

«Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia and Oceania»

Evening Prayer for the Launching of Continental MissionYear of Asia & Oceania, 2022

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2021
Eve of the First Sunday of Advent
Community of the Generalate in Rome



INTRODUCTION

Opening Words

«The Continental Year for Africa and Madagascar is still not over.... Still keeping to heart the warmth of this Continental Year of Africa and Madagascar, now the entire Congregation is asked to turn its attention to the Montfortian entities that exist in Asia and Oceania. On these two giant continents, the little Company of Mary has four entities: India, Indonesia, PNG and the Philippines».

«Common points that exist in the context of Asia and Oceania, in particular the context of the countries in which we are working today. These points can be found in the answers of the Superiors of the Entities. We then summarized them in the following ideas.

a. Rich in diversity: religion, culture, values, ethnicity, language....

- b. In the field of religion in particular: the flourishing of spirituality and religiosity. So, there is a need to build dialogue among Religions and Churches.
- c. We need to live inculturation.
- d. Asian and Oceanic people show hospitality.
- e. The Church is marked by a zeal for missionary work and a lively devotional life, especially to Our Lady. There are also indications of clericalism in the Church.
- f. The enormous uncertainty of the political and economic system. Especially in the economic sector, there appears to be poverty here and there. JPIC needs to do something in this area».

«How to become Montfort Missionaries or Montfortian Associates in this context. We find that the answers of the Superiors of Entities sound the same because they all emphasize the importance of having a clear «Montfortian identity» in which there is evangelization, a vital relationship with Mary (through devotion to Mary, especially with the practice of Consecration to Jesus through Mary), the role of the laity also in relation to leadership».

The theme chosen by the confreres in Asia and Oceania for their year of continental mission in 2022 is: «Rise and Shine, Montfort in Asia-Oceania».

Theme song «RISE AND SHINE»

By Fr. Willy Selman, *Pontchâteau*- France

We are called, to be sent,
Preach Jesus Christ the Lord
We are called, to be sent,
To go all over the world,

We are called, to be sent,
To be a fiery missionary,
We are called, to be sent,
In the midst of Cultures and Nations

Rise and shine
Be the light, light shines, bright
Destroy the darkness that threatens the world
Rise and shine
Be the light, light shines, bright,
With the spirit of Saint Montfort.

Rise and shine....
With the Spirit leading Saint Montfort

Rise and shine
Be the light, light shines, bright
Destroy the darkness that threatens the world
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Rise and shine....
With the Spirit leading Saint Montfort
With the Spirit leading Saint Montfort

HYMN, PSALM, CANTICLE

V. O God make speed to save us.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

HYMN - *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*

Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

PSALMODY 141 - A prayer when in danger

Antiphon 1: *Proclaim the good news among the nations: Our God will come to save us. Alleluia.*

An angel stood before the face of God, thurible in hand. The fragrant incense soaring aloft was the prayer of God's people on earth (Revelation 8:4)

I have called to you, Lord; hasten to help me!
Hear my voice when I cry to you.
Let my prayer arise before you like incense,
the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth;
keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!

Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong,
to evil deeds with men who are sinners.

Never allow me to share in their feasting.

If a just man strikes or reproves me it is kindness
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

Their princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words were kind.
As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned:
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe:
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.*

Antiphon 1: *Proclaim the good news among the nations: Our God will come to save us. Alleluia.*

PSALM 142 - You, Lord are my refuge

What is written in this Psalm was fulfilled by our Lord's passion (Saint Hilary)

Antiphon 2: *Know that the Lord is coming and with him all his saints; that day will dawn with a wonderful light.*

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress

while my spirit faints within me.
But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk
they have hidden a snare to entrap me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes my part.
I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for my soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge
all I have in the land of the living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of distress.
Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.*

Antiphon 2: *Know that the Lord is coming and with him all his saints; that day will dawn with a wonderful light.*

CANTICLE- Philippians 2:6-11

Antiphon 3: *The Lord will come with mighty power; all mortal eyes shall see him.*

Christ, God's holy servant
Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate
and it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!

Because of this,
God highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
above every other name,

So that at Jesus' name
every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth,
and under the earth,

and every tongue proclaim
to the glory of God the Father:
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.*

Antiphon 3: *The Lord will come with mighty power; all mortal eyes shall see him.*

Prayer

O God, our Father, we are living a year full of grace, throughout 2022. We are grateful that you unite us in the family of the Missionaries of the Company of Mary on two continents that give hope for greater recognition and fidelity to Your Good News. Sustained by the prayers of intercession of Your servant, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, You have kindled our hearts to become true witnesses to the Truth of Your Gospel not only by embracing a prophetic lifestyle to become more and more sensible to the cry of those who knock at our door but also by stepping away creatively and proactively to the periphery with apostolic boldness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Mediator, now and forever.

