

# Dialogue

No. 114 (For private circulation only)

April - June, 2023



**Bro. Amarjeevan Ekka makes his**

## Perpetual Profession

at Montfort Villa, Bhopal

COME THE month of May and there was lots of excitement and an unusual spiritual ambiance seen in and around Montfort Villa, Bhopal as our candidates and Junior Brothers gathered together for their annual spiritual renewal, workshops and seminars. The place was vibrant with youngsters moving up and down and engaged in different activities and at times echoes of chanting of psalms and canticles, a reminder of old monastic ethos. Well, if not mistaken our community have a reference as monasteries; perhaps in the diocese of Jabalpur, elder Brothers are welcome to tick or correct whatever. The culmination came on 27<sup>th</sup> May when all the young Brothers, 'eighteen' of them, an army of young Montfortians renewed their vows for another year and were spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and a little of psychologically motivated to get back to their

respective places to join their mission spread through various challenging involvements.

To cap it all, 27<sup>th</sup> May was the special evening as **Bro. Amar Jeevan Ekka** was on dais waiting to take his Final Vows. The program commenced with a procession where Bro. Amar Jeevan and the Brothers renewing their vows were all lined up with lighted candles, followed by Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial Superior, the relatives of the Brother taking final vows, and all the Brothers present leading the Main celebrant and the co-celebrants to the altar with traditional dance and music. Bro. Amar Jeevan who has been eagerly waiting for this red-letter day of his life was enormously in high spirits about this life event. After a prolonged preparation and prayerful discernment, he surrendered himself to God Almighty forever as a Montfort Brother, uttering His praises before all present for all that God almighty had done for him. It was a very

emotional and a pious evening with very meaningful Eucharistic celebration and befitting festivity. Since the Junior Brothers were here, the Brothers' presence was visibly felt. The parents, brothers and other relatives more than fifteen of them, a few of his friends, well-wishers, and benefactors were also present for the celebrations. A number of priests and religious from near and far who are always willing to be part of Montfort Villa/ Montfort Brothers also had joined for the festive evening. **Rev. Fr. Cyril Kuttiyanicakal, CMI**, the newly elected Provincial Superior of Bhopal province had readily consented to be the Chief celebrant and we were indeed privileged to have an old friend and the newly elected Provincial as the Chief celebrant. We thank him for his enriching message and other spiritual animation of the evening. A standing ovation goes to our Junior Brothers who organized a melodious choir for the evening. We are proud we have a number of young brothers who are very talented in music both vocal and instrumental. We wish them great happenings in the days to come. It would be very unfair on my part if I did not add a sentence or two to our collaborating Sisters and teachers who decorated the stage and place for Holy Mass in a professional way to enrich the ambiance.

The spiritual enrichment events were followed by cutting of the cake, some festive events and felicitation of the Chief celebrant, and the cause of the evening's gathering, Bro Amar Jeevan. Rev. Bro Thampy Alex, Provincial Superior formally welcomed the Chief celebrant, Bro. Amar Jeevan, and the rest of the august audience. Adding to the charm of the evening was a gorgeous dance and group song by Montfort Senior Secondary Schools' junior artists. A qualitative short program that kept everyone glued to the stage. The MC of the program Bro Edmond Soreng kept the audience in rapt



attention by spilling selective expressions befitting the event.

The felicitation program was followed by a delicious meal for everyone present. I am sure all had sufficient food and more of their choices to munch. Thanks to the Brothers of Montfort Villa and St. Montfort School for the well planned and executed evening.

The delightful evening would not end without expressing one's inner joy and cheer. It ended up in the outburst of traditional dances that came in varieties from the large gathering of Brothers and relatives. Given the chance they would have hit the morning but then the next day was Sunday and much was awaiting everyone, so they had to stop to say bye for the evening. The excitement of the evening will be cherished for many days to come and everyone left with pleasant experiences sweet memories.

**Bro. Chacko Azhaketh, SG**



Junior Brothers renewed their vows at Montfort Villa, Bhopal





**Newly Professed Brothers**  
**Atish Bage, Neeraj Lakra and Om Prakash Tirkey**  
 being welcomed to the Province.  
 They are seen with the Provincial, the Chief Celebrant and Bro. Amarjeevan.



## Editor's Note

Dear readers,

DIALOGUE No.114:  
 April – June 2023 edition is ready to be published.

It is a matter of great joy for our province that in a well-organized ceremony

**Bro. Amar Jeevan Ekka** made his **perpetual profession** and 17 of our junior Brothers renewed their religious vows on 27<sup>th</sup> May at Montfort Villa, Bhopal. During the same function our newly professed Brothers **Atish Bage, Neeraj Lakra** and **Omprakash Tirkey** were warmly welcomed to the province by Rev. Bro. Provincial. Let us thank God for the gift of these young men who have committed themselves to be at the service of God and humanity in our congregation and extend them our fraternal support, guidance and encouragement to persevere in their religious vocation.

In his message **Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex**, the **Provincial** quoting Martin Luther King Jr. underscores the need to instill moral values in our students through our education. "Education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals." The formal education should facilitate our students to embrace kindness and goodness. He exhorts the Brothers to be caring and supportive leaders for our students and teachers. In conclusion he requests the Brothers to put into practice what we have learnt during the 5days Seminar cum Workshop on Leadership and Managerial Skills in the month of May 2023.

On the World Day of the Poor, Nov 13, 2022, **Pope Francis** had encouraged Christians to not be brought down by the "doom and gloom" of the world but to witness to the joy of the Gospel through service to those in need. "Let us light candles of hope in the midst of darkness. Amid dramatic situations, let us seize opportunities to bear witness to the Gospel of joy and to build a more fraternal world.... Let us commit ourselves courageously to justice, the rule of law and peace, and stand at the side of the weakest," he exhorted.

**Bro. V.J. Mani** reports that the 5 days **Seminar-cum-Workshop on Managerial Skills & Leadership** organized for our Brothers who are and who will be Managers, Principals and leaders, was so absorbing and enriching that all the 35 participants expressed their satisfaction. The programme was of a high standard, touching every aspect of leadership compelling the participants to introspect their functioning style and make necessary changes towards becoming effective leaders in the present-day context.

**Bro. Rajashekar Y** gives a report of the **First Profession** of 19 novices from 06 Indian provinces. It had taken place in an appropriate ceremony on 22<sup>nd</sup> April at Yercaud.

In this issue you will find reports of **1980 and 1982 batches reunion** at MSC, Bengaluru. "Such gatherings simply cannot take place unless a close bond exists among the members", writes **Mr. V.J. Joseph** of 1980 batch. Through both the reports they communicate the powerful message, "Once a Montfortian, always a Montfortian", wherever destiny has placed them. It speaks well of the

formation that the Congregation has given them. All of them are dynamic as Brothers and Associates.

In a webinar on liver health and transplant organized on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in Chennai **Dr. S. Velumurugan**, Head of Department of Surgical Gastroenterology clarified, “People think that eating too much fat causes fatty liver. Actually, it is **carbohydrates** that **cause fatty liver**. We need to include high-fibre vegetables, fruits and millets in our diet regularly and exercise for at least 30 minutes a day.”

In **Hymn No. 89** titled, ‘The Onset of Good Times’ **Bro. Emmanuel PJ** writes that the times’ ways are infinite like the massive waves that tide. Both of them change like the monsoon sky that casts spells of doom and damage. He further adds that life is a roller-coaster ride, the ups and downs are time-bound, yet these too shall pass and the good will

prevail. You will find appropriate uses of **metaphor** and **simile** in this hymn.

I am glad to underline the fact that the current issue of **DIALOGUE** carries news from all the communities of the province except St. Francis’ School, Bhopal and St. Montfort School, Bhopal and from 02 National Houses of formation. We have no pre-novices this year at Montfort Aruludhayam due to our extended ‘come-and-see program’ by one more year. The added feature of the current issue is the news from **Vidyadeep College of Theology**, Bengaluru and **Inter-cultural community**, Montreal, Canada. Let me salute all the Local Superiors and the local correspondents.

Wishing you an enjoyable and enriching reading.

**Bro. T.T. Mathew, SG, Editor**

## Message from the Provincial



Dear Brothers,

Greetings from Montfort Villa, Bhopal. I am very happy to pen down few lines for our upcoming Dialogue which will be released by the end of this month. First of all I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Bro. T.T. Mathew for taking the trouble and

continuing with the responsibility of editing and publishing our magazine without fail. Congratulations dear Brother. As we are all going to begin our school after the long summer vacation, I wish all the best to all.

Dear Brothers, “Education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society,” wrote Martin Luther King Jr. in 1947. “The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals.” But in India with our new understanding of the social, emotional, and ethical development of students, I think we can safely say that academic achievement alone no longer counts as a “successful” education. The work of educators shapes human beings—which means that education helps shape our world.

Let us ask our students that “What kind of world do you want to live in?” And while their responses may differ, they do have one thing in

common: creating all these varied worlds requires people who are kind and good.

So, how can formal education play a role in helping people to embrace kindness and goodness? The building blocks are already there to help educators do this work, namely in the fields of character education, social-emotional learning, and mindfulness. But the magic really happens when all three (head, heart & hands) are integrated together—and are grounded by a sense of purpose and strong moral identity.

As I see today’s India and our Montfort schools, there has never been a more challenging time for Brothers and teachers than in recent years. Educators have been persistently worried about caring for not only their students’ academic learning, but also their students’ social and emotional well-being.

The pandemic, climate crises, and global conflicts have left us with much more to shoulder for our students—while we ourselves try to cope with everything that is happening. Yet, many of us are barely able to stay afloat in these turbulent times, we often hear people lamenting that we are not doing enough for our students.

Dear Brothers, let us be a caring and supportive leader for our students and teachers. Let us have a supportive relationship with them and fine-tune our institutions as we have learned during our seminar in the month of May. Let’s put into practice what we have learned and gone through.

Wishing you all the best,

Fraternally,

**Bro. Thampy Alex, SG  
Provincial Superior**

**D**ear Brother Mathew,  
Greetings from Rome, where I got back from France on 31<sup>st</sup> evening, after a meeting of the 3 General Administrations of the Montfortian Family at Paris, followed by a visit of our Brothers in Nantes, St. Laurent, Pontchâteau and La Hillière.

This comes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of DIALOGUE No. 113, and to congratulate you for the content and the layout. The articles on “7 Things to Abstain from during Lent” by Pope Francis and “Lent: A Joyful Time” by Fr. Joe Mannath, were certainly a timely help during the Season of Lent. It was interesting to go through the news items from the different communities of the Province, both in India and in PNG, as well as our Houses of Formation. Congratulations to you and to the whole Editorial Team for maintaining the quality of the publications.

