

MA-SG

ISSUE 05
DECEMBER
2020

Montfortian Associates - Singapore



Prayer to St Joseph

HAIL, GUARDIAN OF THE REDEEMER,
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.
TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;
IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;
WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.

BLESSED JOSEPH, TO US TOO,
SHOW YOURSELF A FATHER
AND GUIDE US IN THE PATH OF LIFE.
OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY, AND COURAGE,
AND DEFEND US FROM EVERY EVIL. AMEN.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Zerah Goh, President of the Montfortian Associates Movement

My dear Montfortian Associates and friends

What great joy it brings to us this Christmas, that Pope Francis has proclaimed the Year of St. Joseph for the Church!

I am sure St. Louis Marie de Montfort is happily doing a Celtic jig in heaven, as he himself had a steadfast devotion to St. Joseph. In fact, he wrote an entire hymn in honour of St. Joseph where he was amazed that St. Joseph, amidst the dangers and uncertainties in his situation, took upon himself to be the foster father of Jesus Christ:

*You (St. Joseph) have carried in your arms,
The Child holding all things in His hand.
- Hymn 122:3*

Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic which has ravaged the world for more than a year since November 2019, it is easy to ask the question "Where is God now?" but much harder to respond "This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing". We should ask not "Where or why must this happen to me" like Job did, but rather dream and wonder "How can we bring this about?" like St. Joseph did. We worry about so many things and what the future will be when only one thing is necessary; the Love of Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, Jesus Christ.

This Christmas let us receive the "creative courage" from St. Joseph, to be courageous like the bold lion and to be lively like the nimble deer in our faith journey. Let us allow the words of God through angel Gabriel echo within us:

*"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." – Matthew 1:20*

With complete trust that God is ever close to the broken-hearted and loves humanity to the point of death on a cross, let us continue to cultivate with a paternal heart, a tender and total love for Christ who is very much present especially in those whom the world rejects.

St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family. Pray for us!

MA COMMUNITY BUILDING DAY

By Paulette Lirio, Outreach Sub-committee of the Montfortian Associates Movement



The Montfortian Associates came together at Montfort Centre for prayers and community fellowship on 5 September 2020. We thought that in place of the regular September formation meeting, it would be good to reconnect with each other in Jesus and Mary. It was a joy being with Br. Dominic Yeo-Koh and Br. John Albert too!

I couldn't help but remember the feeling of excitement to be physically present in the Montfort Centre chapel with everyone. It was the first time for me to be back in the Chapel since the pandemic outbreak. There is nothing as wonderful for MAs on a First Saturday morning than to adore the Lord's Eucharistic presence in the tabernacle and honor the Blessed Mother on her birth month. I felt grateful for the graces that enabled us as MAs to pray and serve online during the CB period this year. Our hymns and prayers are meaningful for me, especially the Little Crown of Mary and the Prayer with Mary.

After the prayers, the MAs shared a fellowship over our potluck breakfast at the dining hall. We had to be mindful of having our meal and conversations over safe distances. It was the first time for most of us to listen to each other's stories of how we and our families are coping at this time. The atmosphere was a joyful thanksgiving for this community building opportunity and for the improving COVID-19 situation. We look forward to seeing more of each other and resuming our physical gatherings at Montfort Centre.

EVENING OF PRAYER WITH MONTFORT

My Experience Animating the Rosary Prayer in October 2020

By Cecilia Leong, Montfortian Associate

I have been attending the evening prayers pretty regularly at Montfort Centre. When I was asked to lead the session as a Montfortian Associate, I was excited but slightly apprehensive.

So with full trust in Mother Mary, I surrendered the evening prayer to her. I invited 4 people present to join in the praying of the rosary. All went smoothly.

The scripture reading was read and I invited the group to reflect on the reading. In Luke 6: 12-19, Jesus always spent the night in prayer. I pondered on this, I knew that to be close to the heart of Jesus, I must pray consistently, meditate on his words and allow the Words to captivate my heart.