Amen.

MONTFORTIAN ENTITIES IN ASIA AND OCEANIA

Mission in India:

The Montfort Missionaries have been present in the country since 1971. Today the Vice-Province of India has 65 priests, 2 bishops, 35 scholastics, 4 novices, 4 pre-novices and 60 members of the Montfortian Associates.

«In India, confreres on perpetual vows can be found in the Vice-Provincial administrative house, in houses for initial formation (minor seminary, pre-novitiate, novitiate, scholasticate), in a social home for underprivileged children, in two schools and on coffee plantations; the rest work in parishes. Still in India, there is a Marian Center, which also works in conjunction with sharing the Montfortian spirituality with Montfortian Associates. In addition, there are also confreres who are involved in itinerant preaching and become spiritual animators for various ecclesiastical groups».

Taizé - Laudate omnes gentes

Laudate omnes gentes,
Laudate Dominum.
Laudate omnes gentes,
Laudate Dominum.

Mission in Indonesia:

The Montfort Missionaries have been present in the country since 1939. Today, the Province of Indonesia has 71 priests, 1 Brother in perpetual vows, 2 scholastics in perpetual vows, 66 scholastics in temporary vows, 4 Brothers in temporary vows, 15 novices, 16 postulants and 335 members of the Montfortian Associates.

«In Indonesia, the confreres serve in the administrative field of the Province, apart from letting themselves available as spiritual guides for various ecclesiastical groups. There are many confreres who work in the field of formation (two minor seminaries belonging to the dioceses, community of aspirants, postulant-novitiate, scholasticate) and in parishes. They can also be found in the two categorical missionary communities «à la Montfort». This entity pays attention to sharing spirituality through Montfortian Associates locally called «Kerabat Santo Montfort» (KSM)».

Taizé - Laudate omnes gentes

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Laudate omnes gentes,
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Mission in Papua New Guinea:

The Montfort Missionaries are present in this country since 1958. Today, this General Delegation has 12 priests, 1 bishop, 1 Brother in perpetual vows. To be precise, they are missionaries who come from various entities: there are 5 confreres from India, there are 7 confreres from Indonesia, there is 1 missionary from the Philippines and 1 missionary from Madagascar. Today, this General Delegation has 5 postulants; 3 scholastics of temporary vows of which 2 are sent from the General Delegation of Francophone Africa. This entity has 32 members of the Montfortian Associates.

«In PNG, almost all the confreres can be found in parishes, even the Superior of the entity administration of the PNG Delegation General is still a parish priest. This is important for their financial autonomy. Now they also have a formation house located in the country's capital, Port Moresby. This entity has just started to open itself up to share the Montfortian spirituality with the laity».

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Mission in the Philippines:

The decision to start the Montfortian mission in the Philippines was taken in 1983. Today, this General Delegation has 18 priests, 1 Brother in perpetual vows, 2 scholastics in perpetual vows and 5 scholastics in temporary vows. The Philippines has 99 members of the Montfortian Associates without counting the many who have consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary according to the teachings of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort.

«In the Philippines, the spread of the Montfortian spirituality is very prominent in the work of the confreres. There were certain confreres who were assigned to it, but all the confreres who serve in other fields are actually involved. They all work together in a solid team of very dedicated lay people. Apart from this special area, confreres are found in houses of formation, in parishes and in the administration of the General Delegation of the Philippines».

Taizé - Laudate omnes gentes

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Sick confreres:

«It should be specifically mentioned here that in India, Indonesia and the Philippines there are some Missionaries who continue their missionary work by carrying the cross of their health. Sick confreres continue to receive the attention of the responsible of these entities in order to find the best solutions for the restoration of their health. It is certain that their missionary life emanates from prayers offered in struggling silence, from willingness to be cared for, from smiles and patience».

Taizé - Laudate omnes gentes

Laudate omnes gentes,
Laudate Dominum.
Laudate omnes gentes,
Laudate Dominum.

READINGS

Reading from «Prayer for Missionaries» 30:

Exsurgat Deus et dissipentur inimicie eius! Exsurge, Domine, quare obdormis? Exsurge. Let the Lord arise and let his enemies be scattered. Arise, Lord. Why is it you appear to be like one asleep? Arise in your might, your mercy and your justice and create this bodyguard of hand-picked men who will protect your house, defend your glory and save the souls that are yours. Thus, there will be but one sheepfold and one shepherd, and all will make your temple resound with their praise of your glory: *et in templo eius omnes dicent gloriam.* Amen.

