



THE LEGION OF MARY
BULLETIN

October 2019

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Allocution given by Sr. Rosemary

Bennett on St. Louis Marie de Monfort

Dates to Remember

9th Nov. Annual Mass at St
Bernadette's Church
Glendalough

Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort (31 January 1673 – 28 April 1716) was a French Roman Catholic priest and Confessor. He was known in his time as a preacher and was made a missionary apostolic by Pope Clement XI.

14th Dec AGR at VEQC
2pm

As well as preaching, Montfort found time to write a number of books which went on to become classic Catholic titles and influenced several popes. Montfort is known for his particular devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the practice of praying the Rosary.

17th Dec – 7th Jan VEQC
CLOSED

Montfort is considered as one of the early writers in the field of Mariology. His most notable works regarding Marian devotions are contained in Secret of the Rosary and True Devotion to Mary.

2020

14th Feb Annual Procession
in Honour of Our Lady of
Lourdes

The Roman Catholic Church, under the pontificate of Pope Pius XII, canonized Montfort on July 20, 1947.

Early years

Montfort's birthplace in Montfort-sur-Meu

He was born in 1673 in Montfort-sur-Meu, the eldest surviving child of eighteen born to Jean-Baptiste and Jeanne Robert Grignon. His father was a notary. Louis-Marie passed most of his infancy and early childhood in Iffendic, a few kilometers from Montfort, where his father had bought a farm. At the age of 12, he entered the Jesuit College of St

Thomas Becket in Rennes, where his uncle was a parish priest.[2]

At the end of his ordinary schooling, he began his studies of philosophy and theology, still at St Thomas in Rennes. Listening to the stories of a local priest, the Abbé Julien Bellier, about his life as an itinerant missionary, he was inspired to preach missions among the very poor. And, under the guidance of some other priests he began to develop his strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He was then given the opportunity, through a benefactor, to go to Paris to study at the renowned Seminary of Saint-Sulpice towards the end of 1693. When he arrived in Paris, it was to find that his benefactor had not provided enough money for him, so he lodged in a succession of boarding houses, living among the very poor, in the meantime attending the Sorbonne University for lectures in theology. After less than two years, he became very ill and had to be hospitalized, but survived his hospitalization and the blood letting that was part of his treatment at the time.

Upon his release from the hospital, to his surprise he found himself with a place reserved at the Little Saint-Sulpice, which he entered in July 1695. Saint-Sulpice had been founded by Jean-Jacques Olier, one of the leading exponents of what came to be known as the French school of spirituality. Given that he was appointed the librarian, his time at Saint-Sulpice gave him the opportunity to study most of the available works on spirituality and, in particular, on the Virgin Mary's place in the Christian life. This later led to his focus on the Holy Rosary and his acclaimed book the Secret of the Rosary.

Devotion to the angels

Even as a seminarian in Paris, Montfort was known for the veneration he had toward the angels: he "urged his confreres to show marks of respect and tenderness to their guardian angels." He often ended his letters with a salutation to the guardian angel of the person to whom he was writing: "I salute your guardian angel". He also saluted all the angels in the city of Nantes, a custom that, it appears, he repeated when he entered a new village or city.[4]

One of the reasons why Saint Louis Marie de Montfort had such devotion to the angels is that veneration of the pure spirits was an integral part of his training and also of his culture. His college teachers, the Jesuits, were known for their zeal in propagating devotion to the angels. Montfort's seminary training under the Sulpicians brought him into contact with the thought of Cardinal de Bérulle and Olier, both of whom had deep veneration for the angels. Furthermore, in the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, manuals of piety and treatises on the pure spirits were numerous.[4]

From priest to preacher

He was ordained a priest in June 1700,[3] and assigned to Nantes. His great desire was to go to the foreign missions, preferably to the new French colony of Canada, but his spiritual

director advised against it. His letters of this period show that he felt frustrated from the lack of opportunity to preach as he felt he was called to do.

