



## **Annual Retreats of the Province of Colombia**

**VILLA MONTFORT, CUMARAL META, Colombia** - From August 26 to 31, 2024, we Montfortians of Colombia lived the beautiful experience of our annual Spiritual Retreat. The goal we set for ourselves this year was to live an experience that helps us, as Montfortians of Colombia, to make the decision to "return to first love".

And since the Lord and the Virgin Mary never disappoint, they made us live original, surprising and unprecedented aspects:

**The theme:** The itinerary of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, the center of our spirituality and missionary methodology to live and make live the reign of Jesus Christ. In an atmosphere of faith and prayer, always before the Blessed Sacrament, we reflect and pray on the two fundamental stages of preparation: emptying ourselves of the spirit of the world and filling ourselves with Jesus Christ. And in the final celebration, in a simple and sincere way, we renewed in community our total consecration to Jesus through Mary.

**The Preacher:** We did not have a preacher. This time, we decided to be the preachers ourselves. Each day, one of the confreres creatively and in his own way led the reflection and prayer on the theme of each day. It was a very pleasant experience and appreciated by all.

**The methodology:** spiritual conversation. Own discernment on the path of the synod of the synodality of the Church proposed by Pope Francis. It was a true grace of the Holy Spirit to to express ourselves and listen with attention and respect in the different types of

conversations in the small groups. In the last meeting of each day, we gathered what we believe to be the calls of the Spirit and the signs of time for us as Montfortians in Colombia.

**The laity:** for the first time we had the presence of four lay leaders who represented all the many lay associates of Colombia. They were not guests, but full-time participants. Their presence and participation were greatly appreciated by the confreres and by themselves as a sign of the breath of the Spirit for our Province.

**Thanks to the Lord.** Thanks to Mary our mother. Thanks to Montfort our guide. Thanks to the Holy Spirit who encourages us to follow the path of reconfiguration of this small and poor company of Montfortian missionaries in Colombia.

*Jaime Oved smm*

*Provincial Superior of Colombia*