Prayer for Divine Wisdom
(St. Montfort)

O God of our Fathers,
Acknowledging the great need I have
of your Divine Wisdom,
I come before you today,
to beg this grace of you
With all possible earnestness and the
greatest humility.
Send us, O Lord, this Wisdom, which
sits by your throne,
To strengthen our weakness
To enlighten our minds
To inflame our hearts,
To speak and to act,
To work and suffer in union with you,
To direct our footsteps and
To fill our souls
With the Virtues of Jesus Christ and the
gifts of the Holy Spirit.
For only Wisdom can bring us these gifts.
O Father of mercy, God of all consolation,
We ask you for this infinite treasure of
your Divine Wisdom.
Hear and grant our prayers. Amen.

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Editorial…
Thank you Fr. Vincent Augustine Kombarakaram, SMM

In 1982 as a young student who finished Higher Secondary studies, I joined the Montfort Fathers in Mysore, Gurumandir. Within few days of my arrival in Gurumandir, I spotted a young, short and handsome man who came for Mass everyday holding a hat in his hands. After the Mass, he used to walk through the corridors of the Minor Seminary and visit the vegetable garden. He had a loud voice and beautiful smile on his face. He made the young seminarians like me to feel at home and overcome the home sickness by his witty conversations mixing English, Malayalam, Kannada and Tamil languages.

He used to come every day for Mass on foot covering a distance of almost 5 kilometers to and fro. As a post theologian, he was placed in the Montfort Farm, Mysore. He is none other than our Beloved Priest Rev. Fr. Vincent. He was a walking missionary who never used a vehicle. He used to depend on others or use the public means of transport to go from place to place.

He was my assistant novice master for six months. During those six months, he inspired the novices through his sharing of the Word of God and through his personal life witness. He was a priest with golden hands who turned the rocky lands of the novitiate into a fertile field of agriculture. He never shied away from any kind of work. He found time for everything: personal prayer, pastoral ministry and manual work.

Gold is always dug out of the earth. And yet it is very precious and its value is beyond comparison. It is in possession of everyone. Fr. Vincent you were a golden priest for the Church and for the Montfort Missionaries. You were precious to us. Your value is beyond comparison. You were tested in the fire during the last one year. We offer you back into the hands of the Merciful
Father and into the hands of the Mother Earth as a shining gold, well tested and purified in the furnace of the pilgrimage of faith.

Dear Beloved Fr. Vincent, the seed is never buried. It is only sown by the former into the earth. The seed by submitting itself to the Mother Earth grows downward by sending its roots deep into the earth and grows upward by sprouting. On 25/04/2014 you left to rest in the bosom of the Eternal Incarnate Wisdom. We do not bury you, we sow you as a mature, pregnant seed, mature and pregnant with the contemplation of the Word of God. We sow you into this Mother Earth.

In and through the power of the Risen Christ, may you rise again in the company of our Founder St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Blessed Marie Louise Trichet and with all the saints and Angels, joining your voice with theirs, to sing Holy, Holy, Holy to the Triune God. May your soul rest in Peace. Thank you for all that you have done to the Montfortian Family and to the People of God.

Fr. Maria Cletus, smm

Provincial Superior

REV. FR. VINCENT AUGUSTINE KOMBARAKARAN SMM
(03/11/1949 – 25/04/2014)

Rev. Fr. Vincent Augustine Kombarakaran, S.M.M., was born to Mr. Augustine K.K. and Mary O.U. (Mariam in the baptism certificate of Fr. Vincent), on 3rd November 1949 at Kattoor, Trichur District, Kerala and was baptized on 11th November 1949 at St. Mary’s Church, Kattoor, Trichur Diocese by Rev. Fr. Theleluhara. He received his first Holy Communion on 12th May 1960 in the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Edathuruthy, Trichur and was Confirmed in the same Church on the 15th April 1967. He had three elder brothers who passed away, one younger brother (living) and an elder sister (living).

After the completion of SSLC from Pompie St. Mary’s High School, Kattoor, he had moved to Andhra Pradesh and spent some time in Vizag working and later joined St. Joseph’s Brothers, a Diocesan Congregation for Brotherhood in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Later he had applied to join the Montfort Missionaries in 1975 and joined them on the 11th June 1976.

He studied philosophy at Dharmaram College and in 1978 he was admitted to the first batch of novitiate in India under the guidance of Fr. Attilio Corna. On 31 May 1979 he made his first profession.
He continued his theological studies at Dharmaram and in 1982 he began his year of pastoral experience and stayed at Montfort Farm and followed the construction work. In the meantime, the Administration was to change hands, Fr. René Paul, the Assistant General in-charge of India who spent three months or so to oversee the project, proposed Fr. Vincent to be admitted for the Final vows which was approved by Fr. Lémire on 23rd December 1982 and on 9th January 1983 he made his Final vows at Guru Mandir, Mysore.

Fr. Kieran Flynn who was the Novice Master in India and was also in-charge of the Indian Delegation approached the then Bishop of Irinjalakuda Rt. Rev. Dr. James Pazhayattil, to get Fr. Vincent Augustine ordained deacon by the Bishop of Mysore Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathias Fernandes. In those days those who are from the Oriental Rite by Baptism had to get permission from their Bishop if they are getting ordained priests in a Congregation which is of Latin Rite. The ordination to deaconate took place on the 2nd February 1983 at the Montfort Farm in the presence of several confreres. He was ordained to Priesthood by Bishop of Irinjalakuda Rt. Rev. Dr. James Pazhayattil on 25th March 1983.

**Appointments and Ministry of Rev. Fr. Vincent Augustine:**

1983 – 1985: Assistant at Maria Bhavan
1985 – 1987: Studies at De Nobili College, Pune. We have in his file a letter written by Rev. Fr. Stan Fernandes, SJ, Rector of De Nobili College to Rev. Fr. Anil Kumar on 10th August 1986
1988 – 1990: Assistant Novice Master at Montfort Farm, Mysore
1991 – 1995: Assistant Parish Priest at St. Patrick’s Church, Bangalore
1999 – 2000: St. John the Baptist Church, Kuttoor, appointed by Bishop Vargheese C. Diocese of Kannur.
1999 – 2000: Mathamangalam Estate Manager, Parish Priest of Infant Mary Church, substation Madakkamiphi.

He returned with Malaria, Pneumonia and Jaundice to Bangalore. He was hospitalized for 35 days in three different hospitals received 15 days of Intensive Care Unit treatment and 4 days in Ventilator.

2008 – 2011: Montfort Farm
10/06/2011: Pallikere Parish Priest Diocese of Kannur for one year.
2012 – 2013: Hirekerur community member
2013 – 2014 Fr. Vincent participated in the annual retreat for the Montfort priests from 15th to 20th April, 2013 held in Mysore at the Pallotine Fathers.
During the retreat, I found him constantly coughing and weak in health. We took him to the Pallotine Sisters who were running a dispensary at Mysore. After the retreat, we admitted him in St. Martha’s hospital in Bangalore and was discharged from there on 15th May, 2013. Since there was no improvement in his health and dry cough continued, we took him to St. Philomena’s hospital, Bangalore and it was there he was diagnosed of having cancer in his lungs. Since that hospital did not have facility to treat cancer he was moved to HGC Bangalore on the 19th June, 2013 at the recommendation of Dr. Chetan Abraham. Fr. Vincent underwent six infusion sessions of chemotherapy. Initially he felt better but later the cough returned. The doctors at HGC examined him and said, he did not respond positively to the therapy and it can be hard to cure him. On the suggestion of his friends he tried the Ayurvedic treatment from Shimoga. On 3rd November, 2013, with his friends and well-wishers, Fr. Vincent celebrated his last birth day with us. We saw him happy, radiant and joyful during the celebration.

