



# Sagesse Internationale

## *A New Call of Wisdom... A Response Filled with Passionate Love...*



To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatification of Marie Louise of Jesus is for us, Daughters of Wisdom, both a source of joy and gratitude but also a profound challenge.

I am convinced that it was not by chance that the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatification coincided with the event of the General Chapter. The Beatification allowed many among us to discover the endearing face of the first Daughter of Wisdom. We discovered with our eyes and hearts, the passionate and daring woman she was, responding to an exceptional call to live a new form of religious life for the time...an apostolic religious life.

At the Beatification celebration in Rome, on May 16, 1993, Pope John-Paul II pronounced the following words concerning her:

*“Marie Louise of Jesus allowed herself to be seized by Christ, passionately seeking the inner covenant of human wisdom with eternal Wisdom. And the natural unfolding of the bond of deep intimacy, was a passionate action devoted towards the poorest of her fellow human beings. The adoration of the Wisdom of the Father, incarnated in the Son, always carries with it daily service to those who have nothing appealing to others, but who are always very dear in the sight of God.”*

One wonders how these words proclaimed by pope St John Paul II echo in our hearts as we prepare to live the General Chapter inviting us to “Love without Borders”? I believe that the first place of conversion to which God calls us is to let oneself be seized by Christ, to passionately seek Him in a relationship that naturally reconciles deep intimacy with Wisdom and loving action for the destitute.

Of course, the crossroads where Wisdom calls us today does not take on the same contextual reality as that of our foundress. But to live at the crossroads requires, as religious, to be daring, to prophetically stand in the perpetual movement of life, and to stay on the “fringes or the margins” ... of the chaos of a new creation from which will emerge an unprecedented way of weaving the bonds of humanity, of reconfiguring our societies, the Church, religious life and the Congregation.

Marie Louise trusted Montfort who, even at the risk of his life, questioned a tradition threatened with paralysis and that was far from being evangelical. With him, she opted for a form of religious life that was open to the four winds, exposed to the normal and disturbing hazards of life.

Are we not strongly invited to enter the vision of this woman who never hesitated to follow suit in the newness of the Spirit! Being in the margins never frightened her and that is where she is urging us on today. As First Daughter of Wisdom and as Leader, her frequent refusal to compromise speaks eloquently today.

Let us remember the secret of her audacity: *a passionate love for God...*

*“To speak well of God, one must often speak to God.”*

*and a passionate love for the poor...*

*“Our love must be an active love that forms in us  
a burning desire that God be known, loved and served.”*

*“If I were cloth, I would give myself to clothe the poor.”*

May we all, from the depth of our being and in communion with one another, implore Marie Louise. Like her, may we become more deeply rooted in the love of Christ Wisdom, the only love that can turn into a burning bush. With Marie Louise, let us dare to commit ourselves as members of the Corps Congregation in a prophetic movement, bearing witness that, with Wisdom, it is possible to “*Love without borders.*”

*Sr Louise Madore, D.W.*

Sr. Louise Madore D.W.  
Congregational Leader

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<sup>1</sup>.En direct avec Marie-Louise de Jésus – Écrits et paroles, p. 148

<sup>2</sup>.Ibid., p. 148

<sup>3</sup>.Documents et Recherches VII, Charles Besnard N°524,

**We thank Wisdom every time we think of you, never ceasing to bring all of you in our thoughts and prayers; and every time we pray for you, we pray with joy, remembering your participation with us in spreading the Gospel...**

Inspired by Philipians 1, 3-4

**We give thanks!** These are the words that rise from our hearts as this mandate comes to an end. All the joy, hope and even suffering that we lived as a Council was God's gift, crossed and penetrated by the presence of Wisdom.

**We give thanks!** More than once, we were touched by the effective collaboration of the Leaders of the Entities and their Councils. We will not forget how we journeyed through the various meetings: Councils of Congregation, visits to Entities, commitments towards reconfiguration, communication...etc. All this work together gave us the impetus and the audacity needed to dare create with you new ways for the future of the Congregation.

