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## A Word from Father General

Dear Confreres,

The General Chapter brought us together during the month of May to evaluate the state of the Congregation and to search together the orientations that God is inviting us to take for the coming years. Following that event, members of the new General Council gathered in Rome, and from September 1<sup>st</sup>, was able to meet regularly to begin discernment and to establish a plan of work for the coming year.

But first of all, the members of the Council and I want to thank the members of the former Council for their mission of service towards the Congregation during the last six years. A function they held with enthusiasm and commitment. We would like also to thank the capitulants for showing us their trust by asking us to animate the Congregation and to journey with all confreres during the coming six years.

Starting as a new team demands time. But as members of the new Council get more in touch with the whole Congregation, they will strive to find concrete ways to implement the orientations of the last Chapter. Our timetable will thus become more precise so that we can better follow the different entities, according to their own reality.

In a letter sent to the superiors of the entities, you will see how we have shared responsibilities among us so as to insure as best as possible a good link between the Generalate and all the entities. A councillor was assigned to the entities of each continent, and he will be assisted by one or more other members of the General Council. We hope by doing so

that we will deepen our mutual knowledge and increase the quality of our relationship. The first visits of the designated councillors will coincide with the chapters or assemblies that will be held in the coming months.

You will shortly receive a letter proposing a meeting of formators, both at the novitiate and scholasticate level. Your reactions and suggestions will help us in preparing that event which has a certain urgency due to the international orientation taken in that area during the last years. After that, we are thinking of a possible meeting of formators implied at the postulancy level. In a short while, Volume II of the *Ratio* will be ready; this will give us time to study it and implement its directives.

We are sure that the chapters or assemblies to be held soon in entities and provinces will help our Congregation in discerning the calls of God for our mission today. We will thus bring new vigour and depth to our different ministries, renew the enthusiasm of all our confreres and bring enrichment to the spiritual journey of those God brings in our own path.

We humbly ask the support of your prayer both for us and for the whole Congregation, so that we may all discern the will of God in our journey in the footsteps of Montfort.

Brotherly greetings in Christ and Montfort,

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



## The New General Council

During the last General Chapter of the Congregation, which took place in Rome during the month of May, four new councillors were elected. Here is some information about each of them.

Father **Georges MADORE**: from the Vice-Province of Canada, 68 years old, has always shown a real enthusiasm for the itinerant mission and Montfortian spirituality, which corresponds to the place held by Montfortian mission in the orientations of the last Chapter. He can also bring to the General Council his experience with communities dealing with ageing personnel, as well as a rootedness in our Montfortian traditions. In this time of crisis, his creativity is a richness in the search for new pathways.



Father **Jorge Enrique GONZÁLEZ VÁSQUEZ**: from the Province of Colombia, 48 years old. His experience in formation (vocation animation, postulancy, novitiate), three years in the Institute for Integral Human Formation in Montreal, his ability to accompany persons and to provide animation in the charism makes him a confrere with fruitful possibilities in the animation of entities and paths of international formation. He has a vast knowledge of the entities of Latin America, but also experiences in Canada. He has animated the IMI and his presence on the Council will help both working together (faire ensemble) and discerning paths of formation.

Father **Luigi GRITTI**: from the Italian Delegation of Malawi, 47 years old. He has worked in the area of formation and social communication. He was the Delegation Superior and the Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Mangochi. It is important for the council to be able to count on the presence of someone with firsthand knowledge of our African reality. His expertise in social communication will also be able to help us strengthen the route that Brother Gilles Paquette (who has returned to Canada) started in recent years. He just finished a process of three years at the IFHIM in Montreal.



Father **Yoseph PUTRA DWI DARMA WATUN**: from the Vice-Province of Indonesia, 41 years old. He was the Provincial of the Vice-Province and before that he was Novice Master. The presence of Asian entities in the Congregation is, at the moment, the most numerous, and that allows for a rather strong collaboration in international experiences. Therefore, it was urgent to have the presence of someone from Asia with a direct knowledge of persons and possibilities in our entities of this continent.

We wish good work to Father Santino and his council.

# Team Work

Rome, 8 September 2011  
Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*To the Superiors of the Entities*

Dear confreres,

Now that we have had the time to organize ourselves and free our agendas of former commitments, we, members of the General Council, have started, as of the 1st of September, to get involved in our mission at the service of the Congregation we were entrusted with by the 2011 General Chapter.