Because of lack of room and enough space to move at Adarsh Bhavan, I took Fr. Vincent to Anugraha community at Sumanahalli on 12th December 2013. He was quite happy in the community. On the 4th March 2014, Fr. Vincent accompanied by Fr. Gerard Smith went to Kerala to Montfort Nilayam community, Thokkanamotta. Around 3.00 pm on the same day he had gone to Pallikare parish to meet his friends, after which he had gone to Neeleswar, where Fr. Roy Nedunthanam is the parish priest. He had celebrated Ash Wednesday with him on the following day, the 5th March, 2014. Towards evening he reached Kannur and stayed with his Cousin Mr. Peter and family at Pappinassery.

On the 28th March, I received a call from Fr. Vincent, telling me that he was in Kannur with his Cousin Brother and that he wanted to see me. The same day, I went to our Pre-Novitiate community for a visit. And on the 29th morning I met him along with Fr. Dominic Sebastian, Fr. Anthony Pereira and Fr. K.J. Michael and I had sent an email to all confrères on the 7th April, 2014 informing about his weak health condition. On Maundy Thursday (17th April) I called Fr. Vincent to wish him. His voice sounded to me further weakened and feeble. On Friday the 25th April 2014 around 3 O’clock, Fr. Vincent had developed breathlessness. Mr. Peter with the help of Precious Blood Sisters rushed him to a hospital in Cherukunnu run by the Cannossian Sisters. The Bible says that the death comes like a thief, when we least expect it (1 Thes 5: 2). At 9.15 pm, the same day, Fr. Vincent breathed his last bidding all of us good-bye. May he rest in Peace!

I would like to thank the communities of Adarsh Bhavan and Anugraha: Fr. Johnson (Superior of Adarsh Bhavan), Fr. Gerard Smith (Superior of Anugraha) Fr. Ravi (Administrator of Adarsh Bhavan), Fr. Maria Saleth (Administrator of Anugraha) and Fr. Nepolean (before he could go to Jayanagar Parish) for looking after Fr. Vincent wonderfully. I am grateful for the Pre-novitiate community, Montfort Nilayam, for receiving Fr. Vincent and enabling him to meet his old friends.

Words are not enough to thank the cousin brother of Fr. Vincent, Mr. Peter and family for taking care of him for more than a month. This family is the witness to the final battle that Fr. Vincent waged with pain and death. I thank all our confrères who met Fr. Vincent and prayed for him.

Though there is so much of sadness in all of us at the loss of Fr. Vincent, we also see on the other hand, it is a powerful moment of grace, for all Indian Montforts because he is the first one to
The Link

meet the Lord and receive the gift of Eternal Life. This is the first experience of death in the community of Montfort Fathers.

This is also the time to ponder over the mystery of relationships and memories... Now we have totally a new world before us! It is into this ‘New World’ we all must learn to enter.

INTERNATIONAL FORMATORS AND VOCATION PROMOTERS MEET - MALANG, INDONESIA

Indonesia is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia and Oceania. Indonesia is an archipelago comprising 13,466 islands. It encompasses 33 provinces and is a Special Administrative Region with over 238 million people, making it the world’s fourth most populous country. Indonesia is a founding member of ASEAN and a member of the G-20 major economies. The Indonesian economy is the world’s 10th largest by nominal GDP.

The name Indonesia derives from the Greek words Ινδός and νῆσος, which means "island". It was here, an international formators meeting of the English speaking countries was held in Malang, East Java Province, Indonesia. It was held from October 20 to November 2, 2013 in the retreat house of the Passionist sisters. The participants were coming from India, Malawi, Philippines, Rome, and Indonesia as the host. From India, the participants were, Fr. Balashowri, Fr. Reni, Fr. Richard and Fr. Judis. As all the participants arrived in Malang, they were welcomed in the scholasticate community with some Indonesian overwhelmed cultural performances. The meeting officially begun with a solemn Mass which was presided by Fr. Enrique, SMM and a serenade by the choir of Scholastics community.

The first week of this meeting was a retreat conducted by Fr. Darminto, SJ, on the theme, “Searching for Religious Formators Today.” Fr. Darminto underlined the qualities of a formator such as, a man who can live and identify his whole life with Christ-Incarnate Wisdom, in order to be the bread of life (John 6:9-11,35), the living water (John 7:37-39), and the light (John 8:12) for the candidates. Here every formator was invited to have an intimate relationship with God, with the congregation, and with the church. In addition, he must be a man who is always ready to be formed. And he also related in detail the spirit of St. Montfort and the zeal for Christ. The second part of the sessions was always included group discussions. All sessions were deepened and enriched by group sharing, presentation, and discussions.
This week led everyone to realize that, how important it is to be a formator and how challenging it is to be faithful in this the task as a formator. All these led to a great enlighten and a realization. The second week of the meeting was focused on the Ratio, formation volume 2, especially on the stages of vocation animation, aspirancy and postulancy. Each entity presented the reality of formation process on these stages. Also the innovative ways of vocation promotion in each entity was presented and discussed. Through the sharing and presentation, each entity learned from one another in finding the best and possible way of doing these ministries in their respective entities. It was also somehow an exchange of knowledge and experiences. They also realized that it is indeed a big challenge to be a formator, today, and therefore, walking together must be in the minds and hearts of all the formators in-charge. The meeting was closed by a mass presided by Fr. Luigi, SMM and followed by a delicious dinner and entertaining cultural program. The concluding cultural program was participated and presented by all the confreres from all the entities who participated. It was really a note to end with. Above all, all through everyone felt spirit of brotherhood and the spirit of Montfortian Family.

THE SENIOR PRIESTS’ MEETING

The senior priests’ meeting was held at the shrine of Our Lady of Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu from 19th to 24th November, 2013. We had course for two days on Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. The resource person was Rev. Fr. Lawrence, CMF. He gave us the background to the origin of Wisdom Literature going back to the 6th Century B.C. which was a moment of crisis for the people of Israel. He spoke on Mt 2:1ff where three Kings from the East come to adore the new born Jesus. The offerings of the Kings, Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh indicate three problems of life: Gold stands for the problem of wealth, frankincense stands for the problem of authority and power and Myrrh stands for the problem of bodily pleasure. These three are the evils that continue to create upheavals in all walks of life. By offering these three gifts to the Emmanuel, the three Kings from the East surrendered themselves by recognizing and adoring the greatest power, the Incarnate Wisdom, both in heaven and on earth.

The synoptic Gospels present Jesus as the Wisdom teacher who went in search of human beings as Wisdom went in search of people worthy of her. Jesus called the people to himself because he was a person of communion. He himself was gentle and humble: “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (Mt. 11:28). In like manner we find Wisdom calling people to herself: “Draw near to me…” (Sir. 51:23); “Come to me…” (Sir. 24:19-22); “…you will find the rest she gives…” (Sir. 6:28). Wisdom’s laws are compared to the yoke: “Her yoke is a golden ornament…” (Sir. 6:30). Humility and meekness are the virtues of Wisdom (Sira. 3:17-23; 10:26-31).

**Eucharist as Wisdom Banquet:** Banquets were the means of learning and knowledge was considered as banquet. Therefore we have this invitation to walk in the way of insight and lay aside immaturity: “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed” (Pro. 9:5). Eucharist is a meal of communion and this is also the synthesis of Jesus’ spirituality.
Crucified Wisdom: 1Cor 1:24 “We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” St. Paul discovered the Crucified Wisdom in and through his sufferings (2Cor 11:16-29). How is Crucified Wisdom the power of God? In everything St. Paul discovered the power of the Resurrection. Therefore, he could say: “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness” (2Cor. 11:30). He would continue to say, “I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong” (2Cor. 12:10). In 2Cor 13:4 he says, “For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God.”

Mary, the Seat of Wisdom: Wisdom Lady gathers her children in her house. Luke presents the annunciation to Mary as the beginning of New Creation (Lk 1:26-38). From chaos and no life, God created new life and order. The aspect of perfect obedience that we find in the first creation, we find also in Mary. In and through her obedience, Mary becomes a cosmic person. She becomes the person of communion communicating the joy of the Holy Spirit to everyone.