Wishing you a grace-filled Holy Week leading to the Peace, Joy and Hope of the Resurrection of Our Lord,  
**Bro. John Kallarackal, SG**  
Superior General  
Fratelli di San Gabriele  
Via Trionfale 12840,  
Roma - 00135

**M**y dear Bro. Mathew,  
I am sorry that I have been not responding to you for a long time. All the issues of DIAOLGUE are very nice. I have been regularly reading the same. Thank you very much. The Articles are very inspiring. With best wishes and Prayers for a very Holy Week for all the Brothers of Delhi Province,  
With love and Prayers for all the Brothers of Delhi Province,  
**Bro. M.M. Francis, SG**  
Boys Town, Hyderabad

**G**ood afternoon.  
Received the soft copy of your Dialogue magazine. Thanks. Congrats for the good work done. Regards, See you soon.  
Yours fraternally,  
**Bro. John Britto, sg**  
National Executive Secretary & Bursar, Montfort Spirituality Centre, Bengaluru

**D**ear friend Bro. Mathew,  
Thanks so much for your kind email attached a soft copy of DIALOGUE. Your hard work and productivity are greatly appreciated. Wish you all the best specially in the Holy Week and upcoming joyous Easter.  
Yours fraternally,  
**Mr. Chachaval Sudjai,**  
Bangkok, Thailand

**R**espected Bro. Mathew  
Thonikuzhyil,  
Sincere thanks to you for sending to me a copy of DIALOGUE No 113. Its content is very enriching and inspiring.  
**Bro. Sebastian**  
**NDABUNGANIYE, SG**  
Morogoro, Tanzania,  
Province of East Africa

**T**hankyou dear Bro. Mathew.  
Congratulations! Keep it up.  
**Mr. Raju John**  
Kalathilkottil House,  
Palai, Kottayam Dt.,  
Kerala.

**D**ear Bro. Mathew,  
Thanks a lot for your email and the soft copy of Dialogue. I am sure I will enjoy going through the magazine which you prepare with creativity and substance. May God bless all your ventures.  
Warm regards and prayers,  
**Sister Gemma, FSLG**  
FSLG Convent,  
Indirapuram, Gaziabad

**T**hank you for the DIALOGUE, No.113, Jan- Mar 2023. It has come out well. Congratulations to you...  
**Bro. Sevak Gabriel, SG**  
Manager, St. Charles' Inter College, Sardhana.

**T**hank you for the DIALOGUE, No.113, Jan- Mar 2023. It is well written and beautifully designed. It covers all the activities of the province.  
**Sr. Linda, OSB,**  
St. Benedict Academy,  
Bangrasia, Bhopal

**D**ear Bro. T.T. Mathew,  
Thank you so much for your latest DIALOGUE. It is very much appreciated. Cover page itself is thought provoking i.e. 7 Things to Abstain from...Very informative too.

May your hard work be always rewarded by God! Praying for your ministry. Take care dear Brother. With love,  
**Bro. Balan, SG**  
Headmaster & Correspondent,  
St. Joseph's Hr. Sec. School,  
Chengalpattu, Tamilnadu - 02.

**T**hanks for the copy of DIALOGUE. Congrats for bringing out in a colourful manner and for making it reader-friendly. Keep it up.  
**Bro. Paulraj, SG**  
C/O Montfort Nilaya,  
Yelahanka P.O.,  
Bengaluru-560064

**G**reetings from Bro. Balla Francis. I hope you're keeping good health.

Your innovative way of bringing out the 'Dialogue' is really appreciable. I found that our Province Newsletter is one of the best Newsletters. It also gives a number of new vocabularies to learn and improve



the language skills. It is because of your hard work and dedication that our DIALOGUE (newsletter) is still alive and is in circulation. Congratulations...

**Bro. Balla Francis, SG**  
St. Charles' Inter College, Sardhana

**T**hanks! and Congratulations on bringing out the 'DIALOGUE'

regularly as per the schedule.

It is nice to see some of the important articles, messages, and news compiled as well from different sources. In the last issue Pope Francis's article 'Seven Things to Abstain from during Lent' was beautifully explained. 'Lent: A Joyful Time' adapted from New Leader was

yet another interesting and enriching article to read.

Continue to do well, wish you all the best.

**Bro. Lucianus Lakra, SG**  
St. Gabriel's Tech. Sec. School,  
Kiunga, PNG



## St. Gabriel's, Jabalpur

Bro. Joy Joseph, SG

The new academic session started during the third week of March. Planning and preparation for the new academic session had begun as early as December, 2022 by the Executive Committee members.

The student hand-book with the various school activities was prepared with the theme "International Year of Millets". It was distributed to the students on the 1<sup>st</sup> working day of the School.

An Investiture programme for the newly elected school council and an orientation programme for Nursery, LKG and Class I parents was held in the last week of March, 2023. Investiture Ceremony of Middle School and Senior School were held during the second week of April.

The First P.T.M of the new session was held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 in which the SOP's and the Syllabus booklets were briefed and distributed to the parents.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 an award ceremony was held in which 62 awards were distributed class-wise for various disciplines like, Sports, Music, Chess, Dance, Yoga, Extempore, Academics and Dramatics, etc.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 the Feast of St. Montfort was celebrated by offering a Holy Mass for the Christian students, teachers and parents.

The special Mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Lawrence Swamy, an ex-student of St. Gabriel's and Rev. Fr. G. Alexander. The Mass was attended by nearly 350 people. Snack-packets and Montfort's book marks with Consecration to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, through the hands of Mother Mary were distributed at the end of the Mass.

To commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of our Founder, St. Louis Marie de Montfort a special Mass was offered at St. Thomas Church, Ranjhi on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. A brief introduction to Montfort's life was given by Mrs. Isabella Rajan and the main celebrant, Rev. Fr. Lawrence Swamy. Rev. Fr. G. Alexander

thanked the contributions of the Brothers of St. Gabriel for educating the young following the footsteps of their founder St. Louis Marie de Montfort. After the mass snack packets and Montfort's book marks with Consecration to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, through the hands of Mother Mary were distributed to the faithful of our parish.



On 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 the World's Largest Trophy Interschool Chess Tournament was held in St. Gabriel's School, Ranjhi. Nearly 250 students participated from various schools of Jabalpur, Seoni, Sagar, Katni and Mandla. St. Gabriel's Hr. Sec. School bagged the Championship trophy, Chess demonstration board and students won trophies and cash awards worth Rs. Twenty-six thousand (26,000/-).

The school acknowledges the talents of Mrs. Isabella Rajan and Mr. P. A. Rajan for developing Chess-skills in students.

Most of the Classes 9 to 12 teachers were away on Examination duty in the month of March/April. Ten (1 to 10<sup>th</sup> May) days of extra classes were held for Classes 10 & 12 students to make up for the loss of studies when the teachers were away for correction work.

The school closed for summer vacation on 29<sup>th</sup> April; the teachers will report back for duty on 13<sup>th</sup> June after summer vacation. Children will come back from 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The school was center for NEET Examination on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. Six hundred students appeared for exam from our center.

Chess classes were held during Summer Vacation from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023



A Summer Camp was held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 under the guidance of Mr. Rakesh Giri & Team, nearly 300 students participated in the camp to enhance various skills like, Dance, Drawing, Instrumental music, Dramatics, Singing, Skating and Yoga. On 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 a closing ceremony of the camp was held where students show-cased the various skills learnt during the camp.

School made special effort in training students in Basketball, Volley ball, Football, Athletics, Skating, Table Tennis and Robotics in the month of May.

Bro. Joy Joseph and Bro. Emmanuel attended Leadership training programme organized by the Province. Bro. Joy Joseph attended five days Health and Wellness Master training program organized by NCERT Delhi in collaboration with CBSE and UNESCO. Junior Brothers were away in Bhopal to participate in Vows renewal program after their return they have gone home for vacation. Bro. Emmanuel P.J. has gone home for holidays. He is expected to be back on 13<sup>th</sup> June. We will have one Brother from Hyderabad Province joining the community from the middle of June. He will be joining an integrated B.A, B.Ed. course in St.

Aloysius' College.

We had constructed one more ramp to decongest the crowd after the school hour. The finishing touch of the work is in progress and expect it to be completed as the school re-opens after summer vacation. We have made a passage from new land to the school during these holidays. The parking of the vehicles will be done in the newly acquired land.

## Montfort, Delhi

Bro. James Pasala, SG

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023 the students of the Primary wing of Montfort School received a warm welcome from the students of Class 5A. The program was presided over by the Principal, Brother Joy Thomas, Vice Principal, Brother James Pasala and Headmistress, Sr. Lucia Suting.

The special assembly was initiated with a Welcome Bharatnatyam dance performance. Then the gathering sought the benign blessings of the Almighty God through a prayer song. The students of 5A talked about starting the new academic year with enthusiasm while waiting for few surprises to unfold. The high point of the assembly was an inspiring message for the students to motivate them to keep striving towards a higher goal.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankar - Prophet of Jains was celebrated with great enthusiasm. A special assembly was presented brilliantly by the students of the school. They highlighted the life story and noble teachings of Bhagwan Mahavira and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar through melodious prayer songs, powerful speeches and foot tapping dance performances. The young impressionable minds pledged to live a righteous life and follow the ethical principles of Jainism, including Ahimsa - causing no harm to living beings, Satya - to speak the truth, *Asteya* - not to possess the things that do not belong to you, *Brahmcharya* - not to indulge in sensual pleasures and *Aparigraha* - not to get attached to material things. They also pledged to treat everyone equal.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 Easter Special Assembly was conducted by the students of Primary & Senior





Wing.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 seminar for Class VI parents was organized.

Sports is an important part of our Pre-Primary curriculum as it teaches discipline, teamwork, undoubtedly it helps them to develop competitive spirit as well as passion for exercise at an early age.

Tiny tots of Pre-Primary wing enthusiastically took part in fun sports activities on 15.4.23, which was planned by the teachers like Transfer the ball, Zig zag race, pattern race, Bat ball, balancing, jump in the circles etc. All the students and teachers were very energetic; enthusiasm could be easily seen in their eyes, Children participated with full energy in all activities and it was a great day for them.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 Eid Special Assembly was organized by the students of Senior Wing.

Montfort School, Delhi proudly announced the Office Bearers of the Primary Department for the year 2023-24 in its Investiture Ceremony on 25th April, 2023. Donning the mantle of accountability, the newly invested office bearers pledged to bestow their duties to the best of their abilities and their commitment to be good role models for the entire student body by fulfilling the school motto - "For God and the Country".

