

CONTINENTAL ASSEMBLY 2022

DAY 3 – 06.07.2022

SUMMARY – 3

The Continental Assembly Asia Oceania 2022 Day 3, began with prayer and Holy Eucharist presided by Fr. Michael Sahayaraj.

The theme of the day: Spirituality & Charism of St. Louis Marie de Montfort

Moderator: Fr. Robert Periyannayagam

The Day started with the re-cap of the presentation of the past two days. The floor made certain observations and comments about the proceedings.

The CMY 2022 decided that there would be no synthesis but a compact presentation of the group discussions.

Introductory address: Rev. Fr. Arnold

“Montfortian Spirituality is not a theory but a vital synthesis closely related to reason” Fr. Arnold quoted, Fr. Bill Considine “*the real challenge of SMM is the awareness of self identity*”. Therefore Montfortian Spirituality becomes the basis of our renewal. Charism is a unique gift of the Holy Spirit that is shared with everyone. (DW, SG, Laity)

Montfort Charism is Apostolic in style. Teaching catechism, evangelization, renewal of the Church, option for the poor etc are vital part of the charism.

Posing few questions, about the availability of translation of Montfort writings, usage of social media and inculturation of the founder’s

spirituality in our entities, Fr. Arnold set the stage for the day's presentation and proceedings.

Presentation 1

MONTFORTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM IN INDIA

Fr. Prem Kumar

Spirituality & religion are part of the people of India. Amazing architecture, cultural heritage, beliefs, worship, music etc speak of spiritual richness of India.

In this spiritual & religious environment of India, the SMM has unique ways of diffusing the spirituality of our founder.

Parish mission/ministry, preaching retreats (Marian / Lenten), working among the native tribal and with the less fortunate (Children & poor) Marian Centre etc are some means, we diffuse Montfortian Spirituality.

Using Bhajans, Chants, shawl for vestments, Chapathi for host and lamp for candle etc are some means of inculturation in liturgy.

The devotion of our Lady is practiced in our places of ministry with processions & celebrations.

In the Vice-province of India, through publications (To Jesus through Mary) pilgrimages and seminars etc, we spread the spirituality of our founder.

Religious fundamentalism, political pressures, lack of zeal and availability are some of the hurdles towards the inculturation.

Montfortian retreats, seminars & periodical reflection will help in building up of spiritual heritage in India.

Presentation 2

MONTFORTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM IN INDONESIA

Fr. Goris

Fr. Goris presented the vibrant diffusion of Montfortian Spirituality in Indonesia.

Writings of Montfort and the biographies are the major sources. In the cultural context, the translated writings of Montfort in Bahasa Indonesia, help in reaching the native people with the rich spirituality.

Adhering to the call of St. Montfort “*read the signs of the times*” the contemporary writers from Indonesia, like Fr. Dwi, Fr. Arnold and others, add fragrance and vitality through their writings.

Montfortian Library is another source of knowledge for the seekers & lovers of Montfortian Spirituality in Indonesia.

The Province, through recollections & retreats, writings & translations etc is diffusing the spirituality of St. Montfort. The special bond and involvement of laity gives greater courage and opportunity to spread the spirituality.

It is an already not yet situation said the speaker. Amidst the hurdles of lack of resources and difficulties, we are called to work together for the spread of Montfortian spirituality in the cultural context of Indonesia.

Group Reactions & Interventions

After two presentations the floor was open for the reactions & Interventions

- ✚ Fr. Peter raised the question, Asia is the land of spirituality and religion, why there are division existing?
- ✚ Fr. Prem answered that it could be the poison of secularism and political interest cause of division .
- ✚ Fr. Morris added, if spirituality makes impact in one’s own personal life, then there is no division.
- ✚ Fr. Reni said that Charism has the life-style of our founder. Therefore, we should imitate and practice it in our personal life.

- ✚ Fr. Sherwin said that we have the rich tradition of having our charism and giftedness and its better we put more effort and interest to learn the life of our founder in order to diffuse his spirituality.
- ✚ There was also a question raised on castism, but it was later mentioned that it is more of internal aspect than outward sign.
- ✚ Fr. Aswin proposed a documentation of the life of Montfort. This documentation would help the formees, and others who are interested to know more of Montfortian heritage.

Presentation 3

MONTFORTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM IN PNG

FR. ALOI

Fr. Aloï the Provincial of Papua New Guinea began his presentation defining the term spirituality as *“moved by the spirit, witnessing Jesus Christ and his gospel in response to human beings.”*

In the context of PNG the spirituality of Montfort is spread through the parish ministry, formation and community life.

As PNG is the land of thousands of tribes and hundreds of languages (615 languages) it is difficult to reach all, yet distance & difficulties are never hurdles for the spread of the spirituality.

Total availability, devotion to Mary and teaching of catechism, teaching of bible in the schools with definitive pastoral plan are of help in spreading the Montfortian Spirituality.

Collaboration of the laity is a greater strength in PNG. Lack of resources and facilities at times are hurdles. There is a greater need of missionaries and trained formators with long term contract to work in PNG.

Presentation 4

MONTFORTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

FR. FEDERIK

Though small in number, the spread of Montfortian Spirituality is vibrant in the Philippines.

Since most understand English, it is easier to get the resources from USA to diffuse the spirituality.

The entity uses various means such as, formation, missions, TTJ, deepening sessions, Marian Congress etc to deepen and spread the spirituality of the founder.

Along with the usage of social media, retreats, books, newsletter etc the propagation of TTJ has more impact on the laity.

Through being and doing the entity spreads the spirituality of St. Montfort. Involving in various religious congregations and Ecclesiastical movements such as Legion of Mary, Missionaries of Mary, World Apostle of Fatima, Focolare Movement etc the entity is spreading the spirituality.

Major constraints are lack of confreres for the mission work.

Group Reactions & Interventions

After two presentations the floor was open for the reactions & Interventions

- Fr. Dwi: Appreciated the presentation – Religiosity Vs Spirituality. How do you deal?
- Fr. Fed: For example, the feast of black Nazarene – many people are participation in the procession, celebration etc but not much interested in the Eucharist. It is like false devotion spoken by MFT.
- Fr. Norwin: Many are baptized but not fully evangelized. Through our mission we bring them to God.

- **Fr. General:** Charism is the explosion of the Spirituality. From Charism we grow to Spirituality. Charism is the effect of spirituality. When men or women are spiritual we gain charism.
- Fr. Peter: Are the people interested in MFT Spty in your region? How do you carry on further the MFT Spty in that vast region.
- Fr. Alois: We are living through our life
 - We use our chances during the rosary etc to educate them. It is not big but can see the hope
 - Renewal programmes in the diocese.
 - For the past 25 years, People love our mission

GROUP DISCUSSION

In the noon there was group discussion with regard to charism and inculturation. The groups presented the report to the assembly.

Closing remarks

Fr. Dwi was invited to give his observations of the day's proceedings

The document of the church *Perfecta Caritates*, invites consecrated persons to “renew and re-ignite our way of life,” as Montfortians, it is possible only in creative fidelity. Fidelity to Jesus and his gospel, and this is the very heart of who we are

- Fidelity to founder charism
- Fidelity to Church
- Fidelity to the cry of the humanity and the needs of the people – culture and where we are sent

He said, I am proud because, we can see the creative fidelity from our sharing. Referring Fr. Goris, statement ‘*already and not yet*’, he said, it reminds us who we are. We are entering into creativity. Each one of us is responsible for the dynamic sharing our charism.

ZOOM Meeting

At 5 pm the participants were given an opportunity to participate in online session regarding the Canonization of St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

The Day ended with Supper