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A TRANSFORMING PRESENCE

Sr Pierrette Bwamba Bosomba,
General Councillor

We are getting used to following the news in the media which presents us with the darker side of world events. From this information, we realize how much people's lives are impacted by pandemics, wars, climate disruption with their direct consequences on humans and biodiversity, just to name a few:

- The drought with the great fires that ravaged the forests,
- Floods and bad weather in some parts of the world,
- Monetary inflation and the high cost of living, etc...

Each event has not failed to touch the daily life of the people. **We are far from being spared as a Congregation.** Following this news places us at the heart of the world in order to be attentive to it and to be in solidarity with the sufferings of the world, as Pope Francis invites us to do, as quoted in the UISG Bulletin: *"How can we take charge of the world without listening to it, without allowing ourselves to be touched by its cry and its needs? Listening is the humble style of God "* **1.**

As Daughters of Wisdom, we are called to **"promote life so that all may have life"** as the 2000 General Chapter invited us to do, through the quality of our presence and/or through our apostolic commitments. We are called since our origins as a Congregation to reveal this Wisdom sought and contemplated through our lives, in health or in sickness.

The words of Ted Dunn in his article **"Embracing Our Vulnerability and Its Transformative Potential"** seem to best describe our role today in a time of great change. *"The world needs you now as leaven, as salt, as the little remnant that God can use to transform the world. Whatever your age, your apostolate, or your circumstances, you can be a transforming presence".* **2.**

Of course, the events of the world bring us face to face with our own vulnerabilities and we experience them in the way we seek to understand the deeper reasons for so many upsets. The times in which we live bring us to a deeper awareness of our vulnerability; a sign of the human condition that we share with everyone...

Vulnerability is part of our human condition. Paradoxically, the experience of vulnerability gives us the opportunity to become more human. It is not a matter of exalting

pain or suffering, but of recognizing a way of being a human person that bows, that leans with respect towards its neighbor, as the heavenly vault bows towards the earth; a way of living that knows how to lower itself and accompany... 3.

Many are the crises that have impacted our entities and each one, wherever it is, tries to bounce back to choose the side of life and bring a life-giving answer. This is what we discover in the articles of this issue of the Bulletin Sagesse International.

Beyond the dark side of events, we can perceive Wisdom very present in our world today, it crosses and penetrates all things (Wis 7,24) like leaven in the dough. **Wisdom is, through our lives and our actions, this presence that transforms.**

Let us dare to proclaim and spread these **"beautiful stories"** of Wisdom's presence in our lives and in our contexts. Making them known is in itself transformative.

1. Pope Francis, Message for the 56th World Communications Day 2022.
2. UISG-Bulletin, P.18
3. Sr Yolanta Kafka, RMI - Sr Pat Murray, IBVM - Report for the Assembly in UISG-Bulletin, N°178, P.84

LOCAL EVENTS IN CANADA

Sr Bernadette Paquette, Canada

"How have local events impacted my Entity."

This proposed question was a springboard for either personal or community reflection. It goes without saying that the first event that comes to mind is the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This infection has had a **considerable impact on the world and on our Province of Canada on many levels.** Certainly, it has made public the vulnerabilities and shortcomings of our so-called democratic societies. It is also responsible for economic failures, delays in production and distribution, postponements in government services and an escalating cost of living.

Closer to home, at Maison Accueil-Sagesse, where most of our Sisters live, the impact has been felt considerably. The people in the food and health services had to go through the ordeal with a limited number of employees due to repeated absences. In terms of expenses, what about the additional cost of protective equipment, tableware and various disinfectants... not to mention the long term impact on the environment.

The repeated periods of confinement, the submission to sanitary rules, **the absence of religious services, in the long run, favored an escalation of fatigue, fragility, solitude.**

Elsewhere, some had to give up their apostolate in the Residences for the Elderly, but compensated for their lack of presence with telephone calls.

The Pandemic has nevertheless presented a more serene face. Above all, it has shown the greatness of human beings in gestures of altruism and solidarity. Initiatives have arisen to help the most needy and to respond to local needs, such as providing groceries for companions. For many, it was a time for reflection, rest, spiritual renewal, reading and creativity.

It was an opportunity to adopt a positive attitude in the face of the inevitable, to broaden the heart by becoming aware of the suffering that exists outside our walls, and finally to appreciate the well-being we enjoy.

In order to remain **"connected"** in the Province, an effort was made that

produced long-awaited fruits: several Sisters became accustomed to the novelty of the **"Zoom"** link. This means has allowed them to **"do"** and be present **"differently"**. Sr. Jennifer Cortez's family and the entire Province were able to attend her perpetual profession virtually on February 2nd. By the same means, we lived the discernment and the change of government of the Province in February-March, and gathered in a Provincial Assembly, the Sisters of Canada.

Two other events are worth noting.

1- In January 2022, the city of Ottawa was besieged by a group of truckers from all over the country, in protest against the sanitary measures imposed by our governments. For three weeks, they set up camps downtown near Parliament, undermining social rights, damaging public spaces, threatening the lives of citizens who were sleep deprived and often unable to get to work, instilling fear in some, and affecting local businesses. The costs of clean-up have been significant. The danger persists and threatens to recur during



the summer. **This experience has made us realize the extent of the fragility of our social and democratic structures in the face of disinformation from protest groups.**

2- The process implemented for the sale of the Maison Accueil-Sagesse leaves a certain trace of anxiety in our Sisters, in **facing a different future.** On the other hand, it arouses confidence in our managers thanks to Wisdom that accompanies us.



