



**MONTFORT BROTHERS / ST. GABRIEL**  
PROVINCE OF YERCAUD

St. Louis Villa, Yercaud 636 601, Salem Dt., Tamil Nadu, India



*Authentic Leaders of Greater Brotherhood*

## **PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR-36**

**Ycd/Cir.36/2015**

**01.10.2015**

Dear Brothers,

Recently, after the Institute Council Meeting and the Inauguration of the Tercentenary celebrations at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, some of us requested Bro. Jean Friant, the former Superior General to lead us through a day's pilgrimage to Montfort-sur-Meu (Montfort-la-Cane) and other places associated with **St. Louis Grignon de Montfort**, around his birth place. Personally I was excited about the programme and was looking forward to it. Our first stop was at 'Cesson Bridge'. I pulled out my camera and went about clicking a number of pictures - my companions also did the same! The same procedures continued at Montfort-sur-Meu, the house where St. Louis was born, St. John's Parish Church, Mother André's place, Le Bois Marquer, Hermitage of St. Lazare, Parish of Iffendic etc... Apparently we enjoyed the pleasure of the trip.

In the evening after returning to La Sagesse at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, a number of questions arose within me! Why did I embark on a visit of the places related to St. Louis Grignon de Montfort? Did I try to re-live the experiences of little Louis - especially at 'Cesson Bridge', in the Parish Churches, in his first home, in the farm house - Le Bois Marquer, etc. I felt sad and rather ashamed for having missed such an opportunity - while I visited the geographical places, I missed the missionary 'Montfort'! The shutter of my camera was open but my inner eyes were shut... and I lost the golden opportunity of an encounter with the man I was in search of ...!

Well, as we are drawing up big plans to celebrate the Tercentenaries, it is important that we accompany Montfort in ‘Spirit’ and see him with our spiritual eyes rather than merely recalling the historical events related to his life. Even without visiting the historical places, we should be able to embark on a spiritual journey with him. A reversed time travelling, applying the principles of ‘Relativity’ would surely take us on a road travelled by Montfort from Montfort-sur-Meu on January 31, 1673 to Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre in 1716 on April 28. Our Tercentenary celebrations should resonate with the colours and flavour of Montfortian Spirituality and its elements in varied forms. They should help us to exhume the ‘heart’ of the man who wanted it to be buried under the feet of Mother Mary and his body in the cemetery! This is an opportunity for every Brother of the Province to take a new path that will lead us to the less travelled roads that St. Louis Grignion de Montfort trod 300 years ago. Wish you all a journey of great discovery and encounter with “*the man who walked with God*”.



1. **Annual MGA Meeting:** Leaders of all Montfort Gabrielite Associate units from our Institutions had a very useful meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Montfort School, Yercaud. The Provincial Superior, the Partnership Commission Convener, Bro.Thomas K.K and all the Heads of the Institutions were present for this programme. A lot of inputs and clarifications were given during the meeting. All the units were presented with a new handbook with fresh guidelines, prayer cards with ‘the little crown’ and a large framed ‘little crown’ wall mount for the use of the groups during the MGA weekly/bimonthly meetings.

**Visit of Bros.Yvan Passebon, Maurice Herault and Thomas Paul:** Bro.Yvan Passebon, the Vicar General and in-charge of the Partnership Commission, Bro.Maurice Herault, in-charge of the International Secretariat and Bro.Thomas Paul, in-charge of the Sub-Secretariat will visit our Province from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015. In our Province, there will be two separate meetings with them - one at Montfort School, Yercaud for the Institutions of Tamil Nadu and Kerala sectors and another at Lake Montfort School, Bangalore for Karnataka sector. Bro.Thomas K.K will organize these meetings with the help of the Local Superiors and Heads of the two Communities where the meetings are to be held.

<i>12<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Arrival at Chennai and visit of Trichy Province</i>
<i>17<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Leave for Yercaud from St.Thomas Mount</i>
<i>18<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Meeting with Associates at Montfort School, Yercaud (9.30 am to 1.00 pm -Tamil Nadu and Kerala Sector Institutions)</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Leave for Bangalore [stay at Montfort College/MSC]</i>
<i>20<sup>th</sup> October</i>	<i>Meeting with Associates at Lake Montfort School, Bangalore (9.30 am to 1.00 pm - Karnataka sector Institutions)</i>
<i>21<sup>st</sup> October</i>	<i>Leave for Hyderabad</i>

2. **Tercentenary Celebrations:** The Provincial Council that met on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015, at St.Louis Villa, Yercaud discussed at length once again about the Tercentenary celebrations in our Province based on the recommendation by the 7<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter and also the special celebration committee appointed by the administration. It has accepted in principle, the theme proposed by the Committee: **“Together towards Montfort 300”**.

