



Gabrielite

News Bulletin

For Private Circulation Only



**THE INAUGURATION OF MGA BHAVAN,
A HOME FOR THE MONTFORTIAN GABRIELITE ASSOCIATES.**



CONTENTS

- 4 Casa Generalizia
- 6 Visit of the Central Administration to France
- 9 Province of Hyderabad
- 10 Province of Thailand
- 12 Province of Ranchi
- 14 Province of Delhi
- 16 Province of North-East India
- 18 Province of France
- 28 Province of Senegal
- 31 Vice-Province of Madagascar
- 35 Istituto Ca' Florens Istrana
- 37 Formation House
- 40 JPIC
- 43 Partnership News
- 54 Martyrdom



EDITOR'S NOTE

Eddie Jaku was a German Jew who lived through the hardships and inhumane treatment of the Nazi regime. The chances for his survival were very slim yet he survived. With much hope, he shares his struggles and the painful memories of the holocaust. He shares his story in his book called *The Happiest Man on Earth* where he states “*Your efforts today will affect people you will never know. It is your choice whether that effect is positive or negative. You can choose every day, every minute, to act in a way that may uplift a stranger, or else drag them down. The choice is easy. And it is yours to make.*”

We bring to you this 212th issue of the Gabrielite News Bulletin. We have news and articles from 8 Provinces, 1 Formation House in India, 3 Reports in the Partnership Section and more. News from the Generalate shares about the stay of 21 Thai Brothers for their Spiritual Renewal Session in Rome. The article on the visit of the Central Administration to France talks about the visits to the communities and some of the important discussions held with the three General Administrations of the Montfortian Family. The News from the Provinces covers the various activities of the institutions, Spiritual Renewal Sessions, Retreats, Renewal of Vows, Visit of the Assistants General, etc.

The articles under the Province of France cover extensively the birth and ongoing mission of the *Saint-Gabriel Solidarité* Association, and Bro. Jean Ploux shares his personal memories in Guinea Conakry as a missionary. The Province of Senegal shares the two events held at the Province level a Marian pilgrimage for the students of all the Gabrielite institutions and a football match between the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel. On page 40, Bro. Maurice Birane DIOUF shares about the JPIC seminar that took place in Dakar, Senegal. The article on the Inauguration of MGA Bhavan is on page 52. After the visit to the Vice-Province of Madagascar, Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, the Vicar General, shares about his visit to the communities and the immense potential that the newly born Vice-Province has got, on page 31. The Activities of the MGA could be found in the section dedicated to the Partnership Section.

I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all the people involved in the publication of the GNB_212. I thank Bro. Emmanuel P. J. for editing the English texts. We extend our sincere thanks to the translators, Bro. Marcel Chapeleau and Bro. Michel Mendy. My sincere thanks to Bro. Dionigi Taffarello for publishing news in the Partnership Section. A special word of thanks to Bro. James T. K., Bro. Bernard Guesdon and Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, for their constant support and guidance. We thank all the Provincials, Secretaries and News Reporters from the Provinces, who have contributed news items for the publication of the GNB.

Have a good reading!

Bro. Louis Anthonysamy, SG

Dear Readers,

Kindly send your News, Articles, Photos of happenings in your respective Provinces latest by 20th June 2023.

E- Mail to sginfo@fsgroma.org

WhatsApp +91 9445800156

The next Gabrielite News Bulletin will be released in July, 2023.

May 2023

Casa Generalizia



STAY OF THE THAI BROTHERS

From 7 to 16 April 2023, twenty-one Thai Brothers stayed at the General House as part of their Spiritual Renewal Session. A beautiful break during the Holy Week and the octave of Easter.



After a beautiful Easter Eucharistic celebration, the community of the Generalate gave them a warm welcome with the message of the Superior General followed by the harmonious performance of the song "Kuku - Kuku, hah-hah, odiridi didyana, hou-hah!" by the nightingale voice of Bro. Bernard Guesdon and the piano played by Bro. Louis Anthonysamy, which amazed more than one listener.

An aperitif with Easter colours and a festive meal concluded the celebration of Easter, the greatest Christian feast which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, i.e., his victory over death on the third day after his crucifixion.

Under the guidance of Bro. Dechachai Sripricharn, the Provincial Superior, the Brothers benefited from teachings on some aspects of the Montfortian spirituality, a presentation on the Rule under revision, a meeting with the Superior General, some Visits to religious and historical sites (Basilicas of Rome, Loreto, etc).

The Thai Brothers, most of whom are Superiors of Communities or heads of Schools, had a very beautiful experience. It is necessary to regularly offer oneself a time of break, to maintain his relationship with God and oneself, and to return to the world with a renewed energy. In other words, in order to be able to set out on his mission, each Brother needs to refresh himself in Christ

Bro. Jean-Marie Thior, SG
Secretary General



At St. Peter's Square



At casa Generalizia



At Loreto



At Loreto



At Loreto



At Loreto



At casa Generalizia



At casa Generalizia



VISIT OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION TO FRANCE

Taking advantage of the presence in Paris for the annual meeting of the three Central Administrations of the Montfortian Family, the ADC took the opportunity to make a brief but intensive visit to some communities in the Province of France, from 26 to 31 March.

On the 26th evening, after a short stop to visit the magnificent Chartres Cathedral, we arrived at the International Community of Saint Laurent-sur Sèvre, which hosted us throughout our visit. As always, the International Community showed a great spirit of fraternal welcome, making themselves available to respond to our every need and to make us feel at home.



The next day, accompanied by the Provincial Superior, Bro. Yvan Passebon, we went to Pontchâteau, where an intense day of meetings awaited us. In fact, this visit was organised in agreement with the General and Provincial Administrations of the three Congregations

to reflect on the future of the Pontchâteau site and the various projects in the pipeline. In fact, over the last three years, a prospective group created for this purpose has studied the creation of a "radiation centre" at Pontchâteau. Indeed, the idea is that the Pontchâteau site, thanks to the commitment of the three Congregations of the Montfortian Family and numerous lay people, could become a place:

- of evangelisation addressed in particular to young people;
- of reference for the spread of Montfortian spirituality;
- where great attention is given to the poorest and the most fragile;
- where, under the guidance of the Encyclical "Laudato Si'", it helps everyone progress towards an integral ecology.

It was a beautiful day lived as a Montfortian Family, where we all had the opportunity to reflect, celebrate and experience a moment of fraternity in a place symbolising Montfort's great missionary and apostolic activity.

In the evening, on our way back, we stopped to visit the community of the Provincial House in Nantes, which gave us an extraordinary welcome. After praying together, there was a moment of official welcome where Brother Yvan, on behalf of the



whole community, offered each member of the ADC products from the different abbeys and monasteries in France.

The next day we visited our Brothers of the La Hillière communities. The visit began with a Eucharistic celebration, with most of the Brothers from the four communities present. At the end of the Mass, Brother John Kallarackal, the Superior General, addressed a message of greeting to those present, giving some news about the Congregation's life, and thanking all the Brothers for their great witness and support through their prayers. There was also time for questions on some essential dossiers and projects of the Congregation addressed to the Assistants General and the Secretary General. The visit to La Hillière was also an opportunity to pay a visit to the cemetery, to pray for our deceased Brothers of the Province of France, and to relive memories of the moments lived with several Brothers buried there. Naturally, the Montfort Community organised a splendid festive lunch, during which the Brothers expressed their great joy and gratitude for our visit.



Our day ended with a greeting to the community of Montfort Missionaries at Saint Laurent and a visit to the Maison Longue on which, as a Montfortian Family, there is a project to renovate it so that pilgrims can once again visit it.



The next day was dedicated, in particular, to the International Community. During the meeting with the community, the Brothers shared with the ADC some information about their activities, some of the difficulties which they are experiencing, and the beautiful experiences that they have had in the service of the Saint-Gab College, the Congregation and the Montfortian family. It was the occasion for the Superior General and his Council to thank Brother Claude Marsaud, in charge of the community, and all the other Brothers for their commitment to the service of the mission, for their very meaningful witness and especially for the great collaboration given to the Congregation at the level of formation and accompaniment of the groups of Brothers and lay people who periodically come to France. The meeting

was followed by a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Father Paulin, Provincial Superior of the Montfortian Missionaries, and with the presence of the Brothers of the St Gabriel Community, with whom we then shared a good fraternal lunch.

In the afternoon, we visited two Religious communities present in Saint Laurent: the community of the Militants of the Blessed Virgin and the community of the Daughters of Wisdom, which brought together the community of the “Wisdom Year”, the international community and the superiors of the other two communities of Sisters residing in the rest home. Once again, we experienced a warm welcome, with moments of information on the life of the communities, and entertainment with dances and refreshments.

Mr Thierry Letard, welcomed us to introduce us to the school, its programmes of studies, and its plans for the future, and then took us on a tour of the various laboratories, giving us a very clear idea of how this school is at the top in terms of the quality of education. The visit ended with an excellent lunch in the school canteen, in the company of some of the close collaborators of the Director.



In the afternoon, at the conclusion of the visit, Brother Yvan and the whole Provincial Council welcomed us for a meeting during which the Provincial Administration could share with the ADC some important aspects that are marking the Province's life. For the Superior General and his council, this meeting was an opportunity to thank the Province of France for the important contribution it makes to the whole Congregation, through human and economic collaboration on numerous projects and dossiers, through the welcoming Brothers who come from different parts of the Congregation for their formation or spiritual renewal sessions.

We would like to thank the Provincial Superior, Brother Yvan Passebon, and his Council for what they did to make our stay possible and for the excellent organisation of the different programmes. Special thanks to all the Brothers and communities who welcomed us with great warmth and fraternal affection during these four days of the visit.

Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, SG

On the last day, 30 March, the ADC experienced two more important moments. During the morning, the Director of the College of St Gabriel-St Michael,

Province of Hyderabad



RENEWAL OF VOWS:

On 8th April Brothers Ankit Tirkey, Pramod C, Anil Dhuppelli, Prahalad Gandhare, Dominc Kerketta (Sr), Hiren Kumar, K. Naveen Joseph, Dominc Kerketta (Jr), Prudhvi Pasala, James Pasala, Filmon Kiro, Bala Vinay Reddy, Anand Kumar Minj, Parag Tawade and Joseph Kerketta have attended the one week of retreat and renewed their vows for one year.



