

# SPIRITUALITY AND RECONFIGURATION



*The future opens before us who have faith in Wisdom who “traverses and renew all things” Wisdom 7:24, 27.*

## FROM ONE FEAST TO THE NEXT, 2021

The cover: Representation of the production process of 'Nshima', Malawi's national staple food.

The process of reconfiguration calls us to renew all things. The process can be compared with a process of producing “Nshima” the staple food of Malawi

The maize grain has to change through the process of pounding ( thus letting go which is the first step in reconfiguration) later it has to be winnowed to separate the grain and bran. Then milled to produce the flour that is used to make Nshima.

There are a lot of activities/processes that we need to undergo in the reconfiguration in order to make our spirituality and charism visible.

26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021

## SPIRITUALITY AND RECONFIGURATION

### “Readiness to go Beyond our Borders”

**Setting:** Globe, Statue or picture of Montfort, candle, pictures of faces of different people



#### Setting of the day

- *Bible, Love of Eternal Wisdom*
- *Pieces of papers and pens (to be distributed during commitment)*

#### Introduction

Sent in the name of Christ, we give preference to those whom the world rejects “those alienated from the Church”. Called to the work of creative Wisdom, we are invited to seek new forms of evangelization together (RL8) ... within and beyond our borders. We embrace differences and work in favour of cultural diversity (RL 8.)

Saint Louis Marie de Montfort was and is an example of love without borders; he had spent all his life in serving the poor...beyond his family, place of origin as well as his status. At the age of nineteen he crossed the Cesson Bridge that was the beginning of his mission and for God Alone.

Our physical presence to each other gives a different understanding of what it means to go beyond borders because through this we begin to feel and experience what others are experiencing, we become part of them and we are ready to help them in any way. As we reflect and pray using this theme, let us learn from St. Louis Marie de Montfort how to reach out to others.

**Hymn:** To follow the Lord and find freedom (or any other)

### **Scripture Reading: Luke 10:29-36**

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “and who is my neighbour?” Jesus replied, “A Man fell victim to robbers, as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave to the inn keeper with the instruction, “take care of him, if you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back”.

### ***Short Reflection***

#### **From our Founder**

To cross a bridge might not seem to be such an important event. But even these few meters are capable of assuming a symbolic meaning. In this case the little bridge of Cesson will take on a special significance in Louis' life ... From the side of the road a beggar cries out his piercing singsong appeal for arms hearing it, Louis smiles to himself ... Louis removes his suit the last gift of his mother and his last link with the world he has left behind he exchanges it for beggars old clothes. (Pg58 *Montfort a Prophet of our Times*).

### ***Short Reflection***

#### **Reflective Reading**

To cross the bridge of Cesson, it was a symbolic meaning in the life of Montfort. He met a beggar whom he exchanged his new suit with the old clothes of the beggar, he also gave him all the money he had.

It was a turning point for Montfort, starting a new life without knowing how this will lead him. Like Montfort, our love must be active, it must arouse in us the burning desire that God be known and loved and be at the service of the poor.

In another event, Saint Louis Marie de Montfort accepted an invitation to have dinner with his parents, but he laid one condition, he must be allowed to bring his friends with him 'the beggars' indeed Louis came with the beggars to his family for dinner.

## Personal Reflection.

- *Who was neighbour to the robbers' victim? Who is my neighbour?*
- *From Montfort's life of going beyond borders and the Good Samaritan what am I invited to?*

## Sharing

### Commitment:

- At this time members are invited to move around and sit at a different place in silence and listen to their feelings.
- How does it feel to be in a new place you're not familiar with?

***Write your feelings on a piece of paper provided and place it in front of the Bible and God Alone.***

After each one has placed the paper, pray together **Our Father** and **3 Hail Marys**.

