of eating biological, sensory, social, and ecological helping individuals:**

- Adapt their diets to meet personal needs, cultural traditions, and preferences.
- Balance their meals using different food groups.



- Develop sensory awareness through the discovery of various tastes and flavors.
- Make informed consumer choices by interpreting labels and media messages.
- Rediscover the origins, production, and processing of food.
- Promote ecological and ethical consumption practices.
- Create social connections through the preparation and sharing of meals.

### **The Benefits of Food Education**

For nutritional guidance to resonate with "diverse eaters," education must go beyond standard nutrition training to encompass food culture education. This shifts the focus from enforcing norms to fostering creativity and social innovation in food practices and identities.

The family unit, classroom taste explorations, and shared food practices play significant roles in socializing children into food cultures. These





experiences help individuals understand the diversity of food systems while providing a foundation for the development of culinary and gastronomic identities.

Food culture education values consumers as active participants in the creation and reinterpretation of inherited food practices. Playful interactions often allow individuals to transition from rigid norms to flexible, innovative paradigms.

### **This approach encourages people to:**

- Explore and internalize culinary knowledge and table manners.
- Reflect critically and creatively on their food experiences.
- Appreciate the sensory and emotional dimensions of eating.
- Understand the seasonal and cultural contexts of food.

### **Developing "Jubilant Taste"**

Food culture education fosters a "jubilant taste,"

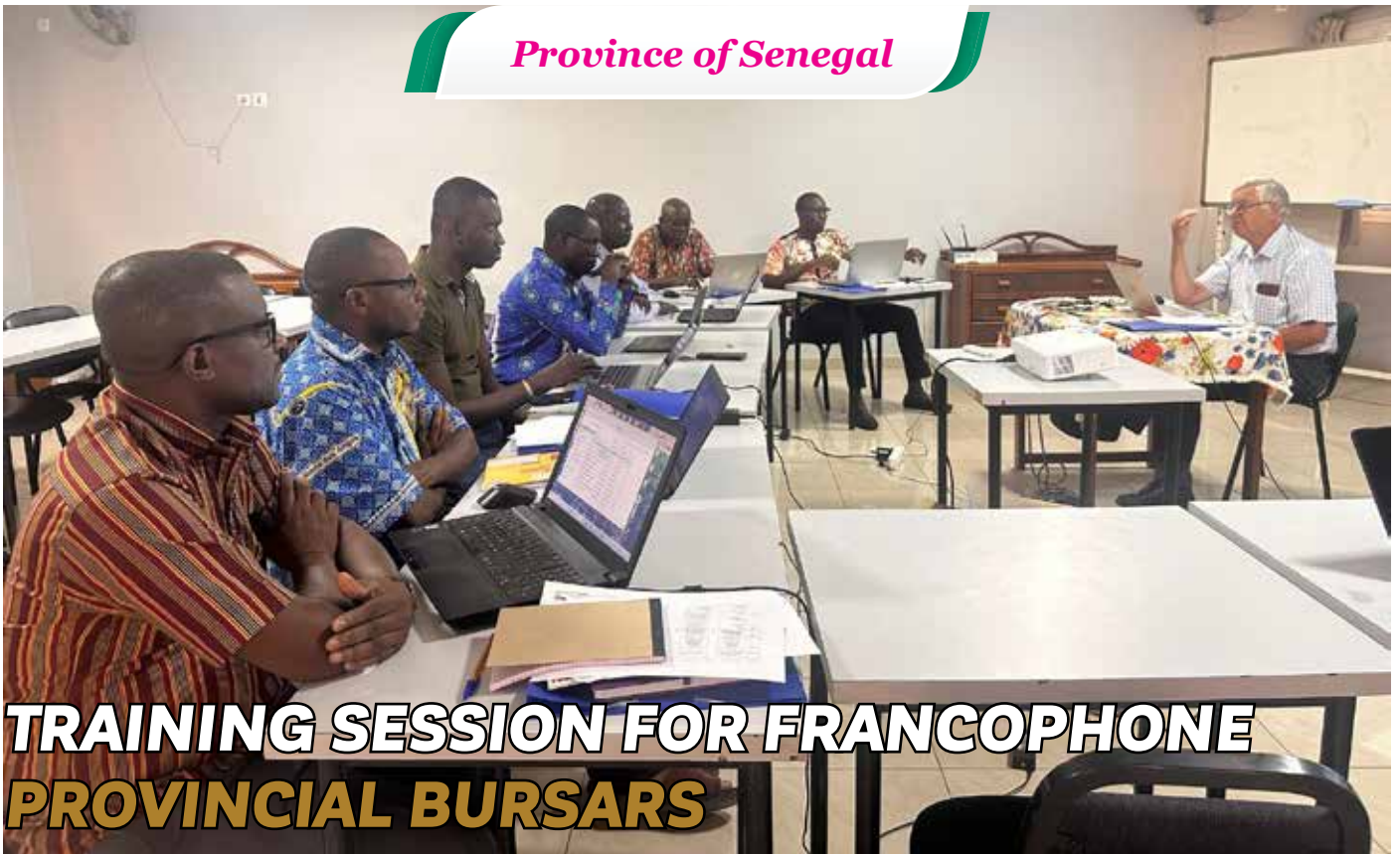


characterized by sensory engagement and self-awareness. It empowers individuals to develop conceptual, physical, and sensory knowledge without succumbing to restrictive self-discipline. This playful and reflective approach enhances pleasure and promotes meaningful connections with others.