So, are we ready to surrender totally to Jesus through the hands of Mother Mary?

St Louis de Montfort once said: "If you say the rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins, you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory" (Secret of the Holy Rosary).



CURIOSITY

Leads Me to the Way of Mary

By Jenny Ong, Montfortian Associate & TCM Batch 4 Participant

Hello everyone,

I am Jenny, a lay volunteer from 2001 to 2020 and spent several years working in the mission field of the Philippines and China. After several years in mission, I felt that my faith seems to reach a plateau where I found myself backsliding on prayer life and scripture reading. It became worse when I was taken out of the community life schedule and routine.

As I was trying to get back on track with my prayer routine, I started searching through the lives of saints. I came through articles of holy saints of men and women and saw one common thread... their great devotion for Mother Mary.

I wonder why these holy man and women on earth had such great devotion to Mother Mary? After all, she is just a creature and not god. Besides, I might be as ignorant as others putting Mary higher than God. But then again, why did St. John Paul II, St. Mother Teresa, St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Louis de Monfort all testify that to Jesus through Mary is the way to their holiness?

That thirst for answers started my search and I finally landed in Monfort Centre for their Christmas party and was introduced to St Louis de Monfort's "True Devotion to Mary".

What seems impossible at first to begin the journey was my potential job search which may require me to work on Saturdays. While all the preparation sessions through Zoom were held on Saturdays.

Through Divine Providence, I was able to attend 95 percent of the zoom sessions! The TCM (Total Consecration to Mary) session helped me discover how weak I am and that I won't be able to make it without help from the divine to reach holiness.

The model of Mary is a perfect example of a true disciple and Jesus makes it clear that we should take her as our spiritual and heavenly mother. A mother who truly knows the struggle of her children on earth we are facing and who will come to our aid if we sincerely ask for her help and build friendship with her.

I took my total consecration to Mary last month on 15 November 2020. It is only the beginning of my journey with Mary. I am still struggling and stumbling on my spiritual journey balancing work and life. What has changed is that I am now confident that I am not alone on this journey for I have a heavenly Mother who walks with me on this spiritual journey. With her leading and guiding, I am confident that this is the surest way to reach Jesus, her beloved son and my beloved Lord.



Spreading the Sweet Fragrance of Jesus

Soap-making Workshop & Fundraising

By Doreen Law, Montfortian Associate

Montfortian Associates Movement, formed in 2015, has 42 members enrolled. We met once a month for formation and followed by lunch for bonding. Our mission is to live, share, and promote the charism and spirituality of the total consecration according to Montfort. This is also done through community engagements. On one occasion, Montfortian Associates (MA) organized an outing to Coney Island and the event was very fruitful. Participants were in high spirits and were looking forward to participating in more of such outings.

Unfortunately, in 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were not able to continue with the outdoor activities. The Circuit Breaker period had restricted us from in-person gatherings. However, we continued to connect with each other through virtual meetings.

We were allowed only 20 members to meet up for our formation after Circuit Breaker ended. Social distancing and restrictions were on going and thus, social activities were limited.

A soap-making workshop was organised in October. Fransiska Sinardi, the owner of Fransiscraft.com conducted the workshop cum formation titled "Mary as the Mould". Twenty members of the MA signed up for the soap-making session. We had the opportunity to benefit from the demonstration session on how to make soaps. This was followed by the hands-on session where we were able to demonstrate our newly-acquired skills and talents. During the break-out session, we shared our thoughts and reflections. Overall, it was fun and engaging.



Fransiska demonstrating how to make soaps



Montfortian Associates happily showing their handmade soaps

Being the month of the Holy Rosary, it was appropriate to order Rosary soaps from Fransiska to raise funds for the mission of the MA. Every MA who was present on the day the formation was commissioned and each of them received the 5 Rosary soap boxes so that they could spread the sweet fragrance of Jesus and discover their beauty through prayers.