**We give thanks!** For we witnessed, at all levels, the unwavering participation of members of the Congregation in the undertaking of great projects. Often, with emotion, we witnessed the generosity of our Sisters for various international services accepted as normal requirements of their lives as Daughters of Wisdom.

Everywhere, during our visits, we witnessed your love of the poor and the helpless while living in humble and difficult conditions and struggling against injustices, regardless of age. On your faces, during our meetings, we saw affection in your eyes and on your lips reassuring words of your prayer for our mission and for the Congregation. We have always felt the prayerful support of our elderly Sisters during these six years

**We give thanks!** Regardless of the precariousness that we are experiencing, the Congregation is and always will be called to reveal up to the end the foolish love of Wisdom for humanity. For this to happen, we must, once again, open our hearts, allow ourselves to be moved and we must dare. Montfort tells us: **"If you do not risk anything for God, you will never do anything great for Him"**. Throughout her entire life, Marie-Louise was committed on the ways of folly that led her to dare to **"Love without borders"** in thousands of ways.

**We give thanks!** Conscious that all was not perfect and that you have had to forgive us a few missteps... we thank you for understanding and we count on God's gentleness.

Wisdom always insists on not having limits, so confidently, let us turn to the future without fear, **"Do not be afraid to leave Poitiers for La Rochelle..."** For everything will be gift, and **yes, everything will be grace!**

With our affection and gratitude,

Sr. Louise Madore, Congregational Leader and members of the Council

*Sr. Louise Madore, D.W.*

*Suzanne Portfoix, D.W.*

*Sr. Rami Kurian D.W.*

*Sr. Isabelle Retailleau, D.W.*

*Sr. Elizabeth Siches, D.W.*

# *At the Source of Wisdom*



We arrived at the source of Wisdom at the end of November. The choice of this holy land was the best place to be in touch with our rich spirituality and history. The joy of meeting each other and the hope of living together this adventure with Christ Wisdom were written on our faces.

The first two weeks were set for our integration in the premises and for mutual acquaintance. Sr. Immaculata and Sr. Berthe, the two Sisters in charge reminded us of the objective and of the specific mission of the Wisdom year. With joy and enthusiasm, each one of us said that we were ready to make the most of this time of grace.

The official opening was on December 10 in the Chapel of the Founders. Preceded by a week of preparation, the liturgy was adorned with the colors of different nationalities. Each country prepared and performed a song and a prayer intention in their own language. It was already the fulfillment of openness to interculturality.

It all started with a three-month period where each one of us took the opportunity offered by the Congregation to learn one of the official languages. For us, it was not only a time of training in another language but also an openness to interculturality and internationality.



The arrival of Sr. Elizabeth, General Councilor, gave color to our ceremony. On Saturday evening, during the Gospel sharing in the Chapel, Sr. Elizabeth did not hesitate one minute as an older Sister to give advice and to remind us of the reason for our presence in this holy place. The Eucharistic celebration began with an entrance procession where each participant carried in her hand the emblem of her country, aware of being ambassador of her Entity. After the homily, Sr. Elizabeth, on behalf of Sr. Louise Madore, Congregational Leader, invited one by one the Formators, the participants to the Wisdom Year and also the Sisters of the Mother House to pronounce their commitment for the success of this time of formation.



From our theme, “May they be one” (Jn. 17, 22) everyone said they were ready to live a special mission this year: “to unite with Christ Wisdom and to witness to him in every day life.” Led by the Spirit, a song of thanksgiving, the “Magnificat” was sung and a dance was performed as a sign of gratitude to Christ Wisdom who calls us to live this experience.

After mass, a meal was shared with our community “Béthanie” and with representatives from different communities. We highlight the presence of Sr. Elizabeth (GC), Sr. Anne (Provincial Councilor), Father Olivier Maire (Montfort Provincial Leader, Father Jacques Arrouet (Montfort Missionary), Bro. Camille (St. Gabriel) and the Superiors of each community of the Mother House.



We dare say that with the help of Christ Wisdom we feel able to let ourselves be guided by Him to achieve the goals of this formation year. A year that is a time of renewal, transformation and total letting go to Christ Wisdom through Mary.