A LITTLE GIRL OF NO IMPORTANCE

Sr Lise LeRiche

Yesterday, in front of my TV screen, I cried. The scrolling images were painful, difficult to tolerate. I was transported to another place on the planet, to a hospital in Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban in a ward for mothers and babies. Moms of all ages, who are said to be anemic, even at 14, with their skeletal and starving children and babies were there **in front of the whole world.** I saw what appeared to be a 6 month old child with large hollow black eyes. Her age? Four years commented the reporter. A little girl of no importance at all.

Heartbreaking image. Cruel reality today, where a large part of the planet is dying of hunger and thirst.

An apocalyptic scene that made me think, imprinting itself in my eyes and my heart.

In this time of upheavals of all kinds assailing the entire planet, what message will we dare to send? Certainly a Gospel message that could not be more shocking in the face of such a reality.

What can this shocking message be? That of the humblest virtue: *"a little girl of nothing at all who does not go without saying... On the road to salvation... between her two sisters, faith and charity, the little hope advances. It is she who carries everything forward"* according to Péguy. The little hope is a child discovering a wonder that is still impossible to grasp, and who runs to the door shouting her joy. Thus, the light of Hope illuminates and springs up, even if only for a moment, through a crack in the wall of darkness. It is the little girl of nothing who **"advances timidly, lost between the skirts of her Sisters, Faith and Charity."**

Today, how are we going to sow and live this Hope in our surroundings and our daily lives?

Can we share hope for the whole world by making it spring from the depths of our hearts to the light in our eyes? Can we communicate hope to one another, as at Easter, the faithful pass the fire of the light of the Risen One from one candle to another?



Images, of course, but let us not forget that beyond what is, there is Faith, beyond what goes without saying there is Charity, beyond what will be there is Hope. Because, this little girl of no importance, HOPE, silently and quietly, will cross the worlds and will lead us all into the heart of God.

THE NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS OF QUINOA

Sr Maria Jesús Pinedo Aguilar, USA

Sr. Maria Jesús Pinedo Aguilar, DW has been sharing the joy of cooking quinoa, and the amazing nutritional benefits of this ancient superfood, with the immigrant Christian community of St. Hugh of Lincoln parish, in Huntington Station, New York. A rich source of protein, minerals, vitamins, and other nutrients, quinoa has been gaining popularity for **its many health benefits.**

Thanks to generous support, Sr. Maria Jesús is assisting these families with a beneficial nutritional project entitled, **“Quinoa is Super Food.”** Sr. Maria Jesús first conceived the project while ministering to the immigrant Christian Community of the parish.

They told her about their struggles to provide their families healthy meals after coming home tired from laboring long hours at their jobs. ***“In my dialogues with immigrants I got to know their hopes, their worries and sufferings,”*** she writes in her project description. *“One concern is, ‘Sister Maria, I come home tired after working hours, I just want to rest, sleep, but I am also hungry...after taking a shower I go out to buy cheap food, but I worry because it’s not nutritious enough.’”*

Crises in fullness of life?

Sr. Maria Jesús thought and prayed about how she could help solve the nutrition problem. She spoke with the Pastor of the parish, Rev. Robert Smith, who was very supportive of her idea for the quinoa nutrition project, and assured her that with prayer, there would be a way **to make this project a reality.**

She asked the Leadership Team at the Daughters of Wisdom if they could help fund the purchase of quinoa and the printing of recipe booklets for distribution to the families. Her Sisters responded with generous support and affirmation of the project, and **offered to cover the entire cost of the project.** With the help of their staff, the Sisters sent out

an appeal letter requesting donations to fund the total cost of this project - \$4,500. Sister Maria Jesús found a distributor who agreed to provide the bags of quinoa at a discounted cost.

Thanks to the Daughters of Wisdom and generous benefactors, through Divine Providence, the project was able to come to fruition. Beginning in May, 2021, Sr. Maria Jesus invited members of the immigrant community for a presentation of the health benefits of quinoa, along with sharing some dishes prepared with quinoa and a refreshing healthy fruit drink. **The program has continued with great success,** with presentations to groups of women and men, and to the youth group of the parish. Prayer is an



Sister Presenting Nutritional Project with Quinoa, the Ancient Superfood, to Immigrant Community in Huntington Station, NY

important component of the presentations, and Sr. Maria Jesús emphasizes that ***“Life is a gift that God offers us with love.”*** She also quotes Hippocrates, the father of medicine, saying, ***“Let your food be your medicine.”***



As a child growing up in Peru, Sr. Maria Jesús watched as her mother prepared the superfood quinoa in soups, salads, and desserts for her family, friends, and neighbors in need. ***“My mother was born and raised in the Andes region, where Quinoa is grown...She knew it was a superfood,”*** recalled Sr. Maria Jesús. “In prayer, I remembered my Mother and how she prepared food every day with joy and sacrifice; she knew how to combine them according to their nutritional value, and they were delicious,” she added, ***“My mother worked very hard, and she helped many poor people.”*** Quinoa was first cultivated by the

Incas at least **7,000 years ago**, and it forms the staple diet and of the Inca Peruvian people.

During her most recent quinoa nutrition presentation, on July 14, 2022, Sr. Maria Jesús shared with the youth group at the parish some delicious quiche and caramel flan that she had made with quinoa, as well as her refreshing fruit drink. ***“Our body is a perfect machine,”*** Sr. Maria Jesús told the group of young adults, as she presented PowerPoint slides written in Spanish, on the importance of eating foods that keep our bodies healthy.

