

Vol.I.10 . . . May 21

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Highlights!

Initiatives thru ideation process among MGAs:

MGA Core Matters

MGA Website Launched on May 8, 2021. 75 MGAs and Brothers attended.

MGA Registration Completed.

MGA Global Meet 2022 To hold the next MGA Global Meet in 2022.Matter being actively pursued.

Montfortian Rosary Meet Montfortian Rosary Meet held on 30 May 21

Pope- Your Prayers are being heard

During the weekly General Audience,Pope Francis continues his cycle of catechesis dedicated to Christian prayer during his Wednesday General Audience. This week he reflects on how at times it would seem that prayers are not responded to, but that no matter how long it takes, they are always heard.



Pope Francis . . .

"There is a radical objection to prayer, which derives from an observation that we all make: we pray, we ask, and yet sometimes our prayers seem to go unheard: what we have asked for - for ourselves or for others - is not fulfilled, Pope Francis told the faithful at the Wednesday General Audience which was streamed live from the Vatican's Courtyard of St. Damasus.

Global Economic Outlook

Uncertainty about the post-pandemic economic landscape and policies has discouraged investment and trade; education disruptions have slowed human capital accumulation. If history is any guide, the global economy is heading for a decade of growth disappointments.

In the context of weak fiscal positions and elevated debt, institutional reforms to spur growth are particularly important.

The harsh reality amidst the furious unleashing of the new mutants and variants of Covid 19 across the globe including India is the availability constraint of vaccines when needed most

MGA Website Launched

Inauguration - MGA Website www.mga.life was Zoom inaugurated by Rev Br John Kallarackal Superior General at 17.30 Hrs IST on 8 May, 2021. The event was attended by 75 Brothers and MGA from different parts of the world.

The Superior General thru his inaugural address took the participants to vistas of active and practical avenues of collaboration between the Brothers and MGAs. Br John Kallarackal suggested that MGA website can be linked with the Montfortian websites for this purpose.

Gratitude is Mutual-The narration of Jo Pathyil, the senior most MGA took the audience thru his experiential encounter with the former Superior General Romain Landry who said *The congregation will not be diminished in acknowledging that the former Brothers served the congregation, for however long or short a time. Jo Pathyil concurred and concluded that Gratitude should be mutual while emphasizing the significance of May 8 for both the religious as well as the MGAs.*

MGA Peter Arokiadass-sang the Montfortian Hymn and which transposed the entire audience to nostalgia enveloped in a sea of schmaltz.

The Event - PD Wilson presided the

event and outlined the purpose of the formation of MGA and the objectives of the MGA Website. Provincials from various Provinces, MGA seniors George Nellamattam, Cyriac Lukose addressed the gathering.

While Provincials like Jaico listed out specific areas of support from MGAs, others like Mandapathil invited MGAs to the North-East Area for experiencing Social Action initiatives. Efforts of MGAs who are engaged in Social Action and other developmental activities were acknowledged and appreciated.

The occasion of the MGA Website launch also witnessed the sentiments of love and affection poured out to the recently departed Brothers Mathias, Jacob Ezhanikkat and others.

This newsletter is carrying exclusively the content of the day's events and the Proceedings of the MGA Global Meet December 2019.

MGAs across the globe concluded the Month of May with an innovative Rosary Meet - the Montfortian Rosary through Zoom.

The Montfortian Rosary Meet was organized by MGA C Jeyaraj and his Team at 1830 hrs IST on 30, May, 2021.

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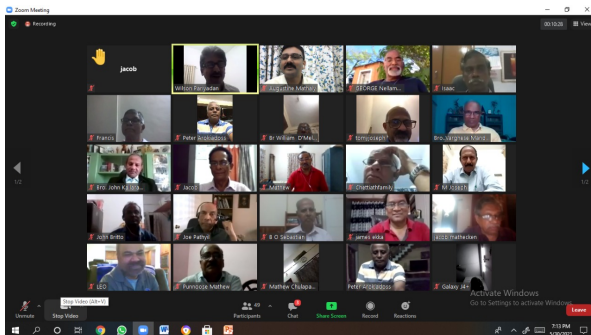
Idea.. Action

Say Yes to Action:

1. Telling Experiential Stories from Brothers and MGAs to share, care and nurture.
2. Inspiring Brothers and MGAs to bring out their talents for greater use.
3. Continuing to remain connected digitally through regular News Snippets
4. Reaching out to all MGAs scattered across countries and provinces: *Each One Bring One* for the Next MGA Zoom Meetings. *Share Joys and Sorrows* Birthdays, Anniversaries etc to greet and be greeted.
5. This issue features *MGA Website Launch, Inauguration* even as the speakers connects the participants thru time, persons and events in the Montfortian World
6. Jo Pathyil narrates his experiential encounters with Two Superior Generals - Rev Br Romain Landry and Rev Br John Kallarackal
7. Rev Br John Kallarackal and the Provincials and Senior Brothers and MGAs explores the avenues of cooperation and synergy between the Congregation and MGA
8. This edition features the full Report of the MGA Global Meet in December 2019.

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MGA Montfortian Rosary Meet 30 May 21



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Quotes Inspire

The Rosary is a priceless treasure inspired by God - St.Louis De Montfort

MGA Website Inauguration . . .

MGA website URL is ***mga.life***

MGA Website was launched at 1730 hrs IST on 8 May, 2021 as per the schedule and program. The event also witnessed glowing tributes to the Montfortian stalwarts Late Br Mathias and Jacob Ezhanikkatt. Read on...



PROGRAM FOR THE LAUNCH OF MGA WEBSITE

Date: 8th May 2021
Time: 7.00AM CST. 5:30 PM IST
ZOOM ID: 3514401704
www.Montfortglobalassociates.com

Moderator: Thomas J Kappen

1. Prayer Song (Glory To Thee Montfort) by Peter Arokiadas (2Min)
2. Welcome - George Nellamattam, MGA General Convener (3Min)
3. Presidential Address: Wilson PD, Chairman, MGA (4 Min)
4. **Launching of the Website and Speech by Chief Guest - Rev. Bro. John Kallarakkal, SG (Superior General) (7 Min)**
5. Introducing the Website - Jacob M.G (5 Min)
6. Felicitations: (3 Min each)
 1. Bro. Johnson (Provincial, Yercaud.) Tribute to Br. Jacob Ezhanikkatt.
 2. Bro. James Ekka. (Provincial, North) Tribute to Bro. Mathias
 3. Bro. Varghese Mandapathil (Provincial, North East)
 4. Bro. George P.J (Provincial, Bangalore)
 5. Bro. Jaico Gervasis Provincial –Pune)
 5. Bro. Varghese Theekanath. (Director, MSI)
 6. Joseph Pathiyil (Monfort Associates of North America)
 7. Lawrence Alva: Middle East
 8. Damrong: Coordinator, Thailand Chapter, MGM
 9. Sebastian Vattakunnel: Africa
 10. Fr. Ambrose Mong: (Singapore)
 11. Vote of Thanks: Suresh Reddy (2 Min)
 12. Open Forum / Entertainment (20 Min)

MGA Website Launch Felicitations listed

0.1 The Event

MGA George Nellamattam, General Convenor MGA and the prime mover for the establishment of MGA website www.mga.life facilitated the Zoom Inauguration of the MGA website.



Peter Arokiadass . . .

The program began with a soulful rendering of the Montfortian Anthem by the one and only Peter Arokiadas.



George Nellamattam . . .

George Nallamattam welcomed the dignitaries and participants.

The occasion also marked the memorial of tributes for two of the stalwarts of the Congregation Late Br Mathias and Late Jacob Ezhanikkatt.

Thomas Kappen donned the role of the MC which he carried out with style, pomp and propriety; elan, elegance and dignity.



Thomas Kappen. . .

MGA website www.mga.life would emerge as a communication platform for all MGAs Brothers and others to converge and synergize thoughts, ideas, emotions, values to forge ahead with meaningful action thru cooperation collaboration and consistency of togetherness, explained John Mahesh, the MGA Web Designer. The website would also function as a digital storage and library for future needs, he continued. The website is now linked to montfort education international website.



Cyriac Lukose . . .

Along with Cyriac Lukose from USA who reminded all “We must be on fire” always, Dr Damrong from Thailand, Fr Ambrose from Singapore, Vincent from Lucknow, TM Simon from Africa, Lawrence Alva from Middle East, Sebastian Vattakunnel from South Africa, Jo Pathiyil from Canada, Rev Br Superior General and his two Asst Generals Pratap Reddy paid glowing accolades to mark the occasion and the made the event truly Global.