## Concluding Prayer

God of unity and oneness, we praise and glorify you as we deepen our desire to go beyond our borders. May all that we do bring God's love to our brothers and sisters who are suffering and be the source of hope and encouragement. May the process of reconfiguration, help us to work together with one mind and heart towards the common goal, so that our presence may witness the love of God to wounded humanity. May we help them to become the architect of their own destiny. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort intercede for us. Amen

**Hymn:** I walk upon the open road or any other.



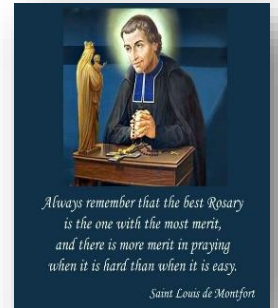
27<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

## “SPIRITUALITY AND RECONFIGURATION”

### “Own, Appreciate and Accept Cultural Differences”

**Setting:** Globe, Statue or picture of Montfort, candle, pictures of faces of different people

**Setting of the day:** *Rule of Life*



### Introduction

We live in a diverse and global world. This inclusivity often brings about misunderstanding and conflict. However, the true goal of diversity is to embrace the complexities and blessings, rather than dread the change that inclusivity may bring. People or ideas that are different than our own often create discomfort for fear of the unknown. Owning, appreciating and accepting cultural differences are encouraged in today's world. The emphasis is to move from a position of being afraid to tolerating and appreciating cultural differences.

**Hymn:** We are one in the Spirit or any other

**Scripture Reading:**

**John 4: 1- 10: The Samaritan Woman**



Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptising more disciples than John, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph, Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" [For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.] Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."



## ***Short Reflection***

### **From our Founder**

Though troubled deeply and painfully, he will never deviate from his fundamental inner coherence. “Who says Louis is excessive in his behaviour, writes de Luca. All his life he is faithful to one single vocation. He is able to give only one message to the world: I cannot stay put forever in one place. I must be on the move to go to the poor of the cities and the countryside. But everyone seems want to pin him down.

“I am at the hospital, with five thousand poor”, Louis writes to Marie Louise Trichet, “to make them live for God and also die to myself. Do not accuse me of fickleness or coldness with regard to those at Poitiers, for my Master has led me here as if in spite of myself. His plan is in all this, and I adore it without understanding it”. (Benedetta Papasogli p. 210 & 211)



## ***Short Reflection***

### **Reflective Reading**

Montfort’s experience of living in the poor house at Poitiers was a symbol of total surrender to God and this is what Jesus is inviting a Samaritan woman, “if you knew..., you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

Our relationship with God helps us to own, appreciate and accept other cultures as we are invited by **RL 38**; “*Coming from different generations, cultures and backgrounds, we are sent to announce, by our lifestyle, the richness of our differences and the universality of Wisdom.*” And also **RL 40**, “*Following Mary’s example, who hastened to be with Elizabeth, our community groups are attentive to the call and needs of those around them in order to improve their human and spiritual condition*”.

### ***Personal Reflection (soft music from the background)***

#### ***Sharing***

#### **Commitment**

*With soft music, every member of the community is invited to go in front and touch a Rule of Life in silence, committing herself to own, appreciate and accept cultural differences.*

After everyone has committed herself, pray together; ***Our Father and 3 Hail Marys***

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you inspired Saint Louis Marie to undertake the apostolic mission of preaching the Gospel of Christ your Son to all people. Aided by his prayers and taught by the Virgin Mary, grant that we may be open to the inspiration of your spirit, attentive to the cries of the poor, and so become untiring messengers of your reign. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

### **Hymn: Wisdom Blessed Be**





28<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2021

## SPIRITUALITY AND RECONFIGURATION

### “Creating Bonds among Us”

**Setting:** Globe, Statue or picture of Montfort, candle, pictures of faces of different people

**Setting of the day:**

- Image of the Holy Spirit,
- Cuttings of small papers representing tongues of fire (*to be distributed at the beginning of prayers*)

### Introduction



To reconfigure is to set something up, rearrange something in a particular way, or fix something up for a particular purpose. Therefore, reconfiguration calls us Daughters of Wisdom to set up new ways of living by creating new bonds.

We long to do this beyond our borders while maintaining a spiritual relationship we have with Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom in order to continue experiencing Love, Peace and Harmony. We allow the transformative glimpse of Holy Spirit to change or enhance our ordinary human attributes, thereby empowering our emotions to come from deep within the core of the heart. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to create new bonds within and among us:

***Refrain: Come Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, renew the face of the earth (2x).***

***(During the hymn someone brings the image of the Holy Spirit and places it near the Globe)***

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 8: 24-25, 27, 29- 31**

When there were no deep I was brought forth, when there no fountain or springs of water; before the mountain were settled into place before the hills, I was brought fourth. When he established the heaven, there was I. when he marked out the vault face of the deep; when he set for the sea its limit so that the waters should not transgress his command. When he fixed foundation of the earth, then was I beside him as artisan I was hid delight day by day playing before him before all the while, playing over the whole of the earth, having my delight with human being. Now, children, listen to me happy are they who keep my words.