We congratulate the new Student Council and hope to see them lead Montfort School and their fellow peers to greatness with commitment and integrity.

Seminar on Enhancing leadership Skills was conducted on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 for monitors & prefects.

The competition was judged by very talented - Maam Shrishty and Maam Shivali. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of our Vice Principal, Bro. James Pasala and Sister Lucia. The competitors gave out a variety of songs. They came up with such melodious voices which in the run attracted the audience as such. A great support was given from the audience side. All our young maestros who took part in the competition made the competition a great success. All of them sang to their level best.

Summer means happy times and good sunshine. Summer means soothing serenity, fun adventures, refreshing mindsets and eye-opening ideas. To make this season more exciting, Pre-Primary department organized an activity SUMMER PRINCE AND PRINCESS on 12.05.23 for the students where all the little ones were beautifully dressed up according to the given theme. Children expressed their views on summer season in their own innocent ways and enjoyed the dance on summer song. Children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and left the school campus with a unique happiness and gratification.

On 15th May, a pool party was organized for the pre-primary department kids in the school ground. It turned out to be a fun-filled event. The party was an initiative of the teachers of the department. The kids had a whale of a time splashing in the pool. The teachers supervised the kids in the pool, ensuring their safety. It provided a refreshing escape from the scorching heat.

The pool party was a hit. The presence of Principal, Bro. Joy Thomas and Vice Principal Bro. James added to the joy of the pool party as they witnessed the kid's excitement. Overall, it was a memorable event for the kids, and it provided them with a great way to usher in the summer break.

Inter-class Solo Singing Competition for junior wing class 4 was held on 17th May'23. The participants put forth their enthralling performance. The competition was judged by very competent Sir Saurabh and Maam Karen. The occasion was graced by the presence of our Vice-Principal Bro. James Pasala and Sister Lucia. The competitors gave out a variety of song. They came up with such melodious voices

which in the run impressed the audience as such. A great support was given by the audience side with thundering applause. All our young maestros who took part in the competition made the competition a great success.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June Bro. Joy Thomas went for home holidays and came back on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June Bro. James Pasala went home for holidays and came back on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

To honor the great St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, the **Montfort Feast Day** celebration was organized in the form of a special assembly on 28th April 2023. To celebrate the life and work of this great Apostle of Peace, the students presented a plethora of music, dance, speeches and felicitations.

Inter class Solo Singing Competition for junior wing class 5 was held on 29th April'23. The participants put forth their enthralling performance.



# Montfort, Ambikapur

Bro. John Minj, SG

After the Board examination, the new academic session began on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. The following week the school organized a prize distribution function on different days for different grades. The function was organized to reward meritorious students during the previous academic session. The Principal of the school congratulated the staff and students and expressed his gratitude to all.

Bros. Gregory Baa, Rajan Bilung and Dinesh Kujur stayed with us for a couple of days on their way to Odisha to address the vocation camp at Rourkela.

Since Bro. Pankaj had to go to Bengaluru for an educational seminar on 28<sup>th</sup> April, the parishioners wanted to commemorate the feast of St. Montfort on the previous Sunday in the Church. So, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 (Sunday) St. Montfort's feast was celebrated in our small parish under the leadership of *Mahila Sangh*. The liturgy as well as other programs were well organized. One of the parishioners delivered a short biography of St. Louis Marie de Montfort and spoke about the religious Congregations founded by him. After a solemn Eucharistic celebration, Brothers were felicitated with tokens of love and appreciation. Thereafter all were given a packet of snacks.



On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 we were privileged to have Bishop Emeritus Patras Minj to offer feast day Mass for us in our chapel. Thereafter the celebration of the Feast Day of our Founder continued in the school with the teachers and students. Bishop Patras Minj was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Then in the evening all the priests, religious and associate members were invited to the celebration. Bishop Pascal Topno Emeritus and Present Bishop Antonis Bara were the main guests of the occasion. A short and befitting prayer service was conducted by Bro. Johnson Beck and the associates. After the prayer Bro. Shaji Joseph the Local Superior spoke about St. Montfort and our Congregation. Then a scrumptious

meal was served to all, prepared by our old and new cooks.

Bro. Pankaj Awaya went to Bengaluru on 27<sup>th</sup> April for an Educational Seminar organized by CBSE.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April the diocese of Ambikapur organized a Vocation camp in Bishop's House which was addressed by our four brothers (Bros. Dinesh Kujur, Rajan Bilung, Johnson Beck and Alok Minj) hoping to get a few boys. Since the camp was first time organized in the diocese and lack of proper information in the parishes, it was not a success. There were 15 women congregations who came to fish girls but only one girl had participated in the camp. On the other hand, there were three men congregations and only five boys attended the camp. All went back disappointed after having a delicious lunch.

Bro. Shaji and Bro. Pankaj went to Bhopal for an Educational Seminar/Workshop organized at Montfort Villa, Bhopal. After the seminar Bro. Pankaj went home for his annual holidays, Bro. Shaji Joseph came back on 8<sup>th</sup> May. During those days Bro. Johnson Beck was all in all here, looking after everything.

Construction of the multipurpose hall and few class rooms on the third floor in the school building is going on. The class rooms are almost ready to be utilized. The hall may take still some more time to be utilized. The boundary wall along the convent and girls hostel has been constructed.

One May 22, Bro. Pankaj came back after holidays and on the following day Bro. Shaji left for home visit and Bro. Johnson went to Bhopal for the renewal of his vows and to attend the perpetual profession of Bro. Amar Jeevan. We are happy that many Brothers and their relatives visit us on their way home or for some other purposes.

All the Brothers are back to the community after spending few days at home with their near and dear ones and planning for the new academic year has started. This year we have no new member in our community.

One day seminar was organized for the teachers of Nursery, Primary and Middle classes on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The resource person for the seminar was Mr.



Sourabh Vishwakarma MBA in Marketing from Indira University, Pune.

The school was supposed to reopen on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 after the summer vacation but due to extreme heat waves all over, the State government has extended the holidays till 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

## Montfort, Lucknow

Bro. T.T. Mathew, SG

On 31<sup>st</sup> March four of our teachers retired from service after rendering long years of service to MIC. 1. Mr. R.K. Trivedi (37 years), 2. Dr. Mrs. Kirti Kumar (28 years), 3. Mrs. Manju Karnatak (20 years), 4. Mrs. Richa Kumar, Resigned (28 years). They were given an emotional and touching farewell by the Staff on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The students were on holidays in those days after their annual exam.

We had a combined Staff meeting on the same day after the farewell function. Bro. Jinu Abraham, the Principal began by congratulating the teachers for the successful completion of the academic year 2022-23. He also appreciated them for the smooth conduct of the Board Exam in our school.

In his input he explained what is teaching? It is the internal act of creating conditions that can help students learn the maximum. He also explained the diverse roles of teachers. He also made us introspect what inspired us to choose teaching as a carrier. He underlined that teaching is not only for the students but also for the teacher as it is the best way to learn. He emphasized that knowing oneself is as crucial as knowing the students and the subject because we teach who we are. Then he explained some of the characteristics of good teachers. Then he highlighted the salient features of teaching that inspires & motivates the students like encouraging creativity, promoting quest for more than one right answer, asking questions that solicit multiple answers, value based lesson plan & teaching, respect for the students' stories, aptitude for asking for good questions & listening to the students' responses - verbal & non-verbal, the ability to provoke student's self-learning, readiness to promote dialogue with students, to be the kind of teacher who is knowledgeable & enthusiastic. In the concluding part he explained to the teachers the things to be carried out in the new academic session.

The new academic session 2023-24 commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April Bro. T.T. Mathew left for Yercaud to accompany the 14 Brothers preparing for the Perpetual Profession at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud. The preparatory programme began on 10<sup>th</sup> April. He taught them Asanas in the morning and Dhyana in the evening on a regular basis till 30<sup>th</sup> April besides some theoretical inputs on Yoga. He returned to Lucknow on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April the Feast Day of our Founder was celebrated with a well-organized prayer service, and an introduction to our Founder and our Congregation followed by a sumptuous dinner. There were about 120 religious & priests besides our MGA members with their families and our support staff.

Bro. Jinu Abraham went to Montfort Villa, Bhopal on 2<sup>nd</sup> night to attend Provincial Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May followed by the Seminar arranged by the Provincial from 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> May.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May was the first phase of the civic polls in Lucknow. There were two polling booths in our Pre-primary section as well as in our Senior School. The polling went off peacefully.

Bro. Suraj Xalxo went home for holidays on 4<sup>th</sup> May. He would return after the renewal of his vows at Montfort Villa, Bhopal.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May we had debate competition in Hindi for classes VI to VIII in which the students participated with great confidence and enthusiasm. The Hindi teachers had prepared them well. The Principal addressed the students saying that school organizes such co-curricular activities so the students will be able to stand on their own feet and express their views on various topics with courage and conviction.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May Sunday our Founder St. Louis Marie de Montfort's Feast was celebrated in our parish and the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Simon Xalxo, OFM Cap and the parish community honoured us, the Brothers and appreciated our educational and pastoral service here.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May CBSE declared the results of both class XII and X. Montfort Inter College secured very good results this year also in the Board exams. In **class XII** out of 171 students appeared 99 passed with Honours, 60 in First Division, 07 in Second Division and 05 got Compartment. There were **no failures**. **Yatharth Rai** with **96.6%** topped the school, **Raunak Kumar Jha** and **Shagun Srivastava** with **95.54%** stood **Second** and **Om Nigam** with **95.2%** secured **Third** position in the school.

In **class X** out of 170 students appeared 106 passed with Honours, 47 passed in First Division and 15 passed in Second Division, 02 got Compartment and there were **no failures**. **Akshara Singh Rawat** with **97.8%** topped the school, **Ojaswee Verma** with **95.4%** secured **Second** position and **Akshat Singh** with **95.2%** stood **Third** in the school. Hearty CONGRATULATIONS to the Principal, Bro. Jinu Abraham, the teachers and the students.

From 17 – 19 May the 16<sup>th</sup> National Mini Football Tournament (under 19 years age) was held at John Milton School, Agra. There were teams from 17 states. The Final match was played between UP and Assam in which UP defeated Assam by 02-01 goals and won the **Winner's Trophy**. In the UP team 08 of our students had played and **Master**



**Abhinav Yadav** of our school received the **Best Scorer award**. We congratulate Mr. P.R. Pandey, our P.T.I. and all the players of our school. Prior to this inter-state event we had topped U.P. state.