After these inspiring sessions, the group went on a Pilgrimage down to South Tamil Nadu. We visited many churches: Our Lady of the Snows, Sacred Heart Church, St. Xavier’s Church, Church of Our Lady of the Sand and St. Antony’s Church. All these churches are near the sea shore and they are the powerful manifestation of the faith of the people in Christ. We visited many towering Churches in Kottar Diocese: the place of the martyrdom of Blessed Devasagayam Pillai, the shrine of Archangel Michael, the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, where Francis Xavier baptized many people. We had a real spiritual experience of Faith, hope and love in Christ.

We would like to thank all the people who welcomed and extended to us their hospitality. First of all, heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Calistus, the Parish Priest of Mankuzhy, the parents of Fr. Judis Valan, smm, the family and relatives of Fr. Cletus, smm and the family of Bro. Nashwin for their hospitality. May God bless them all.

REGENTS’ MEETING: “SMELLING THE SHEEP”
Regents’ meeting was held for two days from 29th to 30th November in Maria Bhavan. All the regents who are having a year of pastoral experience after their Philosophy came together to share their experience with one another. The meeting was organized by Fr. Michael Sagayaraj, the Rector of Maria Bhavan and Fr. Maria Cletus, the Provincial. Fr. Michael Sagayaraj welcomed the
regents and gave them an input session on Montfortian mission. He told them that St. Montfort was a “people’s Missionary.”

His contemplation of wisdom and Mary came from his mission experience which marked his life from beginning to end. There is no discipleship without mistakes, no growth without pain. Montfort walked the way of the cross in order to find his path. What pushed him was the zeal for the salvation of the people and love for the poor. Fr. Michael asked the regents to imitate the apostolic zeal of St. Montfort. Each one shared his own experience of how he smelt the sheep during the period of Regency.

Bro. Prakash who was doing his regency in Bijapur said that he was happy with the Jesuit Missionaries, involved himself in the social work, worked for 12 villages and involved himself also in the primary school. The biblical verse that strengthened him every day is, “When I am weak, then I am strong.”

Bro. Arun was doing his regency in Montfort Farm. He said that this period of regency had been a very good experience. Since the workers left the farm, for four months he had to do all the works that the workers were doing: milking, cleaning the pigs, cleaning the cows and cooking. He felt that he lacked pastoral experience. However, he made himself available to teach hymns both in the Teresian College and GayathiriPuram Parish. The biblical verse that strengthened him is, “Foxes have holes, birds have nest but the son of man has no place to lay his head.”

Bro. Santhosh began his regency in Matasagara Parish in Chikamagalur Diocese with Fr. Isaac. He was happy in the parish helping Fr. Isaac and teaching catechism on Sundays. He involved himself also in translating stories especially from Montfortian writings in Kannada and taught them to children. Then he was shifted to Bethemcherla mission in Karnool Diocese. Here he took initiative to learn Telugu and is able to speak now. He took care of the boys in the hostel. He admired the participation of the youth in the parish activities. The biblical verse that strengthened him is, “I have come not to be served, but to serve.”

Bro. Jayakumar was doing his regency in Puthanatham parish helping Fr. Jesu Raj. Every evening when he went for Mass in the substations, he conducted rosary. He involved himself in taking care of the altar arrangement, catechism, and giving introduction for the Sunday mass and readings. The biblical verse that strengthened him is: “when God is with me, who can be against me.”

Bro. Jesudoss said that he had taken a challenging decision to go out of the country to continue his scholasticate. He went for the Spanish classes and now he was able to understand what the language is. During his free time in Maria Bhavan, he made use of his time in reading books, computer etc. Sunday ministries always kept him engaged and he was inspired by the people who are longing for Jesus. He made himself available to the community. The Biblical verse that strengthened him is: “You are precious; I have carved you in the palm of my hands” (Is 43:1)
Bro. Nashwin was doing his regency in Mehamalai quasi parish in the Archdiocese of Madurai with Fr. Philip Arockiyaraj. Mehamalai is a tea estate which is 3000 feet above the sea level. In the beginning it was a challenge for him to adjust to the weather, climate, people and a life without any basic facilities. But later he was inspired by the living condition of Fr. Philip and the poor people themselves. He was spending his time reading books, registering marriage and baptism certificates, manual work in the garden, preparing sermons, writing songs and in the evening he would go together with Fr. Philip for house visiting. On Saturday and Sundays he was going to three different estates to conduct prayer services. He had the opportunity to anoint the sick and bury the dead. The biblical verse that strengthened him is, “Before you were born in your mother’s womb, I chose you.”

Bro. Balaraju was doing his regency in Sira Mission with Fr. David. He was involved in the activities of the boarding, parish and community. In boarding there are 17 students. He visited the school children, read books, prepared sermons, took tuition, taught catechism and English for children. He conducted prayer services and took care of the children. In October together with Fr. David, he visited all the houses by taking the Marian statue conducting the rosary in the Montfortian way. Though he lived in a Muslim dominated area, he saw people coming in front of the grotto to pray for their personal needs. This faith of the people inspired him. The biblical verse that strengthened him is, “If you gain the whole world, and lose your own soul, what is the profit you get out of it?”

Bro. Pramod felt that he missed experiences like his companions. Regarding this year after attending the Spanish classes he was busy in coping up with a new language. For him it was a challenge to learn the new language and eventually he learnt it. Community life was good in Maria Bhavan. He also contributed to the need of the community whenever they required his help.

Bro. Ravi was doing his regency in Bijapur with the Jesuits and felt grateful to work with the Jesuits. In the beginning it was a challenge but later he made up his mind to interact with the people. He was in charge of boarding and there were 24 of them. He also taught English for middle school students. Two months he had tough time with the boarding boys and the language was another major difficulty. But everyone accompanied him in his difficulties. He also worked for the devadasi people. The biblical verse that strengthened him is, “Ask it will be given, search you will find and knock and the door will be open to you” (Mt 7:7).

On 30th, the regents had half day of recollection and prayer in the Ashram run by CMI fathers near Banarghetta National Park. After having a wonderful experience of being together and listening to one another, they have left for their respective places to continue their Regency.

Rev. Fr. J. Joseph, SMM went to England on 20th January, 2014 to collaborate with the England Province as part of International Mission Collaboration. I request your prayers for Fr. J. Joseph that the Incarnate Wisdom blesses him with good health, joy and happiness. He is at present in the community of Fr. Kiran Flynn, smm. His contact number is: +447466811453. May the Blessed Virgin Mary accompany him in his missionary endeavor.

MATASAGARA PARISH

“The more you honor me the more I will bless you.”

In the DIOCESE of chickmagalur Matasagara parish is dedicated to Infant Jesus. At present it is under the care of Montfortians, Father Isaac is the priest in charge and Fr. Prem accompanying him in the ministry. It is to give thanks to Infant Jesus for the innumerable blessings that we have received during the last
year, we the priests and parishners of Infant Jesus celebrated the annual feast on Thursday 23rd of January, 2014.

As a spiritual preparation for the feast we had three days of novena which began with flag hoisting and Holy Eucharist. The day before the feast we had colourful and prayerful procession in the village which was a faith witnessing among non Christians and many non-Christians joined and offered praises to Infant Jesus.

On the Feast day Holy mass was offered by Fr. Shanth Raj. He gave a meaningful homily appropriate for the occasion. The holy Eucharist was concelebrated by 31 other priests who have come from far and near. Fr. Cletus, our Father Provincial’s presence added colour and meaning to the celebration. There were almost one thousand people present. The Eucharistic celebration began invoking God’s blessing presence through the melodies choir by the parishners trained by the Montfort fathers. After we magnified the Lord in the Festal Celebration of the Eucharist we continued our celebration with the fellowship meal given to all those who were present. Infant Jesus showered his blessings on all the people who took part in this celebration.

