

A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROS. ST. GABRIEL

1. St. Louis Marie de Montfort, its founder

St. Montfort was ordained a priest on 5th June 1700. As a priest he wanted to be a preacher and to be a missionary. Even while in the seminary in Paris, he loved to teach catechism to children. In Dec. 1700, he wrote to his spiritual director, "My intention was, as yours was too, to prepare for mission-work and especially for teaching catechism to the poor, since this is what attracts me most... When I see the needs of the Church I cannot help pleading continually for a small and poor band of good priests to do this work under the banner of the Blessed Virgin." While at Poitiers, he taught catechism as well as gave conferences to university students.

In 1705, while preaching in the diocese of Poitiers, Montfort recruited Bro. Mathurin to help him in his mission work. In June 1706, he met Pope Clement XI, who told him to preach in France. In 1707, Bro. John joined Montfort. From 1707-1708, Montfort along with the two Brothers withdrew to the Hermitage of St. Lazare and their stay there for about ten months could have taken as their novitiate. From 1708-1710, Montfort proved to be a great preacher in the diocese of Nantes. In 1709, Bro. Peter joined Montfort. Unfortunately, the huge that he built in Pontchateau was forbidden to be blessed. Then he along with his Brothers, stayed at Cour Cathuis, Nantes. While there in 1711, Bro. Nicholas joined Montfort. Most probably he asked one of his Brothers to teach in the attached to the General Hospital at Nantes.

From 1711-1716, Montfort preached in the diocese of La Rochelle and Lucon. Bro. Jacques (James) joined Montfort in 1714. Bros. Philip, Louis and Gabriel joined him a little later. While at La Rochelle, Montfort was keen to provide education to poor boys. Thus in 1714, he founded a free school for poor boys in La Rochelle with the approval of the Bishop. While a priest was put in charge of it, most probably some of his Brothers taught in that school. The following year, he started a similar school for girls and entrusted it the care of the Daughters of Wisdom. During his last mission, which he conducted at St. Laurent-sur-Sevre, he must have attempted to start a school there.

On 9th June 1715, Montfort and Bros. Nicolas, Philip, Louis and Gabriel made their religious vows before the statue of Our Lady of all patience at La Seguinere. While Montfort was preaching at Vouvant, some land was donated to him to start a charitable school. On 27th April 1716, Montfort dictated his Will and he has mentioned in it eight Brothers by name. He gave practically all his belongings "to the Brothers of the Community of the Holy Spirit to conduct charity schools." On the following day, he expired without fulfilling all his plans. Bro. Jacques stayed on in St. Laurent after the death of Montfort, looking after the education of the boys. In 1719, he left for Nantes.

2. During the 18th Century

On 6th June 1716, Fr. Rene Mulot, Montfort's successor, registered Montfort's Will with the notary at Nantes. He gave up the land at Vouvant. In September 1716, he came to St. Pompain, to stay there with his brother, who was the parish priest there. In 1717, Bro. Jacques came to stay at St. Laurent to teach poor children. He also recruited Bro. Joseau. After Montfort's death, Bro. Louis, who was in La Rochelle, was replaced by Bro. Philip and latter came to Nantes. We do not much information about the other Brothers. In 1718, Fathers Rene Mulot and Adrian Vatel and Bro. Mathurin were at St. Pompain. During the lent of that year, they started preaching missions. By 2nd June 1718, Bro. Mathurin joined the two Fathers, who were at St. Pompain.

In 1715, Srs. Marie Louise Trichet and Catherine Brunet came from Poitiers to La Rochelle and looked after the school for girls. Later three joined them and thus in 1718, there were five Sisters belonging to the Daughters of Wisdom. Sr. Marie Louise tried in vain to start a novitiate at La Rochelle. The General Hospital of Poitiers was keen to get back the Sisters to work there. Towards the end 1718, Madame Trichet came to La Rochelle to get back the Sisters to Poitiers. While two Sisters stayed on in La Rochelle, Srs. Marie Louise, Catherine and Joseph went to the General Hospital of Poitiers. Sr. Marie Louise was not able to start the novitiate in Poitiers.

Providence came to the help of Sr. Marie Louise. Montfort had established a shrine dedicated to Mary, Queen of Hearts, at Montbetnage in Poitiers. He had asked Mr. Jacques Goudeau to look after it. He came and met Sr. Marie Louise and promised help. He knew Madame de Bouille and her uncle the Marquis of Magnanne. She, a widow at thirty, stayed in a castle near St. Laurent, where Montfort died. It was suggested that she and her uncle could buy land in St. Laurent. They bought a dilapidated old inn called the Long House and gifted it to the Sisters. Further they secured permission from the Bishop of La Rochelle and the consent of the inhabitants. A deed was signed and the property was given to Sr. Marie Louise. People Poitiers Hospital did not want the Sisters to leave and hence they had to struggle to lot.

On 20th June 1720, Sr. Marie reached St. Laurent. Poverty welcomed them as the Long House was in a state of neglect. They set to work to improve the conditions. One Mr. Rene Joseau and his friends came to help them. They cultivated the garden, made furniture and food was bought. Within two weeks the other Sisters from Poitiers reached St. Laurent. Later on the Sisters had to face problems from the parish priest. Sr. Marie suggested to Madame Bouille the possibility of getting Fr. Rene Mulot as their superior. Both of them met the Bishop of La Rochelle and the latter asked Fr. Mulot to take charge of directing the Daughters of Wisdom.

On 7th April 1721, The Holm-Oak House and the garden called "Les Huelles" were bought by Madame Bouille "in the name of the Brothers, who are to teach small boys of the parish". On 29th June 1722, Fathers and Brothers came to settle down in St. Laurent. After a retreat, Fr. Mulot was elected Superior General. All except two, made their vows in his

hands, as per the Rule. Bro. Joseau too made his vows. and from 1722-1759, he looked after the parish school for boys. They were there only for a short while. In 1722, there were five priests and four Brothers. The Brothers lived in utter poverty and slept on folding cots. Fr. Mulot later sent two Brothers to La Rochelle in the school started by Montfort. As the Sisters needed a bigger campus, in 1723, the Fathers and Brothers came to stay at the Long House, while the Sisters moved to the Holm-Oak House. A chapel was built near the Long House and it was called the Holy Spirit Chapel. The community itself came to be called the Holy Spirit Community. In 1728, Fr. Mulot rewrote the Rule of 1713. He mainly suppressed from its articles precluding the education of the youth, since this was the apostolate of the Brothers. The Fathers carried preaching missions in the Montfortian tradition. In 1749, Fr. Mulot died suddenly while preaching a mission. Fr. Audubon was the General from 1749 to 1755, when he too died.