Through this lens, education in food culture emphasizes the joy and complexity of eating, enabling individuals to become socially responsible, diverse, and engaged participants in shared food experiences.

### **Bro. Déogracias IKASA, SG**

Student in agronomic and veterinary sciences at Loyola University in Congo



# TRAINING SESSION FOR FRANCOPHONE PROVINCIAL BURSARS

A training session brought together all the French-speaking provincial bursars in Dakar from 19 to 23 August 2024. The Econom General and the Provincial of Canada led the session. The participants were welcomed at the Maria Goretti Centre of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary. In addition to the bursars, an invitation was extended to members of the management committee, who were able to participate in this session. In addition to this session, the Provincial Superior, F Etienne Souleymane KA, accompanied the Econom General to visit the projects financed by the Central Administration and the Province of Canada.





## Perpetual Professions and Jubilees

The Brothers of Saint Gabriel, heirs to a tradition spanning more than three centuries, continue to hold ever higher the torch of education received from their founding Fathers.

In a religious family, it is always a pleasure to welcome new members, as this testifies to the vitality of the congregation and the true love that binds the different members together. Religious profession, especially perpetual profession, is a prophetic act because it calls us to live a definitive commitment by offering ourselves to Providence. In the spirit of the acts of our General Chapter, it resonates as a call to be authentic prophets who first to listen to God, who are resolutely turned towards God in all circumstances and who speak to God and of God, in God's name, through their life and their words. It is also a celebration of the bravery and courage to live through an uncertain future in faith, following the path laid out for centuries by those who came before us.

On 24 August 2024, brothers Jean Marie Mallé NDOUR, Grégoire Wagane Gning and Célestin Tiama made their final commitment in the congregation of the brothers of Saint Gabriel. The religious ceremony for these professions took place in the parish of Saint André in Grand Mbour. It was presided over by Bishop Victor NDIONE, the newly consecrated bishop of the diocese of Nouakchott. During the same celebration, brothers Augustin Diouf and Maurice Diouf gave thanks to God for twenty-five (25) years of following Christ.

As a reminder, perpetual profession marks a decisive choice that obliges the brother to have God alone as his Father, Jesus as his Brother and Mary as his Mother, thus urging him to live his

consecration within a fraternal community, as witnessed by number 12 of our Rule of Life. So, after a time of discernment and listening to the Spirit, the perpetually professed wished to ratify their choice of life by publicly professing the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, the pillars of Consecrated Life and the foundation of total dedication to Christ following in the footsteps of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort. In his homily, the President of the celebration did not fail to recall these fundamentals of religious life.

'It is not you who chose me, but it is I who chose you and appointed you' - this is the key phrase taken from the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 15, verse 16, which the young perpetually professed members chose as their motto for following Christ according to the Rule of Life and Constitutions of the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel.

After this beautiful and prayerful celebration, a fraternal meal and a cultural afternoon at the René Merceron Cultural Institution wrapped up the day.



**Mgr Victor NDIONE**

# MISSIONARY PATHS OF OUR JUBILANT BROTHERS



**Bro. Augustin DIOUF**

Brother Augustin hails from the Saint Luc parish of Samba Dia, specifically from the Saint Michel parish sector of Mbissel. After completing his high school diploma in 1997, he joined the Novitiate in Thiès, where he underwent two years of training from 1997 to 1999. On 25 June 1999, he took his first vows at Saint Anne's Cathedral in Thiès, joining the Brothers of Saint Gabriel congregation. From 1999 to 2000, he received pedagogical training at the CFP of Mbour. From 2000 to 2002, he began his teaching career at the primary level in the Sine College of Fatick. Subsequently, from 2002 to 2003, he was assigned to the René Merceron Institution in Mbour, where he obtained his Teaching Aptitude Certificate (CAP). From 2003 to 2007, he was assigned to the Saint Gabriel College in Thiès where he taught history and geography. After four



**Bro. Maurice Birane DIOUF**

Like his fellow jubilarian, Brother Maurice is also from Saint Luke parish in Samba Dia, and from the Saint Michael parish sector in Mbissel. In 1996, after his high school education at Saint Gabriel College, he requested a year of reflection. He joined the novitiate in Thiès, where he completed two years of training from 1997 to 1999. On June 25, 1999, at the Sainte Anne Cathedral in Thiès, he took vows, thus joining the Congregation of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. From 1999 to 2000, he underwent pedagogical and teacher training at the CFP in Mbour. From 2000 to 2002, he served as primary school teacher at the Aloyse Kobes in Dakar.