0.2 Presidential Address

Respected Bro. John Kallareckal, Superior General of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Bros. T. K. James and Pratap Reddy, Assistant Generals, The Provincial Superiors of Indian Provinces and all the Brothers of the congregation present, The President of Montfort Associates Thailand Singapore, Dr. Damrong, Our senior most MGA member, Joe Pathiyil, who is admitted in the hospital and who would be attending this programme from his hospital bed, My fellow travellers from across the Globe – Africa, Australia, Canada, England, Finland, Germany, the Middle East, the Philippines, Switzerland, the big crowd from the USA and the bigger crowd from India.

It is with immense joy and profound feeling of satisfaction that I come before you today. I feel blessed by the Divine

and feel thrilled to address this wonderful and larger family of Montfortians, spread across in all continents.

At the very outset let me thank one and all for accepting our invitation and joining us, in this humble efforts of the launch of MGA Website. We consider your presence, here today, as a gesture of appreciation and encouragement. Thank you.



PD Wilson Addresses . . .

Now, a few words about our journey, the formation of MGA. We the former members of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel who at one time or the other, for one reason and more, had opted out to our Newer Call, let us say, ‘back to the world’. The spirituality, the convictions and the ideologies that were imbibed (or inherited?) while being part of the Congregation, lingered in our deeper selves.

The scattered sheep grouped together at various parts of the globe, as and when it was feasible. We even looked for some excuses to gather. These irregular and informal gatherings kept our Montfortian Spirit alive. The feeling of oneness, the inner vibe, the magnetic pull among us is what prompted us to reunite. And we are a happy lot today, for that. We are a registered body, now, under the banner of Montfort Global Associates, NFT (MGA, NFT), registered in Illinois, USA.

One of the major events was our coming together, in December 2019, for the Global Meet 2019-2020, at Muvattupuzha, Kerala. Several MGAs from across the world had assembled at NESTT, Muvattupuzha, for a three day gathering. It was an experience of ‘Home Coming’! The presence of Brothers from the Congregation including the Superior General and other Provincials were very encouraging.

For the preparation of this Big Event we had several preparatory meetings at various parts of the country, starting from January 2nd 3rd of 2019, at Yercaud. We thank the Brothers and all others for the whole hearted support extended.

Finally, I would like to note that we are still on our search. We are on a journey. But convinced to evolve into effective instruments and partners to building up a world order where in human existence would be meaningful and peaceful. That’s what MGA stands for, looking forward to.

Our vision : *We believe in the Universal Fraternity.*

Our Objective: *To strive to Realize our Vision by Being for*

the Other.

Our Motto : *Share and Care.*

Thank you. Thank you one and all.

PD Wilson, 8th May 2021.

0.3 Br John Kallarackal Superior General

(Br John Kallarackal opens up new avenues of opportunities for mutual cooperation and collaboration)



Br John Kallarackal addresses from Rome . . .

Greetings to you all from Rome; that I thought is a safer way of greeting you all, as we are literally globally located in different time zones! Needless to say, that it is certainly a matter joy for me to be a part of this assembly of Montfort Associates from the different parts of world, gathered for a great significant event: The Launching of the Website of MGA.

Incidentally, 8th May is a significant day in the lives of relatively older generation like mine, because we used to have our First Profession always on 8th May. So, today is the 55th anniversary for my group! Before I think of a message for the occasion, let me in the first place express sincere thanks to Wilson, the Chairman of MGA for his kind invitation to do the honour of inaugurating the Website, and thank Thomas Kappen and George Nellamattam for their warm welcome and kind words of introduction.

Since I had the pleasant privilege of inaugurating the first Meeting of the Montfort Global Associates on 28th April, 2018, the Feast of our Founder and inspiration, St. Louis Marie de Montfort, and again participating in the 2nd Global Meeting held in Kerala on 30th December 2000, before the outbreak of the pandemic, it's a good feeling seeing you all once again through this modern means of communication. I recognize so many familiar faces among the MGA Members, not to speak of all our Brothers who are present in goodly numbers, including 5 Provincial Superiors from India. Having been associated with the MGA from its birth, I certainly feel confident to say that Montfort Global Associates has grown significantly, not only in terms of its membership but also in terms of its reach out, the quality of programs being planned and executed, the frequency of the meeting of the Executive Members, the content and layout of the MGA News, etc.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Founding Fathers, the present General Convenor, Chairman and the

Executive Members, for the time and energy they invest in making this movement alive. As Gerard Ford rightly said, "Coming together is beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success". I must say a special word of congratulation to MG Jacob, the Editor of MGA News for making it interesting, informative and up-to-date. Since I recognize our uncle Joe Pathyil, who was not only my Headmaster in 1961-62, but a good friend for the past few decades, on behalf of all the readers of MGA News, I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to him for the well written memoirs of different personalities of yester years who have contributed immensely for the growth and development of our large Montfortian Family.

As I mentioned during the launching of the MGA in 2018, my sincere appreciation to all our friends from the USA who came up with this novel idea of coming together as an organized Association to relive the past memories of your association with the Congregation of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, which has nurtured you, made invaluable contributions to making you who you are and what you are today, while recognizing the contributions you yourself have made towards the growth of this Congregation.

With the couple of interactions, I have had with the leadership of the MGA, I must admit that I feel delighted to see that the spirit and charism of St. Louis Marie de Montfort are not only alive in you, but you make every effort to proclaim and propagate it wherever you are. And as the present leader of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, I wish to thank you for this positive attitude.

The fact that St. Montfort continues to inspire and influence thousands of people the world over is ample proof that what the saint preached and practiced over 3 centuries ago is relevant even today. Montfort's motto "God Alone" indicating the primacy of place he gave to God and the absolute trust he had in the divine Providence, his tender devotion to Mary expressed in the frequent recitation of the Holy Rosary, his love of the Cross, his preferential love for the poor, his exhortation for continual prayer as a means of attaining Wisdom, etc., are all simple means he used to live the Gospel values in a concrete fashion. These are values that can easily be practiced by each of us in our own milieu.

Permit me to take a few moments to update you on what has been going on in the Congregation in the recent past in terms of encouraging and promoting the Associates Movement.

Interestingly, the abbreviation of the Montfort Global Associates and the Montfortian Gabrielite Associate Movement are the same: MGA.

As you are all aware, from the very beginning of Religious Life, men and women have associated with Religious Institutes. However, Lay Associates as a movement has developed organically in response to the desire of Religious Institutes to share their mission and spirituality with the laity, coupled with the desire felt by many individuals to grow in their spiritual life and to share in the mission of these Religious Institutes.

Partnership with the laity is one subject that figured in all our General Chapters, starting from the 29th, held in 2000, which gave a clarion call to the whole Congregation to facilitate networking with the Montfortian Family, other religious groups and with Lay Associates.

The 30th General Chapter reiterated the same desire, drawing inspiration from the powerful words of Pope St. John Paul II, addressed to the Montfortian Family in 1997: "The Montfortian Spirituality and charism are treasures of the Church. It is our responsibility with the whole Montfortian Family and others to promote them".

The 31st General Chapter went a step further and invited the Congregation to carry this Associate Movement to a new level saying, "Catholic adults, coming from different backgrounds, who feel a call for a deeper Christian commitment according to Montfortian Spirituality, could take individually, a private commitment in link with the Congregation".

The last General Chapter, the 32nd, gave a new impetus to the Montfortian Gabrielite Associate Movement, mandating the Central Administration to constitute an International Commission for Partnership. I am happy to announce here that this International Commission has come up with an MGA Charter, and has also recently launched a new Website exclusively for Partnership: www.fsgpartnership.org.

I make a mention of this in order to see the possibilities of linking the Montfort Global Associates website www.mga.life with the Congregational websites to have easy access to more of resource materials and global connectivity. I am sure you must have heard from Bro. Mani Mekunnel, about the Website for Montfortian Education International www.meinet.org, with the new features of the MEF Global Directory, which gives a panoramic picture of the mission of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel in the 32 countries of the world. I hope that Bro. Varghese Theckanath will share with you about the Websites of Montfort Social Institute and Gabrielite Secretariat for Justice and Peace, during his intervention. The Congregational Website www.stgabrielinst.org is being updated and will be in full operation shortly.

Since one of the objectives of the Montfort Global Associates is to find ways and means of being effective partners of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel in its mission, let me take this opportunity to renew my appeal for volunteers in our mission-ad-gentes, to extend your services in the vocation promotion programs and in our Houses of Formation, in sponsoring the education of poor children, etc. On behalf of the Congregation, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the services of several of our Associates who have been already partnering with the Congregations in the past, without mentioning the individual names here, lest I miss out some names!