Fr. Charles Besnard was the General from 1755-1788. Sr. Marie Louise after establishing a number of convents died on 28th April 1759, exactly 43 years after Montfort. Bro. Joseau died in 1759 and Bro. Mathurin always helped the priests during the missions and he died in 1760. Bro. Pierre looked after the parish school. Bro. Guerin succeeded Bro. Mathurin and later Bro. Hilaire. helped missionaries during the missions. Fr. Besnard wrote the biographies of Montfort and Marie Louise. In 1773, Fr. Besnard was forced to suppress the religious vows to get the government approval for the society. In 1788, Fr. Besnard died and Fr. Micquignon became the General. In 1789, the French Revolution broke out. In 1792, Fr. Micquignon died suddenly. Fr. Supiot became the General. During the French Revolution, 4 priests, 6 Brothers and 34 lost their lives. The Revolution came to an end in 1795. Only Bros. Hilaire and Pierre survived the Revolution. In 1797, Fr. Supiot bought the house of the Bertonderie, which later on came to be known as Supiot House. In 1801, the Brothers once again took charge of the parish school. In 1810, Fr. Duchesne became the General. In August 1820, at the request of the General Fr. Gabriel Deshayes became his assistant. On 22nd Dec. 1820, Fr. Duchesne died suddenly.

3. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Deshayes, Superior General (1821-41) and our Re-founder

Fr. Gabriel Deshayes was born on 6th Dec. 1767 at Beignon in Brittany, France. He lost his mother when he was five years old. His father was both a farmer and the local butcher. As a boy he looked after sheep. He was very generous and helpful to others. As a youth, he showed much joviality, common sense, leadership and ability. He joined a seminary run by the Vincentians. During the French Revolution, he went into exile to the Island of Jersey and there, he was ordained a priest on March 4, 1792. Coming back to France under disguise, with exceptional courage he ministered to the faithful along with six or seven priests grouped around the parish priest of Beignon, during the difficult years of 1792-1800.

In 1805, Fr. Deshayes was appointed parish priest of St. Gildas, Auray. He organized a number of retreats in order to re-evangelize the faithful and he himself was a good preacher. He started a school for boys, another one for girls, a college and a minor seminary. He

started a co-operative to give loans to the poor, a spinning mill and a hospice. At La Chartreuse he started a school for the deaf and entrusted it to the Daughters of Wisdom. He built a big shrine in honour of St. Ann. In 1816, he was the Vicar General of the diocese of Vannes.

In 1816, Fr. Deshayes started a novitiate to form Brothers to teach in rural schools and in 1819, he got this new Institute of Brothers amalgamated with a similar one started by Fr. Le Mennais. This is was the beginning of the Ploermel Brothers. In 1807, he founded Sisters of St. Gildas. On 17 Dec. 1820, he was appointed Vicar General of the Montfortian congregations. Fr. Dushesne died on 22nd December. On 30th Dec., Sr. Calixte, the Superior General of the D.W. and the Montfort Missionaries in a collective letter requested Fr. Deshayes to come over to St. Laurent without delay. The Bishop of Vannes gave permission to Fr. Deshayes to go to St. St. Laurent. The latter reached the place on 13th Jan. 1821. After a three day retreat the missionaries on 17th Jan. elected him Superior General. On 25th Jan., the Bishop of La Rochelle confirmed the election and made Fr. Deshayes one of the Vicar Generals of the diocese.

Fr. Deshayes went back to Auray to settle things there. He sent two novices, one was Bro. Augustin, and five postulants to St. Laurent to join the Holy Spirit community. In Sept. 1821, Fr. Deshayes came to stay at St. Laurent. When he came, there were only four Brothers of whom one was Bro. Elie, who looked after the parish school. He recruited many young men and started a novitiate for Brothers. In 1823, he wrote a Directory for the Brothers. As legal approval for teaching in schools was obligatory, he got an official recognition from the government as the Institute of the Brothers of the Holy Spirit and Brothers were allowed to teach in five Provinces. On 22nd Sept. 1824, 42 Brothers made their annual vows. In 1825, Fr. Deshayes went to Rome to get both the Rules approved and to work for the Beatification of Montfort. On 7 Sept. 1830, Montfort was declared Venerable.

In 1823, Fr. Deshayes started nine schools, in 1824, twelve, etc. As the number of Brothers increased, there were problems between Brothers were teaching and Brothers who were doing manual work. In 1825, in ordered resolve problems and to look after the Brothers, Fr. Deshayes after consulting all the Brothers, appointed Bro. Augustin as general director and Bro. Simeon as his Asst. In 1827, Brothers took charge of the Boys' Section at the institution for deaf at La Chartreuse. In 1830, Fr. Deshayes wrote a Rule for the Brothers.

On October 16, 1835, teaching Brothers (with a few doing manual work) numbering 33 came to stay in Supiot House. One priest made the suggestion that the house could better be called St. Gabriel's House and Fr. Deshayes accepted the suggestion. In 1835, there were Brothers, novices and postulants put together 132, 57 of whom continued to stay in the Holy Spirit House while 75 were attached to St. Gabriel's House, i.e., 33 of them had their residence there and 42 were teaching in various schools. Fr. Deshayes appointed Bro. Augustin Director of this house under his own authority and Bro. Simeon Asst. Director.

In 1834, Fr. Deshayes started writing another Rule. He worked on it for three years. He mentioned in it that the Fr. General would also be the General for the Brothers. Augustin protested and at his insistence, Fr. Deshayes changed the rule as “The Brothers choose from their own number a Superior who is to govern the Congregation.” He signed the Rule on January 7, 1837 and it was approved on April 9, 1838 by the Bishop of Lucon (St. Laurent had become part of the diocese of Lucon).

Fr. Deshayes altogether started 76 schools and out those 29 were given up during his life time itself. In 1838, he founded St. Gabriel’s Boarding School in St. Laurent. One of the greatest achievements of his was the founding of schools for the deaf and schools for the blind. Thus La Chartreuse, Rouille, Orleans and Lille were centers for the handicapped children started by him. After a full life of missionary activities and after contributing much to the Montfortian Congregations, Fr. Deshayes died on 28 Dec. 1841. He was buried in the Daughters of Wisdom cemetery, actually the 14th Station of the Way of the Cross.