One of the first tasks we have to insure is our participation in the chapters or assemblies to be held in different entities that will look into our mission and in many cases elect a new superior.

Number 78 of the Statutes in *Montfortian Today* states the following:

The Superior General and his Council together, but not with collegiality, bear the responsibility of the functions of general concern, according to the norms of universal law and particular law. The Superior General, with the consent of his Council, divides the various tasks.

During the meeting of the General Council that was held on the 1st of September, on the basis of the evaluation made by the members of the former Council, we searched for proper means to insure good and meaningful relations with all the entities. We would like thus to pursue two aims: have a better knowledge of the reality of each entity and transmit the orientations proposed by the General administration to implement the decisions of our 2011 Chapter.

To that end, we have decided that each member of the General Council will be responsible for entities present in a specific continent. But he will share this responsibility with one, or more than one, other councillor. This means that, at important moments in its community life, an entity will receive the visit of two councillors. The aim of this practice is that each entity be better in touch with all members of the General Council. Here is how the assignments to different entities will be shared:

**Europe:** Fr. Santino assisted by one or the other councillor;

**North America:** Fr. Georges assisted by Fr. Luigi;

**Latin America:** Fr. Jorge-Enrique assisted by Fr. Luigi and Fr. Dwi;

**Asia:** Fr. Dwi assisted by Fr. Georges and Fr. Luigi;

**Africa:** Fr. Luigi assisted by Fr. Jorge Enrique and Fr. Dwi.

May the Lord grant you wisdom and enthusiasm in your service of animation towards your confreres and your communities. We look forward to meeting with you in the months to come. We will then join together in thanking the Lord for the great things he realizes “in us, among us and, through us, in the world”.

May Montfort be our light in this journey with the Lord, and may Mary be our faithful companion.

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

Entités s.m.m. regroupées par continent, avec les noms des membres du Conseil Général assignés à ces entités

S.M.M. entities grouped by continent, with the names of the members of the General Council assigned to these entities





### First professions

May 31, 2011, in Ruteng (Indonesia) : Eduardus ANDU TAMBA, Nasarius FIDIN, Atanalia JEHAMU, Robertus JERANU, Theodorus MEKO KOTEN, Eduardus SUMARYANTO, Oktavianus WEKIN.

August 1, 2011, in Bulacan (Philippines) : Emerson Salanguit ABREU (PH), Anthony Daniel CHILOLO (MW), Pemphe Peter Philimon KALANGA (ZM), Peter Alinafe MAKINA (MW), Joel Buenafe PADUA (PH), Gener Calado PITO (PH).

### Perpetual Professions

July 23, 2011, in Bangalore (India) : John Baptist Anthon CHINNAPPA, Gnana Prakash CHOWRAPPA, Jeevan GABRIEL, Kiran Babu JALAGAM, Deepak Joseph KONGANAVAR, Soundhar RAJAN.

### Ordinations to the Diaconate

July 25, 2011, in Bangalore (India) : John Baptist Anthon CHINNAPPA, Gnana Prakash CHOWRAPPA, Jeevan GABRIEL, Kiran Babu JALAGAM, Deepak Joseph KONGANAVAR, Soundhar RAJAN.

### Ordinations to the Priesthood

July 24, 2011, in Toamasina (Madagascar) : Nicaise Marie RAKOTONDRAATELO, Doris Sullivano TOMBAOSA, Denussein Johanson TSIMIASA.

## New Secretary General and Procurator General

On September 1, 2011, Fr. Santino BREMBILLA, Superior General of the Company of Mary, after obtaining the consent of his Council, named Father **Joseph Raja Rao THELAGATHOTI** as Secretary General and Procurator General of the Congregation.

Father Raja Rao, from the Vice-Province of India, is 59 years old. With experience in the administration of his entity, having served in formation and in mission, and with a specialization in spirituality, he will be able to help in the services which we have requested of him, and also to be a significant presence in our Indian reality which is opening itself to the mission in different entities of the Congregation. He will replace Father Luizinho STEFANI, who, after six years of good service to the Congregation, was called to strengthen our mission in Brazil.



*From right to left : Frs. Thelagathoti, González, Madore, Brembilla, Dwi, Gritti, Dalle Pezze.*

## **Provisional Mandates:**

### **Vice-Province of Indonesia**

Following the election of Fr. **Yoseph PUTRA DWI DARMA WATUN** as a General Councillor of the Company of Mary, Father **Kasimirus JUMAT**, who had been the vicar, will assume « ad interim » the role of superior of the Vice-Province of Indonesia until the next session of the Vice-Provincial Chapter.