On 20<sup>th</sup> May we closed the school for summer vacation and on the same day **Mrs. Radha Srivastava**, the **Music teacher of Pre-primary section** was given **farewell**. She had served Montfort School, Lucknow last 25 years. From the sentiments expressed on that day by her colleagues, the Headmistress, Sr. Pushpa, OSB and the Principal, Bro. Jinu Abraham it was quite evident that she had touched the lives of all of them and that she was held in high esteem by both the students and the teachers. While we **thank her** for her generous, responsible and dedicated service in our school for the last 25 years we **wish Radha madam good health, happiness and abiding presence of God** in the next phase of her life.

During the Summer vacation summer camp was organized for the students from 22<sup>nd</sup> May. During camp the students were trained in **Football, Yoga, Public speaking, Handwriting, Abacus and Vocabulary**. The trainers were other than our regular staff.

**Bro. Neeraj Lakra**, the new member of our community joined us on 29<sup>th</sup> May. He was warmly welcomed by us. On 30<sup>th</sup> May Bro. Suraj Xalxo returned to the community after his home leave and the renewal of his vows at Montfort Villa, Bhopal. Bro. Jinu Abraham went on home leave on the same afternoon.

The May devotion to Our Lady was concluded in our parish with Rosary and Mass on 31<sup>st</sup> May at 6.00 pm.

Bro. T.T. Mathew concluded his summer camp in Yoga on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The coaching in Football was



concluded on 09<sup>th</sup> June. Bro. George Pottakaran was given farewell on the same day evening. He thanked the community for having taken care of him during the period of his sickness with a lot of understanding. He also expressed his gratitude towards the Benedictine Sisters and MSJ Sisters and Capuchin Fathers who have been compassionate towards him and prayed for him during his difficult days. Bro. George left for Jabalpur on 10<sup>th</sup> early morning by road.

Bro. Jinu Abraham reached back on 15<sup>th</sup> June after his home leave. The school is scheduled to reopen on 26<sup>th</sup> June for the Staff and on the following day for the students.

Here it is extremely hot these days. We expect some showers in the near future. Famous variety of mangoes of Lucknow, 'Dushharee' are easily available at an economic rate in market now-a-days.

## St. Charles', Sardhana

Bro. Balla Francis, SG

*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."*

College life is one of the most remarkable and lovable times of an individual's life. Lucky are those who get the chance to enjoy their college life. We the St. Charles community were very happy to welcome back our Brothers namely Bros. Alok, JoJo, Raju for appearing for their University exams from Sardhana. They spent almost two months in Sardhana.

From 11<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June St. Charles Inter College was used for Municipality election. During these days there was hell of a noise in the campus as many police were residing in the campus.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May we officially bid farewell to Bro. Sevak Gabriel He was a great inspiration to everyone in the campus. His innovative ideas, punctuality and dedication are to be rated high. He also embodies the qualities such as love and sensitivity. Dear Bro. Sevak Gabriel, we wish you all the best in Bangalore. We remember you in our prayers. On the same day Bro. Jose Thottiyil, the new Manager was warmly welcomed to St. Charles Inter College. Prior to it he was introduced to the Staff & students by Bro. S. Gabriel, the outgoing Manager.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June we cordially welcomed Bro. Rakesh Sharma to our community.

## Montfort, Roorkee

Mrs. Lizy Philip

**New Academic Excitement:** The new academic session commenced on April 3, marking a fresh start for students who were brimming with excitements as they were ready to



support staff of our school were honoured with mementos for their hard work, dedication and commitment. Principal in his speech emphasized the value of labour and its impact on society. He said that we should recognize and appreciate the hard work put in

embark on a new educational journey. They were warmly welcomed by the Principal Bro. Albert Abraham during the morning assembly. He exhorted everyone to strive for excellence in studies as well as in behaviour. Having done with Periodic Assessment – I, the school has been closed for the summer vacation.

**Feast of St. Louis Marie De Montfort:** On



April 28, the Feast Day of St. Montfort was joyfully observed in the school. The celebration began with the lighting of the lamp by the Principal Bro. Albert Abraham, Vice Principal Bro. Prashant Kullu, teacher and student representatives. This was followed by a floral tribute. Students put up a skit which portrayed the significant milestones in Montfort's life, showing his unwavering dedication to his faith and his selfless service to others. During his speech, Bro. Albert Abraham urged the students to emulate the qualities of St. Montfort and encouraged everyone to follow his example of selflessness and compassion.

**International Labour Day:** International Labor Day was celebrated on May 1<sup>st</sup> with great enthusiasm. Students put up a series of performances to honour and appreciate everyone who contribute for the smooth functioning of the society and the world at large. As a token of appreciation, the

by the labour force. He also urged the students to respect every work and uphold the dignity of labour.

**Investiture Ceremony:** The investiture ceremony was held in the Primary, Middle and Senior wings on different days. It was a significant event as it provided a platform to recognize and honour students who have displayed exceptional qualities such as leadership, integrity and commitment. Principal Bro. Albert Abraham spoke about the significance of responsibility that come with leadership positions. He emphasized that being a leader means being accountable for one's actions, and that the leaders should serve as role models for their peers. Furthermore, he expressed his confidence in the newly appointed leaders and their ability to fulfill their responsibilities with utmost dedication, sincerity and humility. He also urged them to lead by example and foster the spirit of inclusivity and respect in their own respective sections as well as in the school premises.

**Board Exam Results:** The excellent Board Examination results have brought great joy and pride to our school. The students' hard work, dedication and perseverance have been rightly rewarded. Similarly, the teacher's commitment to imparting knowledge and providing guidance to individual students has been instrumental in bringing out excellence in academic performance. Hence the Management applauds the collective efforts of both the students and teachers. However, we believe that there is always scope for improvement.

**Summer Camp:** The summer camp commenced on May 27<sup>th</sup> and concluded on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the camp, various sports activities were organized to engage and energize the students. Additionally, music played a significant role in the camp. Students learned to play different instruments. The highlight of the camp was an exciting outing to Fun valley where students had a fantastic time. This camp was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn, grow and create lasting memories.



## St. Montfort, Banea

Bro. Prem Murmu, SG

Greetings from the St. Montfort Higher Secondary School, Banea. Board Examinations began on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. Our students and Government Hr. Secondary students had their exam centre in our school. All the students passed with good per centage.

St. Louis de Montfort's feast was celebrated on 28th April 2023 in our community in a grand manner. We had Eucharistic celebration along with the local Religious and Priests. Mass was solemnly offered by Rev. Fr. Jenerious Xalxo. During the homily he highlighted the spirituality of our Founder and the education service that we are rendering for the development of the locality. Everyone gathered prayed for the continued success of our mission. It was followed by a delicious meal. It was a meaningful celebration in which all the guests congratulated and appreciated us. It was also a great opportunity to cherish our brotherhood and sisterhood.

We organized the farewell program for the outgoing Principal & Local Superior Bro. Jeet Francis and welcome program for the incoming Principal & Local Superior Bro. Edmond Soreng on 19th May 2023. Many Religious, members of the staff and neighbouring communities attended the same. We had a Mass in the evening which was presided over



by Rev. Fr. Michael Toppo, the Parish Priest. He praised and thanked the Almighty God for the gift of Bro. Jeet Francis and his long years of service for the growth of Banea locality. He stated that Bro. Jeet worked tirelessly in different capacities. We also welcomed Rev. Bro. Edmond Soreng with joyful hearts and wished him all the best for his future endeavours. Thereafter we had a delicious meal.

We are deeply indebted to our Bro. Shaji Joseph and his community for providing smartboard for our school. We hope our students will be able to learn better with the upgraded technology.

## Montfort, Mandla

Bro. Sunil Aind, SG

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023, we started the Summer Camp for children. Many children participated and enjoyed the games and other learnings. At the close of the Summer Camp we had taken children to the nearby picnic spot (Ramnagar). Children liked the entire program.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023, we had the Investiture Ceremony for the Primary students. It is introduced for the first time in our school here. The initiative is well accepted.

The feast day of our Founder St. Louis de Montfort was celebrated with enthusiasm and vigor in the school. Special assembly was organized. In the evening the local Parish Priests and nuns were invited along with Montfort Associate Members. The celebration was meaningful with special prayer and Eucharistic celebration.



After the Summer Vacation the teachers came to school on 12<sup>th</sup> June. A seminar was organized for teachers on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June on the theme, 'Life Skills and Professional Development of Teachers'. The resource person was **Rev. Bro. Shine Alex**, the



Provincial of Hyderabad. It was well appreciated by the teachers. On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June a seminar was conducted by **Mrs. Shiela Masih** for the Primary teachers. So many teaching tips and ideas were shared with them to make the teaching and learning process more interesting for the children.

## Montfort ITC, Khandwa

Bro. Suresh Ekka, SG

We are happy to share with you some of the events that took place in our community.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April we celebrated the feast of St. Louis de Montfort, our Founder. We had a meaningful prayer service conducted by Bro. Barnabas Tete and we had delicious dinner.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May Bro. Suresh Ekka left for home holidays and attended the renewal program in Bhopal. On 29<sup>th</sup> May he returned to the community along with Bro. Pradeep Xalxo, the new Local Superior, Rev. Bro. Thampy Alex, the Provincial and Bro. Simon CM who accompanied us. Bro. Barnabas Tete warmly welcomed us to the community.

After having lived and served for many years in Khandwa Bro. Barnabas Tete left for Banea. On 4<sup>th</sup> June we had farewell program for Bro. Barnabas Tete. We thank him for his dedication and service for many years in this community and we wish him all the best for his future mission at Banea.

## Montfort, Harinagar

Mr. Rajesh Dodiya & Mr. Pradeep Panda (MGA)



**350<sup>TH</sup> Birth Anniversary & Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort:** On 28<sup>th</sup> April 350<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of St. Louis de Montfort was celebrated in a high profile manner at Harinagar, in which all the priests, religious, parish council of Dungripada Parish and the faithful at large participated. Rev. Fr. Jerome Tirkey, the Parish Priest of Dungripada and Dean of Thandla deanery was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass. Bro. Promod Tete, the Principal of the school welcomed the gathering on behalf of the Brothers and MGA members, explaining the importance of the day. The Mass began with the introduction highlighting the

importance of St. Montfort's charism in the presence context by Mr. Rajesh Dodiya (MGA). Holy Mass was very meaningful.

