

MGA-SG

ISSUE 15
MAR 2024

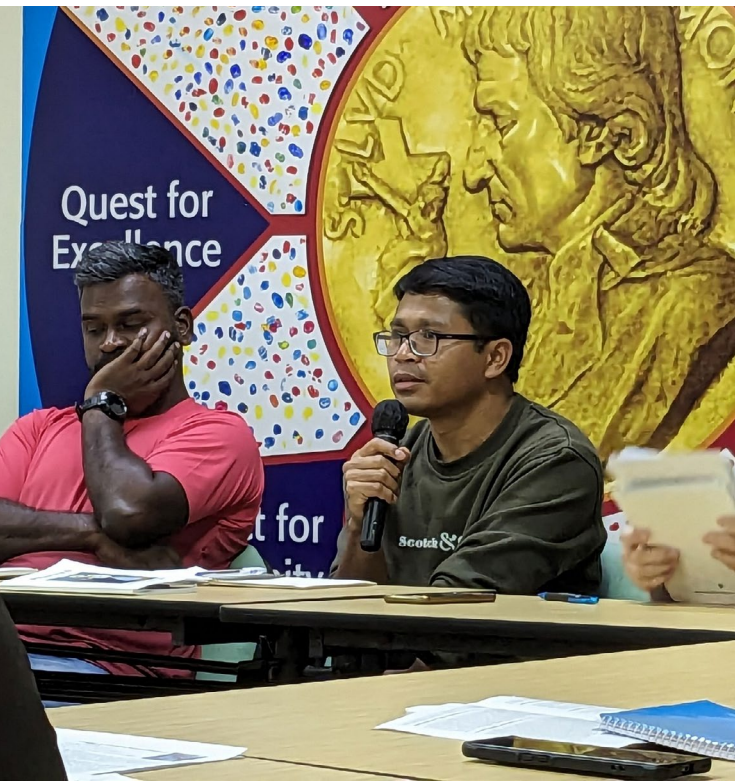
Montfortian Gabrielite Associates - Singapore

Montfortian Formation Programme



Inspired by Pope John Paul II's invitation to promote the Montfortian spirituality and charism as well as the central administration's desire to strengthen the synergy of the Montfortian Charismatic Family, Montfort Centre (Singapore) responded by organising its inaugural Montfortian Formation Programme (MFP).

The MFP was held in Montfort Centre, Singapore from 24 to 27 Aug 2023 with Bishop Rozario Menezes, SMM as the main preacher and animator. A total of 26 participants (lay associates and religious) from across 4 countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Sabah & Singapore) took part in this significant event. It was beautiful to witness both the lay associates Montfortian Gabrielite Associates and religious



(Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel & Montfort Missionaries) coming together as a Montfortian Charismatic family to deepen and grow their understanding and appreciation of Montfortian spirituality. It was most unfortunate though that the Daughters of Wisdom and Friends of Wisdom were unable to join this time round.

As the current serving bishop of the diocese of Lae, Papua New Guinea, Bishop Rozario generously shared many personal stories from his mission in Papua New Guinea and how the spirituality of Montfort only began to make sense in his lived experience as a missionary. He further reminded participants that no one is chosen by chance but because God has a special plan for each one. He challenged the participants to consider how their own vocation story reveals God's unceasing love for them all these while. The six sessions presented by Bishop Rozario were on:

1. Gift of Life - Birth & Baptism at Montfort
2. Trust in God - Surrender to God's Providence
3. Poverty and Service to Humanity - The poor in the life of Montfort and his service to them

4. Prayer, Contemplation & Creation - A way to God
5. Cross of Christ & mine - How do I see suffering in my personal life
6. Mary my Mother - A True & Loving Marian Devotion

Montfortian prayers such as the Little Crown of Mary, Praise to Mary and Adoration with the Rosary according to Montfort were animated by the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates from Sabah and Singapore. Participants also had lively conversations and fellowship over meals as they discussed how to further collaborate with one another at a Southeast Asian level.