*The Wisdom Year Team*  
2017-2018

# International Committee of the Friends of Wisdom

The first meeting of the Friends of Wisdom International Committee was held in Paris with the General Council during the Holy Week from March 28 to 30, 2018. The committee is composed of five Friends.



From left to right : Véronique Frinault (France),  
Christien René Razafindraibe (Madagascar), Kiki Artina (Indonesia),  
Hélène Leboeuf (Canada) and Jean Plamondon (Canada)

It was a time of discovery and encounters. After a bit of history about the lives of the Friends and the Daughters of Wisdom, the General Council retired to let us work as a team. We were driven to autonomy with confidence and respect.

With joy, we reflected on our mission and identified priorities. Aware of representing all our Friends around the world, we will learn first of all about the realities of each country. Then, we will work on setting up a website for Friends and the creation of a Logo. This is the beginning of an audacious project that we place in the hands of Wisdom and entrust to your prayers.

As the song of the pilgrimage of the summer of 2017 recalled,  
all together, we have: "Thousand reasons to hope!"!

# An Encounter Focused on Hope

At the invitation of the General Council, a group of younger Sisters of the Congregation were pleased to meet each other in Paris. Coming from different Entities of the Congregation: Canada, United-States, France, Great Britain and Ireland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Madagascar, Malawi, Maria Luisa, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, D.R. of Congo and Haiti, we reflected and shared together our thoughts for the next Chapter.

  
Merci  
Misaoatra    Gracias  
Zikomo  
Grazi    Botondi  
Salamat po  
Terimakasih  
Tank yu  
Mesi en pil  
Thank you



Indeed, as representatives of the younger Sisters of the Congregation, we were expected to share our vision of the reality of religious life today. We hope that our contribution will shed light on the next General Chapter of the Daughters of Wisdom that will be held in France next August.

Each of us was able to express herself freely from a questionnaire prepared by the members of the General Council and given to each Entity in advance. We spoke on the reality of our Entities from the themes of interculturality, from our position as members of the Congregation today and in the future. It was a rewarding experience where each Sister could share her joys and difficulties.



Our desire is to continue to offer the charism and spirituality of our Founders, St. Louis Marie of Montfort and Blessed Marie Louise Trichet, in a love that knows no borders. Our meeting was made possible, thanks to the Sisters of the General Council who graciously offered their skills for translation in English and French.

We lift our hearts in prayer in order that Wisdom remain at the center of deliberations and decisions at this General Chapter.

*Sisters Jennifer, Marie-Josée, Christine, Siobhan, Jayamary, Elisabet Angela, Félicité, Ellen, Maria Cristina, Imelda, Elena, Valérie, Guettie.*

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3, rue Jean-Paul II

Reverend Mother,

I am very pleased to inform you that the jury of the history prize of “La Société française d’histoire des Hôpitaux” (SFHH) which I chair, has awarded “Special Mention” to the immense work of edition and promotion made jointly with the Departmental Service of the Archives from the Chronicle of the Daughters of Wisdom, 1701-1866, written by Sister Agathange.

In particular, the jury stressed the usefulness for French and foreign researchers of such a working tool, available online on the Departmental Archives website: [It] does not only allow to discover the history of a region and a period, through that of the Congregation, but also to target their research in order to analyze more closely a related or relevant question.

Hoping sincerely that this editorial work will continue, to the great satisfaction of historians and archivists, I beg you to accept, Reverend Mother, the expression of my deepest respect.

Hélène Servant  
Conservateur général du patrimoine  
Chef du département des patrimoines culturels  
Présidente du jury du concours SHFF 2018

Copie : AD Vendée

# Montfortian Spirituality in Latin America



Around seventy lay members from different Delegations, participated in this experience: Peru, Equator, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia. We were welcomed by our Argentine brothers of Holy Cross Parish of Fiorito, Buenos Aires, Argentina. We were given accommodation, sharing their humble homes and communities. Fraternal warmth reigned among these Latino-Americans, united on the same journey, in the footsteps of Father de Montfort and Marie Louise Trichet.