She displayed foods rich in potassium, magnesium, protein, beneficial fats, fiber, foods **rich in Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin D**, a diet for the health of the heart, including a colorful variety of vegetables, fruits, beans, and grains, and of course quinoa. ***“Quinoa is a marvelous super food,”*** she added, explaining that quinoa has many nutrients essential for good health, including protein, beneficial fats, carbohydrates, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, and zinc, and many vitamins like riboflavin, thiamin, vitamin B6, niacin, Vitamin B12, folate, Vitamin E, and Vitamin A. She explained that after rinsing the quinoa, it cooks quickly in water, and can be used to make many delicious dishes for dinner

by adding vegetables, as well as some meat and cheese.

Julio Vasquez, Youth Group Leader said Sr. Maria's educational program about quinoa is making a great difference in helping the Hispanic immigrant families at the parish lead healthier lives, by making better food choices. ***"This is helping our families to be healthy,"*** he said. *"It helps our families to make better choices about what to eat,"* he said.

"I'm really grateful for Sr. Maria and how she teaches us about nutrition, and the food was awesome," said Patricia Alcantara, who participated in the presentation. *"I learned so many things today that I never knew before about how food can be medicine."*



A YEAR FULL OF UNCERTAINTIES

Sr Jain Benitta, India

"The gift of knowledge helps me to find the pearl of great price hidden in the soils of adversity".

- Mother Angelica

2020 brought with it great uncertainty, fear and anxiousness in the form of COVID-19 the global pandemic. For the congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom in India, the pandemic left a mark mentally and emotionally through tragedies and difficulties but also learning and growth.

"We may have lost a loved one, but heaven gained another angel." As the quote rightly said our Congregation lost a dear and loved one on 1st June 2021 – Sr Shigi Chacko. She was self-sacrificing, loving, generous, intelligent and a true servant of God. Above all she was an asset to the Congregation. This was a loss that took us by surprise, but we know we have a powerful angel to look over us from heaven.



The pandemic also led to the halt of offline Eucharist and shift to online Eucharist. Eucharist could not be celebrated in the convent and hence

the Eucharist couldn't not be consumed by all the sisters. **This created a sense of helplessness** and we experienced a loss of meaning in our lives. Our routines were disrupted and families of the sisters were affected in this pandemic, which brought grief and sadness to everyone. But, in these dark times, it is the warmth of the light of our Lord Jesus Christ that brought comfort and hope in our small community.



Chaotic events around us like the attacks on Churches and the religions Christian communities in Karnataka sent a shiver down our backs. Our congregation was filled with fear and panic but stayed firm in prayer and faith. God kept our communities safe during this time and his angels guarded and protected us. **Turmoil around the world like the war between Russia & Ukrain indirectly provided us all with an unpleasant,**

helpless and sad feeling. We prayed fervently for the victims and those involved and for the world at large. Each community organized special prayers and spend hours in prayerful adoration, offering up everything happening around us, especially praying for peace.

Since we could not help the society and those around us on a large level, **we did our best to storm heaven with our prayers, petitions and praise.** We tried helping few families by providing rations. Having to spend a lot of time together in the convent helped build strong bonds and connections with each other.

We also developed a familial connection with the neighboring families, helping out each other in delivering groceries and resources whenever possible with the emergence of online platforms of communication, we had the opportunity of interacting with members of the Daughters of Wisdom our extended family situated in different parts of the world. **Dependence of Technology pushed us to adapt to the modern and developing world.** We learned to embrace technology and the complex ways and skills of using it.

We were hit by adversity, but our communities and togetherness, faith, service and learning's helped us

persevere, develop resilience and stay rooted in faith in the face of fear.



BUILDING PEACE IN A TIME OF WAR.

Sr dell'Incarnazione, Italia

We come into contact with the wounds.



As soon as the war in Ukraine started, the welcome of refugees began in Italy. The first ones arrived in the families where the Ukrainian elderly caretakers work (and in Italy there are many of them). The latter invited

relatives and friends whom the families welcomed without asking too many questions, driven only by generosity and altruism. **The population was immediately mobilized to collect food, medicine and clothing.** In this way, by word of mouth, charity was created that strengthened the bonds and friendships.

The civil authorities, while waiting for the arrival of the refugees, asked various religious institutes for the availability of rooms for a first reception, and we made our houses available in Castiglione (TO) and Clusone (BG). The only people who benefited from our availability were two young people who already knew the house in Castiglione because they had been there in the past, when the children of Chernobyl were welcomed during the summer for change of climate stays favorable to their health. Keeping the family groups together, giving them a way of life where it was possible to preserve family privacy and a certain autonomy immediately highlighted the need for different smaller structures for family use.

Multiple needs are met with creativity and involvement.

We immediately realized that good will was not sufficient, but that working in synergy with the various public and religious institutions and associations was indispensable.

When the Ukrainians arrived in Italy, the percentage of people infected with **COVID 19 was still very high**, so the first reception required tests, vaccinations, isolation for the positives persons and their families. Many committed themselves both personally and by involving others: there was something to do for everyone and creativity multiplied the initiatives.



Work was done for the widest and fastest possible integration: search for interpreters for the language, collaboration with schools for the integration of children and young people, involvement of young people in sports activities, possibility to practice art: theater, painting workshops, various works.

And we know better the possibilities and needs of our reality.

What characterized the different experiences was above all the spontaneous need to work together to offer and ask for help, to discover and value the contribution of each person. There have been many collections and proposals of activities to raise funds.

There was no lack of concerts, walks open to all, visits to cities and places of art and culture, trips to promote socialization ... and the commitment to enter the world of work was not lacking.