4. The separation of the Institute from the Fathers and the early stages (1842-1862)

After Fr. Deshayes’ death, Bro. Augustin brought out the Rule which was kept as a secret. He and his followers wanted the separation from the Company of Mary. But a good number of Brothers did not appreciate the move. Fr. Dalin, who succeeded Fr. Deshayes did not interfere with Bro. Augustin’s actions. The First General Assembly of the Brothers took place in September 1842 and on 21 September 1842, Bro. Augustin was elected Superior General. His Assistants were Bros. Simeon and Abel. The Institute was called the Institute of the Brothers of the Holy Spirit. In 1847, Bro. Augustin was re-elected Superior General and his Assistants were Bros. Simeon and Bro. Andrew.

The third General Assembly of the Brothers was stormy. Fr. Deshayes’ decision that the General of the Brothers should be a Brother had not been accepted willingly by all. A group of Brothers wanted to have a priest of the Company of Mary as General. Bro. Augustin strongly opposed the move. On 8th September 1852, Bro. Simeon was elected Superior General. He was for going back under the authority of the Fathers. But fearing a split in the Institute, he kept quiet about the whole matter. As the new academic year started, Brothers went back to the three schools in Southern France which were given up by Bro. Augustin. Bro. Louis de Gonzague was appointed Provincial of this sector. In 1849, Bro. Augustin had applied to the Government for approval of the Institute for the whole of France under the name of Brothers of St. Gabriel. Bro. Simeon and his Council wanted to keep the old name, Brothers of the Holy Spirit. Bro. Simeon wanted to write to the government to make this correction in the application. Bro. Augustin opposed the move. Finally for fear of split, Bro. Simeon did not write to the government and on 3rd March 1853, the Institute was approved as Brothers of St. Gabriel. This change in name became permanent.

In 1854, nine schools were taken up. In 1855, a large property known as La Persgotiere in Nantes was bought. At the beginning of 1856, there were 480 members including Brothers, novices and postulants and 93 establishments and 94 communities. In 1857 a

General Chapter was held instead of the General Assembly and Bro. Simeon was re-elected Superior General almost unanimously.

5. The Generalates of Bros. Eugene Marie and Hubert (1862-1898)

Our 2nd General Chapter prepared a new Rule for the Institute and on 17 August 1862, Eugene Marie was elected Superior General. From his very first talk as General, the Brothers understood that they had a chief who was at the same time clear-sighted. Warm-hearted and energetic and who would not allow difficulties to daunt him. On May 15, 1864, our big chapel in St. Laurent was blessed. The General paid a visit to Rome and met Pope Pius IX. In 1868, we had 150 Novices: at St. Laurent 82, Lorgues 15, St. Germain l'Herm 8 and in the establishments 45. That year we started a Boarding School at Machecoul. Our new cemetery in St. Laurent was blessed on 29 Nov., 1868. On 3rd July 1874, a new Rule was approved for the institute, and it was in force till the 1971 Rule. Bro. Augustin, our first General, died on 18 Dec. 1875. Thanks to the help received from a noble family, we were able to buy a property in Poitiers for our school for the deaf. On 28 Feb. 1883, Bro. Eugene Marie, who was our General during 21 years, died as a result of a massive heart attack. He was a very providential man in the history of our Institute. As far as the charism of the institute, its spirit and its purpose were concerned he went back to the Montfortian roots. He also insisted upon the Brothers having a true devotion to Mary. Further he insisted upon science of the teacher, zeal of the catechist and virtues of the religious. He did much for the expansion of the institute.

During the 9th General Chapter, i.e., on 30th March 1883, Bro. Hubert was elected Superior General. On 23 Feb. 1885, Bro. Simeon, our 2nd Superior General died. He was our Brother to pronounce the Perpetual Vows. In 1887, the Institute had 100 communities and it was divided into four Provinces: West, Centre, South and North. Montfort was beatified on January 22, 1888 in Rome and the General and his Assistants attended the ceremony. At the end of June, a grand Triduum was organized in St. Laurent. On 15 September 1888, six Brothers under the leadership of Bro. Louis Bertrand left for Canada to start a mission there and on 25th September, they arrived at Montreal. They took charge of St. Francis Xavier Orphanage.

In July 1889, the General received from the General of the Company of Mary six copies of an anonymous brochure entitled "Two view-points of the history" which attacked our Montfortian filiation. A reply was prepared by Fr. Blain and it was sent to Fr. Maurille, the Superior General of the Company of Mary. The Bishop of Lucon wanted to have control over the Daughters of Wisdom, who were under the guidance of the Montfort Fathers. He argued that the Daughters of Wisdom should be under his authority as the Brothers of St. St. Gabriel were, both the institutes founded by Montfort. Then the Montfort fathers started to assert that the Institute of Brothers of St. Gabriel was founded by Fr. Gabriel Deshayes and not by Montfort. This was the beginning of the long drawn out Montfortian Filiation Case. This misunderstanding with the Montfort Fathers lasted for nearly 80 years.

On Sept. 11, 1890, three left for Alexandria to teach in St. Francis Xavier School run by Jesuits. Our Brothers worked in that school till the First World War, i.e., till 1914. In 1891, our Canadian mission was raised into a Province and a novitiate was started in Montreal. In 1894, we took charge of two schools, Pont-l'Abbe and Tourcoing, both in France. On 1st Jan. 1898, there were 889 Brothers in the institute.

6. The Generalate of Bro. Martial (1898-1922), the anti-clerical laws and expansion

On 15 April 1898, Bro. Martial was elected Superior General. That year we accepted the school for the deaf and the school for the blind at Bordeaux. The first issue of the Chronique appeared in December 1898.

The anti-clerical laws in France:

The Republicans wanted to remove the control of schools from the clergy in order to reduce the influence of the Church. Mr. Jules Ferry, step by step, brought in laws. In 1879, law excluded from teaching members of non-authorized congregations. On 29 March 1880, the Jesuits were expelled and later on 5,700 religious were expelled from schools. The 1882 law stipulated that primary education must imparted by non-religious. The law of July 1901 demanded all congregations to ask for authorization from the government. The law of July 7, 1904 forbade education of any type by congregations. In 1908, confiscation of land and property of seminaries, bishoprics, etc. took place. Our 13th General Chapter decided upon passive resistance: every Brother in France (i.e., nearly 1,000 out of 1,089) would be given a letter of secularization, declaring him free of his vows in order to protect him from legal action and yet all the Brothers were expected to stay, if possible, at their posts and carry on the task of Christian education. All the scholastics, novices, postulants and juniors were sent home.