### ***Short Reflection***

#### **From our Founder**

May the perfect love of God reign in our hearts!

I cannot tell you how much pleasure your short letter gave me. It shows the bond of charity which unites you and my unworthy self, a bond God has established and wishes to maintain. It is with this in mind that I am writing to tell you briefly about my state of mind at the moment ... My intention was, as yours was too, to prepare for mission-work and especially for teaching catechism to the poor, since this is what attracts me most... (Letter 5).

### **Short Reflection**

#### **Reflective Reading**

When he became aware of his missionary vocation, Montfort felt within himself a strong tension between the Sulpician tradition and the desire to give himself over a life of an itinerant preacher, at the service of the poor in order to help them to come to love Christ and his mother. At the core heart of the life of Vagabond was the art of creating new bonds with the setting as well as the people of the area in order to make Jesus and Mary known as a goal of Wisdom Spirituality. St Montfort had to go beyond the boarder of Sulpician's tradition in order to meet the needs of a Vagabond preacher.

### ***Short Reflection***

#### ***Personal Reflection***

#### ***Sharing***

#### **Commitment**

- *On a small image of the tongue of fire given at the beginning write on it a gift of the Holy Spirit that will help you to create new bonds as we continue with the process of reconfiguration.*
- *Place them in front of the image of the Holy Spirit (***hymn to the Holy Spirit***)*

After each person has placed her gift pray together: **Our Father and 3 Hail Mary's**

## **Concluding Prayer**

O Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, we thank you for the gift of Inner eyes which help us to contemplate you in the magnificence of creation. As the expression of your love, may we learn to see you in the process of reconfiguration. Give us a heart of solidarity in order to maximize our witness. Fill our inner eyes with hope that we may develop positive perception towards this process in order to taste the Love of Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**HYMN:** *Bind us Together Lord (or any other relevant to the theme of the day).*



05<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

## SPIRITUALITY AND RECONFIGURATION

### “The Beauty of our Differences”

**Setting:** Setting: Globe, Statue or picture of Montfort, pictures of faces of different people



#### Setting of the day:

- image of Marie Louise,
- Pictures of outstretched arms

#### Introduction

We choose to live interculturality in the daily reality of community life. Joyfully, we proclaim the Reign of God, sharing our faith and gifts, our values and vulnerabilities. Called to live in interdependence, we rediscover and bring together in harmony the richness of our differences (Orientation of the General Chapter 2018).

Tolerance is better than intolerance. Respect is deeper than acceptance. But the differences between people can also change us and help us grow. To build a healthy, whole society and world, we need to let who others are. We need to be open to learn from people who are very different from ourselves [Cathy **Hird**]

Our world has been torn asunder by racial, ethnic, and ideological differences. It is no secret that the world that we live in is going through significant changes. Of note, almost every day there are stories of wars or impending wars that suggest that instead of coming together and trying to understand and accept each other, we appear to be disconnected and intent on destroying each other and the world we live in. It is a responsibility of every Daughter of Wisdom to restore the beauty of our differences.

**Hymn:** We are companions on the journey or *any of your choice*

## Scripture Reading    **Romans: 12: 4 – 12**

For as in one body, we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them; if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.



Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honour. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, and persevere in prayer.

### ***Short Reflection***

#### **From our Founder**

Seeing clearly fulfilled all that Father de Montfort foretold; that I should one day be at the head of a numerous communities and in the course of time many candidates would present themselves to be trained as Daughters of Wisdom, I feel obliged to recommend to all of them in the present and in the future, never to deviate from the primitive spirit of our holy Founder, which is a spirit of humility, of poverty, detachment, of charity and union with each other.

***(The Last Testament of Marie-Louise).***

### ***Short Reflection***

#### **Reflective Reading**

Marie Louise learnt from Father de Montfort that beauty is being human (“Umunthu”), that is, being loving, humble, persevering and to love the cross. Being human “Umunthu” makes life meaningful, orderly and promising. “Umunthu” is beautiful.