The church of the Madonna del Carmine in Clusone was immediately set up for prayer for peace, leaving it open every day for those who wish to go and pray to ask for this gift.

In the juvenile prison, the inmates were preparing the food and clothing packages collected by the prison staff. **We discovered a lot of generosity and new relationships**, but we also realized how much we miss the reality that is close to us. In Rome, in response to a request for help from a local school to teach Italian, we realized that in addition to Ukrainians, the vast majority of students are immigrants with very little language skills.

The words of Don Primo Mazzolari come to mind: ***"He who has little charity sees few poor. He who has much charity sees many poor. What a strange virtue charity is! It multiplies the poor for the joy of loving the brothers, for the joy of losing one's life in the brothers."*** And as Pope Francis

says *"The Spirit pushes our lives along the difficult but joyful path of charity and solidarity with our brothers."*

THE EXPERIENCE OF SR KARUNA

Sr Karuna, India

We, the Daughters of Wisdom, are more than ever invited to live our commitment as the **"Signs of ever-possible dialogue and communion capable of reconciling all differences"**, we draw our interpersonal dynamic from the contemplation of the Trinity. (RL #38)

In order to live our call to its optimum we do receive grace and enlightenment from Wisdom, who through her incarnation shared our life and manifested to us the perfect communion of the Holy Trinity.

Differences bring richness and novelty. Moreover, beauty lies in respecting and celebrating our differences and living in harmony.

The development of a guide for intercultural living by the Intercultural Committee began at the end of 2019, however due to the Pandemic it

took longer to bring forth the Resource Guide for interculturality. This period of working together as a team was literally an intercultural and international experience for me as I had left my **"Poitiers (India) for my La Rochelle (Haiti)."** Working together with the sisters from different countries and languages, including our different personalities and our style of working was a first hand practice of the mission that we had undertaken.

We were also continents apart with different time zones. Nevertheless, we were one in Wisdom as Sisters, entrusted with an important mission for the Congregation. We took this mission seriously and met via Zoom every two weeks. We developed a guide that would be practical and adaptable to the community and for the mission.



This period of conception was a time of learning and personal growth in my living and understanding of interculturality and internationality for me. While preparing the guide **I was invited to introspect and examine my own current life.** This process lead me to identify the phases in my own intercultural integration, and enabled me to work on my feelings, emotions and perceptions.

There were many hands supporting us during this period, the most important support we received from the General Council, Sr Pierrette being the link person, shared with us many resources on interculturality.

We thank her and the General council for their accompaniment. Another very important source of support for me was my community in Haiti, especially Sr Nadige, who very generously gave up her office every two weeks for two years in order to assure that we were able to work without interruptions. I acknowledge her support and thank her.

The international nature of our Congregation encourages us, wherever we may be, to develop a sense of communion among peoples, ethnic groups and cultures. (RL 29)

Though we come from diverse cultures, yet there is a uniting factor

that surpasses all our diversities and this uniting factor for us the Daughters of Wisdom is, the **WISDOM CULTURE.** We are influenced by our Spirituality and imbued by it to the point of speaking the same language - the language of love, the language of wisdom, our sharing and prayers too have a common vocabulary.

In addition, we echo the words and imitate the actions of our holy Founders in our mission and apostolate as well. Therefore, let us continue as ardently as ever to love and serve. **“May the divine fire which Jesus Christ came to cast upon the earth blaze forth in a deluge of love and justice.”(PM16-17)**



THE EXPERIENCE OF SR EVELYNE CETOUTE

Sr Evelyne Cetoute

"The one who does not risk something for God, does not do anything great for Him " (letter 27)

To follow up on the recommendations of the 2018 General Chapter, the General Council, called upon 4 sisters from 4 entities with this specific mission, that of: "Develop a resource guide about intercultural living..... in connection with Wisdom Spirituality". cf. 2018 Chapter Orientation, page 9 # 3.

For my part, an image stayed with me throughout the work: "This document would be like a garden to be cultivated where the whole Congregation would find what is necessary for the journey of **"interculturality"** to be made together.

The experience lived in the elaboration of this work with the others, made me understand in a certain way what must be the content of the guide. **Intercultural life in connection with Wisdom Spirituality**"; it is an adventure to be undertaken that will take us through new paths.

How can I find my rightful place in this work together? How can we work together to make this garden of Wisdom attractive enough for all of us? **How to arrive at a unified document on interculturality?** So many questions were arising in me throughout the work. Faced with our differences in our way of working, of considering interculturality, a conviction never left my heart. **"We are rooted in the same soil, we draw our sap from the same soil, which is Wisdom Spirituality ."**

No matter what theme one or the other addressed in the production of the document, we inevitably found ourselves in the writings of the Founders. This observation reinforced what is said in our Rule of Life: "Coming from different generations, cultures and horizons, we are sent to announce by our way of life, the richness of our differences and the universality of Wisdom" RV#38.3. I conclude that we are truly transplanted in the same soil of the Congregation.

To reach an **"intercultural life"**, a visible sign of "Wisdom's dream" which consists in gathering all the peoples, implies sacrifices, the crossing of rocky paths.

Consenting to the efforts that interculturality requires, is to

collaborate in Wisdom's project, **"his Kingdom"** where all of us will finally be gathered, from all nations, all peoples, all races around the table, and this is what our Founders have shown us.