The above mentioned anti-clerical laws made the institute look for mission outside France:

1. On September 14, 1900, a group of Brothers arrived at Tournai in **Belgium**. In 1903, the Boarding School at Boechout, Belgium was opened.
2. On 7 October 1900, our Brothers took charge of a school in Libreville, **Gabon**.
3. On January 4, 1901, our Brothers reached Djibouti. In Feb. 1901, we took charge of a school in Djibouti and of a school in Harar in Abyssinia. In 1907, we started a school in Addis-Ababa.
4. On October 20, 1901, a group of Brothers arrived in Bangkok, Thailand. They took charge of Assumption College, Bangkok.
5. On May 8, 1903, a group of Brothers left for Plymouth, England.
6. In September 1903, a group of nine Brothers arrived at Gerona, Spain. Our first school was opened in 1904 at Castello de Ampurais. Others schools followed: at Torrella de Montgri in 1904, at Banolas in 1905 and at San Sadurni de Noya in 1905.
7. On September 11, 1903, three Brothers arrived in Pondicherry. Two of them started teaching in the Petit Seminaire School, while the third one left for Tindivanam and started an industrial school there in January 1904.

8. On September 18, 1903, three Brothers arrived at Diego Suarez in Madagascar. We started a school there and soon after another one in Fenerive. In 1905, we took charge of a school at Nossi-Be.
9. In May 1904, a group of Brothers arrived at San Remo, Italy.

On 31st July 1903, the General Administration was shifted from St. Laurent to Peruwelz in Belgium. At the end of 1903, there were 512 Brothers with perpetual vows, 545 Brothers with temporary vows, 75 novices, 41 postulants, 119 juniors and 196 communities. Whenever the General wrote to Brothers in France, he had to be very careful. Thus when he wrote to Bro. Aloysius, he addressed him as dear nephew and the letter was not signed, but from the handwriting one could make out who the author was. In 1905, some 40 Brothers left for Canada. In 1905, the governmental liquidator announced the sale of our Mother House. On 5 Jan. 1907, the Marquis de la Bretesche bought the Mother House, Boarding and the whole of St. Gabriel School for our sake.

The 14th General Chapter which met at Etterbek-Brussels, Belgium in April 1908 and revised the Constitutions so that they could be presented to Rome for approval. Bro. Martial was re-elected Superior General. On February 10, 1910, our institute received the decree of approbation from Rome, in which we were recognized as “The Brothers of Christian Instruction of St. Gabriel, formerly called ‘of the Holy Spirit’, whose Mother House is in the diocese of Lucon, and who have and invoke as their Father the Blessed Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort’.”

In September 1914, the First World War broke out and a number of Brothers were mobilized. That year we started a community in Rome. In 1916, Mgr. Laveille published a biography of Montfort and the History of the Institute. In 1917, we opened two schools in Yercaud, India. In 1919, our novitiate in Belgium was shifted from Liedekerke to Peruwelz. In 1921, the Province of Western France accepted the gift of 82 hectares of land with a castle in La Mothe-Achard to start a juniorate and a scholasticate. In France schools in Chantonay and Montreuil and Junioate at Tauves were started. On 26th May 1922, Bro. General along with Bro. Denis were in Liverpool to start their voyage to Canada. As the General was entering his cabin on board the steamer, he collapsed and died and thus the institute lost a great leader. The Chronicle has mentioned, “It was difficult to go further in dignity in one’s behaviour, in calmness in one’s words and in magnanimity in one’s entire personality. In intellectual qualities also he was brilliant. He had a good perception of things and rare talents. He had a sound judgment, self-mastery, and inner light to lead people in their life.” He was buried at Chapham in London.

6. The Generalates of Bros. Sebastien and Benoit Marie (1922-1946)

During the 17th General Chapter and on December 29, 1922, Bro. Sebastien was elected Superior General. On November 30, 1923, our Constitutions were approved by the Sacred Congregation for Religious. That in France we started an Agricultural School at La Mothe-Achard. In the evening of April 21, 1926, Bro. Denis, Asst. General and Founder of the Indian mission, expired due to a massive heart attack. The General spent last quarter of

1926 in Thailand visiting the Brothers in Assumption College, Bangkok (1901), St. Gabriel's College, Bangkok (1920), Petriu (1920) and Sriracha (1926). Then he spent one and a half months in India visiting Tindivanam (1904), Yercaud (1917), St. Gabriel's School, Madras and the Industrial School at Gunadhala (Vijayawada).

On May 17, 1928, Bro. Claudien, who succeeded Bro. Denis as Director Principal of the District of India suddenly died of blood poisoning. Bro. Eugene Mary was appointed Director Principal. In 1928, the General visited the Canadian Province. In October 1928, our Brothers from Belgium started a mission in Bondo in Belgium Congo in Africa. In 1935, we started Teachers' Training School, in Bondo. Brothers wrote text books in the Lingala language and published them for the sake of teachers and students. Story books and other books were also written and the Brothers started small libraries in villages. They also started a magazine called KEBA meant for the former pupils of the Training School.

In 1930, we started a school at San Adrian de Besos (Spain) and another in Marseilles (France) and the following year a school taken up in Coonoor (India). In 1931, La Peyrouse (France) was gifted to us, and schools were started in Finistere and Cholet (France). The same year a Second Novitiate was started in Belgium. In 1932, the District of India took charge of All Saints High School, Hyderabad and the District of Thailand started a school at Chieng-Mai.

In April 1935, Bro. Benoit Marie was elected Superior General. In June we took charge of a school at Vasto, Italy. In 1935, Spain was made into a Province. A Novitiate was started at Zagarolo, Italy. Then our Brothers in Spain had to face many problems.

In 1931, the Communists came to power in Spain and they began their fight against convents, and churches and plundered them. Absolute secularism, interdiction to religious orders to do any education, suppression of crucifixes from classrooms, dissolution of Jesuits, confiscation of their properties, etc. became order of the day. Popular Catholic Action groups won the election in 1933; but they did not do anything improve the social situation. During the summer of 1934, a bloody insurrection took place and priests and religious were massacred by militant workers. All the left parties joined together and won the 1936 elections. 160 churches were burned down and steps were taken to close Catholic schools and to chase out congregations. Public worship was forbidden. The Monarchic deputy Mr. Calvo Sotelo protested and he was killed on July 14, 1936. This led to a Civil War which lasted 30 months.