Soon after the Mass Bro. Vijay Minj expressed his gratitude for the gracious presence of everyone. At the end the biography of St. Montfort was displayed in Hindi which was prepared by MGA members of Harinagar. It was very commendable and praiseworthy. The celebration was concluded with delicious food for all.

It was a joy to work together, share together, live together and transform each other. But by the end of the year four members of the school staff were transferred to other communities, namely Bro. Alok Minj, Bro. Vijay Minj, Sr. Silna, and Sr. Sneha. We appreciate their valuable contribution and wish them for their bright future in their next mission in new communities.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Board Exam result of the academic year 2022-23 was remarkable. School got 68.08% result. We congratulate the students and all the teaching staff for their selfless contribution towards the students. This year Government had initiated Board Exams in 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Standards. Montfort School, Harinagar was one of the centres of this area for the Govt. /Private Schools around Harinagar. Our students had given their best and excelled with good results.

As we are looking forward to upgrade the school to

Higher Secondary the construction of additional class rooms is in progress. We

acknowledge and appreciate Rev. Bro. Provincial and his team for their great vision for the

school and we hope by the end of June the building work will be completed.



Understanding the signs of the time the Provincial requested Lucknow community to



provide the smart board panel for our school. We appreciate the visionary dynamism of the Provincial and we are thankful to the Lucknow community headed by Bro. Jinu Abraham for his generosity and concern.

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June our staff community had taken the initiative to visit the villages to converse with the parents and the students, in order to reach out the education mission to the people. With God's providence we are all fine. Our school will be reopening on 21<sup>st</sup> June after the summer vacation.

## Montfort, Raipur

Bro. Kartik Ekka, SG

Montfort School, Raipur was officially closed down on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has taken over the school. The teachers, students and parents were informed well in advance about the closure of the school. Though they were aware of the developments by the NHAI but didn't know that it would happen so soon. The immediate challenge before them was to look for a school that could provide the same standard of education as Montfort if not better. A short farewell programme was organized for the teachers and co-workers on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 to say goodbye to one another. It was indeed an event filled with emotions that one could feel it in the air. Each of the staff was given a coffee mug printed with the staff photograph as a memento. Everyone who was associated with Montfort school had only appreciation and good things to say about, credit to all those involved at initial stage of the school setting up a good education standard that was carried forward until the day of closure.

The Brothers have shifted to a rented house in Naya Raipur 5 kilometers away from both school and the new land. All the moveable assets of the school have been shifted to a newly built school of the diocese in Naya Raipur. We are grateful to their generosity to allow us to keep our things in their school building.

The Board Exam result of the first batch of class 10 is indeed encouraging as all the 17 students who appeared in the exam have passed with one student securing 94% as the highest in the batch. The process of obtaining permissions from different departments for the construction of the new school is underway.

After a decade of service at Raipur Bro. Philip left for his new community Montfort Bhawan, Sardhana on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 via Lucknow as he had to see a doctor there. Bro. Kartik Ekka is to travel to Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> June to do his Theology at Vidyajyoti, Delhi.

Despite forecast of rain Raipur hasn't received any rain and as usual it is very hot with mercury

hitting 43 degrees due to which the reopening of the school has been postponed to 26<sup>th</sup> June from 16<sup>th</sup> June. We expect monsoon soon to bring in some relief from the scorching sun.

## St. Gabriel's Novitiate

Bro. K.M. Mathew, SG & Novices of Delhi Province

**Sitagarha Novitiate:** Loving and a fraternal greeting from Sitagarha Novitiate. All the twelve novices and the staff are fully busy to create a web of positive and transformative relationship, on the model of the essence of our triune God, based on the unconditional and genuine love, radical acceptance, brotherly concern and a transformative accompaniment, under the guidance of Jesus our brother, powered by the Holy Spirit and deeply rooted in the charism of Our founder St. Louis Marie de Montfort, as a response to the signs of times today. The intense and high degree heat waves have added new dimension to our challenging formation mission.

**St. Montfort's Feast Day:** We celebrated the feast of our founder St. Montfort on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023.



The celebration was mainly centered around the grace filled Eucharistic Celebration by Fr. Praveen, IMS. The special presence of all the formation team of 14 Formation Houses in Sitagarha and Brothers from Dhawaiya and MTC communities and Domestic staff with their family members doubled the joy and multiplied the grace of the celebration. The mesmerizing, hope evoking cultural evening, with a laser like focus on the Life of St. Montfort, enacted through their drama, skit, mime, and dance, created a positive impact on the audience. All the participants congratulated the Novitiate Staff and novices. We concluded our program with a sumptuous fellowship meal.

**A New Novice Master or A Transformational Companion:** The new transformational companion Bro. K. M. Mathew reached the Novitiate on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The outgoing Novice Master welcomed Bro. K. M. Mathew and



introduced him to the novices. The novices expressed their welcome through a warm welcome song. In the context of a prayer service the handing over process was done on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, in a simple yet very profound way, by handing over a statue of our lady of perpetual help

to the new Novice Master by the outgoing Novice Master. Bro. K.M. Mathew began his formation mission for one year, through the very special intercession of our Lady of perpetual Help.

In the inaugural re-visioning of the novitiate programme, Bro Mathew K.M. enlightened us all that Eph 4: 29 – 32. reveals the secret and the effective technique to become an effective transformational companion and a transformed Novice according to the heart of Jesus.

Eph 4: 29 – 32 reads, **“Do not use harmful words in talking.** Use only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you. And do not make God’s Holy Spirit sad; for Spirit is God’s mark of ownership on you, a guarantee that a day will come when God will set you free. **Get rid of all bitterness, passion, and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort.** Instead, be kind and tender hearted to one another, as God has forgiven you in Christ.”

**Farewell of Bro. Arockiaraj:** On the eve of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the outgoing Novice Master, Bro. Arockiaraj, the staff and novices, all the Brothers from Montfort Gabrielite Bhavan, (MGA), MTC Hazaribagh and Dhawaiya community came together to appreciate and acknowledge the great service of Bro. Arockiaraj to St. Gabriel’s Novitiate, for the last three years. The highlight of the farewell program was a befitting prayer service on the theme, “Go, God is with you” (meaning of good bye). During the felicitation programme all the novices shared the values like discipline, hard work, the impact of being very regular for the spiritual exercises, and many lessons which they learnt from the outgoing Novice Master. They were joyful while sharing about their growth promoting experiences under Bro Arockiaraj. With the expression of gratitude and wishing him all the BEST in his new mission the farewell programme came to an end. It was followed by a delicious fellowship meal. On 10<sup>th</sup>



May Bro. Arockiaraj left the Novitiate and went to his new mission.

**Completion of the Pond Work:** The vegetable cultivation in the vegetable garden could not reach its maximum potency due to the insufficient water supply. To meet this need the construction of a pond near the football ground was in progress by the former Novice Masters and Novices, especially the contribution of Bro. Arockiaraj also has been very great and remarkable. It was an unfulfilled desire of Bro. Mathew K.M to build an open well in the pond near football court since he was the Socius here. So, construction of an open well in the pond was considered positively. The smart work in this regard was initiated as soon as Bro. Mathew K.M began his formation mission on 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2023. With the timely financial help by the National Council the construction of the pond with an open well in it has been completed on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023. We believe this humble effort will enable us to expand the horizon of our organic vegetable cultivation and to grow in our relationship with our mother Earth.

**Farewell of Bro. Fuldeep:** Bro. Fuldeep Jojo has been the Administrator of this house for the past two years. He has made a great and wonderful contribution to our formation mission during his term of office. We bid farewell to Bro. Fuldeep Jojo on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The Brothers from neighboring communities graced the occasion. The day was made special with a relevant prayer service on the theme ‘Thanksgiving’, followed by the felicitation and a thanksgiving song. The novices and staff expressed their gratitude and love to him. We concluded the program with a fellowship meal. We wish him an awakened mission experience with greater positive impact in his new mission.

We enjoy various classes like on ‘Called to be a brother of Christ and Brothers like Christ,’ by Bro. Paulose Mekunnel, SG, ‘Our Rule of life, A powerful discipline to lead a life with Christ, our transformation companion’ and other classes and various meaningful growth promoting activities. We, the novices continue to grow in our wisdom, discernment, and knowledge. Now, we the novices are encouraged to experience greater happiness in small things and are enabled to find God in all things.



# M. Bhawan, Sardhana

Bro. Rocky Kerketta, SG

*“Be Faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” -- St. Mother Teresa*



**Rourkela Vocation Camp:** Diocese of Rourkela conducted the Vocation Camp for all the Catholic girls and boys on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Brothers Alex Diamond, Rakesh Sharma, Gregory Baa, Rajan Bilung and Dinesh Kujur attended the same. A good number of boys joined for the camp and almost 74 Religious congregations gathered to recruit for their respective provinces and Dioceses. Brothers visited the family after the camp and it was a memorable experience.

**Final Evaluation of Candidates:** The final evaluation of our candidates at Montfort Bhawan took place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2023. They have done extremely well in all the aspects of our formation training and equipped themselves to be the true disciples of our Founder in order to follow our Lord Jesus more faithfully and sincerely. The one year of learning experience helped them to be more focused and matured in all their dealings.

**Workshop cum Seminar:** An Educational Management Seminar was held at Montfort Villa, Bhopal from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023. The resource person was Fr. Joseph Xavier, SJ. Bro. Alex Diamond attended the same. It was a wonderful seminar which contained a lot of information and educational planning for the personal growth and self-management. Self-awareness was the bottom line of the seminar where all the other important topics were prioritized for the better management of oneself. All the Brothers participated actively and especially a few senior Brothers were excellent in contributing maximum for the better understanding of the process of educational planning. It was a great help and learning for other participants. The seminar of this type could definitely serve the greater purpose for all the Brothers who are involved in Education mission.

**Feast Day Celebration:** We celebrated the feast day of our Founder St. Louis De Montfort on



28<sup>th</sup> April. On this day of exultation we partook in the evening prayer with the procession. Togetherness is happiness and that we have vividly experienced on that day by inviting our Brothers from St. Charles' community and IMS Fathers from Gurukul, followed by table fellowship. We joined together to extend our immense gratitude to God and to His servant St. Louis de Montfort.

**Candidates' Home Holidays:** All the people love holidays because it is an opportunity to have a break from routine life as well as it helps to refresh oneself. After holidays, we can go back to work or school with greater energy. Likewise, our candidates were also given holidays for one and half month. We could feel their excitement to meet their parents and siblings after a year.