My experience leads me to conclude that the path of interculturality necessarily passes through chaos, desert, misunderstandings, frustrations etc. However, if **we know how to keep our eyes fixed on the one who has traced the way for us through his incarnation, Christ Wisdom**, the example of our Founders, why not venture out, relying on the words of Father de Montfort: if we do not risk something for God, we do nothing great for him (Letter 27)

Certainly in this flowerbed that is the Congregation where each flower is transplanted, we must agree to go through difficult stages: loss of its leaves, of its marks, of apparent death, of drying up, etc. But in the end, with patience, trusting the earth, the culture that welcomes us, each flower can blossom and give everyone the opportunity to contemplate

through us the greatness and the beauty of the Creator .

Such is the path of interculturality, mortifying, but exciting, so that Wisdom may be known, loved and served by all the peoples of the earth.

I conclude with Gianadda's song that translates, in my opinion, the experience to be made in order to enter into the content of the guide. **"Intercultural life in connection with Wisdom Spirituality"**.

*To flourish where God has planted us
No matter what community,
Whatever the country "
Because he is the gardener,
Since his grace is sufficient for us.*

1.- *When He lives in our desires
When the most beautiful
is yet to come
When to reach Him we must leave
That to be reborn one must die
And contemplate to become.*

2.- *Since He transforms our night
That He lived Gethsemane
Since He remains my friend
That his tenderness is infinite
Since I trust in Him.*



*3.- When our homes are closed
When the horizon is closed
When our songs fade
When there are no more seasons
Nor workers for the harvest*



MONTFORTIAN INTERNATIONAL FORMATION 2022

Sylvie Abraham, France

We were **18** participants of **11** different nationalities for the FIM (International Montfortian Formation) from July 1 to August 14, 2022: **7** Brothers of St. Gabriel, **4** Missionaries of Mary, **4** Daughters of Wisdom and **3** lay people, associated to each of the three congregations. During these 6 weeks, we lived a real intercultural encounter in joy, sharing and fraternity. We were accompanied during all this time of formation by **Sr Marie- Reine GAUTHIER**, **Father Joji KALARICKAL**, **Brother Jean-Marie NDOUR** and for the stewardship by **Brother Maurice HERAULT**.

Our formation was intense and rich both in terms of acquired knowledge and spirituality. The first week, animated by Father JOS, SMM, allowed us to work on the representations that we had of ourselves in order to be fully actors of our life.

The second week, we deepened the charism of the three Congregations with the interventions of **Sr Anne RETAILLEAU FDLS**, **Sr Marie-Laure PAILLET, FDLS**, **Fr Jean Marie NDOUR, FSG** and **Fr Joji KALARICKAL, SMM**.

The third week, we experienced a very beautiful pilgrimage to Lourdes which was for most of us the first discovery of this high place of Marian Spirituality.

The fourth week was dedicated to the study of the images of Wisdom, animated by **Sr Consuelo ROJAS, FDLS**. Then, **Father Delfim AFONSO, SMM**, took us through the Treatise on True Devotion and the Secret of Mary in a very exhaustive way. In addition, during the first five weeks, we had the chance to go on pilgrimage to the places of origin in Poitiers, La Rochelle,



Pontchâteau and Montfort sur Meu where the local communities guided us and generously welcomed us.

The last week was a time of renewal, of deepening and of silence at the Abbey of Bellefontaine where Father Jean-Charles WISMICK, SMM, preached a retreat with the theme:

"As a Montfortian family, let us become who we are!" This moment of revisiting the great themes of our spirituality invited us to reread our personal experience in the light of the writings of Father de Montfort, but also by reading the Acts of the three General Chapters. **Father WISMICK** invited us, with enthusiasm, to keep the sacred fire of Father de Montfort where we are in mission and to evangelize with our hearts and through beauty.

The FIM ended with a Eucharist at the tombs of the Founders in the presence of representatives of the General and Provincial Councils. There we were called, religious and laity together, to commit ourselves with audacity to new paths of evangelization.

This formation was for me an authentic journey of life where I deepened, of course, my knowledge of the spirituality and **charism of the founding saints**, but where I grew humanly through such rich exchanges

with religious and lay people, deeply in love with Christ Wisdom. I retain this idea of being on the road in the Montfortian family, religious and lay people together, as from the beginning, in very different missionary and apostolic configurations, but all animated by this same desire to make the love of Wisdom known to the men and women of our time.

I have discovered the actuality, the originality and the beauty of this spirituality that unfolds not through theoretical learning but through the experience of an encounter in truth with Christ Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom. To this day, I remain available to her calls and conscious of the privilege of having received this formation, I am ready to continue my collaboration with the Daughters of Wisdom.



FIM closing mass with Father Wismick

NOVICES IN THE MAKING

Novices of Madagascar

Difference is our wealth.

There is no need to travel to live an experience interculturality. We were able to appreciate this within our community: We are young people coming from different regions, even if some of us have the same origin, there are still cultural differences that make our wealth.

We marvel at our differences on a daily basis, during our recreational evenings, in the kitchen or in the animation of prayer.

The diversity in our community is the color of our living together, it pushes us to incarnate ourselves in the culture of others and helps us to reach our goal: ***"to discover and deepen in the dynamics of a community life, with our riches, our challenges and our limits"***.

The novitiate is a time of preparation for the mission: **to broaden our knowledge and our Heart.**

In our time, faced with the expansion of technology, it is necessary to enrich our knowledge by facing the apostolic mission to defend

our faith, and to be able to live in the midst of the world, while living apart from it.



The courses we take at the inter-novitiate, or at home, help us to prepare our future. The collaboration of the Montfortian family in Madagascar is an example for us to follow. We attend courses with the sister responsible for our formation, Montfortian fathers and Brothers of Saint Gabriel. They are followed by moments of integration and fraternal sharing.