### **General Delegation of Madagascar**

Following the resignation of Fr. **Orazio ROSSI** as superior of the General Delegation of Madagascar, Father **Alexandre RANDRIAMIHARISOA**, who had been the vicar, will assume « ad interim » the role of superior of the General Delegation of Madagascar until the end of the year.

# Criteria concerning the election of Superiors

## To the Provincial and Delegation Superiors

Statute no. 65 in the *Montfortian Today* says:

For better operation of the major level of authority in the Congregation, a certain coordination is necessary in the renewal of the mandates of provincial Superiors. So that the preparatory consultation for a provincial election has a significant link with the Congregation the following are considered necessary:

- a) *That the election process takes into account, besides the criteria of the Province, criteria of the Congregation*

During the Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September, the Superior General and his Council has approved the following text:

### **Criteria of the Generalate concerning the election of Superiors of Entities (Province and Delegation)**

1. It is important that the candidates to these positions have the capacity and the will to promote the orientations taken by the 2011 General Chapter, with special attention to the internationality of the Congregation.
2. The Superior of an entity
  - assures the link between his entity and the Congregation. This implies good communication both ways: from the entity to the Congregation (General Administration and EGC) and from the Congregation towards his entity
  - As a member of the Extraordinary General Council, he participates in the life of the Congregation at the international level.

We request all the confreres to take note of these two criteria, along with the criteria of province or delegation, during the process of consultation for the election of a superior.

We also request the superiors of different entities where the statutes require them **to send the consultation to Rome** to do so **by the end of November**, to enable the Council to take note of the process during the Council meeting which is planned for the first week of December.

Thanking you,

J. Raja Rao Thelagathoti, S.M.M.  
Secretary General



# Venturing something as a Family for the Reign of Jesus through Mary

The General Council of the Montfort Missionaries, in its openness to youth, allowed me to take the initiative to gather some young people at Pontchâteau in France. The primary goal of this effort was to make possible a meeting of young people connected to the Montfortian Family so that they could share their faith in a Montfortian place.

It started as a project between Canada and France, in the hope that the experience could be extended to all our other entities.

On August 1, the members of the Montfortian Family arrived: Sister Frédérique Barbier, D.W.; Mr. & Mrs. Jean-Louis and Évelyne Marazano, Mr. & Mrs. Bruno and Dominique Heibel, who are Montfortian associates; Brother Maurice Hérault, s.g. (whose involvement was limited due to his commitment with the Diocese of Nantes for World Youth Day) and myself.

Our early arrival enabled us to get to know one another a bit and to share the tasks and responsibilities.

On August 4, nine young people from Canada arrived with their leaders Mr. Guy Prévost and his wife Mrs. Monique Cyr, as well as two young people from France. The group from Quebec had the responsibility of animating the first five days.



Given the small number of young French participants, the program had to be modified. Apart from the Way of the Cross organized by Sr. Frédérique, the presentation of World Youth Day by the deacon Guy Prévost, the presentation of the history of Pontchâteau by Father Jacques Arrouet, the evening at the Puy du Fou and some planning and animation of the Eucharists done by the Promised Land Troupe, some activities of the five days of the retreat were changed. There was more free time and more time devoted to the preparation of the theatrical presentations.

The second part of our stay unfolded as planned, that is with the theatrical presentation of “The Kingdom” by the Promised Land Troupe at Pontchâteau, Montfort and La Rochelle, and the theatrical piece “Sent” performed at Saint- Laurent-sur-Sèvre. At each of these places there was a guided tour by a member of the Montfortian Family. The pilgrimage ended in a triumphal way in Madrid before a group of 200 WYD participants directed by Sr. Isabelle Rotailleau, D.W. Two hours of religious music and the

theatrical piece “Sent” gave the young people a sense of being members of the same Church. Our official translator, Brother Daniel Busnel, S.M.M., greatly helped our presentation.

To venture something for Jesus Christ as a Montfortian Family is possible and doable. This experience is a starting point for continuing in the years to come. May our founders, together with the Virgin Mary, accompany us and enable us to “venture something for Jesus Wisdom” in the world of youth and of the less young.

In this adventure I amazed myself in saying often, “How proud I am to be a Montfortian.”

Gilles Paquette, SMM

## Just a note

My mandate of three years at the general house has come to an end.