**Seminar cum Renewal for Junior Brothers:** It was a meaningful and fruitful seminar for Junior Brothers at Montfort Villa Provincial House from 24-05-2023 to 26-05-2023. The resource person, Mr. Piyush Jha inspired us to reflect on the theme “A joyful witness of Jesus, in our times.” It was not merely reflection alone but we were made to discuss and come up with action plans, to be implemented in our life. Many other topics were discussed which made us to plan out a scheme of program to be actualized at personal level, community level and institution level for the years to come.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few, so pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest” (Mt 9:37-38). These words of Jesus Christ are relevant and still resonate today within the Church. In a world where the truth is more and more fearful, where some people tend to flee or make the Church flee, the bearer of the truth, the Spirit of truth has to be at work. God, in his great love, continues to choose and call men and women of this world to bring his words of truth to the nations in order to establish his reign of justice, peace and love. It is in this context that the Montfortian family never ceases to sow the word of God in the hearts of the men and women of this world while welcoming into its bosom new showers in the mission and for the mission. On 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, Bro. Amar Jeevan Ekka committed himself perpetually to the Congregation through his Perpetual Profession; 18 Junior Brothers also renewed their Vows for one more year.

**Montfest '23:** We had started the Montfest' 23 with enthusiasm and earnestness to provide the

Candidates, with the knowledge of different subjects as well as life skills for their holistic development. We had conducted several activities like Mind test, Games & Sports, Prayers, Grammar, Dance, Singing, etc. We believe that candidates had fruitful days during the days of Montfest'23 when they came out with their hidden potentials.

**Renovation of the Building:** The renovation of Montfort Bhawan started immediately after all the candidates left for home holidays in the first week of May. The renovation of the two guest rooms, washrooms in both the floors and laying of interlock in front of Montfort Bhawan are under process. It is likely to get over by the end of June. We thank the Provincial in Council and Montfort Roorkee community for considering this renovation as need the of the hour to provide better atmosphere in the formation house. It will surely boost the staff and formees to do well with all their might. The sports materials will be provided by Montfort School, Delhi this year. We wholeheartedly appreciate their concern and support towards Montfort Bhawan, Sardhana.

## Vidyadeep, Bengaluru

Bro. Rajan Bilung, SG

**CRI Brothers' Institute:** Fraternal greetings from Vidyadeep Theologate, Bengaluru. With immense joy, I would like to share the events that have taken place recently at Vidyadeep College,



Bengaluru. In the first week of June, 5 Brothers of Delhi Province, namely Bros. Sevak Gabriel, Alok Minj, Rajan Bilung, Amar Jeevan Ekka, and Bro. Bala Joseph arrived at Vidyadeep College, Bengaluru. The weather here is so pleasant. We receive God's abundant blessings in the form of rain every alternative day.

We have 35 student Brothers and 5 Sisters and five Staff members. Out of 35 students, 14 Brothers and 5 Sisters are in the 1st year, 13 Brothers in the 2nd year, and 8 Brothers in the 3rd year of Theological studies.

On the 8th of June, classes commenced for the 1st year Brothers on basic communication language



by Bro. Jerald, FSC. He dealt with writing, reading, and speaking skills. It is the time to revise and polish our basic English language. It is helping us to remember and memorize all that we have been learning and enhance our knowledge and skills in the English language.

The College organized the Orientation program for Freshers along with the Senior students on 12 June. It helped us to know more about the College, Faculty, fellow Brothers, and our companions. Bro. Victor Dass, SH, and his team of students from Montfort College assisted us in learning about Team building, Public interaction, Sociability, and Discipline.

It was a platform to introduce ourselves and to get to know each other. This particular orientation program was an opportunity to get to know more about our companions to strengthen fraternal associations and good relationships.

On 13 June we had the election for the Institute Leader and Student Council members and other class monitors. We feel proud that we are having the Institute Leader from our province, Bro. Bala Joseph. The Institute Leader plays liaison with the Staff and students. He briefs the Principal all major things that are going on among the students, which will adversely affect their academic performance. In the evening we had the community meeting as well, where the staff and students together elected and appointed the community leaders. Different responsibilities and duties of the community were distributed to Brothers for the smooth functioning of the community.

We had the Inaugural ceremony of the new academic year on 14<sup>th</sup> June in the College auditorium. Fr. Sebastian, CMI, was the Chief Guest, and Bro. Amalan T., FSC was the Guest of Honor. Bro. Sevak Gabriel, SG, the Animator was welcomed during the Programme. We have begun our new academic year 2023-24 on a good note. We seek your prayerful support and fraternal blessings as we begin our academic year.

Bro. Paulraj, SG started taking classes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students on the topic 'Theology of Ministries' from 15<sup>th</sup> June.



# Intercultural Community, Montreal, Canada

Bro. James Ekka, SG

**Journey to Montreal, Canada:** Greetings to all the readers of Dialogue. It was 8 A.M. on 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2023, I boarded the flight bound to Montreal (Canada) via Turkey. I landed in Montreal Airport at 5.50.p.m. as per the local time here in Montreal. Having cleared my self-clearance Digital Exist, I reached for immigration. I was very warmly greeted by one of the immigration officers and given a token No. After waiting for nearly 2.00 hours, I was called



to one of the counters for the verifications of my documents and a short interview. After half an hour of discussions and clarifications I got permit to stay in Canada for 5 Years as volunteer worker. There after having collected my check-in-luggage, reached the final exit of the



Airport, where Brothers Andre Roberge, the Provincial Superior and Rene Delorme were waiting patiently at the arrival lounge. I was greeted very warmly and offered a very warm jacket to protect myself from freezing cold outside the Airport.

**Intercultural Community, Montreal:** We are seven Brothers in the Community - four Canadians, two Africans and myself. The Provincial is a member of this Community while the Provincial House is some fifteen minutes' walk away. I feel quite at home since I knew Brothers Rene Delorme and Andre Roberge. In spite of limitation of language every one of them is helpful and friendly and try to communicate with one or two words and actions. There are 30 Brothers in the Province. There are four communities. Three of them are close by within one and half to two kilometres. By the time

this issue of Dialogue is out I would have visited the fourth Community. There are seven Brothers in a 'Home for the aged' with the name 'Residence De-La-Salle'.

**Climate:** The weather is very unpredictable and it changes on and off. I had hardly reached when on 4<sup>th</sup> of April the weather showed its ugly face. It was drizzling the whole day and the temperature fell to minus degree resulting rain drops freezing into ice. Trees and branches could not hold the weight, resulting immense loss and damages. The power supply was affected all over. The Provincial House was lucky to have uninterrupted power supply. The Holy Week celebrations were in the Parish called 'La Visitation'. We had the Easter celebration in Provincial House presided by Brother Priest Guy St. Onge.

Bro. Rene Delorme was kind enough to take me to 'Home for the Aged' to see the Brothers. I was so impressed to see the Brothers with a spirit of positivity and contentment. They are all aging gracefully. All of them without exception, are cheerful and happy looking. One of them is bed ridden and cannot talk.



**Feast Day of our Founder:** The Montfortian family of Brothers, Sisters and Fathers came together on 28<sup>th</sup> April to commemorate the Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. As a preparation there were two talks, one on 26<sup>th</sup> by one of the former Superior Generals of Montfort Sisters and the other on 27<sup>th</sup> by Brother Priest Guy St-Onge. 350<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of our Founder and the Feast Day was very aptly celebrated with Eucharistic celebration and get together thereafter. I met so many Brothers, Sisters and Fathers who had been to PNG Mission for many Years. They were so happy to talk and share about their life in PNG mission. Bro. Leo



Adam is one of them who was piolet for 25 years. I was so pleased to meet Rt. Rev. Gilles Kote, the Bishop

Emeritus of Daru- Kiunga, PNG.

**Birthday Celebration of the Provincial:** The Community had the honour of celebrating the birthday of Bro. Andre Roberge, the Provincial

Superior, on 13<sup>th</sup> May. There was a Community Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May, in order to discuss and share among the Brothers the First Draft of the Rule of Life and Constitutions. On 29<sup>th</sup> April I had a short outing with Brothers Gerald Pierre and Jean Francois Bonang, to a place called 'Havre Familial', which is nearly an hour and half drive from our community. There is a beautiful lake and half of the lake is surrounded by some 20 independent houses with all the accommodation facilities. Brothers used to have summer camp there. Now that it is sold to a group of people who own it and rent it to families who want to spend weekends.

**Service to the Poor:** There is an organization taking care of supplying of nutritious food to the poor and the needy people. These food items (grains, bread, meat, eggs, milk, fruits, vegetable, etc.) are collected from food stores and donated by some generous individuals. There are three distribution centres. One of the centres is with facilities to store and preserve in the cold storage. Distributions are three days a week two hours each day. I have joined other two Brothers to help out for the smooth distribution. I feel it's a very noble act.

**Province Retreat:** The province had Annual Retreat from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2023. We 20 Brothers attended it. We were blessed to have Rt. Rev. Gilles Cote, Bishop Emeritus Daru-Kiunga, as the preacher who accompanied us in our spiritual journey.

In Montreal it's now summer time. Weather is warm and pleasant.

## Montfort Villa, Bhopal

Bro. V.J. Mani, SG

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, all the 3 communities of

Bhopal gathered together in the Provincial house to celebrate the feast of our Founder. The event included a meaningful prayer service followed by fellowship agape.

The month of May was eventful for us. A five days session on Managerial Skills and Educational School Administration was organised for the Principals and for the Brothers who will take up administrative responsibilities in future. The programme was so intense and absorbing that the participants (Who were serious about it) requested for an annual follow up programme.

The other important event was the orientation course for the junior Brothers culminating in the solemnization of the final vows of Bro. Amar Jeevan Ekka and the renewal of vows by 19 junior Brothers, including one from Ranchi Province. *(A separate feature on the event is presented by Bro. Chacko).*

A week's orientation programme for the pre-novices was conducted by our young formators under the leadership of Bro. Rakesh Sharma.

Bro. Fuldeep Jojo joined the community on 12<sup>th</sup> June. He brings in the much-needed youthful energy and enthusiasm among us. Hearty Welcome Bro. Fuldeep! By mid-June the small orchard in the campus has started yielding seasonal fruits. The weather is still hot in spite of the occasional storm giving some respite from the heat wave.

Our relentless effort to find water source in our land at Berasia has yielded positive result. We made a last attempt through satellite divining, which is a new technology. We were pleasantly rewarded with two sources of underground water. This will spur the process for starting a new foundation in the place.

# PNG MISSION

## St. Charles' Lwanga Sec. School, Port Moresby

Bro. Joy Mathew, SG

Greetings from Port Moresby!



