

CONTINENTAL ASSEMBLY 2022

DAY 4 – 07.07.2022

SUMMARY – 4

Theme:

Moderator: Fr. Federik smm

The day began with the Prayer and the Holy Mass by Fr. Dwi smm

The Morning session began with the presentation of the summary of previous day.

Introduction: **Fr. Arnold**

To find what our real and common needs in Asia Oceania that we can respond by working together at the continental level. The missionary dimension is our inspiration Ref L5, he said it is responding to the needs of the church. Reforming, renewal and restoring of the Christian spirit in the typical Montfortian Mission.

- The trademark of our mission is Baptism
- Our choice is the poor and the needy
- Our aim is the establishment of reign of Jesus through Mary
(Const # 48)

Creativity he said, is the necessary ingredient in mission. “Start something new”, should still think of something new and leave Jerusalem , said the founder. Therefore creativity and renewal are related.

Newness in our mission is what guides. Montfort avoided the comfort zone of his time.

Fr. Arnold said creativity is one of the necessary qualification for the approval of the candidate for final profession.

“Incarnation is inculturation” (Ratio # 61) which is the surface of our mission. In the process of inculturation one need to find answer for “Do you live the Spiritual path proposed by St. Louis Marie De Montfort. Referring to the Circular of Fr. William Considine smm (Jam31, 1997) “a la Montfort” is a reason or motivation for the living. Montfortian identity

and content are the two basis elements in a la Montfort, which are criterion for the evaluation of the mission.

Fr. Arnold ended his reflection posing few question on the mission he set the stage for the proceedings of the day.

Presentation 1

Fr. Aswani Kumar:

Fr. Aswani began his presentation by defining the mission as “Mission refers to the concept of sending someone to accomplish something.”

The presentation started with Mission in the Church – our founder went on his Mission under the banner of God Alone.

The Places of ministry and in India was displayed on the screen. The confreres are working within India and all over world.

The activities

Animation of the Shrine and spreading Marian devotion, Retreat Preaching, Organizing Pilgrimages, Breaking of the Word of God during family prayer, Visiting of the sick,, encouraging Montfortian Consecration to Mary, Organizing Montfort Associates meetings, Old age help, Education help for the poor children, Provisions for the poor, Medical help for the sick, Social awareness programs for the faithful, Our Lady of Salette young girls association, Holy Family praying group, animating parish choir, Parish outreach to the needy, fund raising program, community events, care of the sick and dying

Animation of Youth, Legion of Mary, Vincent De Paul society, Catechism for children, Family Prayer, Family Rosary, animation of the catechists, Spiritual animation through BCC, Youth Parliament, Childhood society, Children parliament.

Pastoral counseling, Family counseling and Chaplin at St. Joseph’s Hospice, Women charity group, Marriage preparation classes, construction of the Churches, SCC group and Liturgy animation, tuition for the catholic children.

The Core elements of Montfortian Mission in India is God Alone, which include, Prayer, poor, renewal of the vows, Cross, True Devotion to Mary etc.

Prayer and Mary are integral part of our mission.

To listen, Meditate and treasure.....

MONTFORTIAN MISSION IN INDONESIA

Fr. Raphael

Fr. Raphael began his presentation with a statement that “Montfortians of Indonesia are trying to be Constant in Context. This constant in context would express the challenge of evangelization of Montfortians in Indonesia. He said there is a dynamic tension between living the Montfortian identity and expressing in the context of multi cultural, multi religious and amidst the social and political problems.

The Indonesian Mission is divided in 3 parts:

1. Formation: -

- a. Mission for forming
- b. Mission for preparation
- c. Mission to refresh oneself
- d. Mission for post-pastoral time

2. Pastoral Mission in the Parish

He displayed the places of ministry of the confreres in various parishes etc

The Pastoral activities :inculturation, catechism, sacramental services, administration of the parishes, interreligious dialogue etc

3. Challenges:

- a. How to integrate the spirituality in programmes of each parish,
- b. Parish ministry and community life
- c. How to integrate the vision and mission of Montfort
- d. Financial problems etc

He concluded saying:

- Be open to collaborate
- Be human like mother Mary

- Leberos / be available for the mission.

