



Montfortian Mission

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ABSTRACT

The Objective of the paper is to study the mission done by St. Montfort and his followers, to find out the relevant amount of work done by the Montfort brothers, to find out the area where his mission and vision spread all over and above all to do research in Montfortian mission in India and around the world. The present research will enlighten the spirit committed by the Montfort Brothers. It's been noticed that there was stupendous growth in the number of both professed brothers and novices. It was undoubtedly the largest number ever for a single province, in the history of congregation. Witnessing the rapid quantitative increase of the brother in a very short span of time, many in and around began to be skeptical about the quality of this great strength of brothers particularly of the young brothers

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

St.Montfort, the founder

St.Louis Marie Grignon De Montfort was born on 31 January, 1673 at Montfort in Brittany, France. His father Jean Baptiste, was a lawyer and his mother Jean Robert, was a pious housewife. In 1685 for his secondary and college studies, he joined the Jesuit college in Rennes,Louis was very good in studies and excelled in charity and in his devotion to Mary. He decided to become a priest and did his philosophy in the same college. In 1705, Fr. Louis left the poor house for good and started preaching in the suburbs of Poitiers. On June 6, 1706, Montfort met Pope Clement XI and expressed his desire to go has a missionary to some foreign country, the Pope told him to preach in France itself.Montfort was beautified on January 22, 1888 and canonized on July 20 1947. His book, the 'Treatise of the True Devotion to mary' had and has made a great impact on the Church Emoting Montfort, saint Pius X wore;" There is no surer or easier way than Mary in uniting all men with Christ". Pope Pius XII was often called the most Marian Pope. He was impressed by Montfort's motto 'God Alone' and who he canonized Montfort on July 20, 1947, he said,' God Alone everything to him. Remain faithful to the precious heritage, which this great saint left you. It is a glorious inheritance, worthy that you continue to sacrifice your strength and life, as you done until today'.

SCOPE & SIGNIFICANCE

Founder: From 1711-1716, Montfort preached in the diocese of La Rochelle and Lucon. In 1714, he founded a free school for poor boys in a La Rochelle with the approval of the Bishop.The following year, he started a similar school for girls and entrusted it to the care of the Daughters of Wisdom.

"The world you are inheriting is a world which desperately needs a new sense of brotherhood and human solidarity. It is a world which needs to be touched and healed by the beauty and richness of God's love. It needs witnesses to that love. It needs you to be the salt of the earth and light of the world" - Pope John Paul II -

Montfortian Congregation during the 18th century Montfort's Disciples

On 6th June 1716, Fr.Rene Mulot Montfort's successor registered Montfort's will with the notary at Nantes. In September 1716 hecame 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. In 1718 father Rene Mulot and Andrian Vatel and Bro. Mathurin were at St. Pompain. By 2nd June 1718 Bro. Mathurin joined the two fathers who were St. Pompain.

Founder of congregations

In 1805 Fr. Deshayes was appointed parish priest of St. Gildas. He started a school for boys, another one for girls a college and a minor seminary. He started a co-operative bank to give loans to the poor, a spinning mill and a hospital. Fr.Deshayes started novitiate to form brothers to teaching moral schools and in 1819 he got this new institute of brother amalgamated with a similar one started by Fr. LeMennais.

Superior General of the Montfortian congregation

On 17thDecember 1820 Fr. Deshayes was officially admitted with the company of Mary and on the same day he was elected Vicar General of the Montfortian congregation.In 1823 Fr.Deshayes started nine schools and went on starting school every year. He altogether started 76 schools and out of those 29 were given up during his life time itself. He died on 28 December 1841.After Fr.Deshayes death Bro. Augustine brought out the rule which was kept as a secret. He and his followers wanted theseparation from the company of Mary. But a good of brothers did not appreciate the move. Fr. Dalin who succeeded Fr.Deshayes did not interfere with Bro. Augustin's action. Bro. Augustin was elected superior General. In 1853 the institute was approved as Brothers of St. Gabriel.