The theme of this encounter was: “Being Missionary Brothers”, and it was lived under the name of the Virgin of Luján, the one who revealed herself to the humble slave Manuel who said, “I belong to the Virgin and I serve my brothers in need.” Let us express this devotion in our lives through the consecration to Jesus through Mary, the way that Montfort invites us to take.

Each day, conferences were given by priests and lay from different participating countries. The themes were: Montfortian Fraternity, Biblical Basis of Fraternity, Community and Commitment for Missioning to the poor, Ecology and Montfortian Spirituality. All those themes were supported by exhibitions, celebrations and even small but significant missions nearby.



Procession with flags

A great desire to get to better know Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus and her mission was expressed. Moreover, were also expressed desires to work for Montfortian vocations and for different vocations, to live Montfortian spirituality in our Entities and to face the challenges present in our current Latino-American society.



We constantly spoke about our cultural heritage by sharing our experiences with the others in joy, faith and hope. The words of Pope Francis encouraged us: “Be an outgoing Church to bring the Gospel at all times and all places with love and joy.”

I remained impressed by so many lay men and women committed to bring Wisdom to Latino-American peoples even in a violent context. I admired their audacity, their faith and their commitment towards the very poor, with also a great love for the Virgin Mary. They were also very eager to contribute their share so that new generations may come to be inspired by this great and rich spirituality.



Sr Juanita in the middle

*Sr. Juana Maria de Montfort,  
Peru*

*\* Luján is mostly known for its great neo-gothic basilica, built in honor of the Virgin of Luján, Argentina’s Patron Saint. Each year, as many as 6 million make the pilgrimage to the Basilica. The city is known as the faith capital of South America and one of its most visited shrines.*

# *Come and See*

I have been called by God, and I hear His voice deep within my heart. He invited me to come and see him through ten days of apostolic experience.

God spoke softly but gently stirring my heart. I feel so blessed being with the people who are in need. I know the call to religious life is a life-long challenge which it urges me day by day to take up my cross and walk on Christ's path.



Yet I am sure that I cannot walk on this path by myself but through the support and loving care of the people that surround me. What a wonderful experience of God I had, for I touched him, seen him and walked with him.

My ten-day experience brought so many new things in my life especially as I am journeying in this new life. It meant being a simple person, living poorly and thinking about others, not only myself. I needed to give what I had not because I have extra things. This is what I have learnt from my foster parents. They are poor and yet they have the heart to share what they have.



My foster parents welcomed everyone without doubts or regrets. I was able to share my experiences with them for ten days and I could see the face of God in them. My foster father went to catch fish and sold them so that when he came home, he brought money to the family for daily bread.

I have discovered that God is in all and for all and I have seen him face to face through our stories and their joys and pains. I acknowledge that going for exposure to the fisher folks has helped me to come home to myself, to appreciate the simple life of the people I lived with.

As I move ahead and continue this spiritual journey and pursue my dream and God's dream for my future with open heart and willingness, I am eager to cooperate with God and the people who are helping me.

I thank God for all the blessings that he gave me daily especially for being with me during the ten days of exposure. I thank the Congregation for giving me this chance to experience the life with the fishermen.

*Magdalena Palu, Prenovice,  
Indonesia*

***As part of the Formation program the Prenovices have ten days exposure program with the poor families where they live and share their life as their own children.***

# MARIA LUISA DELEGATION

**Leader:** Sr. Elvira Muñoz - 2<sup>nd</sup> mandate

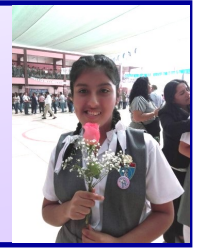
**Councilors :** Sr. Nanci Liliana Bogliolo - 1<sup>st</sup> mandate

