



Unique Christmas atmosphere in Schimmert

SCHIMMERT, the Netherlands - After celebrating “the Feast of the Immaculate Conception” some time ago in the Vroenhof community, the Netherlands, on Thursday, December 19, 2024, we (the Montfortians) gathered again for a joint activity, namely a visit to Schimmert. That day we were not alone. Our congregation employees and volunteers were also invited. The joint activity began with a Mass together at the Montfortan monastery of Schimmert; followed by a visit to the Schimmert parish church.

There, Jhon van Oss presented to us the beginning of the formation of the *crib working group* for in Schimmert, where he had previously been present as a parish priest. It should be noted that the crib working group is an attraction in the Schimmert parish during Christmas. The parish church and the village of Schimmert are filled with attractive kerstals/cribs and lights. Visitors come from various regions to see and experience a very different Christmas atmosphere here.

For the author, the promotion of cribs/kerstal during this Christmas season is a way of catechizing about faith to the people. People are invited to see the beauty of Kerstal as a way to admire the beauty and greatness of God's historical work.

After the visit to Schimmert church, we enjoyed lunch together at Schimmert as well. At the end of this visit, Fr. Peter DENNEMAN, SMM, our provincial, expressed his gratitude and wishes for a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025 for our presence and participation.

The visit seemed simple but very inspiring where the presence and mission of the Montfortians would not have gone well without the presence and cooperation of the employees and volunteers. From the Netherlands we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025.

Stefanus MUSANAI, SMM