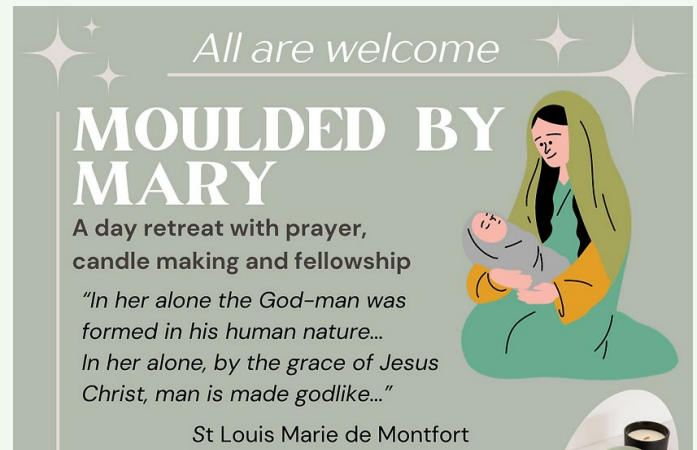
The programme culminated with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rozario, who offered up all the souls of the faithful departed from our Montfortian Charismatic Family in Southeast Asia.

May this inaugural MFP be a catalyst for more opportunities to gather, connect and be formed as one Montfortian Charismatic Family at national, regional and global levels!

Moulded by Mary

'Moulded by Mary' is a day retreat with prayer, candle making, and fellowship run by the Montfortian Gabrielite Associates. The event has been run 3 times: on 21 October 2023 and 9 December 2023 at Montfort Centre, and on 6 January 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart

As written by St Louis Marie de Montfort, Mary is a mould capable of forming people into the image of the God-man. Anyone who is cast into this divine mould is quickly shaped and moulded into Jesus and Jesus into him. Through this retreat, the participants were also invited to reflect on which parts of them need to be crushed and liquified so that they can be poured into the Mould of Jesus, in order to become like the image of Jesus.



Mervent Meetings

Group 7 by Vincent

Our get-together among our group members was an occasion to remember. We all have grown closer in our relationship with our Lord Jesus and our Blessed Mother Mary including our relationship with one another as well.

It was a fruitful meeting and through our sharing on the life journey of St Louis Marie de Montfort, we too have begun to have a better insight of his spiritual life. The life that encouraged us all to emulate his way of living which centred on Christ through His mother, our Blessed Mother Mary.

Our sharing of each of our own life was encouraging. And, the sharings of our own life stories affirmed and empowered all of us that we are not alone in our journey on this earth towards Christ. We complemented each other in our journey as a Christian Community ...



By the Light of Mary's Crown: The Tree of Life

"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." (Revelation 12:1)

'By the Light of Mary's Crown: The Tree of Life' was an evening of reflection, prayer and fellowship conducted by MGA Brian Ooi in Montfort Centre on 2 December 2023 from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. The session began with an opening prayer and a brief introduction with 10 enthusiastic participants after dinner. MGA Cynthia together with MGA Edward and MGA Henry came as volunteers to prepare a warm and inviting setting using tealights around the Labyrinth Walk, Montfort Garden, Chapel and Mervent Cave.

Brian started by explaining the meaning of 'The Crown of Mary'. Mary's Crown bears witness to the first coming of Jesus Christ, the New Adam. Thereafter, he shared about the 'The Two Trees', taken from Genesis 2:9: The Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Tree of Life as a choice was then aptly summarized by Brian through the illustration below, contrasting the 'Old Adam and Eve' with the 'New Adam and Eve (Jesus and Mary)'.

All 10 participants were then given an hour for personal reflection and prayer in the grounds of Montfort Centre. Many chose to Walk the Labyrinth under a clear night sky as it was beautifully illuminated with tealights. It was the first time for some of the participants.

The participants then shared their personal reflections, insights and encounter with the

Lord from the session and during the Labyrinth Walk. Brian then closed the session with a simple message and beautiful prayer. He said, "Blessed is Jesus, fruit of Mary. The Holy Spirit plants the Tree of Life, Mary in our souls, that we may bear the fruit of her womb, Jesus." He then invited the participants to pray together, "Happy is that soul in which Mary, the Tree of Life, is planted. Happier still is the soul in which she has been able to grow and blossom. Happier again is the soul in which she brings forth her fruit. But happiest of all is the soul which savours the sweetness of Mary's fruit and preserves it up till death and then beyond to all eternity. Amen."



Christmas Celebration 2023



The celebration was held on Wed 27 December at Montfort Centre. What better way to start the celebration than to pay homage to the Child Jesus with a special Christmas Prayer with Montfort. There were about 28 participants comprising of members from the Evening of Prayer with Montfort group, from the current batch of participants preparing for Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, MGAs and Bro Dominic, our Spiritual Director.