My renewed congratulations to all those who have contributed towards the MGA Website. It is my fond hope that this new feature will be a sign of vitality of the MGA that allows us to look to the future with hope, with greater connectivity, better communication and building up of

closer and stronger relationships... Thank you and God bless.

Br. John Kallarackal, SG
Superior General

0.4 Jo Pathyil

(Jo narrates the significance of May 8 and the MGA Website Launch. He recalls his interaction with Rev Br Romain Landry, the then Superior General in 1967.)



Joe Pathyil Narrates ...

8 May A Memorable Date

Let us begin with the late 30's: The only Tamil medium High school that the Brothers ran was St. Antony's High School Coonoor. The Juniorate was attached to the school. The Novitiate and Scholasticate were in the same campus.

Coonoor, a jewel of the Nilgiris, was a favorite summer residence of the British Raj. From March to June, there was no other place like Coonoor to enjoy the salubrious climate. Temperature never goes above 20. The parks and gardens are in bloom; the hiking trails are picturesque, the tea estates, the falls, and mountain ranges are breath taking.

Almost all the Brothers working in various parts of India came to Coonoor in summer for a few days of relaxation. For the seniors it was a good time to spend a few days with their friends and exchange news. Everyone knew everyone. They had their annual retreat in the first week of May.

At the end of the retreat the postulants would shed their civilian cloths and wear a soutane with Rabat bleu, shed their family name and would be given a new name. The novices would pronounce their first vows and receive a mantle. Others would renew their annual or three-year vows.

Those who were professed for six years would take their vows for perpetuity. The ceremonies that accompanied the religious event were solemn. As the congregants sang "Veni Creator Spiritus" goose bumps covered the body. One was about to take a life changing step.

From the early 40's May 8 was a special date in our calendars. "Obediences", (appointments and transfers) were

announced on May 8.]par When the novitiate shifted to Eachinkadu in 1952, the tradition continued. Even though all the Brothers did not attend the annual retreat in May, the postulants and novices had their ceremonies on May 8. I do not know if that tradition still continues. May 8 is etched in our memory.

Gratitude is Mutual

I left the congregation in January, 1967. I was in Rome and was due to fly to Canada on January 31. I went to see Reverend Brother Romain Landry, the Superior General. I started by asking for his blessing.

He embraced me and told me how he and the congregation was grateful for my services to the congregation, especially the province of India. I was taken aback by his words.

I told him I was beholden to the congregation for my formation, for my education, for entrusting me with responsibilities, for the nurture and consideration of local and major superiors.

Br. Landry said that *all what I said was true. But I had given my youth and my talents in the service of the congregation.*

We had a long chat. I told him how during my formation I was led to believe that anyone who left the society even from a house of formation, was betraying one's calling, and that the Novice Master had once mentioned that one of the early Superior Generals had an apparition of Our Lady who promised him that anyone who dies in the congregation was certain to get to heaven. There was an implication that the reverse might end in perdition. At least that was the attitude of the Brothers in India.



Rev Br Romain Landry . . .

Bro. Landry, a Canadian, was thankful to me genuinely for my service. Second Vatican Council had brought about many changes in the mindset of priests and religious. In

France and in the rest of Europe, as also in Canada, it was not uncommon to see former Brothers teaching and administering schools of the Brothers. Brothers in India would have thought of such an appointment as unthinkable. But I remember several professors and lecturers and tutors in Jesuit colleges were former Jesuits. I had asked my mentor Fr. C. Leigh S.J. about this. His reply was that *the Jesuits had trained these people and it would be a pity not use them in Jesuit institutions.* And other Jesuits did not fear the influence of former Jesuits. However, at least in my time, Brothers in India did not have the courage to have anything to do with the "traitors".

Obligation of the former Religious to the Society that educated him, that instilled values in him, that formed him spiritually, is obvious. As Bro. Landry said, *the congregation will not be diminished in acknowledging that the former Brothers served the congregation, for however long or short a time. Gratitude should be mutual.*

The present Superior General is fully cognizant of this mutual indebtedness. If I may reveal something: a short time after Bro. John was elected Superior General, he called me to say that he would like to visit me and spend some time with me. I was very pleased to welcome my ace student.

We spent a couple of days in intense communion, the content of which will remain with us. I am grateful for his confidence and his regard, and his fraternal solicitude. In my turn, I have been concerned about his cardiac issues, since I have had experiences with that too. But we hope and pray that he will remain healthy and hearty for many more years. (Joseph Pathyil)

0.5 Br Varghese Mandapathil



Br Varghese Mandapathil -P NEP-I . . .

Respected Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General, the Asst. Generals, Mr. P.D Wilson, Chairman of the MGA, Mr. George Nellamattom, the General Convener, members of MGA and Brothers who are present for the launch of MGA website. Greetings and God's blessings to everyone. The world is currently faced with the second and deadly wave of Covid-19. The number of people infected are

growing every day and so are the number of people we are losing to this Pandemic. But in the midst of all this negativity this event brings cheer and joy in our hearts. Shakti Gawain – once said, “Whatever our individual troubles and challenges may be, it’s important to pause every now and then to appreciate all that we have, on every level”. At the outset I congratulate the MGA office bearers especially George Nellamattom, P.D Wilson and others for organizing this virtual launching of the new MGA website. I consider it a privilege for being invited to say a few words of felicitation on this occasion. I begin by conveying the love, prayers and good wishes from all the Brothers of the Province of Northeast India. I had the good fortune to meet a number of my friends, who have joined the Holy Family, when I attended the MGA held at Muvattupuzha in the year 2019. I was so happy to listen to the success stories and meet the family members of some of you. It was with a sense of pride that I heard about the Montfortian daringness in arranging transportation and help for the migrant workers by P.D Wilson and team during the lockdown last year. Whenever I want a contact person in Kerala to help someone in need, the first name that comes to my mind is that of P.D Wilson. In May last year at the initiative of George Nallamattom, we started a WhatsApp group of all Brothers who had worked in Mizoram. Thanks to the long lockdown, it gave us time to peep into our adventurous life in Mizoram. The first Zoom meeting of the members of this group was very nostalgic and well appreciated by everyone. It made me realize that though we had parted ways so many years back, we still remember and cherish those days we spent together. The relationship/friendship we enjoyed during those young days certainly has a deep impact on us even after we grow up. We spent a lot of time reminiscing the funny and foolish things we did during those initial days when Northeast was a district of the then ‘South Province’. We, Brothers are grateful to each one of you for sharing our mission and being part of our life for a period of time. I am sure that the website we have launched today will bring us closer as brothers and help us to collaborate with each other and to be at the service of the less privileged at least in a small way. I appreciate the interest many of you are taking, in spite of your responsibility as a family men, to contribute to the society though your support and collaboration as members of Montfort Global Associates. A young man succeeded in helping men in 34 villages to stop drinking. A Member of Parliament hailed his achievement at such a young age. The hero replied, “To do good, I don’t need age.” We could also similarly say, “To do good we don’t need to be religious with vows.” Jesus went about doing good without vows. To do good, all that one need is a good and generous heart.

Buddha: once said - In the end only 3 things matter:

How much you loved
How gently you lived
How much you contributed to others happiness.

The Montfortian Global Associates, like the Brothers, are also called to holiness following the spirituality of Montfort. “And today, like the Brothers you are working in the Father’s field”. The call to live a life according to the

spirituality of St. Montfort is a call to all Montfortians. May God continue to bless us all and keep us, our families and communities safe and healthy during this Pandemic.

Bro. Varghese Mandapathil Provincial Superior Province of Northeast India

0.6 Br James Ekka

- Tribute to our dear Brother Mathias (Uncle)

At the outset I wish to thank and congratulate Wilson P.D. the Chairman, Montfort Global Associates (MGA), George Nellamattom, MGA the General Convenor, Kappan Thomas, the moderator of the program for the launch of MGA website. This platform gave me an occasion to see/interact many more MGA friends to name some of them- Jacob K., Peter Arokiadas, V.J. Joseph, T.D. Joseph, K. Gorge, and many others.

Br Mathias was born on 13th January 1935 to late Mr. Joseph and late Mrs. Thresiamma. He had two brothers and two sisters as his siblings. He joined the Juniorate in the year 1949 and made his First Vows on 8th of May 1955 in Eachikadu.

He worked in different capacity in the following Montfortian Institutions of Indian Provinces such as All Saints Hyderabad, St. Vianney Lechragarh, St. Aloysious Ranchi, Montfort School- Lucknow, Manappari, Tindivanam, St. Joseph’s Noatoli, St. Gabriel’s Novitiate Sitagragha, Montfort School Yercaud and St. Charles’ Inter College Sardhana. He spent his Last thirty odd years in Sardhana.