Sr. Sylvia Haideé Parra Granda - 1<sup>st</sup> mandate

## *Wisdom Year 2018-2019*

Name	Entity	Language	Country
Sr. Manjula Kumari Minj	India	French	France
Sr. Alice Velankani	India	French	France
Sr. Genbibha Parabala Ekka	India	French	France
Sr. Maria Suryati	Indonesia	French	France
Sr. Margarette François	Haiti	Spanish	Ecuador
Sr. Elena Taghoy Aying	Philippines	French	France
Sr. Hantanirina M. Patricia, Ralaiharrison	Madagascar	French	France
Sr. Zézélah Olga Baoline, Rahantasoa	Madagascar	French	France

# Youth for Wisdom



The Our Lady of Wisdom College in Ñaña, Pérou, already planted the seed in the hearts of many generations of young women that could serve society by a deeper study of our spirituality. This is why, the Sisters began a community of “Juventud Sabiduría” or the young face of the Friends of Wisdom.



Part of the group with Sr. Juanita and Sr. Rosa-Amelia

“Youth for Wisdom” group is mostly composed of former students who are now at university or working as young professional in or around Lima. It is a mixed group comprising also members who benefited from the presence of the Daughters of Wisdom in their towns or communities. These young adults opted to continue to drink at the fountain of our spirituality, accompanied by the Sisters of the Community of Ñaña and Jesús María, Lima.

Youth for Wisdom reveals the love of Jesus, Incarnate Wisdom, through various concrete actions organized around Ñaña or further. Here are examples:

- Active participation in prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children (ASI) through socio-educational workshop in marginal zones.



Sexual abuse of Children prevention.

- Support of families affected by landslides that occurred the previous year.
- Joy shared with city children from families with limited economic resources. Children are given gifts and tickets allowing them to watch shows for children.
- Opportunity was given to those young adults to love without borders by leaving Lima to participate in evangelization missions, like the Holy Week in Tocache, (Peruvian jungle). Soon they will also be present in solidarity to the handicapped in the CREVAL Center of Huánuco.

Youth for Wisdom desire to delve deeper in the love and presence of the Lord in everyday life, in times of reflection and sharing around the table of our community after each meeting. Also, Wisdom is present in the celebrations organized by the Daughters of Wisdom on significant days for the Congregation and during activities of vocation awareness.



**Triduum on Vocation**



**Group in the periphery of Carapongo**

The youth group greatly appreciated the words of encouragement that Sr. Louise Madore, Superior General, addressed to them during her visit in February. It is important to be convinced, she said, that "every person has something special to bring to this world, something unique and irreplaceable. "



**Group with Sr. Elvira and Sr. Rosa Amelia**

For the members of Youth of Wisdom, to know they are loved, called and sent by Jesus, Wisdom, is reason enough to be happy and to radiate and announce true Wisdom in words and in actions. May Mary, Our Lady of Wisdom, accompany them in this concrete service, joyful and courageous on behalf of others.

*Sr. Rosa Amelia Canicoba,  
Peru*

## *Temporary Vows*

### *Canada*

Helen Baier

25-03-2018

### *India*

Sahaya Roja Bavithra Berkman

07-05-2018

Anjera XESS

07-05-2018

### *Indonesia*

Lidia Da Silvia Ximenes

07-05-2018

### *Malawi*

Maria Mwanduza

12-05-2018

Steria Victor

12-05-2018

## *Perpetual Vows*

### *Haiti*

Yverose Tiluska

02-02-2018

### *María Luisa*

María Cristina Tucto Vilcañaupa

02-02-2018

### *Philippines*

Elena Aying

07-05-2018

## **Government of France**

### **Entity Leader:**

Sr. Marie-Françoise Vivien

2<sup>nd</sup> mandate

### **Councilors:**

Sr. Francine Morès

3<sup>rd</sup> mandate

Sr. Anne Retailleau

2<sup>nd</sup> mandate

Sr. Marie Josée Durant

1<sup>st</sup> mandate

## *I will make you fishers of men*



Whenever I read this scriptural passage, I wonder why Jesus opted to choose fishermen, to be his disciples. Now, after a ten-day exposure with the fisher folks, the poor of Navotas City in the Philippines, I realize that Jesus called them for their qualities. Before this apostolic experience, I had heard stories related to this kind of immersion. Some gave me fear, like stories of extreme poverty and lack of hygiene. However, I was also eager to experience the situation of these poor people.