The starting of the mission in India the district of India from 1903 to 1920

On December 18, 1906 Bro. Augustin Novello landed in Pondy and he replaced Bro.Denis in the Petit-Seminary High School, Pondicherry. During the night of November 22, 1916, Industrial school Tindivanam had to face a grave trial,a terrible cyclone swept through Tindivanam, destroying the workshop and causing away the roof of the Novitiate and other buildings. On January 1918 Mr.Martinneau, the French Governor of Pondicherry paid a visit to the industrial school. In October 1925, the Bishop of Hyderabad Mgr. Vismara, paid a visit to Tindivanam to see for himself how the industrial school was working with the idea of founding a similar one at Gunadala. On January 15, 1926, Bro.Claudin accompanied by Bros. Eugene Joseph and Aloysius went to Gunadala to found St. Joseph's Industrial school at Gunadala near Vijayawada. During 1926 the Brothers built a workshop placed in an isolated spot,

others were insufficient and there was much completion from small artisans. On December 10, 1933 they have handed over the industrial school to the diocese. The St. Gabriel High school was offered to Montfort Brothers in 1926 which was taken up by Salesians in 1929.

St. Montfort's Marian Teaching

1. "God the son came down into her virginal womb as a new Adam into his earthly paradise to take his delight there and produce hidden wonders of grace".
2. Mary is the Queen of Heaven and earth by grace by Jesus is King by native and by conquest.
3. Jesus must be the ultimate end of all our devotions.
4. The Rosary said without the meditations on the sacred of our salvation would almost be a body without a soul.

MONTFORTIAN EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Montfort School, Yearcaud

On April 1930 Montfort school Yearcaud received the Government sanction for a new building on June 1, 1942 it celebrated its Silver Jubilee. In the high school exam held at the end of 1943, Montfort boys school 1st and 2nd in the Madras Presidency.

St. Antony's High School, Coonoor

Called by the Bishop of Coimbatore, Brothers took charge of St. Antony's High School, Coonoor in June 1, 1931 there were 237 pupils in the High school and 130 in the elementary school.

All Saint's High School, Hyderabad

In June 1932 the brothers were able to accept the entire management of All Saint's High School, Hyderabad. The school had then a strength of 300 pupils of whom 100 were orphans. The rather unattractive buildings were renovated and spotlessly clean. Furniture, maps, lab materials and library books were added, Scouting and sports were given importance.

St. Patrick's High School, Secandrabad

On January 5, 1936 the district took charge of St. Patrick's High School, Secandrabad when the brothers took charge of that school it had about 225 pupils of whom 87 were boarders mostly Anglo Indians.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

On September 1939 France and England declared war on Germany. This meant that the French brothers would be mobilized in June 1940 the declaration of war by Italy made matters worse. The two Italian brothers Bosilio and Dominic becoming suspect subjects Bro. Basilio was allowed to stay in Secandrabad for nearly 2 years but his movements were restricted; In February 1943 he was transferred to yearcaud and put 'on parole'

St. Joseph's High School, Ooty

On April 7, 1942 an agreement was signed with Bishop to take management of St. Joseph's, Ooty.

St. Joseph's Elementary School, Yearcaud

At the request of Fr. Ligcon the parish priest of Yearcaud, the brother's had been removed from St. Joseph's elementary school in August 1933. 1st of June 1944 it was upgraded into a Higher elementary school.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The year 2003 is a very significant one as far as the Montfort brothers are concerned. It marks the centenary of the arrival of the brothers in India and their Educational Mission. The National council decided to commemorate this great event at the national plans and projects as part of the centenary celebrations. The official national level celebration was inaugurated on 11th Sep 2002 during a colourful function held at Tindivanam, Where the first house of the Brothers mission was started. The conducting ceremony at the National level was at Santhome School on 30th December 2003

CONCLUSION

St. Montfort was mystic and missionary. He was keen on guiding people in spiritual life. To share his experience and to guide people, he wrote number of letters and also a number of books. The complete work of Montfort have been published first in French and then in English, Italian & Spanish. St. Montfort was a great devotee of many and he spread this devotion during his mission and private talks. Montfort brothers have done a wonderful service to the poor and needy and orphan children. They work for the people who are below the poverty line and for the street children. They work along with the disabled. They work for the development women & women's emancipation. They not only teach the children but also help them in their personality development. Today the congregation has spread over 6 continents in 32 countries. In India the services of the Montfort brothers are given in 15 states with help of 1200 brothers with more than 300 organizations. To blossom human spirit, to grow human love in the ways of Jesus Christ along with path laid by St. Montfort they walk along and we shall follow them.

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