After the successful completion of term 1, we had a week-long Easter / Term break from 6<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April. During the term break Bro. Benny paid a week-long visit to our community at Kiunga. Bros. Joy Mathew and Johnson paid a week-long visit to our mission centers in Fiji Islands which are administered by the Brothers from Yercaud province. The school reopened on 17<sup>th</sup> April for term 2, 2023. We had our first national examination 2023 (Grade 10 Written Expression) held on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The feast



of our school patron saint (St. Charles Lwanga) was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. On this day we had Mass for the entire school and sharing of food with the staff and the students. The parents were kind enough to sponsor food for the students, teachers and Board Members. The teachers' day was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> May, on the feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, the patron saint of the Catholic schools in PNG.

Our students were privileged to welcome Shri. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India and other Prime Ministers from the South Pacific Island countries on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Our students did participate in the World Environment Day celebrations organized by National Capital District on 5<sup>th</sup> June. We will be successfully completing term 2, 2023 on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Prior to that, we will have the end of

term examination (from 15 - 20 June) and Sports Carnival on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The students will have two weeks of term break and teachers will have In-service week and then one week break. The Construction of the parents' project 2023 (4 Staff residences) is underway. Construction works were delayed due to the effect of the cyclone in South Pacific Ocean.

We had a grand celebration (the 50<sup>th</sup> birth day) of Bro. Mathias Minj on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Bro. Benny T.L. has well-adjusted with the culture and traditions of PNG. We would like to thank the Mother General of SMSM Sisters for agreeing to send two Sisters to collaborate with our mission in Port Moresby from January 2024.



## St. Gabriel's Technical Sec. School, Kiunga

Bro. Lucianus Lakra, SG

First term of the academic year 2023 ended on 6<sup>th</sup> April beginning with Easter week comprising of one week term break. During this term break Bro. Benny Thekkemuriyil made his maiden visit to Kiunga after three months of city life experience in Port Moresby. Brothers and SMSM Sisters gave a warm welcome to him. After welcoming Bro. Benny, Bro. Johnson left for Port Moresby by the same flight on his way to Fiji along with Bro. Joy Mathew.

After one week break the 2nd term began on 10<sup>th</sup> April in full swing with teaching-learning and other activities. Bro. Joji Joseph, the Deputy Admin was very busy taking care of the school for a week along with Deputy academic Mr. Samya Wamu while the Principal had gone to Fiji. There is a change in the process of the system of education in PNG from Outcome Based Curriculum (OBC) to Standard Based Curriculum (SBC). The implementation of SBC started this year with grade

IX. Written expression for the grade X was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July and written expression for grade XII is on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April the Feast of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort was celebrated. All the Brothers were honoured with flower bouquets. Prior to that one-week assembly presentations were done by the students based on the life of Montfort. A special Eucharistic celebration was held in our school chapel on that day. It was offered by Fr. Andrew Moses, the VG of our Diocese. Brothers, Montfort Sisters, SMSM Sisters, Boarding students, some of the teachers and ancillary staff also participated in it. In the evening all the priests and religious were invited for dinner. Bro. Johnson welcomed every one present and gave a short briefing on the importance of the day, that the feast of St. Louis de Montfort and also the feast of Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus, the co-foundress of Daughters of Wisdom was on the same day, i.e., on

28<sup>th</sup> April. The presence of all three Montfortian family, the Company of Mary, Daughters of Wisdom and Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel doubled the joy of the celebration. We had a short and fitting prayer service led by Bro. Lucianus and then cake cutting followed by fellowship meal prepared by our cooks in collaboration with two SMSM Sisters (Sr. Selvarani and Sr. Treesa). These two Sisters also did the beautiful decoration of the school chapel, community chapel and house. Bro. Joji was the overall in charge of the arrangements for the celebration. Fr. Andrew Moses, the VG of the Diocese expressed his sincere thanks on behalf of the group to the Montfortian family. He mentioned particularly the tremendous contribution of the Brothers in the field of Education in Papua New Guinea specially in the Western Province.

In the third week of Term II, the teacher of the Business Studies, Sr. Selvarani creatively organized practical for the students of this subject to prepare varieties of food items, snacks, ice blocks and beverages to be sold during the lunch break in which all the students took part actively and had an experiential knowledge of the subject. They made a good margin of profit within this short span of time and with the saving they donated five

big size trash bins for the school which are very useful to keep the environment clean. Thanks to the teacher and the students for their kind gesture.

**Nature Club:** In our Nature club there are about 100 students and 07 teachers enrolled and they keep doing various activities related to environmental protection. Coordinator of the club is Mrs. Botok and the team members are Mr. Tobalut, Mrs. Wamu, Mrs. Dhanaya, Mr. Datmans, Ms. D. Assan and Ms. Hwanawi. On 5<sup>th</sup> June the World Environment Day was observed through different activities in the school. Assembly presentation was done by the students in which the message was conveyed to protect and safeguard the environment. They beautifully explained to the audience about the bad effect of the use of plastic through the display of placard, posters and slogans. They also conducted the Essay competition on the Topic of BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION.

Bro. Johnson went to Daru on 12<sup>th</sup> June for a week to attend the Principals' meeting. The first test of the Term II was over on 19<sup>th</sup> May and the second test is scheduled from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. Then there will be second term break for two weeks before starting Term III.

## HYMN NO. 89

### The Onset of Good Times

1. The tides never tire to tide  
The waves don't waver to wear  
The kind of these is the time  
It enchants everyone's life  
Life is full of weal and woe.
2. The times ways are infinite  
Like the massive waves that tide  
Both change like the monsoon sky  
Casts spells of doom and damage  
Often lets who suffer die.
3. The human like rolls in time  
It holds away o mystic lines  
Never can one smother time  
Nor can one defer its grind  
Hence we are on God's own rhyme.
4. Men often speak of bad times  
In terms of ones misfortunes  
In case of death, loss of wealth  
Diseases that tilt total health  
In hope and trust one finds rest.
5. Life is a roller-coaster ride  
The ups and downs are time-bound  
The hits and tilts are often wild  
The mind is dazed, body stunned  
Yet these too pass, the good prevail.
6. The time is a precious gift  
It can fill the heart of good  
It manned in faith and trust  
If love be the thrust of life,  
Service, the sole mission bright.

**Bro. Emmanuel P.J.**





## Seminar cum Workshop on Managerial Skills and Leadership Bro. V.J. Mani, SG

With a view to create quality leadership among our Brothers who are and will be Managers and Principals and leaders, the Provincial Administration initiated a training programme for 5 days (3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023) in the Provincial House. The resource person was Fr. Joseph Xavier, SJ who is a renowned trainer with corporate companies, organizations and educational institutions including Universities.

The programme consisted of input sessions, group work as well as self-assessment tests. The content included self-awareness, personality traits, managerial skills, leadership qualities, competencies, capacity building, Christian leadership. The whole exercise was so absorbing and enriching that all the participants (35 of us including 3 Brothers from Ranchi Province) expressed their satisfaction. The programme was of a high standard, touching every aspect of leadership, compelling us to introspect our functioning style and make necessary



changes towards becoming effective leaders in the present-day context. Six hours of work for five days was tough but it was worth it.▲



# The First Profession at Yercaud

Bro. Rajashekhar Y., SG

Fraternal greetings to all the readers!

**T**HE FIRST Profession of Brothers is a significant milestone in their journey towards serving God and living a religious life. The First Profession signifies the beginning of a life-long commitment to God and the community they have chosen to serve. For Brothers, the first profession of vows is a moment of great joy. It marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of service, prayer, and devotion to God and is a powerful witness to the transforming power of the Gospel in the lives of those who choose to follow Christ in a radical way.

This year the First Profession took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 at Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud. 19 Novices from Six Indian provinces pronounced their First Vows, during a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most. Rev. Dr. Arul Selvam Rayappan, the Bishop of Salem Diocese. It was witnessed by a good number of our own Brothers, other religious, priests, parents, relatives and well-wishers from different parts of India. It was a momentous occasion as these 19 newly professed Brothers embarked on a sacred journey of religious life in the foot-steps of St. Louis de Montfort. This



event marked a new chapter in their lives.

These 19 Brothers have heroically professed and responded to the Lord, “Here I am Lord; I come to do your will”. They have



surrendered their entire life to the Lord by the Vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience. They have said ‘Yes’ to the Lord by their commitment and dedication to the Lord and to His people. Let us continue to pray that the Lord may fill their hearts with His grace, love, and compassion. May they be a beacon of God’s light in the world, bringing hope, healing, and transformation to those they serve! May they be guided by the teachings of Jesus and inspired



by the life of St. Louis de Montfort, as they strive to live a life of holiness and righteousness!

The Indian provinces **appreciate** and **thank wholeheartedly** their novitiate formators namely, **Bro. P.T. George**, the Novice Master, **Bros. Savary & Rajashekhar Y.** (Sociouses in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year respectively) and **Bros. Sunil A. & Alwin Patrick** (Administrators in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year respectively). (Editor) ■



# MONTBATCH 80- REUNION

V. J. Joseph, Vellore, T. N.

30, 31 Dec. & 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2023

**A**LUMNI gathering, School/Collage batch reunion & family gatherings are common. But the batchmates of a Religious Congregation, both the present members and former colleagues (Ex-Religious) spread across the globe decide to come together for a unique reunion - is unheard of in any religious order. Such gatherings simply cannot take place unless a close bond exists among the members. Thanks to the social media through which all of us were in contact with each other, and the occasional zoom meetings brought us closer. During a zoom meeting held during the pandemic in 2020 December, it was the idea of C. C. Dominic (Atlanta) to come together in December 2022. Although all of us gladly agreed with the idea, most of us including me, had serious doubt about its practicability. How can Brothers and Associates living in three continents, involved in various ministries/professions come together? But there were desires and demands to meet again and spend couple of days. The dates were finalized in 2021 and venue MSC (yester Montfort College), Bangalore, was an ideal place where most of us spent an eventful & memorable year of sixth year formation. Bro. Jose Thottiyil, the Director granted permission and rooms were booked six months before.

Such gathering is unimaginable without the cordial and fraternal relationships among the Brothers and the "Associates" (MGA). The Montfortians have a wonderful tradition of acceptance and hospitality among the Brothers and Associates, when they visit each other's communities and homes.

Finally, on 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, 8 Brothers

of 80 batch from 7 (Except North East) Provinces and 13 Associates of the same batch from US (4), Botswana (1), Hongkong (1), Kerala (2), Mizoram (1), Odisha (1) and TN (3) gathered in MSC Bangalore for 3 days & 2 nights gathering. Bro Paulose Mekkunnel, our Socius at Sitagarha novitiate was a special invitee and his presence meant a lot for us. Bro. Augustine Novello, our Novice Master and Bro Sylvester Bara, could not join due to health reasons. Bro Augustine addressed us through video conference and a message of Bro Sylvester was read out.