### At the Community/Institutional Level:

- ❖ **Competitions to be organized for students:** Poetry & Essay Writing, Mime, Art & Drawing competitions.
- ❖ **A Montfortian Rally:** A relatively long march bearing Montfort's image / statue, placards with appropriate captions and quotes from Montfort's writings, to be organized by each School/Institution in the locality.
- ❖ **Special Annual Awards** to be given to the students of our Institutions for their outstanding performances associated with Tercentenary celebrations / activities / living Montfortian values.
- ❖ At least one seminar to be organized for teachers and senior students on Montfortian Values, Mission and Vision.
- ❖ Include Montfortian themes in all the celebrations and publications of the Institution for the year 2015-16.
- ❖ In addition to the above, individual Institutions could organize innovative programmes that will make St.Louis Grignon de Montfort and his values be known and popularised.

### At the Province Level:

- ❖ Montfortian Annual Retreats to be organized.
  - ❖ Special seminars for Brothers organised by the Province / participate in the seminars organized by the National Council.
  - ❖ Inaugural function at Montfort Yercaud in January 2016.
  - ❖ '2016 Wall Calendars' to be printed in common for all our Institutions, highlighting the theme of the Tercentenaries.
  - ❖ Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Vailankanni for the Brothers (in February 2016)
  - ❖ A suitable concluding function to be thought of – to be held at AN Mangalam or Kolathur (December 2016).
  - ❖ Bring out a Souvenir (Magazine) and CD at the end of the Tercentenary celebrations (December 2016).
    - *The Administration will study the possibility of telecasting some programmes on Matha T.V in April 2016 or later, to mark the Tercentenaries. It will also study the possibility of organizing a mobile Tercentenary Exhibition in 2016.*
3. **A common Calendar for the Province:** Following suggestions by the Tercentenary celebration committee, the administration has decided to print a common calendar for our Schools: '**Montfortian Tercentenary Calendar-2016**'. *Hence, Heads of the Institutions are requested not to print individual calendars for the year 2016.*

4. **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Retreat:** The First Annual Retreat for this academic year was held at NIRJHARI (OCD Centre), Carmelaram, Bangalore from 17<sup>th</sup> September evening to 23<sup>rd</sup> September noon. Twenty Five Brothers including Bro.Ignatius who preached retreat participated in it. This retreat was part of the Montfortian Tercentenary programmes. It was unique in many ways... I hope and pray that this retreat experience along with the various programmes to follow, will help us to explore the true **spirit** of the Tercentenary celebrations.
5. **National Level Seminars:** The proposed Seminars to be organized by the National Council at Montfort Spirituality Centre, Bangalore and Montfort Sadan, Pune have begun well. The first seminar concluded on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the Second seminar concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at MSC, Bangalore. All the seminars are animated by Fr.Joseph Mattam SJ, an experienced theologian and writer of many spiritual books. We appreciate the organizers for this opportunity given to most of our finally professed Brothers to renew and deepen their commitment in this year of Consecrated Life.
6. **International Education Conference at MSC, Bangalore:** The Montfortian Education International (MEI) under the leadership of Bro.Mani Mekunnel is organizing the International Education Conference at MSC, Bangalore from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 05<sup>th</sup> November 2015. From our Province, Bro.Provincial and Bro.Varghese Koonamavu, the Convener of the Education Commission will participate in it. One or two more Brothers from our Province are being invited as guest participants. The Province will extend all the required support for the success of the conference.
7. **National Level Junior Brothers Meet:** There will be a special seminar/renewal programme for all the Junior Brothers of our Provinces in India from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015. It will be organized at Pillar Centre, Madurai.
8. **Continued formation programme for the Brothers with temporary Vows:** The Provincial Council which met recently at Montfort College, Bangalore has suggested some more fresh programmes for the Brothers with temporary Vows. It includes study of latest encyclical letter of Pope Francis **LAUDATO SI'** on care for our common home and some lucid evaluation procedures. Meanwhile all the Brothers of the Province will receive a copy of **LAUDATO SI'** for their personal study and to translate its spirit into concrete actions.