The prayer was led by Zerah Goh at 7pm in the Chapel. Gift and Hope was the theme for the 40-minute prayer session. As the Magi came to pay homage and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Child Jesus, the participants were led to reflect on the one special gift they wished to present to the Lord this Christmas and the coming

year. Besides the singing of Christmas carols, participants prayed a decade of the Rosary, followed by intercessory prayers, litany to the Infant Jesus and ended with the Consecration to Jesus through Mary. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed throughout the session for participants to adore and pay homage to the Lord. It was a very meaningful and intimate experience for the participants.

Having nourished their heart and mind with spiritual food, love and gratitude for Jesus their Infant King, the participants had to jolly good time in the dining room, bonding with one another and enjoying the delicious spread of food and drinks they had prepared or bought. The celebration ended at around 10pm.



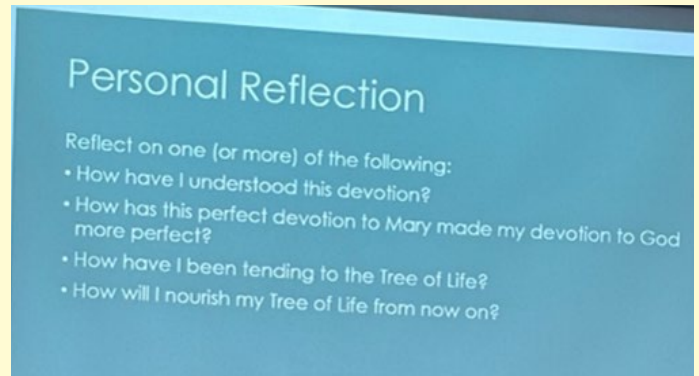
MGA Day of Reflection

Before the year 2023 ended, the MGA held the Day of Reflection on Saturday 2nd December 2023 at Montfort Centre's Chapter room. This was the last recollection for the year. 13 participants were attending the recollection, which was facilitated by Brian Ooi.

After enjoying the potluck breakfast, the recollection session began with reflecting on the beautiful song "All that I am", followed by the Little Crown of Mary prayer. The theme for the recollection was taken from St Montfort's writing in "The Secret of Mary", SM#70-78, the Tree of Life, and from True Devotion TD#164.

We reflected upon Mother Mary as the Tree of Life, how best we cultivate the true devotion to cause Mary to live and reign in our souls, that it will yield in due season the sweet and adorable fruit of honor and grace, which is Jesus, who has always been and will always be the only fruit of Mary.

After the sharing session, recollection continued with admin matter and Ambrose, President of MGA, was sharing the 2024 Plan. Important dates to take note of is the renewal



of the consecration which will be on 5th October 2024.

MGA Day of Reflection was closed with praying the Divine Wisdom, followed by group lunch and fellowship.



On 9 December 2023, the MGA set up a booth at Christmas Village at the Church of St Mary of the Angels to raise funds and awareness of Montfortian Spirituality.



MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE
LENTEN RETREAT

Celebrating Our Brokenness



THE LORD IS CLOSE TO THE BROKENHEARTED AND SAVES THOSE
WHO ARE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT (PSALMS 34:18)

15-17 March 2024

7 PM (Fri) - 1 PM (Sun)
Stay-in retreat

Montfort Centre

 624 Upper Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 678212



SCAN TO
REGISTER  

MONTFORTIAN EXPERIENCE 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 
- 15-17 MAR 2024** | **Lenten Retreat**
Preached Retreat (stay-in)
 - 27 APR 2024** | **Fully Human, Fully Alive!**
Spirituality & Mental Wellbeing Reflection - 1st Run
 - MAY 2024** | **True or False Devotion**
Parish Outreach
 - 22 MAY 2024** | **Annual Fundraiser**
Celebrating Montfort Centre's 20th Anniversary
 - 17 JUN 2024** | **Laudate Deum**
Day of Recollection
 - 1 JUL 2024** | **Peace of Mind**
Day of Recollection
 - 8-11 AUG 2024** | **Individual Guided Retreat**
Silent Retreat (stay-in)
 - SEP 2024** | **The Heart of Living**
Montfortian Spirituality Symposium
 - 4 OCT 2024** | **Leading the Little Ones to Mary**
Day of Recollection
 - 31 OCT 2024** | **Fully Human, Fully Alive!**
Spirituality & Mental Wellbeing Reflection - 2nd Run
 - OCT-NOV 2024** | **Cesson Bridge Experience**
Transitions programme for school children in the Montfortian Way
 - NOV-DEC 2024** | **Advent Retreat**
Customised recollection for school children in the season of Advent
 - 29 NOV - 1 DEC 2024** | **Love without Limits**
Preached Retreat (stay-in)
 - DEC 2024** | **Year-End Recollections**
Customised recollections for schools & organisations