We feel the benefits of these courses in our daily lives, we can see an elevation of our faculties, notably in our relationship with God, with others and with ourselves. We are moving towards a better knowledge of the vocation and the progressive initiation to the religious life of the Daughters of Wisdom.





SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

Sr Christine, France

To promote vocations is to allow others **"to have life in abundance"** and this is exactly what we wish to live at the Calvary of Pontchâteau - a place dear to our founder, Saint-Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort.

The bishop of Nantes, Monsignor Laurent Percerou, wished that this place become one of the radiating poles of the diocese of Nantes. A joint mission between Montfort Missionaries, Brothers of Saint Gabriel and Daughters of Wisdom.

In response to this reflection and to the mission that was entrusted to me as the person in charge of vocational awareness in the Province of France, we experienced three intense weekends with young people, two of which were at the Calvary of Pontchâteau. Here are a few echoes:

"TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD".

The first weekend for the 20-40 year olds had the theme **"Taste and see that the Lord is good"**. We welcomed 26 young people.

This high point, combining spirituality and relaxation, was concocted by an enlarged Montfortian Family, since a very motivated young lay person joined the preparation team. Also, for weeks, we had been looking for ways to make this place more dynamic and to offer proposals for younger people.

On Saturday afternoon, our meeting started with a friendly welcome outside followed by a Way of the Cross alternating meditation of the stations and history of our three Congregations. **What a joy to hear these young people singing Montfortian songs learned in a hurry.**

Remembering that Wisdom has set up her table and her tent among us, our day continued with an original proposal: an "apéritif dinnatoire" with an initiation to wine tasting animated by Sister Christine (Daughter of Wisdom and sommelier-cavist) The next day, our guests already felt at home, so we shared Lauds, Mass and

an outdoor lunch. We were happy to welcome these young people in the manner of our Founders, that is to say with simplicity and conviviality.

"DRINK FROM THE WELLSPRING".

The second highlight was the 73rd Montfortian Pilgrimage with 80 young people with whom we had an exceptional experience!



Here again, we drew on **the heritage of our founders Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise de Jésus** by welcoming these young people as they are. Lourdes is a beautiful sanctuary for a time of renewal. Our young pilgrims were touched by the different sharings they had with other pilgrims, young people, the sick, and hospital workers. **These encounters have boosted their faith.** Here is their testimony: *"We want to thank all the people who invited us to come on this pilgrimage with the Montfortians because here, together, we live the*

*love that God has for us, which can be seen in every smile that we have for each other, like a big family. We would like to share with you the quotation that the bishop gave us: **"When we share bread it is divided, when we share our roof it remains the same and when we share joy it multiplies.***

We find it a strong value of bonding, sharing our joy with the sick, the hospital workers, the other pilgrims and each other. During this week, we created a very strong bond. Thank you to the animators who accompanied, supported and helped us during this beautiful pilgrimage. Thank you to them.

We leave feeling fulfilled and grateful to have experienced this pilgrimage. We follow the way of Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort by going to Jesus through you, Mary. Our joy is due to you, thank you Mary.

"ROOTS THAT BEAR FRUIT".

The third highlight was a continuation of the one lived in April 2020 when four young women from the Paris region, eager to discover the history of our Congregation and the mission of a Daughter of Wisdom, went on pilgrimage to **Saint-Laurent sur Sèvre** and came back delighted, wishing to prolong this experience and open it to others...

Their thirst to learn more remained intact since these young women came on pilgrimage to the **Calvaire de Pontchâteau** where we offered them a tailor-made program: visit of the place, time of prayer, animation with Wisdom spirituality, time of relaxation with a visit of the region and meals shared with the community and the Montfortian family in a very relaxed atmosphere...

Finally, their testimony is worth more than our own words: *"Thank you very much for the great welcome, the kindness, the very simple people who touched us by their authenticity. We leave with many things on which we will be able to advance and work for our faith. And we will come back, for sure!"*

Yes, really, in Pontchâteau...life flows in abundance and we like to transmit it to whomever comes to meet us.



GRATITUDE, SISTER PUSHPA

DW, Indonesia

"I trust that God will sustain me since I am doing his will"

(Letter 1, blessed Marie Louise Trichet)

"You alone are my strength, my shield. To you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you..." (Song: As the Deer), was the song that we often heard sing in the community every time sister Pushpa led us into prayer and reflection.



Sr. Pushpa arrived in Indonesia on Sept. 20th **2014**. She was entrusted with the mission as treasurer for Indonesia, which was very different from her previous mission as a teacher. She accepted the mission joyfully and responsibly as seen through her effort in fulfilling it. There was humility in obedience there.

She was **a woman of joy**. She did her best to fulfill the mission; **she was generous in sharing her talents** and was open to learn new things. Her joy in sharing her passion was also seen

through her dedication to teach English to our SMM Novices brothers for two years as well teaching our Aspirants. **Her openness and her hospitality enabled her to equip herself in the community, mission and in relating with the people.**

Sr. Pushpa was very generous in sharing her capacities to the others whom she inspired to do the same. She helped us a lot especially for the accounts and she taught us how to be responsible in handling the mission. **She motivated everyone to grow as a mature woman** which was seen in the way she formed us.



“Never forget the poor,” was one of her motto, which she expressed through her action in the mission. Like Mother Marie Louise, sister Pushpa

was able to embrace the poor, come closer to them even being one of them. Her approachable and hospitable attitude helped her a lot to be with the people. **Language was not a problem for her as she made effort to be with the people and to know and understand them by her presence.** There was a lot of joy with her presence.