9. **Golden and Silver Jubilee Celebrations:** This is the Golden Jubilee year of the first Profession of Bros. Joseph Kottoor and Thomas Thottiyil and the Silver Jubilee of Bro.Joy Theckanath. We wish and congratulate these Brothers for their commitment and fidelity for the last 50/25 years. May God continue to bless and guide them. We shall thank God and personally pray for them. At the Province level, the celebrations will be organized during the month of May 2016.
10. **The implementation of the ‘New Scale of Pay’:** The draft copy of the proposed **new pay scale** and the guidelines were finalized during the last Provincial Council meeting. There is a definite hike for all categories. Before the official publication of this new ‘Pay Scale’, the administration had decided to send the same to all the Communities to work out the ‘**gross pay**’ as per the modified guidelines. After receiving the actuals from each Community, the same will be approved through individual letters. Later, the official copy of the ‘**new pay scale**’ with modifications if any will be sent to all the Communities and Brothers. While studying the new Gross pay worked out by the committee, it has been noticed that some of the present pay scale followed in certain Institutions are ambiguous without any logic and turning a blind eye to the Province pay scale guidelines! All such anomalies should be rectified. If there is a need for the higher pay, give a special allowance up to Rs.1000/- If there is a need to pay more for a staff/worker, kindly obtain separate written permission from the Provincial Superior before implementing the same. There were some proposals from one or two individuals and Communities suggesting not to increase proportionally the salary of the domestic workers. This is not tenable to the administration and does not go well with Montfortian spirit of option for the poor.
11. **Budgets:** The Provincial Council studied once again the budget of those Communities/Institutions which were not approved earlier due to some anomalies. Most of them were approved with some fresh guidelines for subsequent rectification. It has been noticed that in some Communities, certain projects have been taken up without approval and considerable money has been spent. Local Superiors are once again requested to send separately in writing all the permissions required for various projects mentioned in the budget instead of sending them one by one.
12. **Monitoring of Community Accounts, monthly and quarterly returns:** Once again, we have activated the central monitoring system of our

Community/ Institutional accounts from the Provincial house. Kindly use the **Tally** Accounting Software and make sure your accountants are using it effectively. They must close the accounts on a daily basis. If the Accountants are not familiar with the use of Tally, they must be trained for the same. Also note that the new Pay scale is only for those Accountants with practical knowledge of Tally. They should open Team viewer when the Provincial Bursar/Accountant requests for the same.

13. **Montfortian Pilgrimage:** The Central Administration is organizing the next Montfortian Pilgrimage titled '**In the footsteps of Montfort**' from 01<sup>st</sup> April to 07<sup>th</sup> May 2016. From our Province, Bros. Antony P.J, Shaji K.P and Joy Theckanath will participate in the same. The first part will be held at MSC, Bangalore 01<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016. We wish them a grace filled pilgrimage and abundant blessings. Let us pray for the success of this pilgrimage.
14. **Integrated School project at Salem:** The work for the proposed integrated School for the Visually impaired will start soon. Fencing the property is going on.
15. **Synergy 2016:** Synergy 2016, will be based on the Tercentenaries of our Origin and the death of St.Montfort. This year's Synergy programmes will consist of short plays, tableaus, dance dramas and songs. The details will be sent later. All the Institutions are requested to start the practice.
16. **Internal Inspection:** The internal inspection of our Institutions will start during the second week of October 2015. Kindly contact Bro.Varghese Koonamavu, the Convener of Education Commission for further details.
17. **Community Projects:** Many Communities are yet to submit the Community Projects for the year 2015-16. The Local Superiors are requested to send the same at the earliest.
18. **Travel expenses of Communities and individuals:** There is a sharp increase in the travel expenses of our Brothers in some Communities. There should be some serious checks and balance on them. We need not visit all the Communities and places without sufficient reason. Many of the visits have no connection with our mission or the building up of Communities! A close look at the monthly and quarterly returns will reveal the facts.
19. **Monthly recollection and Community dialogues:** Please continue the good practice of regular monthly recollections and Community dialogues. Some Communities are rather casual about the vital spiritual programmes.

20. **Bro.M.P John:** Bro.M.P John has been transferred from Lake Montfort School, Bangalore to Montfort School, Chinnakanal.
21. **Bro.Provincial's visit to SPD and acting Provincial Superior:** I will be visiting South Pacific District from 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015. I will be leaving on 04<sup>th</sup> October and will be back on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015. During my absence Bro.Thomas K.K will be the Acting Provincial Superior.
22. **TIME News Bulletin:** The latest issue of TIME focussing on the Montfortian Tercentenaries has just been published. Whenever you have some important events taking place in your Communities/Institutions, kindly send the news items to me with suitable photos in high resolution. Also send your reflections and stories based on our education mission, peace and justice issues, partnership, etc.
23. **Permissions:**
- **Montfort School, Yercaud:** To modify the present water recycling plant
  - **Lake Montfort School, Bangalore:** To construct a compound wall around the primary school
  - **St. Thomas Mount:** To exchange the old Mahindra Bolero Jeep for another vehicle of the same company
  - **Belagola:** To avail a bank loan to buy a new 28 seater Bus for Vidya Sagar.
  - **Susaigiri:** To exchange the existing Community two-wheeler with the two-wheeler in St. Thomas Mount Community.
  - **St.Louis Villa, Yercaud:** To purchase a new Xerox Machine.

24. **Obituary:**

**We deeply mourn the demise of**

✙ Mr.Joseph Antony (85), cousin of Bro.Ignatius.

✙ Sr.Mary Christopher(68), younger sister of Bro.Thomas Montfort

May their souls rest in peace!

With regards,

*Bro. George Kalangod*

Bro.George Kalangod  
Provincial Superior