Bro. Jayabalan, SG

Province of Thailand

The commission on Formation organized a Renewal and Pilgrimage on the Footsteps of Montfort to France and Italy for the Superiors and the School Directors between April 6 – May 6, 2023. Altogether there were 21 Brothers who participated in this activity. Each participant was also assigned a topic for study and they shared their reflections to the group when they arrived at the pilgrimage sites during the trip. They too had the opportunity to meet Rev. Bro. Superior General at the Generalate.

Those who did not go on the pilgrimage, had their Annual Retreat on Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai between March 26 and April 2. Fr. Agustinus Sugiyo Pitoyo S.J. was the preacher. The theme was : “Brothers as Prophets in the Church and in the World.” They also reflected on few relevant Church documents, especially the Apostolic Exhortation : Christus Vivit.



Brothers joining the Annual Retreat.

Young Brothers renew the vows this year



Superiors and Directors joining the Pilgrimage to Rome and France

SONGKRAN FESTIVAL (POURING WATER FESTIVAL)

On Friday 7, April, the personnel of the Administrative Affairs organized the Songkran Festival at Kanchanaburi Learning Center. This festival had been practiced in Thailand for over 700 hundred years by our ancestors to thank and ask forgiveness from God and Nature for giving us water for agriculture and daily consumption. They also joined in unveiling the statue of St. Joseph on the occasion of his feast day, St. Joseph the Worker. In the evening they poured water on each other to ask God to bless everyone on this Thai New Year Day.

On Tuesday, April 11, the AUSO student Committee also organized the festival for administrators, faculty members and students. We wish all of you happy Songkran Day, April 13. Happy New Year to all. And on April 12, evening, the personnel and workers also celebrated the festival at AU Hua Mak Campus and enjoyed water pouring event to wish each other A Happy New Year.

Bro. Achin Tengtrakul, SG



*Unveiling the statue of
St. Joseph*



*Songkran at Kanchanaburi
Learning Center*



Songkran at Hua Mak Campus and Bang Na Campus

Province of Ranchi

MONTFORT NIKETAN, KONBIR NOATOLI

We were fortunate to have with us the Assistant General Rev. Bro. T. K. James on the 1st of February. There was a short cultural programme in the evening in the hostel, and Brothers of both communities were present.

Four days of the SAHAY Tournament was organized in St. Joseph's ground by the Basia sub-division. Montfort Senior Secondary Girl's Football team was the second runner-up. Mr. Prianshu Xaxa was selected for 100 Meters and represented Gumla district in

Ranchi and won the third position, he was awarded Rs. 5000/-.

Montfort Sr. Sec. School bade farewell to Students of Class X on the 11th of February. This year 104 students are appearing for the Board exam. Bro. Xavier and two teachers had gone to Ranchi on the 18th and 19th to attend the seminar on Montfortian Educators Marching Ahead: Towards a Montfortian Gabrielite Holistic Education.

Bro. Xavier Tete, SG



MONTFORT SADAN, KOLKATA

On 5th February, we had the Monthly Recollection in the community. It was conducted by Bro. Avijit. The Theme of the recollection was "Happiness in Religious life". On this prayerful day we had sufficient time to ponder over the theme and it helped us to reflect upon our life deeply.

On 7th February, we organised farewell programme for Class X students. On this day teachers gave good wishes through their greetings and various other programmes. The Principal of the school Bro. Johnson gave valuable message and good wishes to the students for their future life. All the students were in colourful dress and well disciplined.



On 13th February, the Annual Examination began for all the students, Mont-I to class-XI. All the students were very serious about their exams and the results; therefore they were concentrating only on their studies during the Exam days.

It was an occasion of great joy and blessings for us to have had a gathering on 15th of February with the Local Bishop, Our Parish Priest and other Priests from nearby Parishes at Montfort Sadan, Kolkata. It was a great joy for us to share the love of God and the mission that we are carrying out. We had a very meaningful sharing and discussion on various topics with them.



One of our students; Srishti Das won a gold in the National Climbing Championship held at JRD Tata Sports complex, Jamshedpur. We wish her all the best for her future in one of the most difficult sporting events; mountaineering.

On 17th February, Bro. Kuldeep and Bro. Avijit went to Ranchi for a seminar. The seminar was held on 18th and 19th of February in Provincialate, Kanke. This programme was mainly for the Vice Principals and the co-ordinators of the schools managed by the Brothers. Almost from all the schools, Vice Principals and co-ordinators were present.

On 22nd February, as we entered the Lenten season, we had a special common prayer in the community conducted by Bro. Avijit. We attended the Mass in the parish in the evening celebrating Ash Wednesday.

On 26th February, we had community outing to Mother's Wax Museum. We had good time over there, refreshing ourselves from the busy schedule.

Bro. Avijit Lomga, SG

MONTFORT SCHOOL, KANABANDH



Montfort School, Kanabandh is facing many challenges. We are doing our best to meet these challenges. All the teachers visit the families to encourage the students to come to school regularly. They also encourage and educate the parents by telling them about the importance of education. The parents who are in need are offered fee concessions in order to encourage every child of the locality to come to school.



Some of the important events are that on 29th of January Bro. Markose along with all his staff and committee members visited us and all the teachers welcomed them and had a good interaction.



On 2nd February Bro. Varghese Mandapathil visited and encouraged the students and teachers with his valuable message. Bro. T. K. James also made a flying visit to the school and encouraged staff and students. All the staff members took keen interest in the blessing and inauguration of the MGA formation Centre by participating and presenting a dance performance.

Bro. Abraham P. J., SG

PROVINCE LEVEL MGA MEETING



“The wisdom I proclaim is God’s secret wisdom, which is hidden from mankind....”(1Cor2:7).

The Province of Delhi organized a Province level MGA Meeting at Montfort Villa, Bhopal on 11th & 12th February 2023. The main aim of the meeting was to develop awareness among the new members of the association. The meeting started with a prayer service conducted by Bro. Alok Minj which was followed by introduction of the members. The resource person for the meeting was Bro. Paulose Mekkunnel, SG who explicitly explained the Montfortian Spirituality and charism.

The meeting involved group discussions and sharing of the experiences regarding the MGA meetings of various schools in their respective places. Various challenges faced by the members were also put forward.

The MGA Charter was also explained properly. The mission and vision of MGA was elucidated. It was followed by elucidation about the membership.

The MGA members were made aware of the structure of Governance at various levels. A lot of emphasis was laid on the topic of family as a “Domestic Church” and through the witness of families, the Gospel can reach every place and every section of the society.

The meeting ended with a few decisions taken regarding the growth and development of MGA movement and some steps were discussed to make it a successful initiative.

A group photo was taken at the end of the meeting with the MGA members of different Montfort Schools.

Ms. Ashna Paulose



Province of North-East India

MONTFORT CENTRE FOR EDUCATION, TURA

Physical Education is an integral part of the total education system and it helps in the attainment of the ultimate aim of education, i.e., the achievement of the holistic development. Sports play a vital role in the student's life. Montfort Centre for Education, Tura, with the aim of creating equal opportunities for all, organized the Annual Inclusive Sports Meet on 23rd and 24th March 2023 under MYP 4035 project, in collaboration with CBM.

H.I (Hearing Impaired), VI (Visual impaired) and ID (Intellectual Disability) students of MCE, Tura, actively took part in Spoon Races, Sack Races, frog jumps, Balloon Blasting, Plate Races, Ring Throws,

50 M and 100 M Races. These events which aimed to give the 'Students with Disabilities and Special Needs' an equitable competitive environment, skill acquisition and social relaxation from mental stress and a small break from studies, created an equal opportunity for them, to show case their talents, along with the others and increase their self - esteem.

It is to be noted that all the students with and without disabilities participated in the sports meet with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship, making the days, memorable ones for all, especially the Children with Special Needs.

Bro. Peter Veda, SG





31 poor families were given a 200 liters water tank each



MONTFORT GABRIELITE ASSOCIATES CHAMPAKNAGAR UNIT

WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATIONS

“Accelerating change” was the theme for the World Water Day 2023. It aims at the sustainable management of water. The Montfort Gabrielite Associates, Champaknagar, organized an awareness programme and distributed 200 litres Syntex water tanks to 31 families, residing at Sambhu charan para village, in the presence of Bro. M. K. Devassy, the Principal, the Brothers, the members of the Staff and Students.

The Chief Guest, Sister Sarita Lakra (Superior of St. Mary's Home), Guests of Honour, Mr. Mangal Debbarma (ex - secretary of St. Alphonsa's Parish, Khumulwng), Mrs. Sabita Debbarma (President of Maria Sangha) and Bro. Principal in their addresses highlighted the important roles that reduction of water wastage and the usage of water prudently in our daily lives play in the sustainable management of water.

The beneficiaries were indeed extremely happy and expressed their gratitude to Montfort School, the Principal and the Members of the Montfort Gabrielite Associates (MGA), Champaknagar, for providing

them the means to reduce wastage of water, harvest and store water for direct use which is an essential component for living a healthy and happy life.

Mr. John Jadurai
MGA, Tripura



A VISIT TO JYOTI SNEHALAYA BY MGA GUWAHATI

The members of Montfort Gabrielite Associates, Guwahati, Ms. Ronica Devi, Ms. Mandira, Ms. Nirju, Ms. Madowna and Ms. Suzanna visited *Jyoti Snehalaya* Orphanage Home on Saturday, 11th February, 2023, at Beltola, Guwahati, to celebrate the 350th Birth Anniversary of St. Louis De Montfort with the under-privileged children at *Jyoti Snehalaya*, an orphanage home.

The visit started with a short prayer invoking God's choicest blessings to be showered upon the children, the members of the staff and the MSMHC Sisters who run the orphanage home. The MGA members of Montfort School, Guwahati, spoke to them about St. Montfort, his well-known benevolence towards the poor and the under-privileged and his dedication to Jesus and Mary.

At present there are 49 girls within the age group of 13-16 in *Jyoti Snehalaya*. Sr. Bina, the Sister in charge of the orphanage home, briefed us on the functioning of the orphanage home, the activities and the lives of the children at the centre.

To Mark the 350th Birth Anniversary of St. Montfort, the inmates were gifted Rice, Eggs, pulses, Oil and other grocery items.

It was indeed a privilege for the MGA members to interact with the children, share their joy and experience their lives at the orphanage home, *Jyoti Snehalaya*.

Ms. Kh. Ronica Devi
MGA, Guwahati



Province of France



AT THE HEART OF THE BROTHERS' VOCATION : HELPING THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

The "Réseau de Solidarité" was created by the Central Administration of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel in 1995 with the aim of helping or supporting projects in the communities of the Brothers in the developing countries.