In November 1700 he joined the Third Order of the Dominicans and asked permission not only to preach the rosary, but also to form rosary confraternities.[5] He began to consider the formation of a small company of priests to preach missions and retreats under the standard and protection of the Blessed Virgin. This eventually led to the formation of the Company of Mary. At around this time, when he was appointed the chaplain of the hospital of Poitiers, he first met Blessed Marie Louise Trichet. That meeting became the beginning of Blessed Marie Louise's 34 years of service to the poor.

Montfort set off to make a pilgrimage to Rome, to ask Pope Clement XI what he should do. The Pope recognized his real vocation and, telling him there was plenty of scope for its exercise in France, sent him back with the title of Apostolic Missionary.[6] On his return from his long pilgrimage to Rome, Montfort made a retreat at Mont Saint Michel "to pray to this archangel to obtain from him the grace to win souls for God, to confirm those already in God's grace, and to fight Satan and sin".[4] These occasions gave him time to think, contemplate and write.

For several years he preached in missions from Brittany to Nantes. As his reputation as a missionary grew, he became known as "the good Father from Montfort". At Pontchateau he attracted hundreds of people to help him in the construction of a huge Calvary. However, on the very eve of its blessing, the Bishop, having heard it was to be destroyed on the orders of the King of France under the influence of members of the Jansenist school, forbade its benediction. It is reported that upon receiving this news, he simply said, "Blessed be God." [2]

Final years

He left Nantes and the next several years were extraordinarily busy for him. He was constantly occupied in preaching missions, always walking between one and another. Yet he found time also to write: his True Devotion to Mary,[7] The Secret of Mary[8] and the Secret of the Rosary, rules for the Company of Mary and the Daughters of Wisdom, and many hymns. His missions made a great impact, especially in the Vendée.

The heated style of his preaching was regarded by some people as somewhat strange and he was poisoned once. Although it did not prove fatal, it caused his health to deteriorate. Yet he continued, undeterred. He went on preaching and established free schools for the poor boys and girls.

Daughters of Wisdom

The bishop of La Rochelle had been impressed with Montfort for some time and invited him to open a school there. Montfort enlisted the help of his follower Marie Louise Trichet, who was then running the General Hospital in Poitiers. In 1715 Marie Louise and Catherine

Brunet left Poitiers for La Rochelle to open the school there and in a short time it had 400 students.

On August 22, 1715, Trichet and Brunet, along with Marie Valleau and Marie Régnier from La Rochelle, received the approbation of Bishop de Champflour of La Rochelle to make their religious profession under the direction of Montfort. At the ceremony Montfort told them: "Call yourselves the Daughters of Wisdom, for the teaching of children and the care of the poor." The Daughters of Wisdom grew into an international organization

Death and burial

Montfort's 16 years of priesthood include many months of solitude, perhaps as many as a total of four years; at the cave of Mervent, amidst the beauty of the forest, at the hermitage of Saint Lazarus near the village of Montfort, and at the hermitage of Saint Eloi in La Rochelle.

Worn out by hard work and sickness, he finally came in April 1716 to Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre to begin the mission which was to be his last. During it, he fell ill and died on 28 April of that year. He was 43 years old, and had been a priest for only 16 years. His last sermon was on the tenderness of Jesus and the Incarnate Wisdom of the Father. Thousands gathered for his burial in the parish church, and very quickly there were stories of miracles performed at his tomb.

Exactly 43 years later, on April 28, 1759, Marie Louise Trichet also died in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre and was buried next to Montfort. On September 19, 1996, Pope John Paul II (who beatified Trichet) came to the same site to meditate and pray at their adjacent tombs.

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Dear Legionaries,

I have just returned from a beautiful Mass at St Bernadette's Glendalough to celebrate the 60th birthday of Fr Doug Harris, our amazing Spiritual Director. It is obvious from the wonderful turn out that Fr Doug is a great blessing to us, The Legion of Mary, to those who are active in Perpetual Adoration and the parishioners of St Bernadette's Parish. As a gift to Father on this wonderful occasion I ask all Praesidia to offer 1 Holy Mass, 1 Holy Communion and 1 Rosary for Fr Doug's intentions and good health so that he can continue in his wonderful work. A card will be available at the meeting for you all to sign.