**OUR EXPERIENCE IN PERU**

On 29th January, 2014, we, Bro. Philip Pramod and I, said good bye to our family and friends and started our journey to an unknown land called Peru. It was a wonderful moment because on the one hand we were excited of flying for the first time, and on the other hand missing the dear and near ones was bit hard.

We had a wonderful and exciting long journey all the way from India to Peru. We started our journey on 29th January around 4.25 am from Bangalore and reached Doha around 6.00 am. We had to wait for one hour for the next flight from Doha to San Paulo (Brazil). We reached Brazil around 2.00 pm in the afternoon. We waited for three hours and we took another flight to Lima at 5.00 pm and we reached Lima around 10.30 pm. There Fr. Luigi and one more father were eagerly waiting for our arrival. We reached our house in Ñaña outskirts of Lima around 11.30 pm.
When we landed in Peru it was already night. As we travelled towards the community, everything around us looked beautiful with the lights. As soon as we reached the house we took good rest. The morning when we got up and looked around, alas! What looked beautiful at night was looking very dry. All around us are hills. The hills are filled with small houses. Not even a single tree or a plant we could find on the hills. There were very few trees under hills.

As we came down from our rooms, we found out that the Delegation Assembly of Peru and Brazil delegation was held there. There were many priests both young and old. There were also brothers. When they spoke to us we could not understand anything except a few words. We received a warm welcome after the assembly. We found in them a welcoming and accepting heart. We stayed there for two more days after which we were moved to scholasticate where we live at present. Everyone in the community has an experience of being away from one’s mother country and all are aware how it feels.

Our community consists of Fr. Jose Angel, the superior of the community from Peru, Fr. Michael from France, Bros. Jose, Henry and Efrain from Peru, Bro. Oscar from Nicaragua, Bro. Raphael from Colombia, Bro. Samuel from Brazil, Bro. Hector from Ecuador and we two of us are from India.

The People of Peru are welcoming and loving. They do have a great respect for Indian culture. Once we attended a diaconate ceremony and after the ceremony the Bishop passing by us, saw us, stood in his place and said “namaste” with his folded hands. Many others do this when they recognize us as Indians. They do have a great love towards Indian music. These are the little things that make us feel proud to be an Indians, and make us feel one with the people, the culture and the language.

Life is interesting with all the new experiences and also challenging because often there are earth quakes but it does not bother us much. We just keep going and growing with all the opportunities that we have around us. All that we need from you is “your prayers.” Kindly remember us every day in your prayers.

ST. ANTHONY’S PARISH- MUIRIE(MANIPUR)

We who are working only in the Southern part of India wanted to extend our service either to the North or Northeast of India. With this intention and interest Rev. Fr. Anthony Pereira smm approached the Archbishop of Imphal expressing our desire to work in his diocese. The Bishop was very much pleased and invited us whole heartedly. Later we were given a mission centre
twenty two kilometers away from the Imphal city. The mission consists of eleven sub-stations.

It was on 21st August 2011 Most. Rev. Dominic Lumon D.D blessed and inaugurated this new Parish in the presence of Rev. Fr. Antony Pereira smm, including many of the dignitaries and the faithful of the parish. The Church was dedicated to St. Antony of Padua. Rev. Fr. Ruben Moses smm was appointed as the first parish priest and Fr. Kennedy smm was appointed as the assistant parish priest.

As we started to work in the parish, the people asked us to begin a School for their children as they did not have good School around the locality. We began the school in 2012 with the help and generosity of Mr. Ram Muivah IAS (Principal Secretary, Govt of Manipur). This generous person helped us to put up a temporary School with five class rooms from his savings. We started from LKG to 1st standard. In the following year, one more class room was added for the second standard students. We exercised our ministry both pastoral and educational well. The people were happy about our stay and work. Because of various reasons, the administration closed down this new venture into the North East in January, 2014.

**CANONICAL VISIT OF REV. FR. SUPERIOR GENERAL**
(From January 24, 2014 to February 23, 2014)

The Canonical Visit of our Superior General Rev. Fr. Santino Brembilla together with Rev. Fr. Dwi Watun, his Councilor to the Indian Vice-Province took from 24th January 2014 to 23rd February, 2014. During this one month, Fr. Santino and Fr. Dwi visited every community and met all the confreres of the Province. They visited Maria Bhavan community on 25th January and 3rd February. During their visits to Maria Bhavan, they met both the staff and students and on 22nd February, Fr. General gave minor orders of Acolyte and Lectors to Bro. Prashanth and Bro. Robert. On 26th January, 2014, the team visited Sira Mission Community. Fr. David and the faithful of Amalagundhi and Sira welcomed Fr. General and Fr. Dwi in the Eucharistic celebration. Towards evening they met Fr. Peter Mascarenhas at Davanagere where he was recovering from his surgery in his sister’s house. Then they proceeded to Hirekerur Mission community.

They stayed there for two days where they met the Balwadi children in Burudikatte village. The children gave them a colorful program to delight of all assembled. They met the teachers of Balwadi schools at Montfort Sadan, met the confreres, participated in the Con-celebrated Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. T. Joseph and relaxed watching the program given by the boarding boys.

On 28th morning, they left to Sneha Bhavan community. They were welcomed by all the members of the community. They met all the confreres of the community, the students and all the confreres exercising their priestly ministry in the diocese of Chikmagalore. The students of Sneha Bhavan community gave them a wonderful cultural program mostly based on the life of St. Montfort.

The next day morning they left for Kerala to visit the Pre-Novitiate. Fr. Dominic and the entire community welcomed them. In the evening the Pre-Novices gave a very inspiring cultural
program depicting the life of St. Montfort from his childhood till his priesthood.

On 30th afternoon they reached Mysore to visit both Gurumandir and Montfort Farm communities. The silver Jubilee of Fr. Michael Menezes and Fr. Jesu Raj was celebrated on 31st January, 2014 together with the feast of St. Montfort’s birth day. After meeting all the confreres of both communities and the students of Gurumandir, they reached Bangalore on 2nd February. On 4th they visited Anugraha community. The children of Anugraha community gave them wonderful and enjoyable program. They went to Indra Nagar to visit the Montfort Brothers on 5th evening. The brothers welcomed them and gave them delicious dinner.

On 6th February morning Fr. General and Fr. Dwi together with Fr. Balashowrie and Fr. Cletus went to the tribal Mission of Shantinagar. Fr. Balashowrie’s family in Vizakapatnam welcomed them while going and returning and gave them breakfast. Fr. General and Fr. Dwi blessed their families, thanked them for their hospitality and continued their journey to Shantinagar. At Kuruppam they were welcomed by Fr. Francis Bulipe and community in the newly bought land. They spent sometimes to go around the land and blessed the new land. They were taken to Shantinagar where the children welcomed them with bouquet of flowers.

On 7th February they went to Velagamanuguda, a substation of K.D. Jola parish to bless and to inaugurate a chapel. After thirty minutes of journey by vehicle, they had to climb a hill which took almost forty five minutes on foot.

Half way through their climbing they met a group of people who were waiting to welcome them with their musical instruments, umbrellas and water. The traditional way of welcoming the guests is by washing their feet. Two women come forward, make the guest sit on the chair and ask him or her to place the legs on a wooden platform. One would carry a small container of lukewarm water, wash the legs, wipe the legs with a towel, kiss the feet, shake the hands of the guest and tell him or her with a smile “limptham” means “welcome.” Dancing to the tunes of traditional music the people led them to their village. The village chapel was blessed by Fr. Superior General and Fr. Dwi inaugurated it. The con-celebrated Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Balashowrie. Fr. Jeevan, the Parish Priest, thanked Rev. Fr. George Madore, smm who sponsored the chapel and all those who participated in the celebration. With the agape they came back to Shantinagar.