In 1997, the "Réseau Solidarité France", was launched under the impulse of Brother Georges Le Vern. Information and requests were made to the Brothers' communities, schools, and individuals. In the beginning, only two Gabrielite institutions were supported: Diamantine in Brazil and the schools of Bihar in India in the Province of Ranchi. This was the beginning of St. Gabriel Solidarité, although it did not yet have a name. Lay associations were created or, if they existed, joined in to support the work of the Brothers, who were thus able to develop. Until 2010, the funds provided were managed by the Province of France and the Provincial Bursar.

Since 2010, Saint-Gabriel Solidarité has been recognised as a non-profit Association by the French State, with its own statutes, board of directors, and organisation, but still linked to the Province of France. The aim of the association is to help the poor and the underprivileged, especially in developing countries where the Brothers are present, but also to ensure, as far as possible, that the assisted countries get self-sufficiency and "fly on their own wings". This is the case, for example, in India and, to a certain extent, in Brazil.

Among the countries being assisted, we can mention :

- **Madagascar**, which recently became a Vice-Province,
- **Burkina Faso and Guinea Conakry**, which belong to the Province of Senegal,
- **Rwanda**, which is part of the Province of East Africa.





**PICTURES OF OUR CHARITY
IN BURKINA FASO**



Since 2010, little by little, laypeople have joined Saint-Gabriel Solidarité and became familiar with the Brothers' mission. This is how the late Bro. Robert Bauvineau (U 29 April 2022), who was president of Saint-Gabriel Solidarity for a long time, integrated a certain number of laypeople into the board of directors; this is how I became president of the said association.

In 2017, when I was only a member of Saint-Gabriel Solidarity, I went to Burkina Faso with *"Solidaires"* (a Partner charity). We did some work at the High School in Dédougou. At the same time, this enabled me to report on the aid provided by SGS and its use.

In 2019, still with Saint Gabriel Solidarité, I visited the School for Deaf in Butare, Rwanda. This visit gave us an opportunity to evaluate the help and the needs of the people.

Last January, I went to Guinea Conakry. The main purpose of this trip was to take part in the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the creation of the first rural School in Ourouss (Northern Guinea). I also visited the two other schools we sponsor: Katakody and Kataco, where Bro. Joseph Douet was murdered on 8 April 2008.



RWANDA



Beyond the financial aspects, this association allows the creation of links between people, makes young people aware of global social issues, and helps them to think about how **to create a more just and fraternal world.**

The funds raised to help schools in the above-mentioned countries come from:

-Different associations and charities that collaborate with Saint-Gabriel Solidarity; we can mention among others: "Les Papiers de l'Espoir" from Vertou, "Recyclutile" from Deux-Sèvres, "Les Jeunes agriculteurs" from Maine et Loire, "Sacs de Blé" in Vendée.

-Sale of calendars.

-Donations made by individuals (with a tax reduction).

In order to verify the validity of the aid provided and its use, we try, as far as possible, to go to the field, in order to support the Brothers present there. These Brothers are admirable! They live in precarious conditions despite the donations that allow us to finance equipment to provide a little comfort (solar panels for electricity in the buildings, to operate the water pumps, and solar freezers to store food). We also finance school materials, books, and part of the teachers' salaries. All this is only a drop in the bucket compared to the needs, but we hope that with this help some young people will be able to claim a better life.

Christiane Bretaudeau
President of Saint-Gabriel Solidarité





From the Saint-Gabriel Network to the Saint-Gabriel Solidarité Association.

Saint-Gabriel Solidarité (SGS), under the impetus of Brother Robert Bauvineau and a whole team of volunteers, has taken on an importance over the years that is worthy of praise. They have built up a real network of solidarity which has proved its worth in several countries around the world, particularly in the field of education. It is always interesting when you want to clarify your identity, to know where you come from, to go back in time, to find your roots. This is also the case for the Saint-Gabriel Solidarité association.

For this, we have to go back to the 28th General Chapter of the Brothers (meeting of all the congregation leaders) held in Rome from 19 December 1994 to 7 January 1995, and focused on the "revitalisation" of the Institute. The revitalisation of a religious institute necessarily involves a conversion, a deepening of the spiritual life, of the fraternal life, and of the apostolic life. In order to become a reality, a conversion for revitalisation could not and should not remain at the theoretical or spiritual, or mystical level alone. It had to be given substance through concrete actions. This is why the General Chapter, after having affirmed strong convictions on the need for revitalisation, gave the entire congregation practical recommendations for concrete commitments in terms of solidarity, which thus became both a priority and a means of restoring vitality and breath to the whole institute.

Solidarity: A characteristic of our Congregation

The report of the central administration presented to the capitulant Brothers demonstrated that genuine solidarity already existed within the Institute, in terms of spiritual support, personnel, and finances, with the entities "which today are experiencing difficult situations...: Zaire, Haiti, Madagascar, Peru, Gabon, Congo, India" (letter no. 8 from Brother Jean Friant, Superior General). In order not to disperse the efforts



On Lake Kiou, Rwanda

and to make the ", the chapter decided to give priority to Africa. "A new life is emerging in Africa. We accord it special attention because, like everything that is emerging, this life is fragile and delicate. (Letter No. 3 of the Superior General). In concrete terms, this has resulted in several consultative meetings in Africa.

Financial Solidarity

Under the impetus of Brother Jean Friant and of the General Bursar, a great effort was made to develop fraternal solidarity, because we truly believe that solidarity is: "the firm and determined will to work for the common good, because all of us are truly responsible for everyone" (Encyclical Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, n. 38). On the proposal of the International Finance Commission, a five-year aid plan for Africa (1991-1995) was adopted. The question is what happens next (after 1995). Should this aid be continued or should it be stopped at the risk of hindering the development of a sector that has good prospects?

Creation of the Gabrielite Fund for Africa (GABAF) and of a Solidarity Network

During the 28th General Chapter, seven Provincial Superiors gathered around the General Bursar and decided to participate in the constitution of a fund

for Africa "sufficiently high to cover the costs of formation of our African confreres", a speech of Bro. Jean Friant to the provincial bursars, Rome, 14 June 1994. In order to respond to the growing demand for financial aid for the development of the Provinces, the Chapter also decided to set up a Solidarity Network, piloted by the Central Administration, which would include "all those who wish to be associated with our mission: friends, families, former Brothers, students, Associations of Gabrielite Alumni, Gabrielite Associates, etc." Of course, we will continue to appeal to the various organisations (NGOs) that are willing to help... This network will only take shape if we develop a spirit of solidarity among our friends and benefactors in each of the provinces". (Letter n° 8 of the Superior General).

Genesis of the "Réseau Solidarité" in the Province of France

The provincial team of the province of France responded to the call and decided to launch its solidarity network in 1995. The first steps were rather timid. But requests from Brazil, Madagascar, and the Ranchi Province (India) were already landing at the provincial bursar's office, asking for financial aid to equip and train young students at the Montfort technical center in Hazaribag. The Solidarity Network committed itself to providing aid for 10 years. The French Province was not the only one to create its solidarity network. The Province of Spain launched its own, as did the Province of Canada, which set up the *Fonds Romain-Landry*. The financial capacities of this fund made it possible to make very important investments such as the construction of schools in Africa and Rwanda, among others.

From the Solidarity Network to the Association Solidarité Saint-Gabriel

The "Réseau Solidarité Saint-Gabriel" underwent significant development in the 2000s, under the impetus of Brother Robert Bauvineau, who had just

been appointed Provincial Superior. He managed to gather around him a team of motivated and devoted volunteers and to create a real network by gathering some charities and associations with the same social goal. His great merit was also to secure a legal basis for the network through recognition as an Association under the 1901 law by the French government, with all the obligations and advantages that this entails.

With the benefit of almost 30 years' hindsight, we can see how far the modest Réseau Saint-Gabriel has come, which, over time, through dedication, patience, perseverance, and tenacity, has become an organisation full of vitality, which we can always count on and which knows how to respond to the needs of developing countries in the all-important field of education, because, as Nelson Mandela said: **"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world"**.

Thanks and congratulations

We can never thank enough those who, along with Bro. Robert volunteered to give life to the Saint-Gabriel Solidarity Association, which today still supports many projects throughout the world with "the firm and persevering determination to work for the common good because we are all truly responsible for all.

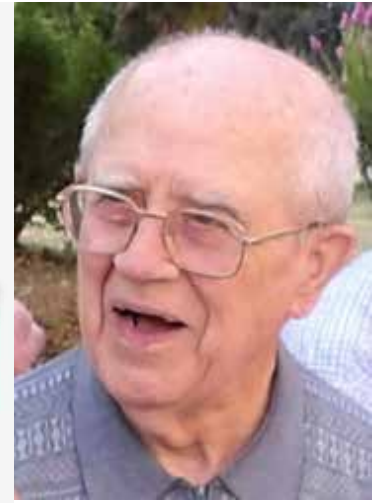


Bro. Georges Le Vern, SG
Provincial House Community



Students from Dedougou visiting the works with Véronique, member of Solidarité Saint-Gabriel

The mission of the Brothers in Ourous Personal memories in Guinea



**Bro. Jean Ploux,
Montfort Community**

I started my missionary work in 1964 in Senegal and I remained there continuously until 1995. At that time, the Provincial of Senegal (Bro. Joseph Douet, at the end of his mandate as Provincial was replaced by Bro. Robert Thiaw). He asked me to go with him to Guinea to open a new community that would be in charge of school animation and also of the rural formation of young people, at the request of Abbot Apollinaire Sarah of the Mission of Ourous, a request supported by the Bishop of Conakry (Mgr. Robert Sarah), who were both natives of Ourous. Ourous is the name of a neighborhood in the town of Youkounkoun where the Catholic Mission is located.

Guinea Conakry underwent about 25 years of the dictatorial regime of Sékou Touré, then the regime of Lansana Condé, and now that of Alpha Condé (elected president). The consequences of the dictatorial regime of Sékou Touré are still tangible: people find it difficult to trust each other after 25 years of denunciations.

Education has to be taken up again from the bottom up. All services need to be reorganised. The new Head of State has a huge task to get the country back on track. This country is full of wealth that should be exploited for the benefit of the people and the country.