Our next function will be the Annual Mass which we will hold at St Bernadette's in Glendalough. We will commence with the Opening prayers and Rosary at 11.30 which will be followed by Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr Doug Harris, our Spiritual Director and any Spiritual Directors who can join us on the day. Mass will be followed by fellowship in the parish centre. Please bring a plate if **FINGER FOOD** to share with others.

The refurbishment of the carpark and front garden are well in hand. Last week there was an accident with members who were manning the centre accidentally driving over the step area and requiring the assistance of a tow truck to remove their car. I will mention again here that the **carport cannot be used to park your car under**. If you want your car in the shade please park down under the trees at the rear of the cardpark. Alf has done an amazing job of beautifying our Lady's home. All work Alf has undertaken has been for the price of the materials used. He freely gives his time and love for Mary.

I am sad in telling you that the Lord has taken Pauline Cornelius to himself. Pauline was a beautiful Legionary who with joy served Our Blessed Mother. Many of you will remember the ceiling falling in on the main meeting room and Pauline's distress. Pauline had just left the room to make a coffee when there was a loud crack and crash. 1 minute earlier and Pauline would have been buried. Mary truly looked after her. We will all have our memories of Pauline but we will all remember her for her commitment to volunteering and helping people. May her soul rest in peace.

We were also saddened with the news that Ricky Mulligan was also taken to the Lord. Ricky was the son of Jim Mulligan, a past Vice President and Treasurer of Comitium. May his soul rest in peace

To the families of Pauline and Ricky we extend our deepest sympathy and ask that you remember them in your prayers

I thank you for your commitment to Mary.

God bless

Rosemary Bennett

REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

Star of the Sea, Busselton (deferred)

Our Lady Help of Christians, East Victoria Park

REPORT OF PRAESIDIUM TO COMITIUM

Name of Praesidium Our Lady Help of Christians

Location East Victoria Park

Meeting Place and Time

Friday Morning at 10am in the Parish Centre of our Lady help of Christians

Spiritual Director: Father Trevor Symonds (effective 12 July 2019)

President: Sr. Bianca Maria Casalengo

Secretary: Sr. Penny Fernandez

Vice President: Sr. Mary O’Gare

Treasurer: Bro. Gary Fernandez

Active members 5

Auxiliary members 11

Probationary 2

Report from Sept 2019 to September 2019

Works undertaken during the past year (legion work only)

Members visited the sick and elderly at nursing homes (Bentley Park, Aegis Redcliffe) as well as visiting parishioners in their homes.

Two members are special ministers taking communion to sick parishioners in their homes and nursing homes.

Members attended funeral masses for deceased legionaries, auxiliaries and parishioners.

Two members man the Edel Quinn centre once a month.

Specific takes carried out by individual members.

Two members reads in church.

one member on the Liturgy Committee of Our Lady Help of Christians.

One member attends a Franciscan Cenacle once a Month.

One member is in the music ministry playing the organ on Sundays at Mass.

One member works as a volunteer helping Parish Priest in the office.

Other relevant information

Events attended by members, auxiliary members and parishioners

Rosary Bouquet mass

Annual procession for our Lady

ACIES

AGR and Annual Praesidium unctio for our Lady's Birthday

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Prayers for the Sick:

(For all who have been on previous lists) Norma Gorman (ex legionary Canning Vale), Emily and all her family and friends, Michelle and Sarey.

Rest of the Souls: Concerta, Ardd Zeh, Mary Cox, Bethany Parker, Buelah Leguay, Paula Rogers, Jo Bayley and Margaret Stockbridge (anniversary).

Special Intentions: Jim Gorman, Linda Westwood and family, Zeh family, Judy and family, Christopher Thornton, Betty D'Mello, Jennifer Farrugia (for successful surgery) and Mary Sterry.