At Caldetas, we had the Provincial House, and the houses of formations. On 7 November 1936, about midday, a hundred or so armed men overran our the estate, rounded up the students in two rooms, encircled the teaching staff and manual workers. When the evening came, they allowed all under 21 years of age to go home. Then they took away 55 people and kept them in a prison in Barcelona. After 48 hours all the French nationals, five in number, were handed over to the French Consul. Nothing was heard about the rest, i.e., 49 Brothers and their chaplain. The Provincial, Master of Novices, Master of Scholastics and the Juniorate Master were in the group. 43 were assassinated in Moncada, three in

Figuers and two in Las Cuestas de Garraf while one disappeared from the railway station of Bama. Thus 49 Brothers and their chaplain lost their lives during the Spanish Civil War. In this war, around 10,000 priests and religious were killed. General Franco left the Canary Islands, gathered an army and started a war of liberation from the South. He first captured Seville, and then Madrid. In February 1938, Catalonia was liberated and on April 1, 1939, Franco announced that the war was over.

On October 7, 1936, the General Administration decided to start a novitiate in Singapore for novices from India and Thailand and that Bro. Gerard Majela could be the Master of Novices. In Dec. 1936, Bro. Gerard and two other Brothers arrived in Singapore. In January 1937, Brothers took charge of Holy Innocents' School and in January 1938, they opened St. Joseph's Trade School at Bukit Timah. The Novitiate at Bukit Timah was inaugurated on August 15, 1938. In 1938, the castle of La Tremblaie at Cholet, France was gifted to us. In 1939, after the civil war, a few young candidates, novices and scholastics returned to Caldetas, as well as 5 French Brothers and 13 Spanish Brothers. The Province of Spain confidently made a fresh start. Step by step the schools of Arenys, San Adrian, Viladecans and San Sadurni were opened.

The Second World War broke out on September 1939. At the end of the year there were 1261 Brothers. That year a Juniorate was started at Coonoor, India. 250 French and 20 Belgian Brothers were mobilized for the war. In 1940, in France, the government under Petin granted liberty to religious congregations and the Brothers started once again to wear cassock. We took charge of the Boarding School at Bagneux near Paris. During the War, our French Brothers were advised to leave Thailand. They, 13 of them finally reached India in 1941. They were posted to different schools in India. One among them was Bro. Michael and he took charge of the Juniorate at Coonoor. On February 15, 1942, the Japanese invaded and occupied Singapore. The Master Novices and two novices were taken as prisoners and were sent to the ill-famed concentration camp of Bahau, in Malaysian jungle. The Novices continued their novitiate and had their first profession in 1943. The Novitiate was closed down.

There was an urgent need to start a novitiate in India. On September 29, 1942, a Novitiate was started at Coonoor with Bro. Michael as the Master of Novices. In 1942, Holy Innocents' School, Singapore was reopened. In 1941, in France we accepted the gift of the Castle of Boistissandeau. On April 8, 1942, the 1901 law suppressing religious congregations in France was repealed. That La Tremblaie became a Juniorate and Boistissandeau a Novitiate. In March 1944 Rome was cut off and the Italian Novitiate was shifted to Vasto. The War got over in 1945. During the Second World War, 7 Brothers were killed and 139 were held prisoners. The General felt extremely tired due to age, the cerebral hemorrhage that he had suffered and due to the effects of the War and he decided to resign. His resignation was accepted by Rome on January 7, 1946. Bro. Armand Joseph became the Interim General. Nine French Brothers, who had come to India, returned to Thailand in April 1946. Bro. Michael stayed back and continued to be the Mater of Novices.

7 The Generalates of Bros. Anastase and Gabriel Marie (1946-1965)

During the 20 General Chapter, December 1946, Bro. Anastase was elected General. The Chapter was held at Bagneux, Paris. At the beginning of the Chapter, the institute had to face a great loss, as in morning of December 24, Bro. Eugene Mary, the Director Principal of India, was found dead on his bed. He must have due to a massive heart attack. He had done much for the growth of St. Gabriel in India. On 19 March 1947, Bro. Eleazar was appointed Director Principal of India.

Concerning the Montfortian filiation, the Plenaria, consisting of the Cardinals of the Congregation for the Rites met on April 15, 1947, and decided against us. The General went to Rome and met a number of influential people. On July 8, he wrote a letter to the Pope. On July 13, Bro. General had a private audience with the Pope. The latter told him and as Plenaria had decided that, he was not in a position to intervene. The Pope told the General that he would consult the History of the Institute by Laveille to prepare his homily for the canonization. On 17th July, the General once again wrote to the Pope suggesting that our congregation be mentioned in canonization documents, the homily and the bull. Montfort was canonized on 20 July 1947, and some 70 Brothers attended the ceremonies, though not among the official representatives. Pope in his homily tactfully avoided mentioning about any of the Montfortian congregations. On October 7, 1948, the General had another audience with the Pope and requested him to include our congregation in the canonization decree. The Pope had no objection, the following text was included in the decree, "Besides, another religious family, currently thriving and very active, has its Mother House near the tomb of Saint Louis Marie, namely, the Institute of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. Formerly known as the Brothers of the Holy Spirit. The members of the Institute strive to imitate the zeal of Louis Marie for the Christian education of youth and greatly revere him as their beloved Father." On October 22, 1948, the General was received by the Pope in a special audience and thus he got a chance to thank the Holy Father.

On April 6, 1947, Belgium and Italy were raised into Provinces and on May 9, 1948, India and Thailand were raised into Provinces. On December 23, 1948, a group of Brothers from Italy left for Brazil and on January 7, 1949, they reached Rio de Janeiro. They started working in Colegio Conego Leopoldo. A Second Novitiate was inaugurated in Belgium on June 1, 1949. In 1949, Province of Thailand started to send Thai candidates to India for their novitiate and in 1950, Malaysia and Singapore also did the same. In 1950, the had 9 Provinces (3 in France) and 3 Districts: Malaysia, Belgium Congo and Gabon. During the first half of 1951, Bro. General and Rembert aries visited India, Thailand and Malaysia-Singapore. In May 1952, the Novitiate at Coonoor was shifted to Eachinkadu, Yercaud. In September 1952, a novitiate was opened at La Hilliere, France.