Reactions & Interventions

- **Fr. Christian:** Interested in the activities you showed us, specially about the tribal school? How do you manage it? Society of Vincent D'Paul – What kind of activity is it?
- **Fr. Aswani:** A primary school till 7th std, started for the Tribal children. Supported by the Generalate and German mission and province.
- We do not promote Vincent D'Paul devotion but every parish has this unit. Our parishners are part of it.
- **Fr. Aloï** – Acknowledge the presenters – See two different things India more on plan, Indonesia on evaluation. The funding part of it? How does the sustainability take place?
- **Fr. Anton:** Province has two big missions –Challenge is all parishes in Indonesia should follow the guidelines of the bishop. Attend the meetings and evaluations.
- All the activities are supported by the parishes and at times province also. SMM does not support.
- The mission houses support themselves – they find ways, people and government at times support. Basically self-sufficient. In Indonesia some are working in the seminary of the diocese, they are paid. Collaboration with lay associates is increasing, it is really supporting.
- **Fr. Aswani:** Formation and Mission. We are funded by the Generalate. German Missionary's Salary. Each community has local income, all who work in mission get congrua from the diocese, local benefactors, we are not self-sufficient, so we depend on the Generalate.
- **Fr. Michael:** We do not get anything from the Govt, coz they suspect every mission activity as the conversion activity. We ask from the children, school is supported by the province but the children would not pay, due to poverty.
- **Fr. Goris:** Regarding the context of mission, on the first day we listen to the context which is common, plurality and culture and ecological issue. Dialogue with the poor and the culture. How about the dialogue with other religions for the inspiration? How do you call for dialogue with the other religion.

- **Aswani:** Montfort is our inspiration, in every aspect. We are always looked as Montfort Missionaries. Mission is our passion. We are open for dialogue with other religions.
- **Prem:** About dialogue – on CRI level we have dialogue with other religions, and celebrate the feasts. We are educating many Hindu Children. We respect other religion and live in harmony. Hindus accept Jesus as God.

MONTFORTIAN MISSION IN PNG

Fr. Robert Periyamayagam

He began his presentation describing about how the mission started in PNG. In 1959 Fathers Edmond and Amedee, missionaries from Canada landed in PNG. Ever since the beginning the company of Mary is bringing the good news to this abandoned part of the world. He explained how the early missionaries took pain to reach the people. He said, to I could see the fruit of the mission work especially in the western province. The joy of the sharing of the gospel always encouraged them to go forward in preaching the mission. Being with the people and serving them is of great joy.

He continued his presentation saying, is the words of St. Montfort, “If you don’t take risk for God you will not do anything great for him” gives courage and inspiration to move forward. One of means of success in the mission is the team work he said. He concluded his presentation saying there is a greater need for the missionaries to work in PNG.

MONTFORTIAN MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Fr. Ting

Fr. Ting began his presentation describing about the various ministries the confreres involved in the Philippines . The mission work include – Itinerant mission, School Chaplains, Parish Mission, Formation, Spiritual Direction, Spirituality center etc.

For the effective mission work the confreres are well trained prior to the assignments. TotusTuus Journey is one of main tool which helps the missionaries to motivate the people. In the itinerant mission main focus

is given to the renewal of the Baptismal Promises. Community meetings always help to evaluate the mission work in the entity.

He concluded saying as an entity they are ready to support and collaborate with the other entities in the mission work.

Reactions & Interventions

Fr. General: it is in joy I hear the mission in the continent. It is very good to know, we have more than 33 missionaries in the International level. The entities with all the difficulties are sending for mission.

My question is what is the task of religious brothers in our country what are they doing?