Br Mathias was a Brother with deep faith in God; he never possessed much -no big degrees, no big positions. He knew it was more pleasing to God to live in humility and simplicity. He spent most of his life with the ordinary poor people particularly in Sardhana.

He was a man of the heart; an innocent heart that was warm and tender. He came across as an affectionate, kind and gentle person. We can say *he was a brother; there was no guile in him*. The words of our Divine Master *I have come to serve and not to be served-* (Mk 10: 45) are well reflected in the life and mission of Bro. Mathias. Positions of power did not dominate him. In our religious hierarchy Bro Mathias did not occupy many glamorous positions of power or glory. His life of humble service and gospel servant-hood is the legacy that has been bequeathed to us.



Br James Ekka P NP-I . . .

Br Mathias, was a person of simple tastes. He was unostentatious in his dress, simple in his habits, understanding in his dealings with others. He was simplicity personified. For Br Mathias, Simplicity was not a way; it was a state of harmony. He had the ability to simplify and eliminate all that was unnecessary so that only the necessary remains.

God gives his crosses to his beloved ones. Br Mathias got them in abundance. He seemed to take his multiple ailments as the will of God, for he never made much of his sufferings. For many years, Brother Mathias had health problems but calm and smile never left his face. He knew the value of suffering and made the best of his own suffering. Without complaining, he had learned to accept all the sufferings that came in his way as coming from God. This is the brother whom we loved and lived with.

Br Mathias lived his life to the full, always keeping the wellbeing of the less privileged as his priority. We can be proud that we had a Brother who lived this way the Montfortian Charism until his last breath.

We thank the Lord for 65 years of long and beautiful life through which he continues to live as a guide, as a tower of strength and a channel of grace and blessings to all of us.

May the departed soul of late Bro. Mathias attain eternal bliss in heavenly abode !!!

0.7 Br George PJ

Greetings to all of you from Bengaluru!

I am delighted to participate in this virtual meeting of the Montfortian Global Associates for many reasons. Specially I am happy to meet many of my own batchmates who form probably the largest batch of this gathering.

I have been associated with this organization from its very inception. A few years ago, while I was the Provincial Superior of Yercaud Province, I realized that some of you who left the Congregation still have unfinished task in life because you had imbibed the charism of St. Montfort and that you want to do something more. One such person is Mr Cyriac Lukose whom I facilitated to go back to Fiji to work with the Brothers for a year.



Br George PI PB-I . . .

Ever since, I have been seeing similar enthusiasm in many of you (even George Nellamattam's son had gone to Fiji to do some voluntary service with the Brothers) to get

reconnected with the other Montfortians.

0.8 Br Varghese Thekkenath

- Remain Relevant

Br Varghese Thekkenath from MSI was forthright and forceful in his energetic pursuit of action oriented ministry and invited the partnership of MGAs in carrying forth Montfortian Vision to be Socially and Politically relevant.



Br Varghese Thekkenath MSI Hyderabad . . .

Br Varghese listed the four traits of being a Montfortian - be he a religious or MGA or Lay Apostolate.

- Pursue the Quest for God
- Prophesy the sign of the times thru retaining the ability to criticize because we love to and engage people to foster Hope
- Be a Pioneer by responding to the needs of times and by never being mere copy cats
- Be Scandalous by stirring those living in comforts to move from heirarchy to mutuality, conformity to risk and uniformity to plurality or diversity from right from the thought process to completion of tasks.

Br Varghese energized the gathering with his passionate emphasis on the Montfortian Spirit which runs in the veins of every apostolate and devotee of Mary.

0.9 Br Jaico Gervasius Provincial

- Energy thru Synergy

Br Jaico Provincial Pune Province gave an extempore felicitation which was packed with perspectives of collaborative avenues for both the Brothers and the MGAs for energy thru synergy.



Br Jaico P PP-I . . .

As the MGAs reside outside the congregation, they have better understanding and perspectives of the world than the Brothers – this is one area where the Brothers can look upto the MGAs for its input resources including human capital for sustaining vocational inflow to compensate the depleting number of religious intake.

Feasibility of holding brainstorming sessions for MGAs and the Brothers was suggested as an idea to take forward.

0.10 Lawrance Alva Middle East

- Milestone Event to Reconnect

On behalf of all the members of MGA from the Middle East, I would like to thank and congratulate the team which conceptualized, designed and built the website for MGA. This is a significant milestone for us all, who as a group, are trying to connect back to each other and to our roots. In today's world, driven by technology, the presence of a website is a must. Our website represents who we are, what we stand for and what we do. This website will be our platform for communication amongst ourselves and to the world outside.



Lawrance Alva . . .

Therefore, I sincerely urge everyone to participate and be active in contributing to the contents of the website. Let us ensure that our website is dynamic, effective and relevant to our cause in today's world.

Best regards,
Lawrence Alva

0.11 Felicitation from South Africa

-

Greetings from Sebastian Vattakunnel South Africa

Program Director, Rev Br John Kallarackal, Superior General and all present, all protocols observed.

Most of us joined the Congregation of Brothers of St Gabriel in our teens, received sound religious and academic formation from Senior Brothers and others who were the pillars of the Congregation in India.

We received a value based holistic education and formation.

We professed and developed over the years and some of us received a divergent call and moved out of the fold. Formost of us it was a blind leap into the unknown.

When we left the fold we carried with us the values, principles and ethos of the congregation.

Some of the values were caring for the less fortunate, give quality education to the people who couldnot afford and join the workd of the Church in giving the Gospel values.

A few of us started family lives and living a true family life which is showing Gospel Values to the children and community atround us.



Sebastian Vattakunnel . . .

We are scattered around the globe and successful in our fields. When the idea of uniting the ex-Brothers came up many of us supported the idea because we are branches from the same tree and through us we are trying to passon the ethos and values which we received from our bigger family named Montfortian.

I congratulate and admire those who had this brilliant idea and worked very hard to trace people from every nook and corner of the globe.

Let us work together in whatever way possible with the mother body and for the dynamic realities of the evolving and changing values in the youth today who is the future of tomorrow.

All my best wishes and congratulations to allof you at the auspicious occasion.

Dear Brothers, if Jesus Christ or St Montfort were to visit us in India will they be staying in our houses, big schools or will they be going out to the streets to the people who are dying because they cannot breathe. My suggestion is – at this time please convert our boarding houses to places where people could breathe oxygen and live. The problem is whether some of the RSS or the BJP members would allow this to happen; but we can get around them by asking a ward councillor or Panchayath member to approach us as a facilitator and that we provide this facility. We should take the initiative.

Sebastian Vattakunnel.

All of you are invited to visit this beautiful country of South Africa. If you come here, I will take care of you. If you need my assistance, please contact me.

0.12 Felicitation from Thailand Dr Damron Kijssamre

Dear Chairman Wilson,

"Congratulations to MGA Group. Our best wishes on the Official Launching of MGA Website on May 8th,2021.



Dr Damrong . . .

May God be glorified, Mary protect and St.Louis Mary be blessed forever.

Love from MA Thailand. Dr.Damrong Kijssamrej MA President-On behalf of MA Thai Members

0.13 Recap and Vote of Thanks

Suresh Reddy Thuma proposed the vote of thanks after a brief recap of the events of the day and thanking all beginning with Peter Arokiadas, dignitaries Rev Br Superior General, Asst Generals Br Pratap Reddy and Br Tk James, Jo Pathyil, George Nellamattam, PD Wilson, and others. Accolades and special mention was showered on the MC and Compere Thomas Kappen.



Vote of Thanks - Suresh Reddy Thumma . . .

The Program of Inauguration of the MGA Website concluded with the Marian Song by Peter Arokiadas accompanied by all participants joining the hymn from their location.

Key Take Aways of the Day

1. Peter Arokiadas set the right tone and pitch for the MGA Website launch with his rendering the Montfortian Hymn.
2. The warm welcome by George Nellamattam infused energy and endearment among the participants
3. The launch of the MGA website would enable communication among the MGAs and Brothers and would remain as the focal point of reference for interaction and as a digital storage and library in future.
4. Thomas Kappen as the MC and Compere rocked the event with apt comments on persons and events that

transposed the participants to their nostalgic period from the teens in the Congregation. He made the event possible by enabling the exodus of memories from the past into a pilgrim journey in quest of avenues for the fulfillment of the Montfortian spirit in action in the fast changing world today.