During the 21st General Chapter and on April 4, 1953, Bro. Gabriel Marie was elected Superior General. In August 1953, the Province was divided into two Provinces, Montreal And Champlain. The same year in Gabon, we took charge of St. Francis School at Lambarene and the Teachers' Training School was shifted to this place and our Brothers

started to supervise the whole school sector. In 1956, we took charge of the school at Mouila and in 1958, the one at Oyem, all in Gabon.

In 1953, Spain and India celebrated their Golden Jubilees and the General was present for both. On October 29, 1954, our Brothers from France arrived in Senegal to start a mission and started a community at Thies. The following year we took charge of the Teachers' Training School there, in 1963 we started a community at Dakar and in 1963, we took charge of the school at Fatick, and in 1965, we started a Juniorate at Thies, all in Senegal.

In 1954, in India, we started a school at Kolathur and took charge of San Thome High School, Madras. In 1955, Brothers in India started a school at Kazipet, and St. Paul's and Boys' Town in Hyderabad. They took charge St. Charles' Inter College, Sardhana and St. Joseph's at Noatoli. The same year Brothers took charge of St. Joseph's English School at Johore Bahru and in 1958, St. Andrew's School, Muar, Johore, both in Malaysia. In 1955, our mission in Malaysia and Singapore was raised into a District. The Province of India started in 1956 in Sri Lanka and in 1957, in Iraq; but the both mission had only a short life.

In 1957, Brothers from France started a mission in French Congo. The same year, Province of Montreal started a mission in the Republic on Central Africa. Our 22nd General Chapter decided to shift our Generalate from France to Rome. In 1959, we started Montfort Boys' Town, Batu Tiga, Malaysia. On January 8, 1961, after 25 years of break, the Province of Spain was happy to send two missionaries to Colombia. We started at Madellin a Boarding School for the deaf and for the blind. On January 22, 1960, a new novitiate was started in Port-Dickson, Malaysia. In 1962, Province of Montreal started a mission Peru. At first they took charge of a boarding at Pucallpa. Later it was closed down, and the Brothers started working in two schools, one in Lima and other in Ventanilla.

By November 1962, our new General House in Rome was ready. From November 11-20, 1962, a Conference of Provincials was held there. On November 18, 1962, the grand chapel of the new General House was blessed by Card. Tisserant. The 23rd General Chapter was held in April 1965 in our General House in Rome. Then the Institute had 1,790 Brothers, and 176 Novices. On 13 April 1965, Bro. Romain Landry was elected Superior General. In 1965, the three Provinces of France were the following: St. Laurent, Nantes and Poitiers.

During the second half of 1965, our Brothers in Belgium Congo had to face a difficult and tragic period. On June 30, 1960, Belgian Congo became independent. The corruption of the new rulers, and the deception of the vast majority of the people, who saw only trouble and decay were the main causes for a great rebellion. Armed groups of groups of rebels attacked whoever dared to resist them. For missionaries, this was a time of house searches, vexations, persecutions and humiliations. All Europeans with the exception of some missionaries were evacuated. 7 Brothers of St. Gabriel, 21 Croisier Fathers, 3 Capuchin Fathers and a score of Sisters were kept as hostages at Buta, a town under the control of the rebels. At the beginning of March 1965, a considerable part of Congo was

cleared of rebels. Rebel leaders became nervous. On May 30, 1965, the missionaries were led to the local prison. About 5 in the afternoon, all the Brothers and Fathers were taken from the prison to the river Rubi. One by one, they were led to river, where they were butchered with machetes or lances. The victims came on calmly, serenely before bloodthirsty murderers. The corpses were thrown into the river, where they found their grave. Thus on that day our seven Brothers of the Province of Belgium died as martyrs.

Our Brothers' work in Belgium Congo practically demolished: the Brothers' Quarters in Bondo and Baye were looted. Their schools had the same fate. Our other Belgian Brothers were on holidays in Belgium. All the schools were nationalized. Belgium Congo was renamed Zaire. We had then just a few young Zairian Brothers remaining in the country. Later on fresh start had to be made.

On August 14, 1965, the novitiate in Spain was shifted from Caldetas to La Aguilera. On October 18, 1965, one Brother from the Province of Champlain reached Rwanda and the following year another Brother came. In 1967, the Brothers took charge of the College of Modern Humanities of Nyanza. Soon after a number of Brothers arrived in Rwanda and thus the Brothers took charge of the Institute for the deaf at Gatagara and later this institute was shifted to Butare. In 1966, we took charge of Kisito College in Southern Cameroon. In 1987, we started a novitiate in Ambovo-Najunga in Madagascar.

In 1958 started a movement towards reconciliation between the Company of Mary and the Brothers of St. Gabriel. In 1961, we were invited to join in the Montfortian pilgrimage to Lourdes. In 1966, the three Montfortian Congregations together celebrated the 250th Death Anniversary of St. Montfort. Urged by the spirit of unity, charity and ecumenism, the General Councils of the Company of Mary and of the Brothers of St. Gabriel met together on December 23, 1967, at the General House of the Company of Mary and on January 5, 1968, at the General House of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, in order to pave the way for a reconciliation. From then onwards the process of reconciliation was always moving forward.

In July 1967, because of the increase in the number of Brothers and of communities and because of the vast geographical area of the Province, the Province of India was divided into three Regions: South, Centre and North. In 1967, the Institute had 10 Provinces: St. Laurent, Nantes, Poitiers, Montreal, Champlain, Spain, Italy, Belgium, India and Thailand, two Vice Provinces: Equatorial Africa and Malaysia-Singapore, six Districts: Senegal, Brazil, Madagascar, Columbia, Congo-Kinshasa, and Peru and three Regions: South India, Central India and North India.

Our Brothers arrived in Papua New Guinea on January 21, 1968, at the invitation of the Bishop of Daru, a Montfortian, for the education of the young. In this new venture all the three Montfortian families were to work together. This mission was to be a part of the Vice Province of Malaysia. In 1970, we took charge of the primary school in Kiunga. In 1975, all the primary schools were nationalized and the Brothers started working in the

Catechists' Training School, in adult education and in coaching classes. Later a Boys' Town and a technical school were built and they were inaugurated in 1984.