Robert: In PNG we have brother from Madagascar, he is assisting young priest. Pastoral

Fr. Ting: Bro. Ray from Philippines – works in office, depends on the needs of the delegation, he is always available for the needs.

Fr. Anton: Bro. Rito... silent but vibrant- goes for parish missions, next will be going for workshop centre. (organic farming etc)

There are 5 perpetual brothers. Others brother is assisting elderly confreres, he was trained. Rest are in formation. There are two candidates for brotherhood.

Fr. Peters – We do not have brothers, coz there are many congregations for brotherhood. We are yet to start.

Fr. Jeje: I am proud to work as a missionary in the parish. What I want to know is, how to collaborate in the parish, creatively. Hearing from other people like Fr. Alois etc what have we have to do, in prepare missionaries to be creative?

Fr. Robert: Creativity is needed, but need to go step by step. From the initial formation, we can encourage the candidates to be more creative.

Fr. Ray: Before we start our mission there is process in preparing the candidates. Need to encourage our seminarians, for the missionary work. Summer exposures, visiting the sick people etc. Since the beginning of the formation we are involving the brothers for the mission. Therefore it will be not be difficult to live as missionaries.

Fr. Sherwin: In reality we talk about PNG mission, as a scary mission, but seeing the missionaries it gives me courage.

What is that makes you work in PNG?

How you become creative in terms of finances?

Fr. Robert: It is the experience that matter. There are difficulties, but there is cross and satisfaction as a priest. There are times we see people twice a year. People wait for your arrival, so when you see them you forget everything. Joy of being with the people. People attack us but. If not us, who else?

Negative side we are always alone, so later it will be difficult to stay in the community.

Fr. Aloï: Multipurpose person mission, building, etc adapt to the situation. Therefore I enjoy. Any work that is demanded need to be ready.

Fr. Michael: Referring to Robert, We need to give importance to the vocation promotion? How do you address lack of personnel?

Fr. Norwin: In the delegation we help one another. Our lay associates really involve in the formation, the centre utilizes them for the vocation promotion. We accept the professionals and the seniors as well.

The group discussion

1, What is the impact of Montfortian mission in local church or diocese and how can we make it more relevant in our mission?

- In general people are happy with our presence and what we do. For ex: we accompany legion of Mary and other spiritual groups. These groups are alive and its increasing in number
- In the parish mission, people like us because we are open and ready to help people. We are ready to go even to the remote places. We give ourselves totally to the mission
- We also give priority to the poor. We are close to the people. Because of that closeness, people also care and generous towards us
- We try and be open to young people. We use the social media addressing the needs of people
- Follow Eco spirituality
- We are able to make impact through participation of people
- Renewal of the life of the people
- Impact through our prayer garden and Marian grottos

- We are able to reach out to people especially, during the pandemic -spiritual needs
- We have established basic Christian community
- In the parish mission where we are working, we should try to visit the families.
- The people more faithful in doing their responsibilities in the family and in the parish (animating the Legion of Marie, associates, Marian devotions, Montfortian rosary in different methods and the TTJ session). After their consecration they are faithful in living and more committed in the mission.
- The trained associates become our partners in doing our mission in the local church and diocese.
- Involving lay leaders in the decision making has made them responsible and faithful in doing the mission along with us (synodality).
- Educating the children and accompanying them in their faith formation.
- Bringing peace among the people,
- Working towards growth and development of the faithful
- Medical care;
- Increasing liturgy activities of the people

2. What are the new ways or methods you propose through which you bring Montfort to the people of God in your apostolic life?

- Totus Tuus Journey
- Social media
- Montfortian publication
- Marian magazines
- Making documentary of the life of Montfort
- We can also try and make cartoon, movie about Montfort
- Music ministry is also encouraged. Where there is music there are people
- Involvement of basic Christian community
- Montfort youth club in our entities
- Empowerment of lay associates
- To respond to the signs of the times – Hospice (we are responding as Montfortians)
- We need to be welcoming people – like Montfort welcomed people – open the door to Jesus Christ
- We need to provide Montfort's method of praying the rosary, translating the Montfort's writings in the local language
- To be more close to the people (updating their life style, celebration ex. Eating the same food, feeling one with local people).