As we can see in the relationship between Wisdom and Creation ... Wisdom makes them into God’s friends and prophets. She goes out to meet those who desire her. She calls out to those who are simple and invites them to her table **RL 62.**

Women from different cultures and ethnic groups ... carry within them the richness and challenges of their experiences, as well as their openness, creativity and desire for generous involvement **RL 63.** For those who respond to the call of Wisdom, formation becomes a

journey that fosters self-knowledge and harmonizing of different aspects of each individual's personality and history as Paul writes to the Romans, one body different parts.

### **Sharing**

### **Commitment**

*With both arms outstretched, as a sign of accepting and acknowledging the beauty of our differences, let us sing Magnificat in any language of our choice*

After the Magnificat, together pray ***Our Father and 3 Hail Marys***

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you created all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world. We acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of your manifold love for your creation. God, who created a world of diversity and vibrancy, go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness. Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

**Hymn:** Touch the earth with gentleness.

**MAY 6, 2021**

## **SPIRITUALITY AND RECONFIGURATION**

### **“Witnessing God Hidden in Our Neighbour”**

**Setting:** **Setting:** Globe, Statue or picture of Montfort, pictures of faces of different people

**Setting of the day:** create a big image of heart and small ones for each participant

#### **Introduction**

Love is from God, so love is the very character of God, and it is going to come from Him.

If God dwells in an individual and love is from God, then one should be loving. Love is evidence that a person is born of God. Love demonstrates that a person knows God.



All people are made in the image of God, and by his grace, they are able to act lovingly. They will be able to love even their enemies, and love unconditionally, because they have a new power within them and perfect example before them. This is what it means to Witness God hidden in our neighbour. The Good Samaritan was moved in his soul by the need in front of his eyes. We are called to be moved by the needs of other entities and their members'. To know God, we must walk through life in love, that is love for our neighbour, love for those who hate us, love for all.

**Hymn:** Whatsoever you do to the least of my people (or any other relevant hymn).

#### **Scripture Reading      1 John 4: 7 - 12**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only son into the World so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.



## ***Short Reflection***

### **From our Founders**

It is, Your Excellency, to be admitted to the General Hospital, if you will allow me to enter ... And since I have experienced the happiness of serving God in religion, I can no longer bear to be in the world. "I don't think they need a governess this time..." But, Your Excellency, if these gentlemen do not wish to take me as a governess, perhaps they will not refuse to admit me as a poor person, and, if you would be **so** good as to write me a letter, I am sure that I shall enter. (In dialogue with Marie Louise Pg. 91)

## **Short Reflection**

### **Reflective Reading**

The first letter of St. John that we have just read gives a true reflection God's Love and calls us to love ourselves as our neighbour.

Marie Louise lived among the poor, the hospital enclosure. Later she became a matron living in the midst of the poor in her heart and deed. Following the incarnation of the word, "the love which came to announce the good news to the poor," Marie Louise manifested this love in Poitiers as in Niort, in La Rochelle as in O'leron. Her heart, hands and feet were given to the poor. Her "acts of mercy and kindness," illustrated her tender compassion for the sick and the dying so much so that she was given the eloquent name, "Mother of Jesus,

## ***Short Reflection***

### ***Personal Reflection***

### ***Sharing***

### **Commitment**

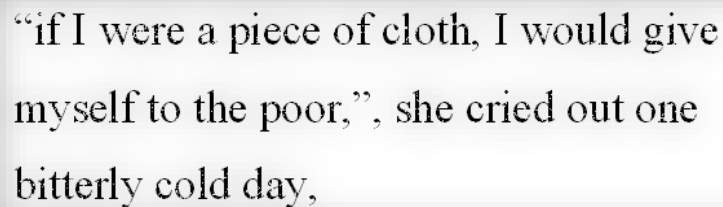
- *On the image of heart write one of your fears for reconfiguration*
- *While the assembly is singing the **hymn Abba Father** stick it inside the big heart placed in front*

After each person has placed her symbol, Pray **Our father and 3 Hail Marys**.