During the 23rd General Chapter, i.e., On April 21, 1965, a decision was taken to hold a Special General Chapter. On August 6, 1966, the Pontifical text *Ecclesiae Sanctae* explaining the norms for applying the Conciliar decree *Perfectae Caritatis* was published. The first session of the 24th General Chapter (Special Chapter) started on February 25, 1969. For the first in our history the Chapter began to work in two languages, French and English with simultaneous translation. The Chapter began the drafting of the new Constitutions, dividing them into orientations and norms. As the work could not be completed a second session was decided upon. Yet two decisions were taken: 1. to hold Provincial Chapters, 2. introduction of priesthood for some Brothers under very definite conditions.

On March 4, 1969, three Brothers from India arrived in Mauritius and took charge of Fr. Laval Orphanage. In 1971, two Brothers from India took charge of the mission school in Rodrigues Island. Things did not go on well and the following year that school was given back to the diocese. In 1972, after the closing down of the technical school in Majunga, Madagascar, Brothers and machines from there were sent to Mauritius. On December 17, 1973, the Central Administration decided to detach the Mauritius Mission from the Province of India and attach it to the Province of Nantes and this change was effected on March 1, 1974. Just one Brother from India stayed and the others returned to India.

In 1969, the Province of Thailand started in Bangkok the Assumption Business Administration College. The same year we started a novitiate in Senegal and also the Youth and Apprenticeship Centre in Brazil. In 1970, a Brother from the Province of Montreal started teaching in Haiti. In 1978, the Province of Champlain started our first community at Anse-d'Hainault, in Haiti, and it looked after St. Raymond College, St. Joseph's Elementary School and Montfort Classes for young illiterates.

The second session of the 24th General Chapter started on January 6, 1971 and its main work to give finishing touches to the Rule of Life and Constitutions. This Session was also considered as the ordinary General Chapter and therefore there were reports and elections. Bro. Romain Landry was re-elected Superior General. In 1971, the Vice-Provinces of Equatorial Africa and Malaysia-Singapore were made Provinces. A novitiate was restarted in Salamanca, Spain. Province of Malaysia-Singapore shifted its novitiate from Port-Dickson to Singapore. In 1972, a Magazine both in French and English was published from Rome. The First Council of the Institute took place in the General House from 2-8 March 1972. From April 17 to May 10, 1972, there was a Spiritual Animation Session in Thailand attended by 30 Brothers from the three Provinces of Asia. While going to Sriracha, there was an accident and some Brothers got injured. In September, a Second Novitiate was opened in Bangalore for Brothers from Asia.

In 1973, the three Montfortian Congregations celebrated the Tercentenary of the birth of Montfort. On January 31, 1973, members of the three families were received by the Pope in a general audience. The at length spoke about St. Montfort. In the afternoon, there was a solemn Mass presided over by Card. Rossi, The Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. It was attended many Superior Generals, Church dignities and ambassadors and Ministers. The French Government issued a special Montfort Stamp to mark the occasion.

In 1973, one Belgian Brother and three Zairian Brothers returned to Bondo in Zaire. They took charge of Lwanga College. On May 7, 1973, three Brothers under the leadership of Bro. Oliver, belonging to the Region of South India reached Fiji at the request of the Fijian government to start a Boys' Town in Suva. In 1976, they started the Boys' Town and the Technical School. The 2nd Council of the Institute was held in Canada in April 1974. On May 16, 1974, Br. C.M. Joseph of the Region of North India started village apostolate at Pawtha in Hazaribagh. The 3rd Council of the Institute was held in Rome during Feb-March 1975. In May 1975, the Assumption Business Administration College was raised into University by the Thai government. On June 1, 1975, the Regions in India made into Provinces with the Regional Administrations becoming Provincial Administration. Bro. Antony Francisco, who was till then the Provincial became Provincial in India na Chairman of the National Council. That year the Province of South India took charge of two schools in the state of Mizoram in North-East India.

In Feb. 1976, most of the sick and aged Brothers in France were shifted to the newly built house at La Hilliere. On Dec. 19, 1976, the 25th General Chapter started in Rome and Bro. Jean Bulteau was elected Superior General.

9. The Generalate of Bro. Jean Bulteau (Dec. 1976- Dec. 1988)

In 1977, the Province of South India took charge of a high school in Chhingchhip in Mizoram and on June 1, 1978, Mizoram became a District. In December in 1978, our Indian mission celebrated its Platinum Jubilee in Tindivanam and it was attended by all the members of the Central Administration and by all the Provincial. In January 1979, the 4th Council of the Institute was held at Yercaud. In May 1980, Bro. Antony Francisco organized a pilgrimage in the footsteps of Montfort for our formators from Asia. The 5th Council of the Institute was held at La Hilliere, France in Feb.-March 1981. On April 28, 1982, the Province of North India was divided into two Regions, Delhi and Ranchi.

On Dec. 14, 1982, the first session of the 26th General Chapter started in Rome. Bro. Jean Bulteau was re-elected Superior General. The Chapter worked on the revision of our Rule. As the work could not be completed, the Chapter decided to have a 2nd session. In 1983, the District of Senegal was made into a Province and the Province of Equatorial Africa was renamed as Province of Central Africa. On May 31, 1983, the Pre-Postulancy Programme meant for all the Indian Provinces was inaugurated at Uppal in Hyderabad.

On July 1, 1983, the three Provinces of France were amalgamated into one Province. The 2nd Session of the General Chapter on July 22, 1983 and it came to close on August 10, 1983, after completing the work on the Rule and after taking some capitular decisions. On December 11, 1983, Bro. Lambert from the Province of Central India arrived in Iringa, Tanzania. We stayed with the Salesians, learned Swahili and gained work experience. In 1985, Bro. Berchmans Joseph and N.F. Joseph joined our Tanzanian mission. In November 1986, they started a school and community at Rujewa. In May 1984, there was a Session for Formators in Rome. In July, a group of Brothers from Africa went on a pilgrimage in the footsteps of Montfort. From May to August, Bros. Antony Francisco, Jean Friant, K.T. Raja and Charles Gareau attended a Montfortian Session in Limoges, France under the guidance of Fr. Perouas, smm.