The hot and humid climate, with abundant rainfall, allows for all kinds of crops: millet, fonio, peas, and rice. In a normal year, harvests are abundant. The year's harvest is divided into two parts: one part to feed the family, and the other part for the various traditional celebrations that take place throughout the year.

Youkounkoun is a town located about 40 km from Salemata, near the Senegalese border. The surrounding area is inhabited by the Coniagui, the Bassaris, the Boéni (former Bassaris converted to Islam under pressure from the Peuls), the Peuls, and the Dialankés. Youkounkoun has become a district and depends on the Prefecture of Koundara, located about 25 km away. The country is hilly because it is very close to the Fouta Djallon mountains: these elevations already announce the mountain.

In the course of 1995, Father Apollinaire Sarah visited us in Salemata (a region home to Bassari and Peul ethnical groups), inviting us to open parents' schools, similar to what is done in the villages around Salemata. With the consent of the Provincial of Senegal, Brother Joseph Douet, in May 1995, Brother Robert Thiaw (future Provincial) and I went on a visit with Father Apollinaire to see what was already being done in the villages around Youkounkoun. During one week, with the Abbot and Mr. Honoré, responsible for the schools already opened, we travelled through the



Bassari country. The people of the villages welcomed us, as they know how to do in Africa. They expressed their joy at seeing us take charge of their schools and hoped that this would be extended to other villages. During this time of visit, we spent the nights outside, lying in hammocks as the heat is stifling in the month of May before the rains arrive. There is no shortage of food and drink. As it should be in Bassari country, these meetings often end with palm wine and dancing.

After a two-month holiday in France, in September 1995, I returned to Dakar to prepare for our new installation in Guinea at Ourous. After a day and a half of waiting in Dakar, I was able to fly to Conakry, where I was welcomed by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, who run a college that had been confiscated by Sékou Touré, like all the property belonging to the Catholic Church, and gradually handed over to his successor Lansana Condé.

During my stay, I was able to get a glimpse of the life of the Brothers and the Guinean population. The electricity works when there is enough fuel, about 6 hours a day. Invited by Monsignor Robert Sarah,



**Brother Jean Ploux in Senegal
with his elder sister**

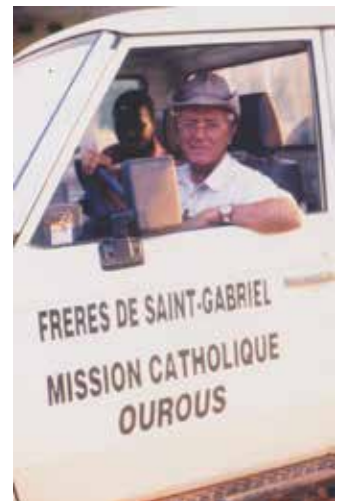
Archbishop of the Diocese of Conakry, I witnessed the enthusiastic welcome of the population in a Christian sector and also the boldness of the Monsignor in denouncing all the excesses of certain leaders during a day of Confirmation. It took a long time to get the necessary funds and a vehicle to travel to Ourous near Youkounkoun. During the month of October, the General Administrator of the Archdiocese lent us the vehicle of the parish priest of the mission of Ourous (who was on holiday) and we were able to transport the necessary material for our new community house in Ourous.

In the middle of the rainy season, with two seminarians

from the Koundara region, we took the road from Koundara to Ourous (about 800 km of paved road and track, in a rugged and mountainous country). It was a real adventure to discover this new country. The vehicle, just out of the garage, had a few surprises in store for us: brakes jamming, water boiling in the battery, fire in an electrical circuit, and a cylinder feed tube cut. We finally reached Koundara Catholic Mission at 3 a.m., after many more hours on the road. We managed to wake up the Parish Priest who was not aware of our visit. We could not join him on the phone due to network problems. The next day, he took us to Ourous, 25 km far from Koundara. We then discovered the place that will be our mission land. We lived in a house that was used as a Catholic dispensary before independence. The buildings are still solid, but the doors and windows had to be repaired.

The mission still bears the marks of the revolution: there is neither water nor electricity for a long time. Everything had been ransacked. The mission of Ourous is the first mission in the whole region and started around 1900. From Ourous the mission of Kédougou in Senegal was opened before the borders were created at independence in 1960.

After this first brief contact, we returned to Koundara to collect our vehicle and have it repaired. The day after our arrival, we took the road again (the 2 seminarians and myself) to reach Conakry. As soon as we left, the starter motor broke down. From Koundara to Conakry, it is better to avoid stopping the engine... Thank God, after many hours on the



road, we finally arrived in Conakry, happy to leave the vehicle there for a good overhaul. A few days later, Brother Joseph Douet, a future head of the local community, arrived. Mgr. Sarah welcomed us and invited us to share a meal. He told us of his joy at welcoming us and also of his hope for the schools that will open in his native region.

Brother Joseph organised the establishment of a practical training center for the young people of the area by building two classrooms. He then started a training course in carpentry, with French classes, basic mathematics, hygiene classes, and human and religious formation.

I did the reconnaissance of the villages. With M. Honoré, we visited the schools already open. Given the lack of material for the classes, I crossed the border to find Salemata and to recover in Kédougou (from the sisters) all the unused or out-of-date books. With the plywood recovered here and there, we were even able to make small wooden tablets, so that the pupils could place them on their knees and write with greater ease. Little by little, everything fell into place. At that time we systematically visited villages that already had a school or that wanted to open one, meeting the village chiefs and the parents of the pupils who always gave us a warm welcome.

So, what can I say about the four years I spent in the mission of Ourous? Almost every day I left with Mr Honoré or sometimes alone to visit one or two schools in the same area. When I left early, at sunrise,



The 3 brothers of the community of Ourous: Brothers. Jean Armal, Joseph Douet and Jean Ploux

I was in awe of the wonders of nature: the leaves of the trees became translucent in the sunlight. In the middle of the forests, I often met monkeys, guinea fowl, and sometimes agile and graceful gazelles. The instructors were full of goodwill. The basic level sometimes left something to be desired, as many of them had studied under Sékou Touré's regime: they had therefore studied in their mother tongue and also in French as a foreign language. To remedy this, every month we organised training days for CM2 level and pedagogical courses. The inspector of Koundara once said to me: "Your teachers don't have the required qualifications, but if you continue to supervise them, you will get better results than our qualified teachers, because your teachers are more regular in their work."

During the four years in the mission: little by little, we equipped each class with two blackboards. Each child had a blackboard, a slate and chalk, a reading book, a notebook, and pens. Each school year followed the

same calendar as the recognized schools: a few days off at Christmas, Easter, and traditional holidays that were hard to escape. The school year had to end at the end of May, the beginning of June, because the youth initiation festivals were starting and the surrounding villages had to participate.

In early June, the summer holidays began. After the initiations, the children went to the fields to prepare the crops of millet, fonio, peas, and rice; others guarded the herds which had moved away from the cultivation areas. We collected the equipment from all the schools and even the blackboards. We started to refurbish the school books. We went to Dakar, Senegal, in June to buy school supplies: books, notebooks, pencils, pens, and slates, because they were difficult to find in Conakry. After the heavy rains, it was very difficult to cross the Niokolo Koba Park (Senegalese National Wildlife Reserve where wild animals are protected and guarded by armed guards. The tracks were full of water and crossing them was dangerous because of their depth.

In the third year of my stay (1998), after two trips to Conakry, I started to lose strength. Going to Conakry (about 800 km) was a feat practised by many Guineans: the taxis were family 405s or 505s: passengers sat: 2 people near the driver, 5 people in the middle and 3 on the back seat; on the roof rack, the luggage and 2 apprentices. There was no need for a seat belt. The track from Koundara to the town of Labé crossed the Fouta Djallon and culminated at more than 1000 m of altitude. The winding road brushed against impressive precipices where the remains of a vehicle invited caution. After more than 14 hours on the road, we still had 36 km to go before Conakry, where everyone got off because the road was blocked until 6 a.m., due to the insecurity in the city of Conakry. After a night spent with mosquitoes, we left for Conakry and arrived there at about 8 a.m. because the road was clogged with vehicles; the highway code did not apply in the same way as in France.

In March 1998, Brother Joseph Douet, with whom I was living in the community, took me to Dakar for a time of rest, and after a month's break, I returned to Ourous. I then settled everything concerning the running of the schools until the end of the school year. At the end of April, Brother Joseph took me again to Dakar: it was then that the doctor decided to send me to France to recover from severe anemia. From 1 May to September, the break allowed me to regain the necessary strength to return to supervising the schools in Ourous.

By late September, I was on my way to Senegal. Brother Joseph could not come to pick me up because of the rain, I joined Ourous by taxi: on the first day, I went to Tambacounda (450 km). On the second day, I reached Vélingara (about 100 km), where I was welcomed by the Brothers of Ploërmel. On the third day, I went to Diaobé, the point of departure for Guinea (after hours of waiting, the taxi left at about 6 p.m.). When we arrived at the border, we realised that it was closed until 8 a. m. So we had to spend the night there... in the company of mosquitoes. One of the passengers warned me that my closed shoes were not suitable for what was ahead...

At 8 o'clock, we left for Guinea in two taxis with a total of 26 people (we were often called to help to pull the taxis out of the muddy road). From waterhole to waterhole, we crossed the forest and in the afternoon, after some technical problems with the taxi (broken tank blocked by chewing gum, exhaust pipe regularly repaired), we finally arrived in Koundara. Then I took a taxi to Ourous.

The school term started again! Because of my health problems, the Provincial decided to appoint a young Brother to replace Bro. Léon Tendeng. Before the end

of the 1998-1999 school year, he spent some time in Ourous and together we visited the neighboring rural schools. At the end of May 1999, together we held the last pedagogical formation meeting of the year, and officially he took over the responsibility of the schools of the Ourous Mission. On the afternoon of the meeting, a swarm of bees, no doubt disturbed, attacked me and stung me on my neck, arms, and face: I lay down to see what would happen, how the body would react: no swelling, little discomfort... Fortunately! The Lord takes care of his children, and I really gave thanks for his protection that day. I would like to thank God for all these years spent in Bassari country, in the missions of Salemata and Ourous, where I often travelled alone without being worried.



The Church of Ourous



The School of Ourous

Province of Senegal

PILGRIMAGE FOR MONTFORTIAN INSTITUTIONS

Lent is an important time in the Catholic liturgy, a season that invites to conversion of the heart. This time is often the privileged occasion to gather the Faithful for sharing different themes that help prepare them to commemorate the passion of Christ. It is also a privileged time for heart-to-heart conversations around the great devotions that nourish our faith and follow Christ.