years of service in Thiès, he returned to Mbour, serving as the Director of the René Merceron Institution from 2007 to 2015. From 2015 to 2018, he studied at the CELAF Institute in Abidjan, where he achieved a Bachelor's Degree in Education and Training Sciences. In 2019, he pursued his training as a Formator at the Catholic Institute of Paris. He has presented a thesis on interculturality. From 2019 to 2022, he was appointed by the Central Administration as the head of the international Francophone novitiate in Thiès. In addition to this role, he accepted the responsibility of the inter-novitiate in Dakar from 2021 to 2022. Since September 2022, Brother Augustin has been on a mission in Burkina Faso. At present, He is serving as Principal Director of Saint Gabriel High School in Manga, Provincial delegate for the Burkina sector, and a Provincial Counsellor. Furthermore, Brother Augustin has been actively involved in the Pastoral movement within the "Cœurs Vaillants and Ames Vaillantes" in Senegal for many years, holding key positions including that of National Councilor for this movement.

From 2002 to 2003, he was assigned to Saint Gabriel College as a French teacher. After a year of service, he was sent to Assumption University in Bangkok. From 2003 to 2007, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English Business.

Following graduation, he was posted as Headmaster to Collège Saint Gabriel in Dédougou, Burkina Faso. After seven (7) years in Burkina, he returned to Malika, Senegal, in 2014, where he took on the role of Deputy Head Teacher. A year later, in 2015, he was transferred to Mbour as Principal of René Merceron Institution, a position he held until 2019. From 2019 to 2023, he was reassigned to Malika as Principal. At the same time, he attended courses at Polytechnic School of Dakar and obtained a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management. Brother Maurice is currently Principal of Collège Saint Gabriel in Thiès, a post he has held since September 2023.

**Bro. Patrice Mbengue, SG**



## From summer mountain walks to spiritual hikes..

For many years, some Brothers have been in the habit of escaping for several weeks in summer to the heights of the Alps or the Pyrenees to leave behind the daily cares of life and turn their gaze towards the One we know to be at the origin of these breathtaking landscapes. And for nearly 20 years, the signatories of these lines have been meeting for three weeks during the summer for the same purpose.

From the Maurienne to the Vanoise massifs, from the Tarentaise to the Beaufortain and then the Queyras, our boots have covered hundreds of kilometres of trails with varying gradients. Most of the time, with rucksacks and poles in hand, we walked at our own pace, in silence: a physical experience, of course, but also a spiritual one, contemplating the beauty that surrounds us and marveling at the surprising encounters we made. What a joy it is to turn a bend and catch a glimpse of a ballet of marmots, ibex snapping their horns, or chamois dancing on the snow, even if this has become rarer in recent years! Verses 18 and 24 of Psalm 103 then take on a very special meaning:

**"To the chamois, the high mountains, the marmots, the shelter of the rocks. What profusion in your works, Lord! All this your wisdom has done."**

The many 'Greetings' expressed as we passed other hikers sometimes extended into a spontaneous and unexpected exchange: furtive moments always full of human warmth. And among all these encounters, we still remember the one we had at the summit of the Râteau d'Aussois in the Vanoise, at over 3,000 m, in 2010.



At the start of this hike, we see three men who take the same path as us. We ask ourselves, "Are they not Priests or Religious men?" We lose sight of them because the climb is hard, especially the last meters when the path is stony without too much distinguishing.

After working up a considerable sweat in this final stage, the goal is achieved, and our three men clearly had the same objective since they were here. Who started the conversation? We can't remember, but we found out that they were wondering the same thing about us, and so a summit meeting took place between three Brothers from Saint-Gabriel and three Brothers from Ploërmel! Gabriel Deshayes must still be smiling!



**"Be ready in the morning and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain." Exodus 34:2**

After three weeks of hiking, we're continuing our spiritual trek to another summit, that of the Foyer de Charité de La Flatière. Here, only the Holy Spirit can know whether, with his help, we will reach greater or lesser heights of holiness. But buoyed up by the beauty of the setting, the prayer of the community, the maternal presence of Mary, and the many teachings received, our souls cannot help but soar towards God, for Him.

Let us sing, praise and pray to Him.

Source: *The Provincie News Letter* (n°205), province of France.

After the effort comes the comfort of pulling the picnic out of the bag: a very pleasant moment, especially when we are sitting on the banks of a torrent, which graciously offers us a fridge within easy reach. We then replenish our strength, lulled by the gentle music of the water rushing down the slope, rubbing against the pebbles. You visit the earth and give it water; the streams of God abound with water'. (Ps 64, 10)

Crossing a stream that rises to over 3,000 m, we reached it twice, contemplating a 360° panorama and meditating in the small chapel perched on the summit. 'When the day comes, you will rise on the mountain and stand before me on the top of the mountain' (Ex 34:2).