As the time pass by, we realized that this song was truly representing the disposition of heart of sister Pushpa, where **God was truly her shepherd,** her strength and her only reason to embrace whatever comes in her life especially during her mission in Indonesia.

We thank Sr. Pushpa for being with us for more than 5 years. **Thanks for her courage and for being generous to share her talents to us in Indonesia.** We will always treasure her seeds of Love, Joy and Hospitality in our lives as we continue to journey towards Wisdom.

Sr. Pushpa, as you go back to India, we pray that the spirit of Wisdom continue to inspire you to shepherd others as God has shepherd you.

With love.



WOMEN OF LIBEROS

Sr Maria et Sr Wati, Indonesia

“Don’t worry” and **“listen”** are the encouraging and inviting words that are being used to remind each sister of Indonesia how important it is to listen to one another. These words are always echoing in each one of us, every time we think of **Sister Mauricette** in living our community life and handling the missions.

Sister Mauricette arrived in Indonesia in the month of June 2016. She was very happy to arrive in Indonesia as a missionary. She is simple and courageous, open to learn Indonesia language and never scared to try to speak and relate with the people around.

As she arrived in Indonesia, she was assigned in Pondok Marie Louise Poco as a formator for the aspirants. **She was gentle in guiding the aspirants and supporting them to be faithful to their vocation.** After one year she was asked to handle the accounts in the community which she took up responsibly.

Living with her in the community was a great joy for us and we really experienced the peaceful living together and the freedom to be who

we are. She is a hard-working person and never complains with what she is doing. Every time we come back from the mission, the smile is always there and we have nothing to be worry.

She is a woman less in talking but more in doing. We are very grateful to have her in the community; she lives a lot of values that we can carry along as we continue to live as Daughters of Wisdom.



Language is not limiting her to serve the people. **Her language of love was visible to the people; she was there for them.** Her heart is open to embrace the poor and give the best she can even with that simple smile just to tell that Jesus Wisdom is present for them.

It was hard to let her go back to

Madagascar, but we have to be ready at all time to listen to the movement of the Spirit and that's what we call to be a woman of liberos. Sister Mauricette had shown that to us, to be always ready to be on the move.



Thank you so much sister Mauricette for your presence with us and your countless service in Indonesia. Mostly for the values that you taught us. **Thank you and we pray for your fruitful mission in Madagascar or wherever you will be assigned.**

No goodbyes but see you next time...



A JOURNEY OF A MISSIONARY

Sr Veronica, Delegation of Asia Oceania

A caring and gentle woman, a woman who had a mother's heart, a woman full of creativity, this is how to describe in a few words **Sister Agnes Chagunda**, a missionary from Malawi who arrived in Papua New Guinea in 2012. She gave her loving service in many ministries, both within the Congregation and in the Diocese of Daru - Kiunga and the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. She was a nurse by profession, a registered nurse and a midwife.

She has worked at P.N.G. for 10 years, of which 6 years at the Matkomnai Health Center. She also served as a member of the Delegation Board from 2015-2019.

Sr. Agnes was a courageous woman who was not afraid in difficult situations. In the hospital where she was working, she was managing the complicated cases especially the deliveries and other sicknesses.

These are the cases that are normally referred to the nearby hospitals for further treatment and managements but when Sr. Agnes was there , there were very few referrals and the

Doctors from the nearby hospitals were really appreciating the presence of the Sr. Agnes and **her competency in handling the difficult cases.**



In 2019, Sr. Agnes had asked to move to Port Moresby to work with the Street Ministry where the disadvantage children from the settlements of Port Moresby are fed and cared. This Ministry is under the Archdiocese of Port Moresby. It was started by the Daughters of Wisdom with the Archbishop of Port Moresby at that time. **She was the coordinator of the Ministry for almost 4 years.** She got help from a number of organizations and individuals to feed them, dress them and educate these poor children.

She had come to touch the hearts of many people especially the little children at the Street Ministry. **Her gentleness and caring heart was manifest to these little children who needed to be loved and cared for.** Her selflessness and sacrifices have served many lives and many memories will remain in the hearts of these children, their families and others.



We rejoice with you that God has called you to give yourself fully to the evangelization of the Church in Papua New Guinea. **We love you and wish you all the best in your new ministry in Malawi, the sweet heart of Africa.**

Yawo, Good bye!



COMMITMENTS IN THE CONGREGATION

First profession

Malawi

Sr Patricia Stephano
Sr Martha Sellah Kainje
Sr Edina Mloko
Sr Eunice Tambala
Sr Memory Matiyasi

August 6, 2022

Madagascar

Sr Léonie Perline Rasoamiafara
Sr Tinasoa Marie Scoline Aimée Flaure Razafimanampy
Sr Marie Clarisse Fanirisoa

September 4, 2022

Indonesia

Sr Flafiana Mija
Sr Yohana Antonia Novianita
Sr Yohana Triska
Sr Oktafiani Isak Jaques Hodin
Sr Kormelia Snae
Sr Agata Arsi

September 8, 2022

DR Congo

Sr Godelive Masengu Beya
Sr Solange Amani Mave
Sr Jacqueline Nabunza Bonane
Sr Thérèse (Parfaite) Mosala Matsi
Sr Thérèse Bentoto Bandjondo
Sr Elisabeth Waima Okokolo
Sr Orguytte Nsey Ndoy

September 11, 2022

Perpetual profession

Haïti

Sr Lise-Manie Stanis
Sr Migline Lamour

September 8, 2022

DR Congo

Sr Valérie Kadiela Kabengele

September 11, 2022



IN MEMORIAM

"I know in whom I have placed my hope..."