During this commissioning, we were blessed, in the name of the Lord, for giving us the gift of each other and prayed that through the Holy Spirit those who encounter us may receive the revelations of the mysteries of the Rosary. From my perspective, the greatest joy we had was the commissioning to reach out to all our friends with love and support.

Occasionally, we meet up with friends and communicate through WhatsApp to raise funds. The engagements with others become more conversational and heart-felt. With the Covid-19 situation, I found it very challenging to raise funds. My brain does the planning, my fingers do the talking, and my physical being does the mission – to send the items to their destinations. Sometimes we may not get the response that we expected, but fundraising is Fun.

I did not realise that fundraising is a professional skill and responsibility. I threw myself into the deep end and have consequently learned a great deal in a short time through Br. Dominic Yeo-Koh. I remembered him telling me that fund-raising is fun-raising. I had no idea how to start but waited for time to fill my wisdom. I found it challenging and indeed, it was getting to meet and chat with people that inspired me. Fundraising comes naturally with the stirring of the Holy Spirit in your heart.



Br. Dominic Yeo-Koh sharing how to raise funds through selling Rosary soaps



Friendship Cross

By Rev. Br. John Albert, S.G., Local Superior



The Four of Hands symbolizes the “Admirable Exchange” of Love and Life. The Hands of the Triune God and of Mary, the Holy Virgin. The two color distinguishes the comingling of the divine and human natures.

The great meeting of the Transcendent Love and Humanity as represented by the “Fiat” of Mary of Nazareth make the great mystery of the leaping of the Word – Jesus Christ to the earth. “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” John 14:23

The fragrance and essence of “Friendship” is contemplated and born from it is the commitment to partnership.

The Divine and Human collaboration is the effects of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Grace of Baptism naturally creates the indissoluble union – the two shall become one. We are invited like Mary, the Holy Virgin to collaborate with God in whatever walk of life we may be led to.

Let us respond with our constant “yes”.

“For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name.” Luke 1:49

NEWS

@MONTFORT CENTRE

Montfort Centre is a mission of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel and has been serving the community as a spirituality and retreat centre since 2003. Our mission is to inspire and facilitate for each person to find their true purpose in life in the way of Montfortian Spirituality.

Earlier this year, we had to offer retreats and prayer sessions online for the very first time due to the lockdown in Singapore. As the demand for streaming our prayer and retreat sessions has increased, we have invested in better media equipment recently. This would not have been possible if not for your prayers, generosity and support. Soon, we will also be increasing the WiFi bandwidth and speed at Montfort Centre. We look forward to provide a better online Montfortian experience especially for you.

We are also excited to share with you a whole new Montfortian Experience programme line-up come 2021! Flip this page to discover for yourself what Montfortian Spirituality has to offer. We have now included the blended approach for those who just can't seem to find time to spend a whole weekend with us at Montfort Centre especially in this pandemic.

Come and refresh your soul. Visit our website at montfortcentre.org or scan the QR code below to indicate your interest in participating in any of our Montfortian Experience programmes.



STAY TUNED AND FOLLOW US ON:



DONATE

Support us in our mission to continue working towards facilitating for each person a greater sense of purpose in life and a greater commitment to the least among us.

<https://www.montfortcentre.org/donate>

MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE

JAN 19, 21, 26, 28, 30	Love of Eternal Wisdom	BLENDED
MAR 9, 11, 16, 18, 20	Companions of Jesus	BLENDED
APR 23, 24, 25	The Gentleness of Wisdom	CLASSIC
MAY 11, 13, 18, 20, 22	True Devotion to Mary	BLENDED
JUN 4, 5, 6	Paternal Heart	CLASSIC
JUL 20, 22, 27, 29, 31	Authentic Discipleship	BLENDED
SEP 10, 11, 12	Friends of the Cross	CLASSIC
OCT 8, 9, 10	Mary Full of Grace	CLASSIC

BLENDED 4 NIGHTS (ONLINE) + 1 DAY (FACE-TO-FACE)

CLASSIC 3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS (FACE-TO-FACE)

MONTFORT 
CENTRE
ALL FOR GOD ALONE

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