On 8th February Fr. Kiran Babu led Fr. General and Fr. Dwi to Janarapti, a village where there is a shrine dedicated to our Lady in ShantiNagar Parish. Janarapti means spring. It is a place in the hills of Andhra-Orissa boarder. It’s a place where mother Mary appeared to a lay man called Ishmael few years back. The fathers were given the traditional welcome which was followed by well participated Holy Eucharist. At the request of the Provincial, Fr. Kiran and Fr. Jeevan
organized the meeting of all the Catechists of both the parishes where they expressed all their requirements.

After the meeting and the lunch which was given by the simple people, they came back to the community. In the evening, the students of Morning Star school gave a colorful cultural program to Fr. Superior General and Fr. Dwi. This program was organized by Fr. Francis Bulipe, the correspondent and headmaster of the school. On 9th early morning they left the mission station and reached Bangalore.

On the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, Fr. General and Fr. Dwi visited the Provincial community of the Daughters of Wisdom. Rev. Sr. Lilly, the Provincial Superior welcomed Fr. General and Fr. Dwi in the Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by Fr. General. During the sumptuous dinner, Fr. General and Fr. Dwi thanked them for the wonderful evening.

On 12th February, Fr. General and Fr. Dwi went to visit the communities in Tamil Nadu. They made their way directly to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni. On 13th morning they participated in the con-celebrated Eucharistic Celebration at the main altar. After experiencing the maternal care of Our Lady of Good Health, they went to Montfort Nivas community at Kumbakonam. Fr. Reni Joseph and Fr. Alexander together with the students welcomed them to their community. On 14th they visited S.Pudur parish community. They were welcomed by Fr. Prabhakar, the Parish Priest and Fr. Kennedy, the Assistant.

On 15th evening, the students of Montfort Nivas community exhibited their talents through a cultural program enacting various events from the life of St. Montfort. After meeting all the confreres and the students, they left for the Parish of Puthanatham in the Diocese of Trichy. They were welcomed by Fr. Jesu Raj, the Parish Priest, Bro. Jayakumar and the parish faithful. They participated in the con-celebrated Eucharist presided over by Fr. Cletus. The children of the parish gave a cultural program after the Mass. The parish council, legion of Mary, Vincent de Paul society, altar boys and Montfort’s Friends of the Cross, all these parish associations felicitated Fr. General and Fr. Dwi with shawls.

Towards 4 pm, they went to Trichy to stay with the Montfort Brothers. The Provincial of Trichy Province had invited almost all the brothers working in Trichy and had made all arrangements to welcome Fr. General and Fr. Dwi in their evening prayer. They could not reach in time because of the heavy traffic due to the state level political gathering in Trichy. They reached Kattur community of the Brothers only at 9.30 pm. Bro. Mariannan, the Provincial of Trichy Province welcomed Fr. General and Fr. Dwi through a sumptuous dinner. The next day the brothers showed them their recently started CBSC School at Kattur. They left the brothers place around 9.30 am and reached Bangalore on 17th February.

On 18th February, we had Council Meeting with Fr. General and Fr. Dwi. On 19th Fr. General together with Fr. Johnson went to Goa to meet Fr. Norbert. He made use of that opportunity to meet Fr. Anil Kumar also. That same day accompanied by Fr. Cletus, Fr. Dwi went to Montfort Ashram Parish at Bethemcherla. Fr. Aswini welcomed Fr. Dwi. He took him also to different substations. After meeting both Fr. Aswini and Bro. Santhos, Fr. Dwi returned to Bangalore on 21st and Fr. General returned to Bangalore from Goa on 22nd February. On 22nd evening Fr. Superior General conferred the Minor Orders of Acolyte and Lector to Bro. Prashanth and Bro. Robert. Before the dinner, Fr. Cletus thanked Fr. General and Fr. Dwi for their encouragement and for meeting all the confreres. They also thanked everyone in the Province and said good bye to Maria Bhavan Community and to the Indian Vice Province. On 23rd February, they returned to Rome.
SILVER JUBILEE

St. Paul wrote: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you…” (Phili 1:3). Yes, the Vice-Province thanks God for the gift of Fr. Jesu Raj and Fr. Michael Menezes for the Montfortian Family and constantly prays for them with joy. These two fathers on 31st January, 2014 celebrated their Silver Jubilee of their first profession. It was a memorable day which helped them to relive the memories of twenty five years of religious life. Their silver Jubilee was celebrated in the Eucharist celebration which was presided over by Fr. Michael Menezes. He thanked God for the showers of blessings that God showered both on himself and Fr. Jesu Raj. Both of them were very grateful for the gift of Vocation that God through his gratuitous love showered upon them. Fr. Maria Cletus, who gave the homily, stressed on the personal experience of Christ.

Citing the invitation of Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium, no. 3: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day,” the Provincial asked the Silver Jubilarians to thirst for the personal encounter with Christ and to share this encounter with everyone. Fr. Reni Joseph felicitated the Silver Jubilarians and congratulated them on behalf of the entire Province. The Silver Jubilarians shared their joy and happiness by cutting the cake.

CONFERRING OF MINOR ORDERS

It was on 22 February, 2014 two of our scholastics Bro. Robert and Bro. Prasanth who have just completed second year theology were given the minor orders of Lector and Acolyte at the scholasticate in Maria Bhavan. Rev. Fr. Santino Brembilla, our Superior General, who was the main celebrant of the Eucharist, conferred the orders to our brothers. He invited them as Lectors to be the bearers of God’s word and to participate in the mission of Montfort by teaching catechism to all. As Acolytes they were called to offer themselves as spiritual sacrifice and to have a sincere love for Christ’s mystical Body, the Church. Fr. Santino conferred on them the minor orders of Lectern and Acolyte. He reminded the brothers of the words of our Founder, “We must belong to Jesus and serve him not just as hired servants but as willing slaves, moved by generous love who commit themselves to his service after the manner of slaves for the honour of belonging to him” (TD 73).

Fr. Dwi in his homily invited the brothers as well as the whole province to live a life of witness through their service to the People of God. The Provincial community was present for this event together with the staff and students of Maria Bhavan.
Congratulations to our Brothers who came forward voluntarily to commit themselves to God Alone in and through the foot-steps of St. Montfort, our founder.

**THE HISTORY OF VELAGAMANUGUDA**

K.D. Jola Savara Tribal Mission Parish consists of 35 villages most of which are located in the hills. The total population is 4500 and the area is 4000 square kilometers. They speak the Savara dialect. It was part of the Shanthinagar Parish from which it was bifurcated on 26 June, 2005 for a better convenience and better organization. This particular tribal area was first evangelized by the missionaries. The missionaries walked on foot from hill to hill to bring good news to the tribal people. K.D. Jola parish is the fruit of their commitment.

Day by day people are coming to the way in faith and want to better their lives. The present life is far better than the past life of ignorance. Their lifestyle has been changed but their cultural heritage is safeguarded. Thanks to the missionaries. The so called ‘Savara Tribes’ are mostly living in the hills and few villages are situated at the foot of the hills. They have mostly the thatched huts to live in. The people are very much community oriented, which makes the community live and enthusiastic is their music dance.

Economically the people are very poor. If only they go for work on basis of daily wages they get the food for the day. They have little cashew plantation which is once a year crop. If there is rain during flowering time the crop fails and produces no fruit thus shattering the hopes and expectations of the people. What we need to appreciate is their hard work. They clean up the hills to cultivate some grains.

They bake their bodies in the hot sun light before they bake their food to be eaten.

On 6th February K.D. Jola Parish witnessed a very special event, which was graced by our Superior General Rev. Fr. Santino Brembilla and Rev. Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi, General Councilor and also Rev. Fr. Cletus, Provincial Superior of the Indian Province, to inaugurate the Chapel in one of our substations named Velagamanuguda, dedicated to St. Antony. This particular substation is situated on one of the highest mountains in our parish which is about 1500 feet from the ground level. To reach this substation there is no transport but to reach on foot. It takes about 45 to 1 hour to reach the place and it has 35 families and all are baptized and believe God and also accept Christ as the Savior. The people inspired me very much and touched my sentiments and my heart by their simple faith, their life style and above all by their cultural heritage. I was also touched by their deep faith in God and by their enthusiasm to walk any distance to attend mass and other spiritual activities. This is what inspired me most and thus, I took interest in building the chapel.