5. A small step into the Journey towards universal fraternity thru being one for all and all for one through share and care was the core message of the Presidential Address by Chairman PD Wilson:

**** MGA Global Meet in Dec 2019 in Muvattupuzha Kerala India marked a significant milestone in this endeavour.**

**** Formal registration of MGAs as MGA NFT ie Montfort Global Associates- Not For Profit demonstrates this intent.**

6. Choice of May 8 for the inauguration of MGA Website *www.mga.life* is significant as this date is dear Brothers and MGAs- day when all of began to follow the Montfortian Way and the relationship began- till the divergent call led to the MGA way for some while the rest continued the Montfortian road.
7. MGAs has grown significantly in membership, reach out and its activities, meetings, newsletters etc.
8. Special expression of appreciation and joy poured in for Jo Pathyil- his mentorship and writings
9. *It is a joy to see how the Congregation nurtured the MGAs into what they are today while grateful to acknowledge the contribution of MGAs to the Congregation till their divergent call happened. Looking forward to greater synergy between the MGAs and the Congregation.*
10. Montfortian values still relevant- Scope exists for partnership with laity and MGA could be an integral part in the process of pursuing the Montfortian Spirituality alongside the Congregation thru a private commitment- as elucidated in the MGA Charter.
11. MGA invited to plan visit to NE Region and other areas to experience and explore avenues of collaboration.
Link www.fsgpartnership.org, www.meinet.org and www.stgarielinst.org with www.mga.life for better integration of thought and action.
12. Meeting between the then Superior General Rev Br Romain Landry and Jo Pathyil prior to the latter's second calling on 31, January, 1967 cemented the foundation for bonding and Mutual Gratitude between the Congregation and the Ex-Brothers. It has taken more than 50 years for this to be accepted, acknowledged and percolated.
13. MGAs, like the Brothers, are called to holiness by following the Montfortian Spirituality and one doesn't need the benchmark of vows- To do good, all that one needs is a good and generous heart.
14. *MGAs still have unfinished task in life because they had imbibed the charism of St. Montfort and want to do something more* - there are some living empirical evidences of this observation in the likes of George Nellamatta, Cyriac Lukose and others.

15. Partnership of MGAs and the Congregation is a growing need of the times in order to realize the Montfortian vision to be Socially and Politically relevant by imbibing the four Montfortian traits in one's thought word and deed:-
 - Pursue the Quest for God
 - Prophesy the sign of the times thru retaining the ability to criticize because we love to and engage people to foster Hope
 - Be a Pioneer by responding to the needs of times and by never being mere copy cats
 - Be Scandalous by stirring those living in comforts to move from heirarchy to mutuality, conformity to risk and unformity to plurality or diversity from right from the thought process to completion of tasks.
16. MGAs better equipped to enlighten on the ways of the world which can help the Brothers in their mission, brainstorming by MGAs and Brothers being one of the steps in this direction.
17. • Grounding in sound religious and academic formation through value based holistic education helped most of the MGAs to carry with them the values, principles and ethos of the Congregation when they responded to their second calling:-
 - Many of MGAs are engaged in caring for the less fortunate or provide quality education to those who cannot afford or engage in the works of the Church in giving the Gospel Values.
 - Most of the MGAs are leading and living family life which is showing Gospel Values to the children and the community around them.
18. Joining hands to work for the youth today who are the future of tomorrow- taking into account the dynamic realities of their evolving and changing values- is the need of the hour and pressing mandate to both MGAs and the Congregation.
19. A reflective poser to all: *If Jesus Christ of St Montfort were to visit us today, would they be staying in our houses, schools or would they be going out to the streets to the people who are dying because they cannot breathe?*
20. Suggestion was made for opening up the schools boarding houses to Covid patients and Covid affected people and provide oxygen for them to breathe and live. It was also suggested that local RSS/BJP leaders may be roped in through local councillor or panchayath member to don the role of interlocutor so that the Congregation could provide the facility against request (**It may be mentioned that at the time of writing this, MSI Hyderabad opened its doors for this charitable and humanitarian task by involving the local influenzers.**)
21. The presence of the Superior General along with the Two Assistant Generals Br TK James and Br Pratap Reddy along with a number of Provincials, other Brothers and MGAs set the ambience for an unforgettable event.



Br TK James Asst General from Rome . . .



Br Pratap Reddy Asst General from Rome . . .

The active participation of the Assistant Generals Br TK James and Br Pratap Reddy with keen listening and assimilation of the proceedings was exemplary and an experiential learning for all in the art of Group dynamics and the practice of living thru the Marian Way- *As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart - Luke 2:19*

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Report: MGA Global Meet Dec 2019

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Back to the Roots, Together to the Future

'The thrill of coming home is always treasured in our hearts. Memories last forever. Finding an old friend is finding a lost treasure.'

The Prelude

A spark in the small township of Montfort in France, was lit by the Divine Grace, during the late 17th century. This spark was personified in Louis Marie de Montfort, (born on 31st January, 1673, at Montfort-sur-Meu, France).

This little spark, as the time passed by, glowed into a flame and gradually the fire spread across entire France. Enlightened and strengthened by the Spirit of the Divine, the power of this fire spread far and wide, crossing beyond borders of geographical boundaries marked by humans, to embrace, enkindle, empower and uplift the humanity.

This spark, Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, is Montfort Global Associates' Patron.

Montfort Global Associates

MGA is an assembly of former members of the Religious Congregation of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. The members are now spread far and wide across the Globe.

We are privileged to have imbibed the Montfortian spirituality and values, through which we have developed certain common convictions and ideologies. These enable us to conduct ourselves and approach the society at large, in a unique manner.

This uniqueness gives us an exceptional identity. Hence efforts were under process, for several years, at various parts of the globe to coordinate these scattered members and to bring them together under one umbrella. The relentless efforts thus resulted in the formation of MGA.

Foreword

The thought of coming together had been in the mind of everyone. Our locations being spread out far and wide, organizing a 'coming together' was quite a far cry. Yet, long back, nineteen years ago, in the summer of 2001 Punnus along with Wilson and a few other members with their families had a gathering at Thripunithara, Cochin, in Kerala. Later, they continued this gathering annually, at different parts of the State, participants' number reaching up to sixty-two, in the year 2011. It was a matter of joy to note that there were Brothers from the Congregation as guest participants in all these gatherings, every year. This group was named as Montfortian Lay Associates (MLA), Kerala.

Similarly, there had been group gatherings at various parts of the country for several years; Chennai, Trichy, Hyderabad, Delhi, to name a few. In the USA too well over ten years the members make every occasion as an opportunity, to come together to celebrate and strengthen our bond.

It is further heartening to note that the former members of the Brothers of St. Gabriel from Thailand and Singapore have a registered organization under the banner of 'Montfortian Associates', with a membership of over one hundred and sixty.

We appreciate the tireless efforts taken especially by Joseph Chamakala and other team members for establishing the links with Montfortian Associates across the globe - Thailand, Singapore, France, Canada, Germany, England, UAE, Africa, Australia and India.

Emergence of the Idea of Global Meet:

A three day 'be together Montfortian' was organized by the members in the USA in 2018. Jebamalaidass, Thomas Kappen, Isaac A, members from India, had the privilege to attend this living together experience along with twenty members from different parts of the USA. It was here that the idea of a global gathering blossomed. A decision was taken to organize a gathering in 2020, in India.

The Beginning:

As per the three day 'be together Montfortian' was organized by the members in the USA in 2018. Jebamalaidass, Thomas Kappen, Isaac A, members from India, had the privilege to attend this living together experience along with twenty members from different parts of the USA.

It was here that the idea of a global gathering blossomed. A decision was taken to organize a gathering in 2020, in India. The decision in the above gathering a WhatsApp group was formed under the able hands of Dominic Chackonal, Joseph Chamakala, George Nellamattathil and Cyriac Lukose in the USA, later supported by few other volunteers from the USA and strongly supported by volunteers from India.

Thus, a data of around 170 members across the world was collected; a strong Montfortian Global Associates' fraternity came into existence.

In this process we came into contact with several of our senior veterans. Among them was Joseph Pathyil, the senior most, who co-authored with late Mani Mezhlukanal the present 'RULE OF LIFE', of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel.

Kudos to the entire team for their self-sacrificing efforts especially to Wilson who played a key role to get all of us connected.

Organizing Committee

A core committee of volunteers was formed in India to plan and organize the proposed MGA gathering led by Jebamalaidass, Thomas Kappen and Wilson, strongly supported by a few other volunteers from India- Isaac A., Cheriyan Panikulam, Aloysius Mathew, George Maliyackel, George Parayannilam. K. J. Mathew and B.O. Sebastian. Volunteers George Nellamattathil, Joseph Chamakala, Dominic Chackonal, Cyriac Lukose, Shaju George Nellikkattil and others from USA were regularly supporting with their opinions and suggestions.

It had been a herculean task for the organizers to conduct regular meetings at different locations, travelling to different regions of the country, to share the idea of a Global Montfortian get together and invite the members to participate in the same. We were able to get connected to our members in different parts of India as well as across the globe.