For several years now, the Province of Senegal has kept the tradition of bringing together every three years all Gabrielite Institutions for a Montfortian pilgrimage. This Pilgrimage is an opportunity for our students not only to build friendships, but also to reflect on an aspect of Montfortian spirituality. This edition, and taking advantage of the Marian year in the Archdiocese of Dakar, was the best opportunity to reflect on Marian devotion according to Father de Montfort. It was also an opportunity to relive the impetus of partnership lived in the congregation with the collaborators, associates, and students, and to share the Montfortian rich spiritual heritage.

Responding to the call of Prophet Isaiah in his book chapter 55 verse 6: "Seek the Lord, he will be found" or Jeremiah 29,13: "You will seek me and you will find me", and following the invitation of the Lord to go to meet him, we met on Saturday 04 March 2023 for a Marian pilgrimage at the foot of Our Lady of the Deliverance of Popenguine.

The theme of the pilgrimage was **"To Jesus through Mary"**.

After the arrival of the different delegations at the meeting point at the bottom of the shrine, a procession with the meditation of the rosary marked the beginning of the pilgrimage. Once at the shrine, a word of welcome by the Head of the Organisation and the launch of the day's slogan. Simon Guedj NIAKH, the Parish Priest Saint Jeanne d'Arc in Fatick, on the theme of the pilgrimage, gave the pilgrims a better understanding of Montfortian spirituality. After this conference, there was a time of recollection to prepare for the Mass. The Eucharist was celebrated by the lecturer, accompanied of some chaplains from our Gabrielite Institutions. After the Eucharist, we had a break and a sharing time between students, teachers, associates, collaborators, and Brothers.

In the afternoon, a cultural party, animated by the different choirs of our various institutions, brought an end to the day. Responding to the Pope's call to walk along the paths of synodality where each one brings his or her participation, choral songs accompanied by dance steps brightened the day. The pilgrimage ended after the word of thanks of the Provincial Superior and the blessing of the delegations.

SLOGAN

- Montfortiansof Saint Gabriel
- With our Brothers and sisters Let us go to Jesus through Mary
- For a more just and fraternal world

PHOTOS OF THE PILGRIMAGE



Welcome Words by Brother Alphonse Ngor NDAW



A part of the delegation of the College of Sine (Fatick)



Father Simon Guedj NIAKH, lecturer And celebrant



Rosary meditated during the march to the shrine



the choir of the Institution Saint Louis Marie de Grignon College (Malika)



Part of the congregation during the celebration

FRIENDLY FOOTBALL MATCH SAINT GABRIEL VS SACRED HEART

In Senegal, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and the Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel have always lived an active collaboration, and developed fraternal ties. Let us remind that some of our older Brothers completed their Novitiate with those of the Sacred Heart in Nianing.

For some years now, this collaboration has been resumed in other forms, particularly with friendly football matches. These friendly football matches were halted due to various tight schedule.

Brother Maurice Gora NDIONE of Saint Gabriel and Brother François Lemoine NDIAYE of the Sacred Heart wished, the main organisers of the encounter, said they wish revive these fraternal moments around football. This idea was approved and encouraged by the determination and commitment of all.

The match took place on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Jean de Nianing College, a well renowned School run by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. Many Brothers were able to make the trip and a good crowd was there to support the players in this football match. The Brothers of the Sacred Heart won by 2 goals to 0.

The main thing being participation and fair play, everyone gained in joy, friendships, and sharings. A fraternal meal ended the day. During this time of fellowship, a *WhatsApp* group for members of both congregations was created and a proposal to have a common time of recollection was put forward.

The Brothers of Saint Gabriel will host the next encounter which will take place in the months to come.

Bro. Patrice Mbengue, SG

PHOTOS OF THE FOOTBALL MATCH



FANS



Sacred Heart Team



Group photo of the 2 teams



St. Gabriel TEAM

BIRTH OF A VICE-PROVINCE (MADAGASCAR) A TREASURE IN GOD'S HEART

From December 22, 2022 to January 8, 2023, Brother Jean-Marie Thior and I had the opportunity to visit the new Vice-Province of Madagascar. Both of us were visiting the country for the 2nd time. I myself first visited Madagascar 3 years ago, and Brother Jean-Marie came to Madagascar 15 years ago, when serving as Provincial in the context of a joint Novitiate formation started by the 2 provinces.



Our Christmas holiday visit had a two-fold objective. The first was to take part in the first Assembly of the new Vice-Province and accompany the Brothers of Madagascar as they engage in a crucial moment in which to lay the foundations for the future of this entity. The second objective was to

visit the communities, the Brothers, to get to know their experience, their activities, and their joys and daily difficulties. Unfortunately, we did not meet too many people due to holiday leave: Students, our collaborators, and the different groups of "Friends of Montfort" were on vacation.

We were sorry for not meeting all our collaborators and students. However, we had a chance to spend valuable time with our confreres, to meet them personally, and hold community gatherings, without rushing. I sincerely believe that it was a gift from God that we were able to meet. We have had time to get to know each other better and to discover the commitment and efforts of the Brothers who are doing their best to fulfill the ministry entrusted to them.



The assembly of the Vice-Province, which was held at the Jesuit house in Antananarivo from 26 to 30 December was a beautiful experience of fraternity. The work took place in a beautiful atmosphere of dialogue with active and constructive participation by all. There are many ideas and projects to be realised. Unfortunately, the small number of Brothers, and the lack of experience of some of them (linked to their youth), constitute a brake on the realisation of all these dreams, despite the goodwill that is being manifested. The commitment of all will certainly help us to overcome these limits, even if it will take time and perseverance.



PHILIPPE RINEAU, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PROVINCE, DURING THE TRAINING AND ACCOUNTING SESSIONS.

In addition to addressing the life and mission of the different communities, institutions, and commissions, the Assembly also looked at the future of the Vice-Province, trying to set guidelines that will allow it to better face the challenges ahead. We also took advantage of the presence of Mr. Philippe Rineau, administrator of the Province of France, to organise training sessions in accounting and administration. These training sessions in administration and accounting are very important for the transparent management of the communities and schools. The modification of the Provisional Directory of the Vice-Province was another significant moment of the Assembly. The Directory was modified and adapted to better match the reality of the Brothers in Madagascar.

After the Assembly, we visited all the communities, except Tamatave which we could not visit due to the bad weather and the poor state of the roads. Only Philippe Rineau was able to visit the community in Tamatave.

The trips to the different communities were long and tiring, especially for our dear confreres Antoine and Julien who drove for so many hours zigzagging from one pothole to another. But the stress was immediately forgotten in the face of the warm welcome we received. We were all delighted by the beautiful apostolate of our Brothers and the commitment of our communities which are often in very poor and remote areas.

It's always impressive for us coming from the West, (where society has grown older and births are declining) to see the sheer number of children and young people. Children are everywhere, some



Renewal of vows ceremony in Antananarivo during the chapter in December 2022

playing, others working or looking after their younger siblings, while others simulate street maintenance to earn money from passengers. Unfortunately, we know that many of them will not have the opportunity to go to school for economic reasons or due to the long distance to schools. I wanted to highlight this aspect of Madagascan society to underline the importance of the presence of Congregations like ours. Our commitment to the education of young people, supported by the generous support of many donors, offers many boys and girls the chance to get an education that can change their future and the future of society.

Apart from the youth of Madagascan society, I was impressed by the young age of the confreres who make up our communities in Madagascar. It was an extraordinary experience for me, as someone who is used to living and working in communities where the average age has always been over 70. It was indeed taking a refreshing bath. We were impressed



Photo of the group of young aspirants and "solofos" (trainees)



**Community of the Brothers of Saint-Gabriel
in Tamatave**

to see so many young Brothers, many of them with temporary vows, working together, also taking on great responsibilities in the schools and houses of formation, responsibilities that are sometimes too great given their age and lack of experience. They are doing very well! They are all involved and committed, facing the many urgent situations to be dealt with, the Brothers being few in number, have to deal with the most urgent matters...

It was another "youthful" experience to visit the formation houses, to meet the postulants, aspirants and "candidates", and to spend time talking with them for getting to know and appreciating the international dimension of our congregation. Seeing so many young people in research and formation certainly fills us with great hope for the future. However, at the same time, for a reality as young as the Vice-Province of Madagascar, the formation and accompaniment of so many young people is a real challenge to be taken up, because we need Brothers who are available and well-trained in formation.

We are grateful to the Brothers and we would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for accepting this challenge and dedicating a large part of their time in living with the candidates, accompanying them, and helping them in their journey of discernment, with so much passion and commitment, we are aware that this mission is very demanding and requires patience and dedication. Indeed, as I said to the Brothers at the end of the Assembly, having so many vocations is a gift from



**F. René Nizon, at the
community of Tamatave,
present in Madagascar
since January 1976**

God, but caring for vocations is a great responsibility and duty for all. Madagascar currently has 6 novices in formation at the International Novitiate in Thiès, Senegal, and as many or more could enter in September of this year. Certainly, the social and religious situation of Madagascar favours the birth of many vocations, but we must recognize that it is also thanks to the testimony and the precious work of our Brothers that the vocation to become a Brother of Saint Gabriel becomes attractive!

Another striking aspect of the visit was the commitment of several Brothers to make good use of the land belonging to the Vice-Province, both the smaller ones around the houses or schools and the larger ones such as the Belobaka property, a few kilometers from Mahajanga. Thanks to cultivation and breeding, the communities can have economic support and above all authentic and "organic" products, as we often like to say in jest. Thanks to the generosity of these communities, we had the opportunity, during our visit, to taste the goodness and authenticity of these products, and to appreciate first-hand the fruit of the work of our Brothers and candidates.

In my personal name and on behalf of Brother Jean-Marie, I would like to thank all the Brothers, without distinction, for the fraternal welcome they have given us, for the time they have devoted to us, and for all the attention they have lavished on us, small or large so that we feel as much at home as possible and so that we can appreciate Malagasy hospitality.

The hope is that, with God's help and with the perseverance and commitment of all, this missionary reality of our Congregation will grow in number and quality, in vocations and in works, and will thus be able to respond to the many needs of formation and education that mark Malagasy society.

Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, SG
Vicar General



The lands of Belobaka



Photo of the group of young candidates and trainees



Visit to the new Antsirabe school



Community of Mahajanga



ADOZIONI A DISTANZA

When are you coming to see us?
We want to see your smiling face!
We lack the warmth of your brotherly love.