- Using creativity in mission (blessing the kids).
- Montfortian Missionaries residing close to the parish involving in the faith formation (preparing the couple for married, youth formation, retreat for the students, families, training lay leaders in return missionaries are supported financially by the groups).
- Maximize the usage of social media (IG, tiktok, FB) and updating our materials so that it become more appealing to the youth.
- Using Social media (Zoom, FB, Youtube, etc.);
- Communication the articles using printing media,
- visiting the people in their house/house visits;
- Collaborating with marian groups in the church;
- Organizing totus tuus journey online;
- Composing hymns on Mary and Montfort.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Fr. General: We know where we are and what we are doing and kind of work, but you need to think, where we don't work yet? Eg. Woman rights, human rights, justice and peace, in the diocese what is our presence in the centre of diocese eg in preparing the pastoral plan. Where MFT is asking us to go?

Fr. Aloï: Commenting on the pastoral plan: in the diocese participating, the spirit of Marian is promoting us, it is guiding us eg. Cleaning of the church etc promoting the participation of people. There is no boss in between. People oriented plan. Doing over 20 years from now.

Fr. Sherwin: One group said about bringing peace to the people. What do you mean/

Fr. Sabastian: Parish of my work had lot of problems, but after MFTians taking the parish, for the past 5 years....able to achieve peace. After 25 years could celebrate feast

Fr. Anton: Ecological pastoral plan. Love for nature is the sign of time to let people know we should care for the nature. For the victims –domestic violence, sexual harassment, etc even in the church we should be aware of that.

Sr. Anna Mary – We need ecological conversion, planting a tree after the session, 2003 – wisdom tree planted. Pilgrimage in Philippines tree planting.

Fr. Goris: In the second question – why bringing Montfort and not Christ – it means bringing Montfort Spirituality. Jesus is the kingdom in person. Proclaim Christ.

Fr. Prem: We are discussing on Montfortian mission so the question is posed on Montfort. At a larger level we are discussing the mission of Christ. We are following Jesus taking Montfort as model, and be effective in the church.

Fr. Arnold: The question is very good which help us to distinguish what is our goal and what are the means. Sometimes we put means in the place of goals, which will create confusion that MFT is our saviour and not Jesus Christ. Eg. Monte Mario Statue of Montfort....in the church, garden etc... Fr. Olivier one day said, The context is MFT spty whose motto is God Alone, but we need to make clear the proclamation of the gospel. Eg. Salesians speak of Donbosco etc.. the name of the houses etc. we proclaim Christ in the footsteps of poor apostles guided by Montfort.

Sharing of Brother

Bro. Thomas Paul presented from Malaysia presented about the presence of Montfort Brothers and their education ministry. He spoke in nutshell about his acquaintance with SMM and DW. He said he is happy to collaborate with us in spreading the spirituality of the founder.

Concluding remarks:

FR. Dwi:

The elements that came out during the presentation and the sharing:

- Awareness of objective of doing M Mission
- Renewing and reforming of the structure of the church in the spirit of the founder.
- Closeness to the people
- Spirit of liberators –spirit of availability
- Spirit of collaboration

- Marian Dimension
- Creative fidelity in mission
- Richness of confreres doing mission is really inspiring
- Choosing rural or remote places etc

Common Challenges – Common needs or elements for the further discussion

- Trusting God in providence in dealing with financial issues and in dealing with the needs of the people
- Close to the people verses Community life
- Traditional approach verses Pastoral approach
- Collaboration with confreres of other entities in AO
- Lack of personnel and needs of the church
- Fidelity to our Charism Verses Responding to the signs of the times of the local church.

Other Concerns

- How to develop the Montfortian way of inculturation
- How to help people: entering into the process of dialogue with other religious, cultures
- Montfortt way of empowering people