Preparatory Meetings

The first such meeting was held at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud on 2nd-3rd of January 2019, as we felt that it was appropriate to start from our roots. We were eight participants: Jebamalaidass, Gabriel James Fernando, Peter Arokiadoss,

Isaac A., D. Joseph, Thomas Kappen, Wilson and Cyriac Lukose, all the way from Chicago. Bro. P J George, the Provincial Superior, Bro. Wilfred, the senior most members of the Indian provinces, along with all other Brothers of Louis Villa and Montfort School gave us a warm and fraternal welcome.

We were once again privileged to experience the warm hospitality of our former fraternity. Sincere thanks to the Brothers of Louis Villa and Montfort School communities.

We had deliberations on many aspects of the idea of MGA, apart from the main focus to decide the venue and date of the Global Gathering of 2020. Bro. Provincial offered us all possible support to organize the Global Meet at Yercaud itself. While we thanked the Provincial for his supportive gesture we too expressed our interest to organize the 1st MGA Meet at St. Louis Villa itself, as we have our roots there.

Later on we gathered at different parts of the country, the first being at Santhome School in Chennai. Then in May 2019 at Royal Castle Airport Hotel, Nedumbassery, *(This meeting was combined with the annual gathering of Montfortain Lay Associates (MLA) Kerala, joined by a few members and their families from Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Delhi, Uttara Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha. Our special guests were Bros. V. K. George and M. K. Devassy from North East. Here we had the privilege to join Bro. VKG to celebrate his Golden Jubilee of his First Profession. It is during this gathering that the proposal came up to have the Global Meet at NESTT, at Muvattupuzha).*

We continued similar meetings at Little Flower School, Abids, Hyderabad, L.Jayaraj's home at Kovalam, Chennai, George Maliyackel's home at Thodupuzha and the final meeting of the organizing committee was held at B. O. Sebastian's home at Angamaly.

The venue and the date of the Global Meet were finalized during these meetings. Considering various aspects of convenience we decided the Venue as NESTT, Muvattupuzha, Kerala and the dates were from December 29th 2019 evening 3.00 to January 1st 2020 morning 10.00. This was intimated to members all over the globe so that all could plan out their schedules.

MGA Global Meet Agenda-Programme

The organizing committee tried to shortlist various points from the deliberation at different committee meetings we had as well as from the feed backs of the members across the world. There were serious deliberations and sharing by many members on aspects like the Purpose, Vision, Mission, Goal, Objective etc. of MGA.

It was finally decided that since we were all coming together for the first time, as a global forum, from different provinces with varying age group (eldest 84 and youngest 34; first vows – 1955, 2003), the primary concern and emphasis must be to re-live our bonds and to celebrate our brotherhood.

It was thus decided that there would be no strict agenda for the Meet; the purpose, vision, objective etc. may it all be evolved from our live-in sessions and continued delib-

erations. The organizing committee felt that it was too early to come to certain conclusion on the above subjects and deemed it fit that further deliberation in the open forum are necessary.

However, a meticulously worked out programme chart was prepared (open to alteration) to have an organized form of Gathering. Minute details like accommodation, food, conveyance, medical assistance, stationeries etc. were all taken note of and responsibilities to sub committees were entrusted. The details of the committees are furnished at the end of this report.

The Global Meet -29,December, 2019.

The Arrival Registration were on from 3.00 pm, at NESTT, Muvattupuzha. Meeting long lost friends was nostalgic with handshakes and hugs flooding the memories of the good old days. A few failed to hold up wetting their eyes.

As members were dripping in there was more excitement, fun, frolic and laughter. With these nostalgic interactions members one by one got settled into the allotted rooms and continued the greeting sharing in the dining room over a cup of tea/coffee and snacks.

After dinner, at nine, we all gathered in the conference hall. On behalf of the Organizing Committee Wilson, Jebamalaidass and B. O. Sebastian welcomed all the members to the Great Event.

The Director of NESTT addressed us with a word of appreciation that it was for the first time he ever witnessed such a gathering of former Religious groups and welcomed this new idea. He further added that it would be such groups who would be the future missionaries of the Church. The Assistant Director also welcomed us and briefed about the accommodation and other arrangements at NESTT.

Later, Thomas Kappen detailed on the events that had taken place prior to this first Global Meet and the background of the emergence of MGA. He further informed the gathering about the programme for the following days. We concluded the day with rosary and "Glory to thee Montfort" led by Jebamalaidass.

The Global Meet -30,December, 2019

The inaugural session of the Meet started at 9.30, by Cheriyan Panikulam inviting the gathering to join for prayer song followed by the official welcome address. The organizers, representatives of various countries, of women participants families, and of the guest participants from Thailand, the eldest youngest representatives of the Meet were present on the dais for the lighting of the lamp.

Jebamalaidass led the group by singing 'Glory to thee Montfort', making the group vibrant and alive. An inspiring prayer dance performed by the children of Mary Land School, owned by Thomas Kappen, one of the MGA members, added colour to the inaugural ceremony.

The first two sessions, in the morning, were spent on sharing each one's journeys after leaving the congregation. There was time for individuals to introduce themselves and the family members. The sessions were interesting, informative and meaningful as each one addressed the

gathering in turn with full enthusiasm, without any inhibitions, wanting to share each one's life experiences with utter trust in the group.

All had passionately declared that whatever they are today is the outcome of the Montfortian spirituality they had imbibed, training they had gained in the society and the contribution by the great stalwarts of the congregation who had been their mentors in the years of formation.

In the afternoon we went into group discussions and sharing. The groups were formed based on the year of profession. The topics of discussion were 'our expectations and how we would like the MGA to be' - the purpose, the vision, the objective of MGA. We could observe that every member was fervently expressing each one's views, including our family members. The dynamism of the group sharing was encouraging.

The points of deliberations were noted and the general opinion of the groups was that a committee be entrusted to formulate the purpose, the vision, the objective, etc. of MGA.

The Global Meet- Our Guests of Honour – Brothers from the Congregation

There was added excitement and thrill, around four in the evening, as the Superior General, Rev. Bro John Kallarackal along with Provincial Superiors Rev. Bros. P J George Varghese Mandapathil and other senior Brothers from the Congregation moved in. Coming together and feeling of oneness, joy and optimism were in the air; recalling, reassuring and renewing friendships, cementing the bonds once again. In the evening, at 6.30, we had a colourful welcome cum felicitation programme to express our due respect and gratitude to the Superior General and other Brothers for sparing their valuable time and giving priority to this Gathering on their busy schedules.

The Superior General then addressed the gathering, appreciating all for the efforts taken to come together, the good work carried on as individuals and being successful in the careers we have chosen. The presence of Superior General and his words of encouragement and assurance of support for the MGA were much appreciated. Indeed it was a welcome gesture. Bro. P.J. George, Provincial of Bangalore, spoke on behalf of the Brothers in India. He reassured of all possible support to MGA and informed us of certain processes that are under consideration, in the Congregation, of the idea of collaborating with the lay associates. The presence of some of the senior Brothers from various Provinces of the congregation strengthened our bond and added cheer to the gathering.

Damrong, the President of Montfort Association of Thailand, gave detailed information about the functioning of the association in Thailand and their contribution to the society by a power point presentation. It was very informative and encouraging input for us to note that such a strong movement already exists. We extend our support and congratulate the Thailand Montfort Associates.

R V Thomas (Fr. R V Thomas), one of our members, shared his present mission experiences at different locations in

Tamil Nadu, taking care of the destitute, especially who are at the verge of death. The group while appreciating the great mission congratulated him for his dedication and the service extended to one of the most needed sections of the society.

It was yet another inspiring moment for MGA to witness the introduction of a new method of praying the Rosary by Jebamalaiddass. He then distributed booklets of the same to all.

A Calendar, specially designed with date of births of members and other details pertaining to the group, was given to all present as a memento of the Meet. The session was concluded with a word of special appreciation and thanks expressed to Superior General, Provincials and all other Brothers from the Congregation for their presence and extending solidarity with the MGA by B. O. Sebastian.

Enlivening our Montfortian spirituality, we had the evening prayer (the new form of rosary). Then we gathered for a group photo of all participants together with the Brothers. There after we moved on for 'bada khana' (grand dinner). The participants had some meaningful and personal interaction with the Brothers before they bade farewell to the gathering.

The Global Meet- Our Guests of Honour – The Entertainment

In the evening after dinner, we came together to sing some songs, learned in our formative period, and other performances that entertained everyone. It was a journey back to juniorate and novitiate days. We do appreciate Aloysius' talented daughter, Elsa Philo, who exhibited her histrionic talents in various ways.