My contact with the fisher folks has brought me to appreciate the love of God for the poor. During my entire stay I was struck with their qualities: courage, humor, happiness, love and generosity. I have seen their struggles to earn their living. I have experienced their humor and happiness even with little to eat. I remember one day my Tatay {foster father} went fishing but came back empty handed. I felt sorry for him but I was surprised to hear him say “not every day is Sunday”.

I have seen their courage when they wake up early and go fishing in the middle of an unpredictable sea. Generous, my foster family shared with me even when they had very little. For breakfast, we even shared one small sachet of coffee for five people. I sometimes wondered if I was going to survive! But I did!



However, the most significant experience was when I went fishing with my foster father. It was my first time to ride a boat and go far in the sea to fish. I was afraid but when I remembered the song “O Virgin fair star of the sea, my dearest mother, pray for me”, my fears vanished. I lived an exciting day as we filled a bucketful of fish.

Fishing is not an easy task, since one needs courage, effort and creativity. Therefore, when I connect this experience with my life as a future Daughter of Wisdom, I see that I need to cultivate values of courage, simplicity, creativity and to put much effort in what I do in order to be successful in my mission. I need to be creative enough in finding means of bringing people closer to God in this noisy world of ours, a world like the deep ocean with raging waters.

Since then, I hear Jesus telling me “Jacinta, I chose you to go fishing....” I thank God for this wonderful time with the fishermen. I am very grateful also to the Congregation who allowed me to have this experience here in Manila, Philippines.

*Jacinta Saiti, prenovice  
Malawi*

# Unity is Strength

The new Aina (LIFE) Village team adopted the principle, "Unity is strength" to instill new life to this already tested place. Once again, Madagascar was hit by a tropical cyclone, AVA, which razed the eastern part of the island, January 5, 2018. Several works of the Daughters of Wisdom suffered its repercussions, including the Aina village, a place of cooperation offering multiple services for the peasants: among others, plants, cultivation techniques for reforestation, and a school canteen.



We widened our tent in order to offer greater opportunity with the construction of a new building. Since climate change in our country now affects both the rainy and dry seasons, the main income of small-crop farmers suffer.



**More than 200 children eat at the school canteen.**

Many families eat only once a day! More than 200 children with hungry bellies eat their fill at the school canteen. Everyone pitched in and here is the result! Children are also seen by the ophthalmologist while Lions Club Benefactors offer free glasses. The system of sponsorship provides free medical visits to them. School children continue to eat Koba of nutri-zaza, three times a week. (*Nutri-zaza, a social enterprise for a complementary diet*)

Sponsorship has allowed 115 children to come to school this year with their school supplies. This sponsorship give support to the parents and encourage children to study seriously.

- 8 young motivated mothers and 4 young adults are presently being trained in cutting and sewing.
- 4 young adults followed a refresher course before their professional launching.

Aiming to become autonomous, the sewing workshop will begin taking charge of the Madagascar Wisdom School uniforms.





Climate change forces people to exercise small-scale breeding to mitigate the effects of bad weather. In August 2017, we distributed bean seeds as compensation for the losses endured by farmers who have access to water points. Despite the drop in essential oil prices we intensified the maintenance of the ravintsara (*essential oil*) whose leaves are meant for sale and for protection of the environment. For the current needs, we updated natural products of medicinal plants: MISINDA and Hydrolat of Ravintsara for organic treatment offered to everyone.

At the farm, two heifers were born in December but we lost a sick cow. We still sell milk, eggs and several kilos of rabbit meat. With these products we paid the workers and the food for the animals. Our problem is always the lack of water: an important obstacle for the supply of fodder as well as the herbs that need watering.



Of the six literacy participants, four adults can now read, write and count. During mass, at the peasants' feast, everyone attended the release of the last promotion. Then, we experienced the blessing ceremony of six new recruits.

We thank all our benefactors. Their support allows us to operate and continue the mission of the Aina-Village for the needy around us.

*On behalf of the Aina-Village Team Benasandratra*

*Sr. Florence,  
Madagascar*