This Mount Tabor, not Galileo's 600 m peak, but the one in the Maurienne, near the Italian border, at over 3,000 m, was reached on two occasions, offering 360° panoramic views and time for contemplation in the little chapel perched on the summit.



**The Charity Centre of La Flatière**

**The arrival at Mount Tabor with the small chapel at the top**





### **Transforming Minds and Hearts through Education and Experiences**

At Montfort Aruludhayam, our pre-novitiate journey is one of holistic growth, nurturing not only our minds but also our spiritual, intellectual, and physical selves. Here's an update on our experiences since June 2024.

#### **Educational Growth and Skill Development**

The guidance of each Brother in various subjects has enhanced our skills and better prepared us for our calling as Religious Brothers and Leaders.

#### **Language Development:**

- Bro. Marreddy has been instrumental in developing our English skills, focusing on clear expression in both writing and speaking. His music classes also nurture discipline and creativity.

- Bro. Manoj's classes have strengthened our grammatical understanding and critical thinking, emphasising proficiency as the key to effective communication.

#### **Handwriting and Calligraphy:**

- Bro. Richard's guidance in handwriting and calligraphy emphasises clarity and presentation, which are valuable for communication and personal development.

#### **Special Classes and Workshops**

Throughout these months, our learning has been enriched by diverse classes and workshops, each fostering different aspects of our growth.

#### **Music Classes with Bro. John Xavier:**

In July, under Bro. John Xavier's guidance, we delved into music theory, appreciating music as a medium of worship and self-expression.

#### **Interactive Panel Training:**

A major advancement in our tech learning was Bro. Marreddy's introduction to the interactive panel, which has made language lessons engaging and interactive.

#### **Elocution Competition – August 3, 2024:**

The elocution competition provided a platform for public speaking practice. We chose topics of personal interest and presented them to our fellow Brothers. This experience was invaluable for overcoming stage fear, building confidence, and honing rhetorical skills.

#### **Sports and Physical Development**

Physical activity is integral to our overall development. Through volleyball and basketball training under Bro. Marreddy, we have not only improved our physical skills but also fostered teamwork, discipline, and strategic thinking.

#### **Spiritual and Intellectual Growth**

Spiritual growth is a cornerstone of our formation. Through daily Mass, prayers, meditation, the Rosary, recollections, and other practices, we are growing in faith, humility, and a deeper connection with God. These spiritual practices are guiding us in personal transformation and maturity.





### **Exams**

Throughout the months, we have prepared for and participated in exams that tested our understanding of various subjects, including prayer and English grammar.

### **Liturgy Classes – October 7-10, 2024:**

Fr. Anil's liturgy classes explored the origins of liturgical practices and key documents like Sacrosanctum Concilium, deepening our understanding of liturgy's connection to the Holy Trinity.

### **Development of Personal Skills**

Our formation extends beyond academics to life skills, which are essential for our future ministries.

### **Classes on Brain Development**

Bro. Anthony Reddy's sessions on brain development sharpen our cognitive abilities, enhancing decision-making skills, memory, and mental health.

### **Mindfulness Classes:**

Bro. Soosai Raj introduced us to mindfulness through yoga and nature activities, helping us manage stress, improve focus, and enhance well-being.

### **Life Skills – Bro. Shine Alex (Hyderabad Provincial):**

On October 12, Bro. Shine Alex guided us in identifying and developing our life skills, providing insights into our strengths and weaknesses for effective leadership and personal development.

### **Social and Cultural Activities**

Learning goes beyond the classroom. The bonds we form through shared experiences contribute significantly to our growth.

### **Brotherhood Day Celebration – October 4, 2024:**

In honour of St. Francis of Assisi, we celebrated Brotherhood Day by enacting the life of St. Francis Assisi through a musical play. This event reminded us of the values of humility, simplicity, and service in Religious Life.

### **Excursion to Black Thunder:**

A day at Black Thunder Amusement Park provided a break from routine, filled with adventure and fun that helped us build friendships and relax.

### **Festive Celebrations – Diwali:**

On November 3, we celebrated Diwali, the festival of light, with prayers, festivities, and a fraternal dinner.

### **Learning in Every Moment**

At Montfort Aruludhayam, each class, activity, and experience allows us to learn and grow. We are deeply grateful to the Brothers and mentors guiding us. Each lesson, experience, and activity shapes us as compassionate leaders. With God's grace, we continue this journey, striving to fulfil our calling as Brothers and leaders.

### **Raviteja. P – Pre-Novice**





**W**e are in the second year of our novitiate. Three Brothers, including our Novice Master, are accompanying us. We have completed 16 months of formation in the novitiate. As we look back at our novitiate life, we thank God for what God has done in our lives and how we have grown. We would like to share with you some news about our novitiate life.