The Global Meet -31,December, 2019

After the breakfast we gathered at 9.30 in the conference hall. The morning session was spent in groups to share and discuss the future plan and individual's expectations, as a group. The groups were formed based on the member's fields of activity like education, business, spiritual activities and social involvements. It was followed by the presentations by each group leader on the above group deliberations. The points of group interactions are stated at the end.

The second session of the day, after the coffee break, was organized as a general gathering. Herein it was suggested to have the next Global Meet in 2022. Date and venue of the 2022 gathering will be announced by end of 2020. A committee was formed selecting members by region/sector and country wise, P.D. Wilson as the Chairman and George Nellamattathil as the General Convener, for the Meet of 2022. The list is given at the end. Meanwhile we would be having Regional/Sector gathering as had been done earlier, as and when convenient. These shall be coordinated by the concerned coordinators of the Region/Sector. At the end of 2nd Session an evaluation sheet was distributed and a feedback of the Meet was presented in the general assembly. A report is given below.

The official sessions of the Meet were concluded as we thanked and expressed our appreciation to each other for

all the great efforts taken, the constant interactive support given and for moving in from all parts of the world, keeping aside all other concerns, to make the Meet a great success. Yes indeed we made it. Glory to thee Montfort!

We then moved to the chapel for the final Eucharistic celebration of the Meet. The Mass was specially offered remembering all our departed Members, Brothers and the family members of MGA. Fr. Jimmy Mathew led the Holy Service and Fr. Abraham Kottoparrambil and Fr.R.V.Thoams were co celebrants who are our MGA members.

As the Meet was coming to a close so was the year 2019. Hence we decided to bid farewell to 2019 and welcome 2020, in anticipation, and exchanged greeting of New Year sharing a great lunch.

In the afternoon the finance committee verified the accounts of the Meet and presented before the general gathering which was then approved and the Meet was officially declared closed to meet again in 2022.

The Global Meet -New Year Celebration 2020

All those who stayed back had a gala time celebrating the dawn of 2020, as the final event of the Meet. Around twenty of us gathered in the evening in a specially arranged hotel at Muvattupuzha town. The musical treat flowed under the leadership of George Nellamattathil and Jebamalaiddass strongly supported by Shaju George Nellikattil and Cyrica Lukose. A three hour celebration, dinner combined with melodious songs, personal narrations of life experiences and jokes etc. took us to a journey back to our life in the congregation. Our hearts were full with joy unparalleled. We conclude with the statement of our senior most member, present (professed in 1955), Lukose Pattiyal, "this is the best ever celebration I enjoyed in my entire life time".

The Global Meet Dec 2019-Farewell

On the morning of 1st January 2020, the New Year's Eve, all those who stayed back after the New Year celebrations on the previous night came together, greeting each other. After breakfast we checked out of all rooms and cleared all files and left-over stationeries.

Then we settled all dues with the NESTT authorities. Once again we thanked them for the wonderful services and hospitality they provided. All of us moved out of NESTT by around 10 in the morning, back to our nests with lingering thoughts..

The Global Meet Dec 2019 -Feedback Suggestions Action Plan

01- Objectives - What and Why?

1. This should be a forum for a get together to meet and spend some time with our friends and families who have travelled together in our early life, with similar formation experiences in/for life.
2. Having had the privilege to undergo a formation and training in a particular manner, with a lot of exposures to various life experiences, we have developed certain value systems in our life, which has helped

us to live a meaningful life, even after coming out of the Congregation. We look forward to continuing the same and dedicate ourselves collectively, as members of the MGA, for the benefit of the society, in the global arena.

3. The inspiring life of our Patron, Louis Grignon de Montfort reverberating in our minds, like 'God Alone', 'To Jesus through Mary.' 'The power of Rosary and the dedication to educate the youth'. These had guided us in our years of grooming.
4. The exemplary lives of the pioneers of the Indian Missionary Brothers and later all those who joined them from Indian continent, considering education as the most powerful tool to build up a society or a nation for its all-round development, has been always a motivating factor to us, which is still a relevant call, in Indian scenario.
5. The sacrifices and the selfless service of our seniors who have guided us, the 'Poutha Experiments' of Bro. C M Joseph and his team, the dedicated service which is still being continued by Brothers in the congregation as well as by a few of us, continue to generate a feeling that we can and we need to pool our strengths together and further express ourselves in some form of social solidarity.

02 How - The Way Forward

1. There is a need to take steps to support those MGA members who are in any kind of need, financial or otherwise.
2. There was a suggestion to start an information centre for student's career guidance in the rural areas of the country.
3. As a small initiative support the most deserving tribal students, who are economically poor; in the Brothers' schools, preferably the girl students in the hostels, identified by the Brothers, with the coordination of teaching staff of the school. This could be an annual financial support either as a group or by individuals.
4. There were other opinions to support the social initiatives undertaken by our members, financially or in any other form.
5. It was further opined that under the umbrella of MGA, like minded members to join together to form sub units and collaborate with each other, based on the interests of individuals - in the field of education, youth formation, training and guidance centre/s; direct involvement in the society for spiritual cultural movements/ business activities, etc.
6. One of the members had proposed a project of "Total literacy of India by 2047" (2047 being the centenary year of Independence).
7. Another opinion was to plan a home for all in Kerala, near Cochin Airport, with family accommodation, common prayer room, dining hall, recreation facilities, with supportive staff, vehicle and even medical support, as and when required. Any member can avail the facilities with a minimum payment. Members from abroad can avail this during their

holidays. Brothers those who are in the congregation or anybody who will be recommended by the group members could be provided the accommodation on nominal charges. The expenses to maintain the property can be managed by renting it out for retreats and conferences etc. as and when available.

03 Action Plan- Opinions- Views

Registration of MGA -

1. Should we register ourselves as a society? Why should we, when there already several NGOs and other organizations already exist?
2. Should we be totally independent or affiliate and collaborate with the Brothers in the congregation; to what extent?
3. Have we to obtain an ecclesiastical recognition as a lay organization in the Church?
4. Membership: Who can be included as a member? What are the criteria? Should the former candidates, teachers and students who were/are part of the larger Montfortian fraternity, if they wish, be included as members? Should there be an annual or any other subscription for membership etc.?

MGA is formally registered as Montfort Global Associates -Not For Profit.

purpose, vision, mission, objective, etc - To discern and evolve to what we, the MGA, want to be - This is a continuing process **Motto-** Share and Care, To God Alone through Universal Fraternity. Or anything else- to work on it- This too is a continuing process. **The Venue for the 2022 MGA Meet** - The Venue, date and its other details were entrusted to the committee to plan and communicate to the general group.

04 MGA Global Meet December 2019 -Evaluation

The total number of participants was 67:- India – 26; USA – 12, Thailand - 2, Philippines-1, Australia – 1, UAE – 4, Canada – 1, Africa -1, Families - 10, Bro. Superior General - 1, Provincials – 2, Other Brothers from the congregation – 6).

The participants ranged from 1955 to 2003 batches (Year of First Profession).

According to the filled in forms, the information and messages shared, it was found that the programme schedules were very well planned although minor changes had to be made. The participation by members was excellent though a few could not make it or be present for all the three days.

The accommodation other facilities were very good. Food was healthy, palatable and was served on time. Overall arrangements for the Meet were well appreciated.

There was no contradiction to the fact that the Meet had strengthened our bonds of brotherhood. The charges were never a burden for anyone. It was unanimously accepted that the MGA should meet regularly on regional basis at least once every year and once in two years on international level.

Joining hands with the Montfortian mission was a wel-

come move and most had agreed positively if it is feasible in consultation with the Brothers.

All had voted positively that the deliberations were informative beneficial. The song unanimously sung 'God be with you till we meet again', reaffirmed the necessity to continue the Meets.

The Positives

1. We had our prayers together and the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by our brother priests, every day.
2. We remembered, paid respect and prayed for all the departed Brothers of the Congregation, members of MGA and family who had in some way or other touched our hearts, minds and souls.
3. Members from Thailand, Philippines, USA, Canada, Australia, Africa, UAE and different states of India participated.
4. It was encouraging that a few families joined for the meet.