I have liked very much my experience and my work here at the general house. I have discovered the international Congregation. It has been a privilege to have had the chance to live at the Generalate. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting a good number of confreres coming from all our entities. My vision will never be the same. When I see the dynamism that exists in our young entities, I realize that we are not in the process of dying.

Thanks to all my confreres in the house who have been so welcoming to me during these three years, and who, through their contact, have given me the joy of being a Montfortian.

Thanks to all of you who have supported and encouraged me in my communications work. With the new international Montfortian site I wanted to make it accessible for everyone in a simple way. The site seeks to be a resource for our evangelization and a connection among us all.

I am very happy that Luigi can take up the task and continue to work in service to our international Congregation.

Have no fear, for we will meet each other and support one another through new technologies which allow us to be never alone.

United in prayer with Mary our Good Mother,

Gilles Paquette, SMM



## A Land of Learning...



*From April to July 2010, Fr. Constantin Atalipa, of Congo RD, was in India to follow a preparation for Perpetual Profession. Here is a summary of what he sent us to share his experience with the readers of the “Écho”.*

[...] The history of India is one punctuated by constant integration with migrating peoples and with the diverse cultures that surround India. Placed in the centre of Asia, history in India is a crossroad of cultures from China to Europe, and the most significant Asian connection with connection with cultures of Africa. In short, Indian history is more than just a set of unique developments in a definable process. It is in many ways a microcosm of human history itself, a diversity of cultures all impinging on great and numerous people and being reformed into new according to the current and present situation as presented in the global and modern world. [...] India is not only rich in its diversity of cultures, history and population but also in its authenticity and genuine rootedness in its tradition as well as values; [...]

To the question what is the purpose of human existence, we see Indian people as those looking for happiness and this happiness can only be found in looking for intimate union with the ultimate Reality. Thus we notice that through some traditional practices such as Vipassana and Yoga, Indian people always strive to be realistic, optimistic and hard working. Such are values that I experienced as characterizing Indian people. Thanks to these values, India has developed in different and various ways. The means that helped me discover values that are proper to India is music. For through various and numerous Indian songs, I found sentiments, feelings and expressions that Indian people would express in their songs dominated by minors. From this, I deduced feelings that Indian songs express.

India has a majority of God-fearing people. The fear of the Supreme Being characterizes Indian people and this has been rooted in their own tradition. Moreover, the observation that I made in visiting some holy places in Karnataka state was that Indian people are very devotional that I felt challenged in my faith and was more encouraged in my spiritual life. Through some practices and respect payed by Indian people to the Supreme Being, I am obliged to call India a “Devotional land”.

Besides, the other cultural value of India is the respect of the human person. Openness and respect to any and everybody who goes there. In other words, India proved itself as a land of hospitality, fostered by care, compassion and love. In this regard, my opinion is not superficial because I experienced and lived this in my own Montfortian communities. I was treated as a small “Raja” (King). I was the centre of attraction as well as attention in the community. I appreciate and



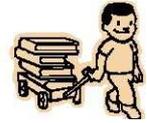
thank all for their care, concern and love shown towards me. May the entire Indian entity find here the expression of my sincere gratitude. Please be ready to welcome me there again.

If from the human perspective we do not have ‘culture but cultures’, in the spiritual perspective however we have no cultures but “Culture”. That is the culture of Christ. The culture that binds us from all corners of the world despite our cultural, racial as well as human differences. What a beautiful experience! Through and in the same congregation, we are able to share the same spirituality, same life ad charism according to the inspiration of Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort. This propels me to give a summary of my own understanding of Montfortian spirituality. [...]

Many define life as a school of learning. Thus every moment in life anywhere is a time for learning. In the same way, in all the experiences done, my stay in India from last April to July for the PPP program was specific in the sense that I acquired a lot of knowledge in various fields of life. From the cultural perspective, I am happy to have lived with people belonging to a different nation and culture. This allowed me to learn a new and different world view as well as wisdom. This time was as well a good opportunity for me to deepen my knowledge of Montfort spirituality, the charism of the Congregation and the mission of the Company of Mary. Thus I find myself with new tools to live according to the spirit of Montfort in today’s context. Moreover, great is my joy specifically for having been there, to live, to share a lot of experiences with people who belong to the same religious family. People who helped me discover more about my own vocation through personal discernment. India in its own context keeps strong men who are a resource for the Company of Mary as a whole. Together we can work and collaborate as true children of Mary to the establishment of Jesus’ reign through Mary.

Fr. Constantin ATALIPA, SMM

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