### **1. Our Formation and Life:**

Our regular prayer life and spiritual activities are going on as usual. Every day, guided meditation by our Novice Master sets the tone for the day. Twice a week, we do yoga. We take turns to lead and conduct it among ourselves. All the important Marian feasts and Montfortian feasts are celebrated. Regular monthly recollections are held on different, relevant and meaningful themes. We take turns in organising them and offer input for reflections. All the academic input and the classes are integrated with our prayers. The first Monday of every month is dedicated to the Montfortian day of Prayer. Every Saturday is marked by special Marian prayers during which texts from St. Montfort's writings are read and reflected. We regularly pray the Little Crown, the Consecration, the Litanies and other Montfortian prayers. Thus, our spiritual life is enriched by many aspects.

### **2. Diamond and Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Yercaud:**

We, the novices, were fortunate to witness and participate in the Diamond and Silver Jubilee

celebrations of four Brothers of Yercaud Province held on 2nd October 2024. The novices gave a scintillating performance through a dance. Everyone appreciated our dancing skills, and we were edified by the lives of our four Brothers when we heard about their religious lives and missions.

### **3. A Palanquin for Blessed Virgin Mary:**



We are happy to share with you the gift given to us from St. Joseph's Industrial School, Tindivanam, our first foundation in India. For our Marian processions and novenas, we used to prepare a simple wooden carrier to carry Mother Mary's statue around our campus. Now we have a very beautiful wooden palanquin made for our novitiate, which is made of ancient teak wood. A big thanks to Bro. Maria Joseph, the Principal of St. Joseph's ITI, Tindivanam for making it and donating it to our novitiate.

#### 4. Birthday celebration of Bro. Johnson, Provincial:



On 29th October, the Provincial of Yercaud, Bro. Johnson made a brief visit to our Novitiate to supervise the new chapel, which is under construction. We made use of this opportunity to felicitate him on his birthday. Special Rosary service was conducted for his intentions. We thanked him for his continuous support, frequent visits and encouragement.

#### 5. SSGY Cultural Fest 2024:



As is the tradition, after a gap of four years, the Social Service Guild of Yercaud (SSGY) organised its annual cultural events (from 25th to 27th October) this year. All the institutions of Yercaud prepared and presented various entertainment items on the theme: “The Positive Impact of Social Media”. It was a well-organised three-day event. The Eachinkadu program on the theme: “Global Connectivity” was well appreciated; so we were asked to stage our Skit-Dance on all the three days of the Fest. Everyone appreciated our program. The beauty of our program was that the entire show was conceived, written, directed and acted by the novices. Bro. Anthony'samy, Socius was accompanying us in our preparation. Our Novice Master appreciated us for this creative, collective, united venture and for our entertaining performance.

#### 6. New Learnings and Input:

Bro. John Xavier's Music sessions- II: Soon after

his annual retreat Bro. John Xavier spent four days with us to revise our musical skills and teach us music. We thank him for his ever availability and for his generosity.

Bro. Anthony'samy and TN Formators Meeting: Our Socius Bro. Anthony'samy attended the two-day Tamil Nadu formators meeting held at Dindigul. On his return he shared with all of us the schedule and the concerns expressed in the meeting.

#### Sr. Paulcy's classes on Pauline Spirituality:

Professor Dr. Sr. Paulcy, PDDM, from Chennai took one-week classes on Pauline Spirituality. It was really a very effective and meaningful class. She explained all the writings of St. Paul, the person of St. Paul and his spirituality. We appreciated her classes and found them extremely good and meaningful.

#### Other Classes by our Brothers:

We are studying four other subjects simultaneously which are handled by our three Brothers. Bro. Yesudassis taking classes on “The Secret of Rosary”; Bro. Anthony'samy is handling “The History of our Congregation” and our Novice Master is handling the subjects “The Constitutions” and “The Vow of Poverty” .

#### Animation Sessions for the Province of Thailand:



Our Novice Master was invited by the Province of Thailand to give a three-day animation program for all the Brothers of the Province of Thailand on the theme “Implementation of 33rd General Chapter Orientations and Decisions”. This program was combined with the annual spiritual pilgrimage for all the Brothers of the Province. The Thai Brothers took an active part in the sessions and appreciated the relevant and meaningful presentation of the 33rd General Chapter orientations by Bro. Paul Raj.

## 7. Preparation for Apostolic Experience:

These days, all of us are busy preparing ourselves for the Apostolic Experience for two weeks, from 2nd to 17th November 2024. We have had two rounds of orientation sessions and motivation classes by our Brothers to prepare ourselves for this important program. We will be going to a Centre for the Destitute Persons, a Centre for the mentally challenged persons, a Centre for the street children and a Centre for the children affected by HIV. We will be accompanied by our formators, and we

have spiritually prepared ourselves for it for the past many days. Kindly remember us in your prayers. We are sure that this experience and life with the poor, the abandoned and the maladjusted will certainly benefit us and stand by us in our future mission.