The 6th Council of the Institute was held in Rome from May 7 – 25, 1985. In 1985, three novitiates were started: in Singapore, at Passos, Brazil and at San Sai, Thailand. In 1985, the Province of South India started a school in Chabua in Assam and later the District of Mizoram was renamed as District of North East India. On April 28, 1986, our Rule was approved by the Sacred Congregation for Religious. From April – June 1986, Bros. Jean Friant and Guy St. Onge organized a renewal session in Rome for nearly 40 French speaking Brothers. The 7th Council of the Institute was held in Canada from June 3-19, 1987. Bro. Lawrence Joseph, the Provincial of South India could not attend it as he suffered a heart attack in May. The Province was represented by Bro. Ignatius, one of the Councillors. In 1987 the Province of South India started a community at Baghty in the State of Nagaland. On August 31, 1987, Rwanda was made into a District. In September a novitiate was opened in Haiti. In December, we took charge of Xavier College, Ba in Fiji. In 1988, a novitiate was opened at Fenerive, Madagascar. The 27th General Chapter started on December 19, 1988. Bro. Jean Friant was elected Superior General.

10. The Generalate of Bro. Jean Friant (Dec. 1988- April 2000)

On January 20, 1989, the Province of South India started a community in the Kingdom of Tonga. On May 1, 1989, Delhi and Ranchi Regions were made into Provinces. In 1989, a scholasticate was started in Kinshasa, Zaire. The same year, Brothers took charge of the primary school, as well as the higher secondary school in Majunga, Madagascar and gave up the school in Bagneux, Paris. In October 1989, there was an important meeting in Brazzaville, Congo to study about common formation programme in Africa. Another meeting was held at Thies in Senegal from 21 – 26 Feb. 1990, it decided to a Council for French Speaking Africa, made up of of the Provincials of Central Africa and Senegal, along with a Provincial Councillor from these Provinces. During the first half of 1990, Brothers in the Republic of Central Africa started looking after street children, in Tanzania, we took charge of a school in Musoma, and the Province of Central Africa shifted its Provincial House from Libreville (Gabon) Brazzaville (Congo). The Province of South India started a school at Champaknagar in State of Tripura.

The 8th Council of the Institute was held in Brazzaville, from June 20-29, 1991. On December 28, 1991, we celebrated the 150th death anniversary of Fr. Gabriel Deshayes. In December 1991, we temporarily closed down our community in Tonga. In January 1992, we started a Juniorate at Rujewa, Tanzania. In 1992, the Province of South India started a school for deaf and for the blind in Tura in the State of Meghalaya. In June 1992, Bro. Antony of Padua, the Provincial Superior of South India, died due to a massive heart attack. A Special Provincial Chapter held in October 1992, decided to divide the Province into two Regions: Trichy and Yercaud. In 1992, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the book “True Devotion to Mary” written by St. Montfort. On September 21, 1992, the Institute completed 150 years as an autonomous Institute and we celebrated this event with one year of remembrance.

An International Formators’ Meet was held at Montfort College, Bangalore in February 1993. On May 1, 1993, the Province of South India was divided into two Regions: Trichy and Yercaud. The District of North East India remained as a part of the Yercaud Region. 9th Council of the Institute was held in Assumption University, Bangkok from October 23 – November 6, 1993 and decided to Revitalization as theme for the next General Chapter. In 1994, Inter-tribal conflict between Hutus and Tutsi in Rwanda led to a massacre of about half a million people. Our Brothers working there manage to escape from the country, though our institutions have been badly damaged. In 1994, Yercaud Region started its first community in Kerala at Anakkara. The 28th General Chapter was held in Rome from December 19, 1994 – January 7, 1995. Bro. Jean Friant was re-elected Superior General.

In 1995, At Montfort College, Bangalore, the Province of Yercaud as a result of Bro. Mathew Panathanth’s efforts, started a diploma course in counselling. In 1998, a Master’s degree course in the same subject too was started there. On July 1, 1995, the two Provinces in Canada were amalgamated into one. Further the Province of Central Africa was enlarged to include Republic on Central Africa and Rwanda, thus it is spread over Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Kinshasa, Gabon, Cameroon, Central Africa and Rwanda. In 1996, the Yercaud Region started a Technical School in Savusavu (Fiji) and another one Tonga. In 1996, the Province of Central India started a community in Kurnool and 1997, a school for the deaf in Mumbai.

An Asian Provincials Meet was held in Bangalore from 1-5 June, 1997, in which three members of the Central Administration also participated. It studied about expansion and mutual co-operation. In 1997, the Province of Ranchi started a new Candidates’ House in Ranchi. The same year. The Region of Trichy came forward to help our missions in Madagascar and Papua New Guinea. In 1997, the Central Administration took charge of our mission in Papua New Guinea. The arrival of Bro. Francis from the Central India and of Bro. Packiaraj from Trichy Region gave a new life to this mission sector.

On September 29, 1997, a Celebration of the reconciliation between the Company of Mary and our institute took place in our General House, and as symbol a relic of St. Montfort was handed over by the Fr. General to our General. The 10th Council of the

Institute was held in Rome from October 1-11, 1997. On April 28, 1998, the Region of Trichy became a Province and the Region of Yercaud gave rise to two Provinces: Province of Yercaud and Province of North East India. St. Montfort School, Guwahati, which was started in 1994, became the Head-Quarters of the Province.

In June 1997, three candidates from Papua New Guinea to Hyderabad to do their intermediate course, with the view of joining the novitiate after their studies. On August 3, 1998, Brothers arrived in New Washington, in the diocese of Kalibo, in Philippines to start a technical school. On September 29, 1998, Brothers arrived at Czestochowa in Poland to extend our educative mission. Along with PNG, these two missions come directly under the Central Administration. A session of formation on Montfortian Spirituality for the members of the three Montfortian congregations was held in Rome and then in France during 1998-99.

In January (18-22) 1999, the Central Administration organized in Nairobi an international meeting on Justice and Peace. 11th Council of the Institute was held in Barcelona, Spain in April 1999 and it selected Montfortian missionary dynamism for a just society towards the Kingdom as theme for the next General Chapter.

In 1999, there was much disturbance and looting in our communities in Brazzaville. In September 1999, we started a Technical school at Sabah in Malaysia later Montfort Youth Centre at Air Salak, Melaka, Malaysia. On 17 March 2000, the Bangna Campus of Assumption University of Bangkok was inaugurated. Our 29th General Chapter was held in Rome in April 2000, and on April 17, 2000, Bro. Rene Delorme was elected Superior General.

Bro. Lawrence Joseph, s.g.