For the past three years, students and families whom I help have been continuously repeating or telling me the above mentioned three sentences. It is because I could not visit them during the last 3 years due to Covid-19 which had blocked the possibility of visiting them.

Even though I was not able to visit them physically, I had arranged matters in such a way that all the needy families and students could purchase smartphones to follow the online classes and to get in contact with me through WhatsApp. In this way, I was in contact with the students and families who are being helped at a distance. In the same way, I was in contact with the students of Romblon of Philippines through a teacher called Madam Charry Manzo and of Tanzania through Bro James Nirappel.

Students, families, Bishops, Priests, Sisters, teachers, parishners and all those who knew me were waiting to see me.

For their happiness and for my joy I made a short visit to Kerala of India. Great was the enthusiasm of all. As I do not have any place to stay or live, the Nazareth Bhavan Sisters of Kunnoth, as usual provided me with a small room in their Nature Cure Centre and from there I conducted my visiting programmes. I reached there on the 21st February late evening. On the 22nd, I participated in the prayers and the Holy Mass in their Generalate. After the Mass they gave me an official welcome and a good breakfast. Immediately after

I had started visiting some poor families and their children. On the same day evening I was invited by my family members and all my relatives for a dinner at Chundaparamba. They had invited the Archbishop Mgr. Mar Joseph Pamplany, the Procurator Fr. Joji Kakkaramattam, Fr. Joby Nirappel, Sr. Jaseeentha Sebastian, Mother General of the Nazareth Bhavan, and all the Sisters who had rendered their services in the Parish of Chundaparamba. It was a great surprise for me.

While I was dedicating my time day by day for visiting the poor children, I had to take part in some official ceremonies. On Sunday 26th February, the Parishners of Padamkavala Church, a very poor parish with very poor parishners, had invited me to take part in the Sunday Holy Mass with them. I had accepted their invitation. His Grace Mons. Joseph Pamplany, Archbishop of Tellicherry came to celebrate the Mass. After the Mass there was a short meeting with the Parishners and students. After the meeting, the



students and parents wanted to have photos with me. It was a day of great joy to the poor people of the hilly area.

Then the Archbishop invited me to visit the Archbishop's house and to meet the Emeritus Archbishop, Vicar Generals, and all the priests who wield various administrative offices in the running of the Archdiocese. The archbishop took me to the Seminary to meet the Seminarians. In fact, there are some students among the Seminarians who are being helped by our project. During the dinner with all the Archdiocesan authorities, Archbishop Joseph Pamplany, Emeritus Archbishop George Valiamattam, Vicar Generals, Procurator, some Priests and one Religious Sister spoke about the vastness and efficacy of the activity of our ONLUS which renders support to the progress of the individuals and through them to

the progress of whole world itself.

I met Mons. George Njaralakatt, another Emeritus Archbishop of Tellicherry who was not well on the day of my visit to the Archbishop's House.

The remote village of Istrana is famous in the world because it is a shining beacon which expels the darkness of illiteracy and promotes progress of the world.

Website: <https://www.adozioniadistanza.net>

Bro. Mathew Kavumkal, SG



Bro. Mathew Kavumkal with Nazareth Sisters of Kunnoth



BRO. MATHEW KAVUMKAL AT PADAMKAVALA



Bro. Mathew Kavumkal delivers reply speech



Nazareth Bhavan Sisters of Kunnoth



Bro. Mathew Kavumkal with students



BRO. MATHEW KAVUMKAL AT PADAMKAVALA

Dear Brothers, warm and prayerful greetings from 12 novices and 3 staff of St. Gabriel's novitiate, Sitagarha. We would like to share with you some of the important occurrences of St. Gabriel's Novitiate, Sitagarha. Wish you happy reading.

HOLY SEASON OF LENT:

We began the holy season of lent with a short recollection on the Ash Wednesday. We made use of the Lenten season in most industrious ways by fasting on all Fridays, praying personally and commonly, participating in the Way of Cross, maintaining silence during the day, doing charitable service for the poor of the locality, savouring vegetarian diet and by being gentle, kind, loving and forgiving towards one another.

INAUGURATION OF MGA BHAVAN:



The inauguration of MGA Bhavan took place on 26th February, 2023. Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General inaugurated the building, Bro. Dionigi Taffarello, Vicar General unveiled the plaque, Fr. Anil SJ, Rector of SSC blessed the house and celebrated the Holy Mass, the dignitaries and the associates lit the lamp, the members of the Central administration gave speeches during the felicitation programmes, neighbouring schools and ITI gave dance programmes, novices made all the arrangements and sang during the Mass; almost 150 invitees took part in the celebration and all of them enjoyed a sumptuous meal at the end.

ASHRAM EXPERIENCE:

The Novices and the Director left for Varanasi to have 10 days of Ashram experience and 2 days of visit around the city of Varanasi, the ancient Hindu City. We left on 4th March and reached back on 18th March, 2023. All of us had a wonderful time by praying together and personally, reflecting on the Word of God, listening to the talks of swamijis, celebrating



the Indianized Holy Eucharist, participating in the personal and live Holy Adoration, witnessing the beautiful faith expressions of "Christ Bhaktas", living a simple life, eating simple and vegetarian meals and sharing the life of the simple people of Matridham Ashram, Varanasi. We also spent 2 days to visit all the prominent and tourist places in and around the holy city. After our return, we had the evaluation of Ashram experience as a community. All the novices submitted their written reports about the experience to the Director.

VISIT OF PROVINCIALS OF TRICHY AND YERCAUD:

The Provincials of Trichy and Yercaud and Bro. Regis visited the novices on 19th March, 2023.

BIRTHDAY OF SOCIUS:



We celebrated the birthday of Socius in a very simple way. We had prayer service in the evening, followed by felicitation and dinner. Brothers and sisters of neighbouring communities were invited to attend the celebration.

HINDI PLAY:

Novices went to CIC on 30th March to watch a Hindi play named the experience of 5 blind persons about an Elephant' acted out by the SSC Juniors. This was a political satire which depicted the multiple perspectives of the individuals on a particular reality

without arriving at a consensus. The play lasted for 2 hours and 30 minutes.

PRAYER MEETING:

Novices attended half a day prayer meeting on 31st March in the Parish Church organized by the Divine Ashram for the parishners of Sitagarha.

DEMISE OF BR. KURIAKOSE CHETTIATH:

All of us from the novitiate went to MTC on 1st April to pay homage to Bro. Kuriakose Chettiath and pray for the departed soul. Bro. Socius went to Nawatoli on the following day for the interment of Br. Kuriakose Chettiath.

A SHORT SEMINAR ON THE DEATH OF JESUS:



The Novices and Juniors of Sitagarha came together to SGH on 3rd April to reflect on the theme of Death

of Jesus according to the History, Scripture and Tradition. There was a talk given by Fr. Michael SJ, followed by a movie called Jesus of Nazareth. There were 48 participants.

The 3rd BOOK REVIEW PRESENTATION:

Novices presented their 3rd book review from 4th to 6th April, 2023. They used their creativity and intellectual skills to present their book reviews in quite interesting ways through PPT and by using teaching aids. All of them have made tremendous progress in the area of teaching.

TRIDUUM- A SACRED TIME:

The culmination of lent was reached with the Holy Week very particularly the Triduum. We took part in every sacred activity that was held in the Parish during the holy week and thus making this Easter celebration unique and special for all of us.

Bro. Arokiya Raj, SG

First Profession at Yercaud

On 22 April 2023, 19 Novices of Sacred Heart Novitiate, Eachinkadu, made their First Profession in Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud. Most Rev. Dr. Arulselvam Rayappan, Bishop of Salem officiated the solemn Eucharistic celebration. The 19 Novices were from 6 Indian Provinces.



Montfortian Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The 74th Montfortian Pilgrimage to Lourdes was organised from 16 to 22 April, 2023 on the theme "Let a chapel be built here...". Around three thousand pilgrims participated in the pilgrimage.





Montfortain Educators, with the others, Let us maintain our Common Home.

JPIC SEMINAR FOR FRANCOPHONE GROUP: 15-17, MAY 2023

In the Acts of the 32nd General Chapter, we read in Strategy 5.5.1 Action 5: "Together with the whole Church and other stakeholders in our educational mission, we will engage with the global goals for Sustainable Development. We will draw inspiration from the life examples of St. Francis of Assisi and from the Social Teachings of the Church, particularly from the Encyclical Laudato Si".

In choosing to organise this seminar, the Congregation has opted for an approach based on complementarity and synergy between all the French-speaking Provinces, which are responding with generous commitment to Pope Francis' call "to act urgently to safeguard our common home". It is in this perspective that we can read the appeal of Brother John Kallarackal, Superior General, who in his opening message invited the participants to enter into an ecological conversion, to be bold and courageous in facing up to the challenges of caring for our common home. The message of Brother James, Assistant General, to the participants of the seminar on Monday, 15 May was no less emphatic. After recalling the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, which is based on seven principles, he invited the assembly to commit itself to educating young people to the fraternity, to help them to overcome divisions and conflicts, promoting in them justice and peace, and to making every effort to renew our commitment to building a just and fraternal world.

In the same vein, Brother Etienne Ka, Provincial Superior, invited the seminar participants to identify concrete actions that could contribute to achieving the objectives of Laudato Si.

The lessons learned during this seminar, together with the experiences shared, should enable us to take further steps by designing and developing working tools to preserve what already exists and to initiate new activities that contribute to taking care of our common home.

The agenda established for this purpose gave us the opportunity first of all to listen to the relevant contribution of Dr Philippe Abraham Tine, head of the National Council for the Laity, who focused mainly on the socio-economic and ecclesial context in Africa and the rest of the world. This first presentation rightly recalled two principles: everything in creation is linked, and man is the measure of all things. For us, this context was a necessary step in our search for solutions to take better care of our common home according to the "see - judge - act" pedagogy. It's all about showing the environment in which we live. Without this work, it's difficult to know what direction to take.

Dr Thérèse Ndiaye and Fr. Alfred Waly SARR tried to show how the ecological conversion called for by Pope Francis is not without resonance with the goals of Sustainable Development. Indeed, the SDGs, like Laudato Si, have a universal ambition: they are

addressed to all States, to all human communities and to all individuals. The SDGs and the encyclical *Laudato Si* also converge on the need to change production and consumption models.