**Novice Ravi Horo SG and Novice Roshan Kerketta**

## Reflection on My Apostolic Experience Eachinkadu, Novitiate, Yercaud



**A** religious Brother named R.V. Thomas was having lunch in a three-star hotel. A scene that unfolded outside his hotel deeply moved him; he saw a beggar eating scraps from a dustbin along with dogs, pigs, and cows. He helped the beggar, giving him a bath, food, and medicine. Despite his care, the beggar passed away the following day, and R.V. Thomas gave him a dignified burial. This experience profoundly impacted him and led to the establishment of St. Joseph's Hospices for the dying destitute.

I had the privilege of staying at St. Joseph's Hospices for two weeks, along with six novices. This stay has profoundly shaped my understanding of service, life, and the poor. I would like to share my reflection on these two points: My Life and the Poor.

### **My Life: Embracing the Cross of Service**

At the start of my service at the hospice, I found it very difficult to extend my hands to help the destitutes. There were inmates with various needs: mentally ill, physically handicapped, disabled, and others in extreme conditions. I found myself



questioning, "Did Jesus or St. Montfort experience such suffering in their lives?" In that moment, I felt the gentle whisper of Jesus, "I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). My life is a gift from God, and it is my duty to live it in accordance with His will, serving those who are abandoned and rejected by society.

**"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40**

St. Montfort's words, "No cross, what a cross," resonated deeply with me. He reminds us that, although it is difficult to serve others, especially in such dire circumstances, this is the very path to true fulfilment and eternal life. As I faced the discomfort of working in such a challenging environment, I realised that every hardship was an opportunity to grow in faith and compassion. I recall the words from Sirach 2:1, "My son, if you come forward to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for temptation." These words reminded me that service is not always easy, but it is a way to deepen our relationship with God.

I come from a comfortable background where my needs were always met. However, when I began working with the dying destitute, I found it difficult to face the overwhelming needs around me. The stench, the dirt, the suffering...etc. It was all too much at first. But as I reflected on Christ's life, I remembered how He served the marginalized and the sick, how He reached out to those who were rejected. He embraced the cross for the salvation of humanity. This became a source of inspiration for me, helping me to move beyond my comfort zone and serve with an open heart.

I asked myself, "Can I see Jesus in all of these inmates?" St. Montfort's example inspires me to imitate him and serve Christ. Through these experiences, I have learned to let go of negative thoughts and embrace my mission of serving with love, in the name of God. Every day in the hospice became a new experience—a chance to surrender my own will to God and serve as He calls me to. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40 echo in



my heart: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This is the essence of discipleship. I serve the poor and the destitute because in doing so, I serve Christ Himself.

**The Poor:** Embracing Solidarity and Joy in Giving  
I come from a middle-class family, and while I have faced challenges in my own life, I have always had my basic needs met. There are times, however, when I feel deprived or long for something I cannot have. In those moments, I understand, even if just a little, the feeling of poverty. Yet, I also realize that poverty is not only about material deprivation—it is also about the longing for something deeper, the need for love, dignity, and respect. The poor, in their outward suffering, have something to teach us about resilience, humility, and the profound gift of community.

The poor need our help, but the question is: who will provide for them? It is easy to wait for someone else to act, but as followers of Christ, we are called to respond. There is more joy in giving than in receiving, as Scripture tells us. God is joy because God is love, and to experience true joy, I must love others as He has loved me. The more I give, the more I receive in return—not in material things, but in spiritual growth, peace, and the joy that comes from serving others.

**"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." - Deuteronomy 30:19**



Through my time at the hospice, I realized that the poor are not rejected by God; they are loved deeply by Him. As Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The poor are a reflection of Christ's humility. They are not to be pitied or ignored but embraced as brothers and sisters. In serving them, I find that I am drawn closer to Christ. I have come to understand that poverty is not merely a social condition—it is a spiritual call. Jesus became poor for our sake, and He calls us to enter into solidarity with the poor. The challenge is not just to meet the immediate needs of the poor but to stand with them, to see them as equals, to recognize their humanity, and to listen to their stories.

### **Living for Christ in Every Moment**

Through my experiences in the hospice and my reflection on the life of Jesus and St. Montfort, I have come to realize that my life is not my own. It is meant to be lived for others, particularly the poor, the sick, and the marginalized. By following Christ's example of selfless service, I find true fulfillment.

In every act of service, I am reminded of the words from Deuteronomy 30:19: "I have set before you life

and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." Choosing life means choosing to serve others, especially those who are most in need.

I commit myself to living my life for others, by serving Christ in every person, whether in words or in actions. I am reminded that the poor are not a burden but a gift, an opportunity for us to grow in love and humility. By serving them, I am serving Christ. And through Christ, I will find the deepest joy, peace, and purpose in life.

**Novice Dayaban Nayak, SG  
Province of Hyderabad  
Eachinkadu Novitiate.**



## Adozioni a distanza

Our Institute, is moving forward with number of continuous activities and events.

