

MGA-SG

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Montfortian Gabrielite Associates - Singapore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ambrose Chua, President of the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates

Dear fellow Montfortian Gabrielite Associates,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022. We have just celebrated Easter and as we roll away the tomb to welcome the Risen Lord, I am pleased to announce the new executive committee of the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates ("MGA" for short). The change of name from Montfortian Associates to Montfortian Gabrielite Associates was in accordance with Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel's promulgation of its partnership charter in 2019.

The executive committee was elected by our Associates who voted at the MGA Annual General Meeting on 5 March 2022 and will hold office for a term of 3 years from 2022 to 2025. Let me introduce the Executive Committee:



President - Ambrose Chua
Vice President – Cynthia Chong
Secretary – Livia Soetedjo
Assistant Secretary – Cecilia Leong
Treasurer – Lydia Alexkartadjaja
Committee Head for Outreach – Brian Ooi
Committee Head for Formation –
Edward Chu
Committee Head for Community Building –
Cynthia Chong

The executive committee is humbled by the confidence of our fellow Associates and with God's grace and the prayers of our Blessed Mother, we seek to serve God in our community of the MGA, causing our Associates to be united with the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel in prayer and to collaborate with them and share in their apostolate and works especially in reaching out to the poor, those marginalized and neglected by society.

As we settle into our roles, it is our wish to deepen the Montfortian Spirituality in the lives of our Associates. St Louis Marie de Monfort lived his life in God for others, trusting in God alone in

everything, in the everyday through seeking Wisdom Incarnate. We wish therefore for Associates participating in the Monfortian way to express the four tenets:

- Trusting in Divine Providence
- Living in the Presence of God
- Authentic Care for the Poor
- Courage in Suffering

Over the course of the next few months, the executive committee will be meeting regularly to review and determine our path in Monfortian Spirituality. We are however fortunate that the previous executive committee has put together a program we can follow and we thank the generosity of our Associates in their partnership and gift of time, effort and talent in this endeavour.

With this I like to end my introductory message with a prayer for everyone reading this: "Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve as you deserve, To give and not to count the cost, To fight and not to heed the wounds, To labour and not to seek to rest, To give of myself and not ask for a reward, Except the reward of knowing that I am doing your will." (St Ignatius)

Total Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary 2022

By Livia Soetedjo, Secretary of the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates

St Louis de Montfort recognized that at its very foundation Christian life is nothing less than a total sharing and a profound participation in the life of Jesus Christ. Fr de Montfort's great desire was to produce a stable, deep, profound devotion to Our Lady in the heart of the Christian faithful. Because through that, he recognized that Christian life itself will be renewed and this is the key to the renewal of the Church. In the words of Fr de Montfort, no one can truly be a child of God the Father without also being a child of Mary.



Many of us come to the idea of consecration in various ways. We recall "The Heart of Living" seminar organized by the Montfortian Associates on 2 October 2021. 90 people attended the seminar and listened to Brother Dominic Yeo-Koh's sharing on how Mary gave her consent for God's will to be done. During the seminar, Brother Dominic also invited participants to reflect whether they have given their 'yes' to God.

This year as we celebrate the 180th anniversary of the discovery of True Devotion, Montfortian Associates Singapore embarked on the 5th batch of the Total Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary (TCM) Journey. Upon attending “The Heart of Living” seminar, 57 participants were inspired to begin to learn the True Devotion and embark on this journey to make an act of consecration to Our Lady and endeavor to live the consecration.

Participants are divided into 6 groups and 12 Montfortian Associates from previous batches are involved in this journey as facilitators. The TCM journey will take about 9 months.

The Preparation for Total Consecration involves the following movements:

- Introduction and Renunciation of the world – 12 days, started on 22 January 2022
- Knowledge of self – week 1 (7 days)
- Knowledge of Mary – week 2 (7 days)
- Knowledge of Jesus – week 3 (7 days)
- Total Consecration Retreat on 7-9 October 2022

The first session was introduction and renunciation of the world; it was conducted online on Saturday, 22 January morning. Participants had the chance to get to know each other and to get to know the facilitators before sharing the reflection question. There will also be face-to-face sessions at Montfort Centre at the beginning of each movement.

We pray for God’s graces and protection over all participants and all people involved in this TCM journey. May Almighty God grant us His graces to surrender ourselves fully into the care of the great Mother of God in the same way that the Lord himself has done for us and for our salvation.

My Personal Inspirational Journey

*15 years of prayerful blessing (Anniversary) at Montfort Centre
from 2007-2022*

By Doreen Law, Montfortian Gabrielite Associates

In 2002, I was baptised and was very inspired with my spiritual journey. Baptism gives us rebirth in God’s own image and likeness, and makes us members of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Perhaps I see God used many flawed people in many great ways through their peaks and valleys. In life, we all go through seasons. Some are wonderful and some are very rough. We go through mountaintop experiences and we go through deserts. I lived my baptismal promises and faithfully renewed them every year.

By embarking on a spiritual journey, I could discover who I am truly are. A spiritual journey is a very insightful quest



to deepen our awareness about life. Up on the hilltop at Montfort Retreat Centre I discovered the inner peace and an ardent desire to come for more retreat. I cherished the environment as it was relaxing and uplifting. I was inspired and attended several Montfort Experience Retreats organized and animated by Bro. Dominic Yeo-Koh with Bro. John Albert and Bro. Paul Raj from India.

Late Bro. Denis shared with us "The Glimpse of Montfort", in the exhibition room at Montfort Retreat Centre. At the entrance of Montfort Retreat Centre stood a statue of St Louis Marie de Montfort, the Missionary priest, aspires to welcome retreatants. My first encounter with the Montfort mission started from here. Unknowingly, God must have pointed me to walk the footsteps of Montfort Spirituality.

In 2007, I joined the evening of prayer and was inspired. The prayer is held on the last Wednesday of every month. After every evening of prayer, we meet for bonding, sharing and fellowship. On some occasions, we have lunch or dinner, birthday celebration, and Christmas gathering, with the Brothers and fellow Friends of Montfort. In 2016, we celebrated a joyful 10 years of prayerful blessings.

The prayer members made a short trip to Sabah with Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh and Bro Thomas Paul, and it was a fruitful trip. We visited the long house, the convent and the orphanage. I went twice, in 2015 and 2018, on the pilgrimage to France organized by Bro Dominic Yeo-Koh. It was a learning "Journey on the Footsteps of Montfort". It was a very experiential trip to know more about St. Louis Marie de Montfort's passion and his mission.