Filles de la Sagesse

Profession

Birth

April 2022

16	Sr Marie-Elise du Sacré-Cœur Marie Brizard	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	22-10-15	02-08-38
16	Sr Thérèse Lecluse Thérèse de l'Assomption	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	07-04-28	02-02-51
23	Sr Silvia di Gesù Ricci Caterina	Clusone Italie	02-12-27	02-02-49
30	Sr Nelly Deroubaix Françoise de l'Enfant Jésus	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	20-12-34	02-08-58

May 2022

01	Sr Augusta Maria di Gesù Carrara Maria	Castiglione Italie	21-05-37	02-08-62
05	Sr Clémence Gardner Clémence-Marie de Jésus	Carrefour Providence, Salaberry	01-12-32	02-02-56
06	Sr Cecilia Moreno Valbuena Soledad María del Sagrado Corazón	Montréal QC Fusagasugá - Clínica Belén	19-11-36	02-08-56
25	Sr Lilian Clark Mary Georgia of the Cross	Colombie Maison Accueil-Sagesse	15-02-36	02-08-60
25	Sr Maria Gabriela Acevedo García Angela Maria de la Pasión	Ottawa Chinault - Fusagasugá Colombie	21-02-37	02-02-60

June 2022

05	Sr Marie-Thérèse Tampreau Véronique du Christ	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	19-05-32	02-08-59
06	Sr Elisabeth de l'Incarnation Jacqueline Declercq	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	02-05-23	02-08-44
12	Sr Pier Daniella dell'Eucaristia Cattaneo Maria	Clusone Italie	16-06-28	02-08-51
13	Sr Teresa de Jesús Cárdenas León Rosa Teresa	Hospital San José - Centro Bogotá	08-06-41	22-08-67
15	Sr Joan Canfield Katherine of Montfort	West Islip New York	25-12-35	02-08-55
15	Sr Alice Benedict Benedict Mary of Jesus	Sound Beach New York	08-08-34	02-02-56

23	Sr Gabriella della Sapienza Pedrini Maria	Castiglione Italie	23-04-22	02-02-47
25	Sr François-Marie de l'Eucharistie Anna Tingaud	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	13-10-29	02-08-52
26	Sr Alberte Lalonde Bernard du St-Esprit	Maison Accueil-Sagesse Ottawa	06-09-29	02-08-50

July 2022

08	Sr François de Notre-Dame Suzanne Bigo	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	25-06-32	02-02-55
09	Sr María Julia Rincón Prieto María Andréas de Lourdes	Hospital San Carlos Bogotá	09-07-34	02-08-58
12	Sr Marie Ange Gibbs Marie-Ange de St André	N.D. de Toutes Grâces Haïti	30-08-41	02-08-64
13	Sr Blanca Inés Peña Calderón Sixta Tulia de Getsemaní	Clínica San Rafael Bogotá	19-09-33	02-02-57
13	Sr Cecilia dell'Incarnazione Aneris Gomiero	Clusone Italie	24-03-35	02-02-57
14	Sr Marie-Thérèse des Anges Marie Salou	La Chartreuse - M.L. Trichet France	07-04-27	02-02-46
17	Sr May Lewis Mary Veronica of Jesus	M. Louise House - Romsey England	30-06-38	02-08-64
26	Sr Simone de l'Assomption Monique Filatreau	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	16-08-28	02-02-51

August 2022

8	Sr Helen Baier Helen Marie of the Eucharist	Edmonton Alberta Canada	02-01-29	25-03-2018
10	Sr Estelle Desjardins Jacques du Calvaire	Maison Accueil Sagesse Ottawa	18-09-28	02-08-46
19	Sr Céline Racicot Marie-Aimée de l'Assomption	Maison Accueil-Sagesse Ottawa	03-05-31	02-02-51
21	Sr Marthe Jutras Suzanne-Marie de l'Enfant Jésus	Maison Accueil-Sagesse Ottawa	30-10-21	02-08-53
31	Sr Françoise-Marie de la Croix Marie-Thérèse Le Briz	N.D. de la Sagesse St Laurent	02-03-34	02-02-57

Compagnie de Marie

April 2022

13	P. Pierre Bonhommeau	Cholet France	84 ans	63 ans
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18	F. Maurice Dupé	St Laurent sur Sèvre France	93 ans	63 ans
19	P. Lucien Rijaniaina	Antananarivo Madagascar	35 ans	5 ans

June 2022

28	P. Luigi Varotto	Bergamo Italie	94 ans	71 ans
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July 2022

02	P. Toni Naus	Viersen Allemagne	86 ans	64 ans
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Frères de St-Gabriel

April 2022

14	F. Yugastin Packia Prathap	Chennai Inde	23 ans	4 ans
29	F. Robert Bauvineau	Nantes France	82 ans	63 ans

May 2022

07	F. Roger Le Pimpec	Nantes France	90 ans	71 ans
25	F. Michel Brethomé	Nantes France	88 ans	70 ans

June 2022

03	F. Didier Gadonna	Pont l'Abbé France	80 ans	59 ans
04	F. Alexandre Bregeon	La Hillière France	98 ans	68 ans
23	F. Charles Boussion	Thouaré sur Loire France	96 ans	72 ans

August 2022

05	F. Raymond Calmejane	La Peyrouse France	87 ans	68 ans
06	F. Corentin Le Bot	Bénodet France	93 ans	74 ans
13	F. Jean Bourasseau	La Hillière France	92 ans	73 ans