A Pat on the Back

1. Wilson who had the patience, willingness, capacity and calibre to get things moving, and co ordinating all activities in a successful manner from A-Z.
2. Jebamalaiddass for the hard work, involving himself by joining in all the committee meetings travelling long distances, getting the printing done for liturgy, introducing a new method of praying the rosary, guiding us how to go about it, distributing booklets of the same, designing the calendar for memento and honouring the dignitaries.
3. Thomas J Kappen, in spite of his busy schedule in establishing his new school project, willingly came forward to join in all the committee meetings to contribute with his experience and expertise.
4. BO Sebastian, Jebamalaiddass, Thomas Kappen, George Nellamattathil, and Wilson for moderating all events and procedures of the Meet.
5. Superior General, Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, Provincials Rev. Bros. P. J. George Varghese Mandapathil and Bro. Martin (North-East), Bros T.T. Mathew Thampy Alex (Delhi), Br.Lambert (Hyderabad), and Bros. Mathew Panathanath Thomas Kalathilkottil (Bangaluru) for taking the trouble to travel all the way from different parts of the country, placing this Meet on their priority and for their words of encouragement and fraternal solidarity.
6. Rev. Fr. Rector and team of NESTT for the accommodation and good healthy food provided.
7. The Kitchen and all other supportive staff of NESTT for their cheerful conduct and services.
8. Aloysius and his children-Ashbin Elsa Philo, alongside Deepak T Kappen, for being available, coordinating, making arrangements and assisting us all through the Meet.
9. Damrong and Phiphat for having come all the way from Thailand to be part to this gathering and briefing us on the functioning of the association in Thailand.
10. Fr. Jimmy Mathew for celebrating the Holy Eucharist

in a meaningful and contextualised manner, every day.

11. L Jayraj, for all his support with the projector and related assistance.
12. Joseph Chamakkala, Dominic C.C and George Nellamattathil and others who had initiated the WhatsApp group co ordinating the meetings from USA.
13. MG Jacob for the initiative taken to create a face book group of MGA.
14. L Jayraj, George Maliyackel B O Sebastian for the arrangements of committee meetings at their homes.
15. To our friends in the USA who had financially supported us to a great extent to make this gathering a success.
16. The children of Mary Land School for adding colour to the Meet with their welcome dance
17. Justine John for covering the events from beginning till end through photographs.
18. All the members of the organizing committee who had put in their best effort to make this meet a grand success.
19. To all the members for the cooperation, constructive suggestions and active participation.
20. To all others who intended to join the Meet but couldn't materialize due to various reasons, yet expressed support through their interactions, suggestion and opinions.

MGA GLocal Meet Sub Committees

1. **Programme Coordinators** Wilson, T. Kappen, Jebamalaidass, B. O. Sebastian, Aloysius Mathew, George Nellamattathil, Joseph Chamakala, Dominic Chackonal.
2. **Registration Accounts** T. D. Joseph, Isaac Children
3. **Secretaries** Lawrence Alva, Dominic Chackonal, Suresh S.
4. **Room Allotments** Punns, Aloysius Children
5. **Prayer Liturgy** Jimmy Mathew, Jebamalaidass, Jayaraj
6. **Cultural Proqramme** Cyriac Lukose, Jacob Philip
7. **Mementos, Calendar Banners** Jebamalidass, Isaac
8. **Directory** PJ Sebastian, Peter Arokiadoss, Issac ,Jacob MG
9. **Food** George Nellamattathil, Cyriac Lukose, Wilson,
10. **Communication Conveyance** Aloysius, Sebastian Mathew,
11. **Medical Assistance** George Parayanilam
12. **Hotel Room Booking** Wilson T.Kappen
13. **Children's Activities** Jayaraj, Suresh Punns
14. **31st Ladies Children's Outing** Cyriac Lukose, Punns,
15. **Stationery** T Kappen
16. **Souvenir** T Kappen, BO Sebastian, PD Wilson, Jacob MG, PJ Sebastian,
- New Year Dinner Party Cultural events** George Nellamattathil, Cyriac Lukose, Shaju George, Wilson

International Days Of Events ...

Why do we mark International Days?

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. We also mark other UN observances.

Several events are celebrated around the world.

These are listed to invite the interest of the readers and stimulate their cerebral prowesses.

2 May World Tuna Day (A/RES/71/124)

3 May World Press Freedom Day (UNESCO 26 C/Resolution 4.3)

8 May (second Saturday of May) World Migratory Bird Day [UNEP]

8-9 May Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War (A/RES/59/26)

15 May International Day of Families (A/RES/47/237)

16 May International Day of Living Together in Peace (A/RES/72/130)

16 May International Day of Light [UNESCO] (UNESCO 39 C/Resolution 16)

17 May World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (A/RES/60/252; ITU Resolution 68/2006)

20 May World Bee Day (A/RES/72/211)

21 May International Tea Day (A/RES/74/241)

21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (A/RES/57/249)

22 May International Day for Biological Diversity (A/RES/55/201)

23 May International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (A/RES/67/147)

26 May "Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon (A/RES/54/115)

29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers (A/RES/57/129)

31 May World No-Tobacco Day [WHO] (WHA Resolution 42.19)

1 June Global Day of Parents (A/RES/66/292)

3 June World Bicycle Day (A/RES/72/272)

4 June International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (A/RES/ES-7/8)

5 June World Environment Day (A/RES/2994 (XXXVII))

5 June International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (A/RES/72/72)

6 June Russian Language Day (Russian)

7 June World Food Safety Day (A/RES/73/250)
 8 June World Oceans Day (A/RES/63/111)
 12 June World Day Against Child Labour
 13 June International Albinism Awareness Day (A/RES/69/170)
 14 June World Blood Donor Day [WHO] (WHA Resolution 58.13)
 15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (A/RES/66/127)
 16 June International Day of Family Remittances (A/RES/72/281; GC 38/Resolution 189)
 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (A/RES/49/115)
 18 June Sustainable Gastronomy Day (A/RES/71/246)
 19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (A/RES/69/293)
 20 June World Refugee Day (A/RES/55/76)
 21 June International Day of Yoga (A/RES/69/131)
 21 June International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice (A/RES/73/300)
 23 June United Nations Public Service Day (A/RES/57/277)
 23 June International Widows' Day (A/RES/65/189)
 25 June Day of the Seafarer [IMO] (STCW/CONF.2/DC.4)
 26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (A/RES/42/112)
 26 June United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (A/RES/52/149)
 27 June Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (A/RES/71/279)
 29 June International Day of the Tropics (A/RES/70/267)
 30 June International Asteroid Day (A/RES/71/90)
 30 June International Day of Parliamentarism (A/RES/72/278)

MGAs may like to write on any of the above to demonstrate how these events have benefited human kind. Such writings would inspire others to nurture the humanity around us to demonstrate the Divinity that drives us on.

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MGA Montfortian Rosary Meet ...

Montfortian Rosary Meet 30 May 2021

MGA organized MONTFORTIAN ROSARY on 30 May 2021 at 1830 Hrs IST

51 the Brothers, MAMs, MAs and MGAs joine in this spiritual gathering to end the Month of May in the Montfortian way

Br John Kallarackal Superior General was the Chief Anima-

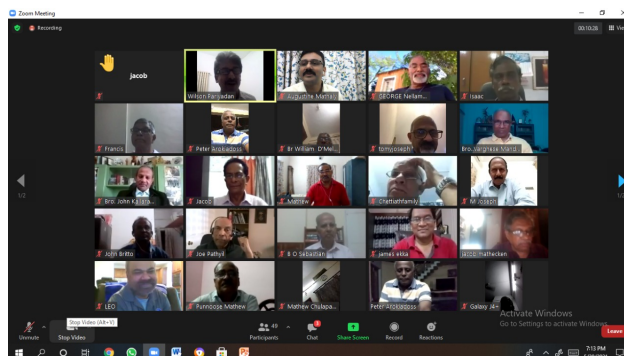
tor. The Montfortian Rosary was designed and presented by C Jeyaraj, Peter Arokiadas and team. .



Rev Br John Kallarackal during the Zoom Rosary Meet from Rome ...

There was informal interaction among the participants who were meeting thru Zoom after quite a long time

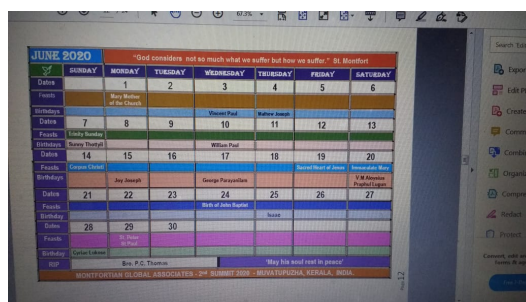
Arising out the discussions, there was spontaneous appreciation to the organizers for conducting such a novel and innovative programme which was echoed in loud and clear message by the Senior Jo Pathyil. It was hoped that more such bouquet of activities would continue to emerge from the garden of MGA.



A Glimpse of the Zoomarians in Montfort Rosary Meet ...

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Celebrations and Events



Birthday Calander June 2021 ...



Montfortian Rosary on 30 May 2021... -End