Theme song

Ref:
Rise and shine
Be the light, light shines, bright
Destroy the darkness that threatens the world
Rise and shine
Be the light, light shines, bright,
With the spirit of St Montfort.
with the Spirit leading St Montfort

A little moment of silence

Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 60: 1-3:

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Though darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds, the peoples, upon you the Lord will dawn, and over you his glory will be seen. Nations shall walk by your light, kings by the radiance of your dawning.

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A little moment of silence

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 5:1-2,13-16:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:
“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Theme song

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Rise and shine
Be the light, light shines, bright
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Rise and shine
Be the light, light shines, bright,
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With the Spirit leading St. Montfort

A little moment of silence

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 8:16-18:

At that time, Jesus said to the crowd:
«No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light.
For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light.
Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away.»

Theme song

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Be the light, light shines, bright,
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A little moment of silence

MAGNIFICAT - Luke 1:46-55

Antiphon:

This day the Holy Spirit appeared in flame to the disciples, and bestowed on them gifts of graces.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.

He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,

the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Because of His great love, God sent His beloved Son into the world to be the Savior of mankind. Let us adore God our Father with humility, exclaiming:

Confitemini Domino - Taizé

Confitemini Domino, Quoniam Bonus!

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!

O God, our Father, we seek Your face, day and night, in the midst of all our busyness*
Shine on us with the light of Your face to heal our longing to come out of the darkness of our souls and be
Your little light in the midst of our society.

Confitemini Domino, Quoniam Bonus!

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!

Dear Father, people in Asia and Oceania seek a meaningful life by exploring the mysteries of human inner life to find Your image in their hearts*

Open their hearts to the revelation of Yourself in Jesus Christ, the fountain of living water for the thirst of the human soul.

Confitemini Domino, Quoniam Bonus!

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!.

Father, you know that in Asia and Oceania people live in the midst of an unstable economic and political situation*

May the leaders of the countries on these two continents listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in their hearts to seek and apply the common good and the public interest above all personal and group interests.

Confitemini Domino, Quoniam Bonus!

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!.

O Father, the diversity of our societies in Asia and Oceania is very rich in all fields*

Help the citizens of these two continents to cultivate tolerance in the spirit of love that animates universal brotherhood as Your children.

Confitemini Domino, Quoniam Bonus!

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!.

Dear Father, our entities in Asia and Oceania are struggling in the area of their financial independence for the formation of their members and their mission*

May the members of these entities embrace a simple and prophetic lifestyle, cultivating the creative power You give them in the economic field in the spirit of trust to Your Providence.

Confitemini Domino, Quoniam Bonus!

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!.

O Father, the Montfortian Associates in Asia and Oceania make no small contribution in the deepening and sharing of the spiritual treasure that Your servant, Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, left in the Church*

May You bless them and their families and may more and more people be kindled by the desire to unite themselves with Jesus, Your Son, and to walk the «Immaculate path of Mary» so that Your kingdom will be more and more manifest in many hearts and in the world.

Confitemini Domino, Quoniam Bonus!

Confitemini Domino, Alleluia!.

Our Father

FINAL PRAYER

Prayer for the Continental Mission Year of Asia and Oceania:

«O God, our Father, remember your Congregation which you have destined from all eternity to fulfill your loving designs by inspiring your servant, Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, to undertake the apostolic mission of preaching the Good News of your Son, for the renewal of your Church. Remember your missionaries who made their share in sowing the seeds of the Gospel, announcing Wisdom Spirituality in Asia and Oceania.

Send your all-consuming Spirit upon us to make us holy missionaries after your own heart, so that we may rise and shine in fraternal communion and be prophetic in our life and apostolate, under the guidance of

the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord and our Mother. Help us to re-discover the beauty of our Montfortian Missionary Charism, always in dialogue with our challenges in Asia and Oceania, with our vibrant cultures and multi religions called to the service of fraternity in our world. Empower us to enkindle everywhere the fires of divine love in the pluralistic context of our land. Glory to Jesus in Mary! Glory to Mary in Jesus! Glory to God alone!»

SOLEMN BLESSING IN ADVENT

May the almighty and merciful God,
by whose grace you have placed your faith
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son
and yearn for his coming again,
sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent
and enrich you with his blessing.
R. Amen.

As you run the race of this present life,
may he make you firm in faith,
joyful in hope and active in charity.
R. Amen.

So that, rejoicing now with devotion
at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh,
you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life
when he comes again in majesty.
R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
R. Amen.