### The Solid-Ali manifestation



It was a well-organised festival, with the participation of many authorities, including the City Mayor, Police, Military, Carabinieri, Airport, and, naturally, the Direction of the Istituto Ca' Florens. All our buildings were used for different interesting manifestations and presentations, and all our land and fields were used for countless activities. The presence of two helicopters in our field added to the splendour of the celebrations.

### Annual National Assembly of the Benefactors

The 33° edition of the National Assembly of the Benefactors who help the children through the Organisation founded by Bro Mathew Kavumkal was held on Sunday, 6th October 2024. Little over 150 benefactors from different parts of Italy took part

in the assembly. Don Mario Vanin led prayers and Holy Mass for the intentions of all the benefactors. Bro Mathew Kavumkal gave a presidential address, and he introduced Bro Onesphore Havyarimana to the benefactors. A witnessing message from Basso Fiorenzo, Ortensia Vaccari, Salce Nella and greetings by the Mayor of Istrana. The event concluded with spiritual animation by the Choir "We Sing in the Name of Jesus", followed by lunch for all the participants and birthday greetings to a benefactress who completed 88 years part of the celebrations.



## New mission in favour of elderly citizens of Istrana

## Visit of His Grace Mar Joseph Pamplany, Archbishop of Tellicherry



From the 1st of October 2024 till 30th June 2025, we are allowing the Comune of Istrana to provide formational and recreational facilities to the elderly people who need help from others. Bro Dionisio Santoro also participates in the sessions three days a week. There are three groups. It is really good and very interesting. There are several volunteers and specialists to follow them and animate them. The mayor, all the authorities and people are very happy with us and our availability to help the elderly people.

The Indian Archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany made a short visit to our Institute on Sunday 13 October. He celebrated the Sunday Mass for the Indian Catholic Community in our Institute. After that, he met two groups of benefactors who help the Istituto Ca' Florens Istrana in various activities throughout the year. The two groups are called: "The Team of Jesus who Serves" and the choir "We Sing in the Name of Jesus". The Archbishop took lunch with these two groups. He praised the two groups for their willingness and goodwill. He presented Bro. Mathew Kavumkal with an icon of Jesus Christ just Judge.

**Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG**





# Impact of Smartphones on Our Religious Life and Mission



## Introduction

Smartphones have transformed communication, learning, and daily routines, becoming indispensable tools in modern society. For us, the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, serving a mission dedicated to Catholic education and spiritual growth, smartphones offer unique opportunities as well as distinct challenges. In our digital age, while these devices enhance connectivity and provide resources that support our mission, they can also draw us away from the contemplative and Community-centred lifestyle that is fundamental to our religious identity. This article explores the positive and negative aspects of smartphone use, the reasons for excessive usage, and steps to cultivate healthier digital habits.

## Positive Aspects of Smartphone Use

**1. Enhanced Communication:** Smartphones facilitate easy communication within our congregation and with partners in our missions worldwide. Whether through instant messaging, email, or video calls, these devices enable us to maintain connections across continents, ensuring cohesive efforts in our ministries.

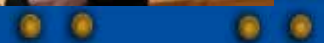
**2. Access to Information and Learning:** The wealth of online resources allows Brothers to access theological literature, inspirational talks, and educational materials. This access is invaluable, especially for those who may not have physical access to libraries or books. Digital apps

for prayer, Bible study, and meditation also support our spiritual growth, helping us draw closer to God through reflection and learning.

**3. Ministry and Evangelization:** Smartphones provide a platform for sharing our mission with a broader audience, especially through social media. Many Brothers use these platforms to post reflections, educational content, and inspiring messages, expanding our reach to youth and others who may not interact directly with us in physical settings.

## **Challenges and Negative Aspects of Smartphone Use**

**1. Distraction from Spiritual Life:** Excessive smartphone use can interfere with our focus on prayer, reflection, and community life. Constant notifications, messages, and updates create interruptions that can detract from our connection with God and dilute the contemplative aspects of our daily routines.





**2. Reduced Interpersonal Interaction:** While smartphones connect us with the world, they sometimes isolate us from those immediately around us. Excessive use can lead Brothers to spend more time alone, reducing the time dedicated to fraternity and community engagement, which are vital to our congregational life.

**3. Mental Fatigue and Reduced Focus:** Frequent exposure to digital content, including news, social media, and entertainment, can contribute to mental fatigue and even anxiety. This constant stimulation strains our ability to concentrate on scripture, study, and our mission work, making it harder to live with clarity and purpose.

#### **Reasons for Excessive Smartphone Use**

**1. Social Connectivity:** For many Brothers, smartphones serve as a way to stay connected with family, friends, and news from home. This connectivity, while important, can become a source of distraction if not managed mindfully.