Dr Henri Mathieu Lo and his assistant Mr Christian Faye, by dealing with the three planetary crises (climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity), have convinced us that there are no separate crises but a single, complex socio-environmental crisis. The potential solutions require an integral approach to combat them as quickly as possible.

Bro. James T. K., Assistant General in charge of JPIC, reminded the assembly of all the initiatives taken by the Congregation and at the same time provided all the documentation to boost the commitment of the Provinces. This documentation guarantees the effectiveness of our action and increases our collective expertise. Among other things, he stressed the need to make our actions part of the Congregation's commitment to achieving the goals of *Laudato Si*. He invited every Province to register at least one institution on the *Laudato Si* platform as part of the global effort to protect our common home. He strongly hoped that a JPIC project common to the French-speaking provinces could be established, following the example of MSI, and that activity reports would be sent regularly to the International JPIC Commission. He concluded his presentation with an appeal: "We must dream big for JPIC".

Brother Pratap Reddy, Assistant General in charge of Education, focused on the Global Compact for Education, which is a renewed commitment to the education of children and young people, not only in the classroom, but also in the family and the community. He dwelt on the seven paths offered by the Global Compact, recalling the driving principle, the values conveyed and proposing avenues of reflection for educators in order to transform children and parents. His call to unite hearts and minds is in line with the duty to seal together a common commitment to the educational mission that is the Congregation's principal mission.

Brother Varghese Theckanath, Convenor of the International JPIC Commission, followed in Brother James' footsteps by recalling the first initiatives accomplished by Brothers C. M. Joseph, Jacob Panjikkaran, P. J. Abraham, Joseph John, M. K. Mathew, etc., a way of inviting the participants to draw inspiration from the Gabrielle pioneers in terms of JPIC commitment. He then invited the assembly to reflect on an action plan for the next 25 years,

offering some working tools: reading the signs of the times, committing to food self-sufficiency, continuing efforts to meet educational needs and fight against gender discrimination, committing to achieving the objectives of sustainable development, drawing inspiration from the social teaching of the Church and the documents of the congregation.

This seminar was sure to help participants to:

- Dream together about caring for our common home;
- Reflect, ask questions and consider all the possibilities for caring for our common home;
- Conceive together a better living environment in the future and take the appropriate steps to achieve it.

All this requires diligence, patience and cooperation between the Brothers, their associates and collaborators, and the organisations committed to the objectives of *Laudato Si*.

As Brothers of Saint Gabriel, our major challenge is to believe that we can contribute to safeguarding our common home by contributing our creativity, our generous commitment and our concrete actions. In this respect, a litany of verbs evoked were: raise awareness, inform, train, sensitise, invest, etc;

- Support the relationship between parents and pupils in the education process;
- Take care of street children and children in prison;
- Continue efforts to provide access to drinking water and education;
- Collaborate with organisations committed to the objectives of *Laudato Si*;
- Take simple steps to help reduce our carbon footprint;

With all these ideas, each Province and Vice-Province will be able to draw up an action plan adapted to its size, taking into account its human and financial resources.

Bro. Maurice Birane DIOUF, SG



Dakar du **15** au **17** Mai 2023

Séminaire Francophone sur Justice-Paix et Intégrité de la Création

THEME

EDUCATEURS MONTFORTAINS, AVEC LES AUTRES, ENTRETENONS NOTRE MAISON COMMUNE.






Partenariat

PARTNERSHIP



www.partnershipsg.org



FRIENDS OF MONTFORT – Mahajanga, Madagascar

The new office and its activities

The new office of the association Friends of Montfort was constituted on 30 November 2022. The association is open to all, regardless of religion. It currently has 33 members, 26 women and 7 men. It is composed of 5 Protestants, one Muslim and 27 Catholics.

The first activity was a visit to the Mangarivotra orphanage. The aim was to share the joy of Christmas with the children and to make them understand that they are not alone. As they were children, we brought them toys, sweets, oil, rice, soap and clothes.

The meeting with the Brothers



During the visit of the Brothers Vicar General, Secretary General and Vice-Provincial to Mahajanga on 6 January 2023, a meeting took place in the large conference room of Saint-Gabriel with the members of the association. The Brothers gave their support and encouragement to the work already done and to the continuation of the mission of the association.



Celebration of the 350th anniversary of St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort

To celebrate the 350th anniversary of the birth of St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, the association held several spiritual and cultural activities. As Father de Montfort was a man of prayer, on the morning of 31 January 2023, a mass was celebrated at 5.45 a.m. in the cathedral of Mahajanga. After mass, the celebration continued in front of the statue of Father de Montfort with the recitation of the Rosary, followed by a small photo session to immortalise the moment. And to mark the event, holy cards with the photo of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort were distributed to all those present at the mass. It was a moment of conviviality and sharing.



As for the day of 1 March 2023, it was full of emotion. It began with a mass in the courtyard of St Gabriel's College in Mahajanga, led by Father Jeannot and animated by members of the association Friends of Montfort. The Brothers, the students and some parents were pleased to join us. To strengthen the bonds of fraternity and to encourage exchanges between members and Brothers, a meal was shared as a toast to the New Year. The afternoon was marked by several competitions: "Questions for a champion" on the life of Montfort for the primary pupils (9th, 8th and 7th grades). A drawing competition on the site of the saint on the school grounds for secondary school students. A poetry competition in Malagasy, French or English for secondary school students of Saint Montfort school. All these competitions were aimed at instilling the Montfortian spirit in the pupils. On the afternoon of 1 March, the brothers, accompanied by members of the association, made a procession from the school gate to the statue of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, while praying the Rosary. This was the closing of the celebration.



Retreat for a better life

As we are in the period of Lent, the members of the Association of Friends of Montfort gathered on 19 March 2023 for a retreat. The day was animated by Brother Haja and the president of the association who took the opportunity to give a brief report on MGA.

The Brother shared the journey of Father de Montfort throughout his life. In other words, he described his childhood, his youth, his life as a preacher, his achievements as a preacher and his works. He also emphasised that this man of prayer loved God above all else and consecrated himself to Our Lady in order to reach her son Jesus.

After the conference, there was a time for personal reflection followed by confession. A Eucharist closed this day of recollection. All the members left with a heart full of thirst for wisdom and a great love for our Mother Mary.



Report on the formation of the MGA held on 10, 11 and 12 March 2023

- Following the decision taken during the assembly of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, at the end of December 2022, concerning the request for the training of mission leaders to encourage and improve the working methods for sharing Montfortian spirituality, a training course was held on 10, 11 and 12 March 2023, with 16 participants.

- Each mission was represented by a lay person and a Brother: Anjomakely, Antananarivo, Antsirabe, Fandriana, Mahajanga and Toamasina. This formation was led by the National President, M. Jocelyn, and the Brother in charge, Bro. Benjamin. Although the time was very short and limited, much was done and many ideas were shared. The training was opened with a short presentation of the participants because, in fact, during the health crisis we went through, i.e. the passing of Covid, many new members joined. Then, social activities and actions were shared, and the spiritual life that is lived in each mission of the Brothers was shared.

- The national president took the floor to speak about the MGA movement or "Montfortian Gabrielite Association" or what is called in Madagascar, "Friends of MONTFORT". He spoke specifically of the "raison d'être" of this organisation which exists, thanks to the request of the Church, through the mediation of Pope St. John Paul II, who said that "the precious treasure left by Father de Montfort should not be restricted to the religious congregation alone, but that he sent them to share this beautiful heritage with the laity" (because this Pope is one of the saints who really lived the spirit that Father de Montfort left us). They also spoke of the aim of the Friends of Montfort, which is to live the spirituality that Montfort has left us, and of the continuation of the work he started, which is to work together to fulfil the mission that the Church has entrusted to the Brothers of St. Gabriel. It is above all a matter of "preaching the Gospel, educating and teaching".

- The meeting continued with the intervention of Brother Haja Alphonse who summarised the history of Montfort and gave a brief account of his spirituality and his writings.

- In addition, the origin of the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel and the path followed by this Congregation, (periods of great importance and with many changes), were also summarized and discussed during this formation: the time of Montfort, that of Gabriel Deshayes, during the French Revolution, and after



Vatican II. (By Brother Benjamin).

- It can be said that during this meeting, the theme of "Christian management and leadership" was also addressed, during which the sharing of ways of behaving and living together by faith in the association took place. (Led by M. Jocelyn).

- Together, the participants read the "charter" (translated into Malagasy) that regulates the association. An attempt was made to explain the process that must be followed for a person to become a member, as well as the structure of the leaders that must exist in the association and their existence (hierarchies and appointments). Subsequently, the national charter was adapted to the international charter. It was successfully completed and signed by all those who participated in this national training.

- On Sunday 12th March we made an effort to evaluate what we had learnt during the formation and what remains to be done next, namely the preparation for the 120th anniversary of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in Madagascar. There will be a formation for all the Friends of Montfort throughout Madagascar to be held in Anjomakely next August. Discussions were opened to decide how all those interested will be able to attend this important moment: "logistics and transport". The meeting concluded with a Eucharist.

- Brother RAKOTORARIMANANA Levaio Antoine, Vice-Provincial, came to attend the closing of the formation, even though he arrived two days before the beginning of the formation and very tired from his trip to India and Senegal. We are especially grateful to him for his availability.

In conclusion, we are pleased to say that all the participants and all those who gave the training were satisfied. The smooth running of this training is due to the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom who also provided accommodation for the participants. We thank the Montfort Saint Gabriel Centre in Mahajanga for their financial support to the association. We would like to thank everyone for their selflessness towards the Friends of Montfort Mahajanga. For the glory of GOD.





Province of Spain – Shared mission meeting in Zaragoza

On 26th and 27th November, Brothers and associate collaborators of MCG gathered at the Sacred Heart Spirituality House (Quinta Julieta) of the Society of Jesus to reflect together on our mission. The meeting was also attended by Brothers General Assistants Jean Paul Mbengue and Pratap Reddy, who were visiting the schools of our Province.

On Saturday we had the contribution of the expert Luis Alberto Gonzalo Díez, Doctor in Theology from the Pontifical University of Salamanca and director of the magazine "Vida Religiosa". In his presentation, he started from the Theory U created by Otto Scharmer to advance on the path of synodality.