This village has a very interesting story to tell us all which is heart touching and inspiring. Let me pen down few thoughts what I gathered from the men who are living in their great age. It was during 1900 their forefathers lived in a village called ‘Sargiasing’ in Orissa. In this village people had a habit of drinking ‘Jeelaga Sara’ (local liquor), which is collected from a tree called Jeelaga. One of their forefathers who was then 10 or 12 years old, was also used to go with elders to drink this liquor and his name was Dabbuloor.
The boy went daily for Jeelaga Sara but the elders refused to serve him liquor because he was very small but he resisted and quarreled with elders and created havoc and nuisance.

As a result the elders of the village decided to kill him as early as possible. One day the elders went in search of him to his house, knowing that something was going wrong the grandmother of the boy hid him under the firewood. Soon after they escaped from them, day and night they walked down the hills and across the rivers and finally reached a village called Agamguda which is in Andhra Pradesh at present in K.D.Jola parish.

There they made a small hut and lived there for some time. A few months later his grandmother died and he remained alone until he attained marriageable age and then started searching for a partner in life. He asked a girl from Agamguda village but they did not give him because he was from Orissa he then tried to get a girl from balleruguda but failed. Finally he got a girl from Chaparaiguda. They lived together in a hut which is little away from Agamguda in the forest.

One day a strange and fearful incident happened to them, the hut in which they were living was thrown up by the wind around 6km far away and from that day onwards the place was called as Galimanuguda. They were afraid to live any longer in that place hence, shifted to another place and built a hut and lived there and they called that place as Sargiasing (It was the place in Orissa where they originally came from). The place where they built the new hut was surrounded by large number of Velaga Trees and so they renamed that place as Velagamanaguda. From then on their forefathers were in Velagamanaguda since 1935 and now we continue to live in this place.

We the people of Velagamanaguda came to know Christ in 1994 and our elders were interested in it and we went to Agamguda every Sunday for the Sunday Prayers and worship. We received Baptism in the year 2006 by Rev.Fr. Roy Smm (Baptism 11-06-2006).

Now we are about 35 catholic families in the village. We are grateful to Rev.Fr. George Madore Smm and Indian Province for helping us build new church in our village. This will help us to grow strong in our faith. We thank God for his marvelous love towards us and we sincerely thank Montfort Fathers for their selfless service.

**BETHAMCHERLA**

Lent is a call to come closer to God and to experience the merciful love of God. It is a season for spiritual strengthening. It is an occasion to personalize the gracious love of God the Father revealed through the Son Jesus Christ. It gives us a chance to experience this attraction of God's love. It is joy to tell that Sacred Heart Parish, Bethamcherla, had conducted one day Fasting, Prayer and Healing service in the Church where Deacon Brother Xavier from the congregation of Missionaries of Faith led the Prayer service. I am really grateful for his availability. He is a man filled with Spirit, prayer and gift of the healing. People just stuck themselves to the places where they were sitting and were never tired of listening to him who was proclaiming the Word of God. I really saw the thirst of the people wanting to repent and reconcile with the Lord. The preacher had
touched their hearts, moved their lives, and made them aware of the sinfulness and need of the mercy of God. My eyes have witnessed the hundreds of people raising their hands and shedding their tears calling for the mercy and love of God.

That is the reason I titled “Grace, filled the House of God.” Yes, I am a witness to testify the grace coming upon the faithful. As in (Psalm 50:15) God says, “Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me”. I saw the joy of deliverance in the face of the people. As every temptation leads us to God for His strength and mercy, so to this is a great occasion during lent to lead the hearts of the faithful to seek for God’s love and mercy.

We had the healing session in the evening where Deacon Xavier delivered many from the clutches of the evil spirit and blessed the couples who are childless which are his special gifts from God. Whole gathering was wonder stricken at the healing this taking place in the name of Jesus and in fact it really increased the Faith of the faithful. The faithful including some Hindus and the religious of the parish all numbering about 600 were there till evening 7 pm. The people expressed their joy of going back with the Grace and Blessings of God. The testimony of the faithful was “No one was tired of listening to the Word of God, no one was feeling hungry or thirsty and they expressed never before they saw such things happening.” Praise the LORD.

**Report**

In our midst is He who loved us even to giving his life for us, it is He who invites every human being to draw near to him with trust. “What a great thing it is to possess the Cross! He who possesses it possesses a treasure”. “In order to be healed from sin, gaze upon Christ crucified”, says St. Augustine. As our former Pope Benedict XVI, initiated the Year of Faith (Oct 11, 2012 to Nov 24, 2013) and invited the Universal Church to RELIVE the Faith in order to give witness to the world, we too having this in mind have organized various faith filled programs at villages in the parish with the help of Diocesan priests. We formed ourselves into different groups in order to reach to the faithful for faith formation programs. This particular initiative includes the following undertakings such as, VISWASA YATRA, BIBLE SADASSU, Upavasapradanalu, Swasthatakutalu, Chiruasangalu, Sthrirasangalu, Swayampalana, Swayampusahaksangalu, Dhyanakutaluetc. With the help of the B.C.C animators of the Diocese we could give flesh to these programmes. As an act of encourgement the youth of our parish stood first in the Bible exam, conducted by the Diocese this year, it was applauded by Bishop on the day of prize distribution.

This year we had closing of Year of Faith at Our Lady of Good Health Shrine at Guntakal for which more than hundred of our parishners went on a pilgrimage. Our people were indeed surprised to see thousands of people coming to the shrine on that day and they expressed their happiness to spend time in such a Holy place as most of them spent a quality time in prayer and adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament. In fact it was memorable day for both young and old. May the Blessed Virgin Mary continue to guide the faithful on their pilgrimage to the Incarnate Eternal Wisdom.

17th Bible Convention- 2014 Shanthinagar (Anab Miggal Monloi Bible Soba -2014)
Bible Soba started on 6th evening with flag hosting by Rev. Fr. Maria Cletus the Provincial Superior of Montfort Fathers. The inaugural Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jaipal parish priest of Levidi. In spite of heavy showers people came in good number and participated in the Eucharist.

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN SHANTHINAGAR

There is a village called Juridiguda in Shanthinagar Parish. Now it consists of only 8 catholic families and I am happy to mention that the Christianity was born in this village. In this village there was lady called Arika Kumari who was a widow with two sons. She was a Hindu and she had to carry out worship of god after her husband’s death. She had to offer as a sacrifice one cow, one pig, one goat and one cock to god every year without fail. Since she was very poor and could not afford these things for sacrifice, she informed her Sukku (paternal uncle) about her difficulty to do so. Kumari and Sukku (paternal uncle) went to Kosaguda to discuss the matter among the relatives. She expressed her desire to join Christianity but Sukku her paternal uncle did not agree to her desire of converting to Christianity. Kumari was very much interested and adamant to join Christianity and so Sukku agreed to her decision.

Kumari went to Vincentnagar to meet Fr. Joseph Mulan but he was not there at that time. She met some catechists called Karuna, Jisayo, and Andriyo and asked them to visit her house when Fr. Joseph Mulan comes. When Fr. Joseph Mulan came back to the house they informed about Kumari and Fr. Mulan sent some catechists to her house to pray. As they continued in prayer people began to join them and slowly three families were added.

One day Fr. Mulan visited the house and prayed with them. Sukku, Kumari’s uncle was very angry with the priest’s presence. Once Fr. Joseph Mulan left the place, Sukku in his anger destroyed the house where they prayed and people got frightened of him and ran away from there. Sukku then went in search of Kumari to beat her. When found her, he hit her with a stick and as a result her finger was broken and she was injured very badly.