**2. Seeking Comfort or Escapism:** Sometimes, especially during challenging times, we may turn to smartphones to escape from stress, loneliness, or a lack of fulfilment. Apps, games, and social media can provide temporary relief but can also become addictive, pulling us further away from our spiritual lives.

**3. Fear of Missing Out (FOMO):** In a world where information flows constantly, some Brothers may feel pressure to stay updated, leading to a tendency to check devices frequently. This behaviour can create a cycle of dependency, where checking the smartphone becomes a habit, often at the cost of peace and focus.

#### **Steps to Cultivate Healthy Smartphone Habits**

**1. Set Boundaries:** Establish specific times for smartphone use, especially in communal settings. Limiting use during meals, prayer times, and reflections allows Brothers to be fully present with each other and with God.

**2. Designate Technology-Free Zones:** Creating technology-free areas within our homes and communities, such as chapels, dining areas, and common rooms, can encourage face-to-face interactions and strengthen communal bonds.

**3. Practice Mindfulness:** Be intentional about smartphone usage by periodically asking, “Is this activity helping me grow spiritually or mentally?” Avoid using the phone as a filler activity and instead engage in practices that foster reflection and relaxation.

**4. Use Digital Tools Wisely:** Set app limits, enable “Do Not Disturb” modes during prayer or community time, and remove unnecessary apps that may contribute to excessive usage. Many devices offer wellness tools to track screen time and suggest healthier patterns.

**5. Encourage Accountability:** Brothers can support each other by fostering open discussions around smartphone use, helping each other stay accountable, and sharing ways to incorporate digital technology healthily in our spiritual and professional lives.

#### **Conclusion**

While smartphones are valuable tools for our mission, the impact of their use on our religious life requires mindful consideration. By finding a balance that allows us to utilize smartphones without allowing them to disrupt our spiritual focus, we can strengthen our community and deepen our commitment to God’s work. Let us remember that our primary mission is to be present to the youth we serve, to one another, and ultimately, to God. By using smartphones thoughtfully, we can continue to live out the charism of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, enhancing our mission without compromising the contemplative life that lies at the heart of our vocation.



**Bro. George P. J., SG**  
**Montfort Counselling & Educational Services**  
**(MCES)**  
**Chennai**

## THE 49 BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL AND THEIR CHAPLIN

### MARTYRS OF THE RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION DURING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR IN 1936



**Marcelino LÓPEZ HERNANDO**  
Brother Bautista María, 36 years old  
Born in Cuevas de Juarros  
(Burgos)

He was pious as a youth who accompanied his father to the hermitage of Ntra. Sra. del Cerro where he was a devotee of the saint. Once having begun his religious life, he had few years of Scholasticate due to the fact that his obedience swiftly allocated him in charge of the vestments, an occupation that would last for the rest of his life.

With what sorrow he witnessed the departures and farewells of his fellow Brothers that left the Congregation for various motives, with which he demonstrated his great love for his vocation. Pious, he was diligent in his duties and always consistent. Brothers Bautista and Bonifacio were blood brothers but more so religious brothers. They were two of the finest Gabrielite. A pleasure of religious brothers, always smiling, they appeared to be the happiest of men and instilled in the community a great religious optimism.

In 1924 his Superior said of him that he did not have a great intellectual capacity but he had a good spirit and conscientiously fulfilled his duties to the Rule and to his work. He often took advantage of his free time to go to the chapel and visit with devotion the Holy Sacrament. When he visited his family during vacation his could be found in his hermitage directing the holy Rosary. He was always well prepared for martyrdom.

**Martyrdom:** Common narration

from Brother Bautista María grant us, Lord, bis joyful, kind, optimist and meriful spirit.



**Miguel ALVAREZ GARCÍA**  
Brother Mauricio, 30 years old  
Born in Villasur  
(Burgos)

During his education he was an excellent religious youth and was highly regarded by the Superiors. He was never found to be in a bad mood despite the hard times he was forced to endure. He serves his military service in the San Marcial barracks of Burgos in 1928.

Brother Mauricio had a very special friendliness and sensitivity. He was a true bel canto artist and a lover of music and of the arts in general. In his last year, that is to say 1936, he was noted to be somewhat restless he drew from the piano some sonatinas that seemed to contain a certain anger or resentment, in the face of the adverse events that we were living.

In reviewing his resume we can see that he was often transferred between schools since he taught in Arenys de Mar, Viladecans, Bañolas, Castelló de Ampurias and Valls, returning to some of them twice. As had some of the Brothers from Valls, during the persecution he found lodging during some weeks in the home of Mrs. Llenas. Later he was able with some difficulty to reach Can Valls (San Vicente de Montalt) where they felt they were protected, or so many of the Brothers of the Schools thought having the presence of the French flag there.

**Martyrdom:** Common narration

From Brother Mauricio grant us, Lord, bis friendliness, bis spirit of conformity and bis love to the job well done.





Rebibbia Prison in Rome



Basilica of St Mary Major



Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls



Basilica of St John Lateran