The first thing he proposed to us was to step outside ourselves and reflect, to discover the emotion that will allow others to connect with this mission. To this end, he invited us to clarify the meaning of a number of expressions:

- When we say young people, who are we talking about?
- When we say vocation, what do we mean by vocation?
- When we say charism, what is the essence of our "brand", our style?
- When we say truth, what sustains my hope today?
- When we say happiness, am I really a happy person with who I am?
- When we say community, is it clearly a "place"

that invites, welcomes, recognises and celebrates? What is it to be community?

This is a first step on the path of discernment to improve our shared mission.

In shared mission, when we try to innovate, we are used to patching or tinkering. But when reality changes, we have to start something new. We must not be afraid to look for new ways in the name of Jesus.

We have to look for another way of relating, another way of celebrating, another way of looking at life... We have to look for spontaneous, unplanned spaces. Mission and vocational contagion take on special significance when what we offer is priceless. The vocation of the laity and consecrated people is, and must be, the priceless proposal of those who want another world, other relationships, another life.

After working on how to discern about what we have to let go of in order for the new to come, on Sunday morning we got down to work, with the objective of concretising two actions to improve our capacity for dialogue and synodal creativity.

That same morning we experienced a particularly moving moment, the presentation of the Brothers who arrived in our Province this year: Brother Robert Stanislas Bantsimba, Brother Marreddy Tirumalarreddy and Brother Luc Kulapa. The three



of them spoke to us, with visual support, about themselves, the reason for accepting this mission, their projects... And of course they spoke to us about their Provinces (Congo Kinshasa, Hyderabad, Congo Brazzaville), their communities, the educational centres, the movement of associates... And even though they have been with us for almost two months, they explained everything in very good Spanish! We are very grateful for their presence, their enthusiasm, their commitment and all the efforts they are making to integrate with us. We consider their arrival in our Province as a gift from the Lord.

The formation ended with the words of the Assistants General, among which we would like to highlight the following:

The mission is unique, it is the mission of Jesus and that is why we must not be afraid. We are in times of chaos, but the chaos should not call us to fear, but to give us courage, because the Lord created out of chaos.

-Bro. Jean Paul Mbengue

There are personal demands to face in carrying out the mission, but I am optimistic that we are living the spirit of Montfort, and by living it together, it will surely bear fruit.

-Bro. Pratap Reddy

Finally, the Provincial Superior, Brother Genaro Fresno, thanked us all for what we had shared and invited us to continue to be leaven after our return.

The meeting ended in the best way possible, with the Eucharist, specially prepared for the occasion by Bro. Angel Llana.

There were many beautiful moments shared by Brothers and lay people, in the prayers of Lauds and Vespers, in the meals, in the breaks... Joy, sincerity and harmony reigned in the discussions... All this made the meeting a source of renewal and revitalisation to continue together on the path of our mission.

**Formation Team for the MCG
Province of Spain**







Province of Spain – Shared mission meeting in Zaragoza

On Saturday 28 January, the associates of the Province of Spain met in Barcelona and Madrid to celebrate the meeting they had planned on the theme of Mary.

At 10:30 a.m., in the premises of the Provincial House of Barcelona, the group of the Gabrielite Shared Mission of Catalonia met to focus on the development of the personality of St Louis Marie de Montfort, from the point of view of his Marian devotion, in his childhood and youth until his ordination as a priest, and later, in his time as an apostolic missionary. The exhibition presented the "external practices" that St Louis proposed to us **"to please and glorify God"** and that he put into practice in his missionary activity. External practices which, as he insisted, must always correspond to "internal practices".

After a snack, we watched the episodes of Jesus lost in the Temple and the wedding at Cana. We reflected on the attitude of Mary, who not only accepted to be the mother of Jesus, but who, by her **yes**, also accepted the divine identity and saving mission of her son.

In the afternoon, at 5 p.m., the group AGMONT met, in the Provincial House, to work on the same theme. They first analysed the relationship between Mary and Jesus through five episodes of the Gospel, and then established Mary's relationship with us. Finally, they also looked at the theme: ***Who was Mary for Father de Montfort?*** After the Eucharist, they had a relaxed dinner together.

For their part, the group of Montfort Family associates from Madrid and La Aguilera met with the group of MCG associates from Madrid at the school in Madrid at 10:5 a.m. They were joined by several collaborators

from the school and by two other associates online from Jaén. After the opening prayer, Brother Ángel Llana presented the figure of Mary as it is presented by the Church:

- Mary Mother of God... co-creator (engenders God in History)
- Virgin Mary... free (God is the only reason for her human existence)
- Mary Immaculate... co-redemptrix (Mary is the example of what we can assume with God's grace)
- Mary Assumed... assumes her identity (reevaluation of the unity between body and spirit)

After the presentation, an episode of the series *The Chosen* was shown in which Mary talks with the disciples while Jesus heals the sick Samaritans. During the break, participants chatted and enjoyed good coffee and sweets. Then groups were formed to discuss a series of questions about our relationship with Mary. This first part of the meeting ended with a prayer to Our Lady. After lunch, the group visited the parish of *Santa Maria del Silencio*, which has been working, since 2012, with a group of people with sensory disabilities, deaf and dumb. The parish priest explained the history of the parish and the role they currently play in it.

A Saturday entirely dedicated to the memory and honour of Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, as well as to the memory of the personal experience of St Louis in his devotion to the Virgin Mary, which gave rise to his Marian doctrine that has meant so much to the Church and to us all.

MCG Training Team





Inauguration of MGA Bhavan



The much awaited inauguration of MGA Bhavan, a home for the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates took place on 26th February 2023. It was a simple function of starting a new mission but the presence of the highest authorities of the Congregation in the Persons of Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, and other members of Central Administration, the National Chairman, Bro. Irudayam. M. , the Provincial Superior of Ranchi Province, Bro. Herman V. Lakra and Brothers and Associates from most of the communities of the Province, made it big and great in significance.

The significance of it was beautifully depicted during the offertory of the Holy Eucharist, planting of a sapling by the Brothers and Associates together; a sapling with the potential to become a great tree in

the Garden of God.

MGA Bhavan, was described as a Formation Center for the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates where Montfortian Leaders among Laity will be formed, Partnership for the Kingdom of God will be developed, and a mission for Universal Fraternity (Sister/ Brotherhood) in Christ will be established.

The Programme concluded with a fraternal meal.

Bro. Paulose Mekkunnel
Director, MGA Bhavan.





THE 49 BROTHERS OF SAINT GABRIEL AND THEIR CHAPLIN

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



Isidoro GASTAMINZA FERNANDEZ
Brother Eugenio Maria, 36 years old
Born in Erenchu
(Alava)

He was always an authentic teacher, with a great deal of authority. Supported by his good humor he knew how to joke without offending. During the last years of his life he had lung problems, a victim of the Koch bacteria, a then incurable disease, due to which he had to pass through the infirmary on numerous occasions always with humility and an admirable silence. He took care of himself and it ceased to be a source of preoccupation.

Already in 1922, his Director Brother Dàmaso said of him: "He is a good Brother who demonstrates the work of piety, of his moral education, intellectual, pedagogic and a great interest for the Congregation"

The Superiors sent him to the Formation Houses: Juniorate and Scholasticate.

All the young Brothers that died martyrs had passed through his hands as an experienced religious teacher.

He was a faithful guardian of religious observance, an expert Director of studies and a good counsellor to the young ones in the renewing of their first vows and their religious and human maturity.

Academically, he was culturally very advanced and he was the first to faithfully observe the Rule as a good spiritual counsellor of the young ones entrusted to him.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Eugenio Maria grant us, Lord, his good humour, his fidelity to the religious observance and his conformity with the will of God.



Isidro MORENO CAMARERO
Brother Celestino, 32 Years old
Born in Pinilla de los Moros
(Burgos)

He had a few years of Scholasticate and in the retreat of the summer of 1921, his Obedience led him to take charge of the community vegetable garden. Following two years of military service in Burgos and Morocco, he returned to the convent full of enthusiasm to continue his religious vocation. He liked to narrate some anecdotes from prison and could do so with a great and highly amusing sense of humour.

On the occasion of his perpetual vows, his Director, the very demanding Brother Gabriel Perboyre, said of him: "Very active and careful in his work. Enterprising decisive, and never fearful of any obstacle". A serious and courageous Brother, physically strong and of an extraordinary personality.

For several times he was the director of the vegetable garden. He was very much appreciated and respected by the farmers from the nearby neighbourhood of Las Animas. His temper existed alongside his courage and *religious spirit*. Thanks to him, in the hardest days, there was no lack of bread. It was him who accompanied the revolutionaries with a decisive air in their search through the mines and galleries.

In 1936 he was required to defend the community property from the anarchists. Such a great deal of virtue and valour made him greatly deserving of martyrdom.

Martyrdom: Common narration

From Brother Celestino grant us, Lord, his religious and community spirit, as well as his courageous, enterprising and determined spirit.

THE WATERS TO HEAL

The Jews on sojourn raised their voices
In protest of their freedom choices,
Yahweh cares not, die they like mice
Moses too was fagged out likewise
They died en bloc in the desert.

Moses had no answer precise
He in helpless, fearful service
Talked with God in plain plea sequence
God advised him to knock the rock
Lo and behold, "gush of water".

The gush of water filled deserts
The waves thereof thrilled the nation
The pilgrim nation bowed in motion
They were cleansed of proud rebellion
The waves, resource to restore men.

Jesus calms storms of waves and minds
He bears not with waves that torment
He gives freedom as he carefronts
Those in prison or in fetters
Of sin, shame or despondency.

The disciples ferried to Caper
Saw Jesus afar on water
Scared were they of two incidents
Rough waters, thereon ghost figure
It's I, take heart and do not fear.

Alleluia! Praise Jesus Lord
The king of hearts and loyal lots
The Prince of peace, sublime in love
With the weak the frail and fallen
Precious lot of His saving love.

Bro. Emmanuel P. J.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS March 2023- May 2023

BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL

Bro. Raf Fouquet
Bro. Kuriakose Chettiath
Bro. André Ripoche
Bro. Vincent Kerketta
Bro. Marcel Averty

COMPANY OF MARY

Fr. Yohanes SURI

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Sr. Marie-Thérèse Martin
Sr. Michel de Marie-Immaculée
Sr. Josepha Botermans
Sr. Martina Hendriks
Sr. Madeleine du Christ-Roi
Sr. Bernadette de Notre-Dame
Sr. Jeanne Emmanuel
Sr. Henriette MINGUET
Sr. Shirley Martin



SANCTUARY OF THE HOLY HOUSE OF LORETO, ITALY.