



### **First Profession 2021 at Kanathi**

**KANATHI, India** - Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort wrote in his letter, "*I have done all God asked me to do for them in a spirit of love.*" (L-20)

Making the First Religious Profession is something that gives immense joy. Certainly, it is true as we, the 7 novices, experienced that wonderful feeling when we made our First Profession. As our Holy Founder states in his letter, we could experience that same spirit of love while professing our vows. The joy of entering a new life and becoming a member of a new family was experienced by each one of us. We feel protected as we entrusted ourselves into the hands of Mary and made our Profession. We are also proud of being Montfortians by living our lives with the spirit of our Holy Founder, St. Louis-Marie de Montfort.

We are grateful to God for making us His own by choosing and allowing us to be true children of Mary as we join the Company of Mary. We also extend our sincerest thanks to our parents, formators, the congregation at large and those people who helped and brought us to light. We have taken the major decision to offer ourselves to God, seek His direction and associate ourselves to our beloved Mother and to our Holy Founder, Saint Montfort.

This is the spirit of love and joy that we have received and we will continue to live in the same spirit. Finally, it is a privilege for us to commit ourselves fully and take responsibility as we enter into this new life. We feel proud in entrusting ourselves totally into this Montfortian family.

*Sudeepkumar & Balayesu Konakala*

### 33 Days of Montfortian Retreat

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021, we, the novices, started our Montfortian retreat. At first, we thought it was not possible for us to do it as the government imposed tougher restrictions on public and private gatherings. However, with God's grace and the assistance of Mary, we were able to make it possible without incurring any problems as we went on with our retreat.

This 33-day Montfortian retreat was animated by 4 of our very own SMM Fathers and it enabled us to gain the spiritual realm on the World, Self, Mary and Jesus. Each day of our retreat was filled with a lot of inspirations and creative thoughts and it helped us relish the days in prayer, silence and reflections. It increased our love for God and our special devotion to Mary. Meditations in the environment filled us with joy and pleasant feelings.

The daily adoration and personal accompaniments strengthened and helped us to stride forward with confidence on our journey to experience GOD more deeply. We were also coherent and lucid in expressing our feelings to our animators.

We also had the opportunity to show our love for Mary through our prayers and decorations. Inner healing and "cleansing of our family tree" sessions played a prominent part in the knowledge of Jesus. This program enabled us to be in touch with our good but challenging experiences. We were able to relish the true and comforting presence of Jesus and Mary in these experiences. Indeed, this spiritual journey provides a deep and overwhelming experience with God.



*Bro. Alex A.  
Bro. Balu A.  
Bro. Naveen D'souza*

## Marian Consecration



We, the seven novices, were extremely happy and forever grateful to God for the day of our Consecration to Jesus through the hands of Mary has come true.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, in the evening, we made our Consecration in 3 stages. The First Stage is the "Allegiance to the Word of God". After introducing us to the liturgy, one by one, we kissed the Word of God and while placing our hands over the Bible, we professed our faith and promised to put into practice daily the Word of God. It took place at the entrance of the new wing in the presence of the main celebrant, Fr. Reni Joseph, SMM and some members of the community. It was indeed a great moment for all of us to imitate our Holy Founder who had a great love for the Word of God.

The Second Stage is the 'Renewal of the Baptismal promises. While reciting the Hail Marys, we then moved to the Baptismal font prepared near the icon of the Pentecost. The Celebrant blessed the Baptismal font with Holy water and after he sprinkled over us, one by one we went forward and kissed the paschal candle and lighted up our candles. Then, we renewed our baptismal promises while kneeling and dipping our hands in the bowl which was placed there.

The Third Stage is the 'Consecration and the Covenant of Love'. Then, while singing the Gloria, we all moved to the chapel. We had the gospel reading and a short homily preached by Fr. Esak. After which, we lighted up our candles and made our Consecration to Jesus through Mary. After the Consecration, one by one we went and kissed the statue of Our Lady of Wisdom and signed in the book of Covenant of Love which was arranged and kept at the altar.

Finally, the main celebrant blessed the cassocks and the cords. Then, he handed them over to us novices and the fathers helped us to wear our cassock with the cord. The liturgy of Consecration ended with a hymn to Montfort. It was a memorable evening.