## Concluding Prayer

Lord, our Dear Father, thank you very much for the gift of Wisdom a path that will lead us to discover our innermost being and God within us as the deepest source of our existence. Help us to learn to live in God and allow Him to illumine all facets of life. Since to embrace Wisdom is to love and taste the tenderness of God in our hearts, assist us to discover the reign of God in our neighbour through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN:** God's Spirit is in my Heart (or any other relevant to the theme).



“if I were a piece of cloth, I would give myself to the poor,” she cried out one bitterly cold day,

**MAY 7, 2021**

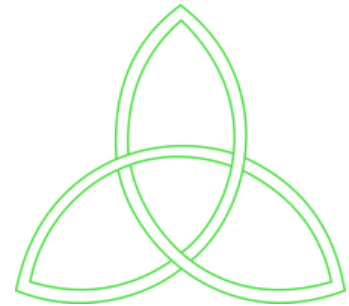
## **SPIRITUALITY AND RECONFIGURATION**

### ***“Proclaiming Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom”***

**Setting:** Setting: Globe, Statue or picture of Montfort, pictures of faces of different people

#### **Introduction**

During the beatification of Marie Louise, John Paul II said, “Marie-Louise of Jesus is not only an example to be admired. It is a life that indicates a way to follow! You do not have to repeat the same journey, but the spirit that was hers is the same spirit that can animate your life today.”



Jesus Christ... Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom, is all that you can and should desire. Desire Him, seek Him, for He is that precious pearl to purchase of which you must not make it difficult to sell all that you have. "Whoever wishes to acquire the great treasure of Wisdom must... seek it early, even from a young age, if he can..." (LEW 54).

Marie Louise lived this experience of Wisdom. For us Daughters of Wisdom, Marie-Louise is really a page of Gospel to reread and an example of life to be lived out today. As invited by Orientation of the General chapter 2018 “we have heard the call of Wisdom Incarnate to be witnesses to the Reign of God.

**Hymn:** *(of Wisdom or hymn of any choice)*

**Scripture Reading:** (Mt 5:2-12)

He began to teach them, saying:



“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are

you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

### ***Short Reflection***

#### **From Our Founder**

There is little that I can tell you with certainty about our establishment. All I can say is that there is considerable opposition, but as you know, God's works always meet with obstacles. I am not sorry to have undertaken this task. I trust that God will sustain me since I am but doing His holy will. In all things I seek to obey God.

As you know, the way to Heaven is gained only through suffering. I am quite content with the state that God has ordained for me. Do not be anxious about my situation. I am very grateful for your concern for us. [*Letter: 1 (Marie Louise)*]

### **Short Reflection.**

#### **Reflective Passage.**

Marie Louise learned from Montfort how to desire and seek Wisdom, she followed her own path to acquire Wisdom and she shared Wisdom to the poor. She sought Wisdom constantly and courageously until the end of her life.

A seeker of God, she denounced, first in her own life and then in her apostolic activities, what Louis-Marie called "false wisdom": honours, duplicity, pretence...to simply live the realities of daily life. It is in the name of the search for Wisdom that she experienced humility and detachment at a very high level. For her, no relationship with Wisdom is without this detachment. Marie Louise of Jesus was a strong woman. The image of Wisdom in the book of proverbs helps us to understand her.

*“Who can find a virtuous woman? She is far beyond the price of pearls... she opens her mouth.... She does so wisely.... On her tongue is kindly instruction.... She keeps good watch.....On the conduct of her household.....No bread of idleness for her.....The woman who is wise.....Is the one to praise?” (Modified from Proverbs 31)*



## ***Short Reflection***

### **Sharing**

### **Commitment**

*Members are invited to recall and say one virtue of Marie Louise. The virtue that each one feels will help to proclaim Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom.*

After sharing pray Our ***Father and 3Hail Marys***

### **Concluding Prayer**

Let us give glory to God for the gift of life He bestowed on Marie Louise and to this praise let us add this intercession:

### **Deliver us Marie Louise**

*From the fear of the future.... from our lack of daring... from our lack of faith.... from our tendency to compromise... from insufficiency of our love and our availability.*

### **Obtain for us**

*Your apostolic daring.... your preferential love to the poor and your unshakable hope*

Look down from heaven on the vine you have planted with Louis Marie de Montfort and obtain from the Lord that it may be blessed, that it will live, bear fruit and grow in abundance. **Amen**

**Hymn.** *Woman of yesterday and today or any hymn of your choice*