The joy & excitement mixed with emotions, on meeting each other, after many years, in a few cases after 42 years, cannot be described in words. The total involvements of all of us, in all the planned and spontaneous activities – meetings, sharing, Holy Mass, rosary, meals, singing, dancing, card games etc. were amazing and indeed once-in-life experience. Special Souvenir of Coffee Mug & Pen and T- shirt was arranged by T D Joseph & V J Joseph. Peter Arogyadas from Trichy brought his guitar to bring back the good old memories of our Novitiate Choir. The sweet gesture of Bro. Augustine Pillai to distribute Rosary to all of us cannot be forgotten.

We sincerely thank the community of MSC, for all the arrangements for our stay. We thank the Provincial and community of Wisdom Montfort for the hospitality and the community of Lake Montfort School for the memorable New Year gathering.

May the spirit of Montfortian Camaraderie be continued and strengthened! ▲

## Healthy Lifestyle Vital to Protect Liver

A webinar on liver health and transplant was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in Chennai as part of The Hindu Wellness Series on account of World Liver Day on April 19. It was conducted jointly by the Kauvery Hospitals and *The Hindu*.

Dr. S. Velumurugan, Head of Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, and Dr. Swaminathan, Senior Consultant and Lead, multi-organ transplant, from Kauvery Group of Hospitals, spoke of the

importance of liver health and provided information regarding liver disease, according to a press release.

Excessive consumption of carbohydrates and substance abuse could be significant risk factors, they said, and reiterated the need for healthy lifestyle.

**"People think that eating too much fat causes fatty liver. Actually, it is carbohydrates that causes fatty liver. We need to include high-fibre vegetables, fruits and millets in our diet regularly and exercise for at least 30 minutes a day,"** Dr. Velumurugan said.

TN had become a leader in transplantation healthcare, the doctors said.

(*The Hindu*, April 19, 2023, Coimbatore, p.4)

# Rubians' Re-Union: 1982 Batch, Msc, Bengaluru

Bro. George Pottakaran, SG

**W**E, THE Rubians of 1982 batch of St. Gabriel's Novitiate, Sitagarha, came together at Montfort Spirituality Centre, Bangalore from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023. **Fourteen** of us including our Novice Master Bro. Paulose Mekkunel and Admin. Bro. Thomas Thanickal, participated in this get-together. Another 3 more had promised to participate but couldn't make it. The program was well organized under the leadership of Bro. M. Arul, the Director of Montfort College.

The get-together started on 9<sup>th</sup> morning with a welcome prayer session, where each one was welcomed with a stick of flower. We prayed for each other, for the members who could not be present and for the members who departed from this earth before us - Bros. Jose Kannanpuzha, Cyriac Francis, Zachariah, Satipong and Xavier Lakra and offered flowers as symbols.

Thereafter, we visited the Provincialate of Bangalore Province, the Wisdom Montfort School and had lunch with the community there. After the Lunch, we had a ride in the city and visited *Vidhan Saudha*. We came back to MSC and after tea departed for Lake Montfort School in the evening. We celebrated the Mass and had dinner with the Brothers of the community. We were extremely happy to meet Bro. Lawrence Joseph, former Provincial and Vicar General. We are grateful and appreciative of the hospitality and fraternal concern of the Brothers of the Provincialate community and Lake Montfort community.

On 10<sup>th</sup> Morning, we started the day with morning prayer followed by breakfast. Thereafter each one had the opportunity to share his life story; experiences of ever since one joined Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. The life experiences of every one was extremely enriching and inspiring. The beauty of those experiences was that each one had ups and downs, funny moments, happiness, joy, success, spiritual, mental and physical growth, irrespective of being in religious life or family life.

Though some of the experiences were risky, dangerous, unjust, oppressive and unpleasant, but

have left the footprints and contributed to each one's growth in life

and each one has emerged as persons of courage and spirituality, contributing to the congregation and families and society at large. Before the tea we had a photo session with T-shirts, shawls and ceremonial caps. In the evening, we had a session by Bro. George Padikara, the Provincial of Bengaluru province on the topic 'Growing Gracefully' followed by celebration of Eucharist with a difference and we specially prayed for the departed members of our batch. The day was concluded with a special dinner and cards game.

On 11<sup>th</sup> morning after the Mass and breakfast at Montfort College community, we continued with sharing of our life experiences. We had a session on 'Montfort Gabrielite Associates' by Bro. Paulose Mekkunel. Thereafter we had the concluding session of planning for the next gathering in the Golden Jubilee year and ended with a thanksgiving prayer. The get-together was concluded with a sumptuous lunch. All the participants left MSC with profound gratitude to each one with the promise to meet again in the near future. We are extremely thankful to the members of the MSC community for making all the arrangements for our comfortable stay there.

The gathering was very well organized and was an excellent opportunity for the participants to relive their novitiate days and the nostalgic moments of their lives. The sweet memories of these three days of living together, sharing and encouraging each other will linger on in our minds and hearts for a long time. ■



## Six Tips from Pope Francis to Help your Family/Community Communicate Better

1. Listen without emotional distraction.
2. Recognize the other's rights.
3. Don't force agreement.
4. Choose words carefully.
5. Don't try to win at any cost.
6. Remember: To communicate, we need to have something to say! (Be nourished by reading, personal reflection, prayer, and openness to the world around you).



# Dr. Mitra Honoured in Singapore

Dr. R.K. Mitra

**D**R. RATHINDRA KRISHNA MITRA, Head of Physics Department of Montfort Inter College, Lucknow had received an invitation for an Invited Talk at the **Asian Excellence Awards Ceremony, Singapore** from an India based International NGO, Education Sensation. He delivered his lecture on the topic **"Innovation in Science Teaching in Senior Secondary Classes"** on 28/05/2023 at hotel Ramada, Singapore. Some of the Guest

Speakers were other than Asians, some names were Esra Nur from Istanbul (Turkey), Amb. Patricia Gonde (Zimbabwe), et al. Dr. Mitra was approached by the organizer for the Guest Lecture due to his association with the Experimental Physics & Innovations in Senior Secondary level of Education.

Dr. Raina Lampou from Greece was the Chief Guest of the event and Ms. Maria Cecilia Carnaje of Philippines was the Guest of Honor. In the same function Dr. Mitra was conferred with the Prestigious **"Asian Excellence Award"** for his outstanding contribution in Science Education. Other awardees were Indians as well as the educationists from other Asian countries.



Dr. Mitra stayed five days and four nights in Singapore. Besides the city tour, he was very excited to visit **Montfort Centre & Boys Town, Singapore**, where he met **Rev. Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh**, the Director of Montfort Senior Secondary School, Singapore and had spent some quality time there visiting that institution. He had lunch with Bro. Dominic before departing for airport to catch his return flight to New Delhi.

For Dr. Mitra, this visit was a matter of great honour not only to receive an International Award in a foreign land but also to address an international audience of Educationists.▲



# Light Candles of Hope in the midst of Darkness:

## Pope Francis

**O**N THE World Day of the Poor, Nov 13, 2022, Pope Francis encouraged Christians to not be brought down by the “doom and gloom” of the world, but to witness to the joy of the Gospel through service to those in need.

(Pope Francis celebrates Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for the World Day of the Poor Nov. 13, 2022. Credit: Daniel Ibanez/CNA.) (Affix a photo of it from the Net)

“Let us take to heart the clear and unmistakable summons in the Gospel not to be led astray. Let us not listen to prophets of doom,” the pope said at Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on Nov. 13.

“Instead, let us bear witness,” he said. “Let us light candles of hope in the midst of darkness. Amid dramatic situations, let us seize opportunities to bear witness to the Gospel of joy and to build a more fraternal world, at least a little more fraternal. Let us commit ourselves courageously

to justice, the rule of law and peace, and stand at the side of the weakest.”

The poor were special guests at the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. The day was also marked by a number of **initiatives to aid those in need**, including a free meal and medical care.

In his homily, Pope Francis urged Christians to not let themselves become victims of the many crises happening in the world — such as war, famine, poverty, and natural disasters — but take action where they can.

He pointed to the day’s Gospel, Luke 21:5–19, in which Jesus says to not be deceived by false prophets.

“It is not by chance that Jesus’ second exhortation, after ‘do not be led astray,’ is positive,” the pope said. “He says: ‘This will give you an opportunity to testify.’”

“I want to emphasize this fine word: opportunity,” Francis said. “It means having the chance to do something good, starting from our situation in life, even when it is not ideal.”

“A disciple of the Lord,” he added, “should not yield to resignation or give in to

discouragement, even in the most difficult situations, for our God is the God of resurrection and hope, who always raises up: with him we can lift up our gaze and begin anew.”

Pope Francis said Christians, when encountering trials, should ask themselves: “What is the Lord saying to us through this moment of crisis?”

The poor pay the heaviest price, he said, issuing a warning about hardened hearts.

“If our heart is deadened and indifferent, we cannot hear their faint cry of pain, we cannot cry with them and for them, we cannot see how much loneliness and anguish also lie hidden in the forgotten corners of our cities.”

Put your trust in God the Father, he said: “We should always repeat this to ourselves, especially at times of greatest trouble: God is a Father, and he is at my side. He knows and loves me; he does not sleep, but watches over me and cares for me. If I stay close to him, not a hair of my head will perish.”

“Since he loves us, let us resolve to love him in the most abandoned of his children,” the pope said, and “let us care for the poor, in whom we find Jesus, who became poor for our sake.”

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**The next issue is to appear by 30<sup>th</sup> September. All the items received upto 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 will be included in it.**

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### July

01 Bro. Mathew TT
01 Bro. Antonysamay
04 Bro. Johnson Beck
05 Bro. Philip Thadathil
05 Bro. Pradeep Xalxo
07 Bro. Alok Minj
13 Bro. Simon CM
13 Bro. Raju Lakra
21 Bro. Sevak Gabriel
26 Bro. Patras Kujur

### August

08 Bro. Joseph Gabriel
08 Bro. Amarjeevan Ekka
09 Bro. Anandha Kumar
10 Bro. Suresh Ekka
21 Bro. Sandeep Horo
30 Bro. Francis Balla

### September

03 Bro. Pascal Kujur
27 Bro. Cyriac NT
27 Bro. Atish Bage

HAPPY BIRTHDAY