The catechists informed Fr. Joseph Mulan all that happened to Kumari. He came to see her and later she was taken to hospital. After few days, Fr. Joseph Mulan visited the villages like Mariapally, Valasaguda, G. Kothaguda, Kuprising and Dandasura. The Orissa fathers started working in 9 villages in Shanthinagar area. In the initial stage Mariapalli was the centre of all the activities (headquarters) and also main village. Later it was shifted to Deppiguda (the original name of Shanthinagar) and was named as Premnagar. After lot of discussion with the locals and with Orissa fathers Premnagar was renamed as Shanthinagar. From then on the place where Montfort fathers are staying is called Shanthinagar.

The Orissa fathers who worked in Andhra Pradesh, Shanthinagar were Rev. Fr. Joseph Mulan, Rev. Fr. George Pareman, and Rev. Fr. Vincent. They then handed over the mission to Vishakapatnam Diocese. The Most Rev. Dr. Mariadass Archbishop of Vishakapatnam appointed Fr. Anu Pushpanadhan as the Parish Priest. He worked with Fr. Joseph Mulan and visited many villages and ate what the people gave them thus learned about their culture and they worked hard for the development of Mission.
Fr. Joseph Mulan worked in this Area (Shanthinagar) from 1983 to 1986. Then Fr. Anu Pushpanadhan from Vishakapatnam Diocese came in 1986 and he worked here till 1988. The people were illiterate and very poor and he wanted some good congregation to work in this place and he promised the people that he would bring one good congregation.

He handed over this mission to Montfort Fathers and Montfort Fathers started their mission work in 1989. Fr. Anil Kumar, Fr. Michael K.J, Fr. Raja Rao visited the place and these are the founders of the Shanthinagar Mission. They bought few acres of land in Shanthinagar and started a school for Savara people in the mission and later Hospitaler Sisters of Mercy came to support the mission by opening boarding for the girls and medicine for the sick and also in pastoral activities.

It was in the year 2005 the one Shanthinagar Mission was divided into two main parishes Immaculate Conception Church at Shanthinagar and St. Montfort Church at K.D. Jola for a better functioning. Today we would like to inform you all, the vast growth of this mission with great zest. It has grown from nowhere but we would boast of our growth in all circumstances. We have today 45 substations consisting of 474 families in Shanthinagar Parish and 460 in K.D. Jola Parish and more than 60 villages with nearly 6000 thousands Catholics in both the parishes. By the grace of God the mission and the hard work of so many Montfort missionaries the mission is blooming in its fullness.

The last Bible Soba was held in Vincentnagar Parish, Orissa in 2013, with great enthusiasm for the first time we brought this time to Shanthinagar Mission Andra Pradesh in 2014. The work for the 17th Bible Soba started in December in G. Kothaguda of Shanthinagar parish. We, in collaboration with the Catechists, village heads and the faithful had great time working for this big convention and also as young parish priests we learned so many good things from this great event especially to organize such events. The programme was held in G.Kothaguda of Shanthinagar parish from 6th to 9th March 2014 and on the final day, Most Rev. Dr. Sarat Chandra Nayak, Bishop of Berampur (Orissa) celebrated the Holy Eucharist and broke the Word of God.

Indeed we were glad to receive him to our mission and gave him warm welcome. There were around sixteen thousand people who attended this great event. They had a very good experience all the three days in this place.

We made around two thousand huts which were not sufficient for the people. It was a great experience for both of us to work with people and make this event very grand. We thank you for the prayers and the support.

FAMILY DAY – MONTFORT NIVAS (February 22-23, 2014) Arrival

It was an early morning but awfully the night seemed to be unusually shorter than it ever was. Sleep evaded everyone and the mood was glee and gay. Cocks didn’t crow early but the day dawned in the history of Montfort Nivas as yearly as 4 am. Every one was waiting for somebody very dear to them, of course, it was not an advent season and we did not expect Jesus to come. There was lots of excitement in the air as everyone woke up to receive the parents into our house. Parents started arriving as early as 4 am. Everybody was thrilled and delighted to meet our parents and
siblings. The house was full of life and laughter which was obvious the way everyone greeted each other and welcomed everyone. It was a “family day”. Parents and siblings were invited to be one with the Montfort Nivas family. Our seminarians were happy to meet their family members after a long time. Our program started with the breakfast. The total number of parents and relatives who arrived for this family day was 24.

**Ice-Breaking and Sharing**

After a short break all were asked to gather at the parlor and we began with the prayer invoking God’s blessing and wisdom to proceed with the agenda. After the prayer, our head of the family, Rev. Fr. Reni Joseph welcomed all our guests and family members. Fathers Divyam and Alex translated the whole event into Telugu and Tamil respectively. Our seminarians conducted ice-breaking session to make everyone feel at home and comfortable with the event. The group was asked to introduce each other which went on smoothly and happily.

Fr. Reni, the Rector of Montfort Nivas introduced the purpose of our coming together. He said that coming together is to know each other. He mentioned that parents and siblings together with the members of our community make an extended family. The objective of the gathering was to make the parents understand that the parents are integral part of the formation programs and they are the first and primary formators. They still have the responsibility towards forming their sons to become good priests. He also thanked the parents for sending their sons for the noble cause of serving Christ in the Church in the footsteps of Montfort. Fr. Reni too explained to the participants about our congregation, and our mission. The group dispersed for tea.

After the tea break, the seminarians were asked to share their experience here at Montfort Nivas. Seminarians were also asked to share about their parents. The sharing was genuine and it was well appreciated by the parents later. Besides our sharing the students’ parents were asked to share about their sons; what is their expectation from their sons? After joining the seminary, what difference do they see in their sons? How do they feel about meeting the other students and their parents?

Not surprisingly, many of the parents noticed a sea of change in their sons, especially after joining the seminary. It was noticeable when they went for their vacation in the month of October. All of them expressed that their sons are formed well here and they have become prayerful and model students in their respective parishes. Some were in tears when they shared about their sons. It was a session filled with emotional bond. Before breaking for the lunch we had solemn Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Reni and concelebrated by Frs. Divyam and Alex. After the Holy Mass the group moved for lunch.

**Individual Conference with Parents**

In the afternoon parents were given free time to spend more time with their sons and to get to know other students and their parents. Simultaneously, formators met each family individually and learnt from them about their family. Formators also briefed the parents about the student and his progress and made the parents aware of the life of their son. It was a fruitful time for both parents and the formators to know more about the student and his background.

**Cultural Program**

To showcase the talents and skills of our seminarians to their parents, our seminarians presented a short cultural program and entertained the guests. Besides this, parents and guests were also invited to perform on the stage. It was really a fun filled evening. Fr. Reni addressed the gathering and expressed his sense of fulfillment for we could realize our dream of gathering all the
parents together. He said it was planned for 28 December, on the feast day of Holy Family unfortunately it was not realized. But now this is the day that the Lord has made to realize our dreams come true.

**Montfortian Pilgrimage**

On the following day (Feb 23) all the participants along with fathers and brothers went on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Velankanni shrine.

As Montfort addresses his followers as travelers, we travelled all together in a hired vehicle and started our journey early in the morning. On the way our pilgrimage was made more meaningful and prayerful by saying the Rosary and singing hymns throughout our journey. We prayed all the four mysteries of the rosary in three different languages, namely, English, Telugu and Tamil. We sang Marian hymns and honored her name. When we reached Velankanni, fathers conducted way of the cross for all and helped all to pray. As Eucharist is the sum and summit of all our Christian worship, we celebrated the Holy Eucharist in a private chapel where we could pray and celebrate the mystery of faith as one family. After the meaningful celebration of the Eucharist the students and parents were given time to visit the shrine as a family and go for shopping. With one big grateful heart we came back home praying the rosary and singing praises of God and honoring Mary. Everyone was content and happy to have gone over there with the family, especially for the ones who went over there for the first time as family.

**Farewell**

After the sumptuous lunch at Montfort Nivas, the mood of the group changed, there was gloom and sadness in everyone’s heart. It was heart breaking moment because it was time for everyone to part with each other. Whole group felt that their presence here for a very short time had made a deep and indelible impression on everyone’s heart. It was hard for the parents to leave the house. As everyone started moving out one by one some could not hide their emotions and shed tears. Yet there was the hope of meeting again. With supper all the guests left our house. At the end of it all, it was a day of home-coming for all of us. There was life and laughter in the community. In the evaluation everyone felt that the gathering was a meaningful one and formators too felt that it served its purpose of knowing one another and making them feel that we are one family.

**BLESSING OF MONTFORT’S STATUE**

*There shall be showers of blessings, this is the promise of love................*

We need men who can dream of things that never were” says John F. Kennedy. I have a dream was the famous speech of Martin Luther king Jr. Likewise the community of Montfort Nivas had a dream ever since we entered the house to see Montfort’s statue in Montfort Nivas. It was our dream that disturbed us much; sleep escaped from our eyes; our hearts were burning for something that will make our house complete. Montfort Nivas was a given name to our house but really St. Montfort statue was missing in the house. There were times when we were in the
awkward situation to tell the visitors that we do not have our founder’s statue in our house. Hence our desire was only a dream unrealized for months.

It was divine providence that we got the permission from the provincial and his team to erect a statue of Montfort and the fund was sanctioned for it. By the grace of God we completed the work of erecting the statue of Montfort in time. We waited for the arrival of the provincial to bless and inaugurate the statue.

How could I describe what happened in our community on March 25, 2014! It was a remarkable day in the history of Montfort Nivas. We were surrounded by friends and neighbors. There was excitement everywhere. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Cletus, our Provincial and seven priests concelebrated the Eucharist. The community felt the showers of blessings with the presence of number of priests present for the celebration. Fr. Cletus blessed the statue of St. Montfort after the Holy Eucharist. Our celebration ended with the sumptuous lunch.

“All people dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their mind, wake in the morning to find that it was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous people. For they dream their dreams with open eyes, And make them come true” says D. H. Lawrence. The community feels that it was the special gift of God that made our dreams come true. We thank God for his continual presence and protection and now the presence of Montfort our holy founder. Now we feel that the house is complete and stands true to its name: Montfort Nivas.

DEATHS

Annamma Joseph Punnappanal (78), beloved mother of Fr. Reni Joseph smm, was born on June 5, 1935. She was the third born among 6 children. When she was hardly 17 years old, she was given in marriage to Mr. Joseph, who was the third born among 4 children. Mr. Joseph and Annamma couples had 8 children. Mr. Joseph Punnappanal, a very hard working man left this world to his eternal home on September 26, 1987. While being a humble house wife she had to shoulder the responsibilities of the big family. Hence she worked hard and brought up all her children not only in social status but also in deep Christian faith.

She was fully contented when she had seen all her children got married and settled except her last born who became a Catholic Religious Priest, which was the result of her genuine prayers. Often she used to say particularly past two years that her life-journey is coming to an end and all her wish is to join her maker in heaven. Finally her soul found its solace in the Lord on 29th November, 2013. She died at Sri Chithira Hospital, Trivandrum, due to aneurysm and was buried at St. Stephen’s Church, Chamathachal.

MR. M. SABASTIN

It was a great loss to our family, when my father Mr. M. Sebastian passed away on 23rd November, 2013. He was born on 1st May, 1932 at Packiapuram Thiruvarangam, Sacred Heart Parish, Sivagangkai Diocese. He was married to Sebastiammal on 15th May, 1957. He was a good man and very devoted. He was a loving father to me and to my brothers and sisters namely Roch, Roy, Roja, and late Rani. He was simple and gentle to others. He always would help anyone who come to him for help. I pray and also ask your prayers that God grants him eternal rest.
Respected Fathers, I would like to thank all of you for participating in the Montfortian Spirituality Course and Retreat. With the consent of the Council, I would like to announce the transfers for the academic year 2014 – 2015. These changes will come into effect from the first of June, 2014. Therefore, I request all the priests to be in their particular places on or before the first of June.

**ADARSH BHAVAN**
- Community Superior and Administrator: Fr. Ravi Joseph
- Provincial Bursar: Fr. Johnson
- Member: Fr. Maria Saleth

**MARIA BHAVAN**
- Rector: Fr. Micheal Sagayaraj
- Vice Rector: Fr. Peter Mascarenhas
- Bursar: Fr. Richard
- Studies and Formation team: Fr. Rene (Philippines)
- Doctorate: Fr. Peterswamy

**GURU MANDIR**
- Rector: Fr. Balashowrie
- Vice-Recto: Fr. Shibi Jose
- Bursar: Fr. Reni Joseph
- Vocation promoter: Fr. Judis Valan

**MONTFORT FARM**
- Superior: Fr. Micheal Menezes
- Legion of Mary in the Diocese of Mysore: Fr. Micheal Menezes
- Bursar and Farm in-charge: Fr. Irudhayaraj

**MARIAN CENTRE**
- Superior and Director: Fr. Jerald Smith
- Bursar: Fr. Anthony Pereira
- Member: Fr. John Kennedy

**ANUGRAHA**
- Superior and Director: Fr. Jerald Smith
- Bursar: Fr. Anthony Pereira
- Member: Fr. John Kennedy

**SIRA MISSION**
- Fr. David
- Fr. Divyanathan

**HIREKERUR**
- Superior and Parish Priest: Fr. T. Joseph
- Bursar and in-charge of boarding: Fr. Varaprasad

**MONTFORT ESTATE**
- Superior and Rector: Fr. Selva Kumar
- Estate In-charge: Fr. Joji
- Bursar and Assistant to Estate – Fr. Moses
| JESUIT MISSIONS          | Fr. Jerome (Mundgod)  
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<th>Fr. JnanaPrakash (Manvi - Pannoor)</th>
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| BETHEMCHERLA            | Parish Priest: Fr. Aswini  
|                         | Assistant and Bursar: Fr. Periyanayagam |
| SHANTINAGAR MISSION     | Superior, Correspondent and H.M: Fr. Francis Bulipe  
|                         | Community bursar: Fr. Kiran  
|                         | Main Bursar: Boarding and School: Fr. Muthu  
|                         | Shantinagar PP: Fr. Keeran Kumar  
|                         | K.D. Jola PP: Fr. Jeevan |
| S.PUDUR                 | Superior and Parish Priest: Fr. Prabhadar  
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<th>Assist. PP and Bursar: Fr. John Lawrence</th>
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| MONTFORT NIVAS – KUMBAKONAM | Superior: Fr. John Marie  
|                         | Bursar: Fr. Philip Raj |
| NEW MISSION IN DINDUGAL DIOCESE | Parish Priest: Fr. Sebastian  
|                         | Assist: Fr. Alex or Fr. Nepolean |
| PUTHANATHAM - TRICHY    | Parish Priest: Fr. Jesu Raj |
| THOKKANAMOTTA - PRENOVITIATE | Superior: Fr. Dominic  
|                         | Assistant and Bursar: Fr. Jaison  
|                         | Member: Fr. K.J. Micheal |
| GOA                     | Fr. Norbert |
| GERMANY                 | Fr. Francis Xavier |
| ENGLAND                 | Fr. Roy Elavunkal |
MATASAGARA (CHIKAMAGALUR)  
Fr. Isaac

CHIKAMAGALUR DIOCESE  
Fr. John Baptist

STUDIES  
Fr. Premkumar (M.SW in St. Aloysius, Mangalore)  
Either Fr. Alex (Rome) or Fr. Neplean (Luvein)

Together with this, I would like to inform you also that Rev. Fr. Balashowrie and Rev. Fr. Reni Joseph will be leaving to Rome on 30th to participate in the program organized for “Crisis Management.” We wish them Bon Voyage. Thank you for all your support and encouragement. I request all the Fathers and brothers to pray for good and genuine vocations for our family.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Maria Cletus